



THE CHIMES



The United Church of Los Alamos
United in our Faith Journeys

www.unitedchurchla.org

December 2025 - Vol. 62 No. 12

ADVENT 2025



November 30

December 6

December 7

December 9

December 14

December 18

December 21

December 22

December 24

December 25

1st Sunday in Advent

Everything Christmas Sale

Sanctuary Decorating

2nd Sunday in Advent

WCSS Holiday Potluck

3rd Sunday in Advent

Rose Street Worship

Truchas Christmas Party

4th Sunday in Advent

Christmas Choir Rehearsal

5pm Christmas Eve Worship

Christmas Day!



Weekly Word

Weekly Word email: If you would like to receive the email David sends out each week about the upcoming Sunday, please email or call the Church Office and tell us to add you to the "Weekly Word" list.

Contacting the Church

If you have any questions or concerns, you may call the Church Office at (505) 662-2971, email us at ucoffice@unitedchurchla.org, or send us a message on Facebook.

The Church Office is open Monday through Friday:
8:30am – 4pm.

You may also reach the pastors at the office number, email, or phone numbers below:

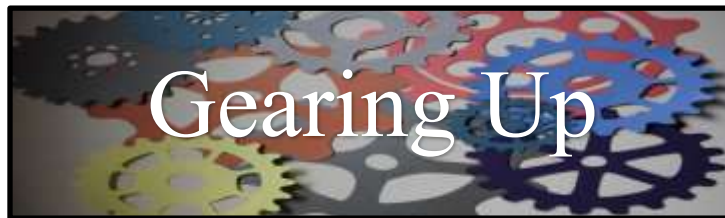
David Elton
979-219-8640 cell
david@unitedchurchla.org

Keith Lewis
505-412-9954 cell
gohorns_99@yahoo.com

Kara Windler
DCE@unitedchurchla.org



- 4th National Cookie Day
- 6th Everything Christmas Sale
Choir Workshop
- 9th WCSS Holiday Potluck
- 12th Gingerbread House Day
- 13th Dignity Mission Packing Party
- 18^h Rose St. Worship
Truchas Christmas Party
- 19th Last day of 1st Semester for LAPS
- 21st 1st Day of Winter
- 22nd Christmas Choir Rehearsal
- 24th Christmas Eve
5:00 pm Worship Service
- 25th Christmas Day
- 30th Bacon Day
- 31st New Year's Eve
Annual Reports Due



The Advent Season is upon us! Advent....arrival of a notable person, thing or event. In the life of the Church we look to the Advent Season as a time of preparation for the arrival of the Christ child on Christmas day. The season is basically four weeks culminating in the birth of Jesus.

When we gather for the First Sunday of Advent, we begin by singing “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel...” and in the month long process we move thru “The Angel Gabriel” and “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” to “O Come All Ye Faithful” and “Go Tell It On The Mountain.” Suzanne always painstakingly crafts the list of Carols to coincide with the season, making sure that we don’t arrive at the manger the second week of the season...instead, we make the journey to Bethlehem in deliberate fashion. Here are a few of the activities this month of December as we anticipate the birth of the Christ child:

December:

- 3rd** (Time TBA) Set Up for Everything Christmas Sale (Youth)
- 6th** Everything Christmas Sale / Decoration of the Sanctuary for Advent
- 9th** WCSS Christmas Party
- 14th** Pack for Truchas Pre-School Party/Bible Quest trip to Aspen Ridge (All kids)
- 18th** Truchas Pre-School Christmas Party (Leave Parking Lot at 9am)

Blessings,
Keith



A Quick Word of Thanks!

Dear United Church Family....I wanted to take a moment to thank you for a beautiful and meaningful celebration of ministry together here in Los Alamos. I was humbled by the reception and luncheon, the tributes offered and the beautiful Nambe bowl and tray. The fact that Cesar Ojeda and I were able to celebrate our 20 years together in worship and at lunch made it even more special. I am grateful to God for serving on staff here at the church, knowing each of you and celebrating milestones in your lives, as well as walking together through difficult moments. We are truly family! I look at our youth over the years and they are doing amazing this as college students, adults and parents. May it continue to be so!

Hopefully, we are getting better with time. Again my thanks to each of you!

Blessings,
Keith

Everything Christmas Sale

Saturday, December 6, 2025

9:00am - Noon

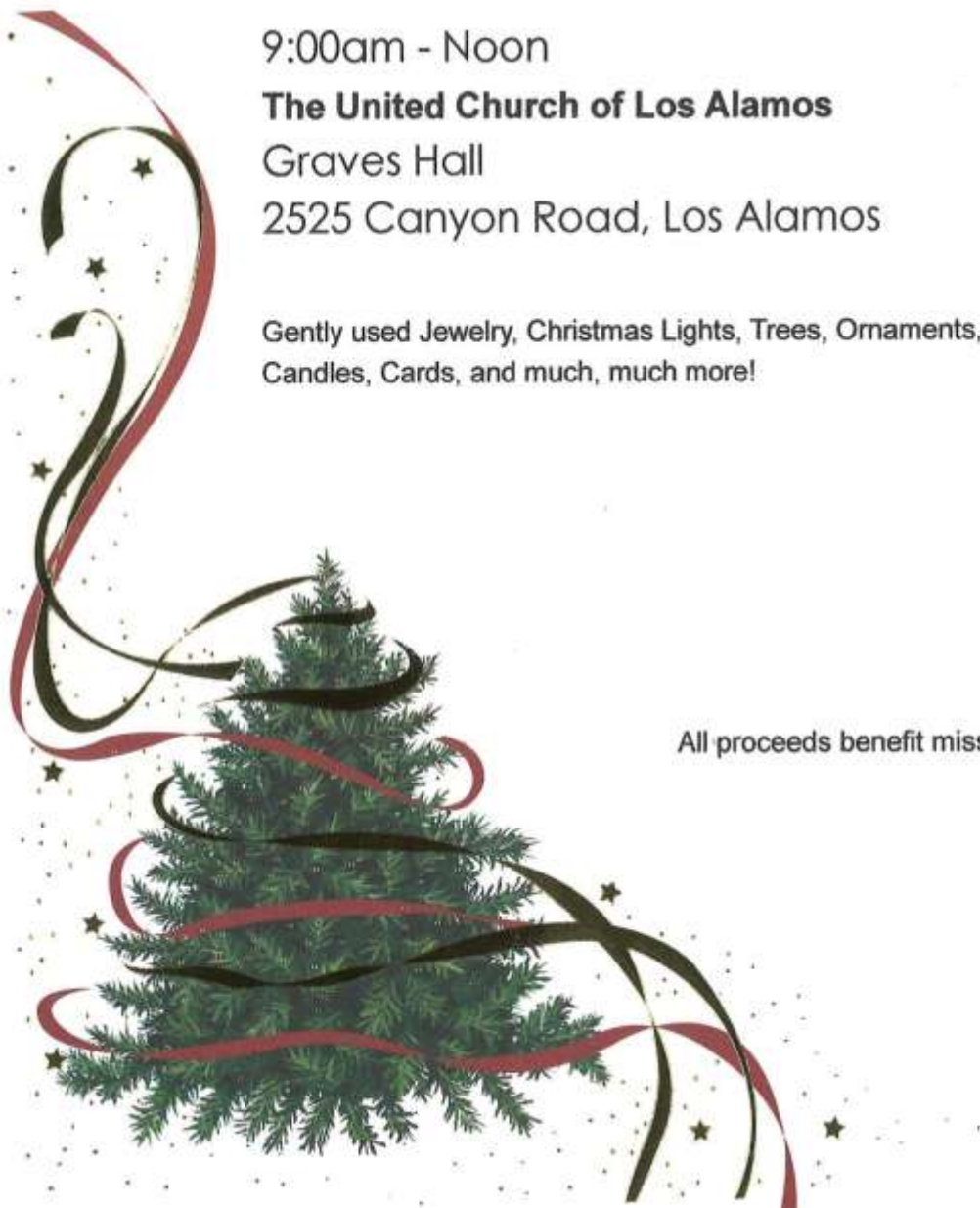
The United Church of Los Alamos

Graves Hall

2525 Canyon Road, Los Alamos

Gently used Jewelry, Christmas Lights, Trees, Ornaments, Clothes, Dishes, Decorations, Candles, Cards, and much, much more!

All proceeds benefit missions in Northern New Mexico!



Alternative Giving

The Missions and Service Board has selected four Christian based charities to offer the congregation for their Christmas Alternative Giving. Don't know what to give your family, relatives, or friends? Make a donation to one of these charities in their name and wrap up a gift card for them. Here are the four charities we have chosen for Alternative Giving 2025. Tables will be set up in Fellowship Hall after Church on December 7, 14, & 21, 2025

LA Cares

LA Cares is our hometown organization supporting our community members in a variety of ways, such as providing monthly food distributions and rent/utility assistance.

At the Food Pantry, they distribute food once a month. All clients receive a bag of non-perishable products. In addition, fresh produce, eggs, bread, meats, and cheese are available. Personal hygiene items such as paper products, soaps, toothpaste, etc. are also available. A limited amount of dog and cat food is also available.

The United Church supports LA Cares on a continual basis with a drop-off location inside the CE Building door at the parking lot entrance. With the current economic situation, this will help provide additional support for our community members in need.

See their website at www.lacaresnm.org



MAP International

Everybody gets sick, not everybody gets medicine.
We're on a mission to change that.

Envision a world where the barriers preventing people from obtaining life-changing medicine and vital health supplies are shattered. This is the core mission that propels MAP forward — a world where every single person is empowered with the resources they need for a healthier life. Remarkably, the cost to provide a lifesaving dose of medicine amounts to just a few cents — a small investment with transformational impact. MAP International is a Christian organization providing medicine and health supplies to people in need around the world so they might experience life to the fullest. MAP serves all people, regardless of religion, gender, race, nationality, or ethnic background.

Join us in the fight to end the global health crisis and bring medicine to all people around the world.



The medicine that is surplus in the United States is greatly lacking in many developing countries. MAP sends medicine to those who need it most by using our highly developed, five-step model called our supply chain of hope. Their supply chain of hope has been successfully evolving over the past 69 years. In 2023, over 95% of total operating expenses were used for programs.

You can learn a whole lot more at: www.map.org.

Church World Service

Church World Service (CWS) was born in the wake of the devastation of World War II. Seventeen Christian denominations came together “to do in partnership what none of us could hope to do as well alone.” All six of the denominations we affiliate with are CWS Covenant Members.

For Alternative Giving, CWS offers a complete variety of donation options in these categories:

Animals: From five life-sustaining chickens (\$22) to a buzzing beehive full of potential (\$65) or a small herd of farm animals (\$295).

Children: Children deserve a safe, joyful start in life—but for families in need, even the essentials like diapers, school supplies, or a warm meal can be out of reach.

Education: Education transforms lives. Whether it’s books for seven students (\$21), business skills training for a woman (\$25) or GED classes for a young adult (\$400), etc.

Agriculture: Give a gift that grows. Whether it’s Fruit Seeds (\$23) to support healthy diets, a Garden Starter Kit (\$55) with essential tools or Vegetable Seeds (\$140) to grow a thriving home garden, etc.

Kits & Blankets: From a cozy CWS Blanket (\$10) to essential Hygiene Kits (\$15), Kids Kits (\$15), and vital Clean Up Buckets (\$75), meaningful gifts like these offer more than relief.

Water: Community Water Access for a Family (\$10), 100 Gallons of Clean Water Storage (\$60) or a life-sustaining Community Well (\$1,800), and more.

There is much more to choose from and the full catalog will be available at the Alternative Giving table on Sunday mornings.

You can learn a whole lot more at cwsglobal.org.



Disaster Relief

Within the last few months, there have been two weather related disasters:

Typhoon Halong hitting the southwest coast of **Alaska** necessitating the complete evacuation of many villages to other locations.

Hurricane Melissa in the Caribbean with extensive damage in **Jamaica** and **Cuba** and additional damage in **Haiti** and the **Bahamas**.

Typhoon Halong

The November Chimes outlined details of the Alaska disaster and all gifts to help there will go to the Alaska Community Foundation. The towns hit the hardest by the remnants of Typhoon Halong include Kipnuk and Kwigillingok. These communities, which are off the state's main road system and reachable only by water or air, experienced catastrophic damage. Thousands of citizens have been evacuated to other major cities, many of whom will not be able to return to their communities and homes for upwards of 18 months due to the devastation.



Hurricane Melissa became one of the strongest hurricanes on record and cut across Jamaica leaving a trail of destruction. It then hit Cuba, Haiti and Bahamas. Jamaica was hardest hit and Church World Service is supporting the recovery efforts with vital supplies. They are also supporting the other islands.



We will split donations to **Disaster Relief** between the Alaska Community Foundation and Church World Service.



Worship

Dinner 5:15 PM Worship 6:00PM

Thursday, December 18th, Graves Hall

Join us for Rose Street Worship on Thursday evening, December 18th. It will be a time to gather as family, friends and neighbors for a casual dinner and uplifting worship service. The service will be more contemporary in style and last around 45 minutes. But the experience will feed and inspire our spirits until Sunday and beyond!



PRAYERS



Please continue to hold these people in your prayers during the month of December:

Krista Bollinger ~ Jerry Seeger

Jerryl Galassini ~ Margaret Guthrie

Janet Clayton ~ Phil Seeger ~ Randy Dickerhoof

Arlene Edwards ~ John Rebstock ~ Barbara Martinez

A CALL FOR SINGERS

*Come and join us, as we joyfully prepare
for the birth of the
Christ-Child with Singing!*

The United Singers are extending a special invitation to
those in the congregation
who love to sing Christmas Music!



Each year we invite new singers, visiting guests, returning college students, as well as regular
choir members to sing with the Christmas Choir on Christmas Eve.
Rehearsal will be Monday, December 22nd at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.

If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne (412-2133)



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A congregational meeting will be held Sunday, December 21st, immediately after the worship
service in the Sanctuary. The meeting is for the purpose of receiving the Nominating
Committee report and electing church officers.



Men's Koffee Klatch

All men of The United Church are invited to coffee, refreshments,
and fellowship Thursday mornings at 9:30am! There are no lesson
plans, no required or suggested topics, no devotions, no leaders,
but there is a lot of fun! Hosting duties are passed around
within the group. The wit and wisdom shared cover all sorts
of topics and the discussions have proven extremely
interesting, informative, and supportive. We laugh a lot! We
will be meeting in the CE Lounge, or you can join from home with Zoom.



Please contact the Church Office to be included on the Zoom link email.

It's time to sign up for Lunch Bunch for 2026!

Lunch Bunch is made up of small groups of women who get together once a month for lunch at a restaurant. Every month, the groups are shuffled and you'll be meeting with different people each month. The purpose is to get to know each other better and enjoy some good fellowship. One person is designated the caller each month. The caller picks the date, time and the place for lunch for that group. She then makes sure everyone in the group is invited.



There will be sign-up sheets at the church during coffee hour. A deadline of Dec. 31 for responses will be necessary in order to get the groups set up and the booklet printed by early February.

If you are away part of the year, you are still welcome to participate. Just make a notation of what months you are gone so the caller will know. If you happen to be designated a caller when you are away (it happens!), please see if someone else in your group will be the caller for you.

Please contact Vicki Cobble via email (vjcobble@gmail.com) or phone 505-695-5563. Or sign up after church. We will need a name, email address, and phone number.

Thanks!

Vicki Cobble



ANNUAL REPORT INPUT

DUE SOON!

All Board and Committee input for the 2025 United Church Annual Report should be turned into the Church Office by Noon on Wednesday, December 31st.



Sanctuary Set-Up

Come help us “deck the halls” in the Sanctuary on
December 6th at 2:00pm!

WCSS Potluck Dinner

Tuesday, December 9th – Graves Hall

We're reviving the WCSS Women's Christmas Potluck!

Always a fun evening for WCSS, women of the church and friends: Women's Christmas **Potluck**. Tuesday, December 9th.

Please bring a favorite dish (main dish, side/salad/relish tray, bread, or dessert), enough to serve 8-10 people. Though women don't clean up, the men do and part of the deal is they get to eat.

Please come and bring a friend, even if you don't bring food. Your presence is most important.

Punch with live music by the Lads of Enchantment starts at 5:45pm. Dinner at 6:00pm followed by very brief business meeting and some musical entertainment and participation.

Thanks!

-Georgia Strickfaden and the planning/set up committee



December
BIRTHDAYS

Wayne Hardie	01	Ginny White	13	Jesus	25
Randy Erickson	05	Mark Mundt	16	Sarah Hayes	27
Hanako Brown	05	Mark Crawford	17	Emi Wilson	28
Kathleen Logan	10	Nicholas Hayes	21	Jill Forman	30
Jen Schmierer	11	Anthony Puckett	24	LeAnn Cecil	30
Larry Luck	13	Ed Van Eeckhout	25	Joan Upham	31



AGOG, our grandparenting group, is open to any adults who are concerned about their role in sharing their faith, love, stories, and expectations with the next generations. We chat about traditions, pray for our grandchildren, and listen to, resolve or empathize with both thorny and gratifying issues of grandparenting. Each meeting at 12:15 PM on the first Sunday of the month we gather in the CE Lounge for an hour of shared wisdom.

Pack a bag lunch and join us!

Questions? Please contact Diana Little or Irene Powell



Dignity Mission: Call for Action

Saturday, December 13

Graves Hall, 9:15 am

Our next Dignity Mission packing party will be Saturday, December 13th in Graves Hall, 9:15 am coffee and goodies, 9:30 work!

Our Christmas elves have been busy and sewn many festive bags of holiday fabric. We will pack these with the small stuffed toys and cars and trucks culled from the Thrift Shop over the past months. We will add candy canes and small purchased games, books, toys, and crayons. These will be delivered to children in the facilities in Juarez, where recent deportees and hopeful future immigrants are living. Our sources tell us there are few, unhoused immigrants presently in El Paso.

We will also pack ~150 hygiene kits, as we have in the past. These will be delivered to facilities in Española, Pathways Shelter, and McGurdy Family Center where homeless and needy find help. Please join us in this important Christian mission.

Nina Thayer

Dignity Mission Los Alamos Coordinator

Presents can be a fun sign of love. Yet *the best gift is presence.*



Modern Christmas's festivities, parties and gift-giving can be wonderful, but may distract us from being **fully present, ready to connect to others' true joys and sorrows.** May we gift those around us with our **full attention**, with our **listening ears and open heart.**

Robert Reich shared on Substack that our country's continuing confusion, hate and fear doesn't just create national trauma, it affects *individual anxiety*, sleeplessness, and stress. He says it is important to realize "**you are not alone in this.**" The person next to you may be stressed about life in general and/or the country's disfunction, firings, furloughs, dividedness, disappearances, along with getting ready for the Holidays. *People need compassion and patience. We do not know what they are going through.* A temptation may be to withdraw.

However, like Jesus, it is good to train our hearts to step toward the pain.

Upheaval does deserve our attention, and it can feel like a roller coaster ride. Yet to mourn too much can mean to stop really living. **We are alive and loved by God.** Paul understood this: "***I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.***" Phil 4:12-13 We can *strike a balance*. Celebrate, and rejoice in our Savior's birth.... with a humble awareness of where pain lives.

Jesus' friend Martha was distracted by many things, which is what often happens during the holidays. May we truly **be present for others** like Mary was. *She stepped out of her culture's norm of kitchen work and sat at Jesus feet as a man might.*

Yes, Jesus was very connected and was willing to share people's grief and joy. Yet, like us it took a lot out of him, and he tried to withdraw to quiet places to spend time with his Father. When things get too hectic or overwhelming, some quiet alone time with God in a room or on a walk in beautiful creation, can renew us so that we are able to love others better and to handle stress.

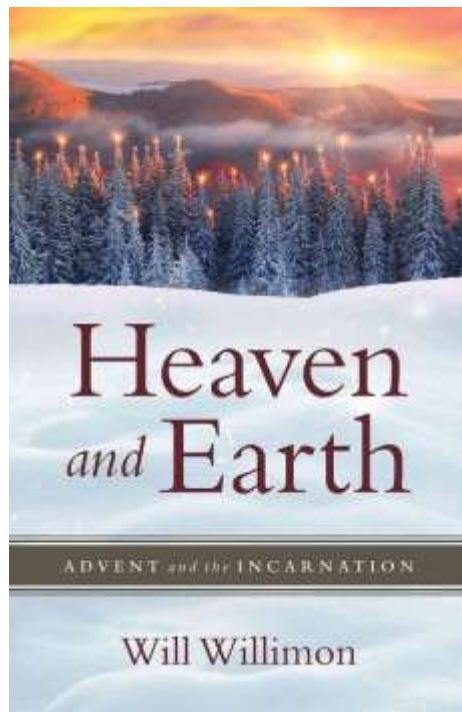
Celebrate and dance together, mourn and weep together, show up for the grief and the celebration –it is "a holy practice." Sharon Brous

Monday Morning Women's Book Study

All women of the church and their friends are welcome to attend this group.

The books for discussion are selected by the group.

The Monday group will begin reading "*Heaven and Earth*" by Will Willimon.



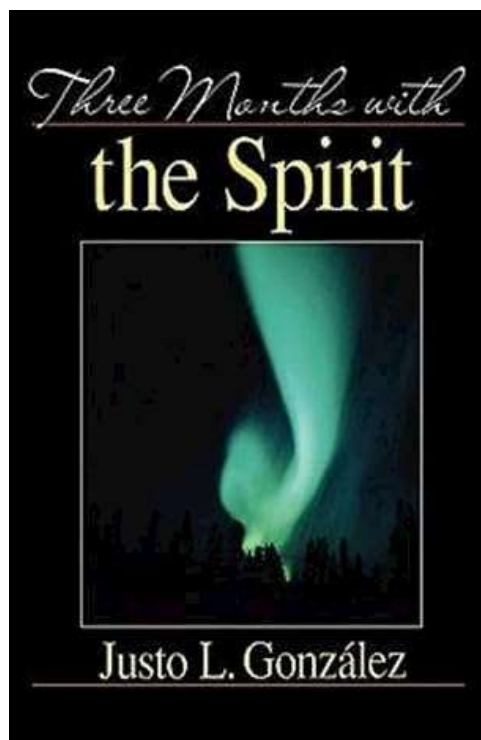
Monday Mornings:

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

via Zoom



Friday Morning Women's Bible Study



All women of the church and their friends are welcome to attend this group.

The books for discussion are selected by the group.

The Friday group is currently studying the Book of Acts with:

"*Three Months with the Spirit*" by Justo Gonzales as a guide.

Friday Mornings:

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

via Zoom

Feel free to contact Pastor Kara (dce@unitedchurchla.org) or the Church Office if you'd like to join.



The DECEMBER 2025 CHIMES Newsletter
The United Church of Los Alamos
2525 Canyon Road
Los Alamos, NM 87544



Merry Christmas!



*The United Church staff wishes each of you God's hope,
peace, joy, and love this Christmas Season and New Year!*