



THE CHIMES



The United Church of Los Alamos
United in our Faith Journeys

www.unitedchurchla.org

February 2026 - Vol. 63 No. 2



**Lent begins
February 18th**

Thursday Evening Lenten Series begins February 26th,
hosted by Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church



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 uoffice@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



2nd	Groundhog Day
4th	Thank a Mailman Day
6th	Young Adult Dinner Winter Olympics Begin
7th	Board Orientation
8th	Super Bowl Sunday
14th	Valentine's Day
16th	President's Day
17th	Shrove Tuesday
18th	Ash Wednesday
19th	Rose St. Worship
22nd	1st Sunday in Lent Winter Olympics Closing Ceremony
26th	Thursday Evening Lenten Series Begins (at TotH)
27th	Polar Bear Day



These days, I find myself walking around in a state of curmudgeonliness. Is that even a word? If not, it should be. Andy Rooney, the late journalist for CBS and a fixture on 60 minutes has always been my image of a curmudgeon. Merriam-Webster defines **curmudgeon as a crusty, ill tempered, and usually old man**. Part of my grumpiness stems from the now constant fluctuation in the temperature, 50 degrees one day and 20 the next. The other part of my being crusty is feeling like we have lived a whole year in roughly 30 days. The seemingly never-ending list of domestic and international crises can wear down even the most positive person. The constant hammering and yammering leaves me at times feeling like there is nothing good or notable to point to for light in a period of darkness.

That is when I must stop, breathe and simply look around and see the helpers...the ones making a real difference. Mister Rogers, an ordained Presbyterian Pastor and host of PBS' Mister Rogers' neighborhood gave that illustration after 9/11 using those exact words: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, Look for the helpers. You will always find people helping." He is right, there are always people helping if we just look.

Our Souper Bowl of Caring raised over \$1200 for La Cares, our local food pantry. Thank you to everyone who brought food, those who donated and ate, as well as youth who helped set up and clean-up for the event. Many of you have brought blankets, warm jackets and other winter items for Pathways shelter in Espanola. Our Thrift Shop is always bustling on Wednesday mornings providing important secondhand items for purchase. The volunteers work during the week to make sure things are cleaned, priced and ready for sale when the doors open at 8:30am.

Those are three quick examples of helpers who are helping in our midst. Some large group efforts, some are small group tasks, but each is a light that shines. So, the next time something unforeseen and unpleasant happens remember to look around you, or better yet be a part of the helpers who stand out by their efforts. Our next churchwide event for helping will be our Mexico Mission Donor's Dessert Fundraiser, Sunday March 1st in Graves Hall at 3:00pm. All funds raised will go towards our annual spring break trip to Puerto Peñasco, Mexico to build houses with Amor Ministries. See YOU there!

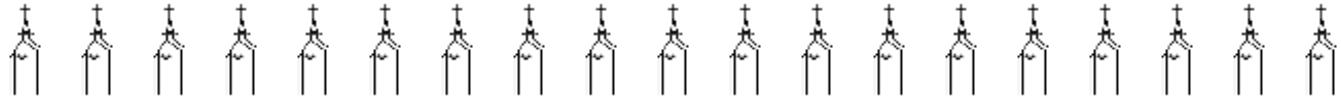
Blessings,
Keith



Worship

Dinner 5:15 PM Worship 6:00PM

Join us for Rose Street Worship on Thursday evening, February 19th. 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!



WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Sam Baty joined on December 14th



MEXICO MISSION 2026

DONORS' DESSERT!

Sunday, March 1, 2026, at 3 pm
Graves Hall, United Church of Los Alamos



The United Church is sponsoring Mexico Mission 2026 – a Spring Break trip for High School youth and adults to Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 for building materials and Amor fees to build houses for two families.

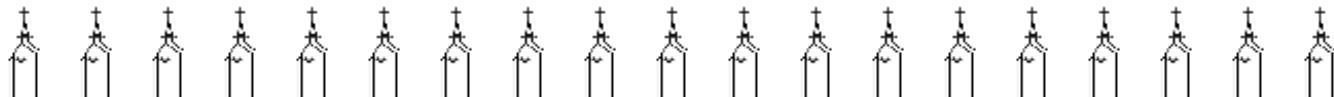
You are invited to attend the Donors' Dessert to help meet this goal. Donations are still very much appreciated, even if you are unable to attend the DONORS' DESSERT! Donations can be made by cash, check, or Venmo (find us at @UCLAgiving).

Please make checks payable to The United Church of Los Alamos,
with "Mexico 2026" in the memo line.

Lunch Bunch Callers for February:



Terry FitzPatrick, Irene Powell
Laura Erickson, Nancy Bolme,
& Nancy Nunnelley



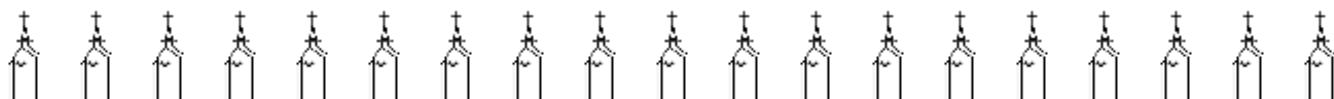
Men's Koffee Klatch

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.



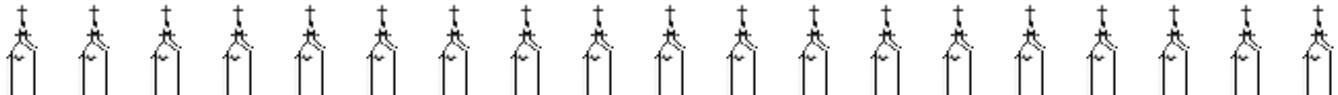
Please continue to hold these people in your prayers during the month of February:

Phil Seeger ~ Peggy Chambers
Mary Venable ~ Krista Bollinger ~ Vicki Cobble
Arlene Edwards ~ John Rebstock ~ Barbara Martinez
Janet Clayton ~ Randy Dickerhoof ~ Jerry Seeger
Lynn Ovaska ~ Jeff Irwin ~ Jerryl Galassini

Happy Birthday!



Shibli Fazal	01	Marilyn Doolen	10	Kathy Bjorklund	17
Julia Mundt	03	Kristi Carr	11	Rachel Erickson	17
Leslie Puckett	04	Bradley Harlow	11	Andrea Gerstl	19
Gretchen Amstutz	05	Chandler Lauritzen	11	Phil Seeger	19
Deirdre Monroe	06	Ruth Lier	12	Cesar Ojeda	25
Sharon Stover	06	Sheriden Smith	12	Nancy Lemons	29
Hayden Watkins	10	Zach Riedel	14		



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 is 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

“Love” is a catch-all word in our culture, unlike Greek and Hebrew’s descriptive names, where God’s LOVE is so much more than others. *God’s Love* can bring unexpected hope and peace. Kate Bowler felt most whole and acutely aware of God’s love on her worst days fighting very aggressive cancer. God’s LOVE is so much more than she imagined. Bowler’s unexpected survival led her to reach out, in books and podcasts, to others struggling.



Romans 8:28-39 is testimony that Paul’s strength and willingness to endure major difficulties came from the physically unseen Spirit’s intercession, “with groans that words cannot express.” (Vs.26) Paul’s HOPE in God, gave him confidence that *nothing*, even death could separate us from the Love of God revealed to us in Christ.

Author Gregory Boyle realized he did not have to choose between an all-loving God and an all-powerful God. “God’s power is found in the sustaining love that is always extended our way, energizing us and giving us hope’... ‘We can feel God leaning into our very own well-being and longing for it to flourish’. ...’The power is in the loving.’” From CHERISHED BELONGING

Our country’s current *divisions*, hate and physical mistreatment of people are polar opposite to the second commandment to Love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus told a story of a foreigner, a hated Samaritan, rescuing an assaulted Jew while local religious people walked on the other side. That despised foreigner was a model “neighbor” to the wounded man. I see acts of love as part of God’s LOVE, whether the actor is aware or not.

We are invited to love what God loves, which is quite different from doing things to please God. The prayer of our life is to lean toward the God of love and say, “Give me your eyes. Then all we’ll see is glorious.” Gregory Boyle

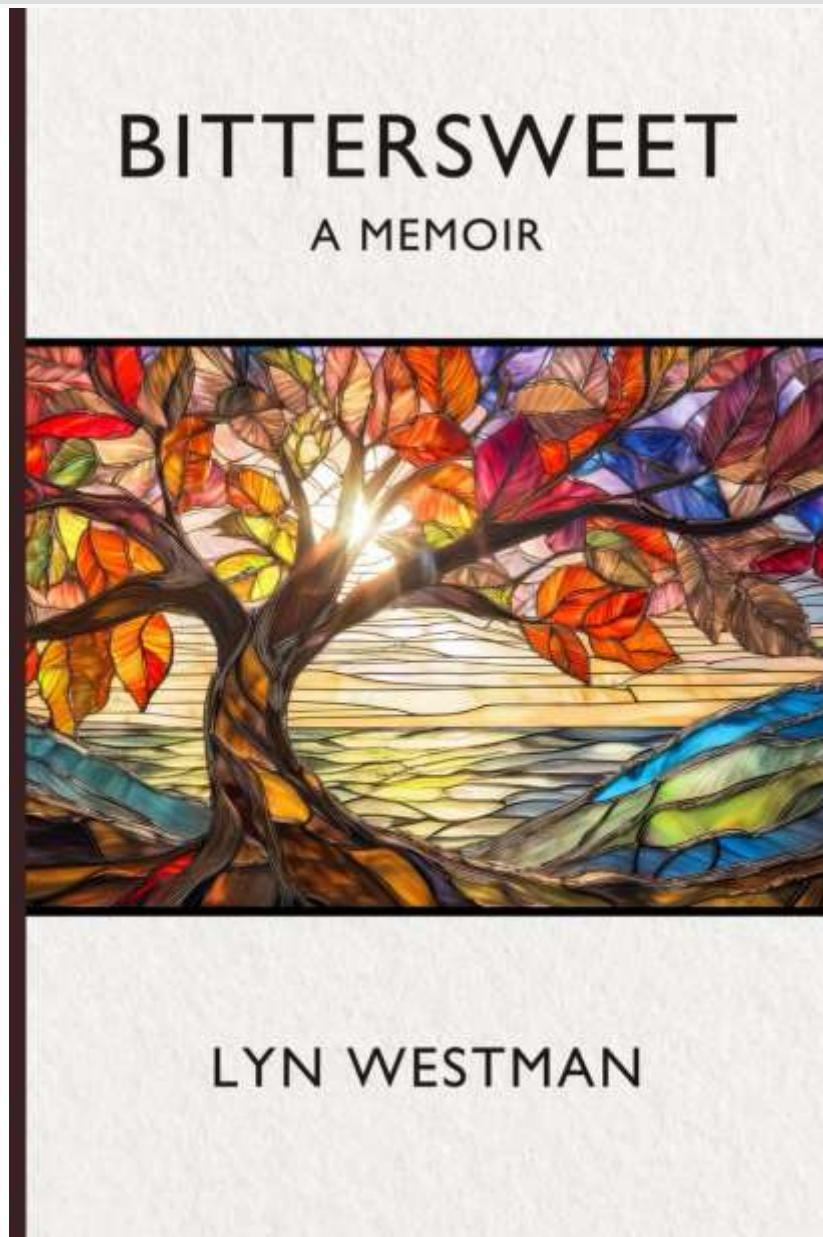
God, We’re so tired...

A PRAYER FOR THE TIRED, ANGRY ONES by Laurajean Truman

Grant us the courage to keep showing up to impossible battles, trusting that it is our commitment to faithfulness, and not our obsession with results, that will bring in your shalom,

Grant us the vulnerability to risk loving our difficult and complicated neighbor, rejecting the lie that some people are made more in the image of God than others.... Keep us fiercely kind.
AMEN

Missions & Service Board



“Life is Bittersweet” shares Dr. Lyn Westman in her new book by that name. Her memoir is very personal, revealing a very traumatic first half of life which was transformed into zeal to serve all people and totally trust God. It speaks of her personal faith and growth, love for her son, her work with countries, groups, and individuals where Mental Health care is absent or rare. Her teaching books and guidance share simple truths for helping others that she learned from Universities, Seminary and life experiences. She deeply cares for people, trains groups to serve and especially loves children. Lyn revisits those that she can, even in dangerous places.

You can borrow a copy of this book from the Church Library
or find it at your favorite local bookstore.

Monday Morning Women's Book Study

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

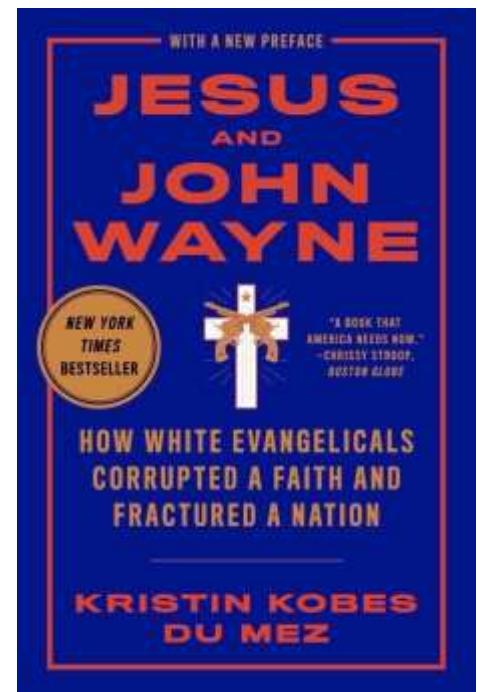
The books for discussion are selected by the group.

The Monday group will begin reading "*Jesus and John Wayne*" by Kristin Kobes du Mez on January 12th.

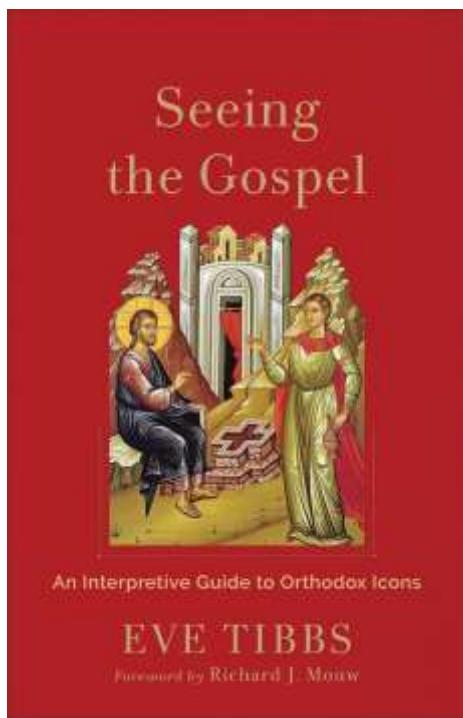
Monday Mornings:

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 will return January 9th with "*Seeing the Gospel*" by Eve Tibbs.

Friday Mornings:

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

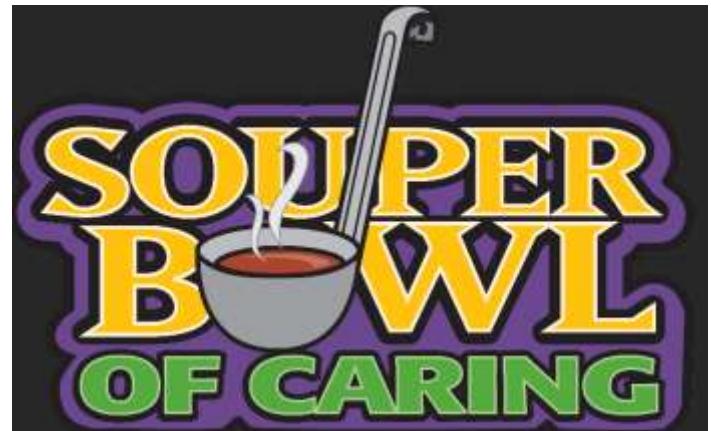
via Zoom

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

WHAT A SOUPER TURNOUT!

Many thanks to all that came out to our annual Souper Bowl of Caring lunch.

You raised over \$1,200 for LA Cares!





The FEBRUARY 2026 CHIMES Newsletter
The United Church of Los Alamos
2525 Canyon Road
Los Alamos, NM 87544