



THE CHIMES



The United Church of Los Alamos
United in our Faith Journeys

www.unitedchurchla.org

July 2025 - Vol. 62 No. 7





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

Laura Loving
262-853-4138 cell
lalsfnm@gmail.com

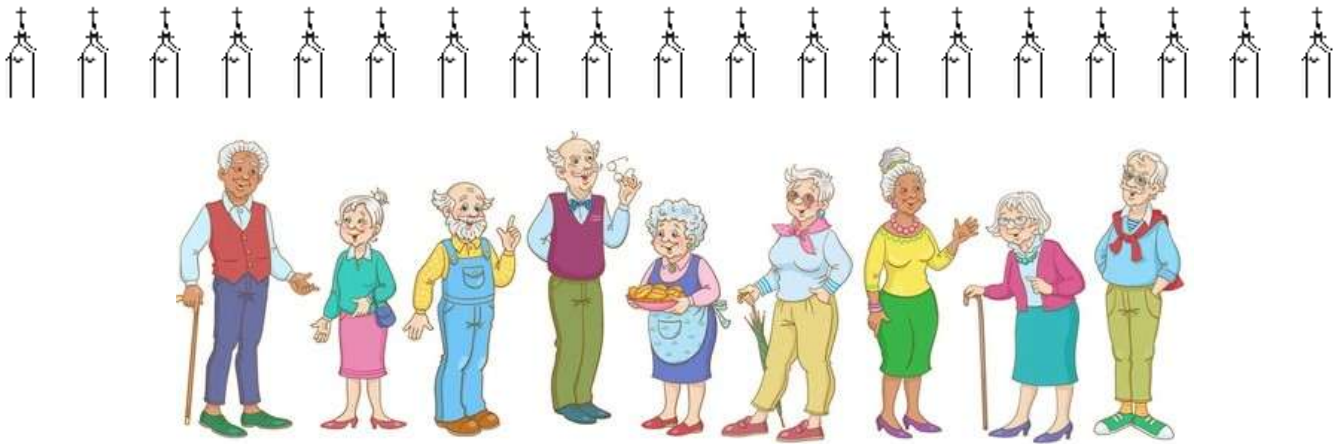
JULY

- 3rd Compliment Your Mirror Day
- 4th Independence Day
- 7th Chocolate Day
- 13th Embrace Your Geekness Day
- 15th National Give Something Away Day
- 20th National Ice Cream Day
- 22nd Hammock Day
- 24th All-Ages VBS
- 27th Take Your Plants for a Walk Day
- 29th National Lasagna Day
- 31st National Avocado Day

Gearing Up

I hope everyone has marked their calendar for All Church Camp, scheduled for Aug 29-31st (Fri thru Sunday Labor Day Weekend. You will read of our speaker in this edition of The Chimes, the variety of activities for the weekend and endless opportunities to spend time with church family. You will have the opportunity to register beginning on Sunday, July 6th . I hope to see YOU there!

Blessings, Keith



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 ~~noon~~ 11:00am* on the first Sunday of the month we gather in the CE Lounge on the ground floor for an hour of shared wisdom.

Pack a bag lunch and join us!

When you share your faith, your patriotism and your values with your grandchildren, you are giving them a precious gift. The best wrapping for that gift is a story. Tell them about your military service or your deferment or conscientious objection; relive with them your sense of vocation and why you chose the career you had; regale them with stories of parenting their parents--braiding hair, teaching them to ride a bike, practicing math with games in the car--whatever insights you can share about their own parents and your own history. Passing on that legacy helps them to learn from you: to stand up for what's right and just, to care for others, to teach and listen and learn. Enjoy your holiday--whether together or through FaceTime or postcards. And join us for AGOG, our Grandparent support group, on Sunday July 6th at 11 am in the lounge of the CE Building!

Thursday Night VBS

Vespers, Bible, & Supper

On Thursday, July 24th we will welcome the early music ensemble, Musica Antigua de Albuquerque. We'll enjoy Medieval and Renaissance pieces as they offer music representative of different seasons of the church year. We'll learn about the liturgical calendar: Why do we change colors, music and practices throughout the year? Vespers service, Bible study and supper will be our reimagined VBS. This is for all ages and open to the public, as well.

5:30-7:00pm Thursday, July 24th

Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall



Lunch Bunch Callers for July:

Zena Thomas, Nancy Bliss,
Carol Brown, Vicki Cobble,
Ann Cooke, & Vivien Chen



Family Round Robin Dinners

The first groups participating in the Round Robin Dinners had a really good time, so the M&E Board has decided to continue the fun this year.

We will have sign-ups in a month or two and we will sort out groups to participate this year. We will have groups of approximately 3 families, which will form the rosters for this year. Families will then coordinate dates that work for the group, and each family will host a family dinner/lunch at a time that works for all members of the group. We hope that all 3 dinners/lunches will be completed by the end of June. There are no expectations for how the dinners/lunches are done: potluck, take-out (Pizza, Chinese, etc.), picnic, or dinner/lunch prepared by each host. The goal of these get-togethers is to learn more about each other, and, if you are comfortable, share your faith journeys.

We use the term “family” loosely. Singles can join up with other singles or join with another family. Of course, we are especially eager for children to be a part of these dinners to know and be known by the adults in the church.

If you are wanting more information, please seek out one of the current participants who can share their experiences. If you want to sign up immediately, please email Carol Brown chalbergbrown@gmail.com!

This year's participants:

Larry and Carol Brown, Vivien Chen, Jim and Vicki Cobble, Jeff and Beth Dermer, Randy and Laura Erickson, Matt and Marie Michnovicz and Corine Christman, Chris and Jenn Olsen, David and Irene Powell, Anthony and Leslie Puckett, John and Norma Puckett, Derrill and Liz Rodgers, Chris Sierk, Ginny White, Roger, Betty, and Sheriden Smith, Jerry and Georgia Strickfaden, Steve and Edith Stringer, Kim and Jan Taylor. I'm sure any of them would be happy to speak to you about their experiences.

SAVE THE DATE for our Fall Retreat!

October 17th to 19th, 2025

@ Sonlight Christian Camp, Pagosa Springs, CO



PRAYERS



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

Jody Rigg ~ Janet Clayton ~ Phil Seeger ~ Art Guthrie
Arlene Edwards ~ John Rebstock ~ Barbara Martinez
Gladys Erickson ~ Heather McCulloch ~ Jerry Seeger
Philip Brown ~ Krista Bollinger ~ Sara Roemer ~ Dory Ryan



Norma Puckett	01	Jan Lippiatt	12	Laura Loving	25
Jim Hall	01	Zena Thomas	12	Xander Rigg	25
Vivien Chen	01	Jan Taylor	12	Jerry Bolme	27
Linda Goforth	02	Patrick Harlow	16	Charmian Shaller	30
Joey McCulloch	08	Steve Watkins	17		
Maddie Ovaska	10	Dalton Hall	19		



New Wi-Fi on Campus!

Our IT volunteers have been hard at work updating our Wi-Fi network. We now have a new campus-wide network you can connect to and use no matter what building you're in.

A huge *Thank You* to Beth, Jack, and all the others who have been working so hard to bring our system up to date!

Network: UnitedChurchGuest
Password: UnitedChurch1947!



“Life happens when you had other plans.”

Bishop Budde, in **LEARNING TO BE BRAVE**, shares how Life often throws **“Lifequakes”** in our intended path. When her dreams were dashed it felt like failure at first. Yet she realized unavoidable disappointments, after a needed period of grief, can be a time when **“new seeds of possibilities are planted and slowly take root.”**

Budde was inspired by friends, who despite their difficult circumstances, moved intentionally over *long* periods of time. Often, they needed to accept where they were at for a time because significant preparation was required to begin change. Some people set the seed and did not see the final outcome.

I do not believe that God causes suffering and crisis but helps us through rough times and brings good from them. Richard Rohr defines **suffering** as **whenever you are not in control and things happen against your will**. Rohr believes, “deliver us from evil” (Lord’s Prayer) is not asking to avoid suffering but could be translated as **“When the big trials come, God, hold on to me, and don’t let me turn bitter or blaming, an evil that leads to so many other evils.”**

A friend told me, “Don’t look back, you aren’t going that way.” However, moving toward an unforeseeable future can feel like driving in thick fog. Yet, with no guaranteed outcomes, not even an assurance of *how* to go, **we can strive to be ready for opportunities ahead.**

“You can only see as far as your headlights,
but you can make the whole trip that way.” E.L. Doctorow

Sometimes **an unconventional path is needed**. The story of Mary and Martha is remarkable because **Mary chose to take her place among the men and listen to her Rabbi**, a brave path in their male dominated culture.

The Gospel of John is full of **Jesus saying he does nothing without his Father**. We also can be guided and strengthened by relying on God during life’s many upsets.

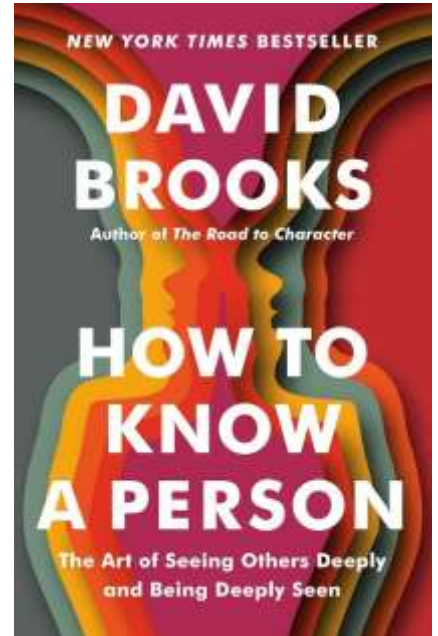
“It is when things go wrong, when the good things do not happen, when our prayers seem to have been lost, that God is most present. We do not need the sheltering wings when things go smoothly. We are closest to God in the darkness, stumbling along blindly.” Madeleine L’Engle

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 has just started reading "*How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen*" by David Brooks.



Monday Mornings:

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

via Zoom



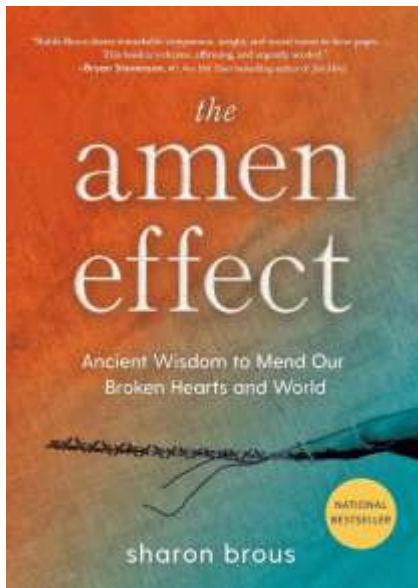
Friday Morning Women's Bible Study

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 reading:

"The Amen Effect: Ancient Wisdom to Mend our Broken Hearts and World" by Sharon Brous



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.



All Church Camp at Ghost Ranch, near Abiquiu, NM Labor Day Weekend (Aug 29-31)

“Corinth and Paul”

Please join us at Ghost Ranch for a weekend of fellowship, activities (hiking, mountain biking, family games, singing and music, Dinosaur and Cultural Museum, and more), and discussion.

Our speaker this year is Dr. Luke Gordon, professor of Religious Studies from UNM. Dr. Luke Gorton specializes in ancient Mediterranean religions, languages, and cultures. His research focuses on cross-cultural encounters between various linguistic and ethnic groups of the ancient Mediterranean, including Greeks, Romans, Jews, and Christians. He teaches a wide variety of courses at UNM, including the large Greek Mythology class as well as courses entitled Magic in Ancient Religion, Apocalypse in the Ancient World, and Sex and Gender in Ancient Religion. He also teaches upper-level Greek and Latin language courses and has taught a beginning New Testament class. We have asked Dr. Gorton to speak about the city of Corinth at the time of Paul, the effectiveness of Paul in that culture, and some of the content found in Paul’s letters to the Corinthians. Under the Romans, Corinth was rebuilt as a major city in Southern Greece and had a large mixed population of Romans, Greeks, and Jews. As a devout Jew and a Roman Citizen, fluent in Greek, Paul was uniquely able to relate to many different people. Come and learn about the cultural context of this part of the ancient world.

Tentative Schedule

Friday	
3:00 pm	Check-in begins for campsites (in the campground)
6:00 pm	Potluck and informal campfire at Campfire area in campground
Saturday	
Morning	Activities & lunch on your own
1:30 pm	Session: The Cultures and People of Corinth at the Time of Paul
3:00 – 4:30 pm	Free time and organized activities
4:30 pm	Session: Paul and His Ability to Connect
6:00 pm	Potluck Dinner at the Lower Pavilion
8:00 pm	Campfire with singing, etc. (share a funny skit, story or joke if you like)
Sunday	
10:00 am	Worship under the big tree
11:00 am	Lunch will be provided at the Lower Pavilion
12:30 pm	Session: Another Look at Paul’s Letters to the Corinthians
2:00 pm	Closing

The rest of the weekend on your own. You are welcome to stay at Ghost Ranch.

All Church Camp 2025 at Ghost Ranch
Labor Day Weekend – August 29 - 31, 2025

Name(s) (Please indicate ages of Children)

Telephone # _____

Email _____

Registration Fees

_____ Adults x \$45 each = \$ _____

_____ Children x \$15 each = \$ _____

Total Registration \$ _____

Camping/Lodging Fees (if staying at Ghost Ranch)

Private Room \$200 x _____ night(s) = \$ _____

RV – Full Hookups \$45 x _____ night(s) = \$ _____

Camper w/ No Hookups \$35 x _____ night(s) = \$ _____

Tent Site \$35 x _____ night(s) = \$ _____

Total Camping/LODGING \$ _____

TOTAL FEES \$ _____

(Check, myEoffering, or Venmo (@UCLAgiving) accepted.)

I/We would like to ride in the Church Van: _____ people on Saturday

_____ people on Sunday

☐ **Yes**, I/we would be willing to help with setting up, cooking, organizing activities, or other things as needed.



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