



# THE CHIMES



The United Church of Los Alamos  
*United in our Faith Journeys*

[www.unitedchurchla.org](http://www.unitedchurchla.org)

July 2026 - Vol. 63 No. 7

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August 28-30, 2026  
Register Today!



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:david@unitedchurchla.org)

Keith Lewis  
505-412-9954 cell  
[gohorns\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:gohorns_99@yahoo.com)

Kara Windler  
[DCE@unitedchurchla.org](mailto:DCE@unitedchurchla.org)



- 1<sup>st</sup> International Joke Day
- 4<sup>th</sup> Independence Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> Chocolate Day
- 11<sup>th</sup> Cheer Up the Lonely Day
- 16<sup>th</sup> World Snake Day
- 19<sup>th</sup> Visit by Lyn Westman  
World Cup Final Match
- 20<sup>th</sup> Global Hug Your Kids Day
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Hammock Day
- 27<sup>th</sup> Walk on Stilts Day
- 29<sup>th</sup> International Tiger Day
- 31<sup>st</sup> National Avocado Day



We can always count on one thing.....change.

Hopefully, you are aware that All Church Camp is a week earlier this year. Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> will be our annual gathering at Ghost Ranch this year. You will see inside this edition of The Chimes a registration form and a schedule for the event. Please plan to attend, it will be a great time of learning, eating, worship and fun as a church family. Help the Christian Education (CE) Board promote this event by asking folks who are normally part of All Church Camp if they have registered yet. Make plans to share rides if you are a commuter and wish to offset the cost of gas.

Blessings,  
Keith



## PRAYERS



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

Lori Rigg ~ John Rebstock ~ Deb Fisher ~ Karin Reese

Janet Clayton ~ Randy Dickerhoof ~ Jerry Seeger

Mary Venable ~ Jerry Galassini ~ Lola Netuschil

Arlene Edwards ~ Barbara Martinez ~ Tammi Fields

# **Welcome to our NEW MEMBERS!**

**Atsuko Masamune**



**Ron Mariner**



**Vivien Chen**





## Director of Children & Family Ministry

The United Church is looking for a new Director of Children and Family Ministry. This position will lead the children's ministry program, serve as lead teacher for children's Sunday morning classes, and will work to provide support and outreach for families with young children. Requires experience teaching children pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> and/or experience in a church education program. Those referring someone or interested, please email cover letter and resume to [ucoffice@unitedchurchla.org](mailto:ucoffice@unitedchurchla.org).



## Lead Nursery Attendant/Coordinator

The United Church is looking to hire a Lead Nursery Attendant/Coordinator to supervise infants and children, ages birth through pre-k. The applicant will work primarily on Sunday mornings during church services and church classes, from 9am-12:30pm, but may occasionally be asked to provide nursery services for other events. The coordinator will maintain a schedule for nursery volunteer helpers and will manage the overall health and safety of the nursery/toddler department.

*"Every human personality is something sacred, something special. We don't have a right, as another person or as a nation, to destroy that spark of divinity, that spark of humanity, that is made and created in the image of God."* —John Lewis

I LOVE my country with its beauty, different regions, cultures and peoples. I do NOT Love the trend these days to reserve this wonderful place primarily for whites, like me. My life, early on was filled with fascinating people of all colors while living at Rotary International House in Australia, traveling and befriending Aborigines and Kiwis, visiting Pakistanis in the outback, traveling through Asia with dorm residents and having an Australian family.

I love our rich cultural heritage in THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT. Being invited to Native American feasts and dances plus enjoying the northern and southern Spanish cultures are gifts. Visiting Roger's fun midwestern Indiana family is different than here. Places like New Orleans, are special because of different cultures. In Maui, worshiping with Hawaiian, Tongan, Latinos and whites this Easter was very spirit filled, beautiful and enriching. Recently my long time Japanese friend joined our church. She shared her culture and taught us some delicious cooking. *My life is rich because of all these unique people.*

God created Life, rich with amazing diversity, and proclaimed it GOOD!



*Some say the Tower of Babel is an example of sinful people wanting to touch the heavens. Recently another view has caught my attention. Author Kat Armas, in LITURGIES FOR RESISTING EMPIRE, quotes Walter Brueggeman's idea that human unity built outside of God, results in an 'oppressive conformity,' which tries to control what is different and unpredictable.* From my viewpoint our country is heading that way...to a singular "tower" striving for a controlled unity and isolation, instead of rejoicing in and benefiting from others diverse uniqueness.

Jesus wanted a kingdom of Love, kindness, compassion and mercy. He reached out to outsiders of the Jewish faith, aliens, women and children, and the downtrodden and ill, who were normally ignored. May Jesus' kingdom be evident NOW in our lives.

We CAN make a difference with God's Spirit giving us the wisdom and strength, mercy and compassion towards all. We can also support larger groups that have power to make differences here and abroad.

On behalf of our savior who loved all... Betty Smith

## Lunch Bunch Callers for July:



Zena Thomas, Pamela Massey,  
Nancy Lemons, & Karen Rigg



## 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.



The men's Koffee Klatch celebrated Ron Strong's birthday with a cake and other goodies. Ron turned 90 years old on June 7.

Happy Birthday  
Ron!

# SAVE THE DATE for our annual Fall Retreat!

## FALL RETREAT

October 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Let's go back to Sonlight for a weekend of fun and fellowship!



## USHERS NEEDED!

We currently have multiple openings for new volunteer ushers.

Ushering gives a great new perspective on the services, it's easy, and a great way to get to know people.

If you are interested in serving, please contact Eric Schmierer, [eschmierer@msn.com](mailto:eschmierer@msn.com) or leave a message at 505-660-9936.



|                               |    |                |    |                  |    |
|-------------------------------|----|----------------|----|------------------|----|
| Norma Puckett                 | 01 | Maddie Ovaska  | 10 | Steve Watkins    | 17 |
| Jim Hall                      | 01 | Mike Osborn    | 11 | Dalton Hall      | 19 |
| Vivien Chen                   | 01 | Jan Lippiatt   | 12 | Laura Loving     | 25 |
| Linda Goforth                 | 02 | Zena Thomas    | 12 | Xander Rigg      | 25 |
| America (250 <sup>th</sup> !) | 04 | Jan Taylor     | 12 | Jerry Bolme      | 27 |
| Joey McCulloch                | 08 | Patrick Harlow | 16 | Charmian Shaller | 30 |



**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 11:15 AM 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!

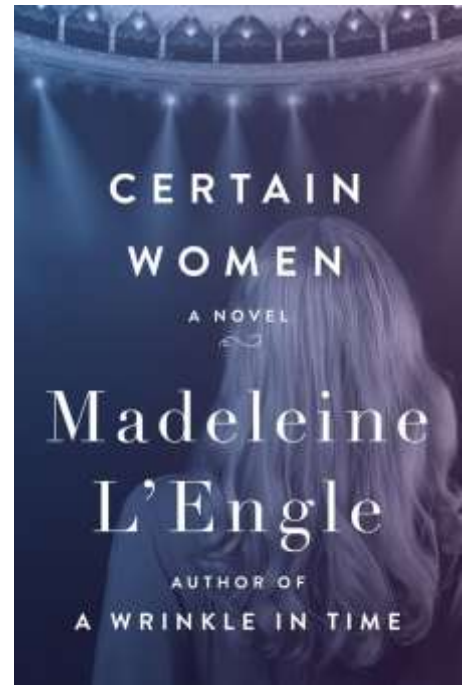
Questions? Please contact Diana Little or Irene Powell

## 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 is currently reading "*Certain Women*" by Madeline L'Engle.



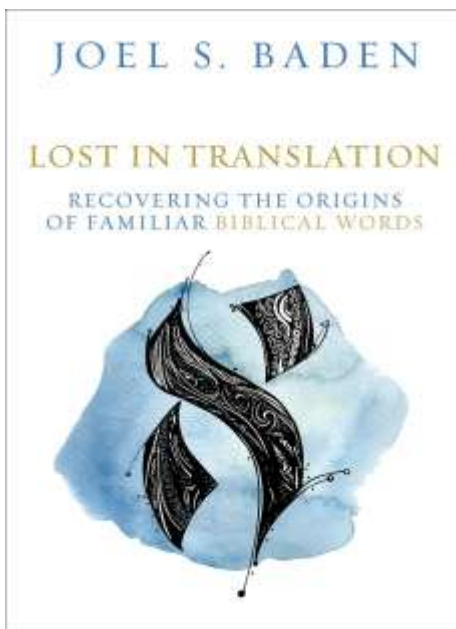
**Monday Mornings:**

**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 begin studying "*Lost in Translation: Recovering the Origins of Familiar Biblical Words*" by Joel S. Baden beginning on June 5.

**Friday Mornings:**

**10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**via Zoom**

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



## **All Church Camp at Ghost Ranch, near Abiquiu, NM August 28-30, 2026 (NOT Labor Day Weekend)**

### **“From Judea to Galilee”**

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 again 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 regions (i.e., Judea, Samaria, Galilee, Decapolis, etc.) in the area of Jesus' ministry with a focus on the history, differences, tensions, governments, and religions of each region. Exact session topics are still being refined.

#### **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: 1**
- 3:00 – 4:30 pm Free time and organized activities
- 4:30 pm **Session: 2**
- 6:00 pm Potluck Dinner at the Lower Pavilion
- 8:00 pm Campfire?

##### **Sunday**

- 10:00 am **Worship under the big tree**
- 11:00 am Lunch will be provided at the Lower Pavilion
- 12:30 pm **Session: 3**
- 2:00 pm Closing

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

# All Church Camp 2026 at Ghost Ranch

## August 28 - 30, 2026

**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 (Limited Rooms Available) \$250 x \_\_\_\_\_ night(s) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RV – Full Hookups \$55 x \_\_\_\_\_ night(s) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Electric Only Hookup \$50 x \_\_\_\_\_ night(s) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tent Site \$45 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 2026 CHIMES Newsletter  
The United Church of Los Alamos  
2525 Canyon Road  
Los Alamos, NM 87544