



# THE CHIMES

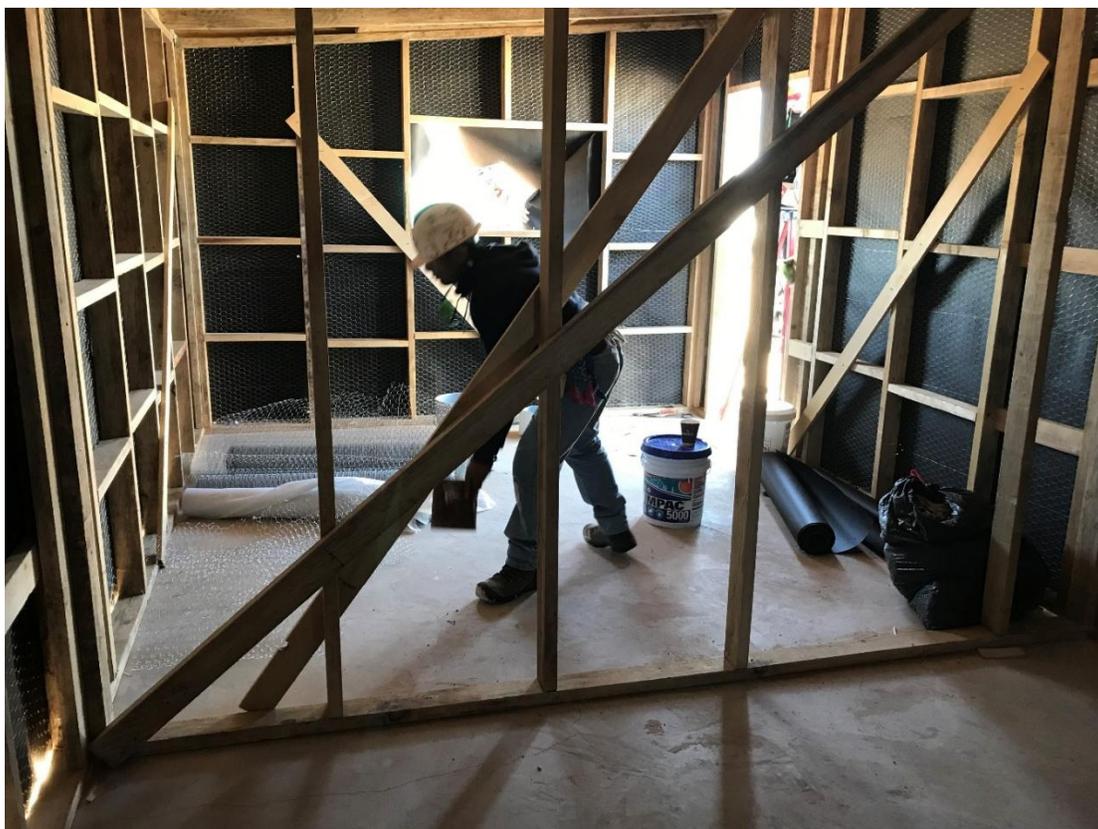


The United Church of Los Alamos  
*United in our Faith Journeys*

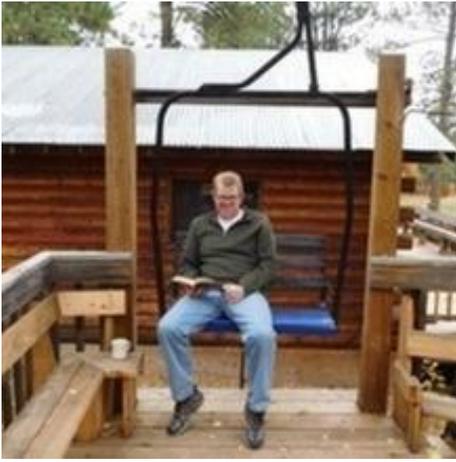
[www.unitedchurchla.org](http://www.unitedchurchla.org)

March 2026 - Vol. 63 No. 3

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**MEXICO  
MISSION  
2026!**



## 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> Mexico Mission Donor's Dessert Fundraiser
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Caregiver Appreciation Day
- 5<sup>th</sup> National Cheese Doodle Day
- 8<sup>th</sup> Daylight Savings
- 12<sup>th</sup> Our Week at the Ecumenical Worship Series
- 14<sup>th</sup> Pi Day
- 17<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Day
- 20<sup>th</sup> First Day of Spring
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Earth Day
- 23<sup>rd</sup> National Puppy Day
- 26<sup>th</sup> Live Long and Prosper Day
- 28<sup>th</sup> Mexico Mission Begins
- 29<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday



Lent is always in swing when we head across the border for Mexico Mission at Spring Break.

From time to time, our work week takes place during Holy Week with our group making the mad dash back to Los Alamos to be in worship for Easter Sunday morning. That is the case this year. I always use the week to reevaluate the way I practice my faith daily, my prayer life and how I interact with others. The building of the house, group discussions, devotion booklets, wonderful meals and time spent around the campfire all provide for a week of true Christian community. I am always reminded of Ashley Reader's (Lisa and Garth Reader's daughter) statement that Mexico Mission is the one week each year that everyone has something to contribute. I always think of her when we make tar squares for chicken wire and stucco.

The Lenten Season is a time of preparation, discipline and growth. Each of us is included in this journey and we all have something to contribute. On Sunday, March 1st from 3-5pm there is a Donor's Dessert to raise funds for Mexico Mission 2026. We are still planning on taking our group to build homes with Amor Ministries in Puerto Peñasco Mexico. 40 years of working with Amor has allowed us to build homes as well as life changing relationships all in the name of Jesus Christ. I hope to see you at the Donor's Dessert as we each walk the Journey of Lent together.

Blessings,  
Keith



## Plaza Plans?

The Trustees are soliciting ideas for improving the Church Plaza. (The concrete area in front of the church.) We are looking for ways that would enhance this area with shade and sitting areas. Have you thought about this? All ideas are welcome.

Please sketch and label your ideas and drop them in the Treasurer's box or the Trustee's box. There are sketches of the plaza available in the Sanctuary and on the last page of this edition of the CHIMES if you don't want to draw your own. If you have any questions, you can contact Eric Schmierer at [eschmierer@msn.com](mailto:eschmierer@msn.com) or Ann Cooke at [uctreas@comcast.net](mailto:uctreas@comcast.net).

# 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.



# SEASON OF LENT

## Lent at The United Church of Los Alamos

March 1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent Mexico Mission Donors' Dessert
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Ecumenical Lenten Series @ Trinity on the Hill Episcopal Church
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Ecumenical Lenten Series United Church "Host Church"
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Ecumenical Lenten Series
March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Ecumenical Lenten Series
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Worship
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> Worship
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Good Friday
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Sunrise Worship @ Ashley Pond 9:30am Worship & Festivities

## Lunch Bunch Callers for March:



Nancy Bliss, Carolyn Raar,  
Cheryl Warren, Norma Puckett,  
& Chris Sierk



## 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.



## PRAYERS



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

Donna Osborn ~ Phil Seeger ~ Peggy Chambers ~ Jeff Irwin  
Mary Venable ~ Krista Bollinger ~ Vicki Cobble  
Arlene Edwards ~ John Rebstock ~ Barbara Martinez  
Janet Clayton ~ Randy Dickerhoof ~ Jerry Seeger  
John FitzPatrick ~ Gerald Byrnes ~ Jerry Galassini



Chuck Tallman	01	Susan Watkins	13	Linda Hardie	27
Corine Christman	03	Alison Watkins	15	Liz Rodgers	27
Vicki Cobble	04	Eric Bjorklund	16	Michael Keeler	27
Nancy Bliss	06	Sam Baty	21	John Charles	29
Milan Gadd	07	JD Johnson	21	Bernadette Lauritzen	29
Jeff Dermer	08	Ryan Worley	21	Paul Lowe	29
Elise Ovaska	11	Georgia Strickfaden	26	Roger Smith	30
Jerry Grindstaff	12	Frances Meier	26		



**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



Budapest has a memorial for those who were grabbed and taken to places unknown. A Guide said her well-educated parents were snatched, and she never saw them again. Her father told her to blend in, and it saved her at age 8.

LAHS taught a MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN course about historical international cruelty. It made a big impact on me. Now, in our beautiful diverse country, unarmed adults and children are being violently taken, *without* 'Due Process', out of cars and houses by masked men with high technology gear. People are swiftly taken to huge warehouses, (the government is trying to purchase many more) far from home, where their families can't find them. A few released American citizens, who were grabbed because of ethnicity and to *fill quotas*, have testified to the deplorable violent treatment, living conditions, loss of dignity and privacy. I believe this is not a party issue. Both sides should *oppose* this inhumane treatment, which, due to its methods, can be done to anyone deemed a threat.



I feel HOPE when famous *and little-known* people speak against this cruelty. Puerto Rican recipient of 3 Grammys, Bad Bunny, felt compelled to say, "We are not animals." During his energized Superbowl celebration of culture, unity and diversity, he shared this sign with the world:

A mob grabbed Jesus in a garden. He was whisked off, tortured and ended life in one of the cruelest deaths, crucifixion, which Romans used on many people. Despite his agony, Jesus still asked his Father to forgive those who did this to him. **Jesus showed that Love was greater than this hate.**

We can find ways to influence and stop the NO Due Process abductions, mass detention and inhumane treatment. Minnesota's huge protests and leaders issued ICE out. Jesus cared about those suffering and endangered by hate. He asked us to love one another...even our enemies. As holy week approaches, we can Pray for "new eyes," like Jesus.

Jesus said, *"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'... 'whatever you did not do for one of the least of these you did not do for me.'"* Mt 25:40, 45 In honor of Jesus' love, sacrifice and resurrection, Betty Smith

# Missions & Service Board

## Would you like to be a Mission Correspondent?

The Missions & Service Board oversees about 15 specific missions that the United Church directly supports. There is ongoing communication with those missions, and each mission has a correspondent, a United Church member who acts as the point of contact for that mission. While board members rotate, the correspondent stays with the mission. We are looking for correspondents for three of our missions.

**Kenya: Burke-Kibwezi Partnership.** This is a joint mission with the Burke and Clifton Presbyterian Churches in Virginia towns by the same name, and the United Church of Los Alamos. This mission supports multiple efforts in Kibwezi, Kenya, in conjunction with churches there, namely Bethel and Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA). Efforts include orphan care and preschools. There are also opportunities to travel with the VA churches to Kibwezi.

**Kairos NM:** Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. is a Christian faith-based ministry which addresses the spiritual needs of incarcerated men, women, youth, and their families. Our support goes to efforts in prison ministry, both men and women, in New Mexico.

**Four Corners Home for Children, in Farmington, NM.** Founded in 1953 as home to care for Navajo children, today it operates six programs on a 16-acre campus. Those programs include the House of Faith (a long-term children's home), the House of Hope (a short-term children's home), the House of Grace (a teen transitional home), Four Corners Families (for mothers and children), Four Corners Academy for Excellence and Navajo Nation Outreach.

### What does a Mission Correspondent do?

The Missions & Service Board will help get you started to:

- Become familiar with the specific Mission,
- Be the contact to the Mission for the United Church,
- Keep up to date with activities of the mission and contact information.
  - Inform the Board of any changes or if there are special needs.
- Help the Mission Board with the periodic evaluation process of the specific Mission.

Interested in Helping?

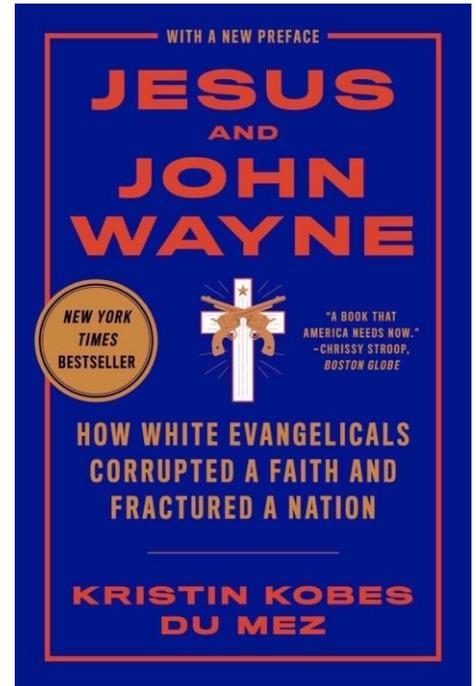
Contact John Puckett ([jmpuckett@comcast.net](mailto:jmpuckett@comcast.net))  
or Vivien Chen ([vivienchen@comcast.net](mailto:vivienchen@comcast.net))

## 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 "*Jesus and John Wayne*" by Kristin Kobes du Mez.



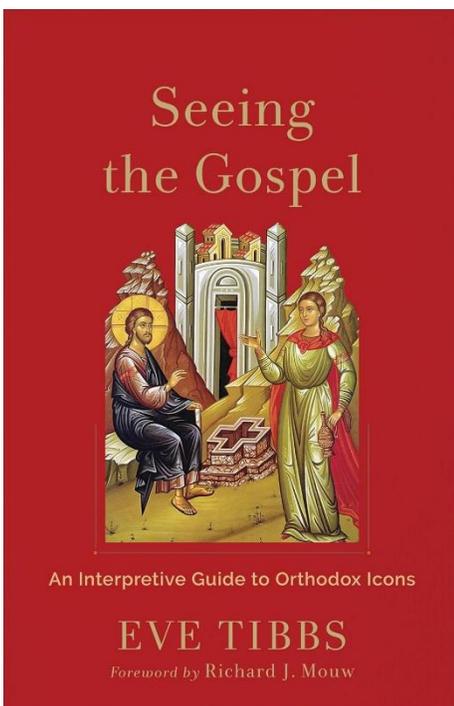
**Monday Mornings:**

**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 studying "*Seeing the Gospel*" by Eve Tibbs.

**Friday Mornings:**

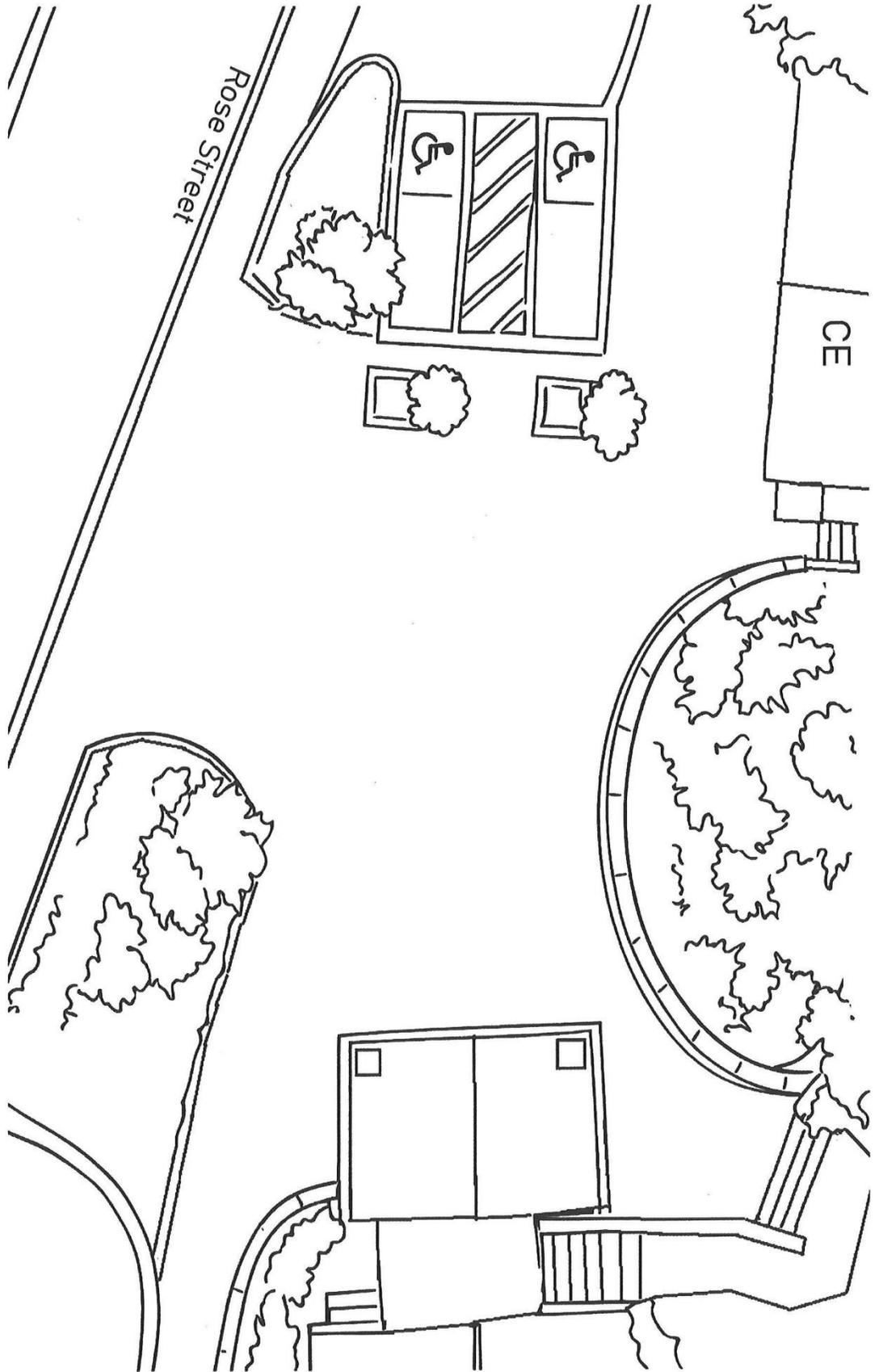
**10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**via Zoom**

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

# Church Plaza Idea Worksheet

Description and notes



Name and contact info (optional) \_\_\_\_\_



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