



THE CHIMES



The United Church of Los Alamos
United in our Faith Journeys

www.unitedchurchla.org

May 2026 - Vol. 63 No. 5

Join our Staff!

**NOW
HIRING!**



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 Star Wars Day
- 5th Cinco de Mayo
- 6th No Diet Day
- 9th Lost Sock Memorial Day
- 10th Mother's Day
Senior Recognition
- 12th International Nurses Day
- 15th Bike to Work Day
- 19th Plant a Vegetable
Garden Day
- 23rd LAHS Graduation
- 24th Pentecost
- 25th Memorial Day
Towel Day
- 27th World Otter Day
- 30th International Jazz Day

Monday Night at the Pit

The 2026 version of Monday Night at the Pit begins June 1. United Church has supported it in mind, body, and soul for over two decades. Beginning at 5:30 PM on Monday evenings this summer, volunteers with prepared dinners assemble and serve them to interns from LANL, primarily – college students, some of whom may be away from home for the first time. We want to welcome them to Los Alamos. Additionally, young professionals, many whom we met in prior years, often come, too. They make up as much as twenty percent of the total guests every week. You may have noticed some of these young folks at our services over the last year.

The interesting thing on Monday evenings, as darkness encroaches and clean up begins, is that some of the young folks rush to join in to help stash all the gear: the serving tables and table clothes, or haul out the trash. It's almost like a competition to see who can help the most. I asked one last summer, "Why?". Her reply, *It's the least we can do.* That's called that a "*Thank you, United Church.*"

Over the years, we've lost some servers. In recent summers, we often feed in excess of 60 to 70 persons every Monday for about ten weeks. We need volunteer provider teams for this summer. A sign-up list for summer Mondays will soon appear in Fellowship Hall. Please consider talking to a church friend (or other friend), and let's form teams, and sign up to help provide food for this event. It's a lot of work, but it's a lot of fun – meeting the young crowd, remembering your own youth. Bring a folding chair, serve the young community, eat with them, and watch the show. You will enjoy it and be better for it.

For each week, we need a leader, who plans the meal and coordinates food prep. Leaders are encouraged to recruit coworkers, too. The M&E Board reimburses expenses with receipts. M&E also sets up the basics: water and ice, site prep, and clean-up. With your help, we can make this another great year for them and ourselves.

Jim Cobble



See someone you know?



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 5th and/or experience in a church education program. Those referring someone or interested, please email cover letter and resume to 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.

Lunch Bunch Callers for May:



Adda Moldt, Lisa Reader,
Nancy Bolme, Vicki Cobble,
& Liz Rodgers

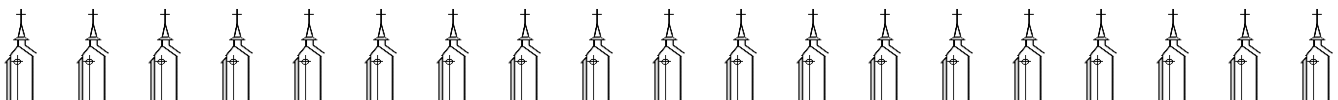


Men's Koffee Klatch

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 May:

Betty Smith ~ Karen Reese ~ Tammi Fields
Mary Venable ~ Ruth Lier ~ Lola Netuschil
Arlene Edwards ~ John Rebstock ~ Barbara Martinez
Janet Clayton ~ Randy Dickerhoof ~ Jerry Seeger
Jeff Irwin ~ Jerryl Galassini ~ Will Rounseville

Congrats Seniors!

Graduation is always an exciting time in the Spring and we are happy to celebrate our local High School graduates on Sunday, May 10th.

Hayden Watkins, son of Alison & Heath Watkins, was active in both athletics and academics throughout his time at Los Alamos High School. He played football all four years as the quarterback and kicker, as well as baseball all four years, and basketball during his first two years. He was also a member of the National Honor Society. In his free time, Hayden enjoys fishing, spending time with friends, and listening to music. In the fall he will attend Oregon State University and plans to major in biology, marine biology, or zoology.



Jamie Grow, daughter of Suzuko Brown, was deeply involved in music, serving as Drum Major for 3 years, First Chair in the Wind Symphony for 3 years, and participating in Honor Band (5 years), All-State (2 years), and Solo and Ensemble (2 years). She also performed with the local Community Winds and flute choir. Her extracurriculars included cross country, track, soccer, the National Honors Society, Eco Club, and Speech and Debate. After graduation, Jamie plans to attend Cardiff University.

Keep an eye on the June CHIMES for more graduate information.

Dear friends in United Church,

March 2026

Thank you for your recent two gifts toward our support totaling \$3,709.00.

Generosity, determination, smart people, hard work, God's providence and timing – brought light and sight to the Baptist hospital in Bandunduville.

The dream to build a proper surgery and maternity for the thriving hospital began several years ago. One of the first health centers in the story of Baptist medical missions in Congo and initially staffed by two of the first graduates of the Vanga nursing school, the facility maintained a reputation of providing consistent quality health care to the rapidly growing population in that region. In 2024, the generosity of a donor turned dream to reality.



Mama Sophie and Katherine.

Early 2025, a floor plan was finalized, a builder contracted, materials purchased, and foundation laid. The maternity would be named “Mama Sophie” to honor the legacy and faithful service of a Vanga trained nurse midwife delivering babies there since the 1960s.

Then came providence. Dr. Rainald, Mennonite missionary ophthalmologist and close collaborator with Baptist mission work through the Vanga hospital, learned of the project. If we could increase the length of the operating room by ten feet, he and his team could use it to host cataract surgery campaigns. No eye care existed in the city Bandunduville, with its population of 200,000.

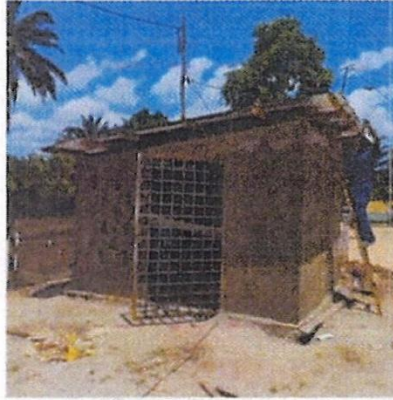
By October construction was completed except for electrical work. Katherine invited Dr. Rainald to visit and make campaign plans, which included two unconventional requirements: three operating tables and two air conditioners in the operating room so the heavily clad surgeons could work long hours in the tropical heat. On the eve of this visit, a powerful storm downed powerlines supplying the city. Suddenly, assuring a dependable energy supply became critical. Through God's providence of another generous gift, reliable power would become reality before the campaign date of Dec 1, six weeks away!



We hastily gathered our “technical team”, developed a list of materials needed, strategized transport for getting the team and equipment to Bandunduville, over muddy, rutted, dirt roads, to do an installation in the time available! Pierre would do the solar, Kisungu the generator, and John the electrical. Big items we delivered to a trucker who braves the roads to Bandunduville. The team would drive up in the “Medical Coordination” jeep that Katherine uses for her work.



Kisungu assembled the generator ...



Then a proper shed was built around it.



Pierre began solar panel installation on an older building, the new roof being too steep.



With solar batteries and inverters in place. Light shown!



John basked in the light that very night – the only place in city with power!



Heroic efforts were made to get surgical microscopes in place.

During those weeks, Wayne got daily updates on progress, everyone aware of the Dec 1 deadline. On Dec 3 with energy available, Dr. Rainald began pre-op eye exams. 85 patients were operated that week, over 40 of them complete blind from cataracts.



Blind eyes see! Dr. Rainald with a now seeing blind patient, her two cataracts removed.

It took the skills of missionary and Congolese cataract surgeons, the determination of team of engineers, and generous folks like you! How awesome is that?!!

Wayne + Katherine



Barbara de Nevers	02	Chris Sierk	18	Ashley Reader	30
Frank Larocque	05	Don Hanson	20	Lindsay Reader	30
Laura Erickson	08	Jan Mercer-Smith	22	Charlie Windler	30
Phyllis Foley	10	Deb Church	22	Wendy Huff	31
Mary Van Eeckhout	10	Adda Moldt	24		
Beth Dermer	12	Aaron Jerkatis	29		



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

There are two opposing views of Empathy common in US Christianity. In one, *extreme Christian nationalists* see it as a weakness, clouding moral judgement. Those who care for the *marginalized*, can be labeled as “too emotional,” “unbiblical,” “weak,” “compromising” their faith. Empathy can be seen as a liberal tool. Old Testament law is stressed causing fear of God’s punishment and Christian rejection of people who are imperfect and different.

“The Bible shows us that Christ’s work of salvation would be nothing without his divine and ultimate work of empathy.” STAR-SPANGLED JESUS by April AJOY

Jesus’ LIFE examples, teachings, sacrifice and resurrection, for me speak of kindness and Empathy. He was the fulfillment of the law stressing love for our neighbors, as ourselves even when they are different. Jesus used a despised Samaritan as the empathetic hero who saved the victim, in comparison to the *religious* authorities who passed by. Empathy allows us to see beyond personal experiences, acknowledge *others pain* and confront our actions or lack of actions.

“Discouraging empathy leads to apathy, which leads to the approval of inhumane horror.”
“Condemning empathy distorts the character of God, wavering divine justice from divine compassion” Ajoy

In comparison, Father Boyle believes **only love makes progress**. *Fear and negativity keep us stuck*. **“We live in a wounded and wounding world. And loving the wounded is never a wasted effort.”** The commandment to love, requires understanding, humility, stepping into another’s perspective and trying to relieve suffering.



Boyle believes in loving folk into their wholeness, keeping focused only on their health, **not calling “people out but to call them in and invite them to their own well-being... A tender hand on a cheek, rather than winning the argument and replacing one message with another.”** At Homeboy, Father Boyle loves some difficult members so much that he has to call the police to stop destructive behavior, not to punish them. Then he accepts them back into belonging. “We’re trying to create a belonging community, not a behaving one.

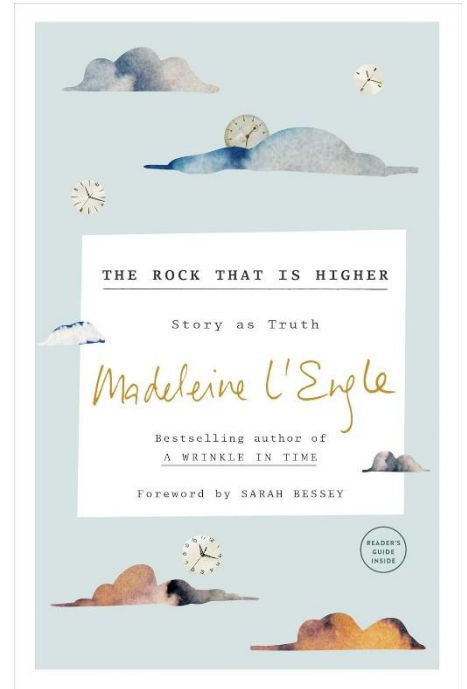
‘So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.’ Mt 7:12

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 "*The Rock That is Higher*" by Madeline L'Engle.



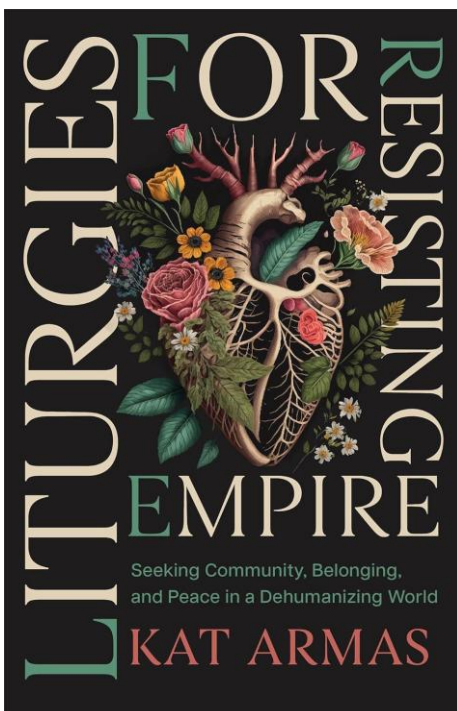
Monday Mornings:

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 is studying "*Liturgies for Resisting Empire*" by Kat Armas.

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.

Highlights from the Spring Break Work Trip

This year our Spring Break Trip decided it best to not travel to Mexico, as we normally do, but to head north to Pagosa Springs and help out our friends at Sonlight Christian Camp.





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