THE CHIMES

The United Church of Los Alamos

United in our Faith Journeys

www.unitedchurchla.org November 2026 - Vol. 63 No. 11





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

November

1st	**All Saint's Sunday** Daylight Savings Ends
3rd	Election Day
7th	**United Singers Workshop**
9th	**Anniversary Sunday**
11th	Veterans Day
15th	**Loyalty Sunday** Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day
17th	**Thanksgiving Service**
19th	**Rose St. Worship**
22nd	**Christ the King Sunday** **Thanksgiving Dinner**
26th	Thanksgiving
27th	President's Day (NM)
28th	Small Business Saturday
29th	**Advent Begins**



Just like that, November is upon us! The hot days of Summer have given way to shorter daylight hours and cooler evenings. With the big change in weather comes family gatherings and holiday meals. (Yes, that is a preposition at the beginning of the sentence!) Food becomes a focus and we turn our attention to those among our community that may be encountering food insecurity. According to the New Mexico Department of Health, 1 in 6 NM residents is experiencing food insecurity and when we look at numbers for children that number jumps to 1 in 4. Let that sink in for a second: 25 percent of children in our state aren't sure where their next meal is coming from or if they will have enough to eat.

The youth of United Church wish to do their part in curbing the concern for food in our community by sponsoring a food drive during the month of November. Beginning on Sunday, November 1st and continuing through Sunday, November 22nd our young people will be asking everyone to fill the food box provided in Fellowship Hall each Sunday morning. Bring your donation of non-perishable food items and place them in the box each week. We will collect the items together and get them to LA Cares in time for the Thanksgiving Holidays. The shelves of food banks are going to be depleted over the next two months, and this is an opportunity to help keep our friends and neighbors well supplied in these cooler months of the year. May we truly be thankful for all that we have and step forward to be our brother and sister's keeper. On a personal note, as we gather around the table with friends and family, may we truly give thanks to God for blessings big and small! I hope there is plenty of turkey and dressing for everyone!



Blessings,

– Keith

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Michael Bischoff & Jacob Mingear joined on December 14th



PRAYERS

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

Eric Schmierer ~ Nancy Bolme

Wayne Tafoya ~ John Rebstock ~ Jeremy Halberg

Arlene Edwards ~ Barbara Martinez ~ Tammi Fields

Mary Venable ~ Randy Dickerhoof ~ Deb Fisher

Janet Clayton ~ Jerryl Galassini ~ Jerry Seeger

WHAT TRUE **THANKS--GIVING** *CAN* LEAD TO….

We have much to be thankful for. How we show that can make a difference in others' lives. I am reminded of Mary and Martha's lesson when Jesus was their guest. Mary chose the best path and focused on Jesus. Martha, in busyness and preparation, seems focused on making a perfect feast, thus ignoring her guest. Our American Thanksgiving can also be a deeper experience, one where *others have our attention and listening ear*, not just the meal or a game.

Jesus' light can open our eyes to see **all as God's children,** beyond difficult attitudes and divisions. We can care for quiet folk who have a hard time getting into conversation and likewise the dominant talker. We can be grateful for influential people who show compassion for all. Our right to vote and free speech gives us choice in the leaders that represent us. May they and we promote possibilities where human rights can be elevated, becoming God's hands and feet. Thankfulness can ***help us*** **"do to others as you would have them do to you."**

True gratitude can open our eyes to God's care for us. Realizing *how fortunate we really are frees* us to share abundantly. I admire my disabled friend who recently lost her husband, lives in a small house in South Albuquerque with limited funds. She is a role model for me with her trust in God for everything. With a grateful heart, she generously gives despite many daily struggles. Similarly, the Mexican families I have helped built homes for, with thankful hearts often **generously and happily share** out of their meager wages. *May our thanks likewise promote generosity.*

"If we are to be peacemakers, it is essential that we take on what I would like to ***call a mentality of abundance and put away from us the mentality of scarcity.*** *This sense of scarcity makes us desperate, and we turn to competition, hoarding, and a kind of parody of self-preservation. This greed extends not only to material goods but also to knowledge, friendships, and ideas. We worry that everything we possess is threatened. This is especially true in a society that grows more affluent, experiences more opportunities for hoarding and more fears of losing what has been stored, and in the process creates enemies and war."* Henri Nouwen

I thank God for being with us in joys and rough times, even when I do not feel the spiritual presence. "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with **thanksgiving**, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Phil 4:4-7

Happy Thanksgiving! On behalf of grateful hearts that share with others. Betty Smith



"And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is pleased."
Hebrews 13:16 NASB

In the final chapter of Hebrews, the writer preaches about the power of the love of Christ in relation to spiritual duties. Our theme this year "**Sharing in Missions**," directly relates to this chapter and this passage.

So what are missions? Our church's missions are the many ways we reach out, beyond this campus, in outreach, service and giving to help others in need. It is also when we share our faith directly and indirectly in the sharing of God's compassion and love. This all falls within the wider realm of Christ's mission to this world. As Jesus was sent by God, we respond as Christ's Church sent into this world to serve.

Our missions are both local and global. Some of our members work directly on mission projects but we also support long-term missionaries all over the world who visit and have become like church members. Other congregational affiliates support immediate needs at disaster sites.

Our church has a long and rich history of providing generous and consistent support for many missions. We have, and continue to support World and National missions, five missionaries directly, and several New Mexico missions.

Every year, we have and will continue to provide support for disasters. Some support comes from money reserved for contingencies, but we also hold special collections as events require.

We can all be proud that as inflation increases our church costs, our support for missions has not only kept pace with other costs, but has been increasing (as a percentage of our budget) over at least the last four years. We are expecting about a 3% increase in all our costs for 2027. Our Missions & Service Board is discerning new ways we can serve our community, Northern New Mexico, and the world.

So, we encourage the entire congregation to prayerfully consider your 2027 contribution of your time and money. We thank you for your generosity in the past and your dedication in supporting the programs of the church in 2026.

Loyalty Sunday this year will be November 15th. Please drop your pledge card in the offering plate, mail it back to the church office before that date, or send an email to Ann Cooke (uctreas@comcast.net).

There are many ways to pay your pledge as noted on the back of the enclosed pledge card.

If you are among those who are over age 72, your pledge can be paid as a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA. Further, you may donate stock directly to the church. We have a partnership with the local Morgan Stanley representative who will accept shares for us at no cost. For assistance with stock or electronic transfers, contact Ann. If you are paying your pledge through LANL payroll or are changing/continuing your automatic electronic banking transfers, please let the treasurer know by sending in your pledge card and indicating your intent so the budget planning will be more accurate.

Thank you for your continued support of The United Church and its ministry.

The 2026 Finance Board of the United Church

Matt Michnovicz, Chair Steve Stringer Nancy Lemons
Adda Moldt Ron Strong Jeff Whicker Ann Cooke, Treasurer

It's time to sign up for Lunch Bunch for 2027!

Lunch Bunch is made up of small groups of women who get together once a month for lunch at a restaurant for fellowship and to get to know each other better. Each month the groups are different. One person is designated the caller who picks the date, time and place for lunch, making sure everyone in the group is invited.



There will be sign-up sheets at the church during coffee hour. Deadline to sign up is Dec. 13.

If you are away part of the year, you are still welcome to participate. Just make a notation of what months you are gone so the caller will know. If you happen to be designated a caller when you are away (it happens!), please see if someone else in your group will be the caller for you.

Please contact either Vicki Cobble at vjcobble@gmail.com or 505-695-5563.
Or Beth Dermer at jbdermer@comcast.net or 505-660-6052.
Or sign up after church.

Thanks! Vicki Cobble and Beth Dermer

Opportunities for Service – Church Boards

Do you have a passion for learning? Do you just love to meet people?
Maybe you feel strongly about missions or enjoy working with numbers.
Listed below are many opportunities to share your talents at United Church!

Executive Council: Consists of chairs of all the boards, church officers, and 2 at-large members. Coordinates the activities and budget of the church.

Christian Education: Oversees children's, youth, and adult education. Also sponsors special activities such as All Church Camp, Vacation Bible School, seasonal workshops/seminars.

Elders: Provides spiritual leadership through worship services including serving communion, sponsoring church retreats and lectures, and caring ministries – Neighborhood Umbrella groups, card ministry.

Finance: Works with the Church Treasurer to receive and disburse all church funds and keep an accurate accounting. Sponsors the Stewardship Drive and prepares the yearly budget for congregational approval.

Membership & Evangelism: Contacts visitors to our church, supports coffee fellowship, coordinates special Holiday meals and new member activities, sponsors the church directory, and Monday Night at the Pit college-age volleyball and dinners.

Mission & Service: Maintains contact with our supported missions and recommends how we allocate our mission giving. Sponsors special mission offerings and activities including Christmas Alternative Giving.

Personnel: Administers personnel policies of the church, including developing job descriptions, performance evaluations, and providing a mechanism for resolving personnel issues.

Trustees: Coordinates the maintenance and upkeep of our church property and facilities, insurance, maintenance contracts, etc. It's not all yard work!

Terms are for 2 years, renewable for up to 6 years.

Some 1-year openings are available.

Please contact the Church Office to volunteer!



Lunch Bunch Callers for November:

Nancy Nunnelley, Nancy Bliss

Pam Meyer, Terry FitzPatrick

& Vicki Cobble

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.

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 or leave a message at 505-660-9936.



Litton Logan	01	David Powell	10	Mirri Naud	16
Aaron Lauritzen	01	Yvonne Gonzales	11	David Elton	18
Katherine Elton	01	Kay Swadener	12	Nathan McCulloch	18
Lars Engel	02	Altana Gray	13	Kim Taylor	22
Cookie Halsted	06	Mary Venable	13	Roy Baty	25
Bob Tonelli	07	Pamela Massey	14		
Keith Lewis	08	Xander Wilson	16		



Worship

Dinner 5:15 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Join us for Rose Street Praise Worship on Thursday evening, November 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!

SAVE THE DATE

WCSS Christmas Potluck will be on Monday, December 7 at 6:00 in Graves Hall.

Come and enjoy an evening of fun, celebration, good food and fellowship. More information will follow.

WCSS is open to any woman affiliated with the United Church in any way and/or anyone who volunteers at the Thrift Shop. If you are not, or don't know if you are, on the WCSS mailing list and wish to be, please contact Chris Sierk at:

acsierk@hotmail.com or 505-660-8620 (text or phone)

ADVENT 2026

Begins
Sunday,
November
29th!



Thanksgiving Service

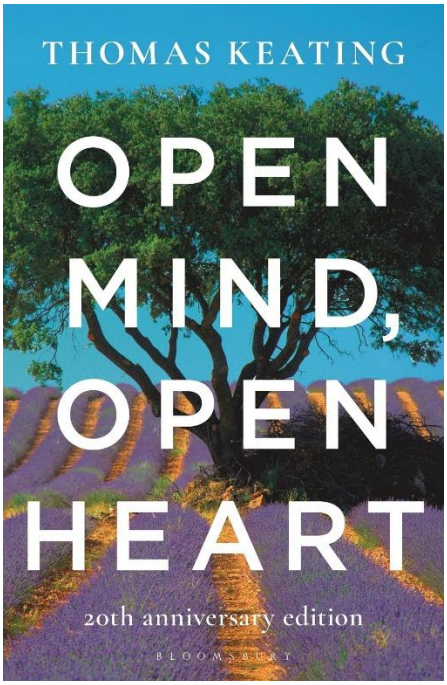
@ the Los Alamos Jewish Center
Tuesday, November 17th, 7:00pm

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 "*Open Mind, Open Heart"* by Thomas Keating

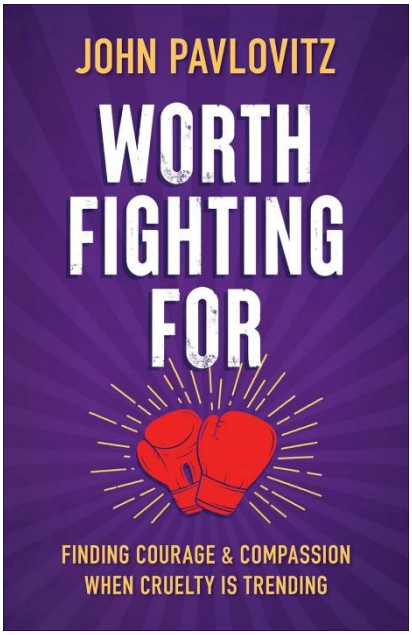


Monday Mornings:

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 has been studying *"Worth Fighting For: Finding Courage and Compassion When Cruelty is Trending"*

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.

Everything Christmas Sale

Saturday, December 5, 2026

9:00am - Noon

The United Church of Los Alamos

Graves Hall

2525 Canyon Road, Los Alamos

Gently used Jewelry, Christmas Lights, Trees, Ornaments, Clothes, Dishes, Decorations, Candles, Cards, and much, much more!

All proceeds benefit charities in Northern New Mexico

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