



THE CHIMES



The United Church of Los Alamos
United in our Faith Journeys

www.unitedchurchla.org

October 2025 - Vol. 62 No. 10

Fall Retreat October 17th – 19th



**Pastor Kara hosts:
Movies, Munchies, and Midrash!**



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



- 1st Pumpkin Spice Day
- 5th **World Communion Sunday**
- 8th Emergency Nurses Day
- 12th National Gumbo Day
- 13th Indigenous People's Day
- 15th Fossil Day
- 17th **Fall Retreat Begins**
- 18th Barbershop Concert
- 22nd Smart is Cool Day
- 23rd **Rose St. Worship**
- 25th International Artists Day
- 26th **Reformation**
- 29th National Cat Day
- 31st Halloween

Gearing Up

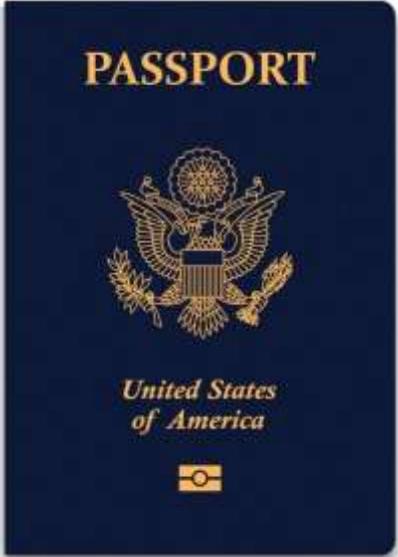
Just a couple of tidbits this month:

Mexico Mission Reminder!

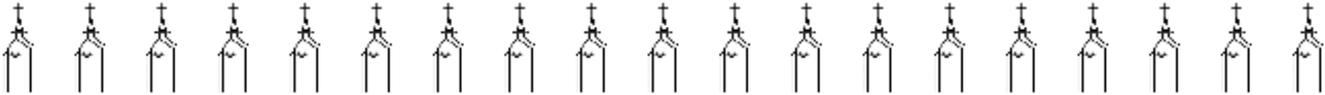
If you are planning to be a part of Mexico Mission Spring Break 2026 please make sure your passport is current and **IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A PASSPORT APPLY NOW!**

Trick or Treat Mainstreet:

Be watching for a big announcement coming for Trick or Treat Mainstreet on Friday, October 24th. Save the date for a Friday evening activity during this Los Alamos community tradition.



See you soon! - Keith



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Zach Riedel & Leah Gateley-Riedel joined on September 14th



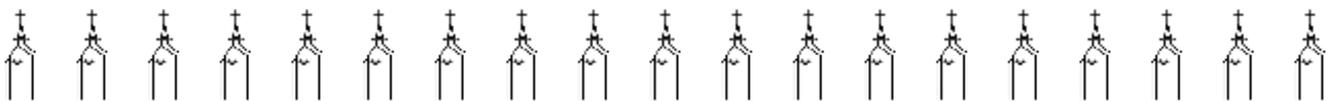


Worship

Dinner 5:15 PM Worship 6:00PM

Thursday, October 23rd, Graves Hall

Join us for Rose Street Worship on Thursday evening, October 23rd. 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!



Lunch Bunch Callers for October:

Mary Venable, Lisa Reader,

Liz Rodgers, Jen Olsen,

Chris Sierk, & Carol Honig



Congrats to the Strickfadens!

Georgia and Gerry were named Los Alamos Living Treasures



Georgia and Gerry Strickfaden

Living Treasures of Los Alamos-2025

Georgia and Gerry grew up in Los Alamos and share a life-long, deep-seated interest in the history of the town and sharing its stories with others. Georgia began doing historical education tours as a docent with the Los Alamos Historical Society in its early years, then through church, her Atomic City Tours, or just neighborhood conversations, she has helped newcomers or visitors learn the details of the Los Alamos story. Georgia's innovative van tours presented not only the scientific history of the place, but also the human stories from the Ranch School, Manhattan Project, and beyond. Gerry's contributions to historical education were more in the background as he tirelessly searched through Army Corps of Engineers records to document the significance of buildings, roads, trails, and artifacts. Together, Georgia and Gerry have organized and guided fundraising tours of the Trinity Site, providing unique insights from their experiences and research. They share an interest in modes of transportation: Georgia in riding horses and Gerry in restoring old cars. With their kind and genuine spirits, they continually contribute unrecognized acts of thoughtfulness to their friends and neighbors. Active in the United Church, County boards, and the Stable Owners Association, together the Strickfadens continue to shape not only how the story of Los Alamos is told, but the future of the community. Together and individually, they bring infectious enthusiasm to any project to which they turn their attention.

Text: Craig Martin

Donnell

HOMECOMING 2025

Many of our youth participated in the 2025 Los Alamos Homecoming Parade and Lynn Ovaska was the Grand Marshal!







PRAYERS

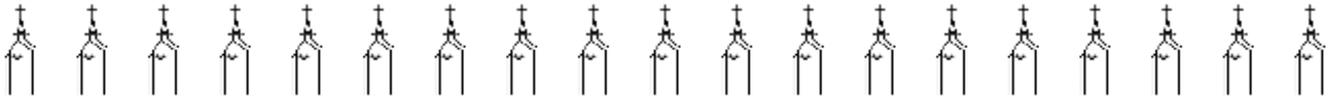


Please continue to hold these people in your prayers during the month of October:

Chris Sierk ~ Krista Bollinger ~ Jody Rigg ~ Jerry Seeger

Janet Clayton ~ Phil Seeger ~ Randy Dickerhoof

Arlene Edwards ~ John Rebstock ~ Barbara Martinez



Dignity Mission

Update

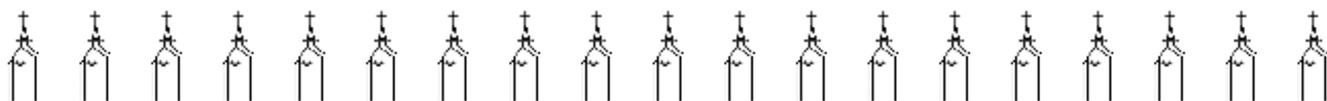
September 13, a large crew of volunteers packed 202 child-sized backpacks with school supplies. The backpacks will travel first to Placitas, then to El Paso and be delivered to Juarez where they will be given to children in immigrant facilities. Meanwhile volunteers have begun sewing Christmas bags from holiday fabric. Early in December we will meet again to fill the bags with appropriate children's gifts. The Dignity Mission is funded this year by our Missions & Service Board and WCSS with last year's Thrift Shop earnings.

Nina Thayer - Dignity Mission Los Alamos Coordinator



CELEBRATING OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

Sonja Elson	01	Rusty Gray	10	Gerry Strickfaden	18
Cheryl Warren	01	Karen Rigg	11	Betty Smith	24
Izabella Sandoval	01	Brian Belobrajdic	12	Austin Watkins	25
Joanne Baty	02	Tricia McCulloch	13	Rick Stupka	25
Sue Tonelli	05	KayLinda Crawford	14	Jody Rigg	26
Nancy Bolme	06	Chad Lauritzen	16	Larry Brown	29
Brad Meyer	06	Steve Myers	17	Darren Naud	29
Matt Michnovicz	09	Nancy Nunnelley	17	Alice Mutschlecner	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 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

Carol Brown recently shared there is future hope for the Palestinians and Israelis coming together through bilingual schools, the HAND IN HAND CENTER FOR JEWISH-ARAB EDUCATION IN ISRAEL. When these children get to know each other, they SEE another person, not the borders and politics that separate them. In our personal lives, we also can see others in new ways by connecting with them.

A TRUE Parable for our times: Roger's sister, Susan and husband, Jim, recently visited with friends. Susan and co-worker, Sara, were *dedicated* teachers, doing their very best for students in their small-town school. However, they did not see eye-to-eye on the HOW to's. When Sara got promoted to principal their differences became even more pronounced, *stressful and painful*. Susan finally chose LOVE. She and Sara went to the same hairdresser in another town. Suz invited Sara to ride together and brought snacks and drinks to enjoy while they were there. This turned into a pleasant ritual and a beginning of a deep friendship, close enough that they traveled throughout the west, with a stop at our house recently. The change was not immediate nor friendship automatic. Yet they realized they could really enjoy one another even with strong differences. Their husbands also have bonded. Even Sara and Jim became good friends despite strong polar opposite political views.



Lord, **PLEASE** Help our country also *unite and care about each other* again!

We can support larger organizations that help heal our world and our nation, yet we need to ask what can we do in our singular lives? We can SEE others, realizing they are complex and we do not know their unique experiences. **We can learn from their differences and be open to changing our understanding and ways, letting God's LOVE shine through us.**

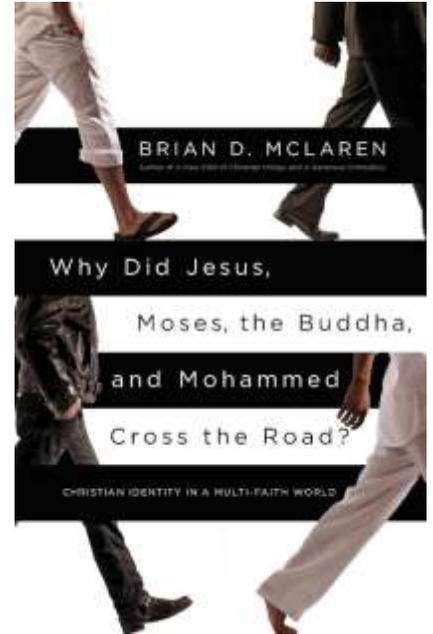
“By repairing and rebuilding our own hearts, one by one by one, by taking the time needed to slowly knit ourselves back together, we begin the process of healing the overculture.” Sharon Brous THE AMEN EFFECT

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.

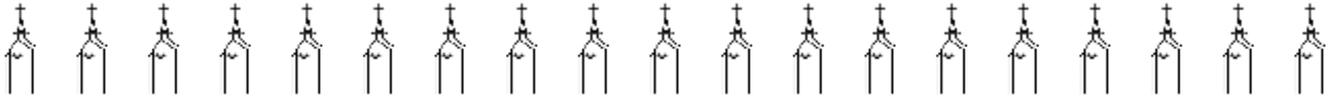
The Monday group will begin reading “*Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?*” by Brian McLaren on September 8th.



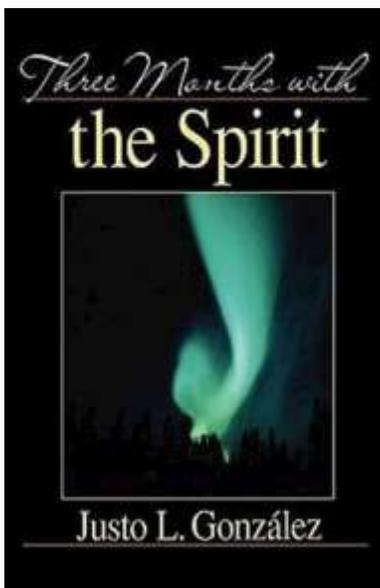
Monday Mornings:

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 currently studying the Book of Acts with: “*Three Months with the Spirit*” by Justo Gonzales as a guide.

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.

**Fall Retreat at Sonlight Christian Camp, Pagosa Springs, CO
October 17 to 19**

“Movies, Munchies, and Midrash”

Enjoy a weekend up at beautiful Sonlight Christian Camp in Pagosa Springs, CO. There will be opportunities for relaxation, outdoor activities, communing with nature, crafts, and helping around the camp.

For those interested, Kara Windler will be leading an exploration of the intersections of food and films and faith as we nourish our minds, bodies and spirits. (The word midrash means "textual interpretation", "study", or "exegesis" and is a method used in the rabbinic interpretive system that reconciles apparent biblical contradictions, establishes the scriptural basis of new laws, and enriches biblical content with new meaning. In this case we will be applying midrash to 1 or 2 movies and exploring how faith and food are intertwined.)

Price is \$200 per person and includes 2 nights lodging and 6 meals. (Scholarships available.) Rides can be arranged, and carpooling is encouraged.

Tentative Schedule (Still being worked)

Friday

3:00 onward - Arrive
~6:00 Dinner
7:30 Evening session and activities (Games, etc.)

Saturday

8:00 Breakfast
9:30 Morning session and activities
Noon Lunch
1:00 Afternoon free, activities available (Arts & Crafts, hike, bike, Sonlight projects, etc.)
6:00 Dinner
7:30 Evening session and activities

Sunday

8:00 Breakfast
9:30 Morning session and activities
11:00 worship
Noon Lunch
~1:00 Headout

**Fall Retreat at Sonlight Christian Camp, Pagosa Springs, CO
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“Movies, Munchies, and Midrash”

Registration

Name(s):

Telephone # _____

Email _____

Registration Fees: _____ x \$200 each = \$_____ (Check, myEoffering or Venmo [@UCLAgiving] accepted.)

Allergies, food intolerances, and other requests: _____

I would like to get a ride I have room for others

I am willing to lead an activity or provide a craft



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