



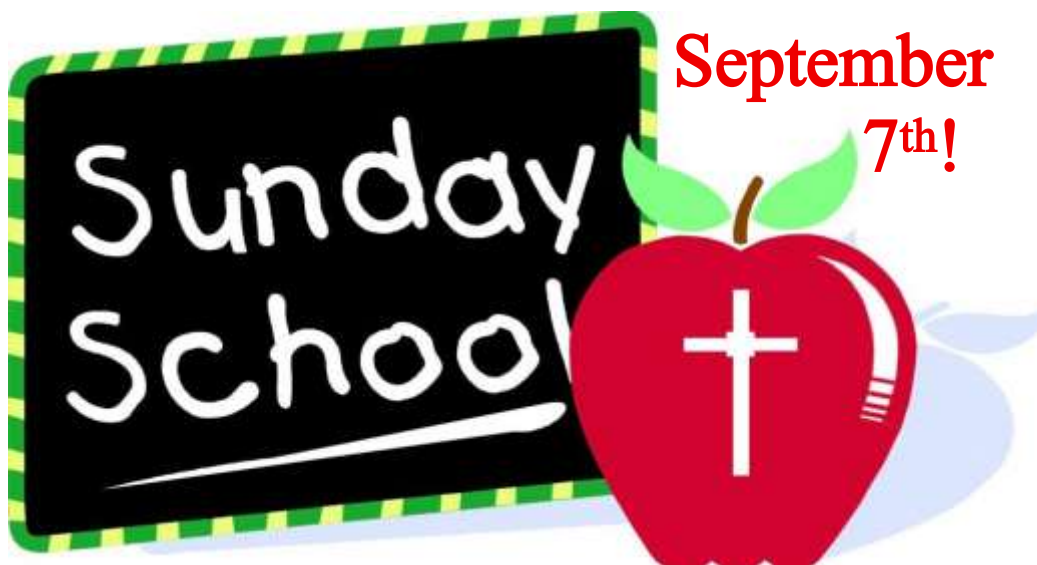
THE CHIMES



The United Church of Los Alamos
United in our Faith Journeys

www.unitedchurchla.org

September 2025 - Vol. 62 No. 9





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



- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1 st | Labor Day |
| 5 th | Be Late For Something Day |
| 7 th | Fall Classes Begin!
National Grandparents' Day |
| 8 th | Star Trek Day |
| 11 th | 9/11 Remembrance |
| 13 th | Dignity Mission |
| 14 th | Youth Sunday Supper |
| 18 th | Rose St. Worship |
| 19 th | International Talk Like a Pirate Day |
| 20 th | Red Panda Day |
| 21 st | International Peace Day |
| 22 nd | Staff Retreat |
| 23 rd | Staff Retreat |
| 28 th | National Public Lands Day |

Gearing Up

Wow, the Fall Semester is quickly underway, and it is rolling at a break neck pace. By the time you read/receive The Chimes our young people will have played numerous football/volleyball/soccer games...cross country will have run meets and marching band will be working on their show for competition. It is easy to put church/church activities to the side in busy times, however I would encourage everyone to stay plugged in and active even as life is hectic. Why? Because your faith community can provide moments to breathe and take a break from the daily, crazy pace of life. It may feel like one more thing on a schedule, in reality it can be a welcome pause. Join us...don't miss out!

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Sept 7 | Sunday School Begins 11am (Craig Hall)
We will have food and program weekly. |
| Sept 14 | Sunday Supper @ The Browns
We start at 5:30 and we wrap at 6:30 |
| Sept 21 | Bowling During Sunday School
Leave at 11am /return roughly at 1:15pm |

Tuesday Donuts and Thursday Pizza are back on the Schedule.

See you soon! - Keith



Lunch Bunch Callers for September:

Pam Meyer, Irene Powell
Cheryl Warren, Karen Rigg
Marge Lewis & Pamela Massey



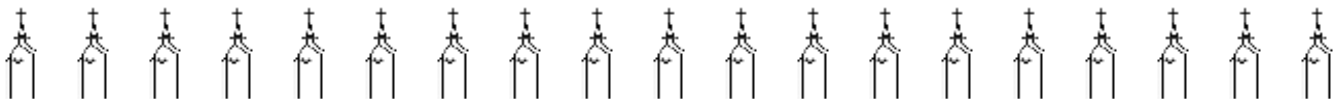


Worship

Dinner 5:15 PM Worship 6:00PM

Thursday, September 18th, Graves Hall

Join us for Rose Street Worship on Thursday evening, September 18th. 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!



The Promised Land Museum Exhibit

The Jewish Museum of the Palestinian Experience

Curated by Jewish American, Dr. Steven Feldman

A project of Voices for Justice in Palestine

September 5th – 7th 10am – 6pm

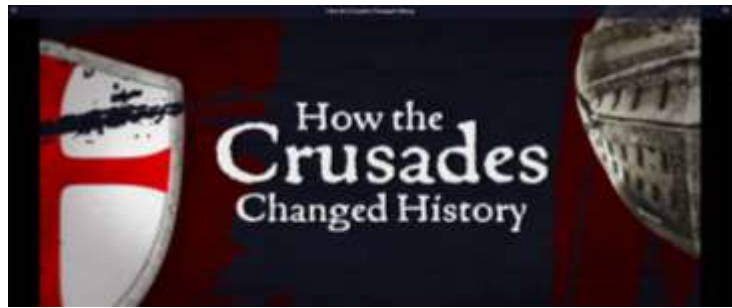
Unitarian Church of Los Alamos

Speaking Event at SALA

Sept. 9 Dr. Steven Feldman 7pm

Author and curator of The Promised Land Museum

Fall Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 7th for all ages.
We have two Adult Education Sunday classes to begin this semester:

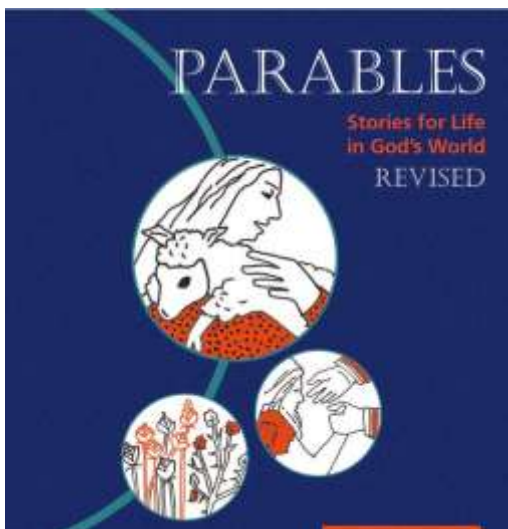


by *The Great Courses*

The Crusades, launched in 1095 by Pope Urban II, were a series of holy wars led by European Christians, aimed at quelling Muslim power and establishing Christian rule of the Holy Land.

In their aftermath, the Crusades left a significant impact on their era as well as on future centuries, and their effects are directly visible even in our own time. In the course we will track the volatile history of the four Christian-ruled crusader states; witness how crusading turned inward to the European interior; take a hard look at the motives of the crusaders, the hardships they faced, and life in the crusader kingdoms; learn about the spiritual aspects of crusading, and papal promises of the remission of sins in return for going on crusade; and observe how the Crusades unwittingly facilitated the rise of the Ottomans and weakened the foundations of Catholicism. Travel into this vastly impactful human drama, reflecting political and religious dilemmas that continue to resonate today.

Facilitated by Alison Watkins and John Puckett



Parables

Stories for Life in God's World

The Kerygma Program

This class will study Jesus' parables and themes throughout these timeless stories that speak to our faith.

These beloved and unique teachings still influence the decisions we make to be people of faith and in our daily discipleship. This class will help us appreciate how Jesus used these short and seemingly simple stories to express the heart of the good news he offered his listeners and the world.

Facilitated by David Elton

Missions & Service Board

Members of the board and others in the church are very involved with The Interfaith Coalition on Homelessness (ICOH) in the Española Valley and northern New Mexico. This is an update on activities of the ICOH.

The Mission – The ICOH is dedicated to uniting diverse faith communities – as well as all interested individuals, regardless of belief – to connect and facilitate compassionate support, advocacy, and essential services to individuals experiencing homelessness in Española.

As of April of this year, 13 congregations in Los Alamos and Northern NM have united to join and to support the efforts of the ICOH. Committees and teams have been formed to address various efforts identified by a steering committee.

Late last year the Coalition provided financial aid to the Española Pathways Shelter to help restore its program for overnight stays. About \$10,000 was raised from participating church congregations and the Shelter purchased linens, blankets, pillows and used some of the funds for sustaining shower and laundry programs for a year.

This Spring \$9,000 was raised for a project that provides cell phones to people seeking addiction treatment. After each treatment, another month of service is added to the phone contract. This encourages the patients to attend their appointments as well as provide a method for them to contact their providers and vice versa.

ICOH is working with RTD bus system to alter routes to better address the need for transport to medical centers.

ICOH is working with McCurdy Ministries on several projects. LEER (Literacy En Española Region) aims to improve children's reading proficiency through access to books with vetted and trained caring adults as Reading Buddies who read one-on-one with elementary students. Tiny Libraries are being built (8 so far) for placement in the Española area. Donations of clothes, shoes, hygiene kits and books are distributed to those in need by McCurdy.

ICOH has also assisted the Española Pathways Shelter on projects as they work to get approval from the city for a Special Use Permit to continue operations. A makeshift tent encampment has been removed from their parking lot, a strong boundary fence has been installed, and cleaning and painting continues inside. Services, such as mental health counseling, meals once a day, access to a clothes washer and shower facilities continue to be provided to those seeking help. There are currently no overnight stays, though shelter personnel are working to get the approvals needed for this service.

The United Church has been actively supporting the coalition and its efforts. One of the Alternative Giving options last year was for the Española Pathways Shelter. The M&S Board has given \$1500 to the phone project. In addition to church members making special donations, WCSS donated as part of their annual giving. Also, the Thrift Shop's culled items (clothes, shoes, books) have been given to McCurdy Ministries. The Dignity Mission redirected items from their leftover supplies for asylum seekers to families at McCurdy. ICOH continues to search for ways to help alleviate the homelessness dilemma that affects not only northern New Mexico but indeed, the whole country. For more information about the projects and for ways to volunteer or participate, see the website icohnm.org, or you can contact Kim Taylor for additional information and ways you can contribute and/or support the work of the ICOH.



A finished Tiny Library



Kim Taylor and youth working on more in Kim's home shop.



ALTAR FLOWERS NEEDED

If you would like to celebrate an event or remember someone, do it with flowers! Call Marie Michnovicz (832-876-6994) to arrange a date and get the details on how easy it is to do.

CHOIR IS RETURNING SOON!

UNITED SINGERS RETURN

Wednesday, September 3rd
at 6:15pm

If you'd like to join the church choir,
please speak with Suzanne Johnson
or the Church Office.



MUSIC MINISTRY would like to extend a hearty "note" of appreciation to all those volunteers who so graciously shared their talents with us in worship this summer:

(in order of appearance)

Daisy and Quinn McCulloch, Cesar and Ana Maria Ojeda, Laura and Randy Erickson, Beth Cayton, David River, Julia and Dan Sheppard, Matt Michnovicz, Mary Frances Dorn, Wendi Dreesen, Kathy Landschulz, Chuck Tallman, Jessican Heinlen, Anthony, Leslie, and Jillian Puckett, Zena Thomas, Maurice Sheppard, David Daniel, Dick Heaton, and of course, Frances Meier & Yelena Mealy.

Many thanks,
Suzanne



Family Round Robin Dinners

The first groups participating in the Round Robin Dinners had a really good time, so the M&E Board has decided to continue the fun this year. We will have sign-ups starting this month, and we will sort out groups to participate this year. We will have groups of approximately 3 families, which will form the rosters for this year. Families will then coordinate dates that work for the group, and each family will host a family dinner/lunch at a time that works for all members of the group. We hope that all 3 dinners/lunches will be completed by the end of June 2026. There are no expectations for how the dinners/lunches are done: potluck, take-out (Pizza, Chinese, etc.), picnic, or dinner/lunch prepared by each host. The goal of these get-togethers is to learn more about each other, and, if you are comfortable, share your faith journeys. We use the term “family” loosely. Singles can join up with other singles or join with another family. Of course, we are especially eager for children to be a part of these dinners to know and be known by the adults in the church.

Sign up sheets will be available in Fellowship Hall.

If you want more information, please seek out one of last year’s participants who can share their experiences with you.

This year's participants: Larry and Carol Brown, Vivien Chen, Jim and Vicki Cobble, Jeff and Beth Dermer, Randy and Laura Erickson, Matt and Marie Michnovicz and Corine Christman, Chris and Jenn Olsen, David and Irene Powell, Anthony and Leslie Puckett, John and Norma Puckett, Derrill and Liz Rodgers, Chris Sierk, Ginny White, Roger, Betty, and Sheriden Smith, Jerry and Georgia Strickfaden, Steve and Edith Stringer, Kim and Jan Taylor.



PRAYERS



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

Krista Bollinger ~ Jody Rigg ~ Heather McCulloch

Janet Clayton ~ Phil Seeger ~ Randy Dickerhoof ~ Jerry Seeger

Arlene Edwards ~ John Rebstock ~ Barbara Martinez

Dignity Mission

Update

Saturday, September 13th, 9:15 – 11 am

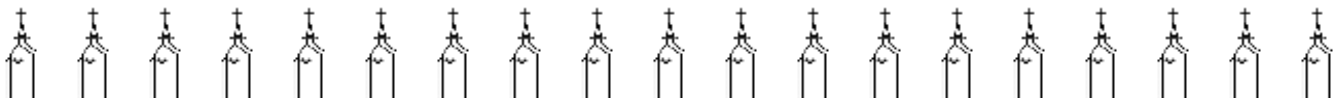
Come one, come all! Saturday, Sep. 13, we will pack ~200 children's backpacks with school supplies. The situation at the border in El Paso has changed little in the past six months. There are almost no immigrant crossings and the facilities that sheltered them in El Paso are empty. However, the facilities in Juarez continue to house mostly women and children, who wait for policy to change. They feel trapped as they have no resources to make the trip back to their home, consider their homeland unsafe or both.

The backpacks will be delivered to El Paso and Ciudad Juarez early in October along with the food and other supplies that the Dignity Mission provides.

Morning goodies, tea and coffee will be available at 9:00. We will start promptly at 9:30 to pack the child-sized backpacks with a spiral notebook, crayons, ruler, scissors, two mechanical pencils, pink eraser, glue stick and a baggie with band aids and safety pins.

Please join us for a morning of Christian service and friendship.

Nina Thayer
Los Alamos Dignity Mission Coordinator



Help needed for Bible Quest (Children's Sunday School)

Diana Little and I would appreciate your help and support for Bible Quest this fall. We are trying to alternate as the teachers for the kids so we need a second adult in the classroom during the Sunday School hour (11am-12pm). You are welcome to help with the lesson, but you are not required to do anything other than be present.

We hope that you can sign up for one Sunday this fall.
Please contact one of us to let us know when you can help.

Diana - 505 660-3990 Carol - 505 695-0447

Thank you!!



Susanna Naud	02	Emily Engel	15	Kara Windler	27
Loree Lynch	05	Iris Purtzer	16	Carol Brown	28
Quinn McCulloch	05	Chris Worley	17	Jo Ann Howell	28
Lisa Reader	06	Kelly Myers	20	Heath Watkins	28
Gus Ovaska	10	Fred Thomas	23	Carter Watkins	28
Holly Hayes	13	Tom Feiertag	25	Phil Jones	29
Don Tolmie	14	Eden Schmierer	27	Suzanne Johnson	30



SAVE THE DATE for our Fall Retreat!

October 17th to 19th, 2025

@ Sonlight Christian Camp, Pagosa Springs, CO



“Our Life’s work is to discern our core purpose, to hear the call, and then to do everything we can to live into it, for whatever time we have.” (from THE AMEN EFFECT by Sharon Brous).

Erin, a beloved young wife, mother and admired friend declared this as her life was being cut off by cancer. She stressed, we should *not* sabotage our life’s work with busyness, worry, and distractions. Not knowing when our last day is can be a positive motivator. But, how can we know our core purpose?

“Don’t ask yourself what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who come alive.” Howard Thurman (My emphasis)

In finding purpose we can admire others and strive to learn from them and mirror some of their good traits. Jesus wanted followers to act with love *like* he had. Yet we each have unique gifts and traits to offer. A famous wildlife artist, Robert Bateman, told our class a story because he knew we all wanted to paint like he did. He said that *God would never ask*, “Why weren’t you Michelangelo or Van Gogh?” However, he could be asked “why weren’t you Robert Bateman” if he was not true to who he was. (similar to 18th century story by Rabbi Zusya) This changed my life even more than his wonderful techniques.

‘Becoming ourselves is a spiritual imperative of the highest order—for our own sakes and for the sake of the world.... Each of us is only one small part of a vast and interconnected network of souls working toward the repair of our broken world.’ Sharon Brous

If you were a part of a human body, what part do you imagine yourself being? A college friend declared he would be a heel. After the laughter died down, he told us that he didn’t want to be out front, he was best at being a trusty support. So, *what part of the Body of Christ are you?*

I Corinthians 12:12-26 speaks of us being necessary parts of Christ’s body, *“If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.” ...“there should be not division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other,” etc.*

We cannot choose the times we live in, yet we can be part of the effort to improve things. Finding our life purposes can be challenging. Bishop Budde came through many trials to get to where she is today. These *lessons* allowed her to *make even more impact on others*. Our missionary, Dr Lyn Westman has had difficult life experiences that lead her to be a determined, compassionate leader and guide for sharing Mental Health training around the world. (Soon her ***inspiring memoir*** will be available)

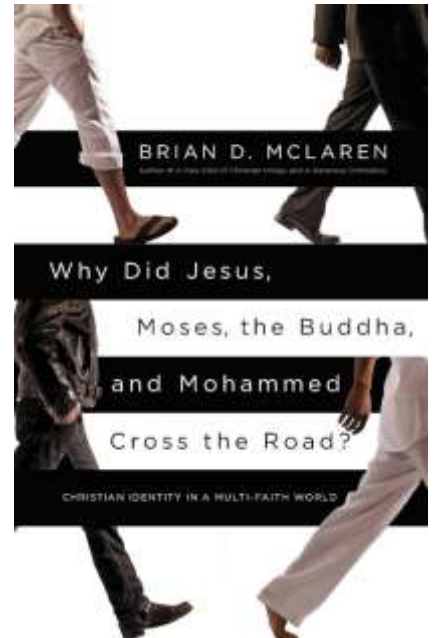
Do what you do Well! And *don’t belittle your role*. Small things can become important parts of the good in this world. And remember, at times our Life Work can drain us. *“When we allow ourselves to be held, when we embrace our own vulnerability, we can be revitalized not only with greater humility, but also with deeper compassion—for ourselves, and for those with whom we share our love.”* Sharon Brous

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



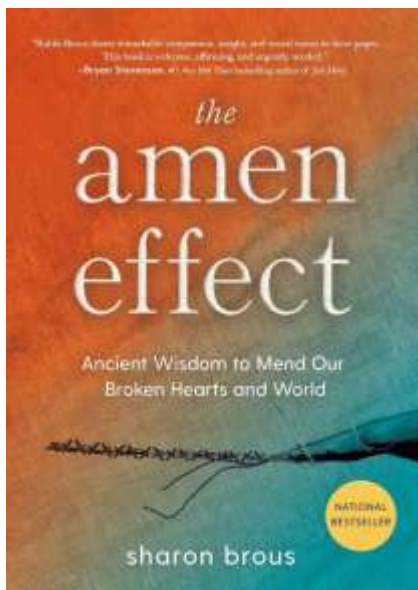
Friday Morning Women's Bible Study

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 reading:

“*The Amen Effect: Ancient Wisdom to Mend our Broken Hearts and World*” by Sharon Brous



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.



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