



THE CHIMES

The United Church of Los Alamos

United in our Faith Journeys



www.unitedchurchla.org

April 2018 - Vol. 55 No. 4

Easter Sunday – April 1st

See pages 2 & 6

All-Church Spring Clean-Up

Saturday, April 8th



Mexico Mission Worship

April 22nd - See page 11



Worship Class Worship Takeover

April 29th See page 16



Easter Sunday

April 1st

Sunrise Service at Ashley Pond at 6:30 AM

(At The United Church if inclement weather)

Easter Breakfast in Graves Hall from 7:15 – 9:15 AM

Worship Service with Communion at 9:30 AM

Video of Sunday's sermons are posted on
www.unitedchurchla.org
and on our Facebook page!

Contacting the Church

If you have any questions or concerns, you may call the church office at **662-2971**, email us at ucoffice@unitedchurchla.org, or send us a message on Facebook. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. 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
719-930-6563 cell
DCE@unitedchurchla.org

From the Pastor

"We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life...". 1 John 1:1

This verse is the opening verse and chapter of the First Letter of John. Since there are noticeable similarities to the beginning of John's Gospel, it is believed that the same writer who wrote the Gospel of John wrote First John. One of the striking differences, however, is that the opening verses of this letter are so much wordier.

In that well-known movie *A River Runs Through It*, based on the autobiographical story by Norman Maclean, there is a scene from Norman's childhood when he is being home schooled by his father, a minister, who's teaching him the art of writing. During this scene he hands his father the writing assignment that he had completed in hopes of being allowed to go fly fishing that day. His father looks at it, marks parts of it with a red pencil, then hands it back to him and says, *"Half as long."*

Later, Norman comes back having trimmed the writing in half and turns it in. His father looks at it. Marks parts of it with a red pencil and says, *"Again, half as long."*

As Norman's father saw it, the art of writing consisted of being concise, efficient, and using as few words as possible.

Obviously the writer of 1st John never studied under the Rev. Maclean. It is anything but concise. But it is precisely the number of words used in this passage that helps it to stand out which I believe is significant. What we have are words written with a kind of desperate enthusiasm. It sounds like the writing of an eye witness-- someone who can barely get the words out because of his or her excitement! And these extra words add to the credibility of this testimony:

*“We declare to you what was from the beginning,
what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have looked at and touched with our hands...”*

we declare, we declare, we testify...

There are so many ‘*what we’s*’ and prepositions in this passage that you can’t help but hear and see the writer’s excitement! It’s one of the easier verses to translate from Greek to English.

I see this first chapter in 1 John as enthusiastic a witness to the gospel as any in the entire New Testament. It should remind all of us what occurs here each Sunday when we gather together in worship. We come and hear and read the testimonies from those first and second-generation witnesses. We read and hear letters and stories from witnesses in awe of what they have heard or even seen and who finally realize that they’d better write it down for the next generation.

What a privilege for us to receive and share in this testimony. If only we could catch that enthusiasm a little more, believe the truth we hear, and see what we read as truly alive. How much more enthusiastic (in the best sense) and trusting would we become in faith.

If there was ever a time to let our excitement build and bubble over, it’s during the season of Easter... the season of life upon life!

Have a happy and exciting Eastertide!

David Elton

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.

Who *can the Spirit of God listen to* through us today?

Keith's February sermon, in the wake of the tragic school massacre, was a catalyst for this month's article. It is easy to feel overwhelmed at times of such unimaginable violence. However, fear doesn't help find solutions. God does.

But as for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more. Ps 71:14

Let us remember what God has done in our lives and walk with faith to be *part of the solution.*

I cried out to God for help; I cried out to God to hear me.... Then I thought... I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. Ps 77:1,10,11

We **have choice** – either let fear, discouragement, denial take over, *OR let the love and power of God use us for part of the solution.* We **can focus** on kids and adults around us, not get so caught up in our worries, frantic schedules and electronic devices. In the midst of our routines, **we can Notice others, Pray, and Listen to.... One person at a time.** When busyness overtakes me, I am learning to give it to God and **make time** with Him and others. Things fall in place when God is my time keeper.

As a middle class American, a lot is at my disposal. I can sponsor kids, who with their cherished education can in turn help others. One such girl told me she would become a nurse and open a clinic. . My Aunt helped a boy to get an education and play a good game of tennis, which lead to a college scholarship and the skill to run Habitat for Humanity. We can enjoy our church youth, be an adoptive "grandparent" at Sonlight's Grand Camp, make friends through Big Brothers and Big Sisters and so much more. Getting close to even just one youth can make a difference in his/her life and perhaps impact many.

We can fund organizations helping kids. A Navajo school mission can give kids an education and help their families living with dirt floors and no running water, giving them hope and survival. **God takes care of the "lilies of the field" sometimes by having people like us water them.**

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?" and Jesus will answer: "In so far as you did this to one of the least ... of mine, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:37, 40).

Each of us has unique gifts to offer. Even a simple smile, hello, and acknowledgement can be a sign of **God's grace. HIS spirit lives in us and listens through us to all who come with their sufferings, pains and joys. Jesus chose to see people uniquely for who they were and who they could become through Him.** We may not see results of our caring, yet can leave **the outcome to our God who turned the horrors of Crucifixion into the joy and glory of resurrection.**

"There is a lot of road crossing to do. We are all very busy in our own circles. We have our own people to go to and our own affairs to take care of. But if we could cross the street once in a while and pay attention to what is happening on the other side, we might become neighbors." Henri Nouwen

We may feel small and not able to do a lot, but it takes many ants carrying many pebbles to make an ant hill. We can carry some of the load...

On behalf of all good imperfect relationships, Betty Smith

Easter Breakfast

Join the M&E Board for Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 1st! Breakfast will be from 7:15am to 9:15am (Between the Sunrise Service and our 9:30am Worship Service).



Lunch Bunch Callers for April:

Doris Ford, Jen Buckman, Terry FitzPatrick,
Betsy Grindstaff, Bonnie Klein,
Linda McCormick, Margaret Flaugh,
& Ann Cooke

Mission & Service Board

LA CARES

LA CARES is a small, independent, non-profit organization providing help to the needy of Los Alamos County. They distribute food boxes once a month, provide once a year financial aid, usually for rent or utility payment. LA CARES has become a fixture among the needy of Los Alamos County, and definitely the go-to organization for monthly supplemental food assistance. The 100 percent volunteer agency logs many thousands of hours of donated time annually. In 2014, 93% of the funds received went directly back to client assistance. 142 families received once a year help, with rent, temporary housing or utility payment.

The food pantry is the visible arm of LA CARES, the operation with which the community is most directly involved. In 2015, more than 939 food boxes were prepared for the monthly distributions and emergency situations, a 9% increase over the same period the previous year. Approximately 18% of those served were children under age 10 and 14% were 60 years or older.

With close to 4% of local residents living at or below the poverty line, there is an obvious need, and the demands on the resources of LA CARES bear that out. Fortunately, as the need has increased, so has the community involvement, keeping pace and allowing an even more effective response to local poverty and hunger issues.

LA CARES local contact: Gary Thayer 662-6835.

BODY & SOUL
Prayer of Simplicity in Practice

April 4 - May 23, 2018
Wednesdays 10:30am - 12:00 noon
Fellowship Hall

About the Class

This eight week class is based on scripture passages listed below. Each session will open with prayer followed by introductory remarks and simple instructions, followed by 30min exercise program designed for flexibility and freedom of motion, and 30min of meditation. The class will end with closing prayer. Participants are asked to wear comfortable clothing including warm socks, and to bring a floor matt or a blanket. For more information call Janina Greene at (505)412-9428.

Introduction: "For when two or more are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them. (Matt. 18:20)

Part I: "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit within you which you have from God?" (Cor. 6:19)

Part II: "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm #46:10)

About Janina Greene

Janina is a retired Physical Therapist with 32 years experience as a practitioner, lecturer and instructor. She is a graduate of University of California School of Medicine with a B.S. degree in Physical Therapy. Janina will lead the group in gentle, contemplative movement and listening prayer. She has led Body and Soul Classes over many years in California, Colorado and New Mexico. She is a past member of the United Church of Los Alamos and author of the book, *The Narrow Path, An Intimate Account of An Inner Journey*.

BODY & SOUL

Take a moment to center and to offer your body, emotions, mind and spirit to God.

Standing make circles with:

Head
Shoulders
Wrists
Add finger stretches
Upper torso
Lower torso
Hips
Ankles

Standing do:

Toe curls
Spinal drop

Lying on your back do:

Alternate knee to chest bends
Side twists
Pelvic tilt
Spinal roll
Spinal twist

Long sitting do:

Back leg stretches

Lying on your stomach do:

Pushups
Front leg stretches

On your fours do:

Alternate leg lifts

Sitting do:

Eye exercises
Breathing exercises

Repeat all exercises 4-8 times in both directions or on each body side as appropriate. Remember to synchronize motion with breathing as explained in class.

Spend some time being quiet as in listening, contemplating or meditating. Devote at least 20 min. to simply being still in the Holy Presence of God, remembering that in God we live and move and have our being.

United Church Staff Performance Evaluations

Each year, in May and June, the Personnel Board facilitates the evaluation process for the staff of the United Church. The staff being reviewed includes:

David Elton, Senior Pastor and Head of Staff

Keith Lewis, Pastor for Youth & Congregational Ministries

Kara Windler, Director of Christian Education (evaluation in Aug. '18)

Suzanne Johnson, Director of Music Ministries

Tjett Gerdom, Office Administrator

Ann Cooke, Treasurer

Cesar Ojeda, Custodial & Maintenance

Jody Rigg, Nursery Coordinator

All church members have the opportunity to provide comments on the performance of the church staff. Comments can be verbal or in writing (preferred) and sent to a member of the Personnel Board. The Personnel Board members are as follows:

Board Member	Phone	E-mail
Randy Erickson	661-6855	rmllerrickson@msn.com
Jim Hall	672-6404	jhall@newmexico.com
Chris Sierk	662-3894	acsierk@hotmail.com
Nina Thayer	662-6835	gnthayer@cybermesa.com
Joann Brown	662-3501	joann.nm35@gmail.com
John Puckett	672-9642	jmpuckett@cybermesa.com

Save the Date

Take a break from life....be renewed with other women and the excellent staff of Sonlight.

Women's



Retreat

October 5, 6, and 7

(Columbus Day weekend)

**Fun, Faith, Friendship, amazing Food and
Fantastic scenery
for ALL women**

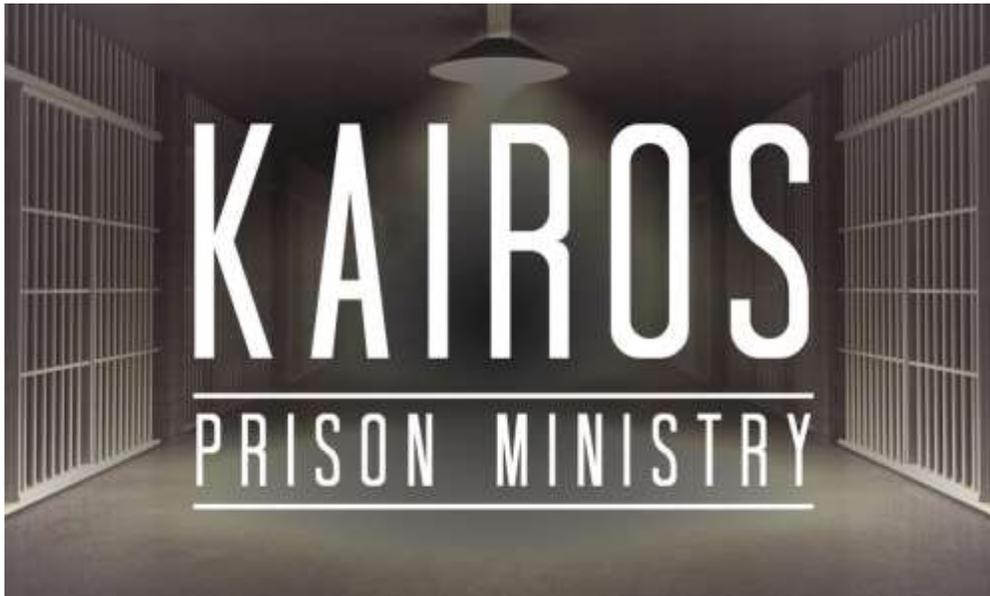


Mexico Mission Worship Service

Sunday, April 22 at 9:30 a.m.

Join us for worship the 4th Sunday of April as youth and adults who went to Puerto Peñasco this year to build houses lead us in worship.

There will be one service at 9:30 a.m.



The Missions Board would like to remind everyone that the following items are needed and being collected for Prison Ministries: Religious books, cards, calendars, Bibles, note books (not spiral-bound). A box will be available in Fellowship Hall to collect these items.

Janet Hall is the contact.



Monday Morning Women's Book Study

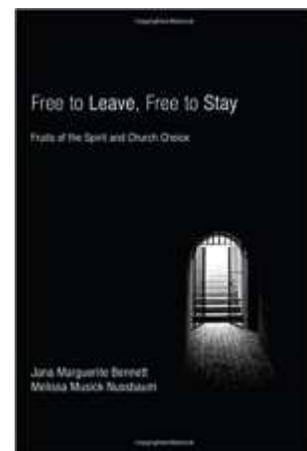
All women of the church and their friends are welcome to attend this group. The books for discussion are selected by the group.

The group is currently reading "Free to Leave, Free to Stay: Fruits of the Spirit and Church Choice" by Jana Marguerite Bennett.

Monday Mornings:

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

In the CE Lounge



CHIMES 2004....

Do you save things so you can read them later?

Do you save things to share with others?

Do you save things in case you need to reference them at a later date?

Do you save things....

Because if you do, the church could use (or copy) your old CHIMES to fill out our collection. If you have any of those listed below, please bring them to the church office. Thank you!

2004: January, March, April, May, June, October

2005: We need ALL but May & October

2006: January, March, June, July, September, October, November

2007: January, March, May, June, July, August, September, November

2008: We have all of them!

2009: February, March, April, August, September, October

2010: May

2011: We have all of them!

2012: March, July, August

2013: July

2014... We have all the rest!

Thanks for sharing!!

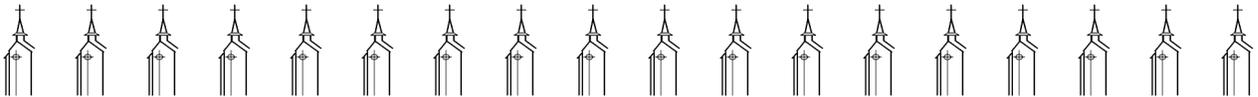
A Grand Time with Your Grandchild at GrandCamp

What is GrandCamp? It is one-on-one time with your grandchild in a Christian setting at the beautiful Sonlight Christian Camp, Pagosa Springs, CO. This year it takes place Wednesday – Saturday, June 6-9, for grandparents and grandchildren only. Students entering grades 2 – 12 are welcome with grandparents (and surrogate grandparents) of all ages. All the resources and staff of Sonlight are available to make it a memorable and fun week including 8 delicious Sonlight meals.

“Our 7-year-old grandson, Toby, just loved the crafty bus, but his favorite activity was the legendary “messy games” afternoon. “, says his grandparents Nina & Gary Thayer. “We will make sure that each of our grandchildren receives this gift of time at Sonlight with us.”

Registration is open at the Sonlight website, www.sonlightcamp.org. Family prices apply for families of more than four and scholarships are available.

-Nina Thayer



Friday Morning Women’s Bible Study

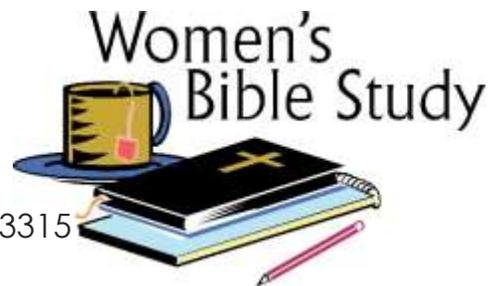
@White Rock Presbyterian Church, Fridays 10am – Noon

We are largely comprised of women of the United Church and are all welcome.

We spend time each week in study and, equally as important, in fellowship and prayer.

For more information, please contact:

Deb Worley 672-0699 or Dorothy Crawford 672-3315





Martin Naud	04	Margaret Hanson	15	Marge Lewis	24
Shirley Clifford	08	Mardel Schmiedicke	15	Natalie Crawford	24
Jake Stupka	08	Lori Elton	15	Dale Breshears	25
Megan Crawford	08	Alex de Nevers	15	Brittany Little	26
David Puckett	08	Caley de Nevers	15	Lily Wang	27
Sandy Brownell	09	Hannah de Nevers	15	Spencer Lauritzen	27
Sandy Charles	09	Myrna Strong	16	Ruth Williamson	28
Allen Schmiedicke	10	Sarah Worley	16	Jean Picard	28
Susan Larocque	13	Margaret Guthrie	19	Randy Johnson	30
Barbara Seeger	13	Jessica Cooke	19	Katelyn Johnson	30
Eric Ovaska	14	Brad Cooke	23		



Please continue to hold these persons in your prayers during the month of April.

Jan Sander ~ Shonn Galassini ~ Bob Nance ~ Carol Sierk

Rebecca Easley ~ Ed Macmann ~ Lesley Olsher ~ Shari Bosler

Terry Langham ~ Jay Dee Conrad ~ Sandra Tolmie

Krik Krikorian ~ John Redstock ~ Jill Forman

Men's Koffee Klatch

All men of The United Church are invited to coffee, refreshments, and fellowship! 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! See you there!

Thursdays: 9:30 – 11:30 am in the CE Building Lounge.



WORSHIP CLASS

WORSHIP TAKE-OVER

Join us Sunday, April 29 as the Worship Sunday school class leads the morning services!

Perhaps you've wondered why we have so many different types of prayer on in a given service, or pondered why we have sermons or songs.

We'll be taking some time to look at the "whys" of what we do when we gather together on Sunday mornings to pray, sing, and worship.

APRIL DAILY CALENDAR

SUNDAYS

8:00 am - Worship Service –
Fragrance Free (Chapel)
9:00 am - Library Opens
9:15 am - Nursery Available
(CE Building)
9:30 am - Worship Service
(Sanctuary)
9:45 am – Children's Worship
11:00 am – Sunday School
(Sanctuary, CE & Craig)
3:00 pm – Praise Choir (Sanctuary)
7:00 pm – PAC 8 Taped Worship
Service

MONDAYS

11:00 am – Women's Book Study
(Lounge)

TUESDAYS

10:00 am - Staff Meeting (Lounge)
12:00 pm - PAC 8 Taped Worship
Service

WEDNESDAYS

8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Thrift Shop Open
10:30 pm – Body & Soul Class
(Fellowship Hall)
7:00 pm – Sanctuary Choir
(Sanctuary)

THURSDAYS

9:30 am - Men's Koffee Klatch
(Lounge)

FRIDAYS

10:00 am - Women's Friday Bible Study
(WR Presbyterian Church)



Upcoming Events

Apr 1 Easter Sunday

Apr 2 Church Office Closed

Apr 4 Body & Soul Class
begins

Apr 8 All Church Potluck

Apr 11 Soup & Service

Apr 15 Coro de Cámara
Concert

Apr 18 Aspen Ridge
Gathering

Apr 19 Sombrillo Worship

Apr 20 Chimes input due

Apr 22 Mexico Worship

Apr 29 Worship Takeover
Service

Apr 29 Sangre de Cristo
Concert



THE APRIL 2018 CHIMES Newsletter
The United Church of Los Alamos
2525 Canyon Road
Los Alamos, NM 87544

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**March 29 –
March 31**