



# THE CHIMES

The United Church of Los Alamos

*United in our Faith Journeys*



[www.unitedchurchla.org](http://www.unitedchurchla.org)

February 2019 - Vol. 56 No. 2



## **Annual Meeting of the Congregation**

The Annual meeting will be held Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>  
at 11:00 a.m. in Graves Hall.

Classes will not meet on this Sunday.

The meeting will be followed by our annual  
Souper Bowl Lunch!

## 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 **662-2971**, email us at [ucoffice@unitedchurchla.org](mailto:ucoffice@unitedchurchla.org), or send us a message on Facebook.

Office hours are Monday-Friday  
8:30 a.m. – 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](mailto:david@unitedchurchla.org)

Keith Lewis  
505-412-9954 cell  
[gohorns\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:gohorns_99@yahoo.com)

Kara Windler  
719-930-6563 cell  
[DCE@unitedchurchla.org](mailto:DCE@unitedchurchla.org)



### Upcoming Events

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Congregational Meeting  
Souper Bowl Lunch  
Mexico Meeting
- 9<sup>th</sup> Ed Macmann Memorial  
Service
- 10<sup>th</sup> Board Meetings
- 14<sup>th</sup> Valentine's Day
- 18<sup>th</sup> President's Day  
Church Office Closed
- 20<sup>th</sup> Aspen Ridge Gathering
- 21<sup>st</sup> Sombrillo Worship
- 24<sup>th</sup> Mexico Meeting

# From the Pastor

This year is different than many other years around the church because the season of Lent does not begin anytime in February. This is due to the fact that Easter falls almost as late as any year, April 21<sup>st</sup>. This year Lent begins on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Nevertheless, we have the opportunity in February to prepare ourselves for Lent this month in two ways. The first is by signing up to write a short devotion for the Ecumenical Lenten devotional book that is available to our churches each year. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Please know that the devotion-writer spaces are limited because there are five other local congregations participating this year.

Secondly, we will be hosting this year's Ecumenical Thursday Lenten program in March and April. If you would like to volunteer on one or more of the Thursday nights, please contact the Church Office. We will also have a sign-up sheet available for soup and bread later this month when we get closer to our assigned Thursday night for providing dinner (March 21).

This congregation's faithful response by contributing to the devotion book and participating in the Thursday Lenten program allows for the success of both and is greatly appreciated! In short, what I'm inviting us to considering doing is a little bit of preparation for this meaningful season and journey of Lent.

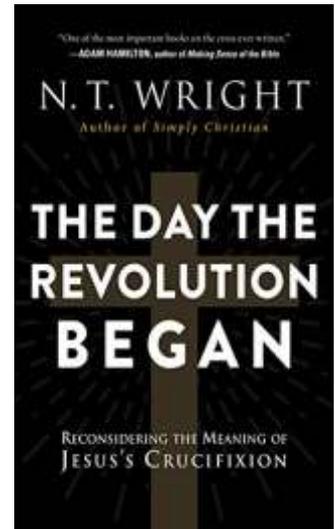
Christ's Peace,  
*David*

# Spring Semester 2019 Adult Education Classes:

*The Day the Revolution Began:  
Reconsidering the Meaning of Jesus's Crucifixion*  
by N.T. Wright

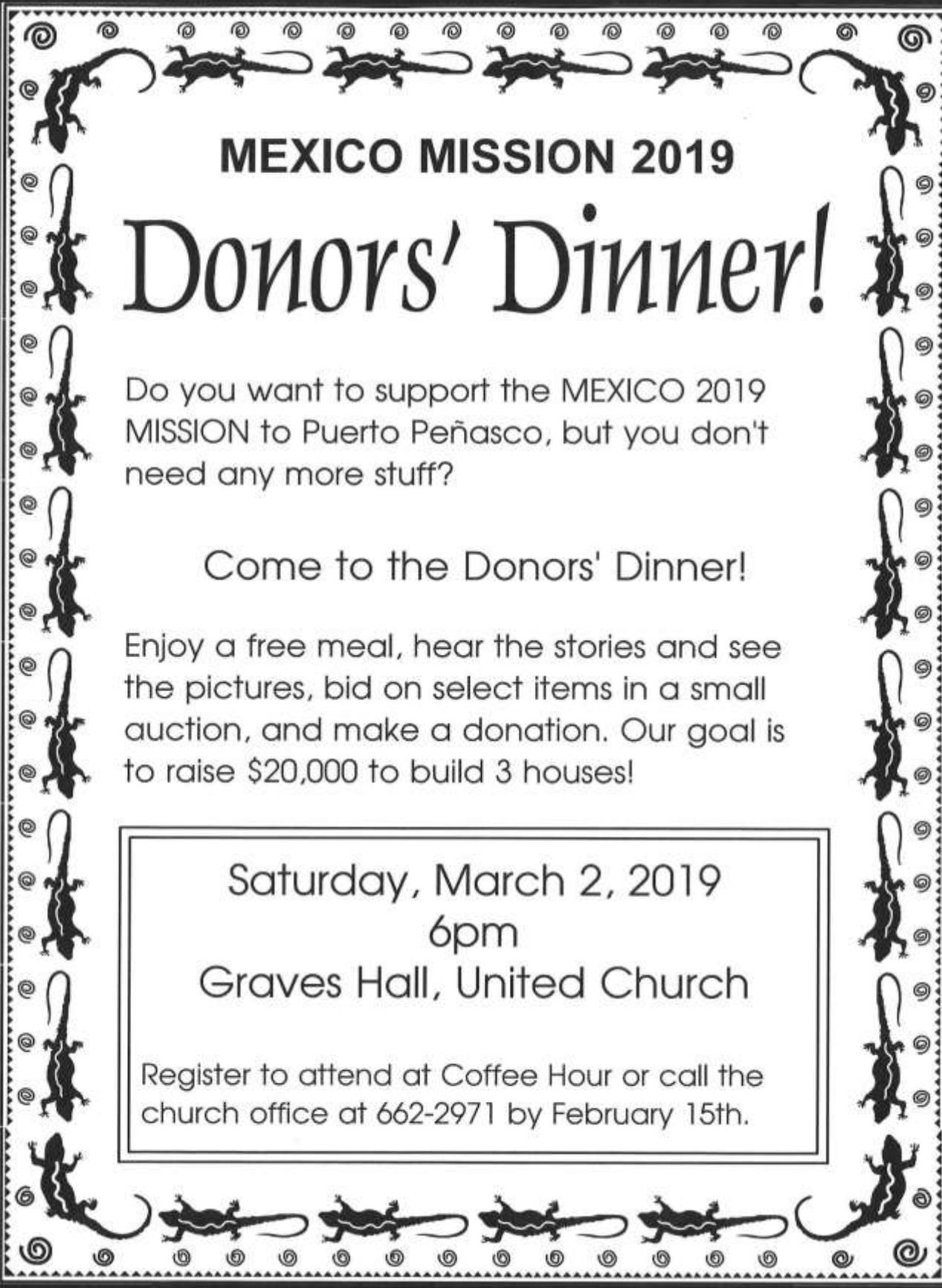
The renowned scholar, Anglican bishop, and bestselling author widely considered to be the heir to C. S. Lewis contemplates the central event at the heart of the Christian faith—Jesus' crucifixion—arguing that the Protestant Reformation did not go far enough in transforming our understanding of its meaning.

This class meets in the CE Lounge and Kara Windler is the facilitator. Copies of *The Day the Revolution Began* are available in the Church Office or you can seek out a copy for your favorite e-reader.



Beginning **Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**, there will be another Sunday morning class available for adults: *500: A Study Guide for the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation.*

This class will examine several foundational beliefs of the Protestant Reformation through essays by the UCC Stillspeaking Writer's Group, various verses and passages in scripture, and The United Church historic *Covenant*. Points of history of the Protestant Reformation will also be highlighted. This class will be led by David Elton.



MEXICO MISSION 2019

# Donors' Dinner!

Do you want to support the MEXICO 2019 MISSION to Puerto Peñasco, but you don't need any more stuff?

Come to the Donors' Dinner!

Enjoy a free meal, hear the stories and see the pictures, bid on select items in a small auction, and make a donation. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 to build 3 houses!

Saturday, March 2, 2019

6pm

Graves Hall, United Church

Register to attend at Coffee Hour or call the church office at 662-2971 by February 15th.

January's CHIMES reminds us that we cannot control much of what is heading our way, yet **we can choose to travel through it with Confidence in our God, following Jesus' example.**

Our culture cultivates the idea of being *strong individuals*. God did create strength within us. Survival depends on it. However, frequently our strength is not enough *and that is as it should be*. God wants us to rely on Him and part of that is through others. Jesus, and then Paul encouraged their followers to meet together, encouraging one another.



Anchovies find safety in numbers in their shimmering schools. "It's harder for predators to grab just one fish out of hundreds of flashing silver bodies." Our faith groups are likewise important. "We protect each other, look out for one another, provide an impressive-looking body that repels predators." I believe it's not just strength in numbers, it is strength in common faith and God's Spirit uniting us.



"I NEED PEOPLE. IN FACT, THIS IS HOW Jesus designed life to be. He was not a loner although there were plenty of times when he sought some separate time to recharge. We were supposed to lean on one another. Life is richer when we trust one another, when we care for others. Jesus created us to speak life and light and to build up one another. Our kindness toward others speaks volumes.



Our willingness to step in and minister to somebody else mirrors the sacrificial love that Jesus has for us. This belonging to each other reveals the strength found in many, not the weakness of one. And that is powerful. FAITH STEP: Who do you belong to? Is there someone who needs to hear your words of light and life today?" (Quotes- Cynthia Ruchti, Mornings with Jesus 2018).

We collectively gain strength and comfort. As part of Christ's body we can accomplish more as a group. A foot needs a knee. Church is a place to worship God *and* can also be *our home*. Connecting with others can seem difficult if we barely come or dash out the door after the sermon. I found Fellowship time after services daunting until I was in enough activities that the room became filled with friends. Participating in a group is a wonderful way to get to know individuals, whether social or service.

Some of our church offerings are: [Various fellowship groups](#)--2 women's Bible/Book groups, monthly night out for both Young adults and men, women's Lunch-bunch,

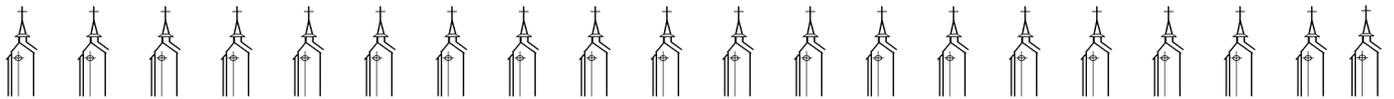
Sunday school classes, Youth group, Men's coffee-klatch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday potlucks, Ghost Ranch Family Camp... We can be so much more effective in a [service group](#) and make good connections, such as our amazing \$1000/week thrift shop and the Mexico trip and Auction. Singing and ushering, being on committees help our church and are great ways to connect with others. When I walk into church Sunday, I see not just a congregation but friends and a bigger family to travel life with and help out. United Church is not a building, it is our school of fish, our family and part of the bigger body of Christ.

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*Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgement, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts. Romans 12:3b-6a.*

*On behalf of all imperfect good relationships, Betty Smith*

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Come and celebrate at our 2019 Souper Bowl! Taking place immediately after the Congregational Meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, this lunch helps raise funds for our local Food Bank, LA Cares. You're invited to bring soup, bread, and/or a salad.

# Mission & Service Board

We have received some disturbing news from Leith and Carol Fujii, whose mission we support in Thailand. They, in turn, support a ministry called "Life Raft International", an agency dedicated to helping Christian families who are attempting to escape persecution in their home countries. The Fujii's reported to us that very recently the following incident (which is not unusual) occurred in Bangkok to around 100 Pakistani Christian refugees, including 43 children. In the middle of the night, immigration police broke down the doors of their apartments and arrested everyone. This raid occurred the day after it was announced from the highest levels of government that there was to be a crackdown on people overstaying their visas. The new policy mandates that anyone overstaying their visa will be deported within a month.

Since then, multiple raids have occurred each day and many people have been told that hundreds of refugees out on bail will have their bail revoked and must return to the IDC. Being brought back to Pakistan as Christians, very likely means death for these refugees. This crisis is a shocking change in the previous treatment of these people seeking asylum. As Leith Fujii indicated, "until the dust and destruction settles, police and power realities limit what the Bangkok Church can do." However, the local Christians and the Bangkok church have responded actively (as the only source of encouragement in the situation). They have gone "above-and-beyond" to help the refugees in crisis. Services in the Bangkok Church have been devoted to the plight of these refugees and prayer meetings on their behalf are held regularly.

The Fujii's have asked us to join in heartfelt prayer for the Pakistani Christians in Bangkok. They also have suggested some helpful links if anyone would like to learn more about the crisis, as follows:

- [Thailand sets a one-month deadline to arrest and deport all foreigners on overstay; stringent checks are expected.](#)

- [Pakistani asylum seekers set to be deported.](#)
- [Life in limbo for Thailand's urban refugees](#)
- [Thailand: Implement Commitments to Protect Refugee Rights.](#)

More information can be found under "Life Raft International"  
or through the Fujjis.

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The Missions and Service Board also wants the congregation to be aware of Janet Hall's stepping down as Board Chairman. She has served long and well in the work of the United Church's missions through the years, particularly in the area of the NM prison ministries, Kairos.

We appreciate her dedication and service.



## 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.





## **Lunch Bunch Callers for February:**

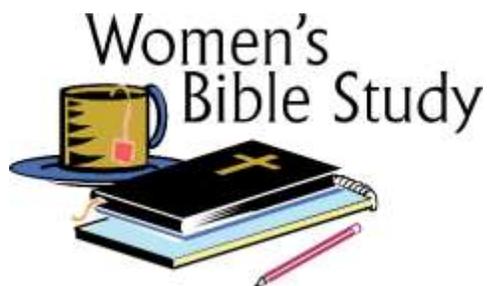
Barbara Seeger, Gloria Gilmore-House, Linda McCormick, Joann Brown, Mary Kay Schroeder, Norma Puckett, & Janet Hall



## **Friday Morning Women's Bible Study**

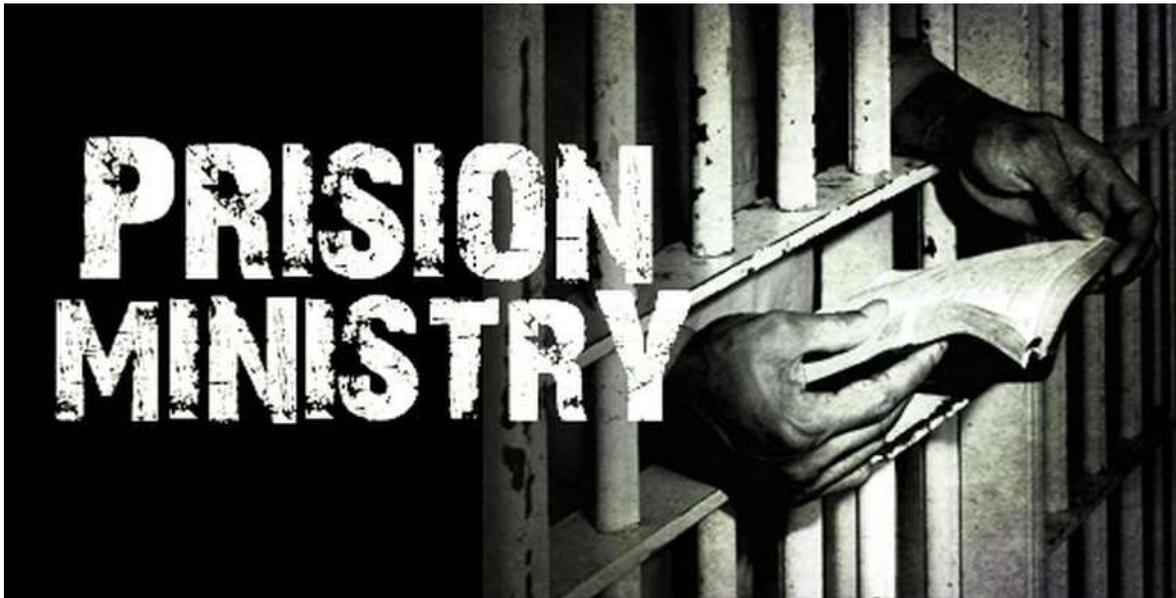
@White Rock Presbyterian Church, Fridays 10am – Noon  
We are largely comprised of women of the United Church and are all welcome.

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



For more information, please contact:

Kara Winder at the Church Office



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

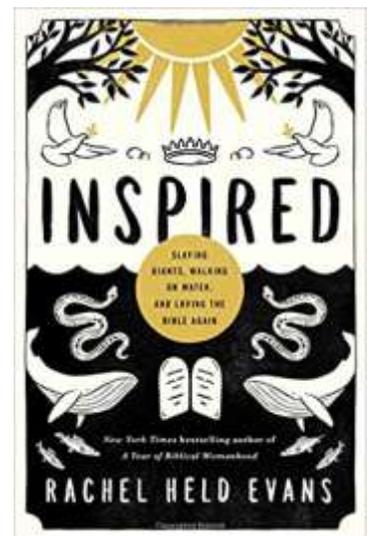
All women of the church and their friends are welcome to attend this group. The books for discussion are selected by the group.

The group is currently reading "Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible again" by Rachel Held Evans.

**Monday Mornings:**

**11:00 am – 12:30 pm**

**In the CE Lounge**





# Happy Birthday!

Shibli Fazal	01	Hayden Watkins	10	Andrea Gerstl	19
Matthew Whicker	01	Kristi Carr	11	Phil Seeger	19
Julia Mundt	03	Amanda Dermer	11	Wilma Cowan	20
Leslie Puckett	04	Bradley Harlow	11	Cesar Ojeda	25
Gretchen Amstutz	05	Chandler Lauritzen	11	Sarah Baty	26
Deirdre Monroe	06	Ruth Lier	12	Cecilia Sadler	27
Sharon Stover	06	Sheriden Smith	12	Nancy Lemons	29
Katie Hockaday	08	Kathy Bjorklund	17		



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

Lesley Olsher ~ Carol Sierk ~ Rachel Erickson

## FEBRUARY MEMORIAL SERVICES at The United Church

A memorial service for **Ed Macmann** will be on Saturday, the 9th at 1:00 p.m.

*"I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." John 11:25-26*

# February 2019

Subject to Change

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**The United Church of Los Alamos**

**2525 Canyon Road**

**Los Alamos, NM 87544**

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