



# THE CHIMES

The United Church of Los Alamos

*United in our Faith Journeys*



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

March 2019 - Vol. 56 No. 3

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**MEXICO MISSION**

**2019**

**DONORS' DINNER**

**MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>, 6PM**

If you can't make the dinner, you can still donate:  
Please write "Mexico Mission" in the memo line of your check.



## 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

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mexico Mission Donors' Dinner
- 3<sup>rd</sup> LA Opera Guild Concert
- 6<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday
- 10<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent  
All Church Potluck  
Board Meetings  
Daylight Savings Begins
- 14<sup>th</sup> Thursday Ecumenical  
Lenten Programs Begin
- 17<sup>th</sup> St. Patrick's Day  
Mexico Meeting
- 20<sup>th</sup> Aspen Ridge Gathering
- 21<sup>st</sup> Sombrillo Worship
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Mexico Mission Trip  
Begins

# From the Pastor

Now that March is here we can really start talking about Lent. Thank you to everyone who wrote a devotion for this year's Ecumenical Lenten Devotion book. They will be available on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. It is impressive to think that members and friends from six churches in Los Alamos and White Rock have written devotions to help guide us through this season. It is truly a community spiritual effort that will nurture us in the coming weeks.

The Thursday Ecumenical Lenten Program begins on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. We are hosting! Please read the information below so you when, where and what is taking place... and what help is needed. Thank you!

God's blessing during these weeks of Lent!

*David*

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## Thursday Ecumenical Lenten Program

Theme: *Transformed by Wisdom*

Join us each Thursday from 6-8 PM

March 14 – April 11

at

The United Church of Los Alamos

A list of classes will be available Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Bethlehem Lutheran, First United Methodist, Trinity on the Hill Episcopal,  
The United Church, White Rock United Methodist, White Rock Presbyterian

**Please consider signing up for...**

1. Helping to carry in soups, set-up, or clean up each Thursday.
2. To bring SOUP and/or BREAD on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.

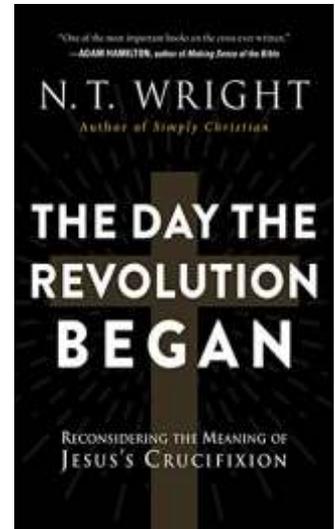
Sign-up Sheets are in the Fellowship Hall or you may call the church office.

# 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.



*500: A Study Guide for the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the Reformation.*

This class examines 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 is led by David Elton and meets in CE 311.

During this wilderness journey, 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.**

*Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.* James 2:12-13

With all the media and politics trying to influence our opinions, it can be hard to know what to think. How do we know we are doing the right thing, for the right reason?

I think **Compassion** is the key. Jesus' compassion went so far as to reach out to the undesirables and unclean in that society. He even physically touched the untouchables and brought personal physical healing, *and a message to all that God cares about these people.* Even in his darkest hour Jesus asked God to forgive those who had afflicted him. As we go through LENT, we do well to follow Matthew's gospel guidelines:

*Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.* 7:1-2

*Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.* 5:7

*So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.* 7:12

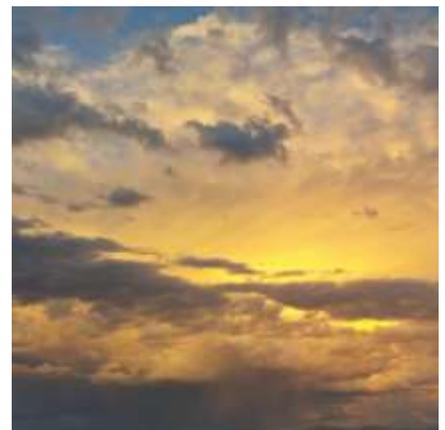
Our country is pulled in too many directions. What if **MERCY ruled over our decisions and judgments, not judgement deciding if we will give mercy?**

Donna Schaper says **Judgment** should be **“getting as close to the right and legal thing as possible. When we privilege mercy, we do not disallow judgment. We just make sure mercy is an inch ahead of it in our decision-making.”** ... **“Moral decisions will never be easy. They will always be important. Real people are involved, in adultery, in immigration, in abortion, and more Mercy is what matters.**

**PRAYER: O God, give us large enough hearts to privilege mercy over judgment, even when we are not sure of what is right. Amen.”** Donna Schaper (365 DAILY DEVOTIONALS)

*May we all learn the art of **MERCY FIRST** TO GUIDE OUR JUDGEMENTS.*

*May we be **instruments of God's light** in our world's darkness.*



On behalf of all good imperfect relationships, Betty Smith

# Mission & Service Board

## MISSION UPDATES AND STORIES

As one of the missions the United Church has supported for many years, **Louis and Karen Rose, Wycliff Translators in Malaysia**, continue to spread the Gospel in that part of the world. Our contact, Betty Smith, forwarded some information (from the Roses) indicating that the “Kimaragang Community” in Sbah Malaysia, is recording their New Testament for dissemination to the people familiar with this dialect. (There are apparently several languages or dialects in Malaysia.) They held auditions for the local people to participate in this recording. Leadership from all denominations are supporting the project. The actual recording will start around mid-February.

Prayers are asked for the successful endeavor of recording, that it be spread throughout the villages, and that people speaking in this dialect be receptive. The hope is that it will stimulate a community-wide interest in hearing God’s word. It will be used by all denominations in these villages where the recordings will be sent and broadcast.

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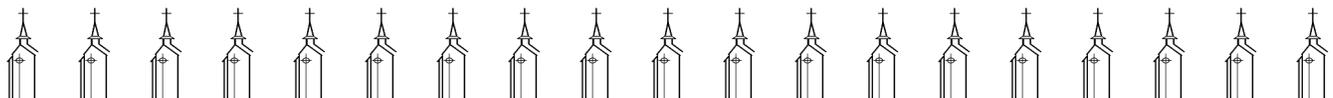
Every day, **Mission Possible’s** work touches the lives of children and young people living in horrendous conditions in Eastern European countries. **Mission Possible** has rehabilitation centers and shelter homes all over the huge country of Russia. The most recently built shelter is in the village of Bogotol, Siberia. I want to share a summarized article in the **Mission Possible** Newsletter, which tells the story of a young Tajik-born woman (17-year-old Sonam), who came to the **M.P.** shelter after she had contacted police for assistance in hiding her from an assailant, her previous “master. As a petite 14-year-old, living in a small Tajikistan village, she was sold by her debt-laden parents to be a servant. She was taken to Russia to work for a Tajik man, given the responsibility of caring for his five children, as well as being in charge of the whole house. Her “master” treated her cruelly, often beating her for not working hard enough in his estimation. She was also required to work at a vegetable market. Worst of all was the sad fact that he began to sexually abuse Sonam, with the result that she gave birth to a baby girl. She now, obviously, had her own child to care for in addition to all the other responsibilities. More beatings and mistreatment occurred.

To summarize, one day Sonam simply didn’t return to the “master”, the police picked her up from the streets, placed her in a hospital, and eventually she ended up in the

**M.P.** shelter. To complicate matters, she had no papers, as the Tajek man had confiscated all her I.D. documents. By law, as a foreign, undocumented minor, she could not possess custody of her child born in Russia. Sonam, desperately wanted to get her baby back, realizing well the miserable situation of the father’s lack of provision for his own children. At his shelter, Sonam was introduced to the word of God and his promise of love and care. Every day the group prayed that a miracle might happen! They received an answer dramatically to their prayers when the court ordered the child to be returned to Sonam and the Tajik Embassy facilitated her return home to her mother. When she said “good-bye” to the **M.P.** staff, a Baby Box and items needed for the trip were given to her, along with a New Testament. Clearly, a new chapter of her life and new hope went with her—along with the miraculous answer to her prayers.

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Finally, I want to include a reference to a letter from **Waterlines**, one of our missions (headquartered in Santa Fe), which is involved in pure water sources all over the world. They relayed that in January and February they had three teams of volunteers visiting projects in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Panama, to ensure that they were still sustainable. When repairs were necessary, they partnered with the affected communities. They expressed their thanks for our on-going support. Unfortunately, we have learned that **Waterlines** will no longer be functioning at some point in 2019. We pray that a new organization with similar goals of providing pure drinking water in rural communities will be formed.



## **Lunch Bunch Callers for March:**

Ann Cooke, Pam Meyer, Beth Dermer,  
Cheryl Warren, Janet Tallman,  
Nancy Lemons, and Adda Moldt



# 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.



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

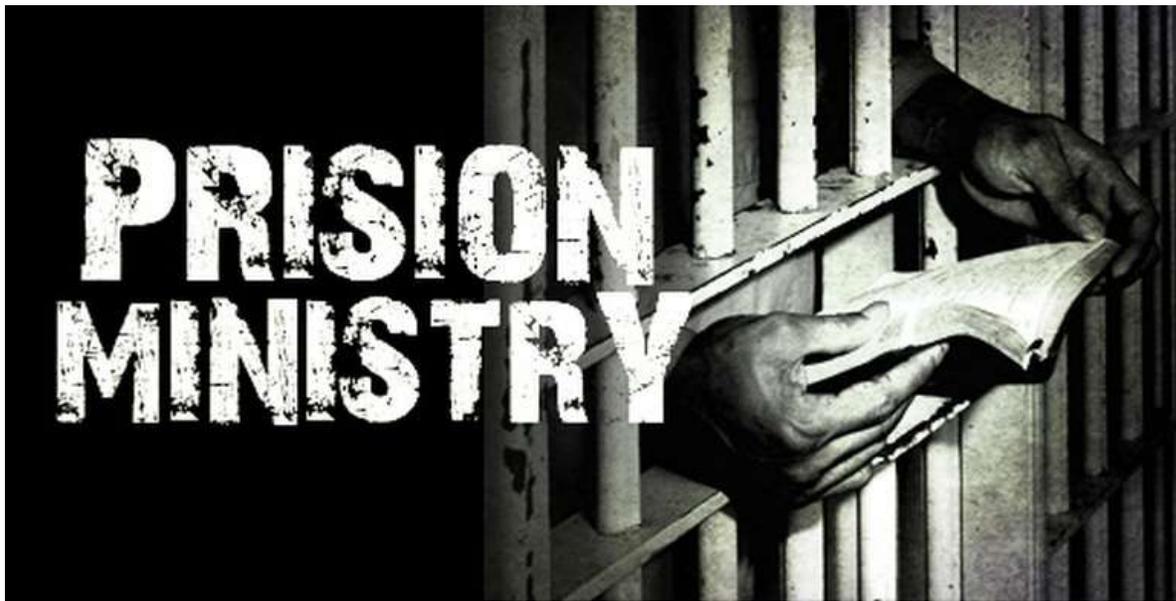
@White Rock Presbyterian Church, Fridays 10am – Noon  
We are largely comprised of women of the United Church  
and are all welcome.

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**

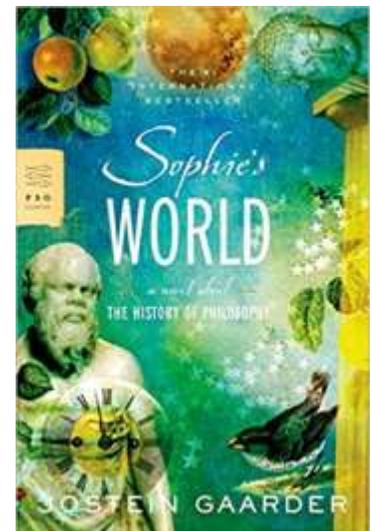
All women of the church and their friends are welcome to attend this group. The books for discussion are selected by the group.

The group is currently reading "Sophie's World: The History of Philosophy" by Jostein Gaarder.

**Monday Mornings:**

**11:00 am – 12:30 pm**

**In the CE Lounge**



# Happy Birthday!



Corine Christman	03	Susan Watkins	13	Jeanne Butler	27
Vicki Cobble	04	Alison Watkins	15	Linda Hardie	27
Nancy Bliss	06	Eric Bjorklund	16	Michael Keeler	27
Milan Gadd	07	Sam Baty	21	Linda Breshears	29
Jeff Dermer	08	J.D. Johnson	21	John Charles	29
Elise Ovaska	11	Ryan Worley	21	Bernadette Lauritzen	29
Jerry Grindstaff	12	Georgia Strickfaden	26	Roger Smith	30



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

Marge Lewis ~ Lesley Olsher

Carol Brown ~ Carol Sierk

# March 2019

Subject to Change

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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**The United Church of Los Alamos**

**2525 Canyon Road**

**Los Alamos, NM 87544**

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