



Abiding in
LOVE

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Our mission is to live God's love, justice, and inclusion.

We are an Open and Affirming Church.

We are a welcoming people, a church that reaches out to invite and include persons of every age, tongue, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, and religious background.

We are a Peace with Justice Church.

We believe we are called to express God's peace and love by working for peace with justice in our personal lives, in our church, in our community, and in the world.

We commit to work persistently for non-violence and the peaceful resolution of conflict.

We advocate for human dignity, defending and respecting the basic human needs and rights of every individual.

We promote the integrity and sustainability of all God's creation.

We are a Green Justice Church.

We recognize the interconnectedness of all creation as a manifestation of God and commit to care for Mother Earth's resources in a responsible and just way.

We are a Sanctuary Church.

We pledge to provide emergency shelter and hospitality to at-risk populations who face deportation.

We are a WISE Congregation for Mental Health.

We join in the ongoing commitment to being Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged with all of God's people.

We are a Racial Justice Church.

We covenant to engage in an ongoing process of remaining

- learners, in a community of mutual accountability, about slavery, white privilege, white supremacy, implicit bias, and all aspects of racism in our midst;
- witnesses, interrupters, and transformers away from the continued cycle of racism and embedded systems of white supremacy in our midst;
- allies and accomplices with Black, Indigenous, Asian-Pacific Island; Hispanic, and other minoritized groups in challenging race-based injustice in all its manifestations.

April 28, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please keep the following persons in your prayers: Miles, Debbie, Roxanne, Marjorie, Anna, Cindy, Ruth, Leroy, Diane, Michelle, Jon, Francis, Kevin, Susy, Randy, Mary, Cathy, Zane, Donna, Judy, Audry, Sandy, Cris, Layne, and all who mourn.

Wednesday's Text Study: John 15:9-17 and Acts 10: 44-48. No prior scripture knowledge is necessary. We meet Wednesday mornings 10:30-11:45 in the Library. All are welcome.

A Book Study to Challenge Your Imagination: You are invited to join a study of the new book, *So We & Our Children May Live: Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis*, Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30pm, on May 1, 15, and 29 on Zoom. If you'd like the Zoom link for this book study, contact John Maddaus.

Family Promise: The next time we are bringing dinner to Family Promise is coming up soon! Family Promise houses unhoused families, provides wrap around services and secures permanent housing for their clients! May 5 to May 12! All in the congregation are invited to participate! See or contact Debbie Golden or Pastor Clara for details.

Children, Youth, and Family News: Intergenerational events: Sunday May 12th, Flower Language Class; May 19th at 01:00 pm at Isleta & Goff SW, South Valley, New Mexico. Come join the American Friends Service Committee to celebrate San Ysidro Day! Children and Youth events: Come join us for Sunday School, every Sunday service after children's time! Sunday May 19th 11:40 in the kitchen, come join us to make and decorate some cookies after service. A fun and tasty treat. Sunday May 26th 11:40 in the garden. Garden check-in! Let's see how the plants are doing together. Young Adult event(s): May 18th 10:00am Los Poblanos open fields, New Mexico Interfaith Power, and Light foraging fundraiser. Come learn some basic edible foraging and eat it too in nature with friends. Please contact Clara for more information regarding this event. **HELP NEEDED:** The nursery needs all new volunteers for these upcoming dates. Please email Ryan if you are available. Sunday, May 5th (unknown yet – on call) Sunday, May 19th.

Requests from Las Familias Solidarity for asylum seekers in El Paso: Our next trip to the Annunciation House network shelters in El Paso is May 1st. Please put items in the Las Familias Solidarity bin in fellowship hall by today. Please understand that due to a lack of space in our SUV's and the shelters these are the only items that we can accept: Children's tops and bottoms, ages 1-12; New coloring books for children; Like new low athletic shoes for women, size 6-9, men size 7-11; Lip balm or chapstick; Small brushes and combs; Disinfecting cleaning spray.

Green Justice T-shirts: If you would like to own one of these but haven't placed an order, today is your **LAST CHANCE** to do so. We are **NOT** ordering extras. See Ruth Striegel or the GJ team to order your shirt and be prepared to pay \$20 when you order.

Saturday Service: Join Emmy and Aaron Mullennix on Saturday Evenings in the Church library for a short discussion of this week's lectionary text, music for prayer and contemplation and a small community project. All are welcome to this casual small group. There are snacks provided. 6:00-7:15 pm. For more details please contact Emmy.

Music/poetry sharing opportunity after church on Sunday May 5th. You are invited to bring a song or poem you find especially moving, something that celebrates the beauty of nature or laments the state of the planet. Please bring a brown bag lunch for yourself (and/or snacks to share, if inspired). You are encouraged to bring something you would feel comfortable reading or singing. Audio recordings are also welcomed! For more information, please contact Nell Burrus.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: The prayer shawl ministry is now organized and expanded. We have an ongoing need for prayer shawls, pocket prayer shawls, and baby blankets. If you knit, crochet, or quilt we have yarn, crochet hooks, knitting needles, how to books, and patterns available at the church. Contact Marjorie for more information.

Fellowship Hosts needed for the Spring! Please check out the calendar in Fellowship Hall to sign up to host Fellowship Hour after worship. Along with a friend, your ministry team or group, please consider how you can help to continue to support this time to connect after worship each Sunday. Thanks!

Ever Changing, Ever Growing - Rediscovering *The Magic of Words* by Rudolfo Anaya: Chris Chaves, one of our members, invites you to attend his free mini-lecture and discussion forum that reintroduces us to Rudolfo Anaya's commemorative essay titled *The Magic of Words*. This event will occur on June 8th, 2024, 10:30Am to 12 Noon at the Special Collections Library located at Edith and Central Avenue, Albuquerque, NM.

Our **Change for Change** collection is designated for Interfaith Power & Light, New Mexico & El Paso Region. For more information about NMIPL, visit their website at <https://www.nm-ipl.org/>.

Year to Date Financial Snapshot:

Total Income from All Sources:	\$180,967	Average Monthly Income:	\$48,874
Total Expenditures:	\$196,561	Average Monthly Expenses:	\$52,503

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024

John 15:1-8

"Abiding in Love"

"We are aware that there has been increased violence against indigenous women and transgender persons. Our increased awareness of these issues that disproportionately affect women will impact our response as global advocates." –Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

On this Break the Silence Sunday, churches can raise their awareness of gender-based violence by participating in Thursdays in Black.

*Thursdays in Black grew out of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998), in which the stories of rape as a weapon of war, gender injustice, abuse, violence, and many tragedies that grow outward from such violence became all the more visible. But what also became visible was women's resilience, agency, and personal efforts to resist such violations. Join Wider Church Ministries, and our partners, in the campaign by doing the following:

Pause

Pause for a moment of silence on Thursdays at noon your local time to remember and honor those who have died at the hand of sexualized or gender-based violence.

Pray

Pray with us:

We stand with invisible victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

We see you. We hear you. You are not forgotten.

Post

Post your prayers, photos, or inspirations on social media using the hashtags #ThursdaysinBlack, #UnitedChurchOfChrist, and tag us.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, please seek help immediately. You can call the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).

*<https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/thursdays-in-black-campaign/>



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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