



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 14, 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: Psalm 50 and Job 12:7-9. No prior scripture knowledge is necessary. We meet Wednesday mornings 10:30-11:45 in the Library. All are welcome.

Join us for a screening of the movie **Common Ground** on Saturday, April 27 2:00 PM MT - 4:00 PM MT.

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!

Children, Youth, and Family News: Our new Sunday school program focuses on creating an integrated youth experience during service in a separate environment to better facilitate mutual youth relationships and connection in a church setting. We want your kids and youth to want to come back to church to talk with friends and connect in fellowship with one another spiritually. Every Sunday we're going to need a volunteer to come with us to the youth room. We will be using a rotating volunteer system, so you won't have to volunteer more than once a month. If that person is you, please reach out to me and let Ryan know which Sundays you would be available, and what kind of curriculum/activities you may be interested in doing with the kids.

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.

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.

All-Church Labor Day Camping: Come one, come all! This year our all-church camping event will be held Friday, August 30th - Monday, September 2nd. You can come for the day or come for the whole weekend.

From Las Familias Solidarity and Annunciation House: Thank you so much for all that your congregation contributed to Las Familias Solidarity this month. We saw increased militarization of El Paso with 200 Texas National Guard members deployed. Yet the shelter volunteers were calmer than a month ago, filled with faith and trust in God. Inspiring to our team members who were there. The numbers of asylum seekers are up, averaging 450-500 asylum seeking family members released to the Annunciation House Network. Single men are sent to city and county processing centers, and often to detention centers.

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:	\$159,065	Average Monthly Income:	\$39,805
Total Expenditures:	\$177,171	Average Monthly Expenses:	\$43,701

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 14, 2024

Luke 24:36b-48

"Christ Among Us"

Luke 24: 41-43 *Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.*

Dear Brother Jesus, Dear Christ now Risen -
We are always asking you for things, it seems.
Someone wants healing from illness.
Someone needs freedom from addiction.
The nations cry for peace.
The groaning planet sighs for relief.
For these we pray in our requests,
We pray also that we will recognize
You when you give us these things - healing, freedom, peace, relief.

But hey there Jesus, hey there Christ now Risen,
Here is how we will actually-factually recognize you.
One day, You will come to us.
We'll be sitting together,
(probably wondering aloud where you've gotten to now)
and there you'll be.

You'll say, "Do you have anything to eat here, siblings?"

That day, you might be in one of your
disconcerting disguises, brother Jesus.
You might not smell good or speak our language.
You might not look like us or think like us.

But this is how you let us know
That we can recognize you.
Because you will ask us, like this,
"Don't you have anything to eat here?"
And all we will be able to say is yes, yes, yes.
And then, Oh! It's you!



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

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