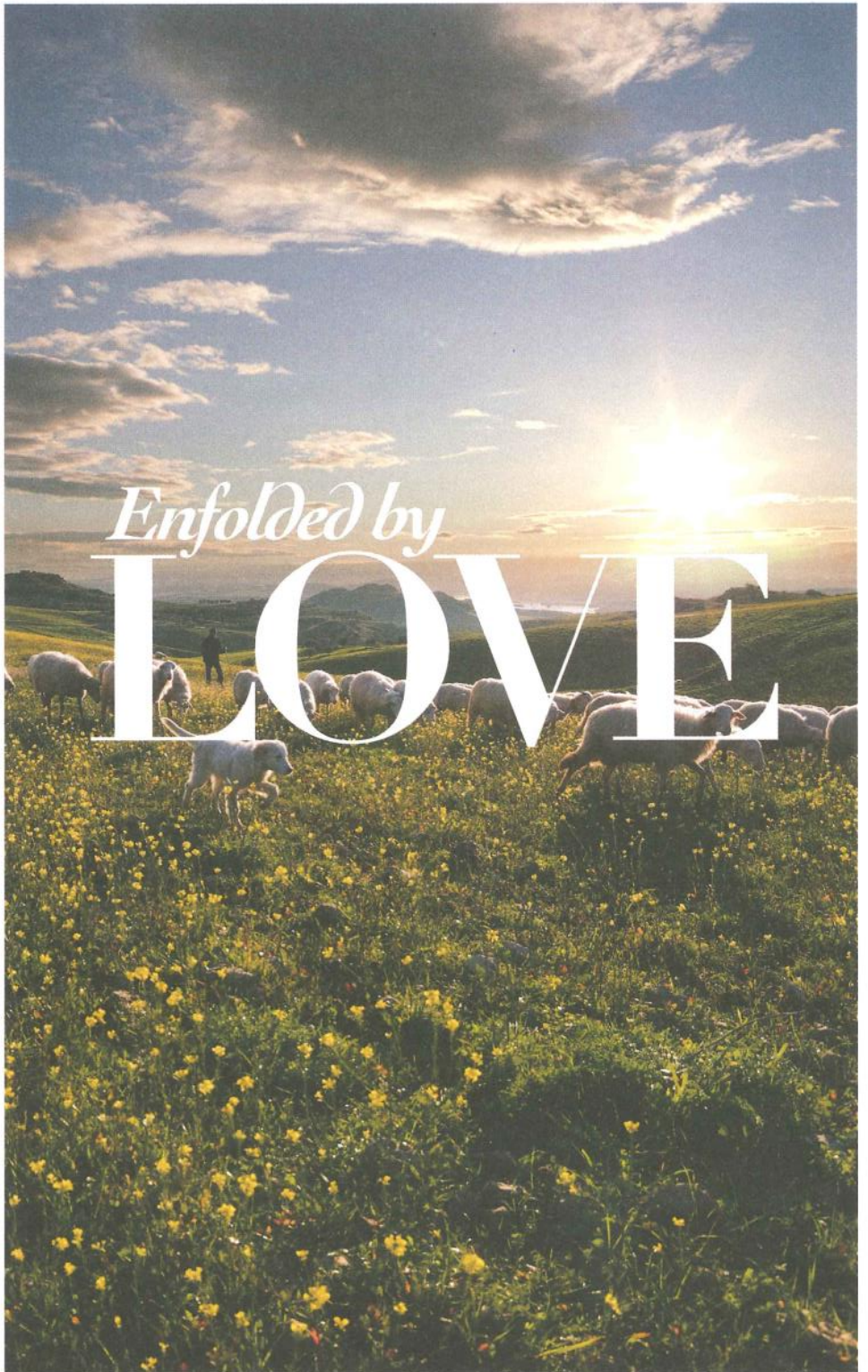


Enfolded by

LOVE



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2801 Lomas Blvd. NE 87106

(505) 265-5749; www.firstuccabq.org

Church Office email: welcome@firstuccabq.org

Sue's email: sjoiner@firstuccabq.org

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 21, 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: Acts 8:26-40 and John 15:1-8. 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.

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.

Requests from Las Familias Solidarity for asylum seekers in El Paso: A clean pair of socks, or underwear, or a backpack for belongings may seem like a small thing, but they bring dignity and a welcome to asylum seekers. Our next trip to the Annunciation House network shelters in El Paso is May 1st. Please put any items in the Las Familias Solidarity bin in fellowship hall by Sunday, April 28th. 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.

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.

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!

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.

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:	\$168,957	Average Monthly Income:	\$48,874
Total Expenditures:	\$192,700	Average Monthly Expenses:	\$52,503

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 21, 2024

John 10:11-18

“Enfolded by Love”

Today is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday. In an increasingly urban culture, Shepherd can be a difficult metaphor to grasp. But, for some ministers, the metaphor of shepherd is very powerful, precisely because their work with livestock helps inform their ministry.

When she was asked what about ministry and shepherding crosses over, Catherine Foote (who describes herself as retired from ministry, but still shepherding) checked in from England, where she had traveled to participate in sheep dog trials.

“Ha!” she wrote, “Well, that would be just about everything! But I would say it has kept me aware of the everyday, ordinary diligence and joy of ministry. Sheep need to be fed, every day. Watered, every day. Tended, every day. And if I stop to notice, the work brings me joy, every day.”

Although she’s not a shepherd, Jackie Hibbard of Dancing Spirit Equine Facilitated Learning and Coaching and associate pastor at community UCC Boulder works extensively with animals and their connections to humans. She checked in about her work with horses. “Horses have helped me learn so much about myself and my leadership style. I could talk about this for paragraphs, but two simple learnings are: they help me know when I’m not being clear and when I’m not fully present. I am a better minister and listener, because of what horses have taught me.”

Think about the relationships you have had with animals. How have those relationships deepened your relationship with God and with your sense of calling and vocation?



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

Bulletin artwork and backpage stories copyright © 2024 United Church of Christ