

ST ELIZABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Right Rev. Phyllis Spiegel, 12th Bishop of Utah
The Rev. Michael Carney, Vicar

SUNDAY WORSHIP, HOLY EUCHARIST 10:00 AM



The Three Grandmothers Test

Seventeen years ago, a nurse traveled a hundred miles to Whiterocks, bearing a precious gift. It was not gold or jewels, but her vision of a brighter, healthier future for the kids and teens of the Ute reservation. She had seen this vision come to life in another community far away, and she wondered if it might take root here.

The nurse's vision of an expressive arts program, with Talking Circles and local mentors, fun and games and healthy food, needed to prove itself by passing a test. It's said of Indigenous communities that if Three Grandmothers give their blessing to a program, it will thrive. In their quiet way, grandmothers are the heart and backbone of the Ute community. Three of them were present at St. Elizabeth's church on the day the nurse visited, and something new was born.

Since that day, dozens of grandmothers have embraced Art Empowers, watching the kids and teens grow and blossom in the process. A whole generation of young people have introduced themselves, received sage blessings and made all kinds of art. They've danced and played and made friends and shared countless meals. They've been quiet in the vans after school and full of excitement on the way home. Art Empowers has helped them grow into the teens and young adults they are today.

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Indigenous Peoples' Day

We're filled with gratitude for the blessings of this special day. For the hospitality of Fr. Pablo Ramos and the people of San Esteban Episcopal Church, who invited us to come and celebrate with them, and who welcomed and fed us so well. For Becca, Sadie and San Esteban's youth leaders, who turned the event into an overnight adventure for the teenagers, and who led the opening Talking Circle. For Bishop Phyllis, whose support and presence boosted our energy. For everyone who attended, a hundred people from different ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds, celebrating both our uniqueness and the connections between our heritages. Blessings abounded, and we left asking each other, "When can we get together again?"



Art Empowers Fall Series



Photo Gallery



Youth Group at the Pumpkin Patch



Kids showing their work on a Sunday



Congratulations to Rev. Michael on his 25th Anniversary as an Episcopal Priest



Spreading gravel on our parking area



Community Suicide Prevention workshop at St. Elizabeth's

Everyone is welcome at these wonderful

Christmas Eve Celebrations

5:00 pm St. Elizabeth's, Whiterocks

7:30 pm Church of the Holy Spirit,
Randlett

**Holiday decorations, Christmas carols and stories,
Holy Communion, refreshments and goody bags**

*Look for a video of prayers and a spiritual
message on Michael Carney's Facebook page.*



Mexico

As you may know, this summer I had the opportunity to travel to Mexico, and it was wonderful. But the point I wish to make from my experiences on this trip, is that the American school system has failed us in our understanding of the Indigenous world. We have been deceived into believing that “all” native people were “ignorant and uncivilized.”

Some schools did teach a little about the civilizations of the Inca, Mayas, and Aztecs, but they did a poor job of it. For instance, in the case of the Aztecs, they did not explain that at one time, Mexico City, was the largest and most advanced city in the world.

While Europeans were living with animals and dumping their waste in the streets, Mexico was designed to bring in fresh water from the mountains to support their culinary needs, including a sewer system. The city was surrounded by water and there were causeways that brought fresh organic food raised in surrounding farms. And just outside the city, ancient people before them built huge and elaborate pyramids similar to those in Egypt that were also designed to deliver water from the mountains. They did not explain the Aztecs had a school system and medical services that included surgical operations. They never explained that 60–70 percent of the food we eat came from the Western Hemisphere in which we have always lived. The Italians did not have marinara sauce until tomatoes were introduced to them from our land. (Incidentally, their pasta originated in China.)

What does this have to do with us? Well, recent findings of anthropologists and linguists suggest that our people came from that area. Although Shoshone ore claims that we have lived in the western United States for 20,000 years, more recent findings suggest



that our ancestors either entered or reentered this area about 5,000 years ago. Nevertheless, these people are our relatives. Utes are part of the Uto–Aztecan language family which, besides the Shoshone tribes, includes the Hopi and all the Nagual speakers of that area, all the way to the Yucatan Peninsula. I have been told by an Arikara tribal member that they have traced their lineage back to the Mayan people also.

Originally, our ancestors were referred to as the Chickimec (The Dog People), then Nokoni (The Homeless People), and eventually they came to be known as the Shoshone Nation. Chickimec, also referred to as Chichimeca, generically applied to nomadic and semi-nomadic peoples who occupied a region in present-day Bajío region of Mexico. In short, the Aztec people and the Hopi are our relatives, and our ancestors evolved from this region, a place that is very beautiful, mystical, and very rich in natural resources. And the food, most of which is Indian food, is beyond description! My message is this: take pride in your native ancestry, for it holds many colorful and beautiful wonders and mysteries.

Forrest S. Cuch

Holiday Meal 2023

Once again, thanks to Becca's leadership and the dedication of our Youth Group, we were invited the whole community to a special Holiday Meal just before Thanksgiving. It's our way of witnessing to the abundance of God's Kingdom, in which all good things are possible. We're grateful to everyone who came and to our generous donors, who helped to make all of this possible.



The Three Grandmothers Test, continued...

We are filled with gratitude for the nurse, the late Pat Sanger, and those three original grandmothers. We've watched leadership pass from one woman to another, always surrounded by a team of caring adults. We've had the privilege of spending time with hundreds of kids and teens, often with their grandmothers looking on. We've been supported by friends near and far.

We are deeply grateful for Art Empowers and for the blessings it's brought to all of us.



ST. ELIZABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OCCUPIES AND OPERATES UPON THE ANCESTRAL AND TRADITIONAL LANDS OF THE UTE INDIAN TRIBE.