

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Deming, New Mexico

April 2007

“Easter says you can put truth in grave,
but it won’t stay there!”

Clarence W. Hall

STAFF AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. D. Max Whitfield - Bishop
Rev. John McClean - District
Superintendent
Rev. Keath Baskett - Pastor
Joe MacDonald - Music Director
Gordon McIver - Lay Leader
Claire Phillips - Secretary
Beth Stevens - Assistant to the Pastor

*More people come to church for the first time through invitation than by any other method. We encourage everyone to **invite** your friends, family members and neighbors to come with you to worship on Sunday mornings.*

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Website: <http://www.fumcdeming.com>

FUMC - DEMING MISSION STATEMENT

BUILDING UPON
A FOUNDATION OF PRAYER
FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH,
DEMING, NEW MEXICO
EXISTS
TO REACH OUT
AND BRING A
VARIETY OF PEOPLE
INTO A
GROWING RELATIONSHIP
WITH JESUS CHRIST.

The pastor would appreciate hearing about anyone who is in the hospital, has experienced a recent loss, or perhaps would like a visit. Please call the church office if you are aware of such a situation. We'd rather get many calls about someone than none at all. Thank you.



PASTORAL PONDERINGS

Inquire Within

An advertisement for a national magazine says, "Inquiring minds want to know." How true that is! (Truer than some of the articles in that magazine.) Very often we have questions, and we aren't always sure where or when we should seek answers.

At First United Methodist Church we will begin to offer an "Inquirer's Class" two or three times a year. The class is a great opportunity for new members, or persons considering joining First Church, to come and ask their questions in a setting where others may have the same questions. Some of the things that we will cover in this class are: Basics of the Christian faith, the history of the United Methodist Church, how the United Methodist Church is organized, and information about First Church. The class is open to all, but is especially appropriate for new members, or those considering making First Church their church home. The class will meet Sunday, April 22, at 2:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

If you have any questions about the class, or to let me know that you plan to attend (so that we can have enough materials prepared), please call me at the office (546-2791). Please pass the word on about the class to those who might be interested in coming.

Easter blessings to each and every one of you!

Keith



SPRING MORNING

Pale green leaves
 the birds all sing
 daffodil yellow
 and the hope it brings
 Easter morning
 risen Christ
 suffering ended
 sacrificed
 Springtime rains
 will wash away
 pain and anguish
 of other days
 Long winters end
 life cycles 'round
 questions linger
 some answers found
 a railroad spike
 not buried deep
 the cross reminds
 promises to keep
 the links are faint
 but they are there
 there is a God
 and He does care
 a world so vast
 but for Him small
 love and grace
 enough for all

HOLY WEEK/EASTER SERVICES

Wednesday, April 4: Tenebrae Service with the Anglican and Episcopal Churches at 7:30 p.m., St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 419 W. Spruce Street. Our Chancel Choir and three readers will be participating in this service.

Thursday, April 5 (Maundy Thursday): Cantata and Communion Service, 6:30 p.m. in our sanctuary.

Friday, April 6 (Good Friday): 6:30 p.m. in our sanctuary.

Saturday, April 7: Come and dye eggs for Sunday's Easter hunt! Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall Kitchen. *Hard boiled and undyed eggs are needed - as well as empty plastic eggs and candy for the eggs. These can be dropped off at the office April 2 through 5.*

Sunday, April 8 (EASTER!):
Sunrise Service, 6:45 a.m. in our courtyard
(Granite side of the church)

Worship Services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
with special music

Easter Egg hunt for the children at 9:15
a.m. in the patio (bring their
baskets!)

Scavenger hunt for the youth at the same
time, location to be announced

In observance Holy Week and Easter, the church office will be closed Friday, April 6 and Monday, April 9. It will re-open on Tuesday, April 10. The staff wishes to take this time to wish all of you a Blessed Easter. May the Risen Christ be with you!

UPDATE ON TRAVIS DODSON

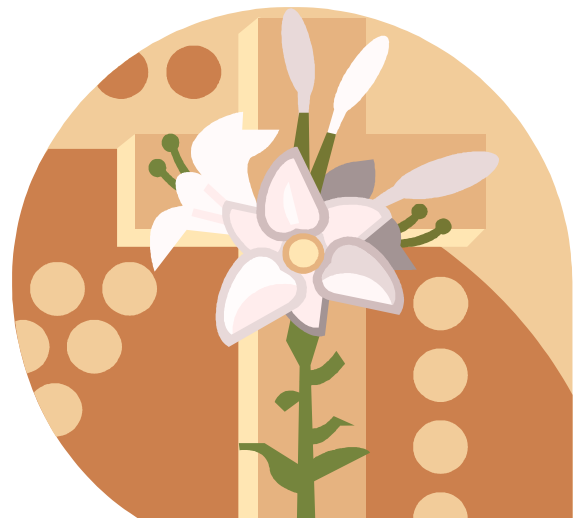
As many of you have read from Travis' website, he and the family have been waiting on the "numbers" in Travis' blood work and his temperature to come into line in order for the facility at Palo Alto, California, to accept him as a patient.

We received word on March 28 that Travis was being transported to the facility, a day or two earlier than anticipated - praise God!

While in Palo Alto, Travis will receive therapy for the traumatic brain injury he received due to the blast of the grenade on February 14. If all goes as planned, he will also receive surgery on his right eye, in the hopes of restoring additional sight.

Everyone is encouraged by the progress Travis is making in his recovery. The family continues to remain uplifted, and surrounded by your steadfast prayers, your visits, your calls and cards, and your visits.

Indeed, we all "praise God from whom all blessings flow."





Bill Blake	Seymour Family
Dawn Blalock	Sonnie Shafer
Joe Bob Brown	Shirley Skaggs
The Burkles	Karen Tanner
Helen Covey	Myrtle Thomas
Breece DeBoutez	Bill Wesbrooks
Travis Dodson & family	
Dylan Everman	Families dealing with
Jarod Ferguson	grief: Gors, Gottschalk,
Gerald Gaylord	Hoskins, Hyatt, Lund,
Chris/Juan Gonzales	Ramsey, Wesbrooks
Manny Gonzales	
Valerie Hamme	Family Members & their
Alan Hickman	units serving the armed
Bonnie Hoskins	forces (some overseas):
Elliot Johnson	Travis Dodson's unit,
Lois Kelly	Amber Dunnihoo, Jason
Larry & Letitia Koble	Hammers, Joel Hunt,
Carol LeDuc	Shaun M. Jones, Jennifer/
LeOre Lloyd	John Lively, Jennifer/
Luddy Lutonsky	Jarrold McGee, Josh
Joan Mallery	Robertson, Lucas Serna,
June Manning	Tyrell Shiflett,
Marvin Marcak	L. Charles Stanley, Greg
Jeremiah Marquart	Stube, Danny Symonds,
Derald May	Van Welch
Martha Meyers	
Mary Ethel Miller	
Al Nason	
Jo Nichalson	
Marilyn Offutt	
Russell Petersen	
Ann/Brian Pettit	
John Plant	
Joyce Richards	
Mary Roberts	
Brian Schumacher	

Hospice patients and their families; our nation; our leaders; our armed forces, especially those serving overseas; our Sunday School: for increased attendance, people with a heart and passion for teaching to assist or substitute in our classes, for faithfulness.

BITS 'N TIDBITS

Enchilada Dinner from 4 to 6 pm on Thursday, April 5, at the Oddfellows Hall on Gold Avenue (just south of Baca's). \$5 per plate includes your drink and a yummy dessert. You can dine-in or get a carry-out box. The proceeds benefit the Oddfellows scholarship programs.

Plastic grocery sacks are needed for Deming Helping Hand. You may leave sacks in the marked box in the Fellowship Hall). Your donation of time is also needed for their monthly food distribution to those in need. If you can help, please call Deming Helping Hand at 546-2558, even if you can work only once. Thank you.

Blankets and Pennies - Grace Fellowship is collecting blankets (new or clean, used ones) and pennies for their shelter and soup kitchen. The blanket box is in the Sunday School hallway next to the white food barrel, and the penny can is on the resource table across the hallway. They can also use donations of food (the white barrel outside of the sanctuary) and/or men's clothing.

Our **April Bread Basket Offering** (April 15) will benefit McCurdy School in Espanola. This school provide quality Christian education and other services to needy people in the Espanola Valley.

Please extend **Christ's Love** by greeting visitors (or even church members you just don't know or don't remember seeing). A warm smile and a hello will warm both of your hearts!



FROM THE MAILBAG

“Dearest Church Family,

There is no way for me to say what I feel. When we were knocked to the floor you rushed to our aid. You continue to stand beside us and hold us up and enable us to concentrate on Travis.

We love and cherish your prayers for us and accept your monetary donation with a grateful heart.

Love,
Casey, Cheryl Kae, Haley, Lauren and Travis”

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“Feb. 25, 2007  
Dear Church Family,

Many thanks for your loving care of the Gottschalks while we were in Deming. You many cards brought comfort to our hearts. You all are part - a large part - of what drew our parents to Deming. We greatly appreciate everyone’s part in the funeral service and social times - lunch and dessert. Thank you for taking such good care of us and for spending time with us.

We are also indebted to you for the audio tape of the service which I am planning to duplicate for friends and family who were unable to be with us.

Thank you again for your condolences and support.  
Love,  
Mim Gottschalk and family”

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“Dearest Jomama and Glenn (Kruger),
We want to offer our thankfulness for putting us on your prayer list at your church. What

Christian Love is offered in such tender words of prayer. I can truly say that I felt the power of many prayers as I went through my surgery. It was like I was carried through it all. What a wonderful feeling and kindness given to me in such a time of need. Thank you so much to everyone.

In Christian Love,
Don and Terry Sowieja”
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“Dear Reverend Baskett,  
Thank you for allowing our two P.E.O. Chapters the use of First United Methodist Church’s Hall on Saturday, February 24th. Your wonderful facility contributed greatly to the success of our meeting.

Linda Drilling,  
Corresponding Secretary”  
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Dear Church Family,
Bill and I wish to thank all of you for the prayers, cards, visits etc. that we received during his recovery from a stroke he had February 14th. He is doing well and we hope to soon have his rehab sessions moved to the Deming Rehabilitation facility located where the YWCA used to be. Two trips a week to Las Cruces for 3 hours of therapy each trip is very tiring.

We also thank you for your thoughtfulness during the death of my sister, Virginia Measday. As some of you know she was my second Mother from the time I was 13 and she was 25. She died March 11th.

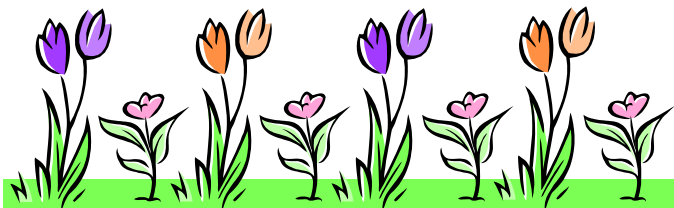
We miss seeing you in Church and hope to be back soon.
Sent with our sincere love and thanks.
Bill and Joyce Wesbrooks”

LUNA COUNTY NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Each year on the first Thursday of May, Christians from across America gather to pray for their respective communities and our country. This year, the National Day of Prayer is Thursday May 3, 2007. The theme this year is UNITE in Prayer, from 2 Chronicles 7:14.

The Luna County National Day of Prayer Task Force is centering the day around prayer including: prayer at the gates, prayer walking the business area, prayer drives through the city, and two prayer meetings at the Courthouse Park. The first prayer gathering will be at **11:30 am** (feel free to come at noon and join in as much as your lunch break allows). **The second prayer gathering will be at 7:00 pm.**

As mentioned above, the time prayer walking/driving through our city streets will immediately follow the first prayer gathering. Our church has had many who have been blessed by participating in this event. Those who sign up for the prayer walking/driving will be given instructions in advance, as well prayer aids to help them as they bless the city streets with prayer. If you are unable to meet on the National Day of Prayer, you may obtain your prayer assignment in advance and cover your assigned streets in advance of the NDP. Please call Sue Holdridge (546-3225) if you want to sign up or obtain more information on this prayer opportunity.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Deming United Methodist Women (UMW) will be hosting the El Paso District Annual meeting here on Saturday, April 21, and ALL LADIES are invited to attend! The fee is \$13 if paid by April 9, \$15 if paid after. You may contact Rosalee Gillett at 544-8201 if you have any questions.

Registration begins at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. The program, featuring our guest speaker Joseph Barthlow, will be from 10 am to 2 pm in the sanctuary. Lunch will be in the Fellowship Hall. *Check the Sunday bulletin for ways you can help the UMW host this event!*

So come and see what the UMW is all about!

ALSO, the UMW will present a *High Tea and Fashion Show* on Saturday, May 19, beginning at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Delicious finger foods, punch, and of course, tea will be served.

Tickets are \$5.00 each and may be purchased in the office or from any UMW members. The proceeds from this event will be used for a variety of mission projects supported by the United Methodist Women.

Reservations are required so be sure to get your tickets today!

NOTE: If you save Campbell's Soup Labels for the UMW, please note they only need the BARCODE portion, or lids of qualifying soups, broths or juices. Visit www.mccurdy.org or Campbell's website at www.labelsforeducation.org for details.



**TAKE
NOTE**

Happy Easter to everyone. This is one of my favorite times of year in the church. Spring is about rebirth and about life. There seems to be magic in the air as we look forward to the warmer weather. Summer is close, and the days are longer.

This season is especially exciting for my family this year. This is our first Easter Holiday with our church family here in Deming. We are very grateful and excited about the wonderful ministries here in our community.

April Schedules

- Week of April 2nd (Holy Week):
- Bell Macto - April 2, 5:30-6:30 pm
- Chancel Choir - April 2, 6:30-8 pm
- SOUL Kids - April 3, 3:30-5 pm
- Bell Macto - April 3, 5-6:30 pm
- Praise Ensemble - April 3, 6:30-7:30 pm
- Tenebrae Service - April 4, 7:30 pm at St. Luke's Episcopal Church
- Maundy Thursday - April 5, 6:30 pm (Cantata and Communion)
- Good Friday - April 6, 6:30 pm

Week of April 9th: No Rehearsals. Have a great Spring Break!!

- Week of April 16 (*modified rehearsal schedule*):
- Bell Macto - April 16, 5:30-6:30 pm
- Chancel Choir - April 16, 6:30-8 pm
- SOUL Kids - April 17, 3:30-5 pm
- Praise Ensemble - April 17, 6:30-7:30pm



Weeks of the April 23 and April 30:
Regular Rehearsal Schedule

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars NOW for Vacation Bible School June 11 through 15 in the morning. We will also host a Performing Arts Camp June 11 through 15 AND June 18 through 22 in the afternoon (kids - bring a sack lunch). At the end of this two week camp, the kids will present the musical "Godspell Jr."

If you are an adult and interested in helping with either of these two events, please contact me during office hours. I can provide you with more information on areas of service that will be needed to make each of these ministries a blessing to the children and youth of our community.

The most *important* thing you can do, starting right now, is to pray that God's love and wisdom will pervade VBS and the Performing Arts Camp, that He will bring the children and youth into these programs, that all who are part of these ministries will feel the power of God's love in their lives.

Blessings and Joy,
Joe

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UMC.org

United Methodist Communications wants UMC.org to be an online destination for people who want to make a difference. Log on and click on the "serve" tab to view opportunities where you can make a difference!

CELEBRATION!!

Attention Ladies! Bring your favorite angel!

The next *CELEBRATION* gathering will be Saturday, May 5, in the Fellowship Hall. We will meet at 9:30 am for coffee, refreshments and fellowship, followed by a program of praise, worship and a message at 10 am.

Our speaker will be none other than our own Barbara Walsh! She will be leading us in some "Angel Talk." We will have time to share our stories of how angels have come into our lives. If you are a collector of angels, or have a few favorites, bring one or two along to share.

Women of all ages and denominations are welcome. A nursery will be available upon request (please give us a few days notice).

For more information, please contact Cazandra MacDonald at 544-8186 or email her at cazandra@wildblue.net.

Bring a friend. She'll be glad you did!

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LITTLE LAMBS NEWS

All is well with our world at Little Lambs. February went fast but we had lots of fun. We did everything...creative cooking, teddy bears, painting, making books to read, things with wheels, love, and Bible stories. We toured the church library and the students were impressed. One student said, "That's how come this place is so nice.

They have books for kids". We've been learning silly songs and precious songs that fill the church and our hearts with love. *Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything.* (Ephesians 5: 19-20)

March 1st we will start taking registrations for the 2007-2008 school year. Tell everyone...it's lots of fun.

NOTE: Little Lambs is our preschool for three and four year-old children.

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SPRING HAS SPRUNG AND CAMPS WILL COME!

There are some exciting camps coming up this summer. It's not too early to plan ahead!

June 11-17: Conference Backpacking (13-18 year olds)

June 11-15: High School Camp (completed 9th-12th grade)

June 25-29: Mid-High Camp (completed 6th-8th grade)

July 9-13: Elementary Camp (completed 4th-6th grade)

If you are interested in any of these camps, please contact the office for registration forms, or go to Sacramento Methodist Assembly's webpage, www.sacramentoassembly.org for more information.

Camps fill quickly so plan ahead for fun!!

OTHER TIDBITS!

As noted in a previous newsletter edition, there will be a Generation X/Y Gathering May 23-26 at Mt. Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The gathering will feature speakers Tim Keel and Doug Pagitt, as well as sessions designed to let participants learn from one another.

What is NEW is that the Gathering is offering a \$40 DISCOUNT if you register before April 15. For details, call 800-760-8126 or log onto www.mountsequoyah.org or generationxy.org.

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While we're on the subject of Mt. Sequoyah, how would you like a working vacation there? Volunteers are needed to renovate "Sequoyah Cottage", a 10-room lodging unit in need of a total make-over inside and out BEFORE JUNE 1st. If you are interested, please contact Mt. Sequoyah ASAP by calling 800-760-8126 or sending an email to Mary at mary@mountsequoyah.org.

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Now onto other ministry opportunities - Primetimers. This is a group of seasoned citizens who combine ministry with education in a variety of different ways and in a variety of different locations, nationally and internationally.

In October, the group will be meeting in New York City (14th-19th) to explore "Globalization: The Challenge of Global

Community." Participants will explore the challenges of globalization at the grassroots level and see how people are working for change in the local community. They will also have the opportunity to serve in local ministries in New York. This event is limited to 20 participants. For more information, please contact Kim Lehmann at 877-882-4724 (toll free) or email primetimers@gbgm-umc.org.

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Are you a Charles Wesley Fan? If so, there is still time to join the *Charles Wesley Tercentennial Pilgrimage: a Wesley in England* study experience. The journey will take place July 31 through August 10 in England, including a visit to Epworth, Charles Wesley's place of birth.

To register, or for more information, visit www.gbod.org/charleswesley300.

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UPCOMING DISTRICT VIM TRIPS

Within our district, the following Volunteer in Missions trips are planned.

June 11-15: Operacion Hogar - home construction in Juarez; contact Rev. Jon Moore at nmbiblemoth@yahoo.com

June 14-16: Tselani Valley (Indian reservation in AZ) for Roofs for Reservation Project; contact Stan Sager at sagerabq@comcast.net

June 16-23: Operacion Hogar - home construction in Juarez; contact Ray Keene at 410-692-5622

FROM THE BISHOP'S DESK

It was a frustrating day. The appointment making process was extremely difficult. I asked pastors who were providing faithful and effective service to go to smaller churches paying less compensation because the new assignment needed the pastor's unique gifts and graces. My stress and frustration increased throughout the day. Self-doubt filled my heart. I questioned the proper alignment of my values, my concerns for pastors, and effectiveness in matching congregational needs and pastors' gifts and graces. Temptation lurked at the door of my soul.

I called for consideration of the next congregation. The superintendent reported on the consultation from the Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

"We need a highly effective pastor who is under 40 years of age and has children still at home." I lost it. Sin filled my heart. "Tell them that when the average age of their membership is less than forty, when they can demonstrate a willingness to make major changes in the way they are doing ministry, and are aggressively seeking to make disciples of Jesus Christ I will consider their request." My response was inappropriate, harsh, and void of the respect and confidence I have in each of the superintendents. My response negated my love for the congregation. I needed forgiveness for reacting to superintendents who gave their best while dealing with the same stresses and pressures as they interpreted the needs, hopes, and dreams of pastors and congregations.

Repentance and forgiveness stand at the heart of the Christian faith, however, we often seek to justify ourselves. We produce pain, suffering, and loss which are difficult to heal. Words, carelessly spoken, generate pain deeper than one can imagine.

The words from that report produced such pain for me. Effectiveness and age do not correlate. Some of the most effective pastors in the Area are older than 50 years of age and several are over 60. Unfortunately, some ineffective pastors are less than 50 years of age. One of my most difficult tasks is informing younger adults that their gifts and graces are insufficient to effectively lead a congregation in making disciples of Jesus Christ, but it is a task I felt compelled to execute. The report from the committee reflected their belief that effectiveness in leadership is linked to age. Indirectly, it proclaimed their belief that all older clergy, like me, are ineffective. The pain was too great at that moment to bear.

"Lord, forgive me! Forgive those whose thoughtless words cause such pain. Forgive those who make false, unfounded assumptions. Help me affirm and help those who strive to serve you faithfully. Give me the grace to recognize my own faults, failing, and sinfulness; then help me accept your forgiveness. Help me to effectively lead your church to make disciples of Jesus Christ." Amen.

Grace & Peace,

Max

