



Deming, New Mexico

February 2008

Ash Wednesday Events

Ash Wednesday is February 6th and begins Lent. We will come together at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall for a simple supper, followed by an Ash Wednesday Service from 6:00 to 6:45 pm. The service will include the imposition of ashes.

On that day, Wednesday Night Live will have shortened classes (6:45 to 7:30 pm) and Chancel Choir practice will be delayed to 7:30–8:30 pm.

Your Ministry Enhances Worship

There will be a training session on Sunday, February 10th at noon for those who will participate in, and enhance, our worship services. Lunch will be served (no charge), with the training to follow. If you have not yet signed up, the ministry sheets are in the fellowship hall. If you're uncertain, attend the training and then decide! Please call the office to confirm your attendance at the training no later than February 7th.

New Mexico News

The United Methodist Association has announced the *Celebration of Excellence* recipients. Among them is our very own Landsun Homes (in Carlsbad, NM) who was selected as UMA's 2008 Organization of the Year. Landsun Homes is a Methodist related retirement center providing quality retirement living, including nursing home care. We take a yearly offering (usually in May) to help Landsun Homes assure that no one has to leave their home due to a lack of funds to provide for their care.

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Visit us at www.fumcdeming.com

Use the Church Website

The church website (www.fumcdeming.com) should be your primary source of information regarding the church. The website is updated as new information is received, sometimes within minutes of the webmaster receiving that information, whereas a newsletter is only updated monthly when a new issue is published. “News” that is 20 days-old is seldom of value!

When you go to the website:

- You may select from a high-speed graphic-rich, or low-speed graphic-denied, or cell-phone presentation of the content, according to how you connect to the internet. You may switch among these presentations as you desire.
- You will find on the main page three *bulletin boards* that describe pending happenings that may be of interest. Links to supplemental information or to on-line registration are often available.
- ◆ You may click on the **WHAT’S NEW** link on the main page to see a summary of additions/updates and when they were added. Searching for new content amid the old is not necessary.

One goal of the webmaster is to add, or update, something at least every ten days. One of your goals might be to visit the website at least that often to stay apprised of what’s happening at your church. The **Church Calendar** and the **What’s New** links could be among your most-visited web destinations.

Remember to Greet Our Visitors! Your hello will make a difference in their world and yours!

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TAKE NOTE

February is here. This month brings many reminders. We remember our loved ones on February 14th, we remember the contributions of our African-American brothers and sisters with the singing of the wonderful spirituals that we sing throughout this month. Perhaps the most solemn event of this month is the Ash Wednesday. This day begins the 40 day vigil we keep until Easter Sunday. This is the time of the year that we are challenged to give up something for which we yearn. The thought is that each time we desire what we give up, we may be reminded that we keep our eyes focused on the cross remembering that Christ gave the ultimate sacrifice.

This year my family has decided to do something a little different. We will be adding something to our lives. We will have a family devotional every night through the season of Lent. I challenge you to do the same. Plan your family meeting and try to honor God together. Honor Him as a family unit. It is amazing the lessons that you can learn in your very own home. Stop and think about it. Many of us are in various Sunday School Classes. Families actually are divided on Sunday Mornings. The children go to their classes, adults go to there own areas. We do not study the bible together. Why not try?

Choir Rehearsal Schedule for February:

Mondays:	Handbell Choir.....	4:30-5:30 pm
	Praise Band	5:30-6:30 pm
Tuesdays:	Soul Kids	3:30-5:00 pm
Wednesdays:	First Call	4:00-5:00 pm
	WNL	5:00-7:00 pm
	Chancel Choir	7:00-8:00 pm

Christian Stewardship

A Christian steward is *content*. Christian stewards acknowledge that their strength comes from God through whom they can do all things regardless of how many or how few material possession they have (*Philippians 4:11-13; 1 Timothy 6:6-10*).

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Marriage Enrichment Opportunity

Sacramento Methodist Assembly is hosting a retreat for married couples. Sign up now for the *Making Love Last a Lifetime* event to be held February 15-18, 2008.

A descriptive brochure may be downloaded from the New Mexico Conference web site at

[www.nmconfum.com/Married Couples Retreat Brochure. pdf.](http://www.nmconfum.com/Married_Couples_Retreat_Brochure.pdf)

Volunteer Opportunities at Sacramento Methodist Assembly

Want to be a part of a growing ministry opportunity that supports the mission and service of a wonderful Church based non-profit organization? Do you enjoy meeting people from all over the country? Sacramento Methodist Assembly is looking for volunteers who wish to serve others while living on-site. Volunteer hosts greet guests, answer questions and the phones, offer assistance in our snack and gift shop, offer information about our ministry, assist with meals in our dining facility, assist in housekeeping, and have the opportunity for relaxing, hiking, reading, and enjoying good conversation.

Sacramento Methodist Assembly is a Camp and Conference Center in a relaxed and beautiful mountain setting situated at 7,500 ft elevation in the Sacramento Mountains of Southern New Mexico.
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There are opportunities to share special skills as you work with other volunteers on projects, lead interpretive hikes in our forest, assist in our adventure programming, etc. We are looking for both short term and long term volunteer hosts—some hosts volunteer for one week/weekend per year, others volunteer multiple times per year or for several weeks at a time. There is an application and interview process for this ministry opportunity. We want to match your gifts with our needs.

Please contact Bill McCuaig at 800-687-3414 or by eMail to director@sacramentoassembly.org if you are interested.

Methodist Border Mission

“Embracing My Neighbor”, an effort by all the U.S./Mexico Border Methodist Conferences on February 8-10, 2008 at the Camino Real Hotel, El Paso, Texas.

There will be a variety of workshops led by persons directly involved in serving the church and community facing the issues that confront those living on both sides of the Mexico / U.S. Border.

Registration: \$50.00 per person (includes materials and banquet). For further information contact: Conrado Soltero, 915-593-2241 or Delia Estrada, 915-822-2455

Mid-high Youth Camp

ROC (Rhythm Of Christ) weekend camp for mid-high youth is coming soon! Mark on your calendars March 7-9 for ROC 2008. The theme for the camp is STAND OUT! Cost is \$100 per camper.

ROC is completely designed and implemented by the Wesley Foundation at NMSU/DACC and is partially funded by a NMAC Vitality Grant. Wesley Ministries—empowering Christian leaders for TODAY!

Beth Simpson is the FUMC sponsor—contact her for more details and to register.

Mission Trip to New York

Primetimers will gather in New York City in June to explore issues of national and international concern. Experiencing this global city will enable participants to examine issues from a variety of perspectives and explore ways to seek wholeness and healing for all of God's children.

Throughout this event, participants will engage in a seminar at the United Methodist Seminar Program at the Church Center for the United Nations, visit John Street UMC (the first permanent home of America's oldest continuous congregation), tour the United Nations, and see the sights of NYC!

Additional details about the event are available on the *Primetimer's* website: <http://www.primetimers.info>.

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VIM Mission Trips for 2008

1. March 16-22. Fusion Student Ministries, Odessa (a ministry of Asbury UMC and St. Luke's UMC) annual trip to Juarez for Casas Por Cristo construction. Estimated cost: \$275-\$300. Passports are required. If interested, contact Courtney Johnson at fusionsm@cableone.net or call 432-366-8866.

2. May 27-June 5. Central UMC, Albuquerque, to San Jose, Costa Rica to participate with the Strong Missions program in construction and working in an orphanage. Contact Sara Armstrong, saraa@centraltolife.org.

3. June 19-July 5: The Rev. Roland McGregor (Rio Rancho UMC) has finalized the arrangements for a trip that he will lead to Mulungwishi, DR Congo. The purpose will be to meet the families graduating from, and the role the seminary plays in, the dynamic growth of the United Methodist Church in Katanga Province. Departure will be from either Albuquerque or Dallas/Ft. Worth. The cost will be about \$3,200 per person. Respond to rmcgregoralbq@aol.com for more information.

GBOD

The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church invites everyone to hear God's call through a one-day study and discussion of Exodus 3 & 4. March 8th from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm (gathering at 8:30 am) at Western USA First UMC, Tempe, AZ There is no charge for the event. Travel, lodging, and meals are the responsibility of the attendee.

Visit the GBOD website <http://www.gbod.org> for more details.

UMW Meeting

Our regular meeting will be February 16th at 2 pm in the Chapel. The program will be *Call to prayer and self-denial* led by Naomi Mutter. After the meeting and program, refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall. ALL women (any age) are welcome to attend!

Bithell Farms orders must be placed before February 27th. Contact Murray Baskett (546-9104) if you have questions.

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UMW Rummage Sale

The UMW is having their annual rummage sale on Saturday, February 2nd from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the gym. Rummage may be brought to the church through Friday morning at 9am. Help support missions by donating AND by stopping by on Saturday and giving these “treasures” a new home!



Prayer List Jan.-Mar. 2008

Bonnie Baker
Mary Barnes
Joe Bencomo
The Burkles
Helen Covey
Breece DeBoutz
Chris & Ellen Gonzales
Bill/Sue Hoffmeister
Wayne Humphrey
Wayne Humphrey
Lois Kelly
Jewel Landrum
Gordon & Sue McIver
Lynde Murphy
William Penn
Ann/Brian Pettit
John Plant

Billy Price
John Silter & family
Gary Slayman
Bob/Kitty Tobey
Bridget & Dixon Wolf and
their unborn twins
Families dealing with grief:
Sayre, Chandler, Hoskins,
Wolf

Service men & women:
Travis Dodson's unit, Avilla
Augustus, Alan Ballinas, Alan/
Brian Carter, Amber
Dunnihoo, Maj. Howard
Gobble, Jason Hammers,
Conrad Hughes, Shaun M.
Jones, Jennifer/John Lively,
Jennifer/Jarrold McGee,
Michael Nunley, Josh
Robertson, L. Charles Stanley,
Greg Stube, Danny Symonds,
Van Welch

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

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Women's Depression Support Group

Do you or a loved one suffer from depression and have no one who understands your condition? Come be part of the Women's Depression Support Group on Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. We meet weekly in the church parlor to study scripture that pertains to depression and find hope in God and one another. Confidentiality is highly valued. For more information please contact Beth Simpson or Cazandra MacDonald at 544-8161.

Bereavement Support Group

Have you suffered a loss: a beloved family member, friend, or even pet? Consider joining the Mimbres Valley Home Health and Hospice bereavement support group meetings held in their offices (111 N. Pearl, Deming NM, 88030; 575-544-4663) Mondays at 5:30 pm.

Mimbres Valley Home Health and Hospice is seeking caring individuals who can offer their time to help provide comfort to terminally ill patients and their loved ones. You may spend time with patients and their families or help with errands and day-to-day tasks. You will be provided with special training that may also be helpful in your own life. Your voluntary time commitment is up to you, but even a few hours a week can make a big difference. Contact Melissa at 575-544-4663 to volunteer.



Bits and Tidbits

February's Bread Basket offering is for Camp Scholarships. Many youth make a decision for Christ while at camp and we've heard of many pastors who received their call while at camp. Your generosity will enable children, youth, and adults to attend the camp of their choice. Please help change lives!

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Fusion – the FUMC youth group needs your help!

As part of their ministry to the community, the church youth are assembling Bags of Hope. There are two types of bags—one with personal products and one with food items. The bags are distributed to member churches of the Love INC program and these churches distribute them to transients in need.

The *Fusion* youth can always use the items listed here. Give your donation to any *Fusion* member or to a youth leader.

- ◆ For the personal care bags: any hotel amenities; the small travel size containers for shampoos; toothpaste – travel or regular size.
- ◆ For the food bags: tuna fish packets that contain tuna fish and condiments as well as crackers; breakfast bars; fruit cups; bottled water.

These bags have been a blessing to many homeless as well as transients. They are a great way for the participating churches to start ministering to transients in need. Thank you for your help.



2008 Church Budget

The church budget for 2008, in Mission format, was mailed in January to all church members. Additional copies may be obtained from the church office.

A detailed presentation of the budget is available for download from the church website.

There will be an Enchilada Dinner on Thursday, February 7th, from 4-6 pm at the Oddfellows Hall on South Gold (just behind Baca's). \$5 per person for a yummy meal and dessert! Proceeds benefit many programs, including local scholarships.

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Guest Ponderings

Some of My Thoughts

As I sit in my office the sun is shining, but the temperature outside is below freezing. I look out from the warmth of my office and see a beautiful day. On the way to work I saw a man wrapped in an old coat, unshaven, head covered with an old hat. He failed to see this as a beautiful day. Work would be hard to find and shelter for the night will vanish quickly. Our perspectives on life make all the difference in interpreting the same identical facts. The sun is shining and the temperature is below freezing.

The population of New Mexico and in many communities in West Texas is growing. Over 50% of the population does not have a church home in the community where they live. In most communities, less than one third of the population attended a worship service this past Sunday. Some leaders of congregations look toward the future and believe there is no viable future for their congregation, denomination, or the Christian faith. Other leaders recall the words of Jesus that the fields are white for the harvest and the laborers are few. They believe there has never been a time filled with greater opportunity and needs than exist in their communities today. The facts are the same, but the perspectives make all the difference.

The national holiday celebrating the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. occurred on January 21. Several articles in church publication contrast the dramatic changes that have occurred from the decade of the sixties to the first decade of the twenty-first century. Great progress has been made. Then I discovered some startling statistics:

- ◆ A black baby born today is more than twice as likely as a white or Latino infant, and three times more likely than an Asian infant, to die during the first year of life.
- ◆ A black baby's mother is almost three times as likely as a white mother to have no prenatal care, and four times more likely to die in childbirth.

- ◆ The black baby's father is twice as likely as a white baby's father to be unemployed.
- ◆ A black boy in Harlem, NY has less chance of surviving to the age of 65 than a male born in Bangladesh.
- ◆ Blacks who survive overcrowded, low-performing schools and manage to finish college have as much change of employment as whites who merely graduate from high school.
- ◆ U.S. Justice Department statistics show that blacks are more likely to be pulled over by traffic police, imprisoned, and put to death.

(Taken from a United Methodist Reporter article written by Dr. William B. McClain.)

It makes a difference from what perspective we view our nation.

The United Methodist Church worldwide has more members than at any time in our history. The United Methodist Church in the United States has declined for forty years. Different congregations in our Conference denote the same distinction: some are growing and some are declining. Some are effectively making disciples of Jesus Christ and becoming younger every year; others (over 40% of UM Churches in the U.S.) failed to receive one single person into the membership of the church this past year on profession of faith. It makes a difference from what perspective you see the situation.

Tomorrow morning, by the grace of God, I will arise to live another day. I can choose to a certain degree how I will view the day and the opportunities that God gives to me. You also have that same choice. The facts are the same. How we view them makes all the difference in the world as to what we shall do and how we will receive God's gifts to us.

Grace & Peace,
Max

Church Calendar

The church calendar may be found on the church website.

Visit us at www.fumcdeming.com

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