



Newsletter for February 2012

Ash Wednesday Services and Lenten Coin Folders

Once again we will have two Ash Wednesday services on February 22nd. The first will be a simple come and go service with imposition of ashes and time for quiet prayer and reflection. The second will be our regular Ash Wednesday worship service at 6 pm. Both are in the sanctuary. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, a time to reflect upon the tremendous love God has for all of us - then, today and tomorrow. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lenten coin folders and boxes will be distributed at the 6 pm service. Each family will receive a folder and each child will receive a box. Please take the folders and boxes home and fill them with coins. They should be returned on Easter Sunday, full of coins, to be given to a local ministry (such as Helping Hand or Love INC). If you aren't in church on Ash Wednesday, we'll also have them available on February 26th. Or you may obtain one in the office after Ash Wednesday. Your donation will be multiplied by each family to provide help to those in need.

Thank You Junior UMYF!

A huge THANK YOU to the Junior Youth Group who graciously cleaned up the *luminarias* that were leftover in the gym after Christmas. We appreciate the great job you and your parents did in quickly cleaning everything!!

Crafty Kids Notice

We're back! Crafty Kids is back on its very own day – Monday afternoons – beginning February 6th. The group will meet in the Memorial Classroom from 3:15 to 4:45 pm, on Mondays. Come join us for playtime, snacks and fun projects. Interested volunteers who love kids are welcome too. For more information, please contact Jo Kruger at 545-8979. Please note – because Crafty Kids has moved to the Memorial Classroom, their craft items have moved also. Please contact Jo Kruger if you want to borrow or use some of the supplies. Thank you.

Celebration!

Celebration is a non-denominational women's ministry that meets quarterly. The Spring Meeting will be Saturday, February 11th, at 9:30 am, in the Fellowship Hall. ALL women are invited for light refreshments, songs and praises, and a special message by our own Carol Krum. Haven't been before? Make time to come and be refreshed. If you have been, invite a friend to join you. She'll be glad you did!

UMW Rummage Sale

The United Methodist Women are having a rummage sale on Saturday, February 4th, from 8:30 to 11:30 am in the gym. Most items are \$2 for bag, for anything you can put in the bag. There's also a good selection of specially priced items. Setup will be Friday, February 3rd at 8 am. If you can stop by to help, the ladies would appreciate it.

Prayer Ministry Resource!

Do you have leaders in your Churches that need prayer or want to learn more about prayer? If so, you may want to share with them <http://prayer-center.upperroom.org/>, the website for the **Living Prayer Center**, a

7-day-a-week intercessory prayer ministry staffed by Christian volunteers where they can leave a request to be prayed for by volunteers. There are also articles about prayer there as well as on the **Prayer Initiatives website** http://www.gbod.org/site/c.nhLRJ2PMKsG/b.6195985/k.BCBE/Prayer_Initiative.htm.

It's Almost Time for ROC!

If you know someone in the 6th, 7th or 8th grade, you should let them know about the awesome opportunity they have to go to this special Mid-High retreat at Sacramento Methodist Assembly. The Rhythm of Christ retreat is put on every spring by the students from the Wesley Foundation (United Methodist student ministry) at NMSU.

This year's ROC will be March 2nd through 4th and registration forms are now available. Those interested in going should contact Beth Simpson in the church office (546-2791 or beth@fumcdeming.com). **The deadline to sign up is February 12th.**

So talk to the Mid-High youth in your life and encourage him/her to go with us to this mountain retreat in March. They will have a blast!

Call to Prayer for General Conference Delegates

Join us in praying for our delegates as they prepare for General Conference 2012.

And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way, and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night. Exodus 13:21

As our delegates to General Conference prepare, we pray they seek God's guidance each day. The Lord will lead the way, guiding their actions, lighting their way through the decisions ahead. May our delegates focus solely on God's light, keeping their hearts and minds open to His guidance and desire for our denomination and our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

We pray for wisdom in their planning - mentally, physically and spiritually - for the work that lies ahead. May they be informed, inquisitive, open, ethical, moral and maintain a spirit of discernment and Christ-like love as they review and study the proposals and business to be considered at General Conference in April.

Karla Abernethy-Thetford

Keep in Touch

Elizabeth Hastings writes I am missing the Love and Hugs I have shared with you in the past. That all is going well with me here and I invite everyone to come visit and see this great place. My address is Elizabeth Hastings, NMSVH, 992 S. Broadway, T or C, NM 87901

Robert Sweidal is now in Sunshine Haven Nursing Home, Room 105A. He would love visits or cards from you. The mailing address is 603 Hadeco Drive, Lordsburg NM 88045.

Rock and Worship Roadshow

MercyMe returns to headline the 2012 edition of the Rock and Worship Roadshow on Sunday, February 12, at 6 pm at NMSU's Pan Am Center (in Las Cruces). The Junior UMYF group will be attending and invite all interested youth (and brave adults) to join them! Tickets are \$10 each. The youth will leave from the church at 3:30 pm on the 12th. If you are interested in joining them, please contact April Gallagher at 545-3402 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Pass the word and join the fun!

What's New at the Museum

Deming Luna Mimbres Museum has two events this month to help celebrate New Mexico's 100th birthday.

1. Laura V. Krol has published a book titled "Images of America – Deming." She will be featured at a book signing at the museum on Saturday, February 18th at 2 pm. This is your chance to pick up a copy of our local history!
2. "Good Morning New Mexico" is an exhibit by Georgie Bemis featuring a scene from each county in New Mexico. This will run the month of February. There will be a reception for Georgie on Saturday, February 4th, at 2 pm.

Count Your Blessings!

It is New Year's Eve and Valerie and I are celebrating in our normal fashion. She went to bed early to try to recover from the exhaustion of going and being with family for the past few days. I have been reading and preparing for another session with my colleague bishops this week. The radio is playing and I am enjoying not being under any immediate deadlines.

God has blessed me in so many ways. I work with some of the most dedicated Christian disciples one could ever hope to meet. They sometimes must be told to stay home, get some rest, and come back to work when they are feeling much better. These individuals are not workaholics. They work because they know what they are doing is making a difference in the Kingdom of God. They push themselves because they want to help others be able to do their very best. They see themselves as the support team, often unseen and perhaps underappreciated, who go about their task in order that others can more effectively make disciples of Jesus Christ. They rejoice when a congregation becomes stronger, more effective, and more joyful about being the Body of Christ. No offense is taken when others stand in the spotlight and take credit for jobs where they received significant support and assistance from their behind the scenes coworkers. Their eyes are focused on the end results where Jesus is glorified. It is such a pleasure to work with these individuals.

I am blessed with a wonderful, generous wife who supports, encourages, and enables me to take a few steps back or go to the balcony to see the big picture when I am ensnared in the immediate demands and expectations placed on me. She loves me when I am frustrated, angry, and unlovable. She encourages me when I fail to understand that change is hard and often takes much longer than I assume is necessary. She supports me when the problems I confront appear to have no solutions and people are unwilling to even consider there might be a third way to resolve a situation where everyone is losing and living like Jesus is a foreign subject that no one seems interested in pursuing.

Jesus blesses me with his presence. The message of Christmas is not a sentimental holiday where everyone pretends to be happy for about twenty four hours. Jesus is indeed God with us, Emmanuel. He is with me and even when I let him go, he never lets me go. He continues to love, care, and dwell with me regardless of how rough the way may become.

It has been a great 2011 and I know 2012 will be an even better year because God has blessed me and God continues to bless me. I only need to stop and count my blessings.

Happy New Year, Max



UMW Bithell Farms Frozen Fruit/Seafood

It is time for the spring deliver of Bithell Farms frozen fruit and seafood. Forms are on the small table in the back of the sanctuary. Please complete the attached order form and return it, along with your check (made out to Bithell Farms) to the church office no later than February 23rd. If you've never had this before, try it - it is good! Proceeds from this sale benefit UMW mission projects. Thank you for your support.

How to Go Green

This month, we'll talk about recycling. Avid recyclers can diminish household waste by as much as 75%. Items that can be recycled include newspaper, plastic bags/grocery sacks, some plastic and/or glass bottles/jars, aluminum (generally cans) and electronics.

There are recyclers in Deming who accept aluminum cans. The landfill accepts some recyclable items. Or check the phone book to find independently operated recycling providers. For cell phones – check with your local cell phone provider regarding recycling. Ask local recyclers for specialty centers where you can take electronics. Our local animal shelter will take clean, empty gallon water jugs (please include the cap) and newspapers (no ads please). Pepper's and Wal-Mart (possibly K-Mart also) have containers near the door where you can drop off plastic grocery sacks and other plastic items (such as the bags you use for sacking fruit and veggies or dry cleaning bags).

All recyclable glass and plastic containers include a number code on the bottom (inside of a triangle). The numbers range from 1 to 7. Make sure you know which numbers your recycler accepts. If the containers do NOT contain one of these numbers, they are not recyclable.

Rules for recycling:

- Remove glossy inserts and ads from newspapers
- Rinse out containers thoroughly, including aluminum cans
- Peel off labels
- Remove caps, corks and lids from bottles and jars
- Compress plastic, paper and aluminum cans so save space

Yes, it does take some effort to recycle, but it's worth it.

Next month, some composting ideas.

More Goodies from the Junior UMYF

The Junior UMYF is having two more fund raisers as they continue to raise money for their ski trip to Ruidoso over spring break.

1. The first one is a bake sale during the UMW Rummage Sale on February 4th. When you stop in for bargains, head to the kitchen window for coffee and goodies to sustain you while shopping!
2. The second one is a breakfast to be served in the Fellowship Hall following first service on Sunday, February 26th. Donations will be gratefully accepted. Make plans to get there early because the last one was a wonderful meal.

Little Lambs

December was a wonderful month. We spent our time preparing for Christmas. We all made decorations for the room and our homes. We made keepsake gifts for our families. We spent our time learning the true reason for Christmas. We learned the story from the Bible about the birth of Jesus. We even performed at the Hanging of the Greens. We had great fun doing that and telling everyone the story so they could pass it on so everyone in the world will know about our Saviors birth. The students really got good at the story and all know it. The seeds are planted in their hearts and souls ... now it is our job as believers to keep teaching them and guiding them so that they progress through their lives with Jesus. What a gift we were given ... a Savior ... what a job to do ... tell everyone He is there for them. Merry Christmas to all. God bless for a wonderful New Year of happiness ... health .. .love.

Bible Study

The next Community-Wide Bible Study will be "Experiencing God's Peace", a study of the book of Philippians by Elizabeth George. We will begin the study on February 2, with the first lesson done and the study will finish on March 8. Books are \$10.00 each. To sign up for the study please call Suanne Delk or Dee Dee Baker. The deadline for ordering books is January 10, 2012.

Lay Speakers: Save This Date

The El Paso District will be sponsoring a Lay Speakers' School on February 17-18, 2012, at St. Mark's UMC (El Paso, TX). We are planning to teach the Basic Lay Speakers' Course and the advanced course "Lay Pastoral Care Giving."

For more information, contact Rev. Janet Whitmore whitty@gilanet.com or 575-542-3876.

Las Cruces TREK

Senior Olympic Health Promotion Event, February 7, 2012

New Mexico Senior Olympics invites you and your seniors to attend the upcoming Senior Trek to Healthy Fitness event in Las Cruces. This FREE event will be held Tuesday, February 7, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Meerscheidt Recreation (plenty of parking) located at 1600 E Hadley.

We kindly ask you to RSVP (1-888-623-NMSO) by January 31, 2012, in order to plan adequate seating.

Check-in for the Las Cruces TREK will begin at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and muffins. The keynote address will begin at 9:00 a.m. The other health education and activity/sports workshops begin at 10:00 a.m.

FREE Lunch will be provided courtesy of the Mountain View Regional Medical Center.

February 2012			1 * Youth Handchimes * Adult Handbells * Prayer & Praise Worship * Dance Exercise	2 * Quilt Group * SoulKeepers Support Group * Children's Handbells * Bible Study * Mission Committee	3 * Men's Bible Study * Rummage sale setup	4 * UMW Rummage Sale
5 <i>Communion</i> * Sr. UMYF	6 * Chancel Choir practice * Dance Exercise * Crafty Kids * Jr. UMYF * Handbell Trio	7 * S.O.U.L. Kids * Praise team	8 * Youth Handchimes * Adult Handbells * First Call * Prayer & Praise Worship * Dance Exercise	9 * Children's Handbells * Bible Study	10 * Men's Bible Study	11 * Celebration
12 * Trustees Committee * Sr. UMYF * Rock and Worship Roadshow	13 * Finance Committee * Chancel Choir practice * Dance Exercise * Crafty Kids * Jr. UMYF * Handbell Trio	14 VALENTINE'S DAY * S.O.U.L. Kids * Church Council * Praise team	15 * Youth Handchimes * Adult Handbells * First Call * Prayer & Praise Worship * Dance Exercise	16 * Quilt Group * SoulKeepers Support Group * Children's Handbells * Bible Study	17 * Men's Bible Study	18
19 * <i>Bread basket Sunday</i> * UMM Breakfast Mtg * Sr. UMYF	20 * Chancel Choir practice * Dance Exercise * Crafty Kids * Jr. UMYF * Handbell Trio	21 * S.O.U.L. Kids * Praise team	22 * Ash Wednesday * Youth Handchimes * Adult Handbells * First Call * Dance Exercise	23 * Children's Handbells * Bible Study	24 * Men's Bible Study	25
26 * Breakfast by Jr. UMYF * Sr. UMYF	27 * Chancel Choir practice * Dance Exercise * Crafty Kids * Jr. UMYF * Handbell Trio	28 * S.O.U.L. Kids * Praise team	29 * Youth Handchimes * Adult Handbells * First Call * Education Committee * Prayer & Praise Worship * Dance Exercise			