



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Deming, New Mexico

June 2007

“A man never stands as tall as when he kneels to help a child.”

Knights of Pythagoras

Happy Father's Day to the men in our lives!

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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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

“Spring Is In the Air”

Like clockwork spring comes each year whether or not we are ready for it. The birds start to sing, flowers start to bloom, and the Bishop and cabinet meet to make appointments of pastors for the next conference year.

Since the beginning of the Methodist movement its pastors have been itinerant. Each year the Bishop and the District Superintendents of an annual conference meet in closed sessions to consider prayerfully where each of the pastors of that annual conference will serve for the next year. They have appointment requests from the churches and the pastors. They also have the consultation information from the District Superintendents and their meeting with pastors and churches. Then they gather together for prayer. They pray for each church and each pastor. They pray for the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Then they begin the process of appointing pastors to churches.

To the rest of the world the Methodist movement has always seemed a little, well, odd! Especially when it comes to appointing pastors. Why not just leave a pastor at a church as long as possible? Why not just let churches hire pastors? That's how many other denominations do it, why are United Methodists different? (Please note that I said different, not better or worse!)

First of all, our goal is to see the BIG picture. We want to see how the larger Church makes disciples for Jesus Christ. That is the mission that is bigger than any Annual Conference, congregation, or pastor. Second, we want to see churches and pastors matched so that the gifts and graces of both pastors and congregations matched so that the work and witness of the Church is as strong as possible in every community. And then we, as United Methodists, try to follow the promptings of God to share the Gospel and transform lives.

I am very pleased that as the appointive process worked this year that Bishop Whitfield and the Cabinet felt led to appoint me for another year as the pastor of First United Methodist Church in Deming. It's hard to believe that a year has already raced by. May God continue to bless us as we continue to work together to make disciples for our Lord!

Blessings,

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CAMP

What an exciting time to be at First UMC Deming! We are featuring “Lift Off! Soaring to New Heights With God” for Vacation Bible School this year. Join other Sky Scouts in an exciting hot air balloon adventure!

VBS will run June 11 through 15 from 9am to noon for ages four years old through completed 5th grade. You can register online (see page 3) or at the church office.

THEN we'll continue the fun with Performing Arts Camp - two weeks for learning everything there is to know about putting on a musical production. The highlight will be two evening performances of *Godspell, Jr.* by the campers at 7pm on June 22 and June 23.

Performing Arts Camp will be held June 11 through 15 and June 18 through 22 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. for students who have graduated 2nd through 12th grades. You may also register online or at the church office.

If your student is also attending VBS, send them with a brown bag lunch (including drink), clearly marked with their full name. They can eat lunch in the fellowship hall between events the week of June 11-15.

Parents or guardians - please be considerate of our volunteers and assure your child is dropped off and picked up on time. Thanks!

The Church Website

The church website, <http://www.fumcdeming.com>, is under new management! It is being populated with those snippets of information that you may just need to know someday.

1. Look to the church website for the current church calendar: all the events scheduled for today and for the next few weeks may be found there.
2. Look to the website for the latest news on upcoming programs and events. *Vacation Bible School* and *Performing Arts Camp* are just two events featured on the church website.

You may register for events via the website. Avoid those long, slow first-day registration lines for VBS and PAC by registering now via the church website. Back issues of the church newsletter are available on the church website. You may read and print on-line an available back issue and thereby eliminate some clutter from your house.

Visit the church website at <http://www.fumcdeming.com> often. Do it today. Use the internet to stay aware of what your church is doing, how you may benefit from the programs, and how you may contribute your skills for the benefit for all. Stewardship has many forms.

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Music Ministry Reminder: There will be no Chancel Choir practice June, July and the 1st week of August. You will resume Aug. 8. There will be no Praise Team practice July and the 1st week of August, resuming Aug. 8 as well.

New Outside Door Locks

The Trustees have contracted to have all of our outside door locks re-keyed in the interest of prudent stewardship and security. The re-keying will be done the week of June 25th.

The entire plant will be re-keyed in three zones. For some of you, this will mean extra keys on your key ring. You will still be required to sign a consent form noting that you agree not to duplicate the keys, and the pay a re-keying fee up to \$1,000 in the event your keys are lost.

Please remember - ALL KEYS will be rendered inoperable that week. Please make plans to see Claire that week in order to have new keys re-issued under the guidelines established by the Trustees. If you cannot come in that week, please call her to make other arrangements.

We thank you for your patience and consideration during this changeover.

Coupled with re-keying the building is a **SECURITY ALERT!** We are experiencing repeated problems with outside doors left unlocked or not completely closed. Please help avoid problems by assuring all doors are securely closed and locked behind you - *regardless* of who else remains in the building. Thank you.

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“To Pastor Keath Baskett and Members,
Thank you for all of the little ways you share God’s love with me - in your prayers and concern. May God bless all of you. Love in Christ, Leora Lloyd”



Bob Aldrich	Al Nason
Dylan Anderson	Jo Nichalson
Retchenda Bettisworth	Marilyn Offutt
Bill Blake	Russell Petersen
Dawn Blalock	Ann/Brian Pettit
Joe Bob Brown	John Plant
The Burkles	Bob Probstel
Petra Chacon	Joyce Richards
Helen Covey	John Row, Sr.
Alisa Cox	Bill & Lucille Shivers
Breece DeBoutez	Brian Schumacher
Travis Dodson & family	Bruce Simpson
Dylan Everman	Shirley Skaggs
Jarod Ferguson	Diane Spencer
Gerald Gaylord	Karen Tanner
Chris/Juan Gonzales	Myrtle Thomas
Manny Gonzales	Tiffany Toledo
Valerie Hamme	Tristin
Alan Hickman	Bill & Joyce Wesbrooks
Jim Hines	VBS/PAC
Bonnie Hoskins	
Elliot Johnson	Grieving families:
Lois Kelly	Anderson, Gors, Hoefler,
Dorothy Kiley	LeDuc, Ramsey, Sires,
Larry & Letitia Koble	Wesbrooks, Williams
Colleen LaClair	
Lini Linendoll	Service men & women:
LeOre Lloyd	Travis Dodson's unit,
Joan Mallery	Avilla Augustus, Alan/
June Manning	Brian Carter, Amber
Marvin Marcak	Dunnihoo, Jason
Jeremiah/Joshua Marquart	Hammers, Joel Hunt,
Derald May	Shaun M. Jones, Jennifer/
Gordon McIver	John Lively, Jennifer/
Martha Meyers	Jarrold McGee, Josh
Mary Ethel Miller	Robertson, Tyrell Shiflett,
Bob Moon	L. Charles Stanley, Greg
Lynde Murphy	Stube, Danny Symonds,
	Van Welch

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

BLOOD DRIVE: Thursday, June 28 from 9am to 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. There is a critical need for blood during the summer so please call for an appointment or drop in.

PRAYER LIST UPDATE - We will be updating the prayer list next month. Please advise *in writing* the names of those who should be left on the list. Thank you.

Reminder #1 - Keath, Joe and Claire will be out of the office June 6-8. They will have their cell phones in case of an emergency. The office will be open mornings (and afternoons as Beth's schedule permits).

Reminder #2 - We are more than happy to post flyers on our bulletin board about community events. Please allow us the opportunity to display your flyer by leaving them in the church office to post.

Please help our money counters by placing unfolded checks/bills in the pew envelopes and or the offering plate. They say "thanks!"

June's Bread Basket Collection will benefit UMCOR, enabling them to offer disaster assistance throughout the world!

"Dear Church Family,

On behalf of the family of Mary Elizabeth Roberts, Walt and I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to each one that supported us so lovingly and prayerfully during her recent illness and death. Your prayers, cards, emails and calls helped sustain us during this difficult time. Special thanks go to Beth Stevens who with her gentle, tender spirit helped guide and prepare us for "Mama's" last days and hours. We are so for her and for the vital hospice information she shared with us.

God Bless you all, Carol and Walt Hoefler, Sue and Vince Lyons, John and Linda Roberts, Will Roberts"

From the Bishop's Desk

I generated no new "Thoughts" over the past few weeks. It is not that I became brain dead and failed to generate any thinking. The thoughts I generated, I felt were unworthy of distribution. The cabinet meetings were stressful, and I felt it unproductive to continue to share that stress. Then, we traveled to the Council of Bishops meeting. Our meeting was less stressful, but extremely demanding. The Council heard several preliminary reports that will go to General Conference from special Task Forces, Boards and Agencies. It reminded me of the voluminous issues that will come before General Conference. Individuals can easily assume General Conference deals with several issues, but may have greater difficulty imagining dealing with thousands of different petitions on hundreds of different issues. (By the way, bishops do not vote on issues addressed at General Conference. Only elected delegates from Annual Conferences can vote on petitions and resolutions at General Conference.)

I, thereafter, returned home and began to cram to get my presentations ready for the two different upcoming Annual Conference sessions. I read all the pre-conference materials to see if I understand the actions recommended by various Boards to the members of each Annual Conference. Along with this "normal business," I worked with my cabinet members, the registrars of the two Boards of Ordained Ministry, and the Conference Secretaries to make sure all the pastors were accurately classified and every pastor had an appointment for the coming year.

Many thoughts have traveled through my

mind during this rush to get everything done, but they were not thoughts worthy of distribution. (Some thoughts deserved only casual consideration, and quick removal without further review!)

Reflecting back on these past several weeks, however, did remind me how easy it is to ignore the prompting of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes to strengthen, guide, uphold, reveal, and confront; and the busyness of life occupies all of my time and energy. The breath of the Holy Spirit blows toward, around, and through me and departs unnoticed. I omit God from the ordinary-ness of life. Ignoring the important and embracing the urgent issues of life, is an occupational hazard. The demands of the moment cry out and it is difficult to pause long enough to determine whether the urgent is important.

Spending time with God, going to a child's concert, preparing dinner for my wife, or walking through the park just to hear the birds sing, may not be "urgent issues," but they may be the most important things I do all week. I still remember a Steven Covey presentation in which he tried to force a number of big rocks into a jar two thirds filled with small pebbles. It was an impossible task. However, when he put the big rocks in first, he was then able to put in all the small pebbles. Covey was reminding us that if we place the important items in our schedule first, there would then be time for all the urgent issues of life.

Lord, allow your Holy Spirit to enter my life that I may pause long enough to hear, experience, and enjoy your presence, before I am carried away in the busy-ness of life.

Grace and peace, Max

UMW NEWS

The United Methodist Women deeply appreciate all of the help, support, donations and attendance at last month's High Tea and Fashion Show. *Many, many thanks* to everyone who helped, attended and enjoyed the event. Special thanks to Lynde Murphy, event coordinator and also to the models and Shirley Knight who coordinated the fashion show. It was a very successful event, raising over \$700 for a variety of mission and ministry needs. Thank you from those whose lives will be blessed because of you.

Are you saving Campbell's soup and related product labels? If so, please note they *no longer accept the front panel*. Instead, you only need to clip the UPC (barcode) or lids of qualifying soups, broths and juices. More information may be found at www.mccurdy.org or the Campbell's website: www.labelsforeducation.org.

Remember, there will be no UMW meetings in June or July. Our next event will be the Potluck Picnic at Wolf's El Rancho Lobo August 18. Put this date on your calendar!



Academy for Faithful Ministry

Come to McMurry's campus in Abilene, TX for a faithful ministry conference where you can choose from a variety of sessions for only \$35 (that includes one-night stay in newly renovated dorms, Friday dinner, and Saturday breakfast and lunch). For more info, see the poster on the bulletin board.



Take a trip!

There is still time to register for upcoming camps or missions trips. Please see the

Sacramento Methodist Assembly poster on the office hallway bulletin board for camping information or visit the conference website, www.nmconfum.com for missions trip information. Join the fun!!



Mission Project for Annual Conference

As you may know, each year our Annual Conference selects a special mission project to be particularly supported by all of the churches in our conference (New Mexico and far west Texas). This year it is the financial support of seminarians and their families in Mulingwishi, Congo. The cost, *per year*, for tuition, meals, room, medical care and education for one seminarian and his or her family is \$2500.

The Albuquerque District has challenged the El Paso (us!) and Clovis to support at least one seminarian. We can help a seminarian achieve his/her goal of becoming an ordained pastor *and* we can help bring God's word to those half a world away. If you would like to contribute, please mark your gift "Annual Conference project".



We have established a central location for **lost and found items** or things to be **left for church members**. Please place those items in the wooden cabinet in the Fellowship Hall. If you are leaving something for a church member, please *notify* them accordingly. We will be periodically cleaning out the cabinet so check it often!



Due to technical problems, this is an abbreviated newsletter.