



Deming, New Mexico

March 2008

## Each One Bring One!

### MAC Building Renovations

The Methodist Activity Center (MAC) stairwell re-do is scheduled to begin the week of March 10th. During that time, the men's MAC restroom will be inaccessible. This will affect all groups who might be using the MAC building during this time, including United Methodist Men, United Methodist Women, Little Lambs, both 4-H groups, Crafty Kids, Wednesday Night Live and table tennis.

Also, we will be re-locating the majority of the medical loan closet to the large downstairs gym closet, with some of the more frequently request items being stored in the Fellowship Hall walk in closet. Once the restroom/stairwell work is completed, some medical loan items will go back into the restroom closet. The remainder will be stored in the gym closet. Your cooperation during this time is appreciated. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

### ***HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE:***

*Seder Meal*, Wednesday, March 19th - Please see details on page 3

*Maundy Thursday*, March 20th no service

*Good Friday*, March 21st - 7:00 pm service with Communion

*Easter Sunday:*

Community Sunrise Service, 7am, Voiers Pit Park

First Service with Easter Cantata, 8am

Second Service with Easter Cantata, 10:30 am

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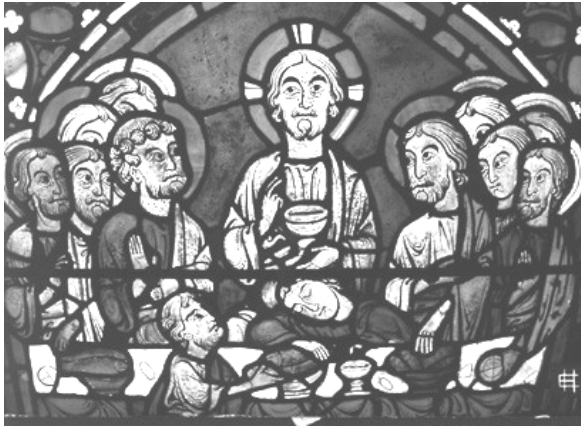
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***Wednesday Night Seder Meal***

On Wednesday Night, March 19, the church will be offering a very unique service - we will take part in a Seder Meal. The Seder Meal is an ancient custom handed down from the Hebrew People. It calls to mind how God delivered his people from slavery and tells many of the wonderful accounts of God's great works. Because we are New Testament believers, the Seder Meal takes on an additional meaning to us. This meal transcends the ancient stories and reminds us of the last supper that Jesus shared with His disciples before being handed over to authorities.

We will celebrate this wonderful time of remembrance as a church. The entire meal takes approximately two hours and will occur at the time normally used for Wednesday Night Live. **Please**



**register your attendance for this meal.** *There is a certain way that the table is to be set and a certain number of people per table. It is crucial that we have an accurate count.* The meal will begin at 6:00 p.m. Family and friends are welcome, with a reservation. Please register via the church website no later than Friday, March 14th, or call the office if you don't have internet.

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eMail:

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**TAKE NOTE**

With the coming of the Easter Holiday comes the anticipation of the end of the Lenten Season. Now that we have had time to reflect on God's goodness, let us remember in our daily routines to take a few minutes to give thanks for all that God has given to us. Remember, time is fleeting. Give thanks while you can.

***Rehearsal Schedule for March***

Week of the 3rd: Regular Rehearsal Schedule  
 Week of the 10<sup>th</sup>: Regular Rehearsal Schedule  
 Week of the 17<sup>th</sup>: **Modified Rehearsal Schedule**

Monday	4:30 – 5:30	Bel Macto
	5:30 – 6:30	Praise Band
Tuesday	3:30 – 5:00	SOUL Kids
	5:00 – 6:00	First Call
	7:00 – 8:30	Chancel Choir
Wednesday	<b>No Rehearsals (Seder Meal)</b>	
Good Friday	Service: Praise Band	
Easter Sunday	Chancel Choir Both Services	
Week of the 24 <sup>th</sup> :	Regular Rehearsal Schedule	
Week of the 31 <sup>st</sup> :	Regular Rehearsal Schedule	
Week of April 7 <sup>th</sup> :	<b>No Rehearsals</b>	

May God's blessings be with you and your families during this season of renewal and rebirth. The risen Christ is with us!!

Blessings and Joy,  
 Joe

Remember to Greet Our Visitors!



*Daylight Saving Time begins* on Sunday, March 9th. Set you clocks ahead one hour before bedtime Saturday nite!

***Faith Walkers!*** Join the FUMC team to raise money for cancer support. Details are on the flyer on the back sanctuary table.

Visit us at [www.fumcdeming.com](http://www.fumcdeming.com)

**Stewardship** (stoo'erd.ship) - using the gifts God provides to do the work God is calling us to do

Christian stewardship is not a program. Nor is stewardship just a fall campaign to underwrite the church's budget. It's certainly not the appeal to give more because the church needs it. Even though stewardship is most often equated with money, fundamentally it has more to do with our relationship with God! Faith and money are inextricably connected!

Concern about stewardship may arise over money, but its Christian grounding expands it into all aspects of our lives as we seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

- ◆ Stewardship is putting faith into action.
- ◆ Stewardship is the demonstration of our love.
- ◆ Stewardship is the responsible, loving, accountable management of life.
- ◆ Stewardship is how we invest and expend our time, talent, and treasure.
- ◆ Stewardship is everything we do, after we say *I believe*.

***Stewardship you can do at "home!"***

You may help the church be good stewards by:

- ◆ Turning off lights in all areas of the building you are in when you leave (lower church utility bills).
- ◆ Turning off the air conditioner or heater when you leave your section of the building (lower church utility bills).
- ◆ Make sure the doors are locked and that they securely close behind you (some doors look closed but aren't). Even if other people are in the building, doors should be locked behind you or your group.
- ◆ Being responsible for cleaning up any rooms you have used, including wiping off tables, washing dishes and putting them away in their proper cupboards, and taking home any used dish clothes and towels to be washed and returned to their location.
- ◆ Making sure leftover food is not left in the refrigerators or freezers without being marked with the date it was stored,

and advising the office of the leftovers. *When food is left without such notations, we have no way of knowing how long it has been stored, where it came from, or who was to use it. Consequently, it is thrown away instead of being used as intended.*

- ◆ Advising the office when supplies (dining room or office) are getting low.

### ***Prescription Savings***

DestinationRx and the United Methodist Association are working together to provide our members with savings on prescription drugs. UMA members now belong to a leading drug savings program. Our mission is to help our members, who pay full retail prices, obtain prescription savings both online and at local participating pharmacies. What's best of all, NO monthly membership costs are associated with this program, all your immediate family members are eligible, and you're already a member!

Visit [www.umassociation.org/drug\\_card.html](http://www.umassociation.org/drug_card.html) for all the details.

### ***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.

### ***Church Calendar***

The church calendar may be found on the church website. Or pick up a copy on the small table in the back of the sanctuary.

Visit us at [www.fumcdeming.com](http://www.fumcdeming.com)

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***UMW News***

The UMW invites you to their March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting in the Chapel at 2 p.m. The speaker, Elaine Angston, will present a program on "Volunteering in Peru." You may get background information at [www.adopt-a-grandparent.org](http://www.adopt-a-grandparent.org). All ladies are welcome. The program will be followed with refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.

***Little Lambs***

Hello, 2008, a new year on the calendar and the second semester of Little Lambs school year. Everyone enjoyed their Christmas vacation and we were all excited to come back. January is a very cold month so we try to warm things up.

The 4's reviewed skills, did extensive physical education, cooked some really good food, and made their very own book. During physical fitness week we learned some old skills like gliding, galloping, and skipping. Yes! The teachers can still skip and they are pretty good. Making a book is the most fun. They find magazine pictures they like and make up the words to create a story. Their faces beam with joy at the completion of the books. We even tour the church library and learn about borrowing books.

The 3's reviewed skills, studied about creation and the wonderful things God has made. They even did some cooking. They made their own peanut butter sandwiches and each ate a whole sandwich. Making it yourself really makes it taste good.

Thank you again to FUMC for the wonderful building for Little Lambs. Thank you for your continued prayers for the school, students, their families, and the teachers. Rosie Baca, one of our faithful teachers, had to leave during Christmas vacation due to health problems. Our ever trusted substitute, Trish Gutierrez, stepped in to fill the void. God knows our needs and takes care of us.

***Oddfellows Enchilada Supper***, March 6 from 4-6pm at the Oddfellows Hall on Gold Ave. \$5/plate to benefit scholarships.

Visit us at [www.fumcdeming.com](http://www.fumcdeming.com)

**UMM News**

The United Methodist Men are sponsoring an Easter Food Drive to provide food boxes for up to 15 local families. You may place your non-perishable food donations in the boxes in the Fellowship Hall beginning March 2<sup>nd</sup>.



**Prayer List**  
*Jan.-Mar. 2008*

Oris & Nina Spencer  
Arlene Stein; Margaret Truax  
Dixon Wolf family  
Marlene Zachek

Bonnie Baker; Mary Barnes  
Joe Bencomo; The Burkles  
Nikki Carnish; Helen Covey  
Breece DeBoutz; Helen  
Dodson; Travis Dodson  
Jack Down; Jamie DuBois  
Elizabeth; Karen G.  
Chris & Ellen Gonzales  
Jarod Hofacket family  
Bill/Sue Hoffmeister  
Wayne/Janet Humphrey  
Joel and Chelsie Hunt  
Art & Virginia Jasso  
Lois Kelly; Jewel Landrum  
Abigail Lopez; Leon Manley  
Gale Murphy; Lynde Murphy  
Naomi Mutter; William Penn  
Ann/Brian Pettit; John Plant  
Billy Price  
John Silter & family  
Gary Slayman

*Families dealing with grief:*  
Sayre, Chandler, Charles,  
Hoskins, Wolf, Bencomo,  
Garland/Gors; Good;  
Ruonavaara

*Service men & women and  
their units:*  
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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***Have you been hearing ringing in your ears lately?*** (Handbell ringing that is.) Do you know how many different Handbell groups we have in our church? At last count we have 11, yes eleven. We have BellMacto, First Call with 13 members, Soul Kids with 9 members, a soloist, two duet pairs, three trios, a quartet, and a quintet. That makes for a lot of bell use. As a matter of fact, we have bell practice four days a week. It is wonderful to watch and listen as the groups grow and develop their skills.

As all of you who have played a musical instrument know, instruments wear out with time and use and need to be repaired and restored. Sad to say, our bells have reached that point. The first two octaves were purchased in 1982, the third octave in 1983, and the fourth in 1985. During all this time there has been no maintenance done on them. Now the handles are cracked and peeling, the clappers are worn, the collars are broken, and the springs are worn out.

We have checked on the cost of refurbishing our bells. Parts, labor, and shipping (they have to go to South Carolina) come to about \$2,000. We have started a designated fund for this repair. We are now asking for your prayers and support. If you would like to see and hear this ministry continue, we would appreciate your donations. We have already received a start but have a long way to go.

Thank you for your support, Dee Huffman

***Prayer List Update***

We will be updating our prayer list next month. Please advise, in writing, the names of anyone who should remain for the April -June 2008 time period. We realize some of you have said indefinitely, however, to assure those names remain, please re-confirm them. We want to make sure this vital ministry remains up to date as it is so important to so many people!

***Summer Camps!*** Please visit the website or see the office bulletin board for great camping opportunities for all ages!!

Visit us at [www.fumcdeming.com](http://www.fumcdeming.com)

***Mission Trips***

Please see the church website for a more complete listing of the many mission trips available, nationally and around the world; along with ministry updates and mission news.

***Holy Land Tour - December, 2008:***

Pastor Bob Guido, of High Desert UMC in Rio Rancho, is leading a group on a Holy Land tour in December, 2008. Anyone in our conference who might have an interest in taking "the trip of a lifetime" is invited to join this group.

The trip will depart from Albuquerque on December 2 for a ten day "all inclusive" package price of \$2,598. The price includes first class hotels, airfare, tips, taxes, meals, escorted tour guide – the works!

Contact Pastor Bob at 505-891-4206, or Pastor Ron (Ron Komatz) at 505-896-6765 for more information.

***Magnetic Church Conference***

First Presbyterian is hosting a Magnetic Church Conference with Andrew Weeks. See the brochure in the back of the sanctuary for details.

***Christian Educators***

The Christian Educators Fellowship is having its annual conference in 2008 in Albuquerque, and for the first time it is a joint conference with General Board Of Discipleship's "Preaching From the Center."

"Blessed to Be a Blessing", is October 24-27, 2008, in Albuquerque NM. Register online NOW. [www.cef2008.org](http://www.cef2008.org)

***Nursery Workers Needed***

In order to accommodate a number of programs, we need to hire nursery workers. They must be at least 18 years of age and able to pass a background check. If you know of anyone interested in part-time work, please have them contact the church office.

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*Pastoral Ponderings*

**“Make Yourself At Home”**

One of the best feelings that a person can have is to be invited into someone’s home and to be told, “Make yourself at home.” It’s sort of like saying, “You’re part of the family,” or as we say in the southwest, “Mi casa es su casa.”

Have you ever thought of what it’s like when we welcome someone into God’s house, the church building? We may not have a clue as to why someone is visiting our congregation on any given Sunday, and in some ways it doesn’t matter. As a part of Christ’s Church we have the awesome privilege of being the Body of Christ, and inviting visitors, and even other members, to make themselves feel at home.

One of the things that I have really loved about the Emmaus movement is that it not only talks about the grace of God in Jesus Christ, but it tries to make it real in the lives of those who are participating in a walk. When was the last time you intentionally tried to make someone feel welcome at church? When was the last time that you tried to show a visitor, or even a friend, that the Kingdom of God is a reality in your life? When was the last time you tried to show someone who is visiting our church that we believe the instructions of Jesus, “Love one another because I first loved you.”

How many ways can you think of to make others feel welcome at church? What’s stopping you?



*Some of My Thoughts...February 26, 2008*

A wonderful friend claims that we only have one sermon. We preach it many different ways. We have one compelling message that we must proclaim. My sermon is that Jesus loves us the way we are.

Deep down many of us believe that we earn and deserve our relationship with Jesus Christ. We profess that we know that salvation comes by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, but we refuse to believe it.

(continued on page 11)

We cannot imagine that Jesus could love us just as we are unless we do all the things that make us loveable and deserving of Jesus' love.

This attitude reveals itself in our relationship with our friends and neighbors as well. When we meet someone for the first time, we attempt to present ourselves void of weaknesses or faults. We conceal our true selves hoping no one recognizes what lies beneath the veneer we present to the world around us. The game does not end with closer friendships. We fear the veneer disintegrating, revealing the crud beneath, and people rejecting us as totally inept and immoral. Jesus would certainly reject us. We hide our feelings and thoughts, pretending that even Jesus must never know who we are.

A preacher this past week claimed only a small portion of worship attendees will share they are sad, depressed, and struggling to get through the day. A deficiency of such honest admissions indicates a lack of trust of Jesus' love and a denial of a proper relationship with our Lord. Christians do have doubts, fears, anxiety, sadness, and serious struggles.

Pretending we no longer face such feelings and attitudes contradicts the scriptures, denies the actions and attitude of Jesus, and defies common sense. We believe that Jesus can only love us if we no longer stand in need of grace, love, and forgiveness. We tend to forget Jesus called Zacchaeus to come down from the tree and eat with Jesus. Zacchaeus was a tax collector. He was a sinner, unworthy of Jesus' love, one on the outside of the Kingdom of God. Instead of rejecting him, Jesus reached out and included him.

Lent reminds us to stop pretending we are someone other than who we are. Jesus knows us as we are, loves us, and call us to be his disciples. Jesus excludes none of us because we are not good enough. Jesus reaches out and loves us just as we are. It is the one message I feel compelled to proclaim week after week. It is the message that transformed my life.

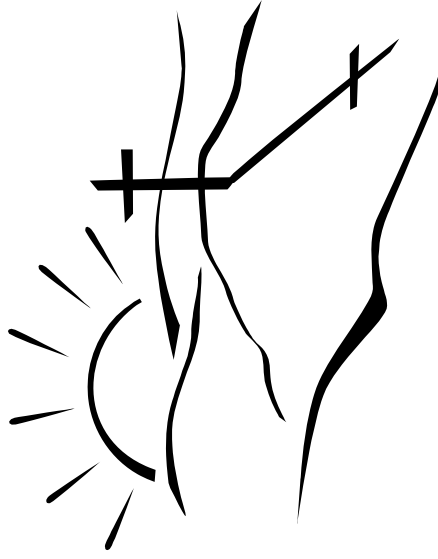
Thanks be to God.

Grace and peace, Max (NM Conference Bishop)

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**First United Methodist Church**  
1020 S. Granite St.  
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***“I HAVE SEEN THE LORD!”***

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