



Newsletter for May 2010

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2 * <i>Communion Sunday</i>	3 * Handbell Choir * Chancel Choir	4 * S.O.U.L. Kids * Praise Team	5	6 * National Day of Prayer * Joint SPRC & Finance Meeting * Women's Depression Support Group * First Call	7 * Men's Bible Study	8 * Celebration
9 * Mother's Day	10 * Handbell Choir * Finance Committee * Chancel Choir	11 * Ad Council * S.O.U.L. Kids * Praise Team	12	13 * Desert Quilters * Women's Depression Support Group * First Call	14 * Men's Bible Study	15 * Music Recital
16 * Senior Class Breakfast * <i>Bread Basket Sunday</i>	17 * Handbell Choir * Chancel Choir	18 * S.O.U.L. Kids * Praise Team	19 * Little Lambs Graduation	20 * Women's Depression Support Group * First Call	21 * Men's Bible Study * Scrapbooking	22
23 * UM Men Breakfast Mtg	24 * Handbell Choir * Chancel Choir	25 * Praise Team	26	27 * Women's Depression Support Group * First Call	28 * Men's Bible Study	29
30	31 * Memorial Day * Handbell Choir * Chancel Choir	<i>See the complete calendar on www.fumcdeming.com for full details</i>				

Thank You Received *posted April 28*

Deming Rotary Club and Cancer Support of Deming and Luna County wish to thank all of those who participated in our Celebration of Life on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at Voir's Park. We raised approximately \$48,000, thanks to the hard work of everyone involved.

This was a day when our community came together to help one another. Because of you, we are able to assist many people who have or have had Cancer, and their families, and being able to continue our work is extremely gratifying.

/s/ Kathy Smith-Executive Director, /s/ Monica Gutierrez, President, Rotary Club of Deming.

Another Thank You Received *posted April 28*

Jo Kruger and the members of your church, Thank you. I have been Blessed to have been able to use your handicapped equipment. Please accept my small donation in appreciation. God bless all of you. Hugs!

/s/ Elaine Lexer

And Another Thank You Received *posted April 28*

What a joy to find a congregation such as yours that is willing to share their great facility with us. Groups such as yours make our journey across the U.S. a possibility and a memorable experience. Thank you.
/s/ Audrey Ahern, Wandering Wheels Staff

United Methodist Men *posted April 27*

The monthly breakfast meeting of the United Methodist Men is being changed in May so as not to interfere with the Senior Breakfast on May 16. The men, for this month only, will meet on the 4th Sunday, i.e. May 23, as shown in the calendar above. Men, take note!

Some of My Thoughts *posted April 27*

Does the Holy Spirit guide and direct you? Following the promptings of the Holy Spirit is very serious business. Rushing through life or failing to listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit prohibits us from receiving the Spirit's comfort, assurance, and beckoning. Listening, even casually, for the prompting of the Holy Spirit opens the door to prevent us from substituting what we want and desire from what God desires for us. I find myself constantly tempted to substitute my will for God's will. I want to see things happen. I want us to get on with the task. Why should we be standing around moving from one foot to the other but failing to make forward motion? God gave us a task! It is not okay for us to rely on ourselves rather than following the Holy Spirit. Waiting for the Holy Spirit takes time (not that God is not moving and acting). The disciples waited in Jerusalem for fifty days, fasting and praying. Following the prompting of the Holy Spirit requires us to look closely at our own actions and our own motivation. For instance, do I feel propelled toward a new way of worship because it is what I want and desire? Do I resist proposed changes because I do not wish to change? Following the guidance of the Holy Spirit is difficult work. We may go where we would prefer to avoid.

The past few weeks have been difficult for me. One of our Cabinet devotionals encouraged us to select a "beanie baby" from a bag and share why we had selected that particular toy and what was God's message to us. I wanted to refuse to participate. I do not enjoy silly games that I did not initiate and control. Besides all of that, someone else picked the "beanie baby" I really wanted and they would not release it to me. The one toy that remained was a cute dinosaur. I reluctantly picked it up, held it in my hands and hoped they would forget I had not reported like everyone else—no such luck. I began, "I chose the dinosaur because I sometimes feel like the world passed me by. Being a leader in the church is so very different from when I began my ministry. Leading the Church requires skills, abilities, and understanding that I may not possess, much less comprehend how to effectively use."

I thought of Moses taking off his shoes before that burning bush and hearing God say, "Moses, go down to Egypt and let my people go." Moses argued with God. He did not know how to accomplish the task. He was slow of speech. The people would not listen to him. God did not budge an inch. "Moses, I have work for you to do." Those were not exactly God's words, but it meant the same thing. "Moses, I have work for you. Get to work." Moses found it hard to listen to the Holy Spirit because the words were strange and the future prospects for safely achieving the stated objective incomprehensible.

I often feel that way. I prefer to proclaim that I do not know what God wants or expects. I prefer to be a dinosaur who cannot adapt or change to do the "master's will".

Listening, really listening requires me to open myself to the presence and guidance of God's Holy Spirit, to go places I have never gone before, and to perform tasks in ways I have never attempted before. Instead, my fears cry out, "Turn up the volume of the distraction around me that the prompting of the Holy Spirit may be lost in the clanging of this world's loud clashing cymbals." That way I can rightfully proclaim that I never heard our Lord. I did not know what God wanted me to do.

Opening myself to the guidance of the Holy Spirit is difficult. It is worth the effort. Let the Holy Spirit guide and direct you!

Grace & Peace, Max

Music Recital *posted April 22*

On May 15, 2010 at 3:00 p.m., the students of Sarah Williams will be performing a recital in the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church. You are invited to hear students of all ages and skill levels perform piano, guitar, and vocal selections. There will be a small reception following the event. The

performers are: Julien Lescombes, Damien Lescombes, Sammy Homs, Adam Homs, Poppy Schultz, Calleigh Sweetser, Warren Shafer, Alexis Rael, Rebekah Holdridge, Trinity Silva, Ian Ortiz, and Josh Pettit.

YouTheology *posted April 17*

YouTheology Southwest (at Lydia Patterson Campus, El Paso, TX) invites applications from rising high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors for its exciting 2010-2011 year experiencing the theme "Loving God, Loving Neighbor."

Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, Texas is partnering with Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, to bring this program closer to home. YouTheologians gather several times throughout the school year to worship God together, serve one another and the community, learn more about the Wesleyan heritage and Christian faith, and explore the application of their faith to their lives and to contemporary issues.

We begin in August when you can spend a fun orientation weekend in El Paso, where we will be electronically linked with the program in Kansas City. Attendees will be eligible to participate in a nine-day Pan-Methodist Pilgrimage to locations on the East Coast exploring historic locations from the beginnings of Methodism in America. You'll connect with peers and mentors in person and online; learn to reflect theologically on your beliefs, today's culture, and the Methodist heritage; and develop leadership skills to live out your faith.

Deadline for applications for the El Paso location is FRIDAY JUNE 4, 2010. To learn more and to apply online: www.youthology.com.

Now You Know *posted April 16*

From the *Deming Graphic*, March 9, 1926:

The first cotton in Luna County was planted by Mrs. A.J. Clark. The cotton was planted in 1882. The seed was found in a case of eggs that was shipped from Texas. There was only enough seed to put in a small plot and this was only planted as an experiment. It was planted on the Clark farm, just south of Deming.

When the plants began to have flowers on them, most of the people were under the impression that they were white roses.

From the *Deming Headlight*, April 4, 1963:

Without doubt, one of the most unusual women's clubs in the nation, the Golden Gossip Club of Deming, would delight the heart of any female "joiner" addicted to restricted memberships. Membership in the Golden Gossip Club is restricted to Daughters of Deming Old Timers. New membership is not open until a current member has passed on or moved away.

In 1912, wives of a dozen leading businessmen of Deming scheduled an informal affair. The luncheon developed into the Golden Gossip Club which has no officers and no dues. Not even the meeting date is on a regular schedule. Members take turns entertaining on some Tuesday during the month.

The members were originally the sewing group of the Deming Women's Club and the special group was named for a similar club in Portage, Wis.

Today the group makes no pretense of spending the afternoon sewing. The primary object of the meeting is not hindered even by playing cards. The afternoon is spent reviewing local happenings with particular emphasis on those items not generally covered by local newspapers. Each member is expected to provide an exclusive tidbit for the edification of the other members. Unfortunately, no minutes are recorded and the best source of "hot" news in the Mimbres Valley is not made available to local news media.

Love in the Name of Christ *posted April 15*

The mission of Love in the Name of Christ (Love INC) is to mobilize the church to transform lives and communities in the name of Jesus Christ. In order to accomplish this mission, Love INC of Luna County provides a clearinghouse where needs are verified, assessed and then referred to the proper agency, ministry or church volunteer to help meet that need. Currently there are 18 affiliate churches in Deming, NM (of which First United Methodist Church is one).

God has blessed us with wonderful opportunities to reach out with the love of Christ to our community. Because of this blessing, we need more co-laborers. One of the many needs of Love INC is for secretaries, intake workers and receptionists. The clearinghouse is run through volunteers who serve one morning/afternoon a week. It is

wonderful for the retiree who wants to give back to others, but often take trips. Office hours are from 9:00 – 12:00 M, W and F and 2:00 – 5:00 on Tuesday. Presently Love INC is closed on Thursdays.

Is God placing it on your heart to explore this mission's opportunity right here in your own community? If so, please contact the Love INC office at 544-2400. The benefits for services offered are out of this world.

NOTE: Should you know of someone who needs assistance, please ask them to call Love INC. Thank you!

Knitters Need Yarn *posted April 13*

Gals from the UMW are knitting caps and scarves to send to various locations for those in need. They are running out of yarn and need some in order to continue. Previously they sent 35 sets to low income adults through Valley View United Methodist Church in Espanola, NM. Each set include a cap, a scarf, and a pair of purchased gloves.

If you have yarn, please bring it to the church office, marked for the UMW. Know that it will be gratefully received and turned into warm outer wear.

Deming and Technology *posted April 8*

New Mexico is technology illiterate--so say reports on radio & TV news. A recent survey, taken in advance of the United Methodist 2010 New Mexico Annual Conference, appears to confirm this status. Overall, we may lag behind the technology curve.

However, the most technically-literate UM church in the south of New Mexico may be located here in Deming. In less than a decade,

- the church has advanced from having two computers to having 11,
- to having many of those computers interconnected via a computer network,
- to having a strong web-presence on the internet, and
- to having a webmaster that is recognized at UM national and state levels.

Did you know

- ✓ that the pastor's sermons are recorded every Sunday and are available via the website?
- ✓ that video reports and slideshows are added to the website when available?
- ✓ that this material may be transferred to your cellphone, iPhone, iPod, Palm Pre, Kindle, iPad, (and many more) as podcasts?
- ✓ that the church website uses RSS so you may be automatically informed when something new is available?

Do you know (or care) anything about podcasts or RSS?

The old hymn states "Turn Your Radio On" (words and music by Albert Brumley, 1938). Perhaps enough time has elapsed for us to consider a new stanza: "Turn your computer on to learn the Good News of God."

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Some of My Thoughts *posted April 8, 2010*

How do you respond to those who insult you, persecute you, and say all kind of evil against you? Jesus addressed this in what we call the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus said you are blessed, happy when such happens to you. Instead of striking back with violence and disrespect, you respond with love and concern for those who wish you harm.

I am deeply concerned about the lack of civility that is spreading across this country. Opponents interrupt public speeches with shouts of disagreement, or worse, name-calling. I was shocked when a United States Representative shouted out "Baby Killer" during a speech of one of his colleagues on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. He later apologized that he was not calling his colleague a baby killer, but was referring to a recently adopted piece of legislation, as if this excused his disrespectful, uncivil behavior.

Even worse, at least from my perspective, was a group of individuals who had gathered to support the adoption of legislation in Washington. They saw a U.S. Representative coming toward them. They shouted out racial slurs and when he was nearby, spit on him.

My parents taught me as a small child this type of behavior was unacceptable. I even experienced some personal discomfort, that I still remember when I chose to violate that standard. They ingrained within me that it was

acceptable to disagree with others, but I was to treat all people with dignity and respect. I was to love them the way Jesus loved them. I was to treat them as I thought Jesus would treat them.

The interesting part of the saga about the latter U.S. Representative was his reaction to the slurs and spitting. He walked on. He did not spit upon them, call them names, or strike out in violence. This experience occurred to Representative Emanuel Cleaver, who serves in the House of Representatives from Missouri and is a United Methodist clergyman. He responded in a way similar to our Lord and Savior during the events surrounding Jesus' arrest and crucifixion. He saw the out of control, uncivil gathering as individuals loved by God, individuals for whom Christ died to save.

Easter invites and calls us to receive the new life that God offers to us in Jesus Christ. It is not an improved life moving toward self-improvement and self-development. The scripture describes this transformed life as rebirth. The old person died and a new person grounded in Jesus Christ is born. It is a life where we reflect the very life and presence of Jesus Christ.

What disappoints me is seeing this lack of civility reflected in the behavior of members of the Church and in my own life. Instead of being a beacon in the world, we reflect society's lack of dignity and respect. We have begun to live as if we are the only ones who hold the truth and are justified to take any actions that reveal our perspective. We allow the glow of Easter to vanish in a few short hours, forgetting that Jesus died to save the sinner. Jesus came to transform life. Jesus came to make us new creatures.

I invite you to join me in declaring that racial slurs, childish behavior, and uncivil conduct must cease. We will lovingly, but directly, confront such behavior and declare that for followers of Jesus Christ such behavior has never been and will not ever be acceptable in our churches, our homes, our community and our nation. We will live as disciples of Jesus Christ. We are Easter People who believe in the dignity and value of every person. Jesus loved them and us enough to die for them. The least we can do is show respect for one another.

Grace & Peace, D. Max Whitfield

Elementary Camp Needs Helpers *posted April 7*

Elementary Camp is July 12-16 at Sacramento Methodist Assembly. Our theme this year is Prince Caspian. We are looking forward to another great year.

Here are some ways that you can support Elementary camp.

Volunteers are needed for the week to serve as small group leaders. The time you invest helps change and transform the lives of these young campers. If you are planning to come to camp as a small group-leader or other volunteer, we have two trainings.

- **April 10** at Peralta United Methodist Church - 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- **April 24** at Sacramento Methodist Assembly - begins at 9 a.m.

We will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday. You are invited to come in on Friday night and enjoy the camp's hospitality. Lodging and meals are provided free by the camp.

Please RSVP to Kim Kinsey- kdkumc@aol.com or 505-659-9757.

We need volunteers to share and teach skills (crafts, sports, etc.) during our intertest groups time. You can share for one day or all three (Tuesday-Thursday).

Nets for Mulungwishi *posted April 6*

As of March 3, the New Mexico Conference has raised \$6,286.95 for New Mexico Nets for Mulungwishi. That is far short of the \$157,550 goal.

The Board of Global Ministries asked the Conference to join them in purchasing life-saving nets for the people of Mulungwishi, Congo. A challenge then was issued to the districts of the Conference. Churches were asked to raise funds based on the average worship attendance reported in the 2009 Conference Journal.

The total raised will be revealed at the 2010 Annual Conference, June 2-5, in Glorieta. Please join in the effort to make sure the people of Mulungwishi are protected from malaria. Contribute \$10 for a bed net. Talk to your church office for donating information.

Little Lambs Preschool *posted March 31*

Well, March started cold and ended windy...all is right with the world. It has been fun studying about spring and the beauty of nature waking up from a long winter. We spent time studying bugs, birds, flowers, and kites. We made our own kites and I had a real one for us to fly outside. We had wind every day until

the minute we went outside to fly the real kite. The student stood by the building while I tried to get the kite into the air. They started yelling, "Run Miss Meddy, Run". God took mercy on me and supplied enough of a breeze to get it airborne.

We have spent the last two weeks studying about Easter. What a wonderful time to teach them that Jesus is alive. Their souls are still young and so close to God that they truly believe. One said, "of course He's alive...He's God's son." Rejoice...Jesus is alive forever...Amen!

National Day of Prayer *posted March 30*

The annual observance of the National Day of Prayer will take place on Thursday, May 6th at the Courthouse Park from 7 to 9 pm. This will be a time of praise, worship, and prayer.

The theme for this year is **PRAYER! FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS**. The emphasis was inspired by Nahum 1:7 which states, "The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him."

Celebration May Gathering *posted March 30*

AN INVITATION FOR ALL LADIES! Please join us Saturday, May 8th from 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church. We would like to invite you to bring a place setting of china on which to enjoy a special pre-Mother's Day breakfast followed by a program of praise and worship. Several ladies will be offering their inspirational testimonies about motherhood, and we will be treated to a duet by Dee Huffman and Dureta Stanley. Bring a friend to share this fun and uplifting morning. See you there!

1020 S. Granite St | 575-546-2791 | www.fumcdeming.com | main@fumcdeming.com