



# First United Methodist Church of Deming, New Mexico

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### A Message from Bishop Max

“We are Easter people.” Those words have become much more meaningful to me over the past several years. Certainly we believe in the resurrection, we celebrate Easter, and tell the Easter story. The real test is whether we *live* as Easter people. Do we live knowing that love is stronger than hate, that the final victory has already been decided and Jesus is victorious, and that sin and death have been stripped of their power? Easter people face each day as a new opportunity to serve God and their neighbors and experience the joy that God intended from the very beginning of creation.

Some days I wonder if I am the only person in the world that believes the final victory belongs to God. The newspapers and television newscasts carry messages of how bad things are and predict that life is only going to be harder and more difficult in the future. I begin to feel like Elijah who ran away, dwelt in the desert, and felt like God deserted him. In such moments I try to recall the Congolese people walking miles to attend worship, singing and dancing as they bring their pennies down the aisle to place them in the morning offering. I remember sitting under a tarp in Mozambique and hearing the congregation shout for joy as they turned the soil in preparation for building a church facility where they would be protected from the rain during the rainy



season. I realize that I am not alone. There are thousands, even millions of people who get up every day and can shout out, "Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!" I am surrounded by a great crowd of witnesses, both living and deceased, who are Easter people.

Easter people look and see the glass of water is not half-empty, but rather, the glass is half-full. They have a hope that is grounded not in what they might accomplish, what they can dream and envision, or what they can bring to fruition. Rather, they have a hope that is grounded in what God has done and continues to do in the world today. They know how the story ends. God creates a new heaven and a new earth. Those who are faithful gather in worship and adoration at the throne of God. Evil is defeated. Death has lost its power. They are welcomed into God's kingdom.

As Easter people, we can live each day with confidence and hope. Nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. The living Lord Jesus dwells with us now and forever.

We *are* Easter people.

Now I ask you, what do you see in the coming year in your congregation, in your personal spiritual growth and development? Is the future filled with hope, or despair? What do you see as the future of The United Methodist Church? Is the future filled with hope, or despair?

It is time for us to move from being people who believe in the resurrection, in celebrating the resurrection, and in proclaiming the resurrection, to *becoming Easter people* who are *living* the resurrection.

Grace & Peace, Max

## **I**t's Time To Make a List

Grab a pen and some paper, and write down all of the items you can buy with just \$1. Not very long, is it?

You can buy a soda, a candy bar, something off of the dollar menu at a fast food restaurant, or something at the dollar store. These days, you can't even buy a cup of coffee for just one dollar!

Consider this: you can save 100 lives with less than \$1 a day. That certainly seems a lot more valuable than a can of soda, doesn't it? Less than \$1 a day (just \$28 a month) pledged over three years will impact 100 lives in Africa, and help to eliminate deaths caused by malaria.

Our May bread basket offering, on the 15<sup>th</sup>, will go toward malaria prevention efforts in Africa. If we raise \$1,008.00, we will be impacting 100 lives.

Prayerfully consider what you can do to help. And every time you spend one, two or even three dollars, stop and pray for a child in Africa. Together, we can Imagine No More Malaria.

## **D**id You Know??

Did you know that since the fall of last year, we have added \$230 to the camp scholarship fund – just from recycling aluminum beverage cans? That's pretty impressive! You have another chance to save cans and add more money to this fund. Dick Huffman will be making another "run" to turn cans into cash at the end of May. So start saving your aluminum beverage cans (no foil please) and bring them to church during office hours. It is extremely helpful if the cans are crushed because Dick can put more in his truck. Remember – save your beverage cans, crush them, bring them to church. Your efforts will do two things: reduce waste in the landfill by recycling and bring a smile to the face of our youth when we tell them, "Yes, you can go to camp!"

## **H**ow to Go Green

Here are some recipes for using the safe, cleaning alternatives outlined in last month's newsletter. These are particularly helpful for those who are allergic or sensitive to chemical products.

Freshen air: open windows for a short period of time. Distribute half-filled dishes of vinegar around the house.

Boil cinnamon and cloves in a pan of water to scent the air. Sprinkle ½ cup of borax in the bottom of garbage cans/diaper pails to inhibit mold and bacteria growth that can cause odors.

All Purpose Cleaner: Mix ½ cup vinegar and ¼ cup baking soda (or 2 tablespoons borax) into ½ gallon (2 liters) of water. Store and keep. Use for the removal of water deposit stains on shower stall panels, bathroom chrome fixtures, windows, bathroom mirrors, etc.

Disinfectant: Mix ½ cup borax into 1 gallon hot water to disinfect and deodorize.

Floor cleaner and polish: Add 1 cup of vinegar to a pail of warm water. For vinyl or linoleum flooring, add a capful of baby oil to the water. For wood floors, add ¼ cup liquid castile soap and 1 cup vinegar to 8 liters warm water. For brick and stone tiles, use 1 cup white vinegar in 1 gallon water and rinse with clean water.

Oven cleaner: In a spray bottle, mix 2 tablespoons liquid castile soap, 2 teaspoons borax and warm water to fill the bottle. Dissolve completely. Spray on oven walls, keeping nozzle close to oven surface. Leave the solution on for 20 minutes and then scrub with nylon scrub pad and baking soda. (There are times when elbow grease is an important part of the recipe as well.)

Next month – more recipes.

## **L**ittle Lambs Graduation

Little Lambs Preschool will hold graduation services for the four year old class on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, at 9 am, in the Sanctuary. We in the office have been “listening” to the practices and can’t wait to attend. It always brings smiles to our faces. You too are invited to attend, in person, to hear and to see our Little Lambs. Come and be blessed! NOTE: If you attend, please enter by the courtyard (bell tower patio) Sanctuary doors. No one will be allowed in through the office door. We don’t want to spoil the anticipation for the kids nor their families.

## **S**enior Breakfast

On Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be honoring those seniors in our congregation/youth group who are graduating from high school. We will be presenting them with Bibles during worship services, and honoring them at a breakfast, in the gym, beginning at 9:15 a.m.

To do this, we need your help

Please provide to the church office, in writing, the name of any senior who is in our congregation, or attends our youth group. We also need the names of juniors and sophomores since they get to help.

Contact the church office if you would like to help with this project (decorate tables, make breakfast muffins/casserole, etc.)

Pray for our high school seniors. This is a huge step in their lives. They will be going on to new experiences, perhaps new cities, new friends. It can be exciting and scary at the same time. Pray for God’s loving wisdom and guidance to direct their steps.

Pray for the families. This will be a time of letting go and trusting God.

Attend worship services and the breakfast on May 15<sup>th</sup> as a show of support.

Seniors and/or Parents, please provide the office with a photo that can be used in the worship bulletin. It should be wallet sized, and clearly marked with your name on the back. Photos for the bulletin (and for the planning committee) need to be in the office no later than Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.

On behalf of the planning committee, thank you for surrounding this event and these young people in prayer.

## **E**mail Help

The church email prayer list was deleted in error. It has been re-created. However, if you didn’t want to be on it, are getting duplicate emails, or emails to the wrong address, please contact the office. Thank you for help in assuring this list is accurate.

## **P**erforming Arts Camp 2011

Performing Arts Camp (PAC) is an opportunity for the children and youth of the community to learn a variety of skills in the world of performing arts as they work on a production of *Alice in Wonderland*.

PAC will begin on June 13 and continue through June 25 (the weekend of June 18-19 excluded.)

Rehearsal time is 9:00 am through 2:00 pm daily.

The production may be watched at the Train Depot on N. Country Club Road at 7 pm on June 24 and June 25 for a modest fee.

Full information, plus on-line registration, is available on the church website.

## Corrie Ten Boom

Many of you may know all or parts of Corrie Ten Boom's story of incarceration during World War II. If you don't, or would like to hear it again, make plans to attend a one act play presented by Susan Sandager, on Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> in our Sanctuary at 7 pm. This captivating presentation is open to the public so please feel free to invite others to join you.

Come join us for an extraordinary night of the memories of the late Corrie ten Boom.

Hear the inspirational story of Corrie ten Boom, a Christian woman who hid Jews in her home in Nazi occupied Holland during the Holocaust. Betrayed to the Gestapo and arrested, she survived Ravensbrück concentration camp where in the face of monstrous cruelty she fought to reaffirm her faith in God.

Your spirit will be lifted as Susan Sandager recreates the life of this twentieth-century heroine, and tells you her story as Corrie in the eighth decade of her life. Listen as Corrie speaks of her amazing family. Because of their unwavering faith in God and commitment to His chosen people, they were imprisoned and most of them perished.

The message of love and forgiveness demonstrated through the life of this simple woman is timeless and compelling.

**CORRIE REMEMBERS**

Part of the Time with Corrie ten Boom series by Sandager Presentations.  
www.sandagerpresentations.com

## Belissima

...of Carlsbad, New Mexico will be in concert Saturday, May 21, 2011 at 3:00 pm at First United Methodist Church in Deming, NM. The public is welcome to attend!

Piano solo, spirituals, secular pieces, Broadway tunes, classical anthems, art songs, vocal solos, *a cappella*.

A Love Offering will be accepted to cover expenses, with a portion of the proceeds to be given to **Cancer Support of Deming and Luna County**.



## Thank You!

The United Methodist Men extend their thanks for everyone who contributed to the food boxes that were distributed to needy families for Easter. We had lots of food, donations to cover to the purchase of perishable items (meat, milk, bread and fill-ins) and lots of fellowship to sort the food items, stuff the boxes (yes, they were stuffed!) and help with deliveries. Many of these were families with five or more children. Your generosity was truly an Easter blessing!

## Office Closed

The office will be closed May 30<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Memorial Day. Prayers for safe travel, over this weekend and over the summer will be appreciated by our church members and their families.

## **Y**outh Scavenger Hunt, Easter 2011

*This scavenger hunt was given to the Youth of the church on Easter and completed the same day. How would you do?*

Find the following items and take a picture with your cell phone. The person with the most correct pictures wins. You may NOT use the same picture for two different clues.

- A picture of the word "Lamb"
- Someone named Bartholomew
- John Wesley (triple points if you find all three)
- A vineyard
- A SOUL
- Abraham's wife
- A Jewish priest
- Adam and Eve
- Piano person
- A wolf
- Parts of the body where God's word belongs
- A bunny
- A picture of a train
- Spider's web (use your imagination)
- A palm
- Book corner: NOT the libraries nor the pamphlet racks
- Guitar hero
- Mosquito
- A picture of Kaitlyn Brodbeck (double points if you find both)
- A picture of a chicken, pig, and cow together
- Where our church history is kept
- Something marked "free"

Stumped? Ask a Youth for assistance.

## **U**MW News

It's time for our annual UMW salad luncheon fundraiser on May 7-11-2:00 p.m. Come meet our barnyard buddies in the MAC gym and join the fun - dress very casual. Those preparing salads may bring them to the gym on Friday or before 10 am on Saturday. If you like to decorate, come join us on Friday anytime. Tickets will be available in the office during the week of May 1<sup>st</sup> (check or correct change, please) and also at the door on May 7.

UMW members REMEMBER! We will have a very important short meeting right after the luncheon before cleanup to discuss the ins and out.

We do not have meetings in June or July, so mark your calendars now for the Conference School Christian Missions in Sacramento July 15-18 and our potluck-picnic August 20 at the Holdridges - directions are in the UMW Yearbook. The coordinator is Rosalee Gillett.

## **E**lectronic Funds Transfer Service — UM EFT

The United Methodist Electronic Funds Transfer Service (UM EFT) allows your tithing/giving to be automatically and electronically transferred from your checking or savings account(s) into the church's bank account on a steady, uninterrupted basis. Note: if you bank with Wells Fargo, you may use their automatic bill pay feature to do the same. Either service will help our church reduce fluctuations in giving throughout the year while making it easier for you to honor your commitment. It also saves staff time and administrative costs. UM EFT is easy to get started, easy to maintain, and you may cancel at any time. Contact the church office for additional information.



## IRA Charitable Rollover Provides Opportunity for Gifts in 2011

The tax legislation passed by Congress in December 2010 reinstated the Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Rollover provision for 2010 through 2012. The IRS has published additional information focused especially on the rules for the 2010 Charitable Rollover.

An IRA owner over age 70 at the time of the distribution can transfer up to \$100,000 per year to the church and/or other charity. IRA owners may treat their qualified charitable distribution made during January 2011 as if it occurred in 2010. Most IRA owners have previously taken their 2010 distribution. If not, it is still possible to make two qualified distributions in 2011—one in January for year 2010, and one during the next 11 months for the 2011 qualified distribution. The provision does not allow taxpayers to return required minimum distributions taken last year in order to make direct charitable IRA donations for 2010.

Whenever the qualified distribution is made, it must be a direct transfer from the IRA custodian to the church or other qualified charity. The IRS notes that all qualified distributions from an IRA to eligible charities are counted in determining whether the owner has met the IRA required minimum distribution.

If you have questions about the Charitable Rollover provision, consult your IRA custodian or contact the New Mexico Conference Methodist Foundation at 505/255-8786 or 800/678-8786. While the Foundation does not provide legal or financial counsel, it is a source of information.

## A FACEBOOK Page

You, like many others, may have watched as the people of Egypt united to oust their long-time president. Who would have thought this could happen, and who would have thought we could watch it on live television? The world around us does change.

The organizers of the rebellion didn't have an army, just the will plus a means to coordinate the efforts of the masses: Facebook and Twitter. You are living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century if you know what Facebook and Twitter means, otherwise not so much.

The First United Methodist Church in Deming now has a Facebook page. The staff of the church are the administrators of the page and will post information on activities and schedules of interest. If you have a Facebook page, you will want to "Like" the **FUMCdeming** page (yep, that's its name in Facebook) so those posting will appear on your Facebook "wall".

Why, you may ask, Why do we want or need Facebook? The answer: the world around us does change and we have to change/adapt or get left behind. An instructor at UM Communications would say at training sessions, we Methodists have traded the horse (of the long-ago circuit rider) for a mouse (of the computer.) We need to accept the reality of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In Egypt, Facebook coordinated the efforts of the people to bring-forth significant change. The changes we attempt may be less monumental but wouldn't it be worthwhile to be coordinated during our efforts?

- The church has a website ([www.fumcdeming.com](http://www.fumcdeming.com)) to provide information to the Seeker and Member alike.
- The church uses eMail ([claire@fumcdeming.com](mailto:claire@fumcdeming.com), etc.) to enable swift communications to/from Seekers and Members.
- And now the church will use Facebook ([fumcdeming](https://www.facebook.com/fumcdeming)) as an additional method to disseminate information to our Members.

Join us and the world by embracing Facebook. Don't know how? Talk to Claire -- challenge her to explain it all.



## **A Thank You**

Dear Trustees and Crew,  
Thank you so much for the repair work in the south parking lot. It is great! We really appreciate your work!!

## **N**ew Beginnings

... is in need of the following items:

- living room furniture, household items ( including blankets, twin sheets, towels) kitchen items (including dishes, plastics, pots/pans/baking sheets, silverware) for a woman who has just moved into her own home
- van for transportation for clients
- donated items for an upcoming raffle that we are planning.

For pickup or further information please contact Rose at 544-0063 (home phone number; may leave a message) or 545-5406 (cell when available)

New Beginnings is a faith-based organization whose goal is to open as many transitional houses as possible within Luna County. We currently operate one home in a residential area with a capacity for six woman and four children. In the future, we hope to establish other homes that include families and men.

## **S**ome of My Thoughts

The most common request the Cabinet and I receive as we prepare to make appointments for another year is for a pastor who can motivate the members to really get involved, attract new people, who are young, and demonstrate great maturity. The Cabinet often refers to this as the “*Savior Syndrome*”. They desire someone who will come to their rescue and save them from all of their problems and difficulties. The other requests are from pastors. All they want is a congregation filled with lay leaders who are anxious to use all of their gifts and talents, where there is great potential, and the members have plenty of financial resources and are generous givers. The Cabinet refers to this as the “*Perfect Church syndrome*.” They are convinced they have never been appointed where their true gifts and potential can be used and everyone will recognize how extremely capable they are.

The problem with these syndromes is that there are no saviors or perfect churches. Pastors have gifts, talents, strengths, passions, and weaknesses. Many of these pastors lead fruitful ministries in local churches. Congregations have leaders, readiness for certain ministries, financial resources, and some members are extremely generous. Most congregations have significant potential, but prefer to remain like they are rather than to radically change their mission, vision, and values to become all that God intends.

The way forward is for pastors and congregations to understand that God refuses to wait for savior pastors or perfect churches to bring salvation and transform the world. Look at a few of the people God used to open the doors to the Kingdom.

- David committed adultery and had Bathsheba’s husband killed to protect his reputation.
- Paul arrested Christians so the authorities could stone them to death.
- Jonah ran in the opposite direction when God called him for a mission, and later had a pity party because God forgave those he hated.
- James and John wanted seats of honor rather than being servants for Jesus.
- Peter denies Jesus three times after promising he was ready to die rather than flee from Jesus’ side.

History would reveal many other persons who were less than perfect, who often made horrible decisions, who failed to lead, and yet God used them in ways beyond our imagination. God calls and uses clergy and laity who are willing to respond and give their best.

Two major commitments are essential to enable pastors to become saviors and congregations to become perfect churches. The primary motivation of all leaders is to communicate to the people in our communities that God loves them so much that he sent his only son in order to save and redeem them and the world. Any other motivation derails God’s mission. The second commitment is for laity and clergy to work as a team.

March Madness brings together some of the best basketball teams in the nation. The teams who are most successful are the ones that can best function together rather than those who have the best athletes. Some teams



will have athletes who will go on to play professional basketball for many years to come, but they may not win their tournament games. Each player is expected to play his/her role and function *together* to produce the winning results.

What would it be like to see every congregation committed to introducing people in their community to Jesus Christ, helping them to come to justifying faith, and moving them toward living with the mind and heart of Jesus? What would it be like if clergy and lay leadership saw each other as team members committed to fulfill Christ's commission? What would it be like if instead of blaming and making excuses, every member of the team worked to make sure the team was winning? Pastors and congregations do not need to wait for a different appointment. Such commitments and actions can begin today, all to the honor and glory of God.

Grace & Peace, Max

## **N**ational Day of Prayer

Prayer for our Country, Thursday, May 5, 2011 at 7:00 pm in Courthouse Park. Prayer has always been used in this country for guidance, protection and strength-even before we were a nation or a handful of colonies. The Pilgrims at Plymouth relied on prayer during their first and darkest winter. Our founding fathers also called for prayer during the Constitutional Congress. In their eyes, our recently created nation and freedoms were a direct gift from God. And being a gift from God, there was only one way to insure protection-through prayer.



## **L**amplighters

We have a new ministry to reach out to our homebound and those in assisted-living and nursing homes. The Lamplighters will be given one person or couple whom they will visit occasionally and deliver communion to once a month. We are looking for Lamplighters of all ages who would like to develop a relationship with one of our members who is unable to join our church family for worship. Individuals, couples, and families can be part of this rewarding ministry. Email Beth Simpson at [beth@fumcdeming.com](mailto:beth@fumcdeming.com) to join this ministry team.