

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Deming, New Mexico

October 2007

If we focus on God first,
everything else will fall into place.

STAFF AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. D. Max Whitfield - Bishop
Dr. Beverly J. Jones - District
Superintendent
Rev. Keath Baskett - Pastor
Joe MacDonald - Music Director
Gordon McIver - Lay Leader
Claire Phillips - Secretary
Beth Simpson - Assistant to 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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E-mail:

fumc@zianet.com (general & Pastor)

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Website: <http://www.fumcdeming.com>

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

We Are Celebrating!

Why? We are celebrating the success of *Wednesday Night Live*, our evening dinner and study fellowship! We have had over 50 people attend during its first two weeks, and the number of children has been simply awesome!!!

We have something for everyone - Bible study classes, homework assistance, activities for the children, Exploring Faith for the youth, and, of course, a nursery for the little 'uns.

The WNL planning committee wishes to thank those groups and ministry teams who have stepped forward to provide the simple meal we all share. If you (or you and a few friends) would like to try this one week, please contact Joe MacDonald in the office.

The planning committee is also looking ahead to WNL for the spring. They have a number of ideas of classes (suggestions are welcome - talk to Joe). We're hoping those of you who are attending this fall will invite others to join you in the spring.

Wouldn't it be great to have the church bursting at the seams for WNL? You can make it happen by inviting others to join the fun. So keep an eye on the newsletter and the website (www.fumcdeming.org) for WNL in the spring, as well upcoming

events for the fall. Remember, invite a friend!

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Sunday School - for kids of all ages!

Isn't it great to have so many Sunday School classes for the little kids and the big ones too? Right now, the littler ones are studying Heroes of the Bible. Moses is an obvious one but do you know who some of the lesser heroes are? I'll bet your kids know - or will by the time we finish with this segment.

Kids, invite your friends to come with you. They'll have as much fun as you are! Parents, please help your kids learn their lessons by quizzing them on their activities. What you learn may surprise you both!

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Land For Sale

The Trustees have some Ranchette land near the Adobe Deli (east of Deming) that they would like to sell. Unfortunately, we did not have all of the information available at press time. So, if anyone is interested, please contact the church office and we will email you the details. Thank you.



Come and Celebrate!

As fall begins to creep into the air, it is time to begin something unique to United Methodist Churches nationwide - the annual church conference! This year, ours is very early - Saturday, October 6th as a matter of fact. And you are invited!

Everyone is invited to attend as we hear reports, vote on next year's leadership, validate our church's lay speakers in their ministries (see page 5), and celebrate what we have been doing in our church, our community and the world.

The meeting begins at 10am in the Fellowship Hall so make plans now to attend!



Trunk or Treat

Coupled with fall comes that other annual ritual, Halloween. Which means it is also time for Trunk or Treat. Each Halloween, members park their cars in the paved lot and hand out candy and other treats to community children. Those who are more adventurous even dress up and/or decorate our cars! We even have KOTS members bring chairs and dispense treats from the sidewalk.

This year's event will run from 5:30 to 7pm and we ask that you please be parked by 5:15pm if possible. We are also seeking donations of candy that may be brought to the church office.

Remember-Wednesday Night Live that night will consist only of Trunk or Treat so be prepared to join the fun!



United Methodist Women In the news.....

The United Methodist Women will continue their mission study with the second half of *Israel and Palestine* to be offered on Saturday, October 13th at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshments will be served. *Everyone* is invited!

Due to the study, the regular business meeting of the UMW will be held on October 13 at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are welcome.

Remember the UMW New Mexico 35th Annual Conference to be held in Roswell on October 26, 27 and 28.

The UMW will also hold their 2008 planning meeting on October 20th, 9am, in the Memorial Classroom.

Last, but certainly not least, please be working on craft items for the UMW's Annual Christmas Bazaar, to be held on Saturday, November 17th. As you may recall, Loraine Lutonsky put out a call for your old jewelry to be refurbished or repaired for sale at the bazaar. If you have any such items, please contact Loraine at 546-7666.

All women (and young ladies) are invited to be a part of the UMW. Their fund raising activities benefit a wide variety of ministries and missions, many of them local.



Oct.-Dec. 2007: Michael Nunley, Josh
 Joe Bob Brown Robertson, L.
 The Burkles Charles Stanley, Greg
 Susan Castellani Stube, Danny
 Breece DeBoutz Symonds, Van Welch.
 Travis Dodson &
 family
 Christopher Fredrick
 Ruth Greenwood
 Wayne Humphrey
 Joe/Chelsie Hunt
 Lorraine Lutonsky
 Pamela J. McGrath
 Gordon McIver
 Lynde Murphy
 Chris/Gene Reynolds
 Gary Slayman
 Bob/Kitty Tobey
 Bob Ward
 Ferne Wolf

Service men &
 women:
 Travis Dodson's unit,
 Avilla Augustus,
 Alan Ballinas, Alan/
 Brian Carter, Amber
 Dunnihoo, Jason
 Hammers, Conrad
 Hughes, Shaun M.
 Jones, Jennifer/John
 Lively, Jennifer/
 Jarrod McGee,

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

We have **updated our prayer list**. Please advise, in writing, the names of anyone who should remain on the list. Thank you.

There will be an **Enchilada Dinner** on Thursday, October 4th, from 4-6pm at the Oddfellows Hall on South Gold (just behind Baca's). \$5/person for a yummy meal and dessert! Proceeds benefit many programs, including local scholarships.

Your **Advent Devotionals** are due by October 31st. Please see page 7 for details.

Visit our website, **www.fumcdeming.com** for what's happening in our church! Remember to **invite a friend** to join you for church, Sunday School, or one of our many activities.

As we gear up for the many fall, Advent and Christmas activities on our calendars, we ask your assistance in putting away in their proper places any items you use at the church, as well as picking up your trash after Sunday School classes or other activities. *We* are all responsible for these activities and thank you for doing your part!

Craft Vendors - Holy Family is looking for talented crafters to be part of their 2nd Annual Holiday Craft Fair to be held Nov. 3rd. For more information, please call Mary at 544-3929 or Enza 546-3142.

Our October Bread Basket offering benefits Houchen House in El Paso, TX, who provides assistance to those with marginal incomes. Won't you help them?

From the Mailbag

“August 20, 2007

Effective September 1, 2007, we will be moving to a new location for our weekly meetings.

Thank you for providing a meeting place this past year for our group.

Sincerely,
Joanne Wolfe, Secretary
Singles In Service”

Note: For those singles wishing to attend, the group now meets Thursday evenings, 5:30pm, at Bethel Baptist Church.



Lay Speakers Schools

What are Lay Speakers? Better question is, “What is Lay Speaking Ministries?” Lay Speaking Ministries is ongoing leadership training and development offered by the United Methodist Church in the areas of *Caring, Communication and Leadership*.

If you are interested in acquiring or developing skills in those areas, then Lay Speaking Ministries is for you!

Beginners are required to take the Lay Speaking Ministries Basic Course. If you have already taken this course, you may then choose an advanced course.

If you would like to attend a Lay Speaking Ministries school, there are three being offered this fall, two in the El Paso District and one in the Albuquerque District.

November 2-3, 2007 - Bethel UMC, 2700 Hwy. 66 in Moriarty, NM. Please contact David Stanfield at 505-281-2606.

November 9-10, 2007 - University UMC, 2001 Locust in Las Cruces. The Basic Course and advanced course, “Lay Speakers Preach!” (led by Rev. Jon Moore of Morningstar UMC) will be taught. Registration forms are available in the church office. The registration deadline is Oct. 29.

Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2007 - Faith UMC, 3500 Pershing in El Paso, TX. The Basic Course and advance course, “Justice in Everyday Life” will be taught. This is a new course being taught for the first time in our district by Rev. Todd Seelau (Bond Memorial/First Fabens)! Registration forms are available in the church office. The registration deadline is Nov. 19.

If you still need more information about Lay Speaking Ministries, please contact one of our church Lay Speakers:

- Claire Phillips
- Mac McGregor
- Elmer Veeder
- Mike Hofacket
- Vicki Hofacket
- Joe Stimpson
- Mickie Stimpson

Keep God’s Word in your heart and live it out in your life so that you may bear fruit.





Beth's Corner

Calling all followers of Jesus.....here is a chance for you to be a blessing to others and to be greatly blessed in return. We are going to restart our ministry of taking Communion to our homebound brothers and sisters in Christ, and we need some volunteers who would be willing to do this once a month.

You will be provided with the elements, an order of service, and anything else you need to make your visit on the Sunday we have Communion at church or during the following week.

I will be glad to go with you and introduce you to the person if you would like. You may also go with a partner if you prefer. If you are interested in being a part of this rewarding ministry, please tell me in person, or call me in the church office at 546-2791.

Thanks!
Beth Simpson



CCYM Fall Event

Sandlot will be this year's CCYM Fall event to be held at our conference church camp, Sacramento Methodist Assembly (please see page 8) November 16-18, 2007.

This event is open to youth in grades 9 through 12. The cost is \$100 per student. The non-refundable \$30 registration fee is

due by November 2. Late fees will be charged after that date.

For more information, please check out Sacramento's website at www.sacramentoassembly.org,

What a great time to be part of CCYM!



Landsun Homes Tree of Love

Each year, Landsun Homes decorates their Tree of Love with names - the names of loved ones being remembered or honored through a donation to this fund.

This is a unique way to honor someone this Christmas - maybe that one person who already had everything? Or perhaps you'd like to remember someone who's passed away. Donations may be mailed to Landsun Homes Tree of Love, 2002 Westridge, Carlsbad NM 88220.

If you are in Carlsbad to enjoy a boat ride on *Christmas on the Pecos*, you are invited to stop at Landsun. They will provide a soup and sandwich meal before your ride. You may also tour their campus or just visit with staff and residents. To reserve your date, please contact Marsha Drapala at 505-234-5869, 800-274-9966 or email her; marsha@landsunhome.com.

FYI - *Christmas on the Pecos* is a boat ride on the Pecos River to look at all of the houses decorated for the holiday. You may contact the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce for more information.



**TAKE
NOTE**

As October comes we focus our attention on the holiday seasons as they quickly come. Let us take every opportunity to be grateful and enjoy this changing of the seasons. Most importantly, let us remember to give thanks for each other. We are the image of Jesus that other people see.

Schedule for October

Week of October 1st: **Amended

Rehearsal Schedule

Tuesday: Soul Kids 3:30 – 5:00

Wednesday: Bel Macto 4:00 – 5:00
Chancel Choir 7:15 – 8:00

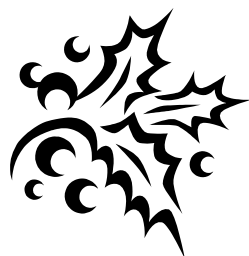
Week of October 8th: Regular Rehearsal Schedule

Week of October 15th: Regular Rehearsal Schedule

Week of October 22nd: Regular Rehearsal Schedule

Week of October 29th: **No Rehearsals that week (also no Wednesday Night Live)

Many Radical Blessings,
Joe



**T'is the season to write
devotionals
FA LA LA LA LA!**

If you have a favorite passage you would like to share with the

church please let me know. Along with the passage please include some thoughts about what makes this part of the Holy Scripture so personal to you.

Please share your story by e-mailing me, Joe MacDonald, at fumcmusic@zianet.com. The stories will be compiled and included in an Advent Devotional Handbook for the holiday season.

All articles need to be submitted not later than October 31st. To help the editor, please use Times New Roman 12 font. The handbooks will be delivered the Sunday before the Advent season begins.

Please e-mail me a copy using Microsoft word. If you are not comfortable using a computer, please type or write a very neat copy of your article and hand it to me on any Sunday morning before October 31st. We are hoping to have one devotion for each day of Advent.

Blessings,
Joe

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World Communion Sunday

We will celebrate World Communion Sunday with Christians around the world on October 7th. Our special offering will enable congregations around the world to fulfill their global mission. It empowers people so they can empower others.

Please join us as we celebrate world wide. Your gift makes a world of difference!

SMA Columbarium

This fall Sacramento Methodist Assembly will begin construction of the new columbarium next to Bishop's Chapel. The SMA Columbarium will make a beautiful resting place for persons who are considering their own or their loved ones' final affairs. As cremation becomes a preferred option for more and more Christians, SMA's Columbarium will be a great choice for those who haven't made a commitment to a local cemetery, and the price per niche is \$1,500, half of which will be a tax-deductible contribution to the SMA Endowment. For more information, including how churches can make money assisting with the columbarium marketing, contact Jim Hengstenberg at (505) 631-2369, or <mailto:jhengstenberg@hotmail.com>.

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Stop the Junk Mail and Save the Environment

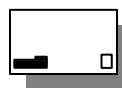
Are you tired of sifting through piles of junk mail every week? Do you receive multiple catalog and credit card offers? According to the Center for the New American Dream, a non-profit organization, dedicated to promoting responsible consumerism, the average American received 11 pieces of unsolicited junk mail per week. That equates to 100 million trees per year! Take these easy steps to stop the junk mail. It will simplify your life and it's good for the environment.


Most senders of junk mail receive your name and address from one of the

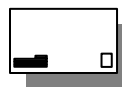
following sources:

Abacus Catalog Alliance (catalogs), Direct Marketing Association (fliers, brochures, etc.) and Credit Bureaus (credit card and insurance offers).

Follow these steps to remove your name from these lists.:

 E-mail Abacus Catalog Alliance at optout@abacus-direct.com with your full name and current address.

 Visit Direct Marketing Association's web site at: <http://www.dmaconsumers.org/cgi/offmailing> to opt out. There is a \$1 fee which verifies your registration and helps to protect their system from fraud. You may also use their mail-in form if preferred.

 OptOutPrescreen.com: This joint venture of the three credit bureaus puts a stop to prescreened credit and insurance solicitations. Sign up to halt these mailings for five years, or stop them permanently. Call 1-888-5-OPTOUT or visit <http://www.optoutprescreen.com/>.

This information was graciously provided by Jim Hengstenberg who is coordinating the SMA Columbarium (see opposite column). Thanks Jim!

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This is just a friendly reminder that Daylight Savings Time has been EXTENDED an extra week. It will not end until Sunday, November 4th. So enjoy the extra hours of daylight. Remember to watch out for the kids on Halloween and in the evening as the nights get longer.

## ***Happenings in the Conference and around the Nation!***

There is a wide variety of studies, events and mission trips happening in our backyard and beyond....

*Blessed to be a Blessing* - Christian Education for the 7th Generation. October 24-27 in Albuquerque. Visit [www.cef2008.org](http://www.cef2008.org) for more information.

*Operacion Hogar* - to build homes in Juarez, Mexico October 28-November 2. Contact Rev. Skip Hodges at 915-591-8126.

*Living Faith, Seeking Justice*" November 1-4 in Ft. Worth, TX. Contact the General Board of Church and Society at 202-488-5600.

*Fall Singles Retreat and Conference* - November 2-4 at Mount Sequoyah Conference and Retreat Center in Fayetteville, Ark. For all single adults; over 30 individual workshops. Website: [www.sequoyahsingles.org](http://www.sequoyahsingles.org) or call 800-760.8126.

*Quilting and Spiritual Life* - a weekend retreat for women who quilt, November 3-4 at Madonna Center in Albuquerque. Contact Raquel Mull at 505-507-4249 or email her at [bedeezhi1@aol.com](mailto:bedeezhi1@aol.com)

*Environmental concern opportunities* with Dr. David Korten, author of "The Great Turning: from Empire to Earth Community." Daytime discussion November 10 in Albuquerque followed by an evening lecture and discussion at UNM.

Contact Marjorie Williams at [margiew12@aol.com](mailto:margiew12@aol.com).

*CCYM Fall Senior High Event* - please see details on page 6.

*2008 Mission Study Trip* to Palestine and Israel February 2-15, 2008; sponsored by the General Board of Global Ministries. The title of the study is "Seeking Peace & Pursuing Justice." Brochure copies may be obtained by calling Rev. Sandy Burley at 505-922-8991 or 505-842-6491.

*The Magnetic Church* - A conference presented by Andrew Weeks March 7-8, 2008 at First Presbyterian Church in El Paso, TX. Contact Lynette Myers at [lynette@firstpres-ep.org](mailto:lynette@firstpres-ep.org).

*Living a Resilient Life* - Christian Discipleship seminar presented by Gordon MacDonald February 22-24, 2008 at St. Stephen's UMC in Albuquerque, NM. Contact the church at [www.sssumc.com](http://www.sssumc.com) for more information.

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## ***Looking Ahead : Whose Birthday is it, Anyway?!***

Are you surprised at how close Christmas is getting? Are you panicking about gift giving and too many things to do with too little time? How about looking ahead at a Simpler Christmas?

Visit [www.alternative@simpleliving.org](http://www.alternative@simpleliving.org) for simple ideas to reduce the Christmas chaos and focus instead on a Christ-centered holiday!

## ***FROM THE BISHOP'S DESK***

This year at Annual Conference, we studied and discussed Bishop Robert Schnase's book, *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. Participants completed a survey form indicating their effectiveness in providing those five practices. Walt Case compiled those surveys. The surveys revealed several interesting insights into our perception of providing Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity.

The smaller the congregation, the less the leaders of those congregations perceive that they are providing Risk-taking Mission and Service. The leaders of congregations worshipping between 200-399 persons each week believe they are providing more passionate worship than other size worshipping congregations. Small membership churches see themselves as providing more Radical Hospitality than other size worshipping congregations.

It was important for me to remember this was not a scientific survey.

Members of the Conference examined the five practices and indicated how effectively they saw their congregation functioning. This was a survey of personal perceptions of their own congregation. It did reveal we must make significant changes if we are to become "Fruitful Congregations".

One of the strengths of this book is the multiple examples Bishop Schnase provides in each of the areas of ministry. These examples can stir the creative juices

for leaders in various sized congregations to formulate how to become more fruitful and effective in making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Conference Lay Leader, Bill Wood, and I will send a letter urging every congregation to form a leadership team to study this book and design a ministry plan for their community. We feel it is essential that we move beyond reading and learning. We need implemented plans that reach out to people in the name of Jesus Christ.

John Edmund Kaiser in his book, *Winning on Purpose*, characterizes three views of the church—the church is for us, the church is for others, and the church is for both others and us. Kaiser claims the church is for both others and us. He also claims that unless others receive a priority of time and energy, we quickly become a church for us. Others do not have a voice and we ignore their needs in favor of our desires.

Jesus calls us to fulfill both the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. We must constantly evaluate our effectiveness in doing both.

Faithful congregations are fruitful congregations.

Grace & Peace,  
Max



**P.U.S.H.  
Pray Until  
Something  
Happens!**