

The en-Ligh^t-ner

Monthly

Newsletter of

First United Methodist Church

March 2017

Mission Statement: To make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

March Sermon Series

God Can Turn our Mistakes into Masterpieces

Mar. 5: Mark 1:9-13
Moving from Pain to Promise

Mar. 12: Matthew 4:1-11
In the End We will Win

Mar. 19: Luke 4:1-13
The Lord is Our Strength

Mar. 26: John 1:24-34
There is Power in the Name of Jesus



WORK IN PROGRESS

I was recently asked to become the chair person for the Evangelism Committee at FUMC Portales. My first reaction was, what is an Evangelism Committee, and what do they do? Not fully understanding the word “evangelism,” I looked it up in the dictionary. Evangelism is the preaching of the Gospel or the practice of giving information about a particular doctrine or set of beliefs to others with the intention of converting others to the Christian faith. Hmm, I thought. I’m certainly no Preacher, but I am a Christian. Then I thought, I can’t do any good; I’m flawed, I’m broken. At that moment I remembered the Bible was full of flawed and broken people that God used in a positive way - just fine. Kind of threw that excuse right out the window!

Long story short I decided to take on this task, to try and focus on something other than myself. You see I have been having a pity party with myself for a while now! I began looking at the Church and putting the positives and the not so positives on a list. The positives far outweigh the negatives. If we thought we were perfect it would mean we weren’t trying hard enough. Never the less, we have a wonderful Church, and I don’t mean the building! The people have a warm, welcoming, loving spirit. To me that is the most



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Wednesday Night Activities

Please join us for dinner at 5:30 pm. in the Fellowship Hall.

Immediately following dinner, the classes will begin followed by choir practice. If you have thought about singing in the choir, please come join us.

Wednesday Evening Classes:

"Philosophy of Religion" with Rev. Dr. Keith Wilks

"Psalm 91- God's Umbrella of Protection" by Peggy Joyce Ruth with Cynthia Hulett

Youth & Mini-Youth

Prayer Shawl

Everyone is welcome!



- 2nd Gina deGroot - B
- 5th Amberlyn Mauldin - B
- 8th Ben Myers - B
- 13th Jasi Roberts - B
- 17th Donny & JoBeth Massey - A
- 19th Jerry Pyle - B
- 20th Wendy Bonestroo - B
- 20th Todd Mosier - B
- 23rd Meno Banda - B
- 23rd Beth & Meno Banda - A
- 23rd Kenny & Katrina Prince - A
- 24th Janet Roehl - B
- 28th Sean Brown - B
- 28th Cindy Cissell - B
- 28th Kathy Gore - B
- 28th Betty Hebert - B
- 29th Susie Brown - B
- 29th Hannah Cissell - B
- 30th Tom & Betty Hebert - A

If you would like to send letters to Marty Barnes, the address is:
Barnes Martin
PSC 94 Box 521
ASO AE 09824



With Sympathy

*Thinking of you
at this sad time
and sending love*



Please be in prayer for **Jeff Symonds**, one of our previous pastors. His wife, **Eloise**, passed away February 13th, and the service for her was February 18th. If you would like to send a condolence card, the address is: 200 Mesa Dr. Aztec, NM 87410.





WORSHIP COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER

The Worship Committee met on Tuesday, February 21st to discuss the 2017 church calendar. There was extensive discussion of the Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services. Members had a very informative round table discussion on our worship services and signed up for various positions where volunteers were needed.

Pastor Keith opened and closed the meeting with prayer.

Dianne Y. Parker
Worship Committee Chair

THANK YOU

Dear Church Family -

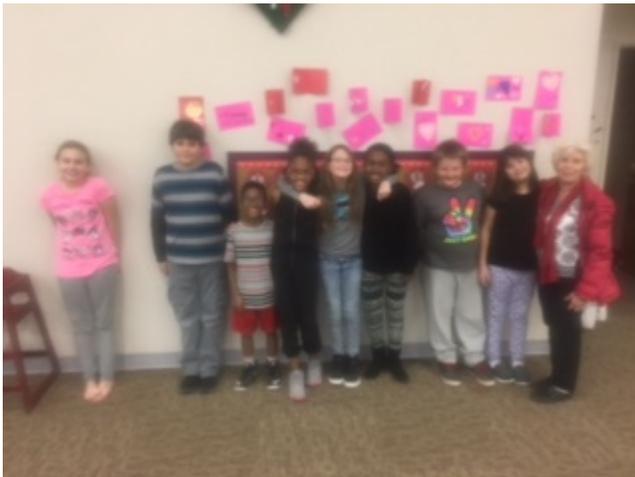
Wow! We have been truly blessed with God's love through each of you! Your thoughts, prayers, hugs and gifts have truly touched our hearts. We have been overwhelmed these past few weeks with Joy's passing, and your continuous support has helped us through this difficult and challenging time. We thank you. We thank you for loving us. We pray that we can one day be as Christ-like to someone else as you've been to us.

Thanks again & God Bless!

Jonathan & Devany Brunk

*I will bless you...and you will be a blessing to others.
Genesis 12:2 NCV*

King's Kids



King's Kids is for grades 2nd through 5th. They meet each Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. after school. They enjoy a snack and a program of bible time, crafts and music. Pictured (l-r) Kelsey Borden, Jude Montoya, Ja Lyn Johnson, Jo Niah Johnson, Maggie Wooldridge, Kateah Hulett, Alex Bartz, Danica Montoya, and Jan Smartnick, Director.

First United Methodist Church Staff

Pastor - Dr. Keith Wilks
Office Manager - Gerri Bradsher
Nursery - Melissa Borden
Lay Leader - Linda Weems
Choir Director - Jan Smartnick
Accompanist - James Golden
Youth Director - Kelsey Prince
enLightner Editor - Sheryl Borden
Bishop - W. Earl Bledsoe
District Superintendent - Jane Vaughan

Phone 575-356-8597
FAX 575-356-3653
E-Mail firstumcportales@gmail.com
Facebook [FUMC Portales](https://www.facebook.com/FUMCPortales)
Website firstunitedmethodistchurchportales.com

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Work in Progress - Continued from Page 1

important thing, because Biblical justice is striving to love your neighbor, especially the marginalized, and the vulnerable in all the ways you love yourself. This Church does a wonderful job at this. The area I personally need help with is in order to be effective, I need to know all the people on all the other committees.

I tried to take the "Greater Than One," approach. We can have all the ideas in the world but alone we can't seem to get things done. Apathy doesn't help anyone, but action does! Together we can have action!

Committee chairs, please don't be surprised if I show up at one of your meetings to get your assessment of where you and your committee think we are now, and where you think your struggles may be. After I get all the information and your input, I will do my best to introduce and initiate the improvements you suggest. The truth is each of us, as Christians, are sworn Evangelists. We might go about it each in our own way, but it's spreading the message of Jesus Christ just the same. The message of Jesus is one of love. I will do all in my power to spread that message. Not to convince others to think like me, or talk like me, or look like me, but to love and listen, and build authentic relationships, then allowing God to move through them. God only needs an introduction, and then God goes to work! I feel we have the right people here at the right time to take on anything God puts before us. Please pray about it! Please know the Evangelism committee is a **work in progress...**

Terry Truelock, Chair
Evangelism Committee

New Members



Linda Weems (left), Lay Leader, assists in the ceremony to welcome two new members to the First United Methodist Church. Pastor Keith welcomes Pam Shearer and her mother, Sue Dever.



Linda Weems, Lay Leader, and Pastor Keith welcome Joe Parie as a new member of First United Methodist Church.