

# The en - Ligh - ner

Monthly Newsletter of  
First United Methodist Church  
Portales, New Mexico

September 2017

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

## September Sermon Series

*God's Plan is Greater than Our Plan*

**September 3: Acts 6:1-7**  
Growing Through Conflict

**September 10: Acts 6:8-15**  
Spiritual Growth Comes with Change

**September 17: Acts 7:1-22**  
Thinking Outside of the Box

**September 24: Acts 7:51-60**  
Getting Out of Our Comfort Zone



## Turkey Dinner

Turkey Dinner! If you say those two words to anyone in Portales, chances are they will know you're talking about the Methodist Church's Turkey Dinner. Almost everyone in Portales is counting down the days

until the Annual Methodist Church's Turkey Dinner. This event has been held at First United Methodist Church on the first Thursday of November every year for 60+ years. (This year's date is November 2nd.) And, like the old saying goes, "It takes an entire village to raise a child." Well, it takes an entire church to pull off turkey dinner. Last year over 2000 meals were served.

The last few years have taken a toll on the long-timers who have helped with turkey dinner for many years, and there is a big need for additional help. You are not being asked to take over the entire dinner, or even to work every day and evening; although if you want to spend the week with us that's okay, too! We need only a few hours a day, for one or two days. Please help all you can. If you have kids in school, there are many jobs to be done during the day; and if you work, there are many jobs to be done in the evening. In fact, there are plenty of jobs for everyone, including making biscuits and cornbread, baking a few pumpkin pies (250 are needed), carving turkeys, helping to make 52 gallons of broth, cutting up apples and celery, making salad, setting up and decorating tables, rolling silverware, putting cranberries in carry out cups, working on the "big day," and cleaning up on Friday. But it is not all work. There is a lot of socializing and laughing, too. As you can see - one person or even two or three people cannot do all these jobs in just one week. **We need the entire church.**

(Continued on page 4)



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# Mark Your Calendar

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## September



We are still accepting registrations for King's Kids. Our first meeting will be **August 30**. If you have not registered or if you have a friend you would like to invite, now is the time to reserve a spot. Call the church office at 575-356-8597.

- 2nd Derek Idsinga II - B
- 4th Gary & Wendy Bonestroo - A
- 6th Chance Essary - B
- 6th Derek & Kelsey Idsinga - A
- 7th Cynthia Hulett - B
- 9th Donna Bond - B
- 11th Jenifer Baca - B
- 12th Marilyn & Rich Seddon - A
- 13th Daniel Zapata - B
- 15th MacKenzie Privett - B
- 16th Jean Harberts - B
- 16th Devany Brunk - B
- 24th Fred Patterson - B
- 25th Jerry Cordova - B
- 26th Carolyn Sanders - B
- 27th Casey Faver - B
- 27th Josh Kuchta - B
- 30th Laqueda Chavez - B

### Women's Bible Study

FUMC Women's Bible Study group is going to study the Book of Isaiah this fall. When we receive the DVD, a date will be announced for the first meeting date.

### Church Library



### APPEAL FROM THE LIBRARY!

Whoever currently has the DVDs and Discussion Guides for The Old Testament and The New Testament please call or email the church office. Another group is considering using them this fall.



**NOTE:** Everyone is welcome to submit articles for the monthly enLightner. The 25th of each month is the deadline for submission. Please send your article and/or pictures to: [sheryl.borden@enmu.edu](mailto:sheryl.borden@enmu.edu).

## Welcome to New Members



Travis and Carol Erwin (left) and family were welcomed as a part of the FUMC on July 30th. **Melissa and Micah Donohue** (pictured third and fourth from the left) joined on August 20th. Also shown is Linda Weems (far right) and Pastor Keith.

The Erwins have been married for 20 years and met in a church band in Oklahoma City. They have three children. Anna, a freshman in college, Joseph, a junior in high school, and Emma is a freshman in high school. They enjoy playing and singing music together, camping in the Santa Fe National Forest, and playing Balderdash out on the Williamson Ranch. The Erwin family has already become a part of the FUMC Community by singing in the choir, and Travis has accompanied James Golden on different occasions. (*Watch for a profile on the Donohues next month.*)



## THANKS TO MOW'S DRIVERS

The First United Methodist Church was visible in the community in July through our members who volunteered to deliver Meals on Wheels to persons unable to prepare a hot meal at noon. Drivers were **Joe Parrie, Jan and Web Smartnick, Kathy Durand, Mary Moherman, Wanda Pettus, Mike and Donna Woolley, and Elwyn Hulett.**

We will deliver again in December. Meals are prepared by Heartland Continuing Care Center to meet individual dietary needs of the recipient. As part of their community service, Heartland only charges \$2.50 per day and that is what the recipient pays. Trays and supplies are paid for from donations by individuals and United Way. Delivery and bookkeeping is done by the volunteer Board members. The program receives *no* support from any federal or state source.

Thanks to each and everyone who delivered.

Fayrene Powers  
FUMC MOW's coordinator

## 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 - Amberlyn Mauldin  
enLightner Editor - Sheryl Borden  
Bishop - W. Earl Bledsoe  
District Superintendent - Jane Vaughan

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(You can click on any of the [blue](#) links in this newsletter, and they should open the link or website. If they do not open, you can cut and paste the URL into your browser.) The same is true with an email.

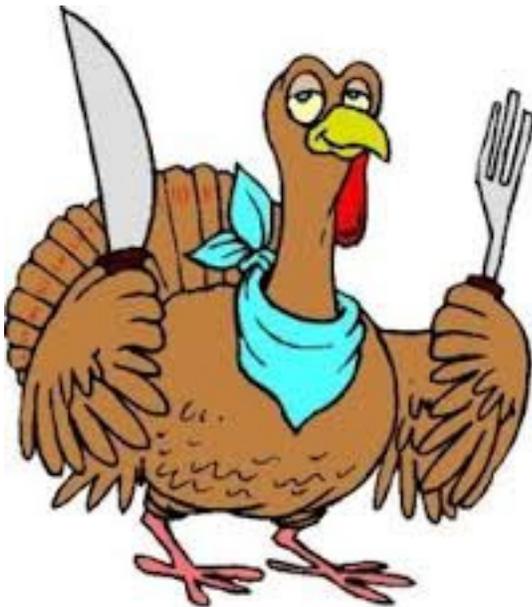
## Turkey Dinner (Continued from Page 1)

While it is true that the Turkey Dinner is a United Methodist Women's fundraiser; the funds are used for many deserving missions in our community and church. UMW always tithes 10% of the monies earned to FUMC.

UMW provides church camp scholarships to every child attending camp. The money is also used for the meat for bereavement meals and for Wesley Foundation meals. We also support the Pastor's discretionary fund, Portales Police Department's Adopt-a-Cop program and numerous other charities in Portales. UMW recently bought the new carpet in the fellowship hall. In addition, UMW is responsible for purchasing the screens and projectors in the sanctuary and fellowship hall as well as the electronic sign on the corner and the ice machine in the kitchen.

Please support our church by helping out with this rewarding event. We have something special and unique that benefits the community of Portales and our Church Community at FUMC, and we need **all of you** to make it work. Supporting each other and working side by side will build relationships and our church, so when October rolls around be sure to sign up and join the fun.

Thank you,  
Methodist Women



## Profile on Anna George - New Member at FUMC

**Anna George** was welcomed as a part of the FUMC Community on July 9. She is a digital film making student at ENMU though her actual passion is comic books. Anna gave her heart to God when she was a teenager after growing up in a non-religious home. She hopes to spread the love of Jesus Christ to the LGBT community and to others who may feel like outsiders in the church world. Anna says "I feel like FUMC is really a place where I can show a community filled with fear the unending love of God." She is a member of a theater honor society, the student government, and presides over the GSA at ENMU. Anna says "I am so happy to be a part of this church; it has made me feel so welcomed and loved."

### New Wednesday Night Classes

Can a Christian accept that evolution occurred while still retaining their faith? What is evolution anyway? Is there really any evidence in support of it? If you have ever wondered about these or other questions concerning evolution, please join our **Evolution and Faith** class starting on Wednesday, September 6th. Bring all your questions . . . and let's discuss this topic!

*Facilitators: Pastor Keith and Kathy Durand*

**The Ministry of Moses, the Greatest Prophet** is another new class that will explore what we know and what we don't know about the life of Moses. We will examine Moses as the Politician, General and Man of God.

*Facilitator: Fred Patterson*

(These two classes and other classes will begin around 6:15 pm - following a group meal at 5:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.)



**Travis Erwin** (on the guitar) accompanies **James Golden** at the piano.



**Wiley Teel** (left) and **David Myers** faithfully greet everyone when they come to church in addition to handing out the Sunday bulletin!

Under the direction of choir director, **Jan Smartnick**, the choir provides beautiful and inspirational music for each church service.



Church members eagerly welcomed **William Holton** back from his 6-month service in Afghanistan. William is stationed at Cannon Air Force Base.

## Bishop Bledsoe Celebrates with FUMC-Portales



Bishop Bledsoe's sermon was *"More than Enough"*

A service of gratitude and dedication was led by Bishop Earl Bledsoe on August 6th at First United Methodist Church of Portales, as the congregation celebrated early payoff on the bonds for the sanctuary and fellowship hall constructed in 2002, and first used in August 2003. By paying off its obligations 6 1/2 years early, building project chair, David Russell said FUMC Portales saved more than \$314,000 in interest.

The dark-brick facility replaced a much-loved structure that had served the Portales area for decades, but which was in dire need of massive upgrades and renovations. Longtime member and trustee chair, Wanda Pettus asked those in attendance to "think of all the people who gave more money than they could afford, and all the people who loved the old building but were willing to give it up."

Stewardship committee chair, Donny Massey encouraged the congregation to continue its "great commitment of excellent stewardship" and "giving above and beyond" that led to the success of the project.

In his sermon, Bishop Bledsoe told the congregation that "attitude has a lot to do with it," and reminded those in attendance (including several former members no longer living in this area) to "Choose your attitude, follow a God-inspired plan, and enable God-inspired power to work."

Bishop Bledsoe was chief celebrant for communion at the close of the service, assisted by District Superintendent Jane Vaughan, Pastor Keith Wilks, and lay leader, Linda Weems.



(L-R) District Superintendent, Jane Vaughan, Bishop Earl Bledsoe, FUMC-Portales Lay Leader, Linda Weems and Pastor Keith Wilks

### **RELEVANT, PASSIONATE, AND LIFE-CHANGING CHURCHES**

New Mexico Annual Conference  
11816 Lomas Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87112  
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Receptionist Hours: 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.  
(800) 678-8786 toll free; (505) 255-8786;  
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(The preceding article was reprinted from the August 28th issue of the Conference Newsletter. It was written by Betty Williamson.)