

The en - Ligh t - ner

Monthly

Newsletter of

First United Methodist Church

February 2017

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

February Sermon Series

*Placing God's Will First
in Our Lives*

Feb. 5: Luke 9:57-62
Commitment before
Comfort

Feb. 12: Luke 10:1-12
Stepping Out in Faith

Feb. 19: Luke 10:17-20
God Knows Our Name

Feb. 26: Luke 10:23-28
Principles of Growth

I Can Float

By Kathy Roler Durand



There are moments in life that are not like the others. There are moments in life that change everything. When a loved one dies, this is one of those moments.

When my loved one died, it was as though I was thrown alone into a deep pool of water. I was afraid and bereft. I didn't feel that I had the skills necessary to survive this new situation. Certainly I could not survive it without my loved one. In my desperation, I did the only thing I know to do

in such tough situations, I threw every ounce of energy into surviving. Not being a good swimmer, afraid and alone in this dark place, I kicked my legs. I kicked them hard with all my might. In my panicked state I flailed my arms; I tried to breathe despite the waves I was creating. I was in a constant state of being overwhelmed.

I swam for years. I couldn't reach the shore. I couldn't think. I couldn't escape.

And then one day, finally, I stopped fighting. I stopped flailing wildly. I let go, just for a moment. And in that moment I realized that if I just leaned back a little, relaxed my head and neck, I could float. Really. I had forgotten that I could float, and yet here I was drifting along on the current. This was another moment that was not like the others, but this was a moment of clarity and new insights, not pain.

Where am I going now? I am not at all sure. As best I can tell I am not getting "there" any faster or slower than I was when I was swimming. But now I do have peace. I am thankful for that. And I have realized that there may not be a "there" after all. There may just be now, floating peacefully. I am thankful for that too, and patient enough to start concerning myself more with now than "there."





Mark Your Calendar

HELP WANTED

Someone to take responsibility for the houseplants in Pastor Keith's and Geri's offices and in the church Foyer. They need to be watered weekly and repotted, trimmed and fed periodically. If you are willing to take this responsibility please contact Panzy Jordan at (575)226-3424.

February



- 2nd Shelly Atwood - B
- 2nd Julie Rooney - B
- 4th Bev Idsinga
- 13th Dan Teel - B
- 14th Gavin Bonestroo - B
- 14th Denver Collins - B
- 16th Morgan Collins - B
- 17th Kayden Mauldin - B
- 18th Linda Milbery - B
- 23rd Charles Evelo - B
- 24th Jerry Faver - B
- 26th Ebony Trujillo - B
- 27th Jeff Essary - B

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 with Kelsey Prince

Prayer Shawl

Everyone is welcome!



NOTICE

Keith will no longer have his service on Sundays at Wheatfield, but will have it on Saturdays at 11:15 am. If you would like to carpool, be at the church at 10:30 am.

Wesley Disciples

The Wesley Foundation has made tremendous strides in meeting the needs of and ministering to students at the university level under the leadership of the Rev. Elizabeth Kirkwood. The Bishop came on April 27, 2016 and consecrated the remodeled facility which was paid in full by sacrificial giving of gifts large and small. The remodeled facility meets all state codes for accommodating disabled students and for preparing and serving food. The Wesley is now successfully addressing the issue of hunger, physical and spiritual, among ENMU students.

First United Methodist Church in Portales continues to be a strong supporter of the Wesley Foundation at Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU). To continue ministering to the students, support is greatly needed to keep the programs (Bible studies, fellowship, interns, studying, SWIFT participation at Sacramento Camp, devotions, hunger, home away from home, etc.)

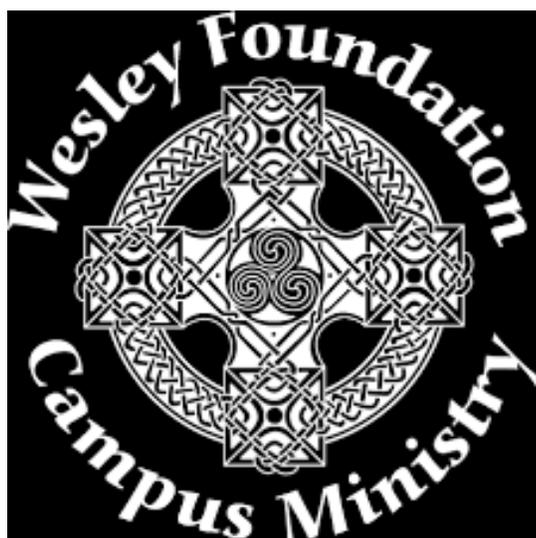
The Wesley Foundation Board is asking for a minimum of twelve volunteers from every church within the Clovis District to be Wesley Disciples by giving at least \$20 a month or \$240.00 per year designated for the Wesley's operational costs. We made that goal last year, let's surpass the goal this year! Ask God if you should be part of this needed work that will help to transform the world through these university students who will become our future church leaders in the United States and in several countries around the world.

Prayerfully consider committing or recommitting to be a Wesley Disciple during 2017. Simply fill out the following form and turn it in to the church office or place it in the offering plate. Or send your commitment via email to the church office at firstumcportales@gmail.com. Make out your check(s) payable to FUMC with Wesley Disciple on the "For" line.

Wesley Disciple Commitment Form

I would like to be a part of our church's 2017 commitment to the Wesley Foundation by becoming a Wesley Disciple and committing \$20 a month (\$240.00 a year) for support of the Wesley Foundation.

Name _____
Phone number(s) _____
Date _____



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](#)
Website firstunitedmethodistchurchportales.com

(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 or email address into your browser.)

King's Kids Off to a Good Start

The new semester of King's Kids got off to a good start on Wednesday, January 11 with two new members: Nevan Cordova and Dravin Collins. They are both second semester first grade students and bring our enrollment to 22.



We are continuing to use the book "A to Z Object Talks" by Susan Lingo as an Old Testament study. Mrs. Linda (Leaming) helped the kids review the lessons from first semester, and I (Panzly Jordan) was impressed that they remembered the main idea from each lesson based on the letters A thru K even after the fall break.

Mrs. Donna (Woolley) always has an interesting craft project for each session. This week she had three. The kids made lovely snowflakes and snow pictures and made cards to thank David Russell for our new bulletin board. We will have our pictures posted on it soon.

The kids always enjoy a snack after school, and we do so appreciate those of you who provide them. If this is something you would like to do, please see Wanda Pettus.

Mrs. Jan (Smartnick) leads us in music each time, and we really like to sing. We plan to have some new music to share with you later.

Mrs. Donna has a fun craft planned to introduce our mission project for this semester. I can't tell you what the craft is, but the mission project is socks for Hartley House. We would welcome any donation of new socks, and there will be a collection box in Fellowship hall.

We can only take 25 kids in this great program so if you know kids between second semester first grade and fifth grade that want to participate, they need to get an application from the church office at once.

If you are a parent of one of our King's Kids please remember to notify the church office on any Wednesday that your child will not be riding the church van so that the driver is not waiting for them. Kids, it is very important that you get on the van each week unless you have made other arrangements with your parents and they have notified us. This is for your safety.

THANKS TO MOW'S DRIVERS

Our church was visible in the community in December through our members who volunteered to deliver Meals on Wheels to those persons unable to prepare a hot meal at noon.



We had drivers who have delivered for many years and some who delivered for the first time. You are all very much appreciated. Drivers were Panzly Jordan and Mandy Barnes, Jan and Web Smartnick, Joe Parie, Elwyn Hulett and granddaughters, and David Russell.

We will deliver again in February. 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

Please join us in prayer for the Brunk family as they process the loss of **Joy Brunk**. The family has asked that we not reach out through phone calls at this time. However, our continuous prayers are welcomed and needed.

Services for Joy Brunk are Monday at 10:30 a.m. in Silver City, NM. The address for the Brunk family is: 1500 N. Combs Cir., Silver City, NM 88061.

Missions' Budget Report for 2016

MISSIONS & GIVING



Income

Yellow Buckets (2nd Sunday)	\$2,856.64
Yard Sale	6,493.40
Pumpkin sales	3,316.26
Easter Basket sales	475.00
Wednesday evening meals	1,227.53
Cash gifts for missions	492.00
Carry-over from 2015	639.50
Designated Gifts for mission projects	6,932.00
Total:	\$22,382.33

Portales Pregnancy Resource Center	200.00
Teen Suicide Prevention Program	200.00
Portales Race and Religion Forum	200.00
Boy Scout Eagle Plaque	213.00
Boy Scouts Troop 18	930.00
Tithe to FUMC - Portales	1,040.00
Total:	\$22,420.45

To be distributed in 2017: \$71.88

Mission giving in 2016 ... To the World

Joyce Chellis Support (India)	\$2,120.00
Martin/Tracy Reeves Support (Peru)	3,400.00
Mark/Rachel Bright Support (Madagascar)	500.00
David/Kelly Fetrow Support (Mexico)	500.00
Ganta Hospital (Liberia)	1,000.00
Imagine No Malaria (Africa)	100.00
UMCOR (World Relief)	600.00
CCPI (Africa)	500.00
Santa Elena Mission (Mexico)	500.00
Heifer Project - World	250.00
Souls Ministry (Mexico)	1,000.00
Give Them to Eat (Mexico)	100.00
Peru Work Mission	2,000.00

Mission giving in 2016 ... To stay Locally

Wesley Foundation	\$2,685.00
Habitat for Humanity	1,650.00
McCurdy School	100.00
Landsun Homes	177.00
Kairos Outside	700.00
Sacramento Camp	200.00
Gideons	100.00
King's Kids	100.00
Angel Tree	113.45
Ministerial Alliance/Food Bank	452.00
Consigning Women	240.00
Salvation Army	250.00
Upper Room	100.00

In addition, our church members gave canned food donations monthly to the food bank on the fourth Sunday, raised \$726.19 for Salvation Army by bell ringing, bought gifts for children who had a parent or parents in prison (Angel Tree), and also gave items for Easter Baskets, yard sale, and mission meals.

(This Missions Committee Report does not include giving to other mission projects by UMW, UMM or King's Kids!)

Submitted by
Elwyn Hulett



Kathy and Sarah Durand, Christy and Maggie Wooldridge, and Kateah Hulett help prepare for Pastor Keith's Wednesday night class.

ROC 2017 Schedule



Friday, March 3rd

7:30 pm – Registration/Ice breakers

9:45 – Worship in Skippers

11:00 – Campers to dorms (lights out 11:30)

Saturday, March 4th

7:00 am – Wakeup call

8:00 – Breakfast

9:00 – Worship in Skippers

10-10:30 Small Groups

10:45-12 – Workshops

12:00 – Lunch

1:15pm – Worship in Skippers

2:30 – BIG Event with youth group

3:30-5:30 – Free time with youth group

Snack & Gift Open (Be kind, go in small groups to gift shop)

5:30 – Supper

6:30 – Small Groups

8:00 – Worship

9:30 – Youth Group

10:30 – Campers to dorms (lights out 11:00)

Sunday, March 5th

7:00 am – Wakeup call

8:00 – Breakfast/Pre-pack

9:00 – Final Small Group meeting

9:30 – Worship in Skippers

10:30 – Clean & Pack

Love God. Love People. Reach Out.

For more information, see Gerri in the church office.



Wednesday night classes have resumed and a delicious meal is served at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Shown serving are Fred and LaVeta Patterson and Sam Gore.

Thank you

Thank you to all who helped to make my 80th birthday such a memorable occasion. The phone calls, cards, emails, Facebook notes, wishes and hugs at church, and for those who came to the party were all together beyond anything I could have ever expected. You FUMC friends mean so much to Ruth and me - you indeed are our church family. I'm very grateful to our children (who grew up in this church) for planning such a wonderful celebration. This truly was the best birthday of my life! Thanks again. **Bill Wood**



*Pastor Keith welcomes **Jacque Quensenberry** and **Elijah Saina** into membership of First United Methodist Church. Please make them feel welcome.*



Pastor Keith gives a sendoff prayer for T/Sgt. William Holton. William will be deployed for 6 months. He has been an active member of our church for some time. We encourage each of you to keep William in your prayers for a safe return.

UMW Recognition Day

Sunday, January 25, was UMW Recognition Day. The First United Methodist Church has three different UMW circles. The circles are Esther, Friendship and Wesleyan. UMW members receiving special recognition were Shelly Atwood. Shelly received a 2nd mile pin for her sixteen years as chair of the Turkey Dinner. Vern Witten also received a 2nd mile pin for his many years of teaching Sunday School, working at the church and most of all for his famous "peanut brittle" that is sold during the Turkey Dinner Bazaar. Second mile sapphire pins are given to those that have already received their Service Pins but continue to serve above and beyond in the First United Methodist Church. Jan Smartnick, president Esther Circle, presented a Service Pin to Malin Barnes. Malin is always ready to help in whatever area he is needed. Barbara Harper of Friendship Circle and Karleah Hulett both received Service Pins for their work at the church above and beyond. You will find Karleah in the sound booth most Sundays.

Patti Dobson brought the message speaking on "Words and Actions Matter." Christy Wooldridge was the Lay Reader. The Anthem, "I Give You Praise" was done by James Golden and the Choir. Maggie Wooldridge did the Offertory solo "Today" from The Little Orphan Annie.

Following the service a reception was held in the Fellowship Hall.

The Greater Than One Project® Membership

The goal of The Greater Than One Project® committee is "recognizing the difficult times in which we live and the need to minister to a new generation, maintain a stable foundation for our members while being a beacon for all...sharing God's love in Christ."

This committee may not always seem to be visible but we feel we have accomplished many of the above goals. On July 1, 2014 Keith became our pastor. Since that time we have taken in thirty nine new members. This has been a very diverse group of people. We feel that diversity is one of the keys to a growing church. There have been several that moved away and others that simply no longer come to our church. We have had an approximate 65% retention.

Presently we are working on making our new members feel more a part of the church. We're in the process of developing a new member packet listing what we have to offer including our daily prayers, support groups, Wednesday night meals and Bible studies, King's Kids, Youth Group and the list goes on and on.

Not only are we working to bring our new members into the activities of the church but we also want our present membership to feel a connection and a desire to broaden their connection to the church.

Members of The Greater Than One Project® membership committee are Barbara Harper, Elwyn Hulett, Gary Lowman, Carol Morgan, Dianne Parker, Wanda Pettus and Wiley Teel. Pat Burns is over-all Director and Rodney Ennis is the Assistant Director.

If you have ideas or suggestions on how this committee can better serve the church, please contact any of the Membership Committee members.



Pictures left-right: Shelly Atwood, Barbara Harper, Jan Smartnick, Malin Barnes, Vern Witten, Linda Leaming, Karleah Hulett, Donita Privett and JoBeth Massey (at the podium.)