

First United Methodist Church – Deming

1020 S. Granite Street

Rev. Dr. Brad Reeves, Pastor

(575) 546-2791

Sunday Service: 9:00 AM

Website: www.fumcdeming.org

Bible Studies: 10:15 AM (For all ages)

Email: main@fumcdeming.org

Handicap Accessible

Facebook: [FUMCDeming](https://www.facebook.com/FUMCDeming)

Twitter: [@FUMCDeming](https://twitter.com/@FUMCDeming)

Instagram: [@FUMCDeming](https://www.instagram.com/@FUMCDeming)



December 2021

A child was born to willingly die that we might live.

IN THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| From the pastor | 2 |
| Mission Christmas Project | 2 |
| Fellowship Breakfast | 2 |
| Welcome New Pastors | 3 |
| Merry Christmas | 3 |
| Bread Basket | 4 |
| Christmas Eve Offering | 4 |
| Wreaths Across America | 4 |
| Christmas Cantata | 4 |
| Communion | 4 |
| Celebrate Recovery | 4 |
| Food Drive | 5 |
| Christmas Parade | 5 |
| On the Lighter Side | 5 |
| Christmas Stories | 6 |
| Prayer Garden | 6 |
| Community News | 7 |
| Scam Alert | 7 |

For unto us
a child
is born,
to us
a son is given
Isaiah 9:6



The following will be our December Schedule. Please worship with us in person, on Facebook at FUMCDeming, or on the radio at 99.1 FM. We hope you have a joyous holiday season!

Dec. 5 - Fellowship Breakfast after the service.

Dec. 12 - Christmas Cantata

Dec. 19 - Regular service at 9 AM with Sunday School at 10:15 AM.

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve in the Park at 5 PM at the Courthouse Park gazebo. We'll sing carols, hear the Christmas story, a message, and end with a candlelight rendition of Silent Night. All are welcome.

Dec. 24 - Candlelight Communion service at 7 PM at the church. All are welcome. There will be special worship bags for the kids and electric candles for their use.

Dec. 26 - Brad and Sherrie Reeves' last Sunday.



The office will be closed Dec. 24-31 in observance of Christmas and to work on year end reports. We will reopen on Jan. 3.

FROM THE PASTOR'S

DESK

We now know who will be leading FUMC Deming, if only for six months. Please look for that announcement in another place in this newsletter (page 3). I want to share some thoughts about how to care for a new pastor.

- Pray for the pastors and their families. My father, who was the friend of two pastors, never really knew the strain of being a pastor until his son was one. It is different struggle than it is for a layperson.
- Be honest about your criticisms of your new pastors. Feedback is the breakfast of champions, and we all need our breakfast. **HOWEVER**, do so in love.
- Be quick to share your praise with your new pastors. Most people in leadership hear 9 out of 10 potential complaints but only 1 out of 10 potential praises. If anything, that ratio is even more skewed for preachers. A “way to go” is always welcome.
- Show your love every way you can to your pastors and their families. They will appreciate it.

Please know that I continue to pray for our church and will in the years ahead.

In Christ,

Brad Reeves



It's that time of year again for our mission project involving Casa de Amor in Palomas. This year our church will be adopting 5 girls. Each girl will be gifted a jacket, shirt, shoes, socks and pants. As in years past, we will be making gift tags which will be put on the Christmas tree located at the back of the sanctuary. We ask that you take one or as

many tags as you like. The girls in Palomas greatly appreciate your continued support. **All wrapped gifts need to be returned to the church no later than December 12.** We are also asking for monetary donations so we can provide the orphanage director enough money to purchase what they need for Christmas dinner. **Put your donation into an envelope marked for the orphanage. If you write a check, please put Casa de Amor Christmas on the memo line.** Thanks for helping make their Christmas holiday a little brighter.



On Sunday, December 5, the United Methodist Men will be sponsoring a fellowship breakfast during the Sunday School hour. The menu will consist of eggs, bacon, sausage, and pancakes. We will also be celebrating the retirement of Pastor Brad and Sherrie Reeves. Please mark you calendar and plan on joining us for this time of fellowship and celebration.

Welcome to our New Pastors

District Superintendent Reverend Dr. Pam Rowley has made her *assignment* for our Supply Pastor. The assignment will begin on January 1, 2022, and end on July 1, 2022. On July 1, we will have an *appointed* pastor.

You know it is a big job when it takes two people to replace Pastor Brad. The first is Cari Neill. She will take care of us on Sundays providing the sermons and directing the Sunday services. Cari is a Certified Lay Minister. She is the daughter of a Methodist minister, grew up at Sacramento camp, and is a native New Mexican. She and her family have recently moved to Las Cruces. She is married, has two young children and is a practicing attorney. (a busy lady)

Cari serves as the Conference Chancellor for the Church Conference. She represents the interests of the conference and churches in legal matters. Cari's mom, Susan Barrett, lives with them and will be joining Cari on many Sundays as she travels to Deming.

Monday through Thursday, Jacqui Lax will be our pastor. Jacqui is also a Certified Lay Minister. She is the minister at Anthony United Methodist Church on Sundays. She will live here in Deming in the parsonage for six months with her two dogs. She has a special needs adult daughter who lives in El Paso.

Monday through Thursday, Jacqui will be at the office providing pastoral care for all of us and coordinating the life of the church. On Sundays, she will continue her work with the Anthony United Methodist Church.

Jacqui is retiring in a couple of weeks after 25 years with the El Paso Independent School District as a district administrator. She brings a wide experience in finance and accounting as well as management. Jacqui currently has a zoom Bible Study for her Anthony parishioners that we may be invited to join.

Please continue to pray for Pastor Brad and Sherrie in their transition to retirement and for Cari and Jacqui who will lead us through the first half of 2022.

Merry Christmas

From

First United Methodist Church

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all.



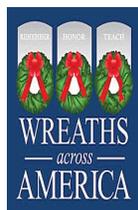
Our next Bread Basket offering will take place on December 19 and is the 2-in-1 offering supporting the Methodist Children's Home and Providence Place.

The Methodist Children's Home equips children, youth and families by offering hope through Christ-centered relationships, services and support. Providence Place is a Christian based adoption agency.

If you would like to make a donation, please mark the memo line on your check accordingly, or place cash in an envelope and drop in the basket during the final hymn Sunday morning.



Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 12. The Chancel Choir will be performing *Ceremony of Candles: A Cantata for Advent and Christmas* during the morning worship service. We hope you will join us to celebrate the coming birth of our Savior Jesus Christ and share his light with all the world.



Wreaths Across America places Christmas wreaths at the graves of veterans buried in our National Cemeteries. There will be a ceremony at 10 AM on Saturday, December 18, at Fort Bayard National Cemetery. For more information on how you volunteer to help lay out the wreaths or to order a wreath online, go to [Wreaths Across America Fort Bayard](#).



The offering on Christmas Eve will be collected on behalf of TLC. With everything that has happened over the last two years, TLC can really use your generous gifts to continue their mission of helping those families in need throughout Luna County.



Communion will be held on December 5. We have resumed normal communion practices with fresh elements at the communion rail. If you wish, you may bring your own or we will have some individual prepackaged ones available. We will be taking our special **Local Mission Fund** offering. Please mark your checks and envelopes appropriately. Local needs are great. Your generosity brings hope!



Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery is up and running. Spread the word. If you or someone you know is interested in a Christ-based recovery program, then this is for you. No pre-registration is necessary...just show up. The meeting takes place on Friday's through the end of the year in the Chapel at FUMC Deming with doors opening at 6:00 PM with a light meal and the meeting starting at 7 PM. Enter through the courtyard or the north door. **We will be changing nights to Tuesday night starting January 4.** Mark you calendars with the change. For more information, email Andrew Chandler at

celebraterecovery@fumcdeming.org.



During the month of December, we will be having a food drive for Silver Linings, the local homeless outreach

program. Silver Linings makes meals daily for their clients and can always use food donations. They are looking for #10 cans (appr 109 oz) of corn, green beans, peas, and fruit, as well as boxed cake mixes, jello mixes, and fresh loaves of bread. You can drop off your donations at the church office or take it directly to Silver Linings.



FUMC Deming is planning on having an entry in the Christmas Light Parade this

Saturday, December the 4th, @6pm. All children from our church are invited to be part of the float and live nativity.

We also would like to invite everyone in our congregation to walk alongside our float singing Christmas carols.

Please come join us and support our efforts as we celebrate the Christ Child's birth and shine His light in our community! For any questions, please call the church office @ 575-546-2791.

On the Lighter Side



Just after Christmas, Father Michael, was walking along the pavement in front of his church when he heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son, Rory, and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and some cotton wool, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased. Rory, the minister's son, was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said, 'Glory be unto the Father, and unto the Son, and into the hole he goes.'



The Prayer Garden at FUMC Deming is a wonderful place to relax and meditate. It is located on the east side of the building and is open 24/7. The garden is a place to remember those in our lives that have passed away. The Prayer Garden committee has opened the window to purchase a brick for the walkway in the garden. Each brick can have a loved one's name, birth and death, and a Bible verse. If interested, let the office know as soon as possible. The cost is \$50 and is subject to change.

Enjoy a Christmas Story

The following are links to two good Christmas Stories. The name of each story is the link to click. Read the short introduction to each story and enjoy!

1. Washington Irving, "[Christmas Eve](#)"

As we approached the house we heard the sound of music, and now and then a burst of laughter from one end of the building. This, Bracebridge said, must proceed from the servants' hall, where a great deal of revelry was permitted, and even encouraged, by the squire throughout the twelve days of Christmas, provided everything was done conformably to ancient usage. Here were kept up the old games of hoodman blind, shoe the wild mare, hot cockles, steal the white loaf, bob apple, and snap dragon; the Yule-clog and Christmas candle were regularly burnt, and the mistletoe with its white berries hung up, to the imminent peril of all the pretty housemaids...

Before Charles Dickens became the literary laureate of Christmas, Washington Irving was introducing American readers to a whole host of now ubiquitous Christmas traditions, including Christmas carols on people's doorsteps, mistletoe, and the famous Yule log – traditions which Irving had to explain in footnotes, so unfamiliar were they to his original readers in 1820. This story is worth reading not least because it offers such an early example of all of these Christmas features in one story.

2. Hans Christian Andersen, '[The Fir-Tree](#)'.

Andersen wrote a number of fairy tales with wintry settings – 'The Little Match Girl' and 'The Snow Queen' (the basis for the film Frozen) spring to mind – but 'The Fir-Tree' is the most Christmassy of all of Andersen's fairy stories.

The story uses the fir-tree as a symbol for the child impatient to grow up, with the result that the tree-child is never content to live in the moment. Of course, when the fir-tree gets old and big enough, it is chopped down and taken inside to be used as a Christmas tree ... but we'll offer no more spoilers here.

COMMUNITY NEWS

December is the time for the annual Holiday Gift Boutique at the Deming Art Center. Come, browse, shop and find wonderful, unique gifts for family and friends this holiday season. The show will run from December 2-30 (Closed Christmas Day). The Gallery is located at 100 S. Gold in Deming, NM, and the hours are 10 AM – 4 PM Monday thru Friday and 10 AM – 1 PM on Saturdays. For more information please call 575-546-3663, check their [website](#) or see them on [Facebook](#). *This project is supported in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and by the National Endowment for the Arts.*

Silver Whiskers is having Military Appreciation Days the third Thursday of every month. All active military, veterans, and their spouses receive a 10% discount. Remember to bring your military ID. And the second Thursday of each month is Senior day for anyone 62 or older. Remember to bring an ID. Silver Whiskers is located at 118 S. Silver Ave. here in Deming.

Deming Mainstreet presents Christmas the Deming Way on Saturday, December 4. There will be a Christmas Market from 1 PM to 4 PM at Courthouse Park. Downtown will be lit up at 5 PM. At 6 PM will be the light parade followed by the Community Tree Lighting at 7 PM where Santa will be at the pavilion. Come on out and celebrate the Deming Way! You can register for the Market and/or the Parade at the Deming Visitor Center or online at www.demingms.org.

Santa Claus is coming to town! Come see Santa at Copper Kettle Coffee, 200 S. Gold, on Friday, December 3, from 5 PM to 7 PM. There will be Christmas music, photos with Santa, and peppermint hot cocoa.

Looking for a New Pet?

This time of year finds many new pets in our homes. If you are looking for a new pet for your family, keep these things in mind in order not to be scammed this holiday season.

- Start with a local rescue or animal shelter
- Research the rescue, shelter, or breeder and do your homework
- Check out photos they may offer
- Have an in-person or video visit
- Watch out how you are asked to pay

For more in-depth information on how not to be scammed while getting a new pet, check out this [link](#) from the FTC.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

-Luke 2:14