

# First United Methodist Church – Deming

1020 S. Granite Street

Rev. Koreen Guillermo, Pastor

(575) 546-2791

Praise Singing: 8:15 AM

Website: [www.fumcdeming.org](http://www.fumcdeming.org)

Morning Worship 9:00 AM

Email: [main@fumcdeming.org](mailto:main@fumcdeming.org)

Bible Studies: 10:15 AM (All Ages)

Check us out on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

Nursery Available

## December 2024



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

-Isaiah 9:6

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**Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world**



Sabbath has been on my mind a lot lately. Probably because I am terrible at taking one. Whether you actually believe it or not, I do not work only one day a week! I am on call 24/7/365. Yes, that means weekends, holidays, and late nights, as well as the four days in the office, Saturday sermon and worship prep time, and Sunday church time. When you add on the stress and work required of a doctoral student, I feel like I am always working.

I don't just feel like it. I am always working. Take this past Thursday for example (the one before Thanksgiving). I bowl in a league on Thursdays, but in the three hours I was there I had no less than five text messages and two phone calls. This was about 45 minutes of work during my "off" time, all of which could have been handled on Monday when I got back to the office. I never even realized I was doing this until a friend who tagged along to the bowling alley with me pointed it out.

Now don't get me wrong. I am not complaining. I realized the scope of the work when I signed up for the job. I really don't mind taking care of stuff like this whenever it comes up. However, it has made me realize that I need to set some boundaries so I can take care of myself. I know I need to stop and take a breather every once in a while. Scripture tells us:

*And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. (Genesis 2:3-4)*

Folks, we were created in the image of God. If Almighty God, who knows all things and never tires, saw the need to rest, how can I decide that I, a mere human, do not need it? How can I decide that it is acceptable to just push through? Why do I determine it is ok to do this one little thing right now because it will only take a few minutes? God rested when God did not physically need it. Yet, I do not allow myself the luxury when I do need it, and it is sorely lacking from my life.

While it is not a good excuse, I blame two things. One, I was raised to be doing something. My mother very likely had non-diagnosed ADHD. She just couldn't sit still and relax. Therefore, I never really knew what relaxing meant. Two, I never really got an accurate picture of what Sabbath was. It is near impossible to practice what you don't know. These are tragically hard obstacles to overcome.

I am now beginning to gain an understanding of Sabbath. It is not what I thought it was when I heard the word during my growing up years. Then, I thought it was a day dedicated to God – meaning a day spent at church in worship and then at home reading Scripture, praying, having quiet time, and forcing a connection with Jesus. None of that sounded like fun when practiced for an entire 24 hours. Now I know Sabbath is not like that at all. Yes, it is a day dedicated to God, but it is also a way of resting, relaxing, and enjoying those things that naturally bring you joy and bring you into God's space. Cory Barnes of the Caskey Center for Church Excellence puts it this way, "The Sabbath is about God resting in his creation and creation resting in God. This should guide our Sabbath activities. On the Sabbath we should do things that remind us of God's presence with us and the rest he provides for us through his good work on our behalf."

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### *Continued from Page 2*

Barnes also states, “Sabbath is not a day of boredom, but it is a day of rest, so do restful things on the Sabbath. That might change drastically depending on your personality and even on what your normal day looks like. My family enjoys working around our yard on the Sabbath day. We find this a restful and enjoyable way to spend time together. If your job is landscaping, however, that is probably not the way you want to rest!” Sabbath is a day of rest, which does not mean refraining from work. (Some of the things I most enjoy are a lot of work). But it does mean we should not toil. “Toil is work corrupted by the curse of sin. God tells Adam that part of the punishment for sin is that work will be cursed, and we still feel that punishment to this day (Gen 3:17). Avoid work that reminds you of the fallen state of things during your day of Sabbath rest.”<sup>1</sup>

Sabbath can include a lot of activities, but those activities need to bring joy and draw us closer to God. It should be a weekly activity. The word Sabbath actually comes from the Hebrew word meaning seven. God created us to take one day out of every seven for Sabbath. This is the rhythm of life we were created to have.

In this season of my life, I am realizing the need for a Sabbath every week. I need that time not only to spend with Jesus, but to keep myself healthy. I am trying to find that rhythm for myself and my family. So, bear with me. It has to look and be different than what I am doing right now. It may mean that I am not in the office one day a week, or at least one afternoon a week. It will mean that I am unplugging and stepping away from my email and text messages for 24 hours. It will mean that I am connecting with Jesus, so I am whole and healthy in my soul. That way I can be whole and healthy for each one of you.

I need a weekly Sabbath. For now, I am going to try taking my Sabbath from noon on Thursday until noon on Friday (weird hours, I know, but it seems to be what will work right now). I need you all to hold me accountable and to aid me in practicing this Sabbath time. I will always be available in crisis situations. If it is bleeding profusely or on fire, please call or text. I will be there. But if it is not bleeding or burning, please try to refrain from contacting me until Friday afternoon. If it is something that can wait until Sunday afternoon or Monday when I get back to the office, wait until then. I love you all. I want to serve you to the best of my ability. I cannot do that if I am not taking the time to be refreshed and renewed by my Savior.

Friends, you, too were created for a Sabbath. I hope you are taking one. If not, please start. If you need some help figuring it out, read the article I referenced. You can find it here. <https://caskeycenter.org/a-how-to-guide-to-keeping-the-sabbath/>. Or come talk to me, just not on my Sabbath!

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1 Cory Barnes, “A “How To” Guide to Keeping the Sabbath,” Caskey Center for Church Excellence, <https://caskeycenter.org/a-how-to-guide-to-keeping-the-sabbath/> (accessed November 27, 2024).

<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

-Luke 2:10-12

# Holiday Happenings

**3rd**— *The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent*, Advent Study, Fellowship Hall, 6 PM

**6th**— *A Festival of Carols*, an evening of music by the Chancel Choir, 6 PM

**10th**— *The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent*, Advent Study, Fellowship Hall, 6 PM

**17th**— *The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent*, Advent Study, Fellowship Hall, 6 PM

**20th**—Blue Christmas Service, 5:30 PM

**24th**—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 5:30 PM

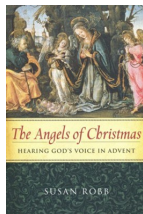
**31st** – Game Night/Watch Night, 6:00 PM



Pastor Koreen will be holding a Blue Christmas Service on Friday, **December 20**, at 5:30 PM. Blue Christmas, also sometimes called a Longest Night Service, is a service designed for people who struggle with the Christmas holiday for some reason and people who support them. It could be that they have lost a spouse and have no family nearby. It could be that they don't have good memories of Christmas from their childhoods. It could be that they experienced some sort of trauma around the season and the holiday is a reminder of that. Whatever it is, this is a time of reflecting on our darkness and remembering the hope the season is supposed to bring. Come join us for this meaningful service. Even if you are not one who suffers during the Holiday Season, you can be the one to hold someone's hand, offer a hug or a shoulder to cry on, or simply embody the love of Jesus Christ to God's precious, beautiful, and beloved children.



FUMC's Chancel Choir is proud to present a Christmas concert, "A Festival of Carols," on **December 6**, at 6 PM, in the Sanctuary. Inspired by the great recorded choirs of the 1960's and the 1970's, the choir invites the community to a musical presentation of the Nativity story. This is a free concert and the public is invited to attend.



This Advent study will be facilitated by Pastor Koreen. We will be studying the book, *The Angels of Christmas: Hearing God's Voice in Advent* by Susan Robb. We will meet on **November 19 and December 3, 10, and 17**. Books will be \$10 and can be picked up in the office.

FORT BAYARD  
NATIONAL CEMETERY



Wreaths Across America places Christmas wreaths at the graves of veterans buried in our National Cemeteries. There will be a ceremony at 10:30 AM on

Saturday, **December 14**, 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](#).



It's that time of year again for our mission project involving the Casa de Amor girls orphanage in Palomas. This year our church will be adopting four girls at the orphanage and will have Christmas gifts delivered to them. Each girl will be gifted a jacket, shirt, shoes, socks and pants. We would like to thank those who took the tags to provide the gifts. We are also asking for monetary donations so we can provide the orphanage director with 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. All gifts need to be returned by Sunday **December 15**.



Join us for Game Night on Tuesday **December 31**, at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We will also be celebrating Watch Night. Come out for a fun night of game playing and fellowship as we ring in the new year!



The United Methodist Men will not be meeting this month. Please join them on **Sunday, January 19**, at 7:30 AM in the Memorial Classroom, for a light breakfast and devotional.



The United Methodist Women will be meeting next on Wednesday, **December 18**. The meeting will be at 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Imelda Veeder.



Communion will be held on **December 1**. 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!



8:15 AM to 8:45 AM  
Sunday Mornings  
In the Sanctuary



Our next Bread Basket offering will take place on **December 15** 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.

### Remaining 2024 Bread Baskets

Christmas Eve—TLC

## Office News

We are preparing for year-end close out of financial records. To have your contributions recorded in 2024, please be sure they are in no later than Sunday **December 29, 2024**. Any contributions received after December 29 will be credited to 2025. We plan to send out the 2024 Yearly Contribution statements around mid-January. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

The office will be closed **December 24 through January 3** to work on year-end reports and will reopen January 6.

*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.



Join us on a Journey Through the Old Testament and rediscover our roots. Let's continue our journey in the Book of Joshua! There's also a bonus reading for Christmas Eve.

12/2 – Judges 1:1-36	12/9 – Judges 4:1-24
12/4 – Judges 2:1-23	12/11 – Judges 5:1-31
12/6 – Judges 3:1-31	12/13 – Judges 6:1-27
12/16 – Judges 6:28-40	12/23 – Judges 8:22-35
12/18 – Judges 7:1-25	12/25 – Judges 9:1-33
12/20 – Judges 8:1-21	12/27 – Judges 9:34-57
12/30 – Judges 10:1-18	
Bonus: 12/24 (Christmas Eve) – Luke 1:5-2:52	

### November Financial Report

Needed Each Week to Meet Budget:	\$4,462.00
Received Week of Nov 24th	\$1,900.00
Budget Deficit for Week of Nov 24th	\$2,562.00
Needed Each Month to Meet Budget:	\$19,333.00
Received in Nov	\$12,658.00
Budget Deficit for Month of Nov	\$6,675.00
Budgeted Year-to-Date	\$212,663
Received Year-to-Date	\$152,508
Budget Deficit Year-to-Date	\$60,155

# COMMUNITY NEWS

December 2024, 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 boutique will run from **December 3-30**, and there will be a time to meet the artists and crafters on Sunday, December 8, from 1 PM—2:30PM. 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.*

The Chamber Holiday in the Park will take place on Saturday, **December 7**, 10 AM to 4 PM, at Courthouse Park. Come on down for a Gingerbread House Contest, Ugly Sweater Contest, Vendors, Holiday Music, Food Trucks, and, of course, some Holiday Cheer.

You're invited to come out and join Deming Mainstreet in the annual Community Christmas Tree lighting at the historic Luna County Courthouse, immediately following the Lighted Christmas Parade (which starts at 6 PM.)

Friends of Rockhound State Park cordially invite the public to the annual Festival of Lights at Rockhound State Park on Saturday, **December 14**, from 5 PM to 6:30 PM. Stroll amongst the 1100 luminarias lighting the walkways, adobe walls, native garden, and labyrinth of the park's visitor center. Hot cider and cookies will be provided. Music and Conversation around the courtyard fire pit will add to the evening's enchantment. Santa also plans to make an appearance!

The Deming Luna Senior Center and Ambercare Hospice are hosting a Grief and Loss Support Group that meets the first Tuesday of every month at 1 PM. They meet in the Adult Day Room at the Senior Center. The group is facilitated by Rev. David Bonnell, Ambercare Hospice Chaplain. For additional information you can contact the Senior Center at 575-546-8823 or Rev. Bonnell at 575-694-0238.

The First Thursday of every month is Senior Discount Day at Silver Whiskers, 118 S. Silver St. Seniors 62 and older (with ID) will receive 10% off their purchases. Stop in and save today!

Cancer Support of Deming and Luna County is needing volunteers to drive patients to and from appointments. If you think you might be able to help, please call 575-546-4780 or stop by the office at 217 N. Country Club Rd.

Deming Animal Guardians is in need of Foster Caregivers. Open your heart and your home to a pup or kitten. You decide the type of animal, the length of foster care, and when you're available. It's a short-term commitment to make a long-term difference. DAG will provide food, vet care, and support. If interested, call or text DAGSHIP at 575-313-0626.



# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
Communion 8:15A Praise Singing 9A Worship 10:15A Sunday School  1st Sunday in Advent	2P Coffee, Chat, and Craft 5P Chancel Choir 6P Men's Bible Study	7A Bible Study at Peppers 8:30A Pickleball 1P Grief and Loss Support Group at Senior Center 6P Advent Study	10A Prayer Group	8:30A Pickleball	6P Chancel Choir Christmas Concert	8:30A Pickleball 10A Holiday in the Park 1P Living History Tour 6P Lighted Christmas Parade 6P Community Tree Lighting
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
8:15A Praise Singing 9A Worship 10:15A Sunday School  2nd Sunday in Advent	2P Coffee, Chat, and Craft 6P Men's Bible Study	7A Bible Study at Peppers 8:30A Pickleball 6P Advent Study	10A Prayer Group	8:30A Pickleball		8:30A Pickleball 5P Rockhound Park Festival of Lights
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
Bread Basket 8:15A Praise Singing 9A Worship 10:15A Sunday School  3rd Sunday in Advent	2P Coffee, Chat, and Craft 5P Chancel Choir 6P Men's Bible Study	7A Bible Study at Peppers 8:30A Pickleball 6P Advent Study	10A Prayer Group 2P United Methodist Women	8:30A Pickleball	5:30P Blue Christmas Service	8:30A Pickleball
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
8:15A Praise Singing 9A Worship 10:15A Sunday School  4th Sunday in Advent	2P Coffee, Chat, and Craft 5P Chancel Choir 6P Men's Bible Study	7A Bible Study at Peppers 8:30A Pickleball 5:30P Christmas Eve Candlelight Service		8:30A Pickleball  Office Closed		8:30A Pickleball
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
8:15A Praise Singing 9A Worship 10:15A Sunday School  1st Sunday after Christmas	5P Chancel Choir 6P Men's Bible Study	7A Bible Study at Peppers 6P Church Game Night/Watch Night				