

Vision...

"Without a vision, the people will perish"

Proverbs



Safford First United Methodist Church Newsletter ◇ **March 2011**

View from the pulpit...

I get regular inspirational e-mails from one of my favorite Christian writers MaxLucado.com. I like getting his words of wisdom in my e-mail in box. It sure beats a lot of the stuff that arrives for keeping me on a right path.

Max has written a number of books, all of which I would encourage you to read for inspiration because he has such a gift for sharing God's word that I really appreciate. As I spend time with my family because of the death of one of our loved ones, I wanted to share an excerpt from one of the messages I received the other day. It's from his book, *A Love Worth Giving*.

A Call to Common Courtesy by Max Lucado

Perhaps you've never placed the word *courteous* next to Christ. I hadn't until I wrote this chapter. But you know how you never notice double-cab red trucks until your friend says he wants one—then you see a dozen of them? I had never thought much about the courtesy of Christ before, but as I began looking, I realized that Jesus makes Emily Post look like Archie Bunker.

He always knocks before entering. He doesn't have to. He owns your heart. If anyone has the right to barge in, Christ does. But he doesn't. That gentle tap you hear? It's Christ. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock" (Rev. 3:20 NASB). And when you answer, he awaits your invitation to cross the threshold.

And when he enters, he always brings a gift. Some bring Chianti and daisies. Christ brings "the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). And, as he stays, he serves. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45 NIV). If you're missing your apron,

you'll find it on him. He's serving the guests as they sit (John 13:4-5). He won't eat until he's offered thanks, and he won't leave until the leftovers are put away (Matt. 14:19-20).

He is courteous enough to tell you his name (Exod. 3:15) and to call you by yours (John 10:3). And when you talk, he never interrupts. He listens.

He is even on time. Never late. Never early. If you're checking your watch, it's because you're on a different itinerary. "There is a time for everything" (Eccles. 3:1). And Christ stays on schedule.

He even opens doors for you. Paul could preach at Troas because "the Lord had opened a door" (2 Cor. 2:12 NIV). When I asked my dad why men should open doors for women, his answer was one word: "respect." Christ must have abundant respect for you.

He knocks before he enters. He always brings a gift. Food is served. The table is cleared. Thanks are offered. He knows your name and tells you his, and here is one more.

He pulls out the chair for you. "He raised us up with Christ and gave us a seat with him in the heavens" (Eph. 2:6).

My wife has a heart for single moms. She loves to include a widow or divorcée at the table when we



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Monika Ragland, Vision Ed.

go to a restaurant. Through the years I've noticed a common appreciation from them. They love it when I pull out their chair. More than once they have specifically thanked me. One mom in particular comes to mind. "My," she blushed, brushing the sudden moisture from her eye, "it's been a while since anyone did that."

Has it been a while for you as well? People can be so rude. We snatch parking places. We forget names. We interrupt. We fail to show up. Could you use some courtesy? Has it been a while since someone pulled out your chair?

Then let Jesus. Don't hurry through this thought. Receive the courtesy of Christ. He's your groom. Does not the groom cherish the bride? Respect the bride? Honor the bride? Let Christ do what he longs to do. For as you receive his love, you'll find it easier to give yours. As you reflect on his courtesy to you, you'll be likely to offer the same.

I needed that.... I hope you did too...

See ya in church....

HOW TO INCREASE FAMILY HAPPINESS



Families are almost always happier when there is good communication. To help ensure happiness within our Church Family it would be most helpful if everyone would follow these few and simple guidelines.

- ✓ Before scheduling an event check in the office to be sure the facility you desire is available. Often times there are plans in the makings that can conflict. Be sure the date, time and area are cleared through the Office Manager.
- ✓ If any individual, group or committee desires to make changes to the physical facility it is paramount communication occur with the Trustee Committee before any changes are made.
- ✓ If you unlock it, remember to lock it at the end of your event. Turn off lights when not in use! Close doors to preserve energy. GO GREEN!

- ✓ Before starting anything new (programs, facility usage, etc.) please check with the office.

Thanks for helping to increase our family's happiness!

SURVEY SAYS...

Thank you to everyone who helped make the first Combined Worship Service a success! We had many compliments about the service and the fellowship that followed. Your input made this service possible and will continue to be used for future combined services.

The next combined worship service will be **May 29th**.

Each combined worship service fellowship will be hosted by a different group so that we can highlight the various ministries within the group. Our first combined worship service fellowship was hosted by the worship committee.

If your committee would like to host the next fellowship (or start planning for a future fellowship) while showcasing your ministries, please contact Paul O'Dell or a member of the worship committee.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MEETING

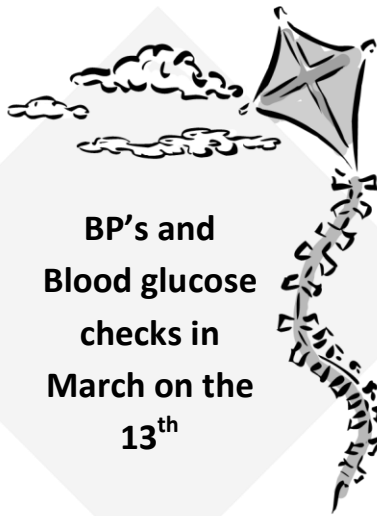
Please join us as we gather for food, fellowship and fun on Thursday, March 10, at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The theme of our program is, A GIFT FROM GOD - Banner Ministry. Peggy Hunter, the maker of the beautiful banners in our church, will be the featured speaker at our March meeting. Many of her banners will be on display.

You'll not want to miss this event!



**WANTED: NURSERY ASSISTANT
PAID POSITION (\$10/WK)
DURING 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE
IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE**

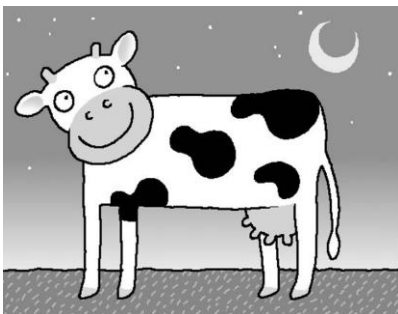


Mad Cow Disease Conquered

I want to thank everyone who supported our "Mad Cow Disease" fundraiser. It was unbelievable the amount of people who participated . . . outside of our church! This fundraiser crossed over race, religious and economic barriers, and I got WAY more positive comments than negative.

Thanks go to Troy Damron for coming up with the design and construction of the stands and for Alyssa Brady and her friend Wade for painting the signs. Thanks go Dennis Swerline and Bobbie Starner for the use of their pickups for three weeks. Bobbie and I definitely got the loading, unloading and assembly of the signs down to a science. We also built up our stamina. . . don't know about our muscles! Troy already had both of those (stamina and muscles)!

Thanks for being a part of helping our young people get to SSP! Sherry



Faithful Servants of Our Lord

What are they doing? (former pastors who have served this church from 1963-2007)

1963-1968 Ron (Ronnie) Roberts – Ron has many health issues, enjoys watching football and is an avid reader. His children & grandchildren are a joy. He continues to have problems with breathing, endurance, balance, and walking. Wife, Alma, loves retirement!

1968-1974 Robert (Bob) Bjorklund – Passes away September 1, 2010 from complications of Parkinson's disease. Wife, Margaret, lives in assisted living. Todd (their youngest) and family live in the Bjorklund family home.

1974-1977 Robert (Bob) Stimmel – no information.

1977-1983 Vernon (Vern) Story – In August Vern suffered a stroke. He has no physical disabilities, but is left with Aphasia (the inability to express thoughts and understand others). He is in therapy and now gaining lost words and understanding. Wife, Barbara, continues to help with therapy.

1983-1988 Sherlyn Gay Thorson – Gay went on her first cruise last December. She says, "This is the perfect way for me to travel." She is moving to Oregon this month with her two pets, Faith & Hope, and is very excited to be living near family.

1988-1993 Lori Martin-DeWitt – Retired from the ministry and has been a crisis counselor for Southern Arizona Mental Health organization. She loves her job. She has been involved, concerned and caring since the Tucson tragedy.

1993-1998 Robert (Bob) Ray – Is retired and enjoys living in Yuma and Ohio, back and forth. Wife, Randa, is trying to keep up with him.

1998-2003 Randa Ray – Is on some sort of retirement leave and traveling with hubby Bob. They are very active in Mexico mission projects.

2003-2007 Judy Boroto – Is pastor at Faith UMC in the Phoenix area and has just returned from Ecuador, serving on a three month renewal leave. She says, "I am serving a very mission oriented church, teach Bible Study and serve on District and Conference Boards."

Focus on Vision

The Vision is the monthly newsletter for Safford FUMC. Monika Ragland (that's me) is the current editor, which means I put it together. I also try to make sure that all grammar and spelling is correct. Occasionally I will write something to put in, but most articles come from church leaders.

Paul O'Dell (office manager) is the person who prints the Vision, gets volunteers to collate and prep for mailing, and takes it to the post office. This takes more time than you might think, therefore we have earlier deadlines than you would expect.

Deadlines: Our aim is to have the Vision delivered to local residents on or near the first of the month. In order to accomplish this, the Vision deadline (when you are supposed to get your articles to me) is the 20th of the month. There are months when we have a bit more lee-way, but there are some when we actually start earlier. If you are on my "Church Contributors" list, you will receive an e-mail from me reminding you of the up-coming deadline. You'll also receive "nagging" e-mails when needed. If you would like to be on this list, please contact me.



My e-mail address is: mshragland55@yahoo.com. I prefer to get articles via e-mail as opposed to hard copy (printed page) left at the church. Format to send in: MS Word, contained within your e-mail, Adobe, or WordPerfect. PLEASE—do not use ENTER/RETURN at the ends of lines unless it is the end of a paragraph. Don't bother to put your article into a "pretty" format. Chances are I will need to change things to make them fit anyway. DO send a special graphic or photo if it applies. If possible, send the graphic/photo as an attachment instead of within the document. If I don't have a phone number for you, please send it to me, especially if you are not in the membership directory. Occasionally I need to call if I have questions regarding your article.

Features: Certain things get put into every Vision: Mission Moment, Spotlight on new members, meeting announcements, monthly scriptures, attendance, service thanks, JJR news, busy bees (featuring active members), view from the pulpit, BP & glucose date, did you know snippets.

When you give Paul information on ANY event, please make sure you send it to me, also. Thanks!



The Month in Scripture

March 6: Exodus 24: 12-18
Psalm 99
2 Peter 1: 16-21
Matthew 17: 1-9

March 9 (Ash Wednesday)
Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17
Psalm 51: 1-17
2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6: 10
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

March 13: Genesis 2: 15-17;
3: 1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5: 12-19
Matthew 4: 1-11

March 20: Genesis 12: 1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17
John 3: 1-17

March 27: Exodus 17: 1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5: 1-11
John 4: 5-42





The First United Methodist Church welcomed Barbara Boles into membership on June 14, 2009. Although Barbara has been in Arizona for 10 years, she was born in Minnesota and spent 19 years in Seattle before coming here to help her aging

parents. Her grown son, Brad, still resides in Minneapolis, and from him she hears the news of cold weather and snow drifts while she enjoys sunshine and warmth.

Working as an Office Manager for Jay's Construction at the present, she recalls fondly the years starting at age 14 when she held part time jobs while she finished high school and then went on to business school. Her work experience includes, among other employment, working for American Family Insurance and for a pizza factory.

She was introduced to FUMC by Vern and Jean Evans, friends of her family, and she feels very comfortable in our church family. She especially loves the people because they have such "caring hearts," and she admires the congregation's desire to help in the community.

One of her many interests is cruising, a get-away activity she experiences every year. She will be returning to Key West and Nassau this spring because she didn't get to see everything she wanted to see on her last cruise to the area. Other years she has visited places like Cabo San Lucas and Jamaica. In addition to cruising, she has recently become interested in card making and will soon be participating in a card exchange.

We are blessed to have Barbara as part of our church family, and we hope she continues to find this a comfortable place to worship and serve God.



Come sing along and/or play your instrument with the Joyful Noise Group. This group consists of individuals who play and sing current/contemporary and past spiritual songs. Keyboardists, guitarists, flutists, etc. and people who just like to relax and have fun praising our Lord while making music are invited. Bring your instrument and voice. You don't have to be a pro.

This is a continuation of a group which has been around some 13 years or more at our Church and for part of its

time was the Praise Team.

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 2, 2011, at 5:30 pm in the fellowship hall. (Sign will be posted if room changes). We usually meet weekly. Call Ed Hunter if you have questions. (428-0722).

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE MISSION PROJECT

The Conference Board of Global Ministries has determined that this year's Annual Conference Mission Project will be collecting needed Birthing Assembly Kits. Churches are asked to put complete Birthing Kits together and send them to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) West Depot in Salt Lake City.

The number of kits that are donated will be celebrated at Annual Conference, so keep track of the number your church sends and make sure your delegates to Annual Conference know how many kits you have mailed to UMCOR. As with all kits, the included items must be exactly as UMCOR lists.



Kits are to contain the following items: 1 hotel sized bar of soap; 1 pair clean latex gloves; 1 sq. yard of 4 ml plastic sheeting; 3 pieces of clean string each 12" long; 1 clean single use razor blade wrapped in paper for protection; 2 flannelette receiving blankets, each 1 sq. yard.

For more information, contact Billie Fidlin at billie@desertsw.org

~Barbara Haralson
Mission Committee



Happy St. Patrick's Day to you all!

Trustees Report

A reminder to use our church resources wisely: On February 13, 2011, the east door to the Fellowship Hall was found standing open in 30 degree temperature. A lot of heat was going out the door, and that means \$\$\$\$.

How often have you arrived in the sanctuary or Fellowship Hall and found lights on and no one around? Or found the air conditioning or the furnace cranked up when nothing is going on? Or found a faucet or bathroom stool running? All of this costs the church extra money in wasted resources.



Repair and preventative maintenance is constantly happening on our campus. When you see something that needs maintenance, let Troy Damron, our maintenance man/trustee, know. You can also let the office know so they can notify a member of the trustees. Or, you can notify Bob Borland, Mark Adamson, Kelly Capps, Terry Fisher, Steve Haralson, Barbie Spining, or Tom Vail.

For larger repairs, proposed projects or any change in the use of the facilities, please present your request in writing to the Trustees. Include information such as projected cost, proposed plans, sketches, floor plans, cost estimates, etc. Our discussion of your requests will revolve around how your project will fit into the vision, budget, physical plant, plans or on-going projects of the church.

March JJR News

The Children's Chime choir began on Sunday, January 23, 2011, with 10 children enrolled, and 4 more joining in the subsequent weeks. Children are Christopher and Elizabeth Manning, Valerie and Vanessa Moya, Jennifer, Levi and Nathaniel O'Dell, Garrett Pritchard, Luke, Josh and Sophia Romero, Alexis and Megan Stone, and Satava Turley.

After two months working on the challenging arrangement of "You'll Never Walk Alone" for the cancelled Dinner and A Show, we were offered the opportunity to play this for the Valentine Dinner and A Movie at the First Baptist Church on February 12. The performance was well done by the choir and well appreciated by the audience. We had several absences due to illnesses but were able to field a full team with

Karen, Kelly, Jessie, Jenna, Sierra, Dorita, Tricia, Tim and Betty Schahn, our great rehearsal sub from FBC. While Betty rarely misses rehearsals and plays wherever we need her at rehearsals, this is the first time she has been able to play in a performance with us.

On Sunday, February 13 we again played the arrangement for our usual second Sunday performance with Karen, Kelly, Jessie, Jenna, Sierra, Ann, Dorita, Tricia, Tim and Paul O'Dell playing the part Betty had played Saturday night. In spite of all of the ups and downs and absences and last minute changes of who played what chimes, the choir played beautifully Sunday morning. It was a blessing and a benediction to all the hard work the choir put into this beautiful song.

We want to thank Paul for willingly stepping in to help us out at the last minute.

Perhaps you were inspired Sunday morning by the beautiful music and perhaps you even wished you could learn to make music. You can! Of the ten people who played in the choir Sunday, only one has had musical training, two have had some training in the past, and SEVEN have never had music training! Ask a choir member about the feeling of fulfillment they get when they meet a challenge like this arrangement and perform it to the best of their abilities for the pleasure of the listener. Ask them how YOU can be a John's Joyful Ringer!

Burro Sale Coming!

Our Day Care center is selling delicious green chili, mixed, and bean burros in March. You can order burros through the church and Day Care office or from any member of the Day Care Committee.

Cost:

Green Chili burro \$3.00 each

Mixed burro \$3.00 each

Bean burro \$2.50 each

Delivery for burros will be during the last week of March



Chapel/Prayer Survey Responses

Thank you to the thirty-three people who responded to the recent Trustee survey regarding the possible development of a Chapel/Prayer Room. Many good ideas were shared and some concerns were voiced. The Trustees are studying the responses to determine the best way to utilize our church facilities.

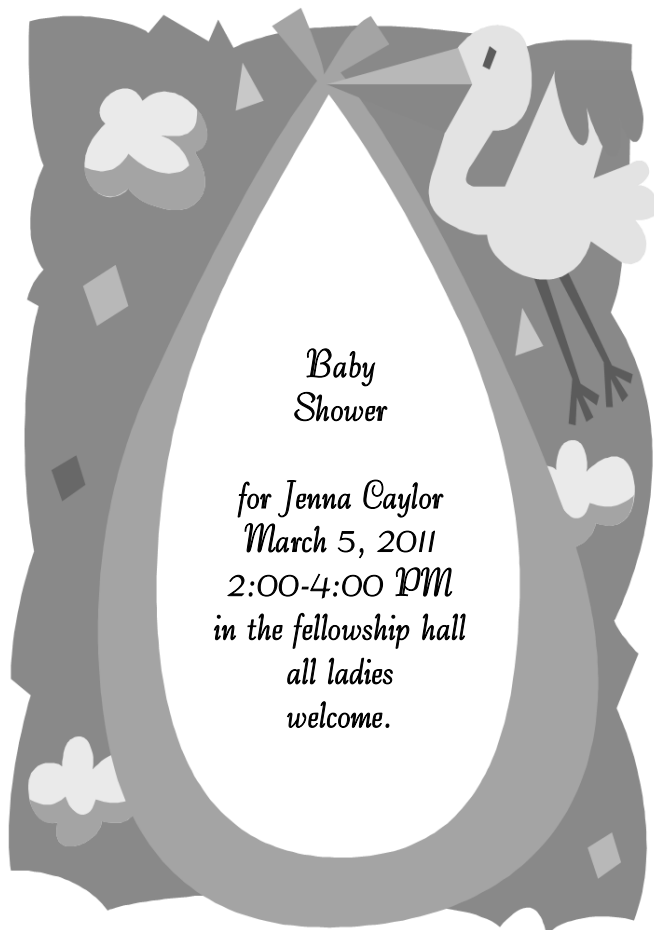


Graham Emmaus Community

By now most of you have heard of the wonderful opportunity to deepen your spiritual life that is known as THE WALK TO EMMAUS. You may even know that this is an ecumenical venture sponsored by The Upper Room.

We invite you to sign up soon. The Men's Walk starts March 24 and the Women's Walk will begin on March 31 in Tucson at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. For more information call the church office 428-4211 or Peggy Hunter, 428-0722, church rep.

- **DID YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE A NEW ALTAR COORDINATOR?**
- **DID YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE HOMEBOUND MEMBERS WHO LOVE TO HAVE VISITS?**
- **DID YOU KNOW QUILTING CIRCLE OF UMW HAS GIVEN AWAY 18 QUILTS ALREADY? THEY WENT TO THE SAFE HOUSE, SEACUS AND THE WESTERMAN FAMILY.**



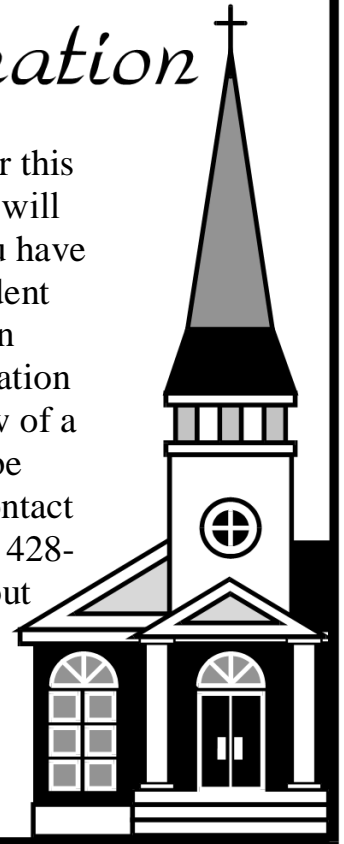
Online Course Introduces United Methodist Basics

“United Methodism 101” is a free online course designed for new & long-time United Methodists who would like to increase or check their basic knowledge of the church. The course begins the first Wednesday of alternating months from February through December, and each session is open for enrollment for 6 weeks. To register during an ongoing session, visit our Online Learning Center@ moodle.umcom.org and select “United Methodism101” from the “United Methodist Basics” category. The enrollment key for this course is “um101feb11”.



Confirmation

The kick-off date for this year’s confirmation will be March 6th. If you have a 7th -12th grade student who has not yet been involved in confirmation classes, or you know of a student who might be interested, please contact the Church office at 428-4211 to find out about enrollment.



Top Ten Predictions for 2011

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on Earth.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still honor the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

Isn't it great to remember Who is really in control and that “The Word of the Lord Endures Forever.”
~1 Peter 1:25

I hope you found this encouraging!
I certainly did because sometimes we need the reminder of just “WHO” is really in control.

Happy 100th Birthday Celebration!

Mae Felix is a long time member of our church family. She currently resides at The Mulberry House in Pima where she receives regular visits from church family. She will be turning 100 years old this March and we are planning to help her celebrate by having a Mexican Fiesta potluck for her. She loves Spanish food. If you are interested in helping with this in any way please contact Carrie Glaspie or Betty Hall Campbell.



March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 •1 pm - Jenna Caylor's Baby Shower (FH)
6	7 •9:30 am - UMW Leadership Mtg (FH) •4 pm - Visitation Team Mtg (FC)	8 •5:30 pm - Pastor's Roundtable (FC) •6:15 pm - Church Meal (FH) •6:45 pm - Church Meetings (Various)	9 Ash Wednesday •6:30 am - Intinction of Ashes (S)	10 •11 am - UMW Luncheon (FH)	11	12 •8 am - Pack Pinewood Derby (FH)
13 •9 am - BP & Glucose Screening (W)	14	15 •7 pm - Ad Council (FC)	16	17	18	19
20 •7 am - Men's Discipleship Breakfast (FH)	21	22	23	24	25	26
				Men's Walk to Emmaus at St. Paul's UMC		
27 Men's Walk Continued	28	29	30	31		
				Women's Walk to Emmaus at St. Paul's UMC (thru April 3rd)		

Weekly Church Events

Sundays	8:15 am - Essentials Worship Service (S) 9:15 am - Sunday School (Various) 10:30 am - Liturgical Worship Service (S)
Mondays	6 pm - Youth Group (YR)
Wednesdays	5:30 pm - Life After Loss (FR) 5 pm - John's Joyful Ringers (S) 5 pm - Prayer Meeting (VR) 6:30 pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)
Thursdays	9 am - Quilting Circle (FH)

Weekly Community Events

Mondays	6 pm - Cub Scouts (FH) 6 pm - NA (L) 7 pm - Boy Scouts (FH) 7 pm - Webelos (FC)
Tuesdays	6 pm - CMA (L) 6 pm - NA (L)
Wednesdays	2:30 pm - Sidewalk Sunday School (Pecan Grove) 6 pm - CMA (L) 6 pm - NA (L) 6:30 pm - Cadets (FC) - 1st & 3rd Wed's 7:30 pm - AA (L)
Thursdays	5 pm - Brownies (FC) 6 pm - CMA (L)
Fridays	6 pm - CMA (L)
Saturdays	12 pm - CMA (L)

March Birthdays

- 1- Carrie Glaspie
- 3- Janet Foreman
- 4- Trish Snow
- 6- Vance Moya
Patricia Pennington
- 7- Sophia Romero
Nancy Woods
- 8- Jacque Attaway
- 9- Vonda Deibler
- 10- Margie Bryce
Dorita Vail
- 11- Sherry Brady
Judy Fisher
- 12- Gene Etter
- 15- Jim Windsor
- 16- Mae Felix
- 17- Brandon Woods
- 19- Dylan Abeyta
- 20- Brenda Adamson
Keith Mowatt
Willow Sanchez
- 22- Mary Lou Fuller
- 24- Patrick Provencio
- 25- Ann Mowatt
Tom Vail
- 26- Jonathan Nidiffer
- 27- Yvonne Berver
- 30- Mardelle Webb

March Anniversaries

- 3- Ken & Linda Mecham
- 4- Jeff & Diane Hawthorne
- 7- James & Mary Scott
- 9- Paul & Goldie O'Dell
- 10- Scott & Julie Glaspie
- 17- Tom & Dorita Vail
- 27- Ron & Candy Green
- 29- Allen & Gail Jones
- 31- Tony & Yvonne Berver

(S) Sanctuary, (FH) Fellowship Hall, (L) Library, (FC) Friendship Classroom,
(V) Vision Room, (W) Wesley Room

* Please let the church office know if a birthday or anniversary was missed

We support the church through our:

PRAYERS: Activate the prayer chain by phoning Judy Fisher at 428-6485, or the church office at 428-4211. You can also write special prayer requests on cards in the pew racks, and turn them in Sunday during worship. We also invite you to take time each Wednesday to pray for the ministry of the First United Methodist Church.

ATTENDANCE:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
January 23	135
January 30	123
February 6	165
February 13	138

SERVICE: A big “Yehaw!” to all the cowboys and cowgirls who helped with the Mad Cow Disease outbreak.

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May the luck of the Irish
be with you!