

First United Methodist Church – Deming

1020 S. Granite Street

Rev. Koreen Guillermo, Pastor

(575) 546-2791

Praise Singing: 8:15 AM
 Morning Worship 9:00 AM
 Bible Studies: 10:15 AM (All Ages)
 Nursery Available

Website: www.fumcdeming.org

Email: main@fumcdeming.org

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

December 2025



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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3, 10, 17— 6PM Advent Book Study, “On the Way to Bethlehem”, books available in the office

7— 3PM Community Concert, *Carols and Choirs: A Christmas Gathering*, at Morgan Hall

22— 6PM Blue Christmas Service in the Sanctuary

24— 6PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary

31— 6PM Game Night in the Fellowship Hall

31— Midnight Watchnight Service in the Sanctuary

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, *love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously* in local communities and worldwide connections.



I want to tell you a story today. Actually, it is a story from Sue Garrison Meyer who is a Presbyterian minister serving a church high in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. It is titled “Drop by Precious Drop” and was published in the 2015 book, *There’s a Woman in the Pulpit* [Rev. Martha Spong, ed. *There’s a Woman in the Pulpit: Christian Clergywomen Share Their Hard Days, Holy Moments & the Healing Power of Humor*. (Woodstock, VT: SkyLight Paths Publishing, 2015)]. It goes like this.

I always peek. “Bless these, your gifts.” I pray, and I always look down to make sure my hand is hovering safely and is in no danger of sending the pitcher flying. On some Sundays, we could have laughed at something like that, but we had just lost a woman dear to us all. Our hearts were hurting.

Most of the saints of our church die elsewhere. Winters in the Rocky Mountains are too long and too hard for our older members, so they leave in October, after they’ve seen the aspens flame one more time. And in the dark days of January and February, the phone calls come.


The rituals that might comfort us usually are conducted far away. All winter, the frozen ground of our cemetery lies under several feet of snow, so the funerals mostly take place elsewhere, in the communities where children and grandchildren have moved because our town has few jobs. Maybe in the summer there’ll be a memorial service, a scattering of ashes, but usually it’s just us, the faithful remnant now reduced by one, huddled in the chilly sanctuary on the first Sunday morning after sad news.

On those mornings, it seems especially poignant to share communion with the faithful of every time and place, in a church where we’ve shared communion so often with those who’ve gone before.

Ours is an old church for this part of the country, built in 1892, and lacking indoor plumbing until 2002—yes, the twenty-first century. It’s an austere, barnlike building, with a soaring ceiling and thin, clear glass in its windows, because the beauty of God’s creation here outshines any stained-glass artistry. The stove warms the air, at least to a point at which we can no longer see our breath, but throughout the winter the building’s bones remained chilled.

The communion table is reputed to be the only one ever used there. It’s a dainty piece of Eastlake furniture, and its marble top, cool to the touch even in July and August, has survived more than 120 years without a chip. On communion Sundays, we cover the bread with a good linen napkin while we hold choir practice and Sunday school. That way nobody’s bustling in with bread and juice at the last moment. There’s no danger of forgetting.

The system had never failed us, until that Sunday in February when I slowly understood that I was peeking down at a lovely, crusty loaf—and purple ice. Not just a delicate tracing of crystals across the surface of the blood of Christ I was preparing to pour out for us all, but a solid disk of frozen juice.

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In panic, I risked a glance at my husband in the front pew. For once, his head was properly bowed. Still staying in the prayer, I picked up the pitcher and wiggled it gently. The ice didn't budge. I tipped it over the chalice. Nothing dribbled out. I thought, almost hysterically, that I had found the one challenge that Christ never had to confront. On a day when the promise of resurrection was so important for my congregation to hear, I held the Popsicle of salvation.

The prayer had to end, and when I raised my head and looked out at the faces gazing back at me, I realized that I could trust the body of Christ in this place. I didn't have to solve the problem of the frozen juice. All the while, I cradled the pitcher close, and I walked, first as close to the stove as I dared and then to the opposite side of the sanctuary and back.

Then I pronounced the words of institution and raised the pitcher and the cup so that the whole congregation could see whatever was going to happen.

Thanks be to God, the juice poured. Not all of it—chunks of ice came too, splashing dark droplets on the white linen.

The blood of Christ, poured out for the many.

I thought this was a timely story as we move past Thanksgiving and into the Advent and Christmas season for a couple of reasons. First, it is no secret that our building is aging. We have been blessed this year with a late start to the fall and winter-like temperatures. It wasn't until a couple of weeks ago that we even had to think about turning the heaters on, and when we did, we discovered that not all of them are working. Yes, I know it is cold in the Fellowship Hall and in parts of the sanctuary, but the story I shared reminds us it could always be worse. At least we don't have to worry about serving a Popsicle of salvation, nor do we have to gather around a wood-burning stove hoping to be warmed up enough that we can't see our breath as we sing praises to Jesus. We are fortunate to live in a place where the inside temperature rarely drops below 55 degrees.

As I write this, I have just received the news that our heaters for the Fellowship Hall need some new parts to keep operating. This is not a quick turn-around. The heaters are old and parts to fit them are hard to come by. We will get them, but it could be another several weeks before they are here and installed. I know that it is chilly in the places where we congregate, but we are not freezing. So, throw on your layers, your favorite chunky sweater, and your coat. If you chill easily, go ahead and bring a blanket. And remember, we could be worshipping in the frozen beauty of the Rocky Mountains instead of in the New Mexican desert.

The second lesson, and the more 'Godly' one, is that we don't have to be the ones to solve the problem of the frozen juice. As Rev. Meyer said, we can, "trust the body of Christ in this place." We heard several times in the sermon series on the book of James that God is in control and we are not. Can we trust the body of Christ in our church, our homes, and wherever we find ourselves? Frozen juice and other inconveniences are not that big of a deal in the whole scheme of things. Sure, they might disrupt our (notice I said our and not God's) normal way of doing things.

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They might even disrupt our way of life, at least temporarily. But is it the end of the world if the service of Holy Communion is reduced to a chunk of cold and crusty bread with nothing to wash it down with? Communion, as the term implies, is supposed to be about meeting with Jesus—communing with Him. We can do that anytime and anywhere. It doesn't have to be about bread, juice, and some words that are 150 years old. Communion has to be about the condition of our hearts. Communion needs to be about putting God first, honoring God's breath in our lungs and the imago dei in our souls, about finding the joy, and perhaps even the humor, in the things that otherwise would make us cringe and complain, and making the time to eagerly meet with Jesus. Communion is not about our comfort. It is about our blessings.

So, in the advice of the hymn writer let us all make it a priority to:

Count your blessings, name them one by one;

Count your blessings, see what God hath done;

Count your blessings, name them one by one;

Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

May God's blessings abound and Christ's peace fill our hearts and souls during this holy season.

Pastor Koreen

2025 BUDGET

November

Needed Each Month to Meet Budget.	\$18,182.00
Received in November	\$12,881.50
Difference from Budget for November	-\$5,300.50

Year to Date

Budgeted Year to Date	\$200,002.00
Received Year to Date	\$173,293.89
Difference from Budgeted Amount	-\$26,708.11



The Men's Group will be meeting this month. Please join them on Sunday, **December 14**, at 7:30 AM in the Memorial Classroom, for a light breakfast and devotional.



The Women's Group will be not be meeting this month. They will resume in January. All ladies of the church are invited to attend.



Communion will be held on **December 7**. 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!

We will also be celebrating Communion on **December 14 and 21** as well as part of the Advent Season.



The Office will be closed starting **December 24**. It will reopen on **January 5**.

This allows office staff to complete all of the end of year reports and financial giving statements. All donations need to be in to the office by Sunday, **December 28**, to be counted on the 2025 giving statement

The Gymnasium will be closed from **December 24 thru January 2**.



The holidays can be especially difficult for families with limited income, but together we can make a difference. The Men's Group is sponsoring a **Holiday Food Drive** to help provide not only a special Christmas dinner but also enough groceries to fill pantry shelves for a week or more. Instead of collecting food items, we're asking for **monetary donations** to purchase Peppers gift certificates, which families can use to shop for their own holiday needs. Please mark your gifts as "**Holidays Food Drive-UMM**" and place them in the offering plate or drop them by the church office. Donations will be accepted through **Sunday, December 14**. The Men's Group has already kicked off the drive with a \$500 contribution. Thank you for your generosity in blessing families this Christmas season as many continue to face financial challenges. Since we will not be able to support the orphanage in Palomas or the Operation Christmas Child show boxes, we are asking the congregation to put their efforts toward this drive.

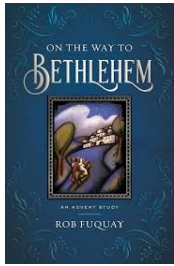


8:15 AM to 8:45 AM

Sunday Mornings

In the Sanctuary

Upcoming Holiday Events



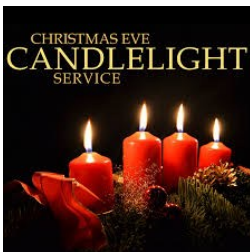
Join Pastor Koreen as she continues to lead the Advent Study this year. We are studying the book, *On the Way to Bethlehem*, by Rob Fuquay. If interested, you can pick up a companion book in the office for \$12. We will meet **December 3, 10, and 17** in the church Fellowship Hall at 6 PM.



Join us for *Carols & Choirs: A Christmas Gathering* on **Sunday, December 7 at 3 PM** at **Morgan Hall in downtown Deming**. This special afternoon will feature the choirs from our church, the LDS Church, and St. Anne's, joining together in joyful song. Come celebrate the birth of our Savior and support this wonderful community celebration of faith and music!



Pastor Koreen will lead a **Blue Christmas Service** on **Monday, December 22, at 6 PM**. Also known as a *Longest Night Service*, this gathering is designed for those who find the Christmas season difficult, as well as for those who wish to support them. Some may be grieving the loss of a loved one, feeling the weight of loneliness, or carrying painful memories from past Christmases. Others may simply find the season overwhelming. Whatever the reason, this service offers a sacred space to reflect in the midst of darkness and rediscover the gentle hope that Christ brings. Everyone is welcome—whether you come seeking comfort or offering it. Even if you are not struggling this season, your presence can be a source of light: a hand to hold, a hug to share, or a reminder of the deep and abiding love of Jesus Christ for all of God's precious children.



Join us for a beautiful **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** on **December 24 at 6 PM** as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Together we'll share in Scripture, carols, and the warm glow of candlelight—a peaceful and joy-filled reminder of the true light of Christmas. Bring your family and friends and make this special evening part of your holiday tradition!



We will be celebrating New Year's Eve with a game night starting at **6 PM**. Come join us as we have fun ringing in the new year. Come at whatever time you are comfortable. At **Midnight** we will be having a watchnight service which will last approximately 30 minutes.



Message from Bishop

Carlo Rapanut



Kin-dom not Monarchy: A Pastoral Letter for Christ the King Sunday

Beloved in Christ,

Grace and peace to you!

As we come to the close of the Christian year and prepare to enter Advent, we pause on this Christ the King Sunday to proclaim that Jesus Christ reigns. Yet his reign is unlike any earthly ruler we have ever known. His throne is the cross, his crown is of thorns, and his power is love poured out for the world. To declare Christ as King, therefore, is to dethrone every idol of power—wealth, violence, extremism, and empire.

All throughout scriptures, we are warned of the dangers of domination and authoritarianism, echoing this time-proven truth: that no human ruler should hold ultimate power. Christ's reign is not about domination at all—it is about justice, humility and solidarity with the marginalized. His authority is compassion, his sovereignty is mercy, and his kingdom is shared life.

And so, to proclaim Christ is King, we must speak clearly against the rising tide of Christian nationalism, which seeks to merge faith with political control, distorting the gospel into a tool of exclusion and supremacy, rather than a vessel of liberation and belonging. Christ the King Sunday is a direct rebuke to this distortion. Jesus does not sanctify flags or borders; he gathers all peoples into one body. His reign is not about elevating one nation above another, but about reconciling all of creation in love.

Christ the King Sunday is also a hinge between seasons. As we proclaim Christ's reign, we turn toward Advent, a season of waiting and preparation. We do not await a conquering monarch, but a child born in vulnerability. We prepare not for domination, but for incarnation. God comes not as king of armies, but as Emmanuel—God with us, whose reign is characterized by hope, peace, joy, and love.

John Wesley reminds us: *"Whosoever will reign with Christ in heaven, must have Christ reigning in him on earth."* And the hymn writer proclaims: *"Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run; his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more."*

This is the vision we hold: Christ's reign is not bound by borders, but stretches across creation. To celebrate Christ the King is to resist every false enthronement—whether nationalism, authoritarianism, or idolatry of self. It is to prepare our hearts for Christ's reign by living as kin, not as subjects. And so we proclaim: *No kings but Christ—and Christ's reign is not monarchy but kin-dom, a shared life of love.*

May this season strengthen us to reject the crowns of empire and nationalism, and to embrace the reign of love where the King comes not in power, but in vulnerability, and calls us to live as kin in God's beloved community.

May it be so.

Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut

Study Resource from the Council of Bishops: [Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny](#)

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Join us on a Journey Through the Old Testament and rediscover our roots. Let's continue in the book of 1 Chronicles with a special reading for Christmas Eve.

12/1 – 1 Chronicles 6:31-53

12/3 – 1 Chronicles 6:54-81

12/5 – 1 Chronicles 7:1-40

12/15 – 1 Chronicles 11:1-47

12/17 – 1 Chronicles 12:1-40

12/19 – 1 Chronicles 13:1-14

12/8 – 1 Chronicles 8:1-40

12/10 – 1 Chronicles 9:1-44

12/12 – 1 Chronicles 10:1-14

12/22 – 1 Chronicles 14:1-17

12/26 – 1 Chronicles 16:1-43

12/29 – 1 Chronicles 17:1-27

12/31 – 1 Chronicles 18:1-17

12/24 – – 1 Chronicles 15:1-29 AND Luke 2:1-40



Our December Bread Basket offering will be taken on **December 21** and will benefit TLC (Transforming Luna County.)

As you know, with the current economic situation causing havoc with the lives of so many people, TLC is being greatly utilized. People in the community are facing homelessness, loss of utilities, deferring getting prescriptions or medical care, or going without meals. Your thoughtful contribution to the Bread Basket can help change the lives of our neighbors and friends whom Christ holds dear.

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 2025 Bread Baskets

Christmas Eve—Cancer Support of Deming/Luna County

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

-Luke 2:10-12

UMC Worldwide Restructuring

United Methodist voters on four continents have ratified a major restructuring that aims to give the denomination's different geographical regions equal decision-making authority.

The Council of Bishops, meeting online, announced Nov. 5 the ratification of the restructuring — known as Worldwide Regionalization — as well as three other amendments to the denomination's constitution.

"The ratification and certification of these constitutional amendments mark a defining moment in the continuing renewal and unity of The United Methodist Church," Council of Bishops President Tracy S. Malone [said in a press statement](#). She also leads the Indiana Conference.

"These amendments reflect the church's rich diversity and deep commitment to live more fully into our shared mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and strengthens our world-wide connection to serve faithfully and inclusively in every context."

To be ratified, a constitutional amendment must first receive at least a two-thirds majority vote at the denomination's top lawmaking assembly, General Conference — [which happened last year](#). Each amendment next must receive the approval of at least two-thirds of the total vote by lay and clergy members at annual conferences worldwide. The denomination has more than 130 annual conferences — bodies consisting of multiple churches and ministries — in Africa, Europe, the Philippines and the United States. Annual conference voters supported regionalization by a vote of 34,148 to 3,124 — a 91.6% majority.

"We celebrate this historic and successful ratification of Worldwide Regionalization as a powerful affirmation of the worldwide United Methodist connection," said Benedita Penicela Nhambiu of Mozambique. She has been involved in pushing the legislation forward each step of the way.

With regionalization, she said, The United Methodist Church is moving "into an equitable era where every region is an empowered partner."

For more information, to go [UM News](#).

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

December, 2025, is the time for the annual Holiday Gift Boutique at the Deming Art Center. Local artists and crafters fill the gallery with one of a kind gifts items. Come, browse, shop and find wonderful, unique gifts for family and friends this holiday season. The boutique will run from **December 2-30**, and there will be a time to meet the artists and crafters on Sunday, **December 7**, from **1 PM—2:30 PM**. 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 Deming Luna Senior Center and Ambercare Hospice invite you to a Grief and Loss Support Group, offering a safe space for comfort and healing. It meets the First Tuesday of every month at 1:00 PM, in the Adult Day Room at the Deming Luna Senior Center, 800 S Granite St. For more information, please contact the Senior Center at 575-546-8823. You are not alone—support is here for you.

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 pet food donations for their Emergency Pet Food Bank. Donations can be dropped off at SILVER WHISKERS at 118 S Silver St on Tues-Sat from 10 AM to 2 PM. You can also drop off at DAGSHIP RESCUE at 1755 Domingo Rd on Mon-Fri from 10 AM to 3 PM.

Friends of Rockhound State Park cordially invite the public to the annual Festival of Lights at Rockhound State Park on Saturday, **December 13**, 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!



Wreaths Across America honors our nation's heroes by placing Christmas wreaths on the graves of veterans in National Cemeteries across the country. At Fort Bayard National Cemetery, the Service of Remembrance will be held on **Saturday, December 13, at 10:30 AM**, featuring a color guard, music, and tributes to all branches of the military. Volunteers are needed to help place wreaths that morning—beginning at **9 AM** for specific requests and **9:30 AM** for general placement.

December 2025

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	5:30P Chancel Choir	7A Bible Study at Peppers 9A Pickleball 1P Grief Support Group @ Senior Center	10A Prayer Group 2P Coffee, Chat, and Craft 6P Advent Study	9A Pickleball		9A Pickleball
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Communion 8:15A Praise Singing 9A Worship 10:15A Sunday School 1P Meet the Artists 3P Community Concert <small>2nd Sunday in Advent</small>	5:30P Chancel Choir	7A Bible Study at Peppers 9A Pickleball 2P Homebound Communion Training	10A Prayer Group 2P Coffee, Chat, and Craft 6P Advent Study	9A Pickleball 6P Luna County Commissioners Mtg		9A Pickleball 10:30A Wreathes Across America 5P Rockhound Festival of Lights
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Communion 7:30A Men's Group 8:15A Praise Singing 9A Worship 10:15A Sunday School <small>3rd Sunday in Advent</small>	5:30P Chancel Choir 4P Holiday Food Drive Deadline	7A Bible Study at Peppers 9A Pickleball 12:15P Worship Committee 5:30P Deming City Council	10A Prayer Group 2P Coffee, Chat, and Craft 6P Advent Bible Study	9A Pickleball		9A Pickleball
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Communion Bread Basket 8:15A Praise Singing 9A Worship 10:15A Sunday School <small>4th Sunday in Advent</small>	6P Blue Christmas Service	7A Bible Study at Peppers 9A Pickleball	6P Candlelight Christmas Eve Service OFFICE CLOSED GYM CLOSED	 OFFICE CLOSED GYM CLOSED	GYM CLOSED	GYM CLOSED
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
8:15A Praise Singing 9A Worship 10:15A Sunday School GYM CLOSED <small>1st Sunday after Christmas</small>	OFFICE CLOSED GYM CLOSED	7A Bible Study at Peppers OFFICE CLOSED GYM CLOSED	6P Game Night 12A Watchnight Service OFFICE CLOSED GYM CLOSED			