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

January 2026

New Year's Resolutions:

Resolution one: I will live for God.

Resolution Two: If no one else does, I STILL WILL

IN THIS ISSUE:

From the Pastor	2
2025 Year End Budget	3
Communion	4
Bread Basket	4
Men's Group	4
Women's Group	4
Mark Your Calendars	5
Praise and Worship	5
Financial Statements	5
Because Somebody Prayed	6
Journey Through the OT	7
Thank You!!!!	7
New Year's Resolutions	8
Community News	9
Calendar	10

A New Year With the Lord

A new year is about to unfold
With new opportunities to explore
Doors will open for new experiences,
New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things,
The things of this past year,
The Lord will do new things in us,
Much more than we are aware

For He will make a way for us
As we put our trust in Him
And He will guide our every step
By His presence we have within

What God has placed within our hearts,
We find we'll be able to do
If we look for the opportunities,
We'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back
But rise up and take our place
And be all that God wants us to be
With a fresh touch of His grace

© By M. S. Lowndes

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.

Life hurts sometimes. Today is one of those days for me. Just a few days ago we found out that the son of dear friends of ours, a young man in the prime of life, died. That hurt enough. Today I found out that he died by his own hand. It hurts. Deeply. Life hurts sometimes.

This young man was more than just the son of our friends. He was like one of our own children. He was part of the thin blue line family. His dad was Carl's field training officer when he first joined the police force. He and his sister and my daughter and son were youth group mascots. They were hauled along to every youth group meeting and youth event from the time they were three years old all the way through high school because his parents helped Carl and me with the youth group. He was my child nearly as much as my own children are.

Even so I had pretty much lost touch with him over the last several years. As kids do, he grew up, moved away from home, got a job, and got married. I followed him through his Facebook posts for many of those years. I knew where he was and what he was doing. He seemed happy. Every picture I saw of him had his iconic grin on his face. It was a grin that couldn't help but put a smile on my own face, but also a grin that always made me wonder what kind of mischief was going on behind the scenes.

I didn't pay any attention when his Facebook posts dwindled over the last several months. I didn't even really notice. Most of my Facebook feed is advertisements now days anyway. I just assumed he was either busy with life or migrated to another social media app as the younger generations have tended to do. Now I know more about the story. I know that the iconic grin and the hint of mischief had to be hiding a dark world that I don't know very much about. I am hurting because I didn't try to reach out just to see how things were going. I am angry because I didn't investigate further. I am sad because a beautiful soul found life too hard to continue.

I am writing this for a myriad of reasons. But I think there are several lessons to come out of this. One, never assume that we know everything that is going on with a person's life, especially if all we see of their life is from social media posts that are few and far between. We never know anybody else's entire story. What we see on the outside can hide a lot of pain and sorrow that may be invisible to the rest of the world. Two, hold on to our relationships. We need to do what we can to nurture them and keep them healthy. We need to talk to people. We need to love people. We need people to love us and talk to us. We just need people. That is how we were created. In the beginning of God's creation story, God Himself identified that it is not good for mankind to be alone (Genesis 2:18). We can't afford to push people aside or limit them to two square inches of space on a screen. Three, if something is telling us to reach out to someone—to make that phone call or send that text or pop in for a visit—DO IT! We are never guaranteed tomorrow for us or for our loved ones. It is a hard thing to live with the regret of not reaching out for one more conversation, one more cup of coffee, one more shared meal, one more check-in, or just one more time spent together. And Four, if you or someone you love are hurting and living in such darkness that suicide seems to be the only way out, please, please, please reach out for help. Call the national suicide prevention hotline at 988. Find your pastor, a counselor, a doctor, or a trusted friend to talk to. Let someone know how you are feeling. I am not going to judge you for your pain, your mental health struggles, or anything else. I want to help you find the right help to get

Continued on Page 3 ⟶

Continued from page 2

you back on the path to health, happiness and wholeness. I hope this is the same for all of us.

One last thought on this. Is suicide a sin? Well technically, yes, it is as it takes a life that was the gift of God. However, suicide nearly always comes with severe mental health issues, meaning that the person who succeeds in taking his or her own life is incapacitated. I don't think a person's salvation depends on this final act that was carried out in a time of incapacitating illness. Besides, Jesus died to atone for our sins, including suicide. I think a person's salvation depends on their faith in Jesus. I think Romans 8:38-39 back me up on this. This Scripture passage reads:

> *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39, NRSV).*

I am confident that this young man knew his Savior. I am confident that he is being held close in Jesus' arms today and that his illness has been perfectly healed by our perfect God. While I am hurting for my loss, I can rest a little easier knowing that he and Jesus are together for eternity. Rest easy my dear child. You were and are and will be loved deeply…forever.

Pastor Koreen

2025 BUDGET

December

Needed Each Month to Meet Budget.	$18,182.00
Received in December	$10,642.00
Difference from Budget for December	-$7,540.00

Year End 2025

Budgeted For 2025	$218,184.00
Received In 2025	$183,845.89
Difference from Budgeted Amount	-$34,338.11

The Men's Group will be meeting this month. Please join them on Sunday**, January 18**, at 7:30 AM in the Memorial Classroom.

The Women's Group will be meeting this month on Wednesday, **January 21**. The meeting will begin at 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Communion will be held on **January 4**. 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! For those not aware, 10% of this special offering goes to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund with the balance paid to TLC.

Our January Bread Basket offering will be taken on **January 18** and will benefit The Well.

The Well is one of the many food pantries serving the Deming community, offering hope and help to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. Through its ongoing ministry, The Well provides access to nutritious food and a sense of dignity during difficult seasons. Your generous blessing will go a long way in strengthening this vital outreach, helping ensure that our neighbors in need have a more stable and secure food outlook. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

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.

<u>Remaining 2026 Bread Baskets</u>

February—Doing His Work

March—Play Sharity

April—Non-Food Commodities

May—Cancer Support of Deming/Luna County

June—FUMC Building Fund

July—Silver Linings

August Alas de Amor

September—UMCOR

October = Doing His Work

November—Non-Cancer Support

December—Transforming Luna County (TLC)

Christmas Eve—Cancer Support of Deming/ Luna County

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 17—Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 18—Ash Wednesday

March 29—Palm Sunday

April 2—Maundy Thursday

April 3—Good Friday

April 5—Easter Sunday

Watch for more information in the upcoming newsletters and bulletins.

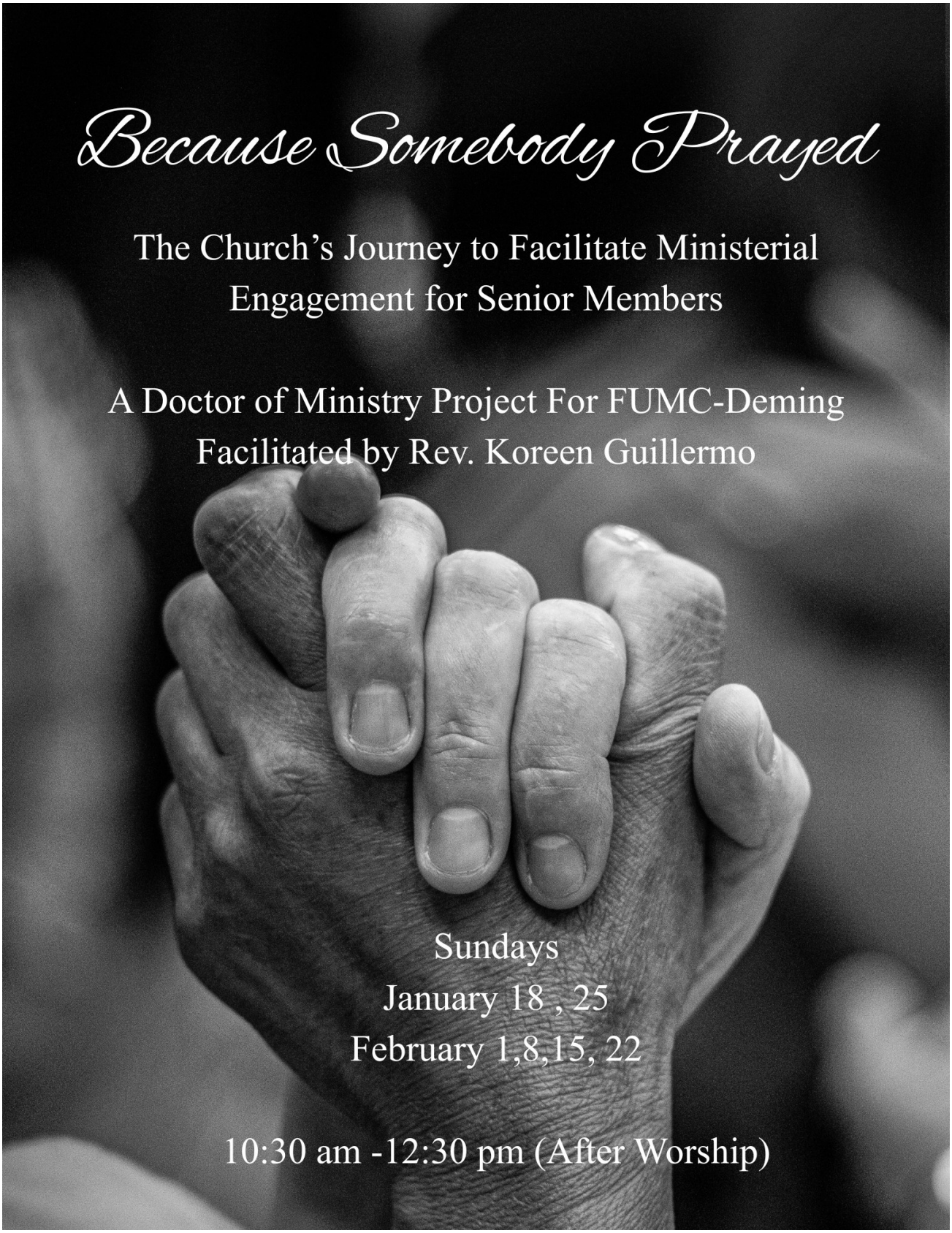
Financial Statements

The End-of-Year financial statements on contributions to the church will be available in the back of the sanctuary by the second Sunday in January. If not picked up, they will be mailed to you Please be sure we have an accurate mailing address for you. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the office.

8:15 AM to 8:45 AM

Sunday Mornings

In the Sanctuary



Anybody over the age of sixty, retired, and not engaged in church ministry is invited to participate. You will need to sign an informed consent document to participate.

Journey Through the BIBLE

Join us on a Journey Through the Old Testament and rediscover our roots. Let's finish in the book of 1 Chronicles and begin 2 Chronicles.

1/2 – 1 Chronicles 19:1-19

1/5 – 1 Chronicles 20:1-21:30
1/7 – 1 Chronicles 22:1-19
1/9 – 1 Chronicles 23:1-32

1/12 – 1 Chronicles 24:1-31
1/14 – 1 Chronicles 25:1-31
1/16 – 1 Chronicles 26:1-32

1/19 – 1 Chronicles 27:1-34
1/21 – 1 Chronicles 28:1-21
1/23 – 1 Chronicles29:1-30

1/26 – 2 Chronicles 1:1-2:18
1/28 – 2 Chronicles 3:1-17
1/30 – 2 Chronicles 4:1-22

This Christmas season, the Men's Group at First United Methodist Church stepped out in faith, trusting that God would multiply a simple act of generosity. With a desire to bless local families with a warm and joyful Christmas meal, they began with a $500 seed and invited the congregation to prayerfully give from the heart.

The response was a beautiful reminder of how God works through willing hands and open hearts. The congregation gave generously, raising $2,258. When combined with the initial gift and graciously doubled by Peppers, those offerings became $5,516—enough to bless 92 families across Luna County.

This effort is a testimony to what happens when a church listens to God's call to love its neighbors. Through these gift certificates, meals were shared, burdens were lifted, and Christ's love was made tangible this Christmas. The Men's Group offers sincere thanks to the people of FUMC Deming for living out the gospel and showing our community that generosity, rooted in faith, truly multiplies.

New Year's Resolutions

As 2025 ends and we look forward to 2026, many of us try to make New Year's resolutions that we can actually follow through on. But most of the time, they are silly and do not have much meaning. This year, try one of the following resolutions to make 2026 a year to remember.

Create a spiritual development plan. – This is a perfect time to set your intentions for growing spiritually. No matter how spiritually mature you are, there's aways room to grow. Your spiritual growth can positively impact every other area of your life.

Follow a Bible reading or devotional plan. – If you've never read the Bible through in its entirety, this year is the perfect time to do it. Reading the Bible can help you grow spiritually, deepen your faith, and increase your understanding.

Step out of your comfort zone. – Often times the big changes you want to see in life are on the other side of fear. And while change is automatic, growth is intentional. Ask yourself, "what would you do if you weren't afraid?" This year is the perfect time to take a deep breath, step out of your comfort zone, and pursue the things that'll make your heart smile.

Take a class. – Learning a new skill can be a lot of fun and a great way to expand your network. You can take a class for leisure or do it as a part of your personal growth strategy.

Find somewhere to volunteer. – Make 2026 a year of impact and change. Finding somewhere to volunteer is an excellent way to make a difference in your community. What are some of the causes you're passionate about? What groups are you interested in helping?

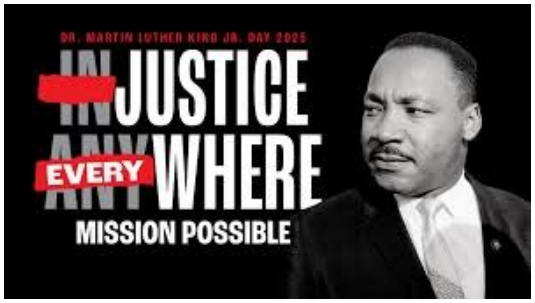
COMMUNITY NEWS

"Mixed Media Assemblage Art & Photography" is the title of the January Exhibit at Deming Art Center. It will feature the artwork of Vickie Voiers Morrow and Diane Alire. Vickie is a former Deming resident who specializes in assemblage art, bringing pieces that will be reminiscent of her life in Deming and also her Guardian Angel pieces among other things. Diane Alire, a photographer and print maker, has lived in New Mexico since 2001 and has her own Gallery, Gallery 925, in Las Cruces. She has a Masters in Photography and has taught Photography and Print Making in Albuquerque and Las Cruces. Diane is attracted to the more gritty subjects for her photography – juxtaposing images in a way to provoke and leave interpretation to the viewer. Her latest works are black and white photographs which are then hand colored with transparent oils, pan pastels and colored pencils. The exhibit will be on display from January 3-30, 2026, and there will be a time to meet the artists on Sunday, **January 4**, 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.



There will be a celebration of the Life of Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. on **January 19** from 11 AM to 2 PM at the Mimbres Valley Special Events Center. This celebration will include speakers, entertainment, and activities for children. Attendees will receive MLK t-shirts and enjoy a complimentary lunch along with refreshments while supplies last. For more information, go to their Facebook page.

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				OFFICE CLOSED GYM CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED GYM CLOSED	GYM CLOSED
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Communion 8:15A Praise Singing 9A Worship 10:15A Sunday School 1P Meet the Artists GYM CLOSED Epiphany Sunday	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	9A Pickleball 6P Luna County Commissioners Mtg		9A Pickleball
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:15A Praise Singing 9A Worship 10:15A Sunday School Baptism of the Lord	5:30P Chancel Choir 12P Leadership Board	7A Bible Study at Peppers 9A Pickleball	10A Prayer Group 2P Coffee, Chat, and Craft	9A Pickleball		9A Pickleball
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Bread Basket 7:30A Men's Group 8:15A Praise Singing 9A Worship 10:15A Sunday School 10:30A Because Somebody Prayed 2nd Sunday after Epiphany	11A MLK Celebration 5:30P Chancel Choir	7A Bible Study at Peppers 9A Pickleball 12:15P Worship Committee 5:30P Deming City Council	10A Prayer Group 2P Women's Group 3P Coffee, Chat, and Craft	9A Pickleball	1P Bryan and Pat Porcher Memorial Service	9A Pickleball
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:15A Praise Singing 9A Worship 10:15A Sunday School 10:30A Because Somebody Prayed 3rd Sunday after Epiphany	5:30P Chancel Choir	7A Bible Study at Peppers 9A Pickleball	10A Prayer Group 2P Coffee, Chat, and Craft	9A Pickleball		9A Pickleball