



# In the Way of Grace



## SPECIAL DATES COMING UP

Christmas Eve  
Service Dec. 24  
5 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Fifth Sunday  
One Worship  
9:15 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.  
NO potluck

### Celebrating :

Church Life  
Together

Missions

Outreach-  
Touching Lives

Opportunities to  
Serve

### In this Issue:

Trout lines	1-2
One Board	2
Lisa Jo	3
Ark News	4
Missions/	5-7
UMW Creation Care	7



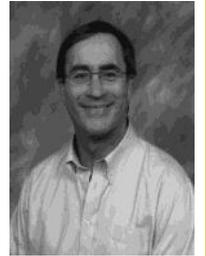
Volume VI, Issue X

December 2018

### Trout Lines—



The Christmas season is always filled with joy and hope and angst and hurry. This year is no different. This Christmas season was affected by the rescheduling of our annual Church Conference from mid-October to December 2. My Pastor's Report to the Church Conference is below and is a celebration of all the lives we touch in our ministry.



I want to add to that report my thanks to you for another great year of ministry. You are truly a wonderful church. I look forward to this my last Christmas with you. Elaine and I are blessed beyond measure to have served in your midst for the past eight years. May this Christmas be a blessed one for all of us.

The new year of 2019 will bring many changes for all of us. I pray that all the transitions will be smooth and good for this church. Blessings to you and your families. May God's peace, love and joy come to you as we celebrate Christmas and the New Year.

Your Friend and Servant in Christ,  
Steve

### Pastor's Report 2018

The best way to estimate the health of a Church is to try to figure the number of lives touched by the congregation during the past year. If that be the case, we are a very healthy Church. The number of individuals and families touched during the past year is certainly in the many hundreds, and the ripple effect of our efforts stretches this into the thousands.

Let's begin with last December. Our annual efforts during Advent/Christmas are extraordinary. We provide Christmas dinner, gifts and staple foods for 50+ families in the Medanales community. Everyone is involved in the process: purchasing the staple goods, adopting families, loading the boxes, and finally loading the truck and distributing the boxes. Even a local TaeKwonDo group helps load the truck. Also in December we serve 200-300 cups of hot chocolate and apple cider to the crowd at the Christmas Light Parade. We collect and give away dozens of hats and gloves to local shelters. We throw a beautiful party for the first responders of our community, and serve almost 200 at the event. Then we also filled and delivered 50+ flood buckets for UMCOR.

In January, February, and March we began collecting coats for the Food Truck patrons, we helped the ARK Child Development Center hold a Fat Tuesday

Celebration and fund raiser, and we participated with 5 other Churches in the Lenten Study Series. Also in March we held an ecumenical prayer walk for the victims of gun violence. Several attended and 3 guns were collected, destroyed and converted into garden tools.

It is our custom to hold a One Worship Service on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays. We worship together, have a pot luck and do a hands-on mission for these Sundays. In April we collected items for and loaded sacks to provide 55 emergency food packets for the St. Elizabeth Shelter in Santa Fe. Our July 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday project saw us pack school kits for McCurdy Ministries, and one of our Missionaries, Jose DeDios preached. For the September 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday we packed food bags for our ongoing local outreach program Aaron's Kids. Through this program we provide up to 80 sack lunches per week for High School students with food insecurity issues.

In September and October we collected new underwear and socks for the asylum seekers being process through the program at El Calvario UMC in Las Cruces. We sent a team of 5 there to give the gift and provide relief for the workers at that Church. Our crew came back from this experience deeply moved by the ministry and the people served by it.

Aside from all this we support 5 missionaries in places like Congo, China, Peru, and domestic.

As you can see this Church is very mission minded and is trying to impact its direct mission field in significant was. We always respond to calls for disaster relief and always pay out our Shared Ministries in as timely a manner as possible.

We also baptized 7 children this year, and ten adults joined the church primarily from other denominations. Our worship attendance will show a slight decline for the year and so will our income.

All in all this was a very good year.

The One Board of the 1<sup>st</sup> UMC LA spent time at each meeting working on a new vision for the Church. We are looking at our future without Steve Trout at the helm. With my retirement in June of next year the Board is looking forward to engaging the Cabinet and the appointive process in a proactive manner. We will come to the consultation process with a new vision and precise ideas of the needs for clergy leadership.

On a personal note, Elaine and I are looking forward to retirement. My 40 years of service to the Churches of the New Mexico Annual Conference were exciting, fruitful and fulfilling. Our time at this Church continues to be one of the best experiences of my career. I have nothing but the best memories of this Church and our ministry together. I pray that the next appointment for them will be the best in its history. Thank you for the opportunity to serve here.

Your friend and servant in Christ,  
Steve Trout



**Christmas Eve Dec. 24**  
5 p.m. & 7 p.m. Service

**December 30**  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. One Worship  
NO Potluck

## ONE BOARD REPORT:

Have you noticed the shade covering as you enter the church? Coming in the new year we will have the foyer remodeled with new flooring, new windows and doors. The doors will be handicap assessable with a button to push. The entry will also feature insulated glass for energy efficiency and windows that open for a breeze in the summer without having to open the doors.

**Ministry Summaries**  
  
**First United Methodist**

For an update on our ministries check  
**FirstInYourHeart.org**



## INTENTIONAL FAITH DIRECTOR

Lisa Jo Bezner

Several years ago after reading about how relaxing knitting was I decided to try it. I took a one-day class meant to teach us the basics of knitting. At the end of the day, I was frustrated and went home not able to remember the difference between knitting and purling.

So I bought a book in order to learn. I did well enough on the cast-on but then I over-analyzed what the book meant by the “back of the stitch.” I decided they meant the loop that was farthest away from me on the backside of the needle. And the front, obviously, meant the one that loop that was closest to me. If you know how to knit, you may realize that I had just taught myself how to twist my stitches. Oddly, if you twist both your knits and purls, then it looks just like the pictures of properly done stitches. It wasn’t until I took a class to learn to work with circular needles that the instructor noticed what I was doing and got me untwisted.

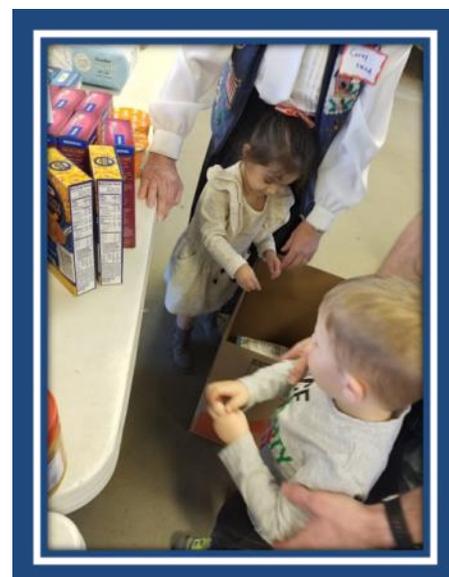
As Carol Mead and I were deciding which embroidery stitch to use, she asked me about my outline stitch. It was only then I realized I’d never really learned the name for it when my mother taught me. So I looked it up and discovered I was doing the stem stitch. When I mentioned this to my mother she said I was doing “Oklahoma embroidery,” which apparently only consists of the straight stitch, stem stitch, satin stitch, lazy daisy and French knots wrapped three times. I mention the wraps because no book I have ever read suggests wrapping three times.

For the past year, Adopt-A-Grandparent has been meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. to teach/learn knitting with Debbie Trimmer as the lead instructor and Peggy Goldman helping. We have had youth of all ages and even a few adults join us who always wanted to learn how or just needed to brush up. In 2019, we’ll be switching to embroidery and hand sewing.

But we also need to find a time when people can gather just to create together whether they do knitting or crochet or needlework or any other small project. The idea is just to get together to socialize while working on a project.

On an unrelated note, if you’ve read this far, feel free to join me for coffee on Friday morning at the Starbucks on Central Avenue. I usually get there around 7:30 a.m. and I’ll probably be working on my stitch journal.

Third Thurs.  
of month at  
6:30 p.m.  
January we  
will begin  
embroidery  
and  
hand sewing.



Our 2&3 years Sunday School class helping pack boxes.



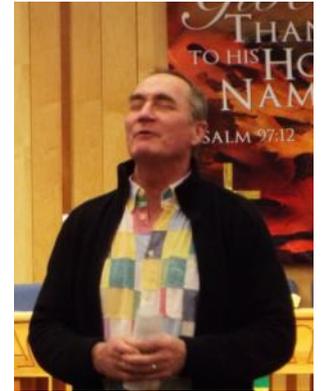
## ARK UPDATE

*Learning is not a spectator sport...  
So let's play!*



The Ark is having our 1st annual "Cookies with Santa" event this year on December 21. The event will start at 2 p.m. and will include cookies, candy canes, hot chocolate and pictures with Santa. This event will benefit our local food bank (L.A. Cares) so we are asking that each parent bring in 2 non-perishable items. It can be canned or boxed foods as well as toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, etc. We would love to have church families come to this event! If you have any questions, please call or stop by the office.

Seasons' Greetings!  
Tamryn Clancy,  
Ark Director



# Giving Thanks



# MISSIONS



**BROUSSARD REPORT** GLOBAL 504 NOVEMBER 7 2018



**Year End Opportunity...**  
*Dear 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Family -*

Dr. Davis walked into the bright, sterile examining room and said "Mark, I've looked at your MRI. You have two cysts growing on your spinal cord. One is so large, that it is visibly moving your spinal cord to the side, causing permanent nerve damage and is the source of the intense pain you are feeling in your lower back and hips".

*(In medical terms the work I need is Laminotomy (Hemilaminectomy), L4/5, with Decompression of Nerve Roots, Including Partial Facetectomy, Foraminotomy and Excision of Herniated Intervertebral Disc.)*

Call it whatever you want, just please pray that it works so I can return to "normal mobility" and to sleep. I would love to continue ministry activity in the field "pain-free" if possible.

Our Medical insurance is not good. "Obama-care" put affordable, quality coverage out of reach for us. Our out-of-Pocket expense for this operation is \$10,000. We can take a medical reimbursement to cover the expense if the funds are in our ministry account.

So...would you please consider a special gift here at year-end to help us put this pain behind us (no pun intended) and continue to actively serve the Lord. Thank You so much for your love, care, and friendship!

## Christmas Eve Offering

Mark Broussard is a missionary our church has supported for several years. His ministries vary from serving as a police chaplain in Gretna, Ms., distributing new shoes and water purification systems in Guatemala, sharing the gospel in Russia and planting new churches. He faces expensive spinal cord surgery and needs our help with the huge costs. We hope you can contribute to Mark's recovery.



## Charitable Giving Tax Advantages for Seniors By Dan Gabel

This past year changes to the personal income tax law have resulted in changes to how we plan our gifts to FUMC. In the past we used our donations as itemized deductions on our tax return. In the future those deductions will not add up to more than the combined standard deduction for us. As a result we won't be itemizing on our tax return.

However, there is still a way that our giving can make a difference by both benefiting the church and reducing our income tax obligations.

We have reached the age where we are required to take a withdrawal each year from our Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA). By arranging for a portion of that required withdrawal to go directly from the IRA account to the church, we avoid paying any tax on that donation and it counts toward the RMD (required minimum distribution) from our IRA. This donated portion of the RMD does not add to our taxable income.

There are some restrictions to be followed when making this type of charitable donation.

The donation must come directly from the IRA account to the charitable organization.

The donor must be at least 70 ½ years of age at the time of the donation.

It must come from a traditional IRA account (NOT a 401K).

Charitable donations for a given tax year cannot exceed \$100,000 per donor. (Not a problem for us.)

This year the church office will be closed December 24 through December 31. There are three options available to make last minute donations for the 2018 tax year.

- You may place a check in the mail post marked by Dec 31.
- Place a check in the Sunday offering Dec 30.
- Go online to the church website <https://onrealm.org/FUMCLosAlamosNM/Give/NWERAARYTO>. IF the mail is postmarked in Jan 2018, the donation is considered a 2018 gift on our books and by the IRS.





## Police and Firemen's Appreciation Dinner Saturday, December 15

The appreciation dinner is coming up very soon and we appreciate your help to making it a success. The appreciation dinner was established to show not only our appreciation for the fine men and women of the police force and fire fighters but more importantly to show them God's love. These brave men and women put themselves in harm's way on our behalf when tragedy strikes or danger looms. It is our sincere hope that not one of them leaves this world without knowing of God's love and life everlasting that comes through the believe in Jesus our Lord and savior. That is reason the event exists. We never know when a person will come to accept Jesus but they never will if someone doesn't tell them, we tell them through this event. Many have asked why we do it during this busy holiday season and that is exactly why. It happens at this blessed time of year when families and friends gather more and celebrate and they are on shift. The dinner allows them a special time to invite their families to join them in a wonderful joyous meal surrounded by the Christian community expressing the love, joy, and peace that comes only from knowing Jesus. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> year, I think, for this event and with every passing year we have told them a little bit more about Jesus. We not only appreciate them, we celebrate them, and pray for them. We invite them in and show them hospitality and we love on them.

Thank you for all the cookies! You can also still sign up to purchase a bible or devotional or just give funds in general support the event.

It would be wonderful to put a handwritten Christmas card in each gift bag this year, if this is your gift and you would like to do this, again please let me know. We will need 80.

### Inter faith Coat Drive

Thank you for your generosity to help them make their goal.

Over 70 new coats and sixty-one (61) Walmart or Target gift cards (\$25 each) were donated by Los Alamos churches and congregations working together in another successful Interfaith Los Alamos initiative designed to benefit resettled refugees in Albuquerque. The following delivery to LFS/ABQ from the Los Alamos community of faith was made on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (Glory be to God!!):



The Holiday Season is fast approaching! With it comes the opportunity to practice actions that support the Resolution passed at this year's Annual Conference. The Resolution reads:



That all Churches in the New Mexico Conference and their members shall be encouraged to reduce or eliminate the use of single-use plastics such as bottled water, grocery bags, straws and eating utensils.

Listed below are some of the many actions we can practice as our part in conserving and preserving God's gift of creation.

Do not use or purchase styrofoam products as it never biodegrades in landfills.

Use cloth or canvas bags for your groceries instead of plastic bags.

Do not accept a plastic straw in a restaurant.

If plastic plates, utensils or cups must be used, wash off all food debris so they can be recycled.

Make your kitchen as paperless as possible.

Say no to bottled water.

Take your own water bottle to events.

Avoid buying products with lots of packaging.

If paper goods must be used, buy products made from recycled material.

Make certain recyclable bins are available and conveniently placed.

Take your own container to a restaurant or event if you anticipate leftovers.

Save gift boxes and wrappings to reuse.

While some of these suggestions might seem inconvenient or "way out", they are ways in which we can show our gratitude for the gift of Creation. As it says in Genesis 2:15, "God created humans to care for creation on God's behalf" and In Psalm 24:1, "God, not humanity, is the owner of creation."

New Mexico Conference United Methodist Women



## Seasons Greetings!

We will be closed for  
or the holidays:  
Friday, Dec. 21, 28 and Jan. 4

*Resuming*  
*Friday, January 11*  
*for the 2019 season.*



## Legend of the Snowflake

*Long ago a gleaming star led the way to a child born in a manger.*

*Today it is believed that snowflakes are little pieces of that special star*

*That lead us to the Light of the Word, Jesus*

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

715 Diamond Drive  
Los Alamos, NM  
Phone: 505-662-6277



*We do not cease to give thanks for you as we remember you in our prayers. Ephesians 1:16*

Send articles for submission to **ChurchNews@lafumc.org** or drop off at the church office by 12th of each month.

Church Phone>  
505.662.6277

Ark Phone>  
505.662.4822

Pastor Steve's Cell>  
575.921.4081



Zhu, Jian	4-Dec
Mead, Bill	6-Dec
Zumbro, Zeke	10-Dec
Bezner, Lisa Jo	10-Dec
Caudill, Chris	12-Dec
Le Page, Ann	12-Dec
Kaufeld, Kevin	13-Dec
Risch, Kenneth	13-Dec
Douglass, Rod	14-Dec
Morgan, Andrew	14-Dec
DeVries, Hazel	17-Dec
Molony, Sheila	19-Dec
Sheppard, Maurice	25-Dec
Malone, Lucy	26-Dec
Rousculp, Catherine	26-Dec
Janecky, Loui	27-Dec

### STAFF

Rev. Steve Trout ext. 101  
revstrout@gmail.com  
\*\*\*

Lisa Jo Bezner, ext. 103  
DirFaithDev@lafumc.org  
\*\*\*

Valerie Collins  
Music Traditional Service  
DirMusic@lafumc.org  
\*\*\*

Steve Judd  
Music Contemporary Service  
sjudd3172@gmail.com  
\*\*\*

Tamryn Clancy ext. 105  
arkdirector@lafumc.org  
\*\*\*

Debra Youngblood ext. 102  
office@lafumc.org  
\*\*\*\*\*

Julie Risch ext. 104  
ChurchNews@lafumc.org

In a universe filled with  
God's wonders,  
there is only one unique you.  
This birthday wish celebrates  
everything about the way  
God made you  
and how deeply He cares  
about every dream in your heart.



Breiner, Carla	1-Jan
Judd, Abby	1-Jan
Gill, Dennis	5-Jan
Collom, Robyn	6-Jan
Rousculp, Caroline	8-Jan
Siebe, Craig	8-Jan
Carter, Emma	10-Jan
Hollowell, Kimberly	11-Jan
Dare, Lianna	12-Jan
Brandow, Bodil	13-Jan
Dale, Greg	14-Jan
Cash, Kyle	17-Jan
Leschnitzer, Clara	17-Jan
Waldrop, Tara	17-Jan
Sheppard, Jensina	19-Jan
Van Winkle, Robert	22-Jan
Dale, Joseph	24-Jan
Bradley, Bill	26-Jan
Little, Jim	27-Jan
Douglass, Eileen	28-Jan
Brodnax, Erin	30-Jan

