



# In the Way of Grace



## SPECIAL DATES COMING UP

Feb. 10 at 4p.m.  
McCurdy Soup Supper

March 5  
Fat Tuesday Event  
5:45 p.m. - 730 p.m.

March 5  
Ash Wed. Service  
6:00 p.m.

March 14  
Ecumenical Lenten  
Soup supper and study  
5:30 p.m.

### Celebrating :

Church Life  
Together

Missions

Outreach-  
Touching Lives

Opportunities to  
Serve

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Volume VII Issue I

February 2019

### Trout Lines—



In two weeks the General Conference of the United Methodist Church will meet in called session for four days to determine to what extent the LGBT community can participate in the life of the Church. In 1976 the General Conference added language into the Discipline (the rule book of the Church) that singles out homosexual behavior as “...incompatible with Christian teaching.” Ever since that time, the language has been debated with increasing intensity and rancor. The issue will be decided in just a few days...I hope. The Church needs to get on with the business of Making Disciples for Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.



I do not have time or space to outline all the issues or the proposals or the points of debate. If you want to read up on it all, go to [UMC.org](http://UMC.org) and follow the story there. You can also use that site to tap into a web feed of the proceedings as they happen February 23-27.

For most of my career, I’ve followed the rules of the Church because I vowed that I would at my ordination. I have also lobbied for a change in the language of the Discipline. Singling out homosexual behavior is discriminatory. The language should either be eliminated, or a list of every behavior incompatible with Christianity should be included. To do the former would allow us all to decide how to include any one into the life of the Church. To do the later would eliminate all of us from full participation in the life of the Church. I prefer the former.

No matter what is decided in a couple of weeks, no one will be completely satisfied, and we will soon hear of many churches, pastors and individuals choosing to leave the United Methodist Church. This is a great sadness to me. It will look like we are behaving like the secular world in its rancorous divisions. Jesus told us that the world would know that we are his disciples when they see that we love one another (John 13:35). Our division is not a good witness to the world, but we have backed ourselves into a corner.

Regardless of what happens at the General Conference in St Louis February 23-27, Sunday will still come once a week, and we will worship together. The hungry will still need to be fed, the grieving comforted, the sick visited, the hurting and broken healed, the children taught the faith,

and the seeking led to the Lord. We may have some decisions to make after the Conference depending on which proposal is passed. We will make those decisions if we have to, and I will have the time left with you to guide you through them.

Please be in prayer before, during and after the Conference that the Holy Spirit will guide our representatives to a graceful and faithful decision. If you need counsel on what the issues are I am here for you. If you are questioning your place in the United Methodist Church, please talk to me before you make any decisions. I am here for you.

Your Friend and Servant in Christ,  
Steve

“Perspectives on a Way Forward,” a panel discussion featuring speakers for each of the major plans proposed to the 2019 General Conference. Speakers include:

- Connectional Conference Plan: The Rev. Chris Ritter
  - One Church Plan: The Rev. Mark Holland
  - Simple Plan: The Rev. Althea Spencer-Miller
- Traditional and Modified Traditional Plan: The Rev. Rob Renfroe

**TO WATCH THE DISCUSSION GOTO**  
<http://e.umc.org/Ag0s05JX00skEEp00r070AQ>



## ARK UPDATE

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

### FAT TUESDAY AROUND THE WORLD

Tuesday, March 5, 2019  
5:45 p.m.-7:30 p.m.



We are diligently planning for this year's Fat Tuesday Event, this our primary fundraiser for the year and the most fun. We would like to take this opportunity to invite our church family to come and enjoy a great evening with a four course meal, entertainment and silent auction. We do have a vegan option available as well just give us a call to so we can plan accordingly. Did I mention the “Cajun Connection” will be entertaining us. We thank Ron and Mada Jones, Nels Hoffman and our own, Natalie for providing the entertainment and UMW for providing the desserts.

Invite your friends to join you! No tickets are sold for this event we do however accept donations at the door. All the proceeds from this event go to make help make improvements that will impact children from all cultures as future leaders. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

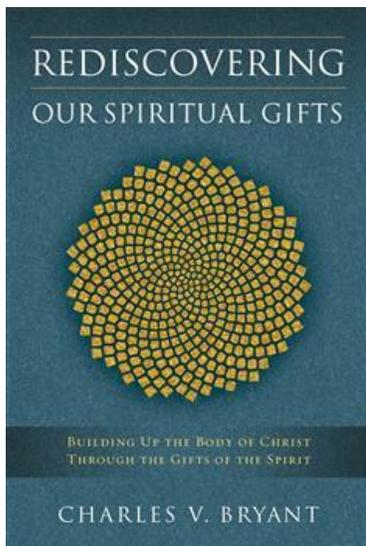
Sincerely,  
Tamryn Clancy, Ark Director.  
[ArkDirector@lafumc.org](mailto:ArkDirector@lafumc.org)



## INTENTIONAL FAITH DIRECTOR

Lisa Jo Bezner

### Join in a churchwide study of spiritual gifts



Kicking off in March, we'll begin a churchwide study of *Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts* by Charles V. Bryant. The book explores the variety of spiritual gifts, where they come from, what they are and what they are not. It includes a personality inventory and a closer look at the spiritual gifts.

Why are we doing this? First, there seems to be confusion about what spiritual gifts are. For instance, I have had people tell me I have a spiritual gift for planning, organizing or page design. But that's a skill set I possess because of particular training or profession. There are parts of it I do with a sense of dread.

In Paul's classic definition of spiritual gifts, I fall more into the teacher/prophet role. I have no particular passion for children. Yet I enjoy preparing and teaching at Ark chapel because I get to use my gifts. Imagine trying to take your graduate-level education and make it relatable to several 18-month-old children, then

2-3 year olds, then 4-5 year olds. For some that probably sounds awful, but I get to tell stories, make figures so they can see the story and see when it's working. As well as when it's not.

When will we be holding the study? Classes should run between March 10 and June 9, which is through Lent and Easter season finishing on Pentecost. The details of the schedule depend on you! If you're part of a small group, see if they would like to do the book. If you meet weekly, do one chapter at a time. If every other week, do two chapters. One group will be led by Lisa Jo on Tuesday, March 12 from 10-11 a.m. in the Friendship Center.

Sign-up sheets will be available at the ushers station where you can indicate possible times as well as if you'll need a book.



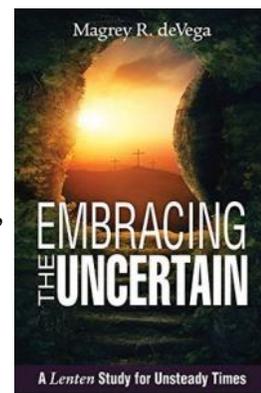
### Inquirer's New Study beginning Feb. 24

Many of us prefer stability and a predictable future to an unknown fate. We are wired to want to control our destiny. But, just turning on the news lets us know we are living in uncertain times. Our individual lives are often just as unsteady: relationships can break, plans can falter, and confidence can fail. Uncertainty can definitely be uncomfortable.

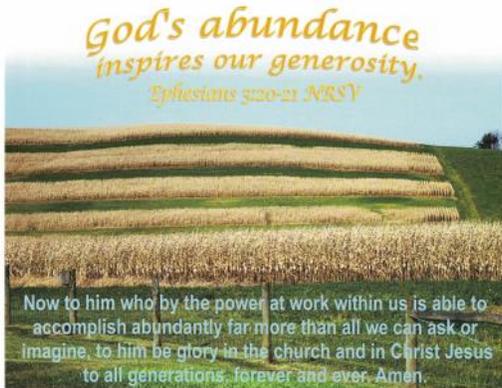
The Inquirers Sunday school class invites you to join us in the Lenten study, *Embracing the Uncertain* by Rev. Margrey deVega to help us engage and wrestle with life's uncertainties, not ignore them. We will begin on February 24.

The study focuses on six post-Transfiguration, pre-Passion stories in the Gospels. Each of these stories points us forward to a cross that can show us how to follow Jesus with courage, hope, and obedience in a world of uncertainty.

The class meets in the Ark Resource room at 9:45 and is a fragrance free class. Contact Carol Mead, 662-9475 or [cjmead@ansr.biz](mailto:cjmead@ansr.biz) to order a copy of the book.



## Life in Our Church



Your participation in the Stewardship Campaign for 2019 made it successful. Our goal for pledges was \$345,000 and the actual pledges totaled \$351,465. This allows us to go into 2019 with a balanced budget and ministry goals underwritten. Thank you for making all this possible. If you didn't make a pledge commitment, your giving is equally important to our church family as we grow in faith and celebrate ministry together. With your continued support, we share God's love & hope.

This is going to be an exciting year as we "...Make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World." We are planning ministries in every area that will touch lives in our Church, our community and our world. We are also preparing for the transition of my retirement and you receiving a new pastor in July.

It is a wonderful time to be part of First United Methodist Church. You are an indispensable part of the support for everything going on in your Church this year.

If we can help in any way, please let me know. I am and will always be,

Your Friend and Servant in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Stephen E. Trout



For an update on our ministries check [FirstInYourHeart.org](http://FirstInYourHeart.org)

Online access to your personal giving statement and family data is available through our church website accessing REALM. You may setup monthly or one time gifts through the program. If you need assistance accessing Realm, please contact Debra, feel free to leave a voice message anytime.



### Update on Foyer Project

Work on our new foyer began on Jan. 28 by taking up the old flooring and removing the old walls and windows. The new energy efficient glass walls have been installed and we are waiting on the custom windows that will go above. These will be actually opening windows that can open in the summer to generate a breeze.

The new foyer has a handicap door that will automatically open. This feature will be a great improvement.

This past Monday the new floor was installed, so things are really taking shape. Soon the windows will be here and we will have a completed foyer entry.



The new doors are functionally properly it is not necessary to slam them.

#### **AFTER HOURS LOCKUP**

If your group meets here after hours and does not have a foyer door key, the last person leaving will release the inside door bar on the manual door after everyone leaves.

This will secure the outside lock of the manual door. To exit the building, turn on the side light of the sanctuary and exit out the north facing door of the sanctuary. Test the door locking by attempting to open the door from outside. We recommend that you use the sidewalk during winter months to access the parking lot.

Questions> check with one of our staff or call the church office.



### UMW Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Sacramento Methodist Assembly, March 8-10

Come join our group going to Sacramento and help the New Mexico Conference celebrate the 150th birthday for United Methodist Women on March 23, 2019. We will be celebrating our past, our impact and our future. The spiritual enrichment sessions will be led by Diana Fessler for the four sessions during the weekend. Session one on Friday night will celebrate our beginning and be facilitated by Peggy Arensdorf. Saturday morning will celebrate our impact with Cheri Burch facilitating and Saturday night we will celebrate our future with Cheryl Felder facilitating. The birthday party will be Saturday afternoon. We'll start on Friday night with dinner at 5:30 pm and end after breakfast on Sunday. We'd also encourage attendees to bring magazines to be used for the scrapbooking event on Saturday afternoon.

**Registration deadline is March 1.  
See Carol Mead for a registration form.**

### Days for Girls

Our project is going great we were about to send 18 kits to Haiti a group going there from the Christian Church.

We are in need of flannel for our project. Patterns fabric designs work best, we do have some restrictions.

Fabrics may not have the following designs:

- \*NO people or animals.
- \*NO camouflage or war related subject matter.

You can often get flannel at a discount price from JoAnn fabrics. If you have questions please contact Carol Mead. You may drop your fabric off to the church marked Days for Girls. Thank you for your support.

## Scouts in Our Church Family

### The Dale Family:

William Dale is a Boy Scout in Troop 122, Joe Dale is a Boy Scout in Troop 22 and Tim Dale is a Wolf scout in Cub Scout Pack 22. Greg Dale also in the Den leader for Tim's pack.

### The Morgan Family

Andrew is a Boy Scout in Troop 22 and his brother Noah is a Cub Scout in Pack 22. Both Selena and Nathaniel are active with boys.

### The Risch Family

James and Kenneth are in Troop 122. Kenneth just earned Eagle rank in December 2018.

### The Tucker Family

Santiago is a Tiger scout.

### The Varela Family

Imari is a junior Girl Scout, currently she is planning her cookie sale strategy, she plans to host a Girl Scout cookie home party. Her troop is currently working toward their Bronze award and have two projects that benefit the community.

### The Wescott Family

Sam Wescott is Boy in Troop 122 and has just been elected as Vice Chapter chief of the local Order of Arrow. Sam father, Brad is an Eagle Scout himself.

Don Siebe is the Charter Organization Representative for Troop 2 and Troop 122. If you miss him on a Sunday morning he could be on an outing with the Scout troop.

If you're a scout that I missed please let me know about your scouting experience I would love hear about it and share with our church family. One day I will share my story. Julie



Scout Sunday Feb. 10

## Thank you from Troop 122



### Boy Scout Oath

On my honor, I will do my best. To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

Troop 122 would like to take this opportunity to thank First United Methodist Church for their support over the past 65 years. Today the Boy Scouts of America celebrates 108 years of helping youth become better leaders and citizens, and just last year Troop 122 celebrated five boys earning the Eagle Scout rank. Your support has enabled Troop 122 to be very healthy and help boys mature into young men. This year brings a leadership change with Greg Noeninckx serving as Scoutmaster. For more information on ways that Troop 122 can serve the community or for how your son can join the Troop, please contact Mr. Noeninckx at [scoutnx@gmail.com](mailto:scoutnx@gmail.com) or 682-999-1533.



Summer Camp 2018



Helping with LA Care Food Drive



Snowshoeing Backpacking Feb. '19



### Leaving Behind a Legacy

Charles Mader was Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 122 here at Los Alamos First United Methodist Church from 1974 to 1985. The Troop had 48 Eagle Scouts during those years. He received the Scouting Silver Beaver Award and the Methodist Church Cross and Flame award for his work with youth and Scouting.

Charles passed away unexpectedly August 18, 2018. Scouts were there to pay their respect for all that he had done for the scouting program here in Los Alamos. Charles gave much to the scouts in his lifetime and continued in his passing. Friends and family donated \$2650.00 in his memory.

2018 Eagle Scouts  
*Sam Bond*  
*Tommy Merl*  
*Prescott Moore*  
*Coen Noeninckx*  
*Kenneth Risch*

**Sam Bond**

Sam's project was for the Los Alamos Lacrosse team. He organized a group to build and paint a shed to storage the team equipment. Once the pieces were cut the group assembled and painted the shed at the Overlook Park Lacrosse fields .



**Prescott Moore**

Prescott's project was to design and build a free little food pantry for Trinity on the Hill. Before he installed the box at TOTH he held a food drive to stock the box, which sits in the parking lot of the church.

**Coen Noeninckx**

Coen worked the American Legion to respectful retire 100 American flags. Along with flags collected by the American Legion he collected flags from businesses' and churches in the Los Alamos area. He then organized a flag retirement ceremony .



**Tommy Merl**

Eagle Scout project was for our charter organization, First United Methodist Church. He designed and built 3 benches for the prayer garden and 2 benches for the playground.

**Kenneth Risch**

Eagle Scout project benefited Los Luceros Historical Site. He built 6 bat boxes that where placed in various locations on the site. The bat boxes provide a home for the bats while providing a natural way to control pests.



## FUMC Welcome Troop 2

A new scout troop is in town. Troop 2 is an all-girl scout unit of Scouts BSA chartered by the First United Methodist Church. It is one of the few in New Mexico, and the first in Northern New Mexico. It offers the time-tested opportunities laid out by the founders of the scouting movement over a hundred years ago to the ladies of Los Alamos today. The aim of

Troop 2 is to instill character, citizenship, and fitness by way of the scouting method of uniforms, camping, and advancement - including the Eagle Rank.

Troop 2 already has 10 scouts, and has an active schedule including skiing, camping, and other scout activities. Holly Trellue is the inaugural scoutmaster who brings over 10 years of experience in Scouting to the position. She has held many positions within the scouting organization, and is an enthusiastic example for the girls to look up to.

If you are interested in seeing what Troop 2 is all about, feel free to visit during a meeting. Troop 2 meets at the church on Mondays from 6:00 to 7:30. You can contact Holly at [htwoof@gmail.com](mailto:htwoof@gmail.com).



**Pictures from Tommy Merl's Eagle Project Above**



**Kenneth Risch's Eagle Project**



## COATS NEEDED



We are still collecting coats to hand out to the patrons of the Food Depot Truck that comes every 4th Friday of the month. Last month many people were warmed by our coats. If you'd like to donate a warm coat you can bring it here and hang it on the rack in the Narthex. When the next food truck comes on February 22, those who need a coat to warm them will greatly appreciate it.



Volunteers are always appreciated to assist patron with carts. This is a great way to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community.



### Food Depot Truck

Friday, Feb. 22 from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Volunteers can come at 11:00 a.m.

More information on [info@thefooddepot.org](mailto:info@thefooddepot.org)

#### DO YOU KNOW UMCOR?

UMCOR stands for United Methodist Committee on Relief and will be the focal point of a Special Sunday Service in March. When watching disaster unfold around the globe, many of us feel the call to help but are at a loss as to what we can actually do to help. UMCOR Sunday is the day for congregations around the globe to **help**.

UMCOR offers aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded.
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded.
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded.

***And when the next crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond.***

On this Special Sunday on March 31, 2019, our generosity as a church covers the operating budget of UMCOR. This allows them to funnel 100% of other donations received throughout the year directly to relief efforts.

UMCOR Sunday is where we come together to **help**.

If you want to learn more about UMCOR visit: [www.umcgiving.org/UMCOR](http://www.umcgiving.org/UMCOR)



UMCOR  
Sunday  
March 31

Join Us as we  
worship as one  
in Christ in our  
Fifth Sunday  
tradition.



Sunday, March 31  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. One Worship  
Noon Potluck Lunch

Theme TBA



Our Service Project will to fill  
Aaron's lunch bags.

Fill free to bring a friend and  
Join us in filling lunches.

## Other Opportunities

### Framed by Faithfulness

2019 Women2Women Mini Conference  
Saturday, March 2, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Los Alamos Church of Christ

All ladies are invited to join us Bible study, discussion, worship, Christian fellowship, spiritual uplifting and a complimentary brunch. This is the seventh program in our "Fruit of the Spirit" series.

*I have chosen the way of faithfulness ; I have set my heart on your laws. Ps. 119:30*



**Adult Springtime  
Camp**

## WHAT IS FAT TUESDAY?

**Mardi Gras is celebrated many different ways around the globe, but eating well is a common theme.**

### BRIEF HISTORY

Mardi Gras — French for Fat Tuesday — refers to the practice of eating fatty foods on the day before Ash Wednesday, which signals the start of the Christian Lenten season, the 40 days before Easter that is generally marked by fasting.

A celebration prior to the fasting season of Lent is common in many cultures, and is also known as carnival or shrove-tide. Here are a few examples of how different places around the world celebrate in abundance, before embracing abstinence (at least in theory).

For most, Fat Tuesday conjures images of beads, beer, and the Big Easy (New Orleans). Mardi Gras (French for Fat Tuesday) is a Christian holiday/ cum pop culture phenomenon that dates back thousands of years to pagan spring and fertility rites. Also known as Carnival, it is celebrated in several nations across the globe — predominantly those with large Roman Catholic populations — on the day before the religious season of lent.

When Christianity arrived in Rome, religious leaders decided to incorporate some pagan traditions like the raucous Roman festivals of Saturnalia and Lupercalia into the new faith — a much easier task than abolishing them outright. As a result, the debauchery and excess of Carnival season became a prelude to the 40 days of penance between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

Mardi Gras spread from Rome across Europe where it then crossed the oceans to the colonies of the New World.

Read how other countries celebrate Fat Tuesday on our website at [FirstInYourHeart.org](http://FirstInYourHeart.org).



# 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



<b>Blackstock, Doris</b>	1-Feb
<b>Collom, Bob</b>	5-Feb
<b>Seay, Earlene</b>	5-Feb
<b>Bequette, Linda</b>	8-Feb
<b>Van Winkle, Harper</b>	9-Feb
<b>Eaton, Stacey</b>	12-Feb
<b>Naffziger, Frances</b>	15-Feb
<b>Eaton, Lance</b>	20-Feb
<b>Morris, Tommy</b>	21-Feb
<b>Blackstock, Al</b>	25-Feb
<b>Varela, Nalani</b>	25-Feb



<b>Trautlein, Tom</b>	2-Mar
<b>Densmore, Crystal</b>	4-Mar
<b>Meaders, Ruby</b>	5-Mar
<b>Seay, Glenn</b>	9-Mar
<b>Siebe, Donald</b>	10-Mar
<b>Hollowell, Megan</b>	12-Mar
<b>Beery, Tom</b>	18-Mar
<b>Hinjosa, Tiffany</b>	18-Mar
<b>Trout, Elaine</b>	18-Mar
<b>Barefield, Emma</b>	19-Mar
<b>Kaufeld, Kimberly</b>	19-Mar
<b>Gibson, Jeannie</b>	20-Mar
<b>Ricketts, Vicki</b>	20-Mar
<b>Dale, William</b>	23-Mar
<b>Granzow, Rachel</b>	24-Mar
<b>Collier, Linda</b>	<b>24-Mar</b>
<b>Kruse, Herald</b>	25-Mar
<b>Beinke, James</b>	26-Mar
<b>Phillips, Bobby Joe</b>	26-Mar
<b>Hundley, Pam</b>	27-Mar
<b>New, Lily</b>	28-Mar

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**Ecumenical Lenten Soup Dinner and Study**  
Beginning Thurs., March 14  
Location TBA