



FIRST

VISIONS

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"THE LEGEND OF ST. VALENTINE"

February 14th is Valentine's Day, the "unofficial Christian holiday" celebrating love, especially romantic love. Some of you may already know this, but the legend surrounding the origin of this celebration is one of the fascinating stories of early Christianity.

Valentine was a Christian church leader in Rome during the third century A. D., an era of severe persecution for Christians. Like many other believers, he was jailed for refusal to worship the Roman emperor, Claudius II (also known as Claudius the Cruel).

While imprisoned Valentine befriended the blind daughter of one of his jailers. On

February 14, A. D. 271 Valentine was executed. Later that day, when the blind girl opened a note which Valentine had left for her, her sight was miraculously restored. The note was signed, "from your Valentine."

More than two centuries later, in A. D. 496, Valentine was declared a saint by the Church and the date of his death has continued as a Christian festival ever since.

Faith, hope and love are three great Christian attributes - and the greatest thereof is love. Praise the Lord!

Dave King

MAKING DISCIPLES

Many times I am asked what I do in my job, or, what is my job description? For those who missed the Navajo Youth Weekend at the church, you missed a wonderful opportunity to meet and reach out to people from another culture, another world, yet part of New Mexico and the United Methodist Church. This is what I see as my job. I try to bring opportunities for people to be changed by the Holy Spirit. You don't have to go to Belize, or Russia, or anywhere out of our country, to do what Christ has asked us to do. We must love our neighbors, wherever we find them. As a church we must show others that we want to be like Christ, and offer others hospitality, friendship, Christ's love and our love. We have to open our hearts and minds so that the Holy Spirit will touch us and work through us. We certainly did that this weekend and I couldn't be happier! I know we

each have been touched by particular things that happened or were said last weekend. For me it was Pastor Nelson saying "God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called." Thanks to each of you who let the Spirit shine through you and touch those Navajo children and adults AND our own congregation.

Many thanks to all of the host families, MYF Sponsors and Youth, pizza kitchen help, contributors to Soup/Potato Potluck, Potluck kitchen help and all of the congregation for making the Navajo Youth Weekend such a great success! It truly does take a whole congregation to show its love to thirty strangers and make them feel welcome. We all made some great memories and I hope we can continue our relationship with the Navajos.

See pictures at right.





Ark Sunday

* The Ark has been a ministry of the church since 1978. We serve 91 children, ages 6 weeks through age 12. The Ark is accredited and holds a five star license, one of only two in Los Alamos.

* Our low child/teacher ratios make it possible for us to provide quality childcare for our families.



Chapel

* We have chapel every Friday. We sing Sunday School songs and Pastor Dave teaches us about Jesus in a manner the children can understand. Chapel songs can be heard throughout the Ark! Nursery teachers sing them to the babies and the older children simply enjoy singing them!



Let's Build

* When children build with blocks they develop pre-math skills, problem solving skills and social skills such as taking turns and sharing.



After School Field Trips

* The Ark provides After-school care from 3:30 to 5:30 each afternoon and from 12:30-5:30 on Wednesdays.

* Field trips are an integral part of the after-school program. They let the children learn about their community, as well as bond together as a class and with their teachers.

* Physical exercise is a large component of these field trips. The kids walk to most field trip destinations.



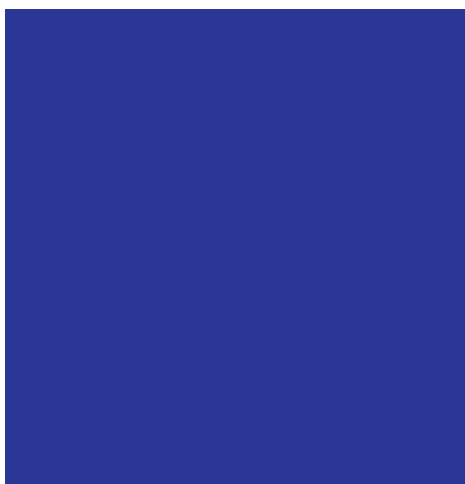
Santa comes to the Ark

* We have chapel every Friday. We sing Sunday School songs and Pastor Dave teaches us about Jesus in a manner the children can understand. Chapel songs can be heard throughout the Ark! Nursery teachers sing them to the babies and the older children simply enjoy singing them!



Field Trips

* Field trips provide educational experiences that further enhance the Ark's curriculum. The children develop a sense of community. As well as providing enriching experiences they might not otherwise experience at this age.



Water Fun

* Ark students learn from hands-on experiences. Even our babies are scientists! By playing with water the children develop sensory perception. They also learn how objects from their everyday world work when in water, such as whether they float or sink.



Dramatic Play

* Children's learning is enhanced through dramatic play. By role playing, they increase their creativity and exercise their imaginations!



Birthdays

* In chapel, we celebrate our birthdays in Christ.



Learning Through Play

* Children of all ages learn thru play. Infants learn many skills through play, such as large and small motor skills. Play also helps them develop social skills, and it helps them learn about their world on their terms. Play also helps them develop creative thought and encourages them to explore more and more.



Christmas Pageant

* One of the major advantages of our ministry is our ability to express spirituality and faith. We celebrate Christ's birthday with our annual Christmas pageant and remember His resurrection at Easter.



Thank you LAFUMC

- * We'd like to say thank you to all the First United Methodist community for sponsoring and supporting the Ark.
- * We thank you for your prayers for our staff and children, for the scholarships for children whose parents cannot afford Ark tuition, and for all of your donations.
- * Thank you Mid-High for the crosses, mobiles, and clocks. Thank you UMW for our staff luncheon.
- * Thank you Ark Board for overseeing our operations.
- * Thank you Ed Payne for all the repairs you do for the Ark. Thank you Ann Le Page and Jan Stong for all your great ideas! And last but not least, thank you LAFUMC for sharing this beautiful space with us!

Special February Days

Birthdays:

Doris Blackstock 02/01
 Bob Collom 02/05
 Aaron Goldman 02/08
 Stacey Eaton 02/12
 Francis Naffziger 02/15
 Sarah Kelly 02/18
 Lance Eaton 02/20

Anniversaries:

February 17
 Cathy & Darin Westley

PRE-CONFIRMATION CLASSES

TO BEGIN FEB. 24TH

Pre-Confirmation Classes will begin during the Sunday School hour on February 24th for youth in grades 5 through 10. For more information, please contact Pastor Ring at 662-6277. (Older youth and/or adults who are interested in receiving this instruction are welcome to talk with the pastor about one-on-one scheduling.)



The staff of FUMC would like to heartily thank all of the donors for our 'love offering' which we recently received. We love you too!

GRACIAS

Merci

Obrigato

First United Methodist Church
 called to:

Seek God,
 Share Christ's Word,
 Serve His World

The next edition of Visions will be dated February 22.
 The deadline for articles is Tuesday, February 12.

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 Lorri White, Director
 (505) 662-4822

United Skates

First Session:
 3rd graders & younger
 5:30 pm - 6:45 pm
 Admission \$2.00
 Second Session:
 4th graders & older
 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
 Admission \$2.50

Sunday Services & Activities
 8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11 a.m. Traditional Worship

Wednesday Activities
 Chancel Choir 7 p.m.

Welcome to
 the
LAFUMC
 community,
 Dan Gabel



Upcoming Events Highlights

Sermon Titles

February 10 First Sunday in
 Lent Presentation by
 "Freedom in Jesus
 Ministries" -Bob Garnett
 Pastor Ring's Short Sermon:
 "Christian Freedom, Christian
 Responsibility" - Romans
 7:1-6

February 17 Second Sunday
 in Lent Pastor Ring's
 Sermon: "Receive Your
 Sight" Mark 10:46-5

February 24 Third Sunday
 in Lent Pastor Ring's ser-
 mon: "Leaping in Lent"
 Matthew 16:21-28

Methodist Men Breakfast

February 8, Breakfast at 6:30
 am and a talk about
 Guatemala missions at 7 am
 in the Friendship Center

Staff

February 8, 9 am in the
 Library

LACares Dinner

February 9, 5 pm in the
 Fellowship Hall

McCurdy School Gala

February 9, Espanola

MF

February 10, 4 pm in the
 Senior High Room; MYF
 will continue to meet each
 Sunday at 4 pm

LAF Crafts

February 10, 4 pm in the
 Friendship Center

UMW Palestine Study

February 11 and 25th, 12
 noon in the Friendship
 Center. Bring a bag lunch,
 drinks will be provided.

Outreach/Missions

February 11, 6 pm in the
 Library

Disciple I

February 11, 6:30 pm in the
 Friendship Center

Newspaper Articles Due

February 12

Christian Education

February 12, 6 pm in the
 Library

SPRC

February 12, 7 pm in the
 Asbury Room

Staff Meeting

February 15, 9 am in the
 Library

Offices Closed

February 18

LACares

February 18, 6:30 pm in the
 Library

Disciple I

February 18, 6:30 pm in the
 Friendship Center

Youth Mentoring

February 19, 5:30 pm in the
 Friendship Center

Ark Board

February 19, 6 pm in the
 Mid-High Room

Finance

February 19, 6:30 pm in the

Library

Staff Meeting

February 22, 9 am in the
 Library

Parents' Night Out

February 22, 6 pm

Breakfast Burritos

February 24, before 1st
 service, Sunday School, 2nd
 service, and after 2nd serv-
 ice

Mission Movie

February 25, 6 pm in the
 Friendship Center

Martha Circle

February 26, 1:15 pm at the
 home of Fran Ring--226
 Venado

Create & Discover

February 26, 7 pm at the
 home of Fran Ring--226
 Venado

Church Council

March 2, 7 pm in the
 Friendship Center

Emmaus Community

March 3, 6 pm, potluck din-
 ner in Fellowship Hall fol-
 lowed by business meeting
 and worship in the
 Friendship Center

Trustees

March 5, 6 pm in the Lib