



Estancia United Methodist Church,
600 Williams, Estancia, New
Mexico

Sunday Worship 10:00
AM
Nursery Provided



Rev. Linda Mizell, Pastor
P. O. Box 378, Estancia, NM 87016
Church Office 384-5215
Parsonage 384-2710
email: revlinda2@juno.com

OUR MISSION: To honor God through our worship,
ministry and discipleship based on God's Word;
supporting one another with Christian Fellowship
and reaching out to share the Good News of Jesus
Christ.

APRIL, 2003

SUNDAY SERVANTS FOR APRIL

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Lay Assist: Pam Lambert
Ushers: Lacy & Roy Daniel
Greeters: Waynette & Larry Burnett

YOUTH SCRIPTURE READERS

April 6: Jacque Creamer
April 13: Rose Daniel
April 20: (Easter Sunday)
April 27: Stephen Chaplin

KING'S KIDS

April 6:
April 13: Roci Galyn
April 20: (Easter Sunday)
April 27: Angela Creamer

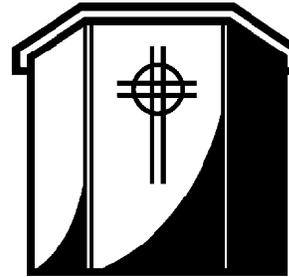
Children's Church

April 6: Paul Mizell
April 13: Paul Mizell
April 20: (Easter Sunday)
April 27: Paul Mizell
(Baby Sitter Available on Easter Sunday)



We are at the mid-point of our Lenten journey. I know some who have given up "junk food," or are using fasting as a new spiritual discipline. I know others who have given up reading novels and are using that time to be in God's word. Others have limited their time in front of the TV. The Weigh Down folks are learning to let go of their obsession with food and to worship God instead. But all of these things are

meaningless sacrifices unless they bring us closer to God. In the seventh chapter of Mark, Jesus is confronted by some Pharisees and teachers of the law who question Jesus' leadership, by pointing to Jesus' failure to wash properly before sitting down to eat and encouraging his disciples to do the same. (This was a specific ritual washing that had little to do with hygienic practice. For details see William Barclay's commentary on Mark.) Jesus' response was a quote from Isaiah, "These people show honor



Pastor's EASTER MESSAGE

to me with words, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is worthless. The things they teach are nothing but human rules" (Mark 7:6b, 7 NCV). Now I suspect that those who have shared with me the sacrifices they have made for Lent are truly striving to be closer to **God**. But, we all know folks that make a show of doing the holy and pious thing but their heart is not in it. Lent is not about the outward demonstration of spiritual discipline, but about how we use these disciplines to bring us closer to **God**.

I had a conversation with someone recently about skipping church activities to spend more time to study for upcoming tests. I shared with them my own experience from my summers at Southern Methodist University, Perkins School of Theology as a Course of Study student. The second year I decided to skip chapel about three out of five mornings to go to the library to work on my papers. I reasoned that because I am a slow reader I needed more time than the other students to complete my assignments, and time was always short. But, the following year I sensed that I had missed something very special, I had missed out on a blessing that **God** had intended to deliver to me through worship. So, that third year, I decided to attend chapel every day, and seek out a worship experience in one of the Dallas area churches each Sunday. **God** blessed me beyond all imagination and I somehow found the time to finish all my papers. My grades actually improved that year, because I made a commitment not just to be in worship, but also to expect to meet **God** there. It was a small way of putting **God** first in my life. When we make a place for God in our lives we allow him to bless us in untold ways. The next time you are tempted to skip your daily devotion, prayer time, worship, or a time of study and fellowship with other Christians, ask yourself what is of enduring importance.

Not all ritual is sacred, but it can become of prime importance all too easily. Through Weigh Down, I have come to see how much our culture worships food. I had never before seen how we have made food righteous. Now, when I see commercials that blatantly tout the emotional comfort that food brings into our lives I cringe, because food has become an idol, replacing the turning to **God** for comfort. Something **God** meant to be part of his marvelous provision now rivals Him for our attention. There are many other examples of "good things" that can become stumbling blocks to our devotion to **God**. May **God** reveal these stumbling blocks to you during this Lenten season so that you may come to

Him with unencumbered hearts.

Holy Week Events

-Pastor Linda

Palm Sunday will commence the Holy Week observance for EUMC. The traditional palms will be waved and special music presented by the choir. **Julie** and **Julianne** will be announcing practice for the children and youth involved in this special service and remembrance of the life of **Jesus Christ**.

We will observe the Lord's Last Supper and his Passion on **Thursday, April 17th, at 7 PM**. This will be a special time to focus on the sacrifice and love that Jesus has for each of us.

An **Easter Sunrise Sunday** community Service is planned for the park. It will begin at 6 AM and there will be a continental breakfast served afterward. **Pastor Linda** will be the speaker this year.



Easter Sunday at EUMC will be a time to celebrate the resurrection of our LORD, with special music from the choir, the presentation of our Confirmands, the celebration of Holy Communion, and several other surprises.



UMY

The UMY group has been very active. Their recent bake sale was a success and the money will be used for scholarships to go to camp at Sacramento this summer. UMY would like to thank UMW for the donation toward this cause. The Senior High Camp is July 7-11 and Junior High Camp will be June 23-27. The students will need an adult sponsor to go along with them. If you can help please contact **Paul**.

The group has also begun a recycling program to turn aluminum cans into cash for the **Heifer Project**. They have set a goal of \$120 dollars for a goat to send to a needy family in a place to be determined. So far,

through recycling, they have about \$80 and the cans just keep coming. It looks like they will be able to provide additional animals at this rate.

There are also plans for a second bake sale on Easter Sunday and a Potato Bar dinner in May. If you know of young people in the 7th to 12th grades that would like to be a part of UMY, please let them know they are welcome. UMY meets on Sundays from 6 – 7:30 PM.

Snack schedule: April 6th, Ashley; April 13th, Brian; April 27th, Jacque

Easter Egg Hunt

The UMY (United Methodist Youth) is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt for all the children in attendance at the Easter Service. The hunt will take place after worship that day. Please bring Easter baskets for the kids to use in collecting their eggs. The children will gather in the Ed. Bldg. while the youth hide the eggs.

Wednesday Night Blessing

The study from Mark is progressing well. It is a joy to share faith with others and to come to new understandings in God's word. The Lenten Study will conclude with a video on the crucifixion, on April 16th. We hope some of you who have not been a part of this special time of study, prayer, worship, and fellowship will join us on the 16th, at 6:30 PM.

Snack schedule: April 2nd, Lois; April 9th, Nick; April 16th, Alma; April 23rd, Carolyn; April 30th, Roci

The Contagious Christian

On Wednesday, April 23rd, we will begin a new study. This study is crucial to the Kingdom of God and to the growth of this church. The Contagious Christian prepares each disciple to be in service to Christ by sharing the Good News with our neighbors. Need I tell you how confused and misguided many of our neighbors and friends are about spiritual issues? Some of the things I hear come out of people's mouths shows how spiritually blind they are. This is not simply something to click our tongue at and shake our head. **Jesus** intends this to become a mission statement to us. "Go, teach them and lead them to Me." But how do we do this? This has been a struggle for the mainline churches since WWII. It has been assumed that everyone in America knows who

Jesus is, but that simply is not true. We have several generations now that are predominately unchurched. They have been influenced by many other religions and belief systems that have clouded their understanding of **God**. Thankfully some of our

LECTIONARY FOR APRIL

April 6, 2003

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jer. 31:31-34; Ps. 51:1-12 (UMH 785)

Heb. 5:5-10; Jn. 12:20-33

April 13, 2003

**Passion/Palm Sunday
(Sixth Sunday in Lent)**

Liturgy of the Palms

Mk. 11:1-11; Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29 (UMH 839)

Liturgy of the Passion

Isa. 50:4-9a; Ps. 31:9-16 (UMH 764);

Phil. 2:5-11; Mk. 14:1-15:47 or Mk. 15:1-39 (40-47)

April 20, 2003

Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43; Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24 (UMH 839);

1 Cor. 15:1-11; Jn. 20:1-18 or Mk. 16:1-8

April 27, 2003

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35; Ps 133 (UMH 850);

1 Jn 1:1-2:2; Jn 20:19-31

LOGOS

There will be a Logos training in Albuquerque, at St. Paul's UMC, on May 4-7th. The Church Council has one scholarship to offer to someone who might be interested in being a part of this ministry in the future. Please contact Paul Mizell ASAP as the reservations must be in by April 15th.



**Christ
Is Alive!**

UMW

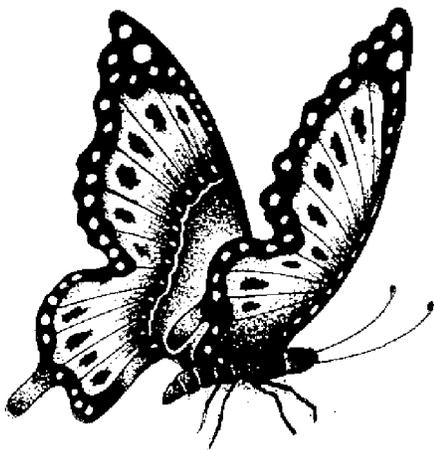
The United Methodist Women meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month. We have adopted the "UMW In Mission Program" and are working toward the Silver Award.

Four members of our Unit attended the District Wide Mission Study in Albuquerque on March 22nd. The Mission Study was presented by Rev. Richard and Pat Campbell. They have a long history working with the people in Mexico and the meeting was both interesting and informative.

We will be having guests from Albuquerque for our April meeting. Deana Walters will be speaking to us on membership and answering questions we might have.

We invite any girl/woman whether a member of our church or not, to join us for fellowship, lunch, mission study, local, national and international. There are no dues, just good food, fellowship and knowledge of missions. I think you will enjoy it.

Springtime Hymn of Promise



In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: Butterflies will soon be free!

In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, God alone can see.

—Natalie Sleeth, *The United Methodist Hymnal*



The History Committee met March 26th to discuss our progress and the 100th birthday celebration.

Almost all of the records have been read and information recorded for the history book. The records have been organized and filed by topic in storage boxes. All bound records have also been stored and labeled in storage boxes. The favors for the banquet are finished and stored.

A letter to former members (prior to 1950) will be mailed requesting recollections of their life in the church. This will be included in the history book.

Also former ministers, if living, or their surviving spouse are being contacted and requested to send a picture and resume of their experience while pastoring the Estancia UMC.

It will be necessary for our congregation to assist in obtaining addresses of former members and ministers or their surviving spouses.

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• A Christian is the keyhole through which other folks see God. —Robert E. Gibson

Update on Weigh Down Workshop

Weigh Down Workshop participants are seeing results they never expected. **Sylvia** shared with the class that she is able to kneel at the altar after many years of pain. One participant has shared with me that she no longer is taking an antidepressant. For some weight loss is slower, but their hearts are turning to doing **God's** will and he is bringing many jewels. One participant can now fit into pants she hasn't been able to for years! We also learned that this bible study isn't only about the weight, we have opened our heart to **God's** will and His teaching and are very blessed for it!

- Angela Creamer

Exciting News!

I would like to bring Weigh Down **Advanced** to our church! This is a ten week class much the same as WD workshop. One day a week we meet to watch a video. You will receive audiocassettes full of truth and encouragement to take home. This will be an intensive Bible study, but it will bear much fruit when people commit themselves to doing **God's** will. You don't have to have been a participant of WD workshop to join this class. You will need to read the Weigh Down Workshop Diet Book by **Gwen Shamblin** available from the Public Library or **Angela Creamer** and **Pam Lambert**. If you know someone who has participated in the workshop you could also listen to their tapes.

Okay **Men** this is for you too? As we have seen in the video, many men are participants in Weigh Down classes and having wonderful results.

You will need some basic foundational information. A tentative date has been set to watch a orientation video on June 1. Please be in prayer, and contact my...

Correction:
Please note that in the Administrative Council Officers list published in the February newsletter, Ethel Floyd was inadvertently omitted as being chairperson of the Historical Committee. Please make this correction on your copy of the list.

• There's one thing for which you should be abundantly thankful — only you and God have all the facts about yourself.

Worship Committee "Changing it Up"

The Worship Committee has decided that we will celebrate Communion twice a month beginning in May. On the first Sunday of each month, we will use the small cups at the altar rail. Then on the third Sunday, we will share Communion by intinction - dipping the sacramental bread in the goblet of juice. Many of us feel the need to be in Communion with our Lord more than just once a month. At the request of the Administrative Council, the question of celebrating Communion twice a month was brought up to the congregation for two Sundays in March. Anyone with strong feelings either way was asked to speak to a Worship Committee member. Only positive reactions were received, so we decided to give it a try.

Coming up in April...special music by the choir, our kids, and you perhaps? Plan to come to the Holy Week Service on Thursday, April 17th at 7 p.m., And the ecumenical Easter sunrise service at the park at six a.m.

DEFINITION OF A CHURCH BUDGET

The budget of our church is more than a set of figures or a list of expenditures. It is actually the program of the church.

It is the pastor preaching, visiting the sick, comforting the bereaved, winning the lost.

It is the Sunday School teaching the Word of God to the multitudes.

It is the organ playing and the choir singing to the glory of God.

It is the church building, standing as a lighthouse in the midst of a world.

It is missionaries sent to foreign lands to preach the good news of Jesus Christ.

It is Christian literature in the hands of a child.

It is schools, hospitals, and children's homes, ministering to those in need.

Most of all, perhaps, the budget of our church is the total expression of our love for Christ, our compassion for a lost world, and a realization that God will hold each of us accountable for our stewardship.

**Wednesday
Night
Blessing**

6:30 pm



Sent with a prayer to:



*Estancia, NM 87016
P. O. Box 378
Estancia United Methodist Church*

April 2003

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	31 7:pm: Women's Emmaus Reunion (educ. bldg) Pastor's day off	1 10:am: Pastor's Prayer group (Immanuel) 6:30 pm: Weighdown 7:pm: Trustees	2 6:30-8:15pm Wednesday Night Blessing	3 7:pm: Men's Emmaus Reunion (educ. bldg)	4	5  Kiva Auditorium
6 10:am Worship Fifth Sun of Lent 5:00pm Confirmation 6:00 UMY	7 7:pm: Women's Emmaus Reunion (educ. bldg) Pastor's day off	8 10:am: Pastor's Prayer group (Immanuel)	9 6:30-8:15pm Wednesday Night Blessing	10 7:pm: Men's Emmaus Reunion (educ. bldg)	11 7:pm: Emmaus Community Gathering here- Bring Snack All Welcome	12
13 PALM SUNDAY Sixth Sun of Lent 11:30 Finance 5:00pm Confirmation 6:00 UMY	14 7:pm: Women's Emmaus Reunion (educ. bldg) Pastor's day off	15 10:am: Pastor's Prayer group (Immanuel)	16 6:30-8:15pm Wednesday Night Blessing - Easter Video	17 7:pm: Holy Week Service	18	19 7am: Men's Prayer Breakfast
20 EASTER SUNDAY 6:30 Sunrise Service Estancia Park 10:00 Easter Worship UMY: Will not meet (Family Day)	21 7:pm: Women's Emmaus Reunion (educ. bldg) Pastor's day off	22 10:am: Pastor's Prayer group (Immanuel) 12 Noon: UMW	23 Contagious Christian Begins! 6:30-8:15pm Wednesday Night Blessing	24 7:pm: Men's Emmaus Reunion (educ. bldg)	25 Community Town Cleanup	26 Dist. UMW meeting, St. Paul's, ABQ
27 10:am Worship 11:30 PPRC 6:00 UMY	28 7:pm: Women's Emmaus Reunion (educ. bldg) Pastor's day off	29 10:am: Pastor's Prayer group (Immanuel)	30 6:30-8:15pm Wednesday Night Blessing	<p>Thurs., May 1 - Men's Emmaus Reunion 7 pm Ed. Bldg.</p> <p>Sun., May 4 - Communion Sunday, Special Offering: Native American Worship meeting after service. UMY - 6 pm</p> <p>May 4-7 - Logos training, St. Paul's, ABQ</p>		