



100th Anniversary - July 31, 2005

**NEWSLETTER**  
OF THE  
Estancia United Methodist Church  
*600 Williams, Estancia, New Mexico*



**DECEMBER**  
**2003**

## Your Church Staff

**Pastor: Rev. Linda Mizell**

P. O. Box 378, Estancia, NM 87016

Church Office 384-5215 Parsonage 384-2710

email: revlinda2@juno.com

Chairperson of Administrative Council  
 Recording Secretary  
 Lay Leader  
 Organist  
 Lay Member of the Annual Conference  
 Alt. Lay Member of the Annual Conference  
 Chairperson: Board of Trustees  
 Chairperson: Worship Committee  
 Chairperson: Education Committee  
 Youth Representative  
 Chairperson: Missions  
 Chairperson: Prayer Evangelism  
 Chairperson: Care and Outreach  
 Chairperson: Pastor Parish Relations  
 Chairperson: Finance Committee  
 Financial Secretary  
 Church Treasurer  
 President UMW  
 President UMY  
 President UMM

Mel Stephenson  
 Shellee Stewart  
 Tracy Hemke  
 Morrow Hall  
 Carolyn Moore  
 Marcia Fitzner  
 John Creamer  
 Julie Griffo  
 Angela Creamer  
 Alice Daniel  
 Marcia Fitzner  
 Nick Griffo  
 Alma Wimsatt  
 Barbara Simms  
 Melanie Chavez  
 Sylvia Levy  
 Jim Wyman  
 Ethel Floyd  
 Ashley Welch  
 Nick Griffo

Bishop: D. Max Whitfield

Diocese of the Southwest Barry Hall

<http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/estancia>

**Please visit us on the web**

## Prayer Concerns

- Cecelia Simms - Bill Simms and family
- Brenda, M.J. and family -Zack Anderson
- Jessica Stephens - Carolyn Moore
- Ray Lynn Gonzalez - Carolyn Hill
- Stephanie Bogle, Richard Oliver's family
- Jim McMichael & Tish
- All who do not have a relationship with Jesus
- General Conference representatives and resolutions
- This congregation and its leaders & finances
- The men and women of the armed forces
- National leaders and the leaders of the world
- Teachers, administrators, and students
- Our town government and the youth center
- New library and swimming pool

**Sunday Worship 10:00 AM**  
**Nursery Provided**

## "And the Beat Goes On."



Thanksgiving is around the corner as I write this; that means that Christmas can't be far behind. At the UMW meeting we had an Advent program called "*The Scandal of Christmas*." The idea came from a chapter out of J. Ellsworth Kalas's book *Christmas from the Backside*. It pointed to the reason for baby Jesus' birth. It is something that we rarely talk about during this time of the year – human sin. Recently my heart has been deeply pierced by the depth of human depravity. And we think that we hide it so well.

At Wednesday Night Blessings we read from the Gospel of Luke:

- Luke 4:17** The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:  
**Luke 4:18** "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,  
**Luke 4:19** to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."  
**Luke 4:20** ¶ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him,  
**Luke 4:21** and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

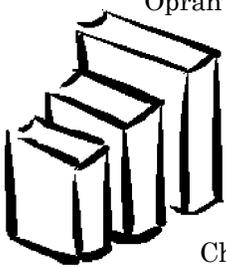
I asked the members of the group how we as the body of Christ are fulfilling this mission today. The image of setting prisoners turned our discussion to domestic violence. This is a bigger problem than most of us are willing to admit. For so many of our families in this community realization of a loving home is only a dream. While the economic/marketing machinery of our culture takes the next five weeks to project images of fun, celebration,



childhood memories, and a sense of belonging; the reality is many have a secret dread for the approaching “festivities.” Many are susceptible in the Christmas season to feelings of melancholy, loneliness, and depression. And many of us have experienced Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons that have been something we want to forget rather than remember. All of us have a Scrooge – *bah hum bug* – residing in us.

The secular story of Scrooge is about a transformation. It is interesting that this secular Christmas story can't help saying what the original Christmas story has always said. We humans have a scandal to deal with, whether our name is Scrooge, Adam and Eve, or Liz, or Mike. We all need to be converted (born again). And that's why we have Christmas. Joy doesn't come from the toys and gifts under the tree. It doesn't even come from being a part of a perfect holiday celebration. It comes from knowing the power of sin is broken because Emmanuel is on the way. Jesus (God) comes to us in the form of a vulnerable infant -- the Savior of the world in such a simple package. And he comes with the express purpose of preaching the good news, proclaiming freedom for the prisoners, recovering of sight to the blind, and release for the oppressed. He comes to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. So no matter how sin has bound us. No matter if we are

### **THE BOOK CLUB**



Oprah has been wildly successful in promoting books. She has her own book club where she recommends a book and thousands of people read it as if it were the greatest thing since sliced bread. I love reading and hope to share some of the books that have influenced my faith walk with the rest of you. I'll start out with a few suggestions and break them into categories. On a cold winter night turn off the TV and curl up with a good book. These Christian authors can help you grow in faith and knowledge of God. Happy reading.

Of course you can find these books on the internet, but they are also available from Cokesbury and Christian Book Distributors. Perhaps several of you would like to choose one of the books and have your own book review club. I think that would be great fun.

#### **PERSONAL GROWTH AND SPIRITUALITY**

Richard J Foster, *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*, Harper & Row, San Francisco, first 1978

Marjorie J. Thompson, *Soul Feast*, Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville 1995

#### **DEVOTIONAL**

Barbara Brown Taylor, *Bread of the Angels*, Crowley Publications, Cambridge, 1997  
*Home By Another Way*, 1999

#### **INSPIRATIONAL**

Margaret Fishback Powers, *Footprints*, Harper Collins Publishers Ltd., Toronto, 1993

Philip Yancey, *Where is God When it Hurts: Coming to Terms With the Tough Times in Your Life*, Harper Paperbacks, 1977

#### **EVANGELISM**

Lee Strobel, *Inside the Mind of Unchurched Harry and Mary: How to Reach Friends and Family Who Avoid God and the Church*, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, 1993

#### **HISTORICAL**

Twila J Roller, *Methodism In Their Madness*, Creative Designs, Inc., Albuquerque, 1993

#### **HOLINESS**

Charles R Swindoll, *Improving Your Serve: The Art of Unselfish Living*, Word Books, Waco, TX, 1981

#### **ANSWERING GOD'S CALL**

Henry T. Blackaby, *Created to be God's Friend*, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, 1999

#### **WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?**

Lee Strobel, *The Case for Faith*, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, 2000,  
*The Case for Christ*

#### **CHRISTIAN FICTION**

Joseph F. Girzone, *Joshua (and the Joshua series)*

James Herriot, *All Things Bright and Beautiful (and the series)*

A minister parked her car in a no-parking zone in a large city because she was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then she put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES."

When she returned, she found a citation from a police officer along with this note. "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION."

**FAVORITE MEMORIES**

Agatha Garrison



As in past issues, we are continuing to spotlight favorite memories in the lives of our long-time church members. Agatha remembers the times following the attack on Pearl Harbor and her experiences during and after World War II:

*“On December 7, 1941 the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and in 1942 the US Government set up training schools for all kinds of work. Most of the men were joining the armed services so I enrolled in machinist work. After my 250 hours of schooling I went to work at General Machinery in Charleston West Virginia for the Navy. I operated a lathe working on 20mm and 40mm gun barrels. After about 18 months I went to Ohio and worked at H&K Appliance doing airplane control panel wiring for the Air Force. I worked there until the end of the war. After going back to West Virginia for a few months, I moved to San Antonio Texas where Earl Slick purchased aircraft from the government and converted them to cargo planes. I worked for Slick Airways for 10 years until I was a senior mechanic. I worked on the aircraft ignition system, magnetos, ignition harness, carburetors etc.*

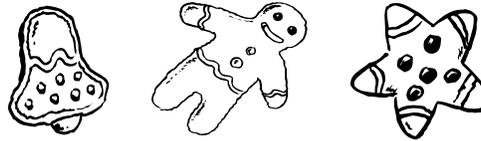
*When Slick Airways sold out to Howard Air, I stopped working as a mechanic.*

*I still have my E pin (excellence) from the Navy and my Gold Wing award pin from the airline in thanks for 10 years of aircraft mechanic work on airplanes and helicopters.*

*This is a part of the story of my life.”*

--Agatha Garrison



**DON'T FORGET OUR COOKIE WALK**

The **United Methodist Women** are presently planning their upcoming **Cookie Walk** scheduled for **December 13th**. Several years ago we instituted the Cookie Walks and they were quite successful. They are also a fun venture whereby everyone is given a "carry out box" and one latex glove. You collect the cookies you want, they are weighted and sold by the pound. This is a great way for you to take care of some of your Christmas baking.

We are also planning our annual **Christmas Party** which will be a potluck at noon, **December 16th** at **Ethel Floyd's** home. We invite all women of the church who would like to attend this fun event. There will be no business meeting, just a Christmas Luncheon together and a short program. ---Please put this on your calendar!

**"GOINGS ON" OF THE HISTORY COMMITTEE**

**Caroline Moore**, a member of the History Committee, has been visiting the Torrance County Courthouse and searching the records for the history of our church property. She found a "Contract of Sale" dated the first day of April, 1905, between The New Mexico Fuel and Iron Company and The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Estancia, a Corporation, to pay the sum of one dollar for Lots 1, 2, 3, number 54, the Town of Estancia. Payment to be made in cash. Quote: "This contract is made on condition that second party shall commence the construction of a substantial church building within two years from the date thereof, and complete same within three years from said date; otherwise this contract shall be and become void"

In October 1933, a Quit Claim Deed was issued for this same property. Also in October 1933, a Quite Claim Deed was issued for Lot 4, Block 54 from C. B. Bendall and wife for the sum of \$20.00.

Articles of Incorporation were issued January 6, 1919 and again August 10, 1971.

Lots 5 and 6 were acquired October 27, 1944, by Deed between State Tax Commission and the Methodist Church of Estancia for \$10.00. A Quit Claim Deed was issued April 22, 1946 to the First Methodist Church by Tax Sale Certificate #3322 to 3327 by the State Tax Commission of New Mexico.

On September 13, 1950, the property was mortgaged to the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South in the amount of \$3000.00 and was paid in full at the rate of \$150.00 per month. The Mortgage was signed by J. H. Wiggins, M.D., and H. P. Brunell, President and Secretary respectively. A Satisfaction of Mortgage was issued September 14, 1961.

This gives you a "run-down" of the early history of our church property. You will find additional information in our upcoming history book.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS**

The Worship Committee organized several special services throughout the year. A special Holy Week service was held on Maundy Thursday, which combined traditional Maundy Thursday and Good Friday observances. We had a special service for Pentecost that included a birthday celebration for the Church complete with red balloons, bubbles, and a birthday cake.

It was our pleasure to have several guest speakers during the year. Missionaries **Charles and Dee Ivy** told about their work during a service in February and at a potluck held in their honor after church. **Rev. Raquel Mull** from the Native American United Methodist Church in Albuquerque also delivered a stirring sermon in February. The pastor at McCurdy School in Espanola, **Rev. Joe Morris**, was our guest pastor one Sunday in July.

Our wonderful lay people also led a number of services during the year. The United Methodist Women led our worship once in July and again in October. We were blessed to have the United Methodist Youth take charge for Youth Sunday in February. Our Lay Leader, **Tracy Henke**, arranged for several different members of our church family to give their testimonies at various times throughout the year.

Many thanks to **Ethel Floyd** and **Morrow Hall** who have been dedicated to leading our choir in providing special music for Sunday worship services. We are so blessed to have their wonderful talents in our congregation. Thanks also to **Julianne Welch**, **Sylvia Levy**, and **Marilyn Seddon**, who made our new acolyte robes.

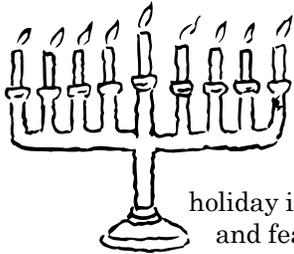
### **MORE ABOUT THE SEVEN FEASTS OF ISRAEL**

Closely following Yom Kippur and Atonement is the Feast of Tabernacles, or "Booth." This feast day occurred on October 11, 15 of Tishri, the seventh month or the seventh full moon of the year.

To the Jews this represents the protection that God provided while in the wilderness after leaving Egypt. Each year booths are built and decorated and used as places of worship, thanksgiving and feasting. In Jerusalem, a municipal shelter for the whole city is provided near the Jaffa Gate.

Tabernacles symbolizes the Lord's shelter in the world to come. His great Tabernacle will exist in Jerusalem during the Kingdom Age. (Ezekiel 37:26-27.) The Lord will establish His Tabernacle in Jerusalem and all the world will come every year to appear before the King and worship Him.

Chanukah begins on December 19, ends on the 27 this year. It is the month of Kislev until the 26, then the new month of Tevet. It is a time of rededication. This holiday was not given by God on Mount Sinai, but is prophesied by Daniel (Dan.8:9-14), and was fulfilled in 165 B.C. when the Temple was rededicated.



At this time Antiochus entered the Temple and sacrificed a sow on the altar, a great blasphemy. The Macabees threw him out but then only one jar of consecrated oil could be found, a one day supply. God performed a great miracle in answer to the people's prayers and the oil lasted eight days and kept the Eternal Light until more oil could be made ready. And so the Jews light a candle each night for eight nights (the Menorah) during Chanukah. This holiday is celebrated by Jews much as Christmas is celebrated by Christians, with worship, gift giving and feasting.

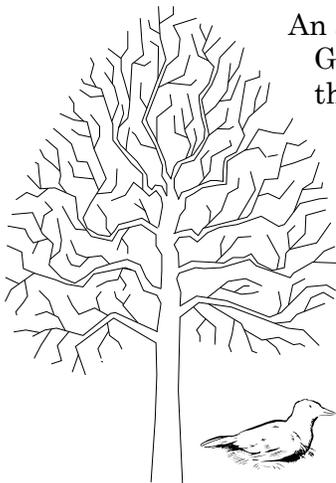
The Eternal Light symbolizes Christ, of course, as He is the Eternal Light and without light there is no life so Eternal Life is also portrayed here.

Beyond Tabernacles, beyond the Kingdom, we have eternity with God.

--Alma Wimsatt

### **GOD'S WINGS**

A little something to put things in perspective...



An article in National Geographic several years ago provided an interesting picture of God's wings. After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage.

One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he gently struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings.

The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. Then the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast.

Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live. "He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge." Psalm 91:4)

Being loved this much should make a difference in your life. Remember the One who loves you, and then be different because of it.

**HOME BOUND MINISTRY**

Our recently created Home Bound Ministry has received an excellent response! Those who have agreed to help are:

<b>Tracy Hemke</b>	<b>Nick Griffo</b>
<b>Don Fitzner</b>	<b>Paul Mizell</b>
<b>Lily Wyman</b>	<b>Pastor Linda Mizell</b>
<b>Chairman Agatha Garrison</b>	

Our current home bound list:

<b>Woody Clements</b>	<b>Frances Tyler</b>
<b>Dee Dee and Jim Young</b>	<b>Beth Roberts</b>
<b>Macel Garrison</b>	<b>Ruby and Craig Martin</b>
<b>Tish and Jim McMichael</b>	<b>Abby and Dwight Martin</b>

This is our first list and November 2nd was the first Sunday of our ministry. Because of visiting family, I was only able to visit **Woody Clements**. It was a very cheerful conversation. He was so cheerful, it really was a blessing for me as well as him. **Pastor Linda** and **Lily Wyman** visited **Beth Roberts** and **Nick** and **Tracy** visited **Frances Tyler** and **Macel Garrison**.

Our next visitation will be Sunday, December 7th. Thanks to all who responded to our call to be part of this ministry.

If you know anyone who would like to receive the Sacraments and a visit on the first Sunday of the month, please call me or **Pastor Linda**.

Let's work together to make this ministry a blessing to our church and community. —*Agatha Garrison*

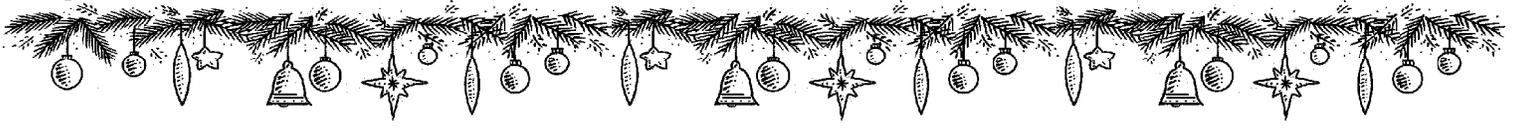
**UNITED METHODIST MEN**

In November, we had an election of officers. **Nick Griffo** was elected president, and **Don Fitzner** was elected treasurer. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month at 7:00 a.m. for breakfast, followed by a devotion/prayer time and discussion of business at hand.

At every meeting, we take up an offering which has been sent to Waco Children's Home. **Francis Wimm** is heading up the outreach program which is focused on members who have not attended our church lately. Several of the men have volunteered to help **Agatha Garrison** deliver Communion to the home bound. Come join us for breakfast and fellowship, and help us in serving Our Lord.

**OLD FASHIONED CAROLING**

Bundle up in your warmest muffs and mittens and join the Estancia UMC family for an evening of caroling on Sunday Dec 21st. The **Clarks** have offered to bring their team of black and white draft horses and a wagon for the event. There will be soup, cocoa, and sweets to warm up cold noses after the singing and some fun activities to get the circulation going again. We will leave the church about 6 PM to visit shut-ins in the area. This is one of my favorite holiday festivities. Please be sure to sign up or RSVP to **Julie Griffo** at 384-2523 or **Paul Mizell** 384-2710.



### HOW TO FORGIVE

One day a while back, a man, his heart heavy with grief, was walking in the woods. As he thought about his life this day, he knew many things were not right. He thought about those who had lied about him back when he had a job. His thoughts turned to those who had stolen his things and cheated him. He remembered family that had passed on. His mind turned to the illness he had that no one could cure. His very soul was filled with anger, resentment and frustration.

Standing there this day, searching for answers he could not find, knowing all else had failed him, he knelt at the base of an old oak tree to seek the one he knew would always be there. And with tears in his eyes, he prayed:

“Lord- You have done wonderful things for me in this life. You have told me to do many things for you, and I happily obeyed. Today, you have told me to forgive. I am sad, Lord, because I cannot. I don’t know how.

It is not fair Lord. I didn’t deserve these wrongs that were done against me and I shouldn’t have to forgive. As perfect as your way is Lord, this one thing I cannot do, for I don’t know how to forgive. My anger is so deep Lord, I fear I may not hear you, but I pray that you teach me to do this one thing I cannot do - Teach me To Forgive.”

As he knelt there in the quiet shade of that old oak tree, he felt something fall onto his shoulder. He opened his eyes. Out of the corner of one eye, he saw something red on his shirt. He could not turn to see what it was because where the oak tree had been was a large square piece of wood in the ground. He raised his head and saw two feet held to the wood with a large spike through them.

He raised his head more, and tears came to his eyes as he saw Jesus hanging on a cross. He saw spikes in His hands, a gash in His side, a torn and battered body, deep thorns sunk into His head. Finally he saw the suffering and pain on His precious face. As their eyes met, the man’s tears turned to sobbing, and Jesus began to speak. Have you ever told a lie, he asked?

The man answered - yes Lord.

Have you ever been given too much change and kept it?

The man answered yes Lord. And the man sobbed more and more.

Have you ever taken something from work that wasn’t yours, Jesus asked?

And the man answered yes Lord.

Have you ever sworn, using my Father’s name in vain?

The man, crying now, answered yes Lord.

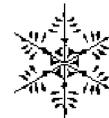
As Jesus asked many more times, “Have you ever?” The man’s crying became uncontrollable, for he could only answer yes Lord.

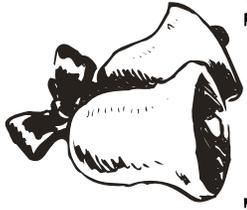
Then Jesus turned His head from one side to the other, and the man felt something fall on his other shoulder. He looked and saw that it was the blood of Jesus. When he looked back up, his eyes met those of Jesus, and there was a look of love the man had never seen or known before. Jesus said, I didn’t deserve this either, but I forgive you.

It may be hard to see how you’re going to get through something, but when you look back in life, you realize how true this statement is.

If God brings you to it - He will bring you through it.

Lord I love You and I need You, come into my heart, today. For without You I can do nothing.





# December 2003

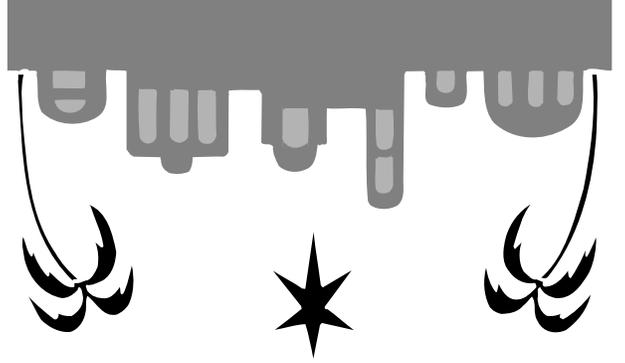


Tear Off

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 9 AM Choir Prac. 10 AM Worship, <b>First Sunday of Advent</b> <b>7-PM CHURCH CONF</b>	<b>1</b> 7AM Morning Meditation	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7AM Morning Meditation <b>6:30 PM</b> Wed Night Blessing	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7AM Morning Meditation	<b>6</b> 7AM Men's Breakfast <b>9:30 AM</b> Womens Emmaus Breakfast <b>11:30AM</b> Dist
<b>7</b> 10 AM Worship, <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> UMY - Advent Wreath & Cans after Church <b>14</b> 10 AM Worship, <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> UMY - 12 Days of Christmas <b>11:30 AM</b> Finance <b>21</b> 10 AM Worship Communion <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b> <b>6PM</b> CAROLING	<b>8</b> 7AM Morning Meditation	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7AM Morning Meditation <b>10:00 AM</b> Com of Concern <b>6:30 PM</b> Wed Night Blessing	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7AM Morning Meditation	<b>13</b> 10AM UMW COOKIE WALK <b>7:00 PM</b> Parade of Lights
<b>15</b> 7AM Morning Meditation <b>14</b> 10 AM Worship, <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> UMY - 12 Days of Christmas <b>11:30 AM</b> Finance <b>21</b> 10 AM Worship Communion <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b> <b>6PM</b> CAROLING	<b>15</b> 7AM Morning Meditation	<b>16</b> 12 Noon UMW - Christmas at Ethel's	<b>17</b> 7AM Morning Meditation	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7AM Morning Meditation	<b>20</b> 7AM Men's Breakfast <b>9:30 AM</b> Womens Emmaus Breakfast
<b>22</b> 7AM Morning Meditation School Break Begins	<b>22</b> 7AM Morning Meditation School Break Begins	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7AM Morning Meditation <b>5:30PM</b> CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE No Wed Nt Bless	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Pastor Vacation Begins	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10 AM Worship Wesley Covenant Service	<b>29</b> 7AM Morning Meditation	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7AM Morning Meditation		<b>IMPORTANT DATES</b> <b>OLD FASHIONED CAROLING</b> <b>SUNDAY DEC 21ST 6:PM</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 5:30 PM</b>

DECEMBER

DI



*Sent with a prayer to:*

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



**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.**