



Weekly Business Showcase

5/16/2016 – 5/20/2016

Grace United Methodist Church

1206 Greenwood Lane

(575) 437-7640

Alamogordo Chamber Member since: 1979

In 1889 Alamogordo, there were two churches of the early Methodist denomination, the Northern Branch and the Southern Branch of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Eventually the Northern Branch would disband while the southern congregation moved from a building at the corner of 9th Street and Texas Ave. to a wooden building at 10th St. and Maryland. In 1926, a brick building was built and the southern congregation started called themselves Grace Methodist Church. During the 1950's, church services were even held at a drive-in-theater. In 1956, the property at 16th street and Cuba Ave was purchased and services were held at Oregon School while the new church building, now known as Fellowship Hall, was completed. In 1961, a new sanctuary was completed to accomplish the vision of a church planted in the middle of a community area and the name Grace United Methodist Church was made official. Through the years, many successful programs led to the success of Grace UMC. From Labor Day picnics, an English Hand Bell choir to Mother's Day Out and a church pre-school. Fast forward to 1991 and the creation of our Shared Table ministry is still operating today. We have recently completed a successful capital campaign in order to upgrade our HVAC systems and renovate the church campus buildings to increase hospitality and comfort we offer here.

Today, Grace church – the Caring Church takes this name to heart. Shared Table is still going strong, serving an average of 175 people at a sit down meal every Saturday at lunch. Other ways we deliver service to others is in the form of our Grace Cares food pantry which is held weekly. We created Grace Cares prescription outreach through Lowes Pharmacy. We are also host to the Alamogordo Community Garden on Puerto Rico Ave. We support United Methodist missions. We help support the local assistance fund at Love, Inc. Our Grace Pumpkin patch in October is host to 2,000 children coming to us through school field trips and our annual Family Day at the Patch. We lead even young children to encourage and serve others through our Kids With a Mission week during the summers. Education is another area of focus with annual scholarships awarded to area students at undergraduate college levels and above. We are deeply committed to helping our community members by being the best church for Alamogordo.

Currently, Grace Church holds 2 worship services a week. The Traditional service, held at 8:30 am on Sundays follows a familiar order of worship with a chancel choir leading worship weekly and the sacrament of Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday of each month. Handbells, orchestra or even steel

drums often accompany the service. Our 11:00 am Sunday service, The Branch, follows a contemporary order of worship led by a praise team band. Communion is held weekly and often an altar call, anointing with oils or prayer leaders are a part of the service. We offer 14 Sunday school classes for those of every age and interest of Bible based faith development. Periodic Bible studies are held for more specialized groups such as women or young moms. For musical people, we have vocal groups such as Chancel choir, Cokesbury choir, and the Praise team (singers and musicians.) As far as instrumental groups, we house a Hand bell choir, 2 steel drum groups, and accordion group along with the Alamogordo Grace Community Orchestra. Our Grace United Methodist Youth (GUMY) meets on Sunday evenings and is focused on growing young disciples through the application of Bible studies, missions and outreach as well as fun activities; this Group is for grades 6-12. As you can tell, we are a vital and committed congregation, who spread the word of God through many different ways.

As we look ahead to the future of Alamogordo, we envision ourselves becoming more enmeshed in the community around us. The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As a local church, community transformation and community influence are goals we place in front of us to fulfill. The community around us has diverse needs; the needs might be spiritual or emotional, material or physical, emotional or social. The congregation of *Grace Church-the caring church* is deeply committed to the Lord and to reaching others in His love.