

The Methodist Messenger

In the Spirit of John Wesley

*“Bringing faith into life by loving God
and all people as God loves us”*

APRIL

2015

First United Methodist Church
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Hanford, CA 93230

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Greetings,

This April edition of the Newsletter will reach you sometime during Holy Week. Holy Week is a liminal time between the celebration of Palm Sunday and the awe of Easter. It would be easy to go from one celebration to the next, but to do so is to deny the events of that week and to gloss over the experiences of Jesus - the very experiences which reveal his very human connection with us. Just as we in our lives experience tragedy, sorrow, disappointment, betrayal, disillusionment, pain, grief and suffering, Jesus does also. It is in Holy Week that we begin to understand just how incarnate Jesus is. Jesus, God present in human form, experiences our lives, hurts and all.

We are invited to journey with Jesus, not just for the easy parts, but for all of it. It is in this journey, from Palm Sunday Hosanna's to intimate gatherings of friends to gardens to halls of power and ultimately to the Cross that we must also take. I invite you to this journey this week. I invite you to take out your bibles and read of Jesus' journey this Holy Week. To take time to let the significance of these events and our celebrations sink into your heart.

Monday of Holy Week	John 12:1-11
Tuesday of Holy Week	John 12:20-36
Wednesday of Holy Week	John 13:21-32
Maundy Thursday	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday	John 18:1-19:42
Holy Saturday	Matthew 27:57-66

I also invite you to experience all that Holy Week has to offer in terms of worshiping with other people of faith.

I leave you with this prayer from Vanderbilt Divinity Library:

Christ our God,
your love is poured out in death for our sakes.
Hold us in your embrace
as we wait for Easter's dawn.
Comfort us with the promise that no power on earth, not even death itself,
can separate us from your love;
and strengthen us to wait
until you are revealed to us
in all your risen glory. Amen.

Remember, Even This Week, God's Love
Never Ends,

Pastor Susan Foster





Holy Week

March 26 - Palm Sunday

Sunday morning worship @ 10:30 am

living water @ 7:00 pm

April 2 - Maundy Thursday @ 1st Christian Church

6:30 pm, 505 W. Cameron Street

We will celebrate this Holy day with our brothers & sisters at First Christian Church who have invited us for a soup supper and worship together.

April 3 - Good Friday @ 1st United Methodist Church

Noon

With our friends from First Christian Church we will gather for a time of worship and remembrance of Jesus' crucifixion.

April 5 - Easter Sunrise Service @ 1st Christian Church

7:00 am, 505 W. Cameron Street

In the early morning light we will gather to witness to the empty tomb and the resurrection of Jesus!

Easter Sunday Worship @ 1st United Methodist Church

Join us 10:30 am to celebrate and worship together!

Continue worship at the 7:00 pm living water service celebration.

Easter Flowers

We will be having flowers decorate our altar area on Easter Sunday morning. Plan now to dedicate a lily or other cut or live colorful flower in memory or honor of a loved one. You can let the office know of your dedication through the blue sign-in sheets or by phoning the church office at 584-4075. Flowers can be brought to the office beginning March 30th or on Easter Sunday morning before worship begins.



Be A Part Of Our Reverse Easter Egg Hunt....April 5th

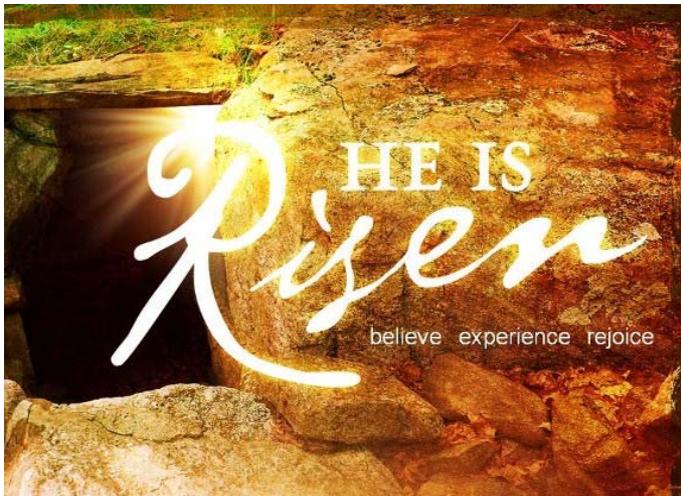


What is that you ask? Instead of having children hunt for Easter Eggs on Easter Sunday, we will have them collect plastic Easter Eggs you have filled with spare change and special gifts to benefit Imagine No Malaria. Eggs are available after worship on Sundays.

If you have given up something for Lent, perhaps the money you save could be put in your egg. Or you could consider a sacrificial gift. Or your spare change.

Imagine No Malaria is the joint effort of the people of the United Methodist Church to end malaria on the continent of Africa. Malaria is a 100% preventable disease that kills someone every 60 seconds. Nearly 90 percent of malaria's victims are children under the age of 5 and pregnant women. Malaria was eliminated in the United States in the 1950s but remains a potent killer in Africa. United Methodists have already trained 11,600+ health workers, distributed 2.3+ million bed nets, and impacted 4.6+ million lives with lifesaving information.

See imagninenomalaria.org for more information.





LAUNDRY LOVE IS A COOPERATIVE EFFORT AMONG SEVERAL CHURCHES IN OUR COMMUNITY TO OFFER A REGULAR OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY TO COME AND DO THEIR LAUNDRY. LAUNDRY LOVE PROVIDES SOAP, MONEY FOR THE MACHINES AND FELLOWSHIP.

Our first two Laundry Love events were successful!

We heard many stories and made new connections with people in our community. We met men, women, children, families, singles, couples, old, young, & in between all grateful for the opportunity of clean clothes and bedding.

Our next Laundry Love event is planned for April 16th, from 3-8 pm.

Volunteers are needed! Talk with Pastor Susan or Peggy Gregory

Laundry Love on the surface, is a ministry of helping people have clean clothes. Going deeper, Laundry Love is about developing relationships with people to see what gifts are present among those we meet, and encouraging and kindling responsibility and dignity. Our hope is that we will be part the process of moving those we meet from dependency toward interdependency.

Laundry Love began with a question asked of T-Bone, a homeless gentleman living in Ventura Calif. "How can we come alongside your life in a way that would matter?" His response, "If I had clean clothes I think people would treat me like a human being."



There is a collection basket in the narthex for your offering of canned food for the Salvation Army.



Mission Service Opportunity

**Friday, April 17th,
8 am - 12 noon**

Salvation Army 380 East Ivy Street

Join us in helping distribute fresh food to those in need in our community.

Volunteers are needed!
Many hands make light work!

Shower Ministry

Thank you for continuing to remember the Shower Ministry for the homeless as you shop.

We are continuing to collect needed items. Let's keep filling up the basket on the altar.

These items have a great impact on the lives of those who are served at the Shower Ministry for the Homeless at The Hanford Pentecostal Church.

Needs:

Deodorant, Tooth Brushes, Toothpaste, Talc or Baby Powder, Terry Bathmats



Helping Hands Ministry

Be on the lookout for ways in which we can be of service to one another. When you find a way, offer help or let the Church office know.

Need help with a project or situation? Your church family wants to help. Please ask.

Want to help? We are building a data-base of people willing to help.

Please see Pastor Susan if you are interested in serving or have further ideas.

Hospitality Ministry

Thank you to everyone who has participated in this ministry. Those in the support groups have noticed that we care about them!

13 different meetings happen each week in the Friendship & Fireside rooms.

These groups do amazing work with people's lives and for our community.

Treats can be dropped off in the church office or directly in the Friendship/Fireside Kitchen.



Interested in Feeding People?

Our neighbors at Caruthers United Methodist Church host a free community dinner each week.

We are going on a field trip to Caruthers on **Wednesday, April 22** to see it in action! Let the church office know if you want to go.



Want to use your handyman skills around the church?

MST has a list of smallish projects that need to be done.

Please see Pastor Susan to help.



**Vacation
Bible
School!**

Check out the web site for G-FORCE at Cokesburyvbs.com. It looks like a lot of fun learning is ahead!

Would you like to volunteer? Contact Jan Franke for information or to sign-up.



Stitching Group

Wednesdays, April 8th & 22nd
10:00 am - noon
Millie Kraft Lounge

Anyone who wants to share, learn, stitch in any way or work on cutting and tying plastic bags are welcome to fellowship with us.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUPPORT TEAM**

The Board of Discipleship is looking to form a Sunday School Support Team. Do you have an interest in the spiritual lives of children? Would you like to see our Sunday School grow?

We are looking for people who would be interested in supporting what is already going on in our Sunday School and working to invite more children and families to be a part of our congregation.

Let Pastor Susan know if you are interested.



Reusable Grocery Bags

These sturdy bags have our Church logo & name on them.

They are perfect for your grocery shopping trips & kinder on the environment.

A great way to advertise our church.

\$5.00 each available from the church office.





Report on Church Facility Projects

By Jim Gregory

The Ministry Support Team has been actively working on several maintenance and improvement projects around the church properties. Many of these projects have been made possible through a grant from the Available Program Fund.

At the parsonage:

Trenching has started in order to put a sealer along the east external wall of the sunken living room, to prevent future water intrusion.

Jordan Hickey of Troop 400 will be doing an Eagle Scout project, to install an east back yard drainage system.

At the Church

The upgrades in Fireside Room are complete, including new windows, new paint, new window coverings, new flooring and new door thresholds.

Fireside kitchen and Friendship room have new window coverings.

The men's bathroom in Founders Hall has new paint, new flooring and a new toilet.

The replacement sidewalk along Center street and a new sidewalk and ramp by the Choir room door will take place this spring.

Five replacement LED night lights, the primary lights for nighttime illumination, have been installed, two replacement door LED night lights have been installed, an electrical plug line for the copier in the office has been upgraded, a relocated plug for an evaporative cooler in Founders Hall has been installed, and an electric wire in a sanctuary chandelier has been repaired.

The LED lights in the tower cross have been partially repaired.

Ministry Support Team (MST)

MST is the leadership group in our church that is tasked with caring for our resources; money, staff and building.

Next Meeting: Thursday,
April 16th, 5:00 pm

Board of Discipleship (BOD)

will meet Thursday, April 23, 5:00 pm

The Board of Discipleship is tasked with ensuring that we as a congregation are growing in the ways in which we follow Jesus. All are welcome!

**The Central Valley District
Council on Ministry**

presents

Second Saturday Monthly

Lay Leadership Courses

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Register via www.cnumc.org

(scroll down and look under registrations
on the right)

In Porterville @ Grand Avenue UMC:

April 11th - United Methodist History

June 13th - Basic Lay Servant Class

(needed to be a certified Lay Leader)

October 10 - Enneagram Your Spiritual
Type

In Stockton @ Central UMC:

May 16 - Basic Lay Servant

July 11 - Enneagram Your Spiritual Type

September 12 - United Methodist History

?s See Pastor Susan

**Fresno Area Missionary and
Extension Society Annual
Meeting**

April 27, 2015

7:00 pm

St. Paul's UMC, Fresno

This group supports the growth of the
United Methodist Church in our region.
You are invited to see what is
happening in our area.

**Are you a youth in grades
6 through 12?**



**In April we will meet on April
19th because Easter is the first
Sunday of the month.**

We'll meet from 4:00 pm-6:00 pm.
We will have fun, explore our faith,
& serve others!

All youth in grades 6 through 12 are
welcome.

Bring your friends.

See Pastor Susan if you have any
questions.

We're hosting

**The Community
Prayer Service**

May 3rd

6 pm.

In our Sanctuary

Plan on joining our
brothers and sisters
in Christ in our com-
munity for a time of
worship and prayer.

Cookie donations
needed for fellow-
ship time following
the service.





United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Lunch & Meeting Sunday, April 19th After Church

Our March meeting had 11 in attendance. The program was 5 of the 7 ladies telling about having attended the recent United Methodist Women Retreat. We discussed the Spring Luncheon (tickets must be bought ahead of time) and decided to definitely have the Bazaar in November. We also made some corrections to meeting times, so, please put the following dates and times on your 2015 calendar:

- Sat, Apr. 11: UWM Legislative Event and Lunch, Sacramento
- Thu, Apr. 16: Board Meeting – 1:30 pm
- Sun, Apr. 19: General Meeting, following Coffee Hour (12 noon)
- Thu, May 7: Board Meeting – 1:30 pm
- Sat, May 9: Spring Luncheon – 11:30 am (tickets: \$10)
- Thu, May 28: Post Luncheon meeting and lunch – 11:00 am

Anyone who is interested can attend the Board Meetings as well as the General Meetings that will include some type of lunch and hopefully a program/speaker. It is very important to be able to keep our local UMW going, and to do that, we need many ladies to be a part of it. If you have any questions, just ask myself or Sue Hensel (our new Treasurer, and most recent President). Vicki Beeman

I would like to start out by saying a huge Thank You to the United Methodist Women of FUMC Hanford for allowing me the opportunity to attend the retreat this year. It was my first ever retreat with the UMW.

It was a great weekend from the trip up there with Sue Hensel, Vicky Beeman and Cat Barclay...to the trip home.

The weather was fabulous. The mountains beautiful.

The speaker, Dr. Mary Maaga was absolutely wonderful. Smart, funny and a great story teller. She brought out things that I knew but didn't know how to make work. It was a real God moment weekend for me.

I was also very honored to be asked to play my guitar and sing for the benediction on Saturday night. It was an absolute kick for me.

Will I go again next year? You bet I will! Thank you again United Methodist Women Hanford.

UNITED METHODIST



Dinner & Meeting Monday, April 13th 6:30 pm

The next dinner meeting of the United Methodist Men is set for Monday the 13th of April. Please give me a call so I can get a count for dinner. Don't sit home and eat by yourself.

I guess other people like Bob Peden's corned beef and cabbage, too. We had a good crowd in March and ate it all up. We also heard about some of the projects being done by Champions Recovery Alternatives in and around Hanford. One is called Samuel's house and it's out on the end of 15th Avenue, west of Armona. They have a 49-bed facility, where they can teach life skills to men who come to them. "Life skills"? Not just money management, job interview stuff, but how to be a dad, how to read to your kids.

This is just a little bit of the story. Our group had LOTS of questions — mostly "How" questions — and liked all the answers.

Champions is a faith-based organization that lives on grant money and support from local churches and others. They also have Hannah's House right here in Hanford, with similar services for women. Our speakers impressed everybody as knowledgeable, professional, experienced and very caring. They sent four speakers: program director Crystal Hernandez, Lana Frank, Lori Keen and Hana Gates.

I mentioned "the support of local churches." Want to help? The Samuel's house project is much newer, and they would like to use a system there that has worked well elsewhere. At Hannah's house, each room has a theme for its decor. The room was adopted by a local supporter who furnished and decorated it as they desired. One example was a cowboy theme, and another was as a memorial to a daughter who had passed away. So, with lots of rooms at Samuel's house, there is much opportunity for creative service in support of building confidence in these men who are our neighbors that they can function as productive members of our community.

David Beeman 584-2911

"Putting order into disordered lives." - Champions

At FUMC Hanford, we take the vows of membership very seriously. We have promised to uphold the United Methodist Church through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Please keep the following in your prayers this month:

Prayers of Health Concern

Kathleen Wilson (undergoing radiation), Jill (end stage cancer) & Connor—the Bertaina’s ex-daughter in law & grandson, Katie (Leukemia) - Stacy Brockie’s cousin, Ben Durham (lung cancer), Fran Knight, Bonnie Peters, Ellie Wagner (continued healing), Carol Collar’s Mother - Francy Angstman (assisted living), Pastor Susan’s parents Helen and John Foster, Larry McDonald (PTSD), Andrea McDonald, Marilyn Peden, Gloria Brown, Peri Neos, Millie Dodge, Pat George, Audra Koelewyn, Alison Klein, June Kruger (diagnosed with cancer), Louise Card (West Gate Garden Care, 4525 W. Tulare. Visalia), Marie Wiles (Kingsburg Care Center 1101 Stroud Ave. Kingsburg, CA 93631).

Other Prayer Requests

- Cat Barclay’s granddaughter Kassidy (critical injuries) & her wife Courtney involved in serious auto accident
- Laundry Love ministry
- Financial Peace University
- Jan Franke, family and friends as they mourn the passing of Audrey Franke Remembrance Donations may be given to our church
- The family and friends of Esther Geissler who passed away
- John & Penny Meadows grieving the death of Penny’s mom & John’s father
- Mary and Jeff Durham as they care give for Ben Durham
- 1st Christian’s Rev. Tom Warren & family
- For Toni, Seth & Gage on their foster adoption
- Those in the midst of crisis due to disasters
- Opportunities to serve our neighbors
- For caregivers and those caring for their parents
- The Noonan, Castanon & Wilson Families
- The Youth of this congregation
- Ministry Support Team & Board of Discipleship
- Thanksgiving for all the church volunteers who give so graciously of their time and talents. We are the church!

"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."
Alfred Lord Tennyson

WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

Morning Worship

April 5

*What's the Least I Can Believe and
Still Be A Christian - Week 9*
Jesus' Resurrection: Is There Still
Hope?

Matthew 28:1-7

April 12

John 20:19-31

*Jesus came through the locked doors,
stood among them, and said,
"Peace to you."*

April 19

Luke 24:13-49

*"But they were not able to recognize
who he was."*

April 26

John 10:11-18

*"I know my own sheep and my sheep
know me."*

living water

april 5 - thomas

Worship Coordinator

April 5: Becky Eversall
April 12: Chris Payne
April 19: Andrea McDonald
April 26: Peggy Gregory

Lay Worship Leaders

April 5: Bob Junell
April 12: Leon McDonald
April 19: Sage Wyman
April 26: Patty Ferrell

Greeters

April 5: Will you consider welcoming
April 12: people to our church?
April 19:
April 26: Verne Adams

Ushers

April 5: Verne Adams & Mary Durham &
Mike Bertaina
April 12: Jim Gregory & Mary Durham &
Mike Bertaina
April 19: Mike Bertaina & Mary Durham
April 26: Mary Durham & Mike Bertaina

Counting Team

April 5: Andrea McDonald & Vicki
Beeman
April 12: David Beeman & Patty Ferrell
April 19: Sue Hensel & Karen Shoemaker
April 26: Jim Gregory &

Morning Worship Coffee Hour

April 5: Andrea & Larry McDonald
April 12: Andrea & Larry McDonald
April 19: Bob & Pollie Geissler, Mike Pina
April 26: Patty Ferrell, Bonnie & Frank
Butterway

First United Methodist Church
505 North Redington Street
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**United Methodist
Church Day at
the Ballpark**

Fundraiser to benefit Imagine No Malaria! All United Methodist Churches



in Grizzlies Territory will be gathering behind home plate
to see a great game and raise money to end Malaria.

Saturday, April 25

Grizzlies vs. Reno Aces

Gates Open at 5:30 PM

Fans can celebrate the Fresno Grizzlies connection to the 2014 World Series Champs
by getting a **2014 World Series Replica Ring** to the first 5,000 fans.
Seventeen of the 25 players on the 2014 World Series roster once played for the Grizzlies.

Tickets are \$13 each with \$5 going to Imagine No Malaria! Seats are in the upper deck behind home
plate near the elevators and restrooms. Once we sell 200 tickets Debra Brady, District Superintendent will
be able to throw out the First Pitch!

How do you get tickets?

Contact Pastor Susan or Cat Barclay to reserve/
purchase your tickets before they are gone.