

The Methodist Messenger

In the Spirit of John Wesley

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



2016

First United Methodist Church
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Notes for the Journey

One of the great spiritual writers, Meister Eckhart, speaks about Jesus being continually born in our hearts. Jesus' coming to us is not just something that happened once, but is a continuing process. It is always in the present; something that is going on continuously, not just a past event.

This has implications for us. It is not enough to see our Christian life as being charged (like a battery) at the beginning in Baptism, and then running from that initial charge. Baptism is the beginning of a relationship that is meant to be deepened as we mature in our faith, just as a wedding is the beginning of a relationship which is meant to deepen as we mature in our life.

The key to the Christian journey is to keep journeying. It doesn't matter where on the journey one might be at the moment; the important thing is that one is moving on. At any stage, the worst thing we can do is to stop journeying, to stop working at the relationship, to neglect our heart. To let the love within it grow tepid is to endanger our relationship with Jesus. Therefore, we need to look within, and see whether or not our hearts are governed by our relationship with Jesus. It is what is in our hearts that tells us what we are, it is what is in the heart that tells us about the quality of our relationship with Jesus.

The heart, however, is also shaped by action. It is by acting out the Gospel values that we shape our heart. The heart is transformed by facing up to the real issues of our lives; by bringing our Christian faith to them; by growing through them as followers of Christ. Participating in the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, and engaging our hearts in worship, prayer, confession, repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation all work to attune our hearts to him. The attuning of our heart to Jesus allows us to recognize him more clearly as he comes to us in those around us. "As often as you did it to one of the least of my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40). Knowing Jesus in our hearts opens us up to his coming in the people and events of our everyday lives. The more we are attuned to Jesus within, the more we will recognize him around us.

The liturgical year of the Church reminds us constantly of these things. The more our hearts are attuned, the more we mature through our participation in the life of the Church. We have just celebrated Easter and are approaching the celebration of Pentecost; the celebration of the birth of the church. These celebrations are intended to remind us that Jesus did not just come in the past, but continues to come to us. They are intended to remind us to open our hearts to the Jesus who continues to be with us.

Blessings,
Pastor Cynthia Stateman



UMW SPRING LUNCHEON

SAT, APRIL 16th at
11:30am.

Tickets are pre-sale only and are available at the office and from Sue Hensel and Vicki Beeman

\$10 Adults and \$5 for children 10 and younger.

The sign-up to bring salads is available from Vicki Beeman.



Financial Peace University is a life-changing 9-week program taught via DVD by Dave Ramsey. This program empowers you to achieve your financial goals regardless of your financial situation. It's a fun, easy to understand, and entertaining way to learn how to make your money work for you!

This program will be offered on Tuesday evenings from May 10th to July 5. The cost per family will be \$93. Deep discounts will be offered to families in our church.

This program is open to members of our church and the community. You can sign-up through the Church Office or website. Spread the Word!

EASTER FLOWERS WERE DONATED BY:

Jan Franke in loving memory of Sky Seguin

Steve and Marsha Robinson in memory of her father, Noland Petersen

Doyle & Jeanette Keith

Jim & Karen Shoemaker in memory of their parents

*"I am the
resurrection
and the life."*
JOHN 11:25



March 15, 2016

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for the ways in which you have shared with our brothers and sisters in need in Tonga and Fiji who recently suffered devastation as a result of Cyclone Winston. Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr. has said, "Even in the midst of destruction, hope rises... You are the church. You are being disciples of Jesus Christ doing the kinds of things that are needed in a time like this".

Because of your generous donation of \$706.55, and that of our other United Methodist Churches, we are able to offer assistance in the relief and recovery process.

Our mission partners in Fiji and Tonga appreciate your prayers and support as they deal with their grief and essential recovery efforts.

May God continue to bless your ministry and all that you do in your community and beyond to share with others.

The Rev. Linda Caldwell
Conference Superintendent for Mission
Collaboration

Greetings Church Family,

I will be taking time off being your secretary for some Spiritual Renewal during the month of MAY.

The church office will need coverage beginning Friday, May 6th through Thursday, May 19th.

Please call or email the church office to sign-up to work any or all of those days.

Thank you, Jan Franke
Secretary, Hanford FUMC

WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

Worship Coordinator

April 3: Cat Barclay
April 10: Chris Payne
April 17: Andrea McDonald
April 24: Peggy Gregory

Lay Worship Leaders

April 3: Cat Barclay
April 10: David Beeman
April 17: Vicki Beeman
April 24: Patty Ferrell

Greeters

April 3:
April 10: Mary Durham
April 17: Diana & Lily Boone
April 24: Sue Hensel

Ushers

April 3: Verne Adams
April 10: Creed Cavazos
April 17: Creed Cavazos, Mary Durham
April 24: David Beeman, Jim Gregory

Counting Team

April 3: Sue Hensel, Andrea McDonald
April 10: Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell
April 17: Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker
April 24: David Beeman, Jim Gregory

Coffee Hour

April 3:
April 10: Bob & Pollie Geissler,
Mike Pina
April 17: Jim & Karen Shoemaker
April 24:

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

Cat Barclay (knee replacement surgery on 4/12), Mike Bertaina, Jim Taylor, Patty Ferrell (knee injury), Mike Pina, Johnny (Carole Hester's niece's son), Jan Junell, Marilyn Peden, Andrea McDonald, Penny Meadows, John Meadows, Pepper Ramsey's son Hunter, Kathleen Wilson, Ellie Wagner, Carol Col-lar's Mother - Francy Angstman (assisted living and is in declining health), Pastor Susan's parents Helen and John Foster, Larry McDonald, Gloria Brown, Peri Neos, Alison Klein, June Kruger, Louise Card (West Gate Garden Care, 4525 W. Tulare. Visalia), Marie Wiles (Kingsburg Center 1101 Stroud Ave. Kingsburg, CA 93631)

Other Prayer Requests

- Marie Wiles grieving the passing of son Frank Wiles
- Firefighters, Police Officers, Ambulance and other first responders
- Laundry Love ministry, Salvation Army Food Giveaway, Shower Ministry, and our food offerings to the Soup Kitchen
- 1st Christian's Rev. Tom Warren & family
- Those in the midst of crisis, tragedies, disasters, accidents and conflicts
- For caregivers and those caring for their parents
- The Noonan, Castanon & Wilson Families
- 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!

We promise to uphold the church through...presence...service and witness.
Please sign up to be GREETERS and COFFEE HOUR HOSTS on the lists in the hallway to Mary Lane Hall.



- Not only did Bob Peden arrange the fundraising luncheon to sponsor two kids to Royal Family Kids Camp, but he also set the menu and the price (estimating what it would take to raise \$1,500), he actually prepared the food himself, he did the advertising, he oversaw the tickets, and he coordinated the volunteer help.
- Not only did he make us look good by getting those two more kids funded to attend this important camp, but he has now agreed to put together a similar event at Glad Tidings Church! Please don't send them this article, because I think his agreement is limited to the menu selection and food preparation this time! Thanks, Bob!
- Four of the men agreed to help clean up at UMW Spring luncheon (Not Mother's Day weekend!). It's going to be on Saturday **April 16th**.
- During our March meeting, Jim Gregory passed around the updated church history, a new edition since the 2000 original. Five people ordered a copy at about \$30 each. He also received suggestions of places that MIGHT make the copies for less. Let Jim know if you want one, but don't wait because you are counting on the "less".

Let's do it again! Next meeting of the UMM will be a dinner meeting at 6:30 PM on the 2nd Monday of **April**: the 11th.

David Beeman (559) 584-2911 dpbeeman@yahoo.com

The Hanford Breakfast Lions Club and the Hanford 1st Presbyterian Church are co-sponsoring a **blood donation event** for Central California Blood Center on Thursday, April 28th from 4:00pm—7:00pm at the Hanford 1st Presbyterian Church.



We had 9 ladies from our church who attended the District UMW Retreat in Oakhurst, Mar. 4-6. Three of them attended for their first time. I think everyone who attended had a great time. We enjoyed an excellent speaker.

Our annual Spring Luncheon will be Saturday, April 16th. The meal will be a salad potluck, I have the sign-up form if anyone would want to furnish a salad or something else for lunch. Tickets will be \$10, with some \$5 tickets for small children. Back by popular demand, our entertainment will be Bob Peden's barbershop quartet. So, if you don't already have your ticket, please be sure to get it right away. No tickets will be sold at the door, they must be purchased ahead of time. The deadline for buying a ticket will be Friday, April 8th. To get a ticket, contact Sue Hensel, Vicki Beeman, or Jan in the church office.

The Mission u events will be August 5-7 in Merced, August 13 in Visalia, August 20 in San Rafael, and August 27 in Roseville. Myself, Andrea McDonald, and the church office, have Registration forms. Andrea also has forms for Scholarship requests (local and District). The study topics will be: Latin America – People and Faith; The Bible and Human Sexuality – Claiming God's Gift, and Climate Justice – Call to Hope and Action. The study books must be ordered in advance from the Mission Resource Center (the contact info is on the registration form). We have some ladies attending the weekend event, and a one-day event.

If you have any questions, see myself, Sue Hensel, or Andrea McDonald.

The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, March 10th at 1:00 pm. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Feel free to contact me, any of our UMW board, or the church office if you have any questions about any of the meetings.

----- Vicki Beeman (584-2911)

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S RETREAT REPORTS

As has been my experience every retreat, I had another epiphany. I learned about myself, my God and my next steps in my walk with God. Exciting stuff to say the least! I discovered that I want to be remembered for having Christ seen in me and all I do! Tall order as far as I'm concerned but I'm putting my trust in God as never before. Won't you consider joining us at the retreat in 2017? Peace, CAT

I always enjoy the music, as it is the way I communicate with God. I also appreciated the openness of our Central Valley District Superintendent Debra Brady. Plus she took time to give Amy, another Jan and myself an overview of Enneagrams (a fascinating personality indicator). Blessings, Jan Franke

The Retreat March 4-6 was very wet and very relaxing. I taught a group of ladies how to finger knit. They picked up the craft very well. The speaker was great. I loved looking out at the lake that was getting very full. The rain didn't stop me from doing what I wanted to do. I got soaked walking back and forth to the room, dining hall, and worship center. I didn't want to drive since it was good exercise to walk. I picked up useful tips from the speaker. I was glad to see so many ladies from our church at this event, maybe next year we will see more ladies. I intend to make this retreat an annual event. Andrea McDonald



Canned Food Drive

For the
Episcopal Church
Soup Kitchen Report:

This is a great opportunity to help in our community

but will not be possible without your support, so please join our church in this battle against hunger. Please **no expired items**. There's a container in the main entrance where you may drop off your donations. Thanks again and God bless!

Shower Ministry

For the Homeless at The Hanford Pentecostal Church has been wonderful.

Thank You to everyone who has donated.

We will continue to collect in the coming months. Put items in the Narthex.

Needs: *Shampoo, Tooth Brushes, Toothpaste, Talc or Baby Powder, Terry Bathmats*

Peden's Family Cookbook
For Sale \$20

Makes a great gift this holiday season! Books can be purchased



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 next Laundry Love event is planned for **Thursday, April 21st from 3-8 pm.**

Volunteers are needed! Talk with Peggy Gregory or just come on by!



Mission Service Opportunity

**Friday, April 15th,
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!

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 14th at 5:00 pm

Trustee Report

Trustees held a work day to clean out the front right downstairs classroom of the education building. The classroom will have a new propose. Maria, with the Hispanic ministry is moving from the sanctuary and will be using this classroom for their Sunday afternoon worship service.

Jim Gregory will be out of town from March 31 - April 27. Any maintenance requests will need to be referred to someone else, such as Bob Peden or Jim Shoemaker.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MISSION U and READING PROGRAM

There are Four Mission U events coming up. The weekend one is Aug 5-7 at UMC in Merced. There are scholarships available for this event, see me for scholarships applications. The one day events are Aug 13 in Visalia, Aug 20 in San Rafael and Aug 27 in Roseville. I have applications for all these event.

I have ordered more books for the church library. These books are bought through our own UMW for the reading program. I encourage all women to read these book. The five areas are Leadership, Education for Mission, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth and record your readings on the paperwork that I have. The more ladies we have involved in the reading program the better. The books are very interesting and informative. I recently read "Miss Brenda and the Love ladies, it was one of those can put down books until it was finished. There are other books already in the church library, so go check it out.

Thank you, Andrea McDonald 559-360-4477



Healthy Living Group

Interested in being part of a group that encourages and supports each other on our journey towards healthier minds, hearts, souls and bodies?

***Next Meeting will be HOLY YOGA with Pastor Cynthia on Sunday,
April 17th at 4:00 pm***

Easter Season

Easter isn't just a day, it's a whole season. The Easter season stretches all the way to the feast of Pentecost. Lent, which sometimes feels like it's stretching on forever, is actually forty days long. Easter, on the other hand, is fifty days long.

As this Easter season continues, Jesus shows himself to be full of surprises. He almost seems to be playing hide and seek with the disciples. They never know what to expect next. The way he appears and disappears reveals that the risen Christ is not confined by the laws of the material world. I think it also begins to reveal a bit of the fun loving nature of God, the God who wants to shower us with one surprise after another.

We have a great God who is constantly showering us with reminders of God's infinite love. These gifts are right in front of us. They come as suddenly as Jesus did in the midst of his disciples. Don't miss out. Stay open and alert and let God show you something amazing today and every day.

*Shared in Shalom,
Jan Franke*