

The Methodist Messenger

In the Spirit of John Wesley

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



First United Methodist Church
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Office Hours: Monday—Friday 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
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Pastor Cynthia Stateman pastorc@fumchanford.org

Notes For The Journey

When I moved to the mountain town of Quincy CA, the congregation there worried that I would leave them at the first sign of winter. They were anxious that the wind, the snow, and the long, dark days would be too much for me. I, too, was a little worried about it. I was a city slicker from the Bay Area, where the temperature rarely dipped below 50 degrees.

True to its reputation, during the months of my first winter in the mountains, the temperature rarely got above 30-degrees and often dipped to 10 and 15 degrees below zero. Surprisingly enough, I got used to it fairly quickly. I got used to pulling on gloves, and shoveling off the driveway every morning. I got used to the brightness of the snowy ground both day and night, and the way people left their car engines running while they went into the supermarket to do their shopping. After a very little while – much sooner than I thought it would – it all got rather routine. Winter became a “fact of life.”

And then one day, an amazing thing happened.... One day in April, as I drove along highway 70, there was, quite suddenly, a carpet of small, blue flowers stretching out across a patch of ground. Snow drifts were still piled up, but now something else was going on, too. The dense white blankets of snow that had smothered all signs of life for so long were finally giving way to the returning warmth of the days that were growing longer again. Spring had sprung!

I wish I could convey to you just how amazing it was to see spring breaking out around me. I can only say that I was not the only one who was surprised and gladdened by the spectacle of spring. Before the last of the snow drifts had melted, people all over the little town I lived in started buying baskets of colorful flowers from the local green house—a place that would only open-up for business at the beginning of spring. Soon, houses on every street would feature clumps of red, yellow, purple, green—a riot of color meant to dispel even the memory of the long, cold months through which we had just trudged.

I was to experience this sensation each year for as long as I lived there: the surprise and wonder of the earth as it awakened each year from its time spent “in the likeness of death.” Each year, my neighbors and I would celebrate the returning resurrection of the world around us—not with parties or revelry, but with a change in the habits formed when we were cold. We gave thanks for the warmth that gathered on our faces and arms and legs as we put away all of our hats, heavy jackets, boots, gloves, and woolen scarves. Just as the on-set of the cold had caused us to protect ourselves with all of that heavy clothing, spring initiated a glad surrender of our whole bodies to the new light and warmth that had come to us, had returned to us.

Very soon, on April 16, Easter Sunday, we will celebrate the same kind of “rebirth” here in this place that never gets too cold. We will acknowledge the way the whole world and our whole lives had been plunged into darkness and cold at that moment of Jesus’ death on the cross on Good Friday. We will rejoice with loud “Alleluias” as we hear the Scripture

telling us that the tomb is empty— “He is risen! He is risen, indeed!”

My prayer for us all is that our rejoicing will be with more than our lips. I pray that we will surrender to and greet Christ with our whole being, our bodies, hearts, minds, and spirits. Let us give our whole selves to the new life that God wants to pour out to us. I pray that each of us will know the true joy of God’s love for us that we might continue to serve God’s beloved people in his beloved name—which is the very definition of a happy, fulfilled life.

Blessings,

Pastor Cynthia Stateman

Ministry Support Team Meeting

The March MST meeting opened reflecting upon a quote from biblical expert Joan Chittister: *Even if we figure out how to save the planet, the question of whether we will save ourselves from one another will then become the burning issue.*

This issue is primarily left up to the church; our society has left the building of relationships as the mission of the church.

Bob Junell and Glen Lenox presented an interesting report regarding our participation in a United Methodist Church Brokerage account. This is a program for those fortunate enough to hold stock in the stock market. You can designate some of the profits to the Church brokerage account. For more details regarding this program speak to anyone from the finance committee for more specific details. The finance committee will provide more information in the near future.

Several requests were made by the Board of Discipleship (BOD); the funds were approved. The MST members were pleased to support and encourage the BOD to seek creative ways to support educational programs in our Church. It was pleasing to hear of the enthusiasm of the BOD.

Jim Gregory presented a trustee report including: furnace repair, rain damage, dehumidifier, tree maintenance, etc. It was a long list of work being done and hours of work to be done.

Patty Ferrell writes comprehensive minutes of our meeting. If you wish more details, contact Jessica in the Church office to view a copy of those minutes as to MST actions.



All Ladies in the church are welcome to join us for our UMW meetings. Men of the church are also welcome. I know that several of the ladies attend their meetings.

There will not be a UMW general meeting April 16, since that day will be Easter.

Please sign up through Vicki for our May 6 Spring Luncheon. For our May general meeting, we are going to do something special. I am not telling, you will just have to come and see. I am hoping and praying that our crafters are busy working on crafts for the December 9th's Christmas Bazaar. This gives me an idea, sorry not sharing.

There will be no UMW board or general meetings June, July and August.

Please consider joining us for Mission U workshops. Information will be on the bulletin board in the hallway between the church and Coffee Hour. Look for updated information on the bulletin board.

I hope that you are saving your change for the World Thank Offering. I have containers to put your change in. Just ask!

- Andrea McDonald 360-4477 (andreamcd1202@yahoo.com)



Every few months, the Sunday School class chooses a mission that enables them to participate in spreading love in the community. Their current mission is to help homeless animals. One way they're doing this is by collecting supplies for Valley Animal Haven. We would love for the church family to join us in this drive! If you would like to help, please contact Connie at 469-4103.





If you are homebound, you can sign up for Meals on Wheels.

The meals are contracted by the Kings County Commission on Aging from the Adventist Health Hospital. You will get seven complete meals delivered on Monday. They will only put you on the list to get meals if you have a freezer and a way to warm the meals up. If you have a care-taker who comes to see you, you won't get on the list, because that person could get groceries or food for you. You do get charged for the meals, but it's a very good deal.

Those were some of the things we learned at our March dinner meeting of the United Methodist Men. I was really glad our speaker, Bobbie Wartson, of the Commission agreed to come speak to us, because she had been out of town and didn't get our invitation until she returned to work that Monday morning!

We learned about how the Commission connects seniors to all kinds of services. One was adult day care, which is *one* of the respite resources they can arrange for caregivers. The adult day care center is in Lemoore, and no longer has a bus specifically for taking these clients from Hanford to Lemoore. But if you spend the day there, you get three full meals as part of five eating opportunities a day.

Bobbie left a brochure that is now up in the church office, along with pamphlets about some of the services, and her card, so you can ask questions directly. One page of the brochure listed all the senior care residences in Kings County. One tells how to contact the ombudsman for senior care facilities. It also tells how to get training to become an ombudsman.

I really couldn't advertise ahead of time what our program would be about, but we do eat well at our UMM dinner meetings, because Bob Peden has been our dinner chair. In March we had Rueben sandwiches, which I learned are made of corned beef. And, when Bob makes them, lots of cheese!

So I *can* say that attending Methodist Men meetings really beats sitting at home several ways. In **April** we will meet on the 10th — the Monday between Palm Sunday and Easter. Dinner will be at 6:30, but please contact me so we have the right amount of food.

- David Beeman 584-7510 dpbeeman@kings.k12.ca.us



Ministry Support Team (MST)

MST is the leadership group in our church that is tasked with caring for our resources; money, staff and building. They meet every second Thursday of the month at

Trustee Report

The two furnaces for the sanctuary were not providing heat. Kennies was called, and found one of the electric motors in the basement was defective.

Kennies has been retained to do a spring air conditioner and fall heater preventative maintenance.

A dehumidifier has been running in the nursery in the education building for a couple of weeks. By removing the moisture in the air, the musty smell has gone away.

A rain gutter contractor has been asked to submit a proposal to re-route the rain gutter from the overhang near the Boy Scout upstairs door. We are waiting for Richard's Tree Service to cut off the top half of the three Italian Cyprus trees.

With Bob Peden's help, the palm tree to the north of the sanctuary in our neighbor's property was cut down. Our church paid half the cost to do the work.

Glen has been very helpful with the church inventory.

A contractor is in the process of replacing the sheet rock, molding, and painting the recessed living room in the parsonage. He will also repair and upgrade the back yard sprinkler manifold, which is the source of the water leak and intrusion under the wall and into the living room.

- Jim Gregory

WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

Worship Coordinator

April 2: Cat Barclay
April 9: Peggy Gregory
April 16: Mary Jane Gozun
April 23: Chris Payne
April 30: Cat Barclay

Lay Worship Leaders

April 2: David Beeman
April 9: Patty Ferrell
April 16: Cat Barclay
April 23: Sue Hensel
April 30: Carol Collar

Greeters

April 2:
April 9:
April 16: David & Vicki Beeman
April 23: Bob & Pollie Geissler
April 30:

Ushers

April 2: Verne Adams
April 9: Creed Cavazos
April 16: Creed Cavazos
April 23: David Beeman
April 30: David Beeman, Bob Junell

Counting Team

April 2: Sue Hensel, John Meadows
April 9: Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell
April 16: Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker
April 23: David Beeman
April 30: Rebecca Eversall, David Beeman

Coffee Hour

April 2: Patty Ferrell
April 9: Diana & Lily Boone
April 16: Pollie Geissler
April 23: Roy & Delfa Randles
April 30: Chris Payne

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

Ellie Wagner; Mel Sherman; Tamie Pick; Randy Chono; Dorothy Jensen; Bonnie Peters; Mary Durham; friends of Mary; Casey Lehtnen; Jim Taylor; Mike Pina; and Jan Junell.

Other Prayer Requests

- For Andrea McDonald, who will need bladder surgery in June
- For Randy Chono and his family after the passing of his sister
- Jessica Magnis to find a job, and her mother who is fighting cancer
- For all those affected by fires, floods and earthquakes
- For the end to violence against all people. For peace & love to prevail
- Police Officers, Firefighters, Ambulance and other first responders
- Those in the midst of crisis, tragedies, disasters, accidents and conflicts
- Laundry Love ministry, Salvation Army Food Giveaway, Shower Ministry, and our food offerings to the Soup Kitchen
- 1st Christian's Rev. Tom Warren & family
- For caregivers and those caring for their parents
- The Noonan, Castanon & Wilson Families
- Ministry Support Team & Trustees
- Thanksgiving for all the church volunteers who give so graciously of their time and talents. We are the church!



Our Board of Discipleship has expanded the education and worship opportunities for our children. FUMC's "Children's Church" began *Sunday, March 19* for children ages 5-12.

Children's Church begins with the children in the Sanctuary through the opening prayer, after which they are dismissed to proceed to the Chapel in the Education Building for their worship activities.

We are very excited about this opportunity to bless our children as they journey with Christ.

DAVE RAMSEY'S



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 *Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. from May 31st to July 26th.*

- ◆ Cost per family for the general public: \$93
- ◆ Cost for families in our church: Free of Charge!
- ◆ Cost for families outside the church referred by someone in the church: \$45

This program is open to members of our church and the community.

A flyer for a worship event. It has a white background with a blue and white striped border. At the top and bottom are decorative horizontal lines with a central circle. The text is centered and reads: "JOIN US FOR", "WORSHIP", "the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month", "at 2:00 p.m. at", "HANFORD", "POST ACUTE", and "1007 W. Lacey Blvd, Hanford".

JOIN US FOR

WORSHIP

the 2nd & 4th Sundays
of the month

at 2:00 p.m. at

HANFORD

POST ACUTE

1007 W. Lacey Blvd, Hanford



Join us for April's 5th Sunday Sing here at Hanford FUMC Sunday, April 30th at 3:30 p.m.

Volunteers Needed!

Plans are underway to establish a Church Nursery for infants and small children during morning worship services for parents who would like to take advantage of this Program.

We do not have enough volunteers at this time to staff the Nursery.

This is a very important service we can provide for parents with infants and small children to allow them to fully participate in our worship services. Please pray about how God is calling you to serve in this capacity. It is a very important service we can provide to our members and visitors.



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 through church office.



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 20th
from 3-8 p.m.

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



Mission Service Opportunity

Friday,
April 21st, 2017
8 a.m. to 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!

Living Our Faith in the Public Square

2nd Saturday Training Event

Curious about how to engage in social holiness? Want to learn about some ministries and organizations in our Valley that are doing worthwhile, sustaining justice work?

If so, this is the 2nd Saturday for you! Come join us!

We'll hear from people involved in the transforming ministries of Circles, Faith In the Valley, the Jubilee Initiative, and supporting victims of human trafficking.

April 8, 2017

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

First UMC, Porterville

344 East Morton, Porterville, CA 93257

To Register Go To: [https://calnev-
https://calnev-
reg.brtapp.com/2ndSaturdayMonthlyLayCourses](https://calnev-reg.brtapp.com/2ndSaturdayMonthlyLayCourses)