

The Methodist Messenger

In the Spirit of John Wesley

"Bringing faith into life by loving God"



April 2018

First United Methodist Church
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Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Pastor's Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Pastor Cynthia Stateman: pastorc@fumchanford.org

Notes For The Journey

ECCLESIASTES 3: 1-2 *“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot.”*

Spring has sprung! It is time to plan gardens and to plant! I have always considered gardening a wonderful way to practice what faith means. It is an act of faith, each time I put a plant or seed in the ground and expect growth and fruit. I still don't always believe it can be true. And yet, in my garden, while there are some failures, there are almost always more successes. Truly, this is a sign of God's abundant grace.

There are also the age old metaphors of spiritual seeds getting planted and nourished and watered that we might bear spiritual fruit (have you read Galatians 5 lately?). Sometimes, we are the soil, and sometimes, we tend God's garden in our children and new Christians, by welcoming, encouraging, and teaching. Both being soil and being the tender of the garden are important in our walk of discipleship.

A friend the other day was saying that when God plants the seed of faith in his heart, it is his (my friend's) job to “feed the seed.” I believe he is right, that it is up to us to find opportunities both to study scripture, worship, pray, AND to mentor others in their walk – feeding their seed as well.

But as a gardener who hasn't yet had time to dig, to add amendments to the soil, and prepare the earth for the plants, I wonder about the ways in which God might prepare the soil of our hearts to accept and welcome the seed of faith? The problem for me is that sometimes, preparing the soil looks like a harsh and violent process: the earth is savagely broken with plow or shovel, turned over, beat up into small enough pieces to make room for root growth and moisture retention.

When that happens in my life, it never feels good. But one way for me to get through the harder parts of daily living: (relationship problems, stresses related to money or health, concerns for loved ones, questions of a deep spiritual nature that seem for the time being to have no answer) is to try to think of them as a season for God preparing the soil of my heart for new growth of my spirit.

I can't always see it at the time, but when the spiritual flower blossoms—WOW! God surprises again! Sometimes, it is after the fact that we are most able to see God's hand at work in the “tilling.”

The sun is out, the flowers are blooming, and God is at work in the world. Rejoice and be Glad!! Christ is risen indeed.

Blessings,
Pastor Cynthia Stateman

Buildings and Grounds Report

By Jim Gregory

March 25, 2018

Rivera's Air has installed one of the two new 65,000 BTU cabinet style furnaces for Founders Hall next to the piano. This includes a new exhaust pipe, which extends up the outside of the building. Alan Laird Plumbing has installed new gas lines below the floor to the new heater locations. There is now a 1 ½ inch gas line to Founders Hall, where there was formerly a ¾ inch line. The kitchen stove should see a more robust flame! The old single wall 4 inch exhaust vent on the north wall of Founders Hall has been replaced with a 5 inch double wall exhaust.

Champi Fence was called to do a tune up on the east gate, so it is easier release the push bar lock. Door bells are being evaluated so visitors can ring when they arrive at the east gate.

Steve Payne with Kings County Glass installed the three custom windows for Millie Kraft room. Randy McNary did carpentry work to do the trim work to the windows.

March 24 was a work day discarding stuff, mostly old VBS props, and cleaning in the two upstairs classrooms. Volunteers were Jim, Jim, John, Brent, and Roy.



UMW 2018 April-Dec General Meeting Program topics

- *Sunday April 15, 2018 noon: The Sacred Space of Grief and hope
- *May no meeting, please join us for Spring Luncheon May 19th 11am-1p
- *June no meeting
- *July no meeting
- *Aug no meeting
- *Sunday Sept 16, 2018 noon: The Sacred Space of Nurturing
- *Sunday Oct 21, 2018 noon: The Sacred Space of Community
- *Sunday Nov 18, 2018 noon: Sacred Place with God and Neighbor
- *Sunday Dec 16, 2018 noon: Sacred Space of Rest and Self-Care

*Please join us for our Spring Luncheon May 19 in Founders Hall, cost is \$10.00, this is one of UMW fundraisers to raise funds to help support our Community Donations (Hannah's house, Soup kitchen, Salvation Army, Susanna's house)

*November 17 we will be having our Fall Harvest Bazaar and Luncheon, please join us, Arts and Crafts will be in Mary Lane Hall, Soup, Sandwiches and Desserts will in in Founders Hall. This will be our 2nd fundraiser. The more money we make at these two events, the more we can give to Community Donations.

*If anyone would like me to redo their pictures that are on the hall bulletin board, please let me know

Please have a great day,

Andrea McDonald

Andreamcd1202@yahoo.com

559-360-4477

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men have begun forming themselves into two-man dinner teams! Each of these teams will be responsible for the dinner once a year. Right now June is taken, but your team can still volunteer for April and May.

What can the team do for their month? The choices are wide and varied:

- make the dinner themselves
- call on other men to provide main or side dishes
- make reservations to go out to dinner
- host a dinner at a home
- have a cook-out at church
- go on a field trip that includes dinner

Yes, you can pretty much do anything that results in dinner for the group. Yes, you can get some reimbursement for your expenses.

How many attendees should you plan on?

I have kept count over the past two years and we are running very close to 15 attendees per dinner meeting. The names and faces vary, but the number always comes out close to 15. I will be glad to continue getting as accurate a count as I can for your particular month.

The next dinner meeting of the UMM is on the calendar for Monday April 9th.

Last month our speaker, Larry McDonald filled us in on how to support our scouting groups, the troop, the packs and dens. We learned what it means to be the Chartering Organization. It is a signed partnership under ¶ 256.4a of the Book of Discipline. If we do not renew the charter annually, they can't have a scout troop.

He reminded us many scouts don't have a church. We also found out that while there is a recommended day for Boy Scout Sunday, we do have to invite the scouts.

We also found out about scouts opening up for girls to participate. It had to do with opportunities to have an outdoor program. Apparently many Girl Scout leaders were not comfortable leading camping experiences. So girls can join the cub scouts beginning this year and in 2019 can begin joining the boy scouts.

Besides Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, the Boy Scouts of America also includes Explorers and Venture Crew. The Venture Crew is already meant for both boys and girls, ages 15 to 21, and aims at high adventure — with horses, mountain climbing or skiing.

The God and Country scouting merit badge was denominationally specific, and has been pretty much superseded by the P.R.A.Y. award, which has four grade-level awards. The letters stand for Programs of Religious Activity with Youth.

There are also awards for a Chartering Organization: Shepherd Church, Cross and Flame award and Torch award.

I haven't looked any of this up, but the above are from my notes, trying to keep up with Larry. He is a certified and trained scouting specialist. So if I erred, you have a resource for more accuracy and detail.

- David Beeman

WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

Worship Coordinator

April 1: Chris Payne
April 8: Cat Barclay
April 15: Peggy Gregory
April 22: Mary Jane Gozun
April 29: Chris Payne

Lay Worship Leaders

April 1: Chris Payne
April 8: David Beeman
April 15: Jan Franke
April 22: Vicki Beeman
April 29: Patty Ferrell

Ushers

April 1: Jim Gregory, Mike Bertaina
April 8: Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina
April 15: Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina
April 22: David Beeman, Jim Gregory
April 29: David Beeman, Bob Junell

Counting Team

April 1: Sue Hensel, John Meadows
April 8: Jim Gregory, David Beeman
April 15: Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker
April 22: Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell
April 29: Rebeccah Eversall, David Beeman

Coffee Hour

April 1: Boones
April 8: Randles
April 15: Geisslers
April 22: Cat Barclay
April 29: Beemans



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 6:00 p.m.

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

Andrea McDonald, Marilyn Peden, Dorothy Jensen, Bonnie Peters, Mark Dickenson and Jan Junell.

Other Prayer Requests

Prayers for the victims of natural disasters and of violence across our nation and *in all parts of our world*. With Christians around the world, we pray for peace with justice and for health, safety and well-being of our neighbors near and far. Thanksgiving for all the church volunteers;

Prayer for: For Dianna Newton and the Castanon family for their wellbeing; for the health, healing, comfort and well-being for Verne Adams, Lindora Perez and her family, Andrea McDonald, Mary Durham's family, friends and family and a friend who recently passed, and all of her loved ones, Betty Claxton and her family, Jessica Maris' mother, Peggy Gregory's brother, Steve Frazee, in his recent passing, Glen & Jetta and their family in the recent passing of their grandson Tanner, Bob & Jan Junell, Jan Franke's sister in law Trish who has lupus and very aggressive MS, Marilyn Peden, Jennifer Wagner, Sherrie, Dorothy Jensen, the Geissler's friend Mike Pina, Bonnie Peters, Frank & Bonnie Butterway's son Richard enduring health problems; and all of their families & loved ones .

“Love Yourself To Wholeness”

Patricia George-Group Leader

- B.A Music • PhD Life • Teacher • Musician • Writer/Artist •
patricia.george91@yahoo.com

Cell 559 309-6928

Bring a spiral notebook for taking notes and for journaling
We meet in my home, so come prepared to take off your shoes
(you are welcome to bring your slippers or just wear socks)

What happens in this group?

- sharing stories • discovering tools to manage depression •
• exploring the human condition •

Who is welcome?

God centered people of all faiths, backgrounds and ages

Wednesday Nights

7pm – 8:30pm

Prayer Group

Come refresh you spirit as we join together to lift up the joys and
concerns of our lives and of the world to the One who loves us all.

Thursday Nights

5pm – 6pm

Lifetree Café!

Explore Life – Meet Friends – Experience God

Lifetree Café is a weekly, hour-long interactive experience that features real
people’s real stories on film, guided conversation, biblical insights, and time
to build relationships. Simply put, it’s a “conversation café”—a place and
time for people to gather weekly to experience stories and talk about thought-
provoking topics that most people deal with relating to life and faith.

Saturday Evenings – Mary Lane Hall – 6:30 pm

SECOND SATURDAY®

The Central Valley District Council on Ministry Presents 2018 2nd
Saturdays! Save The Dates!

First UMC, Hanford
505 N Redington St., Hanford, CA 93230
9am-3pm

April 14

Prayer

UMVIM Training

June 9

United Methodist Heritage and Polity

August 11

Preaching II

Basic Lay Servant Training

Board of Discipleship

BOD is the "Think Tank" of our church at which all church participants dream and suggest programs to help us all in our journey of faith and service.

At the BOD meetings everyone is welcome to bring an idea or a concern about any of the following practices:

- Worship
- Christian Education
- Service to the Community
- Mission and Outreach to the World
- Spiritual Growth
- Social Activities in the church
- Youth Activities
- Meetings are always on the 1st Wednesday of the month

Next BOD meeting:

April 4 @ 3:30 p.m.



**Episcopal Church
Soup Kitchen
Canned Food Drive:**

This 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!

Building Beloved Community

The Conference Advocacy and Justice committee presents "Building Beloved Community in the Face of the 3 Evils: Militarism, Racism, and Materialism" on Saturday, April 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. commemorating 50 years since Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. The preacher for the event is the Rev. Staci Current, Bay District Superintendent. Keynote speakers are the Rev. Phil Lawson, National Council of Elders, and David Wildman, Executive Secretary Middle East, Human Rights, and Racial Justice for the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM). The event will take place at Taylor Memorial UMC, 1188 12th Street, Oakland. Registration is \$15 and includes lunch. For more information, or to register, go to: <https://calnev-reg.brtapp.com/> BuildingTheBelovedCommunity?

Peden's Family Cookbook
For Sale \$20

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



Shower Ministry

Thanks to those who have remembered to make donations to the shower ministry of toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss and other dental items.

If this is new to you, there is a white collection basket just as you enter the main doors of the church. Your donated items are taken to the Shower Ministry at the Hanford Pentecostal Church on Eleventh Street. A few years ago, several churches that participate in supporting this ministry divided up what the needs were, and our church got Dental Supplies. So if your dental hygienist offers you a free toothbrush, ask if you can have two. But soap, shampoo, combs and conditioner are also welcome. This month someone donated some nice green bathmats. The Kings Gospel Mission has converted the seating area of a small white bus into three shower stalls. Now those who have lost both home and car don't have to travel to Eleventh Street to find a shower to be presentable while looking for a leader and volunteers to schedule, drive and maintain the bus. We have made a commitment as a church to support the Shower Ministry at the Pentecostal Church, but individuals with shower supplies, especially the soaps and shampoos might consider donating to what will surely be an ongoing need with mobile showers too.



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 19, 2018
from 3-8 p.m.

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



Mission Service Opportunity

Friday, April 20, 2018

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.

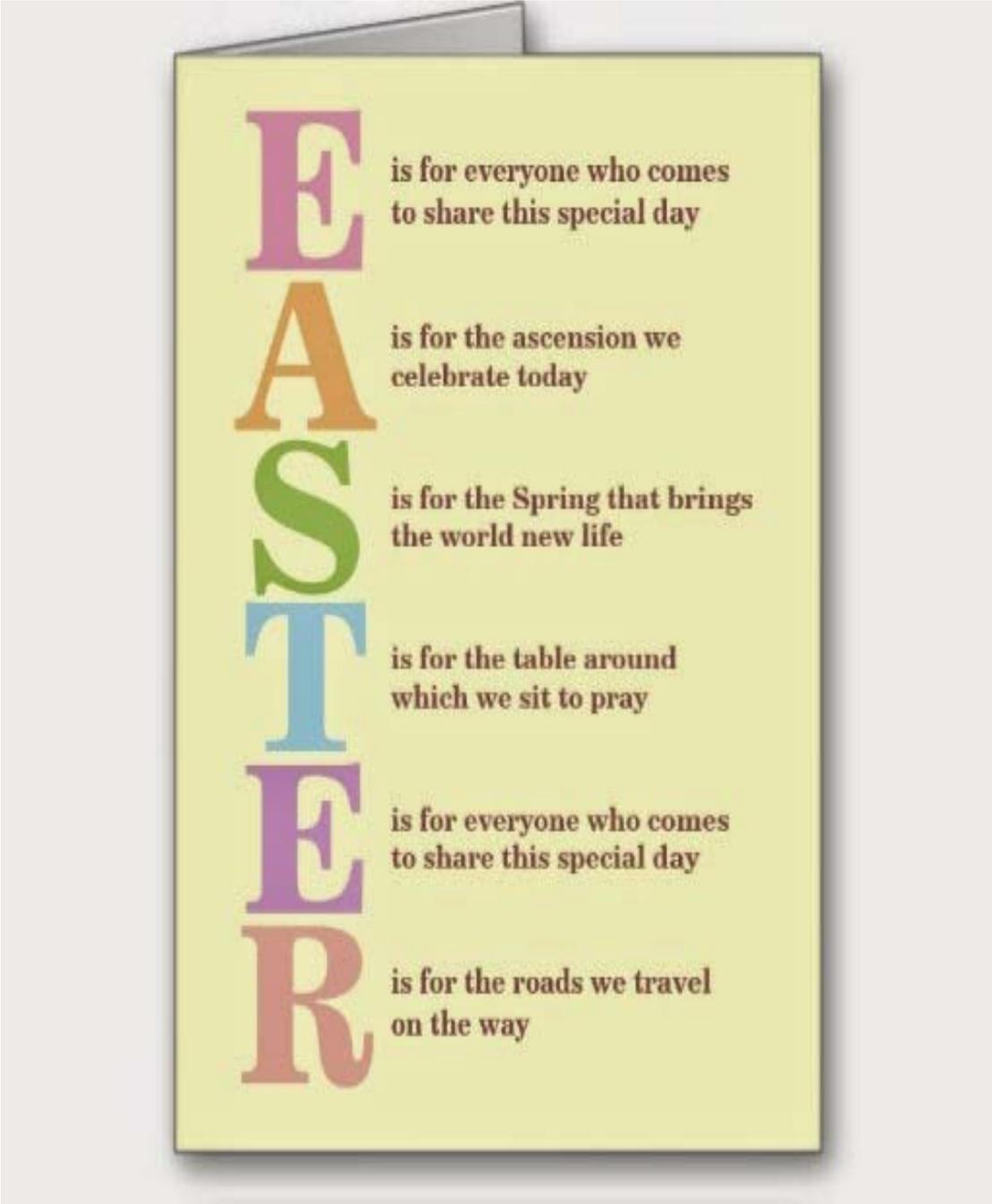
*Volunteers are needed!
Many hands make light work!*



laundry love

STATISTICS

1. Began in February 2015, we have held 37 events
2. We have served over 440 households/families.
3. In the past twelve months the average attendance is 52 families the average in the past three months is 60.
4. The average cost per event in the past twelve months is \$600 and in the past three months, it is \$750.
5. The average cost per family is \$12.50 per event.
6. About 44% of the guests are male.
7. About half of guests are homeless, but it is hard to say exactly.
8. We have washed 3,350 commercial loads, but when calculated to the number of average home machine loads it is well over 10,000 loads.



E is for everyone who comes
to share this special day

A is for the ascension we
celebrate today

S is for the Spring that brings
the world new life

T is for the table around
which we sit to pray

E is for everyone who comes
to share this special day

R is for the roads we travel
on the way