

# *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 my favorite characters in the Peanuts comic strip is Linus with his blanket. Whenever Snoopy tries to sneak up and steal his blanket, Linus holds on for dear life. He's not going to let go of his security and comfort.

As a child, I remember having a favorite blanket that I carried around. And when I got older, I still kept it on my bed. There was something very comforting about that old blanket. Regardless of our ages, we still hold on to our security blankets. We need something to anchor our lives, to give us stability and security: family; a familiar routine we follow every day; bank accounts; investments, pension programs; good health and physical fitness; lots of friends...

There are all sorts of grown-up security blankets that we hold on to for dear life, to give us a sense of stability and certainty and comfort in an ever changing and often dangerous and threatening world. We spend a lot of time, money, and energy trying to find some anchor, some foundation, for our lives. We keep trying to control our own fortunes and our won destiny.

We keep trying to play God by trying to make the world work the way we think it should. But sooner or later we discover, sometimes tragically, that the ultimate answers in life, the security and safety we long for, simply cannot be found in the things we cling to.

As Christians, we believe that our destiny and the destiny of this world is not ultimately in our own hands, nor is it in the hands of world leaders, advanced technology, pension plans, or health foods. As Christians we believe that our ultimate destiny, and therefore our ultimate security, is in the hands of God. This is what Paul means when he says that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

The only problem is that there are many times, there are many circumstances, where we simply do not see it, do not really believe that all things work together for good. There's no doubt about it. Bad things happen in our world; bad things happen in our lives: - Sickness, suffering, death, accidents, addiction, crime, divorce, abuse, war, floods, tornadoes - you name it! Bad things happen!

Paul is not saying that Christians, those who are called according to God's purpose, will never have anything bad happen to them, that life will be a bed of roses. But Paul is saying that this world and our lives are in the loving hands of God, and God loves us so much that God sent his only Son to die for us.

Therefore, we can look to the future with confidence. We don't have to be afraid. Even in the midst of all that bad things that can happen, even in the face of all the uncertainty and insecurity in this world, we can live in faith and confidence, knowing that ultimately, ultimately, the will of God will be done.

Sometimes life is like a tapestry, a weaving, or a quilt. If you look at it from the back side, all you see is a confusing jumble of knots and threads and colors. It seems chaotic, without form or rhyme or reason. But if you look at it from the other side, from the right side, it all comes together into a beautiful masterpiece of color, design, and purpose. In our humanness, in our limited vision and perspective, we see life from the back side. We don't always see what God's hand is designing and creating. But one of these days we will.

And when that day comes, we, along with St. Paul, will be able to say without doubt or hesitation that we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. That promise is our anchor, our security in this troubling and confusing world. That promise is our security, our comfort, our hope.

Thanks be to God.

Blessings,

Pastor Cynthia Stateman

# **TEAMS OF VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED**

**SOUND for Sunday Service  
VIDEO for Sunday Service  
CHILDREN'S TIME for Sunday Service  
SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS  
OFFICE COVERAGE**

Please sign-up through the office.



We lovingly welcome the birth of Alexandra Ruth Brown the daughter of Laura & Matt Brown. She was born July 18th. 5 pounds 12 oz. and 19.5 inches. We're sure she will be joyously spoiled especially by Grandparents Jim and Peggy Gregory.

Laura, Matt, and Alexandra Brown new address is 924 Margaret Circle, Hanford, CA 93230

## **Directory Updates:**

Colleen Simms is now living at The Remington, 2727 N. 11th Ave, Room 205, Hanford, CA. Phone # remains the same. She welcomes visitors.

Brent Noonan Sr. new cell # 559 469-1531

Pollie Geissler cell # 559 309-8612

Janice Madruga 12581 Fargo Ave 93230 home #582-5102 cell # 559 707-4389

Steve & Dena Mendoza phone # 347-4227

Bonnie Peters home phone # 589-0257



*Hi, Brothers  
and Sisters in  
Christ!!*

*Have you ever thought about singing for the Lord? We would love to have you join our choir! There is always room for more! In fact, we've lost a couple of our members due to illness, so there is plenty of room. Please prayerfully consider coming out to our first rehearsal on Wednesday, Aug. 31. We'll start with a potluck at 5:30, then progress to singing at 6:30. We'll be done about 7:30. Bring your spouse for dinner and/or rehearsal!! Bring whatever dish you'd like. If we have 10 desserts and no main dishes (or vise-versa), oh well!! We'll still have an enjoyable evening.  
In Christ,  
Candy*

## **WORSHIP CONNECTIONS**

### **Worship Coordinator**

**August 7:** Mary Jane Gozun  
**August 14:** Peggy Gregory  
**August 21:** Cat Barclay  
**August 28:** Chris Payne

### **Lay Worship Leaders**

**August 7:** David Beeman  
**August 14:** Patty Ferrell  
**August 21:** Cat Barclay  
**August 28:** Sue Hensel

### **Greeters**

**August 7:** Patty Ferrell  
**August 14:**  
**August 21:** David & Vicki Beeman  
**August 28:**

### **Ushers**

**August 7:** Verne Adams, Mike Bertaina  
**August 14:** Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina  
**August 21:** Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina  
**August 28:** David Beeman, Jim Gregory

### **Counting Team**

**August 7:** Sue Hensel, John Meadows  
**August 14:** Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell  
**August 21:** Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker  
**August 28:** David Beeman, Jim Gregory

### **Coffee Hour**

**August 7:** Patty Ferrell  
**August 14:** Candy Bertaina, Cat Barclay  
**August 21:**  
**August 28:** Diana & Lily Boone, Jetta & Glen Lenox

**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**

Bonnie Peters, Janice Madruga, Mary Durham, Kathleen Wilson, Jim Taylor, Mike Pina, Jan Junell, Marilyn Peden, Andrea & Larry McDonald, Carol Collar's Mother - Francy Angstman (assisted living and is in declining health), Pastor Susan's parents Helen and John Foster, Gloria Brown, Alison Klein, Louise Card (West Gate Garden Care, 4525 W. Tulare. Visalia), Marie Wiles (Kingsburg Center 1101 Stroud Ave. Kingsburg, CA 93631)

**Thanksgiving** for the birth of Alexandra Ruth Brown the daughter of Laura & Matt Brown. She was born July 18th. 5 pounds 12 oz. and 19.5 inches

**Other Prayer Requests**

- 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
- Sierra Service Volunteers
- 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!



On June 12<sup>th</sup>, we had a short business meeting. We had Nominations and Elections of Officers for 2017. Serving as President will be Andrea McDonald, Vice-President will be Sue Hensel, Secretary will be Cat Barclay, and Treasurer will be Vicki Beeman. The terms of office begin January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Decision has been made to have the Bazaar on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Bob Peden will train, (hopefully) head cooks for next year, Jim Shoemaker and John Meadows. Thank you very much gentlemen for doing this for our women's group. Still on the subject of the Bazaar, we will need craft items for sale, so you can start now on making items you could donate. (If you have any questions, you could probably ask Carole Hester). In November, we will need donations of baked goods. Or, you can also make cash donations towards the lunch supplies.

Our next Board meeting will be Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. The next General meeting will be Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. All ladies are welcome.

The United Methodist Women District Annual Celebration will be Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> in Oakdale. Registration & Coffee (and being good United Methodists, I am sure there will be something to eat) begins at 8:00 am, with the program at 8:45 am. Lunch will be \$12. The program will be Dion Roberts, the Executive Director for the Mary Elizabeth Inn in San Francisco. There will be a "shower" for MEI. Suggested items to bring are on the registration form (which I will have, and should also be available from the church office). Registrations for lunch are due September 10<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to donate some of the items for the shower, and don't have a registration form, I will put that list in the September newsletter (if you haven't gotten a copy by then).

On Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> will be the UMW Conference Annual Celebration. There will be a lunch also, I don't have a registration form yet for the cost. The speaker that day will be our own Pastor Cynthia. That will be held in Santa Rosa.

Feel free to contact me, if you have any questions.

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



## Our Journey

Timothy Keller recently asked,

“What is the world for? What’s wrong with it? What (if anything) can make it right, and how? How can we be a part of making it right? And where should we look for the answers to these questions in the first place?” Questions like these apply to groups as well as they do to individuals, but when you ask them, you find that your answers overlap with the answers of your group.

At our June meeting of the United Methodist Men, we asked each other to consider what God is presently calling each of us to be doing. Our lives change, and we need to re-evaluate that question from time to time. When we have a major health change, or add or lose a family member or a job, it’s a reminder to listen again for God’s call, as that call might also be changing.

So we also asked the men (and the ladies who had joined us for dinner) to extend the question about our own purpose to that of the United Methodist Men, and not only to the UMM, but also to our church. You can’t miss the overlap there. We made a start, and, so far, I found out some of the men are very interested in continuing the customs and practices of the church that meant so much to them in the past. The questions remain homework until our next meeting.

A prayer of Thomas Merton went something like this,

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end.

“Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so....

“I will trust you always, though I may seem lost, and in the shadow of death. I will not fear for you are forever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”

That next meeting won’t be until September 12th. We’ll have dinner. We will take up the homework assignment. And we will go forth to do what God has called us to do.

The United Methodist Men is open to any men who have chosen to participate in the life of our church. I have met men there that I never encountered on a Sunday morning. And I have been blessed to share in their gifts and graces as we find our direction in our journeys with God individually and as a group.

- David Beeman



**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

The **Available Program Fund** now has funds available to qualified groups/committees within our congregation for worthwhile programs or projects. This is an opportunity for outreach to others, improvements to our facility or new programs in our church that cannot be funded from our general fund.

Applications are available in the church office. They will be considered at the Ministry Support Team (MST) meeting on Thursday, August 18th at 5pm.

Anyone interested may attend.

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### **Trustee's Report By Jim Gregory**

Several projects were completed in June:

Rudy Lobato Construction removed the blackboards and cork boards from the walls and painted the walls of the downstairs education classroom which is being converted to the worship center for the Hispanic church. Robinson's Interiors installed a pad and carpeting in the room. The previously unused classroom now has a new purpose.

Lobato Construction repaired several areas on the flat roofs which had seen leaks this past winter, especially on the one day when we received an inch of rain.

Boy Scout Johnny Ardans, of Troop 400, completed his Eagle Scout project, which was to install the bicycle rack in the courtyard, which was donated by the Kings Art Center.

The boy scouts planted a chinese pistache tree in center of the playground. This tree is a memorial to Jeanette Ardans, Johnny's mother.

Work is in progress of bringing Wi-Fi to Mary Lane Hall.



## **Constitutional Structure of the United Methodist Church**

The United Methodist Church does not have a central headquarters or a single executive leader. Duties are divided among bodies that include the General Conference, the Council of Bishops and the Judicial Council. Each of these entities is required by our Constitution, a foundational document, to be part of our structure, and plays a significant role in the life of the church.

### **General Conference**

The General Conference, the primary legislative body of The United Methodist Church, is the only body that speaks officially for the church. Meeting once every four years to determine legislation affecting connectional matters, it is composed of no fewer than 600 and no more than 1,000 delegates. Working within the boundaries of the Church Constitution and General Rules, the General Conference defines and fixes the conditions, privileges and duties of church membership; the powers and duties of elders, deacons, diaconal ministers and local pastors; and the powers and duties of annual conferences, missionary conferences, charge conferences and congregational meetings. It authorizes the organization, promotion and administrative work of the church. The General Conference also defines the powers and duties of the episcopacy, authorizes the official hymnal and book of worship, provides a judicial system and procedures, initiates and directs all connectional enterprises of the church and enacts other legislation for the operation of the church.

### **Council of Bishops**

The Council of Bishops gives general oversight of the ministry and mission of the church and spiritual leadership to the entire church connection. Composed of all active and retired bishops, the council meets as a group at least once a year. Bishops are elected by Jurisdictional Conferences and assigned to a particular area, made up of one or more annual conferences. Each bishop provides oversight of the ministry and mission of annual conferences in his or her area and appoints all clergy to their places of service. Through its Office of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships, the council builds and maintains ties with other Christian denominations as well as other faith groups.

### **Judicial Council**

As the denomination's highest judicial body or "court," the Judicial Council interprets church law and determines constitutionality of proceedings at all levels of church life. Its nine members, made up of laity and clergy, are elected by the General Conference and normally meet twice a year to consider whether actions of the various church bodies adhere to the constitution and follow the rules outlined in the Book of Discipline. Their cases are generally referred to them by action of the Council of Bishops, the annual conferences or the General Conference. According to the Constitution, decisions of the Judicial Council are final (Paragraph 57, Article III).

Bishop Minerva Carcaño has been assigned to be the resident bishop of our own California Nevada-Conference (San Francisco Episcopal Area) beginning Sept 1. Bishop Carcaño has served the California-Pacific Conference the past four years.



LAUNDRY LOVE IS A COOPERATIVE EFFORT AMONG SEVERAL CHURCHES IN OUR COMMUNITY TO OFFER A REGULAR OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE STRUGGLING **Thursday, August 18th from 3-8 pm.** 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  
Volunteers are needed! Talk with Peggy Gregory or just come on by!



### **Mission Service Opportunity**

**Friday, August 19th,  
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!