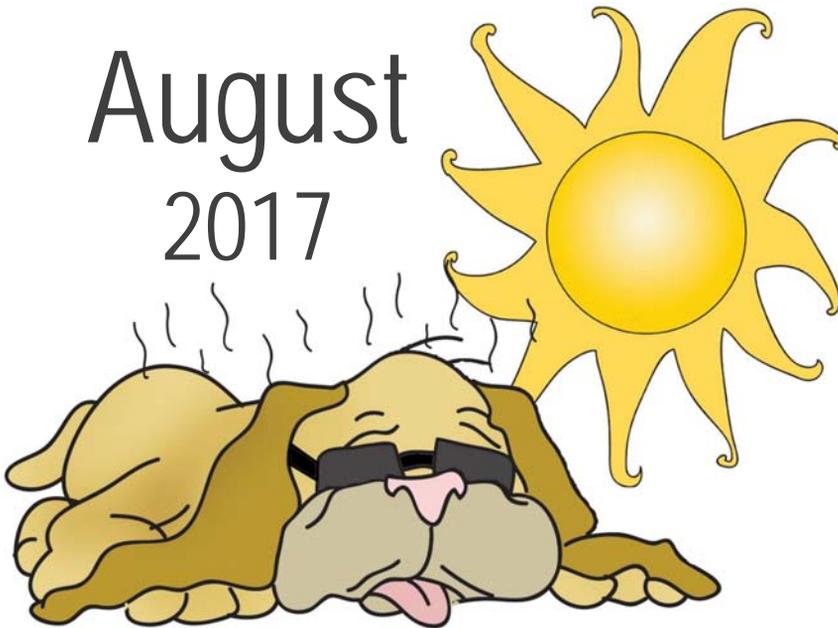


# *The Methodist Messenger*

In the Spirit of John Wesley

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

August  
2017



First United Methodist Church  
505 N. Redington Street  
Hanford, CA 93230

Office (559) 584-4075 Fax (559) 584-5438

E-mail [office@fumchanford.org](mailto:office@fumchanford.org)

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](mailto:pastorc@fumchanford.org)

## Notes For The Journey

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1-4), Jesus responded with what we know as the Lord's Prayer. The fact that the disciples requested a model for praying shows us that we don't have to feel guilty when we don't understand prayer and need help with it. We seem to think we should know instinctively about praying, but from their question we see that even the disciples -- who were with Jesus every day, witnessing his life and seeing how he prayed -- still needed help with praying.

Second, their question shows us the common human tendency to want to "do" the spiritual life correctly, to know the "right" way. Jesus responds to their deep hunger to know God and feel connected to God. But with the very first words of the prayer he signals a basic truth: prayer and the spiritual life are not about rules but about relationship -- always relationship. Jesus does this often when someone asks for rules, as in saying that all the commandments are about loving God and neighbor. (See Matthew 22:34-39.)

Jesus tells us to begin our praying with, "Our Father who art in heaven." That first word reminds us that we are not alone, that we are linked through God to one another as one family. The spiritual journey is a communal journey. As we come close to God, we are drawn into closer relationship with one another. And by telling us to call God "father," Jesus moves us from images of a remote God to an image of God as one who is with us constantly, one whose likeness we bear at the deepest levels of our being.

Then we are to pray, "Holy is your name," acknowledging God's holiness. "Holy is your name" reminds us that the basic posture of prayer is awe -- awe that grows from seeing God's greatness and yet knowing that one who is so holy yearns for relationship with us. That is why we pray: to deepen the relationship. This is the essence of prayer: being with God as we are and naming God as God is. This encounter changes us, degree by degree, and allows us to experience freedom. (See 2 Corinthians 3:18.)



Here are some questions you might consider for personal reflection:

1. Are you fearful of or reluctant to approach God? What images deepen your feeling of closeness to God and help you to want to draw closer?
2. What "rules" or expectations about prayer interfere with your praying? What rules or structures are helpful to you?
3. Think about God as your father. How is God's nature evident in you? How does seeing this family likeness change your ideas of yourself?
4. In what ways would you like to deepen your relationship with God? What are your resources for doing that?

What do the opening phrases of the Lord's Prayer mean to you?

Blessings,

Pastor Cynthia Stateman





I hope that you all are having a restful summer. We will be starting up UMW again in September, board meeting will be September 7 and general meeting will be September 17. I will be your local UMW president until December 2017. If there is anyone that is willing to hold a position including mine please contact one of the board members.

I want to thank those that has kept me in their prayers. I am still on the mend. This recovering is for the birds. I want energy. I am tired of being tired. I see the doctor again in August so I am hoping that I can go to the gym or anywhere and not hurt.

Andrea McDonald  
[Andreamcd1202@yahoo.com](mailto:Andreamcd1202@yahoo.com)  
559-360-4477



It was a Thursday evening. I got the call at home after getting home from Laundry Love.

My mind kept going through all the different scam phone call scenarios, but as this call went on, it sounded more and more legit.

The lady said she was the wife of pastor Terry at Lancaster United Methodist Church. She was asking for help for a member of their congregation who was stuck in Hanford. The Highway Patrol was just now delivering him to our church.

She had known that would be all right because Laundry Love was listed as an activity of the church that evening on our calendar.

By the time I got to church, both the Highway Patrol officer and Richard also knew the only meetings at church that evening were self-help recovery groups. They were glad to see me when I parked on Redington and asked for Richard by name.

The lady's plan had been for me to help get Richard a room for the night. Then some members of the Lancaster congregation would come get Richard tomorrow and make sure he got home.

She gave me her number and said to call her when I got him there. She would give the hotel her credit card info if needed. I picked the Comfort Inn. We took Redington Street to get there because Irwin Street was still closed for the Farmer's Market. That's a different perspective — looking at the Farmer's Market from the lobby of the Comfort Inn.

Well, we used the hotel's phone. Richard talked to the pastor's wife. He had his own credit card and used that. The Comfort Inn had a room. The rates were quite reasonable.

But we were just getting started. After actually going to his room, we went to see what we could do about his car. It was out of gas on 198. On an overpass on 198.

First stop was to go home and pick up a gas can.

Second stop was to the Valero station on 7th Street near 10th Ave. We bought about two gallons. I did the pumping and Richard again used his credit card.

Now to find the car. We got on 198 and were looking on the 14th Ave overpass in Armona. But no car on the side heading west from Hanford. I learned you have to go all the way to 18th in Lemoore before you can turn around on 198. But that gave us plenty of places to look along the way.

His car had a United Methodist cross & flame logo on the back of his trunk. It was indeed on the Armona overpass—eastbound.

Then I learned how long it takes to put gas into a car with a smaller hole than the gas can spout. Had to use one hand to hold a funnel with an even smaller opening while pouring with the other hand, at a steady rate, but not so fast the the funnel overflowed. In the dark. In the breeze that had come up. That's a way of saying I spilled some of Richard's gas. Repeatedly.

As Richard stood there and also got cold, we talked and he realized he had had a very long drive that day, that he was tired and that he probably wasn't able to safely drive back to the Comfort Inn. So his car got left there on the overpass after all.

We drove back to the Comfort Inn. It occurred to me that I should write a note saying exactly where his car was, so I did and gave it to Richard. He was REALLY appreciating the hotel's complimentary cookie. The clerks had already explained about the breakfast buffet the next morning.

Farmer's Market had closed down. People were still clearing Irwin Street.

Richard went to his room and I went home. Again. Put the empty gas can away. That's it. They came and got him. I received a very nice thank you card from Richard this month.



## 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.

## Trustee Report

The deadbolt lock on the men's restroom in the breezeway was broken. The lock was replaced. Plans are being developed to replace the Kwikset locks on the two education buildings with a different brand of commercial locks, the same as are installed in schools.

Jim Gregory

### United Methodist Men continued...

Now this really is a United Methodist Men article. See, it wasn't just a call out of no where. When we mail out the *Methodist Messenger* (which you are now reading), it goes to many addresses, including other churches. It also goes on our church web page (in color!). And I always have my phone number at the end of the UMM article. So Pastor Terry's wife knew she had found some local United Methodists to help Richard. Within the *Methodist Messenger* she pick the number at the end of the UMM article.

Now — you haven't identified yourself to me yet, as the man who will be in charge of making sure we have a meal for our monthly meetings. I have phone numbers for you. You just choose men to bring a salad or bread or main dish, and you get stuff to church by 6:30.

That's when we'll meet, and hopefully eat, on Monday September 11th. New participants welcome. You never know what God might have planned for your day.

## WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

### Worship Coordinator

- August 6:** Chris Payne
- August 13:** Cat Barclay
- August 20:** Peggy Gregory
- August 27:** Mary Jane Gozun

### Lay Worship Leaders

- August 6:** Cat Barclay
- August 13:** Sue Hensel
- August 20:** Carol Collar
- August 27:** Jan Franke

### Ushers

- August 6:** Verne Adams, Mike Bertaina
- August 13:** Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina
- August 20:** Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina
- August 27:** David Beeman, Jim Gregory

### Counting Team

- August 6:** Sue Hensel, John Meadows
- August 13:** Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell
- August 20:** Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker
- August 27:** David Beeman, Jim Gregory

### Coffee Hour

- August 6:** The McDonalds
- August 13:** Diana & Lily Boone
- August 20:** Cat Barclay
- August 27:** Glen & Jetta Lennox

### Greeters

*Sign up to greet on the hallway bulletin board!*

**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**

Marilyn Peden, Cat Barclay, Andrea McDonald, 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 Joseph Castanon and family
- Sam McDonald and her move to Rohnert Park
- Jessica Magnis' upcoming delivery in August, as well as her new job as Daycare Assistant
- 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 Reverend Tom Warren & family
- For caregivers and those caring for their parents
- The Wagner, Chono, 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!



**August 2017's  
2nd Saturday Info**

**Making Disciples of Jesus  
Christ: The Role of the  
Means of Grace in Christian  
Faith and Life**

August 12, 2017  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
First UMC, Porterville  
(344 East Morton,  
Porterville, CA 93257)

- Making disciples of Jesus Christ can often be confusing. There are so many different educational programs available to choose from, that we can be overwhelmed by the selections.
- This gathering will focus on the role of the spiritual disciplines of prayer, worship, scripture, the Lord's Supper, and service with the poor, sick, and prisoners known as the *means of grace* in the development of a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- Come and learn about the Wesleyan/ United Methodist tradition of the means of grace as places to meet God and God's grace, as well as living out the love and grace received to people out in the public square.

**Registration Deadline: August 4, 2017**

Contact the office for more info, or go to **cnumc.org**, then scroll down to *Resources / Available Registrations / 2 Saturday Monthly Lay Courses 2017*



**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!

—○—

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

—○—

**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, August 17th  
from 3-8 p.m.**

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



**Mission Service  
Opportunity**

Friday, August 18th, 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!*