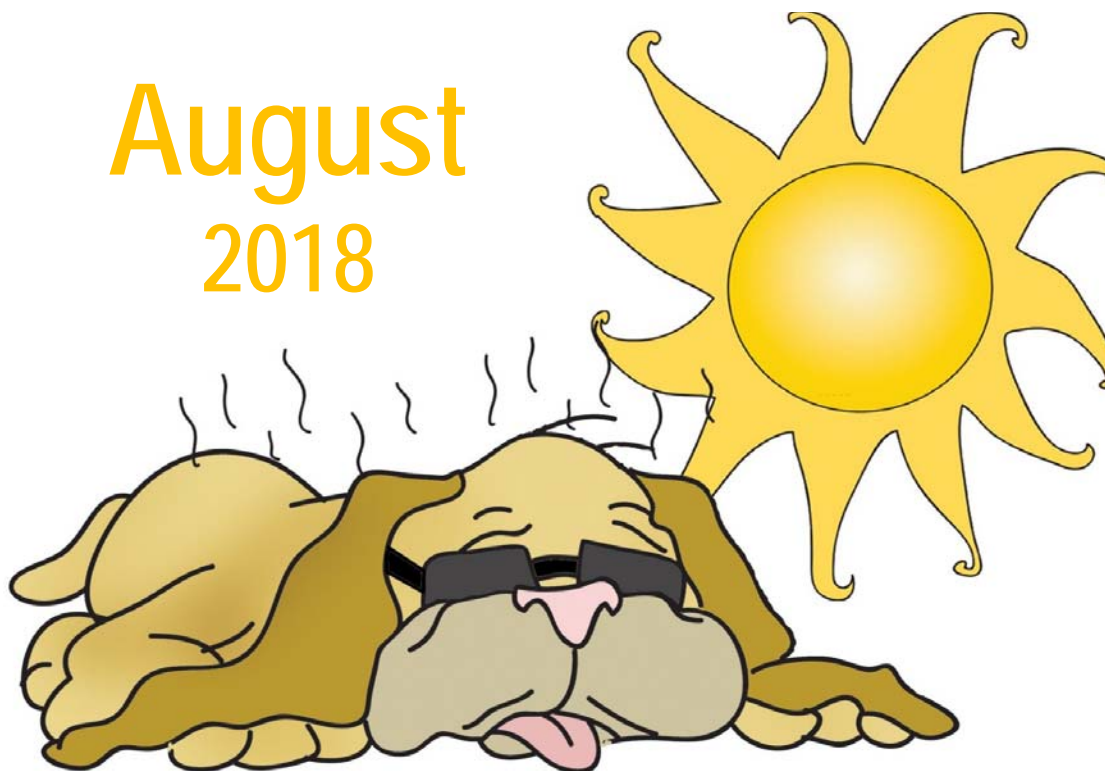


# *The Methodist Messenger*

In the Spirit of John Wesley

*"Bringing faith into life by loving God"*

August  
2018



August 2018

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

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Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Pastor: Pablo Róvere

## Notes for the journey~

God's two greatest commandments are to love God and love others. To love everyone equally is a true sign of our love for God and our desire to live Christ-like. Matthew 22: 34-40

Jesus tells us in Matthew 25:40 that whatever we do for the least of people, we do for him.

Since my family and I arrived in Hanford and at First UMC of Hanford, I can only say that this community of faith has shown and given to us, my family and I. The day we arrived in Hanford, John waited for us until almost 9pm. There was an easy meal for us to eat in the refrigerator, table and chairs for us to sit on, a gift card and so many details -as well as, we know, so much work had gone into preparing the parsonage for us. It all made us feel God's love in a concrete way, that continued on that first Sunday and beyond with your many ways of welcoming us.

All this month I have felt among you God's love.

I truly believe that God has brought us together to continue showing the love of God to the community. To find ways working together to share that love in concrete ways. It might be different than how you welcome your new pastor, but the spirit of showing love is the same.

Thank you for everything! And I look forward to our walk together in this awesome ministry that comes from God's love!

Pastor Pablo Rovere

## **Weekly Prayer Group**

Come refresh your 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

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## **Love Yourself To Wholeness**

### **Patricia George-Group Leader**

• B.A Music • PhD Life • Teacher • Musician • Writer/Artist •

[patricia.george91@yahoo.com](mailto: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

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## **Second Saturday District Training**

The Central Valley District Council on Ministry Presents another 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Training

**August 11**

Preaching II

Basic Lay Servant Training

9am-3pm

### 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:

August 1 @ 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!



### 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.

**MST will be considering funding an Available Program Fund Grant at its August 9 meeting. Interested parties are invited to attend.**

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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  
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## **WORSHIP CONNECTIONS**

### Worship Coordinator

**August 5:** Peggy Gregory  
**August 12:** Mary Jane Gozun  
**August 19:** Chris Payne  
**August 26:** Cat Barclay

### Counting Team

**August 5:** Sue Hensel, David Beeman  
**August 12:** Jim Gregory, David Beeman  
**August 19:** Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker  
**August 26:** Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell

### Lay Worship Leaders

**August 5:** Andrea McDonald  
**August 12:** Diana Boone  
**August 19:** Rebecca Eversall  
**August 26:** Sue Hensel

### Coffee Hour

**August 5:** Boone  
**August 12:** Chris Payne  
**August 19:** Beeman  
**August 26:** McDonald

### Ushers

**August 5:** Jim Gregory, Mike Bertaina  
**August 12:** Jim Gregory, Mike Bertaina  
**August 19:** David Beeman, Mike Bertaina  
**August 26:** David Beeman, Jim Gregory

### Greeters

**August 5:**  
**August 12:** Vicki Beeman & Chris Payne  
**August 19:**  
**August 26:** Beemans

### **Budget Update As of June 30**

General Fund Income	\$60,388
General Fund Expenses	\$82,426
Deficit	-\$22,038

Monthly Amount Needed for General Fund Budget	\$13,684
Average Monthly Income to Date	\$10,065

## **Lay Member Report from Annual Conference**

You spent \$460 to send me to Annual Conference this year, so I had better write you my report of what happened there.

This was the 170th Session of the California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and its predecessor organizations. We met in downtown Modesto from Wednesday to Saturday June 20 - 23.

The “membership” of the conference is supposed to be made up of an equal number of clergypersons and lay persons. So each church usually has one of each. This year Hanford First UMC sent two lay people. Every ordained clergy person is automatically a member of the Annual Conference. But there are lots of these ordained conference members who serve beyond a local church, such as serving as bishop or as district superintendent or teaching in a seminary or directing one of our denomination’s boards or agencies. So some congregations are called to send an extra lay member to keep that balance in numbers.

This year the Bishop recognized five lay people who don’t hold any office beyond their local church. They are sort of unsung heroes, dedicated to making a difference where God has put them.

- Pete and Deb Bein at the Yreka UMC work with youth, with a street ministry, and have organized a homeless ministry that reaches out to meet many needs in Yreka.
  - Arlette Flores at Merced UMC helps people tell each other their own story openly and honestly, has organized a Los Posadas event at their church, and recently served an ACLU internship.
  - Richard Fong is originally from New York. He’s now a member of Oakland Chinese Community UMC and runs the Asian Youth Community Center in Oakland’s Chinatown.
- Pat Ravics was described as an “81-year-old church angel.” She put in 275 volunteer hours with Habitat for Humanity in the past five years, and just became a Stephen Minister.

Our other lay member of Annual Conference from Hanford this year was Cat Barclay. She gave her report the very next day as part of the sermon she delivered while we were between pastors on June 24. So she already told you about closing down a church after over 100 years of serving its community, but I want to share about that, too.

It’s called Discontinuing a church. This year we voted to discontinue Wasco UMC. The work was already done. The congregation was out of money to continue the ministry. The Mission and Extension Society for that part of our district (Kern) had been unable to find missionaries to plant a new church there, (as has worked for Corcoran UMC). The remaining members had already been transferred either to Delano or Bakersfield UMCs.

Oak Park Church was discontinued, too. It was near Sacramento, to the northwest. But a new Tongan congregation - a UMC without a building - was ready for a permanent place in the Sacramento area. So this time everybody was really happy how it worked out.

An architect helped the church in Red Bluff get a new roof. And when snow damaged the social hall roof of the church in Portola, neighboring Quincy UMC helped out.

## **Lay Member Report from Annual Conference CONTINUED~**

At Annual Conference, events are often held at meal times. This year I attended a missions lunch, where a missionary made a big presentation about refugees around the world. His slides included two pictures of the bodies of children that had washed up on beaches after the boats in which their parents fled Syria had proved unseaworthy for the intended trip and load.

We had a teacher speak all four days to everyone at Annual Conference. He is pastor of a United Methodist church in Houston, Texas, that does some very different things to reach out to people in the community who might otherwise feel they would never have any reason to be in a church. One was (kind of like) hosting a 90-day think tank for creative people. And they specifically invited each person based on being known for very diverse interests and talents. Another was (kind of like) offering the community an art café.

The General Conference of the whole United Methodist Church did not finish its work in Portland when it last convened, so it took the unusual step of scheduling an extra session in 2019 to deal with just one topic, how the church should deal with various expressions of human sexuality. The church needs to decide if or how we will change our rules. That general topic has been referred for the last two years to a Commission on a Way Forward. That Commission has prepared a report to present to the 2019 special session of General Conference. You can read it online.

<http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward>

So our Annual Conference had to decide whether we would elect new representatives to that special conference, or keep the delegates we had elected for Portland. We chose the latter.

And in Modesto we did the things we have come to expect Annual Conference to do: recognize the retirements of pastors, remember those pastors and spouses who had passed away in the past year, ordain and certify new ministers of the gospel, and appoint each clergy member of this conference to some position, church or charge. Yes, it's a one-year appointment; they have to be re-appointed every year.

Finally, I want to report that we passed a piece of legislation changing how and when the lay members of Annual Conference are chosen. Previously, the conference secretary counted up the clergy members and then set the number of lay members needed per church, more or less by size. And that was the rule for each four-year period. But that number changes. For example, this year more clergypersons passed away than the total of new ones ordained plus those transferring in. So the number went down. Our new method will be to let the conference statistician do the counting, and follow a formula for apportioning lay members (very similarly) but it will be done annually. We will hear in September how many our church will send the following June. That will give us time to elect one, two or possibly even three lay members of Annual Conference at our charge conference in late Fall.

And next June I'm pretty sure we will be electing at Annual Conference a new delegation (of equal numbers of clergy and laity) for the regularly scheduled General Conference May 5 to 15, 2020 in Minneapolis.

I hope that helps.  
- David Beeman

**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, Betty Claxton and her family, Jessica Maris' mother, 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 .

**Buildings & Grounds report**

Jim Gregory

The three new windows in Millie Kraft Room were painted with a primer on the new windows trim. The west wall received a coat of Navaho White paint.

Three new 84 inch ceiling fans have been ordered for Founders Hall.



Hi, I hope that all is well with you. There is no UMW meeting till Sept. I am hoping that you attend Mission U the dates for all three events:

San Jose Aug 4 Chico Aug 10-11 Fresno Aug 17-19

Thank you, Andrea McDonald



## 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, August 16, 2018**  
**from 3-8 p.m.**

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



### **Mission Service Opportunity**

**Friday, August 17, 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!*

## CHURCH NURSERY HELPERS

Our Church Nursery needs more volunteers to keep functioning well. We have a wonderful paid Church Nursery attendant, Lynda, who is there every Sunday and doing a fine job. However, in order to follow established legal guidelines, we must have two persons tending to the Nursery each Sunday in order to operate within those guidelines. Thus, we need one Church member volunteer each Sunday to assist Lynda.

We can best serve our Church families and visitors with small children if we have a well functioning Church nursery. So far, we have been able to keep our Church Nursery operating with three volunteers assisting Lynda. Unfortunately, one of those three is soon moving out of town. Thus, we urgently need more volunteers who can be scheduled to assist in the Church Nursery.

Our best arrangement would be for us to have 8 or 9 volunteers who can be scheduled to assist Lynda in the Nursery. Thus, each volunteer would have to help in the Nursery about once each two months.

We do need to provide additional support for Lynda to remain within the legal guidelines that apply to our situation while we provide the support for families with children who wish to attend our Church.

If you are able to donate one Sunday every six to eight weeks to work in the Church Nursery please give Jetta Lenox a call (559-584-5926) to help our Church support families with small children. Being in the Nursery, assisting with our small children is a most rewarding experience.