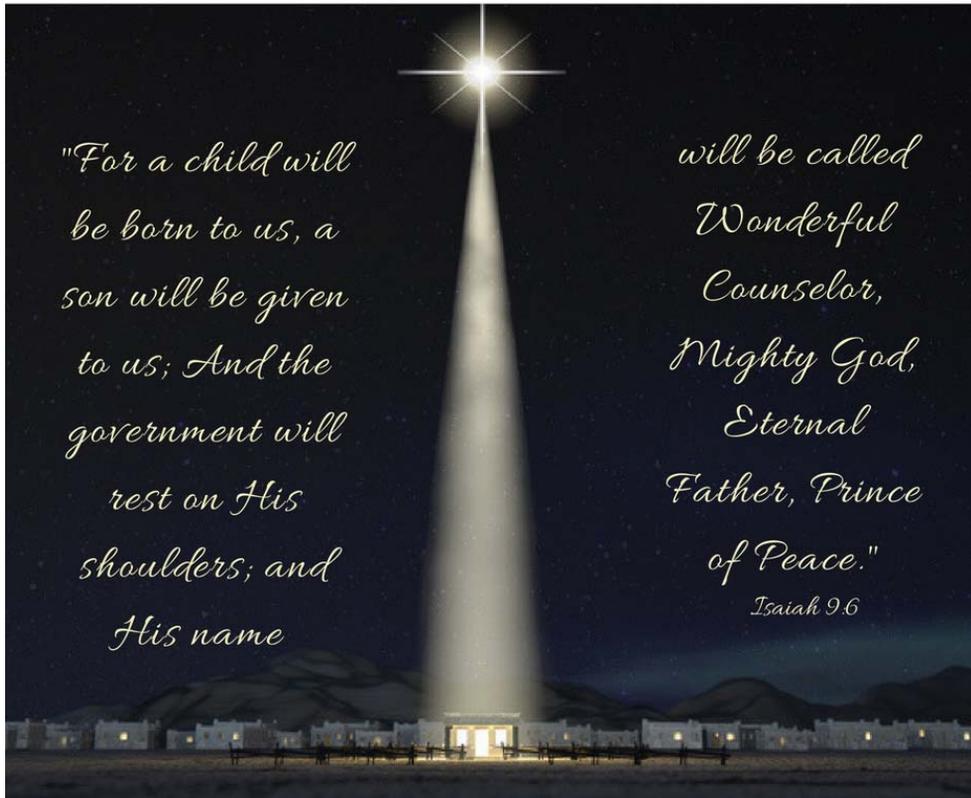


# The Methodist Messenger

In the Spirit of John Wesley

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



*"For a child will  
be born to us, a  
son will be given  
to us; And the  
government will  
rest on His  
shoulders; and  
His name*

*will be called  
Wonderful  
Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Eternal  
Father, Prince  
of Peace."  
Isaiah 9:6*

December 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

Every year around this time, I have a familiar experience. I'm out shopping, and I'll go through the checkout line, and pay for my stuff. When the cashier hands me back the change, they'll say "Happy holidays," or perhaps even "Merry Christmas."

I realize that this comment is not always motivated by the cashier's genuine interest in whether or not I enjoy my holiday. I'm aware that they may be saying this because they've been told to. I can envision the memo from K mart corporate headquarters directing cashiers when to switch from "Have a nice day" to "Happy Holidays," on the assumption that this will somehow help cement a lasting bond between the store and the customer that won't evaporate when a Wal-Mart opens across the street.

I'm aware of all that, and suspicious of the whole business. But at least once every year, I have a cashier who looks me in the eye and says "Merry Christmas," and really means it. And it changes my whole day.

There really is something genuine to this whole idea of Christmas cheer. As Dec. 25th draws near, people warm up just a bit. If you're out and around on Christmas Eve, you'll notice that people are friendlier than on any other day of the year.

Folks warm up when they are mindful of the Christ child's birth, and make an extra effort to practice the virtues the angels sing of - "peace on earth, goodwill towards men."

But consider this - why do we notice this at Christmas? Why does this surge in warm-heartedness stand out? I think it's because, despite our best intentions, good will towards one another can easily become a seasonal event rather than a standing policy.

When Christ entered our world, he didn't come to brighten our Decembers, but to transform our lives. It can be hard work to practice good will towards one another. But John the Baptist's message was that as we prepare for Christ to come into our lives, we can change our ways.

The Gospel accounts of Jesus' ministry provide the blueprint for loving our neighbor in a busy and complicated neighborhood. Christ made a point of seeking out the broken and disenfranchised people of his day - the lepers, prostitutes and tax collectors - and he saw the value in each one of them. And in so doing, He helped them recognize the value in themselves.

This Christmas season, let us recognize that just as faith is a decision, good will towards people is a series of decisions that work themselves out not in temporary holiday cheer, but in the details of everyday life.

Blessings,  
Pastor Cynthia Stateman

### **Notes from Ministerial Support Team Meeting (MST) November**

The MST members at the November meeting experienced the pressure and strain of annual report requirements. The same pressure and strain faced by the Psalmists; their advice when faced with those issues was to turn to the Lord. Rather than expect a quick , rapid solution; commune with your own hearts and be silent.

Should you meditate upon God, His first response will be “You are mine! I love and accept you” He will then give us guidance for every day. I will guide you in each decision. You will have enough wisdom, discernment, clarity, and strength for each situation.

But come back here in the quiet with Me each day and I will show you the next step, how to act and react, what to say and how do decide.

**I WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY**

Submitted by:

Doug True, Chairman MST

#### **Trustee Report**

Champi Fencing is scheduled to install two seven-foot tall lockable gates with attached fencing at the two entrances to the courtyard early in December. The new gates will have a push bar on the inside, so persons can always exit without a key. Security cameras show several persons are sleeping on a regular basis in the courtyard and prayer garden.

The Gas Company has shut off the gas due to one or more gas line leaks. A plumber has been contacted to find and repair the leaks.

Thank you,  
Jim Gregory



**The incoming officers for UMW 2018 are:**

**Andrea McDonald**-President

**Cat Barclay**—Vice President

**Vicki Beeman**-Secretary/Treasurer

**Andrea McDonald**-reading program

All women who attend the FUMC (First United Methodist Church Hanford) are members of UMW (United Methodist Women) at our church. Please come and join us. Look on the Bulletin board for upcoming events for next year. We welcome any thoughts or ideas on programming.

All are welcome to attend our Christmas Bazaar December 9, 2017 from 11:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m. Lunch tickets can be purchased in the Craft Room or by Vicki Beeman. Proceeds will go towards helping our different charities. You are welcome to bring home-made crafts. Please price your own items or bring good stuff to eat to sell. Set up will be December 8, 2017. The day of the Bazaar, we need help in the Craft Room and will be putting signs out, etc. Please call Andrea McDonald if you would like to help.

Andrea McDonald, 559-360-4477 cell



Come one, Come all! Join us in beginning our Holiday Season! Help us decorate our Christmas Tree!

**Friday, December 1, 2017 @ 5:00 P.M.**

**\*POTLUCK\***

Please check the Bulletin Board for the sign-up sheet!



At our November UMM meeting, our speaker, Debbie Grice of the county health department, was so compelling that she kept us in our seats until we could sit no more.

Then everybody cleaned up and went home.

Which was fine, except we did have more business.

**First**, UMM is providing manpower for the UMW Bazaar on Dec. 9th. There we will help with, **food preparation and serving**, refills, dishwashing and table clearing.

**Second** was a reminder of the community blood drive. Since then, *the date was moved* to Monday the 27th of November. Please correct your monthly calendar.

And **third** is supporting the **Angel Tree** project by organizing a party at our church where the kids could hear the Christmas story and receive the gifts purchased by participating FUMCH volunteers in the name of the child's incarcerated parent.

This event will be Saturday Dec. 16th in Mary Lane Hall.

Our December UMM meeting will be a catered dinner in Mary Lane Hall on our usual Second Monday at our usual 6:30 PM starting time. Men are encouraged to invite guests to this event. And maybe also pay for them, \$15 per person for dinner.

#### WHAT CAN HELP THE SITUATION IN HANFORD WITH SO MANY HOMELESS?

Debbie Grice gave us lots of statistics about homelessness in Hanford.

We have about 200 homeless people in Hanford right now. Being out in the open all the time they are vulnerable in many ways. Robbery of their few things. Assault. Interrupted sleep. Infection and disease. If they do get sick or injured, they usually can't get well. When they leave the hospital, they find no safe place to stay.

She talked about health needs of homeless veterans. I was among those who said, "The KART bus runs right by the VA Hospital." But Debbie pointed out that for many of the homeless, finding out the schedule is hard, having the one whole dollar fare is hard (remember the robbery vulnerability?), and getting to the right bus stop at the right time on the right day is even harder.

Without an address it is hard to get ID cards and even library cards to use the library computers to find information about jobs, clinics and housing.

She asked us to estimate what percent of the homeless in Kings County are in Hanford. Jim Gregory's guess almost nailed it: 94%.

Why are they all in Hanford? Well, we have the emergency room and the jail. When something happens in Corcoran, Avenal, Stratford, Lemoore, or Kettleman City, they are taken to Hanford. Sometimes by the police or deputies, sometimes by ambulance.

She took us through legal rules that cause the homeless to be entangled in the emergency room for up to three days, and in the jail for up to two years awaiting not trial, but a determination from Atascadero State Hospital if they are competent to stand trial. Our jail has 38 people on a list to go to Atascadero for that evaluation. Of those, 47% are homeless.

She went on about the costs of having our police and health care systems deal repeatedly with these vulnerable people. Of the 200 in Hanford, about 50 need an intensive intervention, including sort of a personal case manager to convince them, remind them, get them to the help they need.

That still works out to be less expensive than what we are doing now, but we are not set up to do it. Yet.

At [KARELink.org](http://KARELink.org) you can see what is being assembled and what is still in work, and what is still hoped for. She said the grants this group applies for to help these 200 homeless wind up in competition for funding with applications from agencies in Los Angeles seeking to help a homeless population roughly the size of ALL of Hanford. So the donors prefer to help more people and choose the big city. In a way that is good news for us as that area has sometimes practiced "Greyhound therapy" to make their problem go away.

So another challenge is moving the money around. But a community block grant was approved about two weeks ago (at the time she spoke) to KCAO for a Homeless Service Center that might provide showers, washing machines, kennels, storage, mailboxes and meals. They will need volunteers.

I will need a reply from you by Tuesday the 5th of December if you'd like to attend the December meeting of our UMM. Please and thank you and merry Christmas to ALL,

- David Beeman

[dpbeeman@icloud.com](mailto:dpbeeman@icloud.com)

559-584-7510

## **WORSHIP CONNECTIONS**

### Worship Coordinator

**December 3:** Cat Barclay  
**December 10** Peggy Gregory  
**December 17** Mary Jane Gozun  
**December 24** Chris Payne  
**December 31**

### Lay Worship Leaders

**December 3:** Sue Hensel  
**December 10** Carol Collar  
**December 17** Bob Junell  
**December 24** David Beeman  
**December 31** Vicki Beeman

### Ushers

**December 3:** Verne Adams, Mike Bertaina  
**December 10** Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina  
**December 17** Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina  
**December 24** David Beeman, Jim Gregory  
**December 31** David Beeman, Bob Junell

### Counting Team

**December 3:** Sue Hensel, John Meadows  
**December 10** Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell  
**December 17** Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker  
**December 24** David Beeman, Jim Gregory  
**December 31** Rebecca Eversall, David Beeman

### Coffee Hour

**December 3:** Gregory's  
**December 10** Cat Barclay  
**December 17** Geisslers  
**December 24** Chris Payne  
**December 31** Randles

### Greeters

**December 3:**  
**December 10**  
**December 17**  
**December 24**  
**December 31**

### Children's Church

**December 3:** Randles  
**December 10** David Beeman  
**December 17** Peggy Gregory  
**December 24** Shoemakers  
**December 31** Patty Ferrell



### **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, Jim Taylor, and Jan Junell.

**Other Prayer Requests**

- Prayer for: For Jessica Maris' family;
- for Dianna Newton and the Castanon family for their wellbeing;
- for Andrea McDonald who will be needing right shoulder replacement surgery, praying she gets relief and that she gets help with the upcoming Christmas Bazaar and her praying for her family,
- We will be praying for the victims, the injured and for the families and loved ones who have been so dramatically impacted by the Las Vegas Massacre, The shooting at a small church Texas, all those affected by the fires in the Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz areas,
- Mary Durham's family, her niece June Myer and her recent passing, her nephew Charles Gifford in Texas, having heart issues, her daughter-in-law, Marie-Ange, her mother, Nina Fonia in France, enduring radiation and chemo for cancer, her friend, Casey Lehtinen in Texas, enduring extensive bone cancer treatment, her friend Ann Eilenger & family, her friend Andy Berard's Uncle Will, who has cancer, her friend Doug's wife De De Gonzales, who has heart issues, her friend Geary Wooten in Keiser, with heart issues and also his wife Julie, her friend Julie Brackett for having esophagus cancer surgery, her friend Charles Nuckels;
- and healing for Marilyn Peden, Jennifer Wagner, Jessica Maris' mother, Sherrie, Dorothy Jensen, Bonnie Peters, Jim Taylor and Jan Junel

United Methodist Women 69th annual  
**Bazaar, Fall Luncheon & Bake Sale**

**Saturday, December 9, 2017**  
**11:00 am to 1:30 pm**



Founders Hall  
First United  
Methodist Church  
Redington at Center Street



Meal Tickets: \$10.00

Soup, Sandwiches and Desert  
Children age 5 and under are free

Treat yourself to some  
shopping!

We will be selling beautiful, handmade crafts  
and delicious baked goods.

Please call 559-584-5926 or 559-707-7118 for information on where to purchase tickets

**The Central Valley District Council on Ministry Presents...**

**2018 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays! Save The Dates!**

9am-3pm

**First UMC, Hanford**

505 N Redington St., Hanford, CA 93230

**January 13**

Basic Lay Servant Training

**February 10**

Basic Lay Servant Training

**April 14**

Prayer

UMVIM Training

**June 9**

United Methodist Heritage and Polity

**August 11**

Preaching II

Basic Lay Servant Training

# POINSETTIAS

**Purchase a Poinsettia and Support  
Laundry Love of Hanford**

**\$12.00 per plant**



Each poinsettia is red, grown in a 6-inch pot, and will average 16 inches tall, depending on variety.

Proceeds from the poinsettia sales will help fund Laundry Love, Hanford. The *last day to order is December 10, 2017.*

The plants will be decorating the sanctuary Sunday, December 17.



## Angel Tree Project



Thanks to the many who have adopted Angels from our Angel Tree this year. We have planned a small party at which the gifts will be distributed. Songs will be sung and the Christmas Tree Story told. Please help come celebrate the generous spirit of Christmas at the event. It will be at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday the 16th of December in Mary Lane Hall at the church. If you can come, there is plenty to do, from visiting and welcoming, to serving and managing party food. We are also expecting Santa to show up to help us all be jolly.



Make Your Plans  
and Mark your Calendars for  
*Christmas Eve*

**CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER: 6:00 p.m.**

A Christmas Dinner is to be served at 6:00 p.m. in Founders Hall. This is open to the public with reservations required by December 21, but paid at the door. A modest fee of **\$5.00** will be charged to cover the basic parts of the meal (turkey, ham, stuffing, potatoes, green beans, yams, salad, rolls and beverages).

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: 7:30 p.m.**

Plan to stay for this annual tradition of story, carols, and candlelight!

**Here is what we are asking of church members:**

- **Spread the word** in the community. This is open to all.
- Anyone feeling festive is invited to **decorate**.
- **Adopt a table to decorate.** We have red table cloths and flatware for the round tables and those who like to decorate would be invited to decorate and show off their favorite Christmas centerpiece and even their dishes if desired.
- Help with **food preparation** Dec. 20th.
- Make a **dessert** for dinner.
- **Help clean up after dinner.** We need few more folks to help right after dinner and to finish up after the church service.
- Help set up and light the **luminary bags** before dinner.

**Call or email the church office to RSVP for dinner and tell us if you would like to help in some way.**

*Dinner reservations can be made online at  
<http://fumchanford.org>*

**December 3rd, Sunday at 3:00 pm  
Annual Church Charge Conference  
at Hanford First UMC**

with  
District Superintendent Debra Brady  
and the  
Hanford Area Circuit

Food & Fellowship to Follow

We will be voting on Church leadership for 2018 and pastoral compensation.

All members of First United Methodist Church have a vote, but all the church family is invited to attend!

This is a great time to celebrate the ministry of United Methodists in our area!



**CHRISTMAS TEA AT HANNAH'S HOUSE**

*Our Methodist Woman's Annual Christmas Tea at Hannah's House will be Friday, December 1, 2017 at 10:30 A.M. Please RSVP to Jetta Lenox at 559-584-5926. If you plan on attending, if you would like to bring a dish to share, please let Jetta know what you will be bringing.*

### 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*

Wednesday, December 6

3:30 pm



**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

Peden's Family Cookbook  
For Sale \$20

Makes a great gift this holiday season! Books can be purchased through church office.



The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is already on the ground in response to Hurricane Harvey. And Hurricane Irma

Donations can be made to this church and we will send them on the UMCOR. Write "HURRICANE" on memo line.

Flood Buckets for cleaning up are \$65, but all donations are welcome and will be added to the clean up and rebuilding efforts.

—○—

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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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, December 21**  
**from 3-8 p.m.**

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

**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*



**Mission Service  
Opportunity**

Friday, December 15, 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!*