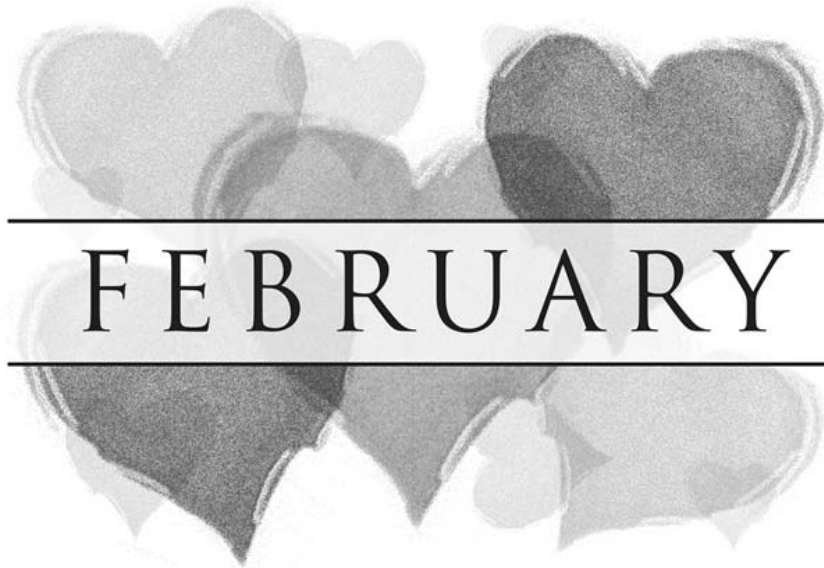


# *The Methodist Messenger*

In the Spirit of John Wesley

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



FEBRUARY

# 2016

First United Methodist Church  
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## Notes for the Journey

"If you ask me anything in my name," said Jesus, "I will do it." That is quite a claim! Jesus was talking to his disciples – to the church. He was talking about the work of the Kingdom. The scripture says that you and I are capable of amazing things when we set out to serve Jesus Christ. He was saying that when his disciples decide to get into action doing the work that God has called us to do, nothing is impossible! And that's true. Nothing is impossible for the church of Jesus Christ!

Jesus was speaking to his church when he said, "If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it." Nothing is impossible for the church of Jesus Christ. But there is something else just as important... Jesus adds a qualifier: "And whatever you ask in My name," Jesus promises, "I do, that the Father may be glorified..." Christ will do anything we ask that is intended to reveal the goodness, mercy, justice and love the Father.

Wouldn't it be great if we had a dream for this church that was big enough that we would have to depend on God to accomplish it? And wouldn't it be great if we searched our hearts and souls with prayer so that our dream would match God's dream? Wouldn't it be great if we yearned for the spiritual food that will help us to grow in our salvation - and which affects the whole world around us? Wouldn't it be great to see our community growing daily into a better community and our town into a better town because this church is here?

Christ tells us that we can not only do what he did, but even greater things - if we dream great dreams and pray for those dreams to come true for God's glory and not our own. As is true for each of us as individual believers, it is doubly true for us as the church -- for us as the people who gather in God's name to worship and accomplish together the works he calls us to pursue. "If you ask me anything in my name," said Jesus, "I will do it." You can count on it. Great things will happen and each of us can be part of it.

Blessings,  
Pastor Cynthia Stateman

**BENEFIT LUNCHEON**  
**Supporting ROYAL FAMILY/KIDS**



**FEBRUARY 28, 11:30 am until 1:30 pm**  
**take out available**

**\$15.00 DONATION**

**HANFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
Founders Hall (big building in back of church off Center St.)  
**BOB PEDEN cook**

**BOSTON BUTT PORK ROAST, pork gravy**  
**MASHED POTATOES - STRING BEANS - PEDEN'S PIE & CAKE**

We want to send 2 kids from a life of abuse, abandonment and neglect to a Summer Camp for a week.

Camps are sponsored by established Christian churches of various denominations.

The camp provides an "oasis" – a full week of relief -- where they can feel deeply loved and cared for, affirmed, and encouraged by truly caring adults. Proving that if the cycle of abuse can be broken for a week --- it can be permanently.

**Tickets available** at church office 505 N. Redington St.

584-4075 and from some members of the church.

**PLEASE TRY TO BUY IN ADVANCE OF MEAL.**

We will sell tickets at the door.

# WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

Coming Highlights for February

Monday, February 1st , 6:30 pm  
Founders Hall

United Methodist Men,  
Ladies, and Lions Club will meet for  
a potluck dinner and to hear some  
high school students present their  
speeches on "Liberty and Justice  
for All: What Does it Mean to Me?"

Saturday, February 6th,  
9:30 am – 3:00 pm

All Church Gathering  
*"Living Out The Impossible  
Dream"*

Sunday, February 14th, 11:45 am/noon  
United Methodist Women  
Taco Soup Lunch, installation of  
Officers, and information on the  
District UMW Retreat March 4th-6th.

Sunday, February 28th, 11:30 am until  
1:30 pm, Founders Hall

Benefit Luncheon supporting  
ROYAL FAMILY/KIDS SUMMER  
CAMP \$15.00 Donation Lunch by  
Bob Peden. Please try to purchase  
tickets in advance of meal!

## Worship Coordinator

**Feb 7:** Cat Barclay  
**Feb 14:** Chris Payne  
**Feb 21:** Andrea McDonald  
**Feb 28:** Peggy Gregory

## Lay Worship Leaders

**Feb 7:** Bob Junell  
**Feb 14:** David Beeman  
**Feb 21:** Vicki Beeman  
**Feb 28:** Patty Ferrell

## Greeters

**Feb 7:** Carol Collar  
**Feb 14:** Frank & Bonnie Butterway  
**Feb 21:** Diana & Lily Boone  
**Feb 28:** Sue Hensel

## Ushers

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

## Counting Team

**Feb 7:** Sue Hensel, Andrea McDonald  
**Feb 14:** Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell  
**Feb 21:** Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker  
**Feb 28:** David Beeman, Jim Gregory

## Coffee Hour

**Feb 7:** John Meadows  
**Feb 14:** Karen Shoemaker  
**Feb 21:** Frank & Bonnie Butterway  
**Feb 28:**

**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**

Vicki Beeman, Johnny (Carole Hester's niece's son, Jan Junell, Jim & Karen Shoemaker, Delfa Randles, Pollie Geissler, Marilyn Peden, Andrea McDonald, Penny Meadows, Pepper Ramsey's son Hunter, Kathleen Wilson, Ellie Wagner, Carol Collar's Mother - Francy Angstman (assisted living), Pastor Susan's parents Helen and John Foster, Larry McDonald, Gloria Brown, Peri Neos, Alison Klein, June Kruger, Louise Card (West Gate Garden Care, 4525 W. Tulare. Visalia), Marie Wiles (Kingsburg Center 1101 Stroud Ave. Kingsburg, CA 93631)

**Other Prayer Requests**

- Son Edward Fuller and Family grieving the death of Eleanor Fuller (long time member)
- Family and Friends grieving the death of Vicki Edwards
- Firefighters, Police Officers, Ambulance and other first responders
- Laundry Love ministry, Salvation Army Food Giveaway, Shower Ministry, and our food offerings to the Soup Kitchen
- 1st Christian's Rev. Tom Warren & family
- Those in the midst of crisis, tragedies, disasters, accidents and conflicts
- For caregivers and those caring for their parents
- The Noonan, Castanon & Wilson Families
- Ministry Support Team & Board of Discipleship
- Thanksgiving for all the church volunteers who give so graciously of their time and talents. We are the church!

We promise to uphold the church through...presence...service and witness.  
Please sign up to be GREETERS and COFFEE HOUR HOSTS on the lists in the hallway to Mary Lane Hall.

## **UNITED METHODIST**



### **1. Thank you to the bell-ringers!**

On a beautiful Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, a baker's dozen volunteers from our church took a day of bell ringing by the red kettle outside the Hanford Post Office. We saw lots of folding money go into the small slot that day. It all went directly to the service programs of the Hanford Salvation Army. Thank you for donating an hour (or more), Vicki Bee-man, Jim Gregory, Jan Franke, Jetta Lenox (and Amy), Karen Shoemaker, Cat Barclay, Bob Peden, John Meadows, Jim Shoemaker, and Roy Randles.

### **2. Can you help?**

We are working on meeting a challenge Pastor Cynthia gave us. We want to raise enough money to send two kids who are in the Kings County Foster care system to camp next summer. These are kids who would not otherwise go to camp. At all. We heard from Cheri LaVerne last fall about the difference this week can make in the lives of these kids. What we are learning is how to do our support in a way that doesn't compromise the camp's goals. One of those goals includes confidentiality. We may have to depend on you to sell tickets to this event by word of mouth. Sounds kind of fun to deal with this opportunity in a different way!

### **3. Happy dinner in January.**

We met on Miguel Pina's birthday for our monthly dinner, and an event even more rare than that took place as well. No, it wasn't Miguel turning down the red velvet cake John Meadows brought. It was our attendance. We always need a count so our cooking team, led by Bob Peden can bring the right amount of food. And we always have to be satisfied with coming close, as last minute changes happen. But in January, our attendance exactly matched our reservations! 100% of those saying they would be there did so, and no unanticipated guests arrived expecting to be fed.

And after eating we celebrated the lives and influence of those who had gone before us and we told how they had made a positive difference. Bob Geissler even told a story about wiring the sanctuary for sound, using a single wire recording system, where the wire itself is run from spool to spool. He even recorded Bob & Marilyn Peden's wedding directly onto an LP vinyl record, from under the choir loft in front of the church. The recordings were taken to those unable to attend worship. Bob's brother learned so much about electronics that he went on to a career in it.

### **4. February plans: Students will speak!**

But we *always* meet on the second Monday. NOT in February. The UMM decided to invite ladies to a dinner on the FIRST Monday (which will be Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>) out in Founders Hall. We will have about three speakers that evening! Our speakers will be high school students, and it will be in the format of a speech contest. They will all speak on the topic of "Liberty and Justice for All; What Does it Mean to Me?" in a contest organized by the Lions Club. Lions members and judges will also be present and will present prizes to the winner and finalists.

It will be a potluck dinner, so reservations will be back to our normal effort to come close. This time it will be about setting up the right number of tables and chairs.



All ladies of the church are welcome to attend our Board meetings and General meetings.

The first General meeting of 2016 will be on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> following the Worship service (starting between 11:45 am and 12 noon), lunch that day will be Taco Soup. Our 2016 officers will be installed by the Central Valley District President, Betty Avery. Please let me know if you plan on attending the meeting.

The District UMW Retreat, will begin the afternoon of Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and finishing the morning of Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup>. The retreat is held in Oakhurst at the Evergreen Conference Center, Oakhurst (ECCO). Jan Franke will be one of two song leaders. The Retreat leader will be Pastor Susan Kopp. Registrations are due by February 16<sup>th</sup>, and scholarship applications before that date. There are registration forms and scholarship applications available. See Andrea McDonald for those.

The March Board meeting will be on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Feel free to contact me, any of our UMW board, or the church office if you have any questions about any of the meetings. Vicki Beeman (584-2911)



The Central Valley UMW Annual Spring Retreat will be at E.C.C.O. (Evergreen Conference Center Oakhurst), Central Valley District United Methodist Women's **Retreat Scholarship Forms** as well as our local UMW Retreat scholarship forms are to be in to Andrea McDonald by Feb 12. Also if anyone needs a scholarship form please call me 559-360-4477. The retreat is March 4-6, 2016. Or you can just come for Saturday. I also have the applications to the Retreat which has a mail-in

due deadline of Feb 16, 2016, Come and enjoy the beautiful scenery that God as provided, as well as the company of other women, There will be song, food, work shops and our speaker will be Susan Kopp. Hope to see you at the retreat. Thank you, Andrea McDonald



## **Healthy Living Group**

*Interested in being part of a group that encourages and supports each other on our journey towards healthier minds, hearts, souls and bodies?*

**Next Meetings will be Sundays, Feb 7th & 14th at 4:00 pm  
in Mary Lane Hall**



Canned Food Drive  
 For the  
 Episcopal Church  
 Soup Kitchen Report:

November 22, 2015

Items collected and counted by: Mary Jane Gozun and Samantha McDonald. 64 items - 22 items were expired

January 24, 2016

Items collected and counted by Mary Jane Gozun and Samantha MacDonald. 19 items - 14 items were expired dated 2012 and September & Dec. 2015

We thank those who have already given to the food drive and to those who plan on giving. Please feel free to donate more cans even if you have given already. 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!



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, Feb 18th from 3-8 pm.**

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



### Mission Service Opportunity

Friday, Feb 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!

### Ministry Support Team (MST)

MST is the leadership group in our church that is tasked with caring for our resources; money, staff and building.

Next Meeting:  
 Thursday, Feb 11th at 5:00 pm



## Shower Ministry

The response to the needs of the Shower Ministry for the Homeless at The Hanford Pentecostal Church has been wonderful. It has been great to see the pile grow from week to week and to realize what this means for people in our community.

**Thank You to everyone who has donated.**

We will continue to collect in the coming months. Let's keep filling up the basket on the altar.

Needs: *Shampoo, Tooth Brushes, Toothpaste, Talc or Baby Powder, Terry Bathmats*



Is God calling you to share your musical talents by singing in our choir?? Would YOU like to be part of a loving, caring, fellowship and family?? If so, music might be one of your God-given gifts and talents! We would LOVE to have you join us.

Rehearsals are every Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 (or sometimes 7:45!) At the end of every practice, we have a time to share our praises and prayer requests, and then we pray together. (Don't tell anybody, but sometimes we laugh and cry together, too!!)

SO...if you think you would like to try us out, please join us next Wednesday!! We will welcome you with open arms!!

## Report on Church Facility Projects

By Jim Gregory

Randy Shaw, the Cub Scout leader for our church sponsored Cub Scout Pack 400, is installing a used drinking fountain in the breezeway between Friendship and Fireside Room. Once operational with electrical hookup next to it, the fountain water will be chilled and filtered. Randy is donating the unit and his labor to install the fountain. It is mounted at a specific height to be ADA compliant.

**All Church Gathering**  
***“Living Out The Impossible Dream”***

**Saturday, February 6th, 9:30am – 3:00pm**

Jesus Christ entered into the world to fulfill a mission and to realize a vision that is considered by many, and perhaps most people in the world, to be an impossible dream. It is, nevertheless, the one dream that almost all of us, in our heart of hearts, yearn to see come true.

On Saturday, February 6th we will gather for our first congregational retreat of the year. Our time together will consist of small group exercises, table fellowship, discussion, celebration and prayer. Our purpose together will be to turn our hearts and minds to how God is calling our church to participate in the fulfillment of Christ's mission and vision for our church within the context of today's realities.

**Come One And All! Christ Is Counting On YOU!**