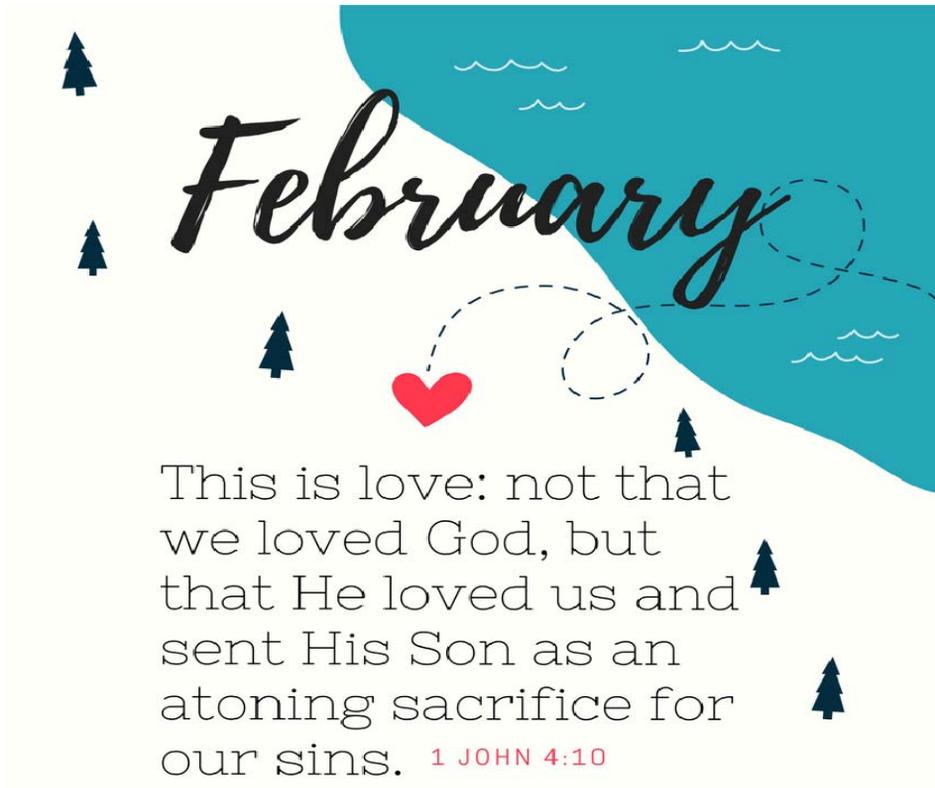


The Methodist Messenger

In the Spirit of John Wesley

“Bringing faith into life by loving God



This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. **1 JOHN 4:10**

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

Office (559) 584-4075 Fax (559) 584-5438
E-mail office@fumchanford.org

Office Hours: Monday—Friday 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Pastor Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Pastor Cynthia Stateman pastorc@fumchanford.org

Notes for the Journey

The Bible is its own best teacher. The Bible however is not arranged like an encyclopedia. You cannot go to chapter 1 and read everything about God and go to chapter 2 to read everything about Jesus, etc. Remember that when reading the Bible, the verses and chapter breaks are placed in the scriptures by editors. It is better to read by paragraph, these too were by various editors, but they do conform better to the original language than verses. Here are some other suggestions that may be helpful:

- Pray first before opening God's word. Ask for guidance and to be able to understand what is written and to be able to apply God's will to your life.
- When you are reading and come across something that does not make sense, reread the paragraph or chapter again. If you still do not understand, write down the problem area and continue onward. You may discover the answers later in your reading.
- Do not read large amounts of the Bible in one setting. Take breaks often. Or stay with about 4-6 chapters a day.
- Start with the New Testament, people who start with the Old Testament almost never read the Bible all the way through. The New Testament is what is binding on us today.
 1. Read "Mark." (It is the oldest and the shortest of the Gospel writings.)
 2. Read "Matthew." (It goes into more detail about some events and adds more about Jesus.)
 3. Read "John." (It focuses on the identity of Jesus and the need to believe in him.)
 4. Read "Luke" then "Acts." (Both are written by the same author.. Acts is a continuation of Luke. It describes the early church and contains the examples of New Testament conversions.)
 5. Read "Galatians." (It deals with the reasons why we do not follow the Old Testament Laws in a more simplified way than does Romans or Hebrews.)
 6. Then read the rest of the New Testament starting at Romans and going to Revelation.
- Forget everything you have ever heard about Jesus, God and the Bible before you start reading. Allow it to be a fresh experience.

Your voyage through God's Word will take about 5 weeks. It will be the best traveling you can ever take. You will laugh and you will cry. It has everything that makes a very good book, and lots more. It can teach you the most important things for this life and the one to come.

Blessings,

Pastor Cynthia Stateman



2017 Valentine's Dinner and Menu

The 2017 Valentine's Dinner, an event put on by the United Methodist Men, will feature poetry, music, and a serene, yet festive atmosphere.

Dinner will be served on *Monday, February 13, at 6:30 PM* in Mary Lane Hall. Guests are encouraged to dress up.

Dinner will be \$10 each, and attendance will be limited to 30.

To make your reservations, contact David Beeman at dpbeeman@kings.k12.ca.us or 584-7510 by February 10th.

Valentine's Dinner menu: baked chicken breast in mushroom-wine sauce, orange-mandarin lettuce salad, twice-baked potatoes, and cheese cake with cherry sauce

UMW Social Action Event

**United Methodist Women Lobbying For Women And Their Children
Learn how to lobby and how the lobbying that we do can effect change**

The California-Nevada Conference United Methodist Women (UMW) will hold its annual social action event on Saturday, March 18, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Plaza Hotel and Event Center, 211 E. Ninth Street, Carson City, NV.

Speakers are Sheila Leslie, former member of the Nevada State Assembly; Elisa Caffarata, Nevada Advocates (Planned Parenthood) of Nevada/new leader Nevada's Commission on the Status of Women; and, Susie Johnson, UMW National Policy office in Washington, D.C.

Costs is \$22 and includes lunch, snacks, and program materials. For more information, and registration information, contact Rosie Bachand, 209-639-5258 or obgynnpc@pacbell.net.



Purpose of United Methodist Women: *The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.*

The next board meeting will be February 2nd at 2:00 p.m. in Mary Lane Hall. Our next General meeting will be Sunday, February 19th at noon. If you are interested in providing lunch, please talk to Cat Barclay about this. This meeting will either be in Founders Hall, or the room across from Mary Lane Hall. Sorry can't think of the name at the moment.

In January, I did a PowerPoint about the The Disability Task Force. We had beef stew and rice. There was a great discussion and great feedback. Thank you to all who attended. Please consider being part of your UMW.

The ECCO retreat will be the second weekend in March. I have scholarship forms—for those that need them, just ask.

The next BOD will be Wednesday, February 1st at 3:00 p.m. in Mary Lane Hall. All are invited to these meetings.

Andrea McDonald
andreamcd1202@yahoo.com
360-4477 (cell) 530-3977 (home)



Dave Clevenger says Cheryl Landeros is “a saint to the street” for the homeless community in Hanford. She visits them to make food, clothing and blankets available. Dave met her when he moved here 3 and a half years ago and gave her his moving blankets and boxes.

From that connection, the Kings Gospel Mission was started. Dave runs the program and we were blessed to have him as our speaker at the January dinner meeting of the United Methodist Men.

In March of 2015 the Kings Gospel Mission got going and started its program June 1st of that year. They started with the program, and then added the overnight shelter. The shelter can accommodate 20 men. In October and November they were turning men away, but around Christmas occupancy dropped. Then, as of the night before Dave spoke to us, they were back up to 19. There is no one thing homeless men have in common except for being homeless. Some are simply out of a job and in a financial bind. Some need a sense of identity - someone to remind them they are a beloved child of God, as Pastor Cynthia had just preached in her sermon on “God’s Time of Affirmation” that week. Some need financial or home management skills. Who teaches men not to buy groceries at convenience stores?

But that’s just the shelter ministry. The program he is passionate about is a residential program next door in a different building, the one that used to house Cornerstone on 7th Street. There, men choose to participate for nine months learning FIRST about their identity in Christ, that God wants them, loves them and saves them. SECOND they learn life readiness skills, such as planning for meals, cooking and the shopping. THIRD they seek their vocation, finding out what they can do that will make them say, “I get to go to work today” at 6:00 in the morning.

For a large majority that last point is total exploration. They had no idea of a job that they would like doing. But finding one’s purpose is always a blessing. Dave concluded by answering a question about what the Kings Gospel Mission needed from us. He reflected that God had continually and faithfully showed them (a) that He was in control, and (2) what was next. So he said that what they needed most from us was prayer, to stay in God’s will and to move at God’s timing.

Then we prayed.

Please plan on joining us for our February UMM dinner meeting, 6:30 PM on Monday the 6th. God bless you.

- David Beeman 584-7510 dpbeeman@kings.k12.ca.us



Ministry Support Team (MST)

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

This month's meeting will be **Thursday, February 9th at 6:00 p.m.**

Trustee Report

A water supply valve under the sink in the hallway bathroom failed at the parsonage. A plumber was called to replace the valve. There is an apparent break in the pressurized PVC landscape irrigation supply line at the manifold in the parsonage back yard. Water saturated the area enough that water seeped under the wall of the house and came up into the sunken living room. The saturated carpet and pad have been moved back and the area has been dried.

The rain total from January 12 broke the old record set in 1909 for that day, with 0.85 inches. Two leaks from failed drains on flat roofs occurred on that day. One was over the upstairs Boy Scout entry door area, in the education building, where water was in the hallway and the classroom to the north. The new wood door, which was not yet primed, got wet. The roof over the pastor's office received a leak, where leaves and debris plugged up the drain. Water soaked the carpet in the corner of the office, next to the furnace and a few ceiling acoustical tiles were wet, from the rain water leaking.

January 14 was a trustee work day. The new copier was moved into the church office. The door had to be removed to get the copier in the office. Work was done on the drains at both of the leaking roof sites. The carpet and pad was pulled back in the pastor's office, so it could dry. Randy McNary replaced the entry door to the Boy Scout rooms. New door closure and panic hardware were installed. Thanks to Roy, Jim S., and John for helping.

-Jim Gregory

WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

Worship Coordinator

- Feb. 5:** Cat Barclay
- Feb. 12:** Peggy Gregory
- Feb. 19:** Mary Jane Gozun
- Feb. 26:** Chris Payne

Lay Worship Leaders

- Feb. 5:** Vicki Beeman
- Feb. 12:** Patty Ferrell
- Feb. 19:** Cat Barclay
- Feb. 26:** Sue Hensel

Greeters

- Feb. 5:** Richard & Janice
- Feb. 12:**
- Feb. 19:**
- Feb. 26:**

Ushers

- Feb. 5:** Verne Adams, Mike Bertaina
- Feb. 12:** Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina
- Feb. 19:** Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina
- Feb. 26:** David Beeman, Jim Gregory

Counting Team

- Feb. 5:** Sue Hensel, John Meadows
- Feb. 12:** Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell
- Feb. 19:** Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker
- Feb. 26:** David Beeman, Jim Gregory

Coffee Hour

- Feb. 5:** Jetta & Glen Lenox
- Feb. 12:** Jim & Karen Shoemaker
- Feb. 19:**
- Feb. 26:**

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

Amy Leasure; Tami Pick; Randy Chono; Dorothy Jensen; Bonnie Peters; Mary Durham; friends of Mary; Casey Lehtnen; Jim Taylor; Mike Pina; and Jan Junell.

Other Prayer Requests

- Susan Foster and her family following the passing of her father, John
- 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 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!



Wherever Methodists are gathered, there always seems to be food! If you agree (or not), won't you prayerfully consider hosting a Coffee Hour after church one Sunday morning?

Coffee Hour not your thing? How about greeting our church family and/or visitors on any given Sunday?

There are sign up sheets conveniently placed in the hallway on your way to fellowship after our worship service.



Helping Hands Ministry

Be on the lookout for ways in which we can be of service to one another. When you find a way, offer help or let the Church office know.

Need help with a project or situation? Your church family wants to help. Please ask.

Want to help? We are building a data-base of people willing to help.

Please see Pastor Cynthia if you are interested in serving or have further ideas.

FOR IT IS GOD WHO
WORKS IN YOU,
BOTH TO WILL AND
TO WORK FOR HIS
GOOD PLEASURE

PHILIPPIANS 2:13

To the faithful at FUMC Hanford:

Peggy Gregory and I would like to share with everyone the great news that we have been able to finish our 2016 fiscal year with all of our expenses paid in full and \$83 left over to start the new year. That includes paying all of our apportionments in full as well.

At the end of November, we were several thousand dollars short of meeting our needs but thanks to a very generous December, we completely closed the gap.

Thank you to our entire congregation for your faithful giving and support.

- Bob Junell



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 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, February 16th
from 3-8 p.m.

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



Mission Service Opportunity

Friday,
February 17th, 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!

A Word From Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño

Brothers and Sisters,

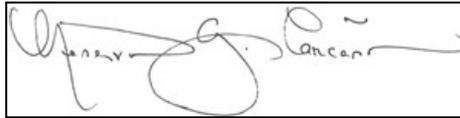
At the 2016 General Conference of our United Methodist Church, the Council of Bishops was asked to help the Church find a way forward on the concern of human sexuality within a commitment to our unity. In response to this request the Council of Bishops has organized a Commission on a Way Forward. The link below provides further information about this Commission, its mission and vision and the scope of its work.

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

The Commission on a Way Forward gathered on January 22-26, 2017, for its organizing meeting. One of our own clergy persons from the California-Nevada Conference, the Rev. Brian Adkins, has been invited to serve on this world-wide commission.

This is a critical moment in the life of The United Methodist Church. Let us hold the Commission on a Way Forward in our prayers. May the Holy Spirit guide its members as they help our Church discern the will of God for us, our mission and our ministry.

Blessings to all of you,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is cursive and appears to read "Minerva G. Carcaño".