

The Methodist Messenger

In the Spirit of John Wesley

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

January 2016 

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: Mon - Fri, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Pastor Cynthia Stateman pastorc@fumchanford.org

Notes for the Journey

A new year, once again, is upon us. I like the sound of that... a new year. Who doesn't like the sound of the word "new"? Anything that is new: A new shiny car; a new set of clothes; a new hair-do; brings smiles to our face, and a sense of joy to our hearts. That's the way I feel when I think of a new year. God has been so good to us, as individuals and as a church. And, now, we look, with hope and anticipation to the wonderful things God has in store for us for this coming year.

A new year is a trust from God. So, what is it that we should do in these days as we enter into 2016?

I think, first of all, that the New Year is a great time for taking inventory. Many businesses are in the process of taking inventory as a new year begins. It's a time for them to determine what is still on their shelves, or what's in hand. It is also a great time for us to take inventory of our lives. The Psalmist said, in Psalm 139:23, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Secondly, the New Year is a time for analysis. Taking inventory involves more than just counting objects. It means considering past, present, and future needs. It means taking the inventory and, then taking the next step. Analyze what you see and make whatever adjustments needed.

I would encourage all of us to take a spiritual inventory of ourselves and invite the Lord to help us to see ourselves as Christ sees us and that we would be willing to make whatever changes which might need to be made to serve Him more fully as ambassadors of Christ.

Thirdly, the New Year is a time for new beginnings. Paul said, in Philippians 3:13, "forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead..." Ask God for forgiveness over past mistakes, things you've done that you should not have done, and those things you did not do that you should have done. Then look, with hope, to a more committed tomorrow.

I pray that yours was a very blessed and joyous Christmas and that yours will be a wonderful transition into a New Year that overflows with all the blessings God has in store for you and your loved ones. Thank you for being the gracious fellowship of God's people that you are, and for the wonderful privilege that it is for me to share in ministry with you.

Blessings,
Pastor Cynthia Stateman

POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS



- Jim & Karen Shoemaker in memory of their parents
- Bob & Marilyn Peden in memory of his brother Jim Peden & her sister Forestine Sanstrum
- Sue Hensel in memory of her parents Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Hensel
- Bob & Jan Junell in memory of Greg Junell & Leanne Junell & Lela Taylor & Irene Junell
- Jan Franke in loving memory of Sky Seguin & Audrey Franke
- Chris Payne in memory of Susan Hedges
- Diana & Lily Boone in memory of David & Jean Boone
- Carole Hester in memory of Darrell Hester, Walt & Helen Fowler and Marvin & Dorothy Hester
- Sammi McDonald in memory of Brenda McDonald
- Delfa Randles in memory of her mother Manuela DeLa Fuente
- Patty Ferrell in memory of friends & family who've gone on
- Frank & Bonnie Butterway in memory of Frank's parents & Bonnie's parents
- Jake & Mary Jane Gozun in memory of Evelyn Nicdao & Teodoro Gozun
- Glen & Jetta Lenox in memory of Mary & Russell Lenox, Hattie & Maywood Pitts
- Dorothy Jensen in memory of Dr. Robert Jensen, Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel Jensen, Mr. & Mrs. James Quist
- Steve and Marsha Robertson in loving memory of Noland Petersen
- Others who gave poinsettias: Jeanette Keith, Myrtle Deaver, Verne Adams, John Meadows, Janice Madruga

WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

Coming Schedule

Jan 19-21 Pastor Away for Gathering
of the Orders

Saturday, February 6th,
9:30 am – 3:00 pm
All Church Gathering
*“Living Out The Impossible
Dream”*

Coming in February A Fundraiser
Luncheon by Bob Peden for a
local charity. See February
Newsletter for details.

Scripture counsels us,
“Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in
steadfast love.” (Joel 2:13,
NRSV)

Worship Coordinator

Jan 17: Peggy Gregory
Jan 24: Andrea McDonald
Jan 31: Peggy Gregory

Lay Worship Leaders

Jan 17: Sue Hensel
Jan 24: Carol Collar
Jan 31: Jan Franke

Greeters

Jan 17: Cat Barclay
Jan 24: Frank & Bonnie Butterway
Jan 31: Sue Hensel

Ushers

Jan 17: Creed Cavazos, Mary Durham,
Mike Bertaina
Jan 24: David Beeman, Jim Gregory
Jan 31: David Beeman, Bob Junell

Counting Team

Jan 17: Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker
Jan 24: David Beeman, Jim Gregory
Jan 31: Verne Adams, David Beeman

Coffee Hour

Jan 17: Peggy & Jim Gregory
Jan 24:
Jan 31:

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), Polly Adams now lives at Valley Christian Home

Other Prayer Requests

- Two Guide Dogs For the Blind Puppy van drivers were hit by a truck while crossing the street in a crosswalk. Lee Shenk was killed and Anne Touloukian injured. The puppies in the van are being taken care of by the Grants Pass puppy club and will be continuing their journey to Borning Oregon for distribution to GDB puppy raisers.
- Firefighters, Police Officers, 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!

"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."
Alfred Lord Tennyson



Thank you to all for your help in making a lot of children happy this Christmas season through Angel Tree Prison Ministry. The parent/guardians were so grateful. We serviced 15 families for a total of 25 children and since each child got both a toy and clothing, there was a total of 50 angels on the tree.

I always knew that my church is a giving and loving church. I especially want to thank those that helped with the phone calls and with delivery (Jeannette Keith, Chris Payne, Connie Cavazos, Jetta Lenox, Samantha and Larry McDonald, Carole Hester and her sister Janice Madruga). To the rest of my congregation, I couldn't have done this without you. Thank you again.

Andrea McDonald

Report on Church Facility Projects
By Jim Gregory

This summer roof work has been done to prepare for the rainy season. Three flat roofs: (1) over the one-story education building, (2) over the education building breezeway, and (3) over the sanctuary building upstairs classrooms received a coating. Labor was done by a labor contractor and trustees provided the material. In addition, Solaguard Foam Systems, Inc. of Clovis put an additional layer of a cool roof over Mary Lane Hall and Millie Kraft Room roof. This cool roof re-treatment comes with a 15 year warranty.

Trustees cut down and removed the almond tree in the playground.

A new concrete landing and steps have been poured for the church office entrance and a metal handrail installed.

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 Meeting will be Sunday, Jan 24th at 4:00 pm
in Mary Lane Hall***



While we haven't had an official installation of officers yet, our officers started on January 1st.

I will continue another year as President, Sue Hensel as Treasurer, and Delfa Randles as Spiritual

Growth. Andrea McDonald has changed from being secretary to replace Candy Bertaina as Vice-President (Candy "retired" after a few years as Vice-President, thank you to Candy for all her service in this area). Cat Barclay will be the Secretary. 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 14th following the Worship service (starting between 11:45 am and 12 noon), lunch that day will be Taco Soup.

March will begin with the District UMW Retreat, beginning the afternoon of Friday the 4th and finishing the morning of Sunday the 6th. The retreat is held in Oakhurst at the Evergreen Conference Center, Oakhurst (ECCO). We will have registration forms available soon. The March Board meeting will be on Tuesday the 8th 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

BOARD MEETINGS, Tuesdays (at 1:00 pm)

March 8 May 10 September 13 November 1

GENERAL MEETINGS, Sundays/with Lunch (about noon) -

February 14 (taco soup) June 12 October 9

SPRING LUNCHEON - Saturday, April 16; 11:30 a.m. (Note of change from May)

BAZAAR (tentative date) - Friday, Nov 18; 11:00 am -1:30 pm

Peden's Family Cookbook
For Sale \$20

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

I just wanted to remind you about the ongoing canned food drive at our church. This is one of the opportunities to serve others by helping the needy in our community. No one should ever go hungry. So please, if you have any spare canned goods or imperishable items, donate to this collection that will go directly to the Episcopal Church



Soup Kitchen. 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 will not be possible without your support, so please join our church in this battle against hunger. There's a container in the main entrance where you may drop off your donations. Thanks again and God bless!
Mary Jane Gozun



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, Jan 21st from 3-8 pm.**

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

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, Jan 14th at 5:00 pm

Check out our Church Website

It now contains the monthly newsletter, the monthly calendar, information on the church and upcoming events. There is also a place to submit questions and comments. Suggestions for content you would like to see are welcome.

The URL is <http://fumchanford.org>

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*



Mission Service Opportunity

Friday, Jan 15th,
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!



Want to use your handyman skills around the church?

MST has a list of smallish projects that need to be done.

Please see Jim Gregory to help.



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. Perhaps you would be willing to help out with meals, rides, and other tasks as they arise? Or maybe you would like to coordinate help and make sure those who need help and those who are offering are connected?

All Church Gathering
“Living Out The Impossible Dream”

Saturday, February 6th, 9:30am – 3pm

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!