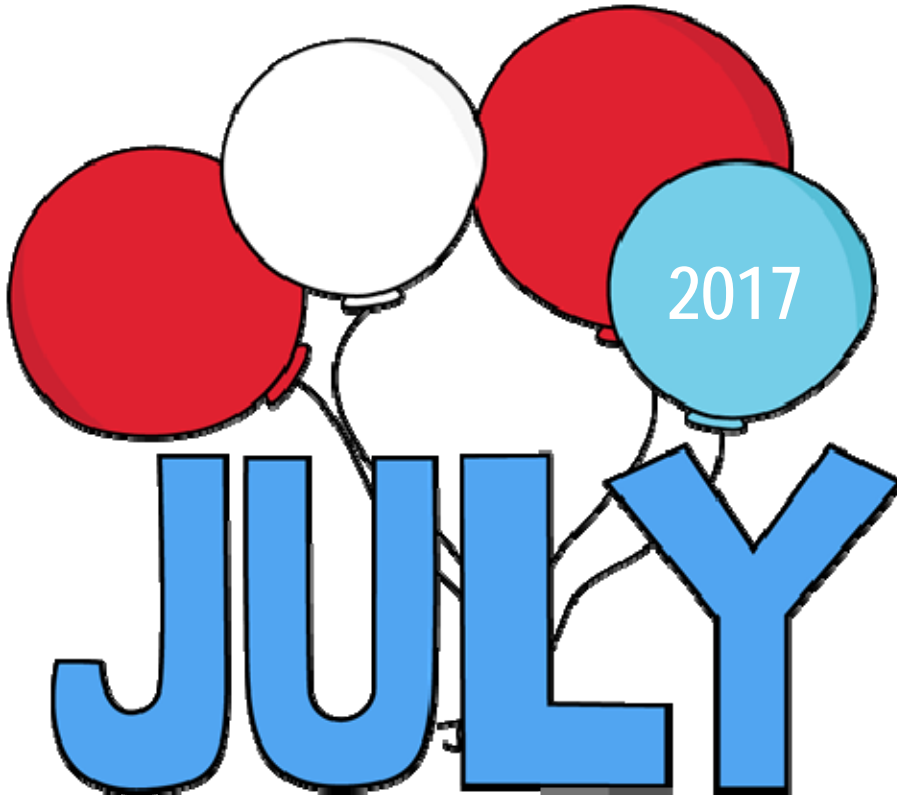


# *The Methodist Messenger*

In the Spirit of John Wesley

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



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## Notes for the Journey

A decade or two ago a well-known ad campaign for a certain brand of shampoo suggested that women everywhere were enjoying bouncy, beautiful hair because, having discovered the great benefits of this shampoo – and they told two friends, who told two friends, who told two friends, and so on, and so on, and so on.

It was a clever advertising campaign that suggests that success is founded on word-of-mouth. Of course, the shampoo manufacturers had no intention of allowing the sale of their product to rest on word-of-mouth. Nevertheless, it was a memorable tag-line: “Tell two friends.”

For years, as marketing and advertising have become ever more pervasive aspects of American culture, churches have known that when it comes to sharing faith, advertising doesn’t have anywhere near the same impact as word-of-mouth. Study after study has shown that people who join a community of faith for the first time, or return to one after a period of disaffection, do so not in response to advertising, but because someone has asked them to go to church with them.

Many of us are not always good at inviting people to go to church because we have a tendency to think of faith as a very private thing. We’ve been trained (perhaps unwittingly) to keep our own faith quiet, and we often assume that it would be presumptuous or rude to talk to other people about faith. But when I think about how ready we are to tell others about the gym we’ve joined, or the books we are reading, or the movies we’ve seen, or the new restaurant we’ve discovered, or the diet we are on – I have to wonder why we would keep quiet about our church. The feedback I get from most folks is that being a part of 1<sup>st</sup> UMC is so much more important – and so much better – than even the best meal at the best restaurant in town. Why shouldn’t we tell at least two friends?

As I look at all the things I love about this community of faith, there is so much that could be shared with our friends. How I would love to be able to greet your two friends here in this place as they discover the things you already know, and as they help us all discover new joys and opportunities here!

One of our great challenges is to grow into the community God is calling us to be. We have room at our church for all of us to tell two friends and bring them along with us from time to time. And who knows what would happen if they told two friends, and they told two friends, and so on, and so on, and so on!!

If we feel stymied by the challenge to grow, unsure of how to fill the pews around us, perhaps we need to adopt a simple plan. What if we each pledged to tell two friends, and bring them with us? What if we set out to do this soon – in the next week or next month or before the summer heat sets in? Wouldn’t it be terrific to welcome all those friends in our midst?!

After all, what we have to offer here is a lot more than just a great head of hair!

Blessings,

Pastor Cynthia Stateman

## Ministry Support Team Meeting

Here are some highlights of the MST meeting for June that should be of interest to Hanford United Methodist Church members.

The **Board of Discipleship** requested approval to explore the benefits of a new database software. After a brief discussion, the request was approved to preview the program and determine its feasibility.

There are ten enrolled in the Financial Peace program at this time.

Patty reported that **Staff Parrish Relations Committee (SPRC)** is in the process of hiring a babysitter for the Sunday worship service.

The United Methodist Church District California Conference Office requires a midterm review of pastoral goals and objectives be reviewed. This meeting of the committee was held in June.

The committee followed the *three principles for effective dialogue*:

*If something seems to me to be true and I keep silent about it, I am not showing real respect for the person I am in dialogue with.*

*If I reject my dialogue partners insight just because they do not fit into my position I am not showing real respect.*

*If you feel your thought is essential to their ultimate wellbeing; the dialogue then becomes conversion. This is rejection of the other point of view. This then becomes an argument rather than dialogue.*

Pastoral feedback from the congregation is encouraged, but remember the principles of dialogue; it is important also to be specific about your viewpoint; it is not very helpful to speak in general terms. "I enjoyed the service" is not very helpful unless you become more specific. You may communicate through an SPRC member if you would find that a helpful way to communicate.

The MST decided to go on hiatus for the month of July and meet again on August 10; as you are aware all of the MST members provide their service as no pay; so it was easy for chairman Doug to declare it a "paid" vacation.

John Meadows dismissed us in prayer.

-Submitted by Doug True, MST chairman



*The LORD gives his people strength. The LORD blesses them with peace." Psalm 29:11 (NLT)*

The threat of summer craziness was becoming a reality. I settled in a chair at my kitchen table, surrounded by the clutter of information sheets regarding work obligations, sports practices, mission trips and church activities. Pulling out my family calendar, I mapped out the summer months.

After writing down all our commitments, I stared at the endless scribbles etched across practically every date. We had only one free week during the entire summer. With a heavy sigh and swirling thoughts, I felt a twinge of stress and anxiety slowly rising up in my chest.

I couldn't help but wonder, Isn't summer supposed to be footloose and fancy-free? What happened to sleeping in and time to rest and unwind? Are relaxing summer days merely a thing of the past?

...It may seem that easy summers are long gone. However, we can make it through the hectic days and stay at peace despite the chaos. In today's key verse, God promises He will help us with whatever we face: "The LORD gives his people strength. The LORD blesses them with peace" (Psalm 29:11).

There are several keys to God's peace overriding the mayhem. When we remember to focus on God's sweet goodness, instead of all the scribbles on our calendar, we can proactively manage our summertime. We can receive God's calm, even in a busy and sometimes stressful time of the year.

Here are some practical tips to keep summer stress at bay:

- *Focus on all the good things God has done for us so far this year, instead of the challenges of the summer months.*
- *Remain calm and pray for God's peace when the demands of family and life seem overwhelming.*
- *Ask God to give us rest and strength when we begin to feel stretched thin and worn out.*
- *Take daily mini-vacations. Try to set aside at least five minutes per hour to stretch and take a break, and stay committed to your time in God's Word each day!*
- *Do something for yourself once a week: take a bubble bath, read a good book, spend time outdoors or take a nap.*

Busyness and stress can heat up quicker than the summer sun. But it is possible to stay cool on the inside. Whether we are low in spirit or low in energy, depending on God and seeking a daily infusion of His strength and peace can ensure a less stressful summer.

*Dear God, sometimes I allow the chaos of summer to distract me from spending time with You. I neglect to claim Your peace and allow myself to get bogged down with the stressors of the season. I get frustrated with my children, rather than treasuring this time with them. Help me focus on You when I begin to feel overcommitted and to seek Your peace with each rising sun. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



The June meeting of the United Methodist Men was our final one before taking a break for July and August.

At this June meeting we heard from Eagle Scout candidate Saul Wyman. His Eagle Scout project involves the Valley Animal Haven. There is an area at VAH where people wanting to adopt shelter pets can meet the prospective pets, and Saul has built a bench for that area.

He also is collecting money to purchase

\* paper towels \* laundry detergent \* bleach \* dry puppy food \* newspapers

for Valley Animal Haven, and the UMM voted to donate \$100 toward that part of his project.

That same evening we learned Central Valley HONOR FLIGHT started at Fresno VA Hospital so it includes cities in the area that VA hospital serves, such as Atwater and Bakersfield. Bob went on the 13th HONOR FLIGHT out of Fresno.

They believe they have completed the trips for WWII veterans, and Bob's group was primarily Korean War vets.

By the HONOR FLIGHT rules, those honored to take part can't bring a spouse, but can bring an escort. Bob took his daughter Betsy Champ. We saw the pictures she took.

Bob and the other honorees received red jackets to wear during their essentially one-day tour of their monuments in Washington DC. The escorts received blue jackets.

It didn't rain, but the mist in the air condensed on the wall honoring our Korean War forces in such a way that the pictures appeared to be moving.

It was good to reflect a few minutes at our Monday night meeting on just a few of the things that have 'gone before' us to make our world what it is today. We all play important parts. We are all called on to do our best. Some just get called on to do that on a big stage in incredibly dangerous conditions. The Korean War statues were up to their knees in vegetation, and were wearing ponchos against the elements. And each was depicted carrying a load of military gear.

Our September meeting will be on the second Monday of the month, one week after Labor Day. At that time we will again gather to have dinner and encourage each other in our Christian walk.

We are looking for a new coordinator of dinner, by the way. This task is not my specialty, and Bob Peden has completed his turn as our dinner coordinator. Bob's preparation of spaghetti, meatballs, garlic bread, salad and brownies in June ministered to body and soul!



## Ministry Support Team (MST)

MST is the leadership group in our church that is tasked with caring for our resources; money, staff and building. *There will be no meeting in July.* The next meeting will be Thursday, August 10 at 6:00 p.m.

## Trustee Report

The fire extinguishers received the annual servicing. Two 10-pound extinguishers were due for a hydrostatic test, and they are back and in service.

Asphalt patch has been applied to a hole in the parking lot.

The security computer quit and was taken to Fresno for repair and has been returned with a new hard drive. The camera on top of the two-story education building covering the playground has been stolen. One of the new door mats was also found on that roof. Tune-ups were done to several cameras. Bob Peden is now monitoring the cameras from his home desktop. Let me know if anyone else wants to remotely monitor the church cameras from home.

One or two homeless persons are regularly spending the night in the Prayer Garden. Everyone's been doing a great job in checking that doors are locked.

The church insurance agent has adjusted the insured replacement value of the parsonage to a more realistic amount.

The church has an agreement with Southern California Edison for TOU or Time of Use for electrical consumption. This means during the summer months, the church is charged as much as five times as much per kilowatt of electricity during the afternoon hours Monday through Friday. It will help to reduce the church electricity bill if electricity use is minimized during these times through September.

Jim Gregory

## WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

### Worship Coordinator

**July 2:** Mary Jane Gozun  
**July 9:** Chris Payne  
**July 16:** Cat Barclay  
**July 23:** Peggy Gregory  
**July 30:** Mary Jane Gozun

### Lay Worship Leaders

**July 2:** Patty Ferrell  
**July 9:** Bob Junell  
**July 16:** David Beeman  
**July 23:** Vicki Beeman  
**July 30:** Jan Franke

### Ushers

**July 2:** Verne Adams, Mike Bertaina  
**July 9:** Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina  
**July 16:** Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina  
**July 23:** David Beeman, Jim Gregory  
**July 30:** David Beeman, Bob Junell

### Counting Team

**July 2:** Sue Hensel, John Meadows  
**July 9:** Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell  
**July 16:** Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker  
**July 23:** David Beeman, Jim Gregory  
**July 30:** Rebeccah Eversall, David Beeman

### Coffee Hour

**July 2:** Glen & Jetta Lenox  
**July 9:** Roy & Delfa Randles  
**July 16:** Bob & Pollie Geissler  
**July 23:** Chris Payne  
**July 30:** Jim & Karen Shoemaker

### Greeters

**July 2:**  
**July 9:**  
**July 16:** David & Vicki Beeman  
**July 23:**  
**July 30:**

**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:***

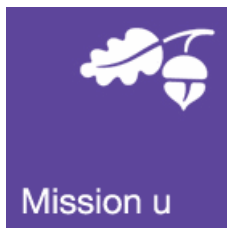
**Prayers of Health Concern**

Marilyn Peden; Mel Sherman; Andrea McDonald, Tamie Pick; Randy Chono; Dorothy Jensen; Bonnie Peters; Mary Durham; friends of Mary; Casey Lehtnen; Jim Taylor; Mike Pina; and Jan Junell.

**Other Prayer Requests**

- For Andrea McDonald following bladder surgery
- Sam McDonald and her move to Rohnert Park
- Jessica Magnis' upcoming delivery in August, as well as her new job as Daycare Assistant
- 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 Reverend Tom Warren & family
- For caregivers and those caring for their parents
- The Wagner, Chono, 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!

**Coming soon:**



***Mission U, Gardnerville July 28 through July 30***

***Mission U, Livermore August 11 & August 12***

***Mission U, Palo Alto August 26***

Check the bulletin board for more info!



**August 2017's  
2nd Saturday**

**Making Disciples of Jesus  
Christ: The Role of the  
Means of Grace in Christian  
Faith and Life**

August 12, 2017  
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
First UMC, Porterville  
(344 East Morton,  
Porterville, CA 93257)

- Making disciples of Jesus Christ can often be confusing. There are so many different educational programs available to choose from, that we can be overwhelmed by the selections.
- This gathering will focus on the role of the spiritual disciplines of prayer, worship, scripture, the Lord's Supper, and service with the poor, sick, and prisoners known as the *means of grace* in the development of a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- Come and learn about the Wesleyan/ United Methodist tradition of the means of grace as places to meet God and God's grace, as well as living out the love and grace received to people out in the public square.

**Registration Deadline: August 4, 2017**  
Talk to Pastor Cynthia or email the office for more info!



**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!



**July's 5th Sunday Sing is at  
Reedley FUMC  
Sunday, July 30 at 3:30 p.m.**



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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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**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, July 20th**  
**from 3-8 p.m.**

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



**Mission Service  
Opportunity**

Friday, July 21st, 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!*



**ALL CHURCH GATHERING**

**SATURDAY**  
**JULY 1, 2017**  
**9 AM - 12:30 PM**

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**EVERYONE IS INVITED & ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN  
THIS IMPORTANT EVENT IN THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH**

**WE WILL CONTINUE THE PROCESS OF  
DISCERNING HOW GOD IS CALLING 1ST UMC  
INTO THE FUTURE.**