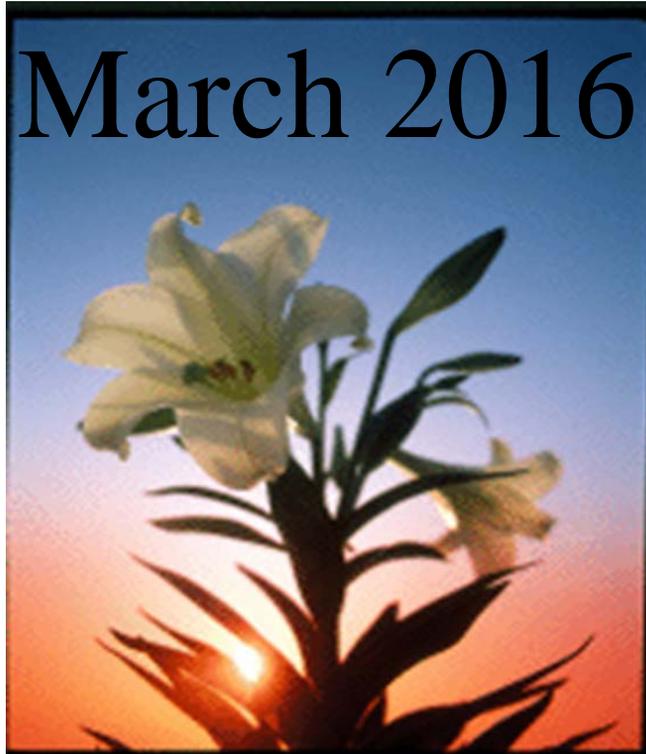


The Methodist Messenger

In the Spirit of John Wesley

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



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

In my search for spiritual encouragement, I suggested to a friend and colleague that we meet regularly to offer mutual support and prayer. We take a lunch hour once a week to share our stresses, anxieties, joys, even doubts. We give encouragement, prod each other to new ways of thinking, and always pray aloud for each other. Mostly we help each other listen to what God was saying through the raw material of our lives' routines and milestones.

It is very easy to have the mistaken idea that we can manage by ourselves, and that the Christian life is something of a do-it-yourself project. This idea takes different forms. Some around us, for instance, fall prey to a kind of rugged individualism where they convince themselves that they should not need help for the important pursuits of life. I see this kind of thinking in the way people act embarrassed when they come to me for counseling or hesitate to ask a friend for a simple favor or think that it's somehow not right to turn to God in prayer in a jam. It's as if they're thinking that mature people should always be able to figure stuff out on their own. I must admit that at times I have indulged in this type of thinking.

Some, on the other hand, want a life lived only in pursuit of personal ambitions and individual satisfactions. This is not so much individualism as isolationism. In this scenario, people wall themselves in and wall others out, insulating themselves from people's needs. I sometimes drift from God's ideal in this area as well. Still others buy into the myth of solitariness by so filling their lives with distractions that they submerge a deep hunger for God. They surround themselves with entertainments and enjoyments that hide their deep need for a divine "Other."

Jesus' life, however, blows apart our myth of self-sufficiency, the lie that says all we need is our own selves. As we look at his life (and his journey to a suffering death), we see something altogether more promising than our penchant for "do-it-yourself-ism."

John 13 tells us how Jesus, on the eve of his crucifixion, gathered his disciples around him for a last supper. Death looms just hours away, yet Jesus does not isolate himself from his disciples. This suffering Messiah, standing on the eve of events in which most would think only of their personal needs or individual survival, reminds his followers of a very different response. He both declares and models the human need for relationship -- for others and God.

As Jesus washed their feet, the disciples' reactions to him seem mixed. Peter, one of the most outspoken, (and perhaps the most representative of us) protests, "You will never wash my feet." At first, he will not allow Jesus to serve him or care for him, nor allow Jesus to offer him the great grace he intends for Peter.

(continue on page 3)

Jesus, though, insists. He knows that Peter -- that we -- are made for more than ourselves. On this hallowed evening, Jesus suggests what it means to give up the myth of individualism. It means, first of all, to receive what only others can give. That requires acknowledging that we don't have everything together, fitting perfectly. Despite Peter's blustering, as it turns out he had great needs. As do we. So we turn to others in the family of faith who can encourage us, or motivate us, or help us.

But there is more. We need others, but we also need God. And Jesus helps us here, too, sharing with his followers a meal that would, for centuries, in all its varied ways of commemoration, remind us of God's extravagant, costly grace. Jesus would give up his life so that we might have life. With the foot washing, Jesus reminds us how we need to be saved from ourselves by One above us and beyond us, by grace.

Some traditions encourage a practice of giving up something for Lent, the forty-day period leading up to Easter. I also admire those who add something -- not only a new spiritual discipline but perhaps also a project or commitment through which they reach out to others. As we give, especially if we do it in the company of others, we find ourselves sharing help we ourselves have graciously received. What a loving God and caring friends offer us becomes, in turn, our offering to others.

Blessings,
Pastor Cynthia Stateman



Foot-A-Month Update
February 21, 2016

We are now one half way through our three year campaign to repay the sanctuary roof repair loan. A total of \$25,080 was pledged and to date \$17,400 has been received and returned to our endowment fund. The loan balance now stands at \$17,300.

I am pleased and proud to report that nearly everyone has been able to honor their commitment. I still am optimistic that one way or another the \$10,000 shortfall will be met and we can retire this loan by the end of next year.

Thank you all once more for your participation and perseverance with this effort. David is updating the progress board in the hallway. See how we are doing.

Respectfully,
Bob Junell

WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

LENTEN SCHEDULE

March 6 FORGIVENESS

March 13 RECONCILIATION/GRACE

March 20 PALM SUNDAY

March 24 MAUNDY THURSDAY
We join 1st Christian Church
there @ 6:00 pm

March 25 GOOD FRIDAY
Service 7:00 pm here

**March 27 EASTER
(Resurrection Day) 10:30 am**



Easter Flowers

We will be having flowers decorate our altar area on Easter Sunday morning. Plan now to dedicate a lily or other cut or live colorful flower in memory or honor of a loved one. You can let the office know of your dedication through the blue sign-in sheets or by phoning the church office at 584-4075. Flowers can be brought to the office beginning March 23rd or on Easter Sunday morning before worship begins.

Worship Coordinator

March 6: Peggy Gregory

March 13: Chris Payne

March 20: Andrea McDonald

March 27: Cat Barclay

Lay Worship Leaders

March 6: Bob Junell

March 13: Sue Hensel

March 20: Carol Collar

March 27: Patty Ferrell

Greeters

March 6: Jetta & Glen Lenox

March 13: Mary Durham

March 20: Diana & Lily Boone

March 27:

Ushers

March 6: Verne Adams, Mike Bertaina

March 13: Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina

March 20: Creed Cavazos, Mary
Durham

March 27: David Beeman, Jim Gregory

Counting Team

March 6: Sue Hensel, Andrea McDonald

March 13: Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell

March 20: Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker

March 27: David Beeman, Jim Gregory

Coffee Hour

March 6: Vicki & David Beeman

March 13:

March 20:

March 27: Andrea McDonald

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

Leon McDonald (headaches), Cat Barclay (knee replacement surgery on 3/29), Patty Ferrell (knee injury), Johnny (Carole Hester's niece's son), Jan Junell, Marilyn Peden, Andrea McDonald, Penny Meadows, John Meadows, Pepper Ramsey's son Hunter, Kathleen Wilson, Ellie Wagner, Carol Collar's Mother - Francy Angstman (assisted living and is in declining health), 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

- Comfort & healing—celebrating peace and love always
- 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.



ANNUAL UMM CORNED BEEF and CABBAGE DINNER is MARCH 14th
 The United Methodist Men's group is having a dinner at 6:30 PM on the regular meeting night of the 2nd Monday of March. Bob Peden has announced that it will be a corned beef and cabbage dinner. Our speaker has not yet been confirmed. The dinner and meeting are open to men, women, church members, friends and guests. We will take up a collection to defray expenses of the meal; as Bob says, "Put in what you think it was worth." Please help me get a count by e-mailing or calling me.

- David Beeman (559) 584-2911 dpbeeman@yahoo.com



To Be An Eagle Scout

Boy Scouts of America is open to young men between 11 and 17 years of age. To achieve the highest rank within the Boy Scouts, that of Eagle Scout, they must progress through the following ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star Scout, and Life Scout. For each rank there are unique requirements that must be met, duties carried out, and both social and community responsibilities tended to. From earning particular merit badges to serving time at each rank and duties within the ranks the young men are taught how to plan events and milestones and meet obligations. Life lessons that will not only serve them well, but all those that their lives touch. To be an Eagle Scout requires a minimum of 21 merit badges, including: First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Environmental Science, Personal Fitness, Camping, Family Life, Personal Management, Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving, and Cycling, Hiking, or Swimming. There are countless other lessons and educational opportunities the Boy Scout experiences that are more difficult to quantify. Like serving in a leadership position within the Troop and balancing the 30 to 40 different wants and needs of their fellow Scouts through out numerous activities and events. It is not a simple nor easy journey to achieve the Eagle Scout rank. But it is undoubtedly a journey that is rewarding beyond the Scout's comprehension. For the rest of their lives they will forever be identified as an Eagle Scout. A leader of leaders. A tried and true man among men.

Sage Wyman began his journey at the age of six as a Tiger Cub Scout. He was exposed to the activities and the crafts that taught team work and socializing skills that he would carry with him through out his Scouting journey. It was the quality program of scouting and the otherwise unbridled energy of Sage's fellow Tiger Scouts that spurred his dad, Kirk Wyman, to become his Den Leader. Through out Sage's journey of Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts he has grown into an outstanding model citizen, partly due to the high caliber leaders that have helped guide him along the way. As a Life Scout, Sage sought out a community project that he could empathize with and complete to improve the lives of those in the community and serve as an example of his can-do spirit. Both Susan Foster and Jim Gregory offered their time, experience, and guidance in the formulation of the project that Sage would eventually take on as his own. Sage designed and coordinated the building of the recycling center that sits in the courtyard here are FUMC Hanford. This project exemplifies the heartfelt spirit of service to his community through its very nature of helping to keep the church grounds clean, sorting out the recyclable materials, and keeping our landfills just a little less cluttered with items that are

To be an Eagle Scout is a badge of pride and humility, service and leadership, and for Sage Wyman it is an honor that he has earned for himself and his family - as he is the first Eagle Scout on this branch of his family tree. We greatly thank everyone for their guidance, support, leadership, words of encouragement, helping hands, and kindhearted smiles of love.



We had our first General meeting of the year on February 13th, following the worship service. There 9 ladies in attendance, plus Pastor Cynthia, and three District officers. One of those District officers was the President, Betty

Avery. She came down from Merced to do the Installation of our officers.

Jetta Lennox has led us to adopt Hannah's House as one of our areas of ministry. She has asked for regular donations of items (shampoo, conditioner, lotion, underwear, shoes, socks, sanitary supplies, suitcases). If you want to donate any of these items, or ask any questions, contact Jetta. At our Feb. 13th meeting, it was approved to give them \$100 a month. Jetta also wants to organize a potluck luncheon at Hannah's House. She has already asked some of the ladies to talk to us at that luncheon about what that ministry means to them. Either watch for information in the Sunday bulletin or church newsletter.

On the lines of ministry donations, at our meeting, it was also decided to make a one-time gift to Susannah's House. The House is located in Knoxville, Tennessee, it was named after Susannah Wesley (mother of John & Charles). They offer classes and counseling for mothers who have had drug and alcohol addiction, and are trying to overcome those addictions. The women attend classes at the facility during the daytime, and live in their own homes.

Some upcoming events – the District UMW Retreat in Oakhurst, Mar. 4-6. We have 9 ladies from our church going this year, including 3 who will be going for their first time. Saturday, April 9th will be the Conference UMW Social Action Event, in Sacramento. There will be a lunch, and two programs (one of Immigration, and the other on Human Trafficking). Cost for lunch is \$18 (or \$20 at the door). For registration forms or more information, contact me. Our annual Spring Luncheon has been moved from May to April 16th. The meal will be a salad potluck, I have the sign-up form (with what people have brought in the past). Tickets will be \$10, with some \$5 tickets for small children. Watch for more details. The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, March 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 (584-2911)



Canned Food Drive
 For the
 Episcopal Church
 Soup Kitchen Report:

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!

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, March 17th from 3-8 pm.**

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



Mission Service Opportunity

**Friday, March 18th,
 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, March 17th at 5:00 pm

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. Let's keep filling up the basket on the altar.

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



Easter possibilities

The message of Easter is not only that Christ is risen, not only that suffering is not the last word, not only that God gives new life, but this:

Nothing is impossible with God.

—The Rev. James Martin, S.J.



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 Sunday, March 13th at 4:00 pm
in Mary Lane Hall**

The Available Program Fund now has funds available to qualified groups/committees within our congregation for worthwhile programs or projects. This is an opportunity for outreach to others, improvements to our facility or new programs in our church that can not be funded from our general fund.

Applications are available in the church office.



Cat Barclay and Leon McDonald attended the High School Winter Camp at Hartland Christian Camp on the weekend of February 12-15. Cat was a volunteer counselor/chaperone for a girls' cabin. They had a wonderful time.

Easter joy



Joy is prayer. Joy is strength. Joy is love. Joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls. God loves a cheerful giver. One gives most who gives with joy. The best way to show our gratitude to God and people is to accept everything with joy.

A joyful heart is the inevitable result of a heart burning with love. Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of the Christ risen.

—Mother Teresa