

# *The Methodist Messenger*

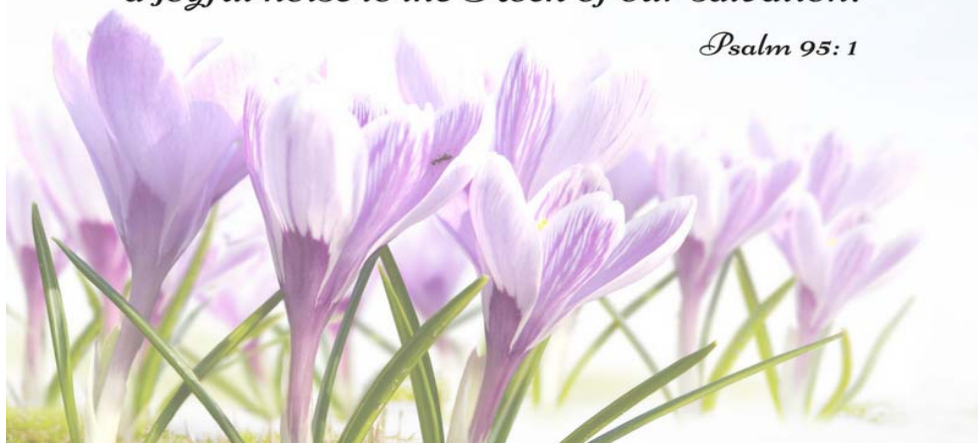
In the Spirit of John Wesley

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

## MARCH

*O come let us sing to the Lord, let us make  
a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation.*

*Psalm 95: 1*



March 2018

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

Office (559) 584-4075 Fax (559) 584-5438

E-mail [office@fumchanford.org](mailto:office@fumchanford.org)

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Pastor's Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Pastor Cynthia Stateman: [pastorc@fumchanford.org](mailto:pastorc@fumchanford.org)

## Notes for the Journey

Someone once said that to recognize the signs of God, pay attention to your stirrings. Look closely when you feel the swell of joy within, or the tightness as your throat closes up in sorrow. Live in that moment, poke around in its corners, and feel the texture of its walls. Sit with it for awhile, long enough to sense the presence of God sitting with you. For many of us, this attention falls in the realm of discipline. We are so consumed with the goings-on around us that slowing down and looking inward requires a determined act of will. For Christians, Lent is a time to do exactly that.

Beginning 40 days before Easter, Lent has traditionally been a time of looking inward, a time of self-evaluation and self-examination in order to identify one's sins and go through a process of repentance and renewal. Many Christians have fasted during portions of Lent, others have found ways to mark the days by "giving up" something that is particularly delightful to them, even if not sinful. For some it's giving up sweets or red meat, for others cigarettes or alcohol, habits which oftentimes are picked up again when Easter rolls around.

In recent years, there has been less emphasis on *giving up* and more emphasis on *taking on*. Some will choose to go to church more often, or serve the poor, or be more disciplined in meditation.

As you work through the days and weeks of the Lenten season also keep in mind three things that may help you develop interior peace:

First, **live attentively**. The Buddhists call this *mindfulness*. All it means is to be aware of life. Hear the silence of the snow. Feel the cracks in the earth. Look into one another's eyes. Pay attention to every single moment and that moment alone. Feel it. Take it into your bones. Let it transform you.

Second, **learn to let go**. Start to simplify your life. Simplify your possessions, your thoughts, your desires, your expectations. When you can let go, your arms are open and ready to receive all the good things God longs to give you.

Third, **develop intimacy with God**. Gather in yourself a phrase or thought such as: "lead me, guide me," or "peace within, peace without." Choose something that is meaningful to you. Let the thought or phrase filter through your heart and mind throughout the day. Say it when you stand in the grocery line, when you eat your lunch, when you scrape ice off your car. Let it settle deeply in your heart so that it can work from within to bring you into closer intimacy with God.

Lent need not be a time to live in guilt and shame. Instead it may be a time when we find ourselves in the place where we pay attention to our stirrings—in that place of deep stillness where the hunger of our souls and the heart of God meet.

Blessings,  
Pastor Cynthia Stateman

## **Buildings and Grounds Report**

By Jim Gregory

February 27, 2018

Handyman Randy McNary removed the floor furnace in Founders Hall and framed the hole and installed a hatch so the subfloor can be accessed where the furnace used to be located. Two new 65,000 BTU cabinet style furnaces for Founders Hall have been ordered from Rivera's Air.

The visitor traffic in the courtyard has decreased since the new security gates were installed.

We are waiting for the three custom windows for Millie Kraft room.

A plastic tool storage cabinet is in place behind the waterfall in the Prayer Garden, for tool storage. This will minimize tool storage in the north hallway.

The church is taking advantage of two cost reduction incentives with SCE: Time of Use or TOU - Electricity is charged a higher rate from 12 noon to 6 PM Monday through Friday, May through September, and a reduced rate around those hours.

A/C cycling - where the air conditioners may be remotely turned off by SCE when there is a high power demand on the grid. This is called Summer Discount Plan or SDP.

I am in conversation with SCE to see if there are ways we can reduce the church's electrical use when the peak time of use is in effect, Monday through Friday afternoons, June through September.



# United Methodist Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

March 2018 church newsletter

UMW board meeting March 1, 2018

UMW General Meeting March 18, 2018

Please Join us, one of two things will be discussed before the presentation at the General Meeting. Please call if you have any questions

Andrea 360-4477 President

Cat Barclay 707-7118 Vice President

Vicki Beeman 584-2911 Treasurer and Secretary

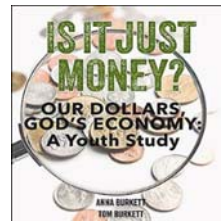
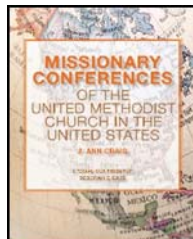
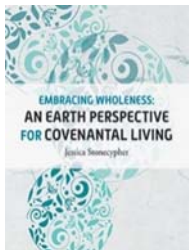
Mission updates and registration is on line, please join us at one of more of the events

\*Korean UMC Santa Clara Valley 1001 Ginger Ln San Jose Ca 95128, Aug 4, 2018

\*Trinity UMC 285 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Chico Ca, Aug 10-11, 2018, 1 ½

\*Wesley UMC 1343 E. Barstow Fresno, Ca, Aug 17-19, 2018 weekend

These 4 topics will be discussed



Co-dean Andrea McDonald

Co-dean Adi Nabou



Labor trafficking is human trafficking for illegal labor practices under threat, typically of reporting for deportation.

American children are trafficked in other countries.

Vulnerable people are subject to trafficking, children and girls often for sex trafficking.

The vulnerable include short-term runaways, children in the foster care system, and homeless people of all ages. They are those who are seeking a friend, a protector or romance. They hang on to this "friend" as promises made to them slip farther away because they have no one else.

At the February meeting of the UMM, we got to hear from Phil Esbenshade of the Kings County DA's office, and from our D.A. Keith Fagundes himself. They want us to be aware, to be proactive about finding and helping with human trafficking right here in Kings County.

Red flags to notice:

- a runaway who returns home with hair and nails done.
- a young girl with more than one cell phone.
- a girl may refer to what looks like a boyfriend as "daddy"... or to girl friends as "Auntie."
- they may use the terms "in-pocket" or "out-of-pocket"

The gangs require those terms. Most often the traffickers are gang members.

Labor trafficking is often what's going on when the man standing on the corner out in the county all day is selling flowers, or fruit that isn't from around here.

Awareness is really important. The police departments in Hanford and Lemoore are aware of this now, and deal differently with suspects as a result.

These are just a few notes I was able to take. If you missed this presentation, Phil will be speaking again on Tuesday, March 6th. That one's a dinner meeting, too, but not at our church.

Our next dinner meeting of the United Methodist Men will be March 12th at 6:30. Let me know if you're coming so we have enough food.

- David Beeman, 584-7510

[dpbeeman@icloud.com](mailto:dpbeeman@icloud.com)

# WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

## Worship Coordinator

**March 4:** Chris Payne  
**March 11:** Cat Barclay  
**March 18:** Peggy Gregory  
**March 25:** Mary Jane Gozun

## Lay Worship Leaders

**March 4:** Andrea McDonald  
**March 11:** Diane Boone  
**March 18:** Rebecca Eversall  
**March 25:** Sue Hensel

## Ushers

**March 4:** Jim Gregory, Mike Bertaina  
**March 11:** Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina  
**March 18:** Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina  
**March 25:** Mary Jane Gozun

## Counting Team

**March 4:** Sue Hensel, John Meadows  
**March 11:** Jim Gregory, David Beeman  
**March 18:** Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker  
**March 25:** Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell

## Coffee Hour

**March 4:** Shoemakers  
**March 11:** Peggy Gregory  
**March 18:** Patty Ferrell  
**March 25:** Cat Barclay



## Ministry Support Team (MST)

MST is the leadership group in our church that is tasked with caring for our resources; money, staff and building. They meet every second Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

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**

Andrea McDonald, Marilyn Peden, Dorothy Jensen, Bonnie Peters, Mark Dickenson and Jan Junell.

**Other Prayer Requests**

Prayers for the victims of natural disasters and of violence across our nation and *in all parts of our world*. With Christians around the world, we pray for peace with justice and for health, safety and well-being of our neighbors near and far. Thanksgiving for all the church volunteers;

Prayer for: Prayer for: For Dianna Newton and the Castanon family for their wellbeing; for the health, healing, comfort and well-being for Verne Adams, Andrea McDonald, Mary Durham's family, friends and loved ones, Jessica Maris' mother, Peggy Gregory's brother, Steve Frazee, in his recent passing, Bob & Jan Junell, Marilyn Peden, Jennifer Wagner, Sherrie, Dorothy Jensen, David Beeman's friend, Mark Dickerson, is the hospital trying to stop internal bleeding, the Geissler's friend Mike Pina, Bonnie Peters, Frank & Bonnie Butterway's son Richard enduring health problems; and all of their families & loved ones.

# *“Love Yourself To Wholeness”*

## **Patricia George-Group Leader**

- B.A Music • PhD Life • Teacher • Musician • Writer/Artist •

[patricia.george91@yahoo.com](mailto:patricia.george91@yahoo.com)

Cell 559 309-6928

Bring a spiral notebook for taking notes and for journaling  
We meet in my home, so come prepared to take off your shoes  
(you are welcome to bring your slippers or just wear socks)

### **What happens in this group?**

- sharing stories • discovering tools to manage depression •  
• exploring the human condition •

### **Who is welcome?**

God centered people of all faiths, backgrounds and ages

Wednesday Nights

7pm – 8:30pm

### **Prayer Group**

Come refresh you spirit as we join together to lift up the joys and concerns of our lives and of the world to the One who loves us all.

Thursday Nights

5pm – 6pm

### **Lifetree Café!**

#### **Explore Life – Meet Friends – Experience God**

Lifetree Café is a weekly, hour-long interactive experience that features real people’s real stories on film, guided conversation, biblical insights, and time to build relationships. Simply put, it’s a “conversation café”—a place and time for people to gather weekly to experience stories and talk about thought-provoking topics that most people deal with relating to life and faith.

**Saturday Evenings – Mary Lane Hall – 6:30 pm**



# SECOND SATURDAY®

The Central Valley District Council on Ministry Presents 2018 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Saturdays! Save The Dates!

**First UMC, Hanford**  
505 N Redington St., Hanford, CA 93230  
9am-3pm

**February 10**  
Basic Lay Servant Training

**April 14**  
Prayer  
UMVIM Training

**June 9**  
United Methodist Heritage and Polity

**August 11**  
Preaching II  
Basic Lay Servant Training

### Board of Discipleship

BOD is the "Think Tank" of our church at which all church participants dream and suggest programs to help us all in our journey of faith and service.

At the BOD meetings everyone is welcome to bring an idea or a concern about any of the following practices:

- Worship
- Christian Education
- Service to the Community
- Mission and Outreach to the World
- Spiritual Growth
- Social Activities in the church
- Youth Activities
- Meetings are always on the 1st Wednesday of the month

**Next BOD meeting:**

March 7 @ 3:30 p.m.



### 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!

### Building Beloved Community

The Conference Advocacy and Justice committee presents "Building Beloved Community in the Face of the 3 Evils: Militarism, Racism, and Materialism" on Saturday, April 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. commemorating 50 years since Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. The preacher for the event is the Rev. Staci Current, Bay District Superintendent. Keynote speakers are the Rev. Phil Lawson, National Council of Elders, and David Wildman, Executive Secretary Middle East, Human Rights, and Racial Justice for the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM). The event will take place at Taylor Memorial UMC, 1188 12th Street, Oakland. Registration is \$15 and includes lunch. For more information, or to register, go to: [https://calnev-reg.brtapp.com/BuildingtheBelovedCommunity?mc\\_cid=1e5776776e&mc\\_eid=d67bf711db](https://calnev-reg.brtapp.com/BuildingtheBelovedCommunity?mc_cid=1e5776776e&mc_eid=d67bf711db)

### Peden's Family Cookbook For Sale \$20

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

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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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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 15, 2018**  
**from 3-8 p.m.**

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

**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*



**Mission Service  
Opportunity**

Friday, March 16, 2018

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!*