

The Methodist Messenger

In the Spirit of John Wesley

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



2015

First United Methodist Church
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Greetings,

On April 12th, those in worship heard the announcement that I will be appointed to the St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Reno, Nevada as of July 1st. For the past seven years it has been my pleasure and honor to serve as your pastor. I have loved being a part of this community and of your lives. I have been blessed by each of you and I will miss you all.



This was not an opportunity that I was seeking, but we in the United Methodist Church understand that sometimes the movement of the Holy Spirit comes through the discernment of the Cabinet. Although neither I nor Ministry Support Team asked for me to move at this time, it does feel like the right thing. This appointment places me in close proximity to my parents who have increasing health concerns.

The Cabinet and Bishop take seriously their responsibility to appoint pastors. I am confident that the Holy Spirit has been at work to help them discern who will be your new pastor. The announcement of your new pastor will be happening soon. I know that you will welcome the new person as you have welcomed me.

It is hard to leave First United Methodist Church, Hanford and the Hanford community. This is a wonderful congregation, full of loving people. You all make this place special and I know that God will continue to do amazing things in and through you in the future.

Remember, God's Love Never Ends,

Pastor Susan Foster

We're hosting
**The Community
Prayer Service**
Sunday, May 3rd
6 pm.
In our Sanctuary

*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

Plan on joining our brothers and sisters
in Christ in our community for a time of
worship and prayer.

Cookie donations needed for fellowship
time following the service.



**Parsonage
Open House**

All Are Welcome!
**Come join us at
Pastor Susan's home**
Monday, May 4,
4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
for food, fellowship & fun games



Salad Luncheon
SATURDAY, MAY 9, 11:30 am
Founders Hall
Sponsored by
United Methodist Women
Tickets Available Now
\$10 pre-sale only
Entertainment provided by
Singer/Songwriter Becky Eversall
and others

5th Sunday Sing

May 31st 3:30 pm

Riverdale United Methodist Church
20721 Malsbary St, Riverdale

You are invited to a time of singing and fellowship with area United
Methodist Churches!



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.



OUR ENDOWMENT FUND

Some of you in our congregation may not be aware of our endowment fund and many of you may not understand how it is administered or just how we use the income from it to fund grants through our Available Program Fund to provide for the needs of our church beyond what is provided by our general fund.

Our major endowment, held in an account called the Undesignated Gift Investment Fund, was initially funded in 2002 by a gift from the estate of Millie Kraft. It was approximately \$500,000. Just recently it was supplemented by a gift from the estate of Amanda Wiles of approximately \$150,000. This represented 80% of the gifts. The remaining 20% went directly into the Available Program Fund to fund immediate needs through our grant program. The endowment funds are invested with the California-Nevada United Methodist Foundation. They are overseen by our Undesignated Gift Committee which is advisory to our Ministry Support Team.

The committee and the funds are governed by a policy document that was developed and approved at our church conference on November 27, 2007. The goal is to maintain the principal investment and be able to continue to fund projects from the growth of the investments for years to come.

Each year we take five percent of the previous year-end balance and place it in our Available Program Fund. Appropriate groups from our church are then invited to apply for grants to fund special needs, programs and other worthwhile projects that we would otherwise not be able to afford. Because of these generous gifts, our Available Program Fund has been able to accomplish the following:

Misc Programs	\$3,976
Missions	\$4,500
Staffing	\$11,681
Advertising	\$15,089
Youth Program	\$16,692
Worship	\$27,475
General Fund	\$35,000
Equipment & Furniture	\$38,622
Apportionments	\$55,277
Buildings & Repairs	\$123,489
TOTAL	\$331,801

If you would like to learn more about our endowment funds, would like to contribute to the fund or would consider our endowment fund in your estate plan, please contact one of the members of the committee. A brochure providing more information is also available in the hallway or from the church office.



laundry love

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 May 21st, from 3-8 pm.

Volunteers are needed! Talk with Peggy Gregory

Laundry Love on the surface, is a ministry of helping people have clean clothes. Going deeper, Laundry Love is about developing relationships with people to see what gifts are present among those we meet, and encouraging and kindling responsibility and dignity. Our hope is that we will be part the process of moving those we meet from dependency toward interdependency.



There is a collection basket in the narthex for your offering of canned food for the Salvation Army.



Mission Service Opportunity

Friday, May 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!

Reusable Grocery Bags

These sturdy bags have our Church logo & name on them.

They are perfect for your grocery shopping trips & kinder on the environment.

A great way to advertise our church.

\$5.00 each available from the church office.



Shower Ministry

Thank you for continuing to remember the Shower Ministry for the homeless as you shop.

We are continuing to collect needed items. Let's keep filling up the basket on the altar.

These items have a great impact on the lives of those who are served at the Shower Ministry for the Homeless at The Hanford Pentecostal Church.

Needs:

Deodorant, Tooth Brushes, Toothpaste, Talc or Baby Powder, Terry Bathmats



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 Susan if you are interested in serving or have further ideas.

Hospitality Ministry

Thank you to everyone who has participated in this ministry. Those in the support groups have noticed that we care about them!

13 different meetings happen each week in the Friendship & Fireside rooms.

These groups do amazing work with people's lives and for our community.

Treats can be dropped off in the church office or directly in the Friendship/Fireside Kitchen.



Stitching Group

Wednesdays, May
6 & May 20
10:00 am - noon
Millie Kraft Lounge

Anyone who wants to share, learn, stitch in any way are welcome to fellowship with us.



Want to use your handyperson skills around the church?

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

Please see Pastor Susan to help.



Vacation Bible School!

For children entering 1st grade through 6th grade

Only 3 days: Thursday, July 9th 9am - noon

Friday, July 10th 9am - noon

Saturday, July 11th 10am - 2:30pm

Then

VBS Sunday on July 12th with ice cream party following

**PLEASE HELP!
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**

- Assembly Coach
- Voice of Checkers the Puppet
- Sound
- Projection
- Crafts Helper
- Recreation Helper
- Reflection Time Leader
- On-Site Registration
- 7 Group Guides
- Plus lots of people for Decoration Set-Up & Take Down/Store

To volunteer please contact Jan Franke in the church office.



SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPPORT TEAM

Do you have an interest in the spiritual lives of children? Would you like to see our Sunday School grow? Let's get together to offer our Sunday School Leaders support. Let Pastor Susan know if you are interested.



Report on Church Facility Projects

By Jim Gregory

The trenching and sealing of the east external wall at the parsonage, to prevent future water intrusion into the sunken living room, is complete. A tar like waterproofing sealer and an 80 mil poly liner has been installed along the 30 feet in the back yard.

The replacement sidewalk along Center Street is complete. By eliminating the grass curb strip and cementing in to the Center Street curb allows the abandonment of one irrigation line, which will be a water savings. The gardener will no longer need to mow and trim the grass strip. The City of Hanford, at their expense, replaced the concrete curb at the corner of Center and Redington, so the curb is ADA compliant with current regulations. Work has started on the wheel chair ramp at the double doors south of the choir room. Joe Robinson, the concrete contractor, has been keeping watch well into the evenings, when doing a pour, to make sure there is no graffiti in the fresh concrete.

The evaporative cooler in the alley for Founders Hall has been replaced with a used plastic cooler. This one should not rust as much.

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,
May 14th, 5:00 pm

Board of Discipleship (BOD)

Next Meeting: May 26th 5:00 pm

The Board of Discipleship is tasked with ensuring that we as a congregation are growing in the ways in which we follow Jesus. All are welcome!

**The Central Valley District
Council on Ministry**

presents
Second Saturday Monthly
Lay Leadership Courses

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Register via www.cnumc.org
(scroll down and look under registrations
on the right)

In Porterville @ Grand Avenue UMC:

April 11th - United Methodist History

June 13th - Basic Lay Servant Class

(needed to be a certified Lay Leader)

October 10 - Enneagram Your Spiritual
Type

In Stockton @ Central UMC:

May 16 - Basic Lay Servant

July 11 - Enneagram Your Spiritual Type

September 12 - United Methodist History

?s See Pastor Susan

**Are you a youth in grades
6th through 12th?**



Join us May 3rd
3:00 pm-5:00 pm
(note time change)

We will have fun, explore our faith,
& serve others!
All youth in grades 6 through 12 are
welcome.

Bring your friends.

See Pastor Susan if you have any
questions.



Congratulations on a successful
gathering of plastic bags! We have
completed our project, so are no
longer in need of the plastic bags.

Thank you!



Foot a Month Club Update

Our Foot a Month campaign is progressing very well. Participation is great and we are steadily working toward our goal.

By way of review:

1,590 feet of the 2,400 needed have been pledged. That is 66% of our goal. In dollars, that represents nearly \$24,000 of the \$36,000 needed to pay off our sanctuary roof loan.

In dollars collected so far, we have received \$12,400 of the \$24,000 pledged or 52%.

A big thank you to each and every one of the 26 giving units on record for their faithful participation in this special giving campaign. Watch our progress on the bulletin board in the hallway.

I remain confident that we will retire our loan by the end of 2017.

Bob Junell





Our United Methodist Women's meeting had 12 in attendance. A delicious lunch was provided by Heidi Bailey.

We discussed the Spring Luncheon – Saturday, May 9th at 11:30 am. Sue Hensel has tickets (\$10 each), plus there are also some in the church office. Peggy Gregory has organized a salad potluck. There are still needs of the following salads: Tuna, Fruit, Jell-O, Bean, or ???. If you would like to furnish a salad, please contact Sue Hensel who now has the list. Our entertainment will be singing by a young girl who has been on stage at the Temple Theater and Becky Eversall will sing and play her guitar. The Methodist Men will again help us with serving beverages and doing the dishes.

Because Founders Hall is being used on Friday, we will decorate for the Spring Luncheon on Saturday morning, beginning at 8:30 am.

Other business discussed were the chairs in Mary Lane Hall and Founders Hall. We are looking into the cost to replace the chairs. Plus, we got the good news that Mike Bertaina and the Chamber are offering to buy the old chairs from us.

Other news, after 20 plus years of serving as the Funeral Receptions chair, Renee True is retiring. Thank you very much Renee for all you have done. Someone has been asked to organize the food when it is needed, but if she accepts, will definitely need help. If you feel called to help when there is a funeral or memorial service reception or lunch, please let me know. If we can get a lot of volunteers, it will make the work a lot easier to get done.

Upcoming Dates: Spring Luncheon (Saturday, May 9th); Luncheon Follow-up meeting (Thursday, May 28th, 11 am at Jeb's Blueberry Hill. The next two Board Meetings will be Thursdays, Aug. 6th and Sept. 3rd, both at 1:30 pm. And the next General Meeting will be Sunday, Sept. 13th at 12 Noon (lunch furnished by Cat Barclay).

If you have any questions, just ask myself or Sue Hensel.

Vicki Beeman



The United Methodist Men received a presentation on the history of our church at the April meeting. Jim Gregory covered everything from American Methodism's origin on the East Coast to our present campus here at 505 N. Redington. Along the way - the pioneer church was established and then built in Grangeville. The building is still there. That congregation moved to Hanford, but had a location at the corner of Irwin and West Lacey. Our Founders Hall building was moved here from there. The former property was sold to Mr. Fox, who built the Fox Theater that now stands there.

His talk covered some parsonages the church has had here in Hanford. That caused Bob Peden to recall that the parsonage on Center Street was used for brides, and on his bride Marilyn's walk from the parsonage to the sanctuary, she got rained on.

Jim also read us the story of Wilhelmina Green. Before she was born, her parents and older siblings were emigrating from Russia to America. They were about to board their ship at Liverpool, England for the voyage to New York, when they were blocked from boarding because one of Wilhelmina's sisters had measles. The family stood on the dock as their ship, with all their worldly belongings, departed. The next part of the story is that the ship was the Titanic. The next part of the story is that the measles diagnosis was in error. May the other Titanic passengers forgive me, but God is good, and indeed works in mysterious ways.

We also learned that at the end of Pastor Susan's tenure here June 30th, she will tie Dr. Phil Greer as our longest serving pastor. Many thanks to Jim, who filled in as a VERY short notice replacement, for bringing a well received program.

The UMM — between our March and April meetings — approved a donation to an Eagle Scout project by Sage Wyman. He will present how that works at our May meeting, Monday the 11th at 6:30 PM. Please give me a call for the dinner count.

David Beeman 584-2911

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

Cat Barclay's granddaughter Kassidy (now in rehab following a serious auto accident), Kathleen Wilson (undergoing chemo), Jill (in hospice) & Connor—the Bertaina's ex-daughter in law & grandson, Katie (Leukemia) - Stacy Brockie's cousin, Jan Franke's sister-in-law Trish (serious health issues), Bonnie Peters, Ellie Wagner (continued healing), Carol Collar's Mother - Francy Angstman (assisted living), Pastor Susan's parents Helen and John Foster, Larry McDonald (PTSD), Andrea McDonald, Marilyn Peden, Gloria Brown, Peri Neos, Millie Dodge, Pat George, Audra Koelewyn, Alison Klein, June Kruger (diagnosed with cancer), Louise Card (West Gate Garden Care, 4525 W. Tulare. Visalia), Marie Wiles (Kingsburg Care Center 1101 Stroud Ave. Kingsburg, CA 93631).

Other Prayer Requests

- Mary and Jeff Durham as they grieve the passing of Darrell Hester
- Laundry Love ministry
- Financial Peace University
- Carole Hester, Lynnette Hester, other family and friends as they mourn the passing of Darrell Hester
- The family and friends of Fran Knight grieving her passing
- 1st Christian's Rev. Tom Warren & family
- Thanksgiving for Toni, Seth & Gage on their foster adoption
- Those in the midst of crisis due to disasters
- Opportunities to serve our neighbors
- For caregivers and those caring for their parents
- The Noonan, Castanon & Wilson Families
- The Youth of this congregation
- 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

WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

Morning Worship

May 3

Acts 8:26-40
"So he got up and went."

May 10

John 15:9-17
"I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."

May 17

Pastor Becky Goodwin from Madera UMC will be preaching this Sunday
Pastor Susan is preaching at Madera UMC for their UMW Sunday

May 24

Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21
"in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy."

May 31

Romans 8:12-17
"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God."

living water

meets chuck knows church
we will use the videos from chuck to get us thinking

May 10 - baptism & confirmation

May 17 - communion

May 24 - grace

May 31 - piety & mercy

Worship Coordinator

May 3: Becky Eversall
May 10: Chris Payne
May 17: Andrea McDonald
May 24: Peggy Gregory
May 31: Becky Eversall

Lay Worship Leaders

May 3: Vicki Beeman
May 10: Stacy Brockie
May 17: Carole Collar
May 24: David Beeman
May 31: Jan Franke

Greeters

May 3: Chris Payne
May 10: Sunday School
May 17: Diana & Lily Boone
May 24:
May 31:

Ushers

May 3: Verne Adams, Mary Durham, Cat Barclay
May 10: Jim Gregory, Mary Durham
May 17: Mike Bertaina, Mary Durham
May 24: Mary Durham, David Beeman
May 31: Bob Junell, David Beeman

Counting Team

May 3: Sue Hensel, Andrea McDonald,
May 10: Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell
May 17: Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker
May 24: Jim Gregory, David Beeman
May 31: David Beeman, Verne Adams

Morning Worship Coffee Hour

May 3: John Meadows
May 10: Larry & Andrea McDonald
May 17: Jim & Peggy Gregory
May 24:
May 31:

living water

in may

beginning may 10th

7:00 pm

mary lane hall



join us for conversation, reflection,
fellowship and refreshment for your soul
as we meet people transformed by their interactions