

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
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Office Hours: Monday—Friday 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Pastor Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Pastor Cynthia Stateman pastorc@fumchanford.org

Notes For The Journey

Now What? We shed some tears on Good Friday as we contemplated the crucifixion. We celebrated on Easter morning as we declared “He is risen!” – “He is risen indeed!” There was great jubilation, the church was full, and there were large family dinners to celebrate our freedom from sin. But now what? Is that all there is?

Easter is much more than just a one-day celebration. Rather, within the liturgical church calendar, Easter (or Eastertide) is a fifty-day festival of celebration that extends from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. The Easter event is too big to be confined to a single day or a single service of worship! The good news of Christ’s Resurrection is to be celebrated throughout our lives, and the fifty days of Eastertide helps to remind us of this fact.

So how are you doing in terms of keeping Easter going? Has the celebration already gone out of your Easter? Do you find yourself having a case of the post-Easter blahs? Let me encourage you to be faithful and intentional in living out the good news message of Easter. Be present for worship. Find time each day to have a “quiet time” when you reflect on scripture, listen to God, and pray. Participate in one of the study groups or book clubs. Volunteer to participate in one of our church’s many ongoing ministry projects. Invite a friend or neighbor to come to a church service or activity with you.

Don’t wait until next Easter to celebrate Easter again. Ask God to help you find and implement various ways — even some innovative, creative ways — to keep Easter going throughout the year.

Blessings,

Pastor Cynthia Stateman



**The Central Valley District Council on Ministry (CVDCOM) invites you to the next
2nd Saturdays event: Basic Lay Servant Training!**

"God calls you to a life of servanthood as a disciple of Jesus Christ." This is the opening sentence of the Introduction to the participants book for Lay Servant Ministries. God calls each one of us. Perhaps you or someone you know has felt the nudge from the Spirit to pursue service to the church through other opportunities.

This course explores areas of ministry--leading, caring, communicating and spreading the love of Christ into the world. The course encourages people to recognize the opportunities to serve Christ at a greater capacity for the transformation of the world. God depends on all to carry out the mission of the Church.

Upcoming Course:

Saturday, June 10 9:30am-3:30pm @ Grand Ave. UMC, Porterville, led by Rev. Tom Buratovich

See Pastor Cynthia to register or for more information.

Ministry Support Team Meeting

The April meeting of the Ministerial Support Team (MST) opened with a quote from two prominent early Christians—St. Augustine, and Nicholas Cuna. *"It takes a lot of learning to finally 'learn ignorance'."*

The Trustees report included an update on the church organ. Bob Peden reports it is "90" percent healthy; just one "stop" needs to be replaced, we have the "stop" available; the bad news is it requires 125 circuits to be attached. In nontechnical terms, Bob indicates it is like having COPD, hard to get oxygen into the lungs.

If you are interested from time to time in hearing the organ played once again, let Bob know of your support when you see him.

Cat Barclay reported on the work of the Staff Parrish Relations Committee (SPRC). Their first meeting reviewed the role and responsibility of the committee as to the United Methodist Church policy. One of the essential roles for committee members is to provide communication to occur back and forth between the pastor and the congregation. If you have something to share with the SPRC, there is an SPRC mail slot outside the church office (for the young, the mail box was how we communicated before e-mail and twitter).

Submitted by Doug True, MST chairman



Please look at the hall bulletin board for updates. I will be posting different things monthly, so when you see it, point it out to someone else. I will be checking to see who is noticing the board.

Our next board meeting is May 4 at 2 p.m. You are welcome to join us. Our next general meeting will be May 21 after church and Coffee Hour. We will not be having UMW during the months of Jun-Aug. We will start up again in September, so watch for updates.

You are all welcome to attend UMW Saturday May 6 Spring Luncheon and Program in Founders Hall. The Program will be our own Bob Peden and the Quartet. The tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for kids 10 and under. The Spring luncheon will start at 11:30 a.m., with the program following. This is one of the UMW (United Methodist Women) fundraisers.

If you would like to sign up to bring a salad, bread or desserts, please see Vicki Beeman, Andrea McDonald, or Cat Barclay. We will be selling the tickets at church, or you can call us.

Andrea 360-4477

Vicki Beeman 584-2911

Cat Barclay 707-7118

Thanks,

Andrea McDonald, President
andreamcd1202@yahoo.com



Fulfilling Your Calling

The enthusiasm of Pam Brazil is deeply rooted. “I’ve known this was my calling since I was young,” said Pam, “but it was only recently I was able to begin doing it.”

“All the jobs I have had before — real estate lending, retail, cleaning offices, IRS — have prepared me for this, and I didn’t know it at the time.”

We never know God’s timetable for our lives, but we trust God’s greater wisdom, as we follow the path before us.

It was great to hear from Pam at the April meeting of the United Methodist Men. Her cause is to reduce the number of pets being euthanized in our part of California as much as possible by giving them time to be adopted into loving homes.

Many facilities are limited by their government budgets and available space, and the animals keep coming in. The result is that dogs and cats unclaimed after — as little as five days in Huron — must be put to sleep in huge numbers.

So every animal saved is a success, and Pam’s numbers are good. The Valley Animal Haven has been in operation for three years now. She can rattle off the numbers without notes, like the infirmary, and who donated that, the kennels, and how many of what size dogs fit in each size kennel, and who donated the kennel, how much the concrete pad costs for the kennel, and how much it will cost to permanently connect the next building to electrical service.

She goes on about animal diseases, how they spread, chances of survival, sources and costs of medicine, how many days to quarantine newly arrived animals; about the application you have to fill out to adopt one of their animals, and home visits to be sure your living arrangements will suit that kind of animal; and about the temperament tests they give animals they are about to rescue, to see if they are adoptable.

That helps with one of her favorable numbers: a low rate of pets returned to the Haven. A typical month now averages 56 adoptions to just 1 return.

She rejoices on days that she gets to make the “FREEDOM RUNS” to get dogs from euthanizing facilities, telling how her staff packs the vans with more boxes than she has scheduled for, knowing that she will rescue just one more whenever she can.

The number of dogs and cats adopted has grown each year the Valley Animal Haven has been open. Her goal is 600 adoptions in 2017.

What’s next?

Without a pause, Pam talks about the Kitty Café. You go and get your coffee, and then you go choose a kitten to interact with as you drink it. It trains the kittens to socialize with people, and meets a need of people whose living situation precludes having a pet now.

That’s important because most people come looking for a dog. Valley Animal Haven also has a partnership with PetSmart: the kitties on display there are from Valley Animal Haven, and 3 to 4 cats per week get adopted.

And that’s just the Bonus!

It was great to hear the joy of someone who has found their calling.

We really asked Pam to speak because Connie Cavazos and our children’s Sunday School class is doing a service project to help the abandoned pets. In addition to collecting needed supplies and raising funds, the kids are planning a field trip to Valley Animal Haven in May. There they will make toys for the animals!

CALENDAR: Saturday May 20 breakfast at Applebee’s fundraiser for VAH. Tickets \$10. Applebee’s is only open for breakfast on fund-raiser days.

And... Four men volunteered to help at the UMW Spring luncheon May 6th. The next UMM dinner meeting is May 8th. Call me for details.

- David Beeman 584-7510 dpbeeman@kings.k12.ca.us



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

Trustee Report

A rain gutter contractor has been asked to submit a proposal to re-route the rain gutter from the overhang near the Boy Scout upstairs door.

Berger & Jones was asked to appraise the parsonage at \$165 per square foot for replacement cost.

A tree service contractor will soon cut off the top half of the three Italian Cyprus trees.

Our neighbor to the north agreed to pay half the \$1,000 cost to remove the palm tree on the north side of the sanctuary building, which included grinding the stump. The palm tree was cut down and removed on March 22.

When the contractor showed up March 25 to grind the palm tree stump, the contractor was also hired to grind the almond tree stump in the playground.

One of the three trees between the curb and sidewalk on Redington in front of the neighbor's duplex dropped a branch. Recommendation is not to park at the curb under those three trees.

A contractor replacing the sheet rock, molding, and painting the recessed living room in the parsonage. Shannon will also repair and upgrade the back yard sprinkler manifold, which is the source of the water leak and intrusion under the wall and into the living room. Robinson's Interior has been asked to replace the pad and stretch and re-tack the carpet.

Homeless men are seen on the security cameras charging their cell phones in our outdoor electrical outlets. They are moving door mats for sleeping.

Please check that the doors are locked when leaving from church functions. *(Continued in next column)*

WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

Worship Coordinator

May 7: Mary Jane Gozun
May 14: Chris Payne
May 21: Cat Barclay
May 28: Chris Payne

Lay Worship Leaders

May 7: Jan Franke
May 14: Bob Junell
May 21: David Beeman
May 28: Vicki Beeman

Ushers

May 7: Verne Adams
May 14: Creed Cavazos
May 21: Creed Cavazos
May 28: David Beeman

Counting Team

May 7: Sue Hensel, John Meadows
May 14: Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell
May 21: Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker
May 28: David Beeman, Jim Gregory

Coffee Hour

May 7: Glen & Jetta Lenox
May 14: Diana & Lily Boone

Organ upgrade: With direction from Bob Peden, Tom DeLay of Salinas has been doing improvements that made a big difference in sound and reaction to the organ keys being played. One of the fan blades in the motor in the basement slipped about a half-inch on the shaft. This probably happened over a long time, causing less and less air to help the organ play. The organ is now at 99% good health. There is just one stop to be replaced, which is on hand, but requires 125 circuit wires to be reattached when replaced.

- Jim Gregory

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

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, who will need bladder surgery June 13
- 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!



Over the past few months, several items have been added to the church's lost and found. If you're missing something that may have been left in the sanctuary, check in with the office!

United Methodist Church Day



Calling all UM folks in Grizzlies Territory:

This year's fundraiser for Imagine No Malaria will be Saturday, June 3 with a 7:05 start time.

\$15/person (includes a free hat—this year with the Grizzlies "G" on it)

Plus: LEGO BUILD NIGHT! All folks get a free Lego toy when they enter.



And: For those who can use a break from watching the game, come to the concourse and help with the massive group Lego building project!

NEW FOR THIS YEAR BONUS:

We will auction off three unique opportunities and proceeds will benefit **Imagine No Malaria**:

1. The opportunity to throw out the first pitch
2. The opportunity to actually DO the manual scoreboard for the 2nd inning
3. The opportunity to actually DO the manual scoreboard for the 4th inning

Tickets go on sale April 23rd; last day to purchase a ticket will be May 14.



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!



How do you get tickets? Contact your church office, or contact:

Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis
1726 Pollasky Ave, Clovis CA 93611
(559) 299-4615
memumc@mem-umc.org

—○—
 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
 —○—

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
Thursday, May 18th
from 3-8 p.m.

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



Mission Service Opportunity

Friday, May 19th, 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!*



Volunteers Needed!

Plans are underway to establish a Church Nursery for infants and small children during morning worship services for parents who would like to take advantage of this Program.

We do not have enough volunteers at this time to staff the Nursery.

This is a very important service we can provide for parents with infants and small children to allow them to fully participate in our worship services. Please pray about how God is calling you to serve in this capacity. It is a very important service we can provide to our members and visitors.