

# *The Methodist Messenger*

In the Spirit of John Wesley

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



# November 2015

First United Methodist Church  
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Pastor Cynthia Stateman

## Notes For The Journey

Since high school I've had an active curiosity about words, idioms, writing, and language, and how our perception of reality is limited or enlarged by the words available to us. Recently I heard a linguist speak on these topics, offering several interesting stories. For instance, she tells about some Aboriginal languages that do not have words for left, right, front, or back. Instead, every directional phrase is ordinal – that is, derived from the points on the compass. Someone might therefore say, “You've got a bug on your southeast leg!” or “My north ear hurts.” The linguist indicated that when she is in a room full of Americans or Europeans and she asks them to close their eyes and point toward the southwest, only 20-30% of the crowd gets it right. When she repeats the exercise with children or adults from these Aboriginal cultures, without exception, every single person points in the correct direction.

In another example, she describes how there are a couple languages that do not have numbers, or even a word for the concept of number. When someone returns with a basket of seven fish from the river, there are words to ask about whether there are *sufficient* fish to feed everyone and to describe the *type* of fish and the anticipated *taste* of the fish. However, there is no word or phrase to identify precisely how many fish are in the basket. The number of fish is of no importance because the concept of numbers, as we understand them, does not exist in these languages.

Language shapes perception and forms what we see and understand. We perform our ministry in a culture that uses language in ways that predispose people to perceive or overlook all kinds of things. Our language is strongly shaped by commerce, politics, psychology, entertainment, notions of physical beauty, and many other heavy influences. These factors prepare us to see conflict, feel fear, and develop appetites for wealth, power, physical appearance and a whole host of values, many of which have an elusive and temporal quality to them.

Part of our task as a church is to cultivate a different kind of language, the language of grace and faith. It is a language that helps people to perceive realities they may never have seen before or knew existed. The language of grace and faith includes such rich words and concepts as grace, forgiveness, love, mercy, compassion, joy, hope, obedience, justice, gentleness, new birth, mission, and witness.

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In our community of faith, we are called explore such words and concepts, lift them up, question them, seek them, and cultivate them. Through the practices of prayer, worship, study, and service, we keep these words in front of us in conscious awareness and they shape us. These words change us. Our speaking the language of grace and faith helps us and helps others to perceive these things. The Word transforms the world.

John writes, “And the Word became flesh and lived among us...full of grace and truth. From his fullness, we have received grace upon grace.” There is indeed a Word of grace and faith desiring to become flesh among us, as certainly and as powerfully now as there was when Jesus first walked among us.

Let us grow in our following of Christ, immerse ourselves in the body of Christ, and learn and teach the language of grace and faith; so we and those whom we encounter may see, understand and respond to God’s presence and activity in ways we could not before.

Blessings,  
Pastor Cynthia Stateman

**November 15th, Sunday at 1:00 pm**  
**Annual Church Charge Conference**  
**At Corcoran UMC**

with  
Lemoore UMC, Armona UMC, & Hanford First UMC

Food & Fellowship to Follow

We will be voting on Church leadership for 2016 and pastoral compensation.

All members of First United Methodist Church have a vote, but all the church family is invited to attend!

This is a great time to celebrate the ministry of United Methodists in our area!

United Methodist Women  
67th annual

**Bazaar,  
Fall Luncheon  
& Bake Sale**

Friday, November 13  
11:00 am to 1:30 pm

Founders Hall  
First United  
Methodist Church  
Redington at Center Street

Meal Tickets \$10.00

Treat yourself to some  
shopping!

We will be selling beautiful,  
handmade crafts  
and delicious baked goods.

Tickets will be available from:  
the Church Office, 559-584-4075  
Vicki Beeman and Sue Hensel



SALUTING  
OUR  
VETERANS



*Organ and Quartet  
Celebration of Veterans*

*Friday, November 13th  
6:00 pm  
in our church sanctuary*

*We will be featuring :*

*CATALINA DAGGETT who plays  
organ at the Tulare Methodist  
Church*

*Our local AMERICAN LEGION  
And my favorite quartet SOUND  
PROJECTION All are*

*welcome!*

*Bob Peden*



**November 23rd, Monday**

**5:00 pm**

**Christmas Tree & Sanctuary**

**Decorating**

**for Advent and Christmas.**

**Many hands make light work!**

**Jobs for all ages.**

**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**

Pollie Geissler (eyes), Delfa Randles (foot surgery), Penny Meadows (back injury), Chris Payne's friend Marcy Allen (cancer), Karen Shoemaker, Pepper Ramsey's son Hunter (serious injuries), Kathleen Wilson (chemo), Bonnie Peters, Bonnie Peter's friend Shirley Brown (chemo), 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, Pat George, Alison Klein, June Kruger (diagnosed with cancer), Louise Card (West Gate Garden Care, 4525 W. Tulare. Visalia), Marie Wiles (Kingsburg Center 1101 Stroud Ave. Kingsburg, CA 93631).

**Other Prayer Requests**

- Family and friends of Betty Mizner grieving her passing
- Patricia George, family and friends grieving the death of Millie Dodge
- Firefighters, Police Officers, and other first responders
- Diana Boone and family
- Cat Barclay's family
- Myrtle Deaver (Jeanette Keith's mother) living at Valley Christian Home
- 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!

"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."  
Alfred Lord Tennyson

**November 29th, Sunday**

**3:30 pm**

**Fifth Sunday Sing**

**At LEMOORE UMC**

With UMC Churches in our circuit

Refreshments to follow



**Foot a Month Update**

We are now in the second year of our three year pledge campaign to repay the sanctuary roof repair loan. Progress has been good and we are slowly but steadily reducing the loan.

Pledges have totaled 1,635 of the 2,400 square foot goal. In dollars, pledges have totaled \$24,525 of the \$36,000 goal. So far we have received approximately \$18,000 of the pledged amount and the current loan balance on the whole \$60,000 loan is now \$17,995.

Thank you to everyone for your commitment to this campaign. I remain confident that by one means or another we will be able to retire this loan by the end of 2017.

Bob Junell

**LAY WORSHIP LEADERS**

Ever want to be the person reading the scripture on Sunday morning? Come join the team and offer your gifts to our congregation! The commitment is to a Sunday every few months. Training and resources provided.

Please let Jan Franke know if you are interested. Don't delay...the schedule for 2016 is being prepared soon.

Also, if you no longer are interested in being a Lay Worship Leader please notify Jan Franke ASAP.

**HELP YOUR CHURCH  
BY VOLUNTEERING  
FOR 2016**

**WORSHIP COORDINA-  
TORS  
GREETERS  
USHERS  
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS  
CHOIR  
WORSHIP DESIGN  
TEAM  
SUBSTITUTE SECRE-**

## **WORSHIP CONNECTIONS**

### **Worship Coordinator**

**Nov 1:** Andrea McDonald  
**Nov 8:** Peggy Gregory  
**Nov 15:** Cat Barclay  
**Nov 22:** Chris Payne  
**Nov 29:** Andrea McDonald

### **Lay Worship Leaders**

**Nov 1:** Jan Franke  
**Nov 8:** Peggy Gregory  
**Nov 15:** Sue Hensel  
**Nov 22:** Bob Junell  
**Nov 29:** Leon McDonald

### **Greeters**

**Nov 1:** Bonnie Peters  
**Nov 8:** Cat Barclay  
**Nov 15:**  
**Nov 22:** Lily & Diana Boone  
**Nov 29:** Chris Payne

### **Ushers**

**Nov 1:** Mary Durham, Mike Bertaina  
**Nov 8:** Mary Durham, Mike Bertaina  
**Nov 15:** Mary Durham, Mike Bertaina  
**Nov 22:** Mary Durham, Mike Bertaina,  
David Beeman  
**Nov 29:** Mary Durham, Mike Bertaina

### **Counting Team**

**Nov 1:** Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell  
**Nov 8:** Sue Hensel, Andrea McDonald  
**Nov 15:** Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker  
**Nov 22:** David Beeman, Jim Gregory  
**Nov 29:**

### **Morning Worship Coffee Hour**

**Nov 1:** Bob & Pollie Geissler  
**Nov 8:** Andrea & Larry McDonald  
**Nov 15:**  
**Nov 22:** Vicki & David Beeman  
**Nov 29:**

## **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, Nov. 12 at 5:00 pm

### **APF GRANTS**

Ministry Support Team will be considering Available Program Fund grant requests at its next meeting on November 12.

## **Longest Night Service**

Monday,  
December 21  
7:00 pm



On the longest night we invite you to experience a quiet, meditative worship service that makes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ.

This service is especially for those who might be grieving during this season.



The program for our September General meeting was Pastor Cynthia telling about a trip she took to Africa. There is a possibility she may do a Part 2, after she has a chance to prepare a slide show.

At our October meeting, we had two speakers telling about the ministry of Hannah's House.

**Annual Bazaar** – will be Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. We will have Crafts, Baked Goods, and White Elephant sales in Mary Lane Hall. If you can donate something for the Crafts sales, that would be great. For any questions about that area, see Carole Hester.

We can never have too many crafts or baked goods. We will also appreciate donations of cakes for the dessert table at lunch, please let Vicki know if you can furnish a cake.

The lunch will be in Founder's Hall from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. Sue Hensel will have tickets for the lunch (\$10), you can also get them from the church office.

We will be setting up Founder's Hall and Mary Lane Hall, plus decorating the tables for lunch on Thursday, the 12<sup>th</sup>, starting at 10:00 am.

Due to the Bazaar in November, that will take place of a General meeting that month.

Because of it being a full month, the ladies decided to not have a General meeting in December. Anyone interested is invited to attend our Board meetings, the November one will be Thursday, the 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm, in Mary Lane Hall. The December Board meeting will be Thursday, the 3<sup>rd</sup>. This one will also be a "post-Bazaar" meeting, and lunch. We will start at 1:00 pm, at Jeb's Blueberry Hill in Hanford. If you want to attend the December Board meeting, please let Candy know as she is giving the restaurant a head count.

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At our October Board meeting, we decided to try something different for 2016. We will alternate Board meetings and General meetings. The Board meetings will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 1:00 pm and the General meeting will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, following church, starting about 12 noon. That means for the beginning of 2016, the first Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. The first General meeting will be Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

We will try having the Spring Luncheon in April, instead of the Saturday before Mother's Day.

**UMW Sunday will be November 22.** Church Service leaders and volunteers will be all women and girls.

Vicki Beeman

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**UNITED METHODIST** Dinner/Program for the United Methodist Men  
 (UMM) will be on Monday, November 9, at  
6:30pm.  
Contact David Beeman to reserve.

## United Methodist Men holiday project: Volunteer bell ringers!

By ringing the bell at one of their red kettles, we save the Salvation Army paying somebody to do it. This year the UMM has volunteered for 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM on Monday the 14th of December outside the Hanford Post Office. We have one hour shifts open for men AND women volunteers. It's even more fun if two people volunteer to take one shift together.

You can volunteer by calling David Beeman 584-2911 or e-mail [dpbeeman@kings.k12.ca.us](mailto:dpbeeman@kings.k12.ca.us)

## Angel Tree



This is another opportunity to serve our community. Angel Tree is a wonderful way to express Christ's love. It warms the heart to know that you helped members of our community; all our kids are from Kings County this year. All the angels will be on the tree by Nov 1, 2015 in the coffee hour room.

### **Here is the background of the program:**

Over the summer, Angel tree applications are provided to the prison Chaplains. Restrictions do apply. The Chaplains pass these out to prisoners who have children. The Chaplains then send the completed applications to Angel Tree. The applications are scanned and entered into the computer. The applications are then assigned to churches, organizations etc. Visit [www.angeltree.org](http://www.angeltree.org) for more information

### **Our roles,**

Each child's name will be on the Christmas tree twice, one will be a toy and the other clothes, child's name, and age, type of gifts the child wants, and a personal note from the parent in prison. When you pick the angel you want. Either I or a helper needs to write the child's name and code number also with your name and number. All presents are due back by Dec 13, 2015 which is a Sunday.

**Gifts:** cost between \$15.00-\$20.00 only, you can wrap, or one of the elves will wrap. If you wish an elf can buy the gift for you, just give the money you want spent and the elf will do the rest.

This year I thought we would also do a gift basket or box for the families involved, Pastor Cynthia liked the idea. If you would like to help with this, I will have a basket or box by the Christmas tree for you to put any non perishable item or items in.

### **Volunteer help needed:**

- ❖ Wrap/buy gifts
- ❖ need to go in groups of two to deliver gifts
- ❖ Set up and tear down Christmas decorations etc
- ❖ Whatever else comes up that I can't think of right now

Person to contact: **Andrea McDonald**

(559) 360-4477 cell (559) 530-3977 home

[andreamcd1202@yahoo.com](mailto:andreamcd1202@yahoo.com)





## UMW reading program

I want to give everywoman in the congregation an opportunity to read a book or more in the UMW reading program.

Books are organized into **5 categories**:

**Education for Mission**- I read "Good God Lousy World and Me" this book covered doubts, although this person grew up a Christian, still doubts abounded. I would recommend this to anyone.

**Nurturing for Community**- I read "The end of your life book club" this was a "I cannot put down this book". This book was about a women and son that read books then do a book club with just the two of them. Sometimes they read the same book, sometimes not. The books that they read took both through a journey. They really listened to the other, and learned from each other, it made me laugh and cry. I discovered lots about myself by reading this book. Did you even have an "I get it "moment"? This was a great book, perfect to read at any age

**Social Action**-I read "Kind of Kin " I did not think I would like this. I do not like controversy. But I surprised myself. I know the do not judge a book by it cover theory but this book was amazing. It takes lots of twist and turns but wow, it was great.

**Spiritual Growth**-I read "The Well Women" I was hooked from the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter, the journey that these women went on was great. I want to go on a journey like they did. They learned about themselves and each other as a group. This was a terrific book.

**Leadership Development**- I read "Tough Cookies" if you have ever been a girl scout like I was from brownies in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to senior girl scouts in High School, then you will love this book. It talked about who started scouting and why, it was not who I grew up to believe it was. This was a wonderful and insightful book.

Please after you find the book in Millie Kraft Lounge from the reading program that you want to read please fill out the log located on the shelf. This way I can keep track of who has what. After reading the book, if you want to fill out the UMW reading program Brochure, I have those. This paperwork goes to UMW District.

Reading Program Books for Children-there are lots of books on this UMW website and at the local library

**E-books**-available on the UMW site, local library, Amazon, etc

Braille and Audio Books-available on UMW website, I have also found these at the local library (I had to reserve mine), and also on [www.audible.com](http://www.audible.com),

▶ **Find Braille and audio books at [www.loc.gov/nls](http://www.loc.gov/nls)**

Large Print Books are also available

The books can also be purchased online at [www.umwmissionresources.org](http://www.umwmissionresources.org) or call 800-305-9857 The reading program catalogs and brochures are free.

Andrea McDonald



## 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 Cynthia if you are interested in serving or have further ideas.



There is a collection basket in the narthex for your offering of canned food for the Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen

## Prepare yourself to CHANGE THE WORLD

Kings County Human Services are asking all of Kings County's Faith Based organizations to invite members of congregations to consider entering into partnership with their agency by becoming a Resource Family or supporting Resource Families in Kings County. For more information see the flyer about this Faith In Motion program on the hallway bulletin board.



Want to use your handyperson skills around the church?

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

Please see Jim Gregory to help.

## 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.

## 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. It's a great advertisement for our church.



\$5.00 each available 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 **Thursday, Nov 19th, from 3-8 pm.**

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



## Mission Service Opportunity

Friday, Nov 20th,  
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!



Would you like to see your deceased loved one honored with a memorial stone in the Prayer Garden?

See Bob Peden for details.

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

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

## Request A Favorite Hymn

You can now put in your request for that hymn on our church website. Simply go to our site at

<http://fumchanford.org> Locate the "Contact us" tab on the top right of the page. Fill out the short form and name of your favorite hymn. We'll include it in our service as soon as we can. While you are on the site do some exploring!

First United Methodist Church  
505 North Redington Street  
Hanford, CA 93230

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 13

**Make Your Plans  
and Mark your Calendars for  
*Christmas Eve, December 24***

**CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER - 6:00 pm**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – 7:30 p.m.**

**Here is what we are asking of church members:**

- **Spread the word** in the community. This is open to all.
- Anyone feeling festive is invited to **decorate** Founders Hall
- **Adopt a table to decorate.** We have red table cloths and flatware for the round tables and those who like to decorate would be invited to decorate and show off their favorite Christmas centerpiece and even their dishes if desired.
- **Help clean up after dinner.**
- **Set up and Help Light the luminary bags** before dinner