

# The Methodist Messenger

In the Spirit of John Wesley

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



**"O give thanks to the  
Lord, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love  
endures forever..."**

*Psalm 107:1*

November 2017

First United Methodist Church  
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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

Somehow we can discuss the stewardship of time and talents all year long with no repercussions. But whenever we start talking in church about the annual financial stewardship campaign, there are those who get to feeling nervous about their willingness and ability to give – "Well I'm not sure that I can give and still take care of family, still meet the budget, and meet my own needs." What it boils down to is that every one of us comes to a place where we ask a very simple question: Can I really trust God? Can I trust God with my life? Can I trust God with my future? With my family? With my job? With my health? Can I trust God with my possessions, with my financial wellbeing? Here is a little story that illustrates the point:

*At first I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things that I did wrong so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there sort of like a president. I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I really didn't know Him.*

*But later on, when I met Christ, it seemed as though life were rather like a bike ride, but it was a tandem bike. And Christ was in the back helping me pedal. I don't know just when it was that He suggested that we change places, but life has never been the same since.*

*When I had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring, but it was predictable. It was the shortest, and seemingly safest, distance between two points. But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long cuts. Up mountains and through rocky places at break-neck speeds. It was all that I could do to hang on. And even though it sometimes looked like madness, He said, 'Pedal.' I worried and was anxious, and I asked, 'Where are you taking me?' He laughed and didn't answer. And that's when I learned that I was going to have to trust Him.*

*I forgot my boring life and entered into every adventure. And when I'd say, 'I'm scared,' He'd lean back and just touch my hand. He took me to people with gifts that I needed. Gifts of material comfort and gifts of healing, acceptance, and joy. He gave me gifts to take on my journey and off we went again. And he would say, 'Give the gifts away!. They're extra baggage, too much weight.' So I did, and I found that in giving, I received even more. I found that in trusting, he provided everything I needed, and was I blessed in every way. The journey continued and our burden was light.*

*I did not trust Him at first to take control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it, but He knows bike secrets. He knows how to make those sharp corners and how to jump clear off high rocks and do things I could've never done if I were in control. And I am learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places. I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful Companion, Jesus Christ. And when start to worry about what might be coming up around the next bend, He smiles and, says, 'Just pedal.' I wouldn't trade this journey for anything else in the world."*

Stewardship is an issue of the heart. Some people say, "Dedicate the heart and the money will follow;" but our Lord put it the other way around. 'Where your treasure is, there will your heart will be also.' Practicing good stewardship and generous giving enables us to grow. We find our spiritual gifts. It increases our faith. We become spiritually sensitive. We become fruitful for God's kingdom. We receive a blessing from God. We are a blessing to others. We become increasingly thankful. We make a lasting contribution.

Stewardship is not about knocking heads, breaking arms or laying on guilt trips. It is not about devising schemes for wringing dollars out of pockets. It is not about planting a huge thermometer by the pulpit and making a weekly sideshow of our progress. It is not about making a trade-off between financial wellbeing and financial generosity. Stewardship is about the choice you make to journey with Jesus. Stewardship is about making that personal decision to trust - to test God out - that in your giving and in your trusting, our lives and the lives you touch will overflow with joy; that everything you need will be provided in abundance; and that you will be blessed beyond your wildest imagining.

Most importantly, stewardship is about giving thanks to God for the magnificent journey.

Blessings,

Pastor Cynthia Stateman

## **Notes from Ministerial Support Team Meeting (MST) October**

The MST reviewed the 14 page report prepared by the MST Homeless study group. The report was intended to give the MST a more comprehensive look at the data that is available; this information is intended to assist the committee as they deliberate the issues facing the church and the community.

A few Homeless summary implications:

The problems faced cannot be solved by any one person or institution; a wide participation of the community is needed to solve the issues raised

The church needs to be an integral part of the process; the teaching of Christ and the Holy Spirit need to be a part of this.

The UMCH is doing more than one might think at first-Members of the church are active in the Laundry of Love Program, volunteer at Salvation Army, distribute food from food bank, Kings Gospel Mission Recycling. Our church, as well, makes our facilities available to self-help groups such as AA and NA.

The complete report **Homelessness in Kings County-Issues faced by the UMCH** may be requested from the church office.

Doug True

## **Roof Loan Repayment Final Report October 2017**

To the Congregation:

The three year foot a Month campaign is officially over. We came within \$1,725 of raising the funds to pay off the loan to replace the roof on our sanctuary, a great accomplishment for our congregation. I have a donor who has agreed to provide this amount to complete the repayment to our endowment fund. How fortunate we are to have those endowment funds available for such a necessity.

I wish to again thank everyone who participated in this campaign for their faithful support. I also want to thank David Beeman and Roy Randles for their assistance and especially Sue Hensel for her hours of accounting of all of the contributions.

**WE DID IT!!**

Bob Junell



### The incoming officers for UMW 2018 are:

**Cat Barclay**-President  
**Delfa Randels**-Spiritual Growth  
**Vicki Beeman**-Secretary/Treasurer  
**Andrea McDonald**-reading program

All women who attend the FUMC (First United Methodist Church Hanford) are members of UMW (United Methodist Women) at our church. Please come and join us. Look on the Bulletin board for upcoming events for next year. We welcome any thoughts or ideas on programming.

I hope that everyone is making crafts or working on making treats for Dec 9, 2017 Christmas Bazaar. All items will need to have prices on them. Tickets will be \$10.00 (soup, sandwiches, drink and dessert) John Meadows and Jim Shoemaker will be making soup and sandwiches, this is a UMW fundraiser to raise funds to help with: Mission giving, various local charities, etc. For a list of charities please ask one for the UMW officers. I will put a list on the board.

Andrea McDonald, 559-360-4477 cell



At our October meeting of the UMM, we enjoyed a delicious enchilada meal organized by Janice Alves. She took care of everything, including beverages, beans, rice and dessert, with help from Carole Hester, Cat Barclay and John Meadows. Thank you!

The other big thank you goes to Rose Shapley, who hosted our guest speaker overnight so Maggie Lohmeyer wouldn't have to turn around and go back to San Francisco after dinner.

Maggie told us how the Jubilee Initiative works. I'll get to the mechanics, which she covered well, but I remember the stories better.

- In one town where a church had this project, a lady needed a loan. She didn't have a job, so not a good risk of re-paying the loan, right? But she needed a

permanent address in that town to get the job. She had a car and enough money for the security deposit, but lacked \$800 for the first months rent. She got the loan through that church, got the job, and paid back the loan. You can't get that at a bank.

In another town another woman wrecked her car in an accident, and needed a car for work. She found a used car for \$4,000, but only had \$3,000. She got a loan, got the car and kept her job.

It is difficult to get small, risky loans like that at a bank. People in these situations often must resort to "Payday Loan" agencies. Besides paying 25% on the one-month loan, we learned it gets worse. If you can't make payments, the penalties are very high. So you go in to talk about it, and they solve your problem by offering you another loan to pay back your previous loan, with new fees and the same penalties and rates. People attending our dinner meeting told stories of being caught in this loan cycle, and how little hope there is of getting out.

Maggie told us how this Jubilee project was an initiative of Pastor and District Superintendent Schuyler Rhodes after he visited a country where the church was offering it. She says that we are in the third year of having the project in California.

Our November meeting — on Monday the 13th — has things to decide, so please don't miss this meeting. Should UMM volunteer a day to ring the bell for Salvation Army this Christmas season? Or two days? What are our plans to make our December meeting special?

And our speaker that evening will be Debbie Grice from the Kings County Health Department. She will address the big picture on why we seem to suddenly have so many homeless people, even on a national scale, and resources and plans in development right here in Kings County that can help reduce the number of people living on the streets.

To participate in this event, I will need to hear from you. It works best if you call my cell phone and tell me, or leave a message, that you'd like to be in the dinner count. Dinner will be served at 6:30 in Mary Lane Hall at church.

-  
David Beeman  
cell: 584-7510 talk only, no text

## CORCORAN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*INVITES YOU TO JOIN IN A CELEBRATION OF  
THE STORIES THAT MAKE US WHO WE ARE*



INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER

## ERIN HAWKINS

*THE POWER OF OUR STORY*

*Erin Hawkins is the General Secretary for the General Commission of Race and Religion. Erin builds on the solid history of GCORR by helping to make The United Methodist Church relevant to the times in which we are now living. The United Methodist Church and the world are more globally focused, more multicultural, and more multi-textured and complex than at any point in our history. GCORR must be about creating a culture at all levels of the church that welcomes that complexity and is focused on engaging more people, more young people and diverse people.*

**Saturday, November 18, 2017**  
**9:00 am-3:00 pm at**

**Corcoran First United  
Methodist Church  
1101 Letts Ave.  
Corcoran, CA 93212**



EVERYONE HAS A  
STORY...

EVERYONE'S STORY  
MATTERS

UNLEASHING YOUR  
VOICE  
WORKSHOP

YOU MUST HEAR THIS  
INTERNATIONALLY  
RENOWNED SPEAKER!

LUNCH INCLUDED

Please contact Lay  
Minister Judith Briseno  
for more information and  
to register

**559-909-8076**

## **WORSHIP CONNECTIONS**

### Worship Coordinator

**November 5:** Cat Barclay  
**November 12** Peggy Gregory  
**November 19** Mary Jane Gozun  
**November 26** Chris Payne

### Lay Worship Leaders

**November 5:** David Beeman  
**November 12** Vicki Beeman  
**November 19** Patty Ferrell  
**November 26** Cat Barclay

### Ushers

**November 5:** Verne Adams, Mike Bertaina  
**November 12** Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina  
**November 19** Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina  
**November 26** David Beeman, Jim Gregory

### Counting Team

**November 5:** Sue Hensel, John Meadows  
**November 12** Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell  
**November 19** Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker  
**November 26** David Beeman, Jim Gregory

### Coffee Hour

**November 5:** Geisslers  
**November 12** Chris Payne  
**November 19** Boone  
**November 26** McDonalds

### Greeters

**November 5:** Beeman  
**November 12**  
**November 19**  
**November 26**

### Children's Church

**November 5:** Randle  
**November 12** David Beeman  
**November 19** Peggy Gregory  
**November 26** Shoemaker



### **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.

### Trustee Report

By Jim Gregory

It was approved at the October MST meeting to go ahead with the proposal from Champi Fence to install two new seven foot tall metal fences and lockable metal gates at the two entrances to the courtyard, to be installed at or near the sites of the two existing metal fences and gates, which were installed by the former Co-Op Preschool, and designed, at the time, to keep 3 and 4 year old youth in the courtyard. The new gates will have a panic bar on the inside, so persons can always exit without a key.

**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, Jim Taylor, and Jan Junell.

**Other Prayer Requests**

- We will be praying for the victims, the injured and for the families and loved ones who have been so dramatically impacted by the Las Vegas Massacre,
- Praying for all those affected by the fires in the Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz areas
- Prayers for Andrea McDonald and her daughters,
- For Joseph Castanon and family
- Mary Durham's family, her niece June Myer and her recent passing, her nephew Charles Gifford in Texas, having heart issues, her daughter-in-law, Marie-Ange, her mother, Nina Fonia in France, enduring radiation and chemo for cancer, her friend, Casey Lehtinen in Texas, enduring extensive bone cancer treatment
- 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
- Ministry Support Team & Trustees
- Thanksgiving for all the church volunteers who give so graciously of their time and talents. We are the church!

United Methodist Women 69th annual

## **Bazaar, Fall Luncheon & Bake Sale**



**Saturday, December 9, 2017**  
**11:00 am to 1:30 pm**

Founders Hall  
First United  
Methodist Church  
Redington at Center Street

Meal Tickets: \$10.00

Soup, Sandwiches and Desert  
Children age 5 and under are free  
Treat yourself to some  
shopping!

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

Please call 559-584-5926 or 559-707-7118 for information on where to  
purchase tickets



## 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 October 28th in Mary Lane Hall.* 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 sends 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 Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017.* If you need an extension, please let John Meadows know.

**Gifts:** Cost is 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 donation you want spent, and the elf will do the rest.

### **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 360-4477 (cell) [andreamcd1202@yahoo.com](mailto:andreamcd1202@yahoo.com) or John Meadows 559-589-4928



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



**CHRISTMAS TEA AT HANNAH'S HOUSE**

*Our Methodist Woman's Annual Christmas Tea at Hannah's House will be Friday, December 1, 2017 at 1:00 P.M. Please RSVP to Jetta Lenox at 559-584-5926. If you plan on attending, if you would like to bring a dish to share, please let Jetta know what you will be bringing.*

**December 3th, Sunday at 3:00 pm  
Annual Church Charge Conference  
at Hanford First UMC**

with  
District Superintendent Debra Brady  
and the  
Hanford Area Circuit

Food & Fellowship to Follow

We will be voting on Church leadership for 2018 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!

### 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*

Wednesday, November 1

3:30 pm



**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

Peden's Family Cookbook  
For Sale \$20

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



The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is already on the ground in response to Hurricane Harvey. And Hurricane Irma

Donations can be made to this church and we will send them on the UMCOR. Write "HURRICANE" on memo line.

Flood Buckets for cleaning up are \$65, but all donations are welcome and will be added to the clean up and rebuilding efforts.

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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, November 16**  
**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, November 17, 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!*