

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 2018

First United Methodist Church
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Hanford, CA 93230

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

Pastor: Pablo Róvere

Leadership Institute 2018...

In the last week of September, we were privileged to attend a leadership conference for United Methodists hosted by the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection (COR) in Leawood, Kansas. This huge church is led by the Reverend Adam Hamilton, a well-known author, whose works we have studied and will study in our church. As Advent begins we will be having a 4-week study on his book, The Journey. The vision of COR is

to be used by God to change lives, strengthen churches, and transform the world.

One of the ways COR lives its vision is to host the Leadership Institute every year to help other churches, whether they be large and vibrant or small and struggling.

We attended several workshops, including *Small Churches - Big Impact*, *Discipleship Pathways*, *Revitalizing a Struggling Church*, *Beyond the Five Practices*, *Creating a Culture of Radical Hospitality*, *Reaching and Engaging Millennials & Generation Z*, and *Using Data to Increase Giving and Measure Effectiveness*. We also heard several speakers in the general sessions, including Adam Hamilton on *Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple*, Bishop Robert Schnase on *Turning Our Practices Inside Out*. There were other men and women who spoke on *First Impressions*, and *Fostering Relationships Between Faith Groups*.

The overwhelming message we both received was that if we do not change how we do church, we cannot expect to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world, which is the mission of the United Methodist Church. One speaker put it clearly – Keep the Main Thing, the Main Thing and everything else can be changed to meet a changing world. The main thing he was talking about is that Jesus is the Master; God so loved the world that He gave His Son; and the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 – *Go and make disciples of all nations*. The changes he was talking about are our mindset, our methodology and our ministries.

Over and over again we heard that we cannot expect people to come to our churches unless we are visible in action in the community so that they can see and hear us. People need a way to connect with us besides coming on Sunday morning. They need to see how they can serve, how they can receive help or how their questions can be addressed. They need to know that they are welcome, regardless of their life situation or any past experiences they may have had with a church, and that God loves them now and forever.

We were told again and again to get out beyond our walls; to meet people where and how they are and offer them a way to connect. This may mean holding events and ministries in the community, hosting more groups in our facility; improving our online presence and many more things we just haven't thought of yet.

We were challenged and uplifted. We were encouraged to use our "Special Sauce" here at FUMC Hanford – our unique strengths and gifts, our unique characteristics, circumstances, location and people to close the gap between the world as it is and the way God wants it to be. We were encouraged to be outward focused, thought-provoking and the builders of bridges.

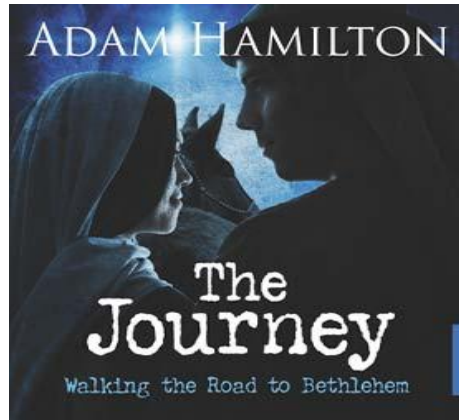
On a final note, one of the most impactful things we encountered at COR was their stated purpose:

to build a Christian community where non-religious and nominally religious people are becoming deeply committed Christians.

What would it look like here in Hanford if we saw ourselves as a bridge to discipleship? Can we figure out how to be a church where those who doubt can find answers, acceptance, inspiration and love? We have work to do, but we know that God has been faithful to us and wants us to carry His message to this corner of the Kingdom.

Jim and Peggy Gregory

Advent Bible Study



A Season of Reflection inviting us to see our daily lives through the lens of Jesus' birth.

*A four week bible study.
Beginning Wednesday, November 28th
@ 6:00 p.m.
Including a Soup Supper
(Please, sign up)*

*At First United Methodist Church of Hanford
505 N. Redington Street Hanford, CA*

Contribute to the Advent Booklet

Each of us are invited to contribute a 250-word Advent devotional for a booklet to be distributed for daily use during Advent. Pick a scripture and tell a story or a reflection that is meaningful to you about advent or a time of waiting. Email your contribution to Pastor Pablo (pastorpablo@fumchanford.org) by **November 18, 2018**.

United Methodist Women 70th annual

Bazaar, Fall Luncheon & Bake Sale

**Saturday, December 1, 2018
11:00 am to 1:30 pm**

Founders Hall
First United
Methodist Church
Redington at Center Street

Meal Tickets: \$10.00

Soup, Sandwiches and Dessert
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 Andrea (559-360-4477) or Cat (559-707-7118) for information on
where to purchase tickets



WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

Worship Coordinator

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

Lay Worship Leaders

November 4 : Rebecca Eversall
November 11: Sue Hensel
November 18: Carol Collar
November 25: David Beeman

Ushers

November 4 : Jim Gregory, Mike Bertaina
November 11: David Beeman, Mike Bertaina
November 18: Jim Gregory, Mike Bertaina
November 25: David Beeman, Jim Gregory

Counting Team

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

Coffee Hour

November 4 : Peggy Gregory
November 11: Patty Ferrell
November 18: Cat Barclay
November 25: Diana Boone

Greeters

November 4 : Chris Payne
November 11: Candy Bertaina
November 18: Butterways
November 25: Patty Ferrell

9 tips on writing a devotional

1. Do all your writing in one notebook.

Much easier to find than loose papers
Much handier to carry and "operate."
Be sure it has lined pages.

2. Near the front of the notebook reserve a whole page for possible topics.

Just ideas to write about
You can go back later and see what's there
You can go back later and add new ideas

3. Next pick a topic that grabs you.

Start writing words about it. Go as fast you legibly can.
Doesn't have to be sentences.
Then go to the very next page and put your words together

4. Now that you have something written down, READ other authors.
Include some who are writing short devotionals, such as The Upper Room.
Notice how authors connect a personal story, scripture verse and an application.

Confer with a fellow writer about what you noticed they did in the piece you read.
Add some ideas in your notebook.

5. Find a comfortable place to write.

6. When you are ready to start a complete piece, just start writing.
Keep writing until you get all your ideas down.
The next day go back and read it.
Rewrite it to put your ideas or story in a better order.
Keep all this IN your note book.

7. Now pick a key thought in your piece, and try - on a new page - rewriting the whole thing with that key thought as your beginning.
Compare the pieces.
Does one grab the reader more?
Is one shorter, but easier to understand?

8. Do #7 again, starting with a different beginning, but using something you already wrote.

9. Pray. This is the best part



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

I hope that this article finds everyone well. I want to thank everyone that is praying for my ongoing recovery. We will be going in-active for our local UMW beginning the end of December 2018. Our UMW has been slowly going down in numbers and no one wants to hold an office. At the last UMW General meeting we had a motion and second for our unit to go inactive until there is interest in starting the unit back up. Our next board meeting is November 1, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. The next General meeting is November 18th after coffee hour.

The Christmas Bazaar will be held Dec 1, 2018 from 11:00-1:30am. Ticket will be \$10.00 children 5 and under free. The menu will be soups, sandwich, beverage and dessert. Please bring your home made crafts and treats to eat, which will be for sale in Mary Lane Hall. John Meadows will be cooking, and I hear that the men will be cleaning up. We will be setting up the craft room and Founders hall the day before (Friday November 30th starting at 10 a.m.). Please come and join us. You can come visit the craft room in Mary Lane Hall then eat in Founders room or eat then shop. If you want to help we would welcome that also. Vicky Beeman will be making the tickets and have them ready to sell in November.

The Angel Tree is under way. I set out the angels on the Christmas Tree in Mary Lane hall. John Meadows did the calling and David Beeman will oversee the Angel Tree party. I want to thank those that are and will be participating. I appreciate every one of you. It is because of you that Angel Tree is a success. There are more angels that I will be putting on the tree this Sunday and for a few Sundays after, so you still have a chance of getting one or more angels. For those that don't like shopping for gifts, I or someone else will do it for you.

Andrea McDonald (559) 360-4477 andreamcd1202@yahoo..com



United Methodist Men - working and helping

For some of us the Christmas season is not complete without at least an hour of ringing the bell at a red kettle for the Salvation Army.

The UMM has volunteered **Monday, December 10th**, to ring the bell at the Hanford **Post Office**. Here is your chance to join in that good feeling of making a difference.

You may choose one or two hours. They don't have to be consecutive. You may choose another volunteer to be there with you.

We will start at 8:30 a.m. and change hourly until the kettle gets picked up at 4:30 p.m.

If you have questions, just ask me.

The UMM also donated \$1,500 to the ministry of Habitat for Humanity to build a low-cost home for a family here in Hanford.

We talked about organizing help for certain people the Lord has brought across our path. I don't want the church office to have no one to call upon when a need for help arises. Usually such needs require someone to coordinate and follow-up on getting this help. I know you want us to share Christ's love with everybody, and I also know you want our Pastor and church secretary to keep the deadlines that we have in daily life. We have many resources to do this. But we need some folks who can take turns to come and connect the resources to the needy person when they ask.

The UMM will help out at the UMW Bazaar that is now on December 1st. This may be a very special Bazaar. If you haven't already volunteered, please contact me, just not by text message.

Our next UMM dinner meeting will be November 12th at 6:30 p.m. with a turkey dinner prepared by the Gregorys, complete with holiday pies!

- David Beeman

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 and Other Prayer Requests:

Prayers for The victims of the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting and other 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: For Dianna Newton and the Castanon family for their wellbeing; for the health, healing, comfort and well-being for Casey Howard (cancer) ,Verne Adams, Lindora Perez and her family, Andrea McDonald as her chronic pain continues, Jessica Maris' mother, Bob & Jan Junell, Marilyn Peden, Jennifer Wagner, Sherrie, Dorothy Jensen, Bob Geissler's brother-in-law, Russell, passed away, prayers for Bob's sister Aida and family, Bonnie Peters, Frank & Bonnie Butterway's son Richard enduring health problems, Mary Delgado for patience while healing from hip surgery so she doesn't re-break it, the family of Debbie Harmon, mother of Taylor Harmon, with her recent passing on October 11th; and all of their families & loved ones.

The Lord's Housekeeper

You may have noticed in the prayer requests that Mary Delgado is laid up with a pretty serious broken hip. The break is in a fragile location; it would now be very easy to re-break. Her doctor wants her to keep weight off it until it fully heals. That is expected to take months.

While she is out, we have her husband, "Pan" (that's what Mary calls him), filling in. MST, in its role as the SPRC, is working on the employment details.

In the meantime, if you see things that need doing, whether repairs or cleaning, please leave notes. We mentioned on Sunday morning last month to put your note in the box marked for Trustees (another role of MST) in the little hall by the church office.

Right now Mary is at Kings Nursing and Rehab on Leslie Lane and happy to have visitors.

- David Beeman,
interim chair of MST

Shower Ministry/Canned Food Drive

Two Plastic Baskets

There are two white baskets in the church narthex.

One is there to collect soap, toothbrushes and toiletries for the shower ministry at the Pentecostal Church of God at the corner of Green and 11th Streets. Dental floss, toothpaste and small (like hotel rooms have) bottles of shampoo are especially welcome.

The other basket is there to collect non-perishable food items for the ministry at the Soup Kitchen at the Episcopal Church on Douty Street. Please check the dates on these non-perishables, as we can't share expired items.

We participate in these established ministries rather than duplicate them, and they do depend on us. If you haven't had the opportunity to donate in a while, well, the baskets are still there.

God bless you.



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 15, 2018
from 3-8 p.m.

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



Mission Service Opportunity

Friday, November 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!*



Please consider this your official notice of the Charge Conferences
November 11th & December 9

The second one is the one I hope you have already heard about. It will be after church on Sunday, December 9, 2018.

At *that* charge conference we will celebrate the past year and elect key people to help lead us in the year to come. Our District Superintendent Rev. Debra Brady will be here to lead us in that conference.

We are holding it at that day and time because your presence is needed as part of this body to validate what we are doing. We need your review and questions.

The first charge conference needs you, too. It has a much briefer agenda: one item.

I will try to explain it to you. It has to do with the tax reform law passed by Congress last year that took effect for our 2018 taxes. One part affected the taxability of an employer paying the moving expenses of an employee. That is now considered taxable pay. The employer (the church) has to report those moving expenses as having been paid to the employee (the pastor) as taxable income.

I must explain that Pastor Pablo is not an employee of the local church. The US tax code, however, labels pastors 'statutory employees' when they are appointed as the United Methodist Church does.

So our one agenda item is to amend our official pay agreement with Pastor Pablo and add the legally required part of his moving expenses.

That's it.

(And in case you are wondering, at the second charge conference, since we do not expect him to move again in 2019, we have to take that pay category right back out.)

We also need your vote to validate that compensation package. Please plan to *stay after church* for a few minutes on Sunday, November 11th for a short, but very official and legally necessary charge conference.

- David Beeman
interim chair of the MST

Budget Update As of September 30

General Fund Income	\$ 94,766
General Fund Expenses	\$122,067
Deficit	\$ 27,301

Monthly Amount Needed for General Fund Budget	\$13,684
Average Monthly Income to Date	\$10,530

Please help us close the gap between income and expenses. Feel free to ask questions and offer suggestions to the Ministry Support Team.



POINSETTIAS

Purchase a Poinsettia

\$12.00 per plant—Each poinsettia is red, grown in a 6-inch pot with decorative foil wrapping. Proceeds from the poinsettia sales will help fund Laundry Love.

The plants will be decorating the sanctuary Sunday, December 9th. You may leave your plant there or take it home at any time. Order by December 1st.



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.

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:

November 7 @ 3:30 p.m.

Buildings and Grounds Report

45 hard plastic orange stackable cafeteria style chairs were moved from Laton UMC and donated to the Boy Scouts, to be used in the upstairs rooms.

A quote for the pastor's office door has been requested from CBS Doors in Armona for a replacement door, to include a clear tempered glass insert.

The wooden play gym in the playground has been removed. The play equipment was originally donated by the Co-op Preschool.

Jim Gregory

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.

MST will be considering Available Program Grant requests at both its November and December meetings.

—○—
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
—○—

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 are on the tree 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 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 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 December 15, 2018***. If you need an extension, please let David Beeman 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.
- Volunteers to help at a party to distribute gifts **December 16, 2018**

Person to contact: Andrea McDonald 360-4477 or David Beeman 584-7510



Weekly Prayer Group

Come refresh your 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