

The Methodist Messenger

In the Spirit of John Wesley

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



October 2015

First United Methodist Church
505 N. Redington Street
Hanford, CA 93230

Office (559) 584-4075 Fax (559) 584-5438

E-mail office@fumchanford.org

Office Hours: Mon - Fri, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Pastor Cynthia Stateman

Notes For The Journey

Simplicity is not a particularly simple or easy way. Life is very complex, and the walk of simplicity is complicated and demanding, but the rewards are a hundredfold. Simplicity is not about poverty, or a renunciation of possessions, or a set of do's or don'ts. Rather, simplicity is a spiritual discipline that reorients one's life by deliberately organizing it for a purpose.

It is spiritual because simplicity deals intimately with the beliefs and views that lend shape and order to our lives. Simplicity is a discipline because we have to work at it and practice it in order to apply it in our lives. Adhering our life to a focused center reduces the fracturedness of our lives. Our priorities are aligned to the focus of our lives, and the way we live out our simplicity in terms of our time, energy, and money becomes a reflection of our inner beliefs. Each of our paths will be unique to our situations.

On the most basic level, simplicity means being honest and sincere with ourselves about our faith and what really matters most to us. Simplicity requires at least two things: being willing to be vulnerable by embracing openness to God and to life, and believing it is God's path to abundant life for us. If you think simplicity might be a path that you would benefit from traveling, you can pursue it in any number of different directions. For instance, your outward expression of simplicity can be material, relational, financial, or spiritual.

By material, I mean dealing with the physical stuff in your life. Is your home full of things that add beauty or function or that simply take up space and require energy and money to maintain them?

Relational simplicity applies to our relationships with people and time. Do we truly listen? Do the people who matter most in our lives receive the time and energy from us that properly reflects their priority to us? How do we use our time? Do we expend significant amounts of time on unnecessary matters?

Financial simplicity encompasses the way we spend our money and use credit. Are our financial investments wise? Pleasing to Christ? Helpful to others? Spiritual simplicity involves our relationship with God and our understanding of life. It includes honesty and integrity. Simplicity touches every area of our lives as we open more facets of ourselves to God and the central value that directs our lives. Pick the area that draws you the most and begin your journey there, trusting in God's grace and guidance.

Continued page 3

Often times it is helpful to use a resource to focus our devotional efforts. The book *Climbing the Sycamore Tree: A Study in Choice and Simplicity*, by Ann Hagmann. is a useful resource for the faith focus of simplicity, especially as it affects our economic choices. There are also many other good books to help guide you.

My prayer is that you might allow Christ's light to shine more brightly in your lives and lead you into a path of simplicity and abundant life.

Blessings,
Pastor Cynthia Stateman

APF GRANTS

The Undesignated Gifts Committee will be considering Available Program Fund grant requests at its next meeting on Oct 14th. The deadline for this round of grant requests will be Oct 7th. Grants will then be submitted to the Ministry Support Team at their Oct 15th meeting. Grant Forms are available from the Church Office. Ask Bob Junell if you have any questions.

**PASTOR CYNTHIA
STATEMAN**

CONTACT UPDATE

2745 Chestnut St,
Hanford, CA 93230

Phone/Text/Voicemail:
(559) 583-0362

pastorc@fumchanford.org

*Please Use This Contact
Information & Discard All
Other Phone Numbers &
Email Addresses You Have
For The Pastor

Healthy Living Group

Interested in being part of a group that encourages and supports each other on our journey towards healthier minds, hearts, souls and bodies?

***First Meeting will be Sunday, Oct 11th at 4:00 pm
in Mary Lane Hall***

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



WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

Worship Coordinator

Oct 4: Andrea McDonald
Oct 11: Peggy Gregory
Oct 18: Cat Barclay
Oct 25: Chris Payne

Lay Worship Leaders

Oct 4: Vicki Beeman
Oct 11: Leon McDonald
Oct 18: Carol Collar
Oct 25: Patty Ferrell

Greeters

Oct 4: Bob & Jan Junell
Oct 11:
Oct 18: Lily & Diana Boone
Oct 25: Sue Hensel

Ushers

Oct 4: Mary Durham, Mike Bertaina
Oct 11: Mary Durham, Mike Bertaina
Oct 18: Mary Durham, Mike Bertaina
Oct 25: Mary Durham, Mike Bertaina

Counting Team

Oct 4: Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell
Oct 11: Sue Hensel, Andrea McDonald
Oct 18: Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker
Oct 25: David Beeman, Jim Gregory

Morning Worship Coffee Hour

Oct 4: Bob & Pollie Geissler
Oct 11:
Oct 18: Cat Barclay
Oct 25: Jim & Karen Shoemaker

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

Penny Meadows (back injury), Betty Mizner, Pepper Ramsey's son Hunter (serious injuries), Kathleen Wilson (undergoing chemo), Bonnie Peters, Bonnie Peter's friend Shirley Brown has begun 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

- Patricia George, family and friends grieving the death of Millie Dodge
- Firefighters, Police Officers, and other first responders
- Diana Boone and family
- Laura & Matt Brown grieving the loss of their twins; Jim & Peggy Gregory grieving this loss as well
- 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



On Saturday, October 3rd will be the United Methodist Women (UMW) District Annual Celebration, to be held at St. Paul's UMC in Fresno.

On Saturday, October 17th will be the Conference Annual Celebration at the Merced UMC. The keynote speaker will be Bishop Warner Brown (who will be retiring next June). Registration and lunch is \$23, due Oct. 11th.

If you want to know more information about either of these events, please see Sue Hensel.

For October, the board meeting will be Thursday, the 1st at 1:30 pm. The General meeting will be on Sunday, the 18th, following the morning worship service.

Annual Bazaar – will be Friday, November 13th. We will also have our Crafts and Baked Goods sales. If you can donate something for the Crafts sales, go ahead and start now, if you haven't already. For any questions about that area, see Carole Hester. We can't have too many crafts or baked goods. We will also appreciate donations of cakes for the dessert table at lunch. Let Vicki or Sue know if you want to help with that. The hours will be from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. Sue Hensel will have tickets for the lunch (\$10). We will be setting up on Thursday, the 12th, starting at 10:00 am. Also, the setting up and decorating the tables for the Bazaar and lunch, will be Thursday, Nov. 12th, at 10:00 a.m.

Vicki Beeman



Dinner/Program for the United Methodist Men (UMM) will be on Monday, October 12 at 6:30pm.

Contact David Beeman to reserve.

United Methodist Women Mission u Report – Vicki Beeman

I was fortunate this year to be able to attend along with Sue and Patty a United Methodist Women's Mission u 2-day event in Sparks, Nevada on Friday, July 31st and Saturday, August 1st. There were three study sessions to choose from: Created for Happiness-Spiritual Growth study; Latin America-Geographical study; and The Church and People with Disabilities-Social Issue study. There were 53 or 56 in attendance.

My study group on Happiness was led by Rev. Staci Currant, as of Sept. 1st a new District Superintendent for our Conference. (She was a pastor in the Bay area). The question was asked, "What makes God happy?" We were asked to list 7 things that make us smile. We were given two 3x5 cards. On one, we were to write things that are "garbage" and the other card, things to celebrate about ourselves. Rev. Staci gave each participant a rubber band, to wear for 21 days. Every time a "garbage" thing comes up, we were to snap the rubber band (gently, but enough to be felt), and say, "God loves me." This was to focus on the positive and not the negative. In part of our Saturday classes, we were encouraged to "make the choice to rejoice", and asked – how do we share the happiness we receive? Before even arriving at the Mission u, I was to read the book, "Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God." This is a very good book.

Other Mission u events were a 3-day and a 1-day. This will take place again next year, sometime in July or August. Hope we will have more ladies attending next year.



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.



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.

Peden's Family Cookbook For Sale \$20

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



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

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!

**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.



He makes me as **surefooted** as a deer, enabling me to **stand** on **mountain heights**.

PSALM 18:33, NLT



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

See Bob Peden for details.

Reusable Grocery Bags

These sturdy bags have our church logo & name on them. They are perfect for shopping on the It's a great for our

they are your grocery trips & kinder environment. advertisement church.



\$5.00 each available from the 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 planned for **Thursday, Oct 15th, from 3-8 pm.**

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



Mission Service Opportunity

**Friday, Oct 16th,
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!