

The Methodist Messenger

In the Spirit of John Wesley

“Bringing faith into life by loving God”



October 2016

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

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Office Hours: Mon - Fri, 10:30 am – 1:30 pm

Pastor Office Hours Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11:30 am – 2:30 pm

Pastor Cynthia Stateman pastorc@fumchanford.org

Notes For The Journey

A lot has been written lately about the church and culture; most of it, however, refers to the culture around a church. Just as important, is the culture within a church. No two churches are alike, even churches of the same denomination. Differences arise out of geographic location, demographics of the community, size of the active membership, the age of the church, and most particularly, the core values of the congregation as a whole. The most important single element of any congregational culture is its value system.

Core values are those deeply-held understandings, motivations and attitudes that are held in common within the church community. Core values are what shape the culture of the church, and are what form and define the personality and character of the congregation.

Our core values are the most important factors that underlie the choices we make about the scope and direction of our ministry efforts; about how and with whom we build relationships; and about the criteria we choose to guide the strategies we employ for fulfilling the church's mission. The core values of a congregation answer the question, "Why do we do what we do around here?" They communicate to all, "This is what we stand for; This is what we prize most highly; this is what we are all about; this is who we are; and this is what we can do for you."

A church's values can be categorized based on several different criteria:

Positive vs. Negative:

Positive values propel the church toward worthwhile goals. Negative values create obstacles that must be overcome in order to make progress.

Spoken vs. Unspoken:

Each congregation has a set of core values that are understood by nearly everyone in the church, whether or not they are ever spoken aloud. However, in the absence of clearly-articulated positive core values that are explicitly understood, then negative unspoken values can quickly and easily gain the upper hand and hamper the church's effectiveness.

Aspirational vs. Operational:

Aspirational values are ones that are not fully apparent in the church's life, but may be desirable to grow into. By contrast, operational values are ones that are currently demonstrated in the congregation's words and work. Members can easily cite concrete examples that embody these values.

To effectively plan for the future, it is critically important to invest the time and energy to know, understand and articulate our shared set of core values that are positive, spoken, and operational.

What are the advantages of identifying and articulating a church's core values?

- Knowing the core values of our church helps us to discern God's purpose and vision for our congregation. God's purpose and vision for the future is best discerned when a congregation has clarity about what it values, then seeks God's guidance and blessing to build a vision based on its mission and its positive values
 - Knowing our core values helps us to direct our resources into ministries that will make the best use of them. A church that values simplicity and spontaneity, for example, probably should not implement a program that is highly-structured and tightly controlled.
- Having a clear sense of the church's core values can keep us mindful of what is good, right, and praiseworthy in our church.

You are invited and encouraged to participate in our next All Church Gathering.

Saturday – October 29 – 9am to 12:30pm – Founder's Hall

Our time together will focus on identifying the Core Values of our church. This is a critical step towards discerning God's purpose and vision for First UMC. Your voice, your insights, your experience are necessary to this endeavor!

Blessings, Pastor Cynthia Stateman

The Central Valley District Committee on Ministry presents...2nd Saturdays!!

**Restore your Spirit; Find your Public Square....
Make it Happen!**

Facilitated by Gwen Bortner and Micheal Pope

Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016: 9am-3pm @ First UMC, Porterville (344 East Morton, Porterville 93257)

Being a servant leader is confusing. Sometimes we see things that we want to impact, but just do not feel empowered to make a difference. This gathering will focus in on restoring your spirit while helping you see what is happening in the public square that needs our engagement.

Learn practical techniques on how to decide what to do, how to measure our impact, and stay focused on God's vision. Come join us as we explore new ways of becoming engaged laity!

Registration is limited, so sign up early!

You're always welcome to pay when you arrive.

Deadline for October event: Oct. 1

Choir Update

Our choir and worship music will be taking a different direction this year. Several of our choir members have had medical issues which have prevented them from continuing to sing with us. A few others have been traveling quite often or have had other reasons for being unable to be with us on a regular basis.

After a lot of praying and talking with Pastor Cynthia and the choir, we have decided to continue to have "Special Music" on Sunday mornings, with some of those Sundays actually having all, or most, of the remaining choir singing. There will be solos, duets, trios, quartets, or other group combinations. Sometimes instead of vocal music, there might be instrumental offerings, signing, dance, videos, or other ways of praising God.

I hope you will continue to enjoy our music presentations.

In Christ,

Candy

WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

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, October 13th at 5:00 pm

At this meeting MST will be reviewing grant applications from groups in the church that have requested a grant from the Available Program Fund.

Trustee Projects

With the help of Brent Noonan Sr. and Jr., we now have Wi-Fi in Mary Lane Hall. The password is: littlegad-fly055

Michael Guy, the plumber, removed and replaced the toilets in the men's and women's bathrooms in the breezeway between Fireside and Friendship Rooms. Robinsons Interior replaced the floor vinyl in the men's bathroom. The three new Gerber toilets are low volume and handicap height. These bathrooms get a lot of use because the support groups use the two classrooms daily.

The thermostat controller for the sanctuary heating and cooling was replaced with a unit that is simpler to program.

Worship Coordinator

Oct 2: Mary Jane Gozun
Oct 9: Peggy Gregory
Oct 16: Cat Barclay
Oct 23: Chris Payne
Oct 30: Mary Jane Gozun

Lay Worship Leaders

Oct 2: Vicki Beeman
Oct 9: Patty Ferrell
Oct 16: Cat Barclay
Oct 23: Sue Hensel
Oct 30: Carol Collar

Greeters

Oct 2: Diana & Lily Boone
Oct 9: Jeanette Keith/Myrtle Deaver
Oct 16: Glen & Jetta Lenox
Oct 23: Glen & Jetta Lenox
Oct 30: UMW

Ushers

Oct 2: Verne Adams, Mike Bertaina
Oct 9: Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina
Oct 16: Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina
Oct 23: David Beeman, Jim Gregory
Oct 30: David Beeman, Bob Junell

Counting Team

Oct 2: Sue Hensel, John Meadows
Oct 9: Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell
Oct 16: Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker
Oct 23: David Beeman, Jim Gregory
Oct 30: Rebeccah Eversall, David Beeman

Coffee Hour

Oct 2: Frank & Bonnie Butterway
Oct 9: Diana & Lily Boone
Oct 16:
Oct 23: Andrea McDonald
Oct 30: UMW

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

Renee True, Tamie Pick, Bonnie Peters, Mary Durham, Kathleen Wilson, Jim Taylor, Mike Pina, Jan Junell, Marilyn Peden, Andrea & Larry McDonald, Carol Collar's Mother - Francy Angstman, Gloria Brown, Alison Klein, Louise Card

Other Prayer Requests

- 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 Rev. Tom Warren & family
- For caregivers and those caring for their parents
- The 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!



Several of our ladies have been involved at Hannah's House. They have taught the women who are there how to crochet or knit. They have done book discussion groups. This all began with a Christmas tea last December, led by Jetta Lenox. She is organizing another one for Friday, December 2nd, starting at 10:30 am. If you would like to furnish food, attend, or both – contact Jetta.

Our next General Meeting will be Sunday, October 9th, shortly after the morning worship service is finished. We will hear from Alyssa Pederson, who took a trip this summer to Washington, D.C. for a youth in government program. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. There will be a light lunch, so if you are coming for lunch, please let me or the cook (Jetta Lenox) know, so we can be sure there is enough food.

On Saturday, October 15th will be the UMW Conference Annual Celebration. Registration and lunch will be \$23, if paid before the deadline of October 10th. After that date, the cost will be \$25. If you want to bring your own sack lunch, registration alone will be \$10. The speaker that day will be our own Pastor Cynthia. That will be held at the FUMC in Santa Rosa. Registration forms are now available for that.

The incoming-President for 2017 is organizing a UMW Sunday, for October 30th. This will be the morning worship service. Installation of officers will also take place that day.

Our Bazaar this year will be Thursday, November 10th, from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. Lunch will be soup, sandwiches, and dessert (prepared by Bob Peden). Tickets will be \$10, contact myself or Sue Hensel for tickets. We will also need donations that day for baked goods and crafts to sell. We will need help the day of the Bazaar with people to take money for the items being sold, and in the dining room. Please let me know if you can help. The decorating and setting up will take place on Wednesday, November 9th, starting at 10:00 am. Help will also be appreciated that day.

There will be a Board meeting on Tuesday, November 1st at 1:00 pm, that anyone wanting to can attend. We did not have anything scheduled for December, but Jetta Lenox is organizing a tea for Friday, December 9th, to be at her home. Please contact Jetta if you want to attend or help in some way.

Feel free to contact me, if you have any questions.

----- Vicki Beeman (584-2911)



Our guest speaker for the October meeting of the United Methodist Men will be Ms Tamari Giorgadze. Tamari is a foreign exchange student from the country of Georgia. Her family lives in the town of Rustavi, near Tblisi, the capital. Tamari is here through the FLEX (future leaders exchange) Program.

Here in Hanford, Tamari attends Sierra Pacific High School. She resides with Adam & Amy Medeiros. Mrs. Medeiros is the daughter of Glen & Jetta Lenox of our congregation.

Located on the eastern shores of the Black Sea, Georgia has undergone much change since the beginning of the 20th Century. Its people have survived it all and managed to hold on to their language, culture and religion. Georgia restored its independence in 1991.

Tamari will have pictures and will share a taste of her home country for our dinner! She will also talk about culture, customs, history and religion in Georgia. More than 80% of Georgians identify with or adhere to the Georgian Orthodox Church.

Even if you have never attended a meeting of the United Methodist Men before, please plan to join us to hear Tamari on Monday October 10th. We will eat at 6:30, but that will be part of the experience, so I can't really say that her presentation will start *after* dinner.

And when you have made your plan for that evening, please call (or e-mail) and let me know you are coming, so the amount of food prepared matches the people eating.

At our September dinner meeting, we experienced locales in southern Italy, including the ancient city of Matera. Carol Collar had visited and we learned from her how ancient a European city can be. We reflected on the practices passed down from generation to generation when family ties are central to this continuity.

One key example was from the two "sassos" – valleys – containing caves that have been carved into homes one atop the other through the centuries. These two sassos are at the heart of Matera, and have been occupied since prehistoric times. Only in the late 20th Century did the Italian government decide to intervene so that modern conveniences of some kind could be introduced to homes in the sassos. Modern Italy was embarrassed to say the country included cave-dwellers. And the people of Matera's sassos resisted. The ways of their ancestors still worked for them.

Great presentation, Carol!
David Beeman, UMM President
584-2911 or 584-7510
dpbeeman@yahoo.com



Canned Food Drive

For the

Episcopal Church

Soup Kitchen Report:

This is 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!

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



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, October 20th from 3-8 pm.**

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



Mission Service Opportunity

Friday,
October 21, 2016
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!

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
- more

All are welcome!

Next BOD meeting.

Wednesday, October 12

1:30 pm

NEW

OFFICE HOURS

**MONDAY THROUGH
FRIDAY, 10:30 am -
1:30 pm**

PASTOR CYNTHIA'S OFFICE HOURS

**TUESDAY, WEDNES-
DAY, and THURSDAY
from**

11:00am - 2:00pm.

5TH SUNDAY SING Sunday, October 30

3:30 pm

Lemoore United Methodist Church

**A great afternoon of song, fellow-
ship and food for the UM churches
in our area.**

First UMC All Church Gathering!

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- ◆ Knowing our core values helps us to direct our resources into ministries that will make the best use of them.
- ◆ Knowing our core values keeps us mindful of what is good, right, and praiseworthy in our church.

Come one! Come all!

Your voice, your insights, your experience are necessary to this endeavor!