

The Methodist Messenger

In the Spirit of John Wesley

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



October 2017

First United Methodist Church
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Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Pastor's Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Pastor Cynthia Stateman: pastorc@fumchanford.org

Notes For The Journey

This lovely narrative was emailed to me. It illustrates something of what it means to follow Jesus Christ, and it says it so simply and beautifully that I want to share it with all of you.

The Road of Life

At first, I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. God was out there sort of like a president. I recognized God's picture when I saw it, but wasn't anyone I could honestly say that I knew. 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 I noticed that Christ was in the back helping me pedal. I don't know just when it was that He suggested we change places, but life has not been the same since.

When I had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring, but predictable it was the shortest distance between two points. But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long cuts, up mountains, and through rocky places at breakneck speeds. It was all I could do to hang on!

Even though it looked like madness, He said, "Pedal!" I worried and was anxious and asked, "Where are you taking me?" He laughed and didn't answer, and I started to learn to trust. I forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure, and when I'd say, "I'm scared," He'd lean back and touch my hand. I gained love, peace, acceptance and joy; gifts to take on my journey, My Lord's and mine. And we were off again.

He said, "Give the gifts away. They're extra baggage, too much weight." So I did, to the people we met, and I found that in giving I received, and still our burden was light.

I did not trust Him, at first, in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it; but he knows bike secrets, knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, knows how to jump to clear high rocks, knows how to fly, and how to shorten scary passages. I am learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places, and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor Cynthia Stateman

Notes from Ministerial Support Team Meeting (MST) September

The meeting opened with a saying by T.S. Eliot.

*“For us there is only the **trying**. The rest is not our business.”*

Most of the meeting was addressing the issue of homelessness; as it has impacted our church and our community.

The Trustees reported about thirty instances of destruction that occurred on our church grounds within the past month and a half. The issues ranged from the Prayer Garden being used as a latrine to evidence of needles and drug items. Security cameras show considerable activity in the evening and early morning.

Doug presented an interim report from the ad hoc Homeless Study Group.

The Hanford United Methodist Church has been impacted by the increase of the homeless community. The Homeless Study Group was formed to assess the situation in Hanford and report back to the Ministerial Support Team (MST).

This report provides some information discovered thus far; it is the hope that it will be useful as MST considers actions needed to address the homelessness issues faced at the UMCH.

It is evident that the problem of homeless is a serious problem for all community residence. At a community meeting representative of all facets of community service -business, police, mental health services etc. met to share; sixty members of the community expressed problems they are confronted with; the frustrations ran very high in these sixty community members.

It was obvious that the problem was viewed differently between the various groups. The Hanford Police Department (HPD) had a legal perspective, the Kings County Mental Health looked at the problem through a medical lens etc. It became clear that no one group can solve the problems alone; it will require a team effort.

The implication for our Church is one in which we should take into account the community wide effort of thirty-six service groups; not merely our own specific problem. We must make certain that the wisdom of God is a part of the community solution.

The church should view itself as a working partnership with the service groups in the community and seek ways to offer support i.e. Laundry of Love.

The church should be active in assuring that the voice of “Christ” is a part of the dialogue.

There are some who view the church as an obstacle. The voice of Christ was concerned not only about the individual needs but also about the community as a whole; do we want a community for our children in which drug needles are found in their playgrounds?

Doug True, Chairman MST



Three Ways to Make a Difference

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Look at the bulletin board for updated information on Angel Tree Ministry and UMW Bazaar December 9 at 11:30am to 2pm think about what you would like to make to sell At the bazaar. Proceeds from the bazaar will go toward outreach funds. I will put a list on the bulletin board of where the funds will go too. At the November UMW general meeting, we will be doing elections for officers for the year 2018 (President, Secretary, please consider serving for your UMW). There will be a presentation about world thank offering (save your change). Cat will also discuss making kits for victims of the recent disasters.

Thank you,

Andrea McDonald
360-4477
1410 Middleton st.
Hanford

All You Wanted to know about Flood Buckets and MORE....

It costs approximately \$65 to create each bucket. They are desperately needed for the task ahead. Won't you prayerfully consider making a financial contribution toward a bucket today? The people of Texas, Louisiana and Florida can use them in the very long recovery period ahead .We are the hands and feet of GOD!

Please feel free to edit as needed! Peace, CAT

At the last UMM dinner meeting, we heard about the events and activities of our Annual Conference in June in Burlingame. Various boards and agencies either submitted or presented reports. And even more projects and ministries had displays in the lobby. Our guest speaker at the next dinner meeting of the United Methodist Men will be Maggie Lohmeyer, who might be called a missionary to California. She represents one of the ministries being promoted at Annual Conference. Maggie is from Missouri and she will speak to us on Monday the 9th of October about the Jubilee Loan Project. I understand it to be a ministry of the church that helps people who might be described as "Not yet ready for Financial Peace University." Whereas Financial Peace teaches the "how-to" of saving and getting out of a cycle of perpetual debt from credit cards, mortgage payments and car payments, Jubilee is aimed more at helping the people whose every dollar of income pays rent, bus rides and the grocery store. People living on a strictly cash economy. People for whom any unexpected expense means a visit to a Payday Loan establishment, charging rates that cost 25% of the loan even if you do pay it back by pay day. That's not fair. It is part of making the poor poorer. I'm hoping Maggie can explain how a church can compete with the loan sharks. Even more, I'm hoping we might find this to be a potential ministry of our church. Longtime Methodist Men member Walt Fowler passed away years ago, but his daughter Janice has volunteered to be in charge of our meal for this October meeting. Janice remembers helping her father out by preparing the meal for him to take to UMM in the past. So I need a good count for Janice. I think she said something about enchiladas. Please let me know by phone call or e-mail by October 5th if you can come enjoy the fellowship and hear from Maggie. One more thing. Maggie is traveling to speak to us and would like to spend Monday night (the 9th) in Hanford. And missionaries don't get paid much. So a volunteer to show her around Hanford before dinner, and a volunteer to put her up for the night after dinner would really help, too.

David Beeman dpbeeman@icloud.com
(559) 584-7510

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

All are welcome!

Next BOD meeting.

Wednesday, October 4

3:30 pm

5TH SUNDAY SING Sunday, October 29

3:30 pm

Corcoran United Methodist
Church

A great afternoon of song, fellowship and food for the UM churches in our area.

WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

Worship Coordinator

October 1: Chris Payne
October 8 Cat Barclay
October 15 Peggy Gregory
October 22 Mary Jane Gozun
October 29 Chris Payne

Lay Worship Leaders

October 1: Cat Barclay
October 8 Sue Hensel
October 15 Carol Collar
October 22 Jan Franke
October 29 Bob Junell

Ushers

October 1: Verne Adams, Mike Bertaina
October 8 Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina
October 15 Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina
October 22 David Beeman, Jim Gregory
October 29 David Beeman, Bob Junell

Counting Team

October 1: Sue Hensel, John Meadows
October 8 Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell
October 15 Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker
October 22 David Beeman, Jim Gregory
October 29 Rebecca Eversall, David Beeman

Coffee Hour

October 1: Mcdonald
October 8
October 15 Cat Barclay
October 22 Lenox
October 29 Randles

Greeters

October 1: Gregory
October 8
October 15 Butterway
October 22
October 29

Children's Church

October 1: Randles
October 8 David Beeman
October 15 Patty Ferrell
October 22 Shoemaker
October 29 Peggy 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.

Trustee Report

A metal plate has been installed to overlap the wood frame at the Men's bathroom door lock in the breezeway.

Replacing of the locks and providing new keys for two education buildings has gone smoothly.

The LED light in the prayer garden was replaced. The lens had been sprayed painted green. The electrical plug cover in the prayer garden has been replaced. Homeless people use it to recharge their cell phones.;

Jim Gregory

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, Cat Barclay, Tamie Pick, Randy Chono, Dorothy Jensen, Bonnie Peters, Mary Durham, friends of Mary, Casey Lehtnen, Jim Taylor, Mike Pina, and Jan Junell.

Other Prayer Requests

- Prayer for Karen Shoemaker's brother, Grady Gray and his recent passing
- Prayers for Andrea McDonald, her daughters, Sam McDonald for her future endeavors, congratulations to Jessica welcoming her new baby boy, and Sara for her wellbeing
- Prayer for the family of Frank Geissler for his wife Betty's passing
- For Joseph Castanon and family
- Jeff and Mary Durham's family while they endure the catastrophe of Hurricane Harvey
- 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
- The Wagner, Chono, Noonan, 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!



Men's Walk to Emmaus | Hanford, California
November 2 through November 5
Women's Walk to Emmaus | Hanford, California
November 9 through November 12

The walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples.



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.



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 bless!

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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

—○—

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 through 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, October 19
from 3-8 p.m.

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



**Mission Service
Opportunity**

Friday, October 20, 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!*

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.

