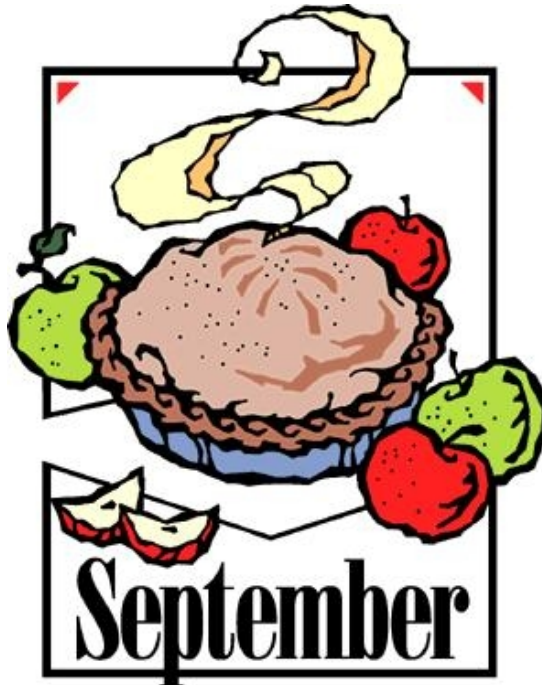


The Methodist Messenger

In the Spirit of John Wesley

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



2015

First United Methodist Church
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Pastor Cynthia Stateman

Notes For The Journey

What do you mean when you say "I am a Christian?" How do you share that with others? Here is a lovely poem that gives expression to one person's understanding of what being a Christian means:

When I say... "I am a Christian"

(Unknown Author)

When I say... "I am a Christian." I'm not shouting "I'm clean living'."

I'm whispering "I was lost, now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say... "I am a Christian." I don't speak of this with pride.

I'm confessing that I stumble, and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say... "I am a Christian." I'm not trying to be strong.

I'm professing that I'm weak, and need His strength to carry on.

When I say... "I am a Christian." I'm not bragging of success.

I'm admitting I have failed, and need God to clean my mess.

When I say... "I am a Christian." I'm not claiming to be perfect.

My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it.

When I say... "I am a Christian." I still feel the sting of pain.

I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

When I say... "I am a Christian." I'm not holier than thou.

I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace, somehow!

The scriptures encourage us to take inventory regularly to search ourselves, to evaluate who we are; to answer for ourselves the question that Jesus asks us about who *we* say He is; and to define for ourselves what we *really* mean when we say that we are Christians. Indeed, self-examination is a Biblical mandate as well as a necessary pathway to spiritual growth. It is also a necessary ingredient for sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with others.

The poem above speaks of the writer's personal definition of being Christian. The poem not only reveals something of the author's self-understanding in relationship to God, but also gives expression to the poet's experience and reliance upon the Good News of Jesus Christ. When this poet says "I am a Christian" he/she is saying:

"I have personally experienced the Good News of Jesus Christ. I have experienced the Good News as forgiveness, guidance, strength, assurance, renewal, comfort and grace; and I trust and rely upon this Good News for my wellbeing. That is what has gotten me through all the difficult and messed-up parts of my life"

continued on page 3

Most folks haven't got a clue about what you really mean when you say "I am a Christian." Indeed, many of us are reluctant to talk about it with others because we're afraid of being misunderstood. However, there is not one single person on the planet who doesn't understand and hasn't suffered from being lost, from stumbling, weakness, failure, flaws, pain, loss and sin. Moreover, there is no one who is not – at the very least – curious about the possibility of Good News for them. And there is no one on earth who isn't at least *hoping* that there really is a source forgiveness, guidance, strength, assurance, renewal, comfort and grace powerful enough to move them forward and through all the difficult and messed-up parts of their lives.

I invite and encourage you to name and to write down your personal experiences of the Good News of Jesus Christ – not what you profess to believe – but what you have actually experienced. And don't stop there! I invite and encourage you to also seek opportunities for sharing something of your experience of forgiveness, guidance, strength, assurance, renewal, comfort, or grace with others who need to know that the Good News is happening, is real, and they can experience it too.

Blessings

Pastor Cynthia Steman

**PASTOR CYNTHIA
STATEMAN**

CONTACT UPDATE

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Phone/Text/Voicemail
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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 and souls and bodies?

We'll share ideas for living healthier lifestyles and be in support of each other in our personal choices to obtain our health goals.

*Please contact Jan Franke if interested.
sky4jan@sbcglobal.net*



a **TRAFFICKED LIFE**

A short documentary

Human trafficking is occurring in our valley communities. You are welcomed and encouraged to participate in an upcoming event, we hope, will inspire further action to bring liberty to those enslaved and justice to those who ensnare.

Human Trafficking Awareness to Action Summit

WHEN: Wednesday, September 9th
from Noon to 2:00 pm

WHERE: KCAO 1130 N. 11th Ave
Hanford

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

RSVP by calling 584-7706 or
Sending an email to
ecosoffice1@gmail.com



ADULT CHOIR SINGS OUT

Join us on **Wednesday, Sept. 9th** for the beginning of our choir season! We'll start with a **potluck dinner at 6:00 pm in Mary Lane Hall**. Set up begins from 5:30 pm. All those interested in singing for God are welcome! Come make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Regular choir practices are Weds from 6:30pm - 7:30 pm or 8:00 pm.

WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

Worship Coordinator

Sept 6: Andrea McDonald
Sept 13: Peggy Gregory
Sept 20:
Sept 27: Chris Payne

Lay Worship Leaders

Sept 6: Bob Junell
Sept 13: Leon McDonald
Sept 20: Sage Wyman
Sept 27: David Beeman

Greeters

Sept 6: Jan Franke & Dazzle
Sept 13: Chris Payne
Sept 20: Lily & Diana Boone
Sept 27: Cat Barclay

Ushers

Sept 6: Mary Durham, Mike Bertaina
Sept 13: Mary Durham, Mike Bertaina
Sept 20: Mary Durham, Mike Bertaina
Sept 27: Mary Durham, Mike Bertaina

Counting Team

Sept 6: Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell
Sept 13: Sue Hensel, Andrea McDonald
Sept 20: Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker
Sept 27: David Beeman, Jim Gregory

Morning Worship Coffee Hour

Sept 6: Bob & Pollie Geissler
Sept 13:
Sept 20:
Sept 27:

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), Cat Barclay's granddaughter Kassidy (showing improvement in recovery from injuries), Kathleen Wilson (undergoing chemo), Bonnie Peters, Bonnie Peter's friend Shirley Brown from Fresno (screening for liver cancer), 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 grieving the loss of her aunt Linda
- Laura & Matt Brown grieving the loss of their twins; Jim & Peggy Gregory grieving this loss as well
- Jeanette Keith's 98 y.o. mother Myrtle Deaver has moved from Southern California to Hanford's Valley Christian Home. Prayers for her and the family during this time of adjustment
- 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



Our General Meeting for September will be Sunday, the 27th, to start between 11:45 am and Noon. Cat Barclay will be providing lunch that day.

On Saturday, October 3rd will be the UMW District Annual Celebration, to be held at St. Paul's UMC in Fresno. Registration and Lunch will be \$12, due Sept. 25th.

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 myself (Vicki) or Sue Hensel. I will also have registration forms for both. We hope some of you will be able to attend with us.

Our October General meeting will be on Sunday, the 18th.

Annual Bazaar – will be Friday, November 13th. We will have a new cook (trained last year by Bob Peden), Larry McDonald. He has already been trying out new soup recipes. 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. 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.

Vicki Beeman



Semi-Homeless Children

What can we do to help the children in Kings County who are in the foster care system?

Some groups offer to buy their class ring or yearbook as they approach high school graduation. But the needs of these children start long before that.

What expenses does the government pay for? How are they calculated and to whom does the money go?

Does anybody send foster kids to summer camp?

You may have seen the article in the Hanford Sentinel about the adventures of Pastor Cynthia coming to Hanford. In that same section of that day's paper was an article about summer camp for foster kids.

Our speaker at this year's kick-off meeting of the United Methodist Men (UMM) will be Cheri LaVerne, whose topic will be a summer camp run JUST for the foster kids of Kings County. The article said the camp runs with and by the contributions of local churches.

We will begin with prayer and dinner at 6:30 PM on Monday, Sept 14th in Mary Lane Hall, then Cheri LaVerne will speak.

If you want to eat the dinner, you'll want to make a reservation, so enough dinners will be prepared. Call Jim Shoemaker at 583-0459 by Friday Sept 11th.

This should be a good meeting.

- David Beeman



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!



Greetings! I would like to ask you to do the following things as a courtesy to your volunteer Church Secretary.

- 1) Please remember that I am not your secretary on Saturdays or Sundays.

So if you have something that you need the church secretary to know or do, please email the office office@fumchanford.org or leave a message on the church answering machine 584-4075. Unless it is an emergency, please refrain from texting, calling or emailing my personal numbers about Church Secretary business.

- 2) I would really appreciate you volunteering on the sign up sheets for Greeters and Coffee Hour Hosts as far in advance as you can. Here's why:

The names are listed a week in advance in our bulletin and I try to send email reminders out to the volunteers a week in advance. Plus all the volunteers for each entire month are listed in that month's newsletter. There are usually empty spaces. (See page 4)

- 3) All Newsletter Articles need to be sent as an email or an attachment to an email and sent by the stated deadline.

I really like being your Church Secretary and the above mentioned requests would make my job a lot less stressful and even more enjoyable.



Jan

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.

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



\$5.00 each available from the church office.



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 Sept. 17th, from 3-8 pm.

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



Mission Service Opportunity

Friday, Sept. 18th,

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!