

The Methodist Messenger

In the Spirit of John Wesley

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



September 2016

First United Methodist Church
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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

*I recently received an email message from a couple who wrote that they had been visiting Hanford several months ago, and had "noticed the majestic church on the corner and decided on a whim to stop in for the service." They wrote that they had enjoyed the service tremendously and had been inspired by the sermon, but most of all, that they had been impressed by "the congregation's leadership in welcoming worshipers, reading the Word, leading prayers, leading songs, delivering the children's message... the congregation's lively expression of fellowship... [and] their friendly and welcoming response to visitors." They attached the following article to the email message, entitled *Common Traits of Excellent Congregations*, with the comment: "If what we've seen is any indication, then your congregation has many and perhaps all of these traits." What a wonderful affirmation!*

Common Traits of Excellent Congregations

There is vibrancy, an excitement about living the Christian life.

These churches revel in the challenges of seizing new possibilities for experiencing and sharing the Good News. They are constantly looking for better ways to serve and reach people. These churches attract people beyond their normal neighborhood or area, and often draw people from outside their denomination.

They reach far beyond their comfort zone.

These churches ask tough questions about themselves. Convention or convenience no longer rule; effectiveness or the potential for effectiveness do. They continually ask themselves, "Who are we? What are we trying to do? Is this working? Should we change?" They have a clear, yet changing sense of mission. This is more than just a mission statement. There is a clear vision of where God is calling the church to be, and they work toward it. They are willing to redirect their energies toward what they perceive as their mission, even if it changes.

Laity are integral in leadership.

Formal training and ordination are not prerequisites for church leadership, and church leadership is broadly defined beyond the responsibilities of maintaining church property and finances. A desire to serve, the ability to learn, and the courage to stay the difficult course are hallmarks of lay leaders in excellent churches. If proper training doesn't exist, they will create it. These churches send members to workshops and seminars to learn about what is happening in other churches and develop their gifts and skills.

They practice evangelizing without 'evangelizing.'

Excellent churches have no walls or property lines. They realize there are many people within just a short distance of their doors who will never know about them if they do not reach out to the world. Personal contact is the key. Most of the new people in these churches come because a coworker, family member, or a neighbor invited them. It is not enough to have a person join a church.

They are traditional without being traditionalist.

Excellent churches are not reinventing Christianity. They are people of a revered tradition. But their tradition is a beginning, a springboard, not a wall that cannot be breached. They realize that what they are presently doing may be considered traditional in the years ahead. One size does not fit all. These churches consciously try to present Christian beliefs and practice within a

context that many various groups can understand. The preaching is rooted in the practical, in the cries and concerns of normal people. Pastors seek not to impress with their erudition, but with their compassion and understanding.

This article does not list all of the qualities of “excellent” congregations, but it does provide a good starting point for conversation, doesn’t it? I am unabashedly biased towards our congregation, and so I agree that we possess a great many of these traits, as well as others that are not listed here. But what is your honest assessment? I’d like to hear from you. Call me. Drop by to chat. Send me note. Which of these and other traits of excellence do you see in our congregation, and what traits do you think we need to develop more fully?

Blessings,

Pastor Cynthia Stateman

Thank You Jan Franke!

We thank you for volunteer service as our Church Secretary. You will be sorely missed in the office as an ambassador of this congregation in the name of Jesus Christ.

Through our prayers we will be united with you as you pursue other interests and opportunities to use your gifts to serve our Lord in your future and ongoing engagement in ministry with the people of FUMC.

May you be richly blessed by God in all of your endeavors!

TEAMS OF VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED

OFFICE COVERAGE– *Jan Franke’s last day as volunteer secretary is September 15th.*

SOUND for Sunday Service

VIDEO for Sunday Service

CHILDREN’S TIME for Sunday Service

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

USHERS

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS, GREETERS

Please CONTACT Pastor Cynthia to volunteer.



Hi, Brothers and Sisters in Christ!!

Have you ever thought about singing for the Lord? We would love to have you join our choir!

There is always room for more! In fact, we've lost a couple of our members due to illness, so there is plenty of room. Please prayerfully consider coming out to our Wednesday rehearsals at 6:30 pm. We'll be done about 7:30 pm. On Sept. 14 we will have a potluck at 5:30 pm followed by our first rehearsal at 6:30 pm. Any questions, call me at 707-1264.

*In Christ,
Candy*

WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

Worship Coordinator

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

Lay Worship Leaders

Sept 4: Jan Franke
Sept 11: Carol Collar
Sept 18: David Beeman
Sept 25: Bob Junell

Greeters

Sept 4: Jetta & Glen Lenox
Sept 11:
Sept 18: Frank Butterway
Sept 25:

Ushers

Sept 4: Verne Adams, Mike Bertaina
Sept 11: Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina
Sept 18: Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina
Sept 25: David Beeman, Jim Gregory

Counting Team

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

Coffee Hour

Sept 4: Bob & Pollie Geissler
Sept 11: David & Vicki Beeman
Sept 18: Jim & Karen Shoemaker
Sept 25:

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

Tammie Pick, Randy Chono, Cat Barclay, Bonnie Peters, Mary Durham, Kathleen Wilson, Jim Taylor, Mike Pina, Jan Junell, Marilyn Peden, Andrea & Larry McDonald, Carol Collar's Mother - Francy Angstman (assisted living and is in declining health), Pastor Susan's parents Helen and John Foster, Gloria Brown, Alison Klein, Louise Card (West Gate Garden Care, 4525 W. Tulare. Visalia),

Family and friends of Marie Wiles

Marie has passed away after several years of declining health. Her daughter Amanda Wiles and son Frank Wiles preceded her in death.

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!



Our next Board meeting will be Tuesday, September 13th at 1:00 pm. The next General meeting will be Sunday, October 9th following the worship service and a short time at Coffee Hour. All ladies are welcome to both events. To match with the UMM dinners, I was instructed to be sure to say, the men of the church are also invited to the General meeting. Anyone planning to come and have lunch, please let me know so I can pass on the information to the cook of the day.

The United Methodist Women District Annual Celebration will be Saturday, October 1st in Oakdale. Registration & Coffee (and being good United Methodists, I am sure there will be something to eat) begins at 8:00 am, with the program at 8:45 am. Lunch will be \$12. The program will be Dion Roberts, the Executive Director for the Mary Elizabeth Inn in San Francisco. There will be a "shower" for MEI. Registration forms are now available. Registration for lunch is due September 10th. If you would like to donate some of the items for the shower, here is the list: toiletries, hygiene products, socks, stationery, pens, stamps, computer paper, etc., to help the women out. At the Annual Celebration, there will also be a Mission Table. You can bring (or donate) an item to be sold: craft item (a hobby of yours), jams, jellies, breads, a pretty gift item. These items will be sold. You can bring something to sell, buy something, or both.

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.

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

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



Please join us for the new season of United Methodist Men meetings. Men and women are invited to be present on Monday, September 12th at 6:30 pm sharp in Mary Lane Hall. We begin with supper. Please let me know if you can help out with bringing food to share. Guest do not have to do dishes. You're welcome.

Please call or email (NO TEXTS) David Beeman 584-7510 or dpbeeman@yahoo.com if you will be attending so we have enough food for all.

Our speaker will be Carol Collar who recently traveled to Sicily and southern Italy with a small group of UC Davis alumni. Carol will share images and impressions from her journey through time and cultures of the Mediterranean, Ionian and Adriatic regions.



The itinerary included visits to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites including Sicily's Valley of the Temples, Pompeii, and the lesser known **Matera, the third oldest city in the World**. Haunting and eerily beautiful, Matera is home to more than 100 rock churches, and has been inhabited continuously for more than 7000 years! Please join us for fellowship, photos and conversation about fascinating southern Italy - a crossroads of civilizations for millennia.



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 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,
September 15th from 3-8 pm.**

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



Mission Service Opportunity

**Friday,
September 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!**



Foot a Month Club Progress Report

This month marks the beginning of year three of our three year pledge campaign to ***repay the loan to repair our sanctuary roof***. I am pleased to report that with the \$3,620 collected so far this year we have now reduced our \$60,000 loan to \$13,680. Participation in the program has been very good with nearly everyone honoring their pledge and some doing even a little more. I have hopes that we will receive another \$2,500 by next August.

I would like to thank everyone who is participating in this drive for their steadfast support and commitment to this program. It is still our goal to find sufficient additional support to pay off the entire loan by the end of next year.

We can do this!

Bob Junell

Trustee's Report By Jim Gregory

Due to incidents in the past year, it was decided to expand security camera coverage. Six additional security cameras have been installed, and are operating, making a total of 16 for the church buildings. 16 cameras is the maximum the computer software can accommodate. The new cameras provide coverage in front of the office door, the office hallway, the lawn area in front of the Thyarks bench, the hallway between Mary Lane Hall and the sanctuary, Mary Lane Hall, and the courtyard in front of Fireside Room.

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, September 15th at 5:00 pm

At the MST meeting on (8/19/16), new office hours and Pastor office hours were approved.

OFFICE HOURS

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

PASTOR CYNTHIA'S OFFICE HOURS

**TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, and THURSDAY from
11:00am - 2:00pm.**