

The Methodist Messenger

In the Spirit of John Wesley

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



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.
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Notes for the journey

With the terrorist attacks abroad; rockets being fired from North Korea; and the social, economic and political conflicts of our nation; we might well have some good reason to worry.

Tragedies, fears and loss have a way of making us aware of just how fragile life is. That fragility and anxiety can easily have the power to wear us out and diminish us. The response Jesus made is something that I find helpful in stressful times. It can be found in the larger Bible passage we know as the Sermon on the Mount (Chapters 5-7 of Matthew). Here, in chapter 6:19-33, Jesus talks about real treasure, that which is above all and, at the same time, within our heart. It is a treasure that doesn't rust. Even more clearly, He talks about faith (spiritual treasure) in times of stress and distress; and what He talks about, is trust.

Who do you trust in times of worry? There is a wonderful song I recently heard on the radio. I didn't catch its title, but the lyrics go something like this:

"Where do you go when you need a Shelter? Where do you go when you need a Friend? ... Back on your knees again! Back on our knees again!" When our communion with God and our companionship with Christ is solid, our trust is also much more solid; and when that trust is solid, worry has far less power, unless we choose to give up that power to worry itself!

So, how we learn to quit worrying? Let me suggest a couple of things. First pray. Pray for an open heart and a ready mind. Pray that God will give you new insights and a fresh perspective. Secondly read your Bibles. Look for ways the scripture speaks to your daily life, and our life together as the Body of Christ. Try to keep your life of faith fresh and vital. Finally, gather with God's people. God never meant us to nurture our life of faith all alone. I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities for worship and study.

Let us put our trust in God, good friends, and the power of prayer to carry us through. Not only will we get through the rough times with less stress, but we'll find worry really has no power.

Blessings,

Pastor Cynthia Stateman

Kings County Homeless Meeting August 25, 2017

A meeting of approximately sixty (60) business and services to the homeless was chaired by Mark Cole. Those present covered a wide variety of people from business, to HPD police services, to social services and religious groups (HUMC, Cat Barclay, Doug True, David Beeman, Roy Randles).

The chairman set the purpose of the meeting as one to address the rapid growth and more aggressiveness within the homeless population to ward various downtown businesses.

What can be done? Change the law? A variety of business shared their experiences. The issues shared were wide spread and quite pervasive. The openly free use of drugs can be observed and in some cases even legal.

The characteristics of the homeless range from mental health issues; those down in their luck. Some want help others do not. For those who do not want help there is not much that can be done as they have certain civil rights that cannot be violated.

The Hanford library has problems quite severe; it is difficult to keep an environment suitable for little kids. The bathrooms may be clean at eight o'clock and need to be shut down at 10:00 because they need to be shut down. Some of the homeless indicate they are afraid to sleep; one suggestion included setting up places for showers and clean up; others site places that have tried that without success. Debbie Grice from Kings County Department of Public health described many of the efforts being made by her agency. In our County there are 35 agencies working in the area of homelessness. Specific Systems of Care need to be set up and it may mean caring for some as a baby sitter for the rest of their lives due to mental and other health issues. More grants are needed.

There is a case in which one person was arrested five times in one day, booked, and released. One suggestion in dealing with the problem is to re-instate the "street cop" program. Debbie Grice described the Wellness program that Kings Mental Health is establishing; their next meeting is Sept. 19 . The HPD (Hanford Police Department) said that 70% of their time has to do with a homeless issue. There are two police officers assigned to coming up with a homeless policing process. It was suggested that this might include action by the State Legislature. We may need to separate those who are homeless and seek help from those who do not seek help. A city employee spoke of finding homeless encampment next to a park with children are playing; he did not wish his child to deal with that; also drug paraphernalia is often found. Jeff Rhodes from Kings Cornerstone Recycling Center spoke of what their Church offers the homeless, among the services offered include collecting recycling with the proceeds going to help the homeless.

Cat Barclay pointed out to those there that very likely some of the people in attendance were only a pay check away themselves for becoming part of the homeless population.

Conclusion

The Homeless problem has many tentacles branching out from it resulting in all people of Hanford being faced with it every day.

We have a number of groups working to solve the problems we are faced with. Each of the groups represent a tentacles arising from the root and need to see themselves connected to the whole. It is evident that the only way so solve the problem is for everyone too see themselves as addressing one part of the problem and it will be working together that we solve the issue in front of us.

The police deal with it from a legal lens; the mental health see it as a public health issue. I see it as above all a spiritual issue; what kind of world do we want to live in?

Doug True



The next UMM dinner meeting will be Monday the 11th of September.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

I hope your summer has been going great. UMW meets up again Sept 17th after coffee hour in Founders hall. Information will be on the Bulletin board in the hall leading to the coffee hour. Please read the board. Lunch will be provided. Board meeting will be Sept 7 at 2pm. in the coffee hour room. Everyone is welcome to attend.

One thing that will be discussed is officers for next year. This is your opportunity to step up and make a difference. Please think and pray about getting involved.

Andrea McDonald 559-360-4477
andreamcd1202@yahoo.com

Time for us once again to focus on others! We're so blessed beyond what most of the world has to expect! Access to Doctors, medicine, clean water and plenty of nutritious food to eat! Our first meeting on September 17, 2017 will be spent on praying for others and discussing ways to help others share in our blessings! Won't YOU join us even if you haven't in the past! WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! Peace, Cat Barclay

John Meadows has prepared the main dish for this meeting: chicken teriyaki.

Our program for our September meeting will accomplish something we are required to do every year. As a connectional church, we send not only our pastor, but also two lay members to Annual Conference every year in June. There, our Conference ordains new clergy persons, retires them, adopts a budget for the ministries of developing both new and old churches, camping, training, supervising, supporting and extending the gospel. Our church pays for the Lay Members to attend, and they are obligated to share what goes on at Annual Conference. That way we get something for our money. Although worship goes on daily at Annual Conference, a report of it is not worship, so we aren't going to do this on a Sunday morning. So ... those attending the Sept 11th meeting get to hear from Cat Barclay (and me, briefly) on the sights, sounds, memories and color and issues and hope of Annual Conference in its 2017 session during June in Burlingame. What I'm saying is that this is an open invitation to our church body for the September meeting.

I do need to get an accurate count to John for dinner. And some volunteers for side dishes. Please call or e-mail me about either or both.

David Beeman
584-2911 home
584-7510 cell, but voice messages only - no text

Welcome and Farewell

On August 18th we said goodbye to our Administrative Assistant, Jessica Brooks, and welcomed our new Administrative Assistant, Stephanie Mendonca.

Jessica says she will miss you all, and would appreciate your prayers as her family transitions to Arizona.

We are excited to have Stephanie as the new Administrative Assistant—she will be a great asset to the church. Please join us in welcoming her by visiting the office and introducing yourself!

Foot of the Month Update

Dear “Footers”,

We are now approaching the end of our three year Foot a Month campaign to pay off the loan from our Endowment Fund for the repair of our sanctuary roof in 2006.

I would like to thank each of the many members of our congregation, and others, who have faithfully contributed to the campaign or otherwise contributed toward this effort.

I would also ask that anyone who is still contributing to the campaign or would like to make an additional contribution, please do so by September 30 of this year.

With a recent gift of \$2,000 and accumulated contributions in our holding account, the remaining balance on the loan is approximately \$2,300. I am working on a plan to pay whatever balance remains after September 30, and am confident that the loan will be totally paid by December 30, 2017.

I will have another update for you after the September 30 closing date.

With thanks and gratitude for your faithful and generous support of this important campaign,

Bob Junell, Chairman

Trustee Report

Two police reports have been filed. A screwdriver was used to try to break into the men's restroom in the breezeway, causing damage to the wood door frame. A break-in occurred to the Friendship Room. Some of the support group supplies were taken. With the noticeable recent increase in homeless activity around the buildings, it is even more important to check that doors are locked. Kings County Mobile Locksmith replaced all the deadbolt and door locks in the two education buildings with a commercial brand of lock on August 21. New keys were distributed to the user groups. With the new locks, additional combinations for who can get into different doors is available. Church members will need to carry a second key, in order to have access to the two educational buildings.

New hand soap dispensers have been installed in two bathrooms and two kitchens. Two exterior wall mount light fixtures have been replaced on both sides of the main sanctuary doors. The panic door hardware on the main sanctuary double doors has been repaired and adjusted. The sanctuary thermostat is set to cool to 74 degrees from 7 AM to 12 noon on Sunday mornings. It is set to 90 degrees the rest of the time. If the up or down arrow is pushed, the thermostat will adjust until the next bump point. If the hold button is depressed, the A/C will run indefinitely at that setting, which we do not want to have happen. If the run button is pushed, the setting will change back to the default.

Jim Gregory

WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

Worship Coordinator

September 3: Chris Payne
September 10: Cat Barclay
September 17: Peggy Gregory
September 24: Mary Jane Gozun

Lay Worship Leaders

September 3: Bob Junell
September 10: David Beeman
September 17: Carol Collar
September 24: Patty Ferrell

Ushers

September 3: Verne Adams, Mike Bertaina
September 10: Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina
September 17: Creed Cavazos, Mike Bertaina
September 24: David Beeman, Bob Junell

Counting Team

September 3: Sue Hensel, John Meadows
September 10: Vicki Beeman, Patty Ferrell
September 17: Sue Hensel, Karen Shoemaker
September 24: David Beeman, Jim Gregory

Coffee Hour

September 3: Patty Jerrell
September 10: The Geissler
September 17: Chris Payne
September 24: The Shoemakers

Greeters

Sign up to greet on the hallway bulletin board!

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

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, who has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer
- Prayers for Andrea McDonald possible shoulder surgery, and recovery from bladder surgery
- Prayers for Andrea McDonald's daughter Sara for emotional guidance
- Guidance for Sam McDonald and her future endeavors
- Prayer for the family of Frank Geissler after his passing on 7/31/17
- For Joseph Castanon and family
- 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!



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.



**September 2017's
2nd Saturday Info**

Transform Sunday Morning

A Worship Arts Conference

September 9, 2017
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Clovis Memorial UMC
(1726 Pollasky Avenue, Clovis, CA
93612)

The exciting topics Dr. Marcia McFee will cover from her workshop description are:

- **Creating Worship with Deep Soul**—*In this sessions Marcia will introduce what she means by “M-M-Good” worship*
- **Think Like a Filmmaker**—*Why do we need sensory-rich worship*
- **The Rhythms of Liturgy and Life & the Politics of Change**—*With lots of interactive music we will explore the various rhythms of worship*
- **“O Lord, Is It Sunday Already?!”**—*Worship planning can be relentless with Sunday coming EVERY week! We’ll talk about planning substantive and vital worship without getting burned out drawing on the model offered in Marcia’s Worship Design Studio.*

Registration Deadline: September 4, 2017 (No registration at the door)

Contact the office for more info, or go to **cnumc.org**, then scroll down to *Resources / Available Registrations / 2 Saturday Monthly Lay Courses 2017*



**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!

BOARD OF DISCIPLISHIP

The BOD meets Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at 3:30 P.M. in Mary Lane Hall. All are welcome to the discussion about programs in our church,.

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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

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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, September 21st
from 3-8 p.m.**

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



**Mission Service
Opportunity**

Friday, September 22, 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!*



**Women's Walk to Emmaus | Grass Valley,
California**

October 12 through October 15

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

Application deadline: September 11, 2017
Contact Pastor Cynthia for more information!



The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is already on the ground in response to Hurricane Harvey.

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.