

The Methodist Messenger

In the Spirit of John Wesley

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



September 2018

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

Pastor: Pablo Róvere

More than Sunday...

In August, many churches had a campaign called “Back to Church.” It runs in conjunction with the schedule up-swing that happens every year when children return to school from their time away. It sounds like something I would have signed us up for...but I haven't.

Don't misunderstand me; I do want people to come to church. But my interest isn't just to get people into church...my interest and charge is to “make disciples of Jesus Christ” and coming to church on Sunday morning is only one part of what it means to follow Jesus.

Let me share with you 5 discipleship discipline that I encourage for all of us to practice:

1. Regular Corporate Worship (the Sunday Morning part)
2. Interaction with God's Word (some kind of small group Bible Study)
3. Prayer (the time you spend talking and listening to God)
4. Sharing your resources (gifts, presence, skills, "finances, passions)
5. Deeds of compassion, justice, and mercy (bringing faith into life by loving God and world around us)

These aren't boxes to be checked, they are ways in which we begin to mold our entire lives around the way of Jesus so that everything we do will be done in Jesus' name... and it takes more than an hour on Sunday morning.

I know we are busy people. I know that finding time to do things other than work and family are difficult, but it doesn't change the fact that Christ asks for your whole life. I can promise that people who begin to make time for these things will find a peace and joy and a confidence in God's presence that transcends any reasonable explanation.

But you may be wondering how to make steps. I suggest prioritizing your church activities in the following manner:

1. Worship – discipleship may be more than Sunday, but the time you spend worshipping with your church remains the most important commitment we make in following Jesus.
2. Small Group – after worship, intentional spiritual formation takes priority over all else. Small group becomes the place where we get to ask questions, share perspectives, learn from one another, develop significant relationships, and really experience the deep prayer that arises from deep Christian community.
3. Committee/Ministry Work – churches are busy places and sometimes offer the busy work of committees as a replacement for real spiritual formation and Christian community. Your commitment and involvement in church administration should never be in place of worship or small group. As we head into fall, I hope that each of us will take the next step in our discipleship. Together, we can make our Christianity be more than Sunday!

In Christ,

Pastor Pablo



Weekly Prayer Group

Come refresh you spirit as we join together to lift up the joys and concerns of our lives and of the world to the One who loves us all.

Thursday Nights

5pm – 6pm

Love Yourself To Wholeness

Patricia George-Group Leader

- B.A Music • PhD Life • Teacher • Musician • Writer/Artist •

patricia.george91@yahoo.com

Cell 559 309-6928

Bring a spiral notebook for taking notes and for journaling

We meet in my home, so come prepared to take off your shoes
(you are welcome to bring your slippers or just wear socks)

What happens in this group?

- sharing stories ● discovering tools to manage depression ●
- exploring the human condition ●

Who is welcome?

God centered people of all faiths, backgrounds and ages

Wednesday Nights

7pm – 8:30pm

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

Next BOD meeting:

September 5 @ 3:30 p.m.



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
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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.

WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

Worship Coordinator

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

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

Lay Worship Leaders

September 2: Vicki Beeman
September 9: Jan Franke
September 16: David Beeman
September 23: Carol Collar
September 30: Patty Ferrell

Coffee Hour

September 2: Shoemakers
September 9: Peggy Gregory
September 16: Patty Ferrell
September 23: Cat Barclay
September 30: Boones

Ushers

September 2: Jim Gregory, Mike Bertaina
September 9: David Beeman, Mike Bertaina
September 16: Jim Gregory, Mike Bertaina
September 23: David Beeman, Jim Gregory
September 30: David Beeman, Mike Bertaina

Greeters

September 2:
September 9: Jetta Lenox
September 16:
September 23:
September 30:

Counting Team

Budget Update As of July 31

General Fund Income	\$72,700
General Fund Expenses	\$95,817
Deficit	-\$23,117

Monthly Amount Needed for General Fund Budget	\$13,684
Average Monthly Income to Date	\$10,386

Please help us close the gap between income and expenses. Feel free to ask questions and offer suggestions to the Ministry Support Team.



Hi all,

I want to thank all that helped after my fall August 9. Your payers, babysitting me, phone calls etc. were appreciated. (update) I will have the cast on the fractured right wrist for another 4 weeks or so. The fractured left shoulder is healing well, the dr. says although I still can't move it. I am doing what I can and resting. I can get into bed, but not out of it. I can feed myself.

UMW

We will be starting up executive board Sept 6 at 2pm

General meeting Sept 16 after coffee hour (this is for all ladies in the church)

Gotta go, I am tired,

Andrea McDonald-UMW President

United Methodist Men

UMM will meet and eat on our usual 2nd Monday, which will be Sept 10, at 6:30 PM. Unless our dinner team changes it. But I promise to work hard on getting the word out if that happens.

Since we last met, two more dinner teams have formed and claimed their month to be in charge of the UMM dinner plans. Now only four months remain to choose from. Let me know your partner and your choice of month.

And please also let me know if you plan on attending our September meeting by Thursday the 6th so I can let our September dinner team know. This is an open meeting, so if you're reading this, you're invited.

Do you like the Methodist Messenger?

The MST would like a volunteer editor to look over the monthly Methodist Messenger every month before it goes out. Stephanie in the office does a great job getting all the contents gathered, and fitting them together, and meeting deadlines, so — this would be a volunteer to proofread articles for content, clarity, and consistency (between what an article says and what the calendar says and what was said on a Sunday morning) as well as helping our volunteer authors with ordinary grammar, spelling and punctuation. Then more people can contribute stories about what's going on in our lives, both as individuals living for Christ and as a church. Please call or visit Stephanie or me about this.

- David Beeman
584-2911

Buildings and Grounds Report

Jim Gregory

- The three new ceiling fans for Founders Hall are installed and are wired to a one hour timer. When turning on the timer, the knob should be turned at a minimum to 15 minutes. If there is not enough spring tension, the timer may not turn off the fans.
- One of the Boy Scouts of Troop 400 completed his Eagle Scout project. Alex built and installed a “Little Library” in the courtyard, next to the stairs. This library is intended to be used by anyone, who wants to take and read a book, and anyone can place a book in the library for someone else to take. This is a part of a national program to encourage literacy and reading. All church members and the public are invited to view the book selection and be a part of the literacy project.
- The breezeway has a new wall mounted drinking fountain.
- The Methodist Church District Extension Society has decided to sell the Laton UMC building and property.
- The upright piano was moved to the north education classroom. Let me know if the existing upright piano has any sentimental value. The wood needs refurbishing.
- The Methodist Cross and Flame logo from Laton mounted on a 4 x 4 post is now in the playground area.
- I requested, and was granted permission to retrieve the belfry bell at Laton UMC. The bell was removed and is presently on a pallet in the playground area. Let trustees know of any suggestions where to mount it.

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, Dorothy Jensen, Bonnie Peters, Mark Dickenson and Jan Junell.

Other Prayer Requests

Prayers for the victims of natural disasters and of violence across our nation and *in all parts of our world*. With Christians around the world, we pray for peace with justice and for health, safety and well-being of our neighbors near and far. Thanksgiving for all the church volunteers;

Prayer for: For Dianna Newton and the Castanon family for their wellbeing; for the health, healing, comfort and well-being for Verne Adams, Lindora Perez and her family, Andrea McDonald as her chronic pain continues, Jessica Maris' mother, Bob & Jan Junell, Marilyn Peden, Jennifer Wagner, Sherrie, Dorothy Jensen, Polly Geissler's aunt, Monica Fowler, just being diagnosed with cancer, Bonnie Peters, Frank & Bonnie Butterway's son Richard enduring health problems; and all of their families & loved ones.

OPEN HOUSE

Pastor Pablo and his family will be hosting an Open House for the First UMC of Hanford and Palm UMC of Dinuba faith families at the Hanford parsonage on **Sunday, September 23 from 4-7pm; the address is 2745 Chestnut Street (north of East Fargo Avenue, between North Tenth Avenue and North Douty Street).**



Pastoral Visit

The Pastor would like to get to know you better! He is offering Pastoral Visits to your home or even an office visit.

***Call Stephanie to schedule a visit whenever it is convenient for you!**

Shower Ministry

Thanks to those who have remembered to make donations to the shower ministry of toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss and other dental items.

If this is new to you, there is a white collection basket just as you enter the main doors of the church. Your donated items are taken to the Shower Ministry at the Hanford Pentecostal Church on Eleventh Street. A few years ago, several churches that participate in supporting this ministry divided up what the needs were, and our church got Dental Supplies. So if your dental hygienist offers you a free toothbrush, ask if you can have two. But soap, shampoo, combs and conditioner are also welcome. This month someone donated some nice green bathmats. The Kings Gospel Mission has converted the seating area of a small white bus into three shower stalls. Now those who have lost both home and car don't have to travel to Eleventh Street to find a shower to be presentable while looking for a leader and volunteers to schedule, drive and maintain the bus. We have made a commitment as a church to support the Shower Ministry at the Pentecostal Church, but individuals with shower supplies, especially the soaps and shampoos might consider donating to what will surely be an ongoing need with mobile showers too.



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 20, 2018
from 3-8 p.m.

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



Mission Service Opportunity

Friday, September 21, 2018

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!*

CHURCH NURSERY HELPERS

Our Church Nursery needs more volunteers to keep functioning well. We have a wonderful paid Church Nursery attendant, Lynda, who is there every Sunday and doing a fine job. However, in order to follow established legal guidelines, we must have two persons tending to the Nursery each Sunday in order to operate within those guidelines. Thus, we need one Church member volunteer each Sunday to assist Lynda.

We can best serve our Church families and visitors with small children if we have a well functioning Church nursery. So far, we have been able to keep our Church Nursery operating with three volunteers assisting Lynda. Unfortunately, one of those three is soon moving out of town. Thus, we urgently need more volunteers who can be scheduled to assist in the Church Nursery.

Our best arrangement would be for us to have 8 or 9 volunteers who can be scheduled to assist Lynda in the Nursery. Thus, each volunteer would have to help in the Nursery about once each two months.

We do need to provide additional support for Lynda to remain within the legal guidelines that apply to our situation while we provide the support for families with children who wish to attend our Church.

If you are able to donate one Sunday every six to eight weeks to work in the Church Nursery please give Jetta Lenox a call (559-584-5926) to help our Church support families with small children. Being in the Nursery, assisting with our small children is a most rewarding experience.