

# GOOD NEWS!

THE NEWSLETTER OF MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CLOVIS  
"THE MISSION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE  
TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD."  
1726 POLLASKY AVE CLOVIS, CA 93612



APRIL / MAY 2014

559-299-4615 MEM-UMC.ORG



*Watch for  
the*

*Head*



*Heart*



*Hand*



*Symbols  
to see how  
these  
ministries  
are  
targets  
to help  
your  
spiritual  
growth*

## HMONG FUNERAL MINISTRY

**New ministry to begin the "test" phase!!**

Our Hmong Funeral Outreach Ministry has been moving forward well this year. This ministry seeks to provide affordable facilities to be used by Hmong Christian families for the 4 days needed for a funeral. MUMC will be assisting the families and overseeing the activities (overseeing, not conducting or providing worship services and meals) of the funeral. Grace UMC is providing their facilities for the funeral.

We give thanks to those on the executive team who are working to make this ministry a reality: from Grace UMC - Pastor Juan and Steve Whaite; from MUMC - Pastor Janette, Pai Yang, Andy Hansen-Smith and Stan & Guin Jenanyan.



Our initial test of this new ministry will happen in the next couple of months. There have been some changes made to the kitchen at Grace to better accommodate the needs for those cooking and cleaning up, and it is now ready for use.

Please hold this ministry in prayer as we seek to assist grieving families and to make a good witness for Jesus. Also prayerfully consider if you might be willing to assist with this ministry when we get ready for the full launch. We will need 30-40 people willing to donate 4-5 hours of time (one shift) on a weekend to be on-site at GUMC to be a supportive presence for the family. Training for this will likely happen this summer.

### Youth Yard Sale

**Saturday March 29, 2014 9a-1p**

Proceeds go to support the Memorial United Methodist Church's youth group.

***How you can help:***

1. Bring your **gently used and sellable** items to the Church Office. Monday through Friday between 9am and 1 pm.
2. Come shopping for amazing deals !!

# Upcoming Events

## Mother's Day Brunch after 10 am Combined Service

Taking Mom out for Mother's Day? Come join us for the annual Mother's Day Brunch. The brunch will be held on Sunday, May 11. There will be eggs, sausage, fruit salad, biscuits, sparkling cider, sweet rolls, muffins, and other special delights including a chef carving ham. There will also be a short program in recognition of mothers, and a tribute to Mom by the Children's Choir. New this year will be a wandering photographer, whose photos will be available on-line for you to download (at no charge).

Tickets by advanced sales only, so get them early. You can reserve your seats or a whole table when you buy your tickets. Tickets will be sold after the first and second services starting on April 13. Or contact the Church office. It's a wonderful way to spend some time with Mom, your family and friends, and support your Church too.

## A District Training Event YOU WILL WANT TO ATTEND!!

"Fresh expressions" will be on our campus

May 31 - June 1. This approach to outreach mission has been very successful in settings around the world. Come hear about new ways to engage the community, new ideas of what "being church" is all about. We have internationally recognized speakers coming to help expand our thinking as we seek to reach more people with the living gospel.

Mark your calendars now to save the date. Full information - all the "w's" - will be provided in the coming weeks. Look for fliers in the Narthex. Also, information will be on our website.

## All Church Clean-up



We would like to get our church home into good shape before Easter!  
Come on April 12 at 9 am

Lunch provided  
Bring your cleaning supplies and tools.



## Holy land



Do you have a longing to visit the Holy Land? MUMC has a group of people planning to go in March of 2015. Currently we have 12-15 people who have expressed interest. We are hoping to have 22 or more make the commitment as this will give us many "group" advantages.

We will be working with our UM missionary in the area, and using a Palestinian Christian tour company for our arrangements. We will be staying in quality hotels and traveling on comfortable busses.

In addition to visiting religious sites, we will have opportunities to meet local artisans and talk with people of different faiths working for peace in the area. PLUS we will have 1-2 days working with local people on a Volunteer In Mission project! This pilgrimage will be much more than seeing ancient historical sites!

The cost will be \$3000-3500. We are planning to find ways to raise the funds, to keep the cost more reasonably affordable for everyone.

We are encouraging people to share the information with friends and family. Let Pastor Janette know if you are interested in participating.

**Our next planning meeting will be Sunday, March 30 at 12:15 pm in the Lose Library**

## BALLROOM DANCE



April 11th & 25th  
May 9th & 23rd  
7Pm in the Narthex.



Ballroom class is learning the "Fox Trot" in March and April. Kevin Bonzo plans to use it for the first dance with his bride Bethany.  
Edie Dyer at 264-4665

**TAAG Team**

**Totally Awesome All Generations Team:**

**April 5 (tentative)** - Shin Zen Gardens at Woodward Park (postponed from March)

**April 19** - Egg Decorating Party at 3:00 p.m. - Bring a dozen hard-boiled eggs and an egg decorating kit to share!

**May 18** - Change the World Day - Stop Hunger Now Event Hosted by Memorial UMC

**First Friday Film Fest:**

**April 4** - Theme: Forgiveness. The Movie is "Godspell" (Rated G) - a musical based on the Gospels of Matthew and Luke

**May 2** - Theme: Family. The movie is "Hook" (PG) - When Captain Hook kidnaps his children, a grown-up Peter Pan returns to Neverland to rescue them

**Bring snacks to share and something comfortable to sit on.**

**Doors open at 6:30, show starts at 7:00 p.m**

*Youth News*

**Youth Group News April/May 2014**

**Yard Sale** our youth directed and led yard sale will be March 29th!

**Lenten Study** The youth/young adults will be participating in the Adam Hamilton Lenten study during our Friday night group time (7-9p) – if you are in 7<sup>th</sup> grade – unmarried young adults, please come and hang out with us!

**Inner City LA Work Mission This Summer!** The youth and young adults will be going on an inner city LA work mission the first week in August. Please keep all of our young people, and the people we will meet on the trip in prayer as we prepare for this life changing opportunity!

**2nd SUNDAY LUNCHES**



We've already made it through three month of great lunches. Though, April is still a mystery, perhaps it will be good to have a surprise lunch for that month.

BUT we still need to have commitments for August, September, October, and November. If you hosted last year and plan to this year (even if you don't plan to) please give some thought to taking one of those months. Some have either already hosted or have committed.

May will be the Mother's Day Luncheon done by the SPRC and June we will be honoring Fathers. The United Methodist Women will be hosting July. Gwen and Stan Jenanyan have taken December. So I'll be happy to put your ministry in one of the four open months. Give me a call at 974-2472.

THANK YOU!  
Pat Frey

**WWD group**

a grief support group with focus on recovering joy in our lives. Meets the 2nd & 4th Saturdays each month beginning at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall (or an education classroom when the Hall is engaged)

The basic meeting format is:

- 5 min introductions
- 10 min business
- 10 min program
- 35 min fun games



Anyone experiencing grief is invited to participate in this group.

Contact Don Haulman for more information.

**UMW**



**April 7th**—Executive Board, 9am, Library

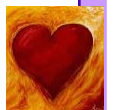
**April 15th**—Unit Meeting, 10am, Fellowship Hall  
Program Surprise!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
Luncheon Hosts Team A

**April 23rd**—Wesley 1pm, Fellowship Hall

**May 5th**—Executive Board, 9am, Library

**May 20th**—Unit Meeting, 10am, Fellowship Hall  
Program: Pat Brown guest speaker  
"Why you should join UMW"  
Host for lunch Team B

**May 28th**—Wesley 1pm, Fellowship Hall





## Boutique News

Boy I'll tell you what; the women in the Boutique Group do not let any grass grow under their feet or moss form on rocks; how ever that saying goes, they are busy as bees these days.

Quilt tops are being assembled for quilting, crochet patterns are being studied and tea towels made ready for embroidery. We are going to try a few new things this year. We are always looking for new ideas and especially for new members or helpers.

If you can, I invite you to join us on any Wednesday morning from 9 to 11:30am. Or if you prefer, you could make something and donate it anytime. If you have any questions;

please contact Carole Schweitzer 299-3432.

## A note from the Parish Nurses

A special thank you to all that participated in the Healthy Heart Potluck on a beautiful sunshiny "winter" day! There have been many positive comments from those that attended.

The regional American Heart Association President, whom I met at the Heart Association Go Red luncheon on February 14 was thrilled that a church had such a program. And that the church had not 1 AED but 2 AED's. I am pleased that the local office shared some items of interest to our attendees.

Special thank yous to Celerina Carlos, our instructor, Bonnie Harkins for our Heart Healthy favors, Mely Rinon for fruit, Nancy Enloe for preparing the salad, Barbara Nielsen for crocheting hearts, Lucy Egin for the red roses, program and crocheted hearts. Johnny Rinon and Roberto Carlos for their speedy set up, Judy Gross for preparing drinks and Cecelia Acton for kitchen support. Carole Schweitzer also crocheted hearts. And a thank you to all who attended and provided a delicious array of heart healthy foods'.

This year was a refresher or a review of the AED and CPR, next year will be recertification. Mark your calendar for February 28, 2014.

In the meantime be sure to stay Heart Healthy.

Blessings, Lucy Elgin, MSN, RN, NP



## Mission Thrift Shop



The first three sales in 2014 have been real successes. Here is a review of our 2014 team and why we think we have been so successful. In early December 2013 five persons accepted an area or section of responsibility within the Thrift Store. Room 1 (household and other things) went to Linda Henson. If you don't know her, come to the Thrift Store (she will grow on you). Linda makes everything in room 1 look special. Room 2 (Clothing and other things) went to Teri Scott. Teri is great at marketing and knows how to set up clothing and anything else you need to set up. Teri will also train and coach a cash register training program. Room 3 went to Gary Gentry. He got the job because he could lift the most boxes at one time. Gary is also the leader of the Thrift Store who reports to the Church. Thrift Store Treasurer went to Gloria McClanahan. Gloria also oversees linens and things and is a wealth of Thrift Store knowledge. She can answer any questions about the Thrift Store for the past three or more years.

Thrift Store Secretary and asst leader went to Bea Bannister. Bea is always there just when you think you need help. (Like the September 2013 Thrift Store renovation project of which she set up). This is a fluid thrift store team. Nothing is set in stone. Anyone interested in knowing and/or doing more with the Thrift Store is more than welcome to learn and join any part of our teams.

We want to recognize and lift up the list of volunteers who currently help on work days and Friday-Saturday sale days.

Without these volunteers we could not have a Thrift Store.

And we are always looking for more volunteers to share in the work, the laughter, and growing Christian friendship at the Thrift Store. Working as a team, the Thrift Store welcomes your support and help in the future.



## Christian Book Club

We meet every Tuesday at 7pm in the Library. The Christian Book Club is reading "The Case for a Creator" by Lee Strobel. This deals with "Darwinism" and "Planned Design".





## Special Friends

Special friends met **January 9th** and thought about Compassion. With all that's going on in our world today it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the events that surround us. We questioned how are we able to reach out to hear the stories, see the wounds?

Joan Hallifax, a zen teacher and medical anthropologist, says compassion is "feeling alongside the suffers affect of state and very important, aspiring to relieve it." She distinguishes this from "empathy" where we feel the other person's suffering inside of us and are unable to distinguish our pain from the other's pain.

The editor of Alive Now feels this is an important distinction, as we learn to be persons of compassion in today's world. We can become overwhelmed when we take on the pain of others.

I think Jesus found the right balance. The scriptures tell us a little bit about how Jesus dealt with all the needs around him. First he took action: He touched people, listened to them and healed them. He gave of himself whenever he could. Second, he prayed: He lived his life through a series of "holy moments". He sought God, and made time for God. Third: he took time apart-he sought time to be alone with God.

As we think about how we can respond to the hurt and pain around us, let's hope we can remember Jesus' examples.

This month, we made 7 phone calls, wrote 14 notes and cards, and made 12 visits.

Closing thought: Can we find a healthy way to live with compassion?

Special Friends met **February 13th**, welcoming a new member, Cecilia Acton to our group.

Today's scripture reading came from Mark 8:34, Jesus said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Our meditation is taken from the Jan-Feb Upper Room.

One of the fundamental aspects of Christianity is to witness. Christ calls his followers to share the good news of faith with others. For some of us, this charge to be a witness is daunting. Being Christ's Witness is an important task, and we want to get it right.

To share the good news of faith in Christ, we must first experience the good news for ourselves, and to experience the good news, we must know God. When we feel God's deep love for us, and feel secure and sustained by our relationship with God, we naturally want to share our experience with others. Thankfully, God has given us the gift of prayer so we can know and share our lives more fully with God.

Reports on visits and contacts with Special Friends. Judy and I had a fun visit with John Tallmadge on his 95th birthday!

This month we made 15 visits, 24 calls, and sent 22 cards and notes.

Our next meeting will be March 13th at 2:00 pm. Come and join us.

Closing thought: What do I know about God that I want to share with others today?

Blessings, Lorraine May

Men of all ages are welcome to join us for breakfast on April 6th and May 3rd from 8-9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

See you there!

Thank you,  
Andy Hansen- Smith  
President of MUMC's UMM



## Finance

### Mixed blessings for MUMC finances

With our fantastic year of finances in 2013, Memorial managed to carry over \$8,508 into the new year. This is fortunate since we had some major bills to pay In January. The largest amount was our annual payment for property insurance which totaled \$8,657. We also made our first installment on our 2014 apportionments in the amount of \$3,806.

Along with our other bills, our general fund payments for January totaled \$34,907. Our income was \$27,088. Adding this to our carry-over, we managed to end the month with a balance of \$690.

Our income fell off to \$19,439 in February, while our bills totaled \$22,685. With our January carry-over, that left us short by \$2,556 for the month. One major expense for the month was extensive tree pruning to remove unsafe limbs and other growth. This \$3,800 job was something that would not have been prudent to delay.

As we approach the end of March, it is clear that we will need to find ways to increase income in order to continue to fund necessary improvements for health and safety around the church, while keeping up with our monthly apportionments and other regular bills.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed. Your generosity makes all our ministries possible. It would be helpful if those who are behind in their estimate of giving could catch up. The estimates are behind by just about the same amount as what we needed to end February in the black. Ideas on other ways to increase income are always welcome.



# Congregation Life

## April May Birthdays

Xiong	Lee	2-Apr
Deena	Crosslin	5-Apr
Kah	Heu	8-Apr
Art	Daly	9-Apr
Kayte	Van De Mark	11-Apr
Craig	Vierra	11-Apr
Kurt	Cline	14-Apr
Mee Vang	Lee	14-Apr
Kylee	Pachelbel	17-Apr
Alissa	Williams	17-Apr
Norma	Meek	19-Apr
Eleanor	Patton-Knudson	19-Apr
Ian	Goudelock	20-Apr
Gilbert	Stocks	20-Apr
Va Hmong	Yang	20-Apr
Benjamin	Zastovnik	21-Apr
Joyce	Ladd	24-Apr
Kathryn	Cannon	25-Apr
Ethel	Schwartz	25-Apr
Alex	Jennison	30-Apr



William	Nicholls	05/01
Robin	Holleman	05/02
Stan	Jenanyan	05/02
Joan	Pregno	05/02
James	Vang	05/02
Wang Cheng	Moua	05/03
Carole	Schweitzer	05/03
Ger	Moua	05/04
Becky	Posey	05/08
Uchei	Uwaoma	05/08
Chue	Yang	05/08
Dorothy	Carr	05/09
Janet	Bonzo	05/12
Baoui	Her	05/12
Kaylene	Snow	05/12
Jennifer	Carlos	05/16
Chua	Hang	05/18
Betty	Gist	05/20
Emma	Hansen-Smith	05/20
Owen	Glazebrook	05/21
Roberto	Carlos	05/22
Fua Chi	Xiong	05/25
Jean	Lenderman	05/26
Laura	Williams	05/26
Ella Mae	Innerarity	05/27
Marjorie	Ludwig	05/30
George	Grimsley	05/31



### Coffee Hour:



Nancy Heberlein is our new Cookie Hostess for the third Sunday coffee hour and we are still looking for a cookie hostess on the fourth Sunday of the month. Duties include bringing a batch of cookies, setting the tables for coffee and snacks. Jim McClanahan continues to make coffee for both Sundays and cookie hostess does not have to clean up. Many thanks to Janet and Rich Bonzo for setting up tables and chairs every Sunday and to Rick and Sharon Hutchinson for first Sunday hosting and every Sunday for cleaning up. Also much gratitude to Connie Alfaro for hosting coffee hour every second Sunday. Gloria McClanahan

### The Garden Committee



The Garden Committee has completed pruning of all the trees on campus. Tree routes have been removed and we are now ready to plant. You can help with a contribution to replace bushes and plants. Just mark your gift "Landscape".

### In Memorandum

Richard Emmick

On March 9, 2014 Richard Emmick passed away and a grave side service was held at the Belmont Memorial Cemetery for him.

Anne Iseli

A Memorial Service will be held for Anne Iseli April 26th at 1 pm with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall

## *From the Pastor*

*"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets."*

*Matthew 7: 12*

As I write this article, there is news that Fred Phelps, founder of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas, is nearing death. This news is an opportunity for all of us to examine our inmost feelings, that there may be no hidden malice within us.

As you surely know, the members of Phelps's congregation, some 20 strong, have garnered international attention by flying to funerals and public events all over the US to picket with signs declaring God's hate for \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank with any number of people, characteristics, causes or ideologies).

Many Christians have been angered by the attention given to this very small group of people. They believe, and probably rightly so, that to people who are not Christian, all Christians get grouped together with this message of hate, and worse. I have seen Christians and non-Christians joined to protest Phelps followers with signs about love, sometimes even forming a barrier obscuring the view of the hate-filled signs from those to whom the signs were most pointedly directed.

I have also seen people with signs that were more subtle than those of the Westboro group, but equally as derogatory. The term "hater" has come to common usage when speaking of the people of Westboro Baptist Church, or those who share their views. YET, that term is also derogatory, and invites those of differing views to devalue others in much the same way as those whom they criticize. This is not a "lesser sin." It is simply sin.

I am pleased that many people look with compassion on people who would wave hate-filled signs in the face of others. I am pleased with the myriad of grace-filled ways I have seen this pointed hate deflected or countered with love. I am pleased that many are seeking to genuinely be compassionate toward Fred Phelps, whose own life seemed to flaunt his lack of compassion. And I wonder if this compassion is generated, in part, because he his Christian? Because he is a brother in the faith, even if perceived as missing the mark, still we might be willing to extend the grace of Jesus to him in our hearts, knowing that sin is sin, and we, too, have sinned and are in need of grace.

I am wondering if that same grace is extended to people who are not Christians and to people who are not supportive of the US. Each of us must examine our hearts to see: what did we feel when Osama Bin Laden was killed? Even though he was not Christian, still God loved him. Did I love him like Jesus did? Did you? Was there joy or satisfaction in that news? How would we feel if we heard that Vladimir Putin had died?

A major focus for Christians during Lent is to seek those places where we allow sin and brokenness to dwell within us, and to surrender ourselves to God's healing love. Every day as we take in the news we can examine ourselves to see if we are truly following Jesus, or if there are people, maybe even whole groups of people, we feel justified in devaluing or even hating. Remember, too:

*"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." (1 John 4:18 NIVUK)*

Our world has many crises happening - some caused by nature, many human made. The world needs Jesus. WE are the body of Christ for the world today. In the weeks ahead I encourage each of us to seek God's wisdom and guidance, that we might be rid of malice toward others, and become increasingly faithful followers of Jesus.

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**HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

**Palm Sunday Service,**

April 13, 2014, 10 am

**Maundy Thursday Service,**

April 17, 2014, 7 pm

**Good Friday Academy Service,**

April 18, 2014, 6:30 pm

**Easter Sunrise Academy Service,**

April 20, 2014, 7 am

**Easter Imagine! Service,**

April 20, 2014, 9:30 am

**Easter Traditional Service,**

April 20, 2014, 11 am

**Academy Potluck,**

April 20, 2014, 12:30 pm

**Academy Easter Service,**

April 20, 2014, 2 pm