



GOOD NEWS!

APRIL 2017 - MAY 2017

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."

Memorial United

Methodist Church

1726 Pollasky Ave,

Clovis Ca, 93612

Office Hours:

9 am to 1 pm

559-299-4615

E-Mail: [memumc@](mailto:memumc@mem-umc.org)

mem-umc.org

Website: [http//](http://www.mem-umc.org)

www.mem-umc.org

Pastors

Janette Saavedra

559-392-9566

Xf Yeu Vang

559-299-4615

Office Manager:

Becky Posey

Office: 559 299-4615

Cell: 559-862-6950

Facilities Manager

Dorrie Osback-Rose

559 392-0381 or

Dorrie-

cares@comcast.net



CHURCH FAMILY

DAY CAMP

AT ACADEMY

SUN. APRIL 30

Everyone of all ages is invited to our 4th Annual Church Family Camp on Sunday April 30 out at Academy Church. Our study theme is the "**Bee-Attitudes**" with crafts, a activities, and lessons to learn from the Sermon on the Mount - and bees!

9:00 a.m. Family Camp starts with breakfast snacks, coffee, activities

10:00 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages

11:15 a.m. Worship service at Academy

12:15 p.m. Potluck Lunch with our Academy Church family friends

1:30 - 3:30p.m. Lessons, activities and games for everyone

More information (directions to the church, etc.) is coming soon on flyers, the Weekly Digest and the church web site.

Hope to see YOU there!



Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday May 14

After 10 am Combined Service

Come join us for our annual Mother's Day Brunch on May 14 after combined worship service at 10 a.m. This delicious brunch features ham, eggs, pastries and muffins, biscuits and gravy, and much more. Tickets sold by advanced sales only, so get tickets 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 23, the unbeatable price of \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. No waiting in long lines to eat at a crowded restaurant, plus no tax or tip! Tickets are also available at Church office. It's a wonderful way to spend some time with Mom, your family and friends, and support your Church too!

United Methodist Church Day



Calling all UM folks in Grizzlies' Territory:

This year's fundraiser for Imagine No Malaria will be Saturday, June 3 - 7:05 start time

\$15/person - includes a free hat - this year with the Grizzlies "G" on it.

Plus:

LEGO BUILD NIGHT! All folks get a free Lego toy when they enter.

And: For those who can use a break from watching the game - come to the concourse and help with the massive group Lego building project!



NEW FOR THIS YEAR BONUS:

We will auction off three unique opportunities and proceeds will benefit Imagine No Malaria

1. The opportunity to throw out the first pitch
2. The opportunity to actually DO the manual scoreboard for the 2nd inning
3. The opportunity to actually DO the manual scoreboard for the 4th inning

The auctions will happen in early May. Information on how to participate in the auction will be available after Easter.

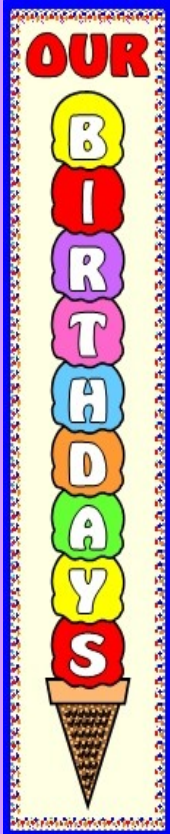


Do you like to sing? Join our combined choir for the singing of the National Anthem. (There will be one rehearsal prior to the game.). NOTE for folks with mobility challenges: There are a LOT of stairs to reach the field and back up.

Tickets go in sale April 23rd.

Last day to purchase a ticket will be Mothers' Day, May 14.

Upcoming Events



Chai	Her	04/01
Xiong	Lee	04/02
Khou	Vue	04/03
Deena	Crosslin	04/05
Ka	Heu	04/08
Art	Daly	04/09
Lou	Heverlein	04/09
Kayte	Van de Mark	04/11
Jerry	Yang	04/12
Kurt	Cline	04/14
Mee Vang	Lee	04/14
Kylee#	Pachelbel	04/17
Alissa	Williams	04/17
Norma	Meek	04/19
Ian	Goude-lock	04/20
Gilbert	Stocks	04/20
Va	Yang	04/20
Benjamin	Zastovnik	04/21
Joyce	Ladd	04/24
Kathryn	Cannon	04/25

William	Nicholls	1-May
Robin	Holleman	2-May
Stan	Jenanyan	2-May
Joan	Prego	2-May
James	Vang	2-May
Carole	Schweitzer	3-May
Ger	Moua	4-May
Becky	Posey	8-May
Uchei	Uwaoma	8-May
Dorothy	Varr	9-May
Ly	Heu	10-May
Janet	Bonzo	12-May
Baoui	Her	12-May
Mai	Xiiong	14-May
Judy	Taylor	17-May
Chua	Hang	18-May
Emma	Hansen-Smith	20-May
Owen	Glazebrook	21-May
Roberto	Carlos	22-May
Josphine	Shah	22-May
Laura	Williams	26-May
Gouly	Yang	28-May
Marjorie	Ludwig	30-May
George	Grimsley	31-May



Sunday Morning Fellowship Time

Coffee, Tea, Lemonade and Treats can be enjoyed by all Sunday morning worship attendees in the Fellowship Hall from 9:45am-1pm and all three congregations are welcome!

We do need help with 1) starting the coffee and hot water makers; 2) making lemonade and filling water pitchers, 3) making or buying snacks for all to enjoy; 4) **setting out and refreshing the snacks** and 5) light clean-up after the second English language service.

Any help is welcome! You can sign up for one Sunday a year; one Sunday a month or any variation that will fit your schedule. There is always a sign-up sheet by the coffee or contact Sharon Hutchinson in person or call 299-0622.



Join the Art Class

Every Friday, anyone interested in learning more about and practicing their skills at drawing and painting can join Roberto Carlos in the MUMC library from **6-8 pm**. It is a no-stress way to unwind at the end of a work-week! Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join you in developing visual artistic expression - it will be fun for all who gather! Hope to see you there!

The Christian Book Club

Christian Book Club is reading
"Chicken Soup for the Soul"
We meet on Tuesday evenings at 7pm
in the library.

Walk to Emmaus Alumni



Dates: April 26 & May 24
7pm At Edie's.

for more info call Eddie at
264-4665



UMW Upcoming Meetings

April 3, 2pm Executive Board Meeting, Library

April 10th-New UMW Circle, 7pm, Library

Choosing New Name!

April 18-Unit Meeting, 11:45am, Fellowship Hall
The program will be a Climate Justice/
Environment- Judy & Dorothy-Train Trip
Team A hosting lunch

Call office if child care is needed 299-4615

April 26, 2pm Wesley Circle, Fellowship Hall

May 1, 2pm Executive Board Meeting, Library

May 8-New UMW Circle, 7pm, Library

May 23-Unit Meeting, 11:45am, Fellowship Hall
Mothers in Action
Team B hosting lunch

Call office if child care is needed 299-4615

May 31, 2pm Wesley Circle, Fellowship Hall

Upcoming Meetings

April 15th at Academy 8am

Coffee, Donuts and Kites!

May 20th, 8am Breakfast at Memorial
and planning for 5th Sunday
Lunch in July.



The Academy and MUMC book study group is planning an outing for April 29.

We will gather at MUMC at 9 am for one hour book discussion. This month's book is:

"Touch Pressing Against the Wounds of a Broken World"

Then about 10 am we will head to the Native American museum in North Fork. The event in October, Building Bridges, made us want to learn more about the history of the local native peoples.

After a tour of the museum, we plan to eat at a nearby restaurant, before heading to Tollhouse to see the local historical museum there. We plan to return the MUMC by 4 pm.

Please call the church office before April 25 if you would like to join this outing.

For May our book topic is

"A Love Affair with India" On May 20 we will meet at 11 am at Elephant Grill Indian restaurant. We will enjoy a tasty meal and a good discussion of the book. Please call the church office before May 16 if you would like to join the book discussion and lunch.



Dream Team - is deeply

appreciative of the dedicated work of Ken Maxwell. Ken has put his considerable knowledge to work on our behalf, learning the myriad of details about the buildings and property we occupy, and exploring the city planning codes

which will impact the expansions and upgrades that can be made on our site. All this diligent work is HUGELY helpful in looking at projected expansions and upgrades for our buildings.

To see much of the work that has been done to date, visit our MUMC website mem-umc.org Click on the resources tab and scroll down to the Dream Team documents.

Next update: developing the ministry plan and developing a true partnership with Fresno Korean UMC as we work together on this building improvement and expansion project.

More information on this in the coming months.



Memorial UMC is set to launch its first-ever Stephen Ministry training program!

Have you heard of Stephen Ministry? It is a program where lay people are provided 50 hours of training in giving distinctively Christian Care to people in deep need.

Pastor Paul Denherder shares this about Stephen Ministry. "We all go through tough times in life. Times that are turbulent and unsettling. It can be extremely helpful to have someone come alongside us to give understanding and encouragement –to help us though the storm.

That is what a Stephen Minister is able to provide: a listening ear, a supportive perspective, and God's Word to help us through the challenges of life."

On April 4th about a dozen people from 3 congregations (Memorial UMC, Grace UMC, and St Paul's UMC) will begin the 50 hour training. Their training will conclude at the end of August.

Please hold this "pilot program" group in your prayers as we seek to serve God and one another through this ministry. If you would like to be in the next training



Please hold in your prayer Xf Yeu Vang as he travels into communist Laos to lead training for new Christian pastors there. He has been asked by the General Board of Global Ministries to participate in a two

week orientation to ministry. Christians face great persecution in Laos, and we want to be mindful of Xf. Yeu, and as well as Xf Greg Vang from our Fresno Hmong congregation, and all the student pastors in the training program.



Annual Conference Session Offering to Benefit Africa University

School Celebrates its 25th Anniversary this Year

The 2017 Annual Conference Session offering will benefit Africa University as the school celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

Africa University aspires to become a world class university for leadership development in Africa. The mission of Africa University is to provide quality education within a Pan-African context through which persons can acquire general and professional knowledge and skills, grow in spiritual maturity, develop sound moral values, ethics and leadership qualities.

With an enrollment of more than 1,500 full-time students and 800 part-time students, Africa University, located in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe, today has more than 6,100 graduates from 32 African countries. More than half of the students (53 percent) are female — more than double other universities throughout Africa. The university offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in agriculture and natural resources, education, health sciences, humanities and social sciences, management and administration, peace leadership and governance and theology.

Today Africa University boasts 6,200 alumni many of whom have gone on to serve in their countries in significant leadership positions. Countless people in the worldwide connection have supported the university with their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Over the years, United Methodists have provided financial support through the Africa University Fund apportionment and World Service Special Gifts, bearing testimony to the high regard for AU within the connection.

A plan for the United Methodist-related university was presented to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in October 1987. Prompted by United Methodist plans to establish a continent-wide university in Zimbabwe where no private universities existed, President Robert Mugabe formed a government commission in 1987 to study the country's higher education needs and make recommendations about the role of private universities in the nation's overall education scheme.

At the 1988 General Conference, United Methodists overwhelmingly accepted the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's proposal to begin the university. On the 6th of April 1991, thousands of people from throughout Zimbabwe watched as the groundbreaking ceremony took place and one acacia tree was planted at the Old Mutare Mission site of Africa University. In January 1992, President Robert Mugabe granted Africa University's Charter by official proclamation.

Finance

Income in January and February did not cover the bills for those two months. This is because we have major payments in January for insurance. The property insurance bill was \$10,163 for the year and the health insurance premium for the first quarter was \$7,273. This shortfall is an annual occurrence. The carryover from previous years helps with this, but often is not enough to keep from coming out behind early in the year.

The General Fund expenses for the two months totaled \$54,579. Total income was \$40,177. We were able to make the insurance payments and all other expenses excluding apportionments by using the \$2,015 carried over from 2016 and borrowing from our designated funds. At the end of February, the General Fund was short by \$12,388 which will need to be made up as the months go by. Extra contributions early in the year will help with this cash flow situation.

The Thrift Store raised enough to contribute \$3,500 for the Conference Tithe (apportionments). This payment toward the \$4,384 due for January and February was made at the end of March.

A major expense in March was the annual payment to Workman's Compensation Insurance which totaled \$2,430. And in April we will need to pay the second quarter health insurance premium of \$7,273.

Our estimates of giving totaling \$141,111 are up from last year and donors are keeping up with these estimates better than the first two months last year, falling only about \$1,300 behind so far.

As a church, we have many wonderful ministries that we are able to carry out, and many more that we carry in our hearts until we find a way to make them happen. We pray that each person associated with our church will find ways to help further God's kingdom

Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute generously to make our ministries possible.

Special Friends

A Joyful Life
Rejoice in the Lord always.
Philippians 4:4



When our hearts are surrendered totally to the will of God, then we delight in seeing Him use us in any way He pleases. Our plans and desires begin to agree with His, and we accept His direction in our lives. Our sense of joy satisfaction and fulfillment in life increases, no matter what the circumstances if we are the center of God's will.

The Christian life is a joyful life. Christianity was never meant to be something to make people miserable. The ministry of Jesus Christ was one of Joy. The Bible teaches a life of inward peace and joy. The Bible teaches us a life of inward peace and outward victory is a Christian's birthright.

"What a witness to the world Christians would be" wrote Amy Camichael "if only they were more evidently very happy people." Joy is one of the marks of a true believer. Will others see the joy of Christ in your life today?

Service

	Cards	Calls	Visits	Letters
February	19	24	18	3
March	38	24	10	

**Have you remembered
the Memorial UMC
in your will or trust?**

Think about the part you want to play in our Church's future. You have the opportunity to support this ministry in many ways. Naming the Church as a beneficiary in your estate plan or the making of an endowment gift can assure your continued participation in this ministry far into the future. Ask your estate planning consultant on ways you might support the church into the future.

Grace and peace be with you all! We are currently in the season of Lent, moving quickly toward Easter. It is a time to really focus on Paul's missional resolve, "To know only Christ, and him crucified."

(1 Corinthians 2:2)

As I contemplate the ministry of MUMC – what is happening now, and where it will lead in the future – I have great hope. Certainly great changes will come. This is truly the work of God, and preparing ourselves to move forward with God will make all our transitions more grace-filled and holy. This is a wonderful congregation. Bishop Kelly used to remind us all, "God can do great things in the lives of people who refuse to put up barriers."

What type of barriers might we be unintentionally erecting in our hearts? In our minds? In our ministries?

Below is a wonderful reflection shared by our District Superintendent, Rev. Debra Brady. It refers to the story of Nicodemus' visit to Jesus, which is found in the third chapter of the Gospel of John. I hope you will find it thought provoking, as I did.

-js

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Central Valley,

I like rules. I am good at following rules. My husband will occasionally tease me about a time 30 years ago when we were walking to a parking garage late at night in downtown San Francisco. As we approached an intersection, I came to a stop. "Why are you stopping?" inquires Steve. "There's a red light and 'Don't Walk' sign," I said, explaining the obvious. Steve started laughing as he took my hand and led me across the completely empty street.

Following the rules is instinctual to me. Perhaps that is why Methodism was appealing to me as I was finding my way back to the journey of Christian discipleship. I like structure and order. They have served me well. Much of my work as a D.S. is interpreting rules and making sure pastors and churches follow the rules.

And yet I am also keenly aware that there is a false security in following the rules. The rules don't always lead us to do the right thing. The rules do not always equip us to adapt to the needs of our current mission context. A focus on obeying the rules can keep us from being a flexible and supple body that is sensitive to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Nicodemus, a legal scholar who was well acquainted with institutional rules, came to Jesus by night. Many theories have been posited about why Nicodemus came at night. I tend to think it is because asking questions can be a risky thing to do in a system that rewards people for being good rule-followers. I think Nicodemus was intrigued by the ways Jesus' teachings were challenging rules. He engages Jesus in a series of questions attempting to get at the heart of the faith and make sense of things. John's gospel records Jesus's response:

The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"
-John 3:8-9

As we continue our efforts to engage a new generation in disciple-making processes, I'm wondering how we can create a discipleship system built on inquiry. While rules will always be necessary, how can we create a community culture that encourages people to ask better questions and move with the Holy Spirit toward what is right and vital rather than what has been done in the past? Such an approach can make us uneasy. The wind of the Holy Spirit is not something we control. It leads us to wild and dangerous places where our rules do not serve us well. Let us take heart, however, that God is always with us and we need not be afraid.

Walking with you as we follow Jesus,
Debra

Memorial United Methodist
Church of Clovis
1726 Pollasky Ave
Clovis, CA 93612

CHURCH PHONE: 559-299-4615

CHURCH E-MAIL: memumc@mem-umc.org



Holy Week:

Holy Week begins on April 9 with Palm Sunday, the celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

8:45 am Imagine! Worship Service
10:00 am Hmong Language Service
11:15 am Traditional Worship Service

Maundy Thursday, April 13 at 6:30 pm

Good Friday, April 14, will have two opportunities to spend time reflecting on Jesus' offering for us:

Noon-3 pm there will be a self guided prayer stations in our worship center as we follow the story of Jesus passion and crucifixion.

6:30 pm at Academy there will be a tennabrea service, as we read scripture and extinguish the candles

Easter Sunday April 16

6:30 am Sunrise Service at Academy
8:45 am Imagine! Worship Service
10:00 am Hmong Language Service
11:15 am Traditional Worship Service
12:00 pm Academy Easter Potluck
2:00 pm-Academy Easter Service