

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

OCT / NOV

559-299-4615 MEM-UMC.ORG

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**All Circuit All Church Conference Nov 25th
5pm at United Japanese Christian Church on
136 North Villa Avenue Clovis, CA 93612**

- † Potluck—bring a dish to share
- † All Circuit Ministry Celebration
- † Music
- † All Church Conferences
- † Fun with circuit pastors

**It's gonna be a wonderful time together—fun, inspirational,
uplifting ,challenging , and totally worth your time!**

**Once again we will be brightening Christmas for
the children of our community with our**

TOY DRIVE.

**Please bring toys to the church before December
10th and support this outreach to our community.**

Sign ups will be on December 8th from 9am –12pm

Distribution on December 24th at 10am



Cookies!

We need cookies for our
"Live Nativity-Christmas Card
for the Community"

Please sign up on the
chart in the Narthex.

Plan to bring
cookies to the
church

Dec 13th-15th



Wanted

**7 Readers needed for Dec 30th
readers theater at both services.**

**1 or 2 people needed to portray
Kings at both services on**

January 6

Contact the office for more information.

GIVE A GIFT OF WARMTH THIS CHRISTMAS

Once again you have an opportunity to celebrate the Good News of our Lord's birth by reaching out to the homeless of the Fresno area. Through your generous giving over the years, hundreds of folk have had their hearts and their bodies warmed. The bare little tree in the narthex is ready to be made bright and cheery with your gifts of caps, gloves, scarves, socks, blankets, and other items that provide warmth. New is preferred, but gently used is fine. Small toys, children's books, adult devotional material, and personal care items are also appreciated. Items for men, women, and children are needed. Please wrap your gifts, label them with size or other pertinent information and put under the "Warm Tree." Gifts should be brought to the church no later than the morning of Saturday, December 15^h.

For more information, please see Sue DeFranco

Christmas Giving That Gives Back

If you are looking for some unique ideas for Christmas gifts that will delight the recipient but also help others, here are a couple of alternative giving options.

- ▶ Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Chocolate and Geobars will be available to purchase singly or you may choose items to put together in a decorative basket, wrapped and ready for giving. Items will be sold at cost, but any additional donation that you wish to make will benefit the Haiti Mission Trip.
- ▶ We also have beautiful jewelry for sale that incorporates beads handmade by Haitian artisans. The Haitian Bead Project fosters community, provides a cottage industry, and offers fair wages to the artists who make the jewelry, many of whom have no other way to provide for their families. A small portion of the sales from these products will also go to our Haiti Mission Team.

If you are interested in any of these gift ideas, please talk with Sue DeFranco.

WORSHIP SERVICES IN DECEMBER AT ACADEMY CHURCH

10667 N. Madsen Ave., Clovis, CA, 93619

**December 2 at 2:30 pm
Advent Service**

&

**December 24 at 4:00 pm
Christmas Service**

Followed by coffee and cookies

Upcoming Events

Advent Dinner

An annual tradition at MUMC

Our annual Advent dinner is on a new night! Come out on SUNDAY, Dec. 2 for food, fellowship, and fun! This potluck party will get you in the Christmas mood so don't miss it! Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact the church office to reserve a seat. Let us know if you would like to host a table-- we look forward to enjoying your decorations!

Kingdom Conference

December 22 MUMC will be hosting the 2012 Kingdom Conference! This annual event invites youth from all congregations in our Annual Conference, especially targeting youth in congregations which have an active Hmong ministry. There will be music, and fellowship, food and inspirational speakers.

We are so pleased and blessed to have this ministry opportunity! Please lift this event in your prayers - for low stress levels to those planning and organizing this event, safe travel and spiritual blessings for ALL who participate.

UMW

December 3rd
Board Meeting
in the library
at 9am



December 11th
Unit Meeting Souper Christmas
10 am Host Ex-Board



2nd Sunday Lunch

We have been enjoying wonderful meals at our 2nd Sunday lunches! Be sure to attend in December and January. \$5/adults, \$2/children gets you a complete meal and a seat at a table with good friends - long time and new.

We know December is a busy month, so don't worry about cooking lunch on the 9th! Come on over to the Fellowship Hall about noon for a hot meal!

Leadership Training

The 2013 MUMC Leadership Training event will be immediately after the 2nd Sunday Lunch on January 13. All elected leaders in our congregation should plan to attend this important event. The training will be from 1-2:30 p.m. It will be fun and informative - designed to keep your mind engaged and sidestep the nap-trap!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

December—January Birthdays

CROP Walk Update

Our Community Walk for Hunger took place on October 21st at 1st Congregational Church. This year 2 walkers from Memorial joined together with 6 walkers (and one dog) from Holy Family Episcopal Church and together the team raised \$2,226! It was a great team effort and we felt so blessed to be walking together as brothers and sisters in Christ. The Walk benefits the world hunger agencies and the hungry of our valley served by the Community Food Bank. Thanks to all who supported our walkers through their financial donations and their prayers..

Hearing Assistance

Memorial has a hearing assist system in the sanctuary for those people who have difficulty hearing. Receivers and ear-phones are located in the entry to the sanctuary. You have a choice of over the head phones, clip on earphones, or ear buds. We recommend ear buds if they will work for you. The clear sound actually makes listening easier, even if you do hear well.

Ron Zastovnik



Wanda Grimsley	12/01	Margie Magargee	01/01
Rena Love	12/01	Shelby Cox	01/04
Robin Matthew Rogers	12/01	William Rose	01/04
Nancy Enloe	12/02	Vernon Crooke	01/06
Tammy Raddatz	12/03	Betty Taylor	01/07
John Her	12/05	Jonathan Shue Feng Yang	01/07
Sharon Hutchinson	12/05	Andrew Zastovnik	01/08
Erin Pachelbel	12/05	Christine Uwaoma	01/09
Wang Pao Thao	12/05	Mary Vollman	01/09
Cecelia Acton	12/06	Wiley Harkins	01/11
Dick Gist	12/06	Denise Fang Yang	01/11
Karolyn Lambert	12/10	Eric Cannon	01/13
Jessica Stocks	12/14	Blake Glazebrook	01/19
Andrew Stocks	12/15	Margie Cox	01/21
Katherine Yang	12/15	Matthew Remer	01/23
Geraldine Montgomery	12/17	Sarah Hutchinson	01/24
Hayes Van-Remington	12/19	Clara Yang	01/25
Bea Bannister	12/20	Norma Crooke	01/27
Gwen Emmick	12/22	Rebecca Hutchinson	01/27
Gao Xong Hang	12/22	Rodger Pachelbel	01/27
Kristi Harkins	12/22	Rick Snow	01/27
Bella Yang	12/22	Carl Nutting	01/29
Gwen Yang	12/22	Corinne Williams	01/29
Robert Markland	12/23		
Dani Yang	12/24		
Dani Yang	12/24		
Kim Leslile	12/27		
Jeff Pond	12/27		
Fue Thao	12/27		
Lois Ames	12/29		
Kevin Lee	12/29		
Sue Vang	12/31		



Special Friends

The Special Friends Group met in September and October celebrating our mission of proclaiming the Good News of God's love to friends unable to be in worship with us.

From Isaiah 43:18-19, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!" We talked about Alive Now's theme on Transitions. So many changes are taking place, especially the aging in our congregation, often limiting the activities they have enjoyed taking part in with the church family. When these changes come, we think of God's presence like an anchor helping us hold fast to Him, and the thought that God is deeply present in all the facets of our lives.

On October 11th we thought about the meaning of True Hospitality as shared in Luke 14:13-14 "When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. When visiting a nursing home with many patients with dementia, one doubts if anyone is aware of your presence making the visit invalid because there would be no credit for the ministry to those patients. But Luke says otherwise. Jesus warns us that true hospitality has nothing to do with a reward for our action. True hospitality is giving without the hope of being paid back. True hospitality grows out of our love for God and our desire to be Christ in the world, not out of a desire to build or protect our ego or public image

We added Anne Iseli to our list of 90 year old church members, Congratulations Anne!

During September and October we sent 80 cards, wrote 27 notes, made 42 phone calls and 43 visits, sharing God's love with our special friends.

Our next meeting will be December 13th at 2:00 pm, in the library. Come Join us.

Blessings, Lorraine

Boutique News

Holiday Boutique 2012 is in the record books and what a time we had. We had help from inside and outside our church. The weather even helped us out this year. It just seemed that our summer was not going to end but on opening day, it turned cool and it rained a little. If you could not attend, you missed a wonderful experience. Thanks to our cooks Stan and Guin Jenanyan and their helpers; we were served a wonderful lunch on both Friday and Saturday. Our handmade things were beautiful and we benefited greatly from a donation of unique dolls. Thanks to all who brought fudge, brownies, cookies, jam and other sweets for our Country Store; it all sold. Our drawing winners were: Patti Pond, Edie Dyer, Pam Wade and Cali Hess. You also will be happy to hear that the Boutique Group will be making a \$5750.00 donation towards our apportionments. I am continually amazed by our Holiday Boutique. The group is rather small but each year we put together a sale that I am so proud of. So, thanks to all for another successful boutique.

Sincerely, Carole Schweitzer

Mission Thrift Shop

Thrift shop will accept gently used, clean clothing, dishes, kitchenware, books (novels, inspirational, cook books, not text books), tools, small furniture like what would fit in the back seat of a car, rugs, towels, bedroom linens and blankets, jewelry, toys, home accessories.

Some very junky trashy things have been left outside the newspaper shed and we don't even have a way of getting rid them.

A key to quality would be not to leave anything that you would not buy yourself.



Finance Report

Our church has been doing well financially in 2012. All of our bills and most of our apportionments have been paid through October. Our General

Can you **BUMP** up your giving?

Blessing
Unimagined
Made
Possible!

Fund income pays the bills for pastors, support staff and lay leadership (which was \$141,061 through October), the church facilities and parsonage (\$53,664), apportionments (\$22,479), and program and office expenses (\$16,133).

We began this year with a balance of \$3,166 in the General Fund. Through October, we brought in an additional \$204,361. The Hmong Language Fund had \$5,409 on hand and brought in another \$26,711 to help defray the expense of Pastor Thao's compensation. Bills through October totaled \$233,691. This leaves a balance of \$5,956 in the General Fund. The AST authorized setting aside \$3,972 of this for a facilities maintenance reserve. We used approximately half of the remainder toward our obligation to the conference's expenses.

We anticipate that income from the Boutique and Thrift Shop will cover most of the remaining apportionments. BUMP pledges and a few new BUMP contributions could take care of the rest. Please consider joining in the effort to pay our Apportionments in full this year. We are almost there. Your donations of \$25, \$50, \$100 or whatever you can give could make the difference.

BUMP (Blessings Unimagined Made Possible) giving through October totals \$7,713. Just another \$500 beyond current unpaid pledges will put us at \$10,000 for the year.

Fundraisers to help send a team from our church and Grace UMC to Haiti have raised \$5,863. \$2,600 of this was used to send Sara to Haiti in September so she can be one of our leaders when the rest of our team goes in March. Fundraisers so far include the Café Via Buffet, Sees Candy, Huntington Blvd. Rummage Sale, Fair Trade coffee and chocolate and several other events and sales. Many of these are ongoing and more will continue to occur. Please consider participating to support our mission team.

See's Candy Sale Benefits Haiti Mission Trip



The Haiti Mission Team is selling See's chocolate bars and lollipops to raise money for their mission trip during Spring Break 2013. You can support their efforts by purchasing the bars and pops from team members or in the church office. You can also check out a box of 24 to sell at your place of business, service club, etc. If you are interested in selling or buying please contact :

Sue DeFranco
298-7658

or Connie Alfaro
323-1938.

As Darren Williams said,

**"See the need...
sell the See's."**

In early October 2012 I was blessed to attend the best, most practical workshop I have ever experienced. I was in Leawood, Kansas, at the UM Church of the Resurrection's Leadership Institute. I took a workshop on "Leading Change in the Congregation."

Here is what I learned that has blessed me every week for two months:

There are 5 steps to take when wanting to introduce change into a congregation's ministries.

- 1) gather as much input and as many ideas as possible.
- 2) develop a plan
- 3) test the plan - make adjustments and test those, too
- 4) train leadership for the ministry
- 5) launch the program

These steps are all important and need to be done in the order listed above. The step that seems obvious now, but I missed before is #3 - Test the plan! Brilliant!!

In the summer and fall members and friends of MUMC took surveys and had meetings to collect ideas about how to develop our Christian Education program, especially the children & youth ministries. In October and November plans have been developed.

IN JANUARY 2013 we will TEST the plan for having a Christian Education time on Sunday evenings. Here are the highlights of the plan:

We will begin with dinner at 5 pm - there will be a variety of food each week to appeal to various preferences. (Well, the first 2 weeks will be a variety of pizzas, but after that we will be having different sorts of foods - something for everyone)

We will ask for a donation of \$2 for adults and \$1 for kids, to help cover the cost of the food.

At 5:45 we will go to age-appropriate classes.

**The children's program will use the model of "stations" to teach the weekly lessons.

** there will be at least 2 classes for adults - one in English and one in Hmong

We are looking for people who will help us TEST this program, beginning January 6 at 5:45.

We need people of ALL ages:

We need kitchen workers

We need teachers

We need participants!

If you are willing to be part of the test program beginning January 6, talk with me! It is going to be a TERRIFIC experience and a GLORIOUS ministry! Praise God! -js

December 18th 4-9pm

Dining to Donate
 Enjoy a meal that's filling - and fulfilling.
 Dine at Applebee's[®] and 10% of your bill will be donated to
Memorial United Methodist Church

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TIP AND TAX EXCLUDED
 Present this flyer to your server on
December 18th @ 4 pm - 9 pm
 at
3604 W. Shaw Ave. Fresno, CA 93711
 You must bring this flyer for your donation to be counted.

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Bring this coupon

for your donation to count

Memorial United Methodist

Church of Clovis

1726 Pollasky Ave

Clovis, CA 93612

Remember
Dec 15-16, 6-8pm
Live Nativity

Our Christmas Card to the community
www.clovislivenativity.org
(sign up to help on Sundays or by calling the
church office.)

CHURCH PHONE: 559-299-4615

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

November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
18 *9:15 Prayer Cell *2:30 Academy Worship *5 pm Concert	19 *6:30 pm Haiti Team	20 *4:00 Lay Leader- ship Com.	21	22 *Office Closed *Thanksgiving	23	24 *8:00 am Yoga
25 *5:00 pm Circuit gathering & All- Church Conf. UJCC	26 *UMW Cookie Drive *4:30 pm Ad Sup- port	27 *8:00 am Thrift Shop Workday	28 *6:00 pm Fi- nance 2013 Budget Meeting	29	30 *Thrift Shop Christ- mas Party *6:30 New members class	