

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



DECEMBER / JANUARY

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*

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING PARTY Nov. 30



Everyone is invited to help decorate the church Christmas tree and the sanctuary on Saturday Nov. 30 at 2:00-6:00 p.m. There is a job for everyone: help set up the artificial tree, hang lights and tree decorations on the tree, hang garlands and wreaths throughout the Sanctuary and narthex, hang Christmas lights around the building, etc. We will end the evening with a light supper of soup and hot drinks.



(Undecorating will happen on January 11th from 2-5pm)



Advent Dinner

Come out on SUNDAY, Dec. 1 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.



FRESNO AND CLOVIS CHRISTMAS PARADES DEC. 7

Memorial UMC has entered a Live Nativity float in BOTH the Fresno and Clovis Christmas Parades on Saturday Dec. 7!

- ★ The Fresno parade is in the morning, and the Clovis parade is that night.
- ★ Initial float preparations will be on Dec. 6th at the William's home 3560 E Huntington Blvd., at 6 pm with finishing touches added before the parade on Saturday morning.
- ★ If you would like to help by being on the float, walking the parade route in Nativity costume, handing out Live Nativity flyers during the parades or driving the parade vehicle, please let Connie Alfaro (cell 905-2240).



LIVE NATIVITY EVENT DEC. 14-15



You and your family & friends are invited to the Live Nativity event on Dec. 14-15 between 6:00-8:00 p.m.



It is Memorial UMC's walk-through telling of the Christmas story, featuring live actors and animals, music, and the story of Jesus' birth told through scripture. Refreshments including cookies, cocoa, cider and hot dogs are provided at the end of each walk.

Make this an Annual Christmas tradition!

Widows, Widowers, & Divorced

WWD was established in October 2012, as an experiment in dealing with grief. The philosophy of this self-help experiment is that this is a way we can, as a group, give and receive support in our search for peace, hope and enjoyment of life.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 10 a.m. in the Social Hall. We met 29 times this past year with an average attendance of 8 persons-total attendance of 240 persons.

Our meetings are designed for free exchange of personal feelings. Spending time together in understanding discussion, and aided by suggestions from more than 4 experienced mentors, we believe this will provide all attendees with support and a path to joy and hope.

We have discovered how important 'fun' is in replacing that empty feeling of despair that so often accompanies grief. A typical meeting begins with a few minutes for introductions, followed by 5 (or so) minutes of business (next meeting, interesting community activities, news, etc.,) 15 minutes of planned program and discussion. Then we adjourn for snacks, coffee, tea and a table game, Farkle, which brings out a lot of laughter and friendly competition. We try to conclude on a high note. Our door is open to all.

Submitted by Glynda Ward and Don Haulman



Youth & Young Adults

Youth Group on Friday nights! Anyone who is in Jr High through unmarried young adults are welcome to come join us in the Bungalow from 7-9p. Hope to see you there!!
-Sara



Mission Thrift Shop

Thrift Shop is having many successes in sales and great volunteer cooperation to produce successful sale days. We still need tools, gardening tools, small furniture, dishes and of course clothing. Christmas lights & ornaments will be need by Nov. 26th.



Thank you & Merry Christmas!

Christian Education:

Sunday Evening Children & Youth Classes To resume on January 12th

Bible in a Year (BIAY) will continue see calendar for dates

BIAY

We are nearing the half-way mark! Wow! We will soon turn to the New Testament scriptures! Weekly classes continue, offering an opportunity to discuss the most challenging and inspiring text from the previous week's readings. With special Holiday celebrations, check the calendar for the schedule of class offerings.

Special Friends

The Special Friends Group met September 12th, meditating on Micha 6:8 asking what does the Lord require of you? The prophet replies that pleasing God is not a matter of religious actions. Pleasing God is about how we live our lives. Pleasing God means doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God. Living a life of justice means we are actively working for fairness and equality for all, especially the powerless. A life of kindness is one of love, loyalty and fairness. Walking humbly with God means living with others the same way God is living with us.

We shared our reports on our special friends. During the month we made 6 visits, 51 phone visits, and sent 49 cards or notes.

Closing thought: God, just as, in Christ, you made yourself vulnerable by embracing our humility, let us open ourselves to the joys, the sufferings, the needs, and delights of every life.

October 10th, the scripture lesson came from Paul's letter to the Philippians 1:27: "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ." Paul feared that his friends at Philippi might live differently if no one held them accountable. He acknowledged how they had obeyed him while he was with them and then explained that it was even more important that they remain obedient in his absence.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, December 12th at 2 pm. Closing thought: Being a follower of Jesus is a full-time job. May we be strengthened when we are tempted to compromise our integrity.

Blessings Lorraine May



The Christian Book Club

is reading "The Time Keeper" by Mitch Albom. Our next selection is "The Case for a Creator" by Lee Strobel. Books have to be ordered, so if you are interested call me at 264-4665. This book promises to create a lot of discussion.

BALLROOM DANCE

*Join us for dancing on:
Nov. 8th and 23rd.
In Dec. the 27th only.*

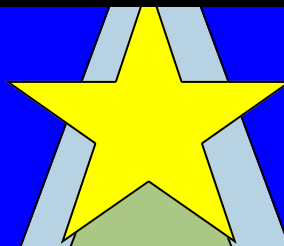


Upcoming Events

New Year's Eve party

It's a fun tradition-let's keep going! Just show up any time after 7 pm. Bring along a game or puzzle & some munchies to share.

Hang out with others from your faith family until you are ready to go home! We will be at the church through the countdown at midnight - when we join together for a time of prayer and praise. After a quick clean up we head home for a few hours sleep and awaken rested and ready to serve God in 2014.



Warm Tree Reaches Out to Poverello

The season of Advent is upon us and once again you will have an opportunity to warm the bodies and hearts of

★ those who are served by Poverello House. Place your wrapped gift of mittens, gloves, scarves, jackets, long-sleeved warm shirts, socks, etc under the small decorated tree in the Narthex.

- ★ You might want to provide toiletries or personal hygiene products such as toothpaste, hand and body lotions, etc. for a friend in need.
- ★ Small toys, stuffed animals, or books for children are also wonderful gifts to share.

Please make sure your gift is tagged with information as size and whether your gift is intended for a man, woman, or child.

Gifts will be delivered to Poverello on Sunday, December 15th.

For more information, see Sue DeFranco.

2nd Annual

A Season of Light Concert

Sunday, January 5th at 5:30

You are cordially invited to wrap up your holiday season with a special evening of music to celebrate this most beautiful time of the year. Come enjoy a selection of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany musical offerings by the choir, the Sunday School children, and other performers. Sing those favorite carols one last time before next holiday season.

Enjoy one last cup of cheer after the concert. A free will offering will support our Sunday School Children's efforts

to provide scholarships for children to attend Thomas School in Haiti



TAAG TEAM NACHOS AND PLANNING PARTY JAN. 18:

(Totally Awesome All Generations Team)
Let's start the year off right with NACHOS! Join your TAAG Team friends: January 18 at 6:00 p.m. at the church for

nachos bar/ table games/2014 event planning

Bring your ideas and your appetite!
ALL ages are welcome & encouraged to join the fun!

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 14th from 9am -12pm

Distribution on

December 24th at 10am



The First Friday Film Fest

There will be no First Friday Film Fest in December

Jan. 3, 2014
6:30 p.m. 1st Friday
"Freedom" Film Fest
"Invictus"

MUMC & Academy Bible Study

The Bible study continues!

December 1st we will meet at Academy at 10:30 a.m. to study chapter 6 of "The Life of Jesus".

January 4th we will discuss chapter 7 in the Lose Library at MUMC at 10:30.

Come join us for prayer and Bible study as we reconnect at a deeper level with our friends from Academy Methodist Church.

UMW News

December

- 2- Executive Board
9:00 AM, Library
- 17- Souper Christmas Lunch
10:00 AM
Fellowship Hall, Bring Friends

January

- 6-Executive Board 9:00 AM, Library
- 21-Unit Meeting, 10:00 AM,
Fellowship Hall
- 22- Wesley , Fellowship Hall





Update November 5, 2013

Meal Packing Goal **120,000 meals**
 (1,000 meals for each year MUMC has been a congregation)

Total Meals Packed **121,422 meals!**

We surpassed our goal!

Financial Goal **\$30,000**

\$.25 per meal

Total Funds raised to date **\$23,854**

Just \$6,146 more to go!



Thanks for your ongoing support.

Finance

September 30, 2013

General Fund

Beginning Balance	-\$1,925.51
Income Sept	\$29,329.05
Expenses Sept	\$14,552.61
Ending Balance	\$12,850.93

September was an outstanding month financially. General Fund income was up by \$10,000 over August. Of that, pledged contributions were \$4,000 more in September. The Thrift Store raised \$3,000 to go toward apportionments. We were able to add \$2,000 more to the Thrift Store total and write an apportionment check for \$5,000 in October. That leaves \$10,000 still due on apportionments and another \$2,600 for second mile giving which includes the programs that have funded many of the grants we have received. We are hoping that the Boutique and Thrift Store income will cover a good portion of the remainder due, but we will also need regular contributions to cover the rest.

December January Birthdays

12/01	Wanda	Grimsley
12/01	Rena	Love
12/02	Nancy	Enloe
12/05	John	Her
12/05	Sharon	Hutchinson
12/05	Erin	Pachelbel
12/05	Wang Pao	Thao
12/06	Cecelia	Acton
12/06	Dick	Gist
12/09	Joua Annie	Yang
12/10	Karolyn	Lambert
12/16	Maiger	Xiong
12/17	Geraldine	Montgomery
12/18	Kongmeng	Xiong
12/19	Hayes	Van-Remington
12/20	Bea	Bannister
12/22	Gwen	Emmick
12/22	Kristi	Harkins
12/23	Robert	Markland
12/27	Kim	Leslie
12/29	Lois	Ames
01/01	Seng	Lee
01/04	Shelby	Cox
01/04	Bill	Rose
01/06	Vernon	Crooke
01/07	Betty	Taylor
01/08	Andrew	Zastovnik
01/09	Christine	Uwaoma
01/09	Mary	Vollman
01/11	Wiley	Harkins
01/12	Pang Ying	Yang
01/13	Eric	Cannon
01/16	Chong	Lee
01/19	Blake	Glazebrook
01/21	Margie	Cox
01/23	Matthew	Remer
01/24	Sarah	Hutchinson
01/27	Norma	Crooke
01/27	Rebecca	Hutchinson
01/27	Rodger	Pachelbel
01/27	Rick	Snow
01/29	Carl	Nutting
01/29	Corinne	Williams



This been an amazing year!

I am so blessed to be serving his congregation!

We did several new and BIG events in 2013.

- ✦ Launched a new Christian Education Hour on Sunday evenings.
- ✦ First international mission trip - to Haiti
- ✦ Lenten focus on Committed to Christ
- ✦ First UMM breakfast at Cafe Via for men in our area
- ✦ Huge Homecoming weekend, with a mega-meal packing event (121,422 meals packed - surpassing our goal of 120,000)

For 2014 we hope to build on these ministries and go deeper in our spiritual life, as individuals and as a congregation.

I am not looking to introduce new ministries in 2014. If YOU have a new ministry you would like to launch - bring it on! I will support the work of the Holy Spirit in your lives!!

What the Holy Spirit is telling me is to take time in the coming year to strengthen some of the ministries begun previously. These might include:

- ✦ Our Hmong Funeral Outreach Ministry
- ✦ Our Christian Education hour on Sundays - all areas: children, youth and adults
- ✦ A training opportunity with VORP (Victim Offender Reconciliation Program)
- ✦ Looking at ways to upgrade our Fellowship Hall/kitchen/Education Building
- ✦ Perhaps we can install an electronic sign on Pollasky
- ✦ Stewardship as a holistic approach to Discipleship
- ✦ 3H's as a tool to help us be intentional about discipleship and intentional spiritual growth (Head, Heart, Hands)
- ✦ Our on-going-hands-on mission work
- ✦ Be more intentional about leadership development
- ✦ Strengthening our ties to community we forged in 2013.

In 2013 we have seen how God CAN accomplish far more abundantly than all we can ask or imagine! I am looking forward to the wonders we will behold in 2014!!

-js

Holy Land Trip

At a recent meeting preliminary plans moved a our date for a trip to the Holy Land to the first part of 2015. This will allow folks time to save up money. Also plans were made to do fundraising OUTSIDE of MUMC. This will serve 2 purposes:

1. to make the trip more affordable AND
2. avoid shifting the cost to the congregation.

Contact with our UM missionary just outside Bethlehem has already been made. The trip will be both inspirational and rewarding.

The next planning meeting will be at 1 p.m. On January 12 - following the 2nd Sunday Lunch. Anyone interested in participating in this pilgrimage is encouraged to attend this meeting - even if you think you can't afford the cost. Come check it out!



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

Cookies!

We need cookies for our
"Live Nativity-Christmas Card for the
Community"
Plan to bring cookies to the church
Dec 13th-15th

CHURCH PHONE: 559-299-4615

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

Special Worship Services in December

Sunday Worship Services will remain on our regular schedule throughout Dec.:

- ★ 9:30am Imagine
- ★ 11:00am Traditional
- ★ 3:00pm Hmong Language

Additionally we will have several special worship services.

December 8: at 2:00 pm at Academy's Advent Service

December 21: Longest Night service begins with soup supper at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

December 24: there are three different Christmas Eve Services:

- ★ 4 pm at Academy
a beautiful setting for this inspirational worship
- ★ 7 pm at MUMC
Especially designed to be "kid friendly"
- ★ 10:30 pm at MUMC
candlelight, lessons & carols

December 31:
at 11:59 pm! - begin the New Year with your mind fixed on Jesus!