



# GOOD NEWS!

DECEMBER 2017 – JANUARY 2018  
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

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9 am to 1 pm

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Dorrie Osback-Rose

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## LIVE NATIVITY EVENT

**DEC. 9-10, 2017**

You and your family & friends  
are invited to

the Live Nativity event

between 6:00-8:00 p.m.

New this year: Fresno Korean UMC will join with us!  
Plus, we will tell the story in 3 languages!

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!**

**Walk through rehearsal Dec 8th at 6:30pm**



## Potluck Supper

*a cherished tradition*

Come out on  
**SUNDAY, Dec. 3**

for food, fellowship, and fun!

This potluck party will get you  
in the Christmas mood, so don't miss it!

Decorating starts at 3pm

Gather at 5:30 pm



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.

## December January Birthdays

Wanda	GRIMSLEY	12/01
Nancy	ENLOE	12/02
Cydney	Fang	12/04
Michael	UWAOMA	12/04
John	HER	12/05
Sharon	HUTCHINSON	12/05
Erin	PACHELBEL	12/05
Wang Pao	THAO	12/05
Cecelia	ACTON	12/06
Yia Lee	XIONG	12/09
Karolyn	LAMBERT	12/10
Chon Koua	XIONG	12/10
Wilbert	SWIESO	12/12
Cha Wa	YANG	12/15
Michelle	YANG	12/16
Kong meng	XIONG	12/18
Bea	BANNISTER	12/20
Gwen	EMMICK	12/22
Kristi	HARKINS	12/22
Robert	MARKLAND	12/23
Richart	FOTTRELL	12/24
Fue	THAO	12/27
Lisa	VANG	12/27
Lois	AMES	12/29
Kevin	LEE	12/29
Jackelyn	AVILA	12/31

Seng	LEE	01/01
Mao	VANG	01/01
Shelby	COX	01/04
Bill	ROSE	01/04
Pa	MOUA	01/08
Andrew	ZASTOVNIK	01/08
Christine	UWAOMA	01/09
Mary	VOLLMAN	01/09
Bee	XIONG	01/10
Lee	XIONG	01/10
Pa Nhia	YANG	01/12
Pang Ying	YANG	01/12
Chue	THAO	01/15
Margie	COX	01/21
Jenny	XIONG	01/22
Richard	ALEXANDER	01/24
Rodger	PACHELBEL	01/27
Rick	SNOW	01/27
Corinne	WILLIAMS	01/29

**Wesley UMC Prison Packing Event**

Packing Day for the Wesley Prison Ministry this year is Saturday, December 2 at Wesley UMC. We'll start at 9:00 a.m. and expect to be done around noon. We appreciate your support and need as many volunteers as possible since the prison population has increased and we need over 3000 gift bags this year.

Another way you can help is to give an extra greeting card (all kinds). In each bag they include 5 greeting cards inmates can use to send to family throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing you on 12/2.



**The Mission  
Thrift Shop  
Customer  
Appreciation Day  
Dec 1st & 2nd**

**Cider and Cookies will be served**

Work days for December are the 12th & 26th

**January Sale Days 5th & 6th**

Work days for January are the 19th & 23rd

Donations gladly accepted:

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9am-1pm  
and Sunday mornings.

## Upcoming Events

### FRESNO AND CLOVIS

#### CHRISTMAS PARADES

Memorial UMC will be entering a Live Nativity float in BOTH the Fresno and

Clovis Christmas Parades on Dec 2nd.

- ▶ The **Fresno Parade** is on Saturday morning at 11:00 am
- ▶ The **Clovis Parade** is on Saturday at 6:30 pm
- ▶ If you would like to help :
  - ▶ by helping build the float,
  - ▶ 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 call Connie Alfaro (cell 905-2240).

### Longest Night Soup Supper

December 21 is the longest night of the year. In the heart of a time of busy celebrations, many people find they are surrounded by the darkness of depression, loneliness, grief, despair. Many people struggle with promoting joy when our world is so clearly broken and so many people are suffering.

Each year we have a special time of worship on December 21. We start at 6 pm with soup supper together. Then we have a time to reflect on the pain of the world, and the deepest meaning of Christ's birth.

Anyone and everyone is invited to participate in this service. Look around to see who is not usually part of our faith community and invite them to come with you to the simple and beautiful evening together.

Dinner at 6 pm



## Angels Among Us

*Our worship focus*

*Advent and Christmas*



"Do not be afraid."

The angels that appear in the story of Jesus' birth would have been very comfortable in our world of tweets and hashtags. Their messages were often short and to the point—their favorite line being #DoNotBeAfraid. As we look at the stories of these winged messengers to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds and their reactions to them, we will contemplate what messages we can offer that will counteract a culture of fear and bring #morehope, #morepeace, #morejoy, and #morelove to the world.

### TOY DRIVE.

This year our toy drive will be partnering with the MUMC Pantry and Grace UMC. People that are served by our pantry can sign-up to receive toys for their children as they come into the pantry. Toys will be handed out in Dec along with their food. If you would like to support this ministry, please bring toys or monetary donations to the MUMC office by Dec 17th.





## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Dec. 1 & 2      8:00am Thrift Shop Open
- Dec. 2            11:00am Fresno Christmas Parade
- Dec 2            6:30pm Clovis Children's Electric Christmas Parade
- Dec. 3            2:00pm Academy Advent Service
- Dec. 3            6:00pm Advent Dinner
- Dec 9            6:00pm Live Nativity
- Dec 10           6:00pm Live Nativity
- Dec. 16          8:00am United Methodist Men's Breakfast
- Dec. 21          6:00 p.m. Longest Night Dinner/ Service
- Dec. 24          4:00 pm Academy Christmas eve Service  
7:00pm Christmas Eve Services  
10:00pm Christmas Eve Service



## Rise Against Hunger

Our Circus Circuit will have its annual meal packing event with "Rise Against Hunger" (formerly Stop Hunger Now) on Saturday, January 6 at Oakhurst Community UMC. The event will begin for YOUTH on Friday evening, with a circuit-wide overnight event. In the morning we can all join the youth in packing at least 10,000 meals! These events are always so much fun, and bring a world of difference to the lives of people suffering from hunger.

Memorial's contribution for this event will be paid from our "Second Sunday Lunch" fund.



God provided **ABUNDANTLY** for our needs, including our ministry needs.

Let's spend a fun hour together seeing how God has blessed our congregation and what new ministries we create for new people to join the ministry of MUMC to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World.

### "Asset Mapping"

for New Places New People

Wednesday, Dec 20, beginning at 6:30pm.

We will be energized and empowered in under 90 minutes!

## Upcoming Events

### Interfaith Scholar Weekend



**WITH DR.  
CHRISTIANA  
PEPPARD**

**January 19-21**



**“Just Sustainability:  
Water”**

The Interfaith Scholar Weekend in 2018 will be held January 19-21, 2018, with our featured scholar being **Dr. Christiana Peppard**, Assistant Professor of Theology, Science, and Ethics at Fordham University in New York, where she is also affiliate faculty in Environmental Studies.

Her scholarship focuses on global environmental ethics and religion and science in a pluralistic era. She is the author of *Just Water* (Orbis Books, 2014) and co-editor of *Just Sustainability: Technology, Ecology and Resource Extraction* (Orbis, 2015)

Dr. Peppard will open the weekend on Friday, January 19 at the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno, and on Saturday, January 20, will deliver 3 more lectures at temple Beth Israel round the issue of water.

You may register online at the Interfaith Scholar Weekend Website. The lecture on Friday night is free. The cost of the series on Saturday, including breakfast and lunch is \$45, when you register early. Memorial UMC has a long history of supporting this event, and we are looking forward to discussing this topic that is crucial to our Central Valley life and work.



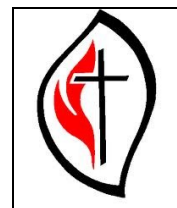
### SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH

### Second Sunday Lunches RETURN!!

We are grateful to Lucy Elgin for offering to coordinate the Second Sunday Lunches! We have been missing the yummy foods and the wonderful time of fellowship.

Important point: Lucy is NOT going to be cooking all the meals! She has however agreed to be first. If you and/or your small group or ministry team would be willing to take a turn providing the meal one month, please talk with Lucy!

Our first Second Sunday Lunch in 2018 will be on January 14.



### UMW Bake Sale

**January 21st**

All types of baked goods will be  
on sale

In the Narthex

Proceeds go to Scholarships for  
the ECCO Women's Retreat

## Holiday Boutique 2017

The 2017 Holiday Boutique is in the record books. I hope many of you were able to attend and enjoy the "eye candy" on display and for sale. And also to partake of the wonderful lunches served.

We want to thank the congregation for helping us make the boutique a success. Please remember that we work all year to make this event not only a financial success but also a social success. On Friday and Saturday we served wonderful lunches with you in mind.

We also want to thank the Monday quilters who made handmade items for us. A big thanks to family members and friends who came to help. We also want to thank the Thrift Store for allowing us to use a wonderful cash register. And thanks to Becky Posey, through her efforts we could offer our customers the ability to use their credit cards. We went high tech this year.



## Flat Wesleys – year to date

We are moving into our fifth month of taking the Flat Wesleys into the world to share the love of Jesus. Currently we are averaging about one outing per week. The Wesleys have traveled to the Midwest and East Coast, as well as, around Clovis area and nearby counties. We would LOVE to see EVERY MEMBER of MUMC out in the world with the Wesleys in the coming year. Prayerfully consider how you can carry the love of Jesus beyond the walls on our facilities, to be a blessing to the communities around us.

## Stephen Ministry Training



Stephen Ministers are laypeople—Christian men and women—trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or separation due to military deployment.

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life. Their commonality? A passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

We would like to train at least 7 more people from MUMC in this important ministry. The training will be life changing and personally empowering, and well as, deepening one's faith in Jesus. Prayerfully consider participating in the upcoming 20 week training. Talk with Xf Yeu to get more details and to pick up the application packet.

## UMW News



**Dec 4-2pm**-Ex Board 9am Planning for 2018, In the Library

**Dec 19-11:45 am**-Unit Meeting In the Fellowship Hall

**Dec 27-2:00 pm**- Wesley Circle -In the Fellowship Hall

**Jan 8-2pm**-Ex Board 9am Planning for 2018, In the Library

**Jan 8-7pm**-Susanna Circle

**Jan 16-11:45am** -Unit Meeting In the Fellowship Hall

**Jan 24-2pm**- Wesley Circle -In the Fellowship Hall

**Jan 21-10 am**-Bake Sake for ladies of our church to receive a 1/2 scholarship to retreat at ECCO in March.

## Special Friends No Pill For Youth

Remember when you were known as the youth and people rolled their eyes at when you were around. You were exuberant, joy-filled, eager to embrace life in all the mystery. Everything was new and exciting,—a snowflake, a mud puddle, a paper airplane, a new book, or a new friend. Then we grow older and we become encrusted, hard, and jaded. We lose our joy, our exuberance, our passionate embrace of life. Sometimes we trudge instead of skip, retreat instead of explore. We start to say “I’m too old for that” or “I’m not interested.”

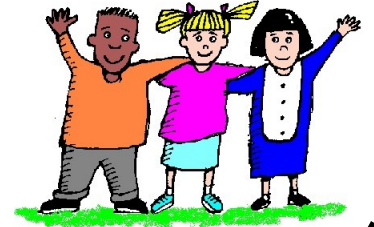
This drying up is so common that when we meet a vibrant, joy filled older person, he or she stand-out as a singular exception. But we don’t have to lose the happiness or juiciness of youth. All we need to do is to tap into our sense of gratitude, for when we do, we are like little children again, seeing the world for the first time.

GRATITUDE FOR LIFE is the magic spell for a youthful life. Think of all the things that you have to have gratitude for. Even the smallest thing is something to be in a state of Gratitude. Smile at someone remember that is a gift to give that does not cost a thing.

The idea for this was taken from Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Service:

Calls	Cards	Visits	Transportation	Letters
11	35	13	4	10



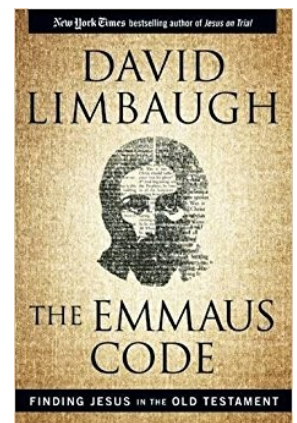
UMM will start 2018 with an extra special meeting. ALL men connected to MUMC -- members or friends, or friends of friends -- will enjoy this time together .

Saturday, January 20 10am -1pm  
 PACKED with good stuff including:  
 inspirational speaker  
 greeting friends  
 fun activity to "map" God's will for our lives  
 pizza

### Christian Book Club

The Christian Book Club is now reading  
 You are welcome to join us!  
 Tuesday Nights  
 at 7 pm in the library.

We are currently  
 reading  
 “The Emmaus Code”  
 and have books to  
 share.



## Finance Report

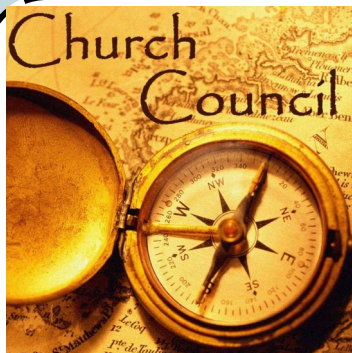
General Fund expenses paid in September and October totaled \$52,199. Total income was \$51,434, which leaves a deficit for the two months of \$765. Added to the deficit carried over from the end of August, the General Fund was short by \$6,811, which needs to be made up with the income in November and December. The deficit amount is borrowed from our designated funds and will be returned as it is possible.

We are asking all contributors to add an amount equivalent to a 13<sup>th</sup> month to their regular giving this year if possible to help make up the deficit and complete our conference apportionment tithe for the year. We are paid through September and need to make three more payments in December, which will most likely total over \$2,000 each.

The major payments in September were the apportionment tithes for May and June (\$4,284). October payments included the July conference tithe (\$1,786), the quarterly health insurance premium (\$6,058) and an annual payment for electricity (\$2,560, which equals \$213 per month).

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.



### Oversight Structure is shifting for 2018! Trying something new in our new year

We have been using the current model for organizing and coordinating ministry for many years. It has been beneficial in many ways. However, the Book of Discipline has another model for conducting the business of preparing for and implementing ministry that may better suit our current needs. This means we will shift away from Network and AST meetings.

Beginning January 1, 2018, we will have a Church Council and

Trustees meetings.

Trustee meetings will be on the first Sunday each month at 2:30 pm. The first Trustee meeting will be on January 7, at which time the trustees will elect the leadership of that board. The nine people elected to be trustees at our all-church conference are the people who need to attend this monthly meeting.

Our new Church Council will convene on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday each month, at 12:30 pm. The Lay Leader of our English Language Ministry, Jamie Belt, will chair this council. The first Church Council meeting will be on January 28. All ministries teams need to be represented, including the administrative teams.

We invite your prayers for a smooth transition to this new way of operating for our congregation, and look forward to seeing what God can accomplish in our midst!



Have you remembered the church in your will?

One way to support the ministry of our congregation well into the future is to remember to include MUMC in your will or trust. Talk with your estate attorney to find the best options for YOU to participate in this way. The words of John Wesley take on even deeper meaning, "Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can..... for as long as ever you can."





Merry Christmas?

Grace and peace be with you all!

I had a GREAT time!!

### What did I do?

I recently had the privilege of taking a "webinar" on "Evangelism for non-Evangelists." This course was taught through our UM seminary, Garrett Evangelical Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, with Associate Professor of Evangelism, Dr. Mark Teasdale, and with our UM Discipleship Ministries headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, with our Director of Evangelism, Dr. Heather Lear. Additionally, we got to do small group work with people from around the globe, including seminarians in Illinois, a lay woman in New York state, and a seminarian in Tanzania! The course was FREE, funded through our apportionment giving.

### Why take this course?

I took the course because I felt it might provide some insight the can help all of us at MUMC become more comfortable in sharing the good news. Additionally, I worked with a few members of MUMC to process what was taught and see how it could be applied to our setting.

### Did I gain any insights?

I REALLY enjoyed the course. Here are some of the things I learned:

- "Evangelism" is sharing good news, not bad news with an escape clause.
- There is no "one correct way" to do evangelism.
- Anything we do to share the good news of God's love for us through Jesus is evangelism.
- To be most effective in evangelism is NOT about having a great evangelism team, but about having everyone in all our ministries become comfortable in sharing the good news. (Developing a congregational culture where evangelism is a natural part of what we do in all our ministries and lives.)
- There are three active and interactive parts to evangelism
- SPIRIT      WORD      DEEDS
- SPIRIT: is the work of the Holy Spirit. We UM folks tend to be cognizant that nothing can be accomplished without God's Holy Spirit bringing results, but we also tend to have rather low expectations of what the Spirit will actually do in our ministries.

- WORD: is any words used to share the gospel, whether spoken by the pastor in a sermon, someone's personal testimony, or written documents, which can include tracts handed out on street corners. UM folks usually don't hand out many tracts, and many are not comfortable sharing their own testimony with others. We do have an expectation that our pastors will share the good news, particularly in worship on Sunday mornings. Some of the ways MUMC shares the good news through words is in Sunday School, and our Sunday morning worship including hymns and choir anthems.

DEEDS: anything we DO to share God's love. Most UM folk are really good at this. Our Wesleyan heritage teaches us to "Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can,.... for as long as you can." MUMC does so MANY wonderful ministries in which we share God's love through actions, such as meal packing events, relief buckets, food pantry, affordable thrift shop, and on and on.

### How can we be more effective?

To start, we need to become better at balancing all 3 interactive parts of evangelism. Match words with deeds, and deeds with words, and ALL OF IT offered daily for the Holy Spirit's use and purposes. Look with anticipation to what the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives and world.

We need to think of simple sentences we can share that tell the good news of Jesus in open and loving ways, that also feel natural to who we are and what we believe.

Which brings us to:

**Merry Christmas!** What do those words mean to most people? Do they really share the good news in a way people can understand? Research shows 87% of non-Christian families in this country celebrate Christmas in some way, so what meaning do they take away from such a greeting? When someone wished another "Happy Holidays," I have heard the words "Merry Christmas" used as a rebuke! This is NOT good news!

What does Christmas mean to YOU? How can you share that meaning in a single sentence? Perhaps try offering a short blessing, such as:

May you be surrounded by God's love in your celebrations.

May you experience God's peace in this busy season.

May you receive God's joy throughout the coming weeks.

Grace and peace be with you!

What greeting can YOU offer, that carries good news for people you greet throughout our holy-day season?

-js

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 7th-9th

CHURCH PHONE: 559-299-4615

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

## All Church Annual Fundraiser moving to January!



Yes! It's the year of the dog!

### All Church **F**undraiser

An afternoon of fun celebrating Chinese New Year

Lunch, Silent Auction, and Entertainment

January 27, 2018

Seating begins at 11:30 a.m.      12:30pm to 3:30pm

Tickets go on Sale January 7th

\$25 adults    \$10 for kids 12 and under

\$75 maximum for families



We have been having so much FUN with our FUNdraisers that we wanted to find a way to

- 1) avoid the hot months when some people cannot leave their homes and
- 2) avoid having the event in the evening when folks who cannot go out at night will be unable to participate.

For 2018 we are making a shift —Wonderful fellowship—Fantastic Food—Exciting Entertainment—Fun Silent Auction

(To donate items to the silent auction, talk with Guin Jenanyan.)