

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



Watch for the



Head



Heart



Hand

*Symbols to see
which
ministries will
help your
personal growth*

F E B / M A R C H

5 5 9 - 2 9 9 - 4 6 1 5 M E M - U M C . O R G

All-congregation Lenten Program begins February 10th

MUMC is blessed this year to have Rick Hutchinson and Darren Williams heading up a Stewardship Team! Rick and Darren have taken on this work because they both strongly believe that stewardship is about more than money - stewardship is about ALL our lifestyle choices. Ultimately, stewardship is about discipleship.

To help the congregation explore the deeper meaning of stewardship, Rick and Darren are organizing a congregation-wide program designed by Bob Crossman to help us as individuals and as a congregation grow deeper in our commitment to Jesus.

"Committed to Christ" is a 6-week program that explores various aspects of discipleship. The program encourages every person in the congregation to make a commitment to participate in a small group for one hour per week for each of the six weeks. The small groups will do prayer, Bible study and discussion on the area of focus for the week. On Sunday, the sermon will also tie into the week's emphasis. At the end of the sermon, folks are invited to complete a commitment card on that week's focus, honestly stating their level of commitment at this point of their spiritual journey.

The weekly areas of focus are:

- *Prayer
- *Bible reading
- *Worship
- *Witness
- *Financial support of ministry
- *Service

Small group leaders are being recruited now, and sign ups to participate in small groups will start by January 27. Many small groups will meet at the church on Sunday evenings in conjunction with our new Christian Education hour. Some small groups will meet on Tuesday afternoons or Thursday mornings. The small groups begin on February 10. The program will conclude on Palm Sunday, (this will be a combined service at 10:30) as we commit ourselves to service and dedicate the team leaving from Haiti that night!

This is going to be a powerful program for the ministries of our congregation. It will reach across generations, and will include both English and Hmong language ministries! Please lift this program in your personal prayer time: that the program is blessed to accomplish God's will for MUMC. Also prayerfully consider your participation in the program, and plan to register to be part of a weekly small group meeting.



Upcoming Events

Parish Nurses

Healthy Heart Day!! - will be observed February 23rd, 2013. In the Fellowship Hall.

AED - CPR training will begin at 10:00 am with American Heart Association instructors.

Luncheon - 12:00 noon. A change this year - the Healthy Heart Lunch will be provided by the Parish Nurses.

We are guaranteed a speaker this year. Eric Elgin will be back - the suggested topic is Update of Heart Medications.

This program is partially sponsored by the West Reading (Pa) Cardiology Group (In memory of George Elgin).

UMM CAKE AUCTION

Sunday February 3rd, between the 9:30 and 11 AM services, The Methodist Men will be auctioning off Super Bowl themed cakes as a fundraiser for Memorial United Methodist Church's Haiti mission trip at the end of March! If you are a man, please consider donating a cake or cupcakes, either homemade or store bought. If you are a woman, please consider buying a cake or two. If you are dieting, please consider donating money to the Haiti fund.

Superbowl Party is ON for February 3rd.

We will gather on the lawn about 2 pm to play a little football, then move into the Social Hall when kickoff is about to happen.

Bring snacks to share - make them appropriately "themed" for the day or the teams playing.

Bring comfortable chairs to sit on to watch the game.

If you don't like to watch football, bring some other game or puzzle and invite others to join you!

Video games will also be happening for those who enjoy that activity

SPECIAL FOR THIS YEAR!!!: the Superbowl party will overlap our Christian Ed hour. Food will be happening throughout the day (rather than just at 5 pm.) Sunday School classes will start when halftime starts - so the timing is more fluid on this day.

EVERYONE is invited to join the fun! Sunday, February 3 from 2 pm onward!



President's Day Yard Sale: Come shop for treasures at the President's Day yard sale, Monday February 18 from 9am to 3pm out in front of the MUMC fountain. Proceeds benefit the Haiti team.

UMW

Feb. 4th—Executive Board, 9am, Library

Feb. 13th—Red Birds— TBA

Feb. 19th—Unit Meeting, 10am, Social Hall

Feb. 27th—Wesley, 1pm, Social Hall





Mary Magdalene Update
January 26th
1 - 3 pm
in the Fellowship Hall

Lucy Elgin will lead a brief review of past information and an update of most recent findings.

Refreshments included.
This is not for women only.
Anyone interested is welcome to attend

WOMEN'S RETREAT REMINDER:



March 8-9-10 at the Evergreen Conference Center in Oakhurst (ECCO). Registration closes Feb 22, so reserve your spot now!

There are registration forms in the Office, and scholarships are available. If you have any questions or need a scholarship application contact Lorraine May

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your generous gift. I am always so pleased to be able to find music and ideas to bring to worship. I so appreciate your support and encouragement for the Music Ministries I treasure.

Love,
Kathy Cannon



January 14, 2013

Dear Pastor,



I've been thinking about your church and members since my husband and I attended the presentation of the living nativity.

It was so beautiful and all of your church members were so welcoming—so nice.

We had had a very trying day, it was very cold and it would have been easier to just stay home.

We bundled up and came to your church. We are so glad we did. There was a warm fire and our own angel to guide our journey through the story. The cast members did a remarkable job. We were transported to Bethlehem and it ended in the church where we were invited to stay and reflect as long as we wished. How beautiful—we walked from the church our hearts filled with peace and love.

Then we were invited into the church hall to enjoy a hot dog, cookies and cider. Once again everyone went one note step to make us welcome.

We are still talking about your church community, the very special gift you gave to us—strangers welcomed to make us feel as friends.

It is an extra ordinary church and we wanted to thank you for truly living the true Christian manner of life. Thank you for everything.

Terry and Betty

We wish you a blessed New Year.



Interfaith Scholars' Weekend - ISW 2013

The Interfaith Scholar for 2013 will be Fr. Laurence Freeman. His topic for the ISW: "The Art of Meditation: Sustaining the Compassionate Life".

Laurence Freeman is a Benedictine monk of the Congregation of Monte Oliveto and Director of The World Community for Christian Meditation. He was born in England and was educated by the Benedictines at St. Benedict's School, Ealing. After experience in the United Nations Youth Association, where he helped to establish local groups of young people interested in the work of the United Nations, and a year at the United Kingdom's mission to the UN in New York, he went to read English literature at New College, Oxford, where he studied for a master's degree.

After deciding to leave postgraduate work he entered a merchant bank and later began a career in journalism. After an extended retreat under John Main's guidance he became a monk at Ealing Abbey. During his time there he helped to form the first Christian meditation center.

In 1977 he accompanied John Main to Montreal, Canada at the invitation of the Archbishop of Montreal to establish a Benedictine community of monks and lay people dedicated to the practice and teaching of meditation. While in Montreal he studied theology at the Université de Montréal and at McGill University. He made his solemn monastic profession in October 1979 and was ordained to the priesthood in June 1980.

After John Main died in 1982, Father Laurence Freeman succeeded him as prior of the new community and began to travel widely. A global spiritual family and organization began to develop. In 1991 he participated in the establishment of the World Community for Christian Meditation during the John Main Seminar in New Harmony, Indiana. Freeman returned to England to establish the International Centre of the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM). That community is now present in more than 100 countries

Father Laurence Freeman is also the founder and director of the John Main Center for Meditation and Inter-religious Dialogue at Georgetown University.

Laurence Freeman is the author of many books and articles, including *Light Within*, *Selfless Self*, *Web of Silence*, *Common Ground*, *Short Span of Days*, *Your Daily Practice* and *Jesus: The Teacher Within*.

He has conducted peace initiatives and dialogues such as the historic "Way of Peace" with the Dalai Lama and is engaged in inter-religious dialogue with other faiths as well. He is active in encouraging the teaching of Christian meditation to children and students and in the reappropriation of the contemplative wisdom tradition in Christianity and society at large.

ISW 2013 Schedule

Friday, February 8

At the Islamic Cultural Center,
2111 E. Nees Avenue
7:00 pm Opening Lecture
"Meditation into the Common Ground"

Saturday, February 9

At Temple Beth Israel,
6622 N. Maroa Ave.
8:30 am Continental Breakfast
and Registration
9:00 am Shabbat Observance
(Torah Commentary)
9:15 am Session I, Lecture,
Discussion, and Meditation
"The Crisis of Religion is the
Time for Contemplation"
10:30 am Break with Snacks
10:45 am, Lecture, Discussion,
and Meditation
"The Cave of the Heart: The
Stages of Meditation"
12:00 pm Noon Break
12:15 pm Buffet Lunch
(Vegetarian)
1:15 pm Questions and
Discussion with
Father Laurence Freeman
2:15 pm Closing

Sunday, February 10

At St. Paul Newman Center,
1572 E. Barstow Avenue
7:30 am Mass, with a Homily
by Father Laurence

At University Presbyterian Church,
1776 E. Roberts Avenue
9:30 am Worship Service, with a
Sermon by Father Laurence
"Contemplation: The New
Creation"



Special Friends

Our Special Friends group thought about the Hope in Advent. The scripture reading was from Psalms 131:3, "O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, both now and forevermore." Hope. Perhaps no other word better illumines the Advent story. Hope that Mary would say yes! Hope that Joseph would not reject her upon hearing the news of her pregnancy. Hope that their long journey to Bethlehem would bring no harm. Hope that the bright star overhead would bring only good. Advent would not be Advent without hope.

Sometimes life seems completely wrong. We ask why is this happening? What did we do to deserve this? Joseph must have wondered the same thing. He had been awaiting his marriage to Mary, and now he found himself betrayed by his fiancée. But Joseph was a man of grace and decided to quietly divorce Mary. We do not know how long Joseph wrestled with this decision or how long he searched for the best way to handle the situation. Probably Mary had thought saying yes to God would be a blessing and probably Joseph had dreamed of a very different future. Then God's role in all this was revealed to Joseph through a heavenly messenger. How different the story might have been if Joseph had refused to hear the truth!

Romans 8:28 promises us that all things work for good for those who love God. Often it does not seem that way. This Advent season is the perfect time to release any old hurts we may have felt and accept the gift of love and grace, peace and mercy that await us when we receive the miracle of God's greatest gift.

We shared briefly a hope each may have at Advent.

We heard reports on visits and contacts with Special Friends, and made assignments for next month, when we meet Thursday, January 10, 2013, at two o'clock, in the library.

Because of various illnesses we did not make but 8 visits, 6 calls, sent 36 cards and wrote 4 notes.

A closing thought: when we let go of old hurts, we make more room for God's peace.

*Blessings in the New Year
Lorraine May*

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.



Boutique News

It's time for us to begin crafting again! If you are interested in crafting but don't have time to come regularly on Wednesday mornings, we would love to have you make things on your own and bring them for the sale in November. We also have boutique business cards. It's handy to keep some in your purse or wallet to hand out as reminders throughout the year so people remember to come to the sale. You can contact Carole Schweitzer or come in on Wednesdays to get some, if you're interested. We always welcome new stitchers/crafters and new ideas for items to sell.



Mission Thrift Shop

Hi everybody. The mission thrift shop had a great year thanks to many donations and helpful hands to price, display merchandise and help on sale days. But please don't believe for a minute that the Thrift Shop is only a building on the side of the property that one would glance at while entering the back parking lot. The thrift shop belongs to all of us. We will be needing help from the congregation, new help, new strength as the new year unfolds. Currently we need someone to take charge of the sewing area, jewelry area, toy area and one or more people to help price clothing and "front store" items. We had a lot of help from Janet Bonzo who is stepping back to recover completely from her shoulder surgery. We cannot thank her enough for her help in the past. Items especially needed now are bath towels, blankets, men's shirts, tools, small hardware items and home decorative items. We are grateful for your efforts and donations.



Upcoming Events



2nd Sunday Lunches

We are delighted to announce that Pat Frey will be overseeing this ministry! (She will NOT be doing all the cooking, but will coordinate the various groups to see that this ministry is an ongoing, vital ministry.)

February 10 - right before the season of Lent begins. Still looking for cooks. Hoping to be "Shrove Sunday" or "Mardi Gras" themed, with matching entertainment.

March 10 - in honor of the Irish based holiday this month, the Youth & Haiti team will do a stuffed potato & salad bar. This was a BIG hit last year, and promises to be an excellent treat for the taste buds again in 2013. The Cheaptons will once again provide Irish music for the entertainment. PLUS: we will have a "shower" for Haiti. Items which the congregation is contributing towards the "team gift" can be brought to MUMC on this day and dedicated at the lunch. (A complete list of items is in a related article elsewhere in this newsletter.)



Haiti Team - "Team Gift"

Each Volunteer In Mission team is asked to bring with them a gift to leave behind with those they have served. Sometime the gift is a monetary donation. For Haiti the gift is often something "material." There is no manufacturing done in Haiti, so nearly everything is imported. It is often most helpful to bring items with the team. Below is a list of items our Haiti team hopes to bring a leave behind. We are asking members of the congregation to help by purchasing an item to donate. To make sure we get the correct items, sign ups for donations will be in the Narthex on Sundays, and church office throughout the week.

Here are some of the things we need:

- 15 air mattresses (new - twin size)
- 15 twin size sheet sets
- 15 mosquito nets
- 2 foot pumps to inflate air mattresses (may be new or gently used)
- 1 digital camera (may be new or used - should do video & stills and be extremely user friendly)
- shoes for children
- unlocked ATT cell phones (the only kind that are compatible with Haitian cell companies)
- any device with a solar charger (and solar chargers themselves)
- Pillow cases that can be turned into simple clothing for children.

Be looking for sales in the coming weeks when these items will be less expensive.

These donations may be brought to MUMC on March 10 to be part of the "Shower for Haiti" at the 2nd Sunday lunch.

Haiti

Continue to Pray For Our Haiti Mission Team!

We have been so blessed by all of the support that you have given those who are going to Haiti. Know that we go as representatives of the whole congregation, and that it is only through the gift of the family of God that we can go meet our brothers and sisters in a different part of the world. Your continued prayer support is so valuable as we prepare to leave on Palm Sunday, March 24.

Please join us in worship hat Sunday as we celebrate the blessing of being partners across the globe.



Saturday January 12th was be the 3rd anniversary of the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti. This 7.0 quake was the second most deadly ever in the history of the world with over 316,000 people killed including UMCOR officials Rev. Sam W. Dixon Jr., the head of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and the Rev. Clint Rabb, head of the organization's office of mission volunteers. These two church leaders were killed after their hotel collapsed during the quake. They had only arrived at the hotel five minutes before. This quake effected over 3 million people with over 300,000 injured and 1,000,000 left homeless due to the numbers of homes and commercial structures damaged.

Please continue to pray for Haiti, UMCOR and Memorial Methodist Church's mission team to Haiti which will leave at the end of March.



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

Valentine's Day Gifts

for a Good Cause:

Buy your loved ones a Valentine's Day gift, and support the Haiti Team at the same time! We will have sweet gifts, salty gifts, pretty gifts, and even gifts for kids! Come check out some samples on Sunday Jan. 20&27, and Feb 3. They will be ready for pickup on Sunday Feb. 10.



Finance

Feb/March Birthdays

Finance

Report

Year-end

Finance Report

2012 was a blessed year for our church finances. We were able to pay all our bills, including 100% of our apportionments. (See the Happy Feet video on the church Facebook page celebrating this accomplishment). We also cleared up an old conference assessment from the pastors' pension and benefit fund that we had carried for several years.

Our total income for the year in all categories was \$313,275. Total expenditures were \$310,222. This includes income and expenses to designated funds such as the Endowment Fund, the Fountain Fund and the Memorial Fund.

Income to the General Fund only, which covers our budgeted expenses, including both pastors, was \$282,381 and expenses totaled \$284,814. The deficit was covered by income carried over from the previous year.

2013 Pledge Report

As of early January, the total pledged for the general fund for 2013 was \$125,040. The total pledged for 2012, including the salary for both pastors, was \$136,388. There were 61 families that turned in estimates of giving last year. In addition, through our BUMP campaign (Blessings Unimagined Made Possible) 24 families turned in pledges for an additional \$7,410. This year, so far, we have 54 who have completed estimates of giving. We need to reach at least last year's level to meet our obligations for this year. Pledges are our biggest source of income and help us more accurately predict what we will be able to spend on salaries, facilities, apportionments and programs. Please consider turning in an estimate of

Can you BUMP up your giving?



Blessing
Unimagined
Made
Possible!



Khan Yang	02/01
Jake Stoddard	02/02
Pat Long	02/04
Helen McGaughy	02/04
Lucy Elgin	02/09
Julie Film	02/09
Richie Bonzo	02/11
Tim Holzmer	02/15
Ron Zastovnik	02/16
Dorrie Osback-Rose	02/19
Xai Cha	02/20
Moira Leslie	02/20
Iona Mears	02/20
Heidi Markland	02/25
William Pregno	02/26
John Tallmadge	02/26
Linda Lee	02/27
Susan Lee	02/28
Sonny Uwaoma	02/28
Rachel Hutchinson	03/05
Nou Xiong	03/05
Xeng Vang	03/07
Kim Williams	03/09
Wayne Adams	03/10
Bev Daly	03/10
Susan Lowery	03/10
Pa Ngia Yang	03/10
Rich Bonzo	03/11
Sharon Babcock	03/15
Kindra Snow-Walker	03/16
Matthew Babcock	03/17
Opal Spears	03/20
Herb Spencer	03/21
Andrea Pond	03/22
Wanda Rogers	03/28
Sharlene Sautter	03/30

What's new for 2013?

Wow! We were SUPER blessed in 2012!

2013 is beginning in an EXTRA exciting way!:

++ Our Christian Education hour TEST program started off very well! We had about 70 people show up, and nearly 50 children and youth!! Please continue to hold this program in your prayers, and prayerfully consider joining!

++ We will actively addressing an ongoing challenge to our congregation - intentional spiritual formation. We will be actively encouraging folks to be sure to do at least one thing in each of the "3 H's" this year:

Head - theologically informed

Heart - spiritually transformed

Hands - serving in the world

We will be working throughout the year to help folks identify opportunities to participate in ministries that help move us along our spiritual journeys through these 3 foci.

++ We are working to create an underlying understanding that everyone takes a turn leading ministry. We will be training current leaders on how to mentor others. We will continually lift up opportunities to take a turn serving. It is part of our responsibility as a congregation to be raising up leaders in ministry. When we let the same few provide leadership, switching roles, but not actually increasing the number of people who are trained for leadership, we are falling short of an important component of local congregational ministry.

++ At the end of March we will send a multi-generational team of folks to Haiti! This is our first congregation-wide effort to send an international UMVIM (United Methodist Volunteers In Mission) Team! It is very close to being a reality!

++ We are looking to send an UMVIM team to the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) Depot in Salt Lake City to help prepare supplies to be ready to ship out as soon as disaster strikes anywhere in the world! This team will likely travel in late spring or early fall.

++ We are celebrating 120 years as a congregation! The Network Team will develop plans for marking this milestone.

++ we paid 100% of our apportionments and "askings" in 2012. We anticipate making that 2 years in a row for 2013!

And this is just the stuff we know about in January!! One thing that is certain: God provides in greater abundance than we ever anticipate! There will exciting ministry opportunities come our way in 2013 that we hadn't even thought about previously! We are going to be in AWE as we see Blessings Unimagined Made Possible in 2013!

-js

Memorial United Methodist

Church of Clovis

1726 Pollasky Ave

Clovis, CA 93612

CHURCH PHONE: 559-299-4615

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

January 2013

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
20 *5 pm Prayer Cell	21	22 *8am Thrift Shop Workday	23 1 pm Wesley	24	25 *6 pm Ballroom Dance	26 *8am Yoga *10am WWD Group *1pm - Mary Magdalene Update
27 *1 pm The Network	28 *4:30 pm AST *6:30 pm Haiti Team	29	30	31		

Upcoming Events

RETREAT! RETREAT! RETREAT!

Central Valley District United Methodist Women Annual Spring Retreat

Evergreen Conference Center Oakhurst (E.C.C.O.)

March 8, 9 and 10 (Friday Saturday Sunday) 2013

Retreat Leader: Holly Hillman

“Courage”

Arrival and Check-in Begins at 4pm Friday March 8

REGISTRATION CLOSSES FEBRUARY 19, 2013 (None accepted after closing date)

NO REFUNDS AFTER FEBRUARY 22, 2013

Send Registration With Check Payable to CENTRAL VALLEY DISTRICT UMW to:

Nadeen Mills 4631 N 7th Street Fresno CA 93726

\$163 per Person Double Room (Meals and Snacks Provided)

\$249 Single Occupancy (Meals and Snacks Provided)

Please Indicate On Your Registration Your Preference of Room and Roommate

One Day with Lunch \$25.00 (Breakfast \$13.00 Extra)

Breakfast 8am, Lunch 12pm, Dinner 6pm

(Note: Meals served promptly at those Times)

For further information concerning registration, rooms, roommates, etc. contact Nadeen Mills @ (559) 224-9968

REMEMBER It gets chilly in the mountains in the morning and evenings. **Things to bring:** 1. Bible; 2. Notebook; 3. Walking shoes; 4. Jacket; 5. comfortable clothes; 6. personal walking aids; and 7. Flashlight. Please note the area from the Rooms to the Dining Hall to the Chapel is hilly and the ground can be uneven at times. If you have difficulty walking or climbing stairs, please note that on your registration form.

X Cut Here

Name _____ Roommate _____

Address _____ Phone No. _____

Street City Zip

Church _____

Is this your first time: Yes ___ No ___ How Many Times/Years Have You Attended _____

[] I have difficulty walking and climbing stairs [] Dietary Restrictions _____
(ECCO will do their best to accommodate those restrictions)

[] Double \$163; [] Single \$249; [] One Day Lunch Only \$25 [] One Day Breakfast & Lunch \$38.00

Make all Checks Payable to Central Valley District UMW Amount Enclosed \$

Mail Completed form with registration fee to Nadeen Mills 4631 N 7th St Fresno, CA 93726

PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF REGISTRATION FORM FOR MEMBERS OF YOUR LOCAL UNIT

