

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

FEB / MARCH 2015

559-299-4615 MEM-UMC.ORG



*Watch
for the
Head*



*Heart
Hand*

Symbols



*to see
which
minis-
tries*



*will help
your
per-
sonal
growth*

Agape Love

Unconditional Love. God's love for us.

Free Valentines Day Agape Celebration

The Youth Ministry and Pastor Janette wish to let you know

Your presence is eagerly desired at a **FREE** Agape Celebration Lunch

Valentine's Day, Saturday, February 14, 2015

Serving food from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Reservations are helpful so we can be sure to have enough food. You may invite family and friends - or strangers! This is a celebration of the BEST love of all - God's unconditional LOVE for each of us!

Reservations may be made on Sundays, or by calling the MUMC office during the week.

Lunch includes: choice of entree, rice pilaf, salad, piece of candy and ice tea or water.

(Did we mention the lunch is **FREE**?)

If you would like to support the youth raising funds for their summer mission trip: fancy desserts and baked goods will be for sale.

Retreat! Retreat! Retreat!

Central Valley District United Methodist Women Annual Retreat

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

March 6, 7, and 8, 2015

Retreat Leader: Dr. Mary Maaga

"Landscapes of Christian Faith"

Registration closes Feb. 18

Find more information in the Narthex



Upcoming Events

UMM CAKE AUCTION

Sunday February 1st, between the 9:30 and 11 AM services,

The Methodist Men will be auctioning off

Super Bowl themed cakes

proceeds benefit youth ministry.

- ▶ If you are a **man**, please consider donating a cake or cupcakes, either homemade or store bought.
- ▶ If you are a **human**, please consider buying a cake (or two)!

Please call Andy Hansen-Smith [360-5985](tel:360-5985) if you have any questions.

Please have cake at church by 10:20



Superbowl Party is ON for February 1st!



We will gather on the lawn about 3 pm to play a little football, then move into the Fellowship 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

EVERYONE
is invited to join the fun!
Sunday, February 1

Feb/March Birthdays



Khan	Yang	02/01
Jake	Stoddard	02/02
Pa Chou	Thao	02/02
Pat	Long	02/04
Helen	McGaughy	02/04
Sou	Her	02/07
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	Chang	02/20
Iona	Mears	02/20
Nao	Lee	02/25
Heidi	Markkand	02/25
Teri	Scott	02/26
John	Tallmadge	02/26
Linda	Lee	02/27
Susan	Lee	02/28
Sonny	Uwaoma	02/28
Denise	Mattocks	02/29
May Thao	Her	03/02
Jim	Scott	03/02
Mary	Her	03/03
Mary	Heu	03/03
Sang	Heu	03/04
Rachel	Hutchinson	03/05
Nou	Xiong	03/05
Xeng	Vang	03/07
Tony	Yang	03/08
Kim	Williams	03/09
Wayne	Adams	03/10
Bev	Daly	03/10
Pa Ngia	Yang	03/10
Rich	Bonzo	03/11
Kisha	Xiong	03/14
Khristina	Her	03/16
Kindra	Snow-Walker	03/16
Matthew	Babcock	03/17
Chee Nou	Vang	03/20
Maina	Vang	03/20
Mina	Yang	03/20
Andrea	Pond	03/22
Nancy	Heberlein	03/24
Wanda	Rogers	03/28
Sharlene	Sautter	03/30

UMW

Feb. 2nd—Executive Board , 9am, Library

Feb. 17th—Unit Meeting , 10am, Fellowship Hall

Program is Pledge to Mission by Mary J

Team B will host lunch

Call office if child care is needed 299-4615

Feb. 25th—Wesley 1pm, Fellowship Hall

March. 2nd—Executive Board , 9am, Library

March 21st Saturday—Unit Meeting , 10am, Fellowship Hall

Program: Making Easter Baskets for our Shut-ins

Team A will host refreshments

Call office if child care is needed 299-4615





Parish Nurses Present

Healthy Heart Day

February 22, 2015



CPR training and Heart Health update will be February 22 in the Fellowship Hall., 10 – 3 pm.

Bring your favorite heart health dish to share. Or just come for the educational experience and training.

It will be entertaining as well. Keep watching for more information.

Lucy Elgin, MSN. NP



Valentine's Day Gifts

for a Good Cause:

Buy your loved ones a Valentine's Day gift of Fair Trade items.

We will have sweet treat pretty gifts!

They will be ready for pickup on Sunday Feb. 8.

Contact Sue DeFranco

Lenten Small Group Bible Studies

EVERYONE is encouraged to participate in a small group Bible Study During Lent. We will be using the study book: the Holy Bible (any translation). No other book is needed this year!

Small groups will be offered on different days of the week in different locations.

The weekly small group meeting will last 60-75 minutes.

The style of study is designed to help participants grow in knowledge and grace, and to build up the body of Christ.

Study groups begin the week of February 15 and continue through Easter, April 5.



This year we are doing things a little differently to start Lent.

Mardi Gras/Ash Sunday Celebration:

Sunday, Feb. 15th 5 PM
Potluck & Party



On the evening of Sunday, February 15, we will have a POTLUCK at 5 pm which will be festive and reminiscent of Mardi Gras. When dinner is over, we will move directly to a short "Ash Wednesday" style worship, in which we lay all the glitz and allure of the world at Jesus' feet, take up our cross, and follow Jesus into Lent.

It will be both fun and meaningful. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

TAAG Team**Totally Awesome All Generations Team**

February 1 - Super Bowl party! See more details elsewhere... Fun for everyone - even those who don't care about football!

March - we plan to go see the Rogue Festival. The schedule is not yet out. We'll publicize the when & where through the bulletin and Weekly Digest as soon as we know more.

*Live Nativity
Wrap-Up meeting*

Feb. 11, 7 p.m., in the Library



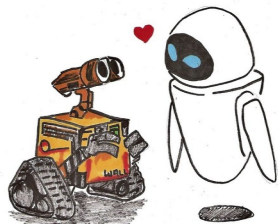
Come and help to make this event even better!

Bring your ideas
Let us know what
went smoothly
and what did not.

**First Friday Film Fest:**

February - theme: friendship - the movie is "Wall-e" - a beautiful and heart-warming story, rated PG - animated

March - To be announced

**2nd Sunday Lunches**

February 8 - by the Confirmation Class raising money to go to the Bishops Confirmation Retreat.

March 8 - in honor of the Irish based holiday this month, the Youth will do a stuffed potato & salad bar. This is a BIG hit each year, and promises to be an excellent treat for the taste buds again in 2015.

**KEEP
CALM
AND
FARKLE
ON**

WWD Grief GGroup

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:

- 1 hour Topical Discussion
- 1 hour Farkel Game

Anyone experiencing grief is invited to participate in this group.

Contact Don Haulman for more information at:

291-6814



Special Friends

November 2014



In November, the Special Friends Group looked at the Year of the Jubilee when Jesus read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah before the people in Nazareth. We read about this in Luke 4: 18-19. Jesus' declaration comes immediately following his 40 days in the wilderness, where he struggles with temptations from the devil as he works out his own baptismal call. In these days of isolation and prayer, the jubilee message begins to take shape in his life. He links the experience of the Lord's favor with the work of bringing good news to the poor, releases to the captives, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed. Here is a recipe for renewal in our own lives. The year of the jubilee is a resurrection experience when we let go of our attempt to control our destinies, when we quit striving for perfection, when we stop our busyness, then we make room for the spirit to bring us new life.

We shared reports on our Special Friends and reported 27 phone calls, made 14 visits and sent 51 cards or notes. We assigned new contacts for our next meeting December 11th.

Closing thought: What is God's will for this world? That we live in love, in healing relationships with God and with other peoples, and the world itself be healed.

Blessings, Lorraine May

December 2014

At our December gathering our thoughts are of Advent, a time when we are invited to open to God's Loving Spirit. The best way of doing this is by being still. In Psalm 46:10 we read "Be still and know that I am God; I will be Exalted among nations, I will be exalted in the earth." It is a challenge to be still today when we have many demands on our time. This is particularly true during Advent. We may feel distracted, depleted, and even disconnected from God. Yet Advent is the perfect opportunity to be still and listen for God's still small voice calling us to prepare for the coming of our savior. In the stillness we may fear the silence and need to come to understand how sin has devastated our world and how much we need a savior. As we sit in stillness we begin to recognize that we are not alone. We hear God's words of love and assurances and realize God has been present with us all along, even in the darkness. Our hope is renewed. The more time we spend being still the more we experience God's presence everywhere. We can understand God is preparing us to receive the most profound expression of love in Jesus Christ.

As we shared news of our Special Friends we were elated to hear how well the visits bearing the flower-pot turkeys filled with candies and cookies made by the WMCW were received. A joy at Thanksgiving! We celebrated birthdays, including Gerry Montgomery's 102nd, December 17th. During the month we made 74 phone visits, 13 visits, and sent 60 cards or notes... a busy month.

Closing thought. Gracious God, help us to be still; and feel the peace of your gentle love and abiding presence. Amen.

Blessings, Lorraine May

Come join us January 8th 2015



Boutique News

2014 Holiday Boutique was another successful event. The Boutique is lots of work but still we manage to have an enjoyable time. We had help from members of the church and from people who don't attend MUMC. If you could not attend, you missed out on a wonderful experience. Thanks to our cooks Stan & Guin Jenanayan and their helpers; we were served a wonderful lunch on both Friday and Saturday. Our handmade things were beautiful and most sold like hot cakes. Thanks to all who brought fudge, brownies, jam and other sweets for our Country Store; it all sold. Our drawing winners were: Betty Anderson won the quilt, Kathy Brummer the doll, and Valerie Kissler the afghan. You will be happy to hear that the Boutique Group made a \$5,000.00 donation to help pay apportionments. I am continually amazed by our Holiday Boutique and the women who work so tirelessly all year to put the event together. 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.

Oh, the Boutique Group is meeting again. We are in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday from 9-11:30

*Finance***2014 Finishes in the Black with Apportionments Paid in Full**

We are grateful for another year of being able to keep up with our financial obligations.

For the third year in a row, we paid our apportionments in full. Hallelujah!

While it was a struggle to keep up with the bills throughout the year, year-end increases in giving and other income helped us pay all we owed. The Boutique paid \$5,000 in November and the Thrift Store \$4,500 in December toward apportionments. We are grateful to all those who work so hard to help out in this way.

Our total General Fund income for the year was \$282,908. We had a carryover from 2013 of \$8,509. The total expenses were \$288,614. (This includes apportionments totaling \$30,559 which is more than in each of the previous two years.) This left us with \$2,803 to carry over into this year.

Besides the generous contributions and income from fund-raising projects, we were able to come out ahead because so many people kept their expenses under budget. Expenses were \$24,751 under the amount we had estimated we would need. In some cases this is good – when ministries can be completed with less cost than anticipated. Other times, it means that projects that we had hoped to undertake were postponed, such as replacing outdated equipment.

We had additional income in designated funds of \$25,643 and expenses of \$25,693. Designated funds include the Endowment, Improvements, Memorials and several others.

The amount still owed on the parsonage mortgage went down from \$125,002 to \$122,044. We are applying for a loan refinance to make this go down more rapidly.

The New Year is off to a good start. Estimates of giving total \$180,760 which is a wonderful increase over our five-year average of \$136,980. The number of those who have turned in estimates has also increased this year, from 75 to 81. However, our estimated income is still about \$17,000 under our anticipated expenses. It would be a great help for our ministries this year if we did not have to hold a major fund-raiser to make up the deficit in our budget.

New estimates of giving are always welcome as are special gifts for any of our ministries, including the General Fund.



The season of Lent is fast approaching. Different Christian traditions have developed various rituals and customs surrounding this holy time of year. Many people wonder, "What are we supposed to DO during Lent?"

"Do I start something new?"

"Do I give something up?"

"Lent" is not mentioned in the Bible anywhere. It is an invention of the ancient church - a tool for spiritual growth. It is a period of time, a season. It has been used historically to prepare people for baptism and/or church membership.

Lent has also been used by people through the centuries as a time of introspection and repentance. The 40 days of Lent mirror the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert in preparation for his public ministry. We, too, spend 40 days with a special focus to prepare ourselves to be servants of resurrection.

Is there "a right" thing to do during Lent? A simple answer is "No." There is not one action that must be done by everyone. There have been times in church history when everyone was forced to follow the same exact disciplines and routines during the entire season of Lent. At this point in time, most people understand Lent more in keeping with Jesus' teaching on keeping Sabbath. When asked why his disciples did not adhere rigidly to Sabbath law Mark 2:27 tells us:

Then Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath."
(Mark 2:27 NLT)

Lent has been created for our good. It is a tool for spiritual growth. As individuals we each need to choose an action or activity or discipline that will be of benefit to us personally. Perhaps the discipline of fasting on certain days and/or from certain foods might be of great benefit. Or expanding our time of prayer. Or engaging in specific acts of service. Or finding new ways to bless the lives of others. Or all of the above. Or none of the above, but something else entirely!

Yet, it is important to choose SOMETHING.

While the season itself invites Christians to a special time of personal reflection and introspection, we may find the need to spend time NOW in reflection to see where we are on our spiritual journey and what type of discipline would be good to explore during Lent this year.

One activity I hope EVERYONE at MUMC will do is to join a small group Bible Study during Lent. The groups will meet weekly - they will be held on various days, at different times, in homes and at the MUMC facilities. Hopefully there will be small group meeting at a time when YOU can participate.

The study will be done in a particular STYLE, probably different than any Bible Study in which you have previously participated. We are beginning to train the small group leaders now so that they will be comfortable leading in a way that is new to them, too. It is a style that is designed to allow the small groups to encourage and foster spiritual growth, and experience God speaking to each participant throughout the weeks of Lent. It will be well worth your time to join a group.

We will begin to sign up for small groups on February 1. The small groups will begin during the week of February 15 and continue weekly to Easter, April 5 of this year. I believe God will use these small group Bible studies to bless and strengthen our congregation far beyond all that we can ask or imagine!

