



GOOD NEWS!

FEBRUARY 2017 - MARCH 2017

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

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9 am to 1 pm

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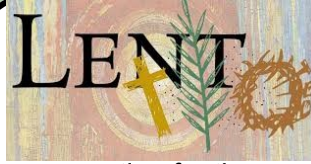
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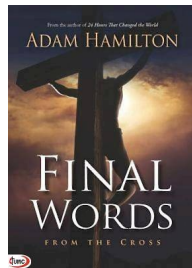
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Lenten Studies

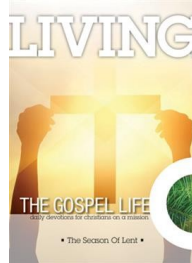
In preparation for the coming Lenten season, we have a new study prepared. Some time ago, we followed the 24 Hours That Changed the World by Adam Hamilton. This year, we will study Hamilton's follow-up work, Final Words.



"In 24 Hours That Changed the World, Adam Hamilton took us on a Lenten journey through the last day of Jesus' life. Now in this inspiring follow-up book, Hamilton explores Jesus' final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross.

Each chapter begins with the Biblical account followed by a first-person story as might have been told from the viewpoint of one of the characters at the cross. Then the chapter explores the meaning of Jesus' dying words for our lives today. Following the last statement, a postscript recounts the words Jesus spoke following his resurrection, including what truly were the final words Jesus spoke while walking this earth."

This study will be available during our Adult English Language Sunday school, each Sunday at 10:00 in the library. Additional study opportunities will be announced soon. Anyone willing to lead or host a small group study on this book, please contact Jamie Belt at jlbelt@gmail.com.



In addition to the traditional group study, an individual/family devotional will be available for home use. The devotional booklet, Living the Gospel Life, offers a daily scripture reading, devotional, and challenge to help us walk through this season of Lent. These booklets will be available in the Narthex before Ash Wednesday.



Ash Wednesday:

Mark the beginning of the season of Lent at our Ash Wednesday service in our sanctuary on March 1 at 7 pm. This service will include the imposition of ashes.

Upcoming Events



All church clean up days are **Saturday, February 18 and March 11th & 25th** at 9 a.m.

Bonus on Feb 18th UMM will will serve breakfast from 8-9 am

We hope to have a GREAT turn out and support for this effort to spruce up our grounds and facilities before Holy Week.

Come join the us at 9 ready to make our place SHINE! Bring cleaning supplies and equipment with you so lots of people can be working at the same time.

Something for all skill and energy levels!



Join the Art Class

Every Friday, anyone interested in learning more about and practicing their skills at drawing and painting can join Roberto Carlos in the MUMC library from **6-8 pm**. The class is recommended for people in junior high and older, though some who are younger than that may also enjoy this opportunity. It is a no-stress way to unwind at the end of a work-week! Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join you in developing visual artistic expression - it will be fun for all who gather!

Hope to see you there!

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. 7th.

Contact Sue DeFranco

Retreat! Retreat! Retreat!

Central Valley District United Methodist Women

Annual Spiritual Retreat
Evergreen Conference Center
Oakhurst (E.C.C.O.)

"Our Legacy: Past, Present, and Future"
Friday, Mar. 10th - Sunday, Mar. 12th

Registration closes Feb. 24

Find more information
in the Narthex

Annual Healthy Heart Potluck! Saturday February 25, 2017!

Mark your calendars for the annual Healthy Heart Potluck.

We (the Parish Nurses) are planning a fairly typical program except for the speaker. CPR will be taught by Celerina Carlos, we are planning a speaker on Respiratory disease. " The heart has to have air to function.

And of course the delicious Heart Healthy dishes provided by many of you and supplemented by the nurses.

The program starts at 10:30, Lunch at 12. The speaker will begin at 12:15. This is an excellent opportunity to fellowship and update your information.

There will be sign up sheets February 12 & 19.

Questions? Phone the office or Lucy Elgin
322-8525

Blessings Lucy



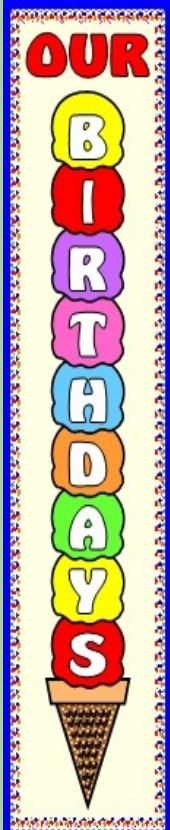
New UMW Circle
Every 2nd Tuesday
7pm, Library

Especially for those to busy too attend daytime meetings.

First Program will be Our Stained Glass Windows
By Diane Zastovnik



Upcoming Events



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
Ron	Zastovnik	02/16
Dorrie	Osback-Rose	02/19
Xai	Chang	02/20
Iona	Mears	02/20
Nao	Lee	02/25
Heidi	Markland	02/25
William	Pregno	02/26
Teri	Scott	02/26
Linda	Lee	02/27
Susan	Lee	02/28
Sonny	Uwaoma	02/28
Denise	Mattocks	02/29

Jim	Scott	03/02
Mary	Heu	03/03
Sang	Her	03/04
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
Kathryn	Cabreera	03/16
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
Herb	Spencer	03/21
Nancy	Heberlein	03/24
Sharlene	Sautter	03/30



Fresno Interfaith Scholar Weekend

"Islam, Human Rights, and Interfaith Dialogue"

Please note the schedule of events has changed.

The 2017 Interfaith Scholar Weekend is entitled

"Islam, Human Rights, and Interfaith Dialogue".

It opens at the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno (2111 East Nees Avenue, Fresno) on Friday evening, Feb. 24, at 7:30 pm

Early registration discount (before February 1): \$45. **Regular registration** (February 1-22): \$50. **Registration at event** on Saturday, February 25: \$55. **Students:** \$10



Dr. Sachedina's Friday Evening Lecture is free, and entitled "In Search of Religious Pluralism in Islamic Tradition".

On Saturday we meet at Temple Beth Israel (6622 North Maroa Avenue, Fresno) from 8:30-3:00.

Dr. Sachedina's 3 Saturday lectures are entitled:

- Islamic Theological Ethics: The Ontology of Human Action
- The Inherency of Human Dignity as the Foundation of interfaith Dialogue
- Religious Minorities: Tolerance or Acceptance? Law and Ethics in Islam

go to <http://interfaithscholar.org/registration/> to register

TEAMS AND MINISTRIES

The Christian Book Club

Christian Book Club is reading
Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul
We meet on Tuesday evenings at 7pm
in the library.

**You can help**

We have for a long time provided upon request the food for after funeral and memorial services.

Pat Frey is graciously organizing the kitchen when this service is requested. She is looking for volunteers that would be able to provide a dish when the need arises.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry please contact

Pat Frey at 974-2472

Walk to Emmaus Alumni

Dates: February 22 &
March 22
At Edie's

Dream Team

Beginning in August 2015 the congregation began a series of meetings and surveys and experiments to discern "What is the ministry God wants us to be doing, and how can we accomplish this ministry?"

Our surveys revealed that 80% of those responding believe strengthening our ministries with children and youth needs to be a high priority, and are willing to make changes to see this happen.

After initial "brainstorming" meetings, with follow up conversations and discussions at Network and AST meetings, our Lay Leader, Jim Jennings, chaired two pivotal meetings to which the entire congregation was invited to come and give input. At the first of these meetings, in June 2016, the congregation embarked on a series of different Sunday morning program schedules in an effort to get all our children and youth on campus at the same time.

At the second meeting, in September 2016, the current Sunday morning schedule was agreed upon. The decision took much time in discussion and listening to the struggles of the various ministries involved.

One HUGELY IMPORTANT discovery was, our buildings are not currently configured to allow us to expand our ministries. On Sunday mornings every space is occupied - we have no place to add additional classes or services. So if we grow our programs and need another class for children, youth or adults, we don't actually have a good place for them to meet.

AND, we are coming to a place where both MUMC and the people of Fresno Korean UMC would like to move to a greater partnership in ministry. This is SUPER exciting for the potential of offers all the ministries! BUT, again, we begin to bump into the limited space available in our buildings as they currently are.

To help us find a way to address this issue, both the Network and the Administrative Support Team/Trustees authorized a task force to be formed to investigate what upgrades and expansions are truly needed to enable our ministries to THRIVE. This task force has been named the "Dream Team," because they will help us realize our dreams to fully do the Ministry God wants us to be doing.

To date the Dream Team has been gathering in depth information about our current facilities, and the perceived needs for the ministries we hope to be doing. In other words, the Dream Team has been working to figure out where we are and where we want to go. Now they begin the earnest work of seeing what capital improvements need to be done to enable us to move from here to there.

Stay tuned for ongoing updates! Prayerfully consider becoming part of the Dream Team; this important work would benefit from more participation.

The next Dream Team meeting is February 12 at 2:30 pm in the Library.



In 2016 MUMC applied for and was awarded a grant from our Conference United Methodist Women's "Beulah Fund." The monies received are to help us and Grace UMC launch "Stephen Ministries" in our

congregation. The first week of February we will have 6 people at a training event in Anaheim, as we begin this ministry.

Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?" One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the **After People**.

Stephen Ministers are there:

...**after** the phone call you hoped you'd never get.

...**after** the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life.

...**after** the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.

...**after** the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."

...**after** the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "welcome to your new home."

...**after** the last child honks the horn, and waves, and drives away-- and the house suddenly seems empty.

...**after** the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.

...**after** the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.

...**after** you find a pink slip with your final pay check.

...**after** your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the "After People." They are ready to come alongside you-- or your friends, neighbors, co-workers, or relatives-- and provide comfort and support for as long after as needed.



Have you found our Memory Book?

It's in a plexiglass box on the table to your right as you enter the Narthex from outside. (Or the left as you exit.) Check it out. Every week we will display a new page. We have been focusing on the early history of our church. But soon you will see other subjects.

Do you have photos of past events? Or perhaps of our various music groups? Would you share some for the scrapbook? We will make copies and return them to you. Contact Diane Zastovnik or Linda Maxwell.

Do you enjoy scrapbooking? Would you like to make some pages for us? We would sure appreciate the help.

UMW



Feb. 6th--Executive Board, 2 pm, Library

Feb. 13th--New UMW Circle, 7pm, Library
Program--Our Stained Glass Windows
By Diane Zastovnik

Feb. 21st--Unit Meeting, 11:45 am, Fellowship Hall
Program is on Human Trafficking
Team A Will host lunch

Call office if child care is needed 299-4615

Feb. 22--Wesley 2 pm, Fellowship Hall

March 6--Executive Board, 2am, Fellowship Hall

March. 13th--New UMW Circle, 7pm, Library

March 21--Unit Meeting, 11:45am, Fellowship Hall
Program:

Communities Challenging Mass Incarceration
and Prepare Easter Baskets for Shut-ins
Team B hosting lunch

Call office if child care is needed 299-4615

Mar. 22nd--Wesley 2pm, Fellowship Hall

WWD Et Cetera Group

Dr Fiala to Speak

February 11th in the Library

Everyone is invited to join with the WWD & et Cetera at 10 am to hear Dr. Fiala. Speak.

*Finance***2016 Finance Report**

The best financial news for 2016 is that all of Memorial's bills were paid and we were able to pay in full our apportionment tithe to the Conference. Our tithe for 2016 totaled \$30,592. This is the fifth year in a row that we have paid 100% of our apportionments.

This was despite the fact that our General Fund income for 2016 was down from the year before. Our total G.F. income for the year was \$265,021, a decrease of about \$36,000. Our expenses totaled \$277,432, an \$11,000 decrease over 2015. The \$15,000 carried over from 2015 allowed us to cover the difference between our income and expenses and give us a carry-over to 2017 of \$2,830.

The Thrift Shop contributed \$14,500 toward our Conference tithe and the Boutique added \$5,000. The Fall Fundraiser Western Dinner raised \$2,507 and the Hmong cuisine sales brought in \$2,496.

In addition to our General Fund income, we also raised \$3,299 for causes such as the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for Imagine No Malaria, Fiji Relief and other projects. Additionally, we supported Stop Hunger Now, Heifer International, and our own pantry/emergency aid.

Among other projects that were funded were the youth Mission Trip to San Francisco, pew cushions Building Bridges with Native Americans, Christmas toys, support for the new Fresno Hmong congregation and Stephen's Ministry Leadership Training.

Thanks to all whose generosity made all these accomplishments possible.

Special Friends**December 2016,**

I have such good intentions. Lord of promise, but sometimes I slip in carrying them out. Guide my actions so that they match my words as I make footprints for others to follow. Make me worthy of being a pathfinder. Amen

We are a nation made great by the sacrifices of many who worked hard and did the right thing. I want to be one of them. So lead me not into temptation, but deliver me from evil. Deliver me from selfishness and sin and from putting myself first. Please, dear God deliver me from evil. Amen

The spirit of America lives in us all. We can help make that spirit stronger if we just act on our values of truth, freedom, and justice and remember that together we are America.

For December we sent 25 cards and letter, had 3 visits and 6 calls.

January 2017,

God make me an open vessel through which the waters of your spirit flow freely. Let your love move through me and out into my world, touching everyone I come in contact with. Express your joy through the special talents you have given me, that others may come to know your presence in their own lives by witnessing your presence in mine. Amen

For January we sent 43 cards and letters, delivered 19 gifts, had 10 visits and made 8 calls.

In 2006 my family took a driving vacation in which we followed about half of the "Lewis and Clark" expedition's trip. We picked up the trail in South Dakota, and ended up in Seaside, Oregon. Along the way we read excerpts from their journals.

Our entire trip was wonderful, with memories that continue to be family favorites.

As we read the journals we began to understand these brave explorers did not have any idea what they were getting themselves into when they agreed to go. Yet, they had committed to the cause, and did AMAZING things to faithfully complete their assigned task. (The task was to ascertain, is there a way to take goods by water from the eastern & central part of North America to the Pacific Ocean? The answer they discovered was - no.)

There were many hardships faced along the way. One of the most formidable obstacles was the Rocky Mountains. The men had crossed mountains before. But they had never experienced anything as towering as this massive range.

When they began ascending the mountain range, they were impressed by the challenge before them. These were big/ tall mountains for sure! When they got to the top -- they realized they had only cleared a lower ridge! There was another even bigger range yet to conquer! When they got to the top of that - there was another!! And so it went. BUT, they had committed to the task, so they kept going. Eventually they did cross what we now call "the continental divide," and started downhill toward the Pacific.

It is important to note: the commitment was strong AND there was a group working together.

When we give our lives to Jesus we commit ourselves to the do the work God asks us to do, no matter what the challenge or cost. Sometimes we may think that we have made great progress in a service or task God has given us, only to discover there are even bigger obstacles ahead. When this happens, and it will happen in the life of every Christian, do not despair! When we start to feel, "I didn't sign up for THIS!" turn back to the one who laid down his life, and listen to the words of love and encouragement given to you over and over again in the scriptures. Remember, there is nothing being asked of you that is greater than what has already been done for you. AND

Look for the group of people God is bringing together to accomplish the work before you. Find community with which to work.

I hope that Memorial UMC can be such a community. The more we say "Yes!" to the opportunities God brings to us, the more we see God's power at work in our lives, in our ministry, and our community.

Shifting focus away from "I don't want to do this." or "Why do I have to do this?" to "Who will help me do this?" can be a turning point from disappointment and despair to strengthened resolve.

May God grant us grace to remain faithful followers of Jesus through the good times and the bad.

-js

United Methodist University in Liberia.

Last summer we all had an opportunity to meet Mator Kpangbai of UMU, Liberia. We learned of the working currently being done, and the desire to expand that work to become a leading source for education and advancement and change in Western Africa.

In the fall our Network and Administrative Support Team (meaning all of our elected congregational leadership) responded to this ministry opportunity by authorizing the formation of a new ministry team to expand support for UMUL from throughout the Western Jurisdiction territory.

In December we blessed our first donation to be sent to the School of Nursing. This item was donated by St Agnes Medical Center, and was secured with the help of Celerina Carlos.

Our congregation has demonstrated a passion for helping people in developing nations. Through our new ministry "Friends of United Methodist University Liberia, West" we have the potential to make a long-lasting impact on the lives of people in a developing region of our world. If you would enjoying being more directly involved with this ministry, please talk with Pastor Janette.



Memorial United Methodist

Church of Clovis

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Superbowl Party is ON for February 5th

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!

Everyone is invited to join

Sunday, February 5 from 3 pm onward

UMM CAKE AUCTION



On Sunday February 5th,
At 11 am
the United Methodist Men
will be auctioning off

Super Bowl themed cakes

(or just great tasting cakes without a Super Bowl theme)

Proceeds from the auction go to benefit
Memorial UMC Youth Ministry.

All men of Memorial UMC are members of the UMM so won't you please consider donating a cake (or 2) or cupcakes, either homemade or store bought.

Please call Darren Williams at 485-9515 if you have any questions.

**All cakes/cupcakes should be at the church
by 10:45am on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5.**