

GOOD NEWS!



THE NEWSLETTER OF MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CLOVIS
"THE MISSION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES FOR JESUS
CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD."

1726 POLLASKY AVE CLOVIS, CA 93612

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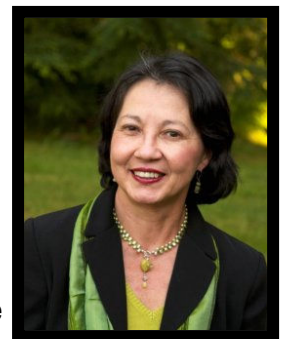
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The PTO group invites one and all to the **FRESNO STATE WOMAN'S BASKET BALL GAME ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 28TH** at the SaveMart Center as the Bulldogs host Hawaii. It's always a good game, and Fresno State has a hot team this year. The game starts at 7:00 PM. Meet in the church parking lot at 6:00 PM to car pool over (and save on parking). General admission tickets are approximately \$5.00 each. GO DOGS!

COME OUT AND ENJOY THE SUPER BOWL GAME WITH MEMORIAL FRIENDS! The Super Bowl party on Sunday, Feb. 5th begins at 2:30 with a tag football game on the church lawn before the Big Game is shown in the Fellowship Hall. Bring snacks to share and your favorite non-alcoholic beverage; paper goods and ice will be provided. You're welcome to bring along blankets, pillows, lawn chairs or whatever you need to get comfortable! Also, if a jigsaw puzzle, your current crochet project or a "whodunit" gets you through the game, bring that too! Come and go as you please; the TV game starts at about 3:15 and runs until around 7pm. Any questions, call Laura Williams, 485-9515. Go, team!

APPORTIONMENT PAYMENTS REACH 78% Thanks to the devoted efforts of many of our members, we paid 78% of our apportionments this year. This is more than we have been able to pay in many years. The final payment made in December was \$10,952, bringing our total paid for the year to \$38,863. (Last year, we were able to send only 50% of the \$52,824 we were expected to pay. The year before, we made it to 55%.) The yearly total of \$14,400 from the Thrift Store, \$7,692 from the Boutique and \$3,200 from the Carnival were a great help in bringing us closer to our goal of paying the apportionments in full. Anyone who helped in any of these projects, as well as the many smaller events throughout the year, or just donated directly toward the apportionments, deserves a big round of applause.

INTERFAITH SCHOLAR WEEKEND 2012 FEBRUARY 10-12 The Interfaith Scholar for 2012 will be Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock, Founding Director of Faith Voices for the Common Good. Her topic for the ISW: "Saving Paradise in This World". Register now and join us February 10-12, 2012! The Friday evening and Sunday events are free. Advance registration for Saturday's lectures are \$40 per person, which includes two meals (both are kosher and halal). Students can register for \$10 per person. At the door, registration will be \$45 per person. Scholarship assistance is available--email Al Evans (evansalca@comcast.net) for more information.



Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: MARCH 18, 2011 One Great Hour of Sharing is just weeks away. Be sure to consider giving to this offering that supports the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) so that it may respond immediately and effectively to emergencies around the world. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you help to build the strong foundation on which all other UMCOR ministries are built. Because One Great Hour of Sharing covers UMCOR's administrative costs, 100 percent of gifts designated for specific projects is used for those programs.

Upcoming Events



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS:

It's almost time to set your clocks forward 1 hour! Sunday, March 11 is the first day of daylight savings time in 2012.

THE NETWORK will start the New Year with a meeting scheduled for 4pm on January 29th in the Fellowship Hall. Our meetings will be organized around three areas; leadership development, goal setting and intentional spiritual growth. A resource for leadership growth will be material from the workshop that several of our members attended. Other resources will be Vital Signs and the results of the Call to Action Task Force that will be reporting its findings to the General Conference in April. Since Vital Signs was introduced to the congregation just a few years back, several of you probably still have the book that was written by Dan Dick. We will also be allotting a block of time for How To instruction with regard to some of administrative functions so more members are familiar with church operations. If you have any questions, please contact Max Cannon at mcanon05@comcast.net or 298-3544.

HOW CAN WE BRING MORE CREATIVITY INTO WORSHIP? This will be the topic of a District training event that will be hosted on Memorial UMC the first weekend of February. A special guest preacher, Rev. Jim Walker, is flying out from Pittsburg, PA to work with all who attend on the how's and why's of worship, and particularly, how to bring creativity into the weekly service.

There will be workshops on Altar/Worship Environment, Media in Worship, Worship Leader/ Beginning Preaching, Engaged Worship for Young Adults, Liturgical Dance, Worship for Jr. High and High School, and Children's Moments. Full registration information is available in our church office.

Also, the Imagine! service on February 5th will involve our guest preacher and many of the weekend participants. If you enjoy creativity in worship, make it a point to be present at 9:30 a.m. on February 5. This would also be an excellent time to invite friends and family to join you!

UMM CAKE AUCTION ON SUPERBOWL SUNDAY The United Methodist Men will be hosting their annual cake auction on Sunday February 5 between services (around 10:30 am). Last year's creations were amazing and unique—come see (and taste—yum!) this year's cakes

FREE YOGA CLASS!! Starting in February, our very own Sonny Uwaoma will be teaching a FREE Yoga class on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month. (In February that would be the 11th and 25th) Anyone is welcome to attend—what a great opportunity to invite your friends!

BOY SCOUT SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12: Join us in welcoming and celebrating Boy Scouts; February 12 is Boy Scout Sunday, and we will be recognizing the scouts at the 11 am service that day!

2ND SUNDAY LUNCH: Thank you to everyone for making the last 2nd Sunday lunch a success as usual, and a special thank you to Carol for the delicious lunch, and to all who shared their talents. The next 2nd Sunday lunch will be February 12, and the entertainment will be a love song sing-along with Wayne Golden. We still need a volunteer to arrange the lunch plans, so if you want to exercise those culinary muscles, please contact Pastor Janette or Chi Uwaoma. Thanks.

2012 CONFIRMATION CLASS TO START FEB. 22: United Methodist Church membership confirmation class for middle school and high school youth will start February 22. The class will explore the Methodist faith through the following topics: Know Your Story (A basic knowledge and understanding of the Christian story through the Bible and the history of the church), Confirm Your Faith (an understanding of the beliefs, practices, and emphases of United Methodist Christians), and Live Your Commitment: (what to expect if you make the commitment to become an active member of the United Methodist church). The class will meet each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Bungalow. Refreshments will be served. Our first meeting will be a short dedication service and orientation at 6:30 February 22, before we attend the Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. If you or your child is interested in joining the class, please let us know (Connie Alfaro 905-2240 or the church office 299-4615)

ANNUAL AED/CPR TRAINING UPDATE: On Saturday February 25, the Parish Nurses will offer their annual AED/CPR training update. Call Lucy for more information, and keep checking the bulletin insert for more details!

WALK TO EMMAUS INFORMATIONAL MEETING FEBRUARY 26 If you are interested in participating in 'Walk to Emmaus', a 72 hour spiritual life retreat for adults or youth, please come to a quick informational meeting in the fellowship hall between services (10:30 am) on Sunday, February 26 for more information, or to sign up.

ASH WEDNESDAY is the beginning of the Lenten season. It follows "Fat Tuesday," the last day of indulgence in some traditions before a period of reflection. The five Sundays of Lent following Ash Wednesday and leading to Palm Sunday and Easter are characterized by a focus on the promises of God if we but confess our sins and seek reconciliation. This period of penitence provides opportunity to consider our transgressions, confess our unworthiness and seek forgiveness. The Ash Wednesday service at 7pm on February 22 will bring us together to remember the burdens we carry and offer them up to God's mercy. As Jesus was tempted throughout the forty days in the wilderness, he had compassion for sinful man and gave the ultimate sacrifice that we might be forgiven. Praise God! Keep looking for times in the bulletin handout.



PTO WILL ATTEND FRESNO'S OWN ROGUE FESTIVAL Sunday March 4 in the afternoon in The Tower District. Shows are yet to be announced, but they could be musicians, storyteller or plays. Everyone is welcome to join us. Ticket prices vary. More information will be posted in the Good News Digest and weekly bulletins as the event draws near.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

** Where: ECCO in Oakhurst, CA

**When: March 9-10-11

**Cost: \$158 for double occupancy – includes 2 nights and 5 meals; \$79 Scholarships are offered – the deadline is Feb 15.

**Speaker: Christine Miller from Bakersfield

** Registration forms will be available later this month. The deadline to register is Feb 22. All Methodist women and friends are invited to attend.

For more info, call Barbara Nielsen at 291-0935.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

SOMETHING NEW FOR 2012!

We are working on communication here in the office; trying to get the word out about happenings here at MUMC so we are bringing you the Good News Digest, a weekly e-mail mini-newsletter highlighting upcoming events and services. Hopefully this will be a way to reach out and connect with more people!



Toy drive 2011 was a HUGE success! THANK YOU ALL for your support of this ministry!

On Christmas Eve morning we gathered in the sanctuary to sing and celebrate God's love for all people as we shared symbols of God's love by distributing gifts to families in our area. Over 60 families with 200 children were blessed with a toy from our congregation. This year each family's bag of gifts came with a personalized tag that reminded them of God's great love for all people, and offered encouragement from our congregation. We also had a drawing for several unique and exciting gifts. Mrs. Claus was on hand to help with the drawing and to escort families to get their gift bags and a gift of cookies and a candy cane from our United Methodist Women. We especially appreciate the donation of TWO bicycles from the Islamic Center.

We had a GREAT group of volunteers on hand which made the morning flow smoothly. We plan to do this again in 2012. Keep your eyes open for sales throughout the year, though you will need to store the toys at home until we collect them next November. Especially keep your eyes open for sports equipment (bat, gloves, balls of all kinds), dolls and stuffed toys. Games, books and puzzles make great gifts, too!

CHRISTIAN ED OPPORTUNITIES: Lent begins with Ash Wednesday observance on February 22. Throughout the days leading to Lent there will be special studies and activities for children, youth and adults. Upcoming information will be published in the weekly Good News Digest and Sunday morning bulletins.

HOSPITALITY COMMENTS

We are always looking for improvements for our guests and members. Most recently we are working on installing four diaper change stations. They are planned for Fellowship Hall: Men's restroom and Ladies restroom in the handicap booth. In the Worship Center Building they will be in the Men's restroom and the Ladies lounge.

COFFEE HOUR

We are pleased to have so many people enjoy the coffee hour. People who stand and move around a lot to connect with others have requested two portable bars. If you have one or know of one no longer in use, please contact McClanahan's at 291-8403.

HOMEWORK RESULTS: A few weeks back the congregation was given a homework assignment to write out questions which are challenging to their faith. Over 30 questions were submitted. Some of these questions will be used for a sermon series in the weeks between Easter and Pentecost. Here are some of the general categories represented by the questions:

- Afterlife
- Material well-being
- Discontent
- Human relationships
- Spiritual Life
- Evangelism
- Difference of belief/faith systems
- Dichotomies of faith
- Misleading spiritual leadership

All the questions won't be addressed in the series after Easter, but many will be. In the next newsletter there will be more information about the series and the topics to be covered.

MUMC Congregation: THANK YOU SO MUCH for the wonderful staff appreciation gift! I am so blessed to be a part of this church family, and to work among so many lovely people! –Sara

TO ALL OUR DEAR FRIENDS AT MUMC: Just to tell you all that we made it safely to the great state of Texas and are enjoying our family here and getting to watch our house being completed. Since we've never seen a house built from the ground up before, we are amazed at all the details that have to be decided, and our daughter has done a wonderful job! We'll send pictures soon. We miss all of you and send our love. – Mac and Margie

THANK YOU FROM A PANTRY RECEIPT: The Eddie Harris family thanks you all for what you do for all. Yours truly, Eddie Harris.

ANONYMOUS GIFT: Thanks to a generous anonymous donor, the church office has two great new computer monitors and other new equipment. Our office staff is grateful for the gift to their eyesight.

DEAR MUMC FAMILY: Thank you so much for your generous gift. I am watching for an organ workshop and your gift will cover the tuition nicely. University of Redlands has offered one that looks very interesting in past years and I am hoping it is offered again this February. If not, there will be others to choose from. Many thanks, again. Love Kathy

February and March Birthdays!

Khan Yang 02/01	Heidi Markland 02/25	Stella Schaa 03/10
Jake Stoddard 02/02	Nao Yang-Lee 02/25	Pa Ngia Yang 03/10
Pat Long 02/04	William Pregno 02/26	Rich Bonzo 03/11
Helen McGaughy 02/04	John Tallmadge 02/26	Ethan Moua 03/14
Lucy Elgin 02/09	Linda Lee 02/27	Sharon Babcock 03/15
Julie Film 02/09	Susan Lee 02/28	Kindra Snow -Walker 03/16
Shirley Golden 02/12	Sonny Uwaoma 02/28	Isaac Thao 03/16
Ron Zastovnik 02/16	Nou Xiong 03/05	Matthew Babcock 03/17
Jennifer Lee 02/19	Xeng Vang 03/07	Opal Spears 03/20
Dorrie Osback-Rose 02/19	Kim Williams 03/09	Herb Spencer 03/21
Xai Cha 02/20	Wayne Adams 03/10	Nell Marchbanks 03/28
Iona Mears 02/20	Bev Daly 03/10	Sharlene Sautter 03/30

TEAMS AND MINISTRIES

Perspective on Peace

“Peace, in the sense of the absence of war, is of little value to someone who is dying of hunger or cold. It will not remove the pain of torture inflicted on a prisoner of conscience. It does not comfort those who have lost their loved ones in floods caused by senseless deforestation in a neighboring country. Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where people are fed, and where individuals and nations are free.”

- The XIVth Dalai Lama

SPECIAL FRIENDS REPORT:

The Hope in Advent: Perhaps no other word than hope 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. Parents hope for a room in an inn. Shepherds hope for good news of a birth in a manger. Angels hope for peace in human hearts. Advent would not be Advent without hope. In the stories and season of Advent, God opens everything to us through hope born of expectation that Christ is coming to make all things new. We sang ‘O Come, All Ye Faithful’ and ‘Star Child’, and read Psalm 130:7 before our meditation. We had a very productive month making 52 visits, sending 89 cards/letters, and 61 phone visits. Offering hope to others through a loving word, a thoughtful act or even a simple smile is the surest way to uplift your own spirit. Blessings, Lorraine.

UMW FEB/MAR:

Feb 2012:

No Executive Board Meeting

Feb 8 – Red Birds meet at 9:30 am at Judy Gross’ house.

Feb 21 – Regular Meeting at 10 am in the Social Hall. Program TBA Luncheon after – Wesley hosts. Bring your own service, and a friend!

Feb 22 – Wesley meets at 1pm in the Social Hall

March 2012:

March 9-10-11 Retreat at ECCO near Oakhurst, CA. Christine Miller from Bakersfield, speaker.

March 14 – Red Bird Circle at 9:30 am in the Lose Library

March 20 – Regular meeting at 10 am in the Social Hall. Program: Social Action with Lucy Elgin. Luncheon to follow – Executive Board hosts. Bring your own service, and a friend!

March 28 – Wesley meets at 1pm in the Social Hall

UMM RETREAT: UMM has been discussing the possibilities of holding a retreat sometime in the spring. Initial plans are to reach out to the other churches in the event there is any interest there to attend. The committee will be meeting soon to work out the details and, once that is completed, a date will be set and information will be disseminated.

MISSION THRIFT SHOP NEWS

December receipts: \$1,584.22. Total 2011 contribution from Thrift Shop: \$14,400.00 with a little kept in the account for purchase of things we need to get the job done! Again, thank you for all your generous contributions of very nice clothing, etc. and special thanks to all the volunteers who make it work. Invite your friends and neighbors to contribute items for tax deductible receipts and to attend on our sale days on the first Friday and Saturday following the first Friday. Our prices are very easy on the budget. Gloria McClanahan & Janet Bonzo

MUMC YOUTH GROUP PRESIDENT'S DAY YARD SALE: The Youth Group will be hosting a George and Abe Yard Sale (Monday February 20th) to help raise money for our Sierra Service Project Mission Trip, and we need your help! If you have items that you have been meaning to cart away or donate please bring them on Sunday, February 19. This will be the world's easiest yard sale—everything either a 'George' or an 'Abe' - no haggle, no stress! Every little bit helps! More details to follow.

SSP 2012: The youth group is headed on our second mission trip this July, to inner city Los Angeles! Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers – we appreciated all of the love and support we had from our wonderful congregation for our trip to Watek last year, and hope to keep taking these trips as a way to challenge our own perspectives, and to help change the world!



SSP ORIENTATION MEETING WILL BE SUNDAY JANUARY 29 AT 5:30 PM for youth and parents of youth

who are interested in going on our SSP trip to inner city LA this summer. We will have all the forms and information you need! Please bring a \$50 deposit to hold your spot.

BUNGALOW WORKDAY JANUARY 28: Come help us reclaim the Bungalow on Saturday January 28 at 9am! We will finish painting, lay some carpet tiles, organize, and have some fun along the way. There will also be pizza for lunch!

YOUTH BOARD: If you are interested in being a part of our youth board, we will meet at the church on Sat Feb 18 at 9am before we head to the Povorello House.

Calendar

** Regular Schedule is music rehearsal at 5:15 pm and youth group at 6pm

- ♦1/22 Regular Schedule
- ♦1/28 9am Bungalow Workday
- ♦1/29 5:30 pm SSP Meeting, 6pm youth group
- ♦2/5 2:30 pm Superbowl party
- ♦2/12 Regular Schedule
- ♦2/18 9am youth board, 10 am Povorello House
- ♦2/19 Setup for yard sale
- ♦2/20 President's Day Yard Sale
- ♦2/26 Regular Schedule
- ♦3/4 Regular Schedule
- ♦3/11 Regular Schedule
- ♦3/17 10 am Povorello House
- ♦3/18 Regular Schedule
- ♦3/25 Regular Schedule

FROM THE PASTOR

GRACE AND PEACE BE WITH YOU ALL! This is my favorite greeting – grace and peace be with you!

In the year of 2012 I am feeling a deep yearning to better understand “peace.” It would be wonderful if there was more peace in the world – between individuals, neighbors, management and labor, nations, cultures, religions, sports fans, political parties, even within individuals.

It seems that many, perhaps even most; people appreciate the concept of peace. But it also seems to me that peace is lacking in many, perhaps most, areas of our lives/world. So the question arises: If peace is desired by so many, why is it in such short supply?

As I began to reflect on peace, and pray about peace, and meditate on peace, it became clear to me that there is no ONE definition or understanding of peace that encompasses the fullness of the word. When different people talk about “peace” they may or may NOT even be talking about the same thing. It makes me wonder if there is ANY common thread that runs through the concepts that might help us draw closer to a shared understanding of peace.


I feel the deep need to listen, read, study, pray, discuss... the topic of peace. I am committing myself to this endeavor for the coming year (and probably for many years to come). Already I am learning much, though I don't have a lot to share yet. I have many ideas and beliefs, as do you. I plan to spend a lot of time studying the topic before I begin to draw conclusions.

I invite you to join me in this endeavor. If you are interested in being in an ongoing study of peace this year, let me know – talk to me or drop me a note. I would greatly enjoy sharing this journey with others! -js

Memorial United
 Methodist
 Church of Clovis
 1726 Pollasky Ave

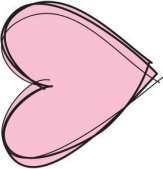
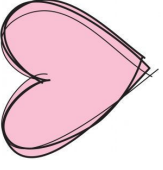
CHURCH PHONE: 559-299-4615
 CHURCH E-MAIL: memumc@mem-umc.org

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
22	23 *4:30 pm AST	24 *8am Thrift Shop Workday	25 *9am Boutique Group *1pm Wesley Circle	26	27	28 *9am Women's Retreat *PTO at Fresno State Game
29 *4:00 pm Network Meeting *5:30 pm SSP meeting	30	31				

Every Sunday	Every Monday	Every Tuesday	Every Wednesday	Every Thursday	Every Friday	Every Saturday
*9:30am Imagine! Worship *10:30am Coffee Hour *11am Sunday School *11am Worship *2pm CHRIST Sun Sch *3:30pm CHRIST church *5:15pm Youth Music *6pm Youth Group			*7:30 am Denny's Bible Study *9am Boutique Group	*6pm Imagine Rehearsal *7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	*2pm Sierra Villa Rest Home	*3pm CHRIST Ministry Choir


February 2012

*UMM Cake Auction between services *2:30 pm Superbowl Party →		6 *9am UMW Exec board	8 *9:30am Red Bird Circle	9 *2:00 pm Special Friends	10 *8am Thrift Shop open *District Training Event →	11 *8am Thrift Shop open *8am UMM breakfast →
*Boy Scout Sunday *Second Sunday lunch *6pm Imagine Planning →	13	14 *Happy Valentine's Day! *8am Thrift Shop Workday	15 *7pm Finance Work Team	16	17 Inter Faith Scholar Weekend →	18 *9am Youth Board *10 am Youth work day at Poverello House
*6pm PTO Bible Study *6pm Ballroom Dance	20 *4:30 pm Admin. Support Team	21 *10 am UMW	22 *1pm Wesley Circle *6:30 pm 1 st Confirmation class *7pm Ash Wednesday service	23	24	25 *8 am Yoga
*10:30 am Walk to Emmaus info meeting *6pm Imagine! Music planning	27	28 *8am Thrift Shop Workday	29 *Happy Leap Year!! *6:30 pm Confirmation class			

Every Sunday	Every Monday	Every Tuesday	Every Wednesday	Every Thursday	Every Friday	Every Saturday
*9:30am Imagine! Worship *10:30am Coffee Hour *11am Sunday School *11am Worship *2pm CHRIST Sun Sch *3:30pm CHRIST church *5:15pm Youth Music *6pm Youth Group			*7:30 am Denny's Bible Study *9 am Boutique Group *6:30 pm Confirmation Class	*6pm Imagine Rehearsal *7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	*2pm Sierra Villa Rest Home	*3pm CHRIST Ministry Choir

March

2012

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*PTO at the Rogue Festival	*9am UMW Exec board	6	7 *7pm SPRC	8 *2:00 pm Special Friends	9 *8am Thrift Shop open Women's Retreat at ECCO	10 *9am Worship Planning
*Daylight Savings starts today! * 6pm Imagine! Planning		13 *8am Thrift Shop Workday	14 *9:30am Red Bird Circle	15	16	17 *Happy St. Patrick's Day! *10 am Youth work day at Poverello House
*One Great Hour of Sharing *6pm PTO Bible Study *6pm Ballroom Dance	*4:30 pm - Admin. Support Team	20 *10 am UMW	21 *7pm Finance Work Team	22	23	24
*6pm Imagine! Music planning		27 *8am Thrift Shop Workday	28 *1pm Wesley Circle	29	30	31 