

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



A P R I L / M A Y

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



Watch for
the

Head



Heart



Hand



Symbols
to see how
these
ministries
are
targets
to help
your
spiritual
growth

CELEBRATE 120!

120th Anniversary Celebration-How can we honor God for this blessing?

2013 marks the 120th anniversary of the start of Memorial United Methodist Church in Clovis. The Network Team, consisting of the leadership of all the ministries of our congregation, will be leading the congregation as we mark this mile stone in these ways:

****120** people involved in unique hands-on mission & ministries opportunities this year

****120** people lending a hand in new ways for our ongoing ministries

****Homecoming weekend October 19-20.** Reserve it on your calendar now!

Be looking for details each month for your chance to praise God through mission and ministry as we celebrate 120 active years in this community!

This newsletter we spotlight these mission/ministries opportunities:



With thanksgiving we lift up the highly successful CPR/AED training event sponsored by the **Parish Nurses**. Preparing ourselves to be useful in times of emergency is one way we honor God and serve in the world!



Haiti Team 2013 is preparing to leave! We praise God for the entire congregation getting into this ministry, and for the 14 people we are sending to share God's love by helping to address the root causes of poverty. When we return we will have lots of stories to tell you about our mission trip. We will be sharing these on April 14th at both services and May 4th at United Methodist Men's group as well as later at the United Methodist Women's group. We are available to speak at any other groups who request it.



Hmong Funeral Outreach Ministry is getting ready to test our proposed outreach mission! We will need LOTS of folks willing to spend a few hours one weekend each month embodying the love of Jesus as we support Hmong families in grief. Look for a related article in this newsletter for more details.



Our **Christian Education** program on Sunday evenings needs more people: a) to come to classes, b) to take a turn in the kitchen, c) to work with children and youth. Talk to Connie Alfaro or Pastor Janette for more info.



NEW MINISTRY WITH ACADEMY CIRCLE - we are prayerfully looking to expand our mission and ministry in partnership with the Academy Circle. We will begin having prayer and Bible study together on the first Saturday each month, alternating locations between MUMC and Academy. Our first Bible study meeting will be on May 4, 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship Hall of MUMC. There has not been any kind of ongoing Bible through Academy church in many years! Let's lift this in prayer, that it may be useful to God is sharing the love of Jesus.



CHANGE THE WORLD day on May 18 - this year we will gather at 10 a.m. to learn about hunger and to work together to package..... Drum roll people.... 10,000 meals in less than 2 hours! Yep - 10,000 meals! We need at least 40 people to sign up! It'll be amazing!



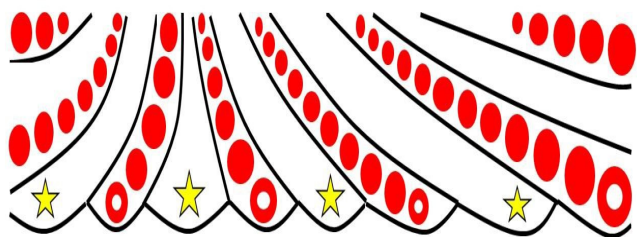
Choir and band - come join in for a season! We would love to have more people involved in these music ministries, especially as they prepare for Holy Week/Easter. Additionally, upcoming special events include our annual Pentecost concert on May 19, and the Great Day of Music on June 23.



Mission Thrift Shop does an AMAZING job each month of sorting, pricing, displaying, selling... Stuff! "Many hands make light work." If you have never helped with this ministry, come check it out! Work dates are on the enclosed calendar, or talk with Gloria McClanahan.



Upcoming Events



2013 Spring Carnival

Wesley United Methodist Church Fundraiser

1343 E. Barstow Ave. , Fresno, CA 93710

Saturday, April 13, 2013 from Noon to 4pm

FOOD AND DRINKS

RAFFLE PRIZES

GAMES AND MUCH MORE!

FUN FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES...



**Bring your Family, Friends
and Neighbors!**

A note from the Parish Nurses



Healthy Heart Day was a resounding success. 27 people were trained for AED - CPR. We are so fortunate to have the AED equipment.

There were over 60 for the luncheon and to hear the speaker.

A huge, huge, thank you to all who made this possible. Especially do we thank Cardiology Associates of West Reading, Pa for their contribution in memory of George.

Be sure to reserve Sunday eve April 7th -
the program after dinner will be on

Alzheimers

What is it? How to prevent ?

Watch for more information in the coming weeks..



Blessings, Lucy Elgin, NP,MSN



BALLROOM DANCE

April 19th & 26th

May 10th & 24th

7Pm in the Fellowship Hall.
Singles Welcome.

For more information call
Edie Dyer at 264-4665



UMW News

April

No board meeting
No unit meeting



April 27-Saturday, Mystery trip to Squaw Valley Herb Garden \$20.00 for Lunch—Car pool at church 9:45 am. See Dorothy Heskitt before March 20th for lunch payment.

Pentecost Celebration:

May 19 at 7:15 p.m. will be our annual Pentecost Music Celebration. This is a beautiful and uplifting time of bringing together the various language ministries in our area to Praise God. This is an EXCELLENT opportunity to bring family and friends to come along!



Upcoming Events

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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

Calling All Cooks and Friends!!

The Boutique Group is compiling a new Cook Book to sell at the next 2013 Boutique sale next November. They would like to have recipes, new and old, from all the friends, cooks, and members of MUMC to include in the book. Please send in your recipes to Becky Posey at the church office. You can do this in the way that is most convenient for you: e-mail, hand written, typed, personally delivered to the office, mailed through the Post Office or given to a member of the Boutique group.

We would like to have any information you have about the recipe. Was it from a friend? Did it come from a family member? Was it always served at the family Thanksgiving meal? Whose favorite dish was it? Was it an original concocted by you? And any other information you might have. Please put your name on it and if it came from someone else please give credit to the person.

There will be the usual sections in the book such as salads, soups, and bread. Possibly we be able to have sections such as Heart Healthy, Men's, Children's and Sentimental recipes.



Youth Group News April/May 2013

Sunday March 17 – dinner at 5, Sunday School at 6
(don't forget to wear green!)

Sunday March 24 (Palm Sunday) – No Sunday School

Sunday March 24 – Haiti Team leaves!

Sunday March 31 (Easter Sunday) – No Sunday School

Sunday April 7 - dinner at 5, Sunday School at 6

Sunday April 14 - dinner at 5, Sunday School at 6

Saturday April 20 – Povorello House Workday; meet in the MUMC parking lot at 10 am.

Sunday April 21 - dinner at 5, Sunday School at 6

Saturday April 27 – B1 Fast with Wesley UMC

Sunday April 28 - dinner at 5, Sunday School at 6

Saturday May 4 – Disneyland trip - tentative

Sunday May 5 - dinner at 5, Sunday School at 6

Sunday May 12 (Mother's Day!) 2nd Sunday lunch for Mom's at noon.

Saturday May 18 - Povorello House Workday; meet in the MUMC parking lot at 10 am.

Sunday May 19 - dinner at 5, Sunday School at 6

Sunday May 26 - dinner at 5, Sunday School at 6

Movin' On Up Swim Party

Welcome 7th – 12th graders! Anyone entering 7th – 12th grades is welcome to come splash it up at our annual swim party on June 22, 2013! (Newly graduated seniors welcome too :) Keep watching for more details.

Work Mission at Glide UMC in San Francisco

We'll be taking a short (3-4 day) trip this summer to Glide UMC in late July – more information to come soon!

O Vacuum Where Art Thou?

The vacuum from the youth room has gone missing, or been left behind somewhere – have you seen him? We miss him dearly, as does the carpet. If you know where he's hiding, please call Sara at 455-7960.





Special Friends

We met January 10th continuing with thoughts about Epiphany. The scripture came from Psalms 119:1-8 and the meditation from the Upper Room for January first. The writer of the Psalm 119 held a high view of God's word and righteousness. How much do we cherish this gift from the Lord, God's message to people everywhere? This year we determined to take more seriously what the Lord shows us in the pages of the Bible, moving toward spiritual maturity and offering guidance for every day of our lives.

The Special Friends group also met February 14th. The scripture reading was from Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. The meditation was for Ash Wednesday from the 2013 Discipline. Jesus tells us in Matthew how to pray modestly and humbly, and where to pray in a secret place. The traditional prayer for the placing of ashes on the forehead is, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." A theme of relationship between Creator and created surfaces here and sets the tone for Lent. Lent invites us to follow Jesus and to remember how God blew life's breath in the nostrils after forming human from topsoil, and the human came to life. A closing thought was "Let God breathe in and through you, and know the wonder and trust of Jesus."

During the two months we made 22 visits, 42 calls, and sent 108 cards or notes, sharing with our Special Friends.

Our next meeting will be at 2:00 pm, Thursday, March 14th.

Blessings, Lorraine May



The 20 or so strong United Methodist Men who met for breakfast, fellowship and devotion March 2nd were treated to a story about the art of telling about your faith to others

by Mike Feist. (Our other "feast" was provided by Stan!) Much discussion ensued from this devotional time regarding how important this sharing is to others who are looking for God in their lives.

Men of all ages are welcome to join us April 6th from 8-9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. See you there!

Thank you,
Andy Hansen-Smith
President of MUMC's UMM



Mission Thrift Shop

Little Tiny Miracles

Watching our customers wander through yet another month's collection of "treasures" I cannot help realizing when they find something they like or need, they can purchase it for a song, and pay cash with no trailing burden of debt like that accrued in ordinary stores. I realize perhaps they have experienced a miracle, a tiny miracle.

We have requested greeters outside the shop and we've been blessed with the support of many individuals who came for an hour or more to watch over our operation providing a sense of presence as well as security. Our thanks to all of you.

During the winter months the Thrift Shop experienced a series of break-ins. MUMC has supported the shop by providing durable deadbolt locks, a "camera" and a motion light to discourage offenders.

We always need towels, tools, dishes, small appliances that work, art supplies, party favors, stationery supplies, fabric, thread and sewing notions, ladies' purses, toys and small furniture that would fit in back of someone's car and, of course, clothing. Many of these things could be "extras" that you would clean out as part of your spring cleaning. We are thankful for all the helping hands of our volunteers and your generous contributions.

Also, ask your neighbors and friends for their contributions. **If you have donations, you may leave them in the narthex, entering through the office on Tuesday mornings and they will be safely and quickly moved to the thrift shop. The newspaper shed is not very secure for your donations.**

Thank you for your support.

Gloria McClanahan 360-8517



Christian Book Club

We meet every Tuesday at 7pm in the Library.

We are now reading
"Five People You Meet in Heaven"





Hmong Funeral Outreach Ministry:



Many of you may have heard about or had direct experience with the elaborate rituals that are part of Hmong funerals, which cover a four-day period. Our congregation is getting ready to test an outreach ministry to assist Christian Hmong families in grief. Hmong Christians are a minority, and there is no place in our area where Christian families can have a funeral where the funeral space is dedicated to Jesus alone, and not used also for ancestor or animal worship. MUMC WILL NOT BE HAVING THE FUNERALS IN OUR FACILITIES for a variety of reasons - most especially that our buildings are full on the weekends and not available for 4 days in a row. We will be "hosting" the families by providing on site supervision and assistance during the weekend of the funeral, which will be held at Grace UMC in Fresno.

This will be a chance, not only to build ties to the Hmong community, but also to make a witness for Jesus, as we know that even in Christian families, not every member will be a believer.

This outreach ministry will not be an expense for us. All expenses will be covered by the fees the family will pay, which will be below the "going rate," helping the families financially. Even as we save the families money, we anticipate we will gain income from the weekend.

If you can donate 3-4 hrs on any weekend during our test months of April, May and June, please fill out a "willingness to serve" form. Since we cannot know far in advance when the funerals will occur, we need everyone to be understanding and

2nd Sunday lunch.... April & May

April 14 we will enjoy a tasty meatloaf lunch prepared by Stan and Guin Jenanyan. The Haiti group will lead worship morning, and will share more of their stories during lunch. Remember, lunch is only \$5 for adults, \$2 for children.

May 12 is MOTHERS' DAY! We will again offer our special Mothers' Day brunch, sponsored by the SPRC. The Fellowship Hall will be specially transformed, and a sumptuous meal served. The cost for this special meal is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. MOMS: tell your children that for your special lunch, you want them to take you to lunch in the Fellowship Hall! Tickets will go on sale after lunch on April 14 through May 8th. Advanced purchase is STRONGLY recommended, to ensure enough seating and food.



Finance

Can you BUMP up your giving?

Blessing
Unimagined
Made
Possible!



Financial report:

****We ended 2012 very strong, carrying over \$7000 into the new year.**

****Every year in January we have very large expenses which are expected and even out over the course of the year. 2013 was no exception, as our expenses for the month were much higher than our income.**

****Our income for January was about what we expected it to be.**

****We did not make our apportionments payments in January or February.**

****All other financial obligations have been paid.**

****Our finances are stable, and we are very optimistic that we will be able to make a substantial apportionment payment in March.**

Congregation Life

April May Birthdays

Xiong	Lee	2-Apr
Deena	Crosslin	5-Apr
Art	Daly	9-Apr
Kayte	Van De Mark	11-Apr
Kurt	Cline	14-Apr
Mee Vang	Lee	14-Apr
Kylee	Pachelbel	17-Apr
Alissa	Williams	17-Apr
Norma	Meek	19-Apr
Eleanor	Patton-Knudson	19-Apr
Ian	Goudelock	20-Apr
Va	Yang	20-Apr
Gilbert	Stocks	20-Apr
Benjamin	Zastovnik	21-Apr
Joyce	Ladd	24-Apr
Kathryn	Cannon	25-Apr
Ethel	Schwartz	25-Apr
Alex	Jennison	30-Apr

William	Nicholls	1-May
Robin	Holleman	2-May
Stan	Jenanyan	2-May
Joan	Pregno	2-May
James	Vang	2-May
Wang Cheng	Moua	3-May
Carole	Schweitzer	3-May
Ger	Moua	4-May
Becky	Posey	8-May
Uchei	Uwaoma	8-May
Chue	Yang	8-May
Janet	Abbott	9-May
Dorothy	Carr	9-May
Janet	Bonzo	12-May
Baoui	Her	12-May
Kaylene	Snow	12-May
Jennifer	Carlos	16-May
Chua	Hang	18-May
Betty	Gist	20-May
Emma	Hansen-Smith	20-May
Owen	Glazebrook	21-May
Sue	Yang	21-May
Roberto	Carlos	22-May
Jean	Lenderman	26-May
Laura	Williams	26-May
Ella Mae	Innerarity	27-May
Marjorie	Ludwig	30-May
George	Grimsley	31-May

Committed to Christ: Six Steps to a Generous Life

has been our focus through Lent. The six steps we have been exploring are: prayer, Bible study, worship, witness, financial giving, and hands-on service. The entire congregation has been involved, with both language ministries participating, 9 small groups meeting weekly, 99 homes using the daily devotional guide, and more than 75 people making commitments to be intentional about practicing and applying the steps in their lives! We are excited to see how this level of commitment will impact our mission and ministries as the year unfolds! Be looking for a follow up mailing in April or early May on ways the congregation can support each other as we seek to more clearly reflect the overwhelmingly generous nature of God.



Dear Caring Church Family,

Thank you so much for all your cards, phone calls and prayers for my recovery. I'm recovering very slowly from my 2 fractured vertebrae in my lower back.

Helen Mc Gaughy



A favorite quote of mine from our former bishop, Rev. Leotine T. C. Kelly, "God can do amazing things in the lives of people who refuse to put up barriers."

Our unison benediction each week at the close of worship is based on scripture:

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." (Ephesians [3:20](#), 21 NIVUK)

I like to read that passage in various translations. Here is another good one:

"God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us. Glory to God in the church! Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus! Glory down all the generations! Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes!" (Ephesians [3:20](#), 21 MSG)

Sometimes we work really hard to be sure our lives - our thoughts, words and deeds - glorify God. For me personally, I can get so caught up in working hard on deeds - lots and lots of deeds - that I become totally exhausted!

Many times that exhaustion is not necessary. It is caused by working hard for Jesus while my focus is not clearly set on Jesus. Have you ever experienced that? Working super hard on mission and ministry and becoming exhausted... maybe even becoming disappointed in what seems to be accomplished by my efforts? MY efforts. I forgot to allow God to work through me! When I take time each day to get my focus right, my energy and efforts function at a much higher level.

God's power, working through me and you, can accomplish more than we ever expected! Not my power or your power, God's power. God's power is not limited by the frailty of our bodies. Sometimes God can use us most powerfully when we are frail and vulnerable, because we don't have energy to put up barriers!

Easter is all about letting go of our barrier-making business. Resurrection is not logical. That can be a barrier. Triumph over death sounds foolish. That can be a barrier. The idea that one person's life can change the world seems delusional. That can be a barrier. And the list goes on and on. To really become an Easter people, those barriers must come down!

And the barriers WILL fall because each of us has experienced that amazing love which is stronger than death! Each of us knows that amazing grace which looks beyond our faults and weakness to declare us whole and beloved. Each of us carry within our bodies and lives the reality of resurrection and the power of love. And that reality, that power DOES change the world, when we refuse to put up barriers.

"On paper," God's crazy plan to use the crucifixion of Jesus to save all humanity didn't look like it could work. But when Jesus died, the veil in the temple which separated the people from the holiest part of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom! Jesus was killed and sealed in a tomb, but God rolled away the stone. God is DETERMINED to bring love and salvation to ALL people! We can exhaust ourselves trying to do God's work while we leave our human-made barriers in place. Or, we can allow the barriers to fall, refuse to put up new ones, and continually allow God to work through us.

This past year has been amazing! God has accomplished much through the people of MUMC. As we approach Easter, as we explore 6 steps to a generous life, we need to be mindful of those places where we are trying to serve God while keeping barriers in place. We will not be able to continue to do ministry as we have been doing these past 12 months by our own strength and good intentions.

This year, especially during Holy Week, take time to focus on Jesus and him crucified. Search for any kind of barrier that may be in place in your life which may inhibit the work of the Holy Spirit. Open your life fully to be used by God. You will find yourself renewed. You will be refreshed and strengthened for the journey ahead. You will be amazed at what God can do through our lives.

Memorial United Methodist
Church of Clovis
1726 Pollasky Ave
Clovis, CA 93612



The Haiti Mission team from
Memorial and Sierra-Grace
Churches would like to thank
everyone for their prayers,
time, and financial support as we
wind down until we leave for
Haiti March 24th!
When we return we will have lots
of stories to tell you about our
mission trip.

Thank you,
The Haiti Team 2013

CHURCH PHONE: 559-299-4615

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

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday Service,

March 24, 2013, 10 am

Combined Service

Maundy Thursday Service,

March 25, 2013, 7 pm

Good Friday Academy Service,

March 29, 2013, 7:30 pm

Easter Sunrise Academy Ser-

vice,

March 31, 2013, 7 am

Easter Imagine! Service,

March 31, 2013, 9:30 am

Easter Traditional Service,

March 31, 2013, 11 am

Academy Potluck,

March 31, 2013, 1230 pm

Academy Easter Service,

March 31, 2013, 2 pm