

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

559-299-4615 MEM-UMC.ORG



*Watch
for the
Head*



*Heart
Hand*

Symbols



*to see
which
minis-
tries*



*will help
your
per-
sonal
growth*

UMM CAKE AUCTION

Sunday February 2nd, 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 if you have any questions.

Please have cake at church by 10:20 am.

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 gifts, salty gifts, pretty gifts, and even gifts for kids! They will be ready for pickup on Sunday  Feb. 9.

Superbowl Party is ON for February 2nd.



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.

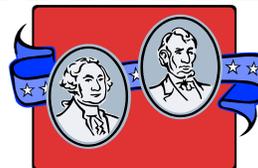
Bring snacks to share - make them appropriately "themed" for the day or the teams playing.

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 2
from 3 pm onward!



President's Day Yard Sale

Monday February 17, 2014 9a-1p

We will have 'George' (\$1) and 'Abe' (\$5) sections, so bring those presidents with you! Proceeds go to support the Memorial United Methodist Church's youth group.

How you can help:

1. Bring your **gently used and sellable** items to church on Sunday, Feb. 16. We will have areas set up for \$1 items, \$5 items, and items \$10 and above. You decide how much the item will sell for, and place it in the respective area. If your item goes in the \$10 and above section, please price it for us.

2. Come shopping for amazing deals on President's Day!!



Upcoming Events



Parish Nurses

Healthy Heart Potluck March 1, 2014

11:00 – 1:30 Fellowship Hall

It is time for our annual Healthy Heart Potluck! Celerina Carlos, a nurse from St Agnes and one of our members will be teaching this year. We will have an AED – CPR review. This is very important that as many people as possible know how to operate the AED. We are so privileged to have this equipment.

Please bring your healthy dish to share, salad, rolls and drinks will be provided.

We will also have some quiz time with prizes!!!

If questions, please call the office or 322 – 8525.

Blessings, Lucy Elgin, MSN, NP, RN

UMW

Feb. 3rd—Executive Board , 9am, Library

Feb. 18th—Unit Meeting , 10am, Fellowship Hall
Program is Pledge to Mission by Karen & Judy
Team B will host lunch

Feb. 26th—Wesley & Red Bird, 1pm, Fellowship Hall

March. 3h—Executive Board , 9am, Library

March 18th—Unit Meeting , 10am, Fellowship Hall
Program: Pastor Janette
Board Host for lunch

March 26th—Wesley & Red Bird, 1pm, Fellowship Hall



First Friday Film Fest:

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

March - theme: four-leaf-clover - the movie is "A Quiet Man" (made in 1952, before movies were assigned ratings!) starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara.

Feb/March Birthdays



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
Nao Lee	02/25
William Pregno	02/26
Terri Scott	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
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
Sharon Babcock	03/15
Kindra Snow-Walker	03/16
Matthew Babcock	03/17
Opal Spears	03/20
Chee Nou Vang	03/20
Mina Yang	02/20
Herb Spencer	03/21
Andrea Pond	03/22
Wanda Rogers	03/28
Sharlene Sautter	03/30



EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SUNDAY SCHOOL...



...but didn't know what to ask!

For Sunday School teachers, our most important job is to show and tell our kids of Jesus' love for everyone, especially them. It's good to learn the stories and characters and books of the Bible, but God wants our children to know how much they are loved, and how they can share that love with others. That seems like a really big important ministry (and it is!). Like many big and important things, God's will succeeds by working through the small things we do in love for others. Check out the following - you may discover a small way you can help in this ministry.

MUMC Sunday School today is taught through rotating the children through three stations: Music, Crafts, and Bible Story. The children are divided into teams based on their age or grade level.

Purple Team: Infants to Preschool (3 years old)

Green Team: ages 4 years old to Grade 1

Blue Team: Grades 2-3

Red Team: Grades 4-6

The teaching roles are: Station Teachers, Team Shepherds (leaders), and Helpers. Here are the basics of each role, what they do and how they do it. In any of these roles, you can serve on whatever schedule works best for you: once a month, one month or quarter at a time, or as a substitute. In any of these roles, you have a chance to show and tell God's love.

Station Teacher - The teacher of each station develops their own lesson based on our Whole People of God curriculum and in coordination with the other teachers.

Music Station Teacher: You coordinate the choice of songs with the main theme of the day's lesson from the curriculum. You can use songs from the curriculum or any other source. You can also tell or read a short story that also supports the theme. Songs are taught by repetition and participation. You can accompany the songs yourself or can use the service of another musician. You can also help lead the music for the opening and closing times.

Craft Station Teacher: You develop age appropriate crafts for each team either from the curriculum or another craft of your own choosing. You gather the appropriate craft materials from our supplies or can purchase what you need for a particular craft.

Bible Story Station Teacher: You develop an age appropriate story or learning activity for each team from the curriculum. You gather the appropriate materials from our supplies or other resources as suggested by the curriculum, i.e. show and tell items, costumes, etc.

Team Shepherds (Leaders): You are assigned to lead either the Green, Blue, or Red Team from station to station (Purple Team stays in the Nursery). You stay with your team at each station, and help the kids and the station teacher as needed with the activity. As Shepherd, you help the children learn to walk and work with each other and the Teachers. You help them learn to treat each other with respect by modeling kindness and showing care for each one.

Helper: As a Helper, you can help wherever you want to and/or are needed. For example, if you really like music or crafts, you can help at those stations.

If you are interested in helping or have other questions, please contact:
Laura Williams (351-9511), Chia Me Vang (916-2789) or Connie Alfaro (905-2240).

Mission Thrift Shop

Thrift Store 2013 was a great year with lots of changes.

The inside of the building was improved with a complete make-over, from throwing out years of things no longer needed. We replaced carpet and put new paint almost everywhere. Volunteers came out of the woodwork with experience, knowledge, and a desire to do whatever necessary to transform our Methodist Church Thrift Store. Without such support this project would not have been possible. With this support our Methodist Church is proud in offering such a Thrift Store to all those who shop there and share the friendship of our church.

In the closing months of 2013 the leadership roles of the Thrift Store has changed. What was once a one or two person leadership and other volunteers to help, has developed into Leaders in certain areas of the Thrift Store and someone reporting to the Church. Gloria McClanahan (the leader for the past 3 years) worked with each of the unofficial area leaders from August thru December 2013.



TEAMS AND MINISTRIES

TAAG Team - Totally Awesome All Generations Teams:

TAAG Team met on January 18 to play games together, eat nachos, and make plans for the coming year. We had a good time together, and hope you will join the fun during the year. Here are plans for the coming months:

February 2 - Super Bowl party! See more details elsewhere... Fun for everyone - even those who don't care about football! (This year the celebration is on Pastors Janette & Juan's wedding anniversary so they are planning to bring special yummy food to share!)

March - we plan to go see Scott Hatfield's show in 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.

Also coming up in the next two months: a trip to Shinzen Garden. Nancy Enloe is a docent there. She will let us know when the garden is at it best for our trip. Again, we can't know yet exactly when - details will be in the bulletin and Weekly Digest as soon as they are available.

HOLY LAND 2015:

Plans are being made to visit Israel in March of 2015. We are working with our United Methodist missionary in Bethlehem and a Christian travel agency in that area to arrange a customized tour.

Currently we have 12-15 people who are wanting to go. We would like to get another 8-10 people, if possible. This will give us "group" rates (20 people), and still be a comfortable number on the tour bus.

COST: some folks would like to go, but cost seems to be prohibitive. We are actually working on ways to raise funds which will NOT rely on donations from MUMC folks for airfare or tour costs. Please do not let concerns over funding keep you from further exploration of possibilities!

VIM: our trip WILL include an opportunity to do some kind of service project - Volunteer In Mission (VIM) - while we are in the area. This WILL be an area in which the entire congregation will want to be involved and supportive. At this time, we do not know what it will be. We will spread the word as soon as we know.

The next meeting for those wanting to go the Holy mid-March 2015 will be after the Second Sunday lunch on February 9 - 1 pm in the library.

Did you know?.....

That we are once again pressing forward with effort to launch an outreach ministry in the area of Hmong Funerals? Please hold this ministry in your prayers. If you want to be involved, talk with Pastor Janette or Pai Yang.

2nd Sunday Lunches

February 10 - In honor of Scout Sunday the Boutique Group will bake chicken pie. The Scouts will provide "Scout Sundaes". The entertainment will be music.

March 10 - 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 2014. The Cheaptons will once again provide Irish music for the entertainment.

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 at:

291-6814



Special Friends

DECEMBER 2013

Special Friends met December 12, 2013, with thoughts of celebrating the birth of the Prince of Peace. Our scripture was Matthew 5:9, Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Our thought question was "Where would you like to see peace this Christmas?" The meditation was from Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose of Christmas*. The simple, unassuming birth of a peasant boy born two thousand years ago in the Middle East is astounding. Every time you check your calendar or refer to a date you are using Jesus Christ as your reference point. Because of Jesus, history is divided into BC (before Christ) and AD (anno Domini, is the year of the Lord.) Every event in history and every event on your calendar today is dated by how many days and years it has been since Jesus Christ appeared on earth. Christmas is God's gift to you.

This gift has three qualities that make it unique. First, it's the most expensive gift you'll ever receive. It's priceless. Jesus paid for it with his life. Second, it's the only gift you will receive that will last forever. Finally, it's an extremely practical gift-one you'll use every day for the rest of your life. On the first Christmas night, the angels announced the purpose for the birth of Christ. Christmas is a time for celebration! Christmas is a time for salvation! Christmas is a time for reconciliation! The entire reason for Christmas is the love of God. God loves you! God is with you! God is for you!

We were saddened by the loss of two special friends in December, Irene Smith and Roberta Coon. During the month we made 17 visits, 15 calls, and sent 24 cards or letters.

A closing thought: How did you feel opening God's Christmas gift to you this year?

JANUARY 2014

Our group met on January 9, 2014. As we begin this New Year we ask God to help us be aware of the importance of our mission reaching out to our special friends and caring for needs with compassion. Our thoughts today were on compassion. With all that's going on in our world today it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the events that surround us. How are we able to reach out in the midst of this? Joan Halifax, a medical anthropologist, says compassion is "feeling alongside the suffers affected of state and aspiring to relieve it." She distinguishes this from "empathy" where we feel the other persons' suffering inside of us and are unable to distinguish our pain from the others pain.

Jesus found the right balance between the two. The scriptures tell us about how he dealt with all the needs around him. First he took action: he touched people, listened to them, and healed them. He gave of himself whenever he could. Second; he prayed" he lived his life through a series of "holy moments". He sought God and made time for God. Third, he took time apart: he went away in a boat; he went away up a hill, leaving his disciples behind, he sought out time to be alone with God.

As we think about how we can respond to pain and the tragedies that surround us, let us hope we can remember Jesus' example, his compassion, his action and interaction, his life of prayer, and his trust in God.

Our next meeting will be February 13th at 2:00 pm.

A thought: Let us hope we can find a healthy way to live in compassion!

Boutique News

2013 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 Jenanyan and Pat Frey 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: Lucy Elgin, Judith Barkman, Evie Weiss & John Taylor. You will be happy to hear that the Boutique Group made a \$7,000.00 donation to the church. 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.



Sincerely, Carole Schweitzer

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

Kathy Cannon, Kelly deJarnette & her mother, Ginger Lee.

MUMC Finances are strong! THANK YOU!

Yet even when we are strong there are challenges we face:

Do you ever have "cash flow" problems? This can happen to everyone - even to our congregation. Making donations regularly - weekly or monthly - helps keep our ministries running smoothly.

Can you pay AHEAD? If you are in a financial position to pay quarterly "up front" this can be extra helpful! There are several months when large bills come due. Having "up front" donations can reduce any "bill juggling" when cash flow is a bit sluggish.

The Finance Team is grateful for the faithful and ongoing financial support of the entire congregation.

*Finance***A Great Year for Giving at MUMC**

In terms of finances (and many other ways), 2013 turned out to be a fantastic year for Memorial.

We raised enough to:

- ♦ Send 12 of our members and two from Sierra Grace to Haiti,
- ♦ Package over 130,000 meals for Stop Hunger and sent \$32,500 to Stop Hunger Now
- ♦ Pay all our bills,
- ♦ Sent the Annual Conference \$26,602 (apportionments and \$2,660 requested for our share of the second-mile giving
- ♦ Sent \$1,853 to the conference for special offerings such as Imagine No Malaria, One Great Hour of Sharing and Bridge to Angola.
- ♦ Gave to Haiti
- ♦ Gave to the Philippines
- ♦ Gave to Heifer Project
- ♦ Gave to CROP Walk
- ♦ Gave to tornado relief
- ♦ Gave to Marjaree Mason Center
- ♦ We donated non-cash items such as the gifts the mission team brought to Haiti, the Christmas Toy Drive and the Poverello House Warm Tree gifts
- ♦ We also gave out \$5,379 in food and other emergency assistance to our community



We are grateful to God for touching the lives and increasing the commitment of all of our members and friends who helped make this possible.

We are also grateful for funds that were set aside in previous years so that we could replace an air conditioner and upgrade the Thrift Store without holding fund drives for these and other maintenance items. In addition, some of the Haiti Funds carried over from the previous year. Accumulated Memorial Funds were used to purchase canopies for our outdoor activities, such as the 120th Celebration and the Live Nativity.

At the beginning of the year, we had \$109,817 in our various funds, the biggest part of it in the Endowment, the Improvement/Maintenance funds and the Fountain fund. During the year, we brought in \$308,898 and spent \$324,128, leaving a balance of \$94,587. This reduction in balance is due to the spending of accumulated funds such as those mentioned in the preceding paragraph.



All in all, a wonderful year.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

(Hebrews 12:1 NIVUK)

As I write this column we are already past the half-way mark in January! The days are flowing by so quickly! However, before we press on into 2014, I believe we need to take a moment to look back to 2013.

Last year we celebrated 120 years of serving in love. We, as a congregation, lifted up four goals we would like to accomplish in the course of our mission and ministry for the year. Let's remember these goals to see how we did:

1) Have 120 members of the congregation engaged in new hands-on mission.

We have listed 117 names! Terrific!! I am guessing we probably missed at least 3 people in the registration process for our mega-meal-packing event, so we can be pleased that we met this goal! This is HUGE!! It represents about 40% of the membership, which is excellent! It also leaves plenty of room for growth....

2) Have 120 members invest themselves in new ways in the ongoing ministries of the congregation.

We have listed nearly 90 names. 75% of our goal. This is actually very good! While it may not have gotten as close as we had aimed, having 90 people getting more involved in the ongoing ministries of the congregation is WONDERFUL!!

3) Have 120 people from the community partner with us in hands-on ministry

This one we far exceeded our goal! We have about 200 names on the list! Yea! Something we can learn from this: when people are invited to do something that is transparently an act of selfless giving to make the world a better place, they are excited to join in! And since doing this type of work is also energizing for our congregation, it may be very beneficial to seek out these activities/ministries with greater frequency.

4) Have 120 members of the congregation involved in volunteer work in the community.

For this goal we have listed 65 names. I believe the number may be higher, as not everyone lets us know what they do as volunteers. Still, our count is about 50% of our goal. This is VERY IMPORTANT to note: our congregation keeps lifting up the desire to touch more lives right here in our community. Volunteering in the community helps this in two clear ways:

A) We are carrying the love of Jesus to where it is needed - not waiting for folks to walk through our doors. As I listen to stories from people who are volunteering in the community, I can see God at work through us!

B) Many of those who volunteer in the community have made friends with people beyond the congregation, and have brought those friends with them to events at MUMC. Volunteering in the community is a gentle way of doing evangelist out-reach!

Having goals helped our congregation focus for mission and ministry in 2013. In the coming year, let us not forget what we have learned, or abandon our goals because a page turned in the calendar. Let us continue to press on, that our ministries might be ever more vibrant: a beautiful mirror of God's glorious love which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Memorial United Methodist

Church of Clovis

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January 2014

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
19 *5 pm Prayer Cell	20 Office Closed	21 *10 am UMW	22 1 pm Wesley	23	24 *7 pm Ballroom Dance	25 *8am Yoga *10am WWD Group
26 *1 pm The Network	27 *5:30 pm AST *7 pm Imagine Planning	28 *8am Thrift Shop Workday	29	30	31	