



# GOOD NEWS!

JUNE 2016 - JULY 2016

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."

## What is going on with our Hmong Ministry?!

### Memorial United

### Methodist Church

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9 am to 1 pm

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Many of you have noticed that we now have **TWO** worshiping groups in our Hmong Language Ministry: one at 9:15 a.m., and one at 3:30 p.m. Many of you are asking, "Is this a permanent arrangement?" The answer is "No and Yes!"

**NO:** we will not be having TWO worshipping groups at MUMC for much longer. We are getting ready to launch a NEW Hmong Language Congregation in Fresno! Just like Academy Methodist Church sent people to Clovis to start a new congrega-

tion, we will be sending a group of our Hmong Language Ministry into Fresno beginning in July to begin a new Hmong Language UM Congregation there. This plan has support of our UM Hmong Caucus across our nation! Fresno has one of the LARGEST concentrations of Hmong people in the US, and a HUGE majority of those people are not Christians. This is a VERY LARGE mission field!

We will definitely be missing some of our long-time friends, but are excited to be a part this new ministry! The full plans are not yet finalized. The current plan is to have time at the start of the Imagine! Worship service on July 3, when we will bless, dedicate, and launch this new ministry!

**YES:** even while we are planning to launch a new ministry, our goal is to continue to have a Hmong Language worship service in the morning. We have been testing the arrangement at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. In many ways, this has been working well. However, there are almost certainly ways to improve this arrangement, and even entirely different arrangements to test.

**WHY are we doing this?** In an effort to strengthen ministries to our children, youth and families, we want to offer a unified Sunday School program. To do this, we need to have everyone on campus in the mornings. If our Sunday School program is at 11, the Fresno Korean UMC would like to combine their Sunday School program with MUMC's program! This will give us a SOLID basis for ongoing and out-reaching Sunday School program for ALL ages!

**FEEDBACK:** there will be a meeting at 5 pm on Sunday, June 12, to discuss how things have been going, and what new ways of configuring our time on Sundays might be good to test during the summer months. EVERYONE is encouraged to come to this meeting and join the discussion. If decisions come from this meeting that will change our worshipping times and/or structure as we test new ways of doing ministry, we will send out an all-congregational letter to keep everyone informed.

**IMPORTANT MEETING on our Sunday Morning Schedule**  
**Sunday, June 12 at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall**



## Upcoming Events

### Bible Olympics are coming to Memorial!



This summer the world will turn attention to Rio as the 2016 Summer Olympics get underway.

We are planning fun activities for our Sunday School children: **Bible Olympics**

These Olympic Games are designed to involve the whole body even as participants learn some Bible basics. "Olympic Coaches" are needed to assist! Beginning July 3, we plan to have the Olympic Training happen for an hour each week starting at 11 a.m.

We would like to allow our teachers to have the summer off. Would YOU be willing to help coach the children in their training?

- ✦ We need 2 volunteers each week.
- ✦ You may sign up for more than one week.

Training on how to play the games will be provided.

Also, training in "safe sanctuaries" and our children's ministry policies will be given.

### United Methodist University in Liberia

Special Opportunity to learn about OUR work at OUR United Methodist University in Liberia.

Mator Kpanghai, of the UMU in Liberia, will be visiting with us in June. He will join us at both services to meet folks on June 19. Then, on Monday, June 20 we will have an evening together to learn about the university and other UM work in Liberia.

Join us:

Monday, June 20

6:30 pm Reception to greet Mator in our Library

7-8 (ish) Program about UM University Liberia by

Mator Kpanghai in the sanctuary

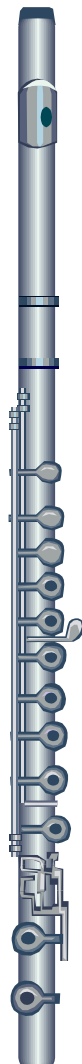
Mator will be available to talk with people again following the program.

(NOTE: this is nearly the longest day of the year! We have planned this event so people who don't like to be out after dark can be home before sundown.)

Bring your friends for an interesting evening with Mator Kpanghai

## Flute Choir

### Special Music Event



La Forza will be performing a chamber concert July 9, 2016 at 3 pm, which will conclude around 4:30 pm. MUMC is hosting the Event. La Forza is directed by Janette Erickson, member of MUMC and Principal Flutist of the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra. Featured on the program will be the flute choir music, written and arranged by Russell S. Howland, Janette's teacher, who composed this flute choir library for Janette. Most of the performers are her students and former students. There will also be a bass clarinetist and string bassist, filling in the bass lines for the group.

Also featured will be a student conductor, a special flute quartet performance of the beautiful Bozza piece and a guest saxophone quartet for one number. Programmed is the expansive "Mariposas" piece (Butterflies), which will feature 4 flute soloists. The group will end their program, as they did last year, with a rip roaring march, featuring their piccolo players! Admission is free.

La Forza may be performing again at Christmas time. Donations may be given to the group for a special commissioned piece to be written for this occasion, or donations may be given to MUMC.

### Comfy Seats

They are great but not totally paid for. So we will be having a fund raiser on:

**July 23rd the theme Americana.**

**5:30pm-Fellowship Hall**

**More information will be available soon.**

## Upcoming Events

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### Birthday

### Celebration

On June 26 & July 31, we will celebrate the monthly birthdays after the 11am services.

Ly Chai	Yang	06/01
Vu	Yang	06/01
Tou	Xiong	06/03
Mai Thao	Hang	06/04
See Thong	Yang	06/06
Shua	Chang-Yang	06/07
Dorothy	Sinclair	06/07
Joy	Cole	06/08
My	Thao	06/09
Bonnie	Harkins	06/10
Tony	Vang	06/10
Pai	Yang	06/10
Katie	Her	06/15
Addy	Vang	06/15
Cher Mai	Xiong	06/15
Monique	Yang	06/15
Koua	Xiong	06/17
Gary	Gentry	06/18
Dwight	Bianchi	06/23
Tuartee	Mitchell	06/23
Barbara	Nielsen	06/23
Cathy	Walker	06/24
Madeline	Williams	06/30

Tessa	Hansen-Smith	07/01
Sang	Chong	07/02
Barbara	Woodward	07/03
Kong	Lee	07/04
Tiffany	Yang	07/04
Mary	Ettelson	07/05
Reddi	Yang	07/05
Eric	Jennison	07/07
Koua Vang	Xiong	07/08
Danielle#	Uwaoma	07/09
May	Lee	07/12
Billy	Moua	07/12
Bill	Sautter	07/12
Mely	Rinon	07/13
Lorraine	May	07/14
Vicki	Her	07/15
Her	Vicky	07/15
Nou Yeng	Yang	07/16
Yi Cha	Chang-Yang	07/17
Judith	Gross	07/17
Peggy	Bos	07/19
Celerina	Carlos	07/20
Gloria	McClanahan	07/20
Georgia	Holman	07/21
Carole	Linebach	07/23
Dang	Thao	07/23
Pagean	Carter	07/24
Mike	Jennison	07/25
John	Taylor	07/25
Patti	Pond	07/29
Sue	DeFranco	07/30
Dorothy	Heskett	07/31

### Annual Conference Session:

Conference this year will be Wednesday, June 22, 2016 to Saturday, June 25, in Burlingame.

**Where** Hyatt Regency  
1333 Bayshore Highway  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
**Phone** 650-347-1234

Pastor Janette will be attending, along with our lay members Jim Jennings, Jamie Belt, and Kathryn Sweidy.

The conference will cover basic business items, strengthen structures that help our denomination focus on living our faith in the world.

Please pray for wisdom and guidance and traveling mercies as people from across California and Nevada gather to do the business of the church.

### WWD Et Cetera Grief Support 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 library.

The basic meeting format is:

- 5 min introductions
- 10 min business
- 10 min program
- 35 min fun games

Anyone experiencing any type of grief is invited to participate in this group.

For more information contact Glynda Ward 299-7474.

Healing  
Your  
Grieving  
Heart

### New Member's Orientation:

There will be a 2 hours orientation for people who are interested in becoming members of MUMC. We will meet in the library to look at the United Methodist Church, the Wesleyan "Quadrilateral", and the ministry here at Memorial.

It will be a fun and informative time together.

New Member Orientation  
Monday, June 13 6:30-8:30 pm

### MUMC/Academy joint ministry:

We continue to work on the agreement with the Academy Circle for how we can partner in mission and ministry at the Academy UMC site. While this process is continuing, we did have a thorough building inspection done. It was determined that the building is structurally sound, and a list of recommended improvements has been obtained. Once the partnership agreement (MOU – Memorandum of Understanding) is finalized, the two groups will work together to develop a plan to make needed upgrades which will be accomplished over the course of several years.

### Graduates!

All 2016 graduates will be honored on June 19 Please let the office know of anyone you would like to honor that is graduating from high school or college or a training program.



### Academy/MUMC Book Study

We are choosing books from the UMW "reading program" list. We are REALLY enjoying the books and our time together discussing them. There are currently 4 faithful members of the group, and we would love to have more! We try to meet each month, but have discovered that our calendars this year are not falling into "regular" patterns, so choosing a regular meeting day each month has been challenging. We will publicize the book and the meeting day for the next meeting at least 4 weeks in advance – watch for it in the Weekly Digest and Sunday Bulletins. Also, feel free to talk with Diane Zastovnik, Mary Tolle, Elizabeth Tolle, or Pastor Janette for more information.

### *The Christian Book Club*

The Christian Book Club will finish the book we are reading by the end of June, then take a summer break, and resume in September.

### Boutique

Oh, my gosh are MUMC members and other supporters of our Holiday Boutique in for some surprises this year. The Boutique Group and our church have become the beneficiaries of the quilters who meet here. Guin Jenanyan, the MUMC ring leader, and others from MUMC join these ladies on Mondays and sew up some wonderful items. These things are donated to our Holiday Boutique which supports mission work all over the world. Would you like to be a part of the fun? If you or someone you know sews, knits, makes Christmas wreaths or paints please consider donating to our Holiday Boutique.



UMW

**June 6th.** –at 1pm Executive Board, in the Library

**June 21st.** at 11:30 am UMW meeting is our Ballgame

This is a fun day, and all the ladies of the church are invited to join us.

Hot dogs, with condiments, salads and desserts will be served.

Prizes will be awarded for the winning team.

**June 22nd at 2:00 p.m** Wesley Circle will meet .

UMW May Outing to the Chaffee Zoo



**SAVE THE DATE;** Sat. August 20th at 11:30 p.m. our UMW will host a Fashion Show for the benefit of the kitchen in Fellowship Hall. More information later.

**No Meetings for July or August. See you in the fall.**



Men of all ages are welcome to join us for breakfast on June 18 and July 16 from 8-9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. See you there! Thank you,

*Finance*

**March:** General Fund income through March fell behind last year's first quarter income by about \$18,000. Even so, we were able to pay our bills for the quarter with the exception of March apportionments. This is thanks to a carry-over from 2015 of about \$15,000. We will need to rely on this year's income from now on, so we hope the giving will pick up and those who have fallen behind in their contributions will be able to meet their anticipated giving.

**April:** We concluded April with a deficit of \$6,467 in the General Fund. Is it a coincidence that our estimates of giving to that date were behind by \$6,154? We would be very close to breaking even if all who are behind in their estimates could catch up.

Also, we would be in fine shape if everyone who gave during the first four months last year could give as much as they did then. Of our 68 primary contributors, 29 gave less in this period this year.

We are currently going into two of our lowest average giving months, June and July. It would be wonderful if we could buck that trend and make June and July two of our best months so far this year.

The major expense in April was the second quarter health insurance premium of \$8,536. This payment is required again in July.

Thanks to a \$3,000 check from the Thrift Store, we were able to make the March apportionment payment in May.

We sent the Conference \$943 from our Easter offering to go toward Fiji relief. The same amount from Easter has been added to the contribution sponsored by the Sunday School for Heifer International bunnies. The total amount collected for the rabbits through April 30 was \$1,391.

Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute generously to make our ministries possible.

## Special Friends



*April 2016*

*The meditation and scripture, Psalm 81:13-14 come from the March-April copy of the Upper Room, emphasizing the communication skill of listening as being so very important. The Bible teaches us to "be quick to listen and slow to speak." (James 1:19) Listening is also important in our prayer life. If prayer is conversation with God, then we will listen to what God is saying to us. It may well be that when we listen to and obey, God will do for us as he has promised— to subdue any forces that are hindering us.*

*The next time we pray, we should focus on God, not ourselves and our circumstances. Our prayers may not always produce the answers we seek, but our lives can be transformed by listening to God and then obeying Him.*

*We made a review of the Special Friends Policy. There is a need of the special information on the file of each church member should an emergency arise. May is to be the month for compiling this important information and will be carried out before and after each service by members of the Special Friends Group. Church members will be asked to fill out cards and hand them to those designated each week. We ask your cooperation so this can be completed efficiently and quickly. We will keep you posted as the time draws near.*

*In our reports on Special Friends the Easter Baskets filled by and delivered by the UMCW were well received. Margret and Bill Nicholls will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary in May. We were happy to see Cecelia Acton in Church on April 10th.*

*During the month we made 18 calls, sent 70 cards or notes, made 21 visits and transported 8 people.*

*Our next meeting will be May 12th at 2:00 pm.*

*Closing thought: Almighty God, help us to listen to your voice with our hearts, our minds, and our spirit. Amen.*

*Blessings Lorraine*

## Dream Team Update:



Much preparatory work has been accomplished as we look to strengthen our Children's Ministry Program, plus making upgrades and expansions of our facilities. A big focus has been on our current kitchen and our long-term storage needs. We will be also working with our ministries teams to look at building usage, particularly in the coming months as adjustments are made in building use to accommodate needed changes in programming to strengthen our outreach to families.

## Art in our Fellowship Hall

For many years we enjoyed the beautiful "hand print quilt" made by our Sunday School children, led by Dee Crosslin and her mother Louise Smith.



For many months now we have been enjoying the quilt made by members of MUMC as a gift for Pastor Janette. The current plan is to take that quilt down in September in order to enter it into the County Fair!

MUMC is blessed with MANY wonderful artists. We would like to rotate the art that is displayed in the hall. It would be nice to change the display every 6-12 months. The art could be fabric or textile, or framed artwork.

If you have some type of art that you would like to lend to the congregation to be displayed in the fellowship hall for up to a year, please let the MUMC office know.

## Volleyball Tournament to Support MUMC Youth

If you love volleyball, come and play in the first ever MUMC youth sponsored tournament at Bicentennial Park on June 25 from 8a-2p. Teams can have 6 players plus 2 alternates. Cost is \$40 per team, and the deadline to register is June 10. Sign up sheets are available at [mem-umc.org](http://mem-umc.org), or in the office on the front counter. You are also welcome to come and watch the teams play – we'll have lots of delicious food for sale!

## Youth Work Mission 2016

This summer we're headed to San Francisco August 11-14! We'll be working at Glide, serving meals and exploring homelessness and social justice issues. If you want to go, sign up with Sara ([sara@mem-umc.org](mailto:sara@mem-umc.org) OR 559-455-7960) by Sunday June 12. A deposit of \$20 is required to save your spot. Total cost will be \$50. Scholarships are available.

## From the Pastor

Humans like security. That is a fact. The vast majority of humans want to have security in *most* areas of their lives. At a minimum, we want to know that we will have food and clothing, sturdy shelter, people who genuinely love us and will stick with us. We like to think that nothing *bad* will happen to us. We want to feel safe in our homes. We want to have each day unfold pretty much how we thought it would when we woke up.

Some people need more clearly defined boundaries than others. All of us need some boundaries. It gives us a framework from which to operate on a day to day basis.

Many of us really like things to be clearly defined, "yes or no," "black or white."

Life is not like that.

MOST of life is some shade of grey.

Living with the knowledge that life is uncertain, can cause stress. Living with unresolved issues, questions for which we have no answers, can weigh heavily upon us. Some issues are more challenging than others. Some people struggle with uncertainty more than others. But all of us do struggle with it somewhere along the line.

There are a few things which ARE certain.

**God loves us!**  
**God is always with us!**  
**God wins!**

I am blessed to have a congregation that strives to be faithfully attentive to God. There are always times of great uncertainty. Sometimes we may feel that we are drowning in uncertainty! In these times humans often "vent" their emotional stress by becoming less gracious toward one another. Yet the congregation has maintained faithful focus on God and moved forward step by step. We have NOT spent time fighting about things over which we have no control. We have NOT become irritable and resentful toward one another. This is a HUGE blessing! Alleluia!!

In the coming months we will be facing many times of uncertainty. Let this become our mantra:

**God loves us!**  
**God is always with us!**  
**God wins!**

If we remember God's "perfect love casts out fear," (1 John 4:18) we will have greater peace to face the daily challenge of living boldly for Jesus in a world of uncertainty. When we feel overwhelmed with uncertainty, instead of living in our fear, just focus of sharing God's love more generously. We will be amazed at how our problems are transformed!

-js

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

Be Sure to be at worship on  
June 26th at 10 am  
as we celebrate  
Xifu Wang Pao's retirement!  
Lunch will follow  
in our Fellowship Hall.

CHURCH PHONE: 559-299-4615

CHURCH E-MAIL: [memumc@mem-umc.org](mailto:memumc@mem-umc.org)

## SECOND SUNDAY LUNCH



JUNE 12

WE CELEBRATE THE RETURN OF  
BUCK A BURGER!!

GIVING THANKS FOR ALL THE "FATHERS IN  
THE FAITH"

SPECIAL PRICE OF \$1 PER BURGER!  
WHAT A TREAT!!!

BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS AND JOIN  
THE FUN!!

PLUS: WE ARE LINING UP SOME SPECIAL EN-  
TERTAINMENT FOR THE DAY! PROMISE IT  
WILL BE FUN!!

JUNE 12 RIGHT AFTER WORSHIP - WHICH  
BEGINS AT 10 A.M. FOR THE GREAT DAY  
OF MUSIC!

## The Sounds of the Risen Son Messiah's Harmonies Handbell Choir

From First UMC of Pasadena



Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>

Concert Time 7 pm

Volunteer homes will be needed to  
house the members the night of June  
19<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the office if you  
can house 2 or more youth.