



# GOOD NEWS!

JUNE 2017 - JULY 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."



*Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>*

*5:30pm to 8:30pm*

*Annual Fund Raising Event to support  
the MUMC General Fund*

*"Happy Days"*



**Blue Plate Special and Desert Bar!**  
**50's music, Silent auction**

*So put on your 50's duds and join in the fun!*

Donation \$25 Adults Children \$10 Family Maximum \$75.00



**FIFTH SUNDAY LUNCH**

**JULY 30**

**2 BUCK GROUND CHUCK!!**  
**GIVING THANKS FOR ALL THE**  
**"FATHERS IN THE FAITH"**

**SPECIAL PRICE OF \$2 PER BURGER!**  
**WHAT A TREAT!!!**

**BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS AND JOIN THE FUN!!**  
**PLUS: WE ARE LINING UP SOME**  
**SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE DAY!**  
**PROMISE IT WILL BE FUN!!**

## Upcoming Events

### Annual Conference Session:

It is time once again for people from across northern & central California and most of Nevada to gather for our Annual Conference Session (ACS). Those from Memorial UMC who will be at the conference are:

Your pastors: Janette Saavedra and Yeu Vang

Your Lay Members to ACS:

Jim Jennings, Jamie Belt and Teri Scott.

Also, retired clergy Jim Scott, Kim Leslie and Denice Leslie are encouraged to attend, as part of their responsibility to the denomination.

Our delegation will attend a pre-conference briefing in Porterville on June 10. At this meeting we will be guided through the proposed budget and have an opportunity to explore together the proposed legislation for this year's conference. Additionally, we will share a meal and have time to meet others from our Central Valley District.

ACS will be held in Burlingame this year for the final time. (Next year ACS will be held in Modesto.) ACS runs June 21-24, and is very full days and evenings. It is the first year meeting with Bishop Carcaño, so it will be interesting to see how she administers the business.

CONFERENCE OFFERING - this year will benefit Africa University in Zimbabwe. We will take this offering on June 4.

Please keep the ACS and all those attending in your prayers for wisdom, guidance, good health and safe travel.

### Academy/MUMC Book Study

Our Academy & Memorial Book Study Group will take a break in June. Our next meeting day will be Saturday, July 15, at 11:30 a.m. at Eddie's Bakery on Cedar at Herndon.

The book we will discuss is "Why Women Should Rule the World," by Dee Dee Myers, a former White House Press Secretary.

We are having a lot of fun. Come join us!

### Stephen Ministry



We are half-way through the training for our first class of Stephen Ministers.

Our class has 12 members:

From Memorial:	From Grace:	From St. Paul's:
Pastor Janette	Pastor Juan	Jue Vang
Chi Uwaoma	Steve Waite	Karen Fenn
Susan Jennings	Derrick Rainbow	
Kathy Cannon	Sam Salazar	
Mike Feist		
Andy Hansen-Smith		

The trainings are designed by Stephen Ministry headquarters and are well structured, well paced, and engaging. The trainings prepare people to offer distinctively Christian care for people whose lives are in crisis. The caring is offered in one-on-one settings, remembering that we can offer care, but it is God who is working in the lives of people to bring healing.

Stephen Ministry is a congregational approach to building community and supporting each other on the journey of life. It does not replace other ministries of caring, but augments them in a complementary way. Our "pilot" class of Stephen Ministers will complete their training at the end of August, and will be commissioned for service in September.

#### IMPORTANT!!

We plan to start a second training class at the beginning of August that will end before Christmas. Do you feel God may be inviting you to engage in this type of caring ministry?

The classes will be held for 20 weeks on Monday evenings, from 6 to 8:30, beginning August 7 and concluding on December 18. Stephen Ministry Training applications are available now through the end of June. Child care will be available for those who need it. Please indicate this when you register for the training.

## Upcoming Events

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There are some dedicated workers in our Thrift Shop Ministry who are needing to step back from the responsibilities they have been carrying. We are very thankful for the years of service given to this ministry by Bea Bannister, Linda Henson and Cheryl Krauter.

We are excited that this year we have some new volunteers coming forward to help out. We are also looking into ways to expand the times when volunteers can help. Currently volunteers gather several Tuesday mornings each month to sort and price items for the shop. Are there people who would like to assist with this ministry, but are unable to assist on Tuesday mornings? Let the MUMC office know of your willingness to help out! We are hopeful to put together a team that can help out at an alternate time.



Our church has been supporting this Fresno ministry for many years. Last year at least a half-dozen from Memorial participated in the Poverello run and walk. This year it will be on June 3 at Woodward Park.

Regular registration is due by May 27.

Late registration is \$5 extra.

For information go to:

<https://www.poverellohouse.org/5krun>

Proceeds will benefit Poverello House.



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

### Birthday

### Celebration

On June 25 & July 23,  
we will celebrate the  
monthly birthdays after  
the 11am services.

Tessa	Hansen-Smith	07/01
Sang	Chong	07/02
Barbara	Woodward	07/03
Kong	Lee	07/04
Ken	Maxwell	07/04
Tiffany	Yang	07/04
Mary	Ettelson	07/05
Reddi	Yang	07/05
Koua	Xiong	07/08
Vang		
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
Nou Yeng	Yang	07/16
Yi	Cha	07/17
Judith	Gross	07/17
Elisabeth	Cabrera	07/18
Peggy	Bos	07/19
Celerina	Carlos	07/20
Gloria	McClanahan	07/20
Georgia	Holman	07/21
Carole	Linenbach	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

### Children's Sunday School



We are drawing to the end of our first "school year" with our current Sunday morning schedule. It has been a GOOD year! For our Sunday School offering we focused on raising awareness of the importance of bees for families in developing nations and here at home. We also collected \$448 to buy hives of bees through Heifer Project International. Our goal was to raise enough funds to buy 5 hives. With the support of the adult classes, too, we are excited to announce that we will buy at least 15 hives!!

Summer Program for children begins in June. Our regular teaching staff will take a break, and others will be given the opportunity to read a story and do a craft with our amazing children! We will have support people on hand to help with managing the children and their needs. If you are willing to take a turn in this way, please contact Pastor Janette.

### Grief Support Group

#### Widows, Widowers, Divorced-Etcetera AKA WWD, Et Cetera

**We explore paths to recovery.**

**We offer our own experiences.**

**We encourage others  
in their path from bleakness to hope.**

Loss has been described as a 100 ft wave that completely engulfs us.

Time is our friend who tames the wave down-  
nothing erases it.

Our meetings (on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.) begin with coffee & goodies (sometimes) & Psalm 118 v 24.

**"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us  
rejoice and be glad in it."**

The first hour has a program and discussion.

The second hour leaves us laughing-and  
with lighter hearts as we play a board game that  
requires very little thought or muscle. The meeting  
ends at noon.

### Boutique

Can you believe time flies?

It is nearly June. Which means that there are approximately: 152 days until Halloween, 178 days until Thanksgiving and 208 days until Christmas. And somewhere in there is our Holiday Boutique.

Now don't panic because there is still time; even lots of time to make something to contribute to our Boutique sale.

Seriously, we need the help of all members of MUMC to make our Boutique a success. The handmade items we sell do not have to be made only by women, there may be a man or two in our congregation who paint or create things. Please consider making and donating to our Boutique.

Reminder: This fund raiser, like the Thrift Store, depends on donations from church members to succeed.

We also want to encourage anyone who would like to join us on Wednesdays 9am to 11am. We sew, craft, quilt and visit and then around 11am someone asks; "Where are we going to have lunch"? Come see what we are about.

### 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.



UMW

**June 5th** –at 1pm Executive Board, in the Library

**June 12th**– at 7pm, Susanna Circle, in the Library

**June 20th** 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.

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

**SAVE THE DATE;** Sat. September 16th at 11:30 p.m. our UMW will host a Fashion Show. More information later.

**IMPORTANT****ALL-CHURCH CONFERENCE!!**

At 11:05 am on Sunday, we need to meet as an entire congregation for ONE item of business: Beginning July 1 Xf Yeu will be appointed as a "Local Pastor," which means we can finally pay him an actual salary!! We need to approve this salary on June 11 at 11:05 am. Please gather in the Fellowship Hall for this brief meeting.



Men of all ages are welcome to join us for breakfast on June 17 and July 15 from 8-9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. See you there! Thank you,

*Finance*

Together, March and April income exceeded expenses paid during those two months. However, the fund is still not in the black because of the deficit that carried over from January and February when we paid several large annual and quarterly bills. We also have not paid the apportionments for March and April.

The General Fund expenses for the two months totaled \$47,134 (down from \$54,579 for January and February). Total income was \$49,977 (up from \$40,177 in January and February). At the end of April, the General Fund was short by \$9,762 (down from \$12,388 on Feb 28) which will need to be made up as the months go by. The deficit amount is borrowed from our designated funds and will be returned as it is possible.

A major expense in March was the annual payment to Workman's Compensation Insurance, which totaled \$2,430. In April, we paid the second quarter health insurance premium of \$7,273.

Our estimates of giving totaling \$141,111 are up from last year and donors are keeping up with these estimates better than the first four months last year, falling only \$126 behind so far!

As a church, we have many wonderful ministries that we are able to carry out, and many more that we carry in our hearts until we find a way to make them happen. We pray that each person associated with our church will find ways to help further God's kingdom.

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



## Special Friends

Special Friends is a group from our Church Family. One of our greatest pleasures is to provide Friendship to all, any time you need a friend. This part of a poem by Helen Steiner Rice seems to express some of the values of our group.

The Golden Chain of Friendship

Friendship is a golden chain,  
The links are friends so dear,  
And like a rare and precious jewel  
It's treasured more each year...

It's clasped together firmly  
With a love that's deep and true,  
And it's rich with happy memories  
And fond recollections, too...

Time can't destroy its beauty  
For, as long as memory lives,  
Years can't erase the pleasure  
That the joy of friendship gives...

If you would like to become a member of this group of caring friends please feel free to contact Dee Carr at 291-7316

Service: Cards	Letters	Visits	Phone Visits
48	2	22	24

## Youth

Save the Date!  
Joint UMC Youth lock-in  
June 16-17.  
6pm at UJCC  
More details to come.

## Youth Work Mission 2017

Summer Youth Work Mission: Join us August 6-11 to explore what it means to love our neighbors in very practical ways, and to find out how God calls us to be blessings right where we live. We have partnered with several organizations around our city that rely on the help of volunteers. To register, please contact Sara: 455-7960 or [clovismumcyouth@gmail.com](mailto:clovismumcyouth@gmail.com)



## What is the Dream Team? What is it doing?

For two years our congregation has been exploring what types of changes in programming and what types of upgrades to our facilities need to be made in order to allow our ministries to thrive. Last summer we made a significant shift in our Sunday morning schedule to allow our Sunday School to flourish. This first step is going well in many ways, with both the children and the adult classes having consistent and increased participation.

Last fall, after many experiments, feedback, prayer and conversation, the people of MUMC admitted that we are making maximum use of our facilities, particularly on Sunday mornings. Earnest conversations began about what type of remodeling and/or additions need to be made in order for us to grow our disciple-making ministries.

A decision has been made to develop plans to add an additional worship space and more classrooms. Also there is need to remodel or have a completely new kitchen on our campus.

The Dream Team was created and authorized to develop plans to make our dreams become our reality.

Currently the Dream Team is working on two areas:

1. For this project, what would a true "partnership" with Fresno Korean UMC be like for our congregation? What might that mean for our ministries? Are there combined ministries that might be beneficial to our community? The Pastors and any lay people who are interested in this topic will be taking field trips during the summer to explore how congregational partnerships have worked in other UM settings.
2. Facilities: we continue to gather input and ideas for our facilities. It is the goal to put all large upgrades of our facilities into one project. This will save us tens of thousands of dollars on permits and planning fees. BE ASSURED that NO money will be spent on any of the projects under consideration without having the consent of our entire congregation, and of the District Committee on Buildings and location.

Talk with Pastor Janette if you would like to be involved with the work of the Dream Team.

One of the things that happens every four years at the General Conference for our denomination, is the selection of the “areas of focus” for our ministries. Every local congregation is encouraged to be engaged in these ministries as a primary mission and ministry for all United Methodists. I will confess that I have not always been diligent in raising up this directive from the General Conference. I am wanting to correct this now. Here is a synopsis of the focus ministries. This information in greater depth can be found online at [umc.org](http://umc.org).

For the current quadrennium (2017-2020) there are four areas of primary focus. The Four Areas of Focus express the vision and yearnings of the people of The United Methodist Church. Narrowing our focus to these four areas allows churches to use their resources effectively as they live out God’s vision for the church.

#### **ENGAGING IN MINISTRY WITH THE POOR**

One of the four areas of mission focus for the church is Ministry With the Poor. In the gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25, we hear the biblical mandate to care for those in need: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me." United Methodists seek to improve the quality of life and opportunities for all God’s people. As John Wesley did, we also seek to change conditions that are unjust, alienating and disempowering. The church engages in ministries to eradicate poverty by partnering with, and empowering, those in need

#### **IMPROVING GLOBAL HEALTH**

As United Methodists, we care about the health and well being of all people. In the Wesleyan tradition, the Christian faith is not a solitary journey. We are part of a larger community — our church families, our neighborhoods, and the world. Global Health is a major area of focus for the ministry of The United Methodist Church, which aims to combat diseases of poverty such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis as well as provide health education, advocacy and infrastructure. We have long been a key provider of health care through the hospitals, clinics and missions centers we have operated across Africa for more than 160 years. Now the church has a goal to **reach 1 million children** with lifesaving and health promoting measures by 2020, which include: safe births, good nutrition, and prevention and treatment of childhood illnesses..

#### **DEVELOPING PRINCIPLED CHRISTIAN LEADERS**

All Christians are called to a ministry of sharing God’s love in the world. The United Methodist Church recognizes the critical importance of developing new leaders to guide the church through changing times. Principled, visionary and effective ordained and lay leaders help United Methodists grow in faith and in sharing God’s love with others.

#### **CREATING NEW and RENEWED CONGREGATIONS**

Around the world, United Methodists are innovating with what it means to be the church, planting new congregations and revitalizing faith communities in every kind of setting. United Methodists seek to re-evangelize the world so that we can reach more people, especially the young and those from diverse backgrounds. By being relevant and vital, United Methodists will touch more lives and draw more people to Christ.

If we are to remain faithful to our commitment to transform the world, we will reach out with genuine hospitality to people wherever they are. We will make them feel welcome as we start new faith communities, seek to renew existing ones and inspire faithful discipleship.

I am pleased to say that we ARE involved in all of these four areas of emphasis. I would invite us to prayerfully consider, “Are these are primary areas of focus?” and “What more can MUMC do to serve God and our community by engaging at even greater levels in these focus areas?” Let us be in reflective conversation and proactive ministry as we seek to glorify our gracious and loving God through all that we say and do.

-js

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## **Graduates!**

**All 2017 graduates will be honored on June 4. Please let the office know the names of loved ones that are graduating from high school or college or a training program. We will honor them on June 4th.**

## **Help our church grow!**

Many people search the web these days. Simply put when they are looking for something new or to make a change they go on the internet. If you type in churches in Clovis, California you will see that other people are taking the time to encourage newcomers. Right now we do not have any Google reviews. It can mislead seekers to think that nothing much is going on in churches that have no reviews. You can help attract people to check out our church by writing a positive review about what you like about our church (and why new people might want to give us a try).

There are three main venues. The first one and most obvious one is Face book. But the more wide spread and far reaching one is Google. Go to Google and type in "Clovis United Methodist Church in California". A square will pop up where you can click and write a review. You will need to sign into your Google account to do so. Or if you don't have a Google account now might be a good time to create one. It is free and can help spread the word about our church. Lastly there is Yelp. This also requires an account.

If this all seems confusing not to worry. Ask someone next time you are at church to help you navigate your way to spread the good news about Clovis UMC on line!