



# GOOD NEWS!

FEBRUARY 2018 – MARCH 2018

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."

## Listen with your Heart

*"Look, I'll pour out my spirit on you. I'll reveal my words to you." - Wisdom (from Proverbs)*

Have you ever misplaced your phone—which is on vibrate of course—and then asked someone to call it? We get really still and really quiet. Our ears perk up in all directions in order to be ready to hear that little buzz. It is a quieting down and high alert all at the same time. This Lent we will quiet things down and heighten our attention to the "still, small voice" of God and our own True Self. Listening through prayer as well as meditation on holy texts is an ancient Lenten practice. Come and rest, come and listen. special theme in worship will invite us to use spiritual disciplines to listen to God speaking to our hearts. Begins February 18 through Palm Sunday, March 25.

## Ash Wednesday February 14th

Join us at 7 pm on February 14 we will honor the beginning of Lent by joining all three languages together in a service of worship and imposition of ashes.

## Lenten Studies starting February 18th

For the Lent Season please join the Adult Sunday School class 10 am to 11 am every Sunday beginning February 18 in The Lose Library. We will be discussing Adam Hamilton's DVD series "Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet". For more info contact Andy Hansen-Smith 360-5985

## Lenten Devotionals available February 11th

In addition to the traditional group study, an individual/ family devotional will be available for home use. The devotional booklet, Living the Gospel Life, offers a daily scripture reading, devotional, and challenge to help us walk through this season of Lent. These booklets will be available in the Narthex before Ash Wednesday.

## Bell Choir

Special musical opportunity for your Lenten discipline:

Would you like to ring in a hand chime group for fun and spiritual uplifting? Friday evenings, 5:30-6:15pm in the sanctuary. If you can count to 4, you can ring the chimes! People of all ages are warmly invited to participate.

## Palm Sunday

Our Annual Palm Sunday Celebration with Palm Fronds.

## Maundy Thursday

**Living Last Supper** - an inspirational play about Jesus' last meal, will be performed in our sanctuary during Holy Week. The play focuses on the men surrounding Jesus, lifting up their personal struggles and confessions as representative of OUR human need for the saving grace that Jesus brings. The play will be performed on Maundy Thursday, March 29 Good Friday, March 30, and Holy Saturday, March 31. Mark your calendar now and look for complete details in early March.

## Good Friday

From noon to 3 pm our sanctuary will be open for time of prayer. You can spend quiet time in reflection as you move through a series of self-guided prayer stations that lead through the biblical story of the Crucifixion of Christ.

## Easter Sunday

No fooling, this year it is on April 1st. There are 5 services throughout the day, with holy communion served at all of the services:

6:30 am Sunrise at Academy (in English)

8:45 am Imagine! service led by the Liturgical Daredevils (in English).

10 am Hmong Language service with praise band

11:15 am Traditional Service (in English)

2 pm worship at Academy (in English)



We want to record our humble thanks for all the outpouring of sympathy and love we have received in person, by phone, by e-mail, by cards, by the attachments to the cards, from our church family after the loss of Josephine, Beloved Wife, Loving Mother, Caring Nana. A special thanks to all the workers at the Service and Reception.

  
*Thanks*

Murtaza Shah  
Nadira Foutz  
Shane Peters  
Robert Foutz

Memorial United  
Methodist Church  
1726 Pollasky Ave,  
Clovis Ca, 93612

*Office Hours:*  
9 am to 1 pm  
559-299-4615

*E-Mail:* memumc@  
mem-umc.org

*Website:* [http//  
www.mem-umc.org](http://www.mem-umc.org)

Pastors

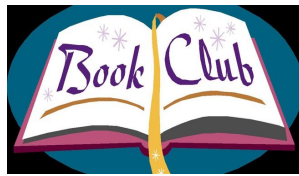
Janette Saavedra  
559-392-9566  
Yeu Vang  
916 598-7093

Office Manager:

Becky Posey  
Office: 559 299-4615  
Cell: 559-862-6950

Facilities Manager

Dorrie Osback-Rose  
559 392-0381 or  
[Dorriecares@comcast.net](mailto:Dorriecares@comcast.net)



**Christian Book  
Club**

Join us on  
Tuesday at 7pm in  
the Library!



**Second Sunday  
Lunches  
RETURN!!**

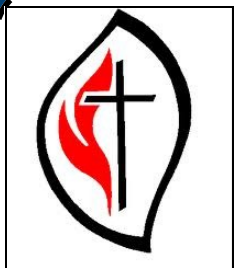
Second Sunday Lunch -  
resumes on February  
11! The lunch will be  
hosted by the Girl Scouts of  
Lara Delanos troop.  
Plan to join us immediately  
after the 2nd service.  
There will be a short  
program.

*February March Birthdays*



Khan	Yang	1-Feb
Jake	Stoddard	2-Feb
Pa Chou	Thao	2-Feb
Pat	Long	4-Feb
Sou	Her	7-Feb
Lucy	Elgin	9-Feb
Julie	Film	9-Feb
Richie	Bonzo	11-Feb
Ron	Zastovnik	16-Feb
Dorrie	Osback-Rose	19-Feb
Iona	Mears	20-Feb
Nao	Lee	25-Feb
Heidi	Markkand	25-Feb
William	Pregno	26-Feb
Teri	Scott	26-Feb
Linda	Lee	27-Feb
Susan	Lee	28-Feb
Sonny	Uwaoma	28-Feb
Denise	Mattocks	29-Feb
Jim	Scott	2-Mar
Tannah	Her	3-Mar
Mary	Heu	3-Mar
Bonnie	McCarty	3-Mar
Nou	Xiong	5-Mar
Xeng	Vang	7-Mar
Tony	Yang	8-Mar
Kim	Williams	9-Mar
Wayne	Adams	10-Mar
Pa Ngia	Yang	10-Mar
Rich	Bonzo	11-Mar
Kisha	Xiong	14-Mar
Kathryn	Cabrera	16-Mar
Khristina	Her	16-Mar
Kindra	Snow-Walker	16-Mar
Matthew	Babcock	17-Mar
Chee Nou	Vang	20-Mar
Mina	Yang	20-Mar
Herb	Spencer	21-Mar
Sharlene	Sautter	30-Mar

# Upcoming Events



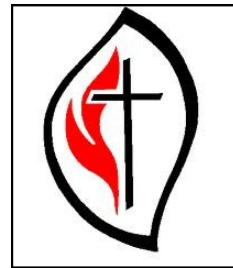
## United Methodist Womens' Retreat

**“UNITING TOGETHER:  
MANY GIFTS ,  
ONE SPIRIT”**

Central Valley District United Methodist  
Women Annual Spiritual Retreat Evergreen  
Conference Center Oakhurst (E.C.C.O.)

Friday, Mar. 9th - Sunday, Mar. 11h

Registration closes Feb. 22.



Wesley Circle will resume meetings starting January 31st. All meetings will be the last Wednesday of the month. The study of "Early Christianity to the Reformation" will continue with the use of The Great Courses. January 31, 2018, Fellowship Hall, 2:00 pm, We always have great refreshments. Come join us.

Feb 5<sup>th</sup>-Executive Board, 2pm, Library  
Feb 7<sup>th</sup>- Susanna Circle, 7pm, Library  
Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>--Unit Meeting, 11:45 am,  
Fellowship Hall

**Call office if child care is needed  
299-4615**

Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>--Wesley 2 pm, Fellowship Hall

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March 7<sup>th</sup>- Susanna Circle, 7pm, Library  
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299-4615**

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## Stephen Ministry:

Equipping people to offer distinctively Christian care to hurting people.

In March we will begin a new class on Sunday afternoons at 4-6:15 pm.

Classes will be continue weekly through July 8th.

This ministry of caring can have a HUGE impact in the life of someone who is in the midst of a crisis.

The training is thorough and empowering. If you feel a call to be available to offer this care, talk with Xf Yeu.

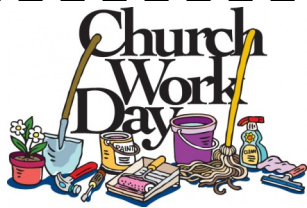
## The Mission Thrift Shop



**February Sale Days 2nd & 3rd**  
Work days for February are the 13th & 27th

**March Sale Days 2nd & 3rd**  
Work days for March are the 13th & 27th

Donations gladly accepted:  
Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9am-1pm  
and Sunday mornings.



All church clean up day is Saturday, March 17th and at 9 a.m. Bonus on that morning - the UMM will serve breakfast from 8-9 am We hope to have a GREAT turn out and support for this effort to spruce up our grounds and facilities before Holy Week. Come join us at 8am for breakfast and 9am to make our place SHINE! Bring cleaning supplies and equipment with you so lots of people can be working at the same time. Something for all skill and energy levels!

**Conversations with the Pastors:**

It is time once again for the pastors to have an opportunity to sit down with all the members and friends of Memorial individually or in small groups and have conversations about concerns and challenges, AND hopes and dreams for the ministry of MUMC.

Both pastors will be present at all the conversations. Small groups of 6-8 people will be formed to meet ONE time for light refreshments and conversation. These gatherings can happen in homes, at church, etc. The meetings will last 1.5-2 hours.

If you are willing to host a small group, please contact Tonnah Her: 269-8374.

Those individuals who want to have a private conversation for 30-60 minutes with Pastor Janette and Xf Yeu may also sign up.

Sign ups for small groups and individuals begin in February. We are hoping to complete this work before the fall.

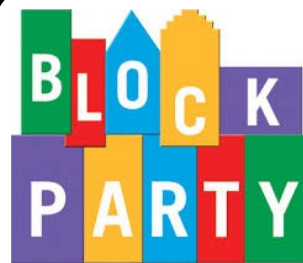


"Grief is a solitary journey but the Lord calls us into community to find healing and joy.

Please join us at 10 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month in our church library.

We welcome each other with food, good conversation, and a simple dice game that lifts our spirits.

WWD, etc (Widows, widowers, divorcees, etc)



Matthew 22:39 [...] Love your neighbor as yourself.

At Memorial United Methodist Church, there can be no doubt that we love our neighbors. You know it, I know it...but do our neighbors? They will soon! Save the dates for our first round of Memorial United Methodist BLOCK PARTIES! We'll be spreading the love of Christ in new and fun ways as we get to know our neighbors better.

April 6, May 4, September 7, and October 5 More information will be available soon.



## Special Friends

The Challenge of the Spiritual Life

By Mary Lou Redding

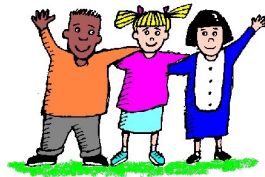
One Challenge of the spiritual life is learning how to place our powers continually under God's control. And we all do have powers-intelligence, skills, energy for example. We have tongues (I struggle daily with allowing God to direct how I use that power in my life) and emotions such as anger that we can use either to lash out at people or to confront and change unjust systems. Our behavior depends on whether we allow God to direct us.

As I read this short challenge I started to ask myself if I could take this challenge and let God be my director totally for the day. If you think about this we might find it hard or the more time we spend letting God directing our Life the better off we will be.

Service

Cards    Calls    Visits    Transportation

38        16        3            6



## **Flat Wesleys**

We would LOVE to see EVERY MEMBER of MUMC out in the world with the Wesleys in the coming year. Prayerfully consider how you can carry the love of Jesus beyond the walls on our facilities, to be a blessing to the communities around us.



## UMM CAKE AUCTION

On Sunday February 4th, at 11 am the United Methodist Men will be auctioning off Sports themed cakes (or just great tasting cakes without a theme). All men of Memorial UMC are members of the UMM so won't you please consider donating a cake (or 2) or cupcakes, either homemade or store bought.

Please call Darren Williams at 485-9515 if you have any questions. All cakes/cupcakes should be at the church by 10:45am on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5.

## Asset Mapping

The United Methodist Men did the fun Asset Mapping exercise at our last meeting. Using this method we developed three action plans.

1. A cooking class using the diversity of our congregation. Many people either have never learned to cook or are limited to just a few select dishes. This class would consist of a guest cook that would teach 5 students how to prepare, sample and then go home with one cooked meal for only the price of the ingredients. While the food is cooking in the church ovens tips such as "How to determine the nutritional value of meals" will be taught.
2. Using our large parking lot we would reach out to our surrounding neighbors by giving them a place to have a swap meet or Bazaar. Included would be music and entertainment as a way for us to connect with our neighborhood. Perhaps food prepared by our church members to sell as well.
3. Another neighborhood action plan. This would include advertising our church events on the Nextdoor App and to help facilitate Bible Studies in neighborhood homes .



Did you know: in just about one more year, February 2019, there will be a Special General Conference of the global United Methodist Church, to "Find a Way Forward" with regards to the denomination's stance and ministry with people who are not heterosexual. We need to be praying NOW for God's wisdom and grace to guide this entire process. The decisions made at this Special General Conference will impact our congregation, and ALL United Methodist congregation directly at the local level. We cannot afford to leave the process unsupported by prayer!

## Finance Report

### 2017 Year End Finance Report

Thanks to large donations in November and December, and the Boutique and the Thrift Store, Memorial can celebrate closing its books on its 2017 General Fund in the black. This includes funding our Conference Apportionment Tithe in full! Paying our complete conference obligations helps our denomination support missionaries, hospitals, universities and programs that assist local congregations such as ours.

Our 13<sup>th</sup> Month campaign itself brought in a pledged total of \$2,748. For the entire year, our pledging families gave a total of \$5,985 over the pledged amount. This is the first time in memory that the year-end total exceeded the original pledge.

The total General Fund income for November and December was \$64,542. Expenses, which included five conference payments, totaled \$57,130. The balance remaining for the two months after expenses was \$7,412. Deducting the \$6,780 deficit from the end of October leaves a balance at the end of the year of \$632.

This is a small carryover amount, and we regularly have some big bills in January, most notably property and health insurance, so it is important to stay faithful in our giving. If anyone can get ahead on his giving during these early months, it can help improve our bottom line so we won't be trying to catch up all year.

In addition to the big bills that come early in the year, we will also be attempting to keep up with our conference tithe on a monthly basis.

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.

### Apportionments Conference Tithe

Did you know: in 2012 MUMC paid its "apportionments/Conference Tithe" in FULL for the first time in a couple of decades. We are excited that we have been faithful in paying this in FULL for 5 years running!

AND, did you know: that 2017 our Annual Conference paid its apportionment to the General Church in FULL for the first time ever?! Way to go, California/Nevada Annual Conference!!

Further, did you know: in recent years our District has been steadily growing in faithfulness to fund the mission and ministry of the denomination that Christ's love might be boldly proclaimed all around the world. OUR efforts matter! In 2017, for the first time ever, our Central Valley District gave over \$1,000,000 in apportionments/Conference Tithe.

**Way to go, CV District!!**

### Church Council News

#### Book of Discipline, Section 1

**120. The Mission** "The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. [...]"

According to the Book of Discipline, we accomplish this mission as we...

- ♦ proclaim the gospel, seek, welcome and gather persons into the body of Christ;
- ♦ lead persons to commit their lives to God through baptism by water and the spirit and profession of faith in Jesus Christ;
- ♦ nurture persons in Christian living through worship, the sacraments, spiritual disciplines, and other means of grace, such as Wesley's Christian conferencing;
- ♦ send persons into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, freeing the oppressed, being and becoming a compassionate, caring presence, and working to develop social structures that are consistent with the gospel; and
- ♦ continue the mission of seeking, welcoming and gathering persons into the community of the body of Christ.

In 2018, Memorial United Methodist Church will be making some changes in how the *business* of church is handled so that we can focus more on the *mission* of church. To that end, we will be seeking input from the members of our Church Council on ways that this can happen.

So, as we approach this brand new year with faith, courage, and hope, consider how the Church Council can help to equip each of us to boldly proclaim the love of Jesus and to live lives of transforming discipleship. Each of us is a vital part of this mission, and we can only accomplish it through our faith in God and God's ability to do *far more abundantly than all we could ask or imagine*.



Grace and peace be with you all!

It was about this time of year 44 years ago that my best friend suggested we should join the high school track team. "I think it will be fun!" she told me.

Over the coming weeks we had a plethora of new experiences, few of which would be categorized as "fun." Muscle fatigue, stiffness, over-all-body-aching would be at the top of the list.

Going out for this sport I knew I wasn't fast enough to do well at the shorter distances, and I didn't have sufficient desire to develop stamina for the longer races, which meant I would become a "middle distance" runner. It didn't take too long to realize that I needed a lot of improvement if I was ever going to do well at the "440" (yards) and the "mile relay." (In the years since I was in track, concepts of "middle distance" have shifted, and the 440 and mile relays have been replaced by the 400 meter and 4x400 relay.)

My coach, Coach McFarland, had a plan in place to assist beginners like me in developing into strong runners. My friends and I did not always heed his sage council, but when we did, our running skills improved. He taught me tips and techniques that I still employ today.

The author of the books of Hebrews exhorts us in saying, "...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

How do we humans do this? How do we "throw off" sin? You know the answer is found in the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ. But how do we find this grace? What do those words mean? How do we grow in our ability to "run with perseverance the race that is marked out for us"?

For many in our congregation, we have learned the spiritual disciplines of a Christian life, and practice them regularly. These disciplines have become part of the pattern of our lives, the "default" setting when challenges arise.

BUT, how do we, as a congregation, help people new to the Christian faith become deeply connected to the saving grace of Jesus? What tips and techniques do we systematically teach that establish and reinforce habits that strengthen our life in Christ?

Memorial does not have this "intentional discipleship plan" developed. We have many opportunities and options, but no clear path to discipleship.

Imagine what my experience of running track would have been if my coach had provided me suggestions on what my workout could be, but didn't actually have any plan in place to help me grow into a strong runner. I, being somewhat lax, would have opted for the easiest path, and would have made little growth in my ability to "run with perseverance."

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. It is an act of compassion towards ourselves and our community when we have a clearly laid out system to help people develop the disciplines they need to turn from "the sin that so easily entangles" and follow Jesus. We, who have been on the pilgrimage for a good number of years, need this to help us refocus on the "race that is marked out for us." All of us need periodic refreshers in basic Christianity to ensure we are following Jesus, and have not become distracted by the temptations of the world.

For people who are new to the faith, we need clear steps that can develop life-long patterns of spiritual disciplines that keep our feet of the right path and our focus on Jesus.

As we move into 2018 we will all be working together to develop a clear system of intentional spiritual formation. To aid in this effort, our Circus Circuit (the UM church in Clovis, Fresno and Oakhurst) has been selected to receive special assistance from our Annual Conference in this effort! This is a HUGE honor and privilege! Let us begin praying NOW, that the discussions and decisions that are part of this process will bare much good fruit, to the glory of God.

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

CHURCH PHONE: 559-299-4615

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

## **Healthy Heart Potluck**

February 24th - 2018. Fellowship hall 10:30 - 2:00 pm



February is Healthy Heart Month and the annual Healthy Heart Potluck is being planned. Heart disease is the #1 killer in America and the sad part is that many of these heart problems could be avoided with proper nutrition, exercise and a healthy life style.

Feb 4th, we will have a speaker on the topic of Stress and the Heart! There will be the typical hearts, roses, favors and pens. You all add the delicious food with the aid of the Parish nurses.

The day will start with CPR and AED taught by our Celerina Carlos, RN. Then lunch, the speaker and we are planning info on Exercise and Yoga.

It is very important that everyone know the proper technique of the AED. You are cordially invited to attend for all day or lunch and speaker. There will be sign up sheets in the Narthex, starting in February.

Questions, call Lucy Elgin, MSN, NP