



GOOD NEWS!

JUNE 2018 - JULY 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."

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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:

Michelle Vang, 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. 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 Modesto and ACS runs Wednesday, June 20, 2018 to Saturday, June 23, 2018, and is very full days and evenings.

CONFERENCE OFFERING - this years OFFERING TO BENEFIT PUERTO RICO. We will take this offering on June 3.

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



**2ND SUNDAY LUNCH
JUNE 10TH
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!!**

Upcoming Events

Grief Support Group Widows, Widowers, Divorced-Etcetera AKA WWD, Et Cetera

We recognize grief is pandemic - no one can escape. Death, Divorce, et Cetera, shifts "who we are" and what do we do to mitigate this emotional storm we call grief.

Some of the storms in our lives have subsided. Tears have diminished. Acceptance has gradually crept in. Friendship is celebrated. Our lives have been enriched. And joy is attainable.

As we transition into the sixth full year of our program, it has become apparent to me that the acknowledgement of our sorrows has become a glue (if you will) that will sustain us. Our personal circumstances have changed. We are on a path to a wholeness- however long it takes.

The door is open. Come on in. Introductions and discussion of various topics for the first hour. At WWD we can express our feelings in any way we wish for we are sage in that room, surrounded by others who are sharing similar experiences and respect confidentiality. Afterward this is followed by a table game (Farkle). Always there is coffee, fellowship, laughter and sometimes-goodies.

We meet the 2nd & 4th Saturdays each month beginning at 10 a.m. in the Library.

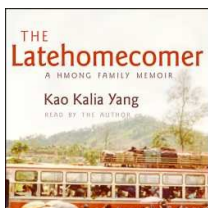
The Christian Book Club

The Christian Book Club is now reading

"The latecomer"

about a family's story from Laos to the USA.

We meet on Tuesday evenings at 7pm in the library.



FAREWELL MESSAGE TO OUR MANY FRIENDS~



We have so little time remaining in Fresno and so many things to do. Today, immediately after the service, we went to the cemetery out on W. Belmont to say our final good-byes to many of our dear relatives. Thirty days ago, there was not one single thought of ever moving our household again, let alone to Fate, Texas. It is our great pleasure to have met each and every one of you and share in your love of the Gospel and of Jesus, the Perfect Christ. We have profited greatly through our association with you.

Our new address will be 227 W. Chamberlain Drive, Fate, TX 75189. You may be assured we will seek out a Methodist Church nearby and become active participants in the congregation. We wish the Peace of Christ to abide with you and yours.

Sincerely,
Ken and Linda Maxwell

2nd Sunday Lunch

It is the Merry Month of May! Some of our merriment however was in April.

Second Sunday lunch was a delicious lunch with Pulled Pork sandwiches as the main attraction. Keep posted for future menus. June is in process, July will be prepared by Shaw and his daughter.

Thank you all for assistance.

Walk to Emmaus Reunion

Meets the last Wednesday of each month in Edie's home at 7pm.

Upcoming Events

Tech Corner

I know this article has the “t” word in the title, but fear not! This article is meant for the person who loves making things beautiful and meaningful. The person who loves enhancing the worship experience in fun and imaginative ways. The person who loves looking for cute cat pictures. If this describes you, then lend me your ear. With the systems we have in place for both of our worship services, it is very simple to put together slides for the service. The lyrics are already typed up, the prayers are already typed up, the Bible is already written – well, you get the idea. All that’s left is to put it all together and find some pretty pictures to make it come wonderful. If you’d like to learn how to do this, just let me know which service you’d like to learn.

Now, if that all sounds great, but not quite in your wheelhouse, there’s also the opportunity to learn how to run the slides for each service. There’s far less involved with that process, if you’d like to start small, and you’d still be helping in a huge way.

I look forward to hearing from you!

jlbelt@gmail.com

or

559.472.8599



Ly Chai	Yang	06/01
Vu	Yang	06/01
Mai Thao	Hang	06/04
Teng	Fang	06/06
See Thong	Yang	06/06
Shua	Chang-	06/07
Mason	Moore	06/07
Joy	Cole	06/09
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
Dwight	Bianchi	06/23
Tuarte	Mitchell	06/23
Barbara	Nielson	06/23
Cathy	Ealker	06/24
Madeline	Williams	06/30

Tessa	Hansen-Smith	07/01
Sang	Chong	07/02
Barbara	Woodward	07/03
Kong	Lee	07/04
Mary	Ettelson	07/05
Danielle#	Uwaoma	07/09
Billy	Moua	07/12
Bill	Sautter	07/12
Mely	Rinon	07/13
Chao	Yang	07/13
Lorraine	May	07/14
Vicki	Her	07/15
Nou Yeng	Yang	07/16
Judith	Gross	07/17
Eliabeth	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
Mike	Jennison	07/25
Patti	Pond	07/29
Sue	DeFranco	07/30

Share Your Gift of Music this Summer!



If you would like to sing or perform a musical selection during a summer Sunday, please contact : Jenny Robertson at 559 696-0425.

Birthday Celebration

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

Several April birthdays were celebrated on the fourth Sunday, with a beautiful ,delicious cake. It is important to celebrate our birthdays and it is an excellent opportunity for fellowship. The cake cutters try to customize the pieces and the sugar rich frosting can b scrapped off and not eaten. The symbolism is important.

Thank You, Everyone!!

THANK YOU

How do I even begin to tell you how moved I am by the beautiful expressions of appreciation and love you gave me on Mother's Day? So many cards, gifts, kind words, and hugs..I am totally overwhelmed by your kindness!

Please know that each and every one of you has touched my heart in deep and profound ways. When I came to Memorial many years ago, I was new to the area and feeling very lonely. I was drawn to the church after driving by one weekday and seeing the beautiful stained glass windows. I took a leap of faith...literally, took a chance that the door would be open, and walked into the sanctuary. It was so quiet and beautiful and I felt so filled with the Spirit. I knew that this was where I belonged. I came to church the following Sunday as a stranger and, as Jesus teaches, you welcomed me. Over the years I've received words of encouragement from pastors and parishioners alike. I felt empowered and gained the courage and confidence to do things I never thought I was capable of...like singing, playing the piano or guitar in front of people. It was a transforming power and I knew that God had a hand in it. I have always had a heart for service and the ministries and vision that this church has to make the world a better place has offered me many opportunities to be in mission that have been so personally fulfilling.

People of God support each other in the good times and the tough ones. You helped me raise up my daughter. You quietly supplied support, provided encouragement, casseroles, and hope when my husband dealt with three life-threatening illnesses. You welcomed my mom when she needed to move from her Bay Area home because of declining health. You lifted me up during the difficult time as she was dying and helped me to celebrate her life after her death.

There are so many memories that I have accrued through the years of our church working together to do wonderful things. I remember the first meal we had in our new Fellowship Hall and how excited I was to teach Sunday School in that new building. The Thrift Shop came into being and has been reaching out beyond our walls for so many years. I remember the joy of sharing our space with the lovely folks at United Japanese Christian Church as their new building was taking shape and the fun our combined Sunday Schools had together. What an amazing night it was when the very first Live Nativity became a reality. I remember being in tears because we weren't so sure we could put all the pieces together and make it work, and we did it, and it was so, so beautiful and inspiring. We worked together to host three interfaith CROP Walks for Hunger over the years. This amazing congregation found creative ways to raise funds and send a dedicated group of servants to Haiti for our first international mission and soon after managed to pull together the resources to pack over 120,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now/Rise Against Hunger. I have had the honor of being lovingly decked out in traditional clothing for Hmong New Year by my Hmong sisters and I have experienced the joy each Sunday morning of greeting our wonderful Hmong and Korean brothers and sisters as we share the beautiful worship space in this church. This is truly an amazing place!

Special love goes to my choir peeps. They have been so supportive, patient, hard-working, and open-minded. After we lost Jordan as our accompanist and we weren't sure what we were going to do, my suggestion that we try singing a cappella a lot was met with a deer-in-the-headlight look. But...they persevered, withstood me pounding out parts each Thursday night on the Clavinova. We laughed a bunch and sometimes looked perplexed, but with God's help, we learned and grew together as musicians and have been able to provide music for the traditional service almost each Sunday. They are the best!! My Imagine Band buddies have given me so much joy and love over the years and have helped me build confidence in singing different kinds of music. Our Friday evening practices have been so much fun and I walked out of them feeling totally filled with the Spirit. My Sunday School kids and the teachers...what can I say? Being a grownup is hard sometimes and teaching Sunday School has let my inner child come out. What fun we've had with music, crafts, songs, stories, dance, and our mission projects, family camp at Academy, bubbles. We have learned and grown together. And what can I say about our youth? After going on two mission trips with them, I can tell you that they are so bright, mature beyond their years, hard-working, uncomplaining, devoted to their faith, their families, and to each other. Please continue to nurture these beautiful and precious children and youth...I see a bright future for our church as they mature into leadership roles.

God takes us down various paths in our lives. I feel so blessed that God led me to Memorial and allowed me to be a part of an amazing and beautiful congregation. Please pray for me as I look for new opportunities to serve and know that I will be praying for the beautiful people and wonderful ministries at Memorial UMC. If you are going to be in the Portland area anytime, I would love to see you. I will provide an address as soon as we have one. Thank you again for your kindness, your friendship, and your love...you are always in my heart!! May God continue to richly bless each and every one of you.

With love,
Sue

UMW

June 4th –at 2pm Executive Board, in the Library

June 11th– at 7pm, Susanna Circle, in the Library

June 12th at 11:30 am UMW meeting

July 9th – Sewing for Girls

SAVE THE DATE; Sat. September 22nd at 12 p.m. our UMW will host a Fashion Show and luncheon.

Let Edie know if you would like to model for the Mission Thrift Shop or Barbara's Boutique 264-4665

More information later.

**Church Council**

The Church Council has been making great strides this year. However, we seem to be missing a lot of our ministry leaders! If you are part of a ministry, please make sure that we have you or another representative from your group present at each meeting. This way, we can keep everyone's ministries in mind when planning. This will help to prevent missed opportunities and crossed schedules. Also, to prevent the meetings from running too long, we request that you send your reports to Nancy Price in advance of the meeting. The deadline is the Sunday prior to the meeting. These reports don't have to fancy or formal. Just let us know what wonderful things your group is up to. I can't wait to see you all at our next meeting! Until then, blessings to you all.



The seminar on "Poking fun at the "O" word was a delightful celebration as several women celebrated the numerous changes of the maturing process. Many changes are normal but don't necessarily have to be tolerated. Methods of accepting, tolerating these changes were discussed, as well as being proactive with living arrangements and changes with driving. It was recommended by several that this become an annual seminar. Thanks to Carole Schweitzer for suggesting this topic.

Men of all ages are welcome to join us for breakfast on June 16th and July 21st from 8-9:30 AM

in the Fellowship Hall.

See you there!

Thank you,

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

We will begin this report with a little background.

For several years, we have gone through the first few months of the year with expenses exceeding income because of large expenditures, mostly insurance payments that come due early in the year. Last year, January and February ended in the red, March income and expenses were almost even and April was about \$9,000 in the black.

This year, the March and April upswing did not happen. The income in both months continued to fall below expenses.

As of this of this writing, we still need about \$4,000 to cover May expenses.

If we are to continue with our ministries, pay our staff, keep up our facilities and reach out to those in need, we will all have to make a serious effort to expand our financial support. At Memorial, we hope to spread God's word and love throughout our community and the world, but that takes intense dedication, determination and devotion from all of our church family.

In April, we sent a letter to our members asking each household to contribute \$300 to \$500 beyond regular giving. If that was too much, we asked for at least some additional amount. Of those who could give even more, we asked for help to cover those who could not give.

For those who can't give a large sum at once, how about trying to set aside one dollar a day (a jar on the counter? Loose change?) Over the course of a year, that would add up to \$365.

As of May 20, we received 20 contributions toward this goal at an average of \$230 each and totaling \$4613. This is helpful, and we are grateful to those who have donated, but we will need much more participation to be able to carry on our ministries.

As of April 30, our budget shortfall was \$26,189. Our Extra Mile giving through May 20 makes of for less than 18% of that.

Finance

Nyobzoo (nho zong)! Grace and peace be with you my brothers and sisters in Christ. I am grateful for the privilege to write to you again in this newsletter, and I pray that I might effectively communicate to you what the Holy Spirit prompts in my heart. I am glad to know most of you by your first name and I look forward to knowing you all. I want you to know that Michelle enjoys you asking how she is doing and how her English is coming. She is excited to know you and looks forward to when she can converse with you. We thank God for the amazing love you have shown, and for being faithful in serving the Lord with us and Pastor Janette.

With that said, I want to encourage all of us to continue doing good to others. Call someone we have not called for a long time. Send a card to someone we have not seen for a while. Take someone to lunch or dinner. Share laughter with someone. Say “hi” to a stranger. Take a picture. If a picture is worth a thousand words, it’s time to retake that “selfie” again. It’s one of the ways to capture our younger self. Go ahead and smile at yourself while looking at the mirror. It’s silly, but I believe it will bring you joy. It’s amazing how a simple smile costs nothing, but it brings such joy to one’s heart. It may even save one’s life.

Today, let’s make someone’s day special. I believe that our goodness will not go unnoticed. In Matthew 25:40, it reassures us that whatever we did for one of the least of our brothers and sisters, we did for Jesus. Let’s pause for a moment and think of some ways to brighten someone’s day today. I encourage you to do it today because we do not know if tomorrow will ever come. We do not know if we will live to see tomorrow. Do it today because today is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 118:24).

I still recall the day Michelle and I landed in San Francisco International Airport from Laos. It was Tuesday, June 20, 2017. It’s been nearly a year, but it feels like yesterday. How fast time flies. Last week, we finally had some time to frame our Christmas pictures, but we are already half way through the year. Yesterday, we were at the Dollar Tree and I noticed that there were a lot of graduation balloons floating at the ceiling. I thought to myself, “Really, graduation!?” As I reflect back to my high school graduation, I could not believe that it has been 28 years already. What about you? How long has it been since your high school graduation? Time flies, doesn’t it?

Now is the time to do something good for someone, not only to those who we love, but also to those who we do not know. I realize I am asking us to do something out of our comfort, but let’s give it a try. Perhaps we could start by praying for our unsaved love ones and friends. Let us pray for our neighbors and for the surrounding homes at our church. In our prayer, let us ask for discernment and connection. Let us be the bridge to connect with our neighbors. Let our MUMC be the place where they could come and experience God’s grace. Our block party, though it was not as we had hoped it would be, was a good start. I am confident that as we continue to hold events outside of our church, the neighbors will be curious as to what the buzz is about.

I remember that a pastor told a story about a monastery that was looking for a new headmaster to replace the aging head monk. During prayer time one afternoon, the senior monks told all the monks that everyone had an equal opportunity to be the headmaster. The criterion for a head monk is that he must possess compassion. There will be no selected candidates to compete for a headmaster. No one will know who will be picked, for everyone is a potential choice. Throughout the selection months, every monk shows kindness to one another. As they walk pass each other, they bow, smile and say good morning, good afternoon, or good evening to one another. Every monk offers to cook, clean, and run errands without reservation. The commoners who come to pray at the temple notice the change in all the monks’ personality. They are friendlier, sociable, and attentive to the people’s need. News reaches the nearby monastery and the monks there begin to practice this newfound compassion. It wasn’t long until even the commoners want to be a monk and embrace this kindness. When it comes time to select the new head monk, everyone humbly and mercifully does not covet the position. When a young monk is chosen to lead the monastery as the new headmaster, no one contests his inexperience nor feels jealous of his age. Everyone pledges to help and guide the newly elected young headmaster to maturity. The monks continue to live their lives practicing acts of kindness as if they are going to be the next chosen headmaster. As time passes, the monastery flourishes with its teaching spread far and wide, even to this day.



Special Friends

My brothers and sisters in Christ, Jesus commanded likewise in John 13:35 (NKJV). He says,

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” Let us not forget to love one another. 1 Corinthian 13 also concurs that love is the greatest of all. The story of Joseph in the book of Genesis in the Old Testament is a perfect illustration of the greatest love. Genesis 50:20 (NKJV), Joseph assured his brothers: “But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive.” We know that Joseph went through many hardships. He was hated, thrown into a pit, sold into slavery, wrongly accused of rape, thrown in jail, and forgotten. Despite all these sufferings, he was blessed because he rejoiced wherever he was. He prayed for his persecutors, he forgave them, and move on with his life. Joseph truly demonstrated compassion, mercy, and grace not only to those he knew, but also those who he did not know. In the end, Joseph became the second in command to Pharaoh in Egypt. He used his position to care for his family and all the land that was affected by the drought. He practiced mercy and kindness.

How have we use our position to help someone? How have we cared for our family? Often we become so caught up in the busyness of our lives that we forget we are surrounded by those in need of our attention, our encouragement, our support, our comfort, and our kindness. They are our family members, friends, acquaintances, and strangers. Let's pause for a moment again and ask ourselves if we have done any good for someone. I want to challenge us in the next thirty days to help someone in need, someone who is hungry, thirsty, sick, and poor. Some of us may lament that we barely make ends meet, so how can we financially help others? There are ways such as smiling that cost nothing. Laughter is also free, so is speaking kindly. In his poem, *I May Not Pass This Way Again*, William Penn writes: “I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again.” Wow, what a powerful encouragement! We will not have another chance to do the things we did not get to do. Once the time has passed, we can only move forward.

In closing, there are many opportunities for us to do good every day. Do not let them pass by and say we will do it tomorrow. Do something good today when we still have the chance. Create a chain of goodness. Let it begins with you.

Xf Yeu

Found this on a sign and thought what a great thought for life.

LIVE

Like Heaven is on earth

Love

As if you have never been hurt

LAUGH

Like no one else is listening

Sing

As if no one can hear

DANCE

As if no one is watching

DREAM

Like there are no impossibilities

PLAY

Like there are no winners

GIVE

Like you have plenty

SMILE

Till your face hurts

CHERISH

Your Friends & Family everyday

Service:

Cards

51

Calls

20

Transportation

8

Visits

33



May is Skin Cancer Awareness month,

as the days continue to be longer, don't forget the Sunscreen. Have fun in the beautiful outdoors as we celebrate the beauty of God's creation.

Blessings -Good Health, Lucy

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Graduates!

All 2018 graduates will
be honored
on June 17th.

Please let the office
know the names of
loved ones that are
graduating from high
school or college or
a training program.

Church Pantry

The Church Pantry is a community service to our church family and neighbors who are in need. We give out an average of 20 bags a month. Some of our folks come every month others come just when they need a little help. They are so appreciative of all we do for them.

If you would like to help provide items for our bags you can bring in any of the following or give to the pantry fund to help when we purchase from Food Maxx.

If you have questions please talk to Dorrie Osback-Rose.

We give out the following items in each bag:

Cereal (corn flakes or Cheerios), fruit (peaches and fruit cocktail in juice), corn and green beans, tuna, spaghetti sauce (in cans only). Boxed mac and cheese, peanut butter, chili beans, dry beans, rice, spaghetti, Top Ramen noodles, package of dry milk, and a sleeve of crackers. When we have donations of other items we include those also.

Thank you
Dorrie Osback-Rose