



GOOD NEWS!

DECEMBER 2017 - JANUARY 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."

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: [https://](https://www.mem-umc.org)

www.mem-umc.org

Pastor

Janette Saavedra

559-392-9566

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Facilities Manager

Dorrie Osback-Rose

559 392-0381 or

Dorriecares@comcast.net

LIVE NATIVITY EVENT

DEC. 15-16, 2018

You and your family & friends
are invited to

the Live Nativity event

between 6:00-8:00 p.m.

New this year: We are adding Spanish we will tell the
story in 4 languages!

It is Memorial UMC's walk-through
telling of the Christmas story,
featuring live actors, music,
and the story of Jesus' birth
told through scripture.

Refreshments including
cookies, cocoa, cider and hot dogs
are provided at the end of each walk.

Make this an Annual Christmas tradition!

Walk through rehearsal Dec 14th at 6:30pm



Potluck Supper

a cherished tradition

Come out on

SUNDAY, Dec. 2

for food, fellowship, and fun!

This potluck party will get you
in the Christmas mood, so don't miss it!

Decorating starts at 3pm

Gather at 5:30 pm



Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact the church office to
reserve a seat. Let us know if you would like to host a table
we look forward to enjoying your decorations.

December January Birthdays

| | | |
|-----------|------------|-------|
| Wanda | GRIMSLEY | 12/01 |
| Nancy | ENLOE | 12/02 |
| Cydney | Fang | 12/04 |
| Michael | UWAOMA | 12/04 |
| John | HER | 12/05 |
| Sharon | HUTCHINSON | 12/05 |
| Erin | PACHELBEL | 12/05 |
| Cecelia | ACTON | 12/06 |
| Sergio | HINOJOSA | 12/10 |
| Karolyn | LAMBERT | 12/10 |
| Wilbert | SWIESO | 12/12 |
| Cha Wa | YANG | 12/15 |
| Michelle | YANG | 12/16 |
| Kong meng | XIONG | 12/18 |
| Bea | BANNISTER | 12/20 |
| Gwen | EMMICK | 12/22 |
| Kristi | HARKINS | 12/22 |
| Robert | MARKLAND | 12/23 |
| Richart | FOTTRELL | 12/24 |
| Yer | XIONG | 12/31 |
| Jackelyn | AVILA | 12/31 |

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Seng | LEE | 01/01 |
| Shelby | COX | 01/04 |
| Bill | ROSE | 01/04 |
| Pa | MOUA | 01/08 |
| Andrew | ZASTOVNIK | 01/08 |
| Christine | UWAOMA | 01/09 |
| Mary | VOLLMAN | 01/09 |
| Pang Ying | YANG | 01/12 |
| Chue | THAO | 01/15 |
| Margie | COX | 01/21 |
| Jenny | XIONG | 01/22 |
| Richard | ALEXANDER | 01/24 |
| Rodger | PACHELBEL | 01/27 |
| Rick | SNOW | 01/27 |
| Corinne | WILLIAMS | 01/29 |

FRESNO AND CLOVIS

CHRISTMAS PARADES

Memorial UMC will be entering a Live Nativity float in

- ♦ The Clovis Parade is on Saturday, Dec 1 at 6:30 pm
- ♦ The Fresno Parade is on Saturday, Dec 8 morning at 11:00 am

If you would like to help :

- ♦ by helping build the float,
- ♦ being on the float,
- ♦ walking the parade route in Nativity costume,
- ♦ handing out Live Nativity flyers during the parades
- ♦ or driving the parade vehicle, please call Connie Alfaro (cell 905-2240).



**The Mission Thrift Shop
Customer Appreciation Day
Dec 7th & 8th**

Cider and Cookies will be served

Work day for December is the 11th

January Sale Days 4th & 5th

Work days for January are the 1st , 8th, 22nd & 29th

Donations gladly accepted:



Musicians Needed!

King David knew how important it was to have musicians dedicated to leading worship, and so do we! If you know of anyone who might be interested in acting as a keyboardist or worship leader for our Imagine! Service, have them contact us. We're accepting resumes and are eager to fill this vital role. Some of our folks have been doing a brilliant job of filling in, but wearing too many hats is not good for anyone. Spread the word, and be in prayer.

**Our first "R&R and Art" will be
on
Saturday, December 29,
in the MUMC Fellowship Hall.**



It is designed to allow people to decompress from the fast-paced holiday season. It is a PERFECT opportunity to spend significant quality time with visiting family and friends.

The flow of the day is:

- 9:30 am - check-in, prepping work area, enjoying specially prepared snacks
- 10 am to noon: painting project with Roberto.
- Noon is a beautifully prepared meal with something for every diet
- After lunch people who have time and have not yet completed their project may continue painting.

The cost of \$40 per person includes:

- All art supplies
- Artistic direction and coaching
- All food and beverages

Everyone takes home their own artistic creation.

This is a TERRIFIC Christmas gift to give family and friends!

Reservations are needed and gift certificates

Longest Night Soup Supper

December 21 is the longest night of the year. In the heart of a time of busy celebrations, many people find they are surrounded by the darkness of depression, loneliness, grief, despair. Many people struggle with promoting joy when our world is so clearly broken and so many people are suffering.

Each year we have a special time of worship on December 21. We start at 6 pm with soup supper together. Then we have a time to reflect on the pain of the world, and the deepest meaning of Christ's birth.

Anyone and everyone is invited to participate in this service. Look around to see who is not usually part of our faith community and invite them to come with you to the simple and beautiful evening together.

Dinner at 6 pm
worship about
6:45 pm.

Let pastor know if
you can bring a
crock pot of soup



TOY DRIVE.

This year our toy drive will be partnering with the MUMC Pantry and Grace UMC. People that are served by our pantry can sign-up to receive toys for their children as they come into the pantry. Toys will be handed out in Dec along with their food. If you would like to support this ministry, please bring toys or monetary donations to the MUMC office by Dec 16th.





MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Dec 1 | 6:30pm Clovis Children's Electric Christmas Parade |
| Dec 1 | 10:30am Hanging of the Greens |
| Dec. 2 | 2:00pm Academy Advent Service |
| Dec. 2 | 6:00pm Advent Dinner |
| Dec. 7 & 8 | 8:00am Thrift Shop Open |
| Dec. 8 | 1:00pm Fresno Christmas Parade |
| Dec 15 | 6:00pm Live Nativity |
| Dec 16 | 6:00pm Live Nativity |
| Dec. 15 | 8:00am United Methodist Men's Breakfast |
| Dec. 21 | 6:00 p.m. Longest Night Dinner/ Service |
| Dec. 24 | 4:00 pm Academy Christmas eve Service 7:00pm Christmas Eve Services 10:00pm Christmas Eve Service |

It's Warm Tree Time!

As temperatures drop, local need rises. Our dear Sue DeFranco started the Warm Tree tradition for just that reason, and I'm confident that we can keep it going. If you knit, crochet, sew, or do any other craft, you can give to the Warm Tree. The idea behind the Warm Tree is to give gifts that were hand-crafted with love to our homeless neighbors as they brave the colder weather. Getting a hand-made gift always feels extra special, and our brothers and sisters at the Poverello House deserve that feeling every bit as much as anyone else. If you would like to make something for the Warm Tree, all donations are gratefully accepted. The Warm Tree will be going up later in November. Just wrap your hand-made scarf, hat, mittens, socks, or anything warm and place it under the tree. They will be delivered to the Poverello House in time for Christmas cheer. If you don't think you have time to make something in time for this year, not to worry! We'll be doing it again next Christmas too!

Second Sunday Lunches

We are grateful to Lucy Elgin for her coordination of the Second Sunday Lunches! If you and/or your small group or ministry team would be willing to take a turn providing the meal one month, please talk with Lucy!

Our December Second Sunday Lunch is on December 9th and for January it will be on the 13th.

Holiday Boutique 2018

The Boutique group says "THANKS" for all the help and work this year. We have made so far \$5,162 and will have the final count by the end of November.

This year the Quilt went to Kathy Brummer, the Doll to Shirley Monis and the Afghan to Carole Schweitzer.

Thanks again for a successful event!

Stephen Ministry Training

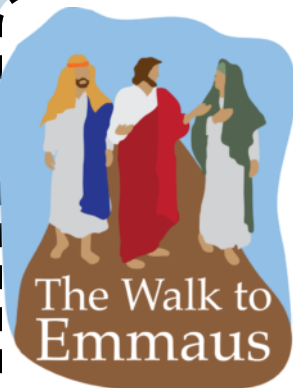


Stephen Ministry is a ministry of Christian Caring that is specific and focused. Stephen Ministers are lay people who are trained to walk along side people who are going through especially difficult circumstances. Our Stephen Ministry program is a collaboration between Memorial, St. Paul's, and Grace United Methodist Churches. We closely follow the program and training laid out by Stephen Ministries headquarters in St. Louis, MO.

We are excited to have been awarded a Beulah Fund Grant from our Conference United Methodist Women to send up to 4 people to be trained at Leaders for our Stephen Ministry.

This training will happen in early February 2019.

Additionally, we will be having a training locally for people who would like to be trained as Stephen Ministers. This ministry is healing and empowering for all who are involved. To help it grow in witness and effectiveness, please add our Stephen Ministry to your daily prayer list.



Walk to Emmaus
Get your application in now if you are interested in the spring Walk to Emmaus. It will be held in Easton. Contact Edie for more details



UMW News

- Dec 3-2pm-Ex Board 9am Planning for 2019, In the Library
- Dec 10-7:00 pm-Susanna Circle, Library
- Dec 11-11:45 am-Unit Meeting In the Fellowship Hall
- Dec 26-2:00 pm- Wesley Circle -In the Fellowship Hall
- Jan 7-2pm-Ex Board 9am Planning for 2018, In the Library
- Jan 8-11:45am -Unit Meeting In the Fellowship Hall
- Jan 14-7pm-Susanna Circle
- Jan 23-2pm- Wesley Circle -In the Fellowship Hall

Special Friends

Life is Like an Elevator

We are well trained to notice what's wrong in any given situation, maybe at work, home, school, shopping, or even at Church. This might be the entrance or that imaginary elevator. Now going up to the next floor we tell someone about it. So the wrong thing spreads. Second floor coming and now the state of confusion comes about and more people get involved. Third floor coming and a committee is formed to get more information. Questions are answered and new possibilities are thought of finally an answer is arrived at the problem is answered. The elevator goes back to the main floor.

Back to the first floor and everything is going wonderful and then one morning you get up and go out the door for work or whatever and the car will not start. The elevator goes to the second floor. You call in and say you are going to be late because of the car. You call and get the car on its way to be fixed and you are off to do your best. You are now on the second floor when the phone rings and you find out the car is in major trouble. Here we go up to the third floor and wonder what in the world will I do.

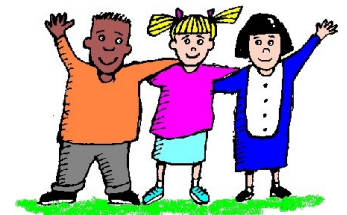
First you might check to see if you've got the money to cover the car. You might and you might not and you are now on the Fourth Floor. You think about family, friends, the bank and etc. no luck. Ask yourself if you have called on the most important One. You always have a place to go and that is to Jesus.

"And my God will give you everything you need because of HIS great riches in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

Service:

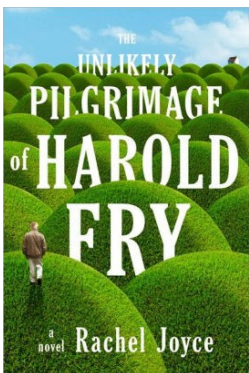
| Calls | Cards | Visits | Transpo18tation | Misc. |
|-------|-------|--------|-----------------|-------|
| 34 | 56 | 16 | 4 | 3 |



Christian Book Club

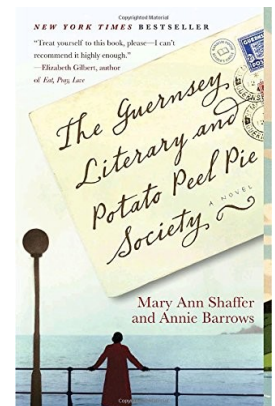
The Christian Book Club is now reading .

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry is a novel by Rachel Joyce, published in 2012. Joyce's first novel, it was a long-list finalist for the 2012 Man Booker Prize, and Joyce won the UK National Book Award for New Writer of the Year for the book



You are welcome to join us!
 Tuesday Nights
 7 pm in the library

In the past we have read
 The Guernsey literary and potato peel pie Society.



We will be viewing the movie soon. Let Edie or Lucy know if you would like to attend

Finance Report

Finance Report as of October 31

General Fund

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| September Balance: | -\$5,392 |
| October Income: | \$17,350 |
| October Expenses: | \$17,454 |
| October Balance: | -\$5,496 |

As of the end of October we have paid out more this year in our General Fund than we have brought in. The extra expenses have been covered by borrowing from some of the designated funds.

If we receive more generous donations in November and December, we can reimburse those funds.

We will also need to complete our Conference tithe (apportionments). The Church Council contributed some of its Discretionary Funds from Second Sunday Lunches and other small special income items to complete the June tithe. The Thrift Store and the Boutique may cover most of the July through October tithes. This means the General Fund will have to cover at least two more months.

If all those who are behind in their Estimates of Giving could catch up, we would have an additional \$9,800 which would just about cover the budget deficit and the two months of Conference tithe.

It will also be a great help if those who have not given the Extra Mile can give an extra \$25 or more each month during the remainder of the year.

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.



A note from the pastor

We are moving into a season of high-volume ministry. In the coming weeks we will have more than double the amount of ministry activities as we do on a regular basis during the other eleven months of the year. It **COULD** be a time of simple exhaustion. It **COULD** result in short tempers and much complaining. It **COULD** cause people to withdraw from one another, to isolate, to disconnect from relationships and endless "to-dos."

OR

It **COULD** point us to see places where we depend on our own strength, rather than allowing the power of God to fill and use us. It **COULD** help us draw closer as we work with the people we just met to faithfully share the gospel with those who are walking in spiritual darkness. It **COULD** give us unique opportunities to wipe away any facade our self-righteousness may have erected, and kneel again before the refugee baby who brings us salvation.

The choice is ours.

Will we receive the gift of hope?

Will we share it with others?

It is easy to get lost in the craziness that our modern holiday celebrations can bring. It is **ESSENTIAL**, therefore, to spend time daily keeping connected to the source of true peace and joy, so that these holidays are truly holy-days for families and our community.

Because, after passing through the activities of December, we remember that the real work of Christmas starts to unfold. This poem by Howard Thurman (1899 – April 10, 1981) tells us simply and beautifully what our ministries need to be in 2019:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

Looking forward to the beauty of the season and the new year as we work together in ministry.

-js

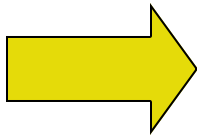
*Memorial United Methodist
Church of Clovis
1726 Pollasky Ave
Clovis, CA 93612*

Cookies!

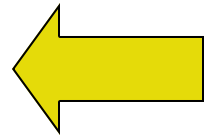
We need cookies for our
"Live Nativity-Christmas Card for the
Community"
Plan to bring cookies to the church
Dec 13th-15th

CHURCH PHONE: 559-299-4615

CHURCH E-MAIL: memumc@mem-umc.org



ALL CHURCH CONFERENCE 2018



Our annual All-church Conference will be held on Sunday, November 25 beginning at 2:30 pm with a reception to celebrate 125 years in ministry!

We will:

- ✦ Receive our Membership Directory,
- ✦ Receive a membership report,
- ✦ Vote on salary the package for our pastor,
- ✦ Elect leadership for the coming year,
- ✦ and a few other really fun items.

This is an important meeting. Please plan to be present