



# GOOD NEWS!

APRIL / MAY 2019

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*  
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## Palm Sunday

Our Annual  
Palm Sunday  
Celebration with Palm  
Fronds.



## 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, April 18, Good Friday, April 19, and Holy Saturday, April 20. Mark your calendar now and look for complete details in early March.



## Easter Sunday

There are 5 services throughout the day,

6:30 am Sunrise at Academy (in English)

8:45 am Imagine! service (in English).

10 am Hmong Language service with praise band

11:15 am Traditional Service (in English)

2 pm worship at Academy (in English)

## April May Birthdays

Fourth Sunday Birthday recognition!  
The 4th Sunday of each month, join us in  
the Fellowship Hall  
for a special cake and sing Happy Birthday

Xiong	Lee	2-April
Khou	Vue	3-April
Deena	Crosslin	5-April
KaH	Heu	8-April
Art	Daly	9-April
Howard	Vollman	9-April
Kayte	Van de Mark	11-April
Jerry	Yang	12-April
Kurt	Cline	14-April
Mee Vang	Lee	14-April
Kylee	Pachelbel	17-April
Alissa	Williams	17-April
Alice	Thao	18-April
Norma	Meek	19-April
Gilbert	Stocks	20-April
Va	Yang	20-April
Benjamin	Zastovnik	21-April
Kathryn	Cannon	25-April
Christiana	Fang	28-April

William	Nicholls	1-May
Robin	Holleman	2-May
Stan	Jenanyan	2-May
Joan	Prego	2-May
Carole	Schweitzer	3-May
Brittany	Thao	3-May
Becky	Posey	8-May
Uchei	Uwaoma	8-May
Dorothy	Carr	9-May
Janet	Bonzo	12-May
Baoui	Her	12-May
Emma	Hansen-Smith	20-May
Owen	Glazebrook	21-May
Roberto	Carlos	22-May
Fuechi	Xiong	22-May
Laura	Williams	26-May
Gouly	Yang	28-May
Marjorie	Ludwig	30-May
George	Grimsley	31-May

## Boutique Notes

The boutique group has a planning meeting on the first Wednesday of each month starting at 10AM and everyone is welcome to attend. If you want to know more about what the plans for this year's boutique are, come join us. Our church boutique is held on the second Friday and Saturday in November.

Also, the boutique group wants to invite anyone interested to come join the group on every Wednesday morning from 9 to 11:30 AM. Bring some handwork to work on. It's a great opportunity to get to know people better and share some wonderful fellowship time.

We are planning to host a craft Saturday in July. It will be a fun opportunity to learn some fun crafts and share a yummy lunch. More details to follow.



All church clean up day

Saturday, April 6th at 9 a.m.

**Bonus on that morning -the UMM will serve breakfast from 8-9 a.m.**

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 8 a.m. for breakfast and 9 a.m. 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!

## The Mission Thrift Shop



**April Sale Days 5th & 6th from  
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Work days for April are the 9th & 23rd

**May Sale Days 3rd & 4th  
from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Work days for May are the 14th & 28th

May 12<sup>th</sup>

Delicious food with

- ▶ No waiting in line to be seated
- ▶ No tax
- ▶ No tip

Tickets:

\$10 for adults  
 \$5 for children  
 \$30 maximum for families with young children



(The proceeds for this meal support our "Staff Appreciation" gifts.)

## UMW News



### April

- 4-1 Ex Board 2 p.m.
- 4-8 Susanna Circle 7 p.m.
- 4-9 Unit Meeting Fresno Zoo, car pool 9 a.m. from church. Lunch at the Zoo restaurant.
- 4-24 Wesley Circle 2 p.m.

### May

- 5-6 Ex Board 2 p.m.
- 5-13 Susanna Circle 7 p.m.
- 5-14 Unit meeting noon  
 Program: Dee Carr:  
 "The courage of our fore mothers".  
 Lunch: Barbara, Fran, & Judy
- 5-22 Wesley Circle 2 p.m.

## Second Sunday Lunches

Second Sunday Lunch and Fellowship! An opportunity for a nutritious lunch and all though the time is limited we do have time for conversation with our friends.

The price continues at \$5.00 , no taxes and short lines.

We are trying to have interesting and delectable menus. April 7th is sponsored by Special Friends It will be a pre Easter menu of Baked Ham, Scalloped potatoes, Green beans, Salads and Dessert.

May 12th is sponsored by SPRC and will be the Spring Brunch menu, keep watching for a full menu. The cost for May is \$10, this is a fund raiser to support our staff.

We thank WWD, etc for the delicious Baked potato bar. The February Enchiladas were a big hit and we will repeat that in the future.

## Kitchen Stove Not Working

The Board of Trustees have received multiple notices of gas leaks on the commercial stove in the fellowship hall. As a result, we have temporarily cut off the gas supply to the stove. The vertical ovens are not affected by this shut off. Groups will not be able to use the stove until we find a safe resolution to the problem.

## UMW



United Methodist Women

Days For Girls Service Project

Monday, My 20, 2019

9 am to 3 pm

Whether you sew or not we need you!

We will be making lovely, high-quality, reusable feminine hygiene kits to help keep girls in school in impoverished countries.

If you have sewing scissors, a sewing machine or serger and would like to sew, please bring them.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Marilyn Everett or Kristine Splan

fresnoc@daysforgirls.org

Days for Girls is a non-profit organization that provides girls in developing countries with sustainable feminine hygiene supplies.

More information at [www.daysforgirls.org](http://www.daysforgirls.org)

**TEAMS AND MINISTRIES**

**Pantry**

We are meeting the needs of a number of members of our community and members of our church. As of now we are in need of the following items:

**PLEASE NO GLASS JARS** if you have a question on what is good to donate please call Dorrie and she will let you know.

- | Juice 100% apple juice
- | Peanut butter in a plastic jar
- | Chili beans
- | Green beans
- | Corn

Also needed for our homeless friends:

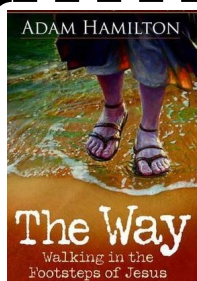
- | Small cans of fruit with pop tops
- | Spam/Vienna sausage
- | Peanut butter or cheese crackers
- | Small boxes of raisins or other dried fruit.



**Stephens Ministry**

Stephen Ministry has been going successfully for almost two years now and all of us have been blessed beyond our greatest hopes and expectations by our care receivers and each other. There are a number of women in need of a Stephen Minister in our congregation at the moment, but we don't have enough Stephen Ministers. We are anxious to begin a new class and we are praying that God will touch the hearts of our loving congregation to bring new recruits into this wonderful ministry. Please contact me, Susan Jennings, or pastor Janette if you would like more information.

**Christian Book Club**



The Christian Book Club is not meeting for the rest of March.

We will resume April 2 and continue with Adam Hamilton's "The Way".

**Special Friends**

**GRATITUDE FOR LITTLE THINGS**

One of the first things that come to mind are my ears. You are born with them. Some are big, some are small, some are flat, and some are floppy. God gives them in all shapes and sizes. But think of what they do for many years and of the things they do hear. Take a short time and count the things that you hear.

You say but if they don't work. Well let's think about all the ways we do hear. The regular way, hearing aids, implants, sign language, and lip reading are the ones that come to mind. Doctors are always looking for improvements.

Those of us that serve you through the Special Friends try to always show you our understanding and give you our prayers and strength.

This saying may help all of us in developing gratitude.

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.

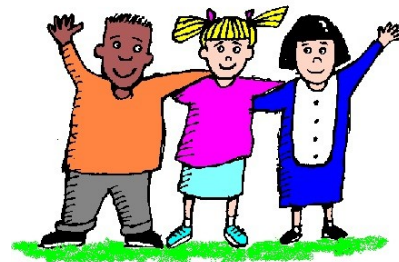
It turns what we have into enough, and

More. It turns denial into acceptance,

Chaos into order, confusion to clarity...

Gratitude makes sense of our part, brings

Peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.



Calls	Cards	Visits	Transportation	Misc.
23	46	15	1	16

## Finance Report

**It's time for a happy dance to celebrate our February Finance Report.**

In four of the five past years, we ended February in the red.

Last year, we had a deficit of over \$20,000 in February.

This year our General Fund had a balance of \$1,210.

We do still owe around \$3,000 for the apportionment tithe for January and February, but we are hoping to receive about that much from the Thrift Store so we can catch up.

We ended January this year with a deficit of \$4,734.

February General Fund income was \$22,168 and General Fund bills for the month totaled \$16,224.

While we are thrilled to be in the black at the end of

February, we have more large bills coming up. The \$2,159

Workers Compensation premium is one of the big bills for March. We will have to make a health insurance payment in early April. It will probably be about \$7,128 to cover about 4 ½ months.

These large bills mean that if we are not to fall into deficit again, we will need everyone to keep up with their giving.

One reason we were able to make it through February in the black was that several contributors are ahead on their estimates of giving. We will need help from those who are behind by a total of about \$3,500 to bring in the extra funds we need in these coming months.

Our General Fund budget planned for 2019 estimates an income of \$253,550 and expenditures of \$254,758. With this deficit of \$1,208 and an income shortfall of \$1,368 compared to the budget estimate at the end of February, we do need everyone's continuing devotion to help the church pay its bills and fund its ministries.

## Building Use

If you need to use a room at the church please remember to call Dorrie Osback-Rose at (559) 392-0381 to see if it is available. If it is she will put you on the calendar so that the room is saved for you.

If you use a room please take the trash and dump it. There are fresh bags in each trash can so you can take out the bag and replace it.

Please be courteous of others using the room after you. When you leave trash in the trash cans it can cause odors.

Our janitorial service is only on Fridays, so if trash is left behind it gets a little smelly.

If you are scheduled to use a room and your schedule changes please let Dorrie know. She can change the thermostats so that we are not heating/cooling a room that is not in use.



Healthy Heart Day - with AED , CPR refresher updates was enjoyed by several. The star of the day was 8 year old Sydney, daughter of Margaret Mares who stepped up to practice with Resusci Annie. The Healthy lunch was phenomenal, with many salads and other heart healthy items. The grand children of Celerina and Roberto Carlos stole the show as the 3 little girls held hands and prayed before they started to eat. We adults were a little slower. As the scripture states "a little child shall lead them"! A special thank you to Celerina, Mely and all the others that participated. The program was emphasizing the change in blood pressure numbers by the American Academy of Cardiologists, lower numbers are needed to prevent Cardiovascular disease, i.e. Heart attack of Stroke.

Respectfully, Lucy Elgin, MSN, NP

## FUMUL

**(Friends of United Methodist University of Liberia)**

For the Latest information about FUMUL go to:

[FUMUL Winter-2019-newsletter](#)

Or

<https://www.mem-umc.org/mem-umc/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Winter-2019-newsletter.pdf>

## Special Called General Conference

### Report on the Special Called General Conference

In 1972 the General Conference added language to the United Methodist Church's Book of Discipline which set apart "practicing homosexuals" as people whose lifestyle is not in line with "Christian teaching" and limited the involvement LGBTQ+ people can have within the denomination. Since that time, the denomination has experienced strong tension between those who like that distinction, and those who find the **distinction** is not in line with Christian teaching. In 2016 the Council of Bishops was asked to guide the denomination to a path that would help the denomination find resolution and healing from the struggle. The Council of Bishops developed a "Commission on a Way Forward" to help find a way to meet that request.

The Commission on a Way Forward met for two years, traveling to every part of our United Methodist connection, listening to people of differing backgrounds, including: theological, cultural, ethnic, socioeconomic, and linguistic. From what was heard at its "listening sessions," the Commission developed the "One Church Plan" and two alternate plans, which were then presented to the Council of Bishops.

**The One Church Plan, endorsed by the Council of Bishops**, would allow but not require United Methodist clergy to perform same-gender weddings where legal, and allow but not require annual conferences to ordain LGBTQ pastors. "The One Church Plan is built on the belief that it is possible to live with more space while we focus on our common mission," the report states.

**The Connectional Conference Plan** would create "three values-based connectional conferences" in the U.S., and provide for central conferences to align with one of those connectional conferences or become one of their own. According to the report, the "Connectional Conference Plan addresses the reality of the UMC as it is now."

**The "Traditional Plan"** was developed by a few members of the Commission, rather than the full group. It would continue to exclude from many ministry and leadership opportunities people who are "practicing homosexuals". It also adds significant punishments for ordained clergy who, for example officiate at a same-gender wedding. The punishment requires suspension without pay for a minimum of one year for a first infraction, and a second infraction requires a loss of clergy credentials.

The Special Called General Conference met in St. Louis in February. The end result was, the delegates did not follow the Council of Bishop's recommendation, and voted 53% for the Traditional Plan, and 47% for the One Church Plan. The Connectional Conference Plan did not receive enough support to be considered by the full body. A "Gracious Exit" plan was also passed by the body.

As soon as the vote results were announced favoring the Traditional Plan, strong dissention began to be voiced, and continues to expand. Truthfully, dissention would have begun if the One Church Plan had passed. The hope of finding a resolution that would hold the denomination together and bring healing has not yet been fulfilled.

### What is next?

We continue to pray for the denomination, and for each us, as we seek to listen for Jesus' voice to guide us on how best to be the body of Christ in our world today.

2) The Judicial Council of the UMC has been asked to rule on whether or not the provisions of the Traditional Plan and the Gracious Exit plan are in keeping with the constitution of the United Methodist Church. In a preliminary ruling made last October, the Judicial Council had ruled that much of the Traditional Plan was not constitutional. Now that the General Conference has adopted that Plan with some amendments, the Council will review the legislation and make an official ruling. The next Judicial Council meeting will be April 23-25, 2019.

3) Bishop Carcaño is traveling throughout our Annual Conference to talk with people and answer questions about this General Conference decision, and the ramifications for our Annual Conference and local congregations. In April the closest gathering to our location will be on **April 24:** 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Tulare UMC

Much more information can be found on our Annual Conference website:  
cnumc.org



## *A note from the pastor*

There has been a lot of information in the news lately about the Special General Conference that occurred in February. It made the "nightly news" all across the US. Many of us had been lifting the denomination in prayer as we headed into that special session. Now that it is over, it is clear we need to continue to hold the denomination in prayer!

Our Lenten worship services (in the English Language Ministry) are exploring the "Gifts of the Dark Wood." The starting place for appreciating these gifts which are found uniquely in the challenging places of life, is to embrace the "gift of uncertainty."

What a TREASURE it is to become comfortable in not knowing all the answers! Instead of stressing about "what ifs," we are free to wholeheartedly "go where Jesus leads" to "fully lean on Jesus," and above all to "go with God." When we embrace uncertainty, these common phrases take on new and deeper meaning.

The week before the General Conference began, I was asking God about the outcome. God let me know that no matter what decisions would be made, the work of the church needs to continue. There are still people who are hungering to meet Jesus. There are still so many people feeling lost and alone. There are people who don't know they are loved. And because of these realities, there is so much suffering caused by hurting and broken humans.

We have MUCH work to do! We have SO MUCH ministry to do, so much love to share in the name of Jesus! No matter what decisions are made, or how the denomination may change, God has told me we are to focus on the ministries that present themselves to us, and to stay focused on "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

To do those things, we don't need "certainty" in anything other than this: God loves us. God wants the best for our lives. God does not abandon us. and Everywhere we go, God is already there.

May we each be blessed with the growing ability to embrace uncertainty, so that we may more and more embody our faith in Jesus.

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

## *The Living Last Supper*

Presented by  
Memorial United Methodist Church  
1726 Pollasky Ave

Thursday April 18 at 7 p.m.

Friday April 19 at 7 p.m.

Saturday April 20 at 2 p.m.

**\*Child Care available on Saturday  
for children age 6 and under.**

The public is invited. Admission is free.

Invite your family and friends.

Contact the office if you have any questions.

559 299-4615

This play's cast shares a short, but powerful drama about the reflection and inner turmoil of each disciple when Jesus announced he would be betrayed by one of them.

## *Easter Sunday Worship Services*



6:30 a.m. Sunrise at Academy (in English)  
(outside in the pavilion)

8:45 a.m. Imagine! service (in English) with  
praise band.

10:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:00 a.m. Hmong Language service  
with praise band

11:15 a.m. Traditional Easter Celebration  
Service (in English), with choir.

12:30 p.m. Potluck lunch at Academy

2:00 p.m. Easter worship at Academy (in English)