



GOOD NEWS!

JUNE / JULY 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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International Potluck June 30th Fifth Sunday celebration!

June 30 is a "fifth Sunday," and the PERFECT time to bring the entire congregation together for ONE worship service! The focus of our worship service will be **PENTECOST**— celebrating the proclamation of the gospel in all languages! Our worship will be filled with music from ALL our musicians, celebrating the abiding presence of God's Holy Spirit. Fresno Korean UMC will join the celebration too!

EVERYONE together for ONE service at 10 a.m.

After worship at 11:15 a.m. we will have an

INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK!

Bring your favorite dish from anywhere in the world! We will FEAST together in the fellowship of our faith family. It will be a delicious meal with something for everyone!

As our meal is ending Pastor Janette will share with us stories and pictures from her adventures in Liberia. This, too, will be interesting and uplifting.

Bring family and friends to this day of celebration!

Guest Readiness:

In May our congregation hosted an event sponsored by our Annual Conference's Office of New and Vital Congregations. The workshop's focus was "10 Things Your Guests Won't Tell You." These 10 things are items that significantly impact the overall experience of people who are visiting the congregation while looking for a congregational home.

Our Church Council will be offering this same training by video for more people in the congregation to have an opportunity to learn these strategies and help our congregation adjust to having greater hospitality. Improving our hospitality is one of the congregation's goals for this year.

WHO SHOULD COME TO THESE TRAININGS? It is NOT just for Sunday morning Greeters! Hospitality is an overarching culture to develop within a congregation, and representatives from ALL ministries would benefit by being present.

There will be 2 trainings:

June 15 and June 29 from 9 am to noon, in our Fellowship Hall. The information covered each time will be different, so it is best to attend both sessions.



June July 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

LY CHAI	YANG	06/01
VU	YANG	06/01
SO RICKY	HER	06/02
TENG	FANG	06/06
SEE THONG	YANG	06/06
MASON	MOORE	06/07
MARY ANN	THAO	06/07
JOY	COLE	06/09
BONNIE	HARKINS	06/10
ADDY	VANG	06/15
GARY	GENTRY	06/18
PENG SU	XIONG	06/19
TUARTEE	MITCHELL	06/23
BARBARA	NIELSEN	06/23
CATHY	WALKER	06/24
MADELINE	WILLIAMS	06/30

TESSA	HANSEN-SMITH	07/01
BARBARA	WOODWARD	07/03
KONG	LEE	07/04
MARY	ETTELSON	07/05
DANIELLE	UWAOMA	07/09
BILL	SAUTTER	07/12
MELY	RINON	07/13
CHAO	YANG	07/13
LORRAINE	MAY	07/14
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	KENDALL	07/21
CAROLE	LINENBACH	07/23
MIKE	JENNISON	07/25
PATTI	POND	07/29
SUE	DEFRANCO	07/30

Upcoming Events

LEARN A CRAFT DAY

WHEN

Saturday
July 20
9:30am to 2:00pm

WHERE

Memorial United Methodist
Church
1726 Pollasky Avenue, Clovis

Come spend the day
learning:

Crochet
Knit
Embroidery
Needlepoint
Quilting
Flower arranging

Sponsored by MUMC Boutique Ministry
Call 299-4615 for reservations and information
Event is FREE and includes lunch



New Testament in a Year

New Testament in a year begins July 1st!

Reading the Bible every day helps our lives to be more balanced, gives us deeper understanding of our spiritual heritage, and reminds us of God's grace and mercy.

We are about to complete our reading of the entire Bible in one year. It is time to focus more intently on the New Testament.

Beginning July 1st MUMC will publish weekly list for daily devotional reading. We will read one chapter each day, Monday through Friday. Share this with your family, friends, and neighbors.



June Second Sunday Lunch

**JUNE 9TH AT 11:15
A.M.**

3 BUCK GROUND CHUCK!!

**GIVING THANKS FOR ALL THE
"FATHERS IN THE FAITH"
SPECIAL PRICE OF \$3 PER BURGER!
WHAT A TREAT!!!
BRING YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS
AND JOIN THE FUN!!**

Sponsored by UMM

PROMISE IT WILL BE FUN!!

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**July 14th Second
Sunday Lunch**
at 11:15 a.m.
sponsored by
the Girl Scouts

Growing Young Cohort

"Growing Young" Cohort

We've all heard the phrase "growing old." For congregations such as ours, reaching new generations as they arise is at the heart of the work of "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Through out the year our Annual Conference offers trainings on reaching out to neighbors with the gospel message. There are many good ideas gained through these trainings. There has been a gap in moving "head knowledge" into common practice. What has been missing for us has been follow up assistance as we try to implement what we learned.

In the coming year the Annual Conference will have specialized training for congregations wishing to be more effective in "growing young." The BONUS is that there will be follow up support and coaching to help congregations implement the strategies throughout all their ministries and practices.

The training will be available for 30 congregations. After some research and contemplation, the Church Council decided that MUMC could benefit from this program. An application was submitted. We will find out within a month whether or not we have been selected to be in the cohort for the coming "appointment" year (July 1 through June 30). Please lift this project in your prayers. Whichever congregations are selected, may this training be inspiring and bear good fruit to the glory of God.

Graduates!



**All 2019 graduates
will be honored
on June 16th.**

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

FUMUL

(Friends of United Methodist University of Liberia)

We are blessed to report that the Easter Offering yielded about \$1000 for the textbook project.

We will send this out soon, so some books may be provided to students in the coming school year.

Pastor Janette had an amazing experience in Liberia in March. She will share her experiences during our “International Potluck” on June 30. (See related article for details on this day of celebration.)

From that trip, Pastor Janette has made connections and hopes to return to Liberia with a full VIM (Volunteers In Mission) team in January of 2020. Please speak with Pastor if YOU would like to be a part of that team.

(At this time there are no plans to do fund raising at MUMC for this trip. The cost for the trip is likely to be \$2500 per person. Please speak with Pastor to strategize about raising funds elsewhere.)

The Knots Prayer

*Dear God:
Please untie the knots
that are in my mind,
my heart, and my life.
Remove the have nots,
the can nots and the do nots
that I have in my mind.*

*Erase the will nots,
may nots,
might nots that may find
a home in my heart.*

*Release me from the could nots,
would nots and
should nots that obstruct my life.*

*And most of all,
Dear God,
I ask that you remove from my mind,
my heart and my life all of the “am nots”
that I have allowed to hold me back,
especially the thought
that I am not good enough.
Amen.*

**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.



The Mission Thrift Shop

**June Sale Days 7th &
8th from**

8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Work days are 8 a.m.

June 4, 11, & 25

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

Work days are 8 a.m.

July 2, 11, 23, & 30

Special Friends



We wish you a blessed summer

from Special Friends

April Service			
Calls	Cards	Visits	Transportation
27	28	8	8

May Service			
Calls	Cards	Visits	Transportation
31	89	20	6

UMW News

June

- 6-3 Ex Board 2 p.m.
- 6-10 Susanna Circle 7 p.m.
- 6-11 Unit Meeting 12 p.m.

Women Offering Belongingness



July

No Meetings

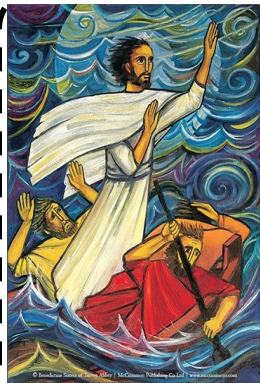
Men of all ages are welcome to join us for breakfast

on June 15th and July 20th
from 8-9:30 AM

in the Fellowship Hall.

See you there!

Thank you,



With
Jesus
in the
Boat

-Matthew 8:23-27-

**Annual Conference
Session:**

**Wednesday, June 19, 2019 to
Saturday, June 22, 2019**

Our congregation will take a special offering on

Sunday June 9th

To send to Annual Conference for the support of the

Theological Seminary of the Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma.

Grief Support Group

Widows, Widowers, Divorced-Etcetera

AKA WWD, Et Cetera

WWD ETC. stands for "Widows, Widowers, Divorcees and Anyone Experiencing Loss." The group is in its 7th year, having been established by Glynda Ward, Don Haulman, Patty Pond and Lucy Elgin when, over a short period of time each of them lost a spouse or experienced divorce and needed a way to deal with the pain they were feeling. The "ETC." was added in 2015 as the group recognized there are many types of devastating loss -- loss of a child, a job, a long distance move -- that require recovery if lives are to be rebuilt and able to face a new, unwelcome chapter.

We meet in the Church Library the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 10 AM for a one- hour meeting and program followed by a game. The game is most important; its purpose is to ensure that everyone leaves laughing. I can testify that it does. There are approximately 12 regular members. Church membership is not required to attend. Currently we have two active members who are from other churches. Members provide their own programs, sometimes from personal experiences, sometimes from inspiration from an article or book, and occasionally by an outside speaker. We tolerate only as much organization as necessary to function. We don't have officers or committees and there are no dues. Our meetings are confidential; nothing said there is repeated elsewhere. Being Methodists, there are always refreshments, brought by whoever has the time and inclination to do so.

People experiencing grief often find holidays and special occasions extremely difficult. To address this, WWD plans an informal gathering or potluck at those times so that members are not alone.

Starting in 2018, WWD has taken a turn hosting our 2nd Sunday Lunch in March. Our baked potato bar has proven so popular that we decided to make it our annual menu. It has also simplified our efforts, for we all have our job and we already know what is expected of us next year. In addition, 2nd Sunday Lunch has given our non-church members a way to 'give back' to the church.

As a result of Memorial's recent Strategic Planning Sessions, at which time all groups were asked to review their activities to look for new ways of outreach, WWD added a 'box' on the back page of the weekly bulletin. It includes a quote from one of our programs or readings that describes how grief has affected one of us. This new activity has already brought us two new members, one a recent widow and the other suffering grief from the lasting effects of a serious illness. She recognized that the "ETC" included her!

TEAMS AND MINISTRIES

Finance Report



At the end of March, our General Fund had a balance of \$5,917. Time for a HAPPY FEET DANCE!

April was not as strong financially. Because of carryover from last year and some

donors paying ahead on their yearly giving, we are in the black.

We are WAY ahead of last year in paying our apportionment tithe. To date we have sent \$6000 for our tithe, about a 40% increase over previous years.

This is made possible, in large part, because of our Mission Thrift Shop contribution of \$3500 for the first 3 months of this year.

Our General Fund budget planned for 2019 estimates an income of \$253,550 and expenditures of \$254,758.

We do need everyone's continuing devotion to help the church pay its bills and fund its ministries.



Huddles

small group discipleship

This spring Pastor Janette received training on a way to teach and reinforcing how to "think like a disciple" using "Huddles" It is VERY flexible, and may be an excellent tool for our congregation's use as we seek to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

The process for a huddle is this:

- * 4-6 people at the most in each huddle
- * meet for 1 hour weekly (can be done face to face or by teleconference such as ZOOM or Skype)
- * a weekly study focus
- * about 5 minutes of reflection as homework each day

Pastor is wanting to start a "pilot" huddle this summer, so we can evaluate its effectiveness for our congregation. Would YOU like to spend 8 weeks strengthening your walk with Jesus?

Kitchen Survey Results

The Board of Trustees would like to thank everyone for their input on our Kitchen Improvement Questionnaire. We had many positive comments and ideas.

The consensus is to replace the stove with a new stove top unit. We plan to do that very soon. The double ovens will remain as is.

The other work in the kitchen; including cabinet renovation work, kitchen floor repairs/ replacement, dishwasher-sanitizer, island renovation, etc. etc. will be included in the Capital Campaign which the Trustees are developing now to build the financial resources for the full kitchen renovation and other needed church facility improvements.

Thanks for your interest in maintaining our church facilities.

Trustees Update

The Board of Trustees have been quite busy working on multiple projects to improve our campus. We have been looking at improving our landscape, brick project, storage needs, a kitchen renovation and so much more. A major project we recently completed was a repair to our flat roof. If you haven't noticed as well, we have made changes to some of our irrigation system from sprinkler to a drip system. You will see them along the north side of property. We want to thank everyone for their patience as we work on the needs of the church. These capital campaigns are coming together slowly but surely.



A note from the pastor

There are two things about which I need to write to you all today:

Making Disciples:

Because we are part of the United Methodist Church, the core of our mission is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

It is important that we distinguish between “making” disciples and “maturing” disciples. Both are a necessary part of our mission.

“Making” disciples is reaching out to people who do not know the saving grace of God that is ours through Christ. It is reaching new people with the gospel of Jesus Ministries that are designed to make disciples channel God’s prevenient and justifying grace into our community, that others may experience the depth of God’s love for them. For several decades our congregation has really struggled in this area.

“Maturing” disciples is designing ministries that channel God’s sanctifying grace. “Sanctification” is the process of growing more Christ-like in our daily lives. Most of our ministries have been intentional about including an element within their ministry practices that is specifically targeted toward helping us grow deeper in our relationship with God.

An obstacle can arise as we mature spiritually. The more we seek to follow Jesus, the more we see how far we are from our Lord and Savior. Through this honest humility, most people in our congregation are reluctant to accept any role whereby we might be perceived as a role model.

HOWEVER, how can we help people new to the faith to develop a strong relationship to Jesus if we don’t have people who can walk along side and mentor others?

This spring I participated in a discipling program called “Huddles.” It is a lovely program that can be used with people at all places and phases of their spiritual journey. It helps people become more aware of God’s activity in their lives and in the world around, and helps people learn how to discern and follow God’s leading.

Are YOU someone who wants to grow spiritually? Are you deeply concerned for the spiritual welfare of others? Are you willing to participate in “Huddles” ministry SPECIFICALLY to help our congregation reach out to those who do not know Christ? If so, please speak to me. I am hoping to begin “Huddles” ministry in this congregation.

Our denomination is struggling:

The recent special called General Conference resulted in decisions that will likely split the denomination. Many people world-wide celebrate the decision to continue to exclude people whose sexual orientation is not “heteronormative,” and are comfortable with the harshly punitive enforcements added. Nearly as many world-wide are appalled by the decisions. Many have stated they will not abide by these restrictions. Several seminaries and universities are beginning to sever ties to the denomination.

Those who have prevailed in the 2019 special called General Conference are making plans to bring to the regularly scheduled General Conference of 2020 legislation to kick out anyone who doesn’t adhere to the increased prohibitions and sanctions — including entire annual conferences and Jurisdictions.

What the future holds is especially uncertain at this point in our denomination’s history. Much prayer is needed — the kind of prayer that is humble and attentive to God’s leading.

There will be many more ideas and much aligning of efforts in the coming months. What are we to do in the mean time?

Of primary importance for each and all of us is that we do not lose sight of our primary mission to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” In fact, it is time to “double down” on our disciple-making efforts!

Our problems and struggles will not diminish by human logic and striving. Only by actively living in God’s grace and helping others to become disciples will we find the solutions which bring abundant life.

Participating in “Huddles” can be a healing balm for ourselves, and for our surrounding community. Prayerfully consider if this might be worth pursuing in your own life.

-js

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

Summer Schedule is a Go!
JUNE 9th

9 am Adult Sunday School
in English

10 am Worship service in English

11 am Fellowship Time

11:15 am Worship Service in Hmong

June 30 International
Potluck at 11:15 am

CHURCH PHONE: 559-299-4615

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



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School for
Kindergarten-6th Grade
is coming

July 15-18 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.!

The Mission: "To Mars and Beyond" will show our kids how God is able to do far beyond what we can ask or even imagine, using stories, music, crafts and SCIENCE!

Invite your friends - everyone is welcome.

Our VBS this year is a team effort of Memorial UMC, Fresno Korean UMC and United Japanese Christian Church (UJCC) and will be held at the UJCC campus at 136 N. Villa, Clovis.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the science and craft projects. You can sign up to help for one night or all five! Donations towards reducing the cost for all kids to go are also welcome.

Early registration starts June 3.

Watch for the sign-up table at church!



Save the Date

Youth Mission Project

in Fresno

July 8-12 20

Questions?

Contact / Rev. Rae / sungrae@ujcclife.com

