



GOOD NEWS!

DECEMBER 2019 – JANUARY 2020

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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LIVE NATIVITY EVENT

DEC. 14-15, 2019

You and your family & friends
are invited to
the Live Nativity event
between 6:00-8:00 p.m.

This year 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 13th at 6:30pm



It's Warm Tree Time!

As temperatures drop, local need rises. 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 are not able to handcraft a gift a donation of a soft warm item is welcome. All donations are gratefully accepted. Just wrap the gift of a scarf, hat, mittens, socks, or anything warm and place it under the tree. Label it as to who might want to receive it (Man, Woman, or Child). They will be delivered to the Poverello House in time for Christmas cheer.

Jamie Belt is heading this ministry but if you would like to help give her a call.

472-8599

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
Maiger	Xiong	12/16
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
Richard	Fottrell	12/24
Kevin	Lee	12/29
Yer	Xiong	12/31

Seng	Lee	01/01
Shelby	Cox	01/04
Jim	Jennings	01/06
Pa	Moua	01/08
Andrew	Zastovnik	01/08
Christine	Uwaoma	01/09
Mary	Vollman	01/09
Johnny	Rinon	01/11
Pang Ying	Yang	01/12
Margie	Cox	01/21
Jenny	Xiong	01/22
Jenny	Xiong	01/22
Richard	Alexander	01/24
Clara	Yang	01/25
Rodger	Pachelbel	01/27
Rosie	Thao	01/27
Corinne	Williams	01/29



**The Mission
Thrift Shop
Customer
Appreciation Day
Dec 6th & 7th**

Cider and Cookies will be served

Work days for December are the 10th & 31st.

January Sale Days 3rd & 4th

Work days for January are the 14th & 28th

Donations gladly accepted

*Thank
you*



I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful people who offered cards, prayers and mail during my surgery recovery. They really made a difference in my recovery. Thank You

Gil Stocks

FRESNO AND CLOVIS

CHRISTMAS PARADES

Memorial UMC will be entering a Live Nativity float in

↳ The **Fresno Parade** is on Saturday, Dec 7 morning at 11:00 am

↳ The **Clovis Parade** is on Saturday, Dec 7 at 6:30 pm

↳ 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).

Longest Night Soup Supper December 20th

This December we will honor the longest night of the year on Friday December 20th. 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 worship to pray for one another and our struggling world. 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 for the dinner.



TOY DRIVE.

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 December along with their food.

If you would like to support this ministry, please bring toys or monetary donations to the MUMC office by Dec 15th.



Volunteers in Mission Trip to Liberia



We have 4 volunteers from our congregation and 2 from other congregations traveling to Liberia to be in ministry at St. Matthew's Mission Station in Monrovia, Liberia. A mission station in Liberia has a church, a medical clinic, and a school. Our work will be focused on two areas: providing free medical care to people of all ages, and providing feminine hygiene products and training to the female students in the junior high and high school.

The expenses for the team members' transportation is borne by the volunteers themselves. There has been some fundraising to help with the expenses involved "in-country," the largest of which will be the medical supplies for the clinic. Any financial donations toward this are greatly appreciated.

For several years our congregation has done work with "Days for Girls," whose mission is to help female students in developing nations be able to stay in school by providing reusable feminine hygiene products, and training how to use and maintain these items. Our team and the people in Liberia are so excited to be able to bring this program to the students at St. Matthew's! This is the FIRST connection Days for Girls has in Liberia!

Beyond this crucial work, our team will have a chance to engage the students in enrichment activities with the Bible Olympics!

The team will be dedicated and blessed during the worship services on January 5, 2020.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Dec. 1 | 6:00pm Advent Dinner |
| Dec. 6 & 7 | 8:00am Thrift Shop Open |
| Dec. 7 | 1:00pm Fresno Christmas Parade |
| Dec 7 | 6:30pm Clovis Children's Electric Christmas Parade |
| Dec. 8 | 2:00pm Academy Advent Service |
| Dec 13 | Live Nativity Set-up & Practice |
| Dec 14 | 6:00pm Live Nativity |
| Dec 15 | 6:00pm Live Nativity |
| Dec. 20 | 6:00 p.m. Longest Night Dinner/ Service |
| Dec 21 | Hmong New Year Celebration at MUMC |
| Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Services
4:00 pm Academy
7:00pm Family Friendly
10:00pm Lessons Carols and Candlelight |

Opportunities for Fellowship

Second Sunday Lunches

The price remains at \$5.00 - , includes drinks and dessert. No better deal anywhere!

November was prepared by the Liberian team and Celerina and Roberto, were prime cooks, along with others.

Sunday December 8 - will feature a Build your own Nacho Bar (or taco salad or stuffed potato). Sounds great!

Sunday January 5th— will be headed by our Hmong Language Ministry with special egg roll sale.

Orders will also be taken in advance for egg rolls to go.

Birthday Cake

Celebrating all December Birthdays on December 15th at 12:15 p.m.

Both are great opportunities for fellowship and time to relax with friends old and new.

Holiday Boutique 2019



The Boutique group says "THANKS" for all the help and work this year.

Especially from the Monday Quilters, neighbors and friends that so unselfishly helped. We have made so far over \$5,000 and will have the final count soon.

This year the Quilt went to Guin Jenanyan the Doll to Donna Wamsley and the Afghan to Eric Schweitzer.

Thanks again for a successful event!



Parish Nurses

Health Alert - our weather is changing and already several people have colds/viruses and much coughing. Hand washing frequently is still the best sanitation. For persistent cough, it is recommended that honey be used as a cough suppressant. Safer, fewer side effects of many cough remedies on the market. Flu shots are recommended, the alert is that the strain of virus this year is much more severe than in years past. Exercise and Rest! Try to prepare oneself for the Holidays that are upon us.

Blessings and Good health



UMW News

Dec 2-2pm-Ex Board 9am Planning for 2019, In the Library

Dec 9-7:00 pm-Susanna Circle, Library

Dec 10-11:45 am-Unit Meeting In the Fellowship Hall

Jan 6-2pm-Ex Board 9am Planning for 2018, In the Library

Jan 14-11:45am -Unit Meeting In the Fellowship Hall

Jan 13-7pm-Susanna Circle

Jan 29-2pm- Wesley Circle -In the Fellowship Hall

Stephen Ministry



Our new Stephen Ministers have completed their training and will be commissioned on Dec 8th.

For more information about Stephen Ministry contact Andy Hansen-Smith 360-5985.

GROWING YOUNG

INVESTING IN YOUNG LEADERS

What does "Growing Young" mean?

Upon the recommendation of our Church Council, our congregation applied to be part of a year-long cohort to learn about how to "grow young." We were accepted into this training, with Andy Hansen-Smith, Kong Lee and Yang Soua Fang were selected to join the pastor as our leadership team in this effort.

What is meant by the term "growing young"? It is an effort to make the AVERAGE AGE of the congregation become younger.

How does that work?

Imagine that we have a tally sheet sectioned by age: 0-9, 10-19, 20-29, etc. Now we tally into that grid a line for each person of our congregation in the box that represents their age.

In our English Language Ministry we would see that there are a couple marks in the group under 10, perhaps one or two in the areas of 30's and 40's, a few more in the area of 50's, and then a lot more in the 60's, even more in the 70's, and a large number in the 80's and 90's. The average age is above 70 for our ELM. In the Hmong Language Ministry, while we continue to see young children, we would see a growing gap happening in the 20's, and into the 30's.

To "grow young" means we pay attention to the age groups that are missing or under represented. As we do this, our average age becomes younger. **No one is left out at any age level.**

What can we do to expand our family-in-faith so that **ALL decades** are strongly represented? This is what we are endeavoring to learn through this special cohort.

Special Friends

Those of us that serve Special Friends fist of all pray for those that we know or ask for prayer whatever their need might be. Using compassion, listening, and letting them know we are here for them we try to give comfort.

But we never forget that the Lord is with each of us at all times.

When you are faced with hard changes,

Take a deep breath, put yourself in God's hands,

Trust God's presence with you through the process of change.

And give your sadness and mourning over to God.

You will be supported.

You will be sustained.

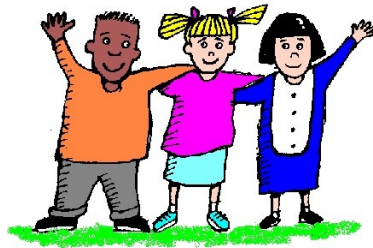
You will be comforted.

And you will be led along the way.

Many of these are learned from life and others from reading.

Service:

Calls	Cards	Visits	Transportation
38	149	12	30



Finance Report

Our General Fund income in October was \$20,353 and expenses were \$28,384. With the carryover of \$892 from September, we ended the month with a deficit of \$7,139.

The large deficit occurred because of the annual electric payment and the quarterly health insurance premium.

We did not make a Conference tithe payment in October because of the deficit. We currently have payments completed through July.

Despite the October deficit, we will make a tithe payment in November using Boutique funds. This should complete the August payment.

What is next for the UMC?

This past September, three members of Memorial UMC were able to attend an important meeting in Leawood, KS, to bring back information about what may happen at the General Conference meeting in May of 2020.

What are the major issues being discussed at this time?

Will the denomination officially split into two or more denominations?

If so, what might happen to our congregation?

What options are available to keep the denomination together and thriving, to the glory of God?

The congregation is invited to attend a free breakfast, followed by a time of learning more about what lies ahead for our denomination. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend:

What is next for the UMC?

Saturday, February 1, 2020

Memorial UMC

free breakfast at 9 am

informational meeting at 10 am





A note from the pastor

This newsletter covers the activities for our congregation for December and January. In these months we will travel through the seasons of Advent, and Christmastide into Epiphany. There is a very different emphasis to guide our devotional life in these different seasons. I want to share with you poems that I find especially meaningful - one for December and one for January.

For December, as we are in Advent and making preparations for our hearts to receive the birth of Christ anew, this "Christmas Prayer" by Henri Nouwen

***Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"***

—Henri J.M. Nouwen

And for January, "The Work of Christmas" by Howard Thurman.

***When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the 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 brothers,
To make music in the heart.***



May your life be blessed as you reflect on these words. -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 11th-14th

CHURCH PHONE: 559-299-4615

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



Advent

Potluck Supper

a cherished tradition



Come out on
SUNDAY, Dec. 1
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
Dinner at 6:00 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.