



*Memorial United  
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# GOOD NEWS!

FEBRUARY / MARCH 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."



## Ash Wednesday Feb 26th

Join us at 6:30 pm on Feb 26 as we will honor the beginning of Lent in a service of worship and imposition of ashes.

Special music will be provided by  
the Chancel Choir

## Lenten Schedule

Starting March 1st

9:15 a.m.-9:45 a.m. -Chapel Service

9:50 a.m. -10 a.m. - Hymn Sing

10 a.m. - 11 a.m. - Combined Service

11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time

11:15 a.m.-12:15 a.m . Sunday School for All



## 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 9, Good Friday, April 10, and Holy Saturday, April 11.

If you are interested in helping with this production in any way contact Richard Fottrell at 559 264-4665.

*December January Birthdays*

**Birthdays will be celebrated on the 4th Sunday, Feb 24th and March 24th, at 11am in the Fellowship Hall.**



Khan	Yang	02/01
Jake	Stoddard	02/02
Pat	Long	02/04
Lucy	Elgin	02/09
Julie	Film	02/09
Peter	Yang	02/15
Ron	Zastovnik	02/16
Dorrie	Osback-Rose	02/19
Xia	Cha	02/20
Xai	Chang	02/20
Iona	Mears	02/20
Jennifer	Yang	02/22
Nao	Lee	02/25
Heidi	Markland	02/25
Teri	Scott	02/26
Linda	Lee	02/27
Susan	Lee	02/28
Sonny	Uwaoma	02/28
Denise	Mattocks	02/29

Jim	Scott	03/02
Tonnah	Her	03/03
Bonnie	McCarty	03/03
Nou	Xiong	03/05
Xeng	Vang	03/07
Kim	Williams	03/09
Pa Ngia	Yang	03/10
Rich	Bonzo	03/11
Kisha	Xiong	03/14
Kathryn	Cabrera	03/16
Kindra	Snow-Walker	03/16
Sienna	Her	03/17
Chee Nou	Vang	03/20
Sharlene	Sautter	03/30

**Starting  
Feb 22.**



Special musical opportunity for your Lenten discipline:

Would you like to ring in a hand chime group for fun and spiritual uplifting? Saturday Mornings 9:30 -10:30 am in the sanctuary. If you can count to 4, you can ring the chimes! People of all ages are warmly invited to participate.

**Second Sunday Lunches**

Opportunities for Fellowship! Second Sunday lunches provide an opportunity to have a delicious lunch in our own Fellowship hall. No reservations needed, no tipping, only 5 dollars, no tax either.

Christians, especially Methodists have always enjoyed sharing food together and are famous for their Potlucks but this food is already prepared for you. Be sure to join us.

Second Sunday Lunch for **February 9th**  
Second Sunday Lunch for **March 8th**

Although Lucy has stepped back from this ministry, she has planned our 2nd Sunday Lunches through June. We thank her for her service on this project.

If you are interested in taking her place please contact the office.



## Fresno Interfaith Scholar Weekend



February 21-23, 2020

Dr. Rajmohan Gandhi

The Interfaith Scholar Weekend in 2020 will be held February 21-23, 2020, with our featured scholar being **Dr. Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mohandas Gandhi**. He is a historian, journalist and peace builder in the non-violent tradition of the Mahatma.

Since 1998, the Fresno Interfaith Scholar Weekend has brought a renown scholar from one of the represented religious traditions to Fresno for a weekend of lectures and events on topics of interest to interfaith audiences. Each year, Interfaith Scholar Weekend is a remarkable experience in adult religious education, offering not only the opportunity to hear the lectures, but also to engage in dialogue both with the scholars and other participants.

During the weekend participants also gain spiritual enrichment from learning and worshiping together with people from varied faith communities, for example, joining in Friday evening prayers at the Islamic Cultural Center or Torah study at Temple Beth Israel. The Scholar preaches at one or more of the participating Christian churches on Sunday morning, giving the opportunity for participants to experience that congregation's worship as well.

Started by Community United Church of Christ and Temple Beth Israel in 1998, the Fresno Interfaith Scholar Weekend now includes sponsors from a wide variety of religious traditions, including Muslim, Sikh, Lutheran, Episcopal, United Methodist, Catholic, and Unitarian faith communities. Still other faith communities and institutions participate as co-sponsors.

### January 2020 Note from Lucy Elgin

January is the month named for the Greek God Janis-the god with two faces:

1 looking back and 1 looking forward.

This month starts a new decade.

I have resigned as 2nd Sunday Lunch Coordinator, which I have done for 2 years.

This is a fellowship with fellow believers; an opportunity to enhance our spiritual life.

I have also resigned as 4th Sunday Birthday Coordinator which I facilitated for 3 years. Recognizing each person's birth date is a very significant occasion.

Fellowship is so very important. I want to thank everyone for their contributions and support over the past

Looking forward-for some unknown reason & (don't blame God) I am struggling with a somewhat rare auto immune disease. This started in December and it will take several months to overcome! Thank heavens my vision is now doing better. I hope to be back to partial activities in February.

Thank you for your concern and prayers

Blessings, Lucy

## WWD,ETC

(Widows, Widowers, Divorcées)

ETC=Anyone Experiencing Loss)

2<sup>nd</sup>& 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays

10 a.m. Church Library

**February 8 & 22, 2020**

**March 14 & 28, 2020**

Fran406-539-4722

## UMW News

February:

3<sup>rd</sup>: 2 PM Executive Board

10<sup>th</sup>: 7 PM Susanna Circle

11<sup>th</sup>: 12:00 PM Unit

27<sup>th</sup>: 2 PM Wesley Circle

March:

2<sup>nd</sup>: 2 PM Executive Board

9<sup>th</sup>: 7 PM Susanna Circle

10<sup>th</sup>: 12:00 PM Unit

25<sup>th</sup>: 2 PM Wesley Circle



## UMM News

The United Methodist Men's Meetings have been moved to an evening meeting on the 2nd Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

February:

13<sup>rd</sup>: 5:30 PM UMM

Meeting, Fellowship Hall

March:

12<sup>th</sup>: 5:30 PM UMM Meeting, Fellowship Hall



## Our Mission Thrift Store



The Mission Thrift Store is proud to announce it was able to donate \$15,000 to MUMC for mission work in 2019!

The Mission Thrift Store continues to be an essential ministry of MUMC. Our thanks goes out to all that help make this work possible whether it be by donating your goods or time.

We ask for your continued support as we look forward to your donations. We are always in need of more workers to sort and price items as well as work on sale days.

If you are interested in working at the Mission Thrift Store, contact:

Gary Gentry at 559 230-7904

## Funeral Receptions

Pat Frey has stepped back from coordinating the kitchen for funeral receptions. We thank her for her many years of service.

If you are interested in taking her place please contact the office.

## Boutique News

Thank you all for your support of our Holiday Boutique.

We appreciate all donations and help that made the event a success. Special thanks to the Quilter Group that meets in the Fellowship Hall on Mondays. They provided items for us to sell and helped serve the lunches and helped clean up in the kitchen. Our group is quite small and would like to invite anyone to check us out, learn a craft or help with a sewing project. We meet every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

## Special Friends



### HOLY CONFERENCEING GUIDELINES:

- ▶ Every person is a child of God. Always speak respectfully. One can disagree without being disagreeable.
- ▶ As you patiently listen and observe the behavior of others, be open to the possibility that God can change the views of any or all parties in the discussion.
- ▶ Listen patiently before formulating responses.
- ▶ Strive to understand the experience out of which others have arrived at their views.
- ▶ Be careful in how you express personal offense at differing opinions. Otherwise dialogue may be inhibited.
- ▶ Accurately reflect the views of others when speaking. This is especially important when you disagree with that person.
- ▶ Avoid using inflammatory words, derogatory names or an excited and angry voice.
- ▶ Avoid making generalizations about individuals and groups. Make your point with specific evidence and examples.
- ▶ Make use of facilitators and mediators.
- ▶ Remember that people are defined, ultimately, by their relationship with God not by the flaws we discover, or think we discover, in their views and actions.

Calls	Cards	Visits	Transportation
37	129	24	26

### What's Next for MUMC?

What is next for the UMC?

This year's General Conference, May 5-15, could be pivotal for our denomination. There is serious talk of creating a split. Yet many do not think that is the best solution. But EVERYONE agrees that significant change needs to be made.

General Conference meets every four years with delegates representing every annual conference. Our annual conference will send 3 clergy and 3 lay people to this global gathering. This year more than most, the decisions made in May have the potential to significantly impact ministry at our local level. Please hold this conference and all who are gathering in your daily prayers.

### Circuit News

Our circuit is testing a new way to be intentionally in mission together in our community. We have identified 3 areas of ministry that impact all of our congregations and the communities we serve in the in the Clovis/Fresno/Kerman area. Those mission focus are:

- Working with YOUTH
- Breaking cycles of POVERTY
- Reaching our Hispanic/Latino NEIGHBORS

We are all very busy doing mission and ministry. Still, our effectiveness in being agents of God's transforming grace does not seem to be having the impact that we desire.

Perhaps there are ministries and activities that we can let go for a season, to allow space to try something new.

Perhaps if we focus our efforts together we can experience a greater transformation in our area.

What would make YOU excited to be involved?  
Share your ideas with Pastor Janette.

## Finance Report

### 2019 BILLS AND CONFERENCE TITHES PAID IN FULL

We paid all our bills, including our Conference Tithe in 2019 and still managed to end the year in the black!

This is despite having a deficit of over \$5,000 at the end of November.

Our General Fund income in December was \$30,018 and expenses were \$22,463. With the November deficit of \$5,192, we ended the year with a balance of \$2,363.



With the fourth quarter payment of \$3,500 from the Thrift Store and \$2,750 from the Boutique, we were able to complete the August, September and October Conference Tithe payments. At the end of the year, we made the November and December payments with General Fund money.

Pledges for 2020 total \$136,784 from 58 pledgers. The average pledge is \$2,393. Last year's pledge totaled \$142,020 from 48 pledgers. The average pledge was \$2,959.

By the end of last year, 28 contributors fell behind their estimate of giving by a total of \$22,773. However, 12 pledgers gave above their pledge by \$7,951, so the pledge line item ended at \$14,822 in arrears. We are always hopeful that estimates of giving can be paid in full.

### IRA ROLLOVER GIFTS

Remember that if you are 70 ½ you may make a charitable IRA Rollover gift to Memorial United Methodist Church that could have significant tax advantages to you.



It allows you to give from pre-tax assets. If you do not itemize, the IRA rollover still allows you to give while receiving tax benefits. Additionally, an IRA rollover gift may help you to avoid income that could push you into a higher tax bracket. Please consult your tax professional for specific ways it may help your tax burden. If you would like to make a charitable IRA rollover gift, just notify your IRA custodian.

## FUMUL

The January "Volunteer In Mission" (VIM) trip to Liberia experienced God's powerful hand leading the group throughout.

Our medical team consisted of Celerina Carlos – and RN and one who trains others RNs, Kisha Xiong – a nurse in training (both of these from our own congregation), Lynette Grandison – a pediatrician from Modesto First UMC, and Rob Poseley – and Physician's Assistant and Fireman from Georgetown UMC. Additionally, Pastor Janette was working with Jr. High and High School girls, teaching women's health.

Here are some highlights of the trip:

Traveled to our UM Hospital in Ganta (Saturday and Sunday) to lead an in-service training on how to use equipment donated from St. Agnes Hospital.

In Monrovia, we spent Monday-Thursday at St. Matthew's mission station. (A mission station has a church, and school and a health clinic.)

The medical team worked with nearly 400 patients in a FREE clinic for 3.5 days. This is more than the clinic usually sees in a month! We were able to do this work because of YOUR donations, and those of the team members and donations from other UMC in our Conference.

Pastor Janette taught women's health and hygiene to 198 young women ranging in age from 11 to 21. This was enabled through "Days for Girls," an organization our congregation has supported for several years now. It was such a blessing to bring the work full circle!

There are MANY more stories to be told! Please invite any of the team members to come and share their stories with you and your ministry team.



## *A note from the pastor*

The season on Lent begins at the end of February. I like to encourage people to prepare themselves for this season of reflection and introspection. The entire process has greater meaning for our lives if we create space for more intentional times of prayer, small group work, reflections.

This year we are making some big changes in our approach to worship on Sunday mornings (see related article on the front page). Additionally, we will begin a worship series that speaks to the busy-ness of our current culture. The worship series invites us to: Fast from hurry, and to fast from worry.

I will confess both of these ideas sound WONDERFUL to me. I will also confess that my brain, very quickly started to plan how I could accomplish spending 7 weeks both reducing hurry and worry and came to the brilliant idea (I am not joking) that I need to work double time in February in order to not hurry in March! HA!

And Wow! Kind of missing the point there, I think! However ridiculous my brain is at times, I bet I am not the only person whose schedule is overly full of truly important work. Is this God's plan for our lives? Let's take a season to discern the answer to that question.

Our worship series invites each of us to create a "prayer chair," to sit intentionally in prayer each day of Lent. Each week at worship we will be given an exercise that can be used to deepen the experience of prayer in the "prayer chair." Where will you place your chair and when will you intentionally spend time in it each day?

Also, we are invited to make a "God Box" – where we can place our worries, and free our hearts to follow Jesus, trusting that God's grace is sufficient for our daily needs. To create a "God box," pick a box (maybe the size of a shoe box) and decorate it in a way that brings to your mind God's love and grace whenever you look at it. Make an opening in the lid of the box, and let go of your worries as you place them in the box. (Then monitor yourself to see if you go back and reclaim the worries....)

During the season of Lent the ELM (English Language Ministry) Adult Sunday School class will spend time with a book that asks the question "Tired of the harried life?" The study will help us to return to God's call on our lives to be grace-filled and generous people, without a pile of stress. That class will be on Sunday morning from 11:15-12:15 beginning March 1. This class can be a big help in learning how to release our worries and not reclaim them. Andy Hansen-Smith will facilitate this class.

No matter what you do to prepare for Lent, or what disciplines you observe throughout the season, I encourage you to take seriously the suggestions on fasting lifted up by Pope Francis. May our lives become less harried, less stressful – and more grace-filled as we move from shadow into the light of God's love which is our through Christ Jesus our Lord.

## DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

*In the words of Pope Francis*

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

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### Body Building with Pastor J

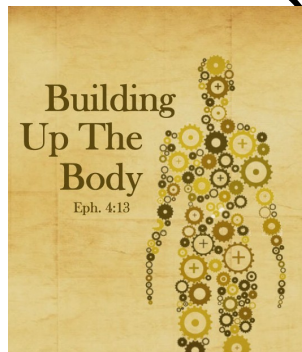
Body Building with Pastor J  
"Building the body of Christ  
one donut at a time."

To build up the body of Christ  
REQUIRES us to be in  
relationship with others.

Pastor Janette would like to spend more time  
hanging out with people, talking, snacking, playing  
games, discussing matters that are important to us  
and to our time.

Body Building with Pastor J will be held one Satur-  
day each month, March through June. Between 9  
a.m. and noon people will have the opportunity to  
stop and hang out with the Pastor, to get to know  
each other better, and let her know what is on  
your heart and mind.

The dates for Body Building with Pastor J are:  
March 7 April 18 May 16 and June 20.



### Heart Healthy Day



**FEBRUARY 29, at 10:30 a.m..**

**AED-CPR Training**

**2 exciting topics will be shared.**

**1 Hearing**

**2 Personal fitness**

Lunch will be Potluck, or  
just plan on attending,  
there is always plenty of food.

It will be a great day,  
sponsored by the Parish Nurses.