



GOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of Clovis Memorial United Methodist Church February 2010 Ph: 299-4615
"The Mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

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SOUper BOWL OF CARING SOUP FUNDRAISER FEB. 7

"Souper Bowl of Caring IX" is coming up on Super Bowl Sunday. The Souper Bowl of Caring is a nation-wide youth fundraiser designed to get us thinking about others more than about football. On February 7, the Holy Club youth group will hold a canned food drive for our Food Pantry and will collect donations to benefit Poverello House. Holy Club members will be standing by with soup pots to take your donations! Thank you!

ALL CHURCH SUPER BOWL PARTY SUN. FEB. 7: Everyone is invited to the Umpteenth Annual All Church Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 7. Game Day starts with a tag football game on the church lawn at 2:30 pm. The OTHER game will start around 3:00 pm, and will be on the "Big Screen" in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your own beverages, pillows, blankets, chairs, etc., and snacks to share with your fellow fans!

FEBRUARY 14 VALENTINE'S DAY AND BOY SCOUT 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, February 14 the Boy Scouts celebrate 100th Anniversary of Scouting and will be with us in worship. Be sure to extend a warm welcome and to affirm their leaders for the work they do with young people. March 14 is Girl Scout Sunday. If there is a troop that would like to be honored that Sunday, let Pastor Denice know.

FAT TUESDAY AND ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Thursday Night Diners Potluck Group meets on Tuesday, February 16 instead of Thursday to celebrate Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. Bring a breakfast style dish to share for this Mardi Grass celebration. Then on Wednesday, the next evening February 17, come at 7 p.m. to the sanctuary for our annual Ash service. We will write on flash paper those things we need to give over to God in our personal lives that keep us from being our best selves and remember that we are creatures, and not God with the sign of the ash on the back of the hand or on the forehead.

THE FAMINE IS COMING! THE FAMINE IS COMING! FEB. 27-28: This month, our youth will participate in the 30-Hour Famine to raise funds to benefit UMCOR, over the weekend of Feb. 27-28. The 30-Hour Famine is a nationwide "hunger-athon" event, during which we go for thirty hours without food to gain an understanding of what it feels like to be hungry. We will begin our fast Friday night, and meet at the church at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, to spend the day together in study, service projects, and fellowship. After a sleepover at the church Saturday night, we will break our fast together Sunday morning before church. Money will be generated from a car wash held that Sunday morning, the 28th at 9:30 a.m., and will be donated to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), to help fight hunger on a global scale. More information available as the date approaches, If you have any questions, please contact Connie Alfaro at (559) 905-2240 or connie@clovismumc.org.

Congregational Life

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Mt. 18:30

INTERFAITH SCHOLAR WEEKEND COMING

SOON! It's almost time for the annual Interfaith Scholars Weekend scheduled for February 19 - 21, 2010. The Opening Lecture, featuring Dr. Yahya Michot speaking on the theme of "Islam: A Faith for the 21st Century" is Friday evening Feb. 19 and is free and will be held at the Islamic Cultural Center, 2111 E. Nees Ave. There is a fee of 40.00 (advance registration) or 45.00 at the door for the Lectures and Discussions on Saturday, Feb. 20 at Temple Beth Israel, 6622 N. Maroa, which includes lunch. The series wraps up Sunday morning with worship at the Unitarian Universalists Church, 2673 E. Alluvial with a sermon by Dr. Michot. This is a great opportunity to learn about the Islamic faith from a foremost American scholar.

THURSDAY NIGHT DINERS: If you have never been, or it's been a long time, come join us this month. We have an exciting line-up for February. Time: 5:45 to 7:45PM

*Reminder: these are only suggestions of what to bring with the exception of Valentines and Fat Tuesday.

- Feb 4 – It's Super Bowl week. Tonight is soup or a bowl of whatever you want to make.

- Feb 11 - Valentines Dinner, celebrating GOD's love for us and ours for him. This will be a sit down dinner fully catered by the Grams. Reservations required by Feb 7th Cost per person \$5.00 to pay at door. Grams 232-1033 or Doris 299-6520

- Feb 16 – Diners moves to **Tuesday** to Celebrate Fat Tuesday. Everyone in our church family is encouraged to attend. Bring a breakfast dish to share: eggs, sausage, breakfast breads, juice, etc.

- Feb 25 - Back to the Thursday night schedule. Tonight is Ethnic Night so bring your favorite ethnic dish.

**PS: IT'S MORE THAN JUST A DINNER

3 SIMPLE RULES: A LENTEN CLASS: Come join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Social Hall during Lent (beginning Sun. February 21) for a new study with Rev. George Elgin. More information to follow.

THRIFT SHOP NEWS JANUARY 2010: In all the fog and dampness, we opened the Thrift Shop for business on January 8th and 9th. We had our faithful regulars waiting anxiously for us to open. It was another great month with receipts of \$1210. We again give thanks to God for all his blessings. It was a good weekend with people coming to shop and to leave donations. I remind you that we are there on the first and third Tuesdays (from 8:00 to about noon) to accept your donations and any other time that is more convenient if you just call for one of us to meet you there. Though, we accept donations when we are open, and are grateful to get them, it is so much easier to receive them at another time. We have so little room and it's difficult to find a place for a large donation. Thank you for understanding. Thanks to all who donated this month, we are grateful to you. And to all our committed volunteers who show up to make the job easier.

-Submitted by Pat Frey

SPECIAL FRIENDS: The Special Friends Group did not meet this month because of my cold and cough. However, reports were made on activities in December which include the following: 43 calls, 30 cards and 2 letters, and 19 visits – reminding those friends how special they are to us as a part of the church family. The next meeting will be Thursday February 11 at 3:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY UMW NEWS

The dates for the UMW Retreat are approaching very fast. It will be March 12-13-14 at ECCO center near Oakhurst. The cost for 2 nights and 5 meals is \$155 for double occupancy, and \$239 for a single room. We have three partial scholarships

available. You will find the forms in the Narthex. We can carpool from the church that Friday afternoon, March 12. The speaker this year is Marcia Whitter and her subject is '12 Extraordinary Women of the Bible'. I know you will have a very rewarding as well as spiritual experience. For more info, call Barbara Nielsen 291-0935 or Dee Carr 291-7316.

FEBRUARY UMW CALENDAR

- Feb 1 – Executive Board meeting 9 a.m. in the Lose Library
- Feb 10 – Red Bird Circle meeting at 9:30 a.m. at Judy Gross' house 1564 Tollhouse Lane 324-8187
- Feb 16 – Regular meeting at 10 a.m. in the Social Hall. Program: Mary Vollman – Book Report on “3 Cups of Tea” Wesley Circle hosts – please bring your own service.
- Feb 24 – Wesley circle meeting at 1 p.m. in the Social Hall

WHO, WHAT, WHEN WHERE AND WHY?

With the start of the new year, it's time to remind everyone where to get information and how to submit information; where the budget and expense reports can be found and how to get reimbursements etc.

First, all financial and ministry information is located in the office in the counter books, three ring binders clearly labeled with the current year. These are located on top of the mail boxes. If you need a voucher for reimbursement, they are located in the drawer on the back of the counter labeled Vouchers. Fill out and submit with receipt, after getting signature of your team leader or another member of your team and put in the Treasurer's box.

If you are a leader of a team, be sure to regularly check your team's mail box. If you want something to go on the web, let Sara know and she and Ron Zastovnik will get it up. AND you can also upload pictures to the Web on your own by following the instructions on our web site.

If you want to get information into the bulletin insert or the Good News submit your information either by email or in writing by dropping it in the Good News basket or the Bulletin Insert basket.

Sara, our secretary, controls the calendar. If you wish to reserve a room or space for an activity, fill out the Calendar slip and if you want an email reminder but that on there too and put in Sara's basket on her desk.

If you want to know who is the leader of what, look in the front of the ministry counter book for this year and you will find the lay leadership report there. In this issue is a reduced copy of the current report. SAVE IT for future reference.

If you need an updated address directory please check the counter bin for fresh copies or ask Sara to print you out one. And if any of your contact information has changed including email, please get the information to the office. Thank you.

THANK YOU: Blessings and many thanks to Pastor Denice and my friends at MUMC for the visits, calls, cards and prayers during my hospital stay before Christmas. I am doing well and am anxious to get started with our Boutique meetings. God Bless, Louise Smith.

A SPECIAL THANKYOU TO JULIE FILM: Julie the microwave king, noticed that the Social Hall microwave was not working properly, and surprised us all by donating a brand new microwave for our kitchen. THANK YOU JULIE!

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH CALENDAR

- SUNDAY 02/07/10 – SOUPER BOWL OF CARING; 2:30 P.M. SUPER BOWL PARTY, FELLOWSHIP HALL *NO EVENING MEETING**
- SUNDAY 02/14/10 – 5:30 P.M. MEETING, BUNGALOW**
- SUNDAY 02/21/10 – 5:30 P.M. MEETING, BUNGALOW**
- FRIDAY 02/26/10 – 30-HOUR FAMINE**

BEGINS

-SATURDAY 02/27/10 - 8:00 A.M. 30-HOUR FAMINE LOCK-IN STARTS

-SUNDAY 02/28/10 - 8:00 A.M. 30-HOUR FAMINE ENDS; 9:30 A.M. 30 HOUR FAMINE CAR WASH *NO EVENING MEETING

FROM THE PASTOR

LESLIE'S SALT SHAKER:

Anhello Tree: What About The Unread Deep Longings?

There were so many responses to the invitation to share longings for God's promised future by completing the sentence, "I long for the day when....." written by worshipers on the lavender, blue and white fan folded slips of paper that our Advent Anhello Tree (Tree of Deep Longing) bloomed with hope all through the Advent season; a wonderful visual of our expectation and anticipation of God's work. Because we were only able to read a few of the longings each Sunday in both worship services, we barely made a dent in the number of buds that fanned out into full blooms. Those that were read expressed very moving, poignant and heartfelt longings ranging from desires for loved ones, local concerns to world peace. Rest assured, no desire will go unread and lifted up. The remaining longings have been removed and I am reading 6 - 8 at a time and offering them in daily prayer. Thank you to all who participated in helping us catch a vision of God's will for all of creation as we prepared for God's coming to us in Christ.

Ordinary Time Leads to Transfiguration

In January we entered into Ordinary Time as we move from the celebration of the Epiphany (making Jesus person and mission known) with the challenge in the gospel readings to reflect on our mission as a church and our lived out faith as disciples. Finally we follow Jesus up the mountain where the light becomes so obvious its unavoidable message blinds us with the persistence of

God's intent. Then on the heels of St. Valentine's Day, February 14, which falls on a Sunday this year, is Ash Wednesday with our Ash Service February 17 at 7 p.m. The Wow! Potluck Diners Group is having a Fat Tuesday meal the Tuesday before at 5:45 p.m. on February 16 in the Fellowship Hall. If you come bring some type of hearty breakfast style dish like eggs and sausage or pigs in a blanket, or biscuits and gravy, pancakes, or some creamy high cal dessert, etc.

February Paradox of Valentines, Fat and Ash

The idea of Fat Tuesday known traditionally as Shrove Tuesday means to shrove or rid one's kitchen of all fat: lard, butter, cream, saved grease for cooking and the like as a spiritual discipline for "giving up" these "comfort food" ingredients and turning one's heart instead to a renewed focus on God. And of course what better way to do that than to have a party! A Mardi Grass like in New Orleans! Sin boldly in order to repentant (?) Anyway—it's fun!

An Attitude for Lent

This year I would like to encourage us to enter Lent with a sense of anticipation in a similar way as we entered the season of Advent: with a hopeful expectancy of the mighty activity of God in our midst with the continued power of the Spirit at work through us to make real what God has done, is doing and will do. Hmm...Tree of Deep Longing for God's Promised future to the Resurrection Victory Garden on Easter morning! What a strong visual image of God's saving grace at work in our world to overcome life -denying death dealing forces.

Always with hope and anticipation for what God is doing among us and thanksgiving for all of you, and for the privilege of ministry here with you,
-Pastor Denise Leslie

P.S. Thank you to all who remembered me and my family at Christmas!