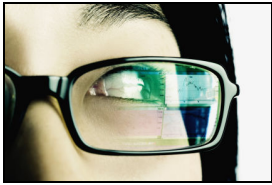


GOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of Clovis Memorial United Methodist Church March 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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HEALTHY HEART LUNCHEON MARCH 6: February was recognized as Heart month, and a special day (Feb. 5) was set aside for wearing red to bring awareness that Heart Disease is the #1 killer of women. There are other opportunities for information on this important issue. Our MUMC observance organized by the Parish Nurses and the support of several others (some of them men, too!) is set for SATURDAY MARCH 6th. We will have an AED (defibrillator) update, a Heart Healthy potluck at noon, and a speaker, Dr. Lieu, a Kaiser cardiologist who is willing to come and share more "heart Facts" despite his being on call that Saturday. We are hoping to have Joanne Sommer Grant – a Cardiologist NP with us also. There will be an abundance of hearts, questions and prizes (including a special door prize!). Bring your favorite heart healthy special for the potluck and come prepared for an exciting luncheon. March 6th 2010 from 11 am to 1:30 or 2:30 pm. See you there!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERING 3/14: Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing help to ensure designated projects are funded 100% so that working in 17 UM community based health programs in Africa and Asia continue to provide healing and hope for this vulnerable population. These programs provide nutritious food and clothing as well as skills to help the impoverished stay healthy and have enough.

LENT EXERCISE CHALLENGE: Diane and Sara have resolved to take on an exercise challenge over the 40 days of Lent. The challenge works a bit like a jog-a-thon; they will find people to pledge either a flat amount, or an amount per day that they fulfill the challenge. If you would like to accept the challenge too, or be a sponsor, please see the 'cloud' poster board in the Narthex (or Sara or Diane) for more information and signup details. The proceeds will all go to the Easter offering.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME: Mark your calendars! It's time to 'spring forward' your clocks on Sunday March 14th!

EASTER SEASON AT MUMC: There is a lot going on at MUMC and Academy during the Easter season; please see page __ for service details. The basic schedule will be as follows:

- Sunday March 28: Combined Worship for Palm/Passion Sunday at 10:30 am – processional line up at 10 am in the Narthex.
- Thursday April 1: Holy Thursday services at 12 noon and 7 pm in the Sanctuary. A simple supper potluck will be held in the Social Hall at 5:45 pm
- Friday April 2: Good Friday services at MUMC will be held at 12 noon and 7pm. There will also be a Good Friday service at Academy church at 6 pm.
- Sunday April 4: Sunrise service at Academy Church at 7am; Combined Easter Sunday worship at 10:30 am - processional line up at 10 am in the Narthex; afternoon service at Academy at 2 pm.

MUMC EASTER SEASON EVENTS

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 & Lucy Elgin.

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY COMBINED SERVICE 3/28:

We look forward to our annual Palm Processional followed by the reading of the Passion of Christ according to the Gospel of Luke will be in a combined service of worship on Sunday, March 28, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. Our Chancel Choir Director, Harriet Aloojian will sing "He Was Despised," from Handel's Messiah at the conclusion of the reading. The stripping of the church will follow, symbolizing the absence of the Lord until the resurrection. We thank the Harkins and Spencers for donations of their palms.

PALM PROCESSION LINE UP 10 A.M. 3/28:

All youngsters, young adults and anyone young at heart is invited to line up for the Procession of Palms in the church lobby beginning at 10 a.m. for the combined Palm/Passion service at 10:30 a.m. The Imagine Jesus' Brother's Band will help us celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

TWO HOLY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICES: 12

NOON & 7 P.M.: Do you work or do you not drive after dark? This year we will offer two services of Holy Thursday Communion on Thursday, April 1, 2010. The first will be at 12 noon in the sanctuary. The second will be at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. The evening service will be preceded by a Simple Supper of foods which Jesus and the Disciples would have eaten at the Last Supper. This is a potluck. Please bring nuts, flat breads, cheese, dried fruits, fresh fruits (think Mediterranean area: citrus, grapes, figs, dates.) and the soup will be provided.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES: ACADEMY AND

MEMORIAL 4/2: There will be three services on Good Friday this year: The first will be at noon in the sanctuary, the second will be at 6 p.m. at the Academy Church on Madsen Rd (168 east to past Academy Ave. to a left on Madsen to church on left.). The third service will be at Memorial at 7 p.m. Select the time best for you to mark the crucifixion of the Lord.

EASTER SUNDAY: SUNRISE AND VICTORY

CELEBRATION SERVICES: Two services celebrating the resurrection are scheduled for Easter Sunday April 4, 2010: Sunrise at the Academy Church (see Good Friday for directions) at 6 p.m. and Memorial at 10:30 a.m. (Combined worship services). If you are interested in the Sacrament of Baptism please contact Pastor Denice. This service begins with the Return of the Light with the new fire out front of the sanctuary. Those with mobility problems are welcome to be seated inside. The service opens with the Victory Procession as we bring Easter in to the church.

VICTORY PROCESSION LINE UP AT 10 A.M.

EASTER SUNDAY: All of our young folks and families are encouraged to participate in the Easter Victory Procession Easter Sunday morning. The lineup will be at 10 a.m. in the lobby of the church. The procession enters bringing all of the beauty and freshness of Easter into the barren "tomb" of the church during the singing of Christ the Lord is Risen Today following the Return of the Light. See elsewhere to sign up for an Easter flower. There will be a flower cross for little ones to adorn with daffodils; parents welcome too!

Congregational Life

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

THRIFT SHOP NEWS FEBRUARY 2010: It was a really really wet weekend. But God is so good! The rain lessened on Friday morning so we had our usual regulars anxiously awaiting our opening. And the weather for most of that day was reasonable. Saturday, went pretty well until an hour before closing when the rain came down in buckets. We scrambled to get things inside and managed to stay open until our regular closing time. It was well worth the effort because we again took in almost \$1200. We give thanks and praise to God who takes such good care of us. Our donations were down a bit this month but that wasn't obvious from our sales. And again we thank you, our donators, for all you do. And, again thanks to all our faithful volunteers who give so much. Blessings to each of you!!
-Submitted by Pat Frey

THURSDAY NIGHT DINERS MARCH CALENDAR:

♣ March 4th - Soup, Salad or Sandwich Night

- ♣ March 11th - Earth Day is March 20th, bring a vegetable Dish
 - ♣ March 18th - St Patrick's Celebration, wear green, make a dish to compliment Corned Beef
 - ♣ March 25th - Easter Dinner - Bring a dish to compliment a Ham Dinner
 - ♣ Diners will be Dark April 1st and 8th returning on April 15th
 - ♣ April 15th - Take me out to the Ball Game - celebrating opening Season
- ** Remember - it's more than just a meal – it's fellowship

SPECIAL FRIENDS: Special Friends met February 11th, sharing the mission statement for MUMC. The scripture reading was from Romans 12:1-5 and the meditation on shaping Christian community was taken from the Alive Now magazine for January and February. The articles in this magazine issue make good reading as we work together to show God's love everywhere. We briefly shared where God has been at work in each of our lives, and then shared our reports on Special Friends. Together we made 48 phone visits, 27 visits, and sent 23 cards. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 11th at 3:30 pm in the Lose Library. It's no small gift to be a faith community, to worship, to witness, and to walk the way of love in the name and strength of Jesus. Blessings, Lorraine.

OUR TODDLERS NEED YOUR HELP! The toddlers would like some new things to play with. Could you help us? We have a lollipop tree in the Narthex with a list of items that they would like to have. Please help by leaving a donation in the box and taking an item off of our lollipop tree. Thank you! – the toddlers and staff

UMW NEWS

March:

- 1st : 9am, Executive Board
- 10th : 9:30 am Red Bird Circle in the Library
- 16th: 10am, Pauline Middleton – “Slides on Palestine” – Ex Board hostess
- 24th : Wesley Guild 1pm in the Social Hall

2010 EASTER OFFERING: ETHNIC MINORITY

CONGREGATIONS FUND: Over the years we have received \$279,000.00 (!) from our California-Nevada conference churches in support of Hmong ministry here at Memorial. That is a lived grace! That is true Christian community! Think of all the little United Methodist

Churches in every burg and hamlet and metropolitan area all over central to northern California and our fourteen churches in Nevada and how they've all provided for us out of their means! This year we have decided to make the Ethnic Minority Congregations Fund our Easter Offering in thanksgiving for life lived in shared mission that we may help out other missions just like our own in other parts of our conference and continue funding Hmong ministry all over the annual conference with pastoral support as well as other ethnic evangelistic missions. So give generously that we may be a part of new life in Christ for new Christians among new communities of Americans. Watch your mail for the Easter letter and Easter Offering Envelope.

HEARING ASSISTANCE: Memorial has a number of hearing assist receivers for anyone who has difficulty hearing in the Sanctuary. In fact they really make it easier to hear, even if you have good hearing. There are two types of earphones that can be used with the receivers.

1) The traditional type of head phones that are held over the ears with a band over the head. If you have hearing aids in both ears, this may be the type you need. The church has a few headphones.

2) Small ear buds that stick in your ears like what is used for iPods, and other portable audio devices. They are very easy to put in and don't mess up the hair. They are not very noticeable in the ear. They will not work with a hearing aid in the ear. We don't keep earbuds on hand because there is sanitary concerns as they may have been in other people's ears. The solution is to bring your own. If you don't wear hearing aids and would like to hear with both ears, you can buy a pair of stereo ear buds almost anywhere. (K-mart, Walmart, Target, K-mart, Rite aid, CVS, Sears, etc.) and bring the with you to church. They cost between \$6 and \$15. (The type used with cell phones and wireless phones will not work.) We do have two types that you can buy and keep: Stereo ear buds to use with both ears, or just use one in one ear. These do have a tendency to get tangled. Cost: \$5 single earbud for use in one ear. Less tendency to tangle. Cost \$10 Contact the church office or Ron Zastovnik.

INFORMATION NEEDED: If anyone has any contact information for the family of a past member named Roger D. Burroughs, or remembers what object at the church was dedicated to him, could you please contact the office? We recently found a plaque with his name on

it that looks like it was previously affixed to something, but we have no contact information for the family, or clue as to what the object was. Thanks!

THANK YOU: Gloria McClanahan dearly thanks everyone for caring and praying for her foot surgery recovery.

SOME SPECIAL GIFTS GIVEN IN 2009 RECOGNIZED:

Remember how our front door slammed shut so horribly? Many people were embarrassed about it. Helen McGoughy approved funds from Gene McGoughy's Memorial Fund to have it repaired. --turned out the whole lock for both the doors in that doorway needed to be replaced so it was a rather expensive item. We are grateful. Also, remember how the refrigerator in the Fellowship Hall kitchen was acting up--freezing and not cooling? Thanks to Roger and Barbara Gram's donation the repair, including a new thermostat regulator, the refrigerator is performing correctly. Thank you, Roger and Barbara Grams. If there are other gifts to be recognized in this paper, please inform us--we do not wish to leave anyone out.

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH CALENDAR

- ♣ **SUNDAY 03/07/10 - 5:30 P.M. THE EASTER EXPERIENCE, PART 3**
- ♣ **SUNDAY 03/14/10 - 5:30 P.M. THE EASTER EXPERIENCE, PART 4**
- ♣ **SUNDAY 03/21/10 - 5:30 P.M. THE EASTER EXPERIENCE, PART 5**
- ♣ **SATURDAY 03/27/10 - 8:00 A.M. POVERELLO HOUSE WORK DAY**
- ♣ **SUNDAY 03/28/10 - 5:30 P.M. THE EASTER EXPERIENCE, PART 6**

"THE EASTER EXPERIENCE" HOLY CLUB STUDY CONTINUES: *THE HOLY CLUB YOUTH GROUP CONTINUES A SPECIAL BIBLE STUDY CALLED "THE EASTER EXPERIENCE," WHICH ASKS US THE QUESTION: "WHAT WOULD WE DO IF JESUS WERE HERE TODAY, TAKING ACTION IN OUR LIVES AS HE DID IN THE DISCIPLES' LIVES?" THROUGH A SERIES OF DVD EPISODES, WE ARE LED THROUGH JESUS' LAST DAYS ON EARTH IN A WAY THAT WILL HELP US UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF THE RESURRECTION. OH, AND KRISTI? THIS AIN'T DR. METZGER!*

FROM THE PASTOR

COACHES CORNER: We need to downsize our management structure. But, you say, I thought we just did that not too long ago? We did. Now that we've had experience with the new structure I realized we still have close to 35% of those gifted in areas of our Key Initiatives too tied up in administrative duties. We only need 90% of our spiritual gifts deployed in ministry and mission outreach. The remaining 10@ are more than gifted to the administrative work of the church with the proper checks and balances and transparency in place as appropriate. In fact, I know the Administrative Support Teams would be delighted to have guests at meetings! I say this after attending a Simple Church workshop. If the purpose of the church is spiritual nurture and birth of disciples who serve in world transforming ways to be the gospel and bring the gospel, then the mission deserves the bulk of our resources, our time, our talents, our best efforts. The supportive administrative function is absolutely crucial to permitting our ministry to go forward. But there are good servants blessed with the gift of administrative stewardship who can do this in their sleep. They need to do it. The rest need to be freed up for the core ministry of the church. So, an analysis of where this can happen is taking place in my head. If you have suggestions, speak to me. **Meanwhile let's all go out and Show and Tell Jesus' Love in all we do. Pastor Denice**

LESLIE'S SALTSHAKER: Easter is coming! And Spring time weather! And green trees and wild flowers and longer days!! I love this time of year! Even as the chill this morning caused me to put on an extra layer of clothes, and the gray sky that has threatened all day is now pattering the pavement outside the office window with cold rain as I write. We can't help but appreciate the sunshine all the more when it breaks through a storm cloud sky. So it is with the message of Easter. Whatever threatens, frightens, demoralizes or dis-empowers us is brought down to size when the Light of Christ streaming through our lives. The Easter word is resurrection. A word that raises us in the here and now and on into the future on beyond all that is death dealing bringing hope and energy and renewed commitment to our discipleship. Thank God for the Risen Christ! Thank God for the love and redeeming grace given in made real in his resurrection. Thank God for calling us to be citizens of Christ's New Community. Thank God for empowering us and giving us each other, for giving us good work to do! Let us walk the way of Lent with the firm assurance that the last word is not the agony of Jesus' cross or the power that put him there. The last word is the Word of God that is overcoming the world. Let the people say Amen! And on Easter Sunday morning, Alleluia!