



GOOD NEWS

The Newsletter of Clovis Memorial United Methodist Church Apr-May 2011 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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PEPSI BOOTH at Clovis Big Hat Days: On **Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3**, from 9am to 6p.m., volunteers are needed to work in a **Pepsi Booth** in downtown Clovis. It's a fun way to spend a few hours, getting to know other church members and help the church raise some money, but more importantly, representing Memorial UMC to the community. The signup sheets will be circulated during the next few weeks. Please call LaDonna Snow for information.

ALL CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY TO BE HELD SATURDAY, APRIL 9TH FROM 9A.M. TO 2 P.M.

Everyone is needed to clean our church for Easter! Bring cleaning supplies and come to the church on Saturday, April 9. Join us at 9AM to clean up both the inside and outside of church. The following materials might be useful, bring them if you are able: Cleaning rags, bucket, squeegee, foam sponges, cleanser, brooms, mops, glass-cleaner, pledge or other furniture polish. Step stool or step ladder (if you are comfortable using it) Regular and ShopVac type vacuums. Please come dressed for housekeeping work – we are going to be going after all the dust and dirt we can find. It will be fun and make our church sparkle for Easter Sunday; AND a picnic lunch will be provided at noon. If you can only come for part of the time, join us for as long as you are able. Signup sheets are in the narthex. Contact Stan or Guin Jenanyan with questions.

COME SAIL WITH US! We have a sailing outing planned for April 10th! We will be leaving from church around 12:30 p.m.. Please bring a sack lunch with drink and/or snacks. We hope to have the sails up by 1:30 and start sailing through the calming waters! It's a great way relax and learn a little something about sailing. We have room for about 12 people so sign up if you want to be a part of this event. There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex if you are interested. Bring a flannel or sweatshirt, a hat, and sun glasses. This will be a lot of fun so hope to see you there! - Matt Babcock

EASTER OFFERING – This year, our Easter offering will be split between one of our apportionments, the Ministerial Education Fund, and an African Pastors' Pension Fund. The Ministerial Education Fund helps to pay for schooling expenses for UM pastors, and the African Pastor's Pension Fund helps to fund the pensions of pastors in Africa, who are often left without any kind of pension once they are retired.

SERVICES IN HOLY WEEK

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on April 17th. This will be a joint service of the Imagine and traditional services, starting at 10:30 a.m., led by the youth group. They are working hard throughout March and April to have the service be an inspirational experience for all who gather that morning.

- Maundy Thursday will be an exploration of the Passover meal, Jesus' last meal with the disciples. The meal is a celebration of liberation. As we gather at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall, if possible, please bring with you a small object that represents some way in which during this past year you have experienced God's liberating power. (If you would like to do so, be prepared to share briefly about the experience with those gathered.) We will have Holy Communion and transition into the passion and redeeming work of Good Friday.
- Good Friday service will be held at Academy church at 7 p.m. This will be a tenebrae service, in which the scriptures will be read and candles extinguished as we move towards the crucifixion, death and burial of Jesus.
- Easter Sunrise Service will again be at academy at 7 a.m. We will gather to celebrate our risen Lord in the beautiful country setting.
- Easter services at MUMC will be at the usual times – 9:30 Imagine and 11 traditional. We will have a special "eye witness" account of the resurrection at both services.
- BYOBasket egg hunt will happen between the worship services on Easter Sunday. See the related articles elsewhere in this newsletter for full details.
- Easter afternoon will have a potluck at Academy church at 12:30 p.m., with a worship service at 2:30 p.m. Again, the "eye witness" will be on hand to tell the story of the resurrection to the congregation gathered. All of these services will be times that are very appropriate to invite family and friends to attend! Start making your plans now to be present and prayerfully inviting others to join you.

UPCOMING EVENTS



BYOBasket Egg Hunt – will happen at 10:30 a.m.. (between services) on Easter Sunday. Because there is some concern about having too much sugar, we plan to hide plastic eggs that are empty, which kids of all ages can exchange for prizes. That's right – kids of all ages! There will be a hunt for tots, and

then hunts for beginning, inter-

mediate and expert egg hunters!

How can you help?

We need donations of:

Plastic eggs - empty

Prizes – such as party favors from the Dollar Tree
Cash is helpful, too!

We need volunteers:

People who worship at 11 a.m. to hide eggs between 10-10:30 a.m.. on Easter

People who worship at 9:30 a.m.. to handle the prize booth after the hunt

Folks from any worship service to help supervise the different hunting areas

Bring donations to the church office. Volunteers please sign up through the church office – by phone (559.299.4615) in person, or by email (memumc@mem-umc.org).

The Parents' Tme Out (PTO) group has made a commitment to do an activity together at least once a month – usually on the first Sunday of the month.

PTO: BALLROOM DANCING

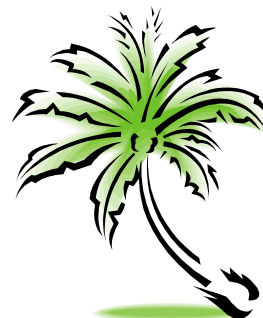
In APRIL the outing will be on the SECOND SUNDAY – April 10, when we learn ballroom dancing with MUMC's Edie Dyer as our teacher. We will meet at the church parking lot at 5 p.m. to carpool to Wesley UMC where there is a large room that has no carpeting – perfect for dancing! We will return to the church about 7:30 p.m.. EVERYONE is invited to join the fun evening together. There is no charge for this event.

PTO: BIKE RIDE: Bike with Mike on May 1! We'll leave from the church at 5:00 p.m., stop at Sonic for dinner, and for those adventuresome folks, we can bike further on and then return to the church. Come join us!



LAWN GAMES! The 5th Sunday event – May 29 will be the second 5th Sunday of 2011 (there are 4 most years). PTO plans to play lawn games, beginning at 5 p.m. on the church lawn – in the shade where possible! Bring any lawn games you enjoy playing and picnic-like foods to share. We have located at least one set of bocce balls to give that a try! We'll wrap up the games by 7:30 p.m.

PALM SUNDAY SKIT PRACTICE: the Children/Youth Sunday School classes will be participating in the Palm Sunday worship by presenting a short play during worship. The children & youth will be working on the play and making costumes during the Sunday School class time at 11 a.m. from the end of March until Palm Sunday (April 17). Additionally, all children and youth who would like to be in the play will gather for a special dress rehearsal on Friday, April 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of MUMC. Please talk with Laura Williams to get your children involved in this fun ministry!



HEADS UP: a very special all-congregation party is being planned for the third 5th Sunday activity! Mark your calendar NOW and plan to join the fun on July 31st. Dorrie, Judy, Janet, Ian and Mando are making plans now for a fun time for everyone! You will want to be part of this for sure!

HONORING VOLUNTEERS:

The Lay Leadership Team is delighted with the work and ministries that are happening in and around MUMC that are accomplished in large measure by the work of volunteers. We want to lift prayers of celebration for these many people in the following way:

During worship time on Mothers' Day we will honor our "*mothers in the faith*" by acknowledging the inspiration and dedication of the women in the congregation who give their time so joyfully to support the ministries and mission of MUMC. On Fathers' Day we will honor our "*fathers in the faith*".

We plan to create a picture/video montage set to appropriate music accompaniment, with images of women and men serving God through volunteer ministries. It is anticipated that these video segments will take 4-5 minutes. If you have particular pictures or people that you especially would like to be included, please let Rick Hutchison or Pastor Janette know – or email the pictures to the church office: memumc@mem-umc.org.



PENTECOST MUSIC FESTIVAL: Pentecost is a wonderful day and important to observe as a congregation. It is one of the "floating" holy-days of the church, meaning it does not occur on the same date each year.

The emphasis of the story of Pentecost (found in Acts chapter 2) on launching of the missional church through the power of the Holy Spirit to carry the Gospel to people of all nations and languages is one that we need to honor with a multicultural event. However, the "floating" date of Pentecost makes it difficult to be able to get the fullness of the ministries here at MUMC to commit to being together each year for this celebration.



Therefore (following the teaching of Jesus that the Sabbath is made for man – not man for the Sabbath): here at MUMC we will observe Pentecost on the third Sunday of May each year.

This year – and hopefully in the succeeding years – we will gather with all the various language ministries to have a music festival at 7 p.m. The emphasis will be on praising God through music, and celebrating the great diversity we enjoy, which God's has created and blessed, as witnessed by the story of Pentecost.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the **Multicultural Pentecost Music Festival on Sunday, May 15, 2011, 7 p.m. here at MUMC!** This is an EXCELLENT event to bring family, friends and neighbors to meet our congregation and be inspired through music!

Also that night....

UNITED METHODISTS WILL "CHANGE THE WORLD!"

Our denomination would like each local congregation to do some ministry in their community that can bring about change locally and at a global level. MUMC has decided to Change the World by hosting a free ice cream social at 6 p.m. for the community, followed by our multicultural music festival! This can be a wonderful opportunity to introduce people to our facility and our ministries.

During the events of the evening we will also provide information about the scourge of malaria in Africa, and have an opportunity to donate to "Nothing But Nets" to help eradicate malaria in the next 5 years!

Much more information will be forth coming – lots to be doing to get ready! RIGHT NOW – get out your calendar and save the date of May 15 for a wonderful evening of inspiring ministry!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

When I was asked to write an article on the Worship Committee, I struggled with just how to proceed. My first instinct was to just explain the process that we go through in preparing the worship content. We start with the Scripture for that Sunday and how the pastor is incorporating that into her sermon. We then select hymns that will complement the theme of the sermon. In addition, each hymn is further analyzed based upon where it falls in the Order of Worship and what congregational response we are attempting to create with each. This sometimes takes an hour or two to complete.

More important is the personal satisfaction we get from successfully creating an Order of Worship that enhances the worship experience for the congregation. That is, after all, the primary purpose of the planning. It's a ministry that can only be appreciated by participating in it. I would invite anyone in the congregation to attend one of these planning sessions to observe, first hand, the dedication of those who have accepted this as their ministry.

-Submitted by Max Cannon

ANNUAL CONFERENCE CORNER

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT: What happens at the Annual Conference Session held in June each year? Lorraine May and Edie Dyer offer another glimpse: "Wednesday evening, during an elaborate Celebration of Communion, we felt blessed receiving the bread and the fruit of the vine from Rev. Paul Joseph Yang. Thursday, at 4:00p.m was a highlight of the Convention." "Celebration of Life & Reaffirmation of Baptism: The Waters of Our Birth." The service, videos, music and readings were beautiful, moving spiritual and inspired." "The Waters of Our Birth" were continually lifted up, to pour back into a large glass bowl.

On Friday the Conference offering was taken. At that time, we also contributed the special offering that had been taken at Memorial for us to give to the Conference. The offering went to the Gilead Center for Children & Ethelou Talbert Shelter for Girls. The music was glorious, uplifting and fun. Dr. Marcia McFee was Worship Leader for Annual Conference. Every session started with singing, backed up with instrumentalists and singers on stage. Praise songs and hymns were sung before each gathering. Wednesday evening Edie joined the "pick-up choir", and sang "Gathered As One".



FAIR TRADE: A TASTE OF JUSTICE

Coffee and fellowship come together where we share community. A warm pot of coffee is often the centerpiece of fellowship gatherings. As one of the most heavily traded commodities in the world, coffee is a direct link between our community and farming communities in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Yet the small farmers who grow our coffee often struggle just to make a simple living. Most live in rural communities in some of the poorest countries of the world. Isolated from markets, they are forced to accept low prices and may be paid an amount for the beans they toil so hard to grow that is less than the cost of production. Without affordable credit, they can become trapped in a cycle of debt and many lack access to adequate housing, healthcare, and education.

We are called by God to respond where there is injustice and there is a way we can do this and still enjoy our morning cup of coffee. By buying Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate, you are purchasing quality products that have met certain criteria. For a coffee, tea or chocolate importer to become Fair Trade certified, they must agree to pay a fair minimum wage to the grower for beans or leaves, help to provide healthy and safe working conditions for laborers, assure that child labor laws are not being abused, support environmentally sustainable practices, etc. By purchasing Fair Trader Certified products, we show our support for an equitable partnership between marketers in North America and growers in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. We can help farmers build better lives for themselves and their families.

There has been a renewed interest in having Fairly Traded items available for purchase at the church like we have had in the past and you will be hearing more about this when they arrive from the Equal Exchange United Methodist Committee on Relief Coffee Project. For more information, see Sue DeFranco or Diane Zastovnik.

"I want you to share your bread with the hungry, open your home to the homeless poor, remove the yoke of injustice, let the oppressed go." -Isaiah 58

CHOCOLATE BUNNIES OR JESUS CHRIST?

At Easter, are we celebrating the risen Christ, Jesus' triumph over the tomb, or is the Easter bunny at the center of our festivities? If we focus on the former, maybe it will im-



pact how we indulge in the latter. We all know chocolates don't come from rabbits. But how aware are we of where they do come from? Too often it is the slave labor of children. Major chocolate companies agreed in 2001 that within four years they would not purchase cocoa products from growers who used child labor. Deadlines came and went but most practices didn't change. Sadly, Hershey has not agreed to any third party certification on the working conditions of its growers. Nestle has minimal protection for workers (UTZ certified). Mars and Kraft are slightly better with their Rainforest Alliance certification (30% of ingredients comply). Equal Exchange and Theo Chocolate are IMO Fair for Life certified (at least 50% compliance). Several smaller companies are Fair-Trade certified (100% of primary ingredients comply). Whole Foods carries Alter Eco, Divine, Green & Black and Theo. Green & Black is also available at most locations of Savemart, CVS, Walgreens and Target. -- The Green Team

A MINISTRY OF THE FULL CONGREGATION: Outreach to the Hmong Community through Funeral Ministry.

Conversations and plans are moving forward for a joint ministry venture with Grace UMC in Fresno to provide an outreach ministry to the Hmong community through providing a beautiful and reasonably priced space in which to host their funerals, which last several days. The plans would involve the use of the buildings at Grace UMC to use for the weekend-long events. If our plans proceed as hoped, we may be able to begin using the facilities starting in the coming month. There is work to be done – both mental and physical! The AST and Network ministries have all affirmed that this is a ministry of our entire congregation, and all members of MUMC are encouraged to be involved in some way.



Please join us at Grace UMC (Fourth & Balch in Fresno) for a time of cleaning and preparation on Saturday, March 26, between the hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will be reorganizing, moving furniture and cleaning the spaces we will need to use in order to be ready to host a funeral service. This will be a good opportunity to work together across languages and cultures as we build the body of Christ within our congregation

and by reaching out to the community.

A MESSAGE FROM HOSPITALITY:

The coffee tea and treats served between the services continue to be a successful way of making connections between the two groups that attend worship. Laughter fills the social hall and it won't be long before we can meet outdoors again.



Help is needed to continue to have the delicious treats that initially draw people to the conversation. **We need a constant, consistent flow of delicious items and we will have a sign up sheet on the table for the next several months.** If you need a reminder, place a "star" next to your name with your phone number.

If you leave items in the large refrigerator in the Social Hall, please affix a label to the item. The labels will be in a plastic bag on the outside of the refrigerator. **Please place a label on the outside** of the container so we all know what the item is to be used for and when. If the hospitality team spots cookies or punch in the fridge, it's likely to be served that day – even if you needed it for that night. If the items are left for more than 2 weeks, they will be thrown in the trash.

ACADEMY CHURCH CIRCLE CALENDAR:

- March 26, 2011
 - 8:00 a.m. – Rummage sale fundraiser! Red Barn on Shaw and Academy.
- April 22, 2011
 - 7:00 p.m. – Good Friday services
- April 24, 2011
 - 7:00 am – Sunrise services in the Pavilion area
 - 12:30 p.m. – Easter potluck served in the pavilion area
 - 2:30 p.m. – Easter Services
- May 22, 2011
 - 12:30 p.m. – Bake Sale in the Pavilion area
 - 2:30 p.m. – Armed Forces service honoring fallen military personnel

SAVE MART SHARES CARDS: The church received a check for \$401.24 for the Oct/Nov/Dec quarter from the SaveMart SHARES program. This is an extremely easy way to raise funds for the church. Anytime you shop at SaveMart, just hand the cashier your SHARES card and the church gets credit. If you don't have a card, you can get one from the red basket in the Narthex. The most we have received in one quarter so far is \$404. Let's see if we can beat that next time!

PARSONAGE MEETING MARCH 6 FOLLOWUP

The congregation gathered on March 6 to hear a report on the merits and concerns in a proposed plan to purchase a parsonage for MUMC. There was a nice presentation of the findings of the study which had been appointed by the Administrative Support Team (AST). Their conclusion was that this is a good time to purchase; it is a good investment and can also be less expensive than a housing allowance for the pastor. There was much support of the proposal, discussion of funding options, and also the recommendation that the Trustees have a policy in place for sufficient funding for upkeep and maintenance of the house.

The congregation voted that the Trustees move ahead with the plans to find and purchase a house to be used as a parsonage. When such a house is identified, a charge conference will be called to approve the purchase.

Also, the congregation voted to enter into a period of 60 days in which to raise funds for the down payment. An anonymous gift of matching funds up to \$35,000 will be made for NEW CASH IN HAND donated to the fund before May 5. Special Parsonage donation envelopes will be available in the pews on Sunday mornings.



A NEAT COMMUNITY SERVICE: The local 14th District of the American Legion has a wonderful way of serving the community – they care for the graves of fallen service members who have no family locally to care for them. Once a year, they place remembrances on the graves, and they make sure that they are clean and in good order. What a great service to the families that cannot be there to care for their loved ones themselves! If you are interested in becoming a part of this service, they have opportunities for community members who are connected with businesses to place ads in their newsletter. The finances from those ads help them carry out their mission. Contact the church office for more info!

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

-Micah 6:8

TEAMS AND MINISTRIES CORNER

PANTRY UPDATE I was in the church pantry on a Sunday morning taking stock of the food items that we had and didn't have and was making a mental note of what I should shop for at the store. When I came in on Tuesday, the pantry basket was full of foods that the pantry could use, plus I had received several cash donations! God truly hears our thoughts and prayers! Thanks to all who brought cold weather foods or gave a cash donation to help keep our pantry stocked and let's remember to bring an item on the first Sunday of the month to help keep the pantry stocked in the future months.

- Submitted by Janet Bonzo



BOUTIQUE: It's time for us to begin crafting again! If you are interested in crafting but don't have time to come regularly on Wednesday mornings, we would love to have you make things on your own and bring them for the sale in

November. We also have boutique business cards. It's handy to keep some in your purse or wallet to hand out as reminders throughout the year so people remember to come to the sale. You can contact Lynn Golden or come in on Wednesdays to get some, if you're interested. We

always welcome new stitchers/crafters and new ideas for items to sell.

- Lynn Golden

THURSDAY NIGHT DINERS

Time 5:45 p.m. we eat promptly at 5:55 p.m.

These are only suggestions - you may bring anything you like to our potluck.

Any questions call Barbara Grams

17-Mar St. Patrick's Day - it's time for corned beef and all the fixin's - bring some good old Irish food.

24-Mar it's spring, let's have a vegetable night. Make your favorite vegetable dish.

31-Mar April fool's day is tomorrow, let's be creative using a special ingredient, and see if we can guess what you put in your dish. Fool us!

7-Apr take me out to the ball game - It is opening week for major league baseball! Let's bring ball park food - dogs, sausages, burgers, nachos, etc...

SPECIAL FRIENDS: At our meeting in January, we thought about the year being new, dwelling on 2nd Corinthians 5:17, "Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come." Our meditation from Guideposts spoke of someone going into a second-hand shop, purchasing an old cup, a chalice, tarnished and dirty, for just a few coins. When he started to polish the cup, shiny silver began to appear. After a while, there was a beautiful chalice that could be used in Holy Communion. It was not only worth a large sum of money, but was a token of what Jesus did

for him when Jesus shed his blood on the cross for his sins. He was once as dirty as junk, but now has been cleansed by Jesus Christ. He is precious in God's eyes. Thank you, God, for cleaning us up and making us new in Jesus Christ. The February meeting marked the first meeting to start at our new time, 2:30 p.m. At that meeting, the scripture reading, Matthew 6:25-34 admonished us for worrying about our lives just as it admonished the people of the day. Jesus used ordinary examples of food, drink, birds, lilies and grass to show that all worry is worthless. God knows what we need, and God will provide for us. Worrying is just a learned habit. To unlearn this habit, let it

go and fill the void with something worthwhile.

Try replacing worry with prayer! Something to ponder: "Who of you by worrying can add a

single hour to your life?"

Between our December and January meetings we made 52 calls, 12 visits, sent 6 cards and 14 letters.

John has prayed daily, especially for 8 members of our congregation.

We added a new member to our 'Special 90' list: Vernon Crooke. Congratulations!

Between our January and February meetings we joyfully made 36 phone visits, sent 34 cards and letters, and enjoyed 15 visits.

** Don't forget, our meetings start at 2:30 now!

-Blessings, Lorraine May



UMW NEWS:

March 2011

- ✿ March 23 – Wesley Circle at 1p.m. in the Social Hall

April 2011

*no Ex. Board meeting

- ✿ April 13 – Red Birds meet at 9:30 am in the Lose Library
- ✿ April 19 - Monthly UMW meeting at 10 am in the Social Hall, Program: Book Report with Mary Vollman. Red Bird hosts – service will be provided.
- ✿ April 27 - Wesley Circle at 1p.m. in the Social Hall

May 2011

- ✿ May 2 - Executive Board meets at 9:30 am in the Lose Library
- ✿ May 11 - Red Birds meet at 9:30 am in the Lose Library
- ✿ May 17 - Monthly UMW meeting at 10 am in the Social Hall – Trip to the zoo! Meet at the church to carpool. Please bring a sack lunch – drinks will be provided.

May 25 - Wesley Circle at 1p.m. in the Social Hall

MISSION THRIFT SHOP

Thank you everyone for your contributions and hours of time at the Mission Thrift Shop. Things are going great. Receipts were January \$1,149.23; February \$1,402.27 plus quilt fabrics at \$258.69 for a total of \$2,810.19 for only the first two months!! We still need dishes, tools, small furniture pieces like small tables, bar stools, night stands, file cabinets, chairs, etc., and of course clothing. Spring is coming so please remember the Thrift Shop when you clear out the clutter. We have a new category in clothing called Rosie's Rack where we feature both brand new never worn clothing and expensive brand named items. We welcome aboard Ally Saavedra, Ruth Ehresman, Patti Pond, and Bettye Hayden and recognize Pauline Middleton, and Sharee Woxell, for their many years' work. See you on sale days the first Friday and Saturday following. –Submitted by Gloria McClanahan and Janet Bonzo



YOUTH GROUP

YOUTH EVENTS THROUGH MAY

- ☺ **SATURDAY MARCH 19 – MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 10:30 AM TO HEAD TO POVERELLO HOUSE!**

- ☺ **SUNDAY MARCH 20 – MUSIC AT 5:15PM, REGULAR GROUP AT 6P.M.**
- ☺ **SUNDAY MARCH 27 – MUSIC AT 5:15PM, REGULAR GROUP AT 6P.M.**
- ☺ **SATURDAY APRIL 2 – CAR WASH FUNDRAISER AT 9:00 A.M. – PEACH AND SHAW SHELL STATION**
- ☺ **SUNDAY APRIL 3 – MUSIC AT 5:15PM, REGULAR GROUP AT 6P.M.**
- ☺ **SUNDAY APRIL 10 – MUSIC AT 5:15PM, REGULAR GROUP AT 6P.M.**
- ☺ **FRIDAY, APRIL 15 – FINAL COMPLETE REHEARSAL FOR PALM SUNDAY AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY**
- ☺ **SATURDAY APRIL 16 – MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 10:30 AM TO HEAD TO POVERELLO HOUSE!**
- ☺ **SUNDAY APRIL 17 – WE LEAD THE WORSHIP SERVICE IN THE MORNING – PLEASE BE AT THE CHURCH AT 9:30 A.M.! FOR YOUTH GROUP, WE WILL WATCH A MOVIE AND RELAX STARTING AT 5:30!**
- ☺ **SUNDAY APRIL 24 – EASTER SUNDAY – NO YOUTH GROUP.**
- ☺ **SUNDAY MAY 1 – MUSIC AT 5:15PM, REGULAR GROUP AT 6P.M.**
- ☺ **SUNDAY MAY 8 – MUSIC AT 5:15P.M., REGULAR GROUP AT 6P.M.**
- ☺ **SATURDAY MAY 14 – CAR WASH FUNDRAISER AT 9:00 A.M. – PEACH AND SHAW SHELL STATION**
- ☺ **SUNDAY MAY 15 – 'CHANGE THE WORLD' ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT 6P.M. AND PENTECOST MUSIC FESTIVAL AT 7P.M.**
- ☺ **SATURDAY MAY 21 – MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 10:30 A.M. TO HEAD TO POVERELLO HOUSE!**
- ☺ **SUNDAY MAY 22 – MUSIC AT 5:15PM, REGULAR GROUP AT 6P.M.**
- ☺ **SUNDAY MAY 29 – LAWN GAMES WITH THE PTO AT 5P.M.!!**

'WORKING AT THE CAR WASH'! We have reserved two dates at the Shell station on Palm and Shaw – Sat Apr. 2 and Sat May 14 to have our car wash fundraiser for the Mission Trip! The youth group will arrive at 9am on both Saturdays, and plan to wash cars until 2p.m. Bring some \$ for a fast food lunch (A&W, Long John Silver's, Taco Bell and Pizza Hut are all right across the street). If you want to come have your car washed that day, we'd love to have you! We will have free doughnuts starting at 9am until supplies run out...



FROM THE PASTOR

What is your favorite holiday or celebration? Why? Are there certain traditions for that celebration that are especially meaningful? Any special rituals associated with the celebration?

(Pause here to answer those questions before you read more!)

As Methodists, we tend to appreciate rituals. Our celebrations have many traditions incorporated in them. We like the "method" of ritual, routine and traditions.

Some of us find great meaning in rituals and traditions that can be traced back hundreds, even a thousand years. We may find special depth in knowing that while so much of our world seems in constant flux, our religious faith has a strong and solid foundation that grounds us to the transcendent God – who was and is and will be forever more.

For some of us the length or exact practice of a tradition is not as important as participating is something that touches us deeply. The traditions we love may be only a few years or decades old, but they speak to the very core of our being, connecting us with the one who created the universe and called it good!

We need to be careful, however, that we keep God at the center of all of our practices. Whether new or old, the practice and performance of a tradition or ritual must NEVER be the focus. The point of all our traditions and rituals are to help us grow closer to the One who loves us more than we can ever fully understand. Any traditions or

rituals which do not help with that goal have ceased to serve their purpose.

Jesus teaches us that the laws, commandments, rituals of our faith are there to help us connect with God; the practice of them is not in and of itself the goal. When challenged as to why he would pluck some grain and eat it on the Sabbath Jesus replies "The Sabbath is made for man, not man for the Sabbath." Even though the observance of Sabbath is a commandment, Jesus' response reminds us that rigidity of practice does not make us holy. The practices are one way to connect us more fully to God, a means of grace.

We are now in the season of Lent. There are many rituals and traditions associated with the observance of our Lord's resurrection, with the days leading to his passion and crucifixion, and the days that follow Easter. Many of us have accepted special disciplines or practices for this season of preparation to accept in a deeper, transformational way the truth of new life in Christ. Some are spending more time in prayer, some have ceased to eat certain foods, and others are exercising more. Some are doing works of kindness in the community. All are seeking to use the time and these disciplines to strip away anything that would stand between our soul and our savior.

I encourage everyone to take time to observe Lent – to prepare yourself to be overwhelmed by the intensity of God's love for you. This is a great tradition of the church, and is a method that helps us each year to get more and more fully in touch with the grace of God which is the source of our salvation. -js



APRIL - MAY BIRTHDAYS!!



Louise Buckley 04/05
Deena Crosslin 04/05
Art Daly 04/09
Howard Vollman 04/09
Kayte VanDeMark 04/11
Mac Magargee 04/12
Kurt Cline 04/14
Bob Spencer 04/14
Yer Cha Vang 04/14
Betty Wipf 04/16
Kylee Pachelbel 04/17
Ashley Simpson 04/17
Alissa Williams 04/17
Sharee Woxell 04/17
Norma Meek 04/19
Angelina Moua 04/19

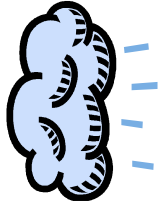
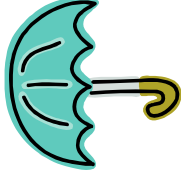

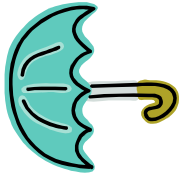

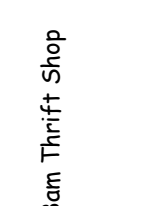
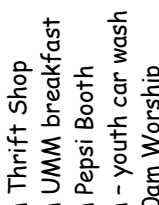
Eleanor Patton-Knudson
04/19
Ian Goudebeck 04/20
Gilbert Stocks 04/20
Benjamin Zastovnik 04/21
Joyce Ladd 04/24
Joshua Yang 04/24
Kathryn Cannon 04/25
Ethel Schwartz 04/25
Jennifer Yang 04/27
Alex Jennison 04/30
William Nicholls 05/01
Robin Holleman 05/02
Stan Jenanyan 05/02
Pa Lor Moua 05/02
Joan Pregno 05/02

Ka Thow 05/03
Wang Cheng Moua 05/03
Ger Moua 05/04
John Kenyon 05/06
Nancy Locke 05/07
Uchei Uwaoma 05/08
Chue Yang 05/08
Janet Abbott 05/09
Dorothy Carr 05/09
Janet Bonzo 05/12
Baoui Her 05/12
Kaylene Snow 05/12
Louise Smith 05/14
Bob Brown 05/15
Selphine Moua 05/15
Jennifer Carlos 05/16

Chua Hang 05/18
Nao Thao 05/19
Betty Gist 05/20
Emma Hansen-Smith
05/20
Owen Glazebrook
05/21
Sue Yang 05/21
Roberto Carlos 05/22
Jean Lenderman 05/26
Laura Williams 05/26
Wilma Hayes 05/27
Ella Mae Innerarity 05/27
Foua Yang 05/27
Marjorie Ludwig 05/30
George Grimsley 05/31
Starla Moua 05/31
Helen Ring 05/31

Every Sunday	Every Monday	Every Tuesday	Every Wednesday	Every Thursday	Every Friday	Every Saturday
*9:30am Imagine! Worship *10:30 Coffee Hour *11am Sunday School *11am Worship *2pm CHRIST Sun Sch *3:30pm CHRIST church *5:15 Youth Music *6pm Youth Group		*2pm Spiritual Disciplines Class	*7:30 am Country Waffles Bible Study *9am Boutique Group *7pm Spiritual Disciplines Class	*9:30 am Spiritual Disciplines Class *5:45pm Thursday Night Diners *6pm Imagine Rehearsal *7pm Choir Rehearsal	*2pm Sierra Villa Rest Home	*3pm CHRIST Ministry Choir

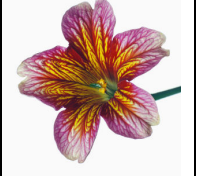
April 2011

						
3 *9am Pepsi Booth *bring something for the pantry! *5:30 pm Imagine! planning	4	5	6 *7pm SPRC	7	8	9
10 *12:30 sailing *5:30 pm - PTO - Ballroom Dancing	11	12 *8am Thrift Shop Workday	13 *9:30 am Red Bird circle *4:30 pm Lay Leadership Team	14 *2:30pm Special Friends	15 *6:30 pm - Palm Sunday dress rehearsal	16 *10:30 am Youth work day at Poverello House
17 **10:30 am Palm Sunday combined Worship *12 noon The Network *5:30 pm PTO Bible Study	18 *4:30 pm - Admin. Support team	19 *10 am UMW	20 *1:30pm O-120 Team *7pm Finance Team	21 *7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday service	22 *7:00 pm - Good Friday Service at Academy Church	23
24 *7am - Academy Sunrise Service *EASTER Sunday! Regular service times *12:30 pm Academy potluck, service @ 2:30pm *No Youth group or PTO	25	26 *8am Thrift Shop Workday	27 *1pm Wesley Circle	28	29	30

Every Sunday	Every Monday	Every Tuesday	Every Wednesday	Every Thursday	Every Friday	Every Saturday
*9:30am Imagine! Worship *10:30 Coffee Hour *11am Sunday School *11am Worship *2pm CHRIST Sun Sch *3:30pm CHRIST church *5:15 Youth Music *6pm Youth Group		*2pm Spiritual Disciplines Class	*7:30 am Country Waffles Bible Study *9am Boutique Group *7pm Spiritual Disciplines Class	*9:30 am Spiritual Disciplines Class *5:45pm Thursday Night Diners *6pm Imagine Rehearsal *7pm Choir Rehearsal	*2pm Sierra Villa Rest Home	*3pm CHRIST Ministry Choir

May 2011

1 *bring something for the pantry! *PTO Bike Ride	2 *9:00 am - UMW Exec Board	3	4 *7pm SPRC	5	6 *8am Thrift Shop open	7 *8am Thrift Shop open *8am UMM breakfast
8 *5:30 pm - Imagine! Planning	9	10 *8am Thrift Shop Workday	11 *9:30 am Red Bird circle *4:30 pm Lay Leadership Team	12 *2:30pm Special Friends	13	14 *9:00am Worship Planning *9am Youth Car Wash
15 *Pentecost Sunday! *6:00 pm 'Change the World" Ice Cream Social *7:00 pm - Pentecost Music Festival	16 *4:30 pm - Admin. Support team	17 *10 am UMW - zoo trip!	18 *1:30pm 0-120 Team *7pm Finance Team	19	20	21 *10:30 am Youth work day at Poverello House
22 *12:30 pm - Academy Bake Sale *2:30 pm - Academy Armed Forces Service *5:30 pm - Imagine! Music planning	23	24 *8am Thrift Shop Workday	25 *1pm Wesley Circle	26	27	28
29 *5pm - Lawn Games with PTO!	30	31				



January - February Financial Summary

General Fund Balance 12/31/10	\$9,562.43
General Fund income in January	\$24,050.22
General Fund income in February	\$19,516.49
Total available for Jan-Feb expenditures	\$53,129.14
General Fund expenditures in January	\$33,659.24
General Fund expenditures in February	\$16,312.45
General Fund Balance 2/28/2011	\$3,157.45

Designated income for Jan-Feb	\$11,451.65
Designated expenditures for Jan-Feb	\$10,789.60
Gain in designated funds in January	\$662.05

Apportionments of \$9,503.29 are due through February.

We can pay \$2,060 from the Gen. Fund balance to match the average percentage paid by other churches in our district.

Designated offerings are used for programs such as Hmong ministry and youth group. Designated funds come from sources such as the Thrift Store and fund raisers as well as donations.

Excel version in Data shared/Finance/Bulletin

