



CIRCUIT RIDER

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF RANCHO CORDOVA

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Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Brick

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September 2018 Edition



Welcome Back!

It's back!

After an extended hiatus, the Circuit Rider is back in publication! This is the first publication since 2016, so your patience is greatly appreciated. At this time we are going to publish a quarterly newsletter with more frequent publication a possibility in the future. We appreciate all of your contributions, hope you enjoy your new (and improved?) Circuit Rider!



The FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT Bible study group has been meeting twice a month for the past seven or eight years. All BIBLE study groups are co-ed and we average from 7 to 10 individuals each time we get together. We meet in different homes at 9:30 a.m. and the discussions ending around 11:30 a.m. From 9:30 a.m. until 10 a.m. we have a fellowship time, drinking coffee or water and sharing. This group meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month, year around. At the present time we are on Lesson 3 of 9, discussing DECISIONS – Seeking God's Guidance. If you are available on a first or third Tuesday morning, please consider joining us. We would be blessed by your presence. Please call VerJoyce Salmon at 1-916-853-9976 for the next meeting date and location.



The SEEKERS' BIBLE STUDY meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 9:30 a.m. in different participant's homes. We are currently discussing Douglas Connelly's 10 session study on Meeting the Spirit. Our next gathering will be on Monday, September 24, 2018 at Judy Steinbach's home. We would love to have you join us. You can give Judy a call or Ver Joyce Salmon to obtain directions to Judy's home. At our gathering on September 24 we will be discussing Session 9 of the 10 session study titled The Spirit Transforms based on Galatians 5:13-26



Emmaus Reunion Meeting
1st Wednesday of the Month

Our next Emmaus Reunion meetings will be in Adam's Hall at 7:00pm as follows:

Wednesday, October 3rd, Wednesday, November 7th, Wednesday, January 2nd.

We take a break in December because of the demands of the Christmas season. We will be studying *John Wesley's 3 Simple Rules: Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay In Love With God*. Reunion groups help keep the feeling of the Walk to Emmaus alive in our hearts, and also serve future pilgrims. Please join us!

If you have any questions, please contact Tom or Julie Steinbach. De Colores!



A very happy and unique happening at UMCRC every first Saturday of November for many, many years is the **UMW Bazaar & Luncheon**. Many, many people work all year long to make this special event happen. All year people meet weekly and bi-weekly such as the Sewing Fellowship and the Craft Fellowship, composed of UMW volunteers! Folks work at home on crafts, handmade items, & food items to name a few of the wonders that fill the rooms of Snyder Hall!

On the day before and the day of the event, people set up rooms for the luncheon, bazaar, and bake sale and fill the areas with items that amaze. From every type of foodstuffs to gifts of every kind – large and small and all very reasonably priced.

Debbie Ritchie and her family prepare a wonderful luncheon which may be attended by ticket only. The girl Scouts and Boy Scouts ably serve the lucky guests. It is a wonderful fellowship for UMCRCers and friends.

Last year we cleared \$7316. 94. This is the way we distributed our profits (not in any order of importance):

Joy House, RC Park Animal barn, Bridges District, UMCRC Office, UMC Conference Apportionments, UMCRC General Fund, Wednesday Night Dinner, Coffee, H.A.R.T. Week, VBS, RC Food Locker, and the Mustard Seed School.

The members of the UMW would like to thank women, men and children who have so generously supported us over the years and we thank you ahead of time for your continued help.

UMCRC UMW meets the first wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM for refreshments, business meeting, and program and lots of good fellowship!.

Jeanette Erwin, UMW President, and Kay Richardson, Assistant, invite all women to our varied and interesting programs and activities.

Florence Harmor and Rae Ann Travis

Lydia Circle Welcomes All Ladies!

This year Lydia Circle will kick off its ministry season with a fellowship dinner at the Panera located at 3289 Zinfandel Drive in Rancho Cordova on Tuesday, September 25th at 6 PM. For those of you who haven't been able to join us for Lydia Circle for our general meeting; we are going to try something different this year. A Bible Based book study. This year we are going to be meeting on the last Monday of each month at 7 PM at Panera for our bible based book study. This year we will be reading "She's Still There" by Chrystal Evans Hurst. This book is available on Amazon.com in both digital and hard copy form as well as at our local target. our November study will meet the second Monday of the month. We will take December off with the exception of a Lydia Circle holiday Ugly Sweater Party. Lydia Circle's tenet is Prayer, study, service and fellowship....Where will service come in? We will be discussing that at our very first meeting on the 25th when we feellowship. All ladies from college age on are welcome, and bring a friend! **to learn more about Lydia, read Acts 16: 14.** For more information, please contact **Kimberly Cole @ 916-804-8772 or email her at**

kimberlycole97@gmail.com





The United Methodist Men (UMM) are about fellowship, spirituality and assisting with the upkeep of the church campus. All men of the church are encouraged to join the UMM, even the Pastor is an honorary member.

We hold monthly business meetings to discuss the needs of the church campus, we meet monthly for breakfast where we share fellowship and friendship, and we meet weekly for a Bible Study.

The UMM sponsor the church annual fireworks booth with the help from all church members to help make the proceeds available for our campus maintenance. We cook dinner twice a year for the church's 3rd Wednesday "Be Our Guest" program; and we sponsor a local Boy Scout Troop that meets at the church. We enjoy holding pancake breakfasts and BBQs, and we like to treat the ladies to an annual Sweetheart Breakfast at a local restaurant.

Our business meeting is held the second Saturday of each month at Brookfield's Restaurant, 11135 Folsom Blvd near Sunrise Blvd. We have a breakfast meeting at 7:30 am and then we reconvene at the church at 9:00 am where we perform yard maintenance and general clean-up of the church grounds with the assistance of the Sheriff's weekend work crew, so we generally need more volunteer supervisors to instruct the crew rather than doing the work.

For our fellowship meeting, we meet the Wednesday prior to the second Saturday of each month for breakfast at McDonalds on Folsom Blvd., at Coloma Rd. We start at 8:00 am with a simple devotion and spend time sharing great fellowship with our fellow Christian men.

The UMM meets weekly on Mondays for Bible Study at 7:00 pm. We rotate the meeting locations through different members houses so check with the church or a member to find the current meeting place. Questions for us to ponder and talk about at the Bible Study are emailed to the participants a week in advance. Lively discussion happens.....and great snacks also! Come and check us out!

Church Trustees



The Trustees of our church are responsible for our "fixed assets" (furniture, office equipment, inventorying of such items, etc...), supplies (hand towels, soaps, cups, etc...), building users, updating insurance, and the upkeep of our property. We repair some stuff ourselves, but other things would be contracted out.

If you have not heard, as of September 15th the generic alarm code that most of you had, has been deleted. If you are a key carrier in certain alarmed areas, you will need to see Tom Steinbach for a new personal code. In addition, the Chapel door has been re-keyed. If you have a need to have a key to chapel, please bring in your old one and a new key will be issued to you.

We are looking forward to this Fall season, in which we will be starting some beautification projects around the outside of our campus. So, please bare with us.

Have a Blessed Day! Tom

We Have a Garden?



Well, yes, we do have a church garden! Some people have asked where the vegetables come from that appear on the side table during our fellowship time. Thank you to Tom Haas for his raised beds, devoted green thumb, and tender care at the north side of Snyder Hall. The garden has been producing for the past four years during both the summer and winter months. Vegetables are used for our 3rd Wednesday Be Our Guest meals, Family Promise meals, donated to the Cordova Food Locker, and also available to our parishioners on Sunday morning.

The summer garden is coming to an end and winter vegetable seeds will be planted soon. Do you feel the need to see if your thumb is the proper shade of green? Gardening angels are always welcome as there is always much to do. Please let the church office know if you are interested or call Carol Good at 916-233-8408 and she will put you to work! After all, one is closer to God's heart in a garden, than anywhere else on earth!

A special thank you to everyone who has participated in welcoming Family Promise guests to our church during 2018. You have gone above and beyond this year in taking on two extra host weeks. The staff and Board of Family Promise are grateful for your dedication to the program.



On October 8th a group of former Family Promise guests will be participating in the **Urban Cow Half Marathon/5K Run in Land Park**. These families are now back on their feet and looking to do their part to help raise funds for a program that helped them. If you would like to support the Family Promise "Herd," go to www.sacfamilypromise.org for additional information.

Hello All!

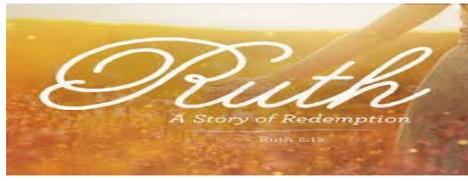
Our Children's Choir season has begun! Children's Choir meets every Sunday at 9:15 A.M. for rehearsal in the choir room. All children preschool through 8th grade are welcome and encouraged to attend.

We will be practicing an old favorite, We Are the Church, with hands and voices. I am hoping that all my singers from last season will be back. And I'm hoping to see new faces and hear new voices! Hopefully, we'll be ready for our first presentation for our Founder's Day Morning Worship scheduled for the following Sunday, September 16th when our church celebrates our 55th anniversary.

Ann Hubbell, Nargis Karamatova and I are looking forward to seeing you on Sunday. We've got a great year planned!

Until then, let music sing to your soul with a happy heart,
Love, Carol





The Story of Ruth Portrayed Through Drama

The Biblical story of Ruth was written thousands of years ago and still speaks to us today. It calls on us to define what it means to be truly whole and spiritual. A careful review of the story takes the reader through defining moments in every person's life which includes loss, change, transformation, empowerment, and fulfillment. It is truly a story for the ages.

In the upcoming months, our Christ Cafe students and supportive adults will be portraying this poignant story in music, dance, and drama during Morning Worship on the Sundays of November 4th, 11th, and 18th. The messages illustrated in each drama will be further explored through Pastor Elizabeth's sermons in conjunction with our fall stewardship campaign. Practices are scheduled during the Sunday School hour on October 14th, 28th, November 4th, and 11th. Look for updates in the coming months.

Are you interested in getting involved? *Contact the office or call Carol Good at 916-233-8408.*



We are thrilled to announce that our Children's Ministries Program is back in action!

We have made some exciting changes to our Sunday School Programs. We are now offering four programs: Christ Cafe' (7th grade – High School+), Soon-to-be-Named (4th–6th grade), Fishermen (K–3rd) and Noah's Ark (Preschool). We want all of our kids to have the opportunity to learn and grow in God's love.

Sunday School will take place after worship service. Teachers will lead students out during ending hymn and class will last ~45 mins. A healthy snack will be provided! ***If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Haas-Tan.***

Additionally, we are kicking off Youth Group on Sunday evenings at 6pm in Snyder Hall for 7th grade – high school+ aged youth. We will meet bi-weekly starting September 23rd. Please encourage your kids to participate and bring friends! Our church has a history of amazing Youth Groups and this will be no different! ***Please contact our youth leaders Kelly Kerekes/Tiffany Tan for more information.***

Upcoming events:

Joy Sunday – September 30th – Youth will lead worship service.

Trunk or Treat – October 26th

Thank you to all the volunteers that make this possible, you are greatly appreciated!



Would you like to meet with friends to fellowship and enjoy a meal at one of the restaurants in the Sacramento area once a month? **The F.E.A.S.T. (Friends Eating and Sharing Together)** group is open to anyone that would like to attend. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month year around at different restaurants in the Sacramento Area. The participants in the group sign up to select the restaurant of their choosing and we meet at the designated location at 11:30 a.m. Everyone pays for their own meal, there is no cost to the person coordinating the event. We've visited many great restaurants over the years including the Outback, Poor Red's B.B.Q, the Spaghetti Factory, the Olive Garden and Cracker Barrel on October 9. Come join us – it's always a great way to spend time with people that we care about. The more the merrier!

Questions, please call Ver Joyce at 1-916-853-9976. Hope you will join us!



The Finance Committee would like to explain the “cash shortfall” that has been reported the past few months.

Over many years, generous church members have given money for specific, or designated, purposes. These are known as “designated funds.” We should have \$35,248 in designated funds in the bank but in our bank accounts we only have \$18,776 . The difference of \$16,472 is the “cash shortfall” that has been reported to you the past few months. This resulted because we mistakenly used designated funds in past years to pay general operating expenses. We now need to replenish those designated fund accounts so that we can honor the wishes of those who contributed the funds in the first place.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help the church get back on a solid financial footing. The Finance Committee will be asking you in the coming months for your ideas and help. The Finance Committee with the help of the other committees/ groups of our church will be working on the 2019 budget over the next couple of months. A major part of this will be the stewardship campaign.

Also anyone in the church “structure” that wants to have a 2019 budget (IE spend church funds) that information will need to be submitted to finance during September and no later than the October Finance meeting. When the committee begins to review the budgets in November a representative must be present to answer any questions about the submitted budget.



Grace and Peace!

What an extraordinary first two months we have shared! I am so incredibly delighted and grateful to be the pastor of UMCRC!. You have welcomed Shari and me with so much care and love! It is very good to serve here!. Several of you have asked me if I like it here. The answer is unequivocally, "Yes! I love it!" It is great to be among so many wonderfully committed, kind, funny, and compassionate disciples!. I don't need to recite all of the great things you already have done to welcome me. However, I do want to thank some specific persons for welcoming small groups into their homes, so that I could meet and greet you more personally!

Special thanks to Mike and VerJoyce Salmon, Deborah Barrell and her dad, Frank, Jeanette Erwin, Stephanie Haas and Tiffany Tan, Tom and Julie Steinbach, Emily and Mike Willis, Joe and Peggy Pearce, and Debby Hicks for hosting us in your homes! Most especially, I wish to thank FAY KEREKES for coordinating ALL of these meetings! She is a wonder! If I've done my math correctly, she arranged for more than 90 of you to meet with me in six weeks. Most impressive! This is just the beginning of our glorious ministry together. I have no doubt that the best is yet to come!

I have identified a few places where we need to strengthen our practices, particularly around organization and administration. I am excited about the good work of the Nominating Committee in helping us to find guidance in those places. That said, I believe that we are stronger than we think and far more stable than we feel! You will find many things to look forward to in the next few months: Bible Studies, Women's Circles, Sewing Ministry, Men's Groups, Family Promise, The HART Shelter, Living Nativity, Craft Fairs, Lively Worship, New Sunday School Format, and the reawakening of our music ministry in worship... the list goes on! You'll find more about all of these things in the pages of The Circuit Rider!

These first months have been precious. I am certain that we will only deepen and grow in our commitment to following Jesus, knowing God, and seeking the path of discipleship together. I know that together we will grow strong! I pray that we continue to have fun, deepen and grow, and always share the message of God's inclusive, incredible love with everybody we meet! This comes with lots of love! Pastor Elizabeth

Upcoming Events Fall 2018

Be Our Guest Dinner - Oct. 17th, nov. 21st, Dec. 19th

UMW Holiday Faire - November 1st - 3rd

Family Promise Week - November 18th - 24th

Living Nativity - December 21st - 24th





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