



CIRCUIT RIDER

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF RANCHO CORDOVA

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Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Brick

Administrative Assistant: Jacob Reed Auer

February 2019 Edition



Regarding Lent:

Making Meaning – Marking our Days



Ash Wednesday is March 6. We will gather for worship at 7:00 PM in the chapel for a meditative service and the imposition of Ashes. Please, participate and engage as we establish our first Lenten journey together.

Your prayerful presence will make all the difference.

During Holy Week (the week of April 14)

We will begin with Palm Sunday celebration in Worship.

Then on Maundy Thursday we will be staging our traditional presentation of The Last Supper.

Finally, on Good Friday, we will participate in a Service of Tenebrae, or Darkness, perhaps in collaboration with another congregation.

Easter morning 4/21 - we will begin at Sunrise to celebrate the resurrection outside by the campfire and we will have our traditional Easter morning service at 10:00 AM!

Please make a note of these dates and these events. Invite a friend. Bring your heart ready and open to engage in our Lenten Theme: Making Meaning - Marking our Days.

I pray that this time will be a blessing to us all.

Elizabeth



Emmaus Reunion Meeting

1st Wednesday of the Month

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

Wednesday, February 6th · Wednesday, March 6th

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!

Upcoming Events Spring 2019

- Be Our Guest Dinner - Feb. 20th, Mar. 20th, April 17th -

- Church Directory Photos - Feb. 23rd -

- Family Promise Week - March 10th - 16th -

- E-Waste/Shredding Event - March 30th -



The members of the UMW would again like to thank everyone for the help with the November Bazaar & Luncheon/ December Sale which were very successful.

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. We would invite members to attend for refreshments, business meeting, and program and lots of good fellowship!

The UMW would like to thank Kay Richardson for her devotion and faithfulness in coordinating the cards for our shut ins!

Any questions about UMW may be directed to Jeanette Erwin, President, or Kay Richardson, VP.

Florence Harmor and Rae Ann Travis

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.



Family Promise Dates 2019

***March 10th – 16th
May 26th – June 2nd
October 20th – 27th
December 1st – 8th***

go to www.sacfamilypromise.org for additional information.



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!.

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.

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

We can't fix what we don't know is broke !



Your Trustees are responsible for all the property of the Church. With this in mind, we need to be alert to any repairs or maintenance that needs to be completed. Each year we do an inspection of the Buildings and grounds, make a list of items that need attention and prioritize our findings as to the urgency and if funds are available. With all this in mind, the trustees would like you, the congregation and other users of our facilities, to bring your concerns to our attention. We are not there every day and may miss something : lights not working, doors not properly closing, something spilled on the floor. Additionally, we are responsible for supplies including for the restrooms, kitchen and other items to keep the facilities clean and in good condition.

Your Trustees are : Tom Steinbach Chairperson, Ken Crawford, Vice Chairperson, Mike Huppert, Secretary, Mike Salmon, Lars & Tammy Rustmann, Rich Brushia.

Currently the Trustees & United Methodist Men have been working on a beautification project for the south side of Adams Hall. This project was started last fall with the removal of the older trees. Our next step is to remove the roots, clear the area, plant up to 8 trees, same as the ones in front of the Chapel, replace the irrigation system, lay in a ground cover (bark or small decorative rock). In addition to all that we have received a donation of trees, which we will use to replace the ones around the fire ring and near the play ground for Adams Hall. In the near future we will be asking for assistance to help plant the trees.

Please keep in mind the church property belongs to everyone and we appreciate your assistance in helping the Trustees in the up keep of the property.



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. 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!

Upcoming F.E.A.S.T Dates:

March 12th – Mimosa House, Rancho Cordova – Hosts: The Hughes

April 9th – Poor Red's BBQ, El Dorado Hills – Hosts: The Livesays

June 11th – El Tapatio, Citrus Heights – Hosts: The Simmons



Dear Members and Friends,

We would like to introduce our church's **Christ Care Ministry** team and have you become familiar with their efforts. The purpose of the Ministry is to care for our congregation by providing emotional and spiritual support. Their mission is to assist the Pastor in providing compassionate, empathetic and Bible-based encouragement to people experiencing a difficult time in life . The team members possess a broad range of skills and training, and life-experience.

The Team is led by Mike Hughes and includes Jeanette Erwin, Amy Goodwin, Georgia Hott, Joann Hudgins, Ann Livesay, Pastor John McCorkell, Peggy Pearce, Mike & VerJoyce Salmon, and John & Ann Simmons

The team is there to listen, care, provide emotional support, pray with a person in need, and to be with that person during a crisis. Conversations and identities are kept strictly confidential. Please feel free to contact any of the team you feel comfortable with to let them comfort you through a troublesome time in your life. Of course, our Pastor Elizabeth is a part of this team and is available to you as always.

You will also see Christ Care members each Sunday after worship near the chapel altar. These caring members are there to serve you and support your spiritual needs.



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 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 participants homes. We are currently discussing Douglas Connelly’s 10 session study on Meeting the Spirit. Our next gathering will be on February 25th, We would love to have you join us. At our September gathering we discussed Session 9 of the 10 session study titled The Spirit Transforms based on Galatians 5:13-26



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 . 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:

Saturday, February 16th – SSP Fundraiser – 4:00 P.M. – Adams Hall

Monday, February 25th – SSP Fundraiser – MOD Pizza

Saturday, May 11th – The Story Of Ruth – 4:00 P.M. – Chapel

Sierra Service Project



This summer our youth will be heading to **Chiloquin, Oregon, July 7th – 13th**. There they will be coordinating with the community to assist with improvements projects that may include roofing, painting projects, stair replacement, ramp building, and other general repair projects. The Children’s Ministries council will be hosting a series of fundraisers to defer costs associated with the trip. Let’s support our kids and get them to Oregon to fulfill their mission!

FINANCE COMMITTEE

We had a successful pledge campaign during the last part of 2018 receiving pledges from 42 individuals or households. Thank you for your commitment to support the work of this church.

A summary of our 2019 budget is shown below. You will note the net fund position is currently projected to be negative. This is not a workable position. The committee members approved this budget with the knowledge that we must break-even for the year. Contributions to the church were on an increasing trend during the last quarter of 2018. We believe if this trend continues and if we continue to grow membership in our church, our income may be higher than projected. This would be ideal. However, if revenue does not improve above current projections, we will consider how we must revise the budget, either cutting expenses or working with the congregation to find other sources of revenue.

The Finance Committee will review actual results monthly at its meetings on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Please feel free to join us at our meetings to contribute to the discussion as we work toward a solid financial position.

Deborah Barrel, Finance Committee Chair

<i>Pledges</i>	<i>128,196</i>	<i>Payroll - Staff Inclusive</i>	<i>101,721</i>
<i>Recorded Givers</i>	<i>15,000</i>	<i>Operating Expenses</i>	<i>59,758</i>
<i>Christmas Offering</i>	<i>1,500</i>	<i>Missions Outreach</i>	<i>1,200</i>
<i>Plate</i>	<i>4,000</i>	<i>Worship and Music</i>	<i>1,550</i>
<i>Building Use Donations</i>	<i>14,000</i>	<i>Christ Care</i>	<i>200</i>
<i>Fundraising Events</i>	<i>4,000</i>	<i>Youth Activities</i>	<i>2,000</i>
<i>Dividends</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>Adult Education</i>	<i>200</i>
<i>TOTAL INCOME</i>	<i>166,736</i>	<i>TOTAL EXPENSES</i>	<i>166,629</i>
<i>Conference Tithe</i>	<i>16,674</i>		
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>150,062</i>	<i>NET FUNDS</i>	<i>-16,567</i>



Dear Members and friends of UMCRC,

First and foremost, thank you for your prayers and support as we have been navigating our grief over the death of Shari's brother and simultaneously the needs of her beloved parents. Your prayers, cards, and love have been felt. I will be traveling again to Wisconsin in March to attend Randy's burial and to help with closing up his home. I will also be traveling in late February to attend the specially Called General Conference of the United Methodist Church which is in St. Louis, MO. (Thankfully, I've already been to the coldest place on earth during the Polar Vortex, so now St. Louis will seem downright comfortable!)

The 2019 Special General Conference was called by our Council of Bishops in response to a request by the 2016 General Conference, which found itself deadlocked (once again!) over the issue of including the LGBTQ community in the life of the church. The 2016 General Conference, after hours of contentious and painful debate, on top of the nearly forty years of prior contentious debate, finally asked the Council of Bishops to take the lead in helping us find our way as a denomination.

The Bishops responded by forming a commission called, "Commission on the Way Forward." The Commission was comprised of representatives from the many regions, ethnic backgrounds, and theological perspectives of the global United Methodist Church. It met monthly for two years with the intent of bringing the Council of Bishops some recommendations for how the church might move forward in the future.

The Commission's work resulted in two plans: The **One Church Plan** and the **Connectional Conference Plan**. Many other plans were presented to be considered by the 2019 General Conference, but most of them were ruled out of order by the Judicial Council of the UMC. However, two were ruled in order: **The Traditionalist Plan**, proposed by the Council of Bishops and the **Simple Plan** proposed by the Reconciling Ministries Network in conjunction with the Queer Clergy Caucus.

The **One Church Plan** omits all of the language that is pejorative toward the LGBT community and leaves it up to the conscience of individual pastors, churches, and bishops to discern how they wish to handle the issue of gay marriages, ordination of lgbtq persons, and other matters pertaining to the needs of gay United Methodists.

The **Connectional Conference Plan** is administratively complex. It would create conference relationships based on our theological and social perspectives about the lgbt community. This particular plan is appealing because it allows for differences of opinion. It lacks appeal because it has the potential to split local congregations and Annual Conferences right down the middle. It also creates a complex administrative structure.

The **Traditionalist Plan** leaves everything exactly as it is, including the language that excludes the full participation of LGBT persons in the life of the church. It adds something called, "a gracious exit" for any person or church who wishes to leave the denomination. (There are many reasons that this exit might not be considered 'gracious', financially, particularly related to clergy pensions. Ask me about this if you want to know more.)

The final plan is called the **Simple Plan**. It simply removes all of the pejorative language from the Book of Discipline and maintains the current administrative structure of the church. The elegance of this plan is that it simply allows us all to maintain integrity without inviting anybody to violate their conscience when asked if they will uphold the Discipline and standards of the United Methodist Church- homosexuality is not addressed at all- inclusively or exclusively.

It may seem strange that we are still debating these questions when we who are on the West Coast have managed to figure out how to live in harmony with our differences. Specifically, we who are here in Rancho Cordova have celebrated the same gender couples in our midst, have received an openly gay pastor and her wife, and have gracefully moved through more than one gender transition in our midst. Unfortunately, this is not the case for the entirety of our global denomination.

I do not know what will happen in St. Louis. It is even possible that nothing will happen. There needs to be a majority to pass most of the plans. In the case of the Connectional Conference plan it would require a 2/3rds majority to pass because of the constitutional amendments required to create the new structures. It is hard to know how the Spirit will move or how the people will vote. If I am seated on the Conference Floor at any time, (I am an alternate delegate) I will be supporting the Simple Plan. However, if that plan is defeated, I will support the One Church plan.

I invite you to pray for the delegates of this conference and for our entire denomination as we attempt once again to work this out. I have been moved by the power of your prayers and your love for one another. May we extend that love to ALL of our churches, conferences, and associates as we move into the future.

This comes with love,

Pastor Elizabeth



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