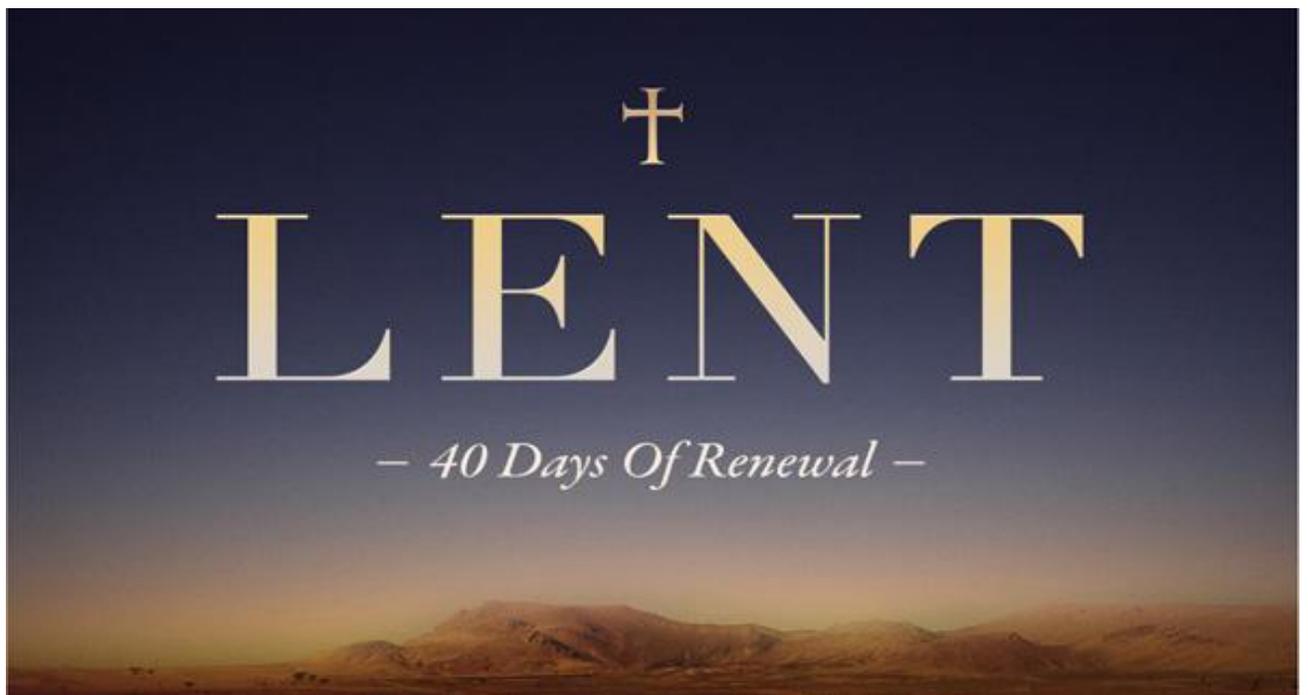


THE GRAPEVINE

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NAPA (707) 253-1411

www.napaumc.org

February 2016



Ash Wednesday – February 10th

The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. Psalm 126:3

Palm Sunday – March 20th

The Lord is good to all: and His tender mercies are over all His works. Psalm 145:9

Maundy Thursday – March 24th

Good Friday – March 25th

Easter Sunday – March 27th

Upcoming Events *All Are Welcome*

Ash Wednesday **A MOVEABLE FEAST**

In 325CE the Council of Nicea established that Easter would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox.

That means that Easter this year is the 27th of March. Counting backwards from there, Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on the 10th of February.

We will mark the beginning of Lent with a short Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary at 7 PM on the 10th of February. There will be liturgy, music, and the imposition of ashes.

Please plan to be with us as we begin the season of Lent.
Stay tuned for further details.



Sierra Service Project Fundraiser – Bowl-a-Thon **Sunday, February 21st from 2 to 4 pm at Napa Bowl**

We will bowl two games. Pizza and drinks will be provided. This is our first fundraiser to help us get up to the state of Washington to the Native American Reservation that we will serve in August. We're very excited to be part of this hands on service opportunity. We are grateful for the support we youth have always had from this congregation. Be on the lookout for out for our youth. They will be soliciting pledges from you. As an added incentive, and to make it a bit more competitive, Mike Robak, our fearless leader, has pledged to donate \$1.00 for every spare we bowl and \$2.00 for each strike! Come on kids! Get signed up and see if you can break the Bank of Robak! Who can collect the most pledges? There will be a Prize!



Bridges District Revival!
Saturday, February 6th – 9:30 – 4:30 – Fairfield Methodist Church - \$15
If you'd like to car pool, please meet in our parking lot at 8:30 am
Please RSVP to the church office ASAP

Women's Spiritual Retreat – Saturday, March 12th from 9:00 to 4:00

A UMW sponsored event, led by Rev. Holly Hillman
Registration begins Feb. 1st and the fee will be somewhere under \$20
Plan to come to FUMC Napa to be inspired with “COURAGE”
All women are welcome so invite your friends and neighbors
We'll love seeing you there!



BUILDERS

New resolutions, goals, promises to self and thoughts on the idea of a resolution gave way to many individual ways to approach the New Year. We Builders are always thinking outside the box to keep our involvement in our faith and in our social life to achieve the best we can with what we have to offer. No minor task, but we are resolved to do it! Great January meeting and we are off to a positive start. Welcome 2016! February 13 will be our next meeting in Kagawa room, 12:00-2:00, potluck with all the rest provided. I am hoping we can learn more about St. Valentine and share the love and See's candy with all who come. And all are welcome and all are invited!

Kay Neal
479-8576



New Girl Scout Troop!

If you have or know of girls in K-5 who are interested in Girl Scouts, a new troop is starting Sunday, February 7. Troop 11025 will meet 2:00-3:30 on the first Sunday of the month at the Napa Methodist Church. For more information, please contact Amy Herzog, Holly Zaccone, or Pat Parker.



Thank You

Have you noticed Jim Lanterman quietly and unobtrusively going around the church, doing projects involving wood? We are so grateful to him for our new handrails, the wood trim around the new Fellowship Hall window, the repaired pews and pew book holders, some of our piano covers, and some wooden thresholds, among other things. Next time you see him please say “Thank you, Jim!”

UMW News

Save the Date for the **United Methodist Women Spiritual Retreat**

Please join us on Saturday March 12th from 9 am to 3:45 pm for our women's spiritual retreat!

We are very excited to welcome back Rev. Holly Hillman who will again facilitate our retreat. This year's theme is "Courage". Breakfast snacks and lunch are included for a reasonable cost. This spiritual retreat is open to all women and friends of our church. We have extended an invitation to neighboring church women as well. Registration starts February 1st and can be done by completing the flyer that will be available in the church office or calling Trudie at 255-1347 or emailing her at trudie@jatchison.com.

Other UMW News

We hope you have heard about our new **Girl Scout troop 11025!** Ten women from our church and the community have been meeting with a Girl Scout representative to form this new troop. Holly Zaccone and Amy Herzog are our troop co-leaders. The first meeting will be on Sunday, February 7th from 2-3:30 pm in the Kagawa Room.

Our troop is called a "Scout Shout", always meeting on the first Sunday of each month. Troop 11025 is open to girls from the entire Napa community between the ages of Kindergarten and 5th grade. So, on each Sunday, the Daisies, Brownies and Juniors will meet to earn badges, take field trips, complete service projects and learn about the girl scout ways.

Please spread the word and if your daughters or their friends are interested, come to our first meeting to sign up!! If our first meeting date does not work for you, you can come to one of the Sunday meetings and join anytime.

Look for our girl scout troop members on Sunday February 14th selling our delicious cookies after church!! Did I hear you say, "2 boxes of Thin Mints, please?"

The Mini Thrift Shop opens back up on February 2nd with the open hours being from 10-2 pm. Our street parking has improved and there will be lots of new merchandise as the new season starts. Come over and check us out and bring your donations too. We need a few more volunteers. It is lots of fun to work in the shop and you'll be hooked once you make your first sale. Most of our proceeds are donated to programs around the world for women, girls and children so by working at the shop, you are really helping the world and all the folks that come to shop for

quality, low cost clothes and household goods. Call Jan Geren to sign up to help at 226-3448.

Rotaplast International has requested that we sew 50 dresses for their surgical team to take to Guatemala and 50 more to be delivered to Honduras. So our scissors and sewing machines are buzzing. We will bring to church dresses already cut out for those of you who would like to help us **sew for the world**. Thank you in advance for your support.

Our UMW meeting in December was about Latin American faith perspectives. It was a very informative meeting and our minutes are posted on the church website under United Methodist Women.

We welcome all women to attend our **next general meeting** on Sunday February 21st at 12 noon in Kagawa Room at the church. Our program topic is "Mind, Body and Soul." Please join us for this timely program and lunch.



Last Call to Join a 2016 Napa Methodist Supper Club!

The February 1st deadline to join a supper club is fast approaching; don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to connect with others in the Napa Methodist Community! To sign up, simply email Liz Marks at lizmarks_99@yahoo.com. Please give your email, the best phone number to reach you, and indicate your preference for type of club.

For the Supper Clubs, small groups of individuals are put together to eat dinner or lunch together throughout the next year. There are dinner groups, lunch groups, a family group and a young adult group. Each group decides the when, where, and frequency of meetings. The groups are deliberately set up so people are not close friends or family members, as it's more fun to get to know new people. Last year there were six groups, and they have been growing every year-- sign up this week to get in on the fun!



For those of you who may have missed the Blog, I thought this article bears repeating. We are blessed to be in such an active church with so many fine opportunities for service and growth. Thank you, Michael, for gifting us with your "look back".

THE YEAR IN REVIEW - 2015
NAPA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

It has been our practice to assemble a brief account of the activities of the Napa Methodist Church at the close of each year. The following narrative covers the entire calendar year 2015. The source of material for this account is the Grapevine, the more or less bi-monthly newsletter of the Napa church. Many things happen that are not reported in the Grapevine, but what follows will give a feeling for what has transpired during this our 163rd year of ministry.

January 2015 Worship services were held at the Napa Community Seventh-day Adventist Church, as they have been since the Sunday after the August 2014 earthquake. We are truly grateful to the Adventist congregation for their generosity. The year began with the sermon series based on the Adam Hamilton book, *Making Sense of the Bible*. Small groups followed the six-week series up to the beginning of Lent. Director of Student Ministries, Curtis Tinloy, was introduced to the congregation. The 2015 financial stewardship campaign was brought to a close and results were announced. There were 23 new pledges helping to bring the total to \$253,518, a 9% increase over the previous year. A report on the repair of earthquake damage included the announcement that the California-Nevada Conference would support the work with a payment of \$1,552,500. The Meditation group announced the study of the Jack Kornfield book, *The Meditative Path*. Youth began the year with a pizza party and plans for the Sierra Service Project. On-line giving capability was announced and a tutorial offered. The United Methodist Women put out a call for sewers, pattern cutters, and ironers for a Cuba/Nicaragua children's clothing project. GRAPE Express Children's Worship is following the life and teaching of John Wesley. The knitters, Chicks with Sticks, announced that they donated scarves, hats, and mittens to Molly's Angels.

February 2015 A letter was received from Vallejo First UMC, one of the Vineyard Circuit churches, thanking Napa FUMC for continuing pulpit supply and administrative mentoring. Walk to Emmaus opportunity announced -- February and March in Vallejo. Ash Wednesday service with imposition of ashes. The Lenten sermon series is the Final Words from the Cross. An announcement of the successful Christmas party attended by 100 HOPE Center clients. Ninety cold-weather backpacks were distributed. A new congregation directory is being assembled for distribution in April. The Grapevine distribution is changing to electronic delivery. Hardcopy is still available, but the default is electronic. The Bridges District Revival was held at Fairfield Community UMC featuring Bishop Warner Brown and Rev Staci Current. The United Methodist Women's thrift shop reopened for the year. The Builders' fellowship February meeting will feature Jessica Rugiero speaking about her Peace Corps mission experiences in Botswana. The spiritual Development Group was officially begun with a mandate to help the congregation connect with small groups and develop their spirituality.

March 2015 The 6th annual Chili Cook Off was announced -- with an opportunity to win possession of the perpetual trophy. The congregation was challenged to

read the entire Gospel of Matthew during 2015. At least one small group has taken up the task. The “Final Words . . . “sermon series continues. Youth activities continue and the location of this year’s Sierra Service Project was announced to be Smith River. The Napa Circles Initiative has begun regular meetings and is seeking funding. Circles reason for being is to assist families to lift themselves out of poverty. A meeting for those exploring membership in Napa FUMC was held in the parsonage.

April 2015 Holy Week services began with a Maundy Thursday shared meal, an Egg-Stravaganza for the children, Easter Sunrise at Tulocay Cemetery, Traditional Easter sanctuary service, and Easter Fusion. Earthquake repair and seismic upgrade work continues with scaffolding surrounding the tower. Additional funding is being sought from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, United Methodist Committee on Relief, and others. Building permits have been granted by the City of Napa for all the anticipated work. Project completion is unknown, but is hoped for before the end of the year. Town Hall meetings concerning the HOPE Center and the triangle park with regard to interaction with the neighborhood. The United Methodist Women’s Unit Meeting program speaker’s topic was “Human Trafficking in the S F Bay Area.” The April/May sermon series is based on *Revival, Faith as Wesley Lived it*.

May 2015 The Annual Fun & Fellowship Pancake Breakfast was announced. The ways in which we are the hands and feet of Christ were examined: The Table, the mini-thrift shop, Napa Circles Initiative, Earthquake Recovery Group, HOPE Center, and others. The Bridges District is presenting an all-day revival at Vallejo FUMC. The Builders Fellowship honors mothers at their May meeting. Children are invited to come to the Chicks with Sticks meeting to learn to knit. A call for volunteers for many positions was sent out: ushers, visitors, Communion preparers, teachers, hosts and greeters, van drivers, Circles allies, etc. Our UM missionary in Nepal asks for our support after a serious earthquake in that country. The Catch Team was recognized for their efforts at keeping our focus outward, inviting and making visitors welcome, and the important step of following up with visitors. Six new members joined the church in May.

June 2015 We honor graduates. The Gasser Foundation has committed to significant financial support for our earthquake repair and retrofit work. A new sermon series on forgiveness will be presented the four Sundays in June. An introduction to meditation is offered by the Monday Meditation Group. The United Methodist Women are assembling Health Kits to be sent to Nepal in aid of the victims of an earthquake in that country. Actions at Annual Conference Session included returning Lee Neish as our pastor for the next year and a less than full time appointment to Petaluma UMC for our field placement seminary student, Burke Owens. The month was closed out with the Cathedral Choir’s Sermon in Word and Song, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

July 2015 Pastor Lee Neish and other community leaders urged the County Board of Supervisors to adopt the Charter for Compassion with the goal of becoming a kinder, gentler Napa. July sermons will include Reflections on Capitalism and Democracy, Wesley's Top Ten Countdown of All-Time Favorite Hymns, and Sierra Service Project Sunday with Youth Testimonies. The South Napa Earthquake Recovery Group reported that it is beginning to address unmet needs with resident case managers provided through a \$100,000 grant from the United Methodist Committee on Relief. The Executive Committee on Construction reported that a bank loan for \$550,000 has been secured to cover rebuilding and retrofitting the sanctuary over and above the monies available from the Cal/Nev Conference and the Gasser Foundation. The sermon series, Speaking of God . . . Part Two, began at the end of July. Essays written by congregation members on six "troubling" words like Redemption and Sacrament were collected into a devotional guide for general use. Small groups also used the guide to focus their weekly discussion. Vacation Bible School scaled God's mountain with the help of 28 children, youth guides, parents, grandparents, and volunteer story-tellers.

August 2015 The Speaking of God . . . sermons were presented in baseball style with a "starting pitcher" followed by several bullpen relievers bringing additional views on the word for the day. The baseball pitching style delivery did a very good job of exploring the terms we use when Speaking of God. Money raised in the course of Vacation Bible School was used to send ten Bible New Testaments to Thailand to help children there learn the stories of Jesus in their own language. Fun & Fellowship organized an all-church picnic the last Sunday in the month. The United Methodist Women proudly announced their recent accomplishments: 65 health kits to Nepal, 50 flood buckets for UMCOR, 75 sun dresses to Haiti, supporting the Teacher Resource Center, and wide participation in the reading program with its many important topics. Keith Calara, summer intern, reported on the results of the recent spiritual needs survey he distributed amongst the congregation. The short answer regarding the results of the survey is that we have a desire for greater sense of community and spiritual growth.

September 2015 September sermon series is on the Book of Revelation. Repair and retrofitting work on the sanctuary building reached a sufficient degree of completion to allow congregational work parties to get started on general clean-up, reinstallation of pews, tidying the kitchen, the library, the choir rehearsal room, etc. Work parties planned for September and into October. Boy Scout Troop 2 will help with the heavy-lifting. Recognition of the senior acolytes retiring and invitation to the next class for training. Brooke Eikenberry has been hired as the part-time Communications/Membership Specialist. She will co-ordinate all aspects of communication and improve our utilization of the Church Management System. We were invited by the Unitarian Universalists to participate in the Social Justice Film Series. The Congregational Care Ministry Team presented advice on turning fear, worry, and sadness into joy. The UMW 2016 reading program

includes a book by Sally Armstrong, *Uprising*. The author will appear at Lincoln Theater and speak on empowerment for women all over the world. The UMW Thrift Shop is featuring Hallowe'en and Thanksgiving items. Youth Group/SSP Reunion picnic is held.

October 2015 November 22 has been announced as the day we will return to 5th and Randolph for worship. Sermons for October explore our new key compass statement words: Invite, Grow, and Serve. A "Sneak Peek Potluck" was held to give the congregation a look at the rebuilt sanctuary and to hear a presentation detailing the work done by the Pullman Contracting Group and Kaufman Engineering. Members of the Fusion Worship Team attended the National Worship Leader Conference in San Jose. World Communion Sunday was celebrated. A new member class was held at the parsonage. A special offering, as encouraged by Bishop Brown, was taken for Northern California Fire Disaster Relief and raised \$5200. Revised church directories are available. A new hospitality team: Liz Kirkaldie, Karen Brothers, and Leigh Anderson, are serving up refreshments after the 9:30 worship service. *The Gospel of Mary* by Karen L King is the focus of the Sunday evening book study. An Elected Leader Guide was published to outline the responsibilities of the various administrative committees.

November 2015 The Earth Rocked -- We Rolled -- We're Home, for a grand and glorious return to 5th and Randolph after 15 months in comfortable exile at the Seventh-day Adventist church. We are grateful for their hospitality -- but very happy to be worshiping under our own roof once again. Over 400 persons were present for that grand event. The Napa FUMC Cathedral Choir participated in the Community Thanksgiving Service at Congregation Beth Shalom. A new children's choir is forming under the leadership of Patty Bilhartz. Members of the congregation participate in the Prayer and Study Group in Response to Pope Francis. New Encyclical on Ecology which meets monthly at St John the Baptist Parish Hall. Estimate of Giving cards were made available as part of the financial stewardship campaign. Third-graders were presented with their very own Bibles. The Fusion Worship Team participated with a float in the Holiday Parade. Youth and their parents are invited to participate in a Sierra Service Project planning meeting -- followed by an ice-skating outing.

December 2015 Members of the Cathedral Choir joined with Community Seventh-day Adventist singers and instrumentalists in Stars of Glory, a Celtic Christmas Celebration presented twice at the Adventist Church and once at Napa Methodist. Also there were: The Longest Night Service, Christmas Eve Eve, and three Christmas Eve services. Three new evening class opportunities beginning in January are announced: Tuesday Covenant Bible Study, Wednesday Faith-Link contemporary social issues, and Thursday Disciple's Path.

* * * * *

Another year behind us. It was begun in uncertainty with regard to the financing of the necessary rebuilding and retrofitting work on our sanctuary building. A year later most of the earthquake work is done. The organ has yet to be rebuilt and there are loose ends to be tied up in the historic sanctuary building. Ahead lies the important business of securing funds through a capital campaign to make necessary improvements to classroom and worship facilities in the Bonner Building.

Our physical presence has been restored and our foundation made more firm during this year of rebuilding and planning. We are prepared to build on that firm foundation to invite others into Christian fellowship, to develop spiritually, to grow in faith, and to act as disciples in serving the world.

INVITE. GROW. SERVE.

Praise God!

Compiled by Michael Herzog
January 2016



THANK YOU

Again this year, Napa Methodist displayed their generosity in supporting The Hope Center's Christmas party. Multiple boxes of winter clothing were distributed to our homeless neighbors during the celebration.

While Christmas is the time we often think of the homeless, remember that they are year round residents of this community. They will be especially vulnerable during this year's El Nino chilly, wet winter. The Hope Center has an ongoing need for supplies; toilet paper, soap, shampoo, paper towels and coffee. Fruit that can be carried in a pocket is always welcomed.

My hope is that we will continue to be a year round support for OUR Hope Center!

Peace

Mark Andersen



Our Mission Statement is to build a loving community inviting people into relationship with Jesus Christ.

Sunday Traditional Worship Service: 9:30 am
625 Randolph Street, Napa

Fusion Contemporary Worship Experience: 11:00 am
Napa Methodist Church, Fourth & Franklin Streets entrance

Monday Silent Meditation Group—5:30 pm—Sanctuary

Adult Bible Study Group—10:45 am—Member's Home
GRAPE Express—3 years through 5th grade—9:30 & 11:00 Grenfell Room
Youth Event – Dec. 13th at 5:30 pm – Fellowship Hall

To make an online pledge or donation go to www.napamethodist.org/online-giving-2/



Pastor: *Rev. Lee Neish* Lay Leaders: *Barbara Thompson & Mark Andersen*
Lay Speaker: *Michael Herzog* Office Manager: *Dianne Mahler*
Director of Music: *Jan Lanterman* Organist: *Harold Julander*
Director of Cathedral Choir: *Jan Lanterman* Director of Bonner Bells: *Diane Levorsen*
Director of Children's Ministries: *Vicki Poli* Director of Fusion Worship: *JoAnne Neish*
First United Methodist Church ~625 Randolph St.~ Napa 94559~ (707)253-1411

Please worship with us each Sunday morning.

email—secretary@napamethodist.org website: www.napamethodist.org
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