

# *THE GRAPEVINE*

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

[www.napaumc.org](http://www.napaumc.org)

August 1, 2015



*We are grateful to the Napa Community Seventh-day Adventist Church for their gracious invitation to worship in their church at the corner of Brown and G Streets each Sunday. Thank You!*

## **Please Join Us for Worship each Sunday this Summer!**

Baseball is the *great American pastime* and whether you're a Giants' fan, an A's fan, or just enjoy watching your kids or grandkids play in the local leagues, summer and baseball are almost synonymous. That's why we've decided to have a little fun with the upcoming Summer Message Series which has us returning to six more theological words you've identified as one's you'd like to hear more about.

Each Sunday, we hope you'll join us at SD&A PARK (Community Seventh-day Adventist Church) to see the pitcher (preacher) of the day take their position on the pitcher's mound (pulpit). The first pitch is thrown at about 9:45 and 11:30 respectively. The pitcher of the day will have about twelve minutes to "pitch" his or her best understanding of the word for that day. Then, practicing in the bullpen will be other pitchers who'll have the privilege as relief pitchers that day give a two-minute response and/or comment on the word being pitched.

Joining us on either the pitcher's mound or in the bullpen each Sunday will be our pitching line-up including veteran pitcher Lee Neish, novice intern pitcher Keith Calara, pitch-perfect pitcher Jan Lanterman, technical pitcher (Ph.D. from the G.T.U.) Austin Eikenberry, and professional Lay Pitcher Michael Herzog. And each week, you who are in attendance as the congregation, will determine whether the pitch results in a ball, or a strike, or a run, a homerun, or the extremely rare grand slam.

So dawn your baseball gear and prepare yourself for both ballpark fun as we enjoy that other great American pastime: Speaking of God. And, don't forget to pick up your very own souvenir booklet of writings by some of your favorite Napa First Players as they've reflected upon the Speaking of God selections for this season of play. Don't leave the ballpark without it!

### **Summer Message Series: *Speaking of God ...***

<b>July 26:</b>	<b>Eternal Life</b>	<b>Lee Neish</b>
<b>August 2:</b>	<b>Salvation</b>	<b>Lee Neish</b>
<b>August 9:</b>	<b>Redemption</b>	<b>Keith Calara</b>
<b>August 16:</b>	<b>Holy Spirit</b>	<b>Jan Lanterman</b>
<b>August 23:</b>	<b>Love</b>	<b>Austin Eikenberry</b>
<b>August 30:</b>	<b>Sacrament</b>	<b>Michael Herzog</b>

### **And for those who like to look ahead to the next season ...**

<b>September Series:</b>	<b>John's Book of Revelation</b>
<b>October Series:</b>	<b>A Disciple's Path</b>
<b>November Series:</b>	<b>Extravagant Generosity</b>
<b>Advent Series:</b>	<b>Not a Silent Night; Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem</b>

**Urgent Message: THE 7-YEARS OF TRIBULATION** Prophetic Time-Line  
I recently left my full-time career to start a full-time ministry for the Lord. For the Lord has shared prophecy with me for the past 6 months and it's imperative I share this apocalyptic **WARNING** to the leaders of our community. Here are a few of these revelations the Lord has shared:

- 01-20-2013 1<sup>st</sup> Seal Opened: Presidential Inauguration, sworn into office. The Anti-Christ has been seated in the Oval Office.
- 03-13-2013 False Prophet seated in the Vatican in a position of power for Christian influence. (Peter the Roman: Last Pope)
- 03-02-2014 "The 7-year Covenant"- fulfilled with the Jews. "New Moon"/Covenant to be broken Mid-Week (08-13-2017)
- 04-01-2014 7-year Tribulation starts (1<sup>st</sup> Blood-Moon Month. NOAA: April earthquakes break records at institution)
- 06-30-2014 War: 3 Israeli Teenagers found dead, incident escalated into the 50-Day War between the Palestinians & Israel.
- 07-07-2014 50-Day War starts 7-Days after 2<sup>nd</sup> Seal. Palestinian faction shot 40 rockets into Israel & claimed responsibility.
- 08-25-2014 50-Day War Ends: Cease-Fire. (Daniel's 2300-Day Prophecy count starts to Hanukkah, Cleansing 12-11-2020) Daniel's 2300-Day Count starts on the day of the "New Moon" at sunset on 08-25-2014, Rosh Chodesh.
- 09-11-2015 "Black Friday" (Elul 27) Crash of the U.S. Dollar followed by a Global Financial Collapse. (1<sup>st</sup> Major Sign of trouble)
- 09-14-2015 5<sup>th</sup> Seal Opens: "Feast of Trumpets" (Potential Resurrection, & Rapture) (Early as; 09-13-2015: 1600 hours CST>) "New Moon" Two Witnesses will arrive before Tabernacles to prepare for their 1,260-day ministry for the Lord.
- 09-23-2015 6<sup>th</sup> Seal Opens, "Day of our Lord", "Full Blood Moon" Expect earthquakes of mass proportions, meteorites, & volcanic activity. Expect polar shift, Tsunami's likely to put East, West, & Gulf-Coast areas under water, potentially 50-100 miles inland. (Could occur early as; 09-27-2015, 1029 hours CST). The Great Day of God's vengeance and wrath.

What you've just read above is an excerpt of a communication I actually received in June detailing "the last days." Isn't it exciting that you'll have a ringside seat for these events as they occur during our **September Message Series** on ***John's Book of Revelation!***

Prior to his hospitalization, Hugh Silcox suggested I consider preaching a series of messages on the Book of Revelation. I scheduled the series for this September with no prior knowledge of the above prophetic time-line. So, I invite you, your family, neighbors and friends, to experience what promises to be one of the most exciting message series of all time – or maybe not that exciting but informative if none of these prophetic events actually transpire.

Either way, be blessed by either *not* being *left behind*, or by better understanding why you'll most likely not get all caught up in *The Rapture*. Join us beginning on Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, for this four-part message series on John's Revelation! Who knows, it may be our last!!



## ***Everest; Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power*** **Napa Methodist Vacation Bible School, 2015**

What an incredible week of worship, bible study, games, music, and let's not forget the snacks! This year's school culminating with a potluck party on Friday evening, July 24<sup>th</sup>, hosted 30 children ages preschool to 5<sup>th</sup> grade led by older youth, parents, grandparents and other church members and friends. And, what a resounding success!

Under the leadership of Director of Children's Ministry Vicki Poli, the Asbury, Kagawa, Nursery & Preschool, and second floor classroom spaces in the Bonner Building were transformed into various elevations on Mt. Everest. Each day began with base camp at 9:00 am and culminated at Summit Celebration at noon. And, following last year's success, the first VBS of its kind at Napa Methodist, we were delighted with the numbers and enthusiasm even in the midst of continuing earthquake repairs underway on other parts of the campus.

In Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-10, Moses speaks to the children of the Israelites whom he brought out of slavery in Egypt: "But be on guard and watch yourselves closely so that you don't forget the things your eyes saw and so they never leave your mind as long as you live. Teach them to your children and your grandchildren." (verse 9).

Moses had brought the previous generation of Israelites to the land that God had promised to them, but at the edge of that land their faith had wavered and they had rejected their inheritance. Although they had been freed from slavery in Egypt, they would die in the wilderness, never to enter the land promised to them.

Forty years later, Moses is addressing a new generation of Israelites to remember and to teach God's commandments, statutes, and ordinances to the next generations. These commandments defining Israel's relationships with God, one another, and other nations must be proclaimed and heard again and again. Scholar Anthea Portier-Young says, "Parents must repeat [them] to their children and their children's children."

Moses' burning hope is that this new generation will hear and obey his message from God and thus form themselves into people of faith. Is this not also the hope of grandparents who want to pass on their faith to their grandchildren? That's why our annual Vacation Bible School has become such an important keystone in rebuilding our Grape Express Children's Ministry.

Our challenge is that storytelling in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is media rich requiring new and innovative means in telling the old, old story. Even as we're renovating

with seismic retrofit our historical 1916 building, we must look ahead to December and prepare our Bonner Building to become as welcoming a space for our families with children and youth as we are preparing our damaged building to be welcoming to us.

Please be in prayer for Vicki Poli and her 9:30 Grape Express Conductors as well as for Susan Sanderson and her 11:00 Grape Express Conductors as we endeavor to welcome our children to the S-dA campus (without the benefit of children's space during the month of August) and to our own campus by the end of the year. Our church must lead the way in helping "parents ... repeat [the stories of God's mighty power] to their children and their children's children."

*...and from Vicki Poli*

Another successful Vacation Bible School has ended. We had 28 Everest mountain climbers this year. From all the smiles and laughter I have to assume that everyone had a great time. There were many blessings along the way – our Presbyterian neighbor loaned us the use of their Styrofoam mountains and then Sue Sanderson's sister and brother-in-law brought all of their Everest decorations from Las Vegas! We had mountains everywhere! Then Lindsey Whitmer volunteered to help out with the kids who stayed all day. Then there was watching the kids grow more comfortable with each other and their crew leaders – the first day not very many got up and sang along with the songs. By day 5, 90% of the climbers were up front leading the singing! They got to make snow and bouncy rubber balls. They blew streams of bubbles and figured out a puzzle toy. We also raised enough money to send 10 New Testament Bibles to Thailand. These Bibles are written in the language of Thailand and will help boys and girls learn about Jesus's love. There are too many people to thank to list them all here. Please know that all of you who volunteered have my most heartfelt and grateful thank you for giving of your time and yourselves to help make VBS a success again this year!

PS - SAVE THE DATE – JULY 18 – 22, 2016 – IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!! Cave Quest – Following Jesus, the Light of the World is next year's theme. I'm already thinking about ways to turn Bonner Building into a cave! Here is the link to the web page – check it out! <http://www.group.com/vbs/cave-quest>



*Save the Date – Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>*

*Fun & Fellowship – All Church Picnic  
Details will be announced in your Sunday Bulletins  
but please Save the Date!*

**Sierra Service Project Mission to Smith River, CA (population 800)  
Napa Methodist Youth, 2015**

Eight enthusiastic if a bit anxious youth gathered in the church parking lot at 6:15 am on Sunday morning, July 12<sup>th</sup>, with baggage in tow for the long drive to a small town outside Crescent City in extreme northern California. Molly Bainbridge, Nathan Banks, Emma Healy, Carson Lewis, Jordan Locke, Ryan Olson, Lainy Ross, and Jeremy Tsujihara were joined by counselors Julianne Poirier, Mike Robak and Lindsay Whitmer, and various siblings, parents, grandparents and pastor in a prayer circle that stretched across our entire parking lot. After a brief blessing and prayer, eleven youth and counselors loaded everyone and everything into the church van and a brand new Chevrolet Suburban generously donated by parent Kenny Ross, owner of *Team Chevrolet* in Vallejo. That generous gift along with a last minute congregational appeal which resulted in an additional \$1,546 made it possible for Napa Methodist to send the largest group in years on this year's mission trip.

And for those who were in worship on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, you experienced first-hand the fruit that results from a congregation slowly but surely regaining its footing as it reenters the world of youth ministry. We want to thank Curtis Tinloy whose efforts over the past eight month of his employment as Director of Student Ministries helped lead us to this most recent success. Yet, if it were not for the loving organizational work of Office Manager Dianne Mahler in calling youth and parents, recruiting counselors, and handling logistical support, a trip of this magnitude could not possibly have occurred.

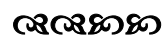
James W. Fowler in *Weaving the New Creation: "Stages of Faith and the Public Church* describes faith stages as "a succession of ways of constructing and interpreting our experience of self, others, and the world in light of relatedness to God." In *Please Pass the Faith*, Elsie Rempel gives brief summaries of these stages of faith development in children and young people so that grandparents can more easily relate to their grandchildren's spiritual growth. Rempel says that around the age of four or five, children continue to have an intuitive awareness of God. They learn the language and practices of faith through imitation, and they may see God as a miracle worker or as baby Jesus.

Children who are six to eight years old relate to biblical stories and characters and often think of Jesus as a superhero. They identify with their family's faith community. They have a "mythic-literal" faith, which means that they are learning to separate reality from imagination. Children who are nine to twelve years old have a growing awareness of other people and an interest in participation in service projects and worship leadership. Rempel says that they "respond to God as Creator and Jesus as friend in deeply personal ways."

Adolescents' faith is often characterized by questioning and critiquing beliefs. They tend to appreciate belonging to their faith community and enjoy participating in mission trips. Rempel says that they "often relate to Jesus as

confidante, guide and counselor.” They value friendships and role models and truthfulness in adults.

In August, youth ministry begins to take a new shape under the leadership of our volunteer Sierra Service Project counselors as they plan a reunion of this group for a beach trip to discuss events, missions and trips that may comprise our youth ministry throughout the fall and beyond. Please be in prayer for them as they continue the great work they began in July. And ... if you'd like to support them in more tangible ways by either volunteering or providing financial assistance, please don't hesitate to contact Mike Robak or Lee Neish. Our vision is to pave the way for our growing number of children to continue to be served by Napa Methodist so they may progress through the various stages of faith development as they journey through their middle school, senior high, and young adult years.



### ***United Methodist Women***

The United Methodist Women Executive Team met in July and talked about the successes of our year. We said that the programs on Human Trafficking and Welcoming Persons with Disabilities to our Church as well as doing a small mission project before each program were some of the highlights. We tried something new this year for our circle programs and focused on the same topic we were discussing at our program meetings, including related Christian teachings and Bible passages. Everyone agreed this made both meetings more meaningful.

Also the following accomplishments were mentioned:

- Sending 65 health kits to UMCOR for Nepal with the help of our whole church!
- Sending over 50 Flood Buckets to UMCOR with the help of our whole church!
- Making and sending over 75 sun dresses and shorts to the school in Haiti
- Reading the *Response Magazine* to learn about UMW mission projects around the world for women, youth and children
- Donating to the Teacher's Resource Center
- Participating in the UMW Reading Program by reading fabulous and informative books on topics of Social Action, Leadership Development, Spiritual Growth, Education for Mission and Nurturing for Community.

So, we are preparing for another year and hope all women from the church will join with us all year but particularly for these upcoming activities.

- ***Program Planning Meeting*** on Friday, July 31st from 9:30-11:30 in the Asbury Room. Call Jan Geren if interested in coming.

- ***A Sewing Bee*** to cut, serge and sew school kits for UMCOR on Wednesday, August 12th from 1-3pm in Kagawa Room. This is always fun!

Plenty of room for lots of workers! YOU!

- ***Unit Meeting*** on Thursday August 20th at 6pm in the Kagawa Room for a program on Welcoming a Sustainable Future: Taking Care of the Earth, plus a mission project and a delicious buffet dinner made by the Executive Team members.

Mark your calendars and please join us!



Dear Church Family,

For those of you who have not met me yet, I am Keith Calara the new summer seminary intern for our congregation. A couple of months ago, I asked the congregation to express their pressing spiritual needs through a survey, and I wanted to thank you for your participation. The survey has given us a list of needs we need to address, and there are two particular trends that I would like to bring to your attention.

As a church family we seem to be craving a greater feeling of community, and we also seem to have a need to explore what spirituality means. The desire to feel a greater sense of community appeared prominently throughout the different demographics in the congregation, but it was those who are 18-29 years of age who most strongly responded to this need. This trend does not completely surprise me since our country as a whole currently experiences this same problem. Work continues to encroach upon people's lives, and the American economy relies upon a transient workforce. Therapists noticed a rise in patients claiming to suffer from depression, but closer diagnosis suggests that patients are actually suffering from loneliness. Census data from 2000 shows that one in every four households consists of one person, and another study shows that the number of people who feel they have no one to discuss important matters with, or a confidant, has tripled since 1985. In many ways, we are facing a crisis. To further amplify the results of our survey, 40% of respondents who indicated, "feeling a sense of community" as one of their greatest spiritual needs also indicated that they had no close friends within the congregation. Friendship and community are not necessarily the same thing, but these two social aspects heavily impact a person's sense of belonging and spirituality. Broadly defined, Christian spirituality refers to how we as Christians experience religion, or how we understand Christianity, and how we practice it in our lives. Spirituality will look different from person to person, but in general there are trends and commonality between people: Evangelicals often talk about a conversion experience, Roman Catholics often connect deeply with the sacraments, Mainline Protestants often speak about the importance of the liturgy, and Pentecostals and Charismatics often emphasize the presence of the Holy Spirit. As Methodists we will likely have a particularly diverse sense of spirituality, and



because of that, efforts to measure our "spiritual intensity" will be stymied by most quantitative endeavors. The last few surveys that we have conducted seem to reflect this reality, meaning we need more conversations about spirituality as a community. Scripture and church history testify that community formation and spiritual formation are intrinsically linked.

Luckily, this challenge presents us with a great opportunity; family, community, and friendship are some of the most important aspects of the Christian faith. It seems an exploration of Christian spirituality and discipleship pathways would not only aid our congregation but we would also become a valuable resource to the community at large. In the next few months I will be preparing more evaluations to help us further understand these concerns in our context. Your participation so far has encouraged me, and I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to approach me (I'm the bald Asian guy), or email me at [kacalara@gmail.com](mailto:kacalara@gmail.com).



### **Patty Renfrow Scholarship Fund**

If you attended the Annual Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Fun and Fellowship Committee, you may have noticed that we have begun taking donations for a very special Patty Renfrow Scholarship Fund. We have decided that this will be a wonderful way to remember Patty Renfrow and her dedication to the Youth Program here at our very own Napa Methodist Church. It is our hope that starting with the graduation year of 2016, we may be able to award a scholarship each year to members of our youth that are graduating. We know in our hearts how much this would make Patty smile. We will continue to collect donations at future Fun & Fellowship events. If you would like to make a donation towards this fund, please feel free to send or bring a check to the church office and write in the memo line of your check; Patty Renfrow Scholarship Fund.



## **THE LAST CAB RIDE**

I arrived at the address and honked the horn. After waiting a few minutes I honked again. Since this was going to be my last ride of my shift I thought about just driving away, but instead I put the car in park and walked up to the door and knocked. 'Just a minute', answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor. After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 90's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940's movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware. 'Would you carry my bag out to the car?' she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness. 'It's nothing', I told her. 'I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother to be treated.' 'Oh, you're such a good boy, she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address and then asked, 'Could you drive through downtown?' 'It's not the shortest way,' I answered quickly.. 'Oh, I don't mind,' she said. 'I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice. I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. 'I don't have any family left,' she continued in a soft voice. 'The doctor says I don't have very long.' I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. 'What route would you like me to take?' I asked.

For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing. As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, 'I'm tired. Let's go now.

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small Convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her. I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair. 'How much do I owe you?' she asked, reaching into her purse. 'Nothing,' I answered. 'You have to make a living,' she said. 'There are other passengers,' I responded. Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. 'You gave an old woman a little moment of joy,' she said. 'Thank you.' I squeezed her hand, and then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away? On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware - beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

**PEOPLE MAY NOT REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID, OR WHAT YOU SAID.  
BUT THEY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL.**

**First United Methodist Church**  
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(707) 253-1411

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

**Sunday Traditional Worship Service: 9:30 am**  
**Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
**Fusion Contemporary Worship Experience: 11:00 am**  
**Seventh-day Adventist Chapel**  
**Corner of Brown and G Streets, Napa**

**Monday Silent Meditation Group—5:30 pm—FUMC Nursery**

Adult Bible Study Group—10:45 am—Young Adult Room, S-d A Church  
GRAPE Express—3 years through 5th grade—9:30 & 11:00 S-d A Church  
Youth Group is on Summer Schedule – Look for the next great summer event!

**To make an online pledge or donation go to [www.napaumc.org/onlinegiving.shtml](http://www.napaumc.org/onlinegiving.shtml)**



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

Since the earthquake we worship at the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Brown and G Sts.  
***Please worship with us there each Sunday morning.***

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