

THE GRAPEVINE

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

www.napaumc.org

October 1, 2015

Invite – Grow - Serve

Save the Date!

We'll be home on Nov. 22nd

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!

Pope Francis' Historic Visit to the United States

The Canonization of Junipero Serra; Spiritual Conquest and Famine in California

I want to take a few moments to share some reflections on an event that you don't see every day. During five days in late September, 2015, Pope Francis, quickly becoming one of the most popular and admired world figures, paid a visit to North America ... first to Cuba, followed by several days in Washington, D.C., then on to New York and Philadelphia. While here, he met with President Obama, addressed a joint session of Congress, Catholic Charities at St. Patrick's Cathedral, world leaders in town for the United Nations General Assembly in New York, gave a major speech at Independence Hall in Philadelphia and celebrated Mass at Madison Square Garden in New York and, again, in Philadelphia which was attended by an estimated 800,000 people. But perhaps the most controversial undertaking during his stay was the first canonization of a saint ever to be held on United States soil – that of Father Junipero Serra.

The California mission system (1769-1823) was and continues to be the legacy of Father Serra, OFM, Spanish Franciscan “president” of the missions from their founding in 1769 until his death in 1782. His legacy includes forced conversions of native peoples to Christianity and the enforcement of those conversions by imprisonment; physical violence in the form of corporal punishment; the imposition of slave labor conditions on Indian converts for the support of the missions and the accompanying military presidios; a living environment that was akin to a concentration camp and cycles of famine and constant poor nourishment that were both unprecedented among these native peoples; an extraordinary death rate among converts; and the devastation of many California native cultures. For these failures the Pope honored Serra with elevation to Roman Catholic sainthood. The only response the Pope made to this controversial action was in his address to Congress where he stated that we cannot hold those living centuries ago to current standards and sensibilities.

In the wake of the Pope's canonization, vandals defaced a statue of Father Junipero Serra at the Carmel, California Mission where the remains of the missionary are buried. The Mission said the statue of Serra and other historic statues in the courtyard were toppled. Photos posted on the Mission's Facebook page show someone wrote “Saint of Genocide” on a stone. The vandalism appeared to be focused on the grave sites of interred Europeans, not those graves of Native Americans. And, by the 11 am. Mass on Sunday, the vandalism had been cleaned out by volunteers.

I share these thoughts in no way to demean the Pope or lessen the good that his travels among us have most certainly accomplished. I would, however, want to share how controversial this action was. I'd also like to share what may have been the most profound statement I heard throughout his five-day stay in the United States. This statement was not uttered by Pope Francis but, rather, by special correspondent Maria Shriver reporting for NBC News when she said: “Every saint has a past. Every sinner has a future.”

In this rather simple statement I find the hope of the Christian faith. No matter how good any of us are, none of us are deserving of the reward we are promised in Christ Jesus. And—no matter what evil deeds we've perpetrated in the past, they are not held against us in the economy of salvation we've come to know in Christ Jesus. While my heart is pained by atrocities committed in the past by others whose lives have been lifted up as exemplary (including my own), my hope is in the Pope's *benefit-of-the-doubt* canonization in believing that God's reign is large enough to make all things new in the end.

Coming Home

As we prepare to come home *physically* to our own rebuilt and retrofitted sanctuary on November 22nd just before Thanksgiving, we're preparing to come home *spiritually* during the month of October as we explore what for many of us might be a deeper appreciation of our identity as United Methodists and, more particularly, as Napa Methodists. We're on a journey beyond Come All to **Invite**—beyond Come Grow to **Grow**—beyond Come Follow to **Serve**:

- We are a people whose **mission** is to build a loving community *inviting* people into relationship with Jesus Christ;
- We are a people whose **journey** is to *grow* in God's grace as we become part of the Body of Christ, becoming more like Jesus and living more like Jesus; and
- We are a people whose **vision** is to *serve* our neighbor.

Just look ahead at the next few Sundays!

October 4:	INVITE: Being part of the Body of Christ Michael Celebration of Worldwide Communion	Austin Eikenberry, Herzog, & Pat Hitchcock
October 11:	INVITE: Beging part of the Body of Christ A life of Radical Hospitality	Pastor Lee Neish
October 18:	GROW: Becoming more like Jesus Personal Spirituality & Accountable Discipleship	Pastor Lee Neish
October 25:	GROW: The Sermon in Song	God's House Band with Ellen Patterson
November 1:	SERVE: Living more like Jesus Social Responsibility & Extravagant Generosity All Saints Day with Celebration of Holy Communion	Pastor Lee Neish

And please be sure to join us on Sunday evening, October 11th, for our ***Sneak Peek Potluck*** at 5:00 pm in our 625 Randolph Street Social Hall featuring Pullman Project Superintendent Jon Hall along with representatives from Kaufman Engineering and our architect to describe how our historic 1917 building was restored along. We'll also feature logo designer Julia Allen and Catch Team Marketing consultant Liz Marks displaying our award-winning new logo.

And, of course, Sunday, November 22nd, will be the worship service of the year when we officially return to our sanctuary and truly **Come Home!**

Fusion Worship Team Thanks Napa Methodist

In late July, five of the Fusion Worship Team members were privileged to attend the National Worship Leader Conference in San Jose for three glorious and informative days. Rachel, Holly, Brooke, Keith and I were able to attend seminars including vocal technique, Planning Center Online (our worship planning tool), intergenerational worship, children's music ministries, media and film, worship leading and many more. We were blessed to hear amazing worship concerts every night with groups like Israel Houghton, Jeremy Riddle, Zealand (with Phil Joel) and The City Harmonic. General session speakers including Len Sweet and Buddy Owens were inspiring and authentic about their own ministries, mistakes and experience.

Thank you from our hearts for this opportunity to spend time together to learn and deepen our relationships and skills. What we've brought back to Napa Methodist will continue to unfold well into the future.

Thank especially to Kathy Martin (chair of SPR) and Susan Archer (finance) for their encouragement and support.

Here's a 'groupie' picture we had taken with Zealand with Phil Joel!!!!



Invite, Grow, Serve

The R360 team was wrestling once again with our vision and mission statements. It seems that every few years we need to look at where we have been and where we are going. Lee might call these documents our road map for the future. However, as we changed a phrase here or a word there, we struggled to create concise but accurate statements of who we are as a congregation and who we want to be. It was Liz Marks who suddenly said, “invite, grow, serve.” Those three words summarized the three statements. There was a sense of relief in the room as the words sank in: they fit what we were trying to say. They fit so well that we incorporated them into the logo as our tag line. We’ll be exploring them in sermons in October.



World-Wide Communion Sunday October 4

Sunday October 4, 2015, is Worldwide Communion Sunday. We’ll be celebrating with Communion, of course. For you long-time members, we’ll use the musical responses during the liturgy, and for new-comers we’ll repeat the invitation: “All are welcome at this table.” The homily will be brought by the team of Michael Herzog, Austin Eikenberry and Pat Hitchcock. The beloved Bonner Bells will ring music for us. You might really want to participate in this day and this Sacrament.



New Member Class

Mark the date: Our next "Exploring Membership" class will be held on Sunday, November 1 from 5-7 at the parsonage (3321 Sunview, Napa). If you are interested in joining, or even thinking about it, please come! A light dinner is provided. For more information, contact Jean Hasser at 259-1552."

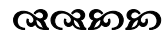
AN INTIMATE MESSAGE FROM GOD TO YOU
from your *Congregational Care Ministry* Team

My Child...

You may not know me, but I know everything about you. Psalm 139:1 I know when you sit down and when you rise up. Psalm 139:2 Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. Matthew 10:29-31 For you were made in my image. Genesis 1:27 In me you live and move and have your being. Acts 17:28 For you are my offspring. Acts 17:28 I knew you even before you were conceived. Jeremiah 1:4-5 I chose you when I planned creation. Ephesians 1:11-12 You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. Psalm 139:15-16 I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. Acts 17:26 You are fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14 I knit you together in your mother's womb. Psalm 139:13 And brought you forth on the day you were born. Psalm 71:6 I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. John 8:41-44 I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. 1 John 4:16 And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. 1 John 3:1 Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. 1 John 3:1 I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. Matthew 7:11 For I am the perfect father. Matthew 5:48 Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. James 1:17 For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. Matthew 6:31-33 My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. Jeremiah 29:11 Because I love you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3 My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. Psalm 139:17-18 And I rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17 I will never stop doing good to you. Jeremiah 32:40 For you are my treasured possession. Exodus 19:5 I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. Jeremiah 32:41 And I want to show you great and marvelous things. Jeremiah 33:3 If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. Deuteronomy 4:29 Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4 For it is I who gave you those desires. Philippians 2:13 I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine. Ephesians 3:20 For I am your greatest encourager. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you. Psalm 34:18 As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. Isaiah 40:11 One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. Revelation 21:3-4 And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. Revelation 21:3-4 I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. John 17:23 For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. John 17:26 He is the exact representation of my being. Hebrews 1:3 He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. Romans 8:31 And to tell you that I am not counting your sins. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. 1 John 4:10 I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. Romans 8:31-32 If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. 1 John 2:23 And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. Romans 8:38-39 Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. Luke 15:7 I have always been Father, and will always be Father. Ephesians 3:14-15 My question is... Will you be my child? John 1:12-13 I am waiting for you. Luke 15:11-32

Love, Your Dad
Almighty God

P.S. – Please remember that your Congregational Care Ministry Team (Barbara Barrett, Jim Dunaway, Dianne Mahler, Lee Neish, Helen Reddick, and Kathryn Tolman) are always ready to remind you how much you are loved by God and by this congregation. We are only a phone call away.



\$5,200 Received for Northern California Fire Disaster Relief Special Offering!

On Sunday morning, September 20th, we received a special offering to bolster the flagging California-Nevada Conference Disaster Response Fund. This offering was instigated partially by our concern to respond to the fire disaster just north of us in Lake County as well as a letter received from Bishop Warner Brown encouraging all Conference churches to receive such an offering. Portions of that letter follow:

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1)
My heart aches as I watch wildfires burn across our Conference. We have dozens of parishoners who have lost homes, while others are still uncertain as to whether or not their homes are still standing. Even in the midst of destruction, hope rises from the ashes. We have received word that Middletown Community UMC is still standing, although damage has not been assessed. We have also received word the fire changed directions and Camp Lodestar is still standing.

I continue to be inspired by the faithful witness of our United Methodist congregations in the surrounding areas of the fires. They are housing folks, providing meals, providing sleeping bags, gas vouchers, and demonstrating Christian presence where God has placed them for such a time as this.

I am calling on all of our United Methodist congregations in the California-Nevada Conference to take a special offering on Sunday, September 20, during your worship services to aid our brothers and sisters.

Your support for the California-Nevada Conference Disaster Response Fund will be most helpful right now. This fund is almost completely depleted. This fund allows us to send financial support immediately to United Methodists involved in disaster response work across our annual conference. We have received grants from the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) for Rocky/Lake County Fire, and the Butte/Amador County Fire. Our Conference Disaster Response Fund has allowed us to meet immediate needs until UMCOR grants arrive, and to meet needs not covered with those grants. UMCOR grants require some matching funds from the conference whenever possible. Money from our Conference Disaster Response Fund yields many thousands of dollars in UMCOR grants to the conference for disaster response.

The California-Nevada Conference has benefited tremendously from the United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) as we have responded to natural disasters within the bounds of the Conference. Let us continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in the affected areas.

“The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.” (Psalm 46:11)

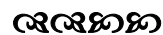
Grace and Peace,

Warner H. Brown, Jr.

Resident Bishop

Thank you for your generous response to this emergency offering. And, if you were not in attendance or were unable to respond on September 20th, you may still send a check to the church or place in the offering plate with the word “Fires” written in the memo line. Your generosity is one of the reasons I am proud to be a United Methodist!

- Pastor Lee Neish



Mailbag

First United Methodist Church of Napa received a beautiful note this week from Knox United Methodist Church saying that on Sept. 21st their Prayer Ministry prayed for our church.

“God in Heaven, precious Jesus, send your Holy Spirit upon this church, Napa First UMC as we pray. Let the power of your love lift them. In this moment, we pray for their spirit and for those whom they hold dear. We thank You as we lift them before your throne of Grace. May your Holy Spirit surround them, protect and provide for them. Guide them, now and evermore in your abundant and saving love. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, AMEN

Thank you, we feel blessed.

Church Service in the Year 2018.

PASTOR: "The Lord be with you!"

CONGREGATION: And with your spirit."

PASTOR: "Will everyone please turn on their tablet, PC, iPad, smart phone, and Kindle Bibles to 1 Corinthians, 13:13. And please switch on your Blue-tooth to download the sermon."

P-a-u-s-e

"Now, Let us pray committing this week into God's hands. Open your Apps, BBM, Twitter and Facebook, and chat with God."

S-i-l-e-n-c-e

"As we take our Sunday tithes and offerings, please have your credit and debit cards ready." "You can log on to the church Wi-Fi using the password 'Lord909887.' The ushers will circulate mobile card swipe machines among the worshipers:

- a.] Those who prefer to make electronic fund transfers are directed to computers and laptops at the rear of the church.
- b.] Those who prefer to use iPad's can open them.
- c.] Those who prefer telephone banking, take out your cell phones to transfer your contributions to the church account.

The holy atmosphere of St. Matthew's becomes truly electrified as ALL the smart phones, iPad's, PCs and laptops beep & flicker!

Final Blessing and Closing Announcements.

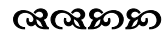
- a.] This week's ministry cell meetings will be held on the various Facebook group pages where the usual group chatting takes place. Please log in and do not miss out.
- b.] Thursday's Catechism Study will be held live on Skype at 1900 hrs GMT. Please do not miss out.
- c.] You can follow your Pastor on Twitter this weekend for counseling and prayers. God bless and have a nice day.

And Jesus wept.



Church Directories Still Available.

2015 Church Directories are available for pick up in the church office for use by members and friends. If you are unable to pick one up, please contact the church office at 253-1411 and a copy can be mailed to you. For privacy reasons, electronic copies are not available."



Meet Your New After Church Hospitality Team

A big thank you to Liz Kirkaldie, Karen Brothers, and Leigh Anderson - our new after church hospitality team! We are grateful to Trudie Atchison for her many years of dedicated service!



Bookstudy – The Gospel of Mary of Magdala - Jesus and the First Woman Apostle

By Karen L. King – Winn Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Harvard
University

Lost for more than fifteen hundred years, the Gospel of Mary is the only existing early Christian gospel written in the name of a woman. Karen L. King tells the story of the recovery of this remarkable gospel and offers a new translation. This brief narrative presents a radical interpretation of Jesus' teachings as a path to inner spiritual knowledge. It rejects his suffering and death as a path to eternal life and exposes the view that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute for what it is – a piece of theological fiction. The Gospel of Mary of Magdala offers a fascinating glimpse into the conflicts and controversies that shaped earliest Christianity.

Elaine Pagles says: "Karen King's Gospel of Mary of Magdala is a book that many readers are waiting for. – a complete translation of the Gospel of Mary together with a lucidly written, marvelously informative discussion of where it comes from and what it means."

We will begin this study at 7:00 PM (until 8:30) on October 25, 2015 and finish with the classic potluck on December 13. Of course there will be cookies. For more information contact Peter Lutz at plutz@sonic.net or 255-8593

First United Methodist Church
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(707) 253-1411

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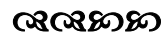
Our Mission Statement is to build a loving community inviting people into relationship with Jesus Christ.

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 Event – Look for the next great event!

To make an online pledge or donation go to 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.

email—secretary@napaumc.org website: www.napaumc.org
You are welcome to visit us on Facebook: [NapaFUMC](https://www.facebook.com/NapaFUMC) or Twitter: [NapaFirstUMC](https://twitter.com/NapaFirstUMC)