

# *THE GRAPEVINE*

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

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

October 15, 2015



NAPA  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

*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!*

## What is Discipleship?

Our denomination has described the mission of The United Methodist Church as making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As a local church, we have been tasked with what a fully formed disciple looks like in our context.

Over the years, particularly coming out of the modern scientific era, discipleship ministries have been based on the core definition of a disciple as a “learner”. This was easy and convenient. We could “teach” about what it means to be a disciple. So the Church developed a very academic approach to equipping disciples. Yearlong treks through the Bible became the norm. For those who wanted to dig deeper there were verse by verse studies of particular books. Then we added themed studies around the topics that could help people understand how to live as better disciples.

So, here we are in the post-modern era and a number of studies have been done to see how all this focus on learning and teaching has worked. And the answer is: It didn't! We missed the part of the definition of disciple as learning that focused on actually becoming like Jesus, not just learning about Jesus..

So, let's be clear...

- Discipleship is not about learning about Jesus. It is about becoming like Jesus.
- Discipleship is not about education. It is about transformation.
- Discipleship is not about knowledge. It is about behaviors.

A disciple is a follower of Jesus Christ who is committed to:

- Being part of the Body of Christ.
- Becoming more like Jesus.
- Joining Jesus in ministry.

It is important to note that for each of these three areas presented, it is not identified how the person will live that out. Discipleship is a very personal journey and what works for one person will not necessarily work for another. However, there are several dimensions of discipleship that relate to these three broad strokes identified in the definition. For our congregation, we've described our discipleship journey as:

- Invite ... we invite people into a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Grow ... we grow people in God's grace.
- Serve ... we serve our neighbors.

Indeed, this journey has emerged from our mission, journey and vision statements.

Our spiritual growth team is currently conducting a survey across the congregation to help discover how our current discipleship offerings match the congregation's need for invite, grow, serve opportunities. This survey was distributed on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, in Sunday morning worship. If you missed taking the survey, you are encouraged to stop by the church office and take the survey. It is brief and anonymous, taking no more than ten minutes to complete. Please help us help you in growing in God's grace!

- Pastor Lee



## God Is With Us

On the heels of the celebration on Sunday evening, October 11<sup>th</sup>, when we enjoyed a sneak peek potluck and multimedia presentation by Pullman Company and their associates, I read the following meditation for Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, in *The Upper Room* daily devotional. I thought it so appropriate to our experience this past year that I wanted to share it with you today:

Isaiah 43:1-7

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

- Isaiah 43:2-3

Australia is a land of sweeping plains, rugged mountain ranges, droughts, and flooding rains. Our region had experienced years of drought. Then last summer three floods came across our farm in a three-month period. We were safe, but surrounded by water. We did not lose any livestock; but we did lose crops, which left us with a financial loss. Fences and roads were swept away, and debris was left everywhere. The cleanup kept us busy for months.

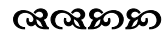
My eyes were opened when I read today's reading from Isaiah: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you" – "when" not "if"! We will pass through waters and walk through fire; but God promises, "I am the LORD your God ... your Savior.... Do not fear, for I am with you." We can trust in God because God is faithful. When we realize what God has done for us, we don't need to be afraid of whatever disasters happen in the world. God has formed us and called us by name. God loves us, redeems us, and blots out our sins. What a privilege to belong to such a great and gracious God!

**Prayer:** We love you, Lord. When the floods and fires come, we are thankful for your presence with us. What a comfort it is to know that you are our God, the Holy One, our Savior! Amen.                      - Janine Randell (New South Wales, Australia)

***Prayer Focus:*** Victims of Natural Disasters

I am reminded of what a source of great devotions we have in ***The Upper Room***, available to you free of charge provided by your church. Just pick one up on Sunday morning at worship or stop by the office. We'd be happy to provide you with a copy. In addition to using the Grow Pray Study (GPS) guide, I highly recommend this for your daily devotions.

- Pastor Lee



## **Elected Leader Nomination Guide 2016**

Thank you for your interest in serving as an elected leader at Napa First United Methodist Church. The committee positions listed below are just one way to serve at Napa Methodist. To complete an application to be considered for any of the following committees or to consider other areas of service, please stop by the Church Office.

### **Committee Descriptions**

#### **Nominations Committee**

The Nominations Committee oversees the identification, development and care for the volunteer leaders at Napa First UMC. Key initiatives include preparing the annual nomination slate and providing oversight of volunteer service and leadership development at the church. Meetings are held on Wednesday afternoons at 5:30 p.m. primarily in the fall and early winter, with six meetings annually. Questions: Contact Lee Neish at [lee.neish@napaumc.org](mailto:lee.neish@napaumc.org) or 408-655-2872.

#### **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee develops and administers a coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies and procedures for the church. It oversees the financial health of the church, reviews the annual semi-annual audit, provides financial direction, and communicates the church's financial condition to the Church Council. Meetings are generally held on the third Monday of each month at 4:30 p.m. Questions: Contact Susan Archer at [Susan.archer3@gmail.com](mailto:Susan.archer3@gmail.com) or 707-246-3621.

#### **Staff Parish Committee**

The Staff Parish Committee acts as a liaison between the congregation and its staff and clergy. The committee sets employment policy, guides the work of the staff and ensures Napa First UMC is a fulfilling work environment. Meetings are usually held on the first Monday of each

month at 4:30 p.m. Members of this committee cannot be related to a Napa First UMC staff member. Questions: Contact Kathy Martin at [kjmartin21@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kjmartin21@sbcglobal.net) or 707-255-3459.

### **Board of Trustees**

This Board is charged with the care and maintenance of church property across our church (real, personal and intellectual) and holds title to the church's property, buildings and equipment. Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Trustees must be at least 18 years of age. Key items include establishing policies and practices regarding church property, disaster planning, land acquisition and construction planning. Questions: Contact Gary Neal at [garynealdds@gmail.com](mailto:garynealdds@gmail.com) or 707-479-8520.

### **Endowment Board**

The Endowment Board generates awareness of legacy giving; promotes planned gifts; receives, invests, and administers in trust for Endowment bequests and legacy gifts. Members should possess an interest in finance, legacy fundraising, management, or marketing. Questions: Contact Annette Perry at [aperry35@comcast.net](mailto:aperry35@comcast.net) or 707-287-8030.

### **Lay Delegate to the California Nevada Annual Conference**

Lay Delegates represent our church, along with our pastor, at legislative sessions of the California Nevada Annual Conference. During the annual meeting, a variety of proposals are considered on issues and policies that will have impact on United Methodist churches across Northern California and Northern Nevada. This coming year's meeting will be held in Burlingame, California, from June 22-25, 2016. Lay Delegates should have an interest in Napa Methodist's vision of church renewal and be able to commit to multiday out-of-town Annual Conference meetings. Questions: Contact Lee Neish at [lee.neish@napaumc.org](mailto:lee.neish@napaumc.org) or 408-655-2872.



### *Preaching Schedule*

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

## **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.



## **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.



### **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](mailto:plutz@sonic.net) or 255-8593

**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.napamethodist.org/online-giving-2/](http://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

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@napamethodist.org](mailto:secretary@napamethodist.org)                      website: [www.napamethodist.org](http://www.napamethodist.org)  
You are welcome to visit us on Facebook: [NapaFUMC](#) or Twitter: [NapaFirstUMC](#)