

THE GRAPEVINE

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

www.napaumc.org

November 15, 2015



NAPA
METHODIST
CHURCH
invite. grow. serve.

Save the Date!
Coming 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!*

Honoring ...

**... the Legacy of our Past
... the Providence of our Present
... the Hope of our Future**

For more than 163 years, those who have gone before us have bequeathed those who followed an opportunity to give at the First United Methodist Church of Napa. Their faithfulness and loyalty have enhanced our sense of pride and dedication to the Church that each succeeding generation has given to the next. It has often been said over this past year of reconstruction that, if we had to pay for the reconstruction of the entire sanctuary, this congregation, and few congregations, could afford the bill. The artistry and craftsmanship that originally contributed to the sanctuary we have today simply would be financially out of reach by most congregations today.

At the time we were conducting last year's general fund campaign, we had not yet received the final word on what our California Nevada Conference was prepared to gift us from the Earthquake Self-Insurance Fund. In fact, it would not be until the closing days of December, 2014, that we would discover the fullness of God's providence and connectional generosity in the amount of \$1,552,500 of the estimated \$1,900,000 cost of repairs and retrofitting! And, yet, even in the midst of all the uncertainty of construction financing, we, as a congregation, still pledged an estimate which far exceeded the previous two years.

It would be later in the Spring of 2015 that we would discover the generosity of the Gasser Foundation's remarkable gift of \$125,000 plus an additional \$50,000 to guarantee the servicing of a loan pending by the Bank of Napa for an additional \$650,000 to pay for the remainder of the costs of reconstruction as well as add-ons which seemed prudent while the walls were opened. Additional gifts from the Chamber Music in Napa Valley, our partner in bringing the acoustic arts alive in the Napa Valley, made major financial contributions to provide excellence in the acoustic treatment of the new plaster on the walls of the sanctuary as well as the construction of a new, hardwood platform for use as a chancel.

But perhaps the most remarkable sign of God's providence was the gracious invitation by our Napa Community Seventh-day Adventist friends of the use of their sanctuary and adjacent facilities on Sunday mornings free of charge until we were able to move back into our own worship space! This sign of providence and generosity has been reported by news agencies across the Bay Area and beyond!

And, amazingly, even in the midst of all this relocation and construction, we've continued to grow as a congregation with the addition of seven new young adults in our most recent membership class. We've also started, thanks to new member

Patty Bilhartz, a Carol Choir for children with a first Sunday rehearsal attendance of nine!

And, so, as you can see from this rather small recounting of this past year's events, we have a legacy to honor ... God's providence and generous abundance to rejoice ... and a future to steward! In fact, if ever this generation of congregants had reason to be generous in their estimate of giving for the following year, it certainly would be this year with all the gifts and blessings we've received.

So as we consider congregants of this generation who comprise our church family, we fall into roughly three categories:

1. those who have ties to our church family but haven't contributed to its mission and ministries;
2. those who have contributed to our mission and ministries but didn't submit an estimate of giving for this year; and
3. those who have submitted an estimate of giving and have been faithfully giving toward the completion of their pledge.

I'd like to address each of you, whichever group in which you may currently belong.

1. If you've not made a gift to First United Methodist Church of Napa recently, this coming year is such a crucial time to plan to begin giving. With so much generosity received from so many beyond our church family, this is the year to demonstrate the good faith in which we've received those gifts by investing in our own mission and ministries. Most of the gifts we've received have been given in trust that we enlarge our efforts to fulfill our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We do this by building a loving community to invite people into relationship with Jesus Christ, by growing in God's grace, and by serving our neighbor. This coming year is a time to reengage in this mission, to grow and to serve, and to give that others might grow and serve as well.
2. If you've contributed to our mission and ministries but haven't submitted an estimate of giving card this past year, the use of this card is such a help, not only for the purposes of our planning, but for your encouragement to *seek first* God's kingdom or reign. Like most of us, we may begin with great intentions to make giving to God and God's church a priority in our lives, but other pressing matters often enter our lives and take the place of those good intentions. The completion of an estimate of giving card represents a bold statement that, along with the basic needs of life, such as food and housing, our spiritual well-being deserves a first place priority—not only for our own benefit but for the benefit of those with whom we share this most blessed community.
3. And if you've been faithfully keeping your giving at the level at which you pledged this past year, we want to say thank you and suggest that your

faithfulness has contributed immeasurably to our congregation's ability to meet mission and ministry obligations and goals even in the midst of this past year's reconstruction. Your continued faithfulness in giving as indicated by a completed estimate of giving card is essential as an encouragement to others who may consider such a means of giving for the first time this coming year. It will also add to the assurance of our financial plans as we enter the new year with new staffing for communications, youth, and a range of other ministry opportunities.

Please take some quiet time to prayerfully consider the size of our gift to Napa First United Methodist Church over the coming year. Consider how many lives you've already touched with God's unconditional love and grace—and how many more lives that might be transformed across our community and beyond by virtue of your generosity.

Let us give over the coming year in a way that honors the legacy of our past, the providence and generosity we've received this past year, and the hope our newer, younger members and friends have placed in us.

And let us see you for our grand celebration on Sunday morning, November 22nd!

Sincerely yours,
Lee Neish, pastor

P.S. We've included an Estimate of Giving Card for your convenience. You may mail it or bring it to church with you.

Lee Neish

The Holidays Are Just Around the Corner!

And we're kicking off the season with some unforgettable events that you're sure to not want to miss! Just take a look:

November:

- Sunday 22nd at 9:30 Coming Home Celebration Worship at 625 Randolph Street followed by a reception
- Wednesday 25th at 7:00 Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship at Congregation Beth Shalom
- Saturday, 28th at 6:00 Napa Holiday Parade featuring Fusion Float

December:

- Sunday, 6th at 4:00 Children's Christmas Musical
- Sunday, 6th at 5:00 Vineyard Circuit Charge Conference & Potluck
- Sunday, 13th at 5:30 Youth Group/SSP Planning/Ice Skating Party
- Tuesday, 22nd at 7:30 Longest Night Service
- Wednesday 23rd at 7:30 Fusion Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
- Thursday, 24th at 5:30 Family Candlelight Christmas Eve
- Thursday, 24th at 7:30 God's House Band Candlelight Christmas Eve
- Thursday, 24th at 11:00 Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve

As you prepare to join us for worship on November 22nd, please bear several things in mind. First, leave early to find parking close to the church. Many friends from the community and region will be joining us that day so parking is sure to be in short supply. Please park in one of the two municipal parking lots (Fourth & Randolph just northeast of the church campus or the parking structure on Coombs Street) to allow parking adjacent to the church for our seniors and guests. Also, remember that this fall, all east-west streets east of Jefferson Street have been turned into two-way streets. If you've not driven to the church lately, please use caution as old habits are hard to break!

We're looking forward to our third annual Napa Downtown Churches Thanksgiving Eve Worship hosted this year by Congregation Beth Shalom. And, as was true for the first two years, this year once again features a holiday pie reception following worship. Be sure to bring your favorite holiday pie to share with others across our community.

And, come downtown on Saturday evening following Thanksgiving for the annual Napa Holiday Parade and watch for the Fusion Float featuring Napa Methodist Church. We're looking for a flatbed we can use for a float so if anyone has one or a

lead where we might possibly borrow one, please call the church office. Also, you may want to come to the church parking lot on Saturday to help decorate the float and, later, to help our children hand out cards and candy along the parade route.

We look forward to celebrating the most blessed time of the year in our own home. See you soon!

- Pastor Lee

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Coming Home!

*One Great Morning of Thanksgiving
Sunday, November 22nd, 9:30 am
625 Randolph Street, Napa, CA 94559*

After a 15 month wait, we're finally coming home! For many of us, 625 Randolph Street is our second home. It may not be where we sleep, but it is our spiritual home. We broke bread there, got married there, saw our children grow up and also attended many memorial services for friends and family. On the morning of August 24, 2014, we didn't know if we would ever worship there again.

It is with great anticipation that we will celebrate our homecoming on Sunday morning, November 22 at 9:30 am. The service will be a grand celebration combining both the 9:30 and 11:00 am worship teams. Many VIPs are invited from near and far to celebrate with us, and we will be honoring special people who helped put our beloved building back together in better condition than before the earthquake.

**Please Join Us!
The Earth Rocked – We Rolled – We're Home**



***Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home ...***

**Community Thanksgiving Service
Wednesday, November 25, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Congregation Beth Shalom
1455 Elm Street , Napa, CA**

**Following the service, there will be a time for
fellowship and pie in the Social Hall.
(Bring your favorite Thanksgiving pie to share!)**

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Sponsored by Napa Downtown Churches:

**First Presbyterian Church
Congregation Beth Shalom
First United Methodist Church
Napa Community Seventh-Day Adventist Church
Napa Valley Lutheran Church
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church**
For more information, please call (707) 224-8693

Acolyte Team News

Wictionary tells me that a Latin source of the word **candle** is *candela*, from *candeo* which means “**I am white, bright, shining.**” That phrase fits my picture of our Acolytes carrying in the Light of Christ and, at the close of worship, carrying it out to the world. Beginning on November 22, they will return to light the communion table candles at each Sunday's 9:30 AM traditional worship service.

We currently have eleven Senior Acolytes: Alyssa Ernst, Kayley Ernst, Kaley Lewis, Lydia Mitchell, DJ Quick, Lizzie Quick, Parker Rutherford, Nathan Schwarze, Caroline Simpkins, Will Tokar, and Shayley Zacccone. Natalie Schiefferly has now advanced to Acolyte Emeritus. Others may soon join her at that level, having served for as many as five years.

Being away from our home sanctuary, we haven't added any new Acolytes since May-June 2014. Now, several young people in our congregation are candidates for training. They'll have that opportunity on Sunday, November 15, meeting with Senior Acolytes for an early lunch (pizza, of course) in the Fellowship Hall at 625 Randolph. The dividing wall will be raised for a good view into the sanctuary with communion table and candles in place. We'll talk about why and how we do this ritual as part of the Napa Methodist traditional service. Then the Senior Acolytes will walk the Trainees through the process, show them what to do, let them practice doing it, and help answer their questions.

Parents, grandparents and guardians of Trainee candidates, please bear in mind that Acolytes are generally expected to be available for service at least one Sunday each month. If your child takes part in GRAPE Express, this would normally mean missing several minutes at the beginning and end of that Sunday's children's worship.

– Kathryn Tolman, Acolyte Coordinator

RSVP no later than November 8

via email kmtolman41@att.net or mobile phone **707-260-5261**

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NVUU Social Justice Film Series
7-9pm, 1625 Salvador Ave.
November 20: "Clean Bin Project" (77 minutes)

An award winning documentary, [the film](#) follows our year of trying to live consumer and waste-free and explores the larger issues of garbage in North America. Featuring interviews with renowned artist, Chris Jordan and marine pollution expert, Captain Charles Moore, the film presents the serious topic of waste reduction with optimism, humor, and inspiration for individual action. After the film we will get updates from our local Napa Recycling & Waste Service and have a sorting contest to test our knowledge of what is compostable, recyclable and garbage (destined to the landfill).

Dear Parent(s):

RE: SSP Planning Event/Youth Group Activity

You are invited for dinner and a meeting about Sierra Service Project on December 13, 2015 at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church at 625 Randolph St. Napa.

Last year, eight awesome youth and three adults attended the Sierra Service Project at the Smith River in California. We hope others will join us in 2016. If you are interested in your child participating in this wonderful one week program, please come with your son/daughter. Also, invite friends who maybe interested.

We will use this meeting to plan locations and dates for 2016, so your input is critical. You do not need to be connected with the First United Methodist Church, or for that matter any church, to attend this program. We are open to all.

After our dinner and meeting, the youth and youth leaders will go ice skating from 7pm to 9 pm at the ICE Rink at the Napa Expo. Parents are invited to come along.

This evening is also a reemergence of our Youth Group. Whether planning to attend SSP or not, your son/daughter and friends are invited to have fun, eat pizza, and ice skate.

The agenda for the parent(s) Sierra Service Project meeting will be:

1. Input on SSP sites for 2016
2. Input on dates for 2016 SSP
3. Fundraising for 2016 SSP

You can learn more about the Sierra Service Project by going to their web site at sierraserviceproject.org. If you have any questions, please call me at 707 257-7134 or email me at robaklee@gmail.com.

Please RSVP me at the above phone or email address, so we can plan the pizza, salad, and drinks accordingly. As part of the RSVP let us know if your son/daughter will be going ICE Skating with us. Looking forward to seeing you on December 13, 2015.

Mike Robak

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/

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