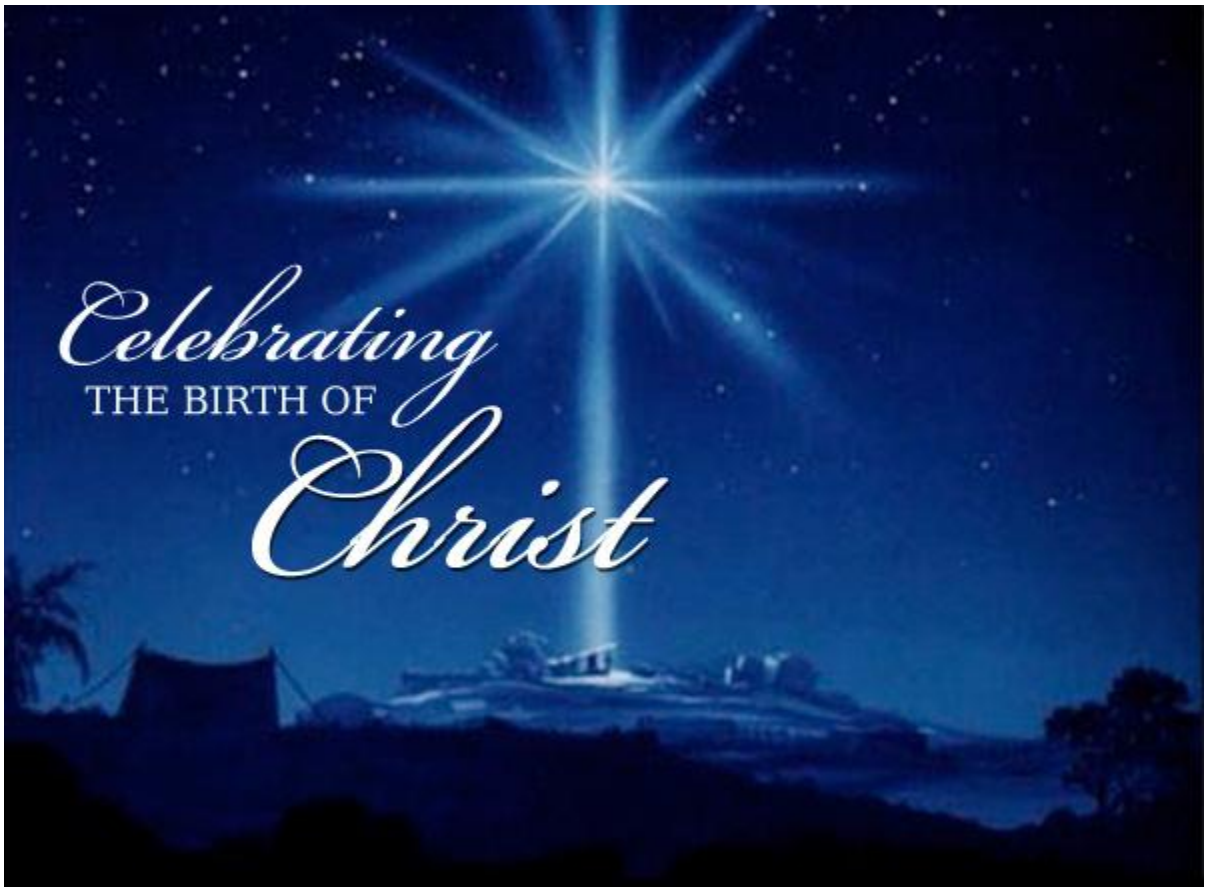


THE GRAPEVINE

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

www.napaumc.org

December 1, 2015



Upcoming Events
All Are Welcome

The Longest Night Service – Dec. 22nd - 7:30 pm – Asbury Room

Candlelight Eve Eve – Dec. 23rd - 7:30 pm – Asbury Room

Christmas Eve Services – December 24th - Sanctuary

5:30 pm – Family Oriented – Children’s Choir – Sanctuary

7:30 pm – God’s House Band – Sanctuary

11:00 pm – Candlelight Worship Service - Sanctuary



Stars

of Glory

Celebrate Christmas with choir and orchestra

A Celtic Christmas Celebration

Three Performances:

Friday, December 18, 2015, 7:30 pm

at the Napa SDA Church (1105 G Street)

Saturday, December 19, 2015, 11:00 am

at the Napa SDA Church (1105 G Street)

Sunday, December 20, 2015, 9:30 am

at the Napa Methodist Church (625 Randolph St.)

2016 *Grow Thursday* Class Offerings

Members of Napa Methodist Church are asked to strengthen the ministries of our church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. But whether a member or not—all are invited ... urged ... to follow Jesus by growing in discipleship, or what many call spiritual growth. In order to increase our spiritual and relational vitality as a congregation, Pastor Lee Neish joins the Spiritual Growth Team in inviting you to participate in the following classes to be offered on Thursday evenings at our church throughout the coming year. He will be leading these classes with the assistance of our team members. The first class forming is:

A Disciple's Path

DEEPENING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

January 7 thru February 11 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Are you ready to move from merely becoming a church member to becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ? Are you looking for an engaging approach to discipleship from a distinctively Wesleyan perspective? This class will help you to revolutionize your life and ministry by guiding you to take the next step in discipleship and become a dynamic, engaged follower of Jesus Christ.

This study combines a Wesleyan understanding of our growth in God's love and grace with the time-tested practices of spiritual discipline expressed in the membership vows to uphold the church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. You'll develop spiritual practices, discover your unique gifts, and become engaged in ministry that brings transformation to your own life, the lives of others, and the world.

And here is a listing of more classes to follow on *Grow Thursday* evenings:

6 Decisions; That will Change Your Life

February 18 thru March 24 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

The Wesleyan Way; A Faith That Matters

March 31 thru May 19 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

6 Things; We Should Know About God

May 26 thru June 30 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

A Disciple's Heart; GROWING IN LOVE AND GRACE

August 25 thru October 6 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

6 Ways; We Encounter God

October 13 thru November 17 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Please indicate your interest to explore participating in this first class by registering with the church office.

Winter/Spring 2016 *Bible Tuesday* Class Offerings

COVENANT BIBLE STUDY

January 5 thru June 21 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

This Covenant Bible Study experience will guide you in a comprehensive, in-depth study of the Bible over several months. Unlike the learning you may have experienced in other groups, this in-depth study of the whole bible emphasizes the biblical concept of *covenant* as a unifying pattern through all the books of the Old and New Testaments. It underscores the unique relationship that God chooses to have with us as God's people. This relationship is grounded in the faithfulness of God's love and in our ongoing commitment to stay in love with God while we share signs of that love with others.

Each episode connects to an aspect of this covenant relationship, which is summarized in the heading of each eight-week series of sessions:

Creating the Covenant

January 5 thru February 23 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

The first eight-week series explores how a biblical covenant is created and established. It covers the stories about our origins in Genesis, the critical Exodus narrative about the freedom of God's people, the stories of a new teacher in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, and other biblical books that highlight foundational aspects of Christian belief and practice.

Living the Covenant

March 1 thru April 26 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

This eight-week series builds on the concept of covenant by applying it to actual relationships in everyday life. The books included in this set of episodes are instructive, such as the accounts of emerging leadership problems first among the tribal chieftains, and then among the kings and prophets. It presents the spiritual and political crises that formed the early church; it searches for practical wisdom in the teachings of Israel's sages; and it considers the practical guidance found in Paul's letters as the emerging church learned how people of very different cultures can join together in a common mission.

Trusting the Covenant

May 3 thru June 21 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

This final eight-week series tackles the loss of hope, which is restored by faithfulness in the midst of suffering. It explores the many ways that the biblical narrative encourages commitment to God when it is unreasonable and costly. The compelling story of Job, the stirring prophetic oracles during the Hebrew exile, and the imaginative symbolism of apocalyptic literature challenge and encourage us to faithful living.

Pastor Lee Neish will be leading the *Bible Tuesday Classes* assisted by Lay Speaker Michael Herzog. Please indicate your interest to explore participating in this first class by registering with the church office.



FaithLink; Connecting Faith and Life

Napa Methodist Church subscribes to a resource produced by Cokesbury called **FaithLink; Connecting Faith and Life**. Each week, we download and print a four page document that addresses a contemporary issue of national or foreign policy significance. The author relates the issue at hand to the Christian Faith and usually includes a United Methodist perspective.

Beginning on Wednesday, January 13th and continuing every Wednesday evening (except for the first Wednesday evening of the month), Pastor Lee Neish, assisted by Church & Society Chair June Moroney, will convene a one hour class at 6:30 pm to engage in conversation with whoever attends on that particular day. Each topic is independent of another so participants may choose to join in the conversation based upon the topic or attend regularly to address whatever topic is presented. Print copies of the four page **FaithLink** document to be discussed each Wednesday will be available to be picked up the Sunday morning following worship prior to Wednesday's discussion.

And, you'll continue to be invited to join Pastor Lee, June and others on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm at St. John the Baptist's Parish Hall for continuing dialogue on Pope Francis' Encyclical on the Environment.



Preaching Schedule

Please note everyone that on Sundays Dec. 27 and January 3, there will only be one worship service in the sanctuary at 10:00 am. We definitely want the acolytes as usual, but the service will be starting later.

Pat Hitchcock



Youth Group and Sierra Service Project Event

SSP Planning Meeting and Dinner

5:30 pm – Sunday, December 13th

Fellowship Hall

All youth going into the 9th grade or just graduating high school are eligible

Bring a parent so we can choose dates and locations for this year's SSP trip

Afterward we will all go ice skating together

Everyone is welcome to join us for ice skating!

IMPORTANT

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

FROM DECEMBER 25TH THROUGH JANUARY 10TH.

IF YOU HAVE BUSINESS IN THE CHURCH DURING THOSE DATES
PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A KEY.

IF YOU HAVE AN **EMERGENCY** DURING THOSE DATES

PLEASE CALL LEE'S CELL PHONE AT

408-655-6872

OR

DIANNE'S CELL PHONE AT 707-980-3712



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
You are welcome to visit us on Facebook: [NapaFUMC](#) or Twitter: [NapaFirstUMC](#)