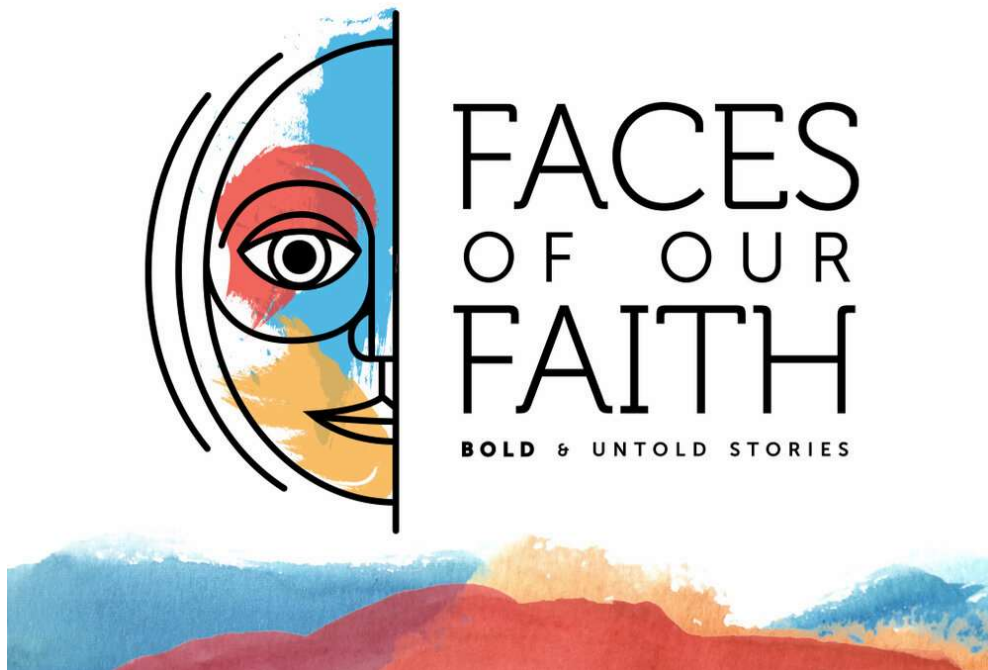


Napa Methodist Church

September 15, 2024



**The United Methodist Church:
Following Jesus, Thriving in Community,
Healing the World**



Wherever you are on your journey of faith you're welcome here.

Gathering Music *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*

Welcome and Announcements

Worship Leaders Pat Hitchcock and Michael Herzog

* Welcome to worship! If you're worshipping online with us a link to the worship program can be found on our website.

* Please sign and pass the Registration Books.

* Prayer cards are in the pews to share joys and concerns and go in the basket at the prayer rail, to be shared with the Monday prayer group. Prayers can also be emailed to napamethodist.org.

* Claudia Hanna and Susan Quintana continue to take pictures after worship for a new church directory.

* Bonner Bell Choir rehearsals begin Monday Sept. 16 at 7:15pm. Cathedral Choir continues with Wednesday rehearsals at 7:30pm. Ringers and Singers always welcome to join at any time.

* Coastal Clean-up Day is Saturday, September 21, 9:00am. Methodists interested in volunteering together will meet at the Church and walk over to the library location to pick up trash. Bring gloves, buckets, picker-uppers if you have them; loaners will also be available.

* The whole month of September we will continue to collect school supplies. You can't miss the big yellow bus on the wall in the Fellowship Hall.

* Sunday September 29 is our community lunch at 11am. Prayer Group will provide a main dish; others please bring a side dish to share.

* Our Charge Conference is early this year, on Wednesday, October 2nd at 5pm, with our new District Superintendent, Rev. David Niu. At this yearly all-church meeting we elect ministry leaders and teams for the coming year and approve the pastor's compensation package.

* Each week during this worship series, "Faces of Our Faith", we've had pictures of little-known people who've influenced our faith. If you'd like to have one of these pictures please write your name on the back of the picture.

*Stand as you are able
UMH The United Methodist Hymnal
TFWS The Faith We Sing Songbook

Call to Worship

The letter to Philemon is brief and personal and doesn't address the issue of slavery, which might suggest that it has nothing to say to us today. The letter is of interest to us, however, because it is an appeal for action on the basis of love rather than law. Onesimus, for an unknown reason, has run away from his master, Philemon. Somehow Onesimus met up with Paul, through whom he was converted to Christianity, and is now a partner in ministry. Paul sends the letter commending Onesimus to Philemon "no longer as a slave but more than that, a beloved brother".

Leader: So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and that you don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.

Everyone: Plant your feet firmly within the freedom that Christ has won for us!

Leader: For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters.

Everyone: But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

Leader: After all, the whole law can be summed up in this one command:

Everyone: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Leader: But if you are always biting and devouring one another - if you think you're free to attack and tear each other to pieces - watch out!

Everyone: You might just land up destroying one another and the fellowship that you have together.

Leader: Here is my advice: Let your whole life be guided by the Holy Spirit. Then you won't be doing what your selfish nature craves. The selfish nature wants to do wrong, which is exactly the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the selfish nature desires.

Everyone: And there's the problem. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so we are not free to carry out our good intentions.

Leader: But if you follow the leading of the Spirit, you stand clear of the Law. You are not under obligation to the law of Moses. When you follow the desires of your sinful nature,

the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Everyone: But the Holy Spirit produces different kinds of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Leader: Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross.

Everyone: If our lives are centered in the Spirit, let's be guided by the Spirit. Let's follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

***Opening Song** *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*
TFWS #2223

Bringing in the Light of Christ

Time for Children

Song for Children (amazing Grace tune)

**We wish for you an open heart
Also a questing mind
So you may know how best to live
And cherish the Divine.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The peace of Christ to you!

Everyone: And also to you!

(Please share this greeting with those around you, above you in the balcony, and worshiping online)

***Song** *Since Jesus Came into My Heart* vs. 1-3 TFWS #2140

Scripture Philemon 1

***Song** *When from Bondage We Are Summoned*

