



# SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



## **Sonora United Methodist Church**

The last two months we went on a journey with King David and Solomon to tie together leadership and the parts of worship. During September we stay in the Hebrew scriptures, but turn to a new section—Wisdom Literature. This new series is called “Uncommon Wisdom” because we feel that these scripture lessons invite us to a less popular and underappreciated way of using scripture to look at the world around us. In a society whose only real success strategies appear to be exploitation, violence, and smear campaigns, these verses will show us another path to the good life--a road less traveled. These passages might comfort or challenge us in strange ways that we haven’t necessarily come to expect from biblical texts. There’s nothing particularly Israelite in most of this literature, and two of the three books we will encounter don’t even mention God. Weird, right? I suspect I’m not the only preacher with little experience preaching on these books. Sermons on wisdom books usually require a little extra research

and careful outlining than those based on narrative. I hope you will find this new journey enlightening.

These books—Song of Solomon, Proverbs, and Esther—are part of a section of our Bibles called Wisdom Literature. Its genre is generally more poetic and reflective than the history and moral instruction we find in most of the Hebrew scriptures. It doesn't have a singular theological agenda, but its general goal seems to be an invitation to humanity to use all that God has given us as tools to contemplate God's nature, goodness, and desire for the world. Other pieces of Old Testament literature that fall in this classification include Job, Ecclesiastes, many of the Psalms, and some of the apocryphal books.

Wisdom Literature invites us to look differently at the world around us. It doesn't explicitly endorse a specific moral code--although it offers suggestions. It doesn't provide a single clear article of Christian doctrine or lay out a chronological path to spiritual growth. Instead, it provides a lens. I hope this month we will discover an overwhelming theme, a bit of "common wisdom", that Christian discipleship is not about the destination but the journey. Out of this framework, our relationship with God can blossom into something more symbiotic. When we start thinking of discipleship in this way, our time with God becomes a lot less about striving for some far-off thing that we can't understand and a lot more about an ongoing conversation with our loving creator and constant friend about what on earth we are up to in the world. I humbly submit to you, that Wisdom Literature wants to do this for you: to invite all into an ongoing conversation with a loving God about what's up in the world around them. Doesn't that sound like wisdom worth the effort to wrestle with?

Here are the sermon titles and scripture readings for September.

Sept 1: "Listening for Love"

Song of Solomon 2: 8-13

Sept 8: "Choosing How to Live"

Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23

James 2: 1-10, 14-17

Sept 15: DS Mary Maaga preaching

Sept 22: "In Praise of Women Who Lead"

Proverbs 31: 10-31

Sept 29: "For Such a Time"

Esther 7: 1-6, 9-10; 9: 20-22

James 5: 13-20

## Women's Fellowship



Greetings All!

Even though we still have some hot weather ahead, I'm looking forward to the change to Fall and cooler weather. This time of year brings a number of activities, so it would be good to resume **our lunch meetings**. If you can, please meet at church on **Saturday the 14th at 11:30 for a potluck lunch and planning meeting**.

We will be **cooking for Beans and Rice and Jesus Christ** on **Saturday the 21st at 9 am**. We are **still in need** of some donations:

**2 people to provide 3 heads of celery each**

**2 people to provide 4 bunches of green onions each,**

**5 boxes (8 1/2 ounce size) cornbread muffin mix**

**2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese and 2 quarts of 2% milk.**

We may also need 1 more person to help with the cooking. Please let me know if you can help.

Since the **annual Pinecrest picnic will be on Sunday the 22nd**; we will have our **monthly church breakfast** potluck on the 5th **Sunday the 29th at 10:00 am**. All are invited for food and fellowship.

Looking ahead, we will be deciding when to resume the Friday **QiGong and/or Bible study group**. We are planning to once again do the **Trunk or Treat, Haunted Hallway and hot dog dinner** during Trick or Treat Street on **Saturday October 26th**. Some have started collecting items for the **Operation Christmas Child shoe box gift boxes**. School supplies are on sale now, but it looks like quantities are getting low in some of the stores. We have at church the boxes as well as the **informational brochures and labels. These will be collected on Sunday, November 24th**. This is always a **fun and rewarding mission project**. Starting early and collecting a bit at a time can help spread out costs.

As always, feel free to **contact me with any questions or thoughts** on any of these events.

Blessings,  
Karla Wasson



## SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS

### Birthdays

9/8 Billy Underwood

9/8 Colin Williams

### Anniversary

9/28/1985 Dave and Karla Wasson

## **Pinecrest Picnic:**

Sunday, September 22nd, is our annual Pinecrest Picnic! Bring a chair, your drink, and a dish to share. It is a wonderful time to relax in a beautiful place and spend some time with our church friends. All are invited. Soulsbyville/Tuolumne church folk are also invited.

Paper goods, coolers and games will be provided. We will plan to eat around 3:30 pm, but people can gather beginning as soon as you can get there after Sonora's church service. We will meet just beyond the Amphitheater, which is on the right side of the lake and there will be Methodist church signs so you can find us. For more information, call Lorraine Vogt (209) 559-5335. For carpooling meet at the church at 2 pm and call Janice Samuels Johnson 209 352-1354 for information.

Isn't this a beautiful paint job that Billy is doing on our church? A total facelift!! I pass by the church every morning when I drive to work, and marvel at how wonderful and inviting it looks! Nancy



## Sonora United Methodist Church

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Worship Services: - Sunday **11:30 AM**

**Pastor:** Kevin Campbell  
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**Administrative Assistant:** Juliet Simerley  
**Pianist:** Juliet Simerley  
**Custodians:** Dan & Alice Townsend  
**Newsletter Editor:** Nancy Fraleigh

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