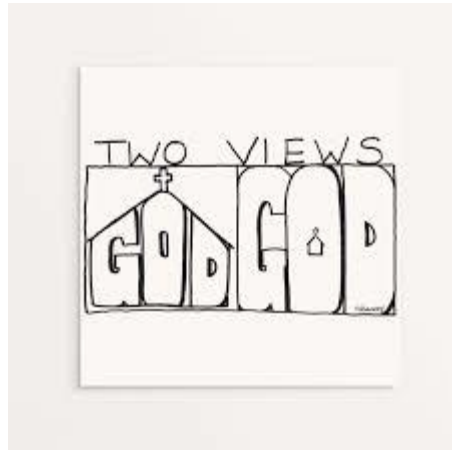




September 2023 Newsletter

Sonora United Methodist Church



It is that time of year when we think about going back to basics. The new school year is starting. Summer is coming to an end, and we focus on getting back into the rhythm of life. As I ponder these themes, my mind goes back to the question, how will this church remember Jeremiah? A young man who faced his physical limitations bravely; one who wanted to live life to its fullest; a kind soul who desired to share God's love with all he met; one who delighted in the simple pleasures of life; an inspiration and encouragement to others; or, the lessons he taught, embodying a childlike faith. Jeremiah will be remembered fondly by so many.

A friend shared a quote by biblical scholar and theologian, Marcus Borg:

“Christian life isn’t about pleasing God the finger-shaker and judge. It isn’t about believing for the sake of heaven later. It’s about entering a relationship in the present that begins to change everything now. Spirituality is...opening the heart to God who is already here.”

Relationship with God is how we live in the present—the basics of childlike faith. The Israelites were covenant people. Their identity was formed by the relationship of being God's people and believing in one Lord. Exodus is the story of their discovering how to live in that relationship in their daily lives. The slaves, who were delivered from Egypt, weren't ready to live in a life changing now. 40 years of wandering in the wilderness shaped them into people ready to live in a covenant relationship.

The Gospels found the disciples and crowd and wondered how they lived in relation to God. Jesus called them to radical discipleship and to lives of sacrificial love. He told parables of what the kingdom of God was like—a reality that was here now and not yet fulfilled. Jesus demonstrated how to love one another. Walking with Jesus, they found healing, mercy, and forgiveness while they came to understand the grace of God. This is how the people of the scriptures came into the relationship that changed everything.

How will we be remembered? I hope it is by the measure of God's love that we have shown to others. Or maybe by simply living in the present, and being open to the way God writes our stories. In the end, it is only the basics of childlike faith that really count.

Here are the scripture readings and sermon titles planned for September.

Sept 3: "Who Am I?"

Exodus 3: 1-15

Matthew 16: 21-28

Sept 10: "Life Changing Flight"

Exodus 12: 1-14

Sept 17: "How Many Times?"
Matthew 18: 21-35

Sept 24: "Effective Altruism"
Philippians 1: 21-30

Women's Fellowship

Greetings All.

I hope you all are rested and ready to get back to work.



We've been busy planning fall activities.

Saturday the 16th is when Jeremiah's service will be and Janice has asked if we could help with food. Plan to attend and think about how you can help. More information to follow.

Our lunch meeting had been set for the 16th and is now postponed until **October 14th**. We will still be going to Murphys somewhere. Meet at church at 11 to carpool.

Mark your calendars for the **Haunted Hallway** and hot dog dinner during **Trick or Treat Street on Saturday October 28th**. A donation board will be started later next month.

Looking ahead to **November**, **Saturday the 11th** will be **rummage sale in the basement**.

Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are **due on Sunday Nov. 19th**.

A **Thanksgiving dinner** will be held for **Beans and Rice on Thursday the 23rd**.

We've decided to try an **outreach during the parade on Friday the 24th**. We will open the church basement and offer cookies and cocoa to

anyone willing to come up the hill. **We will be asking for donations of cookies as this comes closer.**

Again, be thinking where God may be calling you to serve as many opportunities are available.

Blessings to you all.

**NUTS
& BOLTS**
TOOLS FOR THE
CHURCH TODAY



September birthdays

Bill Underwood and Colin Williams are both September 8 birthdays

September Anniversaries

9/6 Ron and Louise Leedy

9/28 Dave and Karla Wasson

Livingston Luau:

Livingston United Methodist Church, where Pastor Kalo is now serving, will be having a Luau on September 9th from 3 to 6 pm. Cost is \$20 a person. Remember to bring some cash for the dancers! You will be able to pay at the door. Please let me know by Sunday, September 3rd, if you can go, so we can tell them how many are coming, for their planning purposes. We have 2 full carloads planning to go so far. Meet at the church at 1:30 if you wish to carpool. See the flyer in this newsletter for more information.

Lorraine Vogt (209) 559-5335

Warm clothes are needed!

It is turning to Fall and cold days are coming. Our guests at the Thursday Evening Community Dinners will be needing warm jackets and other warm clothes. If you are cleaning out your closets and have clean warm clothes in good repair, please bring them to church or call the church to arrange to have the items picked up.



In Memory of our dear friend

Jeremiah Samuels Johnson

We are very sad to inform you that Jeremiah Samuels Johnson, the 21 year old son of Janice Samuels Johnson, passed away on August 23rd. The funeral service for Jeremiah will be on Saturday, September 16 at the Country Cowboy Church at 14535 Peaceful Valley Rd, in Sonora. Viewing will begin at 10 AM and the service will begin at 11 AM with a luncheon to follow. Jeremiah was an enthusiastic member of our congregation and the Thursday evening community dinners.

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WORSHIP  WITH US!

