



# MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

## Sonora United Methodist Church



Last Sunday we moved into the season of Lent. It is common to give up something for Lent. I remember giving up coffee one year, and it seemed like an extra long 40 days (plus Sundays.) If giving something up helps you to focus on God, then keep up the tradition. Lent is about focusing on our inward self—a time of reflection and repentance. It is about listening for the small quiet voice, then discerning God’s direction for our lives. So adding, instead of subtracting, might be a better approach. Take on an extra time of prayer, Bible reading, or devotionals.

Lent begins with facing temptations. There are temptations--ones that Jesus bore for us, as he bore our sins “even unto death.” So we bow in confession and in hope. We give thanks; we ask for grace and forgiveness; and, most of all, we seek the spiritual power to resist the ongoing temptations that surround us, even as we stand with others in our community who wrestle day by day for a sense of peace. We acknowledge that it is not simply about us alone, but about a world that wrestles with that which will destroy us all. And so, we declare our commitment to be part of the solution in the world.

The Lenten season is an inward journey that moves us outward. We can’t simply focus on the inward part of the journey. We come in confession and in repentance, but we rise ready to serve and to love in Christ’s name. So, what direction can we discover during Lenten worship that helps us catch a glimpse of our place in the mission? How can we put hands and feet toward redemption so that the world around us is impacted by our inward journey? What hymns of mission can we sing and keep in our hearts? What prayer of service can we offer? What zeal can we instill to work with the Spirit to build the kingdom of God in the

relationships we treasure? March 19<sup>th</sup> is UMCOR Sunday and we will receive a special offering for the disaster response work we engage in collectively as United Methodists. Through Beans and Rice and Interfaith we engage with our community.

If we endeavor to work in the world around us, we will fall down. From time to time, we will fail; our efforts will not be received in the spirit intended; the fruit will be slow in coming. So, if we must fall, let us fall down in worship of the one who redeems us. We will pick ourselves up and find better ways to move outward and share the love of Jesus. The only failure is not reaching out.



Here are the scripture readings and sermon titles for March. April 2 is Palm/Passion Sunday and Apr 9 is Easter. The Psalm reading, except for March 26<sup>th</sup>, is for Tuolumne/Soulsbyville UMC.

Mar 5: 2nd Sunday of Lent  
"Go From Your Country"  
Genesis 12: 1-4a  
Psalm 121

Mar 12: 3rd Sunday of Lent (Daylight Savings Time)  
"Give Me Water"  
John 4: 5-42  
Psalm 95

Mar 19: 4th Sunday of Lent (UMCOR Sun)  
"New Eyes"  
John 9: 1-41  
Psalm 23

Mar 26: 5th Sunday of Lent  
"Who Could Stand?"  
Psalm 130



Greetings All,

So glad it is almost spring! Even though we've needed all this rain and snow, it will be so nice to see all the flowers blooming with slightly warmer weather.

Coming up events include **visiting Gail Pollard** at her new home for lunch on **Saturday the 18th**. We will meet at church by 11 to carpool to Stockton. Our **monthly breakfast meeting** will be a potluck on **Sunday the 26th at 9:30** in the Fireside room at church. Hopefully threats of low snow will not change this one!

Mark your calendars for future plans. **Saturday May 13th** we are planning to **sell Africa Team Ministries items during the Second Saturday** events. Be thinking of any other items, food or otherwise, that we think we could offer during this time as well.

We've chosen **Saturday June 10th** for our **rummage sale**. So, when you start your spring cleaning, think of setting aside nice, clean, usable items to donate for the sale.

Discussion was had at a recent coffee hour that it's been awhile since we've had any church lunch potlucks. So the idea brought up was to have a **5th Sunday potluck lunch** after church during the months with 5 Sundays. **The first will be Sunday April 30th. Future dates will be July 30th, October 29th and December 31st.**

Remember to get your copy of the **March/April edition of the Upper Room**. This is a wonderful little daily devotional with the subtitle, where the world meets to pray. Our Friday Bible study is based on the Wednesday readings that have discussion questions provided. We meet at **1:30 for Qi Gong with Bible study starting around 2:00 each Friday**. All are welcome to either one or both.



## Trustee Report

The big news from the Finance/Trustee group is that the Parsonage is rented! Melinda Traster and her adult daughter, Kylie Cavanagh and their friendly dog moved in the middle of February. Step-up Property management is now taking care of the property and handling rental issues and repairs. Although, we will now have to pay property taxes on the Parsonage, this will still be a good source of income for the church.

**For the Norlin House rental:** Sierra Glass is waiting for the delivery of double pane windows that they will install in the kitchen and bedroom of the house.

**For the church:** We have a couple of bids from electricians to replace the old fuse box in the basement. This fuse box controls the overhead lights in the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen and we have been having trouble with it.

First of the year legal papers have been sent to the Secretary of State reporting our church officers, which we must do every two years, and the status of the Parsonage has been reported to the Tuolumne County Assessor's office. 2022 church statistics have been reported to the California Nevada Annual conference.

## **Birthdays:**

We have been asked to reinstate our old tradition of the birthday bank. The bank is a replica of our church and the bell rings when you drop coins into the bank. During announcements at the beginning of worship the liturgist will ask if anyone has a birthday that week. If you do, please come forward and drop a few coins in the bank and we will sing to you. This is a fun way to celebrate our joy that you are a part of our church family.

## **Lent:**

Lent began on February 22. There are books for Lenten Bible Study on the coffee table in the Fireside Room. Please take one. You could get together with a friend and start your own Bible Study.

## **Church email address:**

The new church email address is [sumc\\_office@yahoo.com](mailto:sumc_office@yahoo.com) It is just like our old address, but we had to change from [att.com](mailto:att.com) to [yahoo.com](mailto:yahoo.com). New copies of the church directory will be printed with this new address. If you have any changes in your address or phone number, please let me during the first week of February. Lorraine (209) 559-5335, or [lorrainev63@comcast.net](mailto:lorrainev63@comcast.net)

## Sonora United Methodist Church

90 Yaney Avenue  
Sonora, CA 95370

**Office Hours:** Tues & Fri 9-11 am

**Office Phone:** (209) 532-4850

**E-mail - Office:** [sumc\\_office@att.net](mailto:sumc_office@att.net)

**Website:** [www.sonora-umc.org](http://www.sonora-umc.org)

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

**Pastor:** Kevin Campbell

**Email:** [revkev835@gmail.com](mailto:revkev835@gmail.com)

**Administrative Assistant:** Juliet Simerley

**Pianist:** Juliet Simerley

**Custodians:** Dan & Alice Townsend

**Newsletter Editor:** Nancy Fraleigh

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