



October 2022 Newsletter

Sonora United Methodist Church

90 Yaney Avenue, Sonora, CA 95370

October is a time we pause and spend time focusing on the gifts of laity. We begin the process of reviewing the gifts of the people in our congregation as the process of calling for commitment to leadership roles for the coming year leads to charge conference. We are more intentional about sharing testimonies of how God is working in our lives during worship. We celebrate those who share their gifts in the ministry and mission of the church. The work of the church is accomplished by the lay people, and us pastors are the coaches who encourage and equip you for the ministry.

This month's sermon series is about claiming the faith we've been given with boldness and enthusiasm. But it is also about honoring those from whom we learned about Christ. So, there can be space for both: making new commitments to following or renewing commitments long standing. There are lots of ways to do this effectively and powerfully in corporate worship. The traditional altar call can seem overly emotional or even manipulative. So, we will take care in how the call is issued and how space is made for everyone who wants to step forward in using their gifts as a disciple of Jesus.

The other component of worship during this series is to make space for testimony. Like Timothy, who is reminded of how his mother and grandmother were instrumental in shaping his faith, members could be encouraged to tell the story of those who mentored them as disciples of Jesus Christ. The World Communion Sunday offering helps ethnic minority lay people answer their call to ordained history. My mentor, Phil Lawson, and Bishop Melvin Talbert were Crusade Scholars helped by these funds. They helped shape me into the pastor I am today. The Sonora UMC was enriched by the ministry of Pastors Kalo and Hae Jeong. I am grateful to the friendship and working beside Japanese American pastors from my time as pastor of Palm UMC. Our giving helps this story telling to grow into the future.

The first Sunday of November we will celebrate All Saints Day. I will be asking you to think about those who have shared the love of God with you and kindled your faith and nurtured your relationship with Jesus. We will bring items that remind us of our saints and tell their stories during worship. We rekindle the gift when we acknowledge those who have brought us to this place. We rekindle the gift when we recommit ourselves to this path, to the work of discipleship.

Shalom
Pastor Kevin

Sermons:

Oct 2: "Rekindle the Gift" 2 Timothy 1: 1-14

Oct 9: "Should I Stay or Should I Go" Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7 2 Timothy 2: 8-15

Oct 16: "Words to Live By" 2 Timothy 3:14--4:5

Oct 23: "Living with No Regrets" 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18 Luke 18: 9-14

Oct 30: "The Righteous Live by Faith" Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 2: 1-4

Women's Fellowship

Greetings All and happy fall.
Here are our upcoming events:

To overlap with the second Saturday events on October 8th, we will be hosting an afternoon rummage sale from 3 to 7 pm. We will also once again offer tours of the stained glass windows as well as free root beer floats. Setup will be Friday the 7th around 3:30 p.m. We will be needing donations of ice cream and root beer and people who are able to help with setup and the event. Please let me or Lorraine know if you are able to help in any way.

For lunch and fellowship, we are planning to meet at the Columbia House restaurant at 11:30 on Saturday the 15th. To carpool from church, meet at 11:15. This is the day of the Harvest Festifall at the park, so we will browse the vendors after lunch. Our breakfast meeting will be a potluck at the parsonage on Sunday the 23rd at 9:30 am. All are welcome.

We are planning to do some sort of soup lunch and bake sale, possibly with a gift basket raffle. We may decide to do jars of soup to go. This is the same day the Catholic ladies are holding their holiday bazaar, which has always helped bring more people by. So dust off your recipes and plan on how you can help.

Just a reminder, Sunday November 20th is collection day for the Operation Christmas Child gift boxes. Boxes, updated brochures and tracking labels are available at church. There are a few items in the choir room if you need any to help get you started. Thank you to all who continue to support the work of women's fellowship with your time, talents, gifts and prayers!!

Blessings,
Karla Wasson

The end of the year is approaching! Can you believe it?

Our Joint Charge Conference with Soulsbyville/Tuolumne will be on Tuesday, November 29. This is a meeting with our District Superintendent, David Niu. The Pastor will have a meeting with the DS at 4 pm, the Staff Parish Relations Committees will meet at 4:30 and the Charge Conference, which involves all the officers of the church and also other members of the church who wish to attend. Please put the date on your calendar now.

I know this is almost 2 months away, but SPRC, Finance, Trustee and especially the Nominating committee will need to hold meetings before the November 29th Charge Conference to make plans for the coming year. As people move on to other chapters in their lives, opportunities to serve the church will open up. If someone from the Nominating Committee calls and asks you to consider a job in the church, please give it your careful and prayerful consideration. We all need to help our church serve our community.

Lorraine Vogt
Lay Leader

Mother Lode Food Project (Green bags)

The next Green bag collection date is Sunday, October 23rd. The nonperishable food items collected are taken to the Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency for distribution to the local food banks. Thank you for remembering to make sure that the food is within the best use date. There are Green bags in the large box in the Fireside room. Paper bags work, too.

If you would rather send a check to help those in our county in need, the address is:
ATCAA Food Bank
PO Box 1307
Jamestown, CA 95327

Marge Kiriluk runs the Food Closet for Tuolumne UMC. This is some information from her about their program so you can see where some of your canned goods and financial gifts to the Mother Lode Food program go:

“We have had the Food Closet for probably about 10 years. (honestly don't remember how long). We call our program a Hands Up program for those who are just trying to make it. Most are people from Tuolumne and as I worked at the office at school for over 40 years I know most of those who come. To be honest we do not have homeless come, but mostly older people on Social Security, some on assistance, young families, and all who just need that extra that helps them get through.

We get most of our food through the ATCAA food bank in Jamestown and I am a real bargain hunter and have several places in the valley that I always go to for the real necessities such as Toilet Paper, etc.

Currently our food pantry is open on the first and last Saturday of each month. After October we are changing it to only the last Saturday. It is from 10 to 11. Most who come regularly have my phone number and can call me and I meet them at church as it is only 5 minutes from my home. If you have any question just give me a call. 209-928-3426.”

Birthdays

10/15 Phyllis Poorbaugh
10/23 David Buckman

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90 Yaney Ave.
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October 2022
Worship: 11:30 am ~ MASK Required
Or Soulsbyville UMC @ 9:30am

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Worship Services: 11:30

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Custodians: Dan & Alice Townsend
Newsletter Editor: Gail Pollard

