



JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Sonora United Methodist Church



We will turn our attention to King David after finishing the series on 2 Corinthians on July 7th. King David in many ways has been seen as the greatest leader in the history of Israel. We are also entering the time when our own presidential election is becoming a bigger part of our news. The presidential debate offered opinions about who is the worst president in United States history. Our attention is turning to questions about the type of leader we want for the next four years.

Our two candidates bring serious issues about health and fitness for office. There are clear differences and polarizing choices. Policies on immigration, economics, health care, childcare, taxes, and civil rights are clearly in opposition to one another. Yet our attention has been drawn to name calling, the volume of lies told, and finger pointing. It is difficult to find common ground on moral values and character. We have two dramatically different views of what America should become. There are many who are not thrilled with either leader, and concerns whether the whole process of choosing a president will become violent. There will be no getting around thinking about what we want in a leader.

King David was all the people hoped for in a leader. He led military victories and defeated the nation's enemies. He united a collection of tribes into one nation. King David established the capital in Jerusalem. He built the palace and made preparations for the building of the Temple. We remember David as the shepherd boy who defeated the giant Goliath. David played the harp and wrote Psalms. At the same time, the Bible hasn't hidden his flaws—passively allowing rivalry within his family, adultery and murder. David was a man who loved God, was faithful, stumbled horribly, repented, then found forgiveness and restored relationship with God.

While we might learn a great deal about leadership studying David, it will be our focus to explore depths of worship from the events of his life. We will engage in understanding how we are gathered for worship. We will dive into how we are called to an attitude of worship. We can't ignore our need for confession. Next month we continue with the power of the Word, praying, benediction and being sent out. I hope our journey with David leads us to discover the richness of the whole experience of worship. Maybe somewhere along the way we may even find clarity over issues of leadership and understand what makes a great leader.

Shalom,

Pastor Kevin

Sermon titles and scripture readings for July:

July 7: "In Weakness and In Strength"

2 Corinthians 12: 2-10

July 14: "Gathering for Worship"

2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19

July 21: "Call to Worship"
2 Samuel 7: 1-14a

July 28: "Call to Confession"
2 Samuel 11: 1-15

Women's Fellowship

Before we get into the details on July – I would like to share Lorraine's observations of the wonderful Rummage Sale our ladies (and gents) conducted on June 22nd. Thank you to everyone involved in this successful event, as well as the many other things you do for others.

Dear members and friends of Sonora United Methodist Church,

It was such a joy to be with you again at Sonora church over my long weekend of June 20 - 24. I was able to see that the Thursday evening, Beans, Rice and Jesus Christ free dinners, are still going well with a dedicated staff and delicious, healthy food and grateful guests. It has been going for over 10 years. Janice Samuels Johnson and Alice Mansfield started the dinner all those years ago in Courthouse Park and then moved into the church when winter came. The church members welcomed this wonderful service to the community. Ann Whitlach, Loisi Hursky and Billy Underwood were all there along with Alice and Janice, Thursday evening, cooking and serving as they have for years. I know others, like Gail Pollard, Nancy Fraleigh, Lynn Whitlach, and Bobbie Clapham have or are also helping. And now the Women's Fellowship makes main dishes to freeze and then serve. An additional joy is having Nancy and Peter Van Horton from Soulsbyville/Tuolumne church who bring laughter and fun additions to the evenings.

On Friday the Women's Fellowship members set up in the Basement for the Rummage Sale. Laura Mansfield was a wonderful help in getting all those boxes of donations from the third floor to the basement. Then in just a couple of hours, Ann Whitlach, Karla Wasson, Peggy Florence, Laura Mansfield and Wendy Buckman organized and spread out all the donated items and made it ready for the sale the next day. Karla then worked her magic making all those used, unwanted items look inviting. Juliet Lopez helped with updating and making new posters to advertise the sale. Then on Saturday, Sally Bredehoeft, Dan and Alice Townsend and Janice Samuels Johnson joined in to help with the sale. Karla Wasson cooked the dinner for next Thursday's dinner, which made the place smell so good.

It always amazes me that people find so many things around the house that they can donate and that other people will come and pay for those items. The sales made over \$700, which the Women's Fellowship then will use to serve the community and the church. And then the left over items are available to the Beans and Rice crowd for free to take and use, which helps with the cleanup of the sale. Such a system!

On Sunday I was blessed to be there for the Church family potluck breakfast. Always such good food and fun and care for one another. It was good to see new people joining in since I had last been at church.

Then an excellent, inspiring sermon and service. Thank you Pastor Kevin Campbell, Juliet Simerley, Bobbie Clapham, Dan-Joe Lopez, Dan Townsend, Loisi Hursky for the good music and making the service flow well and bring a time of meaningful worship.

I know that all the rest of the congregation are working behind the scenes to keep the church clean and repaired, people signed up to serve fellowship time, handle budgets, pay bills, come early to

turn the cooler on, hang banners, attend Annual Conference, etc., etc., etc. It takes you all to keep the church business going.

A couple last things: The church paint job, by Billy Underwood makes the church just glow when you look at it from Washington Street. I love the bright green and yellow accents. It is such a big job and Billy is doing it so carefully and well. The church is so blessed to have him with all his skills.

When I moved away, I was sad to leave many unfinished projects. One was updating the pictures of the church officers in the Fireside Room. Gail Pollard made those pictures years ago and hung them by herself! I have always wanted to update them and never could figure out how to do it. But by talking it over with other church members and dividing the tasks, the new committee members are now there. Dan Townsend took and processed the individual portraits and Janice Samuels Johnson and Bobbie Clapham helped assemble the frames, did quality control and figured out how the confusing hanging system worked. They kept me at it until the project was completely done. Thank you to them and to all the people who serve on committees and do the necessary jobs in the church to keep the church going.

From my visiting viewpoint, Sonora church is still “small but mighty”. New people have come as older people have had to leave. As it has been since 1852, the church is still a glowing light in the hearts of many people. You are all working to serve the community and provide a wonderful church in which to worship God.

Thank you and bless you. Lorraine Vogt

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

Greetings All,

I want to start with a big thanks to all who made donations, and helped sort, set up and worked the day of our rummage sale! All your efforts helped to bring in \$815! Thank you all so much.

With the hottest part of the summer upon us and with people traveling, women's fellowship will be taking a break from our monthly lunch meetings for July and August.

Saturday July 20th – 10:00 am

We will still meet to cook for Beans & Rice & Jesus Christ dinner. We will also continue with the monthly all **church potluck breakfasts**.

Sunday the 28th at 10 am.

This is a fun time of fellowship, sharing a meal and getting to know each other a little bit better. I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful summer. Karla Wasson

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



July Birthdays

- 7/3 Diane Westgate Benson
- 7/8 John Motch
- 7/28 Maqueda Williams Nicholson
- 7/29 David Wasson

Anniversary

- 7/27/1991 Dan and Alice Townsend

All of the above activities and events have been highlighted, so the main thing that I want to add to that is a Community Resource Fair coming up on August 14th, from 3-6 pm at the Fairgrounds. This is being run by Tuolumne County. Tri-tip sandwiches and bags of food will be given to all participants.

Branch Out for Support. Join us for the Community Roots Resource Fair, a joint effort between Tuolumne County Department of Health and Human Services and the Sonora Area Foundation! Over 40 local agencies and businesses are coming together to support residents through these uncertain economic times. As a small-town community, it is more important than ever to unite so we can make it through this together. All individuals and families are welcome

AVAILABLE SERVICES

Food Assistance - Employment Opportunities -
Senior Services - Child Care - Health Services - Fire Protection -
Education – Housing – Transportation - Utility Bill Assistance

Nancy

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Custodians: Dan & Alice Townsend

Newsletter Editor: Nancy Fraleigh

WORSHIP  WITH US!

