



April Newsletter

Sonora United Methodist Church



The celebration of Easter is behind us and now we enter the season of Easter, because Easter is much more than a single day. April will bring a focus on what the resurrection of Jesus means for our lives. We are asking the question, “How Shall We Live?” as we explore the lectionary texts from 1 John, with a Sunday on the Good Shepherd thrown in. This short season is an opportunity to explore how our way of life is consistent with God’s invitation to us to live as part of Creation. We look for opportunities to align our lives more fully with God’s interconnected and interdependent Creation, including human and beyond-human creatures.



One of our United Methodist special offerings fits in with this theme. April 14th is Native American Ministries Sunday. This day

serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. With more than 20,000 Native Americans within the denomination, this special Sunday helps to ensure that Native American United Methodist leaders are recognized. It was officially recognized in 1988 and has been celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of Easter since 1989. An offering is taken on this Special Sunday to develop and strengthen Native American ministries in the Annual Conferences, Native American rural, urban, reservation ministries and communities relating to the General Board of Global Ministries. It also provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology, distributed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

A gap in knowledge exists in The United Methodist Church, in congregations and other United Methodist entities, relative to comprehending concepts of Native American life, cultures, languages, spirit, values, contemporary issues, and such. We affirm the sacredness of indigenous people, their languages, cultures, and gifts to the church and the world. We live in an area with tribal lands and native people all around us. Half of the offering stays in our Annual Conference to support the California churches in Klammath, Round Valley and Schurez Nevada, which are all located on reservations.

The Festival of God's Creation has grown from the celebration of Earth Day. It is a day to focus on conservation, stewardship and our relationship with nature. How shall we live as we are reminded of our place in God's creation? That is the Easter journey we will travel together as we worship, learn and share fellowship together during April.



Apr 7: "We Walk in the Light"
1 John 1:1--2:2

Apr 14: Native American Ministries Sun
"See What Love!"
1 John 3: 1-7

Apr 21: Festival of God's Creation
"The Good Shepherd Brand"
Psalm 23
John 10: 11-18

Apr 28: "A Whole New Ballgame"
1 John 4: 7-21



Greetings All and Happy Easter and Spring!

I hope this finds you all well.

I will start with a **big thank you** to those who donated to the carpet replacement expense. We had a couple very generous gifts! This adds to our funds from previous rummage sales.

Special thanks to Dan Townsend for getting the bid and scheduling the work which will be done on April 1st. By the reading of this, there should be new carpet between the Fireside room and the Sanctuary and up the stairs and landing on the upper floor; as well as the front entry to the church.

Upcoming activities

Lunch and work day on Saturday 4/13th.

Meet at 11:30 for a potluck lunch, then we will work on cleaning and sorting items in the attic.

Saturday 4/20th at 10:00 is the next **cooking day** for the Beans and Rice and Jesus Christ dinner. This month's meal will be corn dog casserole. I'll be signing up volunteers and donations during the next few coffee hours and our group text.

Sunday 4/28th at 10:00 am will be our monthly all church potluck breakfast. This is a fun time to get together, share a meal and visit.

I hope many of you are able to attend one or more of these gatherings. Small groups and working together are a wonderful way to connect with each other.

Blessings,
Karla Wasson



NUTS & BOLTS

APRIL BIRTHDAYS-

Lorraine Vogt	4/9	
Juliet Simerley	4/13	
Bobby Huffstetter	4/21	
Ronnie Hursky	4/22	
Richard Halpin	4/24	
Jim & MaryLou Nuzum Anniversary	4/29/61	WOW!!

There are sooo many people to thank for our wonderful Palm Sunday and Easter celebrations! Alice Townsend and Loisi Hursky, once again organized a wonderful all

church breakfast to kick off Palm Sunday – and soooo many of you contributed yummy breakfast dishes. Later that afternoon, many of you participated in the Morgan Chapel celebration, offering rides to others who wanted to also attend (Many thanks). Our own Pastor Kevin offered the sermon, as well as kept our singing organized (??). This is ALWAYS a blessed time, sharing with our fellow Methodists from other parts of the county.

GOOD FRIDAY was beautifully organized by Bobby Huffstetter, from set-up to implementation on Friday, and even including some extended hours on Saturday for those who wanted to participate, but couldn't on Friday. She spent countless hours taking good care of our lovely exhibit, which was appreciated by all.

EASTER SUNDAY

Once again, Alice Townsend and Loisi Hursky did a terrific job setting up a feast for coffee hour. Nancy Fraleigh offered small bags of chocolate eggs to children, both present and absent. She found that, in 1852, when the church first opened, chocolate eggs were given as an Easter treat. She also put on an indoor Easter Egg hunt.

Dear friends,

The last week of March was an interesting Thursday for our ministry. This was the second time that the members of the Women's Group SUMC prepared the main meal which also became our Easter meal celebration.

This time they made Chicken Cordon Bleu Bake casserole. Karla W. and some of the ladies got together Saturday and gathered all the ingredients which were called for in the recipe and made it , then they put it into aluminum foil pans and popped it into the freezer. BRJC staff put it into the oven on Thursday. It was absolutely delicious! Along with that, our meal consisted of peas, corn , fresh salad, garlic toast, and drinks. For dessert we had strawberry /peach shortcake which Lynn (ANN W.'s daughter) had made homemade.

The round tables were set with lavender colored tablecloths and colorful flowers and salt/pepper shakers. We didn't have to wait for our guests, the community and the homeless to arrive because as soon as the doors were opened, around 4:15 pm people came in.

We start all of our dinners with prayer. Anyone who would like to join us in worship are welcomed. After that meal, people expressed their appreciation and thankfulness for the delicious meal they had just eaten. We had approximately 40 to 45 people and about 35 takeouts.

Our team, BRJC is a fantastic one of locals doing God's work with love, dedication and commitment. Our team, also includes you and all those who donate to our ministry by praying , contributing money, food items , clothes, and etc.

Therefore., I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and SUMC and all others who are making this Ministry so successful .

Remember, God loves you and so do we.

Submitted by Janice Samuels Johnson

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WORSHIP  WITH US!

