



August 2023 Newsletter

Sonora United Methodist Church



As I write this, Jamie lies intubated in the ICU. She had a good day today with some positive progress, yet is still in critical condition. The outcome of her care is still uncertain. As you might imagine, I have been thinking a lot about faith this week. The waiting and hoping are so terrible for parents of a very sick child. Does my faith depend on God's will lining up with the outcome I so very much desire? It doesn't, but that has not stopped me from throwing myself before God's throne in prayer for Jamie's recovery and inviting everyone I know to join me. Critical moments, when life and death are in the balance, focus our attention clearly toward God. Faith is based on the resurrection—that moment when death, illness and the powers of evil do not have the last word. Faith is trusting that God raised Jesus from the dead. Faith is believing there is new life for us as well. Faith is what sustains us in these moments when the rubber hits the road, and we suddenly know what really matters.

I can't begin to count the number of times I have sat at a bedside of an ill patient or gone to the home of a grieving family, and we have wondered together, "How do people without faith handle these moments?" We know how hard and stressful they are for us, but what if you have no trust in eternal life, or a God who comforts in times of trouble. How do you journey in the valley of

the shadow of death without Jesus by your side? All of our worship, all of our devotional times, all of our Bible study, all the small group conversations and prayers, prepare us for these life changing moments. We still feel small in the face of our troubles. There are moments our heartbreak, sadness or anger obscure God's comforting presence. Faith leads us back to the one who promises to never leave us. Faith reassures us that we are lifted up by the grace of God. Faith brings us home to be embraced in God's steadfast love.

August Scriptures

August 6: "Wrestling with Our Hunger"

Genesis 32: 22-31

Matthew 14: 13-21

August 13: "That Sinking Feeling"

Matthew 14: 22-33

August 20: "The Bible's Life Preserver"

Genesis 45: 1-15

August 27: "She-Spies of Israel"

Exodus 1:8--2:10

Women's Fellowship

Greetings All. I hope you all are enjoying summer.



If there is enough interest, we will meet for lunch on **Saturday 8/12 at Yianni's Grill at 11:30**. Meet at church by 11:15 to carpool. Please RSVP by email (cawassons@yahoo.com) or call

or text me at 209-213-8651 by Thursday 8/10. We tried Yianni's last month, but they were closed for the day, so we had a nice lunch at Emberz.

The breakfast meeting will be a **potluck on Sunday 8/27 at 9:30 in the fireside room at church.**

Please be thinking about whether or not we want to have a **Fall rummage sale**, as well as possible dates.

We will once again be collecting shoe box gift boxes for the annual **Operation Christmas Child program**. Now is a great time to start gathering items for your boxes, as all the back to school supplies are available and many are on sale. I will have **brochures, labels and boxes at church soon. Information is online at Samaritanspurse.org/occ.** This is always a fun mission project that provides not only gifts but follow up faith based programs for children around the world including the US.

Once again, please prayerfully consider where God may be leading you to serve our church as opportunities arise.

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



Birthdays

August 2 Shawn Barnes
August 3 Angie Hursky
August 12 Gavin Williams
August 14 Eli Mansfield
August 21 Ann Whitlach
August 31 Jim Nuzum

Anniversaries

August 21 Roger and Kathy Francis

Mother Lode Food Project (Green bags)

The next Green bag collection date is Sunday, August 6. 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

Beans, Rice and Jesus Christ - Free community Thursday night dinners - Please Help!

For 10 years our church has been providing a free dinner (except during the Pandemic) every Thursday evening from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sometimes we have had as many as 30 guests and at least 50 diners at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Last week we served 17 people who dined with us and then took out 8 dinners for friends or family that couldn't make it.

Most of our guests are low income or homeless, but all are welcome. We usually serve a main dish, green salad, garlic bread and a dessert, but it is different every week. We also

provide fruit, and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to go to eat later.

Alice Mansfield and Janice Samuels Johnson, backed by the Journey Church, began the dinners by giving out homemade burritos in Court House Park one summer, to people who were waiting for the bus. When winter came they asked if they could move into our basement fellowship hall and kitchen. After several meetings and discussions our church members agreed that this was a good way to serve our community and said that members would help and support the dinners.

Many people have helped serve, prep, cook and clean up over the years. Alice and Janice continue to provide meals. Gail Pollard cooked almost every week after we started up again after the pandemic and until she moved last December. Many people and groups have donated food and money to support the meals. We currently have \$6000 in our Beans and Rice budget. Our current staff is Lorraine Vogt, Alice Mansfield, Nancy Fraleigh, Loisi Hursky and Carol Doud.

We enjoy our guests. They are pleasant and very thankful. It is a joy to get to know them. It is a lot of hard work to keep things together when you are homeless and a listening ear and a good meal help. Some come every week and there are almost always new people who are having a short rough spot and need a little something to tide them over. A pleasant time for staff and guests!

We are now in need of some more staff. Alice Mansfield needs some help with transportation as she currently does not have a car. We will soon be needing another cook and we always need people to serve and/or eat dinner with our other guests and make them feel welcome. Preparation usually begins at 3 or 3:30 and clean up ends at about 6:30. Please contact Lorraine (209 559 5335) if you want to lend a hand for all or part of that time.

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WORSHIP  WITH US!

