

Sierra Pines United Methodist Church



Following Jesus, Thriving in Community, Healing the World

Don't forget to "spring forward" on Sunday, March 9



**Join us @ 10am Sundays as we begin our series for Lent
March 9, 2025**



Church office hours: 10am to 12pm Tuesday to Friday

(please call first to verify if someone is present)

Church office phone # (530) 268-6907

We have a church Google Calendar! The Link below allows you to view the updated schedule throughout the month and more as it is added:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=YjBhMjE1MmE2N2JkNzhiNzFhZTZhMjM1MjBiZTM0YzlwYTgzNGQ2N2E1NjBmN2Y0MmlzNzA5MzcwZDM4ODIjN0Bncm91cC5jYWxlbmRhci5nb29nbGUuY29t>

Words from Pastor Lynda

Friends,

We are on the road to Lent, beginning Ash Wednesday March 5— and ending on Easter Sunday April 20, 2025. We will be scheduling special services on Ash Wednesday and Holy Week which consists of Holy (Maundy) Thursday April 17 and Good Friday April 18. We also plan on having an Easter Sunday Celebration on April 20.

Please join us for a special service of Ash Wednesday at noon March 5, 2025.

For those of you who get confused about all the hoopla of Eastertime, I've provided a recap:

1. Purpose of Lent: Lent is a significant time for followers of Jesus, dedicated to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It serves as a period of spiritual growth, reflection, and renewal, leading up to Easter Sunday.
2. History: Lent dates back to the early Christian church, with roots in the 4th century. Initially, it was a time for new converts to prepare for baptism. The 40-day duration mirrors Jesus's 40 days of fasting in the desert.
3. Practices:
 - Prayer: Increased prayer helps believers deepen their relationship with God.
 - Fasting: Many followers of Jesus give up certain foods or habits to practice self-discipline.
 - Almsgiving: Emphasizes serving others through donations, volunteering, or advocacy.
4. Spiritual Growth: Lent is a time for self-examination and renewal of faith. It encourages believers to recognize their dependence on God's grace and to confront any distractions that may hinder their spiritual journey.
5. Journey Toward Easter: Lent prepares followers of Jesus for the celebration of Easter, fostering a deeper appreciation for the events of Holy Week and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
6. Conclusion: Engaging fully in Lent allows followers of Jesus to reflect on their spiritual lives, recognize the power of grace, and emerge with renewed faith, ready to celebrate the new life in Christ.

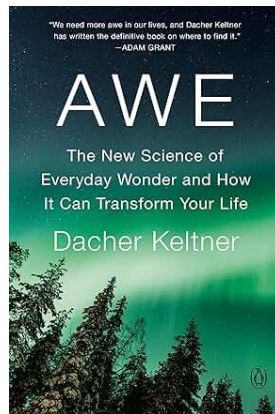
As always, if you need more details or have any questions, feel free to ask!

This is a special time to remember that you are not alone God goes with you. While many Christians practice fasting and denying ourselves for forty days – we encourage you to meditate on the following:

- What habit, mindset, or emotion would you like to leave behind this Lenten Season?

We'll be referencing this meditation throughout this Lenten season.

“Awe is the feeling of being in the presence of something vast that transcends your current understanding of the world.”



Are you interested in a Lenten study?

Please let Linda Allen know by March 5 so books can be ordered.

Linda3times@gmail.com or call (619) 985-0336

We will be reading Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How it Can Transform Your Life by Dacher Keltner, professor of psychology at University of California, Berkeley.

Study to start Sunday, March 16 right after church for 4 weeks.

Following Jesus

Tuesday Morning Book Club

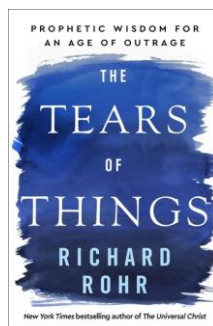
The Bible by Karen Armstrong

We meet Tuesdays at 9 am at SPUMC

We welcome new curious people to our group! All are welcome and encouraged to join us as we are enriched by each other's insights and faith journeys. Join anytime.

Time to order the next book in our study!

We are excited to be reading a brand new book by Richard Rohr
– perfect for the times we are in.



Thriving in Community



3/13 Carol Thornton
3/20 Carolyn Larsen
3/23 Margie Ballenger
3/27 Suzanne Gardner
3/31 Elaine King



3/6 Cheri and George
Eckholt

**If we missed your anniversary or birthday, please let the office know.
We love to celebrate each other.**

Creating a Culture of Renewal

As I continue in year two of the Creating a Culture of Renewal, I challenge all of us to begin prayerful consideration of a new vision for Sierra Pines UMC. A dream that furthers Jesus' dream for the world, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

If you remember, a Jesus-like dream is feisty and bold, bigger than you are and scary. It focuses on the flourishing of our community and inspires and unifies us. A vision is different from a goal. A vision is the big-picture idea and a goal is smaller, more discrete, more do-able. For example, "One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all" from the Pledge of Allegiance is a vision. Some goals that support that vision might be all men and women of a certain age have the right to vote, or every person has the right to a fair and speedy trial.

I hope that might make it easier for you to distinguish vision from goals as you ponder a vision that Sierra Pines might embrace. Remember to consider what brings *you* deep gladness and what are the some of the world's deep hungers. Where those two meet can be a great inspiration for a vision.

De Calvert

Interfaith Food Ministry

Is seeking volunteers and help with fundraising in the new year.

Get involved here: <https://www.interfaithfoodministry.org/>

Did you know the Interfaith Food ministry now accepts **paper AND PLASTIC** bags to help with food distribution?? Please bring your extras to the church - there is a collection basket on the bottom shelf to the right of the front door.

As you consider plans to plant your annual garden, please consider dedicating a part of the garden to providing home-grown fresh food to participants at IFM. Or volunteer to help in the community gardens they support.

Healing the World

Solidarity with the Sojourner

Multiple denominational leaders gathered for a webinar to discuss the United Methodist response to immigrant justice and United Methodists across the connection on February 10. The webinar was called "Solidarity with the Sojourner: Understanding U.S. Immigration and Our Call to Respond" and is available for viewing at:

<https://youtu.be/e3wBBAsHxe8>

The webinar provided an in-depth overview of the current U.S. immigration landscape and explored the challenges immigrant communities face. There was reflection on our faith's call to action and a discussion of practical ways United Methodists can respond. The United Methodists Social Principles affirm our commitment to offer support and welcome immigrants, migrants and refugees into our congregations. "As people of faith committed to justice, compassion, and dignity for all, we strongly oppose ICE raids that harm immigrant communities, create fear, separate families, and go against our moral calling to welcome and protect the vulnerable," per Bishop Julius Trimble.

Locally, some of us have attended Zoom meetings with the Annual Conference, led by Bishop Sandra Olewine and other knowledgeable leaders with ideas about how we can support and exhibit welcome to our vulnerable neighbors. If you are aware of ICE/DHS activity you are encouraged to call (916) 382-0256 so that observers might be notified. More to come from your church leadership regarding safeguarding our church and next steps.

Kairos Palestine Lenten Study

This study is a collaboration between our Annual Conference's Palestine Task Force and the Friends of Wadi Foquin. Our goals are to:

- Hear directly from Palestinian Christians as we seek understanding for what is happening in Palestine and Israel.
- Strengthen our ability to talk about Palestine with ease, clarity and faithful conviction.
- Illuminate and engage our own theological biases and blind spots, especially as they impact our engagement around Palestine and Israel.
- Inspire our collective work on behalf of the beloved community.

We will meet via Zoom on the following five (5) Thursdays:

Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27 + Apr. 24. Noon - 1pm

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/KairosPalestineStudy>

You will receive the Zoom link once you've registered.

Mission Opportunities

UMCOR Sunday, March 30

UMCOR Sunday, observed on March 30th, is a meaningful opportunity to support the missions and outreach of the United Methodist Church. This special offering funds the core operations of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), ensuring that when we give to specific needs—such as relief efforts for the Los Angeles wildfires—100% of our donations go directly to that cause. UMCOR's impact spans the globe, from providing aid in Ukraine and responding to typhoon disasters in the Pacific to addressing famine in Africa.

Mission U by United Women in Faith

2025 Theme: *Practicing Hope Together*

Join us for this year's enriching sessions:

- **May 30 – June 1** | Monte Toyon Camp, Aptos
- **July 25 – July 27** | ECCO Center, Oakhurst
- **August 29 – August 31** | Joyful Healer UMC, McKinleyville
- **September** | Possible one-day event in Sacramento (TBA)

View the **Mission U Flyer** [here](#):

Mission Trips

St Mark's UMC (Sacramento) to t **Bom Jesus Church** in the West Angola Annual Conference. Travel Dates: July 29 – August 12

Calvary UMC in San Jose invites you to join a mission trip to **Cuba**, July 23rd- 30

Sierra Pines UMC Newsletter



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www.sierrapinesumc.org

Sunday Celebration

Services 10:00 am

Fellowship at 11:00am

*Communion Monthly - 1st
Sunday of each month



SPUMC is a reconciling congregation. We are empowered by God, called by Christ, and motivated by our faith to love and serve all God's people. We reach out with loving hospitality to those who know the pain of exclusion within the United Methodist Church. We welcome ALL, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, to full participation in the life and ministries of our church community.