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June 23, 2020

Hello church family!

So there I was, watering the garden and giving thanks once again for the wonderful person who planted the flowers here long before Dennis and I moved in, and watching my little patch of veggies grow, when a bit of an old song came into my head:

*Inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow
All it takes is a rake and a hoe, and a piece of fertile ground.
Inch by inch, row by row, someone bless these seeds I sow
Someone warm them from below, till the rain comes tumbling down*

I went hunting for that song, first recorded I think by Peter, Paul, and Mary, and I found the cutest little video of John Denver (who I swear I could listen to all day long) singing it on the Muppet Show. I kept expecting something to go hilariously wrong, as it often would during these episodes, but no...just a sweet song, with John Denver and his guitar, and some singing flowers and melons. At the end, it cuts to the grumpy old puppet men in the balcony.

“You know something? That was a sweet number.”

“It really was.”

“You know something else? I HATE sweet numbers.”

laughter

There is, as we have talked about before, something very sweetly satisfying about digging in the dirt, and planting something, and caring for it, and watching it grow and bloom and thrive. Even moreso when it then becomes something we can use for food, to help US grow and bloom and thrive. For me at least, it creates a feeling of connectedness with the earth we came from and the creatures that share it...of connectedness with God, and with hope and peace and possibility. The song, written as it was by old hippies, doesn't mention God as anyone other than “someone,” but we know that God is the Someone we work alongside when we care for growing things and growing people, God whose miraculous lifegiving power we share in.

The “inch by inch” part reminds me of how we grow in faith, too. As we continue to talk with God, and deepen our faith in Jesus Christ, we allow God's healing, strengthening power to grow with in us a bit at a time, so that today we are (hopefully) closer to agape love than we were yesterday. Closer to wisdom, and patience...closer to love, joy peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). That is my prayer for us this week, as we grow together inch by inch.

In God's amazing grace,

Pastor Dawn

Worship by the Dashboard Lights, at the Kitchen Table, on the Front Porch, Anywhere and Everywhere!



The Bible and our Christian life are full of hidden heroes. People who do small or large things in secret, whose names we sometimes never know, who have enormous impact on our own lives. This week in worship, we will talk together about those hidden heroes, and the things (and people!) who all work together for the good, all for the glory of God. As you prepare your hearts for worship, you might like to take a look at the scripture for this week, in Exodus 1:15-22. It's the story of the midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, who risked their own lives by defying Herod's terrible order and saved the baby who would grow up to be Moses. And if you're able, watch the movie Hidden Figures! It is an outstanding movie, with a great story, uplifting and exciting and educational in the best way.

Included here in your mini-newsletter is a survey about worship. As we get ready to open for in-person worship (praying, praying, and praying some more), we need to hear from you! The survey will be sent out by email, too, so you are invited to fill out the paper one and mail it back to us at the church, or fill out the one on email, or call us at the church to tell us your thoughts. We all have different spiritual needs, and need to fill them different ways, and we want to make sure we keep doing the things that work the best for you. Take your time, but the sooner you respond the more helpful to us it is as we plan and prepare.

News and Fun Stuff!

Church Council Meeting next Sunday!

Please join us for a Church Council meeting on **Sunday, June 28 after worship at 10:45am, both in person and via Zoom**. We are hoping and praying to be able to open the first or second Sunday in July, so we need to use this time to get our final ducks in a row. Folks have been sprucing up, cleaning and weeding...others have volunteered to help donate masks and hand sanitizer...and a few have volunteered to help prepare kids' activities for worship, greet folks as they come in, and be the bathroom attendant to keep things sanitized between uses. Stay tuned for a more detailed sign-up sheet to follow! And please join us for the council meeting, via Zoom, to discuss the (hopefully) final details. Look for the link and the phone number via email.

July Birthdays!

Jim Wieboldt, 7/1
Mike Berney, 7/1
♥ Debi Kissick, 7/1
Dustin Stritenberger, 7/2
Hayden Brown, 7/5
Barbara Evans, 7/8
Jackie Warburton, 7/8
♥ Darline Hughes, 7/9
Grant Mills, 7/9
Shirley McDonald, 7/12
Ariel Endacott, 7/13
Faye Tewell, 7/13
Darrell Dugan, 7/16
Aaron Fraker, 7/16
Shayda Lofthouse, 7/16
Dan Wolf, 7/16
♥ Kathy Albiston, 7/20
Jaime Lawrence, 7/23
Jerry Noonkester, 7/23
Laura Ivey, 7/24
Bill Hughes, 7/27
Wilma Myers, 7/31
Marlene Pierce, 7/31

♥ *Our beloved Debi Kissick, Darline Hughes, and Kathy Albiston were such incredibly important members of our church family. Prayers for their families and friends, who love and miss them still .*

Candy for the Parade!

The Independence Day Parade is a GO! Please bring any candy donations to the church, thank you for always being so generous in this! We also need artists to help design a beautiful float for us, donations of patriotic decor, and people to ride on the float and spread the joy. Call the church office to let us know how you'd like to join us, or for any questions. 423-4714. More than anything else, we need YOU to show our community who we are! Bring water, a hat or umbrella for shade, sunscreen, and your love for Jesus Christ and each other.



We are All in This Together!

We are SO blessed to have such an active, faithful, loving church. Our ministries are thriving, especially with the addition of USDA "Farmers to Families" fresh food boxes that have been arriving via a partnership with New Frontier and the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. Beginning in July, we are partnering with Kelli Kelly and the Fallon Food Hub on a grant that (IF we are awarded the grant) will provide similar boxes of fresh local produce every other week from July through Thanksgiving. So there are lots of ways to serve, and we really need your help. If you have never volunteered before, we pray that you will step out in faith to be a part of all that we do. You will be so glad you did! **Call the church office** to volunteer, or for more information. 423-4714.

- Help host our laundry and shower services on Mondays, Tuesdays, or Thursday afternoons. It is really easy, and is such a gift to folks in need.
- Help staff the sign-in desk at the Epworth Food Pantry on Mondays from 9:30am til 1pm
- Volunteer to escort folks through the pantry, to help them get what they need.
- Help unload and shelve new food that comes in on Monday mornings
- Help prepare and submit monthly pantry reports
- Be here on Tuesday afternoons to help distribute those fresh food boxes
- Help with organizing and light cleaning in the Wolf Center during the week.

And when we are ready to have in-person worship:

- Help greet people at the front, and offer masks and sanitizer
- Volunteer to be the bathroom attendant, to quickly wipe down surfaces after each use
- Help tidy up and wipe down the church between and after services (since we will probably have worship both at 9am and 11am, stay tuned about that)
- And of course, we will still need worship leaders and folks to lead the Word for the Young at Heart!



Dismantling Racism: Pressing on to Freedom

A Service of Lament

Wednesday, June 24 10 am PDT

United Methodists around the world will gather on the UMC website and on Facebook to pray and lament for the racism in our midst. Hear God's call to join in the work of dismantling racism and pressing on to freedom for all.

To watch this worship service, and for a lot more information regarding what Methodists are doing to combat racism, go to www.cnumc.org and click the link at the very top of the page.

172ND SESSION OF THE
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 18-21, 2020 | MODESTO, CALIFORNIA



California-Nevada Conference
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



...AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD.

Annual Conference is something we look forward to every year. It can be exciting, and frustrating, and surprising, and disappointing, and sometimes just boring and ordinary. It is a time to see old friends and meet new ones from all over California and Nevada, celebrate our shared ministries, and learn about new ones. Ordinarily it is held at the end of June each year, but Covid-19 caused it to be postponed until September. Our official voting delegates this year are Margaret Knox and Barbara McGarity, and our youth delegate is Kenny Coval. Doug Coval and Kathy Fraker, who have been our delegates in years past, are substitutes. Here is some information from our Conference website:

“The annual conference is the basic body in The United Methodist Church and sessions of the annual conference have historically been a time for the people called Methodists to gather, give account to God of the work they have done and their stewardship of the resources God has given them since they last met. It has also been a holy time to discern God’s will for their future, a time when persons called to ordained ministry are commissioned and ordained, and both clergy and lay personnel and financial resources are deployed for ministry. Above all, annual conference sessions have been connectional gatherings where the gathered have experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit and have been revived for God’s holy work.”

All of Annual Conference is open to EVERYONE. Not everyone can vote of course, only official delegates can do that, but all are welcome and encouraged to attend, to experience what happens there, and to add your voices and perspectives and prayers to the important work we do there. Please keep all of the church in prayer, that the Holy Spirit move through us and work among us in powerful ways! ♥