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2023 Year-End Finance Committee Summary

This is your once-a-year summary of the work the Finance Committee has been doing and our one chance to thank you all for your support. Your generous and regular giving to your Church made it possible to pay all our bills for the year including staff salaries, utilities, insurance expenses, office expenses, cleaning services, building maintenance and our pledged tithe to the greater Church, etc. We finished 2023 in the black and were able to add that to our Church equity. So, my Church family (I just love it when Latu says that) we are on solid ground financially and looking forward to 2024.

The 2024 Stewardship campaign was a rousing success. Using the theme of “Keeping God’s Church in the Green” church members were encouraged to submit pictures of their favorite trees with the estimate of giving card. All were amazed at how fast the estimates came in. Thank you all for your support.

More good news can be found in a review of those funds which are separate from the General Fund. The most significant improvement can be seen in our Endowment Fund. This fund’s investments will eventually provide us with the stability we need to pay for all our grounds and building upkeep once it reaches our goal of \$250K. This year alone we received donations that added more than \$35K to this account. Special thanks goes out to these generous donors.

The birthday bank was active again this past year. Cash is placed in the birthday bank each week during service to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, special events etc. Over \$4000.00 was raised this year and subsequently given to organizations in Carson Valley designed to help children. Those organizations include: Backpack Buddies, 4H Equestrian Club, Carson Valley Boys & Girls Club, Aurora Pines, the Girl Scouts, Carson Valley Youth Day and the Douglas County Public Library Children’s Programs.

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Photo Credits:

Banner photo of the winter trees with the Sierras in the background as well as photos of Losa and Latu - credit Kathy Wicker. Craft Fair workers photo is by Sharon Hoelscher-Day, and Easter Sunrise photo by Cecile Brown.

Snowy Sunday Procedures

It is our intention to hold Sunday morning Services even if it is snowy. If the weather conditions are truly bad, we may cancel Sunday Services. If this were to happen, we would send an email to you by 7:30 am on that day. In all situations, you are the best judge of what is safe for you to do or not to do.

When we do have Snowy Sundays, our focus is to get the sidewalks cleared and the Parking Lot plowed. We have a number of volunteers that operate the Snow Blower and shovels. This is why if you call or text, we may not be available to respond right away. We have a contract for Snow Removal on Sundays, but only if the snow is deep enough for the plows to move it.

We hope that this information helps you in making the right decision for yourself on a Snowy Sunday.

Bottom line, be safe.

Scripture & Sermons For March

March 3, 2024 - Third Sunday in Lent

Scripture: John 2:13-22
 Sermon Scripture: John 2:19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."
 Theme: Reconstructing with Jesus

March 10, 2024 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: John 3:14-21
 Sermon Scripture: John 3:16
 Theme: The Love of God

March 17, 2024 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: John 12:20-33
 Sermon Scripture: John 12:25
 Theme: Losing your life to God

March 24, 2024 - Sixth Sunday in Lent (PALM SUNDAY)

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11
 Sermon Scripture: Mark 11:8
 Theme: How will you await the coming of Jesus Christ

March 28, 2024 - Maundy Thursday

Scripture: John 13:1-17, 31b-35
 Sermon Scripture: John 13:8 Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."
 Theme: Washed by Jesus Christ

March 31, 2024 - Seventh Sunday in Lent (Resurrection Sunday)

Sunrise Service

Scripture: John 20:1-18
 Sermon Scripture: John 20:1 20:1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.
 Theme: Early Awakening

Morning Service

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8
 Sermon Scripture: Mark 16:6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him."
 Theme: He is not Here

2024 UWF Reading Program

Each year the United Women in Faith offer a reading program. Men and women of the church are encouraged to read at least 1 book from each of the five categories: Education for Mission, Leadership, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. Books from the current year & 4 previous years are also eligible. Our readers are recognized at a district UWIF meeting. Each year UWF purchase new books to add to our church library, this year they include:

Education for Mission:

Apple: Skin to the Core by Eric Gansworth
They Called us Enemy by George Takei

Leadership

I'm a Girl from Africa by Aelizabeth Nyamaysro
Who is Florence Price by Students of the Special Music School,
Kaufman Music Center

Nurturing for Community

The Seed Keeper by Diane Wilson
*The Loneliness Epidemic: Why So Many of Us Feel Alone, And How Leaders
Can Respond* by Susan Mettes

Social Action

The Rage of Innocence by Kristin Henning
Conditional Citizens by Laila Lalami

Spiritual Growth

We go on-Finding Purpose in Life Sorrows by John Onwuchekwa
The Cure for Sorrow by Tessa Afshar
*Braiding Sweetgrass :Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the
Teachings of Plants*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer

This year the UWF Reading Program has several Bonus Books worth 2 book credits:

Braiding Sweet Grass by Robin Wall Kimmerer
The 1619 Project by Nikole Hannah-Jones.
I'm Black, I'm Christian, I'm Methodist edited by Rudy Rasmus

Several of the Reading program books are also in the Douglas County Library:

The 1619 Project by Nikole Hannah-Jones. (See Nancy Deis' review)
How Beautiful We Were: a novel by Imbolo Mbue
Invisible Child by Andrea Elliott
They Called us Enemy by George Takai
The Nichol Boys by Colson Whitehead
Beautiful Country by Wang
Crying in H Mart by Zauner
Maid – Hard Work, Low Pay And a Mother's Will to Survive by Stephanie Land
*Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of
Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer
Land of Silence by Tessa Afshar

You can also watch movies for credit including Hidden Figures, Pushout and The Hate U Give. Additional books and more details about each book are listed on the national UWF website at <https://uwfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/ReadingProgramCatalog2024.pdf> Contact Carol Coleman if you have any questions.

Year-End Report

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Let me highlight three other programs that are used to help families in need in our Church and in our valley. These funds are also outside our General Fund. These three funds called Community Needs, Parish Outreach and Parish Benevolence are sourced by donations from caring members and organizations in this Church including the UWIF and from monthly Communion offerings. In 2023 nearly \$21,000 dollars were made available to help families in need from being evicted, utilities from being turned off, assistance with necessary auto repairs and a myriad of other necessities. This unique assistance gets little notice, so we are taking this moment to highlight the generosity and the love for one another that it represents.

Priorities for the 2024 budget execution and fund management will continue to focus on the Endowment Fund. As mentioned, it was strengthened significantly in 2023 and remains our long-term strategy for maintenance and upkeep of church property. Another priority for 2024 remains our deferred maintenance accounts. As our building and grounds continue to age, we find ourselves needing to repair and replace failing equipment on a regular basis. This was extremely expensive in 2023 and will most likely continue into 2024.

So, in summary, 2023 was a blessed year for CVUMC finances. I extend my thanks to the members of the finance committee for their service during this time, and my appreciation to our new pastor and our treasurer for their guidance. But most of all, thanks to our loving congregation for your faithful support of this Church.

Steve Hamilton

Finance Committee Chairman

Timeless Treasures Collecting Starts

Please bring your boutique-quality treasures to the church education room on the 3rd Monday of each month between 10 a.m. and 12 Noon. The next collection day will be Monday, March 18. This is the perfect time to donate any Christmas items you no longer want!

Timeless Treasures isn't a rummage sale. If you think someone would like receiving an item as a gift, it probably will be perfect for us, but no clothing, please.

Thank you all for your help! Your donations are the reason Timeless Treasures will be successful. Contact Alison Grey, Marsha Gallegos, or Sue Hanley with any questions.



On February 18 Rosa Paea blessed both services with the beautiful hymn "Teu Auhia Ka Mavae Moe Eiki." The title and verses are in "Old Tongan," a language no longer spoken in the islands. Neither Latu or Rosa could translate it for us, but they have put out the word in the Tongan community that we would love to know. Stay tuned for a possible translation in the future.



United
Women
in Faith

**Thursday,
March 14,**

• **Potluck Lunch - 11:30 am**

Education Room

• **Program - 12:15 pm**

**Marla Morris, executive
director, Austin's House**

All are welcome to attend the program

Learn about the UWF "Day of Giving" & UWF Reading Program

**No Reservations Needed,
Come for Food & Fellowship!**

For details on specific UWF projects, contact Ann Robar, President -
ann.robar@gmail.com



UWF Book Report on The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story

This is not an easy book to read. It is long and challenging. That being said, it is an important book. It addresses slavery in America and its legacy through history and into the present.

It presents parts of American history that I was not aware of and also reminded me of more recent events.

I doubt anyone could read this book and not be uncomfortable at some point. If you read this, feel free to contact me to talk about it – it's the kind of book that elicits discussion.

This does count as two books for the UWF reading program in the Education for Mission category. You can find it at the Douglas County Library in hard copy and Kindle editions. Read on!

Nancy Deis

Upcoming Alpine Kids Activities

Sunday, March 10:
Carson Valley Swim Center
3:30 – 5:30 (after hours).
Dinner 5:30 – 6:30 at Hunan's in Raley's Shopping Center.

Sunday, April 7: Bowling at Silver Strike Lanes in the Ranchos 3 – 5 p.m. We will be having pizza from Nic & Willies.

Saturday, April 27: Teddy Bear Parade at Diamond Valley School. Alpine Kids will have a booth with a craft project, and we will give each child a book. Bring a stuffed animal and be part of the parade led by Smokey Bear and Honeybear. Lunch is included at this family event.

Saturday, May 18: Alpine Kids is teaming up with Sierra Club's Inspiring Connections Outdoors Program so families can have a great day at Davis Creek in Washoe Valley. You can hike the many trails around the area, or bring your camp chair and enjoy just sitting and visiting. Sierra Club does need people to sign up ahead of time.

YOUNG ADULT ACTIVITIES:

Young Adult outing: Kristy will text you the details. Be sure your Young Adult Membership forms have been turned in so she will know who is enrolled.

Cooking with Edie and Debbie on Monday,
March 11: Homemade mac & cheese.

PLEASE RSVP FOR ALL OUTINGS PRIOR TO THE EVENT

March UWF Luncheon Meeting

Celebrate spring at our UWF Potluck Luncheon Meeting on Thursday, March 14th at 11:30 a.m.. Learn what the UWF "Day of Giving" is all about.

UWF meets in the Education Room. Lunch is at 11:30, program at 12:15. March's program is guest speaker Marla Morris, executive director of Austin's House. She will explain how this shelter for at-risk kids works here in Douglas County.

This is the final collection day for Abbey's Crossing; see the list in the Fellowship Hall. The business meeting follows the program. No reservations required! Questions? Contact UWF President Ann Robar.

Come for fun, food and fellowship. We encourage anyone interested to attend or invite a friend. We hope to see you all there!



Collecting for Abbey's Crossing

In February and March, the United Women in Faith will be collecting needed items for Abbey's Crossing at their monthly meeting or in the box in the entry hall.

Abbey's Crossing is a confidential domestic violence shelter located in Douglas County run by the Family Support Council. It can house up to 13 women and children for 90 days.

A complete list of needed items is on the UWF bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. The last collection is March 14 at the UWIF General Meeting. Thank you all for your generosity!

Calendar Items

March 4 - Craft workshop - 9:30 a.m.- noon
March 5 - UWF Board Meeting - 9:30 a.m.
March 14 - UWF Potluck Luncheon & Meeting - 11:30 a.m.
March 18 - Craft workshop - 9:30 a.m.- noon
March 18 - Timeless Treasures Collection - 10 a.m. - noon
April 1 - Craft workshop - 9:30 a.m.- noon (NO fooling!)
April 2 - UWF Board Meeting - 9:30 a.m.
April 11 - UWF Potluck Luncheon & Meeting - 11:30 a.m.
April 15 - Craft workshop - 9:30 a.m.- noon
April 30 - UWF Board Meeting - 9:30 a.m.
June 28 & 29 - Mission U at Carson Valley United Methodist Church!



Dear Church Family,

I pray all is well with you and your families during this Lent season in which we are realigning our relationship as a church with God. We will continue with this month's theme of "Depths of Love," in which we are in the front seat of mending our spiritual connection: physically and mentally for self-examination, self-reflection, and self-sustainment. Even though we work together as a church to dispense the Word of God in our ministries, the observation of Lent brings a fulfilling experience for God's people to interpret their life amid Jesus' life to the cross and onto the resurrection.

If there is something important during the liturgical Lent season, it is to propose a question for personal evaluation: *how is my relationship with Christ today?* Church family, ask yourself during this Lent season of personal prayer, devotion, and fellowship, where is your relationship with Jesus Christ in your current life? Lent reminds us even though we have fallen short or have not committed ourselves to God, we are still finding ourselves in His presence. As the author Timothy Keller says: "The central basis of Christian assurance is not how much our hearts are set on God, but how unshakably his heart is set on us." As you continue with your devotion and prayer life during this time of spiritual realignment, remind yourself as a follower of Christ that God is good all the time. Observe the blessings you have received, witness the manifestation of the Holy Spirit as it works within you in your daily life, read your scriptures for spiritual growth, and live with holiness in a world that encapsulates wickedness.

Furthermore, this world needs assurance because of our natural individualism and selfishness. As salt and light, the assurance of God is planted in our church community as the body of Christ. Our Lenten season is a time of spiritual deconstruction for a Christful reconstruction. Let our journey with Christ during the liturgical season experience the depth of love that Jesus Christ did for all on the cross and His resurrection. Let us be the hope for the hopeless, love for the unloving world, and strength for the weak.

This world needs the body of Christ to love God and to love one's neighbor. In a time of hostility, fear, and unpredictability, one thing that is assured is God's presence, for He is a faithful God today, tomorrow, and in the future.

Pastor Latu Paea




Craft Workshops Begin!

Mark your calendar! Craft workshops for the Heavenly Holiday Faire start meeting again March 4 and 18 from 9:30 am to noon the 1st & 3rd Mondays. Craft supplies are provided, but bring your ideas for new craft items. Come for fellowship, fun and creativity!

Worship Schedule
Sundays
 Worship 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.
 Fellowship time follows morning services
 Loving child care provided

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