**The Messenger**

**Eureka First United Methodist Church**

**May/June 2025**

Office Phone (707) 442-3015 Rev. Dr. Rebecca Irelan, Pastor

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## Cross and flame - Wikipedia

## *Following Jesus*

## *Thriving in Community*

## *Healing the World*

Pastor’s Letter

If the grapevine is in good working order, you will have already heard that I am moving to Truckee at the end of June. If this news came as a shock to you, I assure you that the opportunity came as something of a surprise to me a few months ago. In our United Methodist system, rarely are pastoral moves made this late in the appointment season. But this appointment to Truckee falls out of the UMC system.

While my official appointment is to the Truckee (UMC) Church of the Mountains, my actual job will be to shepherd two small congregations: one United Methodist and one Lutheran/Presbyterian. Since September of last year, these two congregations (representing three denominations) have been sharing one building, our church in downtown Truckee, built in 1869. This year, they decided to share one pastor. However, Lutheran and Presbyterians have to “call” a pastor, so there was a search process in which our Bishop and Cabinet have been involved. That is the reason that the change is coming so late and I have been so sleepless of late.

Though this change is an exciting new challenge for me and brings me much closer to my family (30 minutes from my sister; 1.5 hours from our daughter), I am sad to be leaving all of you. We’ve been through a lot together in just five years, and I will be sharing my thoughts on that in upcoming sermons.

As I told the search committee in Truckee, my biggest concern about the move was and is the welfare of this church. In fact, that is the driving reason for my even considering this late appointment. The cost of health care in the Covered California program is expected to more than double in January when enhanced federal subsidies expire, and I didn’t want to burden this church and keep it from having the resources for new ministry opportunities that may be on the horizon. Though I am busy preparing to leave, I am also in conversation with the Community Schools program through the school district and the Foster Care Resource Center to explore ways that you and a new pastor might connect with families with children and bring new energy and a new future to Eureka First.

If I had my druthers, the Truckee appointment would have come up next year, rather than this year, but I am very grateful that I won’t be returning to the Bay Area but to the mountains that I have loved since I was a kid in Montana.

I also thank God that we have a system that ensures that the church will not be left without a pastor. (The Lutherans and Presbyterians in Truckee haven’t had a permanent pastor for two years.) I understand that the Cabinet has a replacement for me in mind, but it will take a few weeks to arrange for the official meeting with the SPRC before an announcement can be made.

In the meantime, there are lot of plans to be made and rooms in the parsonage to be painted and a party to be planned. We are going to need everyone’s help in welcoming the new pastor, and we are counting on you to pick up the phone and call a member of the Council or Trustees and offer your services. Thank God we don’t have a pandemic this year!

Beloved, we have a new bishop in Rev. Sandy Olewine, a new district superintendent in Mike Harrell, and you will soon have a new pastor. This year, resurrection means something. Rebirth isn’t just a promise. It will soon be your reality. Praise God!

*Do not remember the former things,*

*or consider the things of old.*

*I am about to do a new thing;*

*now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*

*Isaiah 43:18-19a*

*Pastor Rebecca*

***A white door with a cross

AI-generated content may be incorrect.Church Website***

Have you checked out our church website yet? Brian Hansen has done an amazing job of designing a completely new site for the church. The site has many great new features, but look especially at the calendars—and yes, there are several of them—and you can add them to your own personal calendar. You’ll never miss a church event again! Go to **firstumceureka.org** and make sure to bookmark it—or, better yet, make it your own home page!

**A group of women with flowers and leaves

Description automatically generated*Concert!***

“A Company of Voices” will hold their spring concert at Eureka First on Saturday, June 1st, at 7 pm and Sunday, June 2nd, at 2 pm. We’re looking (listening?) forward to hearing their newest member—our own very musical Jamie Cameron!

A book cover with a book on it

AI-generated content may be incorrect.Book Study: Making Sense of the Bible

We are studying Adam Hamilton’s *Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today*. This is a 6-week study that will continue through June 18th. In the study, we are looking at some of the most challenging and confusing parts of the Bible and considering different ways we can think about them. Dan Dionne is our leader, and we are meeting in the library in Christie Hall on Wednesdays from 11:45 am to 1:15pm. Bring a sack lunch. If you need a book, contact the church office.

***Small Group Study:***

The Thursday study group continues to read and talk about the scriptures for Sunday’s sermon! Thursday on Zoom, 4 pm. Check with the office for the Zoom link.

***Growing in Grace Groups:***

Our GIG groups are still growing! Note: The Wednesday GIG group that moved to Sue Scott’s house will be back at Sara Lundstrom’s house while the Scotts are recuperating.

**Zoom Group (men and women):** Tuesdays, 7 pm

**Women’s Group:** Wednesdays, 1:30 pm, Christie Hall

**Men’s Group:** Thursdays, 10 am, at the Dionne’s

**New Group (men and women):** every other Wednesday at W2pm, at Sara Lundstrom’s home

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| Church Financial Report - Kerr Resources  April Income Expense Totals | | |
| Income |  | $ 13,588.58 |
| Expense |  | $ 17,331.50 |
| Net Income |  | $ (3,742.92) |
|  |  |  |
| YTD Income Expense Totals | | |
| Income |  | $ 59,092.64 |
| Expense |  | $ 68,804.51 |
| Net Income |  | $ (9,711.87) |

A magnifying glass and words

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceWorship Needs You!

A big thank-you to Brian and Tim Hansen for taking on greater responsibilities for running the slide show and livestream. So, we need more hands on the worship team. Running the slide show portion of worship is pretty easy (as long as you can manage the stairs into the balcony!) We will train you. If you can help out once in a while, please contact the pastor.

A group of people standing in front of a cross

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**Church Family News**

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

May Birthdays

11 Timothy Hansen

11 Sara Lundstrom 27 Evan Max Green

14 Avery Kerr 28 Joan Brady

14 Leo Fredrickson

May Anniversaries

8 Herb & Sally Pierce

12 Craig & Julie Benson

18 Bob & Erin Powers-Taylor

18 Gary & Heidi Quintrell

23 Brian & Sally Hansen

June Birthdays

2 Clover Churchill 22 Jeremiah Forman

5 Sharon Warren 23 Marlaine Rechelluul

11 Steve Peacock 28 Isaac Young

18 Richard Strubinger 30 Craig Benson

21 Adrienne Kerr

June anniversaries

12  Joann & Carrol Newquist

21  Louise & Leo Fredrickson

21   Bill & Barbara O’Brien

27   Jamie & Angela Cameron

28   Ken & Paula Blackshear

Text

Description automatically generated***Congratulations! -- If we missed your special day or have the incorrect date please call the church office so we can get it right next year***

* Wayne Palmrose, Lisa Lewis and Carol Goodwin, recovering from surgery
* Jeremiah Foreman, recovering from pneumonia
* Herb Pierce, recovering in rehab
* Judy Taylor, undergoing tests
* Sue Scott, who will be returning home at the end of the mont
* Gallery Tomsha, Christopher Kerr, Leuw, Rhett, Dave Churchill, David Millstein and all who are living with a cancer diagnosis
* Louis and Paula Amato, Tom and Karen Newton, Louise and Leo Frederickson, Ted and Joan Romo, Sue and Steve Peacock, Mark McKinney, Lyn Howell, Margie O’Keefe
* victims of the tornadoes and storms in the Midwest and East
* people who are starving in Gaza, Sudan, and Yemen
* peace in Ukraine and the Middle East
* end of divisions in our country
* assurance in this time of pastoral transition

# I am a history buff | History clipart, Teaching us history, HistoryHistory Tidbit from Ann Hunt

Someone recently asked me about the Seamen’s Center. I’ve known it was a part of this community’s outreach to the commercial sailors who frequented our wharfs on the bay. I wanted to follow-up on it as I was familiar with the work/ministries of Seamen’s Centers on the east coast. In late March I found the following report in the Church Conference reports of 1976. It was written by Leona Christensen, a member of our congregation and at the time, President of the Board of Directors of the Seamen’s Center here in Eureka.

“A ‘home away from home’ is afforded the seamen who visit the Seamen’s Center, Port of Eureka. There is no charge for any facilities which include pool, ping-pong, stereo, TV, magazines to read and stationery. The hosts (usually a husband and wife and sometimes the family, too) extend Christian hospitality to the seamen, serving light refreshments and offering friendship with a smile.

“The CENTER is open evenings ... 6:30 to 11:00 when ships are in port. ... Our week of hosting ... occurs about every two months. ...

“Ships may be docked at Glenn’s (Field’s Landing), Crown-Simpson, L.P., North Coast, 14th street, or Dock A. Seamen are given free transportation to the CENTER and return to the ship, by means of the SEAMEN’S CENTER Bus (a gift of the Kiwanis). Our drivers visit the ships and extend the invitation to the seamen.

“Some ships are loaded quickly and may be docked but a day or two, while others may require a week to take on cargo.

“So far this year, we have had about 235 registrations during Eureka Methodist’s hosting. Men have come from Japan, China, Philippines, South America, Australia, England, Denmark, Norway, Scotland, Ireland and the USA. ...”

From my search of some local papers, I see the Seamen’s Center was widely supported by the community, HSU students and by the United Way. I found in the papers, requests for persons who could offer translation skills and from the work of other centers in other parts of the country, I know that legal and professional services were often provided when needed.

Sometimes missions take us to foreign lands. Sometimes foreign lands come to us. In both cases, hospitality and grace go far in extending the love of Christ.

--Ann Hunt

Food Donations to be weighed Sunday, June 2nd May Total 60lbs

We will have our regular collection on Sunday, June 2nd. Remember that our target is 100 pounds! If you have donations of non-perishable food items for our food closet, **including pet food**, please arrange to deliver them to the church office before the scheduled Sunday by calling the office at (707-442-3015).

# A picture containing clipart Description automatically generatedFrom your friendly editor

We welcome comments on this newsletter that can lead us to serve you better. And remember that anyone can contribute! Just send an email to [dldionne@suddenlink.com](mailto:dldionne@suddenlink.com)!

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Rebirth and Renewal

**More about the Seamen’s Center**

I was excited when Ann Hunt, our beloved historian, sent me her report on the Seamen’s Center, because I have a personal connection! At Eureka First at that time were Ruth and Tom Young and their children, Janet, Joan, and Lori. These were my family’s dearest friends during my early years growing up in Redway; in fact, I spent my first night of life in their house. Both Ruth and Tom have passed away now, but I remain in contact with Joan, now Joan Barber. I knew her father was involved with the Seamen’s Center, so I asked her about it. This is what she said:

*It literally changed our lives!*

*The first ship in the port was a passenger cargo ship named The Oriental Pearl. Dad and Mom met the ship’s purser (I cannot remember his name), Steven Chow, Alfred Chan, and Sammy Shen. We were served Jasmine tea in water glasses with large jasmine flowers floating in the fragrant tea. And then the men boarded the van to ride from the dock on the Samoa side of Humboldt Bay into Eureka, where the Seaman’s Center was located. These were the first of our best friends that inspired our family to always volunteer to help out at the Seamen’s Center. They were followed by classmates assigned to The Oriental Jade, a slightly larger and fancier passenger cargo ship.*

*I can’t even begin to tell you the stories we have, but when the men came to our house and cooked for us, some of their meals included rice packed in banana leaves with red beans inside as a dessert and the famous hundred year-old eggs, which no one in this country had heard of until these guys brought them over and sliced them--with one end of sewing thread between their teeth and the other hand wrapped around their fingers of one hand as they slipped the egg through the thread to slice it. It was fascinating and gross at the same time to see Stephen cut eggs that looked almost obsidian with green yolks.*

*Steven Chow emigrated to Canada after a visit to visit us with his wife and daughter. Alfred Chan married and immigrated to work as a structural engineer for PG&E for a number of years; his classmate Wah Sing Pun worked for UPS as an international rep after he visited with his wife and son; and Ying Loi Ho, who we first called Johnny Ho, ended up having Mother teach him to drive. He got married in Portland and had Dad and Mom represent his parents because they couldn’t come from Hong Kong in time, and eventually brought his parents and all four of his siblings to live in the Portland area as well. Loi, as we came to know him, married a Russian woman as his second wife, and after having three children in his first marriage, and two sons in his second marriage is now divorced and travels internationally representing a company that supplies sailing ships food and supplies for the staff. Loi and Lori remain friends today.*

*--Joan Barber*

Joan neglected to mention that her father, Tom Young, was so moved to help these seamen—mostly Chinese, many of whom had “missed” their ships, sometimes accidentally-on-purpose—that he learned Mandarin in order to communicate with them more effectively.

--Your friendly editor

**The Lighter Side**

A cartoon of an old person and a person sitting in a chair

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