



**United Christian Church**  
(Disciples of Christ)

**Sunday Schedule**

Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Youth S.S. (4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) 9:15 AM  
Worship 10:30 AM

**Saturday Schedule**

Worship 6:00 PM

**Elder-on-Call November 2009**

Pam Pigg

**Pastor**

Rev. Natalie Chamberlain  
Music Minister, Mona White

**Ministry Council**

Eddie Lou Kester, Chair  
Gary Pigg, Vice-Chair  
Mona White, Secretary  
Tina McCallister-Boothe,  
Christian Ed  
Mary Ann Edens, Missions  
Tina McCallister-Booth,  
Missions  
Mike Edens, Bldgs & Grounds  
Gloria Hallier, Evangelism  
Jan Moffett, Congregat'l Life  
Pam Pigg, Worship  
Jane Sumpter, Fin. Resources  
Hugh Moffett, Elders

**Elders**

Natalie Hodgson, Chair  
Mary Ann Edens  
Mike Edens  
Sharon Hughes  
Hugh Moffett  
Pam Pigg  
Jane Sumpter

**Elders Emeritus**

Pat Bartholomew  
Cleo Hastings  
Randy Jordahl

Dear Church Family,

I am home and grateful to be back. I had a wonderful time of rest and renewal; I am grateful to the congregation for making this time possible. I got to spend time with family and friends whom I don't see nearly often enough. I was able to visit some of my favorite places and find a new favorite place.

I loved my time in Alaska for two reasons. I had a great time with two of my sisters and the area around Nome is some of the most beautiful I've ever seen. I have added several birds to my life list. I saw several creatures I had never seen before and I was awed by the awesome beauty of God's creation. Not bad for a 2 week stay.

While in Nome, I found lots of sea glass. On Sunday morning it was bright and sunny when my sisters and I drove to church. It was still sunny when the service was over. We decided to go home and have some lunch and then go to the beach and look for sea glass.

During the gold rush, the miners found gold in the sand of the Nome beaches. There are still miners who work the beach for gold but the casual beachcomber in Nome today looks for colored sea glass. Glass that is dumped into the sea gets battered and broken. The shards are rolled in the sand by the waves. When it gets washed up on the beach it looks like the rounded stones that cover the beach. The fun is in finding them among the litter of the beach.

By the time we got to the beach after lunch the weather had turned blustery. The sky was gray, the waves were high and the wind was strong. It was the kind of day most people would expect late in the fall, not during the summer. We were going to start off going into the wind but the beach in that direction was nearly lost to the tide. So we set off with the wind to our backs. We didn't go very far because even with the wind at our backs, it was cold. We turned after only about a quarter of a mile and made our way back to the car. Between the three of us, we found only five or six pieces of glass.

Cathy pulled the car onto the graveled space outside her door. I asked if they ever found much sea glass in the gravel. She seemed surprised at the question and said she had never looked. I told her I thought the gravel must come from the beach or somewhere near it as the stones were all rounded. I got out of the car, looked down and saw a green stone. I picked up my first piece of sea glass, in the driveway. In the next minute or two, we found a whole handful of glass.

It had never occurred to my sisters to look in the gravel for sea glass. What I saw was not gravel but a piece of the beach transferred to the drive. It is amazing how the way we look at something determines what we see.

My time away has served to cause me to look at this church and community with new eyes. I see treasures of great worth and I thank God for the congregation and community of United Christian Church.



The Pastor will be on vacation  
November 16 thru 25.



November 2009 Calendar

1	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	<u>Daylight savings ended</u> <b>All Saints Sunday</b> Sunday School Youth (4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> ) S.S. Worship
2	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Hodgsons'
3		
4	7:00 pm	Choir
5		Pastor's day off
6		<b>Council reports due</b> Pastor's day off
7	8:00 am 2:00 pm 6:00 pm	Men's Prayer Breakfast Youth (4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> ) Boomers Worship
8	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am  Noon 3:00 pm	Sunday School Youth (4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> ) S.S. Worship Annual Meeting Potluck "Thanksgiving Festival of Choirs" at Hope Lutheran
9	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Hodgsons'
10	1:30 pm 6:30 pm	CWF Mtg. at L. Sandell's Council Mtg. at Moffetts'
11	7:00 pm	<b>Veterans Day</b> (office closed) Choir Practice
12		Pastor's day off
13		Pastor's day off
14	6:00 pm	Worship
15	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am  Noon	Sunday School Youth (4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> ) S.S. Worship & special offering; Guest speaker Missions Potluck
16	7:15 pm	Pastor starts vacation, thru 25 <sup>th</sup> Bible Study at Hodgsons'
17	6:30 pm	Elders' Mtg. at church
18	7:00 pm	<b>Newsletter articles due</b> Choir Practice
19		Pastor's day off
20		Pastor's day off
21	6:00 pm	Worship
22	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	<b>Thanksgiving Sunday</b> Sunday School Youth (4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> ) S.S. Song Worship & special offering
23	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Hodgsons'
24	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Mtg.
25	7:00 pm	Choir practice
26		<b>Thanksgiving Day</b> office closed

		Pastor's day off
27		Pastor's day off
28	9:30 am 6:00 pm	Decorate the Sanctuary Worship
29	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	<b>Advent Begins</b> Sunday School Youth (4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> ) S.S. Worship
30	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Hodgsons'

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of the United Christian Church will be held after morning worship service on **November 8, 2009**, with a luncheon to follow.



And



Potluck Dinner Following

November 8, 2009 Annual Meeting

Yes, it's more good food after church!  
For the dinner following the November 8 Annual Meeting, ham, rolls, and beverages will be provided. We ask that you bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. (In consideration for persons with allergies, please note the ingredients in your dish, or at least indicate if it does or does not contain onion, garlic, or peanuts.)  
Please bring cold dishes in a bowl of ice or in an ice chest. Bring hot foods cooked and hot. And do bring your appetite!

November Birthdays  
& Anniversaries

- 2 Breeanne Morris
- 2 Charlene Nichols
- 6 Ana Rivera\*
- 7 Dora Born
- 9 Angel Alvarez
- 11 Sharon Hughes\*
- 13 Beckysue\* & Randy Duran (A)
- 15 Victoria DeBenedetti\*
- 24 Victor Verduzco
- 24 Isaak Samuel
- 25 Anne James
- 28 Hannah James





### *Festival of Choirs*

Fresno Metro Ministry will present their 26<sup>th</sup> annual "Thanksgiving Festival of Choirs" on Sunday, **November 8**, at 3:00 pm, at Hope Lutheran Church (NW corner, Fresno & Barstow).



### *Advent*

**Advent:** The season of preparation for Christmas begins Sunday, November 29. Sunday morning worship, during Advent, will include hymns and carols of the season.



**The Hanging of the Greens:** Those interested in helping decorate the Sanctuary for this special season are invited to come Saturday morning, **November 28**, at 9:30 am.



### *CWF/ Women's Ministries*

The CWF group's meeting will be Tuesday, November 10, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Laurene Sandell. All women welcome.

The Christmas Luncheon and party will be held December 5, at noon, at the church, as a finger food potluck. There will be an inexpensive gift exchange. This year's secret sisters will be revealed, and next year's selected. All women are encouraged to come and share in the fun and fellowship!

*Natalie Hodgson & Pat Bartholomew, CWF*



### Fresno Convoy of Hope

On **November 7**, Fresno Convoy of Hope will be held at Edison Computech. This is a collaborative effort between churches, businesses, and community organizations to do together what each one could never do alone. Volunteers are needed to distribute free groceries, provide health services, community services, job fair, games and the opportunity to hear the gospel and receive prayer for personal needs.

As a church, we also will be participating in prayer for the event. Prayer is requested for the event at 5:15 am or pm, or a mealtime prayer. We will also be offering our church as a connections church, as well as gathering volunteers.

*For information on how you can be a volunteer, please contact Gloria Hallier.*

### Interfaith Alliance of Central California Thanksgiving Worship

Interfaith Alliance sponsors an annual Thanksgiving Worship service. This year it will be Wednesday, **November 25**, at 7pm. The service will be held at College Community Congregational Church, 5550 N Fresno Street (just across the street from San Joaquin Gardens).

This service has participants from many different faiths. The theme of thankfulness is common in all faiths, and that is what is lifted up in this colorful community gathering. If you have never attended, this is a good opportunity to be present.



Council Gleanings  
Tuesday, October 13, 2009

### *Men's Fellowship & Prayer Breakfast*

Come to the Men's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, November 7, for breakfast and fellowship, followed by helping with some small chores around the church. This invitation is for the young, as well the other than young men of the church. Breakfast is served at 8:00 am.

All men and boys are invited to attend. If you need a ride, please contact Gary at 438-7040, or [garypigg@yahoo.com](mailto:garypigg@yahoo.com), or one of the other men from the fellowship group.

Gary Pigg, Men's Fellowship



1. **Finance:** Jane Sumpter recommended a budget, which was approved by the Council, to present to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
2. **Vacation Time:** The Council approved rolling over two weeks of Pastor Natalie's unused vacation time to next year.
3. **Missions:** It was recommended \$40 be given to Metro Ministry for their Thanksgiving Concert, and \$35 for Taizé Prayer Weekend. Council approved.
4. **Interfaith Scholars Weekend:** Council approved \$100 be given as a sponsor.
5. **Nominating Committee:** Consists of Gary Pigg, Chair; Gloria Hallier, Larry Schiller, and Earlene Hodgson, who will present the list of nominated officers for 2010.

Eddie Lou Kester, Ministry Council Chair

### Financial Update September 30, 2009

General Funds	\$294,469
Designated Other	3,526
Memorial & Honor Funds	6,117
Designated Outreach Funds	<u>2,250</u>
Total Checking & Savings	\$306,362

#### Monthly Offerings (includes 12% for Missions)

Total Sept. 2009	\$ 5,844
Total Sept. 2008	<u>6,336</u>
Below Prior Year	(\$ 492)

#### Year-to-Date Offerings (includes 12% for Missions)

To Sept. 30, 2009	\$ 57,624
To Sept. 30, 2008	<u>63,438</u>
Below Prior Year	(\$ 5,814)

#### Income & Expense Jan .1-Sept. 30, 2009

Receipts	\$ 66,678
Expenses	<u>102,070</u>
Net Decrease to 9/30/09	(\$ 35,392)

# Missions



## Food Pantry

Bring food on Sunday, November 1. Make checks to the church, marked "for food pantry".

## You're Invited!

### Annual Missions Potluck

The Annual Missions Potluck is taking place on November 15, following worship.

Our guest speaker this year will be Rev. Vy Nguyen, Assistant Regional Director of Church World Services.

We would like to serve food from around the world, so if you have a favorite ethnic dish, please bring it.

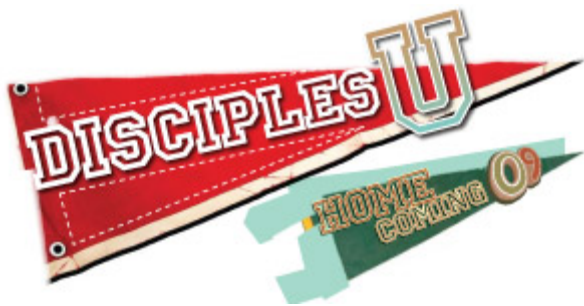
We know you will enjoy the speaker and we always have fantastic food, so you won't want to miss this event.

*Mary-Ann Edens, Missions Co-Chair*

*Tina McCallister-Boothe, Missions Co-Chair*

## 2009 Thanksgiving

### Special Offering



**This offering is received in most congregations on November 8th and 15th.**

**Homecoming** is a process of returning to a particular place with a particular group of people who have shared a particular experience. Homecoming is often associated with alumni of a particular college, university or institution of higher education.

**Homecoming** is a process that starts for Disciples students with your gifts to the 2009 Thanksgiving Offering, benefiting our 17 colleges and universities and 10 seminaries and divinity houses.

The **General Assembly** is often described as a homecoming event where friends reconnect and relationships are built. At the 2009 General Assembly, several Disciples were interviewed for the Thanksgiving offering and here are some words from their stories.

**Aly Gideon** who will be a freshman at Chapman University said, "I am attending Chapman because Disciples Financial Aid is making it possible." Your generosity is providing the way for future leaders.

**Sven DeJong** stated, "I wasn't raised in the church, but at Bethany College I came to an awareness of faith. Today I am so in love with the nostalgic beauty of Bethany College and the tradition of the Campbellites that I've never left." Your generosity brought someone to faith in Jesus Christ.

**Minkook Um**, a seminary student remarked, "I am empowered to study for ministry. Your gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering make it possible for students like me to attend seminary." Your generosity is training leaders today for the changing face of America.

"Forty years ago when I applied to seminary, I could not afford to attend. W.A. Welsh wrote me and said 'come to Lexington Theological Seminary because through Disciples dollars, my way would be provided," shared **Mary Pat Spencer**. Your gifts transform lives well beyond the year in which you give them.

For decades now, Disciples, like you, have been providing resources to further the education of Disciples students at Disciples institutions of Higher Education. The 2009 Thanksgiving Offering provides the way for more Disciples to have that shared experience, with a particular group of people. Please give generously and let us support **OUR Disciples student at OUR schools!**

Special Offering

# Christian Ed



## Joys & Concerns

### Children's Church



We have started a new program called Children's Church. It is for the children that are now old enough to transition out of the nursery (5-7 years).

We are asking parents/guardians to bring this age child into the worship service. They will be dismissed for Children's Church after children's time. At that time they will be going to the Sunday School room, where they will be getting an age-appropriate lesson. They will then be coming back to the Sanctuary before offering time to complete the day's service. On the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month they will be joining us for the full service.

The children in this group are now old enough to be a part of the learning and worship life of the church. We look forward to seeing them grow in faith as they learn more about the Jesus they already love.

If you have questions or concerns, contact Tina McCallister-Boothe or Pastor Natalie. We will work with you to be sure this program nurtures the spiritual life of your child.



### Youth News

Youth Sunday School started on September 27. We are starting with "Bible basics".

During Advent we will study the stories of the birth of Christ. In addition to Bible study, the youth are learning how to prepare communion and refreshments and are now doing the candle lighting.

Once a month we will be having a fun activity. Our October date at Boomers had to be postponed. We will now go to Boomers on Saturday, November 7, meeting at the church at 2 p.m. The cost is \$3 per person.

The youth are selling the beautiful God's Creation Calendars for just \$6 each to finance their activities. See Larry after church on Sunday.

All youth in grades 4 and up are invited to participate.

**Sally Salt:** Health concerns.

**John & Misty Newell:** For their children.

**Myrna Vogel:** Health issues.

**Breeanne Morris:** Pray for healing.

**Melba Jordahl:** Pray for continued strength.

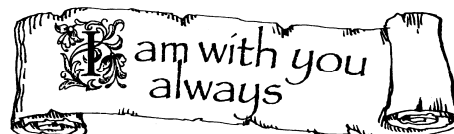
**Yvonne Hix:** Pray to regain strength.

**Cleo Hastings:** Continued prayers for good health.

**Hazel Calderwood:** Ongoing health issues.

**Laurene Sandell:** Ongoing health concerns.

**Roising children:** Protection for their health in this flu season.



### In Memoriam

Miyoshi Smith passed away Sunday,  
October 25.

Our sympathy to her son, Isaiah Boykin,  
and her parents, Mona and Marshall White,  
and all the family.



### Address Changes

Sally Salt  
Cottonwood Court  
7442 N. Millbrook Avenue, Fresno, CA 93720  
Attn: Sally Salt, #103  
Phone: (559) 438-6329

Marian Maxwell  
(559) 435-9975  
5545 No. Fresno St., #1207, Fresno, CA 93710

