



United Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School 9:15 AM
Worship 10:30 AM

Elder-on-Call April 2010

Sharon Hughes

Pastor

Rev. Natalie Chamberlain
Music Minister, Mona White

Ministry Council

Gary Pigg, Chair
Mary-Ann Edens, Vice-Chair
Mona White, Secretary
Christian Ed
Marilyn Prowell, Missions
Mike Edens, Bldgs & Grounds
Gloria Hallier, Evangelism
Congregat'l Life
Beth Jackson, Worship
Jane Sumpter, Fin. Resources
Sharon Hughes, Elders

Elders

Sharon Hughes, Chair
Mike Edens
Natalie Hodgson
Eddie Lou Kester
Everett Johnston
Hugh Moffett
Gary Pigg

Elders Emeritus

Pat Bartholomew
Cleo Hastings
Randy Jordahl

Dear Church Family,

Easter blessings to you!!

In the midst of Lent and all the busyness that leads up to Easter, it seems as if Easter will never get here. I love the special services of Holy Week. Maundy Thursday is candlelit and quiet. Those who gather come to remember the last time Jesus gathered with his disciples around the table. It is much like Sunday morning but more reflective. The shadow of the cross looms in the background.

Good Friday is a somber day. The ministers' cluster sponsors a community service at noon. This year we will gather at Palm Avenue Church. This is an opportunity for the congregation to share with other Christians from around the community. The message is usually well presented and powerful.

Then comes Easter!!!! All the shadows are blown away. The bright sunshine of Easter morning shines through worship even if the day should be blustery. We have a tradition of starting the morning with breakfast. The men prepare and serve the breakfast. It gives us a chance to celebrate over a different kind of communion feast. The worship is always full of favorite Easter hymns and lots of music. It will truly be a joyous day.



















My favorite part of Holy Week, unless there is an Easter baptism, is the 15 minutes or so after the church is completely empty. I get to sit and enjoy the peace and the "great cloud of witnesses" that leaves their mark on our worship space.

I know that Palm Sunday and Easter are high points in our church year. We often have many visitors and the church resounds with joyous voices. I challenge those of you who normally avoid the more somber observances to come to Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship this year. The joy of Easter is even more spectacular when you have taken time to eat with Jesus on Thursday and stand watch over his cross on Friday. Bright sunshine is even more brilliant when it follows the rain.

May the grace of God in Christ Jesus fill your hearts and grant you peace.

APRIL 2010

All meetings are at the church unless otherwise stated.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday*	Saturday
				1  the Pastor Pastor's day off. 10 am O.A. Maundy Thursday 6 pm Service	2*  the Pastor Pastor's day off  GOOD FRIDAY	3 10:30 am O.A. 10:30 am-1:30 pm Women of Wisdom †6 pm Worship 7 pm A.A.
4 8:00 am Easter Breakfast †10:30 am Easter Worship Service	5	6 10 am O.A.	7  7 pm Choir	8  the Pastor Pastor's day off. 10 am O.A.	9*  the Pastor Pastor's day off Council Reports Due	10 10:30 am O.A. 7 pm A.A.
11 †9:15 am Sunday School †10:30 am Worship Service	12 7:15 Bible Study at the Hodgson's	13 10 am O.A. 1:30 pm CWF Luncheon @ Esther Morris' 6:30 pm Council Mtg.	14  7 pm Choir	15  the Pastor Pastor's day off. 10 am O.A.	16*  the Pastor Pastor's day off	17 10:30 am O.A.  Earth Day: We're painting the church! 7 pm A.A.
18 †9:15 am Sunday School †10:30 am Worship Service	19 Newsletter Articles Due 7:15 Bible Study at the Hodgson's	20 10 am O.A. 630 pm Elders Mtg.	21  7 pm Choir	22  the Pastor Pastor's day off 10 am O.A.	23*  the Pastor Pastor's day off Asilomar Conference April 23-25	24 10:30 am O.A. 7 pm A.A.
25 †9:15 am Sunday School †10:30 am Worship Service	26 7:15 Bible Study at the Hodgson's	27 10 am O.A. 6:30 pm Worship Comm. Mtg.	28  7 pm Choir	29  the Pastor Pastor's day off 10 am O.A.	30*  the Pastor Pastor's day off	MAY 1 5th Annual Block Party 9am - 1pm 



* Every Friday evening custodial service is being done in the Church and the Church office.

***April Birthdays
& Anniversaries***

- 1 Natalie Chamberlain*
- 3 Roberta Sumner*
- 3 Alvin Boyer*
- 8 Marilyn Prowell*
- 12 Eddie Lou Kester*
- 19 Elaine Delgado*
- 19 Leilani Niswander
- 24 Carl Robinson (ordination)
- 25 Ana Ingram



Women of Worship Workshop

Saturday, April 3rd 10:30 am to 1:20 pm
Workshop fee - \$15.00.

Pastor Natalie will be part of a panel of women that will include Sister Veena Kapoor, and Abesss Grace Schireson and a panel discussion including Carolyn Murphy, member of the Unitarian Universalist community of Fresno and Susan Orovitz member of the Jewish community of Fresno.

This event will be held the Saturday before Easter and all of the women of the church, and their women friends are welcome.

This is an interfaith workshop on how women develop and express spiritual leadership across religious traditions. Come show support for Pastor Natalie! She is one of the 3 speakers at this event. TV station KNXT (channel 49, cable 9) will be airing a half hour segment featuring our very own Pastor Natalie on March 29 at 9:30 am & again on April 2 at 11:30 am promoting this event.



Join us for our Maundy Thursday Service on April 1st at 6 pm. This worship commemorates the institution of the Lord's Supper. Invite your friends and relatives.

Youth



Youth
Sunday School
CLASSES

Youth Sunday School continues every Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. We have been working on Lenten themes, but after Easter will go back to our "Thirteen Most important Lessons for Teenagers" book.

We have challenged youth to memorize The Lord's Prayer, John 3:16, The 23rd Psalm and the books of the Bible. The prize is a marvelous book, "What The Bible is All About", which they will use the rest of their lives.

On March 20 several of the youth gathered to make Easter baskets and deliver them to shut ins. On Palm Sunday a number of youth read scriptures during the worship service.

Watch for the youth to be selling house plants (which were donated) at the block party in May. It is a fund raiser for our activities.

Registration forms are now out for summer camp which will be July 11-16 at Camp Pacifica. Camp is for youth going into grades 4 through 9 next year.

Thank you , Larry Schiller



Welcome
Our New
Members

During the month of March we welcomed three new members!

Jamal Hicks
Jamila Washington

Dedication

On March 7th Keesun Washington was dedicated by his parents Keshun Washington and Debbie McCarty.



Pastor Natalie will be out of the office from April 5th through April 13th.

Honored Member

Debbie McCarty was born on October 5, in Eureka, California. Her father was a truck driver and her mother was a nurse. She has one sister who came from Sacramento to witness Debbie's baptism March 7 here at United.

Debbie attended Enterprise High School in Redding, California. She has worked in a convalescent hospital, a restaurant, a customer service representative and in inventory. When she completes more classes, she looks forward to again working in the convalescent hospital setting.

She has traveled to Hawaii and made trips to Reno, Nevada. She once worked at Blockbuster Video in the Bay Area and while there she met Shemar Moore, the actor who plays on the television show Criminal Minds. At the time he was doing part time modeling for Mervyns Department Store. She also has met the professional basketball star from Miami Heat, Rafer Austin who is a family friend.

Debbie's hobbies include southern and soul food cooking, reading, watching movies and relaxing. She was baptized as an infant in the Lutheran church. She and her family were invited to our annual block party by our member, Stacy King who was a pen-pal to Jamila at Roeding School. They also attended our Wednesday Family Fun Nights in the summer. Keshun brought the children to church and Debbie decided to attend also and she was baptized on March 4, and their son, **Keesun**, age 8, was dedicated the same day. Keesun is in the second grade at Williams Elementary School and wants everyone to know that his favorite character is Sponge Bob Square Pants.

Jamall Hicks was born on March 12, 1996, in Merced, California. His father is Keshun Washington and his mother is Debbie McCarty. He has one sister, Jamila and one brother, Keesun.

He is in the eighth grade at Wawona Middle School. His classes include Algebra I, English Language Arts, Physical Science, Advanced Computer Science, World History and Intermediate Baccalaureate class. He has maintained a 4.0 Grade Point Average since third

grade. His favorite class is Algebra I and he hopes to become a lawyer.

He has traveled to Reno, Nevada. He also has met the Pro basketball star, Rafer Austin. He looks forward to going to our church summer camp. He has a part time job doing landscaping for a disabled senior citizen. He was baptized on March 4. He says he now has a new life at church and you will see him helping in many ways.

Jamila McCarty was born on April; 27, 1997, in Fresno, California. Her father is Keshun Washington and her mother is Debbie McCarty. Her brothers are Jamal and Keesun.

She is in the sixth grade at Williams Elementary School where she is the president of the student body. Her classes include math, science, English Language Arts, English Language Development, reading, social studies, music and P.E. Her favorite class is math.

Jamila also has met the Pro-basketball star, Rafer Austin and his son goes to school with her. She likes to read and play video games with her brothers. She enjoys all outdoor sports and swimming. She looks forward to going to our church camp this summer. She would like to become a singer/actress. She has joined our church choir and is always willing to lend a helping hand. She also was baptized on March 4.

For this family baptism, there were 11 family members and friends in attendance including Keshun's mother who traveled from Las Vegas, NV., his three sisters including one who traveled from Atlanta, GA., four nieces, and one cousin. Debbie's sister and her friend came from Sacramento. Please welcome this delightful family.

Submitted by Dorothy Shuck





Joys & Concerns

Come to our Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 4th, for breakfast and fellowship. Breakfast is served at 8:00 am.

Everyone is invited to join us! This breakfast is being hosted by our Men's Fellowship group.

Gary Pigg, Men's Fellowship



Financial Update February, 2010

General Funds	\$274,863
Designated Other	4,106
Memorial & Honor Funds	6,912
Designated Outreach Funds	<u>3,554</u>
Total Checking & Savings	\$289,435

Monthly Offerings (includes 12% for Missions)

Total February 2010	\$ 6,540
Total February 2009	<u>6,385</u>
Above Prior Year	\$ 155

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

To February 2010	\$ 14,827
To February 2009	<u>12,320</u>
Above Prior Year	\$ 2,507

Income & Expense Jan .1-Feb. 28, 2010

Receipts	\$19,096
Expenses	<u>22,827</u>
2/28/2010	(\$ 3,731)

- Chris Anderson:** Home, pray for good transition.
- Sally Salt:** Health concerns.
- Misty Souza:** Baby Jewell joined their family!
- Myrna Vogel:** Health issues.
- Yvonne Hix:** Pray to regain strength.
- Cleo Hastings:** Continued prayers for good health.
- Hazel Calderwood:** Ongoing health issues.
- Mona White:** Back at church, pray for continued recovery.
- Catherine Chamberlain:** Ongoing treatment.
- John Newell:** Time in jail to be well spent.
- Glenn Niswander:** Good recovery from mini strokes.
- Irma Moreno:** Grace & strength in difficult time.
- Sharon Hughes:** Wisdom & peace in mother's care

Council Snippets

March 9, 2010 Council Meeting

Council Snippets are unavailable at this time. See hallway bulletin board for copy of the meeting minutes.

CUW/ Women's Ministries

The CUW group's April meeting will be Tuesday, April 13th, at 1:30 p.m., at the home of Esther Morris. All women are welcome to join us for this fellowship.



Choir Robes

United Christian Church of Fresno has approximately 20 red choir robes available for donation to a church or another non-profit organization. Please contact Gary Pigg @ 559-438-7040 for more information.





Missions
Easter Offering

On Special Days we give above and beyond our regular offering to witness through various ministries as a part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Through the Easter Offering we extend our witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ from our doorstep to the ends of the earth.

The [Easter Offering](#) supports the General Ministries Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). General Ministries serve across the U.S. and Canada and around the world. General Ministries are partners in ministry serving through far-reaching and unique organizations.

General ministries that receive support from the Easter Offering include:

- [Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries](#)
- [Church Extension](#)
- [Council on Christian Unity](#)
- [Disciples Benevolent Services](#)
- [Disciples of Christ Historical Society](#)
- [Disciples Home Missions](#)
- [Division of Overseas Ministries/Global Ministries](#)
- [Higher Education and Leadership Ministries](#)
- [National Convocation](#)
- [North American Asian/Pacific Disciples](#)
- [Pension Fund](#)

Hygiene kits for Church World Service, a partner of Week of Compassion

A half dozen hand towels, 2 dozen toothbrushes, and a half dozen combs from Fresno were incorporated into the 177 kits that were assembled at the regional Women's Gathering in Concord on March 13.

- To assemble a Hygiene Kit you will need:**
- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
 - One washcloth
 - One wide-tooth comb
 - One nail clipper
 - One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)

- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six standard size Band-Aids®

More kits will be assembled at the Annual Meeting of the Christian Church of Northern California/Nevada at Asilomar, April 23-25 and at the May Friendship Day Celebration at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, May 7 if you would like to contribute.

Missions Committee Allocates funds

Twelve percent of our regular offering is sent from our congregation from our doorstep to the end of the earth: 8% goes to the Disciples Mission Fund which includes support to our region, home and global ministries. 1% goes to higher education, 1% goes to home missions not funded by the Disciples Missions Fund, and 2% goes to support other local organizations. This is the distribution of the funds on hand as of December 31, 2009. The Disciples Missions Funds are forwarded monthly and totaled \$6,395.28 for 2009.

Higher Education		
	Chapman University, Scholarships	400.00
	Disciples Seminary Foundation	400.00
Home Missions		
	Yakama Christian Mission, White Swan, WA	400.00
	All Peoples Christian Center, Los Angeles, CA	400.00
Local		
	Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM)	400.00
	Stone Soup Fresno	400.00
	Community Food Bank	400.00
	Fresno Rescue Mission	165.00



Food Pantry

Bring food on Sunday, April 4th. Make checks to the church, marked "for food pantry".



“LIVING THE VISION”

May Friendship Day is sponsored by Church Women United. Friday, May 7th

at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Fruit north of Shaw. Registration begins at 9:30 AM. Celebration begins at 10. Lunch is \$7. Reservations can be made through Marilyn Prowell.

Our May Friendship Day 2010 theme, “Living Our Vision,” shows how women can work together to transform communities and the world, following the vision of our founding mothers. It gives us the opportunity to look at who we are as a movement in our community and beyond.

The logo depicts blank building blocks, which represent all that makes up Church Women United: prayer, outreach, sisterhood, sharing, worship, celebrations, etc. As the Celebration unfolds, participants will literally be given the opportunity to share ideas, thoughts, and prayers that will be written on “Blocks” to build a wall. The book of Nehemiah provides the model for this action, as we learn how the wall around Jerusalem was rebuilt through prayer, people, and planning.

May Friendship Day is the Annual Ingathering for the *Fellowship of the Least Coin*. This International Prayer movement is a way women around the world share in prayer for peace and justice, giving tokens of that prayer to be used for grants for women and children around the world.

We are members of different churches and Church Women United Fresno gives us a channel through which we work together. We welcome all who wish to share in responsible action through Church Women United.

If you are unable to attend our May Friendship Day Celebration, please be in prayer with our sisters on the day of the service.

We will award academic scholarships. Our special action project at this celebration is gathering hygiene kits for Church World Service. As usual, canceled postage stamps, food, and eyeglasses will be collected.

April 15 is the deadline to apply for one of the academic scholarships. See Marilyn for details.

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

I would like to thank all of you who have donated bags to my project of providing new parolees with a bag with which to carry their few personal belongings home in dignity on Amtrak. The men receiving the bags are most grateful. While I have a good supply right now they will be gone in a few weeks, so I am always happy to receive contributions of flight bags, gym bags, travel bags or canvas bags for this purpose.

Larry Schiller

5th Annual Block Party!

“A Day with the Community”

May 1, 2010 9am – 1pm

Come join the fun!

We are hosting our 5th Block Party and Food Drive!



Come for the food, fun and the good information. We will have a representative from many local services. MADD, American Red Cross, Exotic Animal Foundation, The wild birds, Chaffee Zoo and so many more! Our Youth will also be having a plant sale to raise funds for camp. Bring the kids, there will be yard games for prizes and more!

Tell your neighbors to come meet at the corner of Andrews and Channing! See you there!

Saturday Services



April 3 will be the last Saturday worship at this time. The attendance has been very low. We have been prayerfully considering what we should do. The best use of resources, at this time, is to spend the time and energy of the Saturday worship in work with the youth and other parts of our growing congregation.

We will continue to be prayerful about how God is leading us to meet the needs of the church and community. If it looks like we need the Saturday service, we can start it again.

Any comments or questions should be addressed to Pastor Natalie.