



Dear Church Family,

Easter blessings to all of you! Spring is apparent all around us so it shouldn't be surprising that it is nearly Easter again. The time goes so quickly between Epiphany and Easter. I hope that in the rush of time you have not missed seeing the amazing blessings that God is showering on us every day!

The spring blossoms have been beautiful; there have been days when we have been showered with pink snow. The birds have returned and nesting is in full swing. There is new life everywhere. New life is springing up in the church as well.

We have our annual Lenten study and soup suppers. They have been well attended so far. This long standing tradition is welcoming new people in each week. We are making plans for our WOW Wednesday program to start after Easter. There will be learning and fellowship opportunities for all ages. We are also busy with plans and preparations for Miracle Day. God is showering us with blessings as beautiful as the pink blossom snow.

The seasons of the church's year flow together into one long celebration of God's love and grace for us. I remember reading "Christmas Always Comes at Night" this past Christmas Eve. Part of it says,

Death on the cross will come at eve
When weary daylight takes its leave-
And resurrection fits the dawn
When patterns for new days are drawn.

Christmas comes at night and resurrection at dawn but it is equally true that Christmas fits winter when everyone is waiting for a new season and more light. Resurrection may be a dawn event but it is hard to imagine it at any time other than spring. Spring is the time for new life. In God's hands any time is time for new life but we seem more open to it in the spring.

As you prepare for Easter, I hope that you keep your eyes open for the places that God is doing something new in your life. I see new life in the ways the youth are participating so fully in the life of our church. I see new life in the way people have responded to studying God's word. I see new life in confessions of faith.

Personally, I see new life in some new friendships I have made. There is new life in the form of a great niece Emma Leigh. There is new life in the wonderful prayer support this congregation gives me and my family. I am so grateful for the way friendship has grown between me and some of my siblings. I am truly blessed.

I pray that each of you is blessed as well. God's blessings abound. May you have eyes to see them and hearts able and willing to accept them.

Happy Easter to you and your loved ones.

Pastor Natalie



April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Lent and Holy Week Worship

There are many opportunities for worship, fellowship and study during Lent. Our regular Sunday worship starts at 10:30 am. The Easter season is a great time to invite family and friends.

Holy week starts with Palm/Passion Sunday on April 17. This service starts with palms, procession and joy. It ends somberly.

We will have our annual Maundy Thursday worship on April 21. The ministers' cluster Good Friday service will be noon the 22nd at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Primera Iglesia Cristiana will be commemorating Good Friday at 4:00 pm Friday for worship.

Easter is April 24. We will begin our Easter celebration with the annual Easter breakfast at 8:30 am. The worship service will be at 10:30. Primera Iglesia Cristiana will have a 6:00 am sunrise service. Come celebrate the glories of God's miraculous work among us!

Lenten Worship Schedule

Date & Time	Service
Sun Apr 17 10:30 am	Palm/Passion Sunday Hear the Passion story!
Thurs Apr 21 6:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Candlelight and communion
Fri Apr 22 Noon	Community Good Friday Westminster Presbyterian
Sun Apr 24 8:30 am	Easter Breakfast
Sun Apr 24 10:30 am	Easter Worship He Is Risen Indeed!!!

- 1 Natalie Chamberlain*
- 2 Robert Goodson *
- 3 Roberta Sumner*
- 3 Alvin Boyer*
- 8 Marilyn Prowell*
- 12 Eddie Lou Kester*
- 14 Miguel* & Yolanda* Márquez-Lúcar (A)
- 19 Elaine Delgado*
- 19 Leilani Niswander
- 24 Carl Robinson (ordination)
- 25 Ana Ingram
- 27 Jamila McCarty



New Policy for Address and Phone Number Changes:

Any phone number or address changes will no longer be provided in the bulletin or newsletter. You must contact the church office for the information.

Chris Anderson – new address.

Beckysue Duran – new address & phone number.

Mona White: - new phone number.

Save the Dates!

Interfaith National Day of Prayer
May 5

Annual Block Party
May 7

Pen-Pal Party
May 25 at 8 am

Youth Camp
June 12-17

Fourth of July Gathering
July 4



Honored Members

Alicia Vogland was born August 27, in San Francisco, California. She has lived in Fresno since she was an infant. Her father was an attorney and her mother was a microbiologist. Her mother was the first student to graduate from Fresno State in a wheelchair. She has one brother. She graduated from Bullard High School and Fresno State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. She married and has two children, Megan and Andrew. Megan works for the Diamond Learning Center where Sherrie Collins attends.

She has worked for the IRS and has taught Special Education for Fresno Unified and is now a caregiver for Joan Collins, a member of our congregation.

Her hobbies include horseback riding, reading, as evidenced by the large filled bookcase in her home, crafts and counted cross-stitch. She once rode horses six days a week and was a trainer. Her latest horse is named Sea Witch, captured from the wild at age three and is now twelve years old. She loves all animals and now has five including her dog, Peanuts, her cockatiel and several cats. Once she had 15 animals at one time.

She met the actor, Harry Townes through her grandmother. He was at Camp Pinedale and visited her home. She once met the actress, Betty White at the Oakland SPCA where she was adopting a puppy.

Alicia attended the First Congregational Church as a child and was baptized there. She and Joan attended Paul Kulich's funeral service here and have attended since. She and Jeff joined our church several months ago.

Jeff Vogland was born December 5, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His mother was a German Jew and his maternal grandparents had the misfortune of being in the Holocaust at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp along with his five uncles and one aunt. His mother was sent to the United States as an orphan in 1936. She became a homemaker and his father was a shipping clerk. He has two brothers and one sister. He graduated from high school in Bloomington, Minnesota. His interests were music and law. He has played the violin by ear since he was five years old.

He graduated from FSU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology. Unfortunately, in his junior year, he broke his leg so he was unable to pursue a career in law enforcement. Instead, he went to work in armed security. He later worked and retired from the IRS. He served a brief time in the United States Army and trained at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He then studied broadcasting and worked at station KDSJ in South Dakota where he was known as the man with 1,000 voices.

His hobbies include chess and he was the champion of FSU in 1991. While working in security, he learned dialects and accents. He also enjoys music and played in the band and orchestra and sang in the choir in school. After breaking two fingers in his left hand and developing Parkinson's disease, he did not play the violin for 30 years. One day, Alicia surprised him with a violin as a gift and he picked up right where he had left off. He has played for our church and accompanied the choir.

He has enjoyed traveling to the coast, Alaska and Washington D.C. Jeff visited Gettysburg while there and found he had a distant relative who was killed at Gettysburg. He and Alicia met on a blind date at the Old Spaghetti Factory. Since he has a hobby of acting in the Civil War Re-enactment at Kearney Park, he and Alicia were married there in a military-style wedding with Jeff in a Civil War Era 1858 U.S. Army uniform. Alicia has made Civil War-style coats for him.

He is interested in Genealogy and went to the Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles to trace some of his history. There he met a docent named Eleazar. Upon visiting with him, Jeff learned that he was in the same barracks in the Auschwitz Concentration Camp as his grandfather! His grandfather was a baker and one day burned a cake meant for the officials. As punishment, he was sent to work in the crematorium. A third man in the barracks gave Eleazar a diamond and Eleazar used that as a bribe to escape.

Jeff was raised in the Lutheran faith. After visiting our church, he and Alicia joined a few months ago. He likes our theology and friendliness.

Please welcome them to our congregation.



Submitted by Dorothy Shuck



WOW Wednesdays

The staff of United Christian Church has been trying to find a way to include more people in our Christian Education Ministry. We are living in a new time and Sunday morning education classes have almost no attendance. It is important for all of us to know our Bible, our faith and our church traditions. So, we are planning some exciting new things! Starting Wednesday April 27! WOW Wednesday!

We will meet every Wednesday night for worship and study.

- 6pm Gather for songs and prayer
- 6:15 Study opportunities! Youth, Spanish language study, Pastor will lead a Bible book study—starting with Ephesians
- 7:00 Closing song together
- 7:15 Choir and other interest group activities (this means that a group that wants to make cards can gather for an hour to work together, options are as open as your imagination)
- 8:15 Activities close

Sunday Morning: There will no longer be SS for youth. The adult class is welcome to continue as a study group; it is important to have opportunities for study when it works for those involved.

Questions or comments: Speak to Pastor Natalie 227-2050
 Pastor Yolanda, youth minister 227-2022
 Pastor Mona, music minister
 Beth Jackson, administrative assistant and Worship Chair 227-2050



The Newsletter is available each month online at www.disciplesfresno.org. Please contact the office if you'd like to stop receiving yours through the mail.

Financial Notes

February 2011

General Funds	\$238,198
Designated Other	4,555
Memorial & Honor Funds	7,517
Designated Outreach Funds	<u>709</u>
Total Checking & Savings	\$250,979

Monthly Offerings (includes 12% for Missions)

Total February 2011	\$ 6,677
Total February 2010	<u>6,477</u>
Above Prior Year	\$ 200

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

To February 28, 2011	\$ 14,903
To February 28, 2010	<u>14,562</u>
Above Prior Year	\$ 341

Income & Expense Jan .1-Feb.28, 2011

Receipts	16,935
Expenses	<u>32,556</u>
2/28/2011	(\$ 15,621)



CWF/Women's Ministries

The CWF group's April meeting will be Tuesday, April 12, at 1:30 p.m., at the home of Dorothy Shuck. All women are welcome to join this time of fellowship and devotion.

Missions



WEEK OF COMPASSION

Help for Disaster Relief in Japan through Week of Compassion

Through Global Ministries, WoC has already responded to our primary partner, the United Church of Christ in Japan, with an initial emergency response grant and will continue to be in close touch with them as they respond to this devastating tragedy. We ask you to pray for our sisters and brothers in Japan. If you would like to make a donation, write a check to United Christian Church and designate it for Week of Compassion/Japan.



Refugees on the Tunisia/Libya Border

Through our monitoring partners in the ACT Alliance, Week of Compassion is keeping abreast of the refugee situation in Libya. ACT has sent an assessment team to the Tunisia-Libya border area where many thousands are fleeing the violence in Libya. The team is cataloging needs that are not being covered by other agencies already in the field, and hopes to offer a coordinated alliance response based upon the information gathered on the ground.

Interested in any updates, just see the site below:

<http://www.weekofcompassion.org/updates/>

Pentecost Project "Kathleen's Bags"

Have you ever been sitting at a light or an off ramp and seen someone there, holding a sign about being homeless and needing help? Well, we've found a way to help them that ensures the help won't go towards anything harmful in their life.

Kathleen's Bags are gallon size bags with useful items. Below is a list of items to make your own bags or you can donate any of the items for our next assembly project. Any questions, contact the church office or Kathleen Fuller. There is a bin in the sanctuary if you want to donate items.

- Gallon Zip-Lock bags
- 5 to 7 packets of Austin crackers (\$1.94 at WalMart for 12.)
- UPPER ROOM OR EQUIVALENT
- NEOSPORINE OR SIMILAR TUBE
- Band-Aids I get the good ones or they do not stick.
- Foot powder (99 cent store) Very important in the summer
- 1 or 2 pairs of socks
- Hard candy Usually three kinds and I make up little packets of 30 pieces.
- little boxes of juice in the summer
- small jars of peanut butter at \$1 store
- Viennese sausages in a can.
- Winter: Caps, gloves, scarves, thicker socks

If you find these cheaply:

- good safety pins
- little sewing kits
- hand cream
- tooth brush/paste (small)
- Kleenex-small
- baby powder, especially if I cannot find foot powder

Missions

Needed: Paper Bags with Handles

FCC Selma is asking for donations of paper bags with handles. Please bring any you may have to the church and Pastor Natalie will take them with her to Asilomar. April 29-May 1.

Urgent Request!

Larry Schiller is in need of travel bags for his ministry. If you have any you can donate, please contact the church office or Larry.

Roeding School

Fresh & Easy Receipts

The program with Roeding School and Fresh & Easy has been discontinued until September. Thank you to all who turned in receipts.

Pen Pals

Remember! The party to meet your child is Wednesday May 25, at 8 am. If you cannot attend contact Pastor Natalie.

Also, let your child know ahead of time that you will not be there.



A previous year's Pen Pal Party

Ministry Council ***Gleanings***

At the March 8th Ministry Council meeting the following actions were approved:

- A new permission form for all youth activities was approved.
- The purchase of new wireless headset & sound system was approved.
- The council approved the fee of \$65 to be paid by the church for our elders and leaders to attend the Elders Workshop in Visalia, March 26th.
- The next regional Miracle Day committee meeting will be on March 19th in Loomis. Pastor Natalie, Mary-Ann and Mike Edens will attend. Please keep us in your prayers as we prepare for this event.

Mary-Ann Edens,
Chair, Ministry Council



LIBRARY

The Ministry Council has decided that with Miracle Day coming, it is time to make some adjustments in the parlor. We will be downsizing the library and moving the remaining books into the cupboard with the glass front. A small group will be going through the books to reserve references, Disciples history and current fiction for the new and smaller library. The other books will be made available to the congregation for personal use. The books will be free but donations will be accepted for the youth camp fund.

There will be an announcement in the bulletin when the reorganization day is set.

Youth Group

Youth Group Bits

Youth Camp Time coming soon!!!

Just a word to youth and families about the “greatest experience ever” in the life of Christians -- 😊 **YOUTH CAMP**. No matter how old we are, whoever remembers going to camp, is usually ready and willing to share a special story about their relationship with others and with God!

This year our youth camp will be held June 12th thru June 17th. 😊 **Save the dates**. Details will be forthcoming... But we need to start our fundraising in order to help cover the cost. Youth and families must each pay at least \$25.00 towards camp. The payments can be made in installments or arrangements made with Pastor Natalie, all youth are asked to pay part of their way. We will offer opportunities for all the youth to participate in work that will provide camp fees. The youth need to provide 15 hours of community service to have fees paid in full.

Please contact Pastor Yolanda or Beth to ask for Community Service Hours Forms.

Community Service can be done around the church or in the community.

Hire-A-Youth provides an opportunity to all members of the congregation to hire the youth to do chores at their homes. An example of chores has included **yard work and window washing...** 😊



Easter Baskets

😊 **A CALL TO ALL YOUTH!** Please join us preparing and delivering Easter Baskets for our Shut-Ins, Saturday April 16th, 2011. We will meet at 10:00 AM at the church. Please call Pastor Yolanda for more details.



Youth Recycling Program

In an effort to help the Youth Camp Fund, we will have a special place at the church for recycling. Please bring your donations in plastic bags.

- Water/soda bottles
- Soda cans
- Glass bottles & jars

Thanks a bunch for all your help!



Jan & Leeah at the Lenten Study & Soup Supper

Concentrate on the four dots in the middle of the picture for about 20 seconds.

Then close your eyes and tilt your head back.

Keep them closed, you will see a circle of light, continue looking at the circle...



6th Annual Block Party!

**“A Day with the Community”
May 7, 2011 9 am – 12 pm
Come join the fun!**

We are hosting our 6th 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! 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!

Once again the ever popular Cake Walk will be a main event at our Neighborhood Block Party. Please sign up to bring cakes, cookies, pies whatever makes you happy. Store purchased or homemade will be just wonderful. Please be sure you bring your goods on plates etc. you will not want returned. Goodies and all will be given to the Cake Walk winners. Sign up sheet is on the turnaround.



Block Party – Cake Walk, 2010

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mental Health in Our Community:

IT'S ALL ABOUT US

2 documentaries remain of the 6 groundbreaking one's produced for public television by the nation's leading mental health experts.

18 local experts helped us explore the questions that concern all who are touched when an individual develops a mental illness.

When:
April 6 & April 13

Where:
McLane Hall, Room 121, FSU

Ticket Info:
\$10 at the door

Film Schedule:

April 6*

Two faith productions on mental illness:
Creating Caring Congregations
Walking Alongside People with Mental Illness
– Forum for a Better Understanding
**Pastor Natalie will be on this panel.*

April 13

Minds on the Edge: Facing Mental Illness

For more information go to www.mha-cv.org

Interfaith National Day of Prayer

The Interfaith National Day of Prayer will be at the Sikh Temple in Selma this year. Plan to join Pastor Natalie at this important event.

Thursday, May 5 at 7 pm

Dances of Universal Peace

12th annual celebration will take place on April 30th, 4 pm at The Oneness Center
1752 E. Bullard Ste. 106
4 pm Dance Circle
6 pm Potluck Supper

April 2011

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

☺ Deadline for Bulletin material is noon, each Wednesday.

All meetings are at the church unless otherwise stated.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday*	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Elder on call: Everett Johnston</div>  <p style="text-align: center;">“I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE.” <i>John 6:35</i></p>					1* <i>Pastor's day off</i> PIC 6:00 pm Spanish Service	2 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:30 am O.A. 1-3 pm Roberta Sumner's 100 th Birthday Party 7:00 pm A.A.
3 †9:15 am <u>Sunday School</u> †10:30 am <u>Worship Service</u>	4  6 pm Lenten Study & Soup	5 10:00 am O.A. 5:30 pm New Beginnings	6☺ 7:15 pm Choir	7 10:00 am O.A.	8* <i>Pastor's day off</i> PIC 6:00 pm Spanish Service	9 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10:30 am O.A. 7:00 pm A.A.
10 †9:15 am <u>Sunday School</u> †10:30 am <u>Worship Service</u>	11  6 pm Lenten Study & Soup	12 10:00 am O.A. 1:30 pm CWF at Dorothy Shucks 6:30 pm Miracle Day Meeting	13☺ 7:15 pm Choir	14 10:00 am O.A.	15* <i>Pastor's day off</i> Newsletter Articles Due PIC 6:00 pm Spanish Service	16 <i>Pastor's day off</i> Youth Activity Easter Baskets! 10:30 am O.A. 7:00 pm A.A.
17 †9:15 am <u>Sunday School</u> †10:30 am <u>Worship Service</u> Palm /Passion Sunday	18 NO Bible Study at the Hodgson's	19 10:00 am O.A. 6:30 pm Elders Meeting	20☺ NO Choir	21 10:00 am O.A. 6 pm Maundy Thursday Service 7:30 pm PIC (Spanish)	22* <i>Pastor's day off</i> Good Friday Noon Service at Westminster Presbyterian PIC 4:00 pm Spanish Service	23 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10:30 am O.A. 9 am Decorating church for Easter 11 am Young Adults 7:00 pm A.A.
24 † 6am PIC (Spanish) <u>Sunrise Service</u> 8:30 am <u>Easter Breakfast</u> †10:30 am <u>Worship Service</u> Easter Sunday	25 NO Bible Study at the Hodgson's	26 10:00 am O.A.	27☺  6 pm WOW Wednesday 7:15 pm Choir	28 10:00 am O.A. 5:00 pm PIC/UCC Partnership Meeting	29* <i>Pastor's day off</i> <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Asilomar April 29-May 1</div> PIC 6:00 pm Spanish Service	30 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10:30 am O.A. 7:00 pm A.A.