



Dear Church Family,

The cycle of the year continues to turn and we are about to embark on a season of Lent. This is a time that is observed more than celebrated. Lent is a season of preparation for the coming of Easter and the resurrection of Christ. We, at United Christian Church, have a long tradition of preparation.

We will once again have our Lenten Soup and Study Suppers. This year we will have 5 weeks of study on different aspects of Communion. I am in the process of writing those studies and hope that they will be useful in the lives of the congregation. There will be study opportunities for the youth and child care for the toddlers and infants. This is a family event so plan to attend. The first one will be March 14; the meal starts at 6pm. We need lots of soup making volunteers and help with set up and clean up.

Holy Week isn't until April this year but planning is well under way. It is always a special time. There will be an Easter Breakfast again.

After Easter, starting Wednesday April 27 we will begin a new program. It will be called WOW Wednesday! 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!

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

There will be opportunities, especially during the summer, to add fellowship to the schedule since the choir does not meet. Talk to the staff if you have questions or comments.

May God bless you with joy that overflows to a smile on your face and cheer in your voice.

Pastor Natalie



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES
IN MARCH

- 7 Susan & Jesus Perez (A)
- 7 Stasia Salinas
- 12 Jamall Hicks*
- 15 Naomi Samuel
- 16 Gabriel Dooley
- 17 Randy* & Melba* Jordahl (A)
- 17 Jim Alavezos
- 19 Myrna Vogel*
- 23 Eddie Alvarez*
- 23 Justice Wynn*
- 26 Melvina Symons*
- 27 Tara Dooley
- 27 Patrick McKendrick*
- 29 Harmony Ude
- 31 Yvonne Hix*



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.

Sharon Hughes – new phone number.

Roberta Sumner – new address & phone number.



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.

Save the Dates!

Regional Elders Meeting
in Visalia
March 26 at 8:30 am

Good Friday Service
April 22, at noon
Westminster Presbyterian

Annual Block Party
May 7

Youth Camp
June 12-17

FINANCIAL NOTES

January 2011

General Funds	\$243,526
Designated Other	4,529
Memorial & Honor Funds	7,517
Designated Outreach Funds	<u>4,884</u>
Total Checking & Savings	\$260,456

Monthly Offerings (includes 12% for Missions)

Total January 2011	\$ 8,461
Total January 2010	<u>8,286</u>
Above Prior Year	\$ 175

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

To January 31, 2011	\$ 8,461
To January 31, 2010	<u>8,286</u>
Above Prior Year	\$ 175

Income & Expense Jan .1-Jan. 31,2011

Receipts	\$ 9,207
Expenses	<u>14,763</u>
1/31/2011	(\$ 5,556)



KNXT CHANNEL 49/38

Pastor Natalie just finished recording 2 different segments to be aired on Channel 49/38.

Topic:
Mental Illness: Walking Alongside People with
Mental Illness

Airing dates: 3/14/11 at 9:30 pm
 3/18/11 at 11:30 am

Topic:
Mental Illness: Reconciling Theology and
Science

Airing dates: 3/7/11 at 9:30 pm
 3/11/11 at 11:30 am

A week after the program has aired it is available online at youtube.com/knxt1.

KNXT is interested and seeks comments or suggestions. Go to knxt.wordpress.com and join in the discussion on what people of faith can do better to respond to the mental health needs of the community.

MISSIONS

Lenten Devotional Available On-Line

Lent starts with Ash Wednesday. This year Lent starts on March 9. You might want to check out this available resource.

One of the special opportunities to deepen your faith and further understand the work and witness of your general ministry partners that is available is the chance to sign up to receive a daily email that will include a devotion, story or prayer from an Easter offering partner at www.disciplesmissionfund.org.



UPCOMING WEEK OF COMPASSION EVENT

On Saturday evening, March 5th, Brandon Gilvin, Associate Director of Week of Compassion will be in our Area to share with us concerning the many ministries we are able to support through WoC. Brandon will be at First Christian in Hanford, for a Soup Supper Meal at 5:00 PM, and you are invited!

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.

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.

Pentecost Project

In February a group of us got together to assemble bags to be handed out to the homeless. We were able to assemble 19 bags. The bags are wonderful to hand out to those asking for money. 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.

- 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

Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM)

FIRM's mission statement is "Sharing Christ's Love to Build Communities of Hope with New Americans". Some of the core values include servicing and strengthening new Americans by spreading Christ's love through actions, sharing God's compassion by meeting family needs, building strong communities, building respectful and lasting relations, providing tools to build family access to opportunities in America and helping different cultures in America understand each other better.

Look for future information about their summer ministry program and consider helping out with crafts or cookies, etc.



Sharon Stanley from FIRM being presented with a check from Eddie Lou Kester.



Sharon Stanley, from FIRM at the CWF Love Luncheon with Tina McCallister-Boothe.



CWF/WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

The CWF group's March meeting will be Tuesday, March 8, at 1:30 p.m., at Esther Morris' home,

Last month's Women's Love Luncheon provided good food, fellowship, and information about FIRM to those who attended. The next general meeting/luncheon is tentatively planned for June. Watch for details.



Melvina Symons and Gloria Williams-Johnson



Gloria Williams-Johnson at CWF Love Luncheon.



NOTES ABOUT THE PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor Natalie has reorganized her schedule to try to cope with changing demands on her time. Days off are now Friday and Saturday; this is possible since there is no longer Saturday night service. Thursday is now set aside for prayer and writing. If you need to reach the pastor on Thursday, call the office and leave a message with Beth. Beth will get messages to the pastor.

The pastor tries to make regular calls on those members of the congregation who are not able to get to church. She also calls on those in the hospital if at all possible. If you would like to have the pastor call on you and your circumstances are not those listed above, call her. She is happy to make appointments.

The time before Sunday worship service is part of Pastor Natalie's worship time. She uses this time to pray over the church and all that happens there. If you have church business, try to conduct it sometime other than Sunday morning. If you have a pastoral care need or an emergency on Sunday mornings, the pastor is happy to speak with you whenever you can catch her.

God bless each of you as we continue to adjust to what God is doing in this place.

Mike Edens
PPR Committee Chair

PEN PALS

There are some things that pen pals should have on their calendars.

1. Pastor Natalie leaves the office by 7:45 on Wednesday morning so letters need to be to the church or office by then.
2. Roeding Spring Break is April 16 through 25.
3. Standardize testing starts at Roeding on the April 26.
4. The Pen Pal party is Wednesday May 25 at 8:00 am. Room number to be announced.

Your pen pals love getting your letters!

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

Ash Wednesday starts the season of preparation for Easter. This season is often called Lent; whatever you call it, it is a time of reflection and preparation. On Ash Wednesday, we will gather in the sanctuary for worship at 6pm. This annual service includes Scripture, testimonies, a service of repentance, ashes and communion. We recognize our need in the light of God's grace.

The season of Lent will include our annual Study and Soup Supper. We will again meet on Monday nights at 6pm, starting March 14. The topic of the adult study will be Communion. The youth/children will also spend some time looking at communion and its place in the larger context of church and Christian life.

We will spend the weeks during Lent getting ready for Easter. April 17 is Palm Sunday, followed by Holy Week.



The youth in our church are involved in many aspects of the life of the church. During worship we have youth in the choir, they are greeters, servants and acolytes! Thank you to all the youth who are so dedicated in their service!



From L to R: Clyvene, Salina, Leah, Jamila & Pam



Jamall, Keesun & Gary as greeters



Jamall as Worship Leader



"The Messengers"

Rebekah & Mike serving communion



Pastor Natalie & Saige

Your continued prayers are asked for the youth, their families and the youth program.

Pastor Yolanda



From L to R: Jeff, Jamall, Jamila, Isaiah & Mona

CALIFORNIA STATE SOCIETY DAR
(DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION)

State Regents Genealogical Bible Records
Project

Do you have a Bible that contains genealogical information? This is a statewide effort to *Preserve Our Past- - Our Gift to the Future.*

Following strict guidelines California chapters will gather family genealogical information concentrating on pre-World War II Bibles.

Identifying Bible for Preservation:

- What is the age of the Bible?
- Is the name of the original owner in the Bible?
- Who owns the Bible?
- Does it have Family Records Pages?
- Is it possible to photocopy, scan or digitize these pages?

If you answered "Yes" to most of the questions, please see the brochure posted in the church or contact Gail Kaufmann at bgk1975@sbcglobal.net



MENTAL HEALTH IN OUR
COMMUNITY:
IT'S ALL ABOUT US

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

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

When:

6 consecutive Wednesdays: March 7-April 13 at 7 pm

Where:

McClane Hall, Room 121, Fresno State University

Ticket Info:

Single Evenings - \$10 at the door
Series of 6 - \$50

Film Schedule:

March 9

Shadow Voices: Finding Hope in Mental Illness

March 16

Men Get Depression

March 23

Unlisted: A Story of Schizophrenia

March 30

Inside Outside: Building a Meaningful Life After the Hospital

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

March 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; text-align: center;"> Elder on call: Sharon Hughes </div> 		1 10:00 am O.A. 9-12:30 pm Mental Health First Aid Class 5:30 pm New Beginnings Committee Mtg.	2☺ 7 pm Choir	3 10:00 am O.A. 9-12:30 pm Mental Health First Aid Class 2:00 pm Staff Meeting (Office Closed during meeting)	4* <i>Pastor's day off</i>  Ministry Council Reports Due PIC 6:00 pm Spanish Service	5 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00 am O.A. 10:30 am O.A. 5:00 pm WOC Event - Hanford 7:00 pm A.A.
6 †9:15 am <u>Sunday School</u> †10:30 am <u>Worship Service</u>	7 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Pastor at out of town meeting </div> 7:15 Bible Study at the Hodgson's	8 10:00 am O.A. 1:30 pm CWF at Esther Morris' 6:30 pm Ministry Council Meeting	9☺  6 pm Ash Wednesday Service NO CHOIR	10 10:00 am O.A.	11* <i>Pastor's day off</i> PIC 6:00 pm Spanish Service	12 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10:30 am O.A. 7:00 pm A.A.
13 †9:15 am <u>Sunday School</u> †10:30 am <u>Worship Service</u>  Daylight Savings Begins	14  6 pm Lenten Study & Soup	15 10:00 am O.A. 11:30 am SSJ Clergy Meeting 6:30 pm Elders Meeting	16☺ 7 pm Choir	17 10:00 am O.A. Newsletter Articles Due	18* <i>Pastor's day off</i> PIC 6:00 pm Spanish Service	19 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10:30 am O.A. 7:00 pm A.A.
20 †9:15 am <u>Sunday School</u> †10:30 am <u>Worship Service</u>	21  6 pm Lenten Study & Soup	22 10:00 am O.A.	23☺ 6:00 pm PIC/UCC Partnership Meeting 7 pm Choir	24 10:00 am O.A.	25* <i>Pastor's day off</i> Youth Activity Lock-in (Selma) PIC 6:00 pm Spanish Service	26 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10:30 am O.A. 8:30 to 4 pm Elders & Leaders Meeting – Visalia 7:00 pm A.A.
27 †9:15 am <u>Sunday School</u> †10:30 am <u>Worship Service</u>	28  6 pm Lenten Study & Soup	29 10:00 am O.A. 6:30 pm PPR Meeting	30☺ 7 pm Choir	31 10:00 am O.A. 6:30 pm PPW Homeowners Association Mtg.	Please note: Deadlines for the newsletter are firm. 