



United Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School 9:15 AM
Worship 10:30 AM

Saturday Schedule

Worship 6:00 PM

Elder-on-Call March 2010

Eddie Lou Kester

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,

Grace and peace to you in Christ.

Here we are in the midst of Lent. I hope all of you have picked up a copy of the Lenten Devotional that was prepared by the region for our use this season. It is called, Mission...Impossible? This devotional is a tool to help each of us discover our mission, our personal calling or purpose in this world. It helps guide us through the journey to Easter. Starting on page 62 of the devotional you will find some extras tools for your use. There is one for each of 8 weeks. Then at the end, you will find a place for you to write your own "mission" statement and design your logo. I hope you will use this devotional with intention. If you don't have a copy, you may get one at the back of the sanctuary or go on-line to <http://ccncn.org>.

We have begun our annual Lenten Study and Soup Supper. This tradition has been going on for many years now. It has changed and evolved as people come and go but it is a time to nourish our whole being. The soup is always delicious and Al Lung is providing oranges again. The study this year is focusing on the events of the last week of Jesus' life. The fellowship with others of the church and community is also enriching. If you missed the first one or two, come anyway; it is a Bible study and there is always something to be learned.

Lent can be a busy time. The days are lengthening and the sunshine is replacing the fog. We can get caught unaware when the winter momentarily reasserts itself. This is a time for spring cleaning, not only of our homes but of our hearts. That is what Lent is meant to help us do. We look within and recognize the places that need a savior's touch. We work with the Spirit in making it possible for the grace of God through Christ to wash those places clean. Then we can celebrate resurrection, on Easter, with all the joy the occasion deserves.

It is my prayer that you are able and willing to open, to the Lord, those dark spaces that need cleaning and that you will welcome the cleansing flood of grace that will make your heart new.

May the journey through Lent be a blessed journey.

Pastor Natalie

**March Birthdays
& Anniversaries**

- 7 Christian Morris
- 6 Susan* & Jesus Perez (A)
- 7 Candace Michaud*
- 7 Stasia Kulich
- 15 Naomi Samuel
- 16 Gabriel Dooley
- 17 Randy* & Melba* Jordahl (A)
- 17 Jim Alavezos
- 17 Sally Salt*
- 19 Myrna Vogel*
- 23 Eddie Alvarez*
- 23 Justice Wynn*
- 25 Tyler Bare
- 26 Melvina Symons
- 27 Tara Dooley
- 27 Patrick McKendrick
- 31 Yvonne Hix*



Lenten Study and Soup Suppers

This year our annual study will begin Monday February 22. We will meet on 5 consecutive Mondays with the last meeting on March 22. We will begin with a soup supper at 6pm followed by a study. This year's study will be an in depth look at the last week of Jesus' life. There will be nursery provided as well as a class for children through fourth grade. The adult study will be held in the sanctuary.

We will need volunteers to bring soup. We need 4-5 pots of soup each Monday. Please, help if you are able. The sign up list will be in the sanctuary.

Pastor Natalie is in the process of writing the study. The sermon on the Sunday before the study will be on the same general topic as the studies. This should give those who attend a chance to interact with the sermon and with the pastor.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! You don't want to miss any of the food, fellowship or learning.



Welcome
Our New
Members

New Members

During the month of March we welcomed two new members!

Alan Vogel
Tonya White

Honored Member

Barbara Schrader was born on February 13, in Fresno, California. Her father was a construction worker and her mother was a stay-at-home mom. She had one sister.

After graduating from Roosevelt High School, she married and lived in Five Points, California for many years. She has three children, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren with another grandchild expected in May and twins in June.

Barbara moved to Fresno where she worked as a teacher's aide and also for A-Plus Home Health Care for several years. She was married to Bob Schrader for 25 years before he passed away. He was a mail carrier. They were active members of United Christian Church for many years.

She enjoys traveling and has visited the Grand Canyon and San Francisco and is planning a trip to Alaska next year. Her hobbies include gardening, reading, walking and collecting old fashioned toys and collectibles. She has made it a hobby to frame many of her family's old photographs dating back to her grandparents' time.

As a child, Barbara was baptized and raised in the Methodist faith. She has been a member of the Bible study group at Laurene Sandell's for the past 11 years. She rejoined our church last month. Please give Barbara a warm welcome.

Submitted by Dorothy Shuck



Youth Sunday School continues every Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. There are twelve young people in this class. Last fall we dealt with "Bible Basics". During Advent we studied the stories of Jesus' birth and childhood. We are now using a book on "The 13 Most Important Bible Lessons for Teenagers".



All young people are invited and urged to attend Sunday School. Learning about the Bible and what it means to be a Christian should be an important part of your life!

Thank you , Larry Schiller



CWF/ Women's Ministries

The CWF group's March meeting will be Tuesday, March 9, at 1:30 p.m., at the home of Dorothy Sumpter's. All women welcome.



Men's Fellowship & Prayer Breakfast

Come to the Men's Prayer Breakfast on Sunday, March 6th, for breakfast and fellowship. 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, or one of the other men from the fellowship group.

Gary Pigg, Men's Fellowship



*Financial Update
January , 2010*

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| General Funds | \$278,298 |
| Designated Other | 4,026 |
| Memorial & Honor Funds | 6,707 |
| Designated Outreach Funds | <u>3,377</u> |
| Total Checking & Savings | \$292,408 |

Monthly Offerings (includes 12% for Missions)

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Total January 2010 | \$ 8,286 |
| Total January 2009 | <u>9,839</u> |
| Below Prior Year | (\$ 1,553) |

Income & Expense Jan .1-Jan. 31,2010

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Receipts | \$ 11,246 |
| Expenses 1/31/10 | <u>11,358</u> |
| | (\$ 112) |

Joys & Concerns

- Chris Anderson:** Healing and mobility. Home soon.
- Sally Salt:** Health concerns.
- John & Misty Newell:** For their children.
- Myrna Vogel:** Health issues.
- Yvonne Hix:** Pray to regain strength.
- Cleo Hastings:** Continued prayers for good health.
- Hazel Calderwood:** Ongoing health issues.
- Mona White:** Quick recovery from surgery.
- Catherine Chamberlain:** more tests.
- John Newell:** Grace for forgiving heart & clean living.
- Glenn Niswander:** Good recovery from mini strokes.
- Irma Moreno:** Grace & strength in difficult time.





Food Pantry

Bring food on Sunday, March 7th. Make checks to the church, marked "for food pantry".



Council Snippets

February 9, 2010 Council Meeting

Jane Sumpter opened the M.C. meeting with a devotional on "Worry is a Call to Prayer". Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approve with corrections.

ACTION ITEMS:

- *Delegates to Asilomar will be Pastor Natalie, Gary Pigg & Natalie Hodgson.*
- *Adult Sunday school format to change for summer - July 11th thru August 29th.*

DISCUSSION ISSUES:

- *Council approved pastor's vacation schedule as requested for time in April, June and August.*
- *Beth Jackson had been offered and accepted the position of church secretary. Hours will be between 20-25/week.*
- *Newsletter deadline: Beth Jackson reported that the deadline for the newsletter will usually be the 17th of the month. Unless it is an emergency situation articles sent in after the deadline will have to wait until the next month.*
- *It was noted that better lighting was needed for the outside of the church. A contractor will be asked for a bid.*

OLD BUSINESS:

- *New Beginnings/Property Name Change: Documents have been received and are being reviewed before filing.*

Gary Pigg, Ministry Council Chair

Missions



*Easter Special Offering
March 28 and April 4*

Your support of the 2010 Easter Offering witnesses to our belief that we can do all things through Christ Jesus who believes in us. Your support of these ministries extends our church's witness from your doorsteps to the ends of the earth. Your gift to the Easter Offering shares the message of resurrection through...

Missionaries touching lives around the globe...

Ministerial relief and assistance ...

Stewardship education... Disciples Men and Women's Ministries... A fully inclusive table where we learn from our brothers and sisters in Christ... Proclaiming our identity and history as a people of Christian unity... Our shared mission as a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world... Education for and learning from children and youth... Leadership development... Evangelism Training... Hands on mission work... Global and domestic partnerships...

Your gift says "You believe in the power of the resurrection!"



Saturday Services

Pastor Natalie and the Ministry Council are in the process of praying about whether or not to continue Saturday worship services.

If you feel strongly it should continue, attend and invite your friends!

UPCOMING EVENT OPPORTUNITIES

Annual Block Party!

"A Day with the Community"

May 1, 2010

Join us for this fun! Tina McCallister-Boothe is getting things together for this event. This is a great time to reach out to the community.



You're Invited!
You Are Invited

Women of Wisdom

Pastor Natalie will be part of a panel of women making presentations about their faith. This event will be held the Saturday before Easter and all of the women of the church, and their women friends are welcome.

Saturday, April 3 10:30 am-1:30 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church 2672 E. Alluvial
Avenue, Clovis

Join us for presentations by Sister Veena Kapoor, Rev. Natalie Chamberlain, 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.

Workshop fee: \$15

For information contact Carolyn Murphy at
(559)284-1795
or email at billletter2@gma

Chapman University Founders Day **March 19-20**

Chapman University is hosting its 27th Annual Founders Day with a popular and compelling Christian Speaker, Dr. Marcus Borg. Borg is the author of several best-selling books including *Meeting Jesus Again for the first Time* and *The Heart of Christianity*. Borg appeals to those who have an extensive theological education as well as those who are newer to biblical and theological

questions of faith.

The **2-day event** will be held on the Chapman campus in Orange, CA on March 19-20, 2010. On Friday, March 19, Borg will offer 3 lectures during the day under the theme: *Jesus: Then and Now*. There will also be a Chapman alumni reception at 4pm. The evening topic will be *Speaking Christian: Redeeming Christian Language*. On Saturday morning, March 20, there will be workshops for prospective parents and students, a reunion of Chapman DOC alumni, and an extended conversation session with Borg. Following lunch there will be a brief concert by the Chapman Concert Choir and a worship service in which Borg will be preaching. At that service we will honor Dan Reisinger as Church Leader of the Year.

Detailed information as well as online registration is available at
www.chapman.edu/churchrelations/founders.asp.
Questions? Please call the Office of Church Relations at 714-997-6760.





















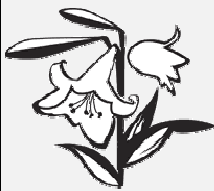


Church Directory

The new church directory is available. Pick one up or contact the church office.

March 2010

All meetings are at the church unless otherwise stated.



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday* | Saturday |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| | 1  6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper and Study | 2 10 am O.A. | 3  7 pm Choir | 4  the Pastor Pastor's day off 10 am O.A. | 5 *  the Pastor Pastor's day off Council Reports Due | 6 8 am <u>Men's Prayer Brkfst</u> 10:30 am O.A. †6 pm Worship 7 pm A.A. |
| 7 †9:15 am Sunday School †10 am Worship Service w/Baptisms | 8  6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper and Study | 9 10 am O.A. 1:30 pm <u>CWF Meeting @ Dorothy Sumpters</u> 6:30 pm Council Mtg. | 10  7 pm Choir | 11  the Pastor Pastor's day off 10 am O.A. | 12 *  the Pastor Pastor's day off | 13 10:30 am O.A. †6 pm Worship 7 pm A.A. |
| 14 †9:15 am Sunday School †10 am Worship Service | 15  6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper and Study | 16 10 am O.A. 6:30 pm Elders Mtg. | 17 <u>Newsletter Articles Due</u>  7 pm Choir | 18  the Pastor Pastor's day off 10 am O.A. | 19 *  the Pastor Pastor's day off | 20 10:30 am O.A. †6 pm Worship 7 pm A.A. |
| 21 †9:15 am Sunday School †10 am Worship Service | 22  6:00 pm Lenten Soup Supper and Study | 23 10 am O.A. 6:30 pm Worship Comm. Mtg. | 24  7 pm Choir | 25  the Pastor Pastor's day off 10 am O.A. | 26 *  the Pastor Pastor's day off | 27 10:30 am O.A. †6 pm Worship 7 pm A.A. |
| 28 <u>PALM SUNDAY</u> †9:15 am Sunday School †10 am Worship Service | 29  Roeding School Spring Break Mar. 29-Apr. 6 | 30 10 am O.A. 6:30 pm PPR Mtg. @ Pastor Natalie's home | 31  7 pm Choir | APRIL 1  Maundy Thursday 6 pm Service | 2 * Good Friday | 3 10:30 am O.A. <u>10:30 am-1:30 pm Women of Wisdom</u> †6 pm Worship 7 pm A.A. |
| 4 <u>EASTER SUNDAY</u> 8 am <u>Easter Breakfast</u> †10 am Worship Service | 5 | 6 10 am O.A. | 7  7 pm Choir | 8 | 9 *  | 10 |



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



Holy Week Schedule

| Date | Event | What you need to know |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Sunday, March 28 | Palm/Passion Sunday  | 10:30 am This begins Holy Week. The children and youth will lead our regular worship. |
| Thursday, April 1 | Maundy Thursday | 6:00 pm This worship commemorates the institution of the Lord's Supper. |
| Friday, April 2 | Good Friday  | Noon This community service commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus. It will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church this year. (50 East Santa Ana Avenue Fresno, CA 93704-2997 (559) 226-8300) |
| Saturday, April 3 | Women of Wisdom | 10:30-1:30 Pastor Natalie will be one of 3 women making presentations about their faith. There will also be a panel discussion about women's roles in different faiths. This event will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church. Fee: \$15. See flyer on turnaround or talk to pastor Natalie |
| | Saturday Worship | 6:00 pm This service will be vigil like. We will recognize the darkness as we wait for dawn. |
| | Easter decorating | 7:00 pm Help prepare the sanctuary for Easter morning. |
| Sunday, April 4 | Easter Breakfast | 8:00 am The men prepare breakfast for all who come to this annual event. |
| | Easter Worship | 10:30 am Come raise your voices in worship and song. Christ is risen!!! |

