



Volume 58, Number 10

October, 2009

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

**Sunday Schedule**

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

**Saturday Schedule**

Worship 6:00 PM

**Elder-on-Call October 2009**

Sharon Hughes

**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,

One of my favorite children's books is one called *Grateful: A Song of Giving Thanks*. The book consists of the words of the song by John Bucchino and beautiful illustrations by Anna-Liisa Hakkarainen. The refrain is:

Grateful, grateful  
Truly grateful I am.  
Grateful, grateful  
Truly blessed  
And duly grateful.

This refrain is one that helps me remember that our God is a God of abundance. I am greatly blessed. I strive to be duly grateful.

The people of this congregation will be looking at how they will support the work of God through United Christian Church this year. Each year we prayerfully consider what God is calling us to give. The gifts are given in accordance with the blessings we have received. Our offerings are our way of saying thank you to God for the wonderful blessings we have, yet gratitude is an attitude. We can look at the things of life as blessings or not.

I recently heard a program called "The Infinite Mind" that dealt with satisfaction. The gist of the program is that there are a number of things that will affect whether or not a person is satisfied with life. Two of the things that make it very likely that a person will be satisfied in life are close personal relationships and/or involvement with a community of faith. The size of ones bank account has little to do with satisfaction.

The other thing that makes it likely that one will be satisfied with life is gratitude. One of the guests on the program was a professor who has studied how gratitude shapes our attitudes toward life. He found that assigning his students the task of keeping a daily journal of the things for which they were grateful caused their attitude toward their life to change. In the course of the semester, the students who kept gratitude journals became more satisfied with their lives, in general. The attitude of gratitude does make a difference: two people may have the same basic income and standard of living, yet one will see the blessings and be grateful the other will see only the things that are lacking.

Gratitude for what we have is the key to living the abundant life. That life of gratitude then spills over to bless others.

May the God of abundance bless you with eyes to see and a heart to appreciate the blessings that are yours. May your gratitude be blessing to all you meet.

Pastor Natalie



October 2009 Calendar

1		
2		
3	8:00 am 6:00 pm	Men's Prayer Breakfast Worship
4	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	<b>World Communion Sunday: 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b> Sunday School Youth (4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> ) S.S. Worship Reception following worship
5	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Hodgsons'
6		
7	5:30 pm 7:00 pm	Christian Education Mtg. Choir
8		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
9		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
10	6:00 pm	Worship
11	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Youth (4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> ) S.S. Worship
12	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Hodgsons'
13	1:30 pm 6:30 pm	CWF Mtg. at Hodgsons' Council Mtg. at Church
14	7:00 pm	Choir
15		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
16		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
17	3:00 pm 6:00 pm	Youth (4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> ): Boomers Worship
18	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Youth (4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> ) S.S. Worship
19	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Hodgsons'
20	6:30 pm	Elders' Mtg. at church
21	7:00 pm	Choir
22		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
23		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
24	6:00 pm	Worship
25	9:15 am 9:30 am 10:30 am 2:30 pm	<b>Heritage Sunday</b> Sunday School Youth (4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> ) S.S. Worship CROP Walk
26	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Hodgsons'
27	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Mtg.
28	7:00 pm	Choir
29		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
30		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
31	6:00 to 8:00 pm *****	Trunk or Treat at UCC <b>Set clocks back one hour</b>

**Ministerial Appreciation Month**

World Communion Sunday

On October 4, there will be a dual celebration of World Communion Sunday and the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Stone/Campbell Movement.

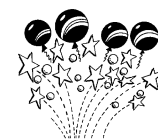
This, along with Pastor Natalie's return, will be a wonderful day of celebration!

For World Communion Sunday,  
You are invited . . .

. . .to bring, to this big event on October 4, a favorite finger food *that does not require a fork*. Crescent sandwiches and cake will be provided.

Please call Jan Moffett (222-6462) or Gloria Hallier (241-0540) by October 1, telling what you'll bring, the quantity, and number of guests joining you.

**October Birthdays  
& Anniversaries**



- 1 Natalie Hodgson\*
- 2 Denis Michaud\*
- 2 Trinh Bui Nguyen
- 2 Betty Hoffman\*
- 2 Lori Ingram\*
- 2 Christian & Kirsten\* Morris (A)
- 3 Jim & Carol\* Alavezos (A)
- 4 Wilfred (Wil) Bergeron
- 13 Chinasa Samuel\*
- 15 Larry & Victoria\* DeBenedetti (A)
- 16 Carroll Cotten\*
- 18 Alan Vogel
- 21 Gloria Hallier\*
- 22 Sharron Cotton\*
- 23 Al Lung\*
- 23 Tina (Parks) McCallister-Boothe\*
- 23 Eleanor Whiteley
- 26 Tracy Kamimoto\*
- 31 Bearrrr & Lilly Murray (A)

**Joys & Concerns**



- 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.



### CWF/ Women's Ministries

The CWF group's meeting will be Tuesday, October 13, at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Earlene and Natalie Hodgson (1127 E. Los Altos).

All women welcome.

Natalie Hodgson & Pat Bartholomew, CWF



### Monday Night Bible Study

The Monday night group study at the Hodgsons' is beginning the study "Joshua, A Journey of Faith".

Those wishing to join us may want to purchase the \$6.00 book. See Dorothy Shuck.

### 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.

### Men's Fellowship & Prayer Breakfast

Come to the Men's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, October 3, 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



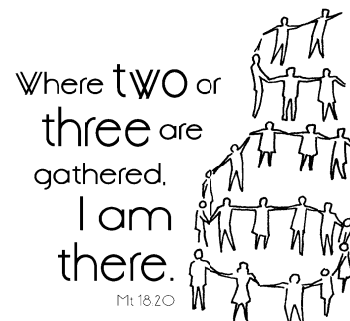
### DISCIPLES MEN'S RETREAT: REGISTRATION OPEN NOW

Friday, October 23 (check in at 4:00 pm; dinner at 6:00 pm), to Saturday, October 24 (ending at 3:00 pm)

The retreat will be held, again this year, at Mission de Oro, Santa Nella, CA.

We are privileged to have Dr. Warren Farrell as our presenter on the theme: "Our Sons, Their Future" (How the Journey for Success in the Future differs from the Journey for Success in the Past)

See Gary Pigg for details.





*Council Gleanings*

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

1. Council approved the wording to be used on the **No Trespassing signs**, to be posted in order to permit police enforcement of the listed laws. Gary Pigg will have the signs made.

2. Gary Pigg will chair the Nominating Committee for the **2010 church officers**.

3. Evangelism:  
Council approved participation in the **Convoy of Hope** outreach to be held on November 7, 2009 in west Fresno, and approved a donation of \$100.

*Eddie Lou Kester, Ministry Council Chair*

**Financial Update**  
**August 31, 2009**

General Funds	\$296,569
Designated Other	3,526
Memorial & Honor Funds	6,117
Designated Outreach Funds	<u>2,018</u>
Total Checking & Savings	\$308,230

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

Total August 2009	\$ 6,819
Total August 2008	<u>6,414</u>
Above Prior Year	\$ 405

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

To August 31, 2009	\$ 51,781
To August 31, 2008	<u>57,102</u>
Below Prior Year	(\$ 5,321)

**Income & Expense Jan .1-Aug. 31, 2009**

Receipts	\$ 59,124
Expenses	<u>91,986</u>
Net Decrease to 8/31/09	(\$ 32,862)



**"Trunk or Treat"**

On Halloween night, Saturday, October 31, from 6 pm to 8pm, United Christian Church is going to host "Trunk or Treat."

***What is "Trunk or Treat?"***

It's a safe alternative to Trick or Treat. The children in our community will be invited to UCC to participate in fall festival activities and to trick or treat decorated trunks of cars and vehicles parked in our parking lot. This is a fun activity so that children are able to go to a safe place on Halloween.

We do need your help. Are you willing to decorate the trunk of your car and pass out treats from it? We also need volunteers to help with games. We will be having a bean bag toss, ring the liter bottle, cake walk and pumpkin decorating. I plan to dress in my clown costume and have the children "pick my pockets" for funny treats.

Donations of cakes/pastries, liter bottles of soda, and small pumpkins are needed.

There will be a sign up sheet on the turn-around in the sanctuary.

If you are willing to volunteer, make donations and/or provide your car for "Trunk or Treat", or if you need more information, *please call or contact Mona White, (559)776-2839.*



# Missions



## **2009 Reconciliation Ministry Offering**

### ***Many Members, One Table***

The 2009 offering will be received during morning worship on **September 27** and **October 4**.



### ***Food Pantry***

Bring food on Sunday, October 4.

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.

Our Church – Our World!

*Mary-Ann Edens & Tina McCallister-Boothe,  
Missions Committee*

## ***Fresno/Clovis CROP Hunger Walk***



### **Find a CROP Hunger Walk near you**

CROP Hunger Walks help children and families worldwide -- and right here in the U.S. -- to have food for today, while building for a better tomorrow. Each year, some two million CROP Walkers, volunteers, and sponsors put their hearts and souls in motion, raising over \$16 million per year to help end hunger and poverty around the world -- and in their own communities. And you are part of it!

On **Sunday, October 25, 2009, at 2:30 pm**, starting at the **Memorial United Methodist Church** (1726 Pollasky, Clovis), the CROP Hunger Walk will be held to show our love and active concern for neighbors in need near and far. The participants, ranging from newborns to 90 year olds, will be raising funds to change the world in real and measurable ways -- digging wells that will bring clean water to villages; providing seeds and tools so that people can grow their own food; helping communities and families rebuild after disaster. Whether it's responding to devastating floods across the central U.S., or the Gulf Coast, or a village well in Burkina Faso, CROP Hunger Walks are making a difference.

### ***The letters CROP mean Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty.***

CROP Hunger Walk funds will benefit the overall work and ministry of Church World Service -- working in some 80 countries to help those in need help themselves through refugee assistance, self-help development programs, advocacy, and disaster relief. And, it's important to note that 25 percent of what we raise will help Community Food Bank in their important work here in Fresno/Clovis.

So please mark your calendars and come CROP Walk with us! Together -- with your family, group, or congregation -- we can walk to change the world, one step at a time.

And if you can't walk on that day, or just want to broaden your horizon of sponsors, you can walk on the Web with us. There will be a link on our website to the site where you can contribute toward the United Christian Church's fundraising.

For more information, please contact Mary-Ann Edens or Pastor Natalie, or visit [www.cropwalk.org](http://www.cropwalk.org).

*Mary-Ann Edens, Missions Co-Chair  
Tina McCallister-Boothe, Missions Co-Chair*

# Christian Ed

## Sunday School Teachers

Interested in sharing your love of God? We are looking for help to teach Sunday school classes.

Please talk to Tina McCallister-Boothe or Natalie Hodgson if you think you would like to try!

*Tina McCallister-Boothe, Christian Ed Chair*



## Youth News

Youth of the church (grades 4 – 8) are now meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for Sunday School.

On third Saturdays (sometimes Friday) of the month, there will be a fun activity. The first one is Saturday, October 17, at 3:00 pm, and is an afternoon at Boomers.

In order to subsidize youth activities, the Christian Education Committee is selling the beautiful "God's Creation" calendars. These make wonderful Christmas presents and, at only \$6.00, they are a tremendous bargain over commercial calendars you buy in stores for \$15 to \$20. The calendars will be available after church on Sundays. The youth appreciate the congregation's support.

## Congregational Life

### Cookie Ministry in Progress

Thanks to those who signed up to prepare and serve for the cookie ministry after church, or to clean up after refreshments!

The sign-up sheets are beside the Parlor door. Thanks!

*Congregational Life Committee*



## COMING SOON....

Coming soon, we have an opportunity for the children and youth to participate in a Christmas musical. The musical is made especially for the young in mind, although we will have plenty of help from our church choir.

There will be parts for everyone in "Starry Night, Noisy Night." I believe this will be a fun way to present the story of Jesus' birth and the importance of it for today's community. Practices will begin Sunday, November 1, after church, and run every Sunday until performance time on Sunday, December 20, during worship time.

This will give all our youth a chance to participate with little upset to their weekly routine and travel. I ask that you provide them with a sack lunch so that we don't have to leave the church. Practices will run approximately one hour, with a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 19.

Acting and music experience is not required, just a desire to do the best that you can.

For information, contact Mona White at church, or at (559) 776-2839.

See you in November.



## Sing Praise to God!

It has been a privilege and joy to lead you in music and song each year. It is now that time of year when our choir begins to provide special music during worship.

I invite all people who enjoy praising God to join our choir.

Choir practice is Wednesdays, from 7 to 8 pm, in the church sanctuary. Music knowledge is not required – only a love of singing.

For more information, contact Mona White, (559)776-2839.