



Dear Church Family,

What an Advent and Christmas season we have had so far! God has been so gracious and this congregation has been so generous. What a wondrous place to be for this holy season.

There were four special services this Advent. The lessons and carols service was beautiful. Leeah's first public solo was a treat. We added a Longest Night Service this year. The service of healing was special for those who attended and we will need to assess whether or not to make it an annual event.

Christmas Eve is always a blessed time and was again this year. It was an added



bonus to have Christmas fall on Sunday. We were able to have a great birthday celebration for Jesus—complete with birthday cake.

The best part of Christmas is always the chance to worship God by being the followers of Jesus in the world around us. We had 25 stars on our tree this year. That is a huge number for our little church. All 25 received gifts. The children got clothes and some toy or other fun thing. Several families received

holiday food baskets. The office dispensed a number of Christmas blessings through the donations made to Helping Hands Fund. God bless you all for your contributions to the joy of the season, especially in some of our families.

The season continues! January first is not only the start of the new year but it is also the day for Beth and Patrick's wedding. It is a joy to be able to include the wedding as part of worship. I can think of no better way to welcome another year than to affirm the gift of marriage within the loving and worshipful circle of the church. Then, in a bit of reorganization, we will celebrate Epiphany on January 8. It will be a couple of days late but we worship God and not the calendar. It will work.

As the New Year begins, we have a new Ministry Council in place. Please take time to review the list of Council members and congratulate them on their election. You might also offer to pray for them as they undertake this important ministry of oversight. We are blessed as a congregation to have such able and willing servants in these roles.

Finally, I hope that you find joy in the New Year. Sometimes, it is a letdown to come to the end of the busy holiday season. We have an ongoing relationship with the Christ of Christmas so I pray that you will continue to celebrate the whole year through!

Blessings!

Pastor Natalie


Pastor Natalie

January 2012

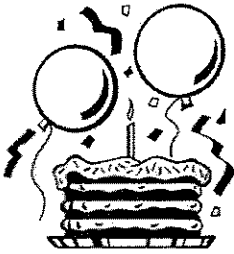
* Every Thursday evening custodial service is being done in the Church and the Church office.

☺ Deadline for Bulletin material is noon, each Wednesday.

All meetings are at the church unless otherwise stated.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday*	Saturday	
1 †10:30 am <u>Worship Service</u>	2 NO Bible Study at the Hodgsons'	3 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm PIC Bible Study	4☺ NO WOW 7:15 pm Choir	5*	6 <i>Pastor's day off</i> Min. Council Reports Due PIC 7:00 pm Spanish Service	7 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 8 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am O.A. 10:30 am O.A.	
8 †10:30 am <u>Worship Service</u>	9 7:15 pm Bible Study at the Hodgsons'	10 10:00 am O.A. 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm PIC Bible Study 6:30 pm Ministry Council Meeting	11☺ 11 am Staff Meeting – (Office closed) 5:30 pm Special WOW for Youth 6pm WOW 7:15 pm Choir	12* 10:00 am O.A.	13 <i>Pastor's day off</i> PIC 7:00 pm Spanish Service	14 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10:30 am O.A. All Faith's Service 4-6 pm	
15 †10:30 am <u>Worship Service</u>	16 7:15 pm Bible Study at the Hodgsons'	17 10:00 am O.A. 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm PIC Bible Study 6:30 pm Elders Meeting	18☺ 6pm WOW 7:15 pm Choir	19* 10:00 am O.A. Newsletter Articles Due	20 <i>Pastor's day off</i> PIC 7:00 pm Spanish Service	21 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10:30 am O.A.	
22 †10:30 am <u>Worship Service</u>	23 7:15 pm Bible Study at the Hodgsons'	24 10:00 am O.A. 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm PIC Bible Study	25☺ 6pm WOW 7:15 pm Choir	26* 10:00 am O.A.	27 <i>Pastor's day off</i> PIC 7:00 pm Spanish Service	28 <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10:30 am O.A.	
29 †10:30 am <u>Worship Service</u>	30 7:15pm Bible Study at the Hodgsons'	31 10:00 am O.A. 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm PIC Bible Study 6:30 pm PPR	Elder on call: Gary Pigg				

JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS &
ANNIVERSARIES



- 2 Aretha Hurt*
- 2 Lori Ingram*
- 5 Calvin Leeds
- 5 David* & Esther* Morris (A)
- 6 Nina Hardcastle
- 7 Chan Born
- 10 Mike Edens*
- 11 Lan Bui
- 11 Virginia (Ginny) & Wil Bergeron (A)
- 15 Joel Edmonds*
- 17 Herman Farnum*
- 19 Karen Kay Baker*
- 19 Cleo Hastings*
- 24 Elvera Ahlenslager*
- 25 Carlos Rosales*
- 27 Ardith Whelan
- 30 Dan Moore
- 31 Gary* & Pam* Pigg (A)



November 2011

General Funds	\$179,063
Designated Other	3,327
Memorial & Honor Funds	8,062
Designated Outreach Funds	<u>3,437</u>
Total Checking & Savings	\$193,889

Monthly Offerings *(includes 12% for Missions)*

Total Nov. 2011	\$ 4,509
Total Nov. 2010	<u>5,796</u>
Below Prior Year	\$ (1,287)

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

To Nov 30, 2011	\$ 83,453
To Nov 30, 2010	<u>73,267</u>
Above Prior Year	\$ 10,186

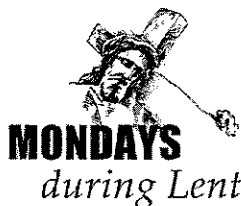
Income & Expense Jan. 1- Nov. 30, 2011

Receipts	94,218
Expenses	<u>163,208</u>
	11/30/2011 (\$ 68,990)

Plan Ahead!



Ash Wednesday Worship Service
6pm February 22

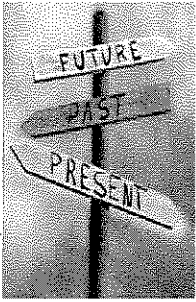


Annual Lenten Soup Supper and
Study begin on February 27

**Ministry Council
2012**

Ministry Council Chair	Mary-Ann Edens
Ministry Council Vice Chair	Pam Pigg
Secretary	Cindy Perkins
Buildings & Grounds	Mike Edens
	Jim Horg
Christian Education	Tonya White
	Tasha Wynn
Congregational Life	Patrick McKendrick
Elders	To be elected
Evangelism	Beckysue Duran
Financial Resources	Jane Sumpter
Missions	Eddie Lou Kester
Worship Committee	Mona White

YOUTH PAGE



January is that special time when we are between the old and the brand new... Just like good friends, it's hard to part with some of our memories and plans, but we are SOOO looking forward to new experiences and new opportunities.



Overnight Lock-in
Six of our youth participated in the San Joaquin Cluster Youth Lock-In! The Selma Church leadership offered an awesome experience and fellowship to a group of 27 present. Youth that participated in Youth Camp were present and then some more. It was a true blessing to be part of this experience. Pastor Yolanda and Tonya White were adult counselors from our group. THANKS SO MUCH!

Special Youth Wednesday

All Youth from 7 to 13 years old are invited to a specially planned WOW evening. We will have snacks, games, Bible stories, singing and fellowship. COME, it is for You! If you know anyone that may want to join us, BRING them! If there are any questions, please contact Pastor Yolanda, at 559/903-1257.

When: Wednesday, January 11, 2011

Where: At UCC Parlor

Time: 5:30 PM

To ALL UCC members and friends:

Remember, all youth are ready to be hired for different kinds of jobs around. To arrange, please call Pastor Yolanda for scheduling.



How can youth, and children take the Name of Jesus to heart?

1. Pray each day for brothers, sisters, moms, dads, grandparents and self.
2. Learn something new from the Bible each week; reading or listening.
3. Be in church each Sunday; and also Wednesday WOW night.
4. Make an offering to the LORD, with part of your allowance, time or ideas.
5. Learn the name of one person in church each week. Say 'hello' to others at church.
6. Plan to be in summer camp.
7. Become a friend of one of our church leaders; learn from them.

Blessings, Pastor Yolanda

Cheers for the youth of United Christian Church!

Correction from last month's newsletter: *Justin* is at Edison, not Hoover...oops!

Ryan is on the honor roll at his school!

Leeah did her first solo on November 27, in the Lessons and Carols Service!

Isaiah placed 3rd in his first wrestling match! He's now wrestling with the varsity team!

Isaiah, Justin and *Rebekah* were all elected as Jr. Servants at the Annual Meeting!

Sandy & Justice baked cookies for the church with Pastor Natalie! Then Justice served the cookies at the coffee hour the next day!

If there is something you want the church to know about that your child has done, contact me and we'll gladly post it in the newsletter. If you can send us a picture, we can try to put that in there too.

Pastor Natalie



AdMinistry

There will be an ACTS class offered this January and February. ACTS classes are offered by the region and designed for **anyone** in the congregation who is interested in additional education. This class will deal with administration as ministry. The Ministry Council will be attending but other church leaders or future leaders are welcome.

The opening session will be Sunday, January 22 at 3pm. Pastor Natalie will lead and there may be people from other churches attending, as well. The following 4 sessions will be on Wednesdays during WOW time, 6pm. (Jan 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15). The cost of the class is being covered by the Ministry Council.



Other WOW Classes

Pastor Natalie will be offering the following WOW classes:

January 11 and 18

Bible Translations, Interpretations and Versions: What Does It All Mean. Bring your Bible and your questions.

January through Ash Wednesday

The ACTS class: AdMinistry

Ash Wednesday, February 22, NO WOW

Lent (February and March)

We will have our annual soup suppers and study on Monday nights. Topic of the study to be announced.

**NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO WOW ON
JANUARY 4, 2012**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Interfaith Scholar Weekend February 10-12 "Saving Paradise in This World"

The Interfaith Scholar for 2012 will be Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock, Founding Director of Faith Voices for the Common Good.

The events on Friday and Sunday will be free. Advance registration for Saturday's lectures will be \$40, and will include two meals. Registration for students will be \$10. For more information you can visit the website at www.interfaithscholar.org

UCC Choir to Sing

Come be part of the community All Faiths Service in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Saturday, January 14, 2011 (4:00-6:00PM) All Faith Service - Enjoy various beloved spiritual leaders, musical talent and speaker. Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church, 207 E. San Joaquin St.

Taizé Prayer Weekend January 13-14, 2012

Friday 6-9 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m-3 p.m.

First Congregational Church

2131 N. Van Ness

(corner of Van Ness and Yale)

Registration is \$25 for both days if received before Jan. 9th and \$30 after that. For details, contact Elizabeth Nelson at elizn@csufresno.edu--431-2630.

Pastor Natalie will be leading one of the sessions. Registration forms with details are on the turnaround.