



United Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School 9:15 AM
Worship 10:30 AM

Elder-on-Call September 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,

I am just back from my annual vacation to Oregon. It was nice to get away from the heat in Fresno. It was very pleasant in Oregon and Montana. I had a wonderful time with my Aunt May. She is much better and busy gardening. I also saw my mother; thank you for all your prayers on her behalf. She is doing well, but still weak. It was good to visit with her.

I hadn't meant to go to Montana; a family emergency arose and so I went. I am not sure how much help I was but I went. I was reminded of how interconnected my life is with that of my family. I was also reminded of how blessed I am to have a church that loves and supports me.

When I sent word of the emergency, the prayers started immediately. I received encouragement by text message, phone call and email. I was surrounded by your good wishes and sent on my way on the wings of your prayers. What a blessing that has been to me.

I know that in my absence several members and friends of this congregation also faced emergencies. I know that the prayers that were offered on my behalf were also offered for all those in need. I know that I was praying for those needs as I became aware of them. That is the blessing of belonging to a church that takes its call to follow Christ seriously.

We are called to make Christ's love and grace known in a dark and hurting world. One of the ways we do this is to love and care for those around us--those in our fellowship. When we are loved and cared for within the fellowship of our church, we have good news to share with the world about that love and care. The hymn says, "They will know we are Christians by our love." My family knows they are loved and prayed for by this church. I know I am loved because of your prayers for me and my family.

The hard things of life are much easier to face when we don't face them alone. There are times that the eternal presence of God comes to us in the presence of the people around us who love and care for us. Thank you for being the presence of God in my life and in one another's lives. As you have blessed me, may God bless you in abundance.

Pastor Natalie
Pastor Natalie



September

- 2 Mary-Ann Edens*
- 5 Sean* & Tamara* Hannon (A)
- 6 Jane Sumpter*
- 7 Carl & Esther Robinson (A)
- 7 Mona* & Marshall* White (A)
- 7 Nathan Samuel
- 14 Alexander Born
- 14 Ethan Bare*
- 16 Annie Bui
- 25 Esther Robinson
- 25 Marleen Bridges*
- 27 Esther Morris*
- 28 Jesus Perez



Men's Breakfast

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be on September 4th at 8:00 am. All men are welcome and encouraged to attend. Hope to see you there!

Gary Pigg, Men's Fellowship



CWF/Women's Ministries

The Women's Harvest Luncheon will be at noon on September 11 at the church. It will be a salad potluck. Karen Gross of Stewards, Inc. will be the guest speaker. All women are urged to share in this time of fellowship and information about this important new ministry. Please let Natalie Hodgson or Dorothy Shuck know if you plan to attend.

The CWF group will not meet in September because of the luncheon.



Prayer Requests

Myrna Vogel: Health issues.

Yvonne Hix: Pray to regain strength.

Cleo Hastings: Continued prayers for good health.

Hazel Calderwood: Pray for good health.

Mona White: Pray for continued recovery.

Catherine Chamberlain: Home. Pray for strength.

John Newell: God's grace for hard places.

Dorothy Sumpter: Pray for full recovery.

Bob Lewis Jr.: Leg issues

Melba Jordahl: Good transition in living situation.

Mona White & Isaiah: God's graces in family situation.

Bob Lewis: Regain strength

Director of Hispanic Ministries and Youth Minister

The Reverend Yolanda Marquez-Lucar was born on December 31, 1953, in the Bronx, New York. She is the only daughter to Rafael Marquez and Loyda Pastrana-Marquez. She is the middle child between two very special brothers: Rafael who is a United States Army Chaplain and Ruben Marquez who is a Christian Education Minister. Both are Disciples ministers. Her family has a history of long-term Disciples leaders in New York and Puerto Rico. She has five nephews and one niece. When she was five years old, the family moved to Puerto Rico where she received all her schooling.

Yolanda is married to Miguel Lucar, a self employed business owner. She is mother to Loely, age 38, Carlos, age 35 and adopted mother to Robert and Gilbert, 30-year-old twins. She raised the twins from the time they were three months old until they were four and a half years old. At this time they were taken back to Puerto Rico to live with extended family and she did not see them again until they were 26 years old when they had a glorious reunion. Gilbert is now with her here in Fresno. She is step-mother to Miguel O, age 22 and Rosario, age 17. Her grandchildren are Carlos II, age 14, Elijah, age 12, Alex, age 17 months, Isaac, age 14 months and Leanne Marie, age 8 months.

She received her Associate of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Puerto Rico in 1974. Seventeen years later in 1990, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies with a minor in Education from Martin University in Indianapolis, Indiana. During these seventeen years, she felt the calling to go into full time Christian service. She was ordained on July 17, 1994 at the Church of the Valley, Disciples of Christ, in

Van Nuys, CA. In 2004, she received her Master of Divinity degree from the Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA.

Since then she has had extensive ecclesiastical and civic involvement. This includes Week of Compassion committee member, Division of Overseas Ministries Delegate, General Assembly involvement, Regional Christian Women Fellowship Coordinator, National Hispanic Caucus Secretary, Regional Worship Fellowship Moderator, New York Ecumenical Council, Division of Homeland Ministries Board Member, Christian Church Denominational Regional Office Administrator in New York and the New Church Establishment Program, to name a few.

She has been an ESL teacher and pastor with her last appointments being the Senior Pastor at Baldwin Park Christian Church and Senior Pastor at West Adams Christian Church in Los Angeles, CA. She currently holds the position of New Church Planter, Primera Iglesia Cristiana Discipulos de Cristo de Fresno and is the Director of Hispanic Ministries for our region, the Christian Church of Northern California-Nevada. She is now our Youth Minister here at United.

Yolanda is fluent in English and Spanish. She has lived in Puerto Rico, Florida, New Jersey, New York, Indiana and has visited Peru, Mexico, El Salvador, Venezuela, Canada and many of the United States. Her interests and hobbies include traveling, swimming and writing. She will be starting a new Hispanic church here and they hope to hold their first meeting in early November. Please give a warm welcome to this delightful lady.

Submitted by Dorothy Shuck



Youth

UCC youth have had a busy month since they returned from camp. A large group tried out ice skating on a hot Saturday afternoon. Considering that most had never been on skates, they did very well with few falls.

The next week we attended the weekly Star Party at the Discovery Center and had root beer floats provided by Gary. Then we split the group the next Friday with two primary-age boys going to Playland in the morning and the older youth going miniature golfing at Blackbeards in the evening. Pastor Yolanda had her first outing with the youth that night.

The final youth activity of the summer was a swim party at Eddie Lou's on the Friday before school started.

A big thank you to all the parents who provided transportation and chaperoned our activities this summer - Tasha (who did all four weeks!), Tanya, Robert, Debbie, Keeshun, Mona, and Beth and also to Eddie Lou for hosting the swim party and to Gary for the root beer floats.

Do you remember last month that I reported that there were twenty-nine children in the church? I have been making a list for Pastor Yolanda as she is taking over the youth program. I now have thirty-six on the list. We are growing!

At the area meeting in Selma on August 12, we brainstormed ideas for new "Mission Clusters" that will be forming this coming year. Everyone agreed that we need an area cluster that works on camp and other youth events. Pray that we get this off the ground.

Larry Schiller



Rebekah, Samantha and Jennifer



Harmony, Samantha, Larry and Sandy



Jamila and Justice

Pictured on the left: (l to r) Larry, Justice, Tasha, Tonya, Essence, Janae, and William

Ultimately, what draws us to celebrate and calls us to repent is God's Spirit. It is the Spirit

Missions

Reconciliation Special Offering

A few of us in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) may be confused by the recent efforts to connect the Reconciliation Ministry Offering and World Communion Sunday.

World Communion Sunday celebrates our essential oneness as followers of Christ. Reconciliation Ministry Offering confronts our lingering divisiveness. On one Sunday a year, the 11 o'clock hour can be the most united hour of the week. The combination of the two feels convoluted. Do we tell our ecumenical story or our anti-racism story? Quote John Mott or Martin Luther King? Is this a Sunday to rejoice or repent?

Read from a particular angle, these concerns make sense. The Reconciliation Offering celebrates our unity. From our earliest days as a movement, the Disciples of Christ have been ethnically diverse consisting first of African-American and Anglo-American Disciples. In 1899, the first Hispanic Disciples church began. Pacific/Asian Disciples also have a long history within this movement. Today, one of the fastest growing groups within the Disciples of Christ is among Haitian Christians. At times it has felt as though we were taking one step forward and two steps back. Despite disappointing manifestations of racism and cultural pressures for separation, Disciples have repeatedly chosen to journey together.

In the same way, our ecumenical story contains moments of division. It has faced challenges and setbacks. Today, the ecumenical movement seeks to craft a unity that not only transcends denominational boundaries but also cultural, racial and ethnic boundaries. World Communion Sunday in this decade of this century only makes sense in light of the Gospel's message of reconciliation. To utter the words "Christian unity" in our local churches today is to both celebrate and call people to repentance.

of God that transforms us and makes us whole. God's spirit sets our hearts on fire and makes us unified – not uniform. The Spirit of God invites us to enter God's grace in unity and live out God's grace through reconciliation. Won't you give to God's mission of wholeness?

Pen Pals

Help Needed! If you would like to be a pen pal for the 2010-2011 school year, let pastor Natalie know. All of the third grade classes at Roeding will have 24 students this year. More pen pals will be needed this time. Sign up on the list on the turn around or call pastor Natalie at 227-2050 or email her at ncchamberlain@yahoo.com.

Pen pals need to have a background check. If you have questions about this please call Pastor Natalie at the office so that she can give you her full attention.

Pen pals usually write one letter per week. To begin, you will receive a letter from one of the children. You will then have something to which to reply. You need only write when you have received a letter. Occasionally, pastor will ask you to write even when no letter was received' she will explain the circumstances if this happens.

Your commitment is to write letters. **No gifts** until the end of the year. If you want to recognize a birthday or other event/occasion, you may give something that will fit in the envelop with the letter (stickers, note card, bookmark)

This is a very worthwhile project. Each child has an adult who cares for them. And hopefully prays for them. If you would like to be that caring adult, sign up soon.

information or ticket reservations, please contact FIRM at 487-1500.

Special Offering

During the summer there are no designated special offerings but there is always an opportunity to give to Week of Compassion. This is the means we have to be present to help in the time of need whatever the disaster might be.

There have been several disasters this summer. The one of greatest need is the flooding in Pakistan. There has also been flooding in China and wild fires in Russia. If you want to learn more about Week of Compassion and our work through them, see <http://www.weekofcompassion.org/>.

ACTS

Conflicts 101: Tools for Healthy Communication September 23-24

Registration deadline, September 15

Cost- \$50 which includes registration fee and 3 meals. Scholarship support is available up to \$25.00 but the Doris McCullough scholarship application MUST be completed and postmarked by each deadline. See bulletin board for details.

FIRM BANQUET 2010 ***"Rebuilding Hope Together"***

Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM, Inc.) is recognizing the many accomplishments of refugee communities. We will celebrate the ways that communities have rebuilt hope in difficult times through partnership with each other. We invite you to join the celebration! The banquet will be held on Friday, September 24, from 6-8:30 p.m. at First Armenian Presbyterian Church in Fresno. For \$35, guests can enjoy fine food, refugee successes, cultural entertainment and a wealth of silent auction items! For



July 2010

General Funds	\$247,571
Designated Other	4,186
Memorial & Honor Funds	7,377
Designated Outreach Funds	<u>1,795</u>
Total Checking & Savings	\$260,929

Monthly Offerings (includes 12% for Missions)

Total July 2010	\$ 5,860
Total July 2009	<u>5,085</u>
Above Prior Year	\$ 775

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

To July 31 2010	\$ 44,980
To July 31 2009	<u>44,961</u>
Above Prior Year	\$ 19

Income & Expense Jan .1-June 30, 2010

Receipts	\$ 57,116
Expenses	<u>85,549</u>
7/31/2010	(\$ 28,433)

Church office hours:

Please note the change in church office hours. We will be open for church business on Monday – Thursday, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Closed on Fridays. The messages will be checked hourly on Fridays for any emergency calls.














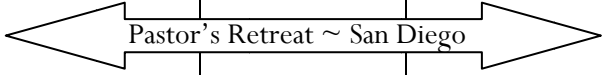






SAVE THE DATE:

Yolanda's Installation
November 13, 2010 at 4 pm
Regional Director of Hispanic Ministries
UCC Youth Minister

September 2010

All meetings are at the church unless otherwise stated.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday*	Saturday
			1	2  the Pastor <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10 am O.A.	3*  the Pastor <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10 am O.A.	4  8:00 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am O.A. 10:30 am O.A. 7 pm A.A. Regional Fund Raiser
5 †9:15 am Sunday School †10:30 am Worship Service	6 *Office Closed* 	7 10 am O.A.	8  7 pm Choir	9  the Pastor <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10 am O.A.	10*  the Pastor <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10 am O.A. <u>Ministry Council Reports Due</u>	11 10:30 am O.A. 7 pm A.A.
12 †9:15 am Sunday School †10:30 am Worship Service	13 7:15 Bible Study at the Hodgson's.	14 10 am O.A. 6:30 pm Council Meeting	15  7 pm Choir	16  the Pastor <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10 am O.A.	17*  the Pastor <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10 am O.A. <u>Newsletter Articles Due</u>	18 10:30 am O.A. 7 pm A.A.
19 <i>Stewardship Sunday</i> †9:15 am Sunday School †10:30 am Worship Service	20 7:15 Bible Study at the Hodgson's.	21 10 am O.A. 6:30 pm Elders Meeting	22  7 pm Choir	23 10 am O.A.	24*  the Pastor <i>Pastor's day off</i>	25 10:30 am O.A. 7 pm A.A.
 Pastor's Retreat ~ San Diego			 ACTS Course			
26 †9:15 am Sunday School †10:30 am Worship Service	27 7:15 Bible Study at the Hodgson's.	28 10 am O.A. 6:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting	29  7 pm Choir	30  the Pastor <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10 am O.A.	October 1*  the Pastor <i>Pastor's day off</i> 10 am O.A.	2 10:30 am O.A. SSJ BBQ Picnic Carnival ~ Selma 7 pm A.A.



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