



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 February 2010

Gary Pigg

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
Hugh Moffett, 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.

It is the middle of January and I am writing the letter for the February newsletter. Shortly after you receive this, we will be getting ready for Lent by observing Ash Wednesday. Having a annual cycle that guides the Church year is a blessing. It helps us keep focused on the ongoing nature of the life of the church. Though we are looking at this life through historical events, they remain vital and pertinent to our lives because we celebrate in the context of our congregation and our lives.

This cycle can also be something of a tyrant! Everything moves forward without waiting to see if we are ready or not. Although I would like to spend more time with Christmas and Epiphany, the calendar says that Lent is coming. I suppose it is human nature to want to stay in the warmth and glow of Christmas instead of venturing forth into the desert. Yet it is in the desert that we learn to know ourselves better. It is in the desert that we come to rely on God more fully.

I am not looking forward to the Lenten journey through the desert but I am ready to begin. The path may be unknown and the obstacles unseen but we know where we are going. The end of the road is not a cross or a tomb, but the glorious sun rise of Easter.

This year for the Lenten season, we will be looking at events in Jesus' life from Palm Sunday to Easter. Since many of these events and Scriptures are not part of the lectionary except at Easter, many of us don't have a clear idea of the sequence of events leading to the resurrection or the implications for our faith. We will use these events for the Monday night Lenten Soup Supper and Study series. There will be a study for adults and for children/youth under 12 years old. The same texts will also be used for the sermons and Children's time on the Sundays in Lent. It is my hope that this will lead to a better understanding of who Jesus is but also of who we are in Christ.

As we make our way toward Lent, may it be with a heart that is able to rejoice, not in the journey but in its end, Jesus the Christ.

Pastor Natalie



February 2010 Calendar

1	7:15	Bible Study @ Hodgsons'
2		
3	7:00 pm	Choir
4		<i>Pastors day off</i>
5		<i>Pastors day off</i> Ministry Council Reports due
6	8:00 am Noon 6:00 pm	Men's Prayer Breakfast CWF Love Luncheon Worship
7	9:15 am 10:30 am 2:00 pm	Sunday School Worship Souper Bowl Party @ Piggs'
8	7:15 pm	Bible Study @ Hodgsons' School Closed: Lincoln's Day
9	6:30 pm	No CWF Feb. home mtg. Ministry Council Meeting
10	7:00 pm	Choir
11		<i>Pastors day off</i>
12		<i>Pastors day off</i>
13	6:00 pm	Worship
14	9:15 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship
15	7:15 pm	Bible Study @ Hodgsons' School Closed: President's Day
16	6:30 pm	Elders Meeting
17	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Newsletter Articles Due Ash Wednesday/Lent Begins Choir
18		<i>Pastors day off</i>
19		<i>Pastors day off</i> Interfaith Scholar Weekend
20	6:00 pm	Interfaith Scholar Weekend Worship
21	9:15 am 10:30 am 3:30 pm	Sunday School Worship & Special Offering Geographical Meeting @ Hanford Church
22	6:00 pm	Lenten Soup Supper & Study
23	6:30 pm	Worship Committee
24	7:00 pm	Choir
25		<i>Pastors day off</i>
26		<i>Pastors day off</i>
27	6:00 pm	Worship
28	9:15 am 10:30 am 6:00 pm	Sunday School Worship & Special Offering Bingo @ Roeding School

All meetings are at the Church unless otherwise noted.

February Birthdays
& Anniversaries

- 2 Wanda McCloud*
- 6 Carl Robinson
- 8 Everett Johnston*
- 11 Jan Moffett*
- 11 Carroll Cotten* (ordination)
- 12 Beverley Lewis*
- 12 Brockman David Morris
- 12 Barbara Schrader*
- 14 Randy Duran, Jr.
- 14 Allen Prowell*
- 17 Kirsten Morris*
- 17 Kathleen Fuller
- 17 Jennifer Hallier
- 20 Hazel Calderwood*
- 24 Amber Bui
- 24 Bill Hallier



MONDAYS
during Lent

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.



Ash Wednesday Worship

The Ash Wednesday worship will be held Wednesday February 17 at 6pm in our sanctuary. The service will include Scriptures and testimonies about grace. We will have an imposition of ashes as we prepare to begin our Lenten journey to Easter. This is a somber but hope filled service. If you have never been, please, come and be part of this ancient practice.



Geographical Meeting

South San Joaquin Area Geographical Meeting:

Sunday, February 21, 2010 at Hanford. Each church is encouraged to have a musical/drama/liturgical dance. Soup, salad & a dessert will be provided (a donation of \$3.50 to cover that expense is being asked). Business discussed will include a report from the Regional Staff, a promotional piece on a summer camp opportunity and the selection of the Geographical Area Moderator. Each congregation will be given a time to share what's happening with them as well. A worship service and communion will also be enjoyed.



Youth
Sunday School
CLASSES

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!

A special thank you to the youth who read the lessons on Christmas Sunday. What a thrill it was to see so many young people up front leading worship.

Thank you , Larry Schiller



Welcome
Our New
Members

On January 24, we welcomed two new members!
Frances Peña
Jasmine Roesing

Honored Friend

Justin Holmes was born on December 28, 1994, in Los Angeles, California. His mother is Tanya White and she works for In Home Supportive Services for Fresno County. His father is Eric and he is a barber. He has three sisters and one brother.

Justin is a freshman at Edison High School where he takes Algebra, Earth Science, English, Spanish and P. E., and AVID, a college preparatory class. His favorite class is Earth Science. He likes to participate in sports and plays football, basketball, baseball and track. For fun he likes to hang out with his friends at River Park and he likes to watch video games. He also enjoys riding dirt bikes. He has vacationed in Las Vegas where he met the singer, Chris Brown.

Justin looks forward to going to college and becoming a police officer.

He joined this church after visiting several times with his aunt, Tasha Wynn and his cousin Justice Wynn. He will be baptized soon. He likes the activities of our youth group. Please say hi to Justin.

Submitted by Dorothy Shuck



Address/Phone Changes

Leamon Fortson
4562 E. Redlands Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726
222-4759

Cindy Perkins
438-6141



*CWF/ Women's Ministries
Sheriff Margaret Mims to Speak*

Sheriff Mims will be the guest speaker at the Women's Love Luncheon to be held Saturday, February 6, at noon at the church. It is a salad potluck so bring your favorite salad. Sheriff Mims will speak on safety issues, especially those affecting women. All women of the church are encouraged to come and invite their friends.

There will be no CWF group meeting in February because of the luncheon.



Men's Fellowship & Prayer Breakfast

Come to the Men's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, February 13th, 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, or one of the other men from the fellowship group.

Gary Pigg, Men's Fellowship



*Financial Update
December, 2009*

General Funds	\$282,597
Designated Other	3,526
Memorial & Honor Funds	6,117
Designated Outreach Funds	2,995
Total Checking & Savings	\$295,235

Monthly Offerings (includes 12% for Missions)

Total December 2009	\$ 8,302
Total December 2008	6,841
Above Prior Year	\$ 1,461

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

To December 31, 2009	\$ 80,192
To December 31, 2008	86,790
Below Prior Year	(\$ 6,598)

Income & Expense Jan .1-Dec, 2009

Receipts	\$ 90,664
Expenses 12/31/09	138,482
	(\$ 47,818)

*Joys &
Concerns*

- Chris Anderson:** Healing and mobility. Home soon.
- Sally Salt:** Health concerns.
- John & Misty Newell:** For their children.
- Myrna Vogel:** Health issues.
- Melba Jordahl:** Pray for continued strength.
- Yvonne Hix:** Pray to regain strength.
- Cleo Hastings:** Continued prayers for good health.
- Hazel Calderwood:** Ongoing health issues.
- Family of Laurene Sandell:**
- Mona White:** Quick recovery





Missions

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."
(John 21:17)

When a disaster strikes, we often ask ourselves, "What can we do?" One way we at United Christian Church of Fresno can answer that question is, "Give to the Week of Compassion!" On Sunday, January 17, 2010 we gave in response to the need after the earthquake in Haiti. Our Week of Compassion offering that day was \$1,358! That's right over a thousand dollars. Money is already on its way to meet the needs of the Haitian people.

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. We seek to equip and empower disciples to alleviate the suffering of others through disaster response, humanitarian aid, sustainable development and the promotion of mission opportunities.

On behalf of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) network of more than 3,200 congregations worldwide, Week of Compassion distributes annually more than \$2.5 million toward global sustainable development and humanitarian relief.

- ✝ *Week of Compassion helps in the aftermath of natural disaster.*
- ✝ *Week of Compassion helps people survive an ongoing crisis.*
- ✝ *Week of Compassion helps people around the world grow food for themselves and their families.*
- ✝ *Week of Compassion helps bring water to thirsty communities.*

During Christmas week alone, grants were made to India Nadu floods; Peru, medical equipment; Malawi, earthquake & cyclone; Texas, hurricane recovery; Iowa, flood recovery; Bosnia, community development; and Central African Republic, food security. The list for 2009 is long.

Each February Week of Compassion is lifted up and an offering is received so that funds will be available when disaster strikes. This year we are reminded that when we respond to Jesus, "Yes, You know I love you" that we are commanded, "Feed my Sheep." (found in John 21). We will receive this year's offering Sundays February 21st and 28th. Additionally, we give throughout the year as we feel led to respond to disasters as they occur.

"Sharing resources. Changing lives"

For more info, www.weekofcompassion.org



Food Pantry

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

ANOTHER MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Many of you know that I volunteer as a "host" at the

Amtrak station. Every morning the Coalinga bus drops off men who have just been released from prison and are going home. They have all their possessions in plastic or paper bags that are often falling apart.

From my days in the travel business I had a lot of extra flight bags and I have been giving them out so that the men can carry their belongings in a more dignified manner. They are most grateful. I am now out of bags.

I know that many people have flight bags or small duffle bags they got on cruises or tours and many people have too many of them in their closets. If you have any extra small bags (not suitcases) that you don't need I would love to have them to pass out to these men. It is just a small thing to let them know someone cares about them. You may bring the bags to church any Sunday and give to me.

Thank you, Larry Schiller



Council Gleanings

January 12, 2010 Council Meeting

Full copy of the minutes is available on the bulletin board by the water fountain.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Leave of Absence approved for Mona White to recuperate from surgery.
2. Council accepted hiring of nursery attendant MaLa (MaLee's sister).
3. Asilomar delegates: Chair will provide names to M.C.
4. Gloria Hallier agreed to take on the task of supply shopping for the next three months. The church needs a volunteer for this activity; if you are interested please contact Gloria or Gary.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. New Beginnings/Property Name Change is progressing.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

1. Financial Report: Jane Sumpter reported that we were below in income of what we hoped for 2009. Expenses are dead on with the budget. The year ended on a high note. We need to continue to keep a close eye on the budget.
2. Congregational Life: This position on the M.C. remains OPEN, if you are interested in more information about this opening please ask Gary.

Gary Pigg, Ministry Council Chair

Interfaith Scholar Weekend:

February 19-21, 2010

Lecturer: Dr. Yahya Michot



Dr. Yahya Michot is Professor of Islamic Studies & Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary. He is on the faculty of the Macdonald Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, and is Co-Editor of the journal *The MuslimWorld*.

Dr. Yahya Michot is an internationally recognized scholar. He is the author of a long list of scholarly publications, including many articles and several books. He is one of the foremost experts on the historically important thinkers Avicenna and Ibn Taymiyya. He has participated in more than forty international conferences since 2000. He has served as Director of Research and Lecturer at the Institut Supérieur de Philosophie at Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, and Islamic Chief Lecturer in the Faculty of Theology of Oxford University.

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.

UPCOMING EVENT OPPORTUNITIES