



Volume 59, Number 1

January, 2010

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 January 2010

Hugh Moffett

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
Tina McCallister-Booth,
Missions
Mike Edens, Bldgs & Grounds
Gloria Hallier, Evangelism
Congregat'l Life
Beth Jackson, Worship
Jane Sumpter, Fin. Resources
Hugh Moffett, Elders

Elders

Natalie Hodgson, Chair
Mike Edens
Sharon Hughes
Eddie Lou Kester
Everett Johnston
Hugh Moffett
Gary Pigg

Elders Emeritus

Pat Bartholomew
Cleo Hastings
Randy Jordahl

Dear Church Family,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. You should be receiving this before January 6 so it is still the season of Christmas. I love Christmas and hate for it to end so I take one more opportunity to wish you Merry Christmas.

It is also the start of another year. We are now 10% of the way through a new century. Time does fly, especially when it is filled with as many things as 2009 was. We had a great year. Our ministry in our neighborhood has been bearing fruit. We had 17 new members, 7 by baptism.

God has answered our prayer to bring families and children into our church. We started a new youth Sunday school class, an area youth camp, a youth group and children's church. We continue to have little ones in the nursery; some Sundays we had as many as 12.

We have had lots of studies, pot lucks, meetings, special events, fund raisers and other activities. For many of you, the best events were those held this summer. The Craft and Talent Show as well as the play were highlights.

The coming year has much in store as well. We will need to continue to build our children and youth programs. Training for new leaders as well as new opportunities for outreach are needed. We will have our Second Annual South San Joaquin Area Camp (at least the second annual camp of the 21st century.). Our New Beginnings program hopes to have the steeple on the church and the plans for the new building under way.

We will have births and deaths. We'll have baptisms and funerals. We'll have joy and grief but through it all, we will continue to serve God as we serve one another and the neighbors God has given us.

I hope you are looking forward to the wonders God will bring to our new year.


Again, Happy New Year and Merry Christmas. May God richly bless you and your loved ones in this season and always.

Pastor Natalie





January 2010 Calendar

1		New Year's Day <i>Pastor's day off</i>
2		
3	9:15 am 10:30 am	Epiphany Sunday School Worship 
4		
5		
6	7:00 pm	<i>Pastor's day off</i> Choir
7	6:00 pm	Bible Study in the Parlor
8		Council Reports Due <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>
9	8:00 am 6:00 pm	Men's Prayer Breakfast Worship
10	9:15 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship
11	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Hodgsons'
12	1:30 pm 6:30 pm	CWF Mtg. at C. Deppe's Council Mtg. at Church
13	7:00 pm	<i>Pastor's day off</i> Choir
14	6:00 pm	Bible Study in the Parlor
15		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
16	6:00 pm	Worship
17	9:15 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship
18	7:15 pm	Newsletter articles due Bible Study at Hodgsons'
19	6:30 pm	Elders' Mtg. at Church
20	7:00 pm	<i>Pastor's day off</i> Choir
21	6:00 pm	Bible Study
22		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
23	6:00 pm	Worship
24	9:15 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship
25	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Hodgsons'
26	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Mtg.
27	7:00 pm	<i>Pastor's day off</i> Choir
28	6:00 pm	Bible Study
29		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
30	6:00 pm	Worship
31	9:15 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship

**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) & Will 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)



Save the Dates!

ACTS Winter Course: January 22-24, 2010 at Los Gatos

Interfaith Scholar Weekend: February 19-21, 2010

South San Joaquin Area Geographical Meeting:
Sunday, February 21, 2010 at Hanford

Welcome New Members:

**Barbara Schrader
Tasha Two-Elk
Keeshun Washington**

Please extend a warm welcome to them!



Honored Member



Keshun Washington was born on November 9, 1973, in Fresno, California. His mother works in a nursery school and his father is a janitor. He is one of seven children.

He attended Washington Union High School where he played football and was on the wrestling team. He knew Lorenzo Neal before Neal became famous, as Lorenzo was his wrestling coach at Washington Union. He is distantly related to the professional basketball player, Rafer Austin. His favorite pastime is playing basketball with his children and watching TV.

He has a son Keesun, age 8, a stepdaughter, Jamila, age 12 and a stepson, Jamall, age 13. The children attend Sunday school here along with Keshun.

Keshun was raised in the Apostolic faith and was baptized at age 12. His children attended one of our block parties and wanted to come back to attend church. The family likes our friendliness and caring and concern. Keshun joined our church last month. He is active in the men's ministry. He is currently looking for work as a general laborer. Please give a warm welcome to Keshun and his family.

Submitted by Dorothy Shuck



Address/Phone Changes

Denis & Candace Michaud
3847 N. McCall, Sanger, CA 93657

Barbara Schrader: (559) 226-6545
1315 W. Fedora, Fresno, CA 93705
lazylizzy13@aol.com

Keshun Washington: (559) 226-1033
1050 W. Griffith Way, #119, Fresno, CA 93705

Jesus Perez (559) 243-6322
& Susan Perez (559) 243-6222
P. O. Box 420921, Del Rio, TX 78842

Leamon Fortson
121 E. Kaviland Ave., Fresno, CA 93706

CWF/ Women's Ministries

The CWF group's January meeting will be Tuesday, January 12, at 1:30 p.m., at the home of Clyvene Deppe, 143 W. Fedora. All women welcome.

The Women's Love Luncheon will be held Saturday, February 6, at noon, at the church, as a salad potluck. All women are encouraged to come and share in the fellowship.



Men's Fellowship & Prayer Breakfast

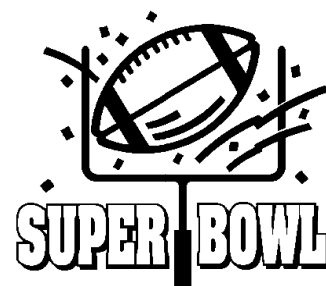
Come to the Men's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, January 9, for breakfast and fellowship, followed by helping with some small chores around the church. This invitation is for the young, as well the other than young men of the church. Breakfast is served at 8:00 am.

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

"SOUPER" BOWL PARTY

Watch the bulletin for information and details.





Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Financial Update

November, 2009

General Funds	\$289,317
Designated Other	3,526
Memorial & Honor Funds	6,117
Designated Outreach Funds	<u>2,631</u>
Total Checking & Savings	\$301,591

Monthly Offerings (includes 12% for Missions)

Total November 2009	\$ 8,003
Total November 2008	<u>10,189</u>
Below Prior Year	(\$ 2,186)

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

To November 30, 2009	\$ 71,890
To November 30, 2008	<u>79,949</u>
Below Prior Year	(\$ 8,059)

Income & Expense Jan .1-Nov. 30, 2009

Receipts	\$ 73,301
Expenses 11/30/09	<u>112,807</u>
	(\$ 39,506)

1. Council approved **Housing Allowance** for 2010 for the Pastor and Minister of Music.
2. Council gave approval for Larry Schiller to sign a contract with California Lions Club to use their **summer camp**.
3. Council approved **Christmas bonuses** for Administrative Assistant, Minister of Music, and Nursery Attendants.
4. **Lenten Soup Suppers** in 2010 will be held on Monday nights, February 22, Mar. 1, 8, 15, and 22.
5. The **Annual Geographical Meeting** will be February 21, 2010, at the First Christian Church in Hanford.

Eddie Lou Kester, Ministry Council Chair

Thank you

I want you all to know that I have felt so privileged to serve this congregation as Chair of the Ministry Council for the past two years. I have learned a lot along the way and you have helped me in my Christian growth. Thank you so much.

We have all heard the saying, "once in a blue moon". I knew it meant that something did not happen very often and I wasn't sure if such a thing existed. But the other day I heard on the radio that a blue moon really does exist. It happens when two full moons occur in the same month. The first full moon occurred on Dec. 2nd and we will have the second one (the blue moon) on Dec. 31st. I think this is an extraordinary thing to happen just as the celebration of the birth of our Savior and the hope and joy that this brings is a miraculous way to end the year and begin a new one. May you all have a wonderful Christmas and the blessings of an abundant life through Christ in the new year.

Yours in Christian love,
Eddie Lou Kester
Ministry Council Chair



Joys & Concerns

- Dorothy Sumpter:** Healing for wrist.
- Chris Anderson:** Healing and mobility.
- Sally Salt:** Health concerns.
- John & Misty Newell:** For their peace of mind about 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.
- Laurene Sandell:** Ongoing health concerns.
- Mona & Marshall White & Isaiah:** Adjustment to new living situation.





Faith and Society: A New Year Bible Study

There is a debate of sorts going on in the public sphere. Does private morality affect public morality and honesty? This question comes up often but we hear it mostly in connection with political leaders. Most of these leaders are not people we would consider people of faith though they do generally show off their faith affiliations during election season.

It is a valid question for us since it is one of the major issues of both the Old and New Testaments. It comes up early in Genesis and closes the book of Revelation. It continues to be an issue of debate because living our faith is hard, especially in a world where our faith is not the faith of the community at large.

We will be looking at the Scriptural background for the premise that our faith should be our moral compass in all matters private and public. For the first two sessions, we will look at Scriptural background and foundations. Then, we will take the second two sessions to deal with specifics.

Time: 6-7pm
Dates: Thursday January 7, 14, 21, 28
Place: UCC parlor
Sign-up: Sheet on the turnaround.
Minimum of 5 needed to hold the class.

Because the pastor is teaching this class on Thursday (her normal day off) she will be taking Wednesdays off during the month of January.



Food Pantry

Bring food on Sunday, January 3. Make checks to the church, marked "for food pantry".



Taizé 2010

Taizé Prayer Weekend 2010, an ecumenical Christian prayer event will be held January 29-30, 2010, at University Presbyterian Church in Fresno (1776 E Roberts, corner of Cedar and Roberts between Bullard and Barstow). It starts Friday evening at 6:00 pm with registration, coffee, and "Taizé Witness and Prayer" led by Jim Grant. A Taizé worship service begins at 8:00 pm.

Saturday starts with a gathering at 8:00 am and includes three Taizé prayer services—morning, midday, and afternoon. There will be two general sessions and the opportunity to choose two workshop sessions. The morning general session, led by Rev. Chris Erdman, is "Entering the Silence." The afternoon general session is "Christian Witness in a Pluralistic World" led by Rev. Bet Hannon. The prayer-experience sessions include walking the labyrinth, "How Can We do 'Greater Works': A Response to Jesus' Challenge," "Lectio Divina: Praying with Scripture-Luke 24: 36-49," "Spiritual Direction: Companions in the Journey," "Earth Prayers," and the art room.

Registration is \$25 (includes lunch) per person if received before Jan 22--\$30 after. A limited number of scholarships are available.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Nelson elizn@csufresno.edu 431-2630 or talk to Pastor Natalie or Mona White.



MLK Regional Celebration

January 10, 2010, at 4:00 pm.

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Northern California and the Regional Reconciliation Committee invites you to: CCNC-N'S Martin Luther King Jr. Regionwide Worship Service at Raynor Park Christian Church, Sunnyvale, CA; featuring keynote preacher, Cisa Payuyo, Assistant Director of Church Relations, Chapman University, Orange, CA. (See posted flier.)