



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 May 2009

Hugh Moffett

Pastor

Rev. Natalie Chamberlain
Music Minister, Mona White

Ministry Council

Eddie Lou Kester, Chair
Gary Pigg, Vice-Chair
Mona White, Secretary
Geni Dowdy, 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,

We had a glorious Easter morning. Thank you to the men who worked so hard to arrange the sanctuary, prepare for the baptism and serve a delicious breakfast. We started our morning with a trumpet call supplied by Rebekah Jackson. We had a baptism for John Newell, who had about 10 family members present.

The joy of Easter continued with "Children's Time." There were 13 children in the nursery; there were 20 people under 18 present.

After the sermon, John's wife, Misty Souza came forward to make her confession of faith. We will be having another baptism soon. Chinasa Samuel also came forward to transfer her membership. Chinasa and her husband Nate and their children have been attending for some time and we are glad to welcome them in this more formal way. God is moving among us and through us. Praise be to God and to Jesus!!!

On another subject, May 7 is National Day of Prayer in the United States. This year, I am again helping to organize the All Faiths (Inclusive) National Day of Prayer celebration at City Hall at Noon. We will have opening readings by the mayor and the City Council President. There will be prayers in words and in music from many different faith perspectives.

Last year's proclamation read as follows:
NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, as a National Day of Prayer. I ask the citizens of our Nation to give thanks, **each according to his or her own faith**, for the freedoms and blessings we have received and for God's continued guidance, comfort, and protection. I invite all Americans to join in observing this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities. (My emphasis added.)

This is an opportunity not only for us to pray for our nation and its place in the world but it is a chance to be a gracious Christian presence in the midst of a multi-faith gathering. There will be Christian-only gatherings, but this event will be one where we have the privilege of standing with one another from all over Fresno and offer our prayers in the way that fits our faith.

I hope all of you will come to the Noon event. We need to make a witness for the Christ who loves all people and not just those who pray in His name. If you are unable to attend this event, there are two Christian-only events: one at Noon at Clovis City Hall, and the other at 6 pm at Fresno City Hall.

God's blessing to all as we continue through the Easter season.



May 2009 Calendar

1	9:30 am	Friendship Day 2009: CWU <i>Pastor's day off</i>
2	8:00 am 6:00 pm	Men's Prayer Breakfast Worship
3	9:15 am 10:30 am	Christian Family Week Sunday School Worship
4	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Sumpter's
5	6:30 pm	New Beginnings Mtg.
6	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
7	Noon	National Day of Prayer at Fresno City Hall <i>Pastor's day off</i>
8		Council reports due <i>Pastor's day off</i>
9	6:00 pm	Worship
10	9:15 am 10:30 am	Mother's Day Sunday School Worship
11	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Sumpter's
12	1:30 pm 6:30 pm	CFW Mtg. at L. Sandell's Council Mtg. at Moffetts'
13	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
14		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
15		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
16	10:00 am - 2:00 pm 6:00 pm	Community Block Party and Food Drive Worship
17	9:15 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship
18	7:15 pm	Newsletter articles due Bible Study at Sumpter's
19	6:00 am - 9:30 pm 6:30 pm	State-wide special election: UCC is polling place Elders' Mtg. at Moffetts'
20	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
21		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
22		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
23	6:00 pm	Worship
24	9:15 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship & special offering
25		Memorial Day Church office closed
26	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Mtg.
27	6:00 pm	Choir Practice & Pot Luck at Moffetts'
28		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
29		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
30	6:00 pm	Worship
31		Pentecost Sunday

9:15 am	Sunday School
10:30 am	Worship & special offering

Welcome New Church Members:
Chinasa Samuel & John Newell
Please extend a warm hand of welcome to
each of them!

May Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3 Jimmy Bui
- 5 Harold Deppe*
- 7 Gary Pigg*
- 13 Mona White*
- 15 Russell Chaney
- 15 Ellen Cotten*
- 15 Barrett Whiteley
- 15 Leamon Fortson*
- 15 Bastian Morris
- 16 Maxine Luciano*
- 18 Dao Thao
- 19 Tracy* & Keith Kamimoto (A)
- 20 Hugh Moffett*
- 21 Jennifer Verduzco
- 22 Melissa Bui
- 22 Melba Jordahl*
- 22 Laurene Sandell*
- 26 Kimber Rogers*
- 26 Natalie Hodgson* (ordination)
- 31 Susan Perez



New Addresses

Mabel Schiller
539 W. Sample, Fresno, CA 93704

Beckysue Duran
2130 E. Whitmore, Apt. 1, Ceres, CA 95307
Home: (209) 241-9922
Cell for Beckysue: (209) 303-0859



**Food Pantry: Bring food on Sunday,
May 3. Make checks to the church,
marked "for food pantry".**

Missions

Pentecost Offering

PENTECOST OFFERING is for new church development, divided equally between the region in which the offering is received and general new church ministry.

“According to George Barna, leading religious topics researcher, there are more than 100 million unchurched people in the US.”

We need to reach out to these people.

Why New Churches?

Have you heard someone say, **“Why can’t they just join our church?”** as a way of expressing their reservation with planting new churches? The truth is there are many reasons why we need new churches.

People need Christ; the number of existing churches isn’t sufficient to serve the entire population effectively.

New people come to new churches; people reject doing church in the same old way. New churches provide new models for “doing church.”

Demographic shifts place people in places where there might not be a church present.

New churches provide a legacy for future generations.

New churches provide a way for us to respond to the ethnic growth of our country.

New churches help us to obey the Great Commission; Matthew 28:19.

Pen Pals

There will be a party, to meet your pen pals, on Tuesday, June 9, from 8:00-9:30 am. There will be an awards assembly following this time, and you may stay if you wish.

Let Pastor Natalie know if you will be attending. We need to make arrangements for the children whose adult pen pals are absent.

Block Party

May 16, 2009

Event time: 10:00am - 2:00pm

Plans are coming along. We are having some different groups contact us about participating this year. We still have space, if you have someone you think should be there. Have them contact Tina or the church office. We will be needing help with set up and take down, as usual. We are doing the cake walk, which is such a huge hit. If you would like to donate fresh baked goods for that, we can use them. There will be the children's craft area for sit-down jobs. We are hoping to have one of the police department's mounted horse units attending. The Exotic Animal Foundation will be bring their turtles. There will be bike safety, Hines Hospice, etc, etc, etc. - lots going on. So we will see you there!

Council Gleanings

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

1. A resolution was passed that the recorded property name of Assessors Parcel Number 435-264-21 (1038 W. Shields) be changed from Shields Avenue Christian Church to United Christian Church of Fresno.
2. Council approved that \$150 per Sunday be offered to speakers who fill the pulpit while Pastor Natalie is on sabbatical.
3. Council approved \$3500 including shipping for the purchase of a steeple for the church pending the receipt of a permit from the City.
4. In response to an inquiry from the region, Council approved letting the region know that we are interested in seeding a Hispanic church in Fresno.

Eddie Lou Kester, Ministry Council Chair



CWF/ Women's Ministries

The CWF group meeting will be on Tuesday, May 12, 1:30 p.m., at the home of Laurene Sandell, 1232 W. Andrews.



Men's Fellowship & Prayer Breakfast

Come to the Men's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, May 2, 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.

CHOIR

A BIG thanks from Sister Mona.

A big thank you goes out to all those who have shared their musical talent in worship this year. Easter worship was so inspiring to me. Thanks to Rebekah Jackson for starting our praise with her trumpet solo. Thanks to Dorothy Sumpter and Jan Moffett for their musical duets. Sunday, May 31, Pentecost Sunday, will be the last Sunday for the season that our choir will be singing. Thanks to all the choir members and to Jan Moffett, our accompanist, for your continuing dedication to edifying our weekly worship time. It is such an honor to direct you.

Our last choir rehearsal will be on Wednesday, May 27, at Jan Moffett's home. We will begin at 6:00 pm with a potluck dinner. Please join us for this final choir practice.

During the months of June, July, and August, I will be looking for people to share their gifts of music. Please call me to participate.

In Christ's service,
Mona White (776-2839)



Joys & Concerns

Bob Lewis: Recovering from surgery. Pray for good recovery.

Breeanne Morris: Home after surgery; pray for full healing.

Jasmine Roesing: Safe pregnancy; healthy baby.

Sally Salt: Employment.

Melba Jordahl: Home; pray for continued strength.

Barbara Edens: Chemotherapy done!

Yvonne Hix: In rehab; pray to regain strength.

Cleo Hastings: Continued prayers for good health.

Hazel Calderwood: Ongoing health issues.

Diana Aznavoorian: Health issues.

Laurene Sandell: Ongoing health concerns.

Emily Grace Roesing: Full healing from day surgery.

Financial Update
March 31, 2009

General Funds	\$321,046
Designated Other	3,365
Memorial & Honor Funds	6,116
Designated Outreach Funds	<u>723</u>
Total Checking & Savings	\$331,250

Monthly Offerings (includes 12% for Missions)

Total March 2009	\$7,312
Total March 2008	<u>7,716</u>
Below Prior Year	(\$ 404)

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

To March 31, 2009	\$19,632
To March 31, 2008	<u>20,521</u>
Below Prior Year	(\$ 889)

Income & Expense Jan .1-March 31, 2009

Receipts	\$ 25,021
Expenses	<u>\$ 35,391</u>
Net Decrease to 3/31/09	(\$10,370)

Honored Members

John Newell was born on September 4, 1964, in Madera, California. His father was a pump installer and his mother worked at Fresno Community Hospital as an obstetrics technician. He has three brothers.

He attended Roosevelt High School and then went to work for Dow Chemical Company. After two years, he joined the Marine Corps. He later attended Fresno City College studying vocational welding and auto mechanics. He then became a partner in a fencing company. At one time he was a trucker and has traveled to all the states. His favorite part of the country is the south.

While driving a delivery truck in Los Angeles, he had occasion to meet the movie actor Burt Reynolds as he nearly ran into his car. As a child, he met the movie actor Dean Martin at a golf tournament.

John's hobbies include drawing, watching movies and bicycling.

He went to church as a child with his grandparents and other relatives. Mona and Marshall White invited him to United Christian where he has been attending and he was baptized on Easter Sunday. Some of his seven children have attended with him. His wife, Misty, joined our church the same day.

Misty Souza was born on September 9, in Fresno, California. She was raised by her grandmother. She has one brother. She attended Fresno schools. She has eight children ranging in age from two and a half months to 12 years. One child died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

She likes to go camping, work puzzles, visit the ocean and work at the computer. She would like to go back to school and further her education.

Misty went to church as a child with her grandmother and came to UCC with John.

She plans to be baptized in the near future. Please welcome our new members.

Submitted by Dorothy Shuck



Youth Camp

United Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Fresno, is sponsoring our own youth camp this summer. We are going to Bethany Pines Camp, a Disciples retreat center near Frazier Park. The camp will start with dinner on Sunday, June 21, and end after breakfast on Wednesday, June 24. We are doing our own camp because the region's camp is so far away and is too expensive for most of our young people. Young people in grades four through eight may attend. The elementary and junior highs will have some study times in their own groups. The cost is \$110 per camper and campership help will be available.

Larry Schiller will be camp director, with Pastor Natalie leading the morning Bible study (and doing the cooking). Gary and Pam Pigg will also be counselors, with Pam doubling as camp nurse.

All young people in grades four through eight are urged to sign up with Geni Dowdy or Larry Schiller. We would like to have more campers than we have in our church, so if you know young persons who ought to go to church camp this summer please let them know about this opportunity and have them contact Geni or Larry or give us their names so that we might invite them.

Members of the church are invited to make contributions to the campership fund so that all our young people can attend. Simply write "youth camp" in the "memo" section on your check and drop it in the offering.

We are looking forward to an exciting time this summer with our youth.