



OUR
PASTOR
 will be away
 from: _____
 to: _____

November 2008 Calendar

1	8:00 am 6:00 pm	Men's Prayer Breakfast Worship
2	9:15 am 10:30 am	All Saints Sunday Sunday School Worship
3	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Sumpter's
4	6:30 pm	New Beginnings Meeting
5	5:30 pm 7:00 pm	Congregational Life Mtg. Choir Practice
6		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
7	9:30 am	Council Reports Due <i>Pastor's day off</i> Church Women United's World Community Day
8	6:00 pm	Worship
9	9:15 am 10:30 am NOON 3:00 pm	Sunday School Worship & Annual Meeting Spaghetti Luncheon Festival of Choirs at Hope Lutheran Church
10	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Sumpter's
11	1:30 pm 6:30 pm	Veterans Day CWF Mtg. at Clyvene Deppe's Ministry Council Mtg. at Moffetts'
12	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
13		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
14		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
15	6:00 pm	Worship
16	9:15 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship & Special Offering
17	7:15 pm	Bible Study at Sumpter's
18	6:30 pm	Newsletter articles due Elders' Mtg. at Edens'
19	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
20		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
21		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
22	6:00 pm	Worship
23	9:15 am 10:30 am	Thanksgiving Sunday Sunday School Worship & Special Offering
24	7:15 pm	Pastor out of town Bible Study at Sumpter's
25	6:30 pm	Worship Committee Mtg.
26	7:00 pm	Choir
27		Thanksgiving Day <i>Pastor's day off</i>

28		<i>Pastor's day off</i>
29	9:30 am 6:00 pm	Decorate the Sanctuary Worship
30	9:15 am 10:30 am	Advent Begins Sunday School Worship
1		Pastor returns to town; in office Tuesday, December 2.

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 Breeanne Morris
- 2 Charlene Nichols
- 6 Ana Rivera*
- 7 Dora Born
- 9 Angel Alvarez
- 11 Sharon Hughes*
- 13 Beckysue* & Randy Duran (A)
- 15 Victoria DeBenedetti*
- 24 Victor Verduzzo
- 25 Anne James
- 25 Isaak Samuel
- 28 Hannah James



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of the United Christian Church will be held after morning worship service on **November 9, 2008**, with a spaghetti luncheon to follow the meeting.

Festival of Choirs

Fresno Metro Ministry will present their 25th Annual Thanksgiving Festival of Choirs on Sunday, **November 9, 2008** at the Hope Lutheran Church located at 364 E. Barstow Avenue, Fresno, at 3:00 pm.

Advent

Advent, the season of preparation for Christmas, begins Sunday, November 30, with a Carols and Lessons Service during morning worship. This is a good time to invite family and friends.

The Hanging of the Greens: Those interested in helping decorate the sanctuary for this special season are invited to come Saturday morning, **November 29**, at 9:30 am.

Missions

Thanksgiving Offering Support for Leadership Training

For two centuries, Disciples colleges and universities have trained Disciples leaders to think clearly and rationally and to minister to the world around them. While those first instructors and students might not recognize modern campuses, those classic values live on in the 21st Century.

Disciples undergraduate institutions serve nearly 27,000 students in a wide variety of settings - from a rural college town with several hundred students to a metropolitan setting with almost 9,000 students. Despite those differences, these schools all share a commitment to the church, emphasize spiritual faith and values, and cherish a commitment to a liberal-arts education.

Your gift to the Thanksgiving Special Offering supports the training of our church's emerging leaders - an investment in our church's future.



Hurricane Response Continues Despite Limited Awareness and Resources Wednesday, October 15, A.D. 2008

A month after Hurricane Ike devastated scores of communities in southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana, disaster relief organizations continue to struggle to raise both public awareness for the many critical needs left by the storm and adequate resources for immediate and long-term recovery efforts.

Despite limited resources, Disciples continue to respond to the growing number of our congregations reporting members affected, as well as damaged church facilities. Altogether, Week of Compassion has provided emergency grants to more than 150 families in 17 congregations - many with catastrophic damage - and eight congregations with damaged facilities. In addition, WOC is supporting the relief efforts of two large commun World Service :



Gopp Named Next Executive Director of WOC

The Rev. Amy Gopp has witnessed the crushing impact of war, poverty and natural disaster on people's lives around the globe. But she also has seen how faith, cooperation and a resilient spirit can instill hope in devastating situations.

Gopp will draw on her experiences as a missionary, preacher, global activist and peacemaker in her newest position as Executive Director of Week of Compassion (WOC).

Amy Gopp will be visiting our area the week after our Annual Geographic Area Meeting being held on Feb 8, 2009. More details will be published later.

Food Pantry

Bring food on Sunday,
November 2.
Make checks to the church,
marked "for food pantry".

Christian Education

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?

SEEN WHAT'S NEW FOR SUNDAY
MORNINGS?

Lots of new things and classes going on at church. There are several new classes starting. With the new year approaching, there will even more to do. Come join us! Watch your newsletter for the different things happening in our church. There'll be a test and you don't want to miss out!!

Geni Dowdy, Christian Education Chair



CWF Women's Ministries

The next CWF group meeting will be November 11, 1:30 p.m., at the home of Clyvone Deppe (143 W. Fedora).

The Church Women United's World Community Day will be Friday, November 7, 9:30 a.m., at the Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY and luncheon will be December 6, Noon, at the church. Bring finger-food to share and an inexpensive gift to exchange. This year's Secret Sisters will be revealed and new ones assigned. All women are encouraged to come and share in the fun.

Craycroft service project needs: batteries, hairbrushes, tennis shoes. Place in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.



Men's Fellowship & Prayer Breakfast

Come to the Men's Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, November 1, 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. *Pastor Natalie will be cooking and serving this month!*

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.

Council Gleanings

Tuesday, October 14, 2008

Nominating Committee: Recommendation for 2009 officers was approved, which is posted on the turnaround and hall bulletin boards.

Missions: Following the congregational survey, the Missions Committee recommended that the missions giving remain at 12%, but the allocations

be increased to 2% for local missions and decreased for higher education to 1%.

Council approved \$35 for the Metro Ministry Thanksgiving Concert.

Council approved \$35 for the Taizé Prayer Weekend. Pastor Natalie will be involved in this event.

The Council approved \$250 to sponsor the Interfaith Scholars Weekend again this year. The following dates were approved: April 4, 2009 for the Easter Party, and May 16, 2009 for the Block Party.

Congregational Life: It was recommended and approved that any proceeds from the sale of the church dishes be credited to Congregational Life for the purchase of celebratory cakes and supplies.

Council approved by consensus to start a Junior Servants' program for a one year term.

Eddie Lou Kester, Ministry Council Chair

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month End: September 30, 2008

General Funds	\$323,267
Designated	3,430
Memorial & Honor Funds	6,032
Designated Outreach Funds	<u>1,759</u>
Total Checking & Savings	\$334,488

Monthly Offerings (includes 12% for Missions)

Total September 2008	\$6,336
Total September 2007	<u>6,970</u>
Below Prior Year	(\$ 634)

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

To September 30, 2008	\$63,438
To September 30, 2007	<u>61,705</u>
Above Prior Year	\$ 1,733

Income & Expense Jan .1-Sept. 30, 2008

Receipts	\$ 80,566
Expenses	<u>\$104,471</u>
Net Decrease to 9/30/08	(\$23,905)

JOYS & CONCERNS

Melba Jordahl: Ongoing health issues.
Barbara Edens: Chemotherapy.
Yvonne Hix: Regain strength.
Ardith Whelan: Severe asthma.
Cleo Hastings: Hip and knee pain.
Hazel Calderwood: Pray for strength.
Roxie Calderwood: Ongoing health issues.
Geni Dowdy: Prayers for healing & strength.
John Graham: Continued prayers for health.
Emily Grace: Pray for her and her family during her continuing health difficulties.
Diana Aznavoorian: Health issues.
Carlos Rosales: Pray for strength and healing.
Debbie Flores & family: Prayers for good family relations.
Mona White: Adjustments with health; teeth.
Beckysue: Randy's employment; moving preparations.
Thomas Lewis: Successful drug treatment program.
William Roesing: In a residential rehab program.

New! Addresses, Phones, Emails

Victoria & Larry DeBenedetti
3427 No. Fresno St., Fresno, CA 93726
Beckysue Duran
Phone: 485-0013

Wheelchairs for Collection

Residents and staff at San Joaquin Gardens invite you and your church members to help us in collecting used but restorable wheelchairs. From now until Thanksgiving, we will collect wheel chairs, walkers, canes and crutches that will be given to Joni and Friends, a ministry dedicated to changing lives one wheelchair at a time.

See posted flier for further details.

If you have any questions on our Thanksgiving project, please call Chaplain Nancy Jen at 430-8223.

Honored Members

Isaiah Boykin was born on August 18, 1999, in Visalia, California. His mother is Miyoshi and his father is Isaac. His grandmother is Mona White, our Minister of Music. He is in the fourth grade at a charter school that emphasizes arts and science. He plays trombone in the school band. He also sings in the honor choir. His favorite subject is math and he is currently studying division. There are 20 students per class. His favorite sport to play at recess is football.

For fun he likes to go swimming and play with his toy trucks. When he visits his father, he likes to go horseback riding and bowling. When he flies to Alabama to visit his great grandmother, he likes to play with his cousins and find snakes. When he visits his grandmother in Oceanside, he likes to play pool, arcade games, go swimming and sit in the Jacuzzi.

He says he wants to be a tow truck driver or football player or veterinarian when he grows up. His favorite foods are pizza, hamburgers, lasagna, greens, cake and ice cream.

Isaiah attended our church camp this year at the Community of the Great Commission. He says his favorite thing to do was swimming. He had nice counselors and met new friends including Brady, Ian, Cindy and Heather. He would like to go again next year.

He just completed Pastor Natalie's class for new church members and was baptized last Sunday (October 12). In the class he learned that Jesus died for our sins and was buried and rose again. He also learned about communion. He is thankful for his grandmother Mona, his other grandmother and grandfather, his mother and father, his great grandmother, cousins and all his friends here at United Christian Church. Please welcome Isaiah as our newest and youngest member.

Submitted by Dorothy Shuck