

The Messenger

Eureka First

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 2014



First United Methodist Church
520 Del Norte
Eureka, CA 95501

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From Pastor Kathryn...

"Lead me to the rock that is higher than I."

Psalm 61:2

Dear Ones,

Some of you have heard me share these words from Psalm 61. They are words that had great significance for me when I was recovering from major surgery many years ago. For me "the rock higher than I" was just one small step closer to regaining strength, not the reaching of the ultimate goal, but just getting a little closer, step by step. This prayer of the Psalmist can be our prayer when we are recovering from illness or injury, finding our way in any difficult situation or working toward growing our community into the world as God desires it to be.

The words in Psalm 61 that precede this petition are "From the end of the earth I call to you, when my heart is faint." When we look around and see pain and suffering in our world, degradation of the environment, crime in our neighborhoods, strife in our families, drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness, homelessness and a myriad of other problems we are overwhelmed and we can feel "faint of heart" as the Psalmist did so long ago. We want things to get better, we want the world to be a safer, healthier place for ourselves, our children, our grandchildren and our grandchildren's grandchildren.

Over 2,000 years ago Jesus was born to a peasant girl in a world filled with many of the woes we experience today. His birth brought new hope and when we follow in his Way: a way of compassion, of reaching out to all, of working with others and of taking risk in love we bring hope in our world and we experience a life lived on a "rock higher than I." As we enter this time of Advent, of waiting to celebrate the coming again of Christ as a tiny baby, let us pray with the Psalmist, "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I," and step by step let us follow Jesus the Christ.

In Love,
Pastor Kathryn



The entire United Methodist Church is seeking to raise \$75 million in the fight to end Malaria in the world. As a part of this goal the California Nevada Annual Conference has pledged \$2 million. That's a lot of money, but we are already three quarters of the way there. Now each of our four districts have been challenged to raise \$100 thousand by our Annual Conference in June of 2015. It is a reachable goal! If each church in the Great Northern District raises \$15 per worshipper between now and June we will do it. For Eureka First UMC that means \$1,770. Thanks to the first gifts given to this cause on Sunday, November 16, we are off to a good start. It is estimated that for every \$10 given a child's life will be saved.

The District Superintendents have agreed to take a pie in the face or have their head shaved at our Annual Conference session. Our own Dave Samelson will have his head shaved when our district meets the goal – so let's do our part! Be assured the the Messenger will include photos!

The Forgotten Initiative

The Forgotten Initiative is a church based program that shares the message of "bringing joy and purpose to the foster care community." Thanks to Dale Maples and the information he shared about this organization Eureka First UMC is growing into ways we can join in supporting local foster children, birth parents, foster parents and the agencies that serve them. Thank you to the seamstresses who sewed 75 Christmas stockings and to the folks who brought gifts of toys to fill them. The special offering from this year's Advent Tea will also go to support this program. Stay tuned for other ways we can be involved in love and care for these children.

Special United Methodist Sundays

November 30 is United Methodist Student Day. Special offerings received are used to award scholarships to students attending United Methodist and other accredited colleges and universities. Pastor Kathryn has been the recipient of these scholarships for her undergraduate and graduate studies. Current Eureka First UMC students Melysha Ngiraibiochel and Chloe Lindow are also recipients of scholarships from these funds. Special envelopes are available for your gifts.

"Come Into Quiet"

Pastor Kathryn will lead a series of meditations in December titled "Come Into Quiet." This will be more of a worship and quiet prayer experience than a study. Participants can choose Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM or Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM each week prior to Christmas day. We will meet in the Wesley Chapel beginning December 2.

Advent & Christmas Services and Events



Decorating the church

Anyone who would like to help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas is invited to join the fun on Saturday November 29th at 1:00 p.m. Please contact Ted & Kris Flanders (443-1448) if you plan to participate or would like more information.

Advent

Hanging of the Greens Sunday November 30th

A Single Combined 9:30 a.m. Service

Advent is the four weeks that lead up to Christmas. It is a time of anticipation and preparation. On the first Sunday of Advent, November 30th we will have a single combined Hanging of the Greens service at 9:30 a.m.

55th Annual

Advent Tea

Friday December 5th
1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Two teas are held...one in the afternoon and one in the evening. The tea begins with worship in the sanctuary includes music, readings, singing and the lighting of the Advent Wreath...a very special way to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. After the program tea and refreshments will be served. Childcare is provided. Be sure to make the Advent Tea a part of your Christmas tradition! [Call the office to reserve a seat at a tea table]

We need hostesses for the Advent Tea on December 5th at 1:00 and 7:00. Call the church office if you would like to host a table or help in any way with the preparations for this annual gift to the community from the women of our church.

Sunday December 15th

SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST

8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

In Fellowship Hall
Everyone's welcome!

Free will offering to cover expenses
Suggested donation \$4.00

Sunday December 21st 9:30 a.m.

All-Church Christmas Program

There will be a 9:00 a.m. practice Saturday December 20th for children, youth and adults who will be a part of the All-Church Christmas Program.



Wednesday December 24th

Christmas Eve Service Candlelight Service 7:30 p.m.

Come & share in this traditional light-filled celebration of carols and lessons as we welcome Christ anew into our world and into our lives. This is a wonderful service to invite family and friends to share in.



Church Family News

Minerva French would like to thank her church family for their care and concern during her recovery from injury.



If you like ballet this is the season for you

Thi Samelson, Justin Cataldo and Craig Benson are dancing in North Coast Dance's Nutcracker at the Arkley Center on Dec 12, 13, 14, 16, 17(While all three will perform in all shows, Thi and Craig will dance the roles of Clara and Drosselmeyer on Saturday, December 13 at the 4 PM Sugarplum Matinee, and at 7PM on Tuesday, December 16)

Adrienne and Avery Kerr and Grace Kimura are performing in the Trillium Dance Studio's production of 'Twas the Night before Christmas at Eureka High on December 6 and 7.

Congratulations to Aedan Cataldo, Catherine Cataldo, Anisha Mae Rechelluul, and Acacia Harvey on receiving their new Bibles!

Financial Summary

Not the end of the month yet! We'll have our finance figures soon!

NOVEMBER WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

NOVEMBER 2 ND	8:30--34	10:00-- 73	TOTAL 107
NOVEMBER 9 TH	8:30--21	10:00-- 87	TOTAL 108
NOVEMBER 16 TH	8:30--34	10:00-- 73	TOTAL 107
NOVEMBER 23 RD	8:30--36	10:00-- 103	TOTAL 139

December Birthdays

1	Pat Lewis	16	Glenn Cannon
1	Carol Goodwyn	17	Ceildh Powers
1	Katie Quintrell	17	Marjorie Johnson
2	Kelby Ross	18	Tim Ryan
4	Beverly Strubinger	23	Travis Morgan
6	Silas Morrison	24	Ken Blackshear
7	Ginny Hedgecock	25	Larry Johnson
11	Thi Samelson	26	Jim Welsh
13	Hilda White	27	Lori Green
14	Margie O'Keefe	29	Heidi Quintrell
15	Pat Leahy	29	Liam Taylor
		30	Bob Green

and anniversaries....

December 17	Catherine & Michael Moore
December 19	Silas & Joyce Morrison
December 22	Greg & Carol Goodwyn

Congratulations! -- If we missed your special day or have the incorrect date please call the church office so we can get it right next year.

The Poinsettia Project



You are invited to donate to our Poinsettia "Project" in memory or honor of loved ones. A limited number of poinsettias will be purchased to adorn our sanctuary during Advent. Remaining contributions will be used as a gift to our sister church in

Montague California. They have outgrown their facility and are expanding their building. We have pledged \$1000 over 4 years (this is our third year) to help fund this building project. Forms for this purpose will be in the bulletins and can be placed in the offering plate through December 14 or contact the church office with the information. You may take a poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve Service.

Christmas Offering

Enclosed in this newsletter is a special Christmas offering envelope. Regular weekly and monthly financial gifts are the foundation of the budget at Eureka First UMC, and "second mile" special gifts to a variety of mission projects are an important part of this church's outreach to the world, but occasional "second mile" gifts to support the ongoing work and ministry of the church are also needed to provide for all we do here. Please prayerfully consider adding Eureka First UMC to your Christmas giving list!

MUSIC AT EUREKA FIRST



Joyful Noisemaker's Children's Choir

practices every Sunday morning from 9 to 9:45, in the Children's Library in Christie Hall. Singers ages 3 to 13 are welcome to come and join us!

Praise Band

Would you like to sing or play an instrument with the worship team? Join us for rehearsals on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Special Music

Special music is sought for Sunday services. If you have ever wanted to play an instrument or sing for Sunday services, please talk to Sonia Samelson 442-3490.

Handbells

The Bella Norte Bells performed *Colors of the Wind* at the Eureka Interfaith Fellowship Thanksgiving Sing on November 18, to very gratifying applause. We are preparing our program for the Advent Tea, which will be a big first for us—our biggest program ever!

We rehearse at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays in the Christie Hall, Room 10. If you have questions or would like to participate, call Linda Dionne, director, at 497-6554. We'd love to see you!

Peanut Brittle for "Imagine No Malaria"

From Carol and Greg Goodwyn ~ As our contribution for the Imagine No Malaria Campaign, we will be selling homemade peanut brittle at the Craft Fair during the coffee hour on November 30. 100% of all sales will go to the Imagine No Malaria challenge.

Groups and events

4th Day Group

Calling all Cursillistas who would like to get together for fellowship and sewing! We will gather on the second Sunday of the month (December 14th) from 1:00 to 5:00 pm in Room 17, Christie Hall. For more information contact Margie O'Keefe – 834-2597.

YOUTH GROUP

Thursday evenings from 7 to 8 pm in the youth room, Christie Hall. All youth in 7th to 12th grade are invited. For more information contact Eric Hale at 499-4060.

Women's Book Club

The Sisters of Charlotte Literary & Teatime Society

Reading for 2015

At our November Potluck we selected the books for 2014. The group meets on the third Monday (check with the office or watch the bulletins for Jan & Feb as the 3rd Monday falls on a holiday weekend) of the month at 3:00 p.m. in the Library

January	<i>City of God</i> by Sara Miles
February	<i>The Milagro Beanfield War</i> by John Nichols
March	<i>Reservation Blues</i> by Sherman Alexie
April	<i>Major Pettigrew's Last Stand</i> by Helen Simonson
May	<i>The Art of Happiness</i> by Dalai Lama
June	<i>The Day the World Came to Town</i> by Jim DeFede
July	<i>Saint Maybe</i> by Ann Tyler
August	<i>My Stroke of Insight</i> by Jill Bolte Taylor
September	<i>An Altar in the World</i> by Barbara Brown Taylor
October	<i>Circle of Quilters</i> by Jennifer Chiaverini
November	POTLUCK

Now Hiring: New Office Manager

Eureka First United Methodist Church is now inviting applications for the position of Office Manager beginning in January 2015. If you or someone you know might be interested in this 12 hour a week, paid position, please submit a resume and cover letter to the church office by the end of November. Interviews will take place in December. The Office Manager of Eureka First UMC works closely with the pastor and other staff and volunteers and is responsible for overseeing the efficient operation of day to day secretarial, hospitality and managerial tasks. The ideal candidate for this position will have good in-person, telephone and internet communication skills. He or she will also have experience in the use of computer word, database and presentation tools as well as experience with office coping.

Annual All-Church Christmas Program

will be presented during a combined 9:30 A.M. Service on Sunday, December 21, 2014.

The Christmas Story will include a retelling of the birth of Jesus through scripture, carols, solos, dance, bells, and the Nativity.

All children and youth (toddlers through teens!) are encouraged to invite a friend, and participate in the presentation of the Nativity. There will be one Nativity rehearsal on Saturday, December 20, from 9 A.M. to 11 A.M., in the Sanctuary. Costumes will be provided!

For more information, contact Sonia Samelson (samelson@juno.com), Grace Kimura (gkimura37@gmail.com), or Linda Lewis (jazylin@pacbell.net).



Missions

SERVING AT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

On the fourth Saturday of each month Eureka First UMC helps serve the free meal at St. Vincent de Paul. If you would like to help with this project see the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall or contact Marie Granshaw (444-9150) or Catherine Moore (443-8270.)

Mission Handcraft Sales

Sunday November 30 following worship

Our African Team Ministries crafts were shipped for November 23 and 30. So we will extend the sale one more week to November 30.

African Team Ministries is a Christian ministry working as an intermediary between African and American churches providing funding for orphan and refugee relief missions and evangelism in East Africa. More than 3 million Kenyans are facing malnutrition, starvation and even death due to the worst drought and famine in 60 years. Each \$10 purchase will provide 100 meals of oatmeal and 150 servings of soup to hungry people in the drought and famine areas of Kenya.

Along with the African Team Ministries Other artisans are invited to set up a table as well – proceeds will support the Imagine No Malaria Challenge. Call the church office if you would like to participate.

Youth Bake Sale for Support of Sponsored child in Kenya (Litha)

The bake sale will take place on December 14 between services and after second service! Thanks in advance for your support!

Dinner and Devotions at the Women's Shelter

We will be serving a chicken dinner at the Women's Shelter on Saturday December 13th. Call Sharon Warren (443-1625) to volunteer to help. Still needed: mashed potatoes, vegetable, salad, fruit salad. Thank you for helping with this ministry.

Mission Pennies for birthdays and anniversaries

Spend a penny so a child can "spend a penny"!



Our Mission Pennies are helping to purchase latrines for a school in the Terrabona region of Nicaragua. The community is called Ocotillo. When Sue Peacock, Marie Granshaw and

Ken and Paula Blackshear were in Nicaragua on a mission trip they visited the Terrabona region. We remember a long ride in the back of a pickup to see wash stations, a fuel-efficient stove (like the ones we were helping to build), pigs, lots of kids wearing Tom shoes and beautiful scenery.

When there is no restroom facility on campus older students (especially the girls) are more reluctant to attend school. El Porvenir will place 3 double pit latrines at the school. This system is sustainable as a school can cycle through the two ventilated pits. By the time one is full, the second one is safe to empty out.

Cost for the school latrines is about \$2000. Jo Buescher of El Porvenir writes: "The total cost for the school latrines is about \$2000. So we're going to find a "match" -- often the organization H2O for Life will provide half the funds for a school project -- making Eureka First's share about \$1000. Does that sound do-able?" **Let's do this!**

AMOR

House Building Mission Trip to Mexico April 11-18, 2015

In April (Spring Break for our local schools) we will drive to Mexico and build a house for a Mexican Family, in conjunction with Amor Ministries. If you are interested in being a part of the Mexico House-Building Mission Team – contact Ken Blackshear 442-8556 or the church office 442-3015.

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a project that brings joy and demonstrates love to millions of children through gift-filled shoeboxes delivered all over the world. On Tuesday November 18 we delivered **51 boxes** to the collection point at Grace Baptist Church. Thank you for sharing!



Food Donations for November over 100 lbs!

Food placed in the basket in the narthex is distributed to the Food Bank, the Rescue Mission or kept in the church office for people who fall between the cracks of services available.

Food is weighed by our children on the first Sunday of each month.

Food Donations will be weighed on Sunday December 7.



Submissions to the Messenger



If you have anything you would like included in the Messenger, please send submissions directly to your friendly editor, Dan Dionne, at dldionne@suddenlink.net. And not just contributions! If you have any suggestions for how we can make the

Messenger serve our church better, we want to hear them!

Just for Kids!

First United Methodist Church Eureka, California December 2014 by Monique Hale

"For

God so loved the world,
that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in
him should not perish but
have eternal life." - John
3:16



Be a Christmas Helper

Would you like to be more involved at church?

This is how you can help:

- Sharpen and replenish pencils in the pews
- Help to decorate Sunday School classrooms and Christie Hall bulletin boards
- Weed pulling
- Much, much, more! Let us know your ideas

If you are interested in participating, please visit the bulletin board outside of the Sunday School office or contact Monique Hale at monajara82@gmail.com.

