

The Messenger

Eureka First UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 2015



First United Methodist Church
520 Del Norte
Eureka, CA 95501

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From Pastor Kathryn...

"the Lord our God, the Lord is one;" (Mark 12:29)

Dear Ones,

For my recent "mile-stone" birthday my son-in-law created a work of art for me. He asked for a favorite Bible verse and colors so that it would be very personalized. The result is beautiful rainbow colors with an extra amount of the color blue surrounding the words "The Lord our God, the Lord is one." For me these words of Jesus, who was quoting Jewish scripture, are more inclusive than they first may sound. God is the name Jews and Christians use to name the creator and sustainer of all that is, but whether persons use this name or another, it is all the same One, ultimately indefinable, that we are talking about. Jesus said these words when asked which was the first commandment of all of them, and he followed by saying, "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30-31)

In a few short weeks we will be celebrating the birth of Jesus, God in human form, the unique understanding of God that Christians have. During this season of preparation and celebration let us not get hung up on whether persons say "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays," or even if they ignore the season all together, but let us affirm and celebrate all expressions of love – love for one another, love for the natural world, love for the creator and sustainer of all that is.

In Love,
Pastor Kathryn

"Come Into Quiet"

Pastor Kathryn will lead a series of meditations in December titled "Come Into Quiet." This will be more of a reflection and 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. "Come Into Quiet" will take place in the Library in Christie Hall beginning Tuesday, December 1.

Advent & Christmas Services and Events

56th Annual
Advent Tea
Friday December 4th
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!

Sunday December 13th
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

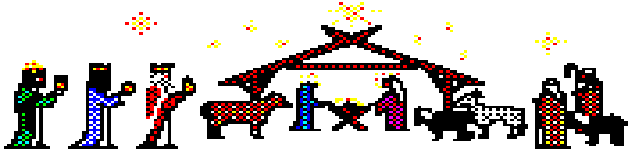


Thursday December 24th

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.



A Mary Carol - 2015 Christmas Pageant

Craig Benson is directing our children and youth in A Mary Carol, a one act play written by Katherine Willis Pershey. The play will be performed as part of our Christmas worship on Sunday, December 20 at a combined 9:30 AM Service. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this special service.



Church Family News

Please hold the following persons in prayer:

Helen Buck who is under Hospice Care at Timber Ridge in Eureka.

Pat and Art Lewis – Art is recovering from the affects of a fall.

Catherine Moore and Bert Reid who continue with chemotherapy treatments.

Rodney Van Der Sluis who is at Seaview Rehabilitation Center.

Sam Winston at Granada Care Home.

Sally Hansen who will be having surgery on December 21st in San Francisco.

December Birthdays

1	Pat Lewis	17	Marjorie Johnson
1	Carol Goodwyn	18	Tim Ryan
1	Katie Quintrell	23	Travis Morgan
2	Kelby Ross	24	Ken Blackshear
4	Beverly Strubinger	25	Larry Johnson
6	Silas Morrison	26	Jim Welsh
7	Ginny Hedgecock	27	Lori Green
11	Thi Samelson	29	Heidi Quintrell
13	Hilda White	29	Liam Taylor
14	Margie O'Keefe	30	Bob Green
15	Pat Leahy	31	Kellan Churchill
16	Glenn Cannon		
17	Ceilidh Powers		

and anniversaries....

December 17	Catherine & Michael Moore
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 13 or contact the church office with the information. You may take a poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve Service.

CALLING ALL COOKIES!!

Once again we would like to remind some members of our church family who can't get out as much or need a little extra cheering up that we remember and love them by bringing them a plate of home made Christmas cookies. This means we need lots of cookies and people who are willing to play Santa and deliver them with a smile and a Christmas greeting. We will be putting together the plates in the



fellowship hall on Sunday, December 13, after the second service. You can bring your cookies with you that morning and drop them off in the church kitchen or drop them off any time during the previous week. Place them in the refrigerator and clearly label them, "cookie day!" so they don't attract ants or cookie monsters. Since we will be filling 15-20 plates, you only need to bring 1-2 dozen. It's fun to have a big variety.

Cookie Santas Needed!!

Even if you don't bake, you can help out by delivering several plates of cookies to their recipients. Don't worry, you are allowed to ring the doorbell. Entering via the chimney is totally optional. Your visit, however short, will be appreciated. Please help us include everyone in our church family in our Christmas celebration and joy.

RENEW OUR KITCHEN PROJECT!

The thermometer shows we are getting hotter! Past the 70% point and rising! Let's keep up the heat!

Upcoming campaign event:

Chili! On Saturday, January 30th, we will have a Chili Cook-Off! Everyone is invited to bring their own special



recipe to join in the competition! We will have a variety of categories and some fun prizes. And if you don't cook, you still get to eat!

Time to start working on those recipes. Prospective cooks and judges should contact Dan Dionne (707-497-6554), email dldionne@suddenlink.net) to sign up.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

NOVEMBER 1 ST	8:30--26	10:00--	78	TOTAL	104
NOVEMBER 8 TH	8:30--34	10:00--	77	TOTAL	111
NOVEMBER 15 TH	8:30--24	10:00--	67	TOTAL	91
NOVEMBER 22 ND	8:30--40	10:00--	92	TOTAL	132
NOVEMBER 29 TH	9:30 COMBINED SERVICE			TOTAL	89

MUSIC AT EUREKA FIRST



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.

Handbells

These are busy times for the Bella Norte Bells! We performed *Mountain Springs* at the Eureka Interfaith Fellowship Thanksgiving Sing on November 18, to very gratifying applause. We will also be presenting a full program at the evening sitting of the 56th annual Advent Tea on December 4th. And Christmas music as well on Sunday, December 20th!

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!

Christian Singles Meet

On Dec. 11 we will have a unisex gift exchange, with a \$5 maximum. Homemade or unused items are fine!

Jan. 8 is movie night with a New Year's Eve DVD!

If you have questions, call Dorothy at 707-502-4445 or email dorothyw2008@gmail.com.

Missions

Thinking about Mexico

Each year for the past several years Eureka First UMC has sent a team across the border in Mexico to build a house in conjunction with *AMOR Ministries*. Our trip this coming year is scheduled for April 9-16, 2016 to coincide with the Eureka City Schools spring break. We will drive down, camp in a secure area and build a simple house for a family in the Tijuana or Tecate area. One of the unique things about this ministry opportunity is that persons of all ages can participate. Families are encouraged to come, and youth over age 15 can be a part of the team even if their families are not able to participate. If you are thinking about going or would like more information about the trip, please contact Pastor Kathryn or the church office.

Dinner and Devotions at the Women's Shelter

Every other month, members of our church host a dinner at the women's shelter in Eureka. We bring and serve the food, share a short devotion and then stay to visit with the residents during the meal. They always look forward to a good home cooked meal and new sympathetic listening ears to share their stories with. If you can help serve or provide a side dish please contact Sharon Warren at 443-1625.

New ministry—Bags for the Homeless

Brad and Diane Mettam are starting a new ministry of bags for the homeless-- simple cotton drawstring bags filled with items that are useful when you are living on the street.

Margie O'Keefe has kindly donated the fabric and offered her skills and those of the monthly sewing circle to make the bags. Inside are:

socks, a bottle of water, toothbrush & toothpaste, a packet of Tylenol, Kleenex, lip balm, sanitary hand wipes, comb, granola bars, an LED flashlight, bandana, several bandages, and a space blanket. We are hoping that some of you will feel called to help with this ministry, either by purchasing supplies to help us continue filling bags, or donating money toward the Homeless Bag Project, or even knitting or crocheting hats and gloves or mittens for inclusion in the bags. Have questions? Please call Diane at 441-9269. Donations can be dropped off at her home, 4381 Cedar Street in Eureka, or at the church.

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 Monday November 23 we delivered **45 boxes** to the collection point at Grace Baptist Church. Thank you for sharing!



Drumm Family Update

Drumms home for the holidays!



Round trip tickets for their first state side furlough have been purchased. Paul, Fabiola, Nikolaus, and Tobias will arrive in South San Francisco on December 16th. They will be in church on December 20th. You are invited to join us as we will be welcome them home. There will be a special coffee hour hosted by the mission commission.

New blog from Paul! The name of the blog is "drumbles" and the link is drumbles.blogspot.com There is only an introduction there now but Paul assures us he will be adding to it shortly. Feedback is appreciated.

And more news and plans!

Paul will be going to Costa Rica for a week in January to share his experiences and insights with other missionaries.

Paul is working to modify Peace Generation materials that were purchased for the local high schools with a grant he wrote to make them more accessible and relevant to local students. The English vocabulary is too advanced and the examples often do not reflect the realities of students lives.



Tobias and Nikolaus both dressed up as what they want to be when they grow up for a recent church celebration. Tobias went as a fireman. Nikolaus went as a surgeon. Go figure.

Food Donations for November over 100lbs!



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 6.