

The Messenger

**Eureka First
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
March 2015**



First United Methodist Church
520 Del Norte
Eureka, CA 95501

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From Pastor Kathryn...

"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease." Genesis 8:22

Dear Ones,

We have begun the Christian season of Lent, a time of reflection, preparation and anticipation of the sorrow of the crucifixion of Jesus and the joy of the Resurrection of the Christ. The season of Lent that began on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Eve is 40 days long, not counting Sundays. It is a time when many of us may have chosen to "fast" from something: food, drink, television or other behaviors. When we refrain from some pleasurable substance or activity it is a way of reminding us of the suffering of Christ and it frees us for study, prayer, devotion, fellowship or other positive activities that draw us closer to God.

This Lent I have been giving a lot of thought to the idea that however we choose to observe these days of reflection, that we participate in activities that lead to increased well being of ourselves and our community. In these beautiful pre-spring days I invite you to include experience of the natural world as part of your Lenten activity. I have been enjoying the daffodils in neighbor's yards, the first rhododendron blooms and the geese flying overhead. This will be my third spring on the North Coast and my third trillium season. I first became aware of these flowers with three white petals growing out of three green leaves my first spring in Eureka. That year and last year I went in search of them after someone else had told me about their blooming. This year I have been out in the redwoods trying to glimpse them when they first bloom, but I think it is yet a bit early. I'll let you know when I spot one, and please, you let me know if you see one.

I can think of no better practice in the season of Lent or in any season than delighting in the world that God has created. I encourage you to take a walk, visit the redwoods, watch the sunset at the beach, or just look out your window and marvel at the beautiful creation. "God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good." (Genesis 1:31)

In Love,
Pastor Kathryn



It is estimated that for every \$10 given to the Imagine No Malaria campaign the life of one child is saved. The entire United Methodist Church is seeking to raise \$75 million in this effort. Our Pastor is so confident that Eureka First UMC will double it's share of this goal to \$3,540, that she has said she will shave her head if we don't. We're getting close - \$3,386.

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of six United Methodist Special Sundays with offerings. Special "second mile" offerings received on the fourth Sunday of Lent (March 15, 2015), are used by the UMC to provide the operating costs for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief). Because of this one special offering a year UMCOR is able to keep its promise that 100% of gifts designated for specific causes are used for those causes. UMCOR is the avenue through which United Methodists can give to help people suffering all over the world. Please consider a generous gift to support this vital mission arm of the UMC! Special envelopes will be available in the worship bulletins.

"Come Into Quiet"

Pastor Kathryn is leading a series of meditations during the season of Lent called "Come Into Quiet." Included in this time will be reading of scripture and time for reflection. Participants can choose Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM or Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM each week prior to Easter, beginning February 24. "Come Into Quiet" will take place in Room 12, our Meditation Room, in the south west corner of Christie Hall.

Basic Lay Servant Ministry Course Postponed

The 10 hour Basic Lay Servant Ministrues Course scheduled in February and March hosted by our Humboldt County United Methodist Churches has been postponed to April or May. This basic course is the foundation for other courses on a variety of ministry topics including ministry of visitation, small group leadership and preaching. Please let Pastor Kathryn know if you might be interested in participating in this class or if you would like more information. Plans are being made to offer a Lay Preaching course later in the year.

The Endowment Fund

The Eureka United Methodist Church Endowment Fund has approximately \$9,096.63 to expend in 2015 for Church projects, missions and objectives that you would like to achieve in 2015. The endowment committee is accepting requests for allocation of these funds for Church projects that are important to you. **Requests need to be submitted to Church Office or Endowment Committee members (Jeanette Thulien, John Lundstrom, or Bill O'Brien-Chair) before February 28th, 2015, deadline to be considered for funding.**

Church Membership Orientation

Are you interested in finding out what it means to be a member of the United Methodist Church? Do you want to learn more about baptism? Pastor Kathryn will lead an orientation meeting for those interested in church membership and/or baptism on Saturday, March 14th from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. Please let the church office know if you would like to be a part of this orientation.

Financial Summary

February 2015

General Fund Revenue: \$15,760.50
General Fund Expense: \$13,065.85

2015

2015 General Fund Revenue: \$28,386.80
2015 General Fund Expense: \$24,847.70

Thank you for your generous giving to God through the church.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

FEB 1 ST	8:30 – 28;	10:00 – 106	TOTAL – 134
FEB 8 TH	8:30 – 40;	10:00 – 82	TOTAL – 122
FEB 15 TH	8:30 – 22;	10:00 – 73	TOTAL – 95
FEB 18 TH	7:00 P.M. ASH WEDNESDAY		TOTAL – 32
FEB 22 ND	8:30 – 25;	10:00 – 67	TOTAL – 92

March Birthdays

2 Sylvie Benson	14 Linda Dionne
3 Elisabeth Drumm	17 Connie Wilson
3 Marie Granshaw	17 Gail Johnson
6 Jamie Cameron	20 Yvonna Wheeler
10 Phil Arnot	20 Sue Peacock
12 Joanne Brekke	21 Carol Caturegli
13 Brooke Hansen	27 Michele Woodburn
13 Alison Kimura	28 Finnbar Endsley
13 Sonia Samelson	28 Kalia Spencer
14 Melanie Gosselin	

and anniversaries.....

20 Gerhard & Elisabeth Drumm
21 Tom & Karen Newton
26 Heidi & Christopher Kerr
27 Darrell & Louise Branson
28 Kathryn and Rob Dunning
30 Paul & Valerie Samelson

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.

Sunday March 8th

SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST

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

In Fellowship Hall

Everyone's welcome!

Free will offering (\$4 suggested donation)
to cover expenses

Groups and events

Church Council

The next meeting of Eureka First UMC's Church Council, the group responsible for administrative decision making of our church, will be held at 6:45, Thursday, March 19 in Room 17 in Christie Hall. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Women's Book Club –



The Woman's book club will meet in the Library, Monday, March 23rd at 3:00p.m. This month's book is Reservation Blues by Sherman Alexie.

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.

Sewing Group

Calling all Cursillistas who would like to get together for fellowship and sewing! We will gather on the third Sunday of the month (March 15th) from 1:00 to 5:00 pm in Room 17, Christie Hall. For more information contact Margie O'Keefe – 834-2597.

Spring Cursillo

A spring Cursillo weekend is planned for Thursday Evening through Sunday, April 9 – 12 at St. Bernard's School in Eureka. The weekend is an opportunity to meet with other Christians, men and women, from various denominations who are seeking to strengthen their faith. It provides an opportunity through shared prayer, worship, study, fellowship, laughter, tears, and love to experience the reality of the gift of God's love freely and unconditionally given. There is no cost to first time candidates. Contact Michele Montgomery or the church office if you are interested in attending.

Invitation from Meditation Group

The Arcata Zen meditation group has been meeting on Wednesday evenings in Christie Hall, and while you have always been welcome, we would like to "officially" invite you to join us. We offer silent meditation every Wednesday evening starting at 6 pm. We begin with 30 minutes of silent sitting, then 10 minutes of silent walking, followed by a brief conversation and adjournment by 7 pm. Whatever your own spiritual practice, we welcome you to join us in mindful experience of each moment. We are a part of the Arcata Zen Group, whose Buddhist tradition is inclusive of all beings. The Wednesday evening group is an opportunity for open community participation. You are welcome to call Barbara at 834-0085 if you have questions. Check us out -- we look forward to visitors!

Christian Singles

Christian Singles Meet met for the first time in February, and plans to meet on the second Friday of each month (March 13) at 7:00 PM in the Fireside Room in Christie Hall. The purpose of this gathering is to meet other unattached Christians in our community. Each evening will include refreshments and get acquainted activities. Invitations have been sent to other churches in Eureka and it is hoped that many of our own single folks will attend. Please contact Dorothy Weber (707) 502-4445 (dorothyw2008@gmail.com) if you would like more information, or if you would like to help with the planning and hosting of these gatherings.

Church Family News



Prayers of Thanksgiving for:

Tom Newton who is back in worship and healing and gaining strength.

Jean Ogimachi who was strong enough to be in worship for the first time in months.

The birth of Kegan Graham McAllister born February 5 in Arizona. Kegan is the son of Lisa and Brett McAllister, grandson of Bert and Joyce Reid, brother of Kieran and Ceilidh Powers.

Prayers of healing for:

Pat Lewis who is home and receiving radiation treatments five times a week.

Joyce Morrison recovering from surgery for a broken femur at St. Joseph's hospital and will be moving to a rehabilitation center soon.

Chloe Lindow Spangler who will have a benign tumor removed from her jaw.

Thank You!

From Paula Blackshear

I feel so blessed by the amazing luncheon on February 1. It was so special to have all of my "bosses" there (one by the magic of technology). Thank you for the delicious food, the beautiful decorations, the song, the gifts and all of your good wishes and hugs.

Working in the church office has been a blessing - I loved the surprises - most days didn't go as planned. I loved the challenges - making the books balance, trying to keep the building-use schedule straight, dealing with the many requests of drop-in visitors. Most of all I loved that I got to be involved in your lives: the big moments - funerals, weddings, confirmations, special anniversaries, baptisms; and the everyday things - your family news, your ideas for ministry, your child's latest accomplishment, illness or crisis. It has been an honor and a privilege. Thank you for blessing my life. I would like to share two special memories that show how unique the church office manager becomes.

- *One day a couple was coming in to the office to plan the memorial service for their young son who was killed in a car accident. The pastor was called away and I was enlisted to help plan the service. That time spent with this couple, to witness their faith and share in their grief, was an hour of my life that I will cherish forever.*
- *Another day, a couple came to the office and asked to see the pastor. They went into the sanctuary and after about an hour, the pastor came and asked me if I wanted to be in a wedding. The couple went home and got their marriage license, I was the matron of honor and got to hold their baby during the ceremony. Has that ever happened at your job?*

I am blessed to be a part of the Eureka First UMC Community in the office or not. Thank you.

Lectionary Readings in March

March 1, 2015	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	March 8, 2015	Exodus 20:1-17
	Psalms 22:23-31		Psalms 19
	Romans 4:13-25		1 Corinthians 1:18-25
	Mark 8:31-38		John 2:13-22
March 15, 2015	Numbers 21:4-9	March 22, 2015	Jeremiah 31:31-34
	Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22		Psalms 51:1-12
	Ephesians 2:1-10		Hebrews 5:5-10
	John 3:14-21		John 12:20-33
March 29, 2015 (Passion/Palm Sunday)	Liturgy of the Palms:	Liturgy of the Passion:	
	Mark 11:1-11		Isaiah 50:4-9a
	Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29		Psalms 31:9-16
			Philippians 2:5-11
			Mark 14:1-15

ECUMENICAL LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS AND DEVOTIONS

Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

During the first five Wednesdays of Lent, several of our Eureka Churches will once again host Ecumenical Lenten Dinners. Each evening begins with a simple meal of soup and bread, followed by a brief worship service.

February 25	Calvary Lutheran
March 4	First Congregational
March 11	TBA
March 18	Eureka First UMC
March 25	Eureka First Presbyterian

MUSIC AT EUREKA FIRST

Praise Band

Would you like to sing or play an instrument with the worship team? Join us for rehearsals on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.—note the day change!

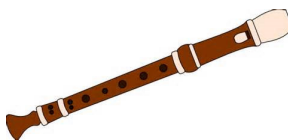


Special Music

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

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!



Do you play recorder?

If you play recorder, even a little, and you are interested in joining with like-minded tootlers to learn a bit, play some music together, and possibly (gulp) perform in church someday, contact Dan Dionne so we can see about arranging to get together. (dldionne@suddenlink.net, 408 497-6554).

Missions

Last Call for Mexico!



This Sunday we begin our final preparations for the Mission to Mexico with a TEAM MEETING AFTER CHURCH

(second service). We will be finalizing plans, collecting paperwork and fees and going over lists of what to bring. There is still time to join the team; call Ken Blackshear at 442-8556 for more information.

As always, the support of the congregation as the sending team is critical for a successful mission. Be sure to keep this project in your prayers, take the opportunity to give financially, and don't forget to send cookies along! Cookies are the special fuel that energizes and reminds the travelers that this is a whole church effort.

The team will be traveling April 11 to 18 for this mission where we build a home for a family in Mexico.

Help Build a Home

Once again we are asking the church to help supply the building materials to create the new home for a family in Mexico. We will be creating a "felt house" house in the sanctuary to represent the real thing. Donate money for building supplies and watch the house grow. This year we'll be starting with cement for the foundation. The total cost for all the building materials is about \$2,400. Our Mexico team will supply the labor and love.

MEXICAN BRUNCH 3/29

Even if you can't go down to Mexico to swing a hammer or stir up batches of concrete, join us after church on Palm Sunday for a Mexican themed brunch with entertainment by many of the talented people of Eureka First UMC. If you have a talent to share, call Sonia Samelson at 442-3490. Brunch will be served from about 11:00-12:00. The food will be delicious and the company scintillating. There will be a free will offering to support the AMOR mission team.

PICO True North Organizing Network

True North Organizing Network will convene a Regional Assembly on Saturday, February 28, 12-4 at the Orick Community Center. Lunch and childcare will be provided. Participation from Eureka and specifically Eureka First UMC is critical to the success of this event where regional themes will be chosen and a "season of research" region wide will begin. The first Eureka area Research meeting will be held at Eureka First UMC on Monday, March 16th from 6:00p.m.-7:30p.m. Please contact Pastor Kathryn, Herb Pierce, Sharon Warren, Linda Lewis, or Erin Powers-Taylor for more information.

The *True North Community Organizing Network* (PICO) is a group of people with common values united across Tribal Lands, Del Norte, and Humboldt Counties – families, elders, youth, and individuals of diverse faith traditions, races, cultures, and economic capacities. This organization supports everyday people working together, using the power of relationships and a disciplined community organizing model to courageously address the most pressing problems affecting our communities.

UPDATE FROM THE DRUMM FAMILY



The thrills:

- Paul is training and assisting local people as they attempt to translate bible stories of Jesus. To facilitate his participation he has enrolled in Masters Degree program through the University of Texas for translation consultants.
- Fabiola will be attending the birth of a Muslim friend's baby after giving her prenatal support and counseling.
- a 2 day visit to the farm of local friends for New Years which included an evening of fireworks
- Tobias lost a tooth
- Fabiola's dentist's uncle is a supervisor in the local visa office. Guy who was charging them "extra fees" got fired. Paul and Fabiola got a partial refund.

The spills:

- Impossible to fence out local chickens from vegetable beds. Chickens fly over the fence. Baby chicks squeeze under the fence.
- Fabiola had an accident while riding her motorcycle. All the passengers and the bike survived with nothing more than a few minor scrapes.
- The Masters Degree program costs \$2500/yr. in tuition (Paul hated spending extra money)

Banana Hut Fundraiser

Save those Sunday Bulletins! If you bring your bulletin into Banana Hut Restaurant in Eureka and present it to your server, 10% of your food and non-alcoholic purchases will be sent to our Church. This program will run until June 30, 2015.

Food Donations

The church family responded to the challenge of not meeting our 100 pound goal in January by donating over 200 pounds the following month in February. We even had to recruit some adults with strong backs to help with the weighing and organizing of all that food. Your generosity and faithfulness continue to amaze me. This food will be used to help provide for those in the community who are hungry and running out of food. Some will go to the Food Bank, and the Rescue Mission, and some will remain in the church office for special emergency requests. Well done good and faithful servants!



DRUMM STICK SUNDAY 3/15

As their home church we continue to raise funds for the Drumm Family who are serving Christ in South Asia. One Sunday a month we sell DRUMM STICKS (ice cream cones) -- \$2 each. So, treat yourself to ice cream occasionally and support this exciting project



Free for the taking: 5' wide sliding glass door, excellent condition. Replaced with wider door. Call Brad or Diane, 441-9269.

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 ddionne@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!