

The Messenger



First United Methodist Church
520 Del Norte
Eureka, CA 95501

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**Eureka First
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
January 2020**

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From Pastor Kathryn...

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning: great is your faithfulness."

Lamentations 3: 22-24

Dear Ones,

Merry Christmas! Yes, I know this letter will reach you after Christmas day, but the Christmas season actually begins on December 25 and ends twelve days later on Epiphany, January 6, so you will receive this during the Christmas season. As we move thorough Christmas into the New Year of 2020, I encourage you to experience each day knowing that God's love and mercy "are new every morning."

Several weeks ago I began an almost daily practice of driving to Samoa Beach shortly before sunrise to take a short walk on the beach. This was my first experience of walking on the same ocean beach at the same time (as measured by the sun) on successive days. On the second day I was immediately struck by how different the ocean and beach looked from the day before. Over the past 54 days I have walked the same section of beach on 41 different mornings and no two experiences have been the same. Years ago at Lake Tahoe I remember looking at the ripple pattern of sand underneath the clear water at the end of the Kings Beach pier and in that moment I realized that we never really look at the same thing twice. Even as I watched, the water and wind action were rearranging those sand ripples. At Samoa Beach the changes are more dramatic and a true reminder that God is always in the process of creating, of making things new. We, made in the image of God, are called to be co-creators, demonstrating, modeling and living out the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love we associate with the weeks proceeding Christmas Day and that are what Jesus was sent to remind us of and call us to over 2000 years ago at his birth. The Hope we associate with Jesus and our Christian faith is not hoping and wishing for some particular thing or outcome, but rather it is a way of being, of being open to surprise,

to the unimaginable. When we speak of the Peace that Christ brings it is about more than the absence of war or even the personal assurance of our salvation. The Peace of Jesus the Christ must involve engaging with and listening to those who are different from us in all the wonder of God's diverse creation. The Joy of Christ is not a result of happenstance in our life, but rather the result of gratitude that we cultivate in all the circumstances of our lives. Too often we understand love to be a feeling but the Love of Christ is a way of saying yes to belonging, of expanding, recognizing and accepting that we are all one with every other person, life form, the entire earth and the universe.



As you greet and move into the New Year, please take time to observe the constant renewing of God's creation as manifest in the natural world and cultivate the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of Jesus the Christ. Happy New Year!

*In Love,
Pastor Kathryn*

A Covenant Service in the "Wesley Tradition"



John Wesley, an 18th Century Anglican priest, sought to revitalize the faith of persons in the church of his time and place and in so doing became the founder of

Methodism, a branch of Christianity that includes the United

Methodist Church. John Wesley believed that all Christians should reaffirm their covenant with God on an annual basis, so he created a special service in which participants renew their personal covenant with God. We will participate in "John Wesley's Covenant Service" as part of worship at Eureka First United Methodist Church on the Sunday December 29 with music, scripture and liturgy focused on renewal of covenant in response to God's grace, and then plan to join with the Baptists, Nazarenes and us Methodists at 10:45 AM for a Praise Block Party at the Nazarene Church just a couple of blocks away on the corner of E and Humboldt Streets.

We end 2019 with a Praise Block Party

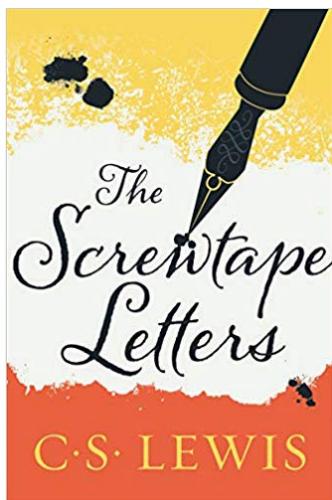


Pastors Kathryn Dunning, Cassie Wyland (Eureka First Baptist) and Steve Berti (Eureka First Nazarene) are planning a "Praise Block Party" to be held at 10:45 AM at the Nazarene Church (corner of Humboldt and E

Streets) on the last Sunday of the year, December 29. We will share praise, worship and communion together as a way of ending 2019 and preparing for 2020. Following the service will be a chili and corn bread lunch. You are invited to share a favorite pot of chili and/or a serving of corn bread if you are able to.

Eureka First UMC will begin the morning at 9:30 in our sanctuary to share in a Wesley Covenant Service until 10:30, and then we will proceed to the Nazarene Church to join together there with our Baptist and Nazarene neighbors at 10:45. Don't miss this opportunity for a meaningful and ecumenical ending to 2019.

New Study Coming in February



Because Pastor Kathryn will be traveling for continuing education and vacation with her family during half of the month of January there will be no weekly study on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during January.

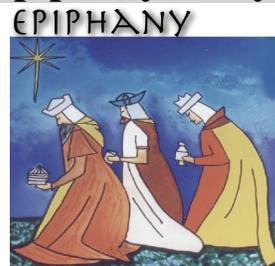
Beginning February 4th and 5th Pastor Kathryn will lead a study on C.S. Lewis' book *The Screwtape Letters*, a Christian classic that Pastor Kathryn thinks everyone should read at least once in their life time, if

not many times. The theme of *The Screwtape Letters* is about the continual struggle between the forces of good and evil, and is presented in an entertaining and captivating way by C.S. Lewis, most famous for writing *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Between now and February be on the lookout for copies of the widely circulated *Screwtape Letters* in Little Free Libraries and thrift stores. The book, though originally printed during the 1940s, is also available to purchase online and in bookstores, but there are also free sources on the internet.

The study on *The Screwtape Letters* will take place in Room 16 (Library) in Christie Hall Tuesdays at 7:00 PM and Wednesdays at 10:00 AM.

You are invited to an Epiphany Party!

The Christmas season does not end until the 12th day of Christmas, January 5, Epiphany. Epiphany is the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (aka Wise Men or Kings). It is the day when Christians traditionally celebrate the coming of the Magi to visit the baby Jesus (probably two years old or so by the time they got there). This year Eureka First UMC will host an "Epiphany Party" on Sunday, January 5 following our 9:30 AM Worship Service, complete with Kings Cake. This is not planned as a meal, but it might end up being that depending on what party attendees bring to share. You are invited to bring a favorite holiday treat – perhaps an appetizer, a sweet thing, or? to share.



Human Relations Day is one of the Six Special Sundays with Special Offerings in the United Methodist Church, and is generally near Martin Luther King Day. This year we will participate in Human Relations Day on Sunday, January 26. Your gifts to Human Relations Day provide avenues to restored relationships through ministries that strengthen community outreach and empower at-risk youth.

THANK YOU! To all the work day (plus) volunteers in December



Thank you to those who volunteered on our Second Saturday Work

Day in December: Brad Johnson, Brad Mettam, Rob Dunning, and Pastor Kathryn. It was a small work crew, but look at all they accomplished:, finished trimming trees by Christie Hall, picked up trash, found lost items, painted cabinet in the hall near the kitchen, painted women's restroom door, repaired a table, replaced a ceiling panel, put some things back in the proper places, checked and sorted and cleaned up electronic equipment in the balcony, and touched up paint on pews. THANK YOU!



Second Saturday Work Days

On Saturday, January 11, from 9:00 to 1:00, the Board of Trustees invites the whole church to come together to do the varied tasks of cleaning, sorting, and fixing that keep our church buildings and grounds in good shape. There are inside and outside tasks for everyone to do. Lunch is served to all the workers at noon.

Sound and Video opportunity

Are you interested in learning something new? Do you want to have our own reserved seat in church? Do you want to give Brad a break from time to time? Consider becoming a part of the sound and video team. If you are interested in seeing what this is all about, please leave a message with the church office.



Sunday January 12th

SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST

8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

In Fellowship Hall

Everyone's welcome!

Free will offering (\$5 suggested donation)
to cover expenses

DECEMBER WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

DECEMBER 1	TOTAL - 72
DECEMBER 8	TOTAL - 61
DECEMBER 15	TOTAL - 61
DECEMBER 22	TOTAL - 76
DECEMBER 24	TOTAL - 128
DECEMBER 29	TOTAL - XXX

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.

Handbells

No Third Saturday Supper in January ☺ But the suppers will be back!



Women's Book Club

The Sisters of Charlotte Literary & Teatime Society will meet Tuesday, January

21 at 3:00 p.m. in the Library. The book is *River of Fire* by Sister Helen Prejean and the hostess is Sue Peacock.



Church Family News

We were saddened by the death of Michele Montgomery on November 27, Thanksgiving Day, but rejoice that she is now whole and well in the eternal and loving embrace of our God. A celebration of her life was held in our sanctuary on Saturday, December 7.

Please hold the following persons in prayer:

Don Quintrell who is scheduled for hip surgery in San Francisco January 21

Shirley Peterson, recently hospitalized.

Faith, 8 year old granddaughter of Brad Johnson, facing open heart surgery.

Jane Nelson's 4 year old grandnephew, Rhett

Joshua Ruch, a young man dealing with depression.

Cory Cassevah, son of Sedona Bowser

Cookie Mahler
 Galeladi Runningbrook
 Herb and Sally Pierce
 Neal Sligh
 Silas Morrison
 Ralph Nelson
 Aaron White and family
 Nancy Quintrell
 Jonathan O'Keefe
 Wayne Palmrose
 Irene Hedgecock

Hollie Klingel
 Sadiki Koo's
 Sharon Warren
 Gail Johnson
 Diane Mettam
 Bev Strubinger
 Vis Upatisringa
 Marty Johnson
 The O'Keefe family
 Mark McKinney

Ringling into the holidays!



The Bella Norte Bells just concluded their busiest holiday season ever. After ringing "Feed the Birds" at the Community Thanksgiving Sing, we went wholeheartedly to work on our Christmas offerings. Our

traveling Kettle Bells group (Dan, Linda, and Michele from Eureka First, and Erica, Heather, and Floyd Peterson from Redwood Christian Fellowship in Fortuna) rang at the Salvation Army, Mad River Community Hospital Day Care, Timber Ridge, Hospice of Humboldt, and the Eureka Inn, as well as ringing alongside the stalwart ringers from the Salvation Army at several retail locations—the last one just before the rain started falling in earnest.



MISSIONS

Clothing for the Homeless

Louise Fredrickson is collecting jackets, gloves, scarves, hats, socks for the homeless to help keep them warm this winter. There is a basket in Wesley Chapel to collect donations. Please do not donate underwear or other items of clothing than the ones requested.



New Recipient of Birthday and Anniversary Pennies



The Mission Committee has selected a new recipient for our birthday and anniversary pennies. Betty Chinn is opening a winter shelter and needs warm, washable

blankets. The Committee has purchased some blankets to contribute from undesignated mission dollars, but there will be an ongoing need for more blankets and so that is what our birthday and anniversary pennies will purchase in the coming months.

Food Donations for December—220 pounds!

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. Our goal is to collect one hundred pounds of food each month.



Food Donations will be weighed on Sunday January 5.

DRUMM STICK SUNDAY 1/19



The Drums are in South Asia! As their home church we raise funds to support their project. One Sunday a month we sell DRUMM STICKS (ice cream cones) -- \$2 each. So, treat yourself to ice cream and support this exciting project.

From our Bishop's Advent Letter:

I seek to see the Christ Child through my daily devotions, through worshipful gatherings of the staff of our Conference Center, and Sunday worship at churches in our Conference. I love the songs of Advent, the ritual of the lighting of candles, and hearing anew the Biblical story of this blessed season. But this year I have been powerfully reminded that the Christ Child is born on the margins of life, among the poorest, in the darkness of rejection, among the lowliest of creatures, in the crevices between death and life. Can we meet him there?

Let's walk out into the darkness, out to the margins of life, into places we may not choose to go. Let's extend ourselves to those whose life may be different from ours. Let's share our lives and what we are blessed to have with those who have nothing and who yearn for a true friend, a loving family. Let's be vulnerable dreamers of the world as

it should be according to God's hope. Let's travel to where the Christ Child will be born anew this year and every year so that we can fully see and experience the glory of God's presence with us.

Let's not get so busy with making our Advent and Christmas Eve worship services and our family celebrations so perfect that we lose sightings of God beckoning us to go to the places where the Christ Child is being born even now.

Advent blessings to All of you,

Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño



Four generations together at the holidays



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 editor@firstumceureka.org.