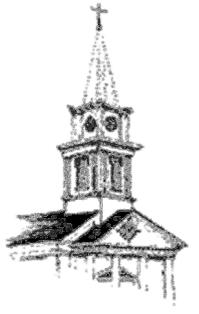




The Messenger

Eureka First United Methodist Church

March 2020



Rev. Kathryn Dunning, Pastor
Pastors's Cell (707) 599-2295

Office Phone (707) 442-3015
Office Email: grace520@pacbell.net
Website: firstumceureka.org

From Pastor Kathryn...

"Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you."

Jeremiah 29:12

Dear Ones,

I write this letter on the eve of Lent, Tuesday, February 25, 2020. Lent is the season of 40 days before Easter, not counting Sundays, that begins on Ash Wednesday each year. It is a tradition among many Christians to give up something during this



season as a way of sharing in the 40 days that Jesus fasted in the wilderness following his baptism. By giving up something we also free our resources and/or time so that we have more time and resources to spend in relationship with God. Are you giving up something this Lent? Ash Wednesday is only hours away as I write and I'm still not sure if or what I will do differently in the next 40 days. There is no "requirement" that Christians observe the tradition of giving up something for Lent or for treating these days and weeks leading up to Easter any differently than any other 40 days, but it is good for us to periodically examine our practices and perhaps give up or take on something new as we grow in relationship with God through Jesus the Christ. By the time you read this letter there will be less than 40 days of Lent left, but don't let that stop you from prayerfully discerning what you might do new, or in a new way.

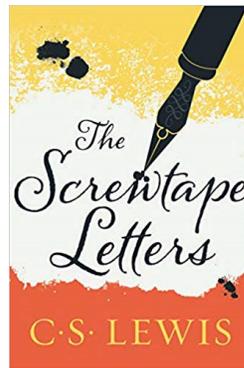
Probably the most common thing that I hear people say they are giving up during Lent is sweets. Other things to consider giving up, or changing the time and money we spend on them are: coffee at a favorite coffee shop, eating out, hours spent watching television, hours spent online or playing video games. But more important than what we give up is what we do with the time and resources that are freed up by our sacrifice. Consider new spiritual practices related to prayer, scripture reading, worship, spending time with other Christians, serving persons in need, spending time in nature.

One thing to include in your prayers is the new pastor who will be appointed to serve Eureka First United Methodist Church on July 1, 2020. I don't know about you, but I am eagerly awaiting that announcement that I anticipate and hope will be made before Easter. I trust that the Holy Spirit is working through our District Superintendent and Bishop to discern who is the right person at this time to serve this church in this community. "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11

And keep looking for trilliums! I have yet to see my first trillium in 2020, but thank you to Karen Newton and Louise Fredrickson for sharing pictures of their first sightings of these sweet white blossoms with 3 petals, most often seen amongst our redwood trees. Lent is definitely trillium season on the north coast.

In Love,
Pastor Kathryn

Screwtape Letters study continues



Pastor Kathryn is leading a study on C.S. Lewis' book *The Screwtape Letters* Tuesdays at 7:00 PM and Wednesdays at 10:00 AM in Room 16 (Library) in Christie Hall. Newcomers are welcome, and Pastor Kathryn has a couple of copies of the book available for those who need one.

The *Screwtape Letters* is a lively and provocative read that explores what your personal devils (whether you believe in them or not) are up to.

Please come join us for stimulating discussion and great fellowship!



The official day of UMCOR Sunday is March 22, 2020. All are encouraged to celebrate this Sunday on any Sunday throughout the year.

UMCOR lives out signs of Christ's extravagant grace in the world by prayerfully working with communities that are overwhelmed by natural or man-made disasters. UMCOR builds on the strengths of what is already available in a

community and actively involves the people affected in recovery efforts. One of the wonderful aspects of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so much more together than we ever could do on our own – and through our connection UMCOR has been doing this for 80 years. The special offering received on UMCOR Sunday helps support the small but impactful UMCOR staff who are specialists in disaster response and recovery. Funds also ensure adequate training for emergency response coordinators, construction volunteers, and case managers who assist victims of disasters, chain saw gangs and sheetrock installers.

Endowment Fund Requests

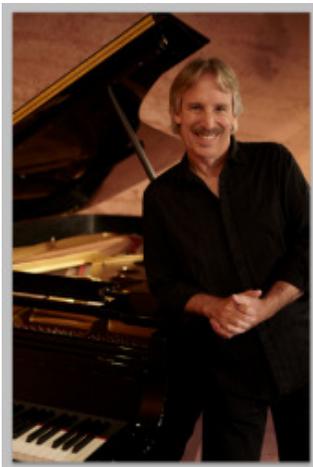
The Eureka United Methodist Church Endowment Fund has approximately \$14,000 to expend in 2020 for Church projects, missions and objectives that you would like to achieve in 2020. The endowment committee is accepting requests for allocation of these funds for Church projects that are important to you. Requests need to be submitted to the Church



ENDOWMENT FUND

Office before the March 24, 2020, deadline to be considered for funding.

The Endowment Fund may only be used for purposes consistent with the mission of the Church.



John Nilsen in Concert at Eureka First

Award winning Oregon Pianist, John Nilsen, will be performing at Eureka First UMC on April 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the evening. The concert will be preceded by a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. The concert is free; however a free will offering will be taken with a recommended donation of \$10. Invite your

friends! This is a musical event you won't want to miss! For more information about John and his music, you can go to <http://www.magicwing.com/JohnNilsen.html>



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

Thank you to those who volunteered on our Second Saturday Work Day in February: Brad Mettam, Rob Dunning and Kathryn Dunning, Bill and Barb O'Brien, Connie Wilson, Jaspar and Holly Sage, JoAn Brady. Look at some of the things they accomplished: Put new hanger on a drain pipe, Pulled weeds, Ordered ceiling tiles for Fellowship Hall, Began prep to paint windows in Christie Hall, Washed and painted a cabinet in room 15, repaired floor tiles in Christie Hall, Touched up paint on altar rail and other areas in sanctuary, Put hymnals and envelopes in order, and put a hymnal holder back on a pew. THANK YOU!

Second Sunday Breakfast Volunteers Needed

Our Second Sunday Breakfast will be March 8th. The kitchen crew will be working hard to be sure that you can all enjoy a filling breakfast and some fellowship before service. The kitchen crew would also like to seek and find a few more volunteers to help serve and clean up on our breakfast days. Please contact the church office or Pam Coen (707-496-4424) if you are being led to serve in this way.

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.



Women's Book Club

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

17 at 3:00 p.m. in the Library. The book is *The Bird Artist* by Howard Norman and the hostess is Marie Granshaw.

Sunday March 8th

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

Second Saturday Work Day



the workers at noon.

On Saturday, March 14, 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

March Birthday Bash!

Do you have a March birthday? We would like to invite you to our birthday gathering March 8. We will be meeting at Chapalas restaurant (201 2nd st) at 12:30 For lunch followed by a 2 pm matinee at Redwood Curtain Theatre (220 1st st) to see "bloomsday", and Irish, time-travel, romance. The four of

us did this last year and had such a good time we're doing it again this year and opening it up to others. Matinee tickets can be purchased on line at redwoodcurtain.com or leave a message at 443-7688. Please leave a message for Marie at 444-9150 if you want to join us for lunch. Happy Birthday! Marie Granshaw, Connie Wilson, Michele Woodburn and Linda Dionne.





Church Family News

Please hold the following persons in prayer:

Sharon Sligh
 Bev Strubinger
 Don Quintrell who is dealing with severe hip pain
 Faith, 8 year old granddaughter of Brad Johnson
 Jasper's grandmother Margo, continuing to recover
 from hip surgery and stroke
 Shirley Peterson
 Cookie Mahler
 Hollie Klingel
 Galeladi Runningbrook
 Sadiki Koo's
 Herb and Sally Pierce
 Sharon Warren
 Neal Sligh
 Gail Johnson
 Silas Morrison
 Jane Nelson's grandnephew, Rhett
 Cory Cassevah, son of Sedona Bowser
 Joshua Ruch, a young man dealing with depression.
 Diane Mettam
 Ralph Nelson
 Aaron White and family
 Nancy Quintrell
 Vis Upatisinga
 Marty Johnson
 Jonathan O'Keefe
 The O'Keefe family
 Wayne Palmrose
 Mark McKinney
 Irene Hedgecock

Celebrating our youngsters!



Lost and Found



This Sweater was left in the Church some time ago. If it looks familiar please call the office at 442-3015.

March Birthdays

2 Sylvie Benson	13 Sonia Samelson
3 Marie Granshaw	14 Melanie Gosselin
3 Sharon Sligh	14 Linda Dionne
6 Jamie Cameron	15 Donna Roberts
9 Neal Sligh	17 Connie Wilson
10 Phil Arnot	17 Gail Johnson
11 Jane Nelson	20 Sue Peacock
12 Joanne Brekke	21 Carol Caturegli
13 Brooke Hansen	27 Michele Woodburn
13 Alison Kimura	28 Kalia Spencer

and anniversaries.....

21	Tom & Karen Newton
26	Heidi & Christopher Kerr
28	Rob & Kathryn 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.



Financial Summary

January 2020

General Fund Revenue:	\$14,907.00
General Fund Expense:	\$16,405.06

YTD 2020

2020 General Fund Revenue:	\$14,907.00
2020 General Fund Expense:	\$16,405.06
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Thank you for your generous giving to God through the church.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

FEBRUARY 2	TOTAL - 62
FEBRUARY 9	TOTAL - 78
FEBRUARY 16	TOTAL - 62
FEBRUARY 23	TOTAL - 70

MUSIC AT EUREKA FIRST



Praise Band

Would you like to sing or play an instrument with the worship team?

Join us for rehearsals on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Handbells

Easter is coming! So the Bella Norte Bells are working hard on music for all the Easter special occasions. In addition, we will be ringing Monday, March 16, for a noon meeting at the Episcopal Church. Wouldn't you love to join us? We'd love to have people who can read music a little and love handbells a lot! Join us for rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7 in Christie Hall.

MISSIONS



This picture shows the 12 volunteers who made up a United Volunteers in Mission Team to work in Puerto Rico. They represent 6 United Methodist Churches in Northern California. The group was coordinated by Steve Elliott from the San Ramon United Methodist Church and Leslie Carmichael from the Los Altos United Methodist Church.

The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico working with its community outreach program RE-ACE (Rebuilding Communities with Hope) received a grant from the United Methodist Committee on Relief and have used those funds to coordinate efforts to establish and distribute aid to people across the network of Puerto Rican Methodist Churches.

Teams have been traveling and working in Puerto Rico since Hurricane Maria struck the island. This year's team worked on 5 different homes performing various tasks. These included painting, stuccoing, roof framing, cleaning, hanging cabinets and doors and installing windows. The group stayed at a Methodist Church Camp and was able to enjoy some time exploring the beautiful island.

Mexico Mission Team



Once again we will team with Church of the Joyful Healer in McKinleyville to build a house with AMOR ministries in Mexico. The team will travel the week of April 11-19. Please contact Tony Giraud (707-499-6660),

the leader of the trip, or our church office if you want more information about being a part of the North Coast Mission Team to Mexico.

Winter Clothing Collection



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.

DRUMM STICK SUNDAY 3/15



The Drumms 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.

New Recipient of Birthday and Anniversary Pennies

The Mission Committee has selected a new recipient for our birthday and anniversary pennies. Betty Chinn has opened 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 March—143 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, April 5th.

A Word About the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Our news has been inundated with the newly discovered Coronavirus (COVID – 19) and many are concerned about how we can best protect ourselves and our loved ones from the spread of this new virus. The best preventive for this, and the spread of any other communicable disease, is to practice basic hygiene of frequent hand washing, coughing and sneezing into an arm or tissue, and isolating ourselves from others when we have symptoms of illness.

There are reports in United Methodist Denominational communications of how a variety of UMC churches are approaching this issue, including the temporary suspension of the Passing of the Peace where many people come into physical contact with others through handshakes and hugs, and to modifications in communion practices.

At Eureka First UMC we will continue the practice of the Passing of the Peace, but ask you to refrain from touching others if you are overly concerned about being exposed to illness and especially if you have any symptoms of illness yourself. Our communion practice of sharing a common loaf of bread and dipping the bread in a common cup raises some concerns. Because of these concerns it is our practice for the bread servers to break off a piece of bread to hand to each recipient so that only one hand touches the common loaf. If you are concerned about dipping that bread into the shared cup, you may choose to eat the bread without dipping or to drink the juice from one of the individual cups of grape juice that may be provided on the altar.

Please hold our public health departments in your prayers as they find the best ways to address this current spread of disease. And keep in your prayers all who may be affected directly by COVID-19.

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@firsteurekaumc.org