

## **PASTOR'S PAGE**

I don't know about you, but I cannot believe it is December already! This year has, as the old saying goes, "flown by!" The past couple of years have been, well, "unusual;" and that seems like the understatement of all understatements! In the midst of all of the unbelievable, confusing, and frustrating circumstances we are living through—from the pandemic, economic challenges, war in Ukraine, natural disasters—I would like to point out a scripture I recently came across that really spoke to my heart:

*"It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed."* Deuteronomy 31:8 (NRSV)

God is with us. God will not leave us, nor forsake us. This passage immediately drew me to the Gospel of John:

*"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."* John 1:14 (NRSV)

The Incarnation is what Christmas is about—God became one of us when Jesus came to the earth He created, to save us. The late, Paul Harvey, told the story of "The Man and the Birds" every year on his radio program for decades. It describes a man who could not make himself go to church with his family on Christmas Eve because he could not accept the idea of the incarnation.

After finding a flock of birds shivering on the ground under his house's big picture window, the man

struggles to get the birds out of a blizzard and into his barn. He flings open the barn doors, tries “shewing” them, and even flaps his arms trying to convince the birds to go into the safety of the barn. He then thinks to himself, “If I can only become one of them. If only I could become a bird and show them that I only want to help them, I could show them the way to safety. I could save them.” And at the moment, he hears the church bells ringing in the distance playing the song “O, Come, All Ye Faithful.” He falls to his knees in the snow and is overwhelmed by what God did for the world when He sent His Only Son.

That brings to mind John 3:16-17,

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” (NKJV)*

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Richly Blessed New Year!

*Glen*

## **PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

Fred & Louise  
Curran  
Berdina Anderson

Mike Delaney  
John Williams  
Aiko Ryan

Bernie Bradford  
Joyce Gibson

Please include in your prayers those with special needs, those receiving medical care, the home-bound, caregivers, service men and women, our CA/NV Conference, and the churches of the Great Northern District. *(If you would like your name added for special prayers, please let us know at the office or contact the pastor.)*

# **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

Our Fall Bazaar was a great success, with the addition of our first breakfast from 9:00 to 10:30. It was well attended as well as standing room only for our sandwich lunch. It brought such joy to see all the seats filled and laughter throughout the room. All combined with breakfast, lunch, the bake table, bazaar items and the raffle prizes, we made over \$3300 in five hours and took in another \$594 with the following two sales opportunities. We will be putting the bazaar items out for a final sale on Sun., Dec. 10 during coffee hour.

Sun. Dec. 3, we will have tables set up in Pioneer Hall to help sign Christmas cards for our Homebound members and fill up stockings to take to them. If you haven't done so already, please drop some items by in the basket in the office. It is greatly appreciated.

Beale Air Force base is having their cookie crunch drive again to get cookies for the air personnel staying there during the holidays. Last year our group of family and friends provided over 500 cookies. Let's strive for this amount again this year!! You can bring the homemade cookies/candy (please no store bought items) to Miriam Circle on Wed. Dec. 13 or to the church by 11:30 AM on Thurs. Dec. 14. Wendi will be picking them up to take to Beale to be packaged on Fri. Dec. 15.

Please plan on attending our last General Meeting and Installation of Officers for 2024 on Sat. Dec. 9 at 11:00 AM in Pioneer Hall. We will also be serving lunch. All are invited to attend and support the new officers.

I want to wish everyone a joyous holiday season and send a personal "Thank You" to everyone that has contributed to UWF during the year. Looking forward to a wonderful 2024.

Pam Fuhrman.....President

Myra Wade.....Vice President  
Bonnie Shelton.....Secretary  
Carol Schellenger.....Treasurer

## **Miriam Circle**

Dear Ladies, if you were at the meeting in October, you know that our expected guest did not arrive.

However, Eileen was with us at our November meeting.

In October we were treated to a slide show of our stained-glass windows created by Anthony Hiatt and photographed by Carol Aldrich. Lorna Stutz served us a delightfully cool desert with lots of berries. My favorite fruit!

Come join us on December 13<sup>th</sup> for our guest speaker, at 2:00 pm in the parlor.

**Yours in Christ, Bonnie**

## **History of our Church**

Hmong United Methodist Ministry in California

The Hmong United Methodist ministry in California began with the leadership of three humble persons. Together they started the Hmong ministry in 1986. Having passion for the mission of Jesus Christ, they attended the United Methodist lay-peaking class in Porterville, California in the second half of 1986. They completed the course in early of 1987. After acquiring the basic knowledge of Methodism, the Lord led them to organize Hmong ministry in Fresno, Merced, and Marysville in the first quarter of 1987. Mr. Pang Ger Yang led the Hmong ministry at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Fresno. Mr. Tong Yang Lee led the Hmong ministry at the First United Methodist Church of Merced.

And Mr. Shine Vang led the Hmong ministry at the First United Methodist Church of Marysville.

Shortly after the California Hmong ministry was born, Mr. Shine Vang attended his pastoral licensing course at Puget Sound University in Tacoma, Washington. Afterward, he organized the very first Hmong United Methodist Local Pastor Licensing Course in Marysville on August 28, 1989. The Hmong pastors who had not received their local pastor license and candidates in the pastoral candidacy process attended this historical training with great joy and anticipation. The second year of licensing course was held in Merced on June 18, 1990. Pastor Nou Yee Yang in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Pastor Nao Lue Yang in Wausau, Wisconsin; Pastor Pang Ger Yang in Fresno, California; Pastor Tong Yang Lee in Merced, California; and many Hmong lay-servants all over America came to this Hmong Local Pastor Licensing Courses.

On June 17, 1991, a third Hmong Local Pastor training was held in Fresno, California for an intensive course on stewardship and to follow up and strategize for the future Hmong Course of Study. The course was taught by Rev. Zong Her Yang, M. Div. During the training and strategizing, the attendees appointed Rev. Zong Her Yang and Pastor Shine Vang to draft a proposal to the General Board of Higher Education (GBHE) to consider a Hmong Course of Study. It was a spirit led and an inspiring time.

Hmong pastors and lay-servants had the opportunity to study the Word of God and be trained on church administration, stewardship, evangelization, and preaching, etc. From this acquisition, many Hmong people in the United States converted from Animism to Christianity.

Currently, the Hmong United Methodist ministry in California is growing strong with five ministries located in Oroville, Marysville, Sacramento, Clovis, and Fresno. Many laities have completed their lay servant course, and a few are in the pastoral candidacy process. The Hmong Methodists are moving forward to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

## *Dates and events: December*

<b>Saturday, December 2</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.-- Parade</b>
<b>Sunday, December 3</b>	<b>10:00 --Worship svc. 10:15 --Sunday school + Youth group 1:00-- Hmong service</b>
<b>Tuesday, December 5</b>	<b>3:00—Bible Study</b>
<b>Saturday, December 9</b>	<b>7:45--- Men's Breakfast 11:00--- UWF Installation Mtg. 9-12--- Play Rehearsal</b>
<b>Sunday, December 10</b>	<b>10:00 --Worship svc. Children's Christmas Play 10:15 --Sunday school + Youth group 1:00-- Hmong service</b>
<b>Tuesday, December 12</b>	<b>3:00—Bible Study</b>
<b>Wednesday, December 13</b>	<b>12:00--- Miriam Circle in Pioneer Hall</b>
<b>Sunday, December 17</b>	<b>10:00 --Worship svc. 10:15 --Sunday school + Youth group 1:00-- Hmong service</b>
<b>Tuesday, December 21</b>	<b>3:00—Bible Study 5:30--Combined Finance/ Admin Mtg. 6:30-8:30—YSARC Mtg.</b>
<b>Sunday, December 24</b>	<b>10:00 --Worship svc. 10:15 --Sunday school + Youth group 1:00-- Hmong service 6:00p.m. Christmas Eve Service</b>
<b>Monday, December 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b>
<b>Sunday, December 31</b>	<b>10:00 --Worship svc. 10:15 --Sunday school + Youth group 1:00-- Hmong service</b>



*December*

*Happy Birthday*

12/1	Alyssa Able	12/16	Ronna Eaton
12/2	Pamela Comstock	12/16	Leland Eiben
12/7	Janet Herald	12/18	Ellen Tiffany
12/8	Veronica Lara	12/20	Bill Medbery
12/8	Joyce Gibson	12/21	Amiya Gale Meadows
12/10	Jody Davis	12/21	Betty Erford
12/11	Ray Anderson	12/22	Henry Steele
12/11	Jordan Diego	12/23	Chrestina Davis
12/12	Trina Smith	12/24	Thomas Holmes Jr.
12/12	Laura King	12/25	Kristine Fritz
12/12	Todd Carr	12/25	Aiko Ryan
12/13	Taber Dullea	12/25	Kevin Kirkpatrick
12/14	Chris Anthony	12/26	Nathaniel Anthony
12/15	Chyanna Yang Thao	12/26	James Davis
12/16	Warner Pask	12/28	Gladys Harris

*Happy Anniversary*

12/29	Mike & Carolyn Steele		
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The 12-month birthday list is posted on the bulletin board in the church office. For additions/corrections, please call (530)743-3007.

## **December Library News**

- ✓ December is Read a New Book Month
- ✓ Advent begins December 3<sup>rd</sup>
- ✓ December 21<sup>st</sup> is Blue Christmas Service
- ✓ December 24<sup>th</sup> is Christmas Eve
- ✓ December 25<sup>th</sup> is Christmas Day

~**Marsha Sylvester-Jose**, Church Librarian

Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His Only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life."

~Corrie Ten Boom

## **YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S SECTION**

Good news! Our Sunday School is growing! We have more children who want to learn about Jesus! That means you have a chance to help! We are looking for people to assist during Sunday School. If you like children and like to teach, please prayerfully consider helping. Please contact Pastor Glen, Robin or Charlene if you are interested in this opportunity to share your love with our children.

Our children are preparing for the Christmas Play! We will have a final rehearsal on Saturday, December 9 from 9 - 11 AM in the sanctuary. Please plan on coming to worship on Sunday, December 10, for our production of *The Nativity in Rewind (or How Did We Get Here?)* Thank you Robin for writing such a fun and meaningful script! If you have grandchildren who would like to participate, please let Charlene know as soon as possible.



When we are not rehearsing our play, we will be learning about the ***Heroes of the Nativity***. As we study the **shepherds**, we will find that God reveals His love to those who listen. The **Wise Men** lead us to understand that God guides those who earnestly seek Him. **Joseph's** story shows us that God supports those who obey Him even when it's hard. Mary demonstrates that God blesses those who trust in Him, no matter how impossible things seem. And most importantly, we will celebrate **Jesus**, the greatest gift of God's love to us.

Please pray that our children will understand the real reason we celebrate Christmas.

### **View from The Pew**

November was a busy and productive month, let's look back with a little recap. Congratulations are in order for many happenings; Deborah Klein and Shawn Kelly received the UWF Mission

Recognition award for extraordinary service. Very much deserved by two faithful people.

Outreach was, once again, greeted with expressions of surprise and delight on the faces of those walking past our church on their way to the Veterans Day Parade as they accepted our offer of free donuts, coffee and cocoa. We were the face of our church that morning, giving, smiling, reaching out, all in the name of Jesus, as we strive to be "The People of the Way." Later in that week several of our members bundled up, stood on sidewalks, waving signs well after dark and were rewarded with a successful Turkey Drive.

The long awaited anticipation of possibly having a winning ticket for the Opportunity Drawing climaxed with excitement, fanfare and applause as tickets were drawn for four lucky participants. This fundraiser is

always fun with beneficial prizes and, we hope, is profitable and benefits our church.

But the big news for the month was the professions of faith as Johnnie Houser, Marlene Barber, Ashley McCumber and Betty Tarke became members of our church. We welcome them with open arms and glad hearts into our church family.

And now we enter December with the crisp days, the trees and plants resting and soon we will see homes decorated inside and out, dressed up in Christmas apparel. This is a time for family, small gifts and joyfulness. And most importantly a time to remember exactly what it is we are celebrating and be grateful we have the freedom to celebrate the birth of our savior Jesus Christ.

Yes, it's the last month of another year with all the joys and sadness wrapped up together in our ever changing lives. Let us take a moment to remember our dear friends who have recently gone before us. Lincoln Eden Sr., Darlene Hudson, Phyllis Perkins, Larry Figary, Pat Sweezy, Robert Carr, Hal Burk, David Cannon, and Lelah Holmes. Until we meet them again in the new heaven and new earth that Jesus has promised us.

Be sure to be aware of announcements, this is another busy month; the children's play, The Nativity In Rewind, is December 10th, always a joy to see, and watch for the time of the Christmas Eve service. Our days are full and that's a good thing, but perhaps hit pause for a little while and restfully reflect on what it is we are thankful for and why.

I recently read a little quip that said "Christmas calories don't count." I'll let you know how that turns out! Seriously, Happy Christmas everyone, blessings to all! "Let There Be Peace on Earth, and Let It Begin with Me." **Myra Wade~~Lay Leader.**

## **Helping Our Church**

***Our gratitude to all those helping our church  
last month and all who volunteer throughout the  
year:***

**Bell Ringer:** Justin Mccumber

**Usher/Greeter:** Myra, Lorna

**Liturgist:** Carol Schellenger

**Music Leaders:** Lisa Weir, Taber Dullea

**Praise Team** – Lisa Weir

**Chancel Choir Director:** Taber Dullea

**Musicians:** Rob Hilton, Taber Dullea,  
Terry Raley and Lisa Weir

**Sound Board Techs:**

Curtis Sylvester-José, Rob Hilton

**PowerPoint Techs:** Marcia Davis, Terry Raley

**Sunday School Sup'ts:** Robin Pask and Charlene Bole

**Youth Group Leader:** Robin Pask

**Altar Stewards:** Robin Pask, Trina Smith & Liz Ralph

**Sanctuary Steward:** Cindy Raley, Myra Wade

**Communion Stewards:** Marcia Davis, Trina Smith,  
Lenna Mullins

**Church Treasurers:** Beth Hiatt-Knight and Debbie Hopking

**Counters:** Bonnie Archuleta, Cheryl Bottum,  
Lenna Mullins, Marilyn Center, Lorna Stutz

**Financial Secretary:** Beth Hiatt-Knight

**Librarian:** Marsha Sylvester-José

**Volunteers:** Bonnie Archuleta, Cathy Deaton,  
Carol Aldrich, Bonnie Shelton, Lorna Stutz, Myra Wade,  
Jody Davis & Lenna Mullins

***A special “Thank You” to the hosts of our  
Potluck and Coffee Fellowship.***

**WE THANK THESE BUSINESSES FOR THEIR SUPPORT**

*This space is available for businesses to advertise in the Circuit Rider newsletter and on our website. A donation of \$125 is asked to defray printing and mailing costs. Please contact the church office.*



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**December 2023**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MARYSVILLE**

*Pastor: Rev. Glen Raley,*

Hmong Language Pastor: Cheng Yang

730 D Street, Marysville, CA 95901; E-mail: [mvfumc@att.net](mailto:mvfumc@att.net)

Church Office: 743-3007; Fax: 777-9230

Web - [www.marysville-firstumc.org/](http://www.marysville-firstumc.org/)

Facebook – [fb.me/MarysvilleFirstUMC](https://fb.me/MarysvilleFirstUMC)



**SUNDAY SERVICES**

★ **FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH** – 10:00 a.m. *Worship and Communion Service*

★ **ALL OTHER SUNDAYS:**

10 a.m. - *Worship Service*

**EVERY SUNDAY** - 1:30 p.m. - *Hmong Language Worship*