



ALTAR LIGHT

April 2022

Message from the Pastor

New

“Unless you are born anew, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.” - Jesus (John 3:3)

“If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation.” - Paul (2 Corinthians 5:17)

“The one sitting on the throne said, ‘Look, I am making everything new!’” - John (Revelation 21:5)

Spring is my favorite season in California. The hills are green. Poppies and lupine are shining forth their colorful faces. The birds are singing away as they build their nests. The rebirth of the natural world after winter is in full swing, and there is new growth everywhere.

I believe this rebirth and new life is a pattern written deep into the fabric of the universe. It is core to the way things exist, relate, and connect. It is, according to the quotes from Jesus, Paul, and John, (among many others) - core to who we are and what God is up to in our world and our lives.

Psychologists from Harvard did a study a few years ago where they asked 30-year-olds to look back and see how much they had changed over the last 10 years, and then to predict how much they thought they would change over the next 10. They reported that they had changed immensely over the previous 10 years, but didn't expect to change much over the next ten. They had felt like they had arrived at their true selves. The fascinating part of the study is that 40-year-olds reported the exact same thing. As did 50-year-olds. And 60-year-olds, too.

It turns out we are always in the process of becoming.

I believe this is God at work through the experiences we have and the choices we make, helping us to grow, develop, and mature. If we are willing to step into this continual process of rebirth, we find Spirit at work, helping our lives bear more love,

more joy, more peace, more patience, more kindness, more gentleness.

Like Nicodemus, we each daily have the choice to rest on our past accomplishments and accrued expertise, or to be willing to become like children again, willing to learn; open to awe and wonder; curious about what we can learn and who we can become.

So in this season of spring, may you find God making new things in you.

-Pastor Dan

Fiji Outreach

Submitted by Marilyn Mitchell

This month we sent 5 wardrobe boxes to Fiji. We will be sending 6 more wardrobe boxes which include clothes, shoes, toys and other items left over from the estate sale in the near future. In the last 4 years we have sent 155 boxes to three churches in Fiji.

Men's Fellowship

Submitted by Mike Truitt

Attention All Men! Come to our **monthly breakfast** and devotion time at St. John's Social Hall. We have our breakfast with the St. Luke's men's group on the **second Saturday of each month. The next breakfast is April 9th**. We would love to have you! Breakfast is served at 8:30 a.m., followed by fellowship and devotion. The group is also cooking breakfast at the newly built 4th & Hope shelter once a month. Volunteers are needed to help out with the cooking some months. If you can help, or have any other questions regarding Men's Fellowship, please call Mike Truitt at (530) 666-6305.





One Great Hour of Sharing

Sunday, March 27th was the One Great Hour of Sharing across the United Church of Christ, but it is not too late to make a contribution. The One

Great Hour of Sharing offering collection funds the UCC's Global H.O.P.E. (Humanitarian. Opportunities. Progress. Empowerment.), responding to crisis and disaster by helping provide food, water, medicines, disaster recovery resources and opportunities for sustainable development. Global H.O.P.E. is at work in Ukraine already, thanks to our offerings from last year. This year, we have even clearer perspective on why this offering matters so much: love responds! You can mail a check to the church office (note on the memo line that the gift is for OGHS), or give directly at ucc.org/oghs

Lay Life Update

Submitted by Jeff Oblinger

Friends and Family Meals

All are invited to gather together for good food and casual conversation. Our first meal will be April 14th for Maundy Thursday and we plan to schedule meals twice each month. Here are the details:



Thursday, April 14 from 5:00-6:15pm in the Social Hall

Menu: Mixed Green Salad, Turkey, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy,
Assorted Breads and Cookies

Suggested Donation: \$5.00

Everyone is welcome!



Easter Week

Palm Sunday, April 10
The Christian Academy will be
presenting the musical
"Because He Lives"
during service.

Wednesday, April 13
Lenten Lunch at St. John's
Join the wider Woodland community for lunch at noon

Maundy Thursday, April 14
Dinner at 5:00pm in the Social Hall
Worship at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary and live streaming on
Facebook

Easter Sunday, April 17

7:00am Service at Mary's Chapel
Muffins and Coffee Served at Church in the
Social Hall following service

10:00am Service in Sanctuary and
Live Streaming on Facebook
Flowering of the Cross
(please bring flowers)
Music by the Adult & Sunshine
Choirs

Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt Following Service

Brunch Menu: Eggs, Sausage,
Breakfast Potatoes, Eggs Benedict,
Pastries, plus Juice & Mimosa's
Brunch Suggested Donation: \$5.00



Our New Administrative Assistant: Becky Beaman

Becky is a long time Yolo County resident who joins the St. John's staff with a variety of experience working with communities of faith, non-profit organizations, government agencies, and educational institutions. Becky attends Woodland United Methodist Church where she serves as the Lay Leader of Adult Faith Formation. Becky graduated with degrees in Cultural Anthropology from UC Davis and Northern Arizona University. During college she was actively involved with the Cal Aggie Christian Association. Her work background includes time at Yolo Food Bank, UC Davis, Grand Canyon National Park, and the City of Davis. In 2018 she worked with a group of volunteers to launch the Yolo Diaper Bank and currently serves as the part time executive director. Yolo Diaper Bank currently serves over 100 families each month and distributed 72,000 diapers in 2021. Becky lives in Woodland with her dog Harvey and enjoys riding horses, tackling home projects, and baking. Becky is excited to support the St. John's community in the role of Administrative Assistant and looks forward to meeting many of you in the coming weeks and months.



Thank You Carol Lou Bourke

On behalf of St. John's Church, we would like to thank Carol Lou Bourke for her many years of service and dedication to St. John's Church. She has served as Secretary of the church for the last 4 years. During the Covid pandemic she chose to volunteer her hours as well as volunteering to keep our flowers cut back, bushes trimmed and other items to help beautify the landscape.

Marilyn Mitchell
Treasurer

Preschool Report

Submitted by Marilyn Mitchell

Our payroll has gone up 30% per month since September 2021 when we finally were able to hire enough staff to meet guidelines and enroll 72 children which we are licensed for.

We are going to increase our rates 8% in May to help offset our expenses. We also are going to convert the toddler room into a preschool classroom so we can expand the number of children we are licensed for without increasing staff. We hope to do this by August. Instead of enrolling children at 18 months, we would start children at 2 years old.

This week the preschool took individual and classroom photos of the children. Taking our own school photos has been one of our best fund raisers over the last few years.

In April the preschool will be selling pies and cobblers from The Pie Company. Orders are due April 29th and pies will be delivered May 7th for pick up. Contact Marilyn to order.

THE PIE COMPANY

Fundraiser Flavors

				
Apple	Apple Cobbler	Apricot	Blackberry	Blueberry
				
Boysenberry	Boysenberry Cobbler	Dutch Apple	Mixed Berry	Nectarine
				
Nectarine Cobbler	Peach	Peach Cobbler	Pumpkin	Strawberry Rhubarb

-Pies arrive FROZEN!
-10" in diameter.
-Last in the freezer for up to 1 year.

Scan the code for more information and flavor descriptions!



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