



# Altar Light

St. John's United Church of Christ  
Woodland, California

— APRIL, 2017 —

St. John's  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
432 Cleveland Street  
Woodland, CA 95695  
[www.stjohnswoodland.net](http://www.stjohnswoodland.net)



## St. John's

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### Office Hours

Mon.- Thurs. 9:30- 1:30



Pastor

Rev. Will Norman  
cell: (678) 428-2613

### Pastor's Office Hours

Mon.- Wed. 9:30- 1:30

Thurs. 10:30- 1:30

Pastor's usual days off

are Friday and

Saturday. He may be

reached on Friday or

Saturday in case of an

emergency.



## Thoughts From the Pastor

Did you know that when it was founded in 1891, St. John's was a part of the Evangelical Synod of North America? In 1934, the ESNA merged with the Reformed Church in the United States to form the E&R Church. Then in 1957, the E&R merged with another denomination (which itself was a merger of two denominations) forming the United Church of Christ, or UCC.

Or did you know that Evangelicalism as a particular strand of Christian faith didn't exist until the mid 19th Century, and was a late development of what is called the Protestant Reformation, which began 500 years ago, this October?

Or did you know that the Protestant Reformation broke away from the Roman Catholic Church, which had become distinct from the Eastern Orthodox Church 500 years beforehand?

500 years before that, the Church was learning how to be married to the empire (Roman, and then Byzantine) without losing itself in its imperial partner.

500 years before that, Jesus was Crucified.

500 years before that, the Jewish Temple was destroyed, and the Israelites were taken into Babylonian Captivity.

500 years before that they had formed an ancient kingdom under the great King David.

History—at least Judeo/Church History—appears to move in 500 year periods. Or as the late Phyllis Tickle likes to say, every 500 years the Church has a giant rummage sale, when the old way of being the people of God is shaken up and a new way of being the people of God comes into existence.

During Lent this year, our Wednesday evening class is traveling through Church History ... which sounds boring ... but ask a few of our regular attendees about their experience so far, and I have no doubt you'll learn just how interesting and enlightening the study of Church history really is.

Week 1: Beginning in the Bible itself, when the Church is just beginning to distinguish itself from Judaism, we learned about the roots of some very contemporary challenges within the Christian faith; particularly how Christians are called to respond to anti-Semitism both beyond and within our own walls.

Week 2: we discussed the formation of official church doctrine and the beginnings of orthodoxy (right belief) and heresy (errant belief), and we asked the question, is the declaration of heresy a good thing or a bad thing for the development of the church? Is it more important to define the boundaries around faith system, or to allow for a plurality of belief within it?

Week 3: we take up the question of a Christian nation or a Christian Empire, which comes into existence in Rome after Constantine is converted to Christian faith. How do church and state interact in a way that preserves the integrity of both institutions? It is under these circumstances that both the Papacy and its ideological counterpoint, Monasticism, take their modern shapes.

Still to be discussed are the impact of the spread of Islam on Christian faith, the Crusades, the reasons the One Holy Catholic & Apostolic Church has split in two (The Great Schism), and fragmented into what is now hundreds of different forms of Christian faith resulting from the Great Reformation of the 16th Century.

Finally, after all of that History, we will look at the development and current state of Christian faith in the United States in particular, and finally, looking into what is often called the "Emergent Church," will speculate together about where we are headed.

This has already been an incredibly fun and eye-opening survey of Christian History, and it will only become more relevant to our own experience as people of faith as we draw nearer to the development of our own faith tradition. I hope that you'll join us for the remainder of this class, even if you haven't been able to participate yet. There is much to learn from those who go before us, and it is always best to learn together, as we journey on toward the event that got it all started—the cross & resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, a 1st Century Palestinian Jew who changed the course of history.

See you Wednesday Evenings!  
Grace & Peace

Rev. Will Norman  
Lent, 2017

#### **ELDERS**

❖ Enclosed here are two forms.

The first is a member information sheet. In light of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we thought this would be a good opportunity to update and/or confirm the information on file. Please fillout the sheet to the best of your ability. There will be a basket at the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration where you can leave the filled-out form, or they can be returned to the church office.

The second form is Stewardship of Time and Talent. We have all been blessed with our own unique talents. This form gives the opportunity to let us know which one you would like to share. Please check what you are interested in. If something is not on the list, you can add it at the bottom. Please return to the church office by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

❖ The Elders are in the process of completing staff evaluations

❖ Palm Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> the children will present their Easter Musical, Happy Day!

❖ Maundy Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 6 p.m.

❖ Good Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> 6 p.m.

❖ Easter. April; 16<sup>th</sup>

Sunrise Service at Mary's Chapel, 7 a.m.

Breakfast in the Social Hall begins between 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary begins at 10 a.m.

Please bring flowers. Heidi Truitt and Heather Albin will be decorating the cross during this service.

Christ has risen, He has RISEN indeed!

#### **TRUSTEES**

We have scheduled a church work day for Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, with the Preschool Parents. We will spread sand and bark in the play yard, touch-up painting inside the classrooms, and we would like to do some painting outside, but we need enough volunteers to complete that in one day, so come give us a hand to get a lot done. We may even get a bid to see how much it would cost to put bark in the parking lot tree areas, splitting the cost with the Preschool. The church and will provide hot dogs, but a side dish or drinks for lunch afterward are also welcome.

## Consistory & Committee News:

*Executive Committee: 6pm, Tues. 4/4*

*Consistory: 7pm, Tues. 4/11*

*w/ individual boards to meet beforehand as scheduled internally*

## **125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

It is time for the Celebration!

**April 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>**

Invitations are going out and  
we look forward to seeing you.

If you don't receive one, don't let that stop you-  
Let us know right away.

Plenty of options are available:

1. Visit the Sanctuary between 5 & 6 p.m. on the 29<sup>th</sup>
2. Come for the catered dinner at 6 p.m. on the 29<sup>th</sup>  
(\$20 paid in advance)
3. Attend both
4. Attend Celebration Worship on the 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.
5. **PARTAKE IN ALL!!**

**Any questions call Martha 530-662-3001**

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### **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

#### **• MISSION**

Our Service Mission for the Lenten season will be the Heifer Project. As in years before, we will be collecting funds to purchase animals, equipment, and teaching for peoples in impoverished areas around the world, including the United States. You can pick up donation boxes and calendars in the Social Hall. Please check out the posters, or ask Jamie Vaughn, 379-6203, or Jenny Henson, 848-7554, or at their home number, 669-7504, for additional information.

May 7<sup>th</sup> we will have a Beer Bread and Soup potluck after Sunday Service to decide which animals or services to purchase with the funds raised. Please let Jamie know if you'd like to bring a soup.

#### **• OUTREACH**

We gave \$250 to Cal Aggie House (CA House) for their stewardship drive in honor of their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the Farm School and UC Davis community

We will host the Lenten Lunch on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at noon.

We will need coffee, and servers.

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## Our Partners in Ministry:

### ❖ **ST. JOHN'S PRESCHOOL**

The children have been working on art for our Square 1 Art Fund Raiser. The child's art is put on a memorable keepsake which is selected and purchased by the family.

Picture Day is scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. This has become a successful fundraiser for the school. We made about \$2,500 profit on school photos last year.

On April 4<sup>th</sup> between 5 – 7 we will be holding a Taco Tuesday Fundraiser. One of our parents have a Taco 911 business and will be preparing the meal. Plates are \$8.00 and include 3 tacos, rice and beans. You can choose chicken or steak tacos. We are pre-selling tickets for this event. Tickets can be purchased in the preschool office or contact Marilyn Mitchell at 908-1676 to get tickets.

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Good Friday April 14<sup>th</sup>.

We have scheduled a parent work day for Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will have sand and bark delivered for the play yard. We will be doing touch up paint inside the classrooms and may do some painting outside if we have enough volunteers to complete in one day. We would like to get a bid to see how much it would cost to put bark in parking lot tree areas. That cost might be something we could split with church. We and the church will provide lunch, but a side dish or drinks are also welcome.

Every day we continue to receive calls to enroll children and we give tours every week for people who want to get on our waiting list which is out to the summer/fall of 2017 for Pre-K children and summer 2018 for 2 and 3-year-old children.

### **Opportunity**

We are in need of a volunteer to join the audio team- recording the worship service for home-bound members of our congregation. If you are interested in technology and are willing to spend a Sunday in the sound room every now and then, please contact the office, or Tom Brannan. Training will be provided.

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### **Call to submit your news:**

I have included a form for writing up and submitting news for publication. Please write up and submit any news, articles and announcements that you want to share in the May or June Altar Lights: graduations; new kindergarteners; fair entries, especially 4-H and FFA; other changes, milestones, awards, and achievements. Send them to the office, leave them in the mailbox by the front door, or give them to any board member to give to me. I would love to include anything that you'd like to celebrate.

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