



Altar Light

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

— JULY 2018 —

St. John's
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
432 Cleveland Street
Woodland, CA 95695
www.stjohnswoodland.net

Just some pastoral thoughts

I was intrigued by the lectionary for June 10th ... Mark 3:20-35. Jesus comes to his home town and he is harassed by friends and annoyed by his family. There is that old saying “that friends are easier to deal with than family.” Here we see evidence that no good deed of ministry goes unpunished!!! He is healing and preaching and the people are saying he is crazy, he is the devil. And even his family wants to restrain him...

Jesus asks “Is it right to heal or just let a man with a withered hand suffer?” Doing what is right doesn’t wrong anybody. Because he is changing lives he is deemed out of his mind. Truth-tellers and prophets make us uncomfortable. They disturb our customs and life-styles. Truth and doing good is not always appreciated so we malign it or seek to kill the messenger.

Mark 3 seems to mirror our times. We live in times when ministry makes some people angry. In Mark, ‘obedience is thicker than blood.’ The family is outside while others are close to Jesus. Paul says: “Let this mind be in you which is also in Christ Jesus”. Maybe we need to rely on not so much ‘what the Bible says?’ as ‘what would Jesus do?’ His actions are louder than words!!

In this passage, *obedience* is the key. Faith rules beyond family. Obedience to God matters. I believe there are times when we recognize the faith of a family... even a church family. There are times when Christ is the focus and faith rules beyond the family. That’s when ‘faith’ may be called ‘crazy’! God matters and our experience gives one the language of testimony...

So Jesus comes to his hometown and he is under-appreciated. He changed lives. He was the epitome of hope and healing. That is what we should expect of our pastor. One who brings hope and healing to this family.... Even when it is upsetting. May it be so

Pastor Bill

Thank You

Thank you all for your generosity and kindness. I love this job, and really really like all of you.

I have been putting off for some time now looking for a full-time career position. Wednesday, June 13th, Marilyn, Bill Summers and I sat down to talk about that. You may know that my younger son, Tom, graduated from Nevada Union High School a few weeks ago. My older son, Will, decided that he is ready to start college and has enrolled at Sierra College in Rocklin. Those are a couple of boxes checked off that are very important to me. The time is very right for me to make another change, so my last day of employment here is this Saturday, June 30th.

Carol Lou has returned to the office, and we have had two weeks together to make a good transition. There is a lot to cover, so please help her as generously and as kindly as you have helped me. I have no doubt that Carol Lou will continue to do her best for you.

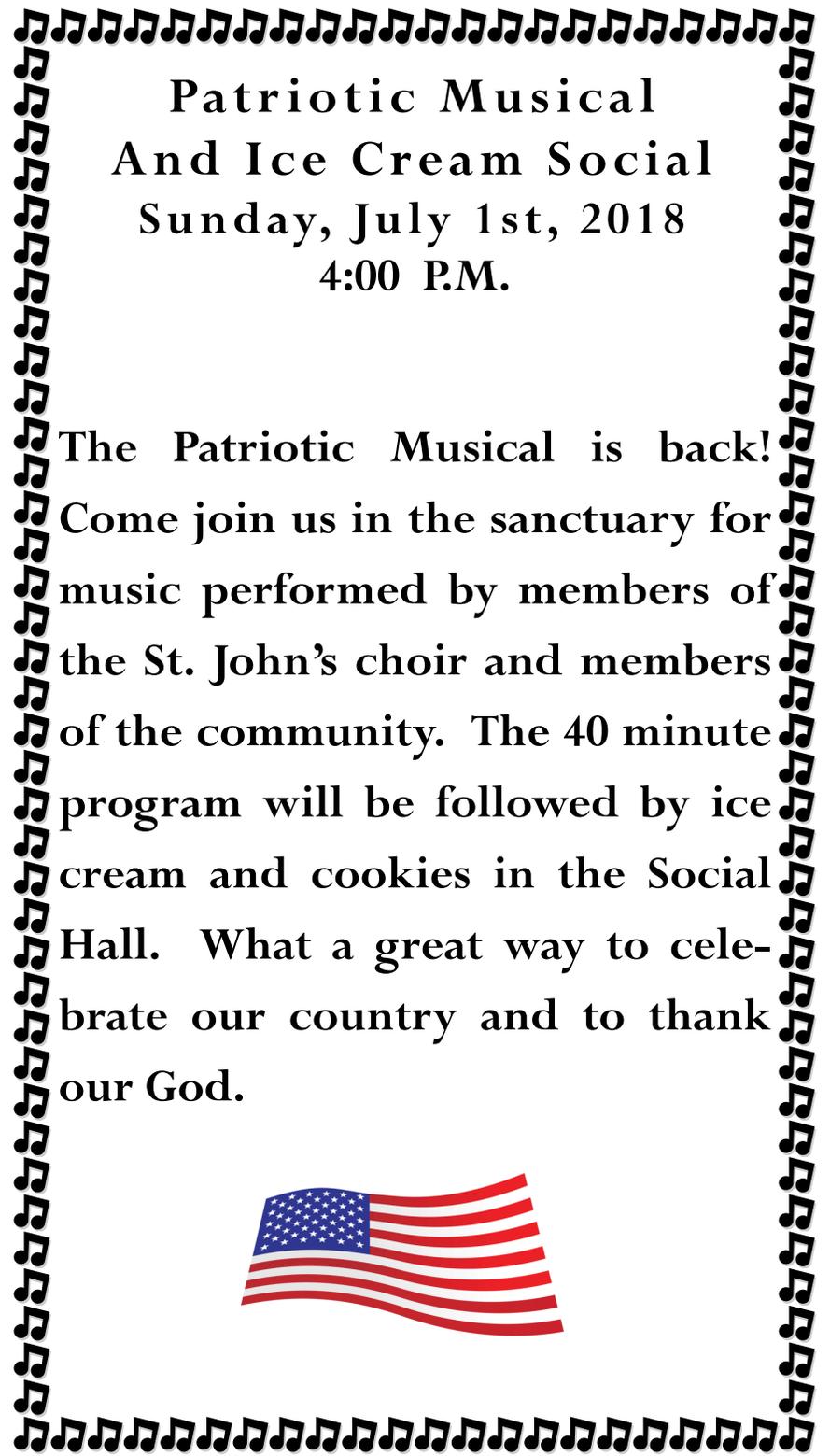
Thank you,
Jen Goss
jengsemail@gmail.com



**ST. JOHN'S VILLAGE RHYTHM
& RIBS MOVING TO THE YOLO
COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS IN**

**The popular community-wide BBQ
and fundraising event will move to
Waite Hall at the
Yolo County Fairgrounds on
Saturday, September 22.**

**Please mark your calendars, as this
is the largest fundraiser of the
year. With the Dave Russell Band
playing the music, RDM Audio Vis-
ual providing the sound, and Keith
McLane Auctioneers confirmed for
our live auction, the 2018 Rhythm
& Ribs promises to be the biggest
and best ever.**



**Patriotic Musical
And Ice Cream Social
Sunday, July 1st, 2018
4:00 P.M.**

**The Patriotic Musical is back!
Come join us in the sanctuary for
music performed by members of
the St. John's choir and members
of the community. The 40 minute
program will be followed by ice
cream and cookies in the Social
Hall. What a great way to cele-
brate our country and to thank
our God.**



ELDERS

- Committee Report for the June 2018 meeting

- A new member class was held on May 12, 2018, in the Social Hall led by Pastor Bill Schroeder. Attendance was low and there were no commitments to membership. We will table the new member class until we have a permanent pastor on board.
- The Pregnancy Support Group gave a presentation on May 12. Attendance was small but the group appreciates our support. Literature is available in the Narthex.
- Jim Smith of the Daily Democrat was contacted concerning publicity for our church events. Jim recommended we send in posters for our events which he could post on their Facebook and twitter page for more exposure. He is also open to printing events in the actual paper.
- The pastor, sermon name, and associated scripture for each Sunday is now being posted on our website.
- The Narthex reconfiguration discussion is in progress.
- The Elders will be reviewing the list of inactive members. We will assign individuals to contact people on the list to determine if there is a reason they are not coming which we could help with (example: need a ride). We will place a notice in the bulletin and Alter Light to contact the office if someone needs a complementary ride to church. We will also ask for volunteers.
- Updating the Church Introduction Pamphlet is in progress. Ideally, it would be nice to have input from our minister, when we find he or she.
- We are working on updating the phone list of church members and attendees.
- Jim Walton has volunteered to be our new sound system monitor. Thank you, Jim!
- We are looking into getting banners for special events (Easter, Christmas, Harvest Home...). Ideas are being discussed.
- The Patriotic musical will be held July 1, 2018.

Shirley and I have traveled extensively and have been in all 50 states, a majority of the provinces of Canada, traveled to Mexico, and to all seven continents. Shirley is the light of my life and we will be married 60 years [God willing] next June, 2019. Life together has been wonderful.

My hobbies have been travel, golf, and reading, particularly history and current events. Recent reads have been Tom Brokaw's books on the 'Greatest Generation' and his biography, ... "A Reporter's Life" [Walter Cronkite], Dan Rather's history, Matthews "Life of Bobby Kennedy, O Reilly's "Killing" books of Patton, Lincoln, Kennedy, and currently, "A Higher Loyalty" James Comey and Wolff's "Fire and Fury". Fiction, ... I like all of Judy Piccoult's writings. Shirley and I also love the movies... And in recent years we got into hockey, having a grand-nephew playing professionally. Jordan was first drafted by the Vancouver Canucks, traded to the Minnesota Wild and recently traded to the Columbus Blue Jackets. We are hoping to attend his wedding in Minnesota at the end of July.

The one thing the church may not know is that I was one of the key leaders when Prince George's County, MD was ordered by the federal court to desegregate their schools. We worked hard to make integration of the schools possible by court ordered bussing, without major battles. NBC national news came to tape my sermon the day before bussing would begin ... and I had my 20 seconds [!] of fame on national Sunday night news. We have a first printing copy of the Watergate tapes, signed by the 'little old country lawyer' Sen. Sam Ervin, Jr.

What word can I leave with you. I have worked for justice and human rights for all persons all of my life, because I believe EVERYONE is created by God and God doesn't make junk. So I ask: Is it too much to show respect, decency, and kindness to someone who doesn't look like us, have our same sexual make-up, or come from where we come? Why can't we live, love, care and respect one another with God's grace?

St. John's Preschool

The Sacramento Zoo Mobile came to the preschool on June 1st. The presentation was great and the children learned a lot. Even the two-years-old children were engaged in what was being said.

On June 2nd the Kiwanis Club of Woodland purchased and replenished the play sand and bark in our play yard. We had some sand left over which was shared with a preschool at the Methodist Church.

Our Trike-A-Thon which was held on June 8th was a great success. We raised \$871 on the event. The children had a lot of fun decorating and riding their bikes.

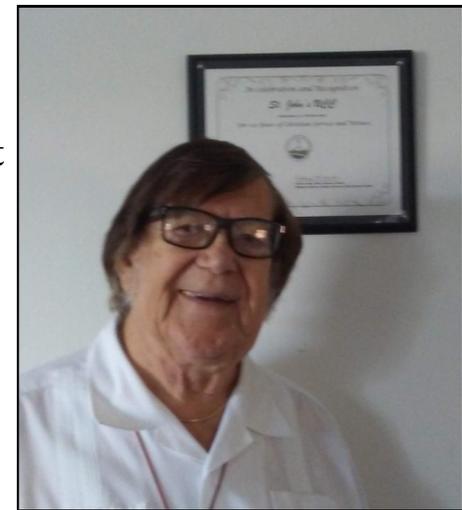
Pre-K Graduation will be held on June 14th at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary followed by a short reception in the social hall. We have 25 children graduating this year.

We currently have 60 children enrolled in our preschool which is the number we are licensed for and 7 toddlers in the Toddler Option Program. We continue to receive calls on a daily basis and give tours. We are close to be full in the fall. We only have 5 openings in our Pre-K classrooms in the fall. We are already full in the 2 & 3-year-old classrooms until the summer of 2019.

Fiji Outreach

We have sent over 25 wardrobe boxes to churches in three different areas of Fiji over the last two years.

In July we will send 4-5 wardrobe boxes of children's clothing left over from the estate sale held at the church June 22nd and 23rd.



Pastor Bill

At 3:07 am on April 18th in the midst of the Great Depression, I came into the world as a new son to Lena and Alfred Schroeder, Minnesota Lake, MN. I had four older siblings, two brothers and 2 sisters. One brother, 90, is still living. My father died when I was 11. My Mother died in 1992.

At birth, my father owned a tavern, but when I was about four, he purchased a farm. It was in this small community of Minnesota Lake [pop. 500] that I spent all twelve years of school. The Future Farmers program was a specialty and for my project I raised purebred Duroc Jersey Swine and for each of three years I raised and sold about 500 capons. I was going to be a farmer!! I played 3 years of varsity basketball and 6 years of varsity baseball. It was a small high school so Jr. Hi youth were a part of the baseball program.

After graduation, while helping my brother-in-law on his farm, I felt the call for ministry. My pastor often told me that he thought that should be my goal, but I said to him, "that would be the last thing I would ever do." I'm glad it turned out as it did.

I enrolled in Mission House College, [now Lakeland University] Sheboygan, Wisconsin and would spend the next seven years there... four years in the college, and three years at Mission House Seminary. While in college I played three years of varsity basketball and four years of varsity baseball. I also

Birthdays & Anniversaries

July

8th– Pete Martin

16th–Tom Hall

28th– Connie Ehresman

1– Carl and June Rodegerdts

13– Pete and Jane Martin

23– Seth and Heather Albin

August

6th–Mel Ehresman

17th–Bill Summers

September

5th–Frank Smith

6th–Holly Bourke

12th–Jane Sieferman

22nd–Carl Rodegerdts

24th Curtis Albin

30th Tom Brannan

30th Rosemary Horsting

23rd–Mel and Connie Ehresman

ST. JOHN'S RETIREMENT VILLAGE

A Reception/Dedication for the outdoor complex and putting green area was held Friday, May 18th.

On Friday, May 25th a Memorial Service was held in the chapel to honor the veterans who served and died serving our country.

On June 11th a Laughter Yoga exercise class was held. Laughter Yoga is a new form for exercise that utilizes laughter as a form of physical exercise. It can promote strengthening of the immune system, increase happiness and reduce stress.

A six-week Healthier Living-Chronic Disease Self-Management Program will start on July 5th from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. This program is sponsored in partnership with Dignity Health to help those affected by ongoing long-term health issues such as diabetes, arthritis, asthma, heart or lung disease, COPD, depression, obesity and other conditions. The Free six week program will cover: goal setting, communication skills, medication use, partnering with your doctor, nutrition, relaxation and community resources.

Our popular Rhythm & Ribs BBQ and fundraising event will be held at the Yolo County Fairgrounds in Waite Hall on Saturday, September 22. Please mark your calendars, as this is our largest fundraiser of the year. The event will include Dave Russell Band playing the music, RDM Audio Visual providing the sound, and Keith McLane Auctioneers.

*Healthier Living- Chronic Disease Self-Management
Program- July 5th | 3:00p.m.-5:00p.m*

RSVP to reserve your space at these free events!

All events will be held in the St. John's chapel.

Please call (530) 662-1290 or email jmartinez@sjrv.org

July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:30 Adult Class 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Hour 1:15 Worship SJRV 4:00 Patriotic Musical			5:30 Potluck & Adult Study			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:30 Adult Class 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Hour 1:15 Worship SJRV			5:30 Potluck & Adult Study		6:15 Movie Night Breaking The Press	Martha Kessler Memorial Service SJRV Chapel 2:00 p.m.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:30 Adult Class 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Hour 1:15 Worship SJRV			5:30 Potluck & Adult Study			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:30 Adult Class 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Hour 1:15 Worship SJRV			5:30 Potluck & Adult Study		6:15 Movie Night Something's Gotta Give	
29	30	31				
8:30 Adult Class 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Hour 1:15 Worship SJRV						