

*st*John's
U.C.C.



ALTAR LIGHT
NOVEMBER 2018

A Note From Pastor Dan:

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." - Ephesians 2:10

Hi Church Family,

I've been thinking about this text today. About how profound its implications are. ***We are God's masterpiece.*** Just that brief statement is so reality altering and defining. This means God is at work in us. That God is shaping us and creating us. And not just that, but that God is shaping us and creating in us something special. Beautiful. Amazing. Masterful. God is not against us, but for us. And in us. Our job is not trying to make ourselves good enough to be accepted by God, but rather to cooperate with God in his work he has been doing around us and in us from before the beginning.

God is creating us anew. To believe this means recognizing that God is using whatever circumstances we may find ourselves in to continue growing us, developing us, and giving to us ever more of God's self. As opposed to a fall narrative, where God made us perfect and we messed up and keep getting worse, this introduces the opposite perspective: God is at work making us ever better. God is not done creating us. Recreating us. Shaping and forming and redeeming bringing beauty from ashes. As opposed to growing old and dying, what we are actually a part of is a process of God using this physical world to make us into a new creation, eternally reflecting the God whose image we each uniquely bear.

So we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. I love this statement. This is the part of the text that was running through my head as I was out running this morning.

God is at work in us **so that** we can do the good things God has planned for us. This means God has a rich and intentional purpose for each of us: today. God seeks to do his work in the world: bringing love, blessing, healing, courage, joy, compassion - through us. We are stepping into the divine flow of love as we open ourselves to the works God has planned for us each to do from the foundation of the world.

This is so hopeful. God is still intending and executing good in our world. And God has a plan for each of us individually and together as a church to enfold us in this work. This means as we wake up each day and ask what we might be able to do for God, we are not initiating something: we are responding to the God of the universe who is already at work doing this. We are saying yes to what is. As we gather together as a church and ask where and what we can do to bring God's blessing into our town and the lives of the people around us: we aren't starting from scratch, we are simply saying yes to reality. We are saying yes to what God has planned and will do through us.

"Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure." - Ephesians 1:4

I hope this inspires you the way it inspires me. It is an invitation to step into each day as an adventure with God. We get to start from a place of God's pleasure and delight. We are loved. We are chosen. We are included in doing the good God has planned for us. We are each a unique piece of God's art, and together we are God's masterpiece of beauty, love, and a new creation.

Pastor Dan

THE ELDERS OCTOBER REPORT

Pastor Dan wants to hear from the congregation with input about his mission at the church. His immediate goal is to resume administering communion to the St. John's Village residents, as well as to house-bound members, who are unable to attend church. Banners were made for Harvest Home, with the plan to create another banner to promote our Christmas Eve service. The new name badges for use during worship services have been well received. There are badges in the narthex for those who didn't receive one yet. Carolyn Reiff and Hazel Peterson have been working on updating our church membership roll. Pastor Dan will be designing a new Welcome to St. John's pamphlet. The hanging of the Greens service will be on December 2nd. Church families will be asked to bring forward special decorations to adorn the altar. Two special music dates: The Junior Choir will present "Christmas Around the World" during the December 16th worship service. A Christmas cantata, will be presented at the December 23rd worship service. The Candlelight Christmas Eve service will be at 7:30 p.m. this year. Pastor Dan will be teaching a new Bible study that will focus on the books of the Bible, most likely Tuesday's, with the exception of the 2nd Tuesday of the month, which is the Consistory meeting night, and on the quarterly Adult Fellowship evening. Pastor Dan is looking at dates to start a new member class in the new year.

Jeff Bourke is working on developing a church safety team, that will put in place the protocol for accidental injury, health emergency, and possible acts of terrorism. The acquisition of a defibrillator would be beneficial. Jeff is willing to teach first aid.

MEMORIAL SUNDAY NOVEMBER 11th:

We will remember those from our church family who have passed in the last 12 months at this Sunday morning worship service. We will toll the church bell after each soul's name is announced. This is a special Sunday in the life of St. John's church.

CHURCH POINSETTIA ORDERS



Dolores Neilson will be taking orders November 25th through December 9th for poinsettias to adorn the altar area through the Christmas season. The cost will be \$10 per plant. Your donation can be made "In memory" or "in honor" of loved ones. If you want to make a donation for a poinsettia, but will not be in church to see Dolores, you can drop your donation by the church office or send it in by mail.

W.E.M.M. THANKSGIVING SERVICE **AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH** **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH AT 4 P.M.**

St. John's will be hosting this year's special Thanksgiving service. Please join us, along with members of other churches, to give thanks to the Lord for all he bestows upon us.



ST. JOHN'S PRESCHOOL

Our annual Spaghetti Feed and Raffle was a great success. We served between 250 – 275 adults and children. We had over 40 raffle prizes plus a separate raffle for a butchered pig which Tom Hall won. The raffle brought in about \$1,400. The preschool will be putting \$2,000 of the proceeds towards the windows that were replaced and a new play structure in our play yard.

During the week of October 8th we took class pictures and school photos of our children. Over the last three years this has been a successful fundraiser for the preschool.

Our Pumpkin Picking Event was held October 17th. We have this event in house as opposed to going to a pumpkin farm. We find more parents are able to attend. Jim Neilson brought his little pigs for the event.

On October 31st the children will parade over to the three nearest banks to Trick-Or-Treat and will have their Halloween parties when they return.



.The preschool will be selling frozen pies from Larson Apple Barn at Apple Hill. We are selling French Apple (containing nuts) \$22, Traditional Apple \$20, Traditional Pumpkin \$20 and Sour Cream Berry \$22. The orders have to be in by November 2nd. The pies will be delivered November 19th. If you are interested in ordering a pie please contact Marilyn Mitchell at 908-1676.



CHRISTMAS WREATH ORDERS

It's time to think about ordering your greens for the holidays this year! The final order will be placed November 1st and items will be delivered the week of November 26th – 30th. If you would be interested in selling or purchasing wreaths please contact Marilyn Mitchell at (530) 908-1676 (cell).

ST. JOHN'S HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIRE NOVEMBER 16-17th

As we enter the holiday season, people are beginning to think about gifts and decorating. St. John's United Church of Christ will be hosting its 9th Annual Craft Fair and Boutique on Friday November 16th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. & Saturday November 17th from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the Social Hall where such items can be found. Local crafters will be selling a range of creations from homemade breads and jams to beautifully designed jewelry. St. John's Church will be taking orders for beautiful, great-smelling holiday wreaths to dress your front door or hang anywhere that needs a burst of Christmas.

If you are interested in selling at the Craft Faire, call or come by the church office to get a registration form.

Vender table sizes are: 10 ft-\$25,
8 ft-\$20, 5 ft-\$12.50 and 4 ft-\$10.



RIDES TO CHURCH

Want to go to church, but don't have a ride? Please call the church office (662-5921) to set up a ride. We have members that will gladly take you to and from church. If you discover you need a ride on Sunday morning, no worries! Call Carol Lou (867-5045) and she will arrange a ride for you. If you can transport individuals to church, please let Carol Lou know. Most people who need rides transport best in a vehicle that doesn't sit too high nor too low. Also, let her know if you are able to transport a wheelchair, as well.

HARVEST HOME THANK YOUS

Thank you to all who made yummy food for our stew luncheon. We'd also like to thank those who brought a portion of their harvest to share at the worship service. A big thank you to Jenny Henson, Jamie Vaughn, Sally Reed and Dode Casari of the Lay Life committee for all of their kitchen work. A special thank you to Steve Weiss, once again, for providing all the pumpkins and gourds. Thank you to Jeff Bourke for creating the banners displayed in both the back parking lot and on the street side of the church campus. We are grateful to those who came in Saturday morning to decorate the church. Much appreciation to Tom Brannan and Jan Flannery for all the publicity they provided for the event. The tradition of Harvest Home at St. John's lives on! It wouldn't happen without all of you.



FACILITY PROJECTS UPDATE

We are in the process of getting bids to replace the original single paned windows in back of the overflow room of the sanctuary. Two more panes were broken in the last couple of weeks. Over the last 3 years we have had to replace about 8 window panes.

We are also getting bids to replace one preschool door and 3 doors that open to the play yard from the social hall.

NOVEMBER MOVIE NIGHTS

We will be showing the following movies this month:

Friday, November 9-'Papa's Delicate Condition' and

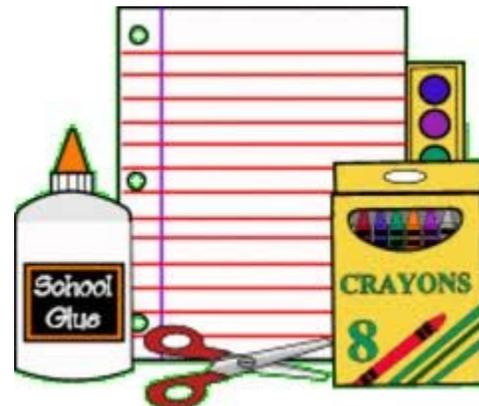
Friday, November 23-'Christmas of Many Colors'



Come to the Social Hall at 6:15 p.m. and the movies will begin shortly after. Snacks will be provided, but you are welcome to bring a snack to share, as well. The movies are always a time for great fellowship and entertainment.

SUPPLIES FOR CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

In August, we purchased school supplies for the 30 shoe boxes that will be given to 4th & Hope families at Christmas. See Marilyn Mitchell to make your financial contribution for this project. Other items for the shoe boxes will be purchased in December.



FIJI OUTREACH LETTER OF APPRECIATION

Our church received the following letter from Eta Seruvakula's sister on behalf of her church in Fiji.:

Bula vinaka! (Greetings and Good Health).

On behalf of the Nasautoka District Kindergarten, the Nasautoka Church Sunday School group and the women and girls of Nasautoka village, I would like express and convey to you and the kind members of the St John's Church of Woodland, our sincere gratitude for your kind donation of clothes, toys and Sunday school materials for our village.

This is the second time that you have reached across the Pacific Ocean to the people of our village of Nasautoka (nestled inland on the main island) with your token of love and assistance as mentioned above.

I also would like to apologize for being late in acknowledging your donation as it was only this week that I was able to transport the donation to the village.

The women were truly grateful for the lovely clothes which they are now able to clothe their families and themselves with. In my district, the women are the backbone of most developments, so to see that they felt rewarded by your gifts, was quite satisfying.

As a teacher myself, I had to laugh when laying out on the table the assortment of toys and puzzles and being deafened by the 'wows' and shouts of exclamations and happiness when 4 & 5-year-old kindergarten kids saw their goodies.

After their head teacher said her 'thank yous' the kids rummaged through the stuff and picked out toys which they started to noisily play with. Managing the noise level and maintaining crowd control proved most challenging after that. So, you see, this new supply was a

very welcome break to the basic stuff they have grown out of for years. The kindergarten teacher and the parents have asked to convey to you their heartiest appreciation.

Today the Sunday school group were handed their books, drawing and teaching materials in church following a combined service to welcome the new month. They said this was the first time they have received something that will make their work easier, and owning materials that have come 'all the way from America'! They would like to say 'vinaka vakalevu '(thank you very much) to the church.

On a personal note and as Eta's sister, my family and I cannot thank you enough for your kindness and love in thinking of our village to donate to. Please be assured that all that you have sent will be put to very good use and will be highly appreciated by the villagers.

*Thank you once again and God Bless You All.
Veniana Baledrokadroka*





I was born February 25, 1957 to Sam and Barbara Agnew. I joined two older brothers, Tom and David. We grew up in

Woodland on Homewood Drive. My brothers, neighbor kids, and I spent many hours playing hide & seek, 3 flies up, cowboys and Indians and riding bicycles, skateboards, and assorted home made cars. I was active in 4-H, city league softball and tennis, and I took piano lessons. I also played the clarinet in the school band for five years.

I attended Woodland public schools and during high school I met one of my best friends and fellow church member, Jan Cauble. During high school I worked part time at Corner Drug Store where I met another one of my best friends and fellow church member, Carol Lou Bourke. Although we had known each other through Sunday School it was working together at the drug store where we discovered how much we enjoyed each others company!

I left Woodland after high school graduation to attend Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. I graduated in 1979 with a BS in Food Science. I made some very good friends there. After graduation we all went in different directions, so we made sure to get together at least once a year in the SLO area. We

would camp, hike, fish, play golf, and sometimes run down into Mexico. Nearly 40 years later, this same group gets together at least once a year in the SLO area, but now we stay in hotels and go out for nice dinners.

I was employed by Petoseed/Seminis/Monsanto for 36 years. I worked in the area of Plant Pathology and Quality Assurance Seed Health with bacterial diseases. This included inoculating plants to determine resistance to diseases and testing seeds to confirm that they were free of seed-borne pathogens. It was a job I enjoyed very much.

In 1994 I met my husband, Bruce, through mutual friends, and we were married October 27, 2000. Along with gaining a husband, I gained two sons, Aaron, now 34, and Adam, soon to be 30. Aaron and his wife, Jen, live in Windsor, Colorado and have blessed us with our first granddaughter, Charlotte, 3, and are expecting a son on December 3. They have asked us to come out and take care of Charlotte during that week and we are looking very forward to.

I started attending St. John's before I was aware of what was happening around me. I was baptized there as an infant, as were my brothers. The three of us were also confirmed at St. John's. We are 4th generation St. John's members and I remember fondly attending church with my grandmother, Carolyn Oliver. During my college years, and the years after

that, I did not attend regularly, but have now recommitted myself to the church. I am an Elder and have served on different committees. What I like most about St. John's is the small, family appeal.

My hobbies include hiking, biking, reading, growing roses, and playing the piano (currently taking lessons from our own Pam Prater). Bruce and I live on 20 acres of pistachios outside of Woodland and this "hobby farm" keeps us both busy, which we love. We have a Jack Russell Terrier, two cats, six chickens, and an aquarium of goldfish, all who I enjoy very much, especially the cats. We also follow the sports teams of the San Francisco Giants, the New York Jets, and the San Antonio Spurs. My favorite food is Mexican food and my favorite dessert is cheesecake. What most people may not know about me is that I can ride a unicycle.

While employed at Monsanto we were required to take a 'Strength Finders' poll. My top three are:

1. Consistency – the need to treat people the same. I hope this is true, I hope I treat everyone fairly.
2. Discipline- the world needs to be ordered and predictable. I know this is true. My routines make me feel very safe and secure.
3. Harmony – look for areas of agreement. This is true also, I do not like conflict, I want the whole world to be happy. I look for areas of compromise.

In closing, I would like to add that I believe in the Golden Rule, that we should all treat people like we would like to be treated.

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Faye Brannan, Jim Brannan, Paula Castles,
Sammie Collins, Al Massa, Derril Peabody,
Dathion Ruiz, Lois Lawson and Patty Cox
For the caregivers within our community,
Those serving in the military and their families,
Local, national, and international leaders,
All who suffer persecution around the world.

NARTHEX REJUVINATON PROJECT

The narthex has been painted from head to toe. It is very similar to the old paint color, but it looks cleaner, fresher and brighter now. Thank you to Jeff Bourke, Carol Neilson, Tom Hall and Pastor Dan. The bell was greased...thank you Jim Nielson. A new light fixture will be installed soon, as the wiring and cord of the old fixture shows signs of a potential hazard.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP NOVEMBER 27th

The program will be on "Living Waters International" presented by Robert Parker, husband of Veronica Bethel Parker. Living Waters helps with the drilling of new, safe wells to provide uncontaminated healthy water wells for the people of countries, such as Haiti. This will also be our "Toys for Tots" toy drive night, so bring a new, unwrapped toy and a dish to share and enjoy the fellowship and program.

LOCAL OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:



We are continuing our collection of ***new or gently used bath towels, wash cloths, soap and toiletries*** for 4th and Hope. We are also still collecting ***unopened pet food, new and used towels***

and ***laundry detergent*** for the Yolo County Animal Shelter. You may bring these items to the social hall or the back hallway of the church where there will be designated boxes to put the items.

NOVEMBER'S BIRTHDAY BRIGADE

4th Pam Prater
5th Jamie Vaughn
9th Jim Neilson
18th Audrey Hicks
23rd Dan Wysong



WHEN IS YOUR BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY?

We do not have all of your birthdays and anniversaries on file in the office. We'd like to know these special dates so that we can wish you happiness and love. If you haven't seen your name in your birthday or anniversary month Altar Light, please let Carol Lou know, so that we don't miss it next year!

ST. JOHN'S RETIREMENT VILLAGE

Best of Yolo County 2018 results are in and we were voted 1st Place for - Best Nursing Home, Runner Up for -Assisted Living.

Preliminary numbers are in, and after expenses, pending any further late invoices, we made \$37,498 from Rhythm and Ribs this year. That is only off by about \$2,000 from last year. Considering the unanimous poor feedback we received (and observed) from the actual auction activity, I think that is a very good result. Plans are already underway to improve our cost savings next year and more successfully engage with our attendees and sponsors.

BABY ARRIVAL!

Congratulations to Alyssa and Chris May and to Jan and Bill Cauble.

Alyssa gave birth to Parker Lynn May. on October 13th.

She is Alyssa and Chris' first child and Jan and Bill's first grandchild.

Alyssa's sister, Laura, is a very proud aunt, too. The baby is healthy and very cute! Congratulations to all.



UPDATING CONTACT INFORMATION

In an effort to maintain current contact information, we are requesting that the members and friends of St. John's Church update their contact information (address, e-mail address(es) and both home and cell phone numbers) and e-mail to: **saintjohnswoodland@gmail.com** or call the church office (**662-5921**) or mail in the information (**432 Cleveland Street**). Thank you to those of you who have turned in information cards.

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Address Service Requested