



THE CHIMES

March 2024

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**Our Mission is to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ and to
Serve God by Sharing Compassion, Hope and Love**

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THE CHIMES

March 2024

VISION STATEMENT

The people of Christ United Methodist Church will

- COURAGEOUSLY REACH OUT AND WELCOME
- PASSIONATELY WORSHIP AND PRAY
- INTENTIONALLY NURTURE AND ENCOURAGE
- LOVINGLY SHARE AND SERVE.

MISSION STATEMENT

**OUR MISSION IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST (MATTHEW 28:19-20) AND TO SERVE
GOD BY SHARING COMPASSION, HOPE, AND LOVE.**



The Intersection of Why and What - Newsletter March 2024

Here are two important questions:

- 1) Why are we here?
- 2) What are we doing about it?

Last fall, we had several strategic planning meetings. One of the things that grew out of those meetings was our new vision statement that you see at the top of our bulletin every week. But another was a conversation about why God has put us here, as Queen Esther would have said, “for such a time as this.” During the strategic planning meeting we asked two important questions. First, “What are the pressing needs of our community?” And second, “What are the strengths of our congregation?” Only when we answer the latter two questions, we will be able to answer the two questions that I asked at the beginning of this letter.

The needs that we listed in our meetings, with the input of many community leaders, were poverty, hunger, housing (including homelessness, blight, and high rents), lack of workforce and lack of jobs, safe places for youth, support for parents, mental health, drugs, and transportation. At the same time, we listed the strengths of our congregation as outreach, music, caring and compassionate congregation, generosity, education, leaders, organizers, our endowment, our connections and contacts, our physical plant/building and our adjoining lots used for both greenspace and the community garden.

That’s a lot.

But I want to keep these ideas in front of us rather than just allowing them to be an exercise that we once did and promptly forgot. Our community needs us, and our future depends upon us doing something about it.

And so, I’m inviting you all to think and dream about where these two lists intersect. What is the intersection of “What we are?” and “What is needed?” What is the intersection of “Why are we here?” and “What do the people around us need us to be and do?”

We really need you to do this.

Often, I ask these sorts of questions in our newsletter, and everyone seems to think that they are rhetorical questions (they are not). And I never get more than one or two answers, if any. But these questions need to be answered and I will be bringing them to our church boards for more discussion as we seek to find a new direction, purpose, and yes, a new strategic plan for our future.

But what might that look like?

From the list above, it could be many things, but here is an example based on something that we already do, and with which we already have some familiarity. Think about housing. Last week the Alliance chapter of Habitat for Humanity accepted applications for this year's round of construction. Habitat will build or renovate three houses, but they had something like 150 applications. Yikes. That number is mind blowing, but it gives us a glimpse of insight into the housing needs of our community.

So, what if, instead of raising money for three months, once every other year, for our share of the Apostle build, what if we raised money for twenty-four months? What if, instead of setting our goal at \$5,000. We set a goal of \$20,000 or even \$150,000 (which is the cost of an entire Habitat house)?

What if, as some churches are doing in other states, we used some of our vacant land to build "tiny houses" to help get homeless people in our community under a roof, out of the weather, and help them move toward a better life?

What if our church bought and renovated one of the empty buildings in our city and created a multi-unit, low cost, rent-controlled, safe place, apartment complex?

These are all examples to help you dream. Some of them are big dreams. But honestly, given the resources, generosity, and leadership available in our congregation, I believe that, given enough time, any of them, or all of them, are possible for us to achieve if we decided to do so. But housing is just one of the needs that we listed.

What else might God be calling us to be or to do?

Why are we here?

What are we doing about it?

Blessings,

Pastor John



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH UPDATE:



United
Women
in Faith

March 5 (7PM) – UNIT MEETING, Dussel Room
Program also offered via Zoom

Program: “Local Hope: The Jackie Davison Foundation”, **Presenter:** Sarah Mahan
Greeters/Hostesses: May Smyth Circle

Our meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend.
If you’d like to “Zoom in”, contact Nancy Prueter at prueter@sbcglobal.net for an invitation.

Every year, March is designated **Women’s History Month** by presidential proclamation. The month is set aside to honor women’s contributions in American history.

Women’s History Month began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women planned and executed a “Women’s History Week” celebration in 1978. The organizers selected the week of March 8 to correspond with **International Women’s Day**.

In 1980, a consortium of women’s groups and historians—led by the National Women’s History Project (now the National Women's History Alliance)—successfully lobbied for national recognition. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th 1980 as National Women’s History Week. Subsequent Presidents continued to proclaim a National Women’s History Week in March until 1987 when Congress passed Public Law 100-9, designating March as Women’s History Month.

The National Women's History Alliance designates a yearly theme for Women's History Month. The 2024 theme celebrates **“Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.”** This theme recognizes women who understand the need to eliminate bias and discrimination from individuals' lives and institutions.

“You must never be fearful about what you are doing when it is right.”

Rosa Parks (1913-2005), civil rights activist.

GOOD TO KNOW:

“HEAT AND EAT” MEATLOAF MEAL is back!

The meals are \$12.00/each, orders will be taken in the Lounge, and **pick-up will be March 24th**

April UNIT MEETING - April 2nd 7PM, Dussel Room

Program: “Exploring the Lord’s Prayer”, **Presenters:** Pat Helsel, Ellen Sol, and Karen Locke
(Attendees of the 2023 School of Mission)

Greeters/Hostesses: M&M Circle

UPCOMING (Save the dates):
United Women in Faith Sunday, April 7th
Spring Basement Sale, Set-up May 2nd, Sale May 3rd & 4th

United Women in Faith always welcomes guests and new members.
Please call Jamie Greiner at (412) 601-4275 or any Executive Board Officer, if interested.

The Unit meets on most 1st Tuesdays at 7pm in the Dussel Room

- ❖ **Peg Williams Circle** meets at 1pm on 3rd Mondays at Copeland Oaks, Williamsburg Lounge
 - ❖ **M & M Circle** meets at 7pm on 3rd Mondays in the Dussel Room
 - ❖ **May Smyth Circle** meets at 10:30am on 3rd Tuesdays in the Dussel Room
 - ❖ **Susie Buckel Circle** meets at 7pm on 3rd Tuesdays in the Dussel Room



HEAT AND EAT MEATLOAF MEAL ORDER FORM

Date: _____

Please fill out this form to order your carry-out meal(s).

NAME _____

Phone: _____

Meatloaf Meal

\$12 per meal

QTY _____

HEAT AND EAT MEATLOAF MEALS: Place your order by March 17th.
Pickup will be after church on Sunday, March 24th. Meal includes meatloaf,
scalloped potatoes, corn, coleslaw and cookies. Each meal will serve one
person and will be packaged for carry-out to heat and eat. You may pay for
your meals when you pick them up. Thank you for your support!

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS FOR MARCH

USHERS - Team #2

Bruce Helsel – Captain
Karen Locke Mark Locke
Bill Prueter

LITURGISTS

3 Ellen Sol
10 Pat Helsel
17 Bill Sol
24 Victor Lee
31 Susan Haddox

WELCOME CENTER GREETERS

3 Pat Stone
10 Lucinda Feess
17 Kathy Stroia
24 Denise Aeling
31 Nancy Prueter

SANCTUARY GREETERS

3 Ellen Sol
10 Bill Sol
17 Patti Travis
24 Dick Diser
31 Jill Greiner

TELLERS

3 Bill Prueter/Dick Diser
10 Pat Helsel/Marilyn Ruff
17 Mark Locke/Bruce Helsel
24 Donna Essick/Jill Greiner
31 Jim Greiner/Nancy Prueter

VISITATION MEMBERS**

3 Bobbie Wright, Sebring
10 Craig Post, N Canton
17 Charlie Manypenny, Sebring
24 June Luca, Alliance
31 Mary Aufrance, Alliance

** If you would like their complete address, please
contact the Church Office

BIRTH DAYS

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

4 Brian Skidmore	22 Courtney Webster
9 John Webster	27 Dave Austin
10 Brad Bolog	27 Lew Shields
14 L. Chris Martin	29 Amanda Montgomery
18 Craig Post	

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

20 Dan & Sheila Gard
30 Janet & John Fisher



CHIMES DEADLINE: The deadline for the April 2024 issue of *The Chimes* is Tuesday, March 19th. Articles may be placed in the Secretary's slot outside the church office or emailed to secretary@cumcalliance.org

EASTER

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 24 th	PALM SUNDAY SERVICE	10:15 A.M.
March 28 th	MAUNDY THURSDAY	7:00 P.M.
March 29 th	GOOD FRIDAY ALLIANCE COMMUNITY SERVICE	7:00 P.M.
March 30 th	EASTER VIGIL	8:00 P.M.
March 31 st	SONRISE SERVICE	8:00 P.M.
	BREAKFAST	8:30 P.M.
	EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE	10:15 A.M.

What's New?!?

On April 14th the Education Committee is going to host a special event. Directly after church that day, there will be a lunch organized by Nancy Preuter and then the interactive program will begin. The event will include all age groups and, no doubt, there will be some surprises. Chris Martin will be the Master of Ceremonies.

So keep your eyes open for posters and announcements about this fun-filled day as we "roll out" this special event. April 14th!!!

Children's Church School Update

The Children's Church School has been learning about Jesus' teachings to love and respond to the needs of people. A representative group of our members have graciously accepted an invitation to share with the children about an outreach project they are involved in and are visiting our class each week. The children are going to determine how they can be in mission, too. Watch the View Sonic for pictures of these special Sundays.



LENTEN WEEKLY DEVOTIONS 2024

Again, this year Pastor Chris Martin is offering 30-minute Lenten devotions each Thursday evening during Lent, beginning on Thursday, February 15, and concluding on Thursday, March 21. The devotions will be accessible via ZOOM, beginning at 7 PM and concluding at 7:30 PM each week. The zoom link will be sent out weekly to all emails registered with the Christ United Methodist Church office. Participants are asked to access the link five to seven minutes before 7 PM so we can begin promptly at 7 PM. Each devotion will include a Call to Worship, an Opening Prayer, a Scripture Lesson, and a brief Meditation concerning one of the women that Jesus met as he traveled throughout Galilee with his disciples.

2024 LENTEN SERIES

“HOW JESUS CHANGED OR WAS CHANGED BY THE LIVES OF THE WOMEN HE MET”

March 7, 2024 – ***Salome – The Mother of James and John***

March 14, 2024 – ***Claudia – The Wife of Pontius Pilate***

March 21, 2024 – ***The Unnamed Widow at the Gates of the Temple***

BLESSING BAG UPDATE

Thank you for your Blessing Bag Donations. We will be doing more bags in April. We can use Ladies deodorants, Toothpaste, Mens & Ladies socks, small water bottles and cosmetic Bags.

Jean & Carolyn



“LOOKING AHEAD.....the Christian Outreach Committee will be collecting soap, paper products and canned meat throughout the month of APRIL for the ***Alliance Community Pantry***. (More information soon.) Thank you.”

MARCH 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 3rd Sunday in Lent 	4 7p Scouts	5 5p Community Dinner 7p Unit Meeting UWF	6 5:30p Halleluia Bells 6:30p Chancel Bells 7:30p Chancel Vocal	7	8	9
10 4th Sunday in Lent Daylight Savings Time begins	11 6:30p Christian Education 7p Scouts	12 5p Community Dinner 6:30p Finance Comm 7p Admin Council	13 5:30p Halleluia Bells 6:30p Chancel Bells 7:30p Chancel Vocal	14	15	16
17 5 th Sunday in Lent 	18 1p Peg Williams Circle - Williamsburg 7p Scouts 7p M & M Circle	19 10:30a May Smyth Circle 5p Community Dinner 7p Susie Buckel Circle	20 5:30p Halleluia Bells 6:30p Chancel Bells 7:30p Chancel Vocal	21	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 	25 7p Scouts 7P UWF Executive	26 5p Community Dinner 6:30p Trustees	27 5:30p Halleluia Bells 6:30p Chancel Bells 7:30p Chancel Vocal	28 7p Maundy Thursday 	29 7p Community Good Friday- CUMC 	30 8p Easter Vigil
31 Easter Sunday 8:00 am Sunrise Service 8:30 am Breakfast 9:00 am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 						