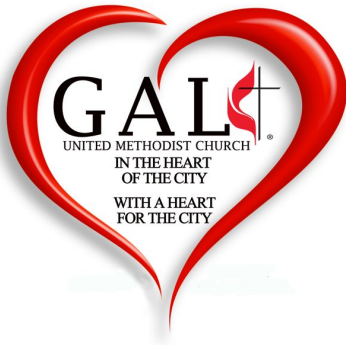


Galt UMC This Week



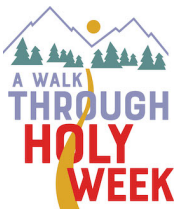
Galt UMC is a warm welcoming family who worship, pray, learn, and love one another by serving our community so that everyone can encounter the Risen Lord and experience transformation through God's Grace.



April 3, 2023

Let's Talk – A Word from Pastor Mary Maaga mjzmaaga@yahoo.com 530-417-6584

I have always been a lover of time travel stories. In a lot of respects my preaching and teaching is an effort to reconstruct the world of the Bible in such a way that you can GO THERE and see the faith and courage that it has always taken to be a follower of God. Holy Week is my favorite week of the year because I can almost hear, smell, taste, and see events unfold in the final days of Jesus's earthly ministry. Some of these events are almost too terrible to bear, but I force myself to go through Holy Week with the Lord and His disciples because each year I gain something new that sustains me for the coming year. Many of you have told me how meaningful this Lenten Season has been for you. My hope and prayer is that Holy Week will shine all the brighter for you because of your Lenten journey.



In Christ's Living Presence, Pastor Mary

p.s. Would you do me a favor? If something has been especially meaningful for you – maybe one of the Easter Egg gifts, or a song, or a story, or something else that happened during Worship that has stuck with you – would you please write it down and send it to me? I would like to share these in a future newsletter. You can tell me if I am allowed to include your name or not.



Easter Egg Hunt

At the close of Easter Worship, the children and parents/grandparents will be dismissed first to go stand by the doors to the courtyard until Pastor Mary goes around the side door to the front for the children to come out and hunt for the eggs that the Easter Bunny's helpers have hidden in the front courtyard. We are asking that parents/grandparents stick with their children during and after the Easter Egg hunt.

Please share our website with family and friends! It is a peek into who our Church family is and what we believe!

GaltUMC.org



Contact us:

Mary Maaga, Pastor
Galt United Methodist Church
571 C Street
Galt, CA 95632
Telephone 209-745-4133
e-mail at: galtumc@gmail.com
In-person worship: 10am Sunday
Contribute online: galtumc.org

NEWS & Notes



Maundy Thursday, April 6, 5pm *Worship in our Galt UMC Sanctuary as we remember Christ's last supper with His disciples, as well as His prayer in the Garden at Gethsemane, betrayal, arrest, and Peter's denial*

Good Friday, April 7, noon *Worship in our Galt UMC Sanctuary as we remember Christ's sacrificial death and the gift of atonement. - John Miller singing*

Easter, April 9 *Alleluia! He is Risen! Risen, indeed!*

6:30am **Sunrise Service** in our Galt UMC Courtyard

8:30am **Breakfast Potluck** (Pastor Mary will provide sparkling cider and hot chocolate – everyone else bring fruit, or pastry, or bagels, or mini quiche)

10am **Worship at Galt UMC**

After Worship – Easter Egg hunt for children in our front courtyard

1:30pm **Worship at Bruceville Point**

Eight Days That Changed the World – THEY CAN CHANGE YOU TOO!

During this forty-day season of Lent, we have received gifts to help in focusing our journey to the Cross and Empty Tomb.

Ash Wednesday – “sack cloth” to represent our sorrow over the ways our disobedience grieves the heart of God

First Sunday of Lent – mirror to represent our willingness to reflect on our behavior and our commitment to praying for ourself

Second Sunday of Lent – sheep to represent our willingness to follow the Good Shepherd and do for vulnerable people what He has called us to do

Third Sunday of Lent – a scented cloth to remind us of God's tender care

Fourth Sunday of Lent – a nail to remind us of the suffering of Christ and what He taught us from the Cross: forgiveness, salvation, love, atonement, suffering, victory, hope

Fifth Sunday of Lent – a rock to symbolize the hard reality of grief, and Jesus Christ the cornerstone upon which our lives of faith are built



Our hard-working Pastor is taking her once a month renewal day for March and April back to back and combining it with her day off

so she can take three days off in a row the week following Easter from Wednesday April 12 through Friday April 14. Colleen Hurley, Chair of Staff Parish Relations Committee, will cover any care needs that arise on those three days. Colleen can be reached at 209-712-1541. Pastor Mary looks forward to being back for the Women's Meeting on Saturday, April 15 and for leading Worship on Bright Sunday, April 16th. Also, she wants you to know that Zola and she are car sharing, so sometimes Pastor Mary will be in the office when her car is not in the driveway. When in doubt, call or text and she will let you know if she is there in the office.

Hospitality Host



April 9

Mona Stratton
Anne Albrecht

April 16

David & Debra
Herburger

GREETERS SCHEDULE

April 9

Mariah & Mercedes
Diego

April 16

Judy King
Anne Albrecht

Fifth Sunday Potluck

April 30

April is a busy month. What with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday with it's Potluck Breakfast and Easter Egg hunt, whew!! Let's add some more fun. How about a Fifth Sunday

Potluck? Theme? A Spring Picnic.

What would you take to a picnic? Keep it simple. If your last name starts with A, B or C, please bring hoagie style sandwiches. You know, those long loaves of bread filled with meats, cheeses, greens, whatever. Then cut into 3 or 4 inch sections.

Those with last names starting with D—L Please bring sides and salads like cole slaw, potato salad, fruit and veggie trays, eggs , even bags of chips.

The rest of the alphabet can bring SIMPLE finger food type desserts like cookies, brownies, cupcakes rice crispy treats. Let's have a large family style picnic.

- Mona Stratton

Lay Leader

334-235-1467

A Town Hall meeting will be held following the meal

The Town Hall will focus on programs at Galt UMC. What is missing from what we offer our Church family? What has served its purpose and needs to be let go? What will be attractive to the community and grow our Church?

Bright Sunday, also known as Holy Humor Sunday, April 16

The Sunday after Easter has traditionally been a day to PARTY in response to Christ's Resurrection! Let's wear all different shades of **blue** to reflect **blue** skies, the **bluebird** of happiness, **blue** bells, and the **blue** of the oceanic depths of God's love!



Received from our United Methodist Church District Superintendent David Niu:

Dear Pastor Mary Maaga, Thank you so much for your leadership and the great work and ministry that you do in Galt. Especially your leadership in the Sunshine Food Pantry Project that will help to alleviate food insecurity in the community. May God bless you and your effort to help to stamp out hunger in Galt and the surrounding community.

Blessings! David Niu



Lunch Bunch

Want to get to know your Church family better? Want to share laughs and stories over a meal? Then bring your wallet and your

appetite for fun to our monthly Lunch Bunch. It is a "pay your own way" lunch together at different area restaurants. This month we will be enjoying Mexican food at Compadres Restaurant, 11:30am in Raley's Center, on Thursday, April 6. See you there!



Maundy Thursday: It's also known as Holy Thursday, Covenant Thursday, Great and Holy Thursday, Sheer Thursday and Thursday of Mysteries! Whew . . . but what exactly is this important day in the holy week?

To see Chuck's video - - [Click Here](#) 2:50

Good Friday: It's also known as Holy Friday, Great Friday, Black Friday or Easter Friday. We all know the terrible events of this day, but why is it called "good"?

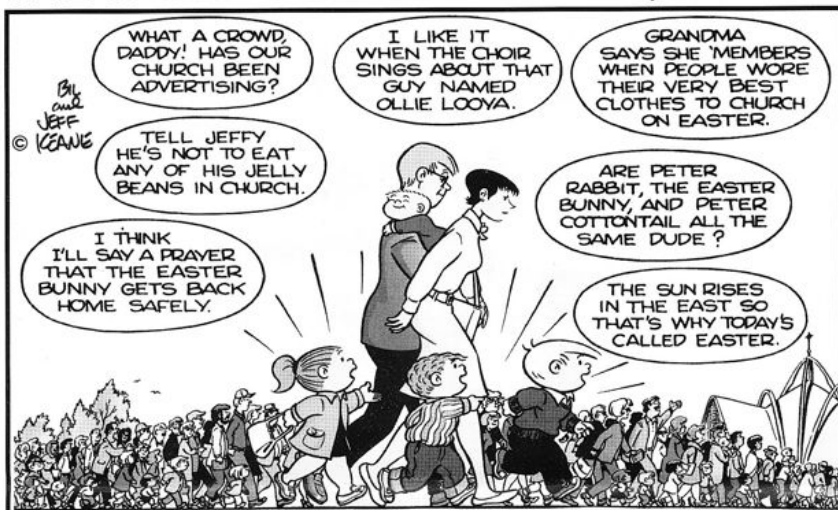
To see Chuck's video - - [Click Here](#) 2:58

Easter and Lilies: What do lilies have to do with Easter? And what do lilies and Easter have in common? Chuck finds out - -

To see Chuck's video - - [Click Here](#) 3:54

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil and Jeff Keane



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com

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This week at our Church



Tuesday, April 4, 11:00am Bible Study on Ruth, in person



April 4: Holy Tuesday 4:00pm Facebook Live



Wednesday, April 5, 8am - 11:30am Sunshine Food Pantry prepares food boxes for delivery to seniors



April 5: Holy Wednesday 4:00pm Facebook Live



Thursday, April 6, 11:30am Lunch Bunch meets at Compadres Restaurant in Raley's Center.



April 6: Holy Thursday 4:00pm Facebook Live



Thursday, April 6, 5:00pm Maundy Thursday worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY



Good Friday Service

Friday, April 7, Noon - Good Friday service in sanctuary.



April 7: Holy Friday 4:00pm Facebook Live



April 8: Holy Saturday 4:00pm Facebook Live



Sunday, April 9, 6:30am - Sunrise Service in front courtyard.



Sunday, April 9, 8:30am - Potluck breakfast in social hall.



Easter Sunday, April 9, 10am Easter Sunday worship at Galt UMC.

Easter Sunday, April 9, 1:30pm at Bruceville Point.

EASTER SUNDAY



April 9: Holy Sunday 4:00pm Facebook Live



Monday, April 10, 11am Quilt Club

WEEKLY Sneak Peek



Every day during Holy Week at 4pm on Facebook Live, Pastor Mary will give a short teaching about the events and teachings of that day from Scripture. Log on to her

Facebook page: Mary Maaga, to watch live or as a recording.

Quilt Club @ 11am on Mondays



What joy to sit in the company of talented people and soak up the practice and legacy of making something wonderful out of scraps! Please join us even if you are not "quilty" or "handy" – the conversation is lovely and your idle hands will be given something simple to do.



Bible Study in person @ 11am on Tuesdays RUTH

We are nearing the completion of Ruth and looking forward to the happy ending of the coming together in matrimony of King David's Great Grandmother and Great Grandfather. Only God could have created such a happy ending out of the heartache, fear, and potential tragedy of Naomi and Ruth's journey. And it all started with Ruth's declaration of forever faith and forever loyalty. Wow! Inspiring to say the least. Come at 10:30 for a time of fellowship in our Galt UMC Social Hall. Our friends from Bruceville Point arrive in their bus right about then and look forward to their time with us.



Bible Study on ZOOM @ 4pm on Sundays ROMANS

The ZOOM Bible Study on Sundays at 4 will take a break in April and resume on May 7th and run weekly through the summer. New link will be published in May.



Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am - 1pm



The Work of the Church – How Our Church Works

by Pastor Mary

As most of you know by now the United Methodist Church is splitting over the issue of whether to accept lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people into the full life of the Church, including as ordained Pastors. As a way to grow myself in the midst of this heartbreaking time for the United Methodist Church, which saved my life when I was in my 20s, I entered into a correspondence with a theologically conservative colleague of mine. I wanted to understand his point of view and have him understand mine. Here is another excerpt from what I wrote him:

Christ's saving grace is the only thing that keeps me from surrendering to despair when I sin. For me, that's what's at the heart of my desire for total inclusion of all people in the United Methodist Church: my experience that without the Lord I would die from shame and unbridled sin. What do people do who don't have a relationship with Jesus Christ? This is what keeps me up at night, thinking that there are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people who struggle with spiritual and emotional issues unrelated to their sexual orientation that they have no relief from because the Church has not welcomed them into a relationship of trust and mutual respect. Being part of the Body of Christ can be hard. But in Churches we are challenged to love one another in spite of differences, we are put to work, we begin to mature in our understanding of God, and we are held accountable. I know for me all these together eventually birthed a disciple. Why would we deny anyone this opportunity based upon sexual or gender orientation?

Next week I will write my last article on this topic for now. Please feel free to text or email me any questions that I can answer in these articles. In May we will have a round table discussion for those who are interested in talking more about our denomination's split and the reasons for it.

**Dion Jergo's Gospel Sounds in Worship, April 23
and April 30!**

How blessed we are that Mattie Shepherd's "baby brother" Dion Jergo – noted Gospel singer and pianist -- will be helping lead Worship two Sundays in a row at Galt UMC!



Our Lord's Lambs will be busy at Sunday school upstairs at church at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday, April 16, 2023. Please don't miss it! Our lesson's theme will be Jesus exiting the tomb to return. Our bulletin boards upstairs are decorated with figures showing

the basic Easter story. We will discuss why and how we can greet Jesus in our hearts and ways to follow him. A new book titled "365 Bedroom Bible stories" was ordered for quick reads (one page) and we will begin with it Sunday the 16th.

The craft for this meeting will be painting and decorating wooden crosses with a scripture on them, so please dress kids in practical play clothes. We have gray G.U.M.C. T-shirts they can wear over their clothes to prevent paint staining, but things can get messy! 😊 🐑

Our last Sunday school meeting brought two new boys, so we have 16 different kids who have visited or attended now, AND our church member, Mary Blackwell is now a certified teacher, so we are closer to holding Sunday school twice each month instead of only once. God's blessings are always apparent. Thank you, God and Mary B.!

When you come upstairs, peek into the Sunday school room to see the curtain valance that will be completed this coming week to brighten our little room even more. We still need a 40" x 40" sturdy bookcase for that room. If you have one in decent shape we could really use it for books for the kids upstairs.

With some musical instruments recently found in church cupboards by Mona Stratton and Pastor Mary, we will once again practice the second verse to "Jesus Loves Me". Different children appear each time in our Sunday school so not all of them have learned it each time. Practice makes perfect, and one of these Sundays the children will sing it for the congregation.

Thank you to all who are helping in any way. There are now too many of you to mention, but God will bless you, and you are providing a much-needed ministry to these big and little inquiring minds and busy fingers.

See you on April 16, the Sunday after Easter Sunday!

Blessings,

Madeline Powell, (209-400-8795)
Director of children's ministries.,
Michele Weinel, teacher,
and Mary Blackwell, teacher

Galt United Methodist Church

Mary Maaga, Pastor
Church telephone - 209-745-4133
Morning Worship
Online at galtumc.org



Galt United Methodist Church
571 C Street
Galt, CA 95632

