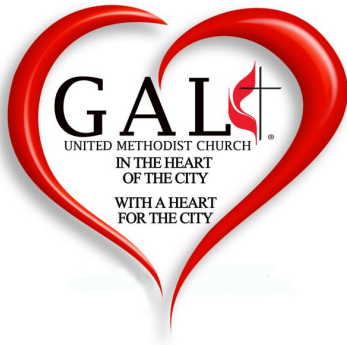


# Galt UMC This Week



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.



February 20, 2023

***Let's Talk – A Word from Pastor Mary Maaga*** [mjzmaaga@yahoo.com](mailto:mjzmaaga@yahoo.com) 530-417-6584

On Friday my daughter Zola took me to see Swan Lake as my birthday present. It was wonderful to watch the Sacramento Ballet perform to soaring melodies by Tchaikovsky and brought to mind my own desire to be a ballerina when I was a little girl. I've shared before what a rough transition it was for me to go from being the baby of the family to having to share attention with my sister after she was born, which happened when I was in kindergarten. Knowing I was struggling, my Mom signed me up for a beginners ballet class. Wearing my tights and tutu and twirling in front of the mirror was a dream come true! Every week we worked on a dance that was to be performed for our families wearing a "Poodle Skirt" – remember those from the 1950s? I didn't like the poodle skirt near as much as the tutu but was willing to tolerate it for the sake of having a chance to perform ballet on stage for my family.

The first part of the dance involved each of us having our moment in the spotlight. We were to run from the side of the stage to the center, where there was an X in tape, then twirl our poodle skirt before finding our place in the dance line. My turn came, I took a deep breath – HERE WAS MY MOMENT! – and in taking that deep breath my skirt slipped from my waist and I tripped on it on my way to the X! That was the beginning and end of my ballet career I am sad to say. I felt so embarrassed and humiliated by my stumble that I never went back to dance class again.

The 40-day season of Lent starts this week. I share this story because Lent is an opportunity to get back up from all the ways we have stumbled, failed, faltered, or sinned, and instead of quitting because we are ashamed, SHOW UP FOR GOD and let God give rise to a deepened faith. Let's decide together to fasten our poodle skirts tightly around our waists and get back on that dance stage! Let's show up for Bible Study. Let's show up for Worship. Let's show up for Quilt Club, and United Women in Fellowship. Let's sign up for Colleen's Prayer Class. Let's offer to greet or bring refreshments for coffee hour. Let's try out reading Scripture on Sunday, or teaching Sunday School. Let's fast from something – a food, or drink, or behavior – as a sign that we KNOW what Christ sacrificed for us. Let's give more to those who have less. Let's forgive those who have harmed us. Let's pray pray pray like never before. I look forward to dancing alongside all of you as we make our way to the X at the center of the stage – Christ's Cross and the Empty Tomb. Hope to see you Wednesday at noon for Worship as we start our journey with Ash Wednesday.

In the Way and Spirit of Christ,  
Pastor Mary



## Contact us:

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Galt United Methodist Church  
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Galt, CA 95632  
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e-mail at: [galtumc@gmail.com](mailto:galtumc@gmail.com)  
In-person worship: 10am Sunday  
Contribute online: [galtumc.org](http://galtumc.org)



# NEWS & Notes



**noon, February 22** A time of prayer and commitment to repentance and reconciliation during the forty days of preparation for Good Friday and Easter. Ashes are a sign of mortality and sorrow over the ways we have grieved God's heart. We will be reminded that our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.



First Sunday in **February 26;** Sermon: "Hypocrisy Exposed: Christ's Courage on Palm Sunday and Holy Monday" Scripture: Matthew 21:1 - 24:1 covers all the events of Palm Sunday and Holy Monday *Easter Eggs with a symbolic object inside will be given to each person*

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

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John each devote between a quarter and a third of all that they wrote to the eight days from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. While all of us know that Christ died on Good Friday and rose on Easter Sunday, most do not know what the Lord taught or did on the Monday following Palm Sunday, or the Tuesday following that. This year our Lenten journey will take us into the EIGHT DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD by following Matthew's Gospel from Chapter 21 through Chapter 28. *Each Sunday of Lent you will receive a plastic Easter egg with a symbolic item inside to remind you of what happened that day that changed the world! See if you can collect all seven by attending every Sunday from the first Sunday of Lent next Sunday (February 26) through Easter on April 9!*

## The Journey Begins - Wednesday, February 22, noon

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday (the day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday). During this season those who love the Lord are called to deepen that love by acts of repentance and forgiveness. Those who have yet to feel the grace of the Lord are invited to open their hearts to His presence. Those who have committed their lives to discipleship are invited to engage in prayer, fasting, and charitable works to extend God's mercy to all of humanity. Lent is a rich season of spiritual plantings and harvest. And it all begins on Ash Wednesday. You are invited to come at noon on February 22<sup>nd</sup> for a service of commitment to the Lenten Journey. The ashes of Ash Wednesday are a symbolic reminder that God created us out of the dust of the earth, and that to earth we will one day return - but that through God's gracious gift we are given everlasting life.



## Class Sign-ups End this Week

This is the last week to sign up for Colleen Hurley's class that promises to deepen your experience of prayer! On February 26, March 5, then March 19, March 26, Colleen Hurley will be leading a class on fresh ways to pray. The class will be from 9am - 9:45am upstairs in the Sanctuary building. Colleen asks that you make a commitment to all four classes, understanding that there will be "homework" between classes that will help to deepen your experience. The class will be limited to 8 people - however if more than that sign up, Colleen will offer another class on a weeknight. This is an ideal Lenten commitment. To sign up, please contact Colleen at 209-712-1541 or email [churley55@comcast.net](mailto:churley55@comcast.net)

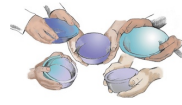


Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am - 1pm

# SMALL GROUPS

John and Charles Wesley, the founders of the Methodist movement were big believers in ACCOUNTABILITY.

They understood that people grow deeper in Christ when they are honest with a small group of people who will receive their confession, pray with them, and help them to open their eyes to the grace of God. For this reason, the Wesley's set up "classes" within each of their worshipping communities that met weekly for the purpose of spiritual support and accountability. While Galt UMC does not have "classes" per say, we do have groups and committees that see each other outside of worship. For example, the people from Galt UMC who volunteer for the food pantry are deeply connected, those who attend Bible Study on Tuesdays, Quilt Club on Mondays, etc. The Prayer Group that Colleen Hurley is offering is another opportunity to build a "class" of people with whom you can grow in Christ. Do you have a group you would like to introduce to our Church family? Just let Pastor Mary know. *We will no longer be holding Caring & Sharing since folks are getting their caring and sharing needs met with our existing groups.*



Empty Bowls Fundraiser for the Sunshine Food Pantry & Resource Center,

Inc. Building Fund! Food, Music, Artisans, Auction, and more! \$20 adult ticket, \$5 child ticket. Saturday, March 25, 6pm - 9pm at the Littleton Center. For more information, contact Faye Gaines at 209-200-2628. Tickets for sale after Worship from Mark King. We have a total of 300 tickets available and they are going fast!

**Pastor Mary's Day Off is Friday – if at all possible let her have time away from our needs that day**



**Become Part of Our Church Family**

By officially joining Galt UMC you are saying "these are the flawed and fantastic human beings that I want to grow in Christ with!" The next opportunity to take

membership vows is on March 26. If you would like to join, please let Pastor Mary know so she can plan to meet with you and answer any questions you might have. Membership vows can be taken at either Galt UMC or Bruceville Point on March 26.

## GREETERS SCHEDULE

February 26

Mariah Diego  
Mercedes Diego

March 5

Ed & Freddie  
Delgado

Hospitality Host



February 26

Sharon Hebein

March 5

Mariah & Mercedes  
Diego



**Monday, February 27, 5:30pm: Church Council -on ZOOM.**

All interested people from our Church are welcome to come and learn about the ministries of Galt UMC.

Maybe you would like to help but don't know where? This is a good place to get an overview!

Topic: Church Council

Time: Feb 27, 2023 05:30 PM Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83700351660>

**Please DO NOT send or make Sunshine Food Pantry checks to Galt UMC! Write checks and mail directly to Sunshine Food Pantry, PO Box 1265, Galt CA 95632. You can also drop checks in the Sunday offering plates - Checks made out to Sunshine Food Pantry. Please put "Building Fund" in memo line to support our Building Project.**

*Friendly Reminder*

**Our District Prayer focus this week:**

**February 26:** Pray for Central UMC Stockton.

**March 5:** Pray for all the churches and ministries.





**WEEKLY**  
*Sneak Peek*



**Quilt Club @ 11am-12:30pm**  
**on Mondays**

Our Quilt Club blessed two blankets last Monday for Cierra and Baby Everleigh! We passed the fleece tied blankets around to each of the seven people in attendance and spoke words of love, care, support, and blessing. Pastor Mary wrote down the words and then these were presented along with the blankets to mother and daughter by Cousins Mercedes and Mariah Diego. Please join our group. You don't need to know how to do anything crafty – you will learn, or you can simply enjoy the spiritual atmosphere.



**Tuesday, February 21, 11am BIBLE STUDY** in person: THE BOOK OF RUTH



**Tuesday, February 21, 5:30pm Trustees Meeting:** hybrid ZOOM and Church Office  
Topic: Trustees Meeting -Time: Feb 21, 2023 05:30 PM Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88006673824>



**Wednesday, February 22, 8am – 11:30am** Sunshine Food Pantry prepares food boxes for delivery to seniors



**Wednesday, February 22, noon:** Ash Wednesday worship service



**Thursday, February 23, 7:30-10:00am:** Food distribution.



**Sunday, February 26, 9:00am:** Prayer Class with Colleen Hurley..

**Welcome to Worship**

**Sunday, February 26, 10am** Worship. First Sunday of Lent: "Hypocrisy Exposed"



**Sunday, February 26, 1:30pm** Bruceville Point in person Worship



**Sunday, February 26, 4pm** Bible Study on ZOOM: Romans



**Monday, February 27, 11am-12:30pm** Quilt Club



**Monday, February 27, 5:30pm: Church Council -on ZOOM.**



**Bible Study in person @ 11am on Tuesdays RUTH**

Every week we are breaking our latest attendance record! This past week 25 people from Galt and Bruceville joined together for our study of Ruth. An insight we received was that Ruth is a way to think about grief and our responses to grief. This next week we will go on a leap of faith with Naomi and Ruth. You won't want to miss it! Even if you can only make it from time to time, please join us!



**Bible Study on ZOOM @ 4pm**  
**on Sundays ROMANS**

New people are joining our study of Romans every week, which you can do from the comfort of your own home. The conversations are deep and impactful, and many people just listen and follow along. Please join us. Doesn't matter that you have missed classes – anywhere you jump in will be a blessing to you!



## The Work of the Church – How Our Church Works by Pastor Mary

In getting the word out about our Ash Wednesday Service and our preparations for Lent, several newcomers to Galt UMC have asked why we seem so “Catholic” in embracing these practices. The short answer is that Methodism is the grandchild of Catholicism. As the Protestant Reformation answered some of the perceived deficiencies of the Roman Catholic Church, many denominations sprang up, one of those being the Church of England. The Church of England goes by several other names, including Episcopalian and Anglican. John and Charles Wesley, the founders of Methodism, were the sons of an Anglican pastor – they were raised in the parsonage of an Anglican Church. The Wesley brothers founded Methodism in response to the perceived deficiencies of the Anglican Church, chief among them being that Anglican priests were reluctant to go into the world and preach the Gospel. John Wesley’s commitment to going to jails, street corners, fields, and factories, eventually necessitated a break with the “mother church.” But as you can see by some of the seasonal formalities of Galt UMC – including offering an Ash Wednesday Service, as well as emphasizing the spiritual practice of keeping a “holy Lent” with prayer, fasting, and self-denial – we do resemble our Grandmother Church (Catholic) and our Mother Church (Episcopalian/Anglican/Church of England). What makes us unique is that we do these things so that we can be “perfected in grace.” More on that next week.



### **Transfiguration Sunday**

The Transfiguration of Jesus is an event reported by the Synoptic Gospels in which Jesus is transfigured upon a mountain.

Why is this event lifted up and celebrated?

To watch Chuck’s video - - [Click Here](#)  
3:45

### **Ash Wednesday**

Ever seen a little smudge mark on someone’s forehead as they walk out of church? That’s a sign of the cross and it means it’s Ash Wednesday during Lent.

To watch Chuck’s video - - [Click Here](#)  
2:17



We are grateful to Rosie Kumar for leading our women’s group this past week even though her knee hurts terribly – what a powerful time of prayer we had together as we loved on Rosie and Dottie Farhat.

Thank you to Betty Price for volunteering to be a Sunday School teacher!

How blessed we were to have Colleen Hurley in the pulpit sharing about prayer as speaking and listening – and the many ways that we can connect with God. If you would like a copy of her sermon, please let Pastor Mary know.

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil and Jeff Keane





# The Roving Camera Eye

Activities from around Galt UMC



Hostesses for the morning event were Sharon Hebein, Marina Bruns, and Judy King



The editor sat in on the Bruceville/ Galt Bible study last Tuesday - - -



The bus from Bruceville Point arrived carrying nine residents for the Bible study on Ruth.



Twenty-six people attended the Study



Pastor Mary leads the group with discussion and questions in her own exciting style



## **Bible Study in person @ 11am on Tuesdays RUTH**

Rich insights, deeper understanding of Scripture, Christian fellowship, laughter, and more await you. Please join us for Bible Study weekly on Tuesdays at 11am.







The many faces of Pastor Mary's own inimitable style keeps the audience attention!



Last Sunday, Debra and David Herburger, along with Mark King did an admirable job as worship leaders during Pastor Mary Maaga's exchange day with Central Valley circuit UMC. Reverend Jola Bortner from St. Mark's UMC Stockton shared with us in the exchange. We noticed she also had her own inimitable delivery style.

A small group of Galt UMC members gathered for fun and game fellowship last Saturday evening. Thanks to Judy King for the photo.



**Galt United Methodist Church**

Mary Maaga, Pastor  
Church telephone - 209-745-4133  
Morning Worship  
Online at [galtumc.org](http://galtumc.org)



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