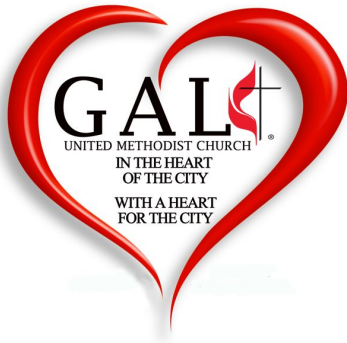


Galt UMC This Week



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 6, 2023

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



I have loved every community I've ever served as a Pastor. Some, I've even fallen in love with – imagining that I could put down roots and even retire there. Because I was originally only supposed to serve here for a year (from July 2020-June 2021) I never entertained the idea of falling in love with Galt. As a matter of fact, John and Zola and I never even unpacked most of our boxes until we received the surprising news that I would be staying another year. And that year became a third year, and it looks very likely that I will be appointed for a fourth year, and perhaps beyond that given our building projects and the growth of the vitality of our beloved Galt UMC.

So..... (drumroll please) I have decided to purchase a home in Galt! My thinking is that I will serve as many more years as your Pastor as I will be granted by the Bishop and Cabinet, and then retire here. The way this will work is that once I have purchased a home, the Board of Trustees will ready the parsonage as a rental. The rent that is collected will cover the property tax, \$500 a month toward a rental maintenance fund, with the balance coming to me as a "housing allowance." (Local Churches are required to provide their pastor housing, which can be accomplished either through providing a parsonage, or through a housing allowance.) My adult children and I are very excited to own our own home again. We are even considering getting a second companion dog for Freya.

If you have any questions about this, please feel free to reach out to Colleen Hurley, Staff Parish Relations Chair at 209-712-1541. Blessings, Pastor Mary

p.s. I will be taking Wednesday and Thursday off this coming week, in addition to Friday. If you have a need for pastoral care while I am away, please reach out to Colleen.



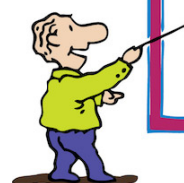
February 12: Prayer

"Prayer: A Conversation with God"
Scripture: 1 Kings 19:11-13 Colleen Hurley will deliver the message, and Pastor Mary will be worship leader.



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



The Journey Begins – Wednesday, February 22, noon

Family Game Night, Saturday, February 18, arrive at 4:30

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 22nd 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.



Prayers
for
Lent

On the four Sundays of March, 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 week night. This is a wonderful opportunity to deepen your walk with God. To sign up, please contact Colleen at 209-712-1541 or email churley55@comcast.net



The United Methodist Circuit that Galt UMC is a part of has decided to call for a Special Offering on Sunday, February 19th to benefit the Sunshine Food Pantry & Resource Center, Inc. building project. All the Pastors from

Stockton, Lodi, and Linden came for lunch in December and made this decision after hearing a presentation by Pastor Mary and Building Chair David Herburger. To make the day even more fun, there will be a pulpit exchange within the circuit, with Rev. Jola Bortner coming to us from St. Marks in Stockton, and Pastor Mary preaching at Central UMC in Stockton.

Hospitality Host



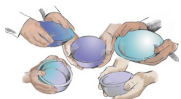
February 12
Sharon Drake
Jean Nelson

February 19
Madeline Powell

GREETERS SCHEDULE

February 12
Anne Albrecht
Sharon Drake

February 19
Eva Roach
Judy King



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.

Our District Prayer focus this week:

February 12: Pray for Holy Cross UMC Stockton.

February 19: Pray for Island Ministry at Holy Cross UMC, Stockton.



This week at our Church



Tuesday, February 7, 11am BIBLE STUDY in person: THE BOOK OF RUTH



Wednesday, February 8 to Friday February 10, Pastor Mary will be out of town.



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

Thursday, February 9, 7:30 - 10:00am: Food Distribution by Sunshine Food Pantry to public.

Welcome to Worship

Sunday, February 12, 10am Worship, "Prayer: A Conversation with God"



Lord's Lambs Sunday school meets during morning worship.



Sunday, February 12, 1:30pm Bruceville Point in person Worship



Sunday, February 12, 4pm Bible Study on ZOOM: Romans



Monday, February 13, 11am Quilt Club



Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am - 1pm

George Washington added the words "so help me God" to his inaugural oath. It is not found in the U.S. Constitution, but every President since has repeated those words.

WEEKLY Sneak Peek



Quilt Club @ 11am on Mondays

What deep and meaningful conversations we have been having during Quilt Club. All are welcome to come with any kind of handiwork, or just to sit and soak up the beauty and creativity.



Bible Study on ZOOM @ 4pm on Sundays ROMANS

Twenty-four people from Galt and Bruceville joined together for a WOW of a Bible Study as we traveled from the first verse of Ruth into Genesis, Matthew's Gospel, and stories of women's desperation and survival. This Bible Study of Ruth is shaping up to be something really special. You won't want to miss it! Even if you can only make it from time to time, please join us!



Bible Study in person @ 11am on Tuesdays RUTH

Sixteen people from many places where Pastor Mary has served are coming together to study Paul's most complicated letter in order to mine its many riches. This week we are exploring covenant and justification, which is basically God's renegotiation of the terms of the original Old Testament covenant with Abraham. The conversations are deep and impactful, and many people just listen and follow along. Please join us.

God's Kids Say and Do the Funniest Things—Angels, as explained by children"

"I only know the names of two angels—Hark and Harold." Gregory, age 5

—"What I don't get about angels is why, when someone is in love, they shoot arrows at them" Sarah, age 7

—"My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science." —Henry, age 8



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



This coming Sunday, February 12, at the 10:00 worship service at Galt UMC, a Sunday school lesson upstairs with an emphasis on how to pray with thanks will take place. A short story will be read to the children, and we'll craft "Thanks Banks" from oatmeal boxes. In a circle we will sing "Jesus Loves Me" again and learn the words to the second verse of the song. Please bring your little lambs and join us in God's blessings together and thank you for donated oatmeal boxes!

P.S. I misunderstood something about the Safe Gathering Certificate required to teach Sunday school in the United Methodist Church. I want to correct this.

I have been telling congregation members that any relatives of children attending our Sunday school were not allowed to teach. This is WRONG information.

Relatives CAN teach our children. The "Safe Gathering" restriction states that TWO certified people must teach Sunday school. One certified teacher teaching alone is not allowed. These two teachers MUST NOT BE BLOOD RELATED. Also, a husband and wife who are certified to teach cannot teach together at the same time. They are welcome to teach with another person, not their spouse. These rules must be practiced according to "Safe Gatherings" to prevent child abuse, especially sexual child abuse which is all too present today--even in churches.

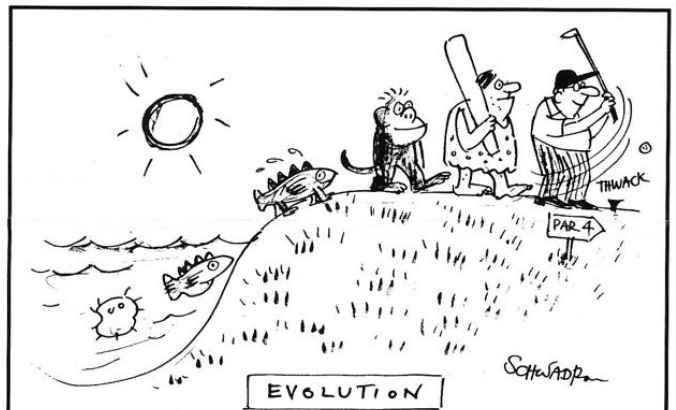
I apologize for the confusion and hope we can recruit anyone desiring to earn the certificate and teach our Lord's Lambs. If you would like to be a Sunday school teacher, please contact Pastor Mary at church or Madeline at (209) 400-8795. Thank you. Please join us Sunday, Feb. 12th. 🇪🇺🎵🐑 Sincerely, Madeline Powell, Children's Ministries Director

Thank You for the Newsletters, Papa Earl!



Many of you have expressed how very much you appreciate our weekly newsletter. It would not be possible without the editorial work of Earl Arrants, the content written by all our contributors, and your offerings which cover the cost of producing the paper copies. What a celebration each week's issue is! Look how the Good News is flourishing at Galt UMC!

"Listen to your elders' advice, not because they are always right but because they have more experience of being wrong." - - Author unknown





Coming to Galt on March 25, 2023

Empty Bowls Fundraiser: So Much More Than a Good Meal!

**Littleton Center
410 Civic Dr. Galt, CA
6:00-9:00 PM**

Tickets - Adults: \$20 | Children Under 12: \$5

- ▶ Please join us for an exciting evening in our community. The Empty Bowls gathering is a fundraiser for the Galt Sunshine Food Pantry & Resource Center, Inc. Help us raise funds to meet our goals for the new building AND enjoy an evening with neighbors and friends.
- ▶ Empty bowls will be filled with many delicious soups including creamy chicken noodle, hearty vegan (also gluten free), minestrone, and the very popular taco soup! Salad, bread, and drinks are included in the cost of your ticket.
- ▶ We have an exciting dessert auction with expert auctioneer Supervisor Pat Hume, Silent Auction Gift Baskets, music from DJ Brian King, artisan bowls available for purchase, and much more!
- ▶ You can purchase tickets at Galt United Methodist Church (571 C St. Galt, CA 95632) or L'Chayim (400 4th St Ste 160, Galt, CA 95632) or by calling Faye Gaines at 209-200-2628 or via email at fayegaines@att.net

Please visit our website www.sunshinefoodpantrygalt.org
to learn about the great things happening in Galt.
Follow us on Facebook!

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
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