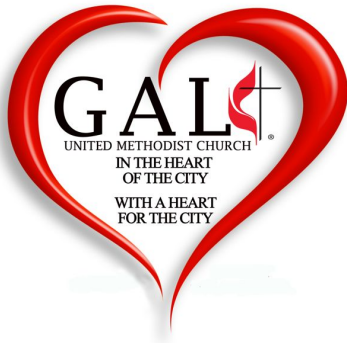


# Galt UMC This Week



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.



January 23, 2023

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

A friend  
loves  
at all times.

Proverbs 17:17

I have been blessed with many dear friends over my lifetime. The ones that have meant the most to me have been the friendships I have developed while creating and participating together in Worship. One of my very best friends is Betty Metzger, a piano player extraordinaire, who has been playing for Galt UMC on occasion this past year. It is our hope that she will play for us even more often and – so exciting! – start to offer rehearsals following worship on Sunday mornings for people who would like to sing at a future worship. I came to know Betty when I was appointed as Senior Pastor at Foothills UMC in Rescue, CA. She was the accompanist to our large and talented choir, and when the choir director stepped down, she stepped up! We spent three glorious years meeting weekly to plan for worship, and together exploring the meaning of the seasons of the Church year. Because our friendship was based on our professional connection, I wasn't sure it would translate outside of Church. But when my husband Boikanyo was diagnosed with cancer, then passed away, and I was adrift emotionally and spiritually, it was Betty who took a long walk with me every week as I processed my grief, my worries for my children, and my emerging identity as a widow and pastor without a local Church. Betty Metzger was my trusted companion as the Holy Spirit shaped my new life and has remained so in the 20 years since. Imagine my joy when Betty said YES when I asked if she might be interested in playing at Galt UMC from time to time. She lives over an hour away, so I knew it was a big ask, and her husband, Chris, has had many health challenges. In her time with us she has grown to love all of you at Galt UMC (as I knew she would!) and would like to play a larger role in developing our post pandemic music program. Her hope is that she can begin to be with us two or three Sundays a month! I am beyond grateful to the Lord for allowing my life to come full circle in appointing me to Galt UMC with my bestest pal within driving distance!



In the Light of the Lord, Pastor Mary

p.s. This coming Sunday – January 29<sup>th</sup> – please plan to stay if you would like to learn “Morning Has Broken” in three parts for women’s voices. If you are a man and would like to sing at a future service, please let Betty know so she can help select a song.



## Jesus as Storyteller Worship Series

Our altar looks like a warm and inviting library as a reminder of how the stories told by Jesus are an invitation to enter His imagination. The stories Jesus told were designed to shape the way we think about our relationship with God, neighbor, and ourselves. Last week the topic was “Lost and Found” with a focus on the story of the Prodigal Son. Next Sunday will be the story of THE GOOD SAMARITAN from Luke 10:25-37



### Contact us:

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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



**This Sunday, January 29**

Anyone who is a member or friend of Galt UMC is always welcome to attend our Church Council. The Council is chaired by Leesa Klotz and has as its members the Chairs of Finance, Trustees, Staff Parish Relations, Outreach, as well as Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Lay Leader, Lay Member to Annual Conference, Children's Ministry, and President of the Women's Group. Basically, it is where the ongoing mission and ministry of our Church is discussed and plans are made. This month we are meeting on ZOOM.

Topic: Church Council  
Time: Jan 30, 2023 05:30 PM  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87686547511>

It's that time again! Time for our first fifth Sunday potluck of the new year. New year, new divisions of the alphabet. In the first group, with the last names starting with A thru C, please bring a dessert (something simple). The next grouping will be D thru L, please bring a 'side dish' of biscuits, cornbread (butter, anyone?), vegetable or fruit platter. The final group will be M thru Z. This group gets all the fun. Since it's cold, wet and stormy out, let's bring some 'body and soul' warming chili, soups or stews. Any questions? Call me, Mona Stratton at 334-235-1467. The fifth is our first. Can't wait.

## PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

**Pastor Mary works six days a week – her day off is Friday. If it's not an emergency, please wait until Saturday to reach out to her.**

If it seems like our Pastor has been especially busy in the past week, it's because she has been! There is a report due to the United Methodist Conference that requires all the "data points" from the previous year. It is due January 30<sup>th</sup>. She will be very busy completing this report this coming week.



**Office Hours**

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am – 1pm**

### **Thank You – Can You Hear Me Now??**

Have you been having a hard time hearing during Worship? It isn't you!

Brian King, a professional sound technician and DJ, has offered his expertise free of charge to improve our sound during worship and advise us as to which pieces of our sound equipment need to be replaced. He arrived just in the nick of time, as the speaker in the sanctuary stopped working on Christmas Eve. Pastor Mary has come to know him at Galt Chamber of Commerce events, and Brian attended the Blue Christmas service, at which point he offered to help us with our sound. Thank you, Lord, for sending Brian our way! The new sound equipment is being paid for by Memorial Funds, a gift from Pastor Mary's Professional Expenses, and a small amount of Worship line item funds from your offering plate giving. Brian King is installing everything free of charge. Rob Seibel, Trustees Chair, spent hours with Brian the other day working through the changes, and Brian has also been training our worship tech, Sabrina Curlee. Brian is no relation to Mark and Judy King, but he already feels like a member of our Church family!

### Hospitality Host



**January 29**  
5th Sunday  
Potluck

**February 5**  
Colleen Hurley

### GREETERS SCHEDULE

**January 29**  
Evan & Mary  
Sullivan

**February 5**  
Mona Stratton  
Colleen Hurley

### **Our District Prayer focus this week:**

**January 29:** Pray over highlights of ministries in each place so far this year  
**February 5:** Pray for all the churches and ministries





Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday  
**WEEKLY**  
*Sneak Peek*

**Quilt Club @ 11am on Mondays**

Bring your handiwork, your warm heart, and your desire to reach out with something tangible to people who are having a hard time. Maybe you just want to come and visit. It's all good!



**Tuesday, January 24, 11:00am-** In person Bible Study: The Book of Ruth.



**Wednesday, January 25, 8:00 to 11:30am:** Sunshine Food Pantry prepares food boxes for delivery to seniors.

**Thursday, January 26, 7:30 to 10:00am:** Sunshine Food Pantry open for food distribution.



**Friday, January 27, 6:00 – 8:00pm** and **Saturday, January 28, 9:00am – 1pm** UNITED METHODIST LEADERSHIP TRAINING ON ZOOM for Pastor and other GaltUMC leaders.

**Welcome to Worship**

**Sunday, January 29,** 10:00am, Galt UMC morning worship. Jesus As Storyteller: The Good Samaritan. Betty Metzger on the piano. Dennis Yoder will be singing.



**Sunday, January 29,** following morning worship. Everyone invited to stay.



**Sunday, January 29,** 1:30pm, Bruceville Point in person worship.



**Sunday, January 29, 4:00pm,** Bible Study on ZOOM: Romans



**Monday, January 30, 11:00am,** Quilt Club.



**Monday, January 30, 5:30pm,** in person and on ZOOM. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87686547511>



**Bible Study in person @ 11am on Tuesdays "Ruth"**

18 of us gathered this past Tuesday to learn about EXILE and GOD'S CALL TO COME HOME as a theme that runs through out Scripture. As a group we decided that we will study the Book of Ruth next, followed by the Book of James. This has become a wonderful time of fellowship and learning for people from Galt and Bruceville. Come whenever you can. No long-term commitment required. Thank you, Marina Bruns and Judy King, for making coffee and offering hospitality.

**On ZOOM @ 4pm on Sundays "Romans"**



Twelve of us logged on last week as we delved into the heart of Paul's introduction of himself to the Christians of Rome. In Chapter 1 of Romans Paul wrote of being "a debtor" to every kind of person he has ever proclaimed the Gospel to since he learned from each one. This coming week we will learn about Paul's writing against human judgment. Romans has had a powerful impact on modern Christianity. You won't want to miss this opportunity to learn more about it. Even if you can only attend on occasion, you are sure to get something out of the class.

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84535159630>

In the early days of television, the popular Jewish comedian Milton Berle was considered "Mr. Television." Bishop Fulton Sheen also had a popular television show called "Life is Worth Living." When Bishop Sheen won an Emmy Award for "the most outstanding television personality," Berle graciously congratulated him.

Sheen, just as graciously, gave credit to his writers saying: "I just have better writers than you do, Milton, all nice Jewish boys Matthew, Mark, Paul and John."



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

Probably the most significant thing that sets United Methodists apart from most other Christian churches, is our understanding and application of Scripture. In our United Methodist Book of Discipline, which sets forth the theology and rules that govern our lives as Methodist Christians, it is written: *Through Scripture the living Christ meets us in the experience of redeeming grace. We are convinced that Jesus Christ is the living Word of God in our midst who we trust in life and death. The biblical authors, illumined by the Holy Spirit, bear witness that in Christ the world is reconciled to God.* The key phrase is **illumined by the Holy Spirit**. What that means is that Methodists believe that the Word of God – Jesus Christ -- is revealed through *the words of human beings inspired by the Holy Spirit*. As you can imagine, this impacts how we study and apply Scripture. More on that next week.

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### Galt Community of Character Coalition Theme for January & February: INTEGRITY

Do you know someone that others can count on to do the right thing, even when it's not convenient? Do you know someone who when they make mistakes, apologizes and shows through actions that they can be trusted again? Do you know someone who is a role model of **integrity** in our community? If so, write a brief explanation of what this person (or group) has done that demonstrates **integrity** and include the name, address, and phone number of your nominee. Be sure to include your own name, email address, and phone number too. Email your nomination to [marimartinez2323@gmail.com](mailto:marimartinez2323@gmail.com) or mail it to GCCC, P.O. Box 92, Galt 95632 Deadline to submit is Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>.

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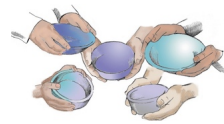
### God's Kids Say & Do the Funniest Things

"Dear God, I am American. What are you?"

—Robert

"Dear God, If you watch in church on Sunday, I will show you my new shoes." —Mikey D.

Dear God, Please put another holiday between Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good in there now."  
—Ginny



**Family Game Night!** Back by popular demand! Saturday, February 18, 5-7pm, finger food potluck and games. For more info or to volunteer to help set up and clean up, contact Abigail Curlee at 916-595-2822.

**Empty Bowls Fundraiser** for the Sunshine Food Pantry & Resource Center, Inc. Building Fund! All you can eat soup, and more! \$20 adult ticket, \$5 child ticket. Saturday, March 25, 6pm at the Littleton Center. For more information, contact Faye Gaines at 209-200-2628.

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### Lord's Lambs Sunday School

We are continuing to offer Sunday School for our children once a month for the foreseeable future. The dates for the coming months are: February 12, March 12, April 16. Of course, children are welcome in worship on all Sundays! We are grateful to have parents and grandparents of young children in our midst. We want to support you in raising your little ones by helping them to know the love of Jesus.

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Greetings from Lord's lambs! We had six little lambs in Sunday school today, January 22nd, and learned more about Jesus' love for us all while assembling a paper and yarn craft concerning Jesus in our hearts. Our next lesson will be held during worship on February 12, and then again on March 12, during worship and continuing into spring and summer once a month. We still need teachers. Please think about becoming one, and thank you for your loving support.

May I ask congregation members to donate clean, empty, dry Quaker (or any brand) oats boxes for our Sunday school? We are going to make decorated "Thanks Banks" for each child so that they can put slips of paper in them full of many thankful prayers. Large (42 oz) or smaller size cylindrical cardboard boxes will work but not giant ones please. And thanks to loving relatives who bring these little people to our church to make it whole in God's name. We love you much! 🐑😊

—Madeline Powell and Michele Weinle



From the  
Editor's Desk

*This 'N That  
From Here and There*

- - By Earl Arrants

Last week, Pastor Mary's column was talking about some of her musical musings. What should appear across my desk but the following column. Now, me being a long time musician in this church, and been through any number of ministers at Galt UMC I can sympathize with other musicians. Some ministers are unbending in hymn selection. In all fairness, not so with Pastor Mary. Here's another angle on the subject:

(Paul Lintern, pastor of Oakland Lutheran and Southside Christian Churches in Mansfield, OH, follows the ongoing adventures of mythical Pastor Jeff Mutton of Good Lord Community Church.)



Pastor Lintern

### UNPRAISEWORTHY BAND

"Why so glum, chum? this is the day the Lord has made," Jeff said to Pastor David, after his friend slumped into a Monday morning breakfast booth at the Possum Grill.

"My praise band is not, well, praiseworthy," David said.

"I thought we should be more mindful of the ways God leads each of us and that everyone would discern by the Holy Spirit what God has to say to us as a congregation," David said.

"So, everyone is disconcerting things, and it's very disconcerting."

"How so?" Jeff asked.

"Luke, our lead guitarist, discerned that the Holy Spirit is overemphasized, and played Meatloaf's 'Two out of Three ain't bad,' as an instrumental prelude."

"And our drummer discerned he should be freed from his 'Plexiglass prison' as he calls it, and be allowed to drum in the middle of the band, like normal rock bands," David said.

"Our keyboardist discerned that I should fashion my messages around the songs he wants to play on a given Sunday, and then asked me if I knew any scripture references that says Heaven must be missing an angel."

"Friend, your band's got issues," Jeff said.

David said, "I don't understand it. I didn't want to keep them on a tight leash with song selection. How do you handle this at Good Lord Church?"

"I have an organist," Jeff said.

"And he does what you say?" asked David.

Jeff sighed, "As long as I don't say anything."

Both paused for a word from the Lord. Finally Jeff spoke.

"Let's eat."



I grew up on a farm in Ohio. My mother was always fond of telling me that from the time I was a toddler sitting in church with her and my dad, waiting for the service to begin, I would squirm and twitch and scribble on the bulletin – but as soon as the organ began to play, all motion stopped and silent tears ran down my cheeks.

At home, I began playing along with my older brother who was taking piano lessons (that must have been really irritating for him!) He soon quit, and I began taking lessons at age 7 (but we're still friends....) School was a couple of miles up the country road. It had grades 1 through 12, but no kindergarten. By the time I was 10, three of my friends and I were singing together in 3-part harmony (with me also playing the piano). We sang together all the way through high school. I began teaching my first piano student at age 15. Then college at a Lutheran College in Columbus where I majored in piano performance, and also sang in the wonderful college choir. This choir toured during the hiatus between semesters and during summer breaks.

After graduation, I married my high-school sweetheart, Chris, who grew up on a farm about ¼ mile down the road from my family. From Ohio, we move to Colorado (where our daughter was born), Texas (where our son was born), Wyoming, and then to California, where I did a graduate degree in piano at Sac State. Our daughter Meredith lives in Minnesota, and our son Doug lives in Rancho Cordova. We live in Cameron Park on five acres with our golden retriever Honey, and numerous turkeys, deer, squirrels, and occasional foxes, coyotes, and raccoons, all of which love any flowers that I try to plant.

Music is like food and drink to me. It's inspiration on a rainy day, relaxation on a stressful day. Music has taught me to be patient. It has taught me how to listen: to melody, to balance, to other people, and to my own heart.

—Betty Metzger

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### Old Irish Blessing

*Lucky stars about you,  
Sunshine on your way,  
Many friends to love you,  
Joy in work and play.  
Laughter to outweigh each care,  
In your heart a song,  
And gladness waiting everywhere,  
All your while life long!*

**Galt United Methodist Church**

Mary Maaga, Pastor  
Church telephone - 209-745-4133  
Morning Worship-10:00am  
Website at [galtumc.org](http://galtumc.org)



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