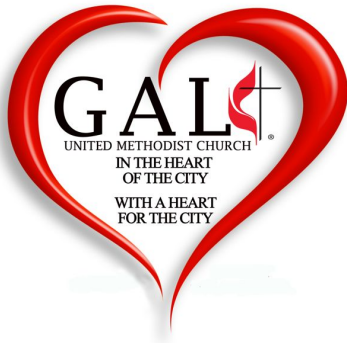


Galt UMC This Week

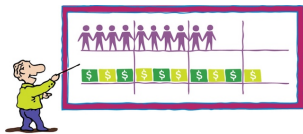


Galt UMC is a warm welcoming family who worship, pray, learn, and love one another by serving our community so that everyone can encounter the Risen Lord and experience transformation through God's Grace.



January 30, 2023

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



Won't say it was fun generating our Galt UMC statistics for 2022 to give to the United Methodist Conference, but I WILL say that the reality they reflect is worth celebrating! First, our worship attendance has grown this past year. This is a trend that is bound to continue in 2023 given the addition of a second worship every week at Bruceville Point, and given the response we are getting from visitors that return, some of whom have officially joined, and even moved into leadership positions.

Second, all the statistics that indicate vitality in a local Church are up: giving is up; numbers of people involved in groups, committees, and/or volunteering is up. Third, number of hours that are being spent in mission and ministry per member is up.

The only statistical number that is down is our current official membership: 106, down from 113. Though we took in more members in 2022 than we lost to death, transfer, or withdrawal, we removed from our official membership rolls by action of Charge Conference last October, our brothers and sisters in Christ from Isleton UMC who were transferred into Galt UMC in 2019 – we knew even as they were transferred to us, that most would be unlikely to make the dangerous drive, and would find Church homes in non-United Methodist Churches in their own community. (We are blessed that Lynne Hasz is the exception and has made her Church home with us!)



Attendance and Offering Report

Statistics tell only part of the truth. Feeling tells the rest. How do you feel when you walk into our sanctuary? How do you feel when you arrive for Worship, or Quilt Club, or Bible Study, or Women's Group, or to volunteer for the Food Pantry? I can only guess by the smile on your faces and the warmth of your hugs that you feel good. Even the energy at our Committees is mostly good and positive, even as we grapple with problems needing to be solved. I know how I feel: like I am the most blessed pastor in the California-Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church. Let's go forth in 2023 and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world!

Blessings, Pastor Mary

Upcoming Worship: Jesus as Storyteller "Table Talk" February 5



Worship honors God Almighty and inspires God's family! Next Sunday on February 5th the last in the series of Jesus as Storyteller will have us hearing 3 stories that Jesus told about eating meals together from Luke 14, interspersed with the music of Jebbie Moats! Because you love it, Jebbie will perform his original song "Potluck in Heaven" as our prelude. We will also be celebrating Holy Communion.

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 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 February 19 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.

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.

Thank You – Can You Hear Me Now??

How grateful we are that Memorial Funds are covering the cost of our new Sanctuary speaker! These are monies given in memory of beloved Church members who have passed that MUST be used for the purchase of items that contribute toward the Worship of God Almighty. Certainly, hearing our Scripture, pastor, and singers qualifies.

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) has given Pastor Mary an extra renewal

day per month in addition to her Fridays off. In February, Pastor Mary will go out of town for a birthday adventure with her son from February 8 – February 10, using her renewal days from January and February. If you have need of a pastor during those days, please reach out to Colleen Hurley, Chair of SPRC, and she will make sure your needs are met. Colleen can be reached at: 209-712-1541. Also, every pastor is required to serve in some capacity for the District or Conference. Pastor Mary is Secretary of the Conference Board of Trustees. Unfortunately, the schedule of Conference Trustees meetings in 2023 directly conflicts with our Lunch Bunch. We will miss Pastor Mary at our monthly lunches.



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

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.

February



- 2 Rob Seibel
- 4 Candy Marhefka-Toynbee
- 5 Dennis Yoder
- 10 Ricky Toynbee
- 14 Mary Maaga
- 15 Sharon Hebein
- 16 MaryAnn Janes
- 19 Marjorie Houck
- 25 Eliso Bautista



- 2 Kirk & Tina Smith

Hospitality Host



February 5
Colleen Hurley

February 12
Sharon Drake
Jean Nelson

GREETERS SCHEDULE

February 5
Mona Stratton
Colleen Hurley

February 12
Anne Albrecht
Sharon Drake



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 31, 11am BIBLE STUDY in person: THE BOOK OF RUTH



Tuesday, January 31, 6:30pm Building Committee for Sunshine Food Pantry Building



Wednesday, February 1, 8am - 11:30am Sunshine Food Pantry prepares food boxes for delivery to seniors



Thursday, February 2, LUNCH BUNCH at Galt Kabobs and Gyros in the Save Mart Center, **11:30am.**



Saturday, February 4, 11am - noon, CARING AND SHARING

Welcome to Worship

Sunday, February 5, 10am Worship JESUS AS STORYTELLER: "Table Talk"; Jebbie Moats, guitar; Holy Communion.



Sunday, February 5, 1:30pm Bruceville Point in person Worship



Sunday, February 5, 4pm Bible Study on ZOOM: Romans



Monday, February 6, 11am Quilt Club



Bible Study on ZOOM @ 4pm on Sundays ROMANS

Fourteen of us had our minds blown last week as the central message of the first section of Romans became clear. Paul points out that there is a conflict between living as a "Roman" (insert any nation, culture, identity) and living as a follower of Christ, which demands that you see all other identities through the lens of grace and love. Amazing! It isn't that the other identities count for nothing, just that they are ways to know Christ and share Christ. Nothing more. This coming week will have more of the same. Inspiring and challenging all in equal measure.



Bible Study in person @ 11am on Tuesdays RUTH

Our beloved friends from Bruceville were not able to make it this past week, but are planning to come this Tuesday as we start into RUTH. This past week eleven of us gathered around the table to enjoy refreshments provided by Daniel and Mary Blackwell as we looked at the women of Exodus who assured the survival of Moses with their faith and courage. This class is a wonderful way to come to know God, Scripture, and one another better. Come whenever you can. No long-term commitment required.



Caring and Sharing - this Saturday, Feb.4, 11am - noon

This coming Saturday Pastor Mary and Colleen Hurley will make themselves available to hear whatever is on your heart, and to share from their hearts, in a time of compassion and prayer. We will meet down by the altar so we can breathe in that sacred space.



Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am - 1pm



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

Last week I wrote about how Methodists understand Biblical authorship to be *illuminated by the Holy Spirit*. This is different than Churches that believe all Scripture is the inerrant words of God. In the Methodist tradition there is an acceptance that human beings – even when they are deeply faithful and inspired by God’s Spirit – will inevitably reflect the limitations of the culture in which they live. This becomes particularly clear with regard to race and slavery, the role of women in the Church, and the current controversy around whether our lesbian and gay brothers and sisters are to be fully embraced within the Christian family. So, why were the Methodists at the forefront of abolition, and now at the forefront of movements for racial equality and inclusion? Why were the Methodists the first denomination to ordain women? And on what basis is there a justification for the full inclusion of homosexuals in the life of the Church? We need look no further than the theological section of our most recent Book of Discipline, page 84: *We interpret individual texts in light of their place in the Bible as a whole. We are aided by scholarly inquiry and personal insight under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.* The motto of the United Methodist Church – **OPEN HEART, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS** – is a reflection of this willingness to **INQUIRE**. More on this next week. Meantime, if you are interested in having your own copy of The Book of Discipline 2016, it is available for free online or for a reasonable cost to purchase it as a book. Go to cokesbury.com

Hillybilly Wisdom

- “The best sermons are lived, not preached.”
- “You cannot unsay a cruel word.”
- “Most of the stuff people worry about ain’t never gonna happen anyway.”
- “Always drink upstream from the herd.”
- “Good judgement comes from experience, and most of that comes from bad judgement.”
- “Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.”

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

- Mahatma Gandhi



Prayers
for
Lent

In the month of March during the season of Lent leading up to Good Friday and Easter, our focus will be on PRAYER. We are blessed as a Church to have Colleen Hurley among our leaders. She is a woman of spiritual depth who has spent years cultivating her own practice of prayer. On Sunday, February 12, Colleen will be preaching on prayer with Pastor Mary as worship leader. On the four Sundays of March, Colleen will be leading a class upstairs from 9am – 9:45am on ways to pray. More on this next week.

What is Lunch Bunch?



Lunch Bunch is a buy-your-own-lunch that meets the first Thursday of every month at 11:30am at various Galt restaurants. It’s a fun way to get to know one another more deeply. There is a core group of about a dozen who never miss. While we do not have an official leader, it is Papa Earl Arrants who generally picks the restaurant and lets them know ahead of time that a group is coming. This Thursday is Lunch Bunch, and we are meeting at Galt Kabobs and Gyros in the Save Mart Shopping Center. If you have never been, we hope you will come!

Our District Prayer focus this week:

- February 5:** Pray for all the churches/ ministries .
- February 12:** Pray for Holy Cross UMC Stockton.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"How much longer until we goeth home?"



February



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>Special Note: Church Council for February yet to be scheduled</p>		1	2	3	4
				Lunch Bunch 11:30am at Kabobs & Gyros in Save Mart Center	Pastor's Day Off	Caring and Sharing 11:00-12:30pm AA group meets at 8:00am Nor anon meets at 9:15am
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Worship 10:00am Holy Communion Bruceville Worship 1:30pm Bible Study on ZOOM 4:00pm-5:00 AA 7:30-8:30am	Quilt Club 11:00am AA group meets at 7:00pm	Bible Study in person 11:00am	Pastor out of town Set-up for Sunshine Pantry 8:30-10:30am AA group meets at 6:00pm	Sunshine Pantry distribution 7:30-10:00am	Pastor's Day Off	AA group meets at 8:00am Nor anon meets at 9:15am
12			15	16	17	18
Lord's Lambs worship 10:00am Bruceville Worship 1:30pm Bible Study on ZOOM 4:00-5:00pm AA 7:30-8:30am	Quilt Club 11:00am AA group meets at 7:00pm	 Bible Study in person 11:00am Building Committee 6:30pm	NA group meets at 6:00pm AA group meets at 6:00pm	Finance Committee in-person & ZOOM 9:30am	Pastor's Day Off	Women's meeting 10:00am at the church 4:30-7:00pm Family Game Night AA group meets at 8:00am
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
worship 10:00am Bruceville Worship 1:30pm Bible Study on ZOOM 4:00-5:00pm AA 7:30-8:30am	Quilt Club 11:00am AA group meets at 7:00pm	Trustees Meet 5:30pm Bible Study in person 11:00am	Set-up for Sunshine Pantry 8:30-10:30am Ash Wednesday Service NOON NA group meets at 6:00pm AA group meets at 6:00pm	Sunshine Pantry distribution 7:30-10:00am	Pastor's Day Off	Nor anon meets at 9:15am AA group meets at 8:00am Nor anon meets at 9:15am
26	27	28				
worship 10:00am First Sunday of Lent Bruceville Worship 1:30pm Bible Study on ZOOM 4:00-5:00pm AA 7:30-8:30am	Quilt Club 11:00am AA group meets at 7:00pm	Bible Study in person 11:00am Building Committee 6:30pm				
				For more info on any activity, please contact Pastor Mary at 530-417-6584 mjzmaage@yahoo.com For Bible Study link on Sundays, please contact Pastor Mary		

Galt United Methodist Church

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



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