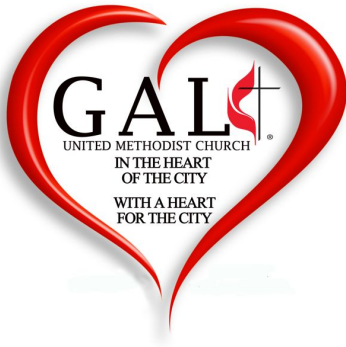


# Galt UMC This Week



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.



March 20, 2023

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



Though my family was not Christian, still we celebrated Easter every year in the conventional Easter Bunny kind of way. One year I received a baby chick for Easter – yep, a real live baby chick! This was the year my childhood dog had died, so I think the chick was a way for my parents – aka “The Easter Bunny” – to soothe my broken heart. I loved that little chick and was obsessed with imprinting myself onto it as its Mother: feeding it little mealy worms by hand, making sure it had plenty of fresh water to drink, placing it carefully in a cage with a blanket over it at night. But after a while I got busy with other things and Easter Chick eventually grew into a chicken. At that point I was doing the bare minimum to sustain the chicken's life. I changed its water every morning and would pick up the cage and put it on the grass. I no longer played with my Easter Chick. What had started out as affection, even love, had now become a chore and a burden

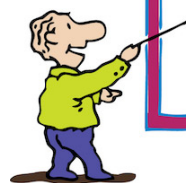
One day I was bored and thought I would take Easter Chick out to play. But guess what?!?! The chicken had grown too large to get out of the cage. Instead of a place of safety, the cage had become the chicken's prison! What a moment of horror and shame that was for me! After crying many tears and asking Easter Chick to forgive me, I went to my big brother and asked if he could cut the cage to free the chicken. He did, and we took the chicken to a neighbor who had a large backyard for Easter Chick to live free.

This time of year, I always think of Easter Chick. I think how the sin that binds us so often starts as something we can move in and out of – until one day we can no longer get out of it. I think of Jesus Christ as the one with the metal shears that cuts us free of that which imprisons us. We are all Easter Chicks yearning to be free!



Blessings in the Spirit of the Living God,  
Pastor Mary

p.s. I told this story as a Children's Message in worship, but for those who worship at Bruceville Point or weren't able to attend at Galt UMC, I thought you would enjoy hearing it too!



## Contact us:

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Galt United Methodist Church  
571 C Street  
Galt, CA 95632  
Telephone 209-745-4133  
e-mail at: [galtumc@gmail.com](mailto:galtumc@gmail.com)  
Sunday Worship: 10am Galt UMC,  
1:30pm Bruceville Point  
Contribute online: [galtumc.org](http://galtumc.org)

# NEWS & Notes

Fifth Sunday in  
*Lent*



**Next Sunday - March 26**

Sermon: "Holy Saturday: At a Loss" Scripture: Luke 23:50-56 New Members Joining! This will be a gentle service suitable for those who are grieving.

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



Church Council is the monthly meeting where Committee Chairs share what has been going on in the preceding month and talk about ways we can move forward to fulfill the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. ALL members and friends of Galt UMC are welcome to attend Church Council with "voice but no vote" -- which means you are welcome to join the conversation on any topic that we address, but only Council members may vote on motions. This month our meeting is on ZOOM only -- please join us if at all possible. In April we will have an in person "Town Hall" Style Council meeting immediately following Worship on April 30th. We will have a potluck, then hear from you about what is working for you in the life of our Church, what you would like to see improved, and what new programs or opportunities you would like to see us offer

**Time: Mar 27, 2023 05:30 PM**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81214136807>

During this forty day season of Lent, we are receiving gifts to help in focusing our journey to the Cross and Empty Tomb. Pastor Mary has suggested that you keep these gifts in a special place in your home that you might reflect on the lessons they represent during the week. (If you missed a week, please ask Pastor Mary for any extras – or you can improvise your own item.)

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.

## Speed Bump



**EMPTY BOWLS FUNDRAISER**  
So much more than a good meal.  
Food. Music. Artisans. Auction. More.

An invaluable act of community service.

Help us complete our new building to meet the growing needs of our most vulnerable.

**Sunshine Food Pantry & Resource Center, Inc.**  
**Sat. March 25, 2023**  
6-9 pm  
Littleton Center,  
410 Civic Dr. Galt CA  
**Adults \$20 Under-12 \$5**

No tickets will be sold at the door! If you want to come for a fun evening for a great cause, please contact Faye Gaines for tickets!



This week at our Church



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



**Tuesday, March 21, 6:30pm** Building Committee for the Sunshine Food Pantry.

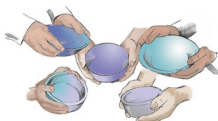


**Wednesday, March 22, 5:30pm** SPRC on ZOOM and in person in Church Office



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

**Thursday, March 23, 7:30am - 10:00am** Sunshine Food Pantry food distribution to the public.



**Saturday, March 25, 6:00pm - 9:00pm** Empty Bowls Soup Supper Fund raiser for Sunshine Food Pantry.

**Welcome to Worship**

**Sunday, March 26, 10am** Fifth Sunday of Lent: "Holy Saturday: At A Loss"



**Sunday, March 26, 1:30pm** Bruceville Point Worship



**Sunday March 26: 4:00pm Bible Study on Romans on ZOOM** - Final one until May 7



**Monday, March 27, 11am** Quilt Club



**Monday, March 27, 5:30pm: Church Council** on ZOOM. See page 2 for link.

**WEEKLY Sneak Peek**



**Quilt Club @ 11am on Mondays**

Quilt Club has become a "hand craft" club with folks bringing whatever they are working on for a time of sharing and caring! Or you can be like Pastor Mary and bring nothing at all except your willingness to cut things others give you. Most of us stay until 12:30 or later. Questions? Call our leader Sharon Hebein 707-304-1839

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



Twenty-one of us met over ZOOM to study Chapter 5 of Romans, which became a deep and fascinating conversation about baptism! Please join us! Doesn't matter that you have missed classes - anywhere you jump in will be a blessing to you and to all of us who gather weekly. We will take a break during April.

Zoom meeting.  
Topic: Bible Study: Romans  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84535159630>



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

This past week we canceled because of the terrible weather. This coming week we will talk about those "aha" moments when we can clearly see that God has been at work in our lives to make things better! What a powerful moment it will be for Naomi to witness how faithful God has been to her, even as her own daughter-in-law Ruth has been faithful to her and to God! Come be a part of this inspiring and fun time together.



If you would like to join Galt UMC, 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. Brian King, David Quarnstrom, and John Cook are joining at Galt UMC, Bob and Ann Webb at Bruceville.





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

The news media loves a conflict. Therefore you can be absolutely certain that as the split in our denomination continues to grow, there will be news coverage. I have been writing these articles because I do not wish for you to be alarmed. Galt UMC will be unaffected by the split, as far as I can tell. Only a handful of small Churches in the Central Valley and Great Northern Districts of the California-Nevada Conference have decided to leave. However, when the news reports air, they are likely to focus on the United Methodist Churches in Texas and the South where huge numbers of local Churches are choosing to “disaffiliate.” They go with my blessing, as I hope they will bless us as they depart. Lord knows there is plenty enough work to be done in this world by people with faith in Jesus Christ, and I have never been a believer in the idea that any one “flavor” of Christianity has all the answers. The point of contention that has caused some clergy and local Churches to leave the UMC is Paragraph 304.3 in our Book of Discipline that reads as follows: *The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.* What is more than a little confusing about the split in the UMC is that it is conservative Christians who AGREE with this paragraph who are leaving our denomination. Why? Because there has been unhappiness over the lack of strict enforcement of the paragraph. I am among many clergy in the Cal-Nev Annual Conference who have advocated to have this paragraph removed from the Book of Discipline. Next week I will share my theological and Scriptural reasons for wanting it removed. 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.

### Our District Prayer focus this week:

March 26: Pray for St. Paul’s UMC, Stockton.  
 April 2: Pray for all the churches/ ministries

## Hospitality Host



### March 26

Ed & Freddie Delgado

### April 2

Bob & Inez Munoz

## GREETERS SCHEDULE

### March 26

Sharon Hebein  
 Sharon Drake

### April 2

David & Debra Herburger



### Shout Out

Pastor Mary wants to give a Shout Out to the hard-working Committee Chairs who do so much for our Church behind the scenes! Leesa Klotz, Council Chair; Pearl Silva, Finance Chair; Colleen Hurley, Staff Parish Relations Chair; Rob Seibel, Trustees Chair; Faye Gaines, Outreach Chair. Thank you for your countless hours of volunteerism! What you do is helping Galt UMC to thrive.



### Shout Out

Another Big Shout Out goes to Trustee Chair Rob Seibel for keeping the weeds at bay in our two empty lots until CCH (Christian Church Homes) takes possession of them. Rob takes the time and uses his own equipment to do the job.



## Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am – 1pm

## Pastor Mary Representing Us in the Community and Conference

Pastor Mary serves on the United Methodist Conference Board of Trustees, which takes her out of the office once a month to journey to West Sacramento to take notes, since she is a voting member of the Conference Trustees and also serves as Secretary. The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. She is also being featured this month in the Conference online newsletter as part of Women’s History Month. Her commitment to the Galt community is reflected in her frequent participation in Chamber of Commerce events, including the State of the City luncheon this coming Thursday at Brewsters.



From the  
Editor's Desk

*This 'N That*  
*From Here and There*

- - By Earl Arrants

*I have a stack of Joyful Noiseletters that goes back more than 20 years. The Joyful Noiseletters are where I find "newsletter fillers" of cartoons, articles, and funny stories. Occasionally I dig into the stack when I need something to fill an empty space in current newsletters. Usually these items are so far back in the stack that most people won't remember they have been used at least once or twice.*

*The other day I came upon an Easter story that is sooooo bad, I couldn't resist using it again. I have used it more than one time, possibly two times. So, for better or worse, for a third or fourth time, here it is again!*

A man is driving along a country road when a rabbit jumps out in front of his car, and the car hits it. The man, a sensitive animal lover, pulls over, sees the dead rabbit, and begins to cry.

A woman drives by, stops her car, and asks the man why he's crying. "I killed the Easter bunny with my car," the man weeps.

"Don't worry," the woman says. She runs to her car, pulls out a spray can, walks over to the dead bunny, and sprays the contents on him.

The Easter bunny immediately jumps up, waves its paw at the two of them, and hops off down the road.

Then the bunny stops, turns around, and waves again. He stops and waves several more times before he hops out of sight.

The astonished man asked the woman, "What's in the can that you sprayed on the Easter bunny?"

The woman showed the man the label on the can. It said, "Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair, and adds permanent wave."

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A man is making out his will and testament. With him are his nurse, his wife, his daughter, and two sons.

He says to his family, "Sam, I want you to take the Beverly Hills houses." "Sylvia, take the apartments over in Los Angeles Plaza." "Bernice, I want you to take the offices over in City Center." "And, Sarah, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings downtown."

All this boggles the nurses's mind, and as they finish, she says to the wife, "Ma'am, your husband has been such a hardworking man to have accumulated so much property."

The wife replies, "Property Shmoperty. . .the old man has a newspaper route."



## Holy Week

**April 2 – April 9**

Mark your calendars now for the events of Holy Week:

**Palm Sunday, April 2**, 10am Holy Communion and Palms as we remember Jesus Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem

**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

### **Easter, April 9**

**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)

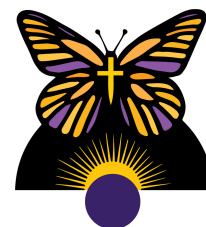
**10am Worship** at Galt UMC

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

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

**4pm Last Facebook Live** class of Holy Week

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. You can watch live, or as a recording at any point.



**Galt United Methodist Church**

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



Galt United Methodist Church  
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Galt, CA 95632

