

The APPLESEED

SEBASTOPOL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

BECOMING A BLESSED CHURCH

Purpose, Presence, & Power

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. – Matthew 5:3

Grace and peace to you from the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the One who gave himself for our sins, so he could deliver us from these present dark days, according to His unconditional love. To God be the glory forever and always. *Amen.*

I am amazed at how our journey is already unfolding in this second month of the year. Blessings are upon you, with the limitless grace of God everlasting. As we progress on our journey, we sometimes fail to remember the unfathomable power of Emmanuel – how we had waited for and celebrated in his revelation, and that by its manifestation was actively in the lead. We should always bear in mind how an excess of material wealth can drown our family. There are spiritual blessings all around us that we fail to recognize, yet they somehow follow us along the journey, God's grace has settled within us, though we may be slow to recognize and acknowledge it. Jesus taught his closest allies, the disciples, about the rules, foundations, and character required to secure the stability of their vocation – this can be seen in the *Sermon on the Mount*. We can see how Jesus's blueprint for spiritual character is needed for the journey of all Christians.

This month let us remember, *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*. This verse opens the first of nine statements about who is "blessed." Each verse follows the same pattern of naming the group of people and the reward they will receive. Eugene Petersen paraphrased it this way: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. These characters taught by Jesus represent the principal graces of a Christian; and these graces are needed by us all when we become followers. The very first is to open hearts with no agenda. We need to look up to God as the Psalmist proposes: *I will lift up my eyes unto the hills, from where comes my help. My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth*. The desire of the human spirit humbly yearns for the Spirit of the Lord and to surrender to the Lord in all things, so that the kingdom of God resides within us. To become a blessed church, we should be keenly aware of this teaching.

As we are followers, leaders, and Christians, our daily thoughts should include thoughts of the purpose of our church and of the purpose of our spiritual fellowship – to grow spiritually and to seek God, first and foremost. To set our priority with God first, He knows when we believe in Him with all of our being, mind, heart, and soul; and His grace is waiting to flow abundantly to those who ask for it. The reward is within reach as we empty ourselves of our earthly desires and know that He is close. Choose a time that is suitable for you, ponder Matthew 5:3, and then pray: *Lord, thank you for your word of encouragement, which fits with my desire to follow you. Amen.*



Pastor Iunisi Tovo

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office phone: (707) 823-7971 – email: sebumc@sonic.net – website: sebumc.org

“SOUPER BOWL” 2018

Your Mission Team is once again sponsoring “Souper Bowl” during the month of February in 2018. We are asking that you donate cans of soup that will be given to F.I.S.H., the free food pantry. F.I.S.H. depends primarily on donations in order to provide soup to almost 5,000 clients each month. 40% of their clients are children. When available, about 1,300 cans of soup are given a month. Soup is an important part of F.I.S.H.’s menu as many people, especially seniors, make a meal out of a can of soup. The number of seniors served during the last two years has increased substantially.

F.I.S.H. distributed just under 750,000 pounds of free food to over 57,000 people during 2017; they expect similar numbers in 2018. They have served all of Sonoma County, including West County, for 45 years. During that period, they have helped feed more than 1,400,000 people. The only qualification is the need for food.

Please bring donated soup to church on any Sunday in February and place it into the container located in the narthex of the church. **THANK YOU!**

THE NEXT
WORSHIP TEAM MEETING WILL BE
THURSDAY, MARCH 1 AT 1:30 PM

Epiphany into Lent



DIRECTORY UPDATE: UPDATE!

The 2018 SebUMC Member Directory is being formatted and finished – If you have changes or additions to your family’s contact information, contact us NOW. Please watch the Bulletin for issue date. *Thanks!!*

GOLDEN RULE

Golden Rule meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in Epworthian Hall. We share a pot-luck meal and discuss religious and philosophical issues of mutual interest. For info please contact the church office.

• Next Meetings are February 8th and 22nd •



COFFEE HOUR

In January, the Hospitality Committee – Susan Kinder, Jennie Chesher, Suzanne Bailey, & Vicki Amtower – met to discuss coffee hour and how to bring on board more members of the church to participate in this lively social gathering.

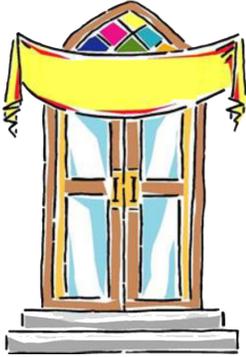
Here are some of our thoughts:

1. Sign up for any Sunday by placing your name on the sign-up sheet in the front of Epworthian Hall. *[new sheet arriving soon -- ed.]*
2. If you wish to just donate food, we will be happy to do the set-up and cleanup.
3. Is there a special event coming up in your family such as a birthday, anniversary, birth, or other occasion? Make coffee hour part of the celebration.
4. Special holidays are wonderful to celebrate during coffee hour – this Valentine’s Day, the committee will host a tea-type luncheon with sandwiches & sweets.
5. Ever make a delectable dessert but have too much left over? Bring it to coffee hour! If it needs to be eaten that morning and can’t be frozen, please give us a heads-up by calling or emailing before church.
6. We can always use sliced cheese and sliced salami. If you pick up an extra package while shopping, just put it in the Epworthian Hall refrigerator – it will be very much appreciated!
7. To repeat: if you wish to donate food, we will be happy to do the set-up and cleanup. **THANK YOU.**

Susan Kinder 707-823-2139
email susankinder@comcast.net

Suzanne Bailey 707-823-9080
Jennie Cheshier 707-823-7285
Vicki Amtower 707-792-4327

CHURCH DOOR OFFERINGS



Your generous support of our Church Door ministry enables us to offer a variety of items to our neighbors in need, either at the church office or during our monthly Saturday Table luncheons. This month we need Personal Care Supplies & packaged foods: **Applesauce singles, tins of Vienna sausage, juice boxes, Club cheddar and cheese crackers, and Quaker bars** (particularly peanut butter and chocolate varieties). *Thank you for your wonderful contributions.*

LENTEN STUDY

1 Corinthians: Living Love When We Disagree
by Melissa Spoelstra

Lenten Study will begin on Thursday, February 15 at 3:00 pm in the Chapel. If you plan to complete the study guide, the first lesson begins a week before, so there's an opportunity to do homework before the first class!

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

Saturday, February 10th at 10:00 am
at Julie Barbic's home,
9015 Poplar Ave., Cotati 94931
707-795-1690

SCRIP REPORT

I am happy to report that the scrip program in 2017 earned almost \$2,000.00! And 2018 is starting off even better – when Jennie Cheshier thought to order scrip for a \$1,100 purchase at Macy's, thereby earning us the 10% or \$110 – thank you, Jennie!

We encourage members to think about using SCRIP when planning a large purchase. Of course, all the smaller purchases add up, too. If you plan to make a large purchase, but don't know if SCRIP is available, ask us to check on that for you. *Pat Schoch, Scrip Chair*

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Here comes our first Family Game Night!
Friday, February 16th, 5:30 pm in Epworthian Hall
Pizza + Fellowship, Fun & Games
for members and friends of all ages!
RSVP to Carol Wegner, 707-479-4800,
email: carolwegner@yahoo.com by February 11
so we know how much pizza to order.



SATURDAY TABLE

Thank you to everyone who donates money, food, and/or time to help with Saturday Table – your generous, important contributions directly help hungry people in our community.

- February Saturday Table is 2/24 •
- March Saturday Table is 3/24 •

Thank you to all who helped with the Saturday Table Lunch in January:

Thank you for supplying food: Mark Reed, Betty Stychno, Jennie Cheshier, Barbara Hansen, Karen Bohn and Marlene Felsenfeld...

Thank you for working at Saturday Table: Mark Reed, Betty Stychno, Jennie Cheshier, Barbara Hansen, Marlene Felsenfeld and Vi Moir. We served 15 meals to our guests and sent out 2 meals.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

2/04 Carol Wegner

2/11 Julie Barbic

Leaders for 2/18 and 2/25
will be announced in Bulletins & church

News & Notes about
INTERRUPTED GEOGRAPHIES
poems by Iris Jamahl Dunkle

Happy New Year! I hope 2018 finds you well!
Thanks to all of you who came out to launch my new book into the world at Copperfield's in Sebastopol last November – it was such a fun night!

2018 started with a wonderful honor: in case you missed it, my poem, "Interrupted Geography" from my new collection, *Interrupted Geographies*, was featured in the *San Francisco Chronicle* as part of the wonderful series "State Lines" [see the Datebook section, p. 31 – ed.] .

UPCOMING READING: February 8th, 7:30 pm, at the Friends House, 684 Benicia Dr., Santa Rosa – I'll be reading with fellow author Jonah Raskin.

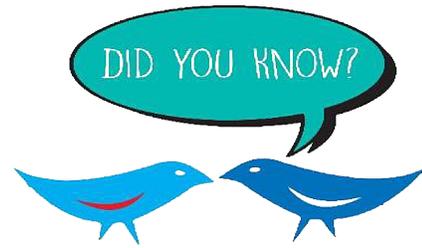
Also, I'll be kicking off National Poetry Month – and my final month as the Poet Laureate of Sonoma County – on 7:30 pm on April 7 at Copperfield's Books Santa Rosa, 775 Village Court, 95405. The acting troupe Off the Page will be acting out my poems about Pithole, a short-lived community in Pennsylvania in the 1850s. Come see and hear these wild stories acted out! Hope to see you all soon!
– Iris Jamahl Dunkle

Interrupted Geographies is published by Trio House Press, triohousepress.org – ed.

**MISSION TEAM
BENEFIT CHILI LUNCH**

Sunday, March 11th, following church, will be the Mission Team's annual (and very popular!) Chili Lunch fundraiser – a delicious way to spend an afternoon! You can choose from beef, chicken, turkey, or vegetarian chili, accompanied by salad, corn bread, French bread, & cookies. Tasty as well as beneficial!

This year's fundraiser beneficiary (-ies) will be announced in church, as well as in the next Appleseed, when all details have been finalized – please watch this space.



... that Martha Wade completed a beautiful mural on a building at 1300 North Dutton, Santa Rosa? See the picture below (also see it in person to get the full impact!)..

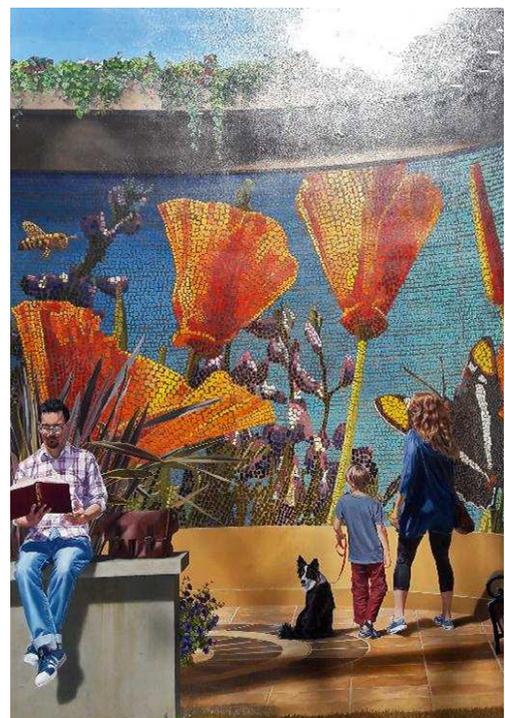
... that Matthew Witteman has a law practice right here in Sebastopol at 133 S. Main Street? Phone 707-721-2131...

... That Tammie Pisors is an owner of North Coast Logistics, Inc., a consolidation and trucking company that has been shipping primarily wine and beverages to distributors, wholesalers, and Liquor Control Boards all over the country. This is the 18th year of the business...

... that we have a lending library in the Chapel next to the Sanctuary? I recently borrowed and viewed a DVD about John Wesley...

... that we have an anonymous disciple who has been creating marvelous floral arrangements almost every Sunday? We appreciate the flowers so much.

– Marlene Felsenfeld



Martha Wade's mural at 1300 N. Dutton, Santa Rosa
photo by The Felsenfelds

DAILY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2018



- Thursday, February 1, 2018: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Proverbs 12:10-21; Galatians 5:2-15
- Friday, February 2, 2018: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Job 36:1-23; 1 Corinthians 9:1-16
- Saturday, February 3, 2018: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Isaiah 46:1-13; Matthew 12:9-14
- Sunday, February 4, 2018: Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
- Monday, February 5, 2018: Psalm 102:12-28; 2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37; Acts 14:1-7
- Tuesday, February 6, 2018: Psalm 102:12-28; 2 Kings 8:1-6; Acts 15:36-41
- Wednesday, February 7, 2018: Psalm 102:12-28; Job 6:1-13; Mark 3:7-12
- Thursday, February 8, 2018: Psalm 50:1-6; 1 Kings 11:26-40; 2 Corinthians 2:12-17
- Friday, February 9, 2018: Psalm 50:1-6; 1 Kings 14:1-18; 1 Timothy 1:12-20
- Saturday, February 10, 2018: Psalm 50:1-6; 1 Kings 16:1-7; Luke 19:41-44
- Sunday, February 11, 2018: Transfiguration Sunday
- Monday, February 12, 2018: Psalm 110:1-4; Exodus 19:7-25; Hebrews 2:1-4
- Tuesday, February 13, 2018: Psalm 110:1-4; Job 19:23-27; 1 Timothy 3:14-16
- Wednesday, February 14, 2018: Ash Wednesday
- Thursday, February 15, 2018: Psalm 25:1-10; Daniel 9:1-14; 1 John 1:3-10
- Friday, February 16, 2018: Psalm 25:1-10; Daniel 9:15-25a; 2 Timothy 4:1-5
- Saturday, February 17, 2018: Psalm 25:1-10; Psalm 32; Matthew 9:2-13
- Sunday, February 18, 2018: First Sunday in Lent
- Monday, February 19, 2018: Psalm 77; Job 4:1-21; Ephesians 2:1-10
- Tuesday, February 20, 2018: Psalm 77; Job 5:8-27; 1 Peter 3:8-18a
- Wednesday, February 21, 2018: Psalm 77; Proverbs 30:1-9; Matthew 4:1-11
- Thursday, February 22, 2018: Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18; Romans 3:21-31
- Friday, February 23, 2018: Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 16:1-6; Romans 4:1-12
- Saturday, February 24, 2018: Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 16:7-15; Mark 8:27-30
- Sunday, February 25, 2018: Second Sunday in Lent
- Monday, February 26, 2018: Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 21:1-7; Hebrews 1:8-12
- Tuesday, February 27, 2018: Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 22:1-19; Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19
- Wednesday, February 28, 2018: Psalm 105:11, 37-45; Jeremiah 30:12-22; John 12:36-43
- Thursday, March 1, 2018: Psalm 19; Exodus 19:1-9a; 1 Peter 2:4-10
- Friday, March 2, 2018: Psalm 19; Exodus 19:9b-15; Acts 7:30-40
- Saturday, March 3, 2018: Psalm 19; Exodus 19:16-25; Mark 9:2-8
- Sunday, March 4, 2018: Third Sunday in Lent



EPIPHANY INTO LENT

FEBRUARY 2018

• PLEASE REFER TO NEWSLETTER FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS, OR CALL OFFICE •

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 District Revival all-day event
4 5th Sunday after Epiphany SOUPER BOWL	5	6	7	8 Golden Rule Mission Team	9	10 Women's Study Group
11 Transfiguration Sunday SOUPER BOWL	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday	15 Lenten Study Group 1st meeting	16 PIZZA NIGHT	17
18 LENT: 1 SOUPER BOWL	19	20	21	22 Golden Rule	23	24 Saturday Table
25 LENT: 2 SOUPER BOWL	26	27	28	MARCH 1: Worship Team Meeting		

SUBMISSIONS FOR FEBRUARY APPLESEED DUE TODAY!



Sebastopol United Methodist Church 500 North Main Street, Sebastopol CA 95472
office phone: (707) 823-7971 email: sebumc@sonic.net website: sebumc.org

SCRIP SALES SUPPORT SEB UMC! THANK YOU!!