

The APPLESEED

SEBASTOPOL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – JULY + AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER

BECOMING A BLESSED CHURCH

Purpose, Presence, & Power

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. – Matthew 5:8

Greetings in the name of the Triune God. Welcome to the beginning of the new conference year 2018-2019. May the abundant grace and peace of our Living God embolden everyone. Be mindful that he is within us even before we know it. Isn't it wonderful that, in this time in our life, God is still with us? We know that he leads, guides and enlightens our pathways with his Word, as a Lamp to our feet, so we won't stumble or be hurt along this sacred journey.

During the last week of June clergy, laity, and church delegates gathered to worship and to focus on issues that will broaden and enlighten the children of God from all of the five districts of our California-Nevada conference. We were encouraged to do as much good as we can. After all the appointments fixed for the conference, there are church transitions and new beginnings, with several churches receiving new Pastors to lead them forward from the beginning of July.

July was a blessed month for the church because we celebrated the life of Mrs. Aline Garrison, a member who is 101 years of age; we celebrated two of our young adults who received degrees from universities; and the church is all certainly delighted in God. As Christians, we are once reminded that to be a Christian means to be someone who is related, in a vital, life-changing way, to the person of Jesus Christ.

As the Christian season of Pentecost continues, we are overflowing with the Spirit of the Living Christ. We deem to understand that God favors and blesses purity along with righteousness and mercy. *Blessed are those who are pure in heart for they will see God.* True Christianity lies in the purity of the heart. *"O Jerusalem, wash the evil from your heart and be saved, how long will you harbor wicked thoughts?"* – Jeremiah 4: 14; *"He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol, or swear by what is false; he will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God his savior."* – Psalm 24:4. Jesus knew that material things are temporary, and certainly not the only reality. "Pure in heart" is defined as undefiled, and not quite of this world; only those whose heart is pure can come into God's presence. The heart is understood to be far more than the seat of the emotions; it is the center of the inner life, the source of thought and understanding, of will and decision. A full transformation at the deepest level of a person's life is what is demanded. A life full of repentance, with the help of the grace of God, will only be justified and perfected through sanctification. Perfection matters! *"The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."* – 1 Timothy 1:5. The heart must be kept pure from all filthiness of flesh and spirit; all that comes out of the heart, given entirely for God. *"Create in me such a clean heart, O God!"* – Psalm 51: 10.

A blessed midsummer to you all!
Blessings in Christ's peace,


Pastor Iunisi Tovo

Sebastopol United Methodist Church – 500 North Main Street, Sebastopol CA 95472

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

GOLDEN RULE

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

- Next Meetings are August 9th and 23rd •

GARDENERS:

*Please start potting some plants
for our Rummage Sale
on Saturday, August 18th*

POWER WOMEN

(Women's Study Group)

The next meeting of the Power Women Group will be Saturday, August 11th, 10:00 a.m. at the home of Barbara Stranzl 427 Bowers Place, Graton 707-829-9323, blstranzl@gmail.com

AUGUST STUDY GROUP

Study Group will begin on Thursday, August 2nd at 3:00 pm and will meet on five consecutive Thursdays: 8/2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Barbara Stranzl leads the group in study of Adam Hamilton's book/DVD ***Unafraid: Living with Courage & Hope in Uncertain Times***. For info, please email carolwegner@yahoo.com

SATURDAY TABLE

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

- August Saturday Table is 8/25 •
- September Saturday Table is 9/22 •

A huge THANK YOU to all who helped last time!! Our neighbors in need really appreciate your generosity.

SEBASTOPOL INTER-CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

The Pantry is open to serve people who are hungry or may need a little extra food each month to get by. Clients are asked to phone ahead (707-823-2483) before stopping by the Pantry on a *Monday, Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday between 10:00 am and noon* to collect a generous supply of fresh, local fruits and vegetables, eggs, milk, and staple foods including meat, fish, pasta, grains, bread, beans, and soup.

The Pantry's mission is to serve residents of Sebastopol, Forestville, Graton, and the Bodega Bay area, but no-one will be turned away. Volunteers are needed, too!

Please call Karen Bohn (707-823-7963), or send her an email message at ekbohn@comcast.net for more information.

The Sebastopol UMC communion offering is shared each month by the Pantry and our own Church Door Ministry – THANK YOU to members for your continuing generosity.

AUGUST WORSHIP LEADERS

8/5	Laura Williams
8/12	Charlotte Fisher
8/19	Susan Kinder
8/26	Matt Witteman

HOT DOG FUNDRAISER REPORT FROM MISSION TEAM

Thanks to your generosity and fellowship, we raised an extraordinary amount during our recent UMCOR Hygiene Kit campaign, which included the popular Hot Dog Lunch Fundraiser on July 8th!

The Mission Team sends a big
Thank You

to everyone who donated funds and supplies, which enabled us to send over \$900 worth of supplies, purchased with your cash donations, plus supplies donated to us as whole or partial Hygiene Kits, to UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) for use in diaster-hit areas across the country. Your donations and support help people in need in a very real way.

And the hot dogs? *My, oh my, does our congregation like hot dogs!!*

BUY SCRIP !!

DO YOU NEED A HAND AT HOME?

Do you need a hand in or around the home, or do you know someone who does? Help with cooking, cleaning, bathing, errands, appointments, perhaps other related tasks? Contact Pastor Tovo – she can help to put you in touch with someone who can assist you (please note, this is paid help).

Please send email to tovoiunisi@gmail.com
or call 707-823-5841

Rummage & Good Stuff



• OUR SPECTACULAR RUMMAGE SALE •

Many of you have already been gleaning treasures from closets and cabinets and delivering them to Epworthian Hall to await the **Rummage & Good Stuff Sale** – thank you! There is still a little time to add more Good Stuff to the collection to make this year's sale **THE BEST EVER!** See the flyers in Sunday bulletins, and around the church, to learn which items we seek and which we are not accepting this year.

The **Rummage & Good Stuff Sale** will be held in Epworthian Hall on **SATURDAY, AUGUST 18TH!**

Set-up begins after worship on **Sunday, August 12th**, with a light lunch provided by the Hospitality Committee to strengthen volunteers for the tasks of sorting, pricing, and setting up the sale areas. Can you help, either on Sunday the 12th or on the weekdays that follow? Please contact the committee members, or sign up on the list in Epworthian Hall...

Julie Barbic (707) 795-1690...

Marlene Felsenfeld marfels@sbcglobal.net;
(707) 242-7605; (808) 255-2343...

Barbara Stranzl (707) 289-9323.

This sale is so important for the financial health of our church – **THANK YOU** to all who donate, volunteer, and shop! It's GOOD STUFF!



ABOVE: a scene from the All-Church Picnic on July 15th in Ragle Ranch Park

RIGHT: Pastor Lunisi celebrates her confirmation with a beautiful smile and a beautiful cake

(photos courtesy Carol Wegner)



REPORT ON THE 2018 UMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

by Charlotte Fisher

First, thank you to members who took the time to look at the resolution binder circulated prior to the Annual Conference, which was held in Modesto on June 20-23, 2018 – your input was invaluable in determining how we should vote.

The Conference attendees were divided into five discussion groups, each with a team leader. The group Pastor lunisi and I were assigned to considered four recommendations in the binder, with a fifth recommendation assigned at the conference.

These were:

- Item 8 – Resolution for UM church unity was set aside in the final plenary meeting. The reason for the group vote of 23 “yes” to 56 “no” was because, during group discussion, it was disclosed that an effort started in 2016

to present a unity resolution to the 2019 National Conference has been very active and is on track with their presentation. It was felt this resolution would dilute the work of the previous eighteen months by these people.

- Items 14 (Amend conference membership and clergy relations), 19 (Amend conference agency leadership and staff), and 20 (inviting local congregations to be proactive in interfaith community) were brought before the plenary on consent and passed with “yes” votes.
- The resolution presented at conference (Justice for Jerome Abba, the young man detained at SF Int'l airport for many hours, even though he had been invited by a United Methodist Church to come to speak) passed at plenary following a powerful presentation by the author of the resolution, who had extended the invitation to Mr. Abba.

If you would like more information, the resolution binder is in Epworthian Hall; or you can go online to the CalNeV Annual Conference Session 2018 site. Go to Quick Links: *2018 AC Recommendations Reports and Budget* file, and select *Actions of Annual Conference*.

DAILY READINGS FOR AUGUST 2018

- Wednesday, August 1, 2018: Psalm 37:12-22; 2 Chronicles 9:29-31; Mark 6:35-44 OR Psalm 111; Isaiah 25:6-10a; Mark 6:35-44
- Thursday, August 2, 2018: Psalm 51:1-12; Exodus 32:19-26a; 1 Corinthians 11:17-22 OR Psalm 78:23-29; Exodus 12:33-42; 1 Corinthians 11:17-22
- Friday, August 3, 2018: Psalm 51:1-12; Joshua 23:1-16; 1 Corinthians 11:27-34 OR Psalm 78:23-29; Exodus 12:43-13:2; 1 Corinthians 11:27-34
- Saturday, August 4, 2018: Psalm 51:1-12; Judges 6:1-10; Matthew 16:5-12 OR Psalm 78:23-29; Exodus 13:3-10; Matthew 16:5-12
- Sunday, August 5, 2018: Proper 13 (18)
- Monday, August 6, 2018: Psalm 50:16-23; 2 Samuel 12:15-25; Ephesians 4:17-24 OR Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43; Numbers 11:16-23, 31-32; Ephesians 4:17-24
- Tuesday, August 7, 2018: Psalm 50:16-23; 2 Samuel 13:1-19; 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 OR Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43; Deuteronomy 8:1-20; 1 Corinthians 12:27-31
- Wednesday, August 8, 2018: Psalm 50:16-23; 2 Samuel 13:20-36; Mark 8:1-10 OR Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43; Isaiah 55:1-9; Mark 8:1-10
- Thursday, August 9, 2018: Psalm 130; 2 Samuel 13:37-14:24; Romans 15:1-6 OR Psalm 34:1-8; 1 Samuel 28:20-25; Romans 15:1-6
- Friday, August 10, 2018: Psalm 130; 2 Samuel 14:25-33; Galatians 6:1-10 OR Psalm 34:1-8; 2 Samuel 17:15-29; Galatians 6:1-10
- Saturday, August 11, 2018: Psalm 130; 2 Samuel 15:1-13; Matthew 7:7-11 OR Psalm 34:1-8; 1 Kings 2:1-9; Matthew 7:7-11
- Sunday, August 12, 2018: Proper 14 (19)
- Monday, August 13, 2018: Psalm 57; 2 Samuel 15:13-31; Ephesians 5:1-14 OR Psalm 81; 1 Kings 17:1-16; Ephesians 5:1-14
- Tuesday, August 14, 2018: Psalm 57; 2 Samuel 18:19-33; 2 Peter 3:14-18 OR Psalm 81; Ruth 2:1-23; 2 Peter 3:14-18
- Wednesday, August 15, 2018: Psalm 57; 2 Samuel 19:1-18; John 6:35-40 OR Psalm 81; Jeremiah 31:1-6; John 6:35-40
- Thursday, August 16, 2018: Psalm 111; 1 Kings 1:1-30; Acts 6:8-15 OR Psalm 34:9-14; Job 11:1-20; Acts 6:8-15
- Friday, August 17, 2018: Psalm 111; 1 Kings 1:28-48; Romans 16:17-20 OR Psalm 34:9-14; Job 12:1-25; Romans 16:17-20
- Saturday, August 18, 2018: Psalm 111; 1 Kings 2:1-11; John 4:7-26 OR Psalm 34:9-14; Job 13:1-19; John 4:7-26
- Sunday, August 19, 2018: Proper 15 (20)
- Monday, August 20, 2018: Psalm 101; 1 Kings 3:16-28; Acts 6:1-7 OR Psalm 36; Genesis 43:1-15; Acts 6:1-7
- Tuesday, August 21, 2018: Psalm 101; 1 Kings 7:1-12; Acts 7:9-16 OR Psalm 36; Genesis 45:1-15; Acts 7:9-16
- Wednesday, August 22, 2018: Psalm 101; 1 Kings 8:1-21; Mark 8:14-21 OR Psalm 36; Genesis 47:13-26; Mark 8:14-21
- Thursday, August 23, 2018: Psalm 84; 1 Kings 4:20-28; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 OR Psalm 34:15-22; Joshua 22:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- Friday, August 24, 2018: Psalm 84; 1 Kings 4:29-34; Romans 13:11-14 OR Psalm 34:15-22; Joshua 22:10-20; Romans 13:11-14
- Saturday, August 25, 2018: Psalm 84; 1 Kings 5:1-12; Luke 11:5-13 OR Psalm 34:15-22; Joshua 22:21-34; Luke 11:5-13
- Sunday, August 26, 2018: Proper 16 (21)
- Monday, August 27, 2018: Psalm 11; 1 Kings 5:13-18; Ephesians 5:21-6:9 OR Psalm 119:97-104; Nehemiah 9:1-15; Ephesians 5:21-6:9
- Tuesday, August 28, 2018: Psalm 11; 1 Kings 6:1-14; Ephesians 6:21-24 OR Psalm 119:97-104; Nehemiah 9:16-31; Ephesians 6:21-24
- Wednesday, August 29, 2018: Psalm 11; 1 Kings 6:15-38; John 15:16-25 OR Psalm 119:97-104; Isaiah 33:10-16; John 15:16-25
- Thursday, August 30, 2018: Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; Song of Solomon 1:1-17; James 1:1-8 OR Psalm 15; Exodus 32:1-14; James 1:1-8
- Friday, August 31, 2018: Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; Song of Solomon 2:1-7; James 1:9-16 OR Psalm 15; Exodus 32:15-35; James 1:9-16
- Saturday, September 1, 2018: Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; Hosea 3:1-5; John 18:28-32 OR Psalm 15; Exodus 34:8-28; John 18:28-32
- Sunday, September 2, 2018: Proper 17 (22)

PENTECOST · KINGDOMTIDE

AUGUST 2018

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Centering Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	2	3 Open Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	4
5	6	7 7pm Trustees	8 Centering Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	9 9:30 Mission Tm 11:30 Golden Rule 3p Study Group	10 Open Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	11 Women's Study Group
12 Rummage Sale Set-Up Begins/ Lunch	13	14	15	16	17	18 RUMMAGE SALE !!!
RUMMAGE SALE SET-UP ALL WEEK LONG						
19	20	21	22 Centering Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	23 11:30 Golden Rule 1pm Worship Tm 3p Study Group	24 Open Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	25 Saturday Table
26 SPRC mtg	27	28	29 Centering Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	30 3p Study Group	31 Open Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary	1 LABOR DAY WEEKEND BEGINS

**SUBMISSIONS
FOR JULY
APPLESEED
DUE TODAY!**



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SCRIP SALES SUPPORT SEB UMC! THANK YOU!!