NEW YEAR WITH NEW VISION
TO REFLECT UPON GOD’S MANIFESTATION ON EARTH

Wishing everyone a Happy and a Prosperous Blessed New Year!

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of God is risen upon you.” -- Isaiah 60:1

Welcome 2019 with grace and peace from our Lord Almighty. The beginning of a new year is always a good time to start fresh, to think again about how God has gifted us with everything on earth; to refine our vision for perfecting our way of living; and to consider how we can give back to him as well. Now is definitely a good time to reflect on the promises and possibilities that come with God making all things new.

In the book of Ecclesiastes, it says that there is “a season for everything, a time for every matter under the heavens,” so we know that there is always the opportunity to renew our covenant with God. There is a time that we will be called to be his hands and feet in this world, to bring his message into our community -- to comfort, to love, to listen, and to provide justice and peace. We can heed the prophetic voice of Isaiah, reminding us to arise, shine, for your light has come: “The glory of God’s goodness and grace has risen upon you, that you may show God’s love in all that you do. Arise, shine, for your light has come.” Light is one element that we cannot live without -- we need ‘the light’ to enlighten our ways, to give us warmth, to provide life itself. Humanity needs light; spirituality needs spiritual light. The richness of Isaiah’s words summons a vision which will give our journey new focus. Actually, the first step is to arise, to renew -- to move away from our old, comfortable ways and to make a new habit of living with the goal of enlightened transformation. This is a summons to move out of our comfort zones, to take risks with the hope of creating a better world.

It is recorded in the book of Exodus that the Israelites were led by “a pillar of cloud by day, and by night with a pillar of fire” (Exodus 13:21), to give them continuous light during their journey. We know that the God to whom we pray is the One True God who will not leave us stranded; his presence is always known to us, as he is within us. We need to show the world in this new year that God is manifested in everyone who abides in him.

Many Christians start the year with a life evaluation, and a new resolution for what their journey ahead can be. My suggestion is to arise and let your light shine before all people, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. “Do not put your goodness under a bushel, but put everything out in the open, so your message can be heard and acted upon.” – Matthew 5:16

May we remember and uphold the things that God has already done in our lives, and also those things that are yet to be manifested but which are already within us.

Shalom,

Pastor Iunisi Tovo
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.

- January Saturday Table is 1/26
- February Saturday Table is 2/23

Vi's Saturday Table Thank You for December 2018:

"Thank you to those who helped with the December Saturday Table Lunch: Those supplying food: Jennie Cheshier, Pat and Paul Schoch, Charlotte and Charlie Fisher, Betty Stychno, Karen Bohn, Barbara Hansen, Marlene Felsenfeld, & Susan Kinder. Those working at Saturday Table: Chris Beaty, Betty Stychno, Charlotte Fisher, Jennie Cheshier, Jack Fraenkle, Barbara Hansen, Marlene Felsenfeld, & Karen Bohn. We served 25 meals and sent additional meals home with our guests. A very special thank you to everyone who stepped in and took care of Alternative Giving and Saturday Table during my absence. Happy New Year to you all!!" – Vi Moir

GOLDEN RULE

Golden Rule meets on the second and fourth 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 1/10 • 1/24 • 2/14 •

LENTEN STUDY GROUP

Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple

Our multi-week Lenten Study course will begin in March, on Thursday afternoons from 2:30 to 3:30 pm in the Chapel – everyone is invited – this is a group for adult men and women (please watch this space, and the back pages of our bulletins, for details as finalized).

Our text will be Adam Hamilton’s recent book, Simon Peter: Faithful but Flawed Disciple

Order your book by February 15th!

Info: Carol Wegner
carolwegner@yahoo.com 707-829-8267

JANUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

1/6 Vicky Ness
1/13 Arthur George
1/20 Susan Kinder
1/27 Laura Williams

2019 "SOUPER BOWL"

The Mission Team will once again host the “Souper Bowl” canned food donation campaign during February 2019. Over the past decade, Seb UMC has collected and donated several thousand cans of soup to the F.I.S.H. food pantry – F.I.S.H. is the largest independent all-volunteer food pantry in Sonoma County, serving thousands of clients every month. You can take advantage of a helpful tip during January: during Winter, most markets put canned soup on sale!

STOCK UP NOW FOR FEBRUARY DONATIONS!

We hope you will join the Mission Team in helping F.I.S.H. during next month’s Souper Bowl campaign.
**Community Bulletin Board**

*The bulletin board on the left wall of Epworthian Hall is for everyone to use for notices you want others to know about.*

*Stop by and see what others are posting.*

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**WOMEN’S STUDY GROUP**

The next meeting of the Women’s Study Group will be Saturday, January 12 at 10:00 am at the home of Carol Wegner 1459 Laguna Rd., Santa Rosa 95401 707-829-8267

At this meeting, Carol will be using a lesson from The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women of the United Methodist Church entitled

**Rock Shepherd Friend:**

*Enriching our Images of God*

Please call to let Carol know that you will attend.

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**EQUAL EXCHANGE**

*Do good while eating well*

Some folks were asking why the Sebastopol UMC Mission Team sells Equal Exchange coffees, teas, chocolate bars, and Palestinian olive oil during our fellowship hour every Sunday in Epworthian Hall.

Firstly, sales of these delicious products bring direct financial support for our Seb UMC youth – in the past, money we raised has helped send our young people to mission projects in Oregon and Southern California. Secondly, Equal Exchange – a Fair Trade-certified, employee-owned cooperative – supports small-scale farmers and agricultural co-ops worldwide, enabling more people to run successful, sustainable food enterprises. Equal Exchange also supports UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) with every purchase you make!

Visit the Equal Exchange website for details on programs:

https://equalexchange.coop

For more information about UMCOR:

https://www.umcor.org

I also have flyers and info at our table during fellowship hour – come by and see me.

– Pat Munsch

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**WORSHIP TEAM**

will meet on Thursday, January 24 at 1:00 pm in the Chapel.

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**SPECIAL EVENTS IN OUR UMC DISTRICT**

**BEST PRACTICES FOR LOCAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

Saturday, January 26, 2019

9:00 am to 1:30 pm

at Christ Church UMC, 1717 Yulupa Avenue (corner of Hoen & Yulupa), Santa Rosa 95405

$15/person

Recommended for SPRC, Trustees, Finance, and Church Council members.

**LOS RIOS DISTRICT REVIVAL**

**Shouting Joy to the Storm:**

*Claiming the Power of our Baptism*

Saturday, February 2, 2019

9:30 am to 5:00 pm

at Davis UMC, 1620 Anderson Road, Davis 95616

• REGISTER FOR EITHER/BOTH: www.cnumc.org •
Tuesday, January 1, 2019: New Year’s Day
Wednesday, January 2, 2019: Psalm 147:12-20; Proverbs 1:1-7; James 3:13-18
Thursday, January 3, 2019: Psalm 72; Job 42:10-17; Luke 8:16-21
Friday, January 4, 2019: Psalm 72; Isaiah 6:1-5; Acts 7:44-53
Saturday, January 5, 2019: Psalm 72; Jeremiah 31:7-14; John 1:10-18
Sunday, January 6, 2019: Epiphany of the Lord
Monday, January 7, 2019: Psalm 72; Daniel 2:1-19; Ephesians 4:17-5:1
Tuesday, January 8, 2019: Psalm 72; Daniel 2:24-49; Ephesians 5:15-20
Wednesday, January 9, 2019: Psalm 72; Numbers 24:15-19; Luke 1:67-79
Thursday, January 10, 2019: Psalm 29; Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Friday, January 11, 2019: Psalm 29; Ecclesiastes 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 2:1-10
Saturday, January 12, 2019: Psalm 29; Ecclesiastes 3:1-15; 1 Corinthians 2:11-16
Sunday, January 13, 2019: Baptism of the Lord
Monday, January 14, 2019: Psalm 106:1-12; Judges 4:1-16; Ephesians 6:10-17
Tuesday, January 15, 2019: Psalm 106:1-12; Judges 5:12-21; 1 John 5:13-21
Thursday, January 17, 2019: Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 3:1-5; Acts 8:18-24
Friday, January 18, 2019: Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 3:19-25; 1 Corinthians 7:1-7

Saturday, January 19, 2019: Psalm 36:5-10; Jeremiah 4:1-4; Luke 11:14-23
Sunday, January 20, 2019: Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Monday, January 21, 2019: Psalm 145; Isaiah 54:1-8; Romans 12:9-21
Tuesday, January 22, 2019: Psalm 145; Song of Solomon 4:1-8; 1 Corinthians 1:3-17
Thursday, January 24, 2019: Psalm 19; Isaiah 61:1-7; Romans 7:1-6
Friday, January 25, 2019: Psalm 19; Nehemiah 2:1-10; Romans 12:1-8
Sunday, January 27, 2019: Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Tuesday, January 29, 2019: Psalm 119:89-96; Jeremiah 36:11-26; 2 Corinthians 7:2-12
Saturday, February 2, 2019: Psalm 71:1-6; 2 Chronicles 36:11-21; John 1:43-51
Sunday, February 3, 2019: Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
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<td>SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT APPLESEED!</td>
<td>Centering Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary</td>
<td>11:30 am Golden Rule 1:00 pm Worship Team</td>
<td>Open Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary</td>
<td>Training Event at Christ ChurchUMC Saturday Table</td>
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**January 2019**

- **WARM WINTER WISHES**

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*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!!**