



OPEN HEARTS • OPEN MINDS • OPEN DOORS

THE APPLESEED

FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

MINISTRIES AND LEADERSHIP – LEARNING TOGETHER, SERVING TOGETHER

FROM MEMBERSHIP TO DISCIPLESHIP... TO CARING... TO SHARING

“Fear not, be glad and rejoice; for the Lord will do great things.”

Peace and Grace to you and everything you have. Welcome to the second month of 2020, with an extra day to praise the Lord. We are looking ahead to a year which now appears to be full of uncertainty; the prophet Joel, however, advised his listeners to be fearless, to be glad, and to rejoice in the Lord's great deeds. One of the psalmists also wrote, *“Take courage, step out in faith and let God have his way with you.”* This is still wonderful advice, and we can heed it.

Lectionary readings for the month begin with The Beatitudes, known to Christians as *The Sermon on the Mount*, from the *Gospel According to Matthew*, chapter 5. The Beatitudes are decrees meant to be kept in view at all times, intended to highlight the holiness of a covenant filled with dignity. These decrees were first taught to the ancient Hebrews, and set out their ideal relationship with God.

Joel's prophecy was a reassurance for a life of joy and fearlessness made possible with God on board. Joel's prophecy, like those of other biblical prophets such as Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Zephaniah, offers familiar messages to his audience to counter a weakened relationship with God (Jeremiah 3:14-15, Ezekiel 33:10-11, Zephaniah 2:1-3); Joel's wanted his listeners to strengthen their trust in God, pursuant to the covenant they made at Mount Sinai during their exodus from Egypt (see Exodus 19:1-8).

Jesus, at the beginning of his ministry, sat with his chosen ones on Mount Sinai, intentionally to remind them of the historic teaching. He blessed them and gave them strength for the challenging journey ahead. Today, we can be like Joel, sharing the reassurance of God's presence among and within us. Through Joel's teaching we are reminded that God is speaking to everyone, and that everyone can stay close to Him. Joy, fearlessness, kindness, acceptance – these are also the essential characteristics of Christ. The impact of following Christ this year will be extraordinary, if you depend completely on God. If we are humble and mindful, we can work together well, obeying the commandments of God – we can sympathize with others; we can make peace; we can pray and support those who suffer in faith. We can continue to be courageous by doing acts of kindness; we can love our neighbors, as well as practicing love in disagreements. We can be one with each other. Christians stand at the crossroads of justice and grace – hear the voice of Prophet Joel saying *fear not, God is still doing great things for those who are with Him*. Jesus found ambitious and courageous people to carry forward the message of blessed lives being shared with others.

I wish everyone a wonderful February – *fear not*, despite of uncertainty in our lives, and remember that those who are with God can be fearless, for He is our sustainer every moment of the day. I urge you to take a few minutes each day and pray for others, especially those who are less fortunate than you, and for families who are suffering with illness or material woes. *Have courage and be patient*, for our prayers are very powerful. Fear not, and pray for others to be fearless and rejoice in the Lord always, as well. Peace and grace to you all in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Shalom,

Pastor Iunisi Tovo

“SOUPER BOWL” 2020 DURING FEBRUARY

Your Mission Team has again decided to sponsor “Souper Bowl” during the month of February. 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 more than 6,000 people each month. Nearly 40% of their clients are children. When available, more than 1,600 cans of soup is given out each 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.

F.I.S.H. has served all of Sonoma County, including West County, for over 45 years. They have recently moved to 1710 Sebastopol Rd., which will make access from West County easier. During their existence, they have helped feed about 1,500,000 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.

SEBASTOPOL INTER-CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

The Sebastopol Inter-Church Food Pantry continues to provide a generous supply of food to folks in our community who need help. Please spread the word to anyone who might need some help with groceries. The Pantry is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 am to Noon and is located to the rear of the parking lot of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 500 Robinson Road, Sebastopol. Patrons are asked to phone ahead at 707-823-2483 to pick up their order.

There are no qualifications – just a need for food.

– Karen Bohn

SCRIP HELPS SEB UMC !!

– Thank you for buying Scrip –

FEBRUARY WORSHIP LEADERS

- 2/2 Carol Wegner
- 2/9 Arthur George
- 2/16 Vicky Ness
- 2/23 Matt Witteman

GOLDEN RULE

Golden Rule meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month for luncheon and discussion – Come and share in the giving and receiving of food, fellowship, and ideas!

Information via Julie Barbic: 707-795-1690

- **February 13 and 27; March 12 and 26** •

SATURDAY TABLE

We provide a monthly hot meal for our neighbors in need. Contributions of food and time are greatly appreciated. Can you help us with setup, serving, and/or clean-up? Can you provide food? Please sign up on the Saturday Table sheet in Epworthian Hall – Vi Moir and the team thank you!

- **February Saturday Table is 2/22** •
- **March Saturday Table is 3/28** •

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

*The SebUMC "Power Women" – a.k.a. the Women's Study Group – will gather at the home of Karen Bohn on **Saturday, February 8, at 10:00 am** 908 Pleasant Hill Road, Sebastopol info: 707-823-7963 ekbohn@comcast.net PLEASE CARPOOL! No street parking!*

♥ Happy Valentine's Day ♥

DONATIONS OF WARM CLOTHING FOR OUR HOMELESS NEIGHBORS CONTINUES

The SUMC Mission Team thanks everyone who donated warm clothing for the homeless toward the end of 2019: Thanks to your generosity, we were able to deliver blankets and many warm items of clothing to the Homeless Service Center in January, where they were gratefully received.

Since homelessness in our midst is on the rise and we are in the middle of a cold, wet winter, the Mission Team will continue to collect warm clothing -- the box on the floor in front of the Mission Team bulletin board in Epworthian Hall remains for your donations. Please continue to help us in this effort. *Many thanks to all of you who have supported the Mission Team's projects during 2019!* – Dennis Hansen

MISSION TEAM CHILI LUNCH TIME IS ALMOST HERE!

Please mark your calendars for the forthcoming Mission Team Chili Luncheon fundraiser:

Sunday, March 15th, after worship

Beef, turkey and vegetarian chilis will be available, as well as salads, corn bread, and cookies Oh my!

- THIS YEAR'S BENEFICIARY WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER •

LAY SERVANT TRAINING: TWO MORE LOCATIONS & DATES

Please follow this link to access info and a registration form to participate:

<https://calnev-reg.brtaapp.com/BasicLSTrainingLRDistrict54>

For more information, please contact Kandi Weider kandiweider@gmail.com

THE DOME PRESENTS...

There will be more concerts presented "under the dome" in our beautiful and acoustically excellent sanctuary in the months ahead – Watch this space!

- Thank you for your support •

 *We now prepare our minds and hearts for Lent and Easter* 

DAILY READINGS FEBRUARY 2020

- **Saturday, February 1, 2020:** Psalm 15; Micah 3:1-4; John 13:31-35
- **Sunday, February 2, 2020: Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**
- **Monday, February 3, 2020:** Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 1:1-18; Philemon 1-25
- **Tuesday, February 4, 2020:** Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 2:1-16; James 5:1-6
- **Wednesday, February 5, 2020:** Psalm 37:1-17; Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22; Luke 6:17-26
- **Thursday, February 6, 2020:** Psalm 112:1-9; Deuteronomy 4:1-14; 1 John 5:1-5
- **Friday, February 7, 2020:** Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:1-12; James 3:13-18
- **Saturday, February 8, 2020:** Psalm 112:1-9; Isaiah 29:13-16; Mark 7:1-8
- **Sunday, February 9, 2020: Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**
- **Monday, February 10, 2020:** Psalm 119:105-112; 2 Kings 22:3-20; Romans 11:2-10
- **Tuesday, February 11, 2020:** Psalm 119:105-112; 2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12
- **Wednesday, February 12, 2020:** Psalm 119:105-112; Proverbs 6:6-23; John 8:12-30
- **Thursday, February 13, 2020:** Psalm 119:1-8; Genesis 26:1-5; James 1:12-16
- **Friday, February 14, 2020:** Psalm 119:1-8; Leviticus 26:34-46; 1 John 2:7-17
- **Saturday, February 15, 2020:** Psalm 119:1-8; Deuteronomy 30:1-9a; Matthew 15:1-9
- **Sunday, February 16, 2020: Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**
- **Monday, February 17, 2020:** Psalm 119:9-16; Exodus 20:1-21; James 1:2-8
- **Tuesday, February 18, 2020:** Psalm 119:9-16; Deuteronomy 23:21-24:4, 10-15; James 2:1-13
- **Wednesday, February 19, 2020:** Psalm 119:9-16; Proverbs 2:1-15; Matthew 19:1-12
- **Thursday, February 20, 2020:** Psalm 2; Exodus 6:2-9; Hebrews 8:1-7
- **Friday, February 21, 2020:** Psalm 2; Exodus 19:9b-25; Hebrews 11:23-28
- **Saturday, February 22, 2020:** Psalm 2; 1 Kings 21:20-29; Mark 9:9-13
- **Sunday, February 23, 2020: Transfiguration Sunday**
- **Monday, February 24, 2020:** Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; Exodus 33:7-23; Acts 7:30-34
- **Tuesday, February 25, 2020:** Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Romans 11:1-6
- **Wednesday, February 26, 2020: Ash Wednesday**
- **Thursday, February 27, 2020:** Psalm 51; Jonah 3:1-10; Romans 1:1-7
- **Friday, February 28, 2020:** Psalm 51; Jonah 4:1-11; Romans 1:8-17
- **Saturday, February 29, 2020:** Psalm 51; Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 18:1-7
- **Sunday, March 1, 2020: First Sunday in Lent**
- **Monday, March 2, 2020:** Psalm 32; 1 Kings 19:1-8; Hebrews 2:10-18
- **Tuesday, March 3, 2020:** Psalm 32; Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 4:14-5:10
- **Wednesday, March 4, 2020:** Psalm 32; Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28; Matthew 18:10-14



FEBRUARY 2020

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|-----------|-----------|---|--|--|---|
| | | | | | | 1 LOS RIOS DISTRICT REVIVAL 9-5 at Davis UMC |
| 2 Worship 10:30 <i>COMMUNION</i> <i>SOUPER BOWL</i> | 3 | 4 | 5 Centering Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary | 6 | 7 Open Prayer 12-1pm | 8 Women's Study at BOHN's 10am |
| 9 Worship 10:30 <i>SOUPER BOWL</i> | 10 | 11 | 12 Centering Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary | 13 Mission Team Golden Rule | 14 Open Prayer 12-1pm <i>VALENTINE'S DAY ♥</i> | 15 |
| 16 Worship 10:30 <i>SOUPER BOWL</i> | 17 | 18 | 19 Centering Prayer 12-1pm Sanctuary | 20 | 21 Open Prayer 12-1pm | 22 Saturday Table |
| 23 Worship 10:30 Transfiguration Sunday <i>SOUPER BOWL</i> | 24 | 25 | 26 Centering Prayer 12-1pm <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i> | 27 Golden Rule | 28 Open Prayer 12-1pm | 29 <i>LEAP DAY !!</i> |

SEND YOUR
SUBMISSIONS
FOR THE NEXT
APPLESEED!

~ LOOKING AHEAD TO THE LENTEN SEASON ~

1st Sunday in Lent: March 1 – Palm Sunday: April 5 – Easter Sunday: April 12

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

REMEMBER: DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 8 !!