

The Methodist Church

Growing Disciples, Loving Our Community for Christ

Grace Groups

What Is A Grace Group? A small gathering of friends and neighbors who meet regularly on campus, in homes or coffee shops.

Why Grace Groups? Our Grace Groups provide an environment for you to make life-changing relationships with others while growing in your relationship with Christ.

How Do I Join A Grace Group? Everyone is invited! Choose a day and time that meets your schedule, contact the leader or Kelly Deditius 627-1660, kellyvumc@gmail.com.

Women's Grace Groups

2nd & 4th Mondays at 6:15 p.m.

Jeanine Gaylor - jeaninemsnyder@gmail.com

2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Billie Young - bnutritious@comcast.net

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Kelly Deditius - kellyvumc@gmail.com

2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Kelly Deditius - kellyvumc@gmail.com

Every Other Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Steve - pastorstevevumc@gmail.com

2nd & 4th Thursdays at Noon

Linda Galka - linda65@gmail.com

Every Other Friday at 10:00 a.m.

Kim Gunter - kim4pop@gmail.com

Men's Grace Groups

2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Dick Bayard - rbayard@sbcglobal.net

Every Other Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Steve - pastorstevevumc@gmail.com

1st & 3rd Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

David Gaylor - dtgaylor@aol.com

2nd & 4th Thursdays at 2:00 p.m.

Pastor Don - pastordonvumc@gmail.com

2nd & 4th Sundays at 7:30 a.m.

Tom Lockwood - tomlgeinc@gmail.com

Para Varones en español Miercoles at 6:00 p.m.

F20 - Ramon Olivares (559) 798-6711

Straight Talk With Steve



Steve Says: We are coming to the most important time of year for those who follow Jesus Christ. The story of his passion, death and resurrection are the center of our faith. Each year as we remember and celebrate these miracles people find more depth of meaning.

We will be returning to our Candlelight service for Good Friday this year. If you have participated in the past you will remember that it is a moving experience with ample time for prayer and discernment. On Easter we will celebrate with Baptisms, Worship, Brunch and Easter Egg hunt for the kids. It's always a beautiful morning full of fellowship and joy.

I highlight these upcoming events because now is the time for all of our members who have recently renewed their covenant with our church to fulfill one of the items of covenant. Inviting family, friends, co-workers and neighbors to come to Good Friday or to join you on Easter morning helps them to experience our church and to take a step toward making a commitment to follow Christ. Finding the courage to make the invitation helps our members and friends invest in the ministry of the church in a deeper and more meaningful way.

Let's all commit to inviting at least 2 people to join us for each of

these events, or for any of our worship services. We have a great church that does healthy ministry and impacts lives in profound ways. We should be sharing with enthusiasm.

OTHER ITEMS:

The recent General Conference decisions did not make any significant changes in the polity or faith statements of our Denomination. I believe that the General Conference of 2020 is likely to be a time when decisions that will have much more impact on our local church will be made. Our local church will not likely have any action to take until after that General Conference.

Right now, I urge everyone to steer clear of the protests and anger that is coming from some parts of the Denomination. We are required by conscience to keep our covenants and to work at Growing Disciples and Loving Our Community for Christ. We don't need to and won't profit from getting sucked into a divisive attitude. In simplest terms I am asking our people to "keep your peace". Let's concentrate on being the best local church that we can and when the time comes for a vote or positive action to be taken, we will act. Until then, less drama and anger and more service and love are what we are called to.

Peace,

Steve

Care Ministries

Financial Peace - Changes Lives

In January I began a 9 week journey with 19 others who were seeking a little "Financial Peace". Each individual or couple came from different perspectives. The group was made up of various ages and stages including: singles, couples (engaged, newlywed, and long term married), married individuals attending without their spouses, and single parents; the youngest was 18 and some were nearing or at retirement age. We spent our time together each week watching video lessons about budgeting, paying off debt, investing, and giving. Together we discussed our challenges, progress, fears and successes. Here are a few remarks from those who attended:

I want to express my sincere appreciation for a "job well done."

I thoroughly enjoyed the class and have used a lot of what was presented to clean up my own finances. Mission accomplished!!

Thank you for teaching us to be better stewards of God's gifts (money) so we can be cheerful givers.

I am so grateful that I did FPU when I did. Over the last 2 months, I received several payments for past due child support. That went straight to debts. I have 2 large payments pending now that will go straight to student loans too. I recognized how much financial security I actually have as a result of really looking at where my money is and what it's "job" is. With these payments, I never felt guilty for putting what came in straight to debt rather than hiding it away in fear of what happens next. And surprisingly, I realized that I have changed how I look at food. I am restrictive when eating out, but I don't feel guilty about eating at home now. I am not worried that the kids won't be able to eat if I do. This course has benefited me in ways that I didn't expect... and I am so grateful to start breaking the fear of my kids growing up the way I did. That was a peace that I didn't expect to ever gain. And it is already impacting my giving. Thank you!!



Can you believe how much we accomplished in just nine lessons?

\$30,949 Non-Mortgage Debt Paid Off,

**\$15,613 Money Saved,
19 Credit Cards cut up!**

Think of what we'll accomplish in nine months or nine years! And we're just one small group. What would happen if the whole church or even our community started handling money God's ways? Imagine what we'd be able to do. How much do you think we'd be able to give? Interested in changing lives together? Call Kelly at 627-1660 or email kellyvumc@gmail.com for information about future Financial Peace offerings.

Kelly Deditius

Director of Care Ministries
and Small Groups
kellyvumc@gmail.com

Announcements

Fall Women's Retreat

Ladies, the Fall Women's Retreat is October 10-13 at the E.C.C.O Conference Center in Oakhurst, CA. Please watch for registration information.

Stephen Ministry

The *Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop* on Saturday, May 4 is for members of The Methodist Church and others from surrounding churches. We want to share the message of the great and wonderful services available through Stephen Ministry. Please let others know and plan to join us. For more information, please contact Theresa Speake, Stephen Ministry Leader.

Announcements

United Methodist Women

We are faith, hope and love in action.

FAITH - Thousands of women participate in our reading programs and educational opportunities annually to grow spiritually, become more deeply rooted in Christ and put faith into action.

HOPE - Our national mission institutions empower women, care for children, educate and equip youth, care for the neglected, advocate for social justice issues, create economic opportunities and strengthen neighborhoods.

LOVE - Our members give out of their love for the world and provide financial support for national mission institutions, higher education scholarships for international students, and 121 programs taking place in 110 countries.

ACTION - United Methodist Women members' voices are heard around the world as they call for justice on issues such as immigration, human trafficking, domestic violence, health care and the environment.

UMW Celebrated 150 years March 23, 2019! For more information about UMW in our community, please contact Liz Wheat.

SAM's 2019 Events

Our Senior Adult Ministry Breakfast and Bible Study has a couple of special events planned for the year:

- *SAMs Luncheon on Tuesday, May 21*
- *Roger Rocka's "Calamity Jane" on Sunday, September 1*

Please contact Dennis Goodenough for more information.

Employment Opportunity

Paid Nursery Position - rotational schedule 4-10 hours per week. Care for children 5 and under during Worship services, programs and classes. Flexible schedules available Sundays, Wednesdays and additional days and times as needed. To apply call Joanna or Kelly 627-1660.

Children

Sunday School Lesson

One Sunday early in March, we had a Sunday School lesson, that will not be forgotten anytime soon. We were talking about the plagues that God sent to Egypt in order that Pharaoh would let the Israelites go. The story came to life as the kids tossed about crumpled balls of green paper to represent the frogs that covered the land. They scattered confetti-sized bits of brown and black paper to represent the gnats and the flies. The kids put round stickers on their arms and faces to represent painful boils. They drew animal faces on some cups to represent livestock and then watched as the cups were kicked over to represent the animals that died. Although the kids were enjoying the chaos of bringing this lesson to life, they got very quiet as we talked about the plague of darkness and the death of the first born son. The mess in the middle of the room was a small representation of the chaos and devastation that the people must have felt as they lived through it. The quiet and serious tone that came over the room toward the end, indicated that the kids understood the Bible point for the day. Our lesson stated, "God is all-powerful so we respect Him." It went on to explain to the kids that these 10 awful plagues were what it took for Pharaoh to realize God's power. Also, that God doesn't always use his power to destroy. God had been using His power to protect and provide for the Israelites as well. It is a blessing and privilege to watch the kids actively engage in learning who God is. I am thankful for the volunteers who give their time each week to make these lessons possible.

Debbie Petty

debbievumc@gmail.com

VBS

June 25-28



Youth Ministry

See's Candy Sale

See's Candy orders will be available for pick up on Sunday, April 7. Thank you for your support.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class is Thursday, April 11 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. in The Upper Room. Baptisms will be Easter Morning. Please contact Kristi Boydston to sign up for this class - 559-627-1660 Ext. 209.

Family Camp

Memorial Day Family Camp at Hartland Christian Camp is May 24-27.

This is an opportunity we are offering to our church families and their friends. A schedule of the weekend activities and registration forms are available in the lobby. If you have questions please contact Kristi.

Thank you,

Kristi Boydston,

Youth Director

Family Ministry Coordinator

kristivumc@gmail.com

559-627-1660 Ext. 209

Service Opportunities

Ministry Team Openings

Children's Sunday School Team - Sunday Mornings 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - team members are scheduled once a month (more often if you prefer). Help lead children through interactive lessons that include object lessons, crafts, games and discussions. Digital access to curriculum makes prep easy.

Guest Services Team - help us follow up with new visitors - looking for team members to help with automated communications system - must be comfortable with computer data entry. 1-2 hours per week. (may work from home once training is complete).

Social Media Team - looking for members to help us utilize social media and web presence effectively. If you are proficient on FaceBook and Instagram we need you on our team! Work from home to help promote our church programs and ministries.

For more information email kellyvumc@gmail.com or **TEXT** the word "**SERVE**" to (559) 657-6848.

Worship Arts

Introducing Alejandra Tejada - Semilla Worship Leader

Hello everyone! My name is Alejandra Tejada and I have the honor to be Semilla's new Worship Leader. I attended California State University, Fresno and graduated in Fall 2017 with my Masters in Music- Performance, and obtained my Bachelors in Vocal Performance in Fall 2015 and received my A.A. in Arts and Humanities in 2012 at Porterville College. I love to worship God through music and bring His people closer to His heart through song whether it's in English or in Spanish. I look forward to meeting you all and worshipping God together in one accord.

Hola a todos! Me llamo Alejandra Tejada y tengo el honor de ser la nueva Líder de la Alabanza de Semilla. Estudie en la Universidad de Fresno State y me gradué en el otoño de 2017 con mi maestría en Musica, agarre mis licenciatura en interpretación vocal en el otoño de 2015, y recibí mi A.A. en Artes y Humanidades en 2012 en el Colegio Comunitario de Porterville. Me encanta alabar a Dios a través de la música y de la misma forma acercar a Su pueblo mas al corazón de Dios ya sea en Español o Ingles. Mi deseo es conocerlos a todos y juntos alabar y adorar a Dios en un solo acuerdo.

Alejandra Tejada

alejandravumc@gmail.com

The Methodist Church

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Closed 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. - Noon

PHONE (559) 627-1660 • FAX (559) 740-0801

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7360, Visalia, CA 93290

WEB SITE: www.visaliamethodist.org

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Sunday Connect

Programs for all ages

10:30 a.m. Oasis Contemporary Service

**10:30 a.m. Semilla Servicio de Adoracion
y Alabanza**

Wednesday Schedule

6:00 p.m. Programs and Classes

For all ages

Please e-mail special recognitions or articles for the

May Newsletter to judyvumc@gmail.com **and**

joannavumc@gmail.com **before April 15.**

The weekly bulletin deadline is Wednesdays at Noon.

Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt

Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt

HE IS RISEN! Plans are under way for our annual Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt, Sunday, April 21. Join us in the courtyard for a morning of good food and fellowship following the 9:15 a.m. service. Please bring a sweet something to share. Fruit and beverages will be provided.

Easter Egg Help Needed

Empty Easter eggs are available for you to take and fill with candy for the Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. Please no chocolate, it melts in the bright morning sun.

Volunteers are needed to help spread the eggs onto the grass before Church on Easter morning. If you are able, we would love to have your help.



Holy Week

April 18

Servicio de comunión y lavado de pies
a las 6:30 p.m. en el santuario

April 19

Good Friday at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Servicio de siete palabras a las 6:30 p.m. en el FLC

April 21

Easter Sunrise Service (bilingual) at 6:30 a.m.
Easter Single Service at 9:15 a.m.
Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt at 10:30 a.m.

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