ONENESS IN CHRIST STATEMENT

We affirm that all persons are precious to God and of sacred worth. God pours out amazing love and grace to everyone. We seek to be an inclusive church. We warmly invite into our life and mission all people without regard to race, nationality, sexual orientation, ability, age, gender identity, financial circumstances, or marital status. We are a large and diverse community of faith. We certainly do not always agree on theology or public issues. Our desire, however, is to build bridges of understanding and mutual respect. Above all, we seek to love one another as Christ has loved us. We are learning that the words of our founder, John Wesley, are true: “We do not have to think alike to love alike.”

REACH UP, REACH OUT!

We the people of the First United Methodist Church of Santa Rosa commit ourselves to the mission of growing loving communities of faith centered on Jesus that express themselves through both personal spirituality and social responsibility; reaching up to God and reaching out to all people in God’s love.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2150 Giffen Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
phone 707-545-3863
fax 707-545-5375

1551 Montgomery Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
www.FumcSantaRosa.org
Seeds of a Sower

Respected spiritual guide and author Father Henri Nouwen once described Lent as the season during which winter and spring struggle for dominance. In its original Anglo-Saxon meaning, Lent is “springtime.” We yearn for more light and less darkness, more warmth and less cold.

The image of the struggle between winter and spring helps us understand the purpose for the Lenten season. The call of Lent is to look at the darkness that may be within us, acknowledge its presence, and expose it to light of God’s forgiving love. The challenge of Jesus is to journey within to examine the apathy, resentment, anxiety, or complacency that has taken up residence. In the light of God’s grace, Jesus challenges us to be honest, humble, and courageous in addressing these deep rooted issues. It is easy to live on the surface of things and console ourselves by saying, “I am good enough.” It is discomforting to own the need for change and to seize the opportunity for growth.

In this way, Lent is like the season of winter, of hibernation in the depths of the earth, of self-examination to seek fresh paths toward growth. Awareness of our sinful ways is the first step toward change. They become seeds that God can transform into spiritual growth and flower into new life. As the buds open on trees and the daylight hours lengthen, the spiritual season of Lent calls us to greater openness to the word of God and conversion in every area of our lives.

May our devotion to the ministry, suffering, and death of Christ bring us to the full joy of Christ’s Easter resurrection.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

As you probably know, the global United Methodist Church (UMC) has reached an impasse regarding the full inclusion of LGBTQAI+ persons. To that end, this month the UMC is holding a special General Conference to determine our way forward. If you attended one of our conversations on this General Conference, then you already know that the “Commission on the Way Forward” has proposed three possible plans for the General Conference to consider. The One Church Plan and the Traditionalist Plan seem to have garnered enough support so far to potentially pass a vote.

Talk about possible outcomes, though, is entirely speculative. The General Conference may approve a plan from the commission or from the floor, or no plan whatsoever. Our bishop has urged us to be faithful to the spirit of Christian conferencing; that is, we are to pray that each member of the General Conference be open to how the Holy Spirit could work through them in discernment and discussion. We, as United Methodists, are to be in prayer for the General Conference body as a whole and for our way forward together.

This time may be particularly troubling for the LGBTQAI+ community. The Council of Bishops has already written a pastoral letter to the LGBTQAI+ community expressing remorse for the pain caused by this conversation. The bishops of our jurisdiction have shared their hope that the Holy Spirit is at work in this process.

Thus, we will continue to pray for a way forward for our denomination. We will continue to be in ministry with the people of Santa Rosa. We will continue to serve in Jesus’ name. We will continue to do all of these things next month, as well, because come what may, God will still be God, and we will still be the church.

For this, and for each of you, I am grateful.

In Christ,

Pastor Lindsey
A Message from Pastor Sekove

My apology for the last two months that I did not attend to our Roseleaf newsletter. Reflecting on these past months, I thank God for the opportunities to serve Him in different ways, especially in our Fijian Ministry. I may fail to live up to the standard of what God expects from me, but I thank God for giving me an opportunity to learn to do better in the future.

February was very special to the United Methodist Conference when we were looking into “Our Way Forward.” Our Fijian Ministry made a point of Fasting and Prayer on Sunday, February 10, as the six churches prepared a special service with the theme of “May Thy Will Be Done and Not Our Will.”

We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit and His anointing. We believe in God’s wisdom and having the Eyes of God to see what we cannot see through our physical eyes.

On Ash Wednesday, March 6, we begin our journey of faith to face the challenges of our lives by aligning ourselves in what the Bible or the Law of God is teaching us: to live as doers of the Word. Members of our community of faith are encouraged to serve God by:

• Participating in prayer groups each day as intercessors,
• Visiting the sick,
• Offering a helping hand to the needy,
• Volunteering in social work.

We are to continue our good work as a sacrifice to God, as Paul is saying to the Romans in Chapter 12: 1–2 “Offering your body as a living sacrifice....” May we do our good works joyfully and celebrate God’s presence and His guidance as we serve Him in all that we do.

Pastor Sekove
ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, March 6
7:00 p.m.
Stony Point Worship Center

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40-day season of Lent prior to Easter. We are marked with ashes at this service as a reminder of our mortality. It is an opportunity for reflection on our relationship with God and commitment to deepening that relationship in these 40 days. Our service will include Holy Communion.

SUPPORT OUR PRESCHOOL

Join us for our Annual Pasta Dinner & Silent Auction!

Purchase tickets for the Pasta Dinner after the worship services on Sundays, February 24 and March 3. Individual tickets are $18; children, $10; family tickets, $50 (available prior to the event only). Or, you can stop by the Preschool Office anytime to purchase tickets. Financially, year 2018 was a difficult one for us. Your support is appreciated now more than ever. Come participate in this fun fellowship—enjoy a great dinner, participate in the auction, and meet the Preschool families!

If you have something you'd like to donate to our Silent Auction, please contact Diane or Denise at 707-546-7012, or preschool@fumcsantarosa.org. Or, you can fill out a Donation Form from the shelf near the Butterfly Class and put it in our Preschool box in the front office. THANK YOU!

Please note: Our Silent Auction will be open the week before, starting Sunday morning, March 3, so that church members can review the Silent Auction item descriptions and start the bidding!

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS!
UNITED METHODIST SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Each student who is actively involved in a United Methodist congregation is eligible to apply for a Gift of Hope Scholarship of $1,000. The application link is available at www.gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships. Applications will be received through March 7. Scholarships are funded by an annual Special Offering for United Methodist Student Day.

APRIL 14 – PALM SUNDAY
8:00-9:30 a.m. – Breakfast Fundraiser
10:00 a.m. – All Church Worship
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship

APRIL 18 – MAUNDY THURSDAY
7:30 p.m. – Christ Church UMC

APRIL 19 – GOOD FRIDAY
7:30 p.m. – Montgomery

APRIL 20 – EASTER VIGIL
8:00 p.m. – Christ Church UMC

APRIL 21 – EASTER SUNDAY
6:00 a.m. – Sunrise Service – Stony Point
8:00 & 9:30 a.m. – Worship
11:00 a.m. – Worship
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship

WELCOME OUR CHURCH OPERATIONS MANAGER!

Janis Brewster has been hired as our new Church Operations Manager. Janis comes to us with 25 years of experience serving in administration at two other congregations in the North Bay. She lives in Petaluma with her husband. They have three adult children. We welcome Janis and look forward to her ministry among us.

APRIL 21 – EASTER SUNDAY
6:00 a.m. – Sunrise Service – Stony Point
8:00 & 9:30 a.m. – Worship
11:00 a.m. – Worship
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship

APRIL 14 – PALM SUNDAY
8:00-9:30 a.m. – Breakfast Fundraiser
10:00 a.m. – All Church Worship
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship

APRIL 18 – MAUNDY THURSDAY
7:30 p.m. – Christ Church UMC

APRIL 19 – GOOD FRIDAY
7:30 p.m. – Montgomery

APRIL 20 – EASTER VIGIL
8:00 p.m. – Christ Church UMC

APRIL 21 – EASTER SUNDAY
6:00 a.m. – Sunrise Service – Stony Point
8:00 & 9:30 a.m. – Worship
11:00 a.m. – Worship
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, March 6
7:00 p.m.
Stony Point Worship Center

APRIL 14 – PALM SUNDAY
8:00-9:30 a.m. – Breakfast Fundraiser
10:00 a.m. – All Church Worship
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship

APRIL 18 – MAUNDY THURSDAY
7:30 p.m. – Christ Church UMC

APRIL 19 – GOOD FRIDAY
7:30 p.m. – Montgomery

APRIL 20 – EASTER VIGIL
8:00 p.m. – Christ Church UMC

APRIL 21 – EASTER SUNDAY
6:00 a.m. – Sunrise Service – Stony Point
8:00 & 9:30 a.m. – Worship
11:00 a.m. – Worship
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, March 6
7:00 p.m.
Stony Point Worship Center

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40-day season of Lent prior to Easter. We are marked with ashes at this service as a reminder of our mortality. It is an opportunity for reflection on our relationship with God and commitment to deepening that relationship in these 40 days. Our service will include Holy Communion.

WELCOME OUR CHURCH OPERATIONS MANAGER!

Janis Brewster has been hired as our new Church Operations Manager. Janis comes to us with 25 years of experience serving in administration at two other congregations in the North Bay. She lives in Petaluma with her husband. They have three adult children. We welcome Janis and look forward to her ministry among us.

APRIL 14 – PALM SUNDAY
8:00-9:30 a.m. – Breakfast Fundraiser
10:00 a.m. – All Church Worship
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship

APRIL 18 – MAUNDY THURSDAY
7:30 p.m. – Christ Church UMC

APRIL 19 – GOOD FRIDAY
7:30 p.m. – Montgomery

APRIL 20 – EASTER VIGIL
8:00 p.m. – Christ Church UMC

APRIL 21 – EASTER SUNDAY
6:00 a.m. – Sunrise Service – Stony Point
8:00 & 9:30 a.m. – Worship
11:00 a.m. – Worship
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, March 6
7:00 p.m.
Stony Point Worship Center

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40-day season of Lent prior to Easter. We are marked with ashes at this service as a reminder of our mortality. It is an opportunity for reflection on our relationship with God and commitment to deepening that relationship in these 40 days. Our service will include Holy Communion.

WELCOME OUR CHURCH OPERATIONS MANAGER!

Janis Brewster has been hired as our new Church Operations Manager. Janis comes to us with 25 years of experience serving in administration at two other congregations in the North Bay. She lives in Petaluma with her husband. They have three adult children. We welcome Janis and look forward to her ministry among us.

APRIL 14 – PALM SUNDAY
8:00-9:30 a.m. – Breakfast Fundraiser
10:00 a.m. – All Church Worship
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship

APRIL 18 – MAUNDY THURSDAY
7:30 p.m. – Christ Church UMC

APRIL 19 – GOOD FRIDAY
7:30 p.m. – Montgomery

APRIL 20 – EASTER VIGIL
8:00 p.m. – Christ Church UMC

APRIL 21 – EASTER SUNDAY
6:00 a.m. – Sunrise Service – Stony Point
8:00 & 9:30 a.m. – Worship
11:00 a.m. – Worship
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, March 6
7:00 p.m.
Stony Point Worship Center

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the 40-day season of Lent prior to Easter. We are marked with ashes at this service as a reminder of our mortality. It is an opportunity for reflection on our relationship with God and commitment to deepening that relationship in these 40 days. Our service will include Holy Communion.

WELCOME OUR CHURCH OPERATIONS MANAGER!

Janis Brewster has been hired as our new Church Operations Manager. Janis comes to us with 25 years of experience serving in administration at two other congregations in the North Bay. She lives in Petaluma with her husband. They have three adult children. We welcome Janis and look forward to her ministry among us.
Youth Cell Phone Scavenger Hunt

Eleven youth and six adults took their cell phones to the Santa Rosa Plaza on January 24 with a list of silly things to find and photograph: a pair of red shoes, a maraca, an exit sign, a rainbow 75% off sign, a pair of sunglasses, “justice” and “love,” some jawbreakers, a monopoly game, a belt buckle in a store, a map of California, a Warrior’s jersey, Minnie Mouse, and finally “What would Jesus buy?”

While eating pizza at the food court, photos were compared, including a discussion of Jesus purchase choices: a Jesus name bracelet, a pair of good walking shoes, and a cinnabun (because He probably would be intrigued by yeast bread).

Painting the Youth (Blue) Room

We had a great “Paint the Youth Room” day on February 12. THANK YOU to the painters:

Jake, Jordan, and Elizabeth Walton
Jenny Jones (who also catered lunch!)
Sammy, Kyle, Carolyn, and David Derr
Ruth Norman
Marty Wait
Lynn Brown (extra energy cookies!)
Charlene Simons
Su Rood Cox

Oscar Night at Youth Group

Our UMYF had their own “Oscar Night” on February 24. Watch for details and photos in next month’s Roseleaf!!

Su Rood Cox
Interim Youth Director

YOUTH EVENTS CALENDAR

MARCH 2
Strathdee Concert
7:00 p.m.
Christ Church UM

MARCH 24
Blessing of the Youth (Blue) Room
Montgomery
5:00-7:00 p.m.

APRIL 14
Breakfast Fundraiser
for Sierra Service Project
8:00-9:30 a.m.
Montgomery Fellowship Hall
(before All-Church Service at 10:00 a.m.)
The Church Council approved the 2019 Budget as submitted by the Finance Committee and the Budget Summit Group at a special meeting on February 9. The budget calls for using up to $34,629 in accumulated checking account monies to fund the $871,123 in projected expenses.

Revenues are forecasted to be $836,494, including $708,259 in individual pledges and contributions, compared to $725,850 in 2018. “The good news is that more than half of our pledgers committed to increased giving for 2019,” said Sam Cox, Finance Chair. “The challenging news is that we lost approximately $50,000 in contributions from people who have moved out of the area or died in the past year, and new pledges have not compensated for that loss.” The Fijian Ministry congregation increased its pledge from $60,000 to $72,000, and the Preschool and UMW continued their donations of $8,400 and $600 respectively.

During the Fall Stewardship Campaign, Pastor Lori encouraged the church to move forward with plans resulting from the 2018 Church Conversations as a way to grow our ministries over time, including: developing more effective ministries to seniors; reaching out to middle-aged and older adults who are not a part of a church community; empowering lay volunteers in areas such as the revitalization of young family, children, and youth programs; funding music at Stony Point services; telling the church’s story to the community; and inviting all to join in outreach and service ministries. These emphases are reflected in the approved budget.

The action to incorporate accumulated checking account funds into the budget was made somewhat easier by the church’s strong 2018 finish. The 2018 budget anticipated using $26,059 in accumulated checking account funds, but due to a stronger-than-budgeted November and December, less than $4,000 of these funds were needed. Income in December topped $100,000.

At the Council meeting, those in attendance noted the significant adventures the church has faced during the past 16 months, and appreciation was expressed to everyone for “stepping up” during this time. While celebrating the positive developments, the Council was also encouraged by Chairperson Heather Young and Pastor Lori to address financial challenges still facing the church.

A line-by-line 2019 budget can be accessed on the church’s website or by contacting Sam Cox at: scx2@earthlink.net. A summary of the budget by category follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pledges and Other Giving</td>
<td>$800,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$35,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>$836,494</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Costs</td>
<td>$438,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage Expense</td>
<td>$110,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Maintenance</td>
<td>$165,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office</td>
<td>$27,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Arts/Music</td>
<td>$6,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Education</td>
<td>$3,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Education</td>
<td>$1,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Ministries</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissions</td>
<td>$34,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Tithe</td>
<td>$81,949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$871,123</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accumulated Checking Account Funds Approved for 2019 Use $34,629

TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE

Friday, March 15
7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Montgomery Lehman Chapel

This month’s prayer service focuses on Lent, a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. Join us in this time of self-examination and reflection as we pray through chants and moments of silence to quiet our minds and approach nearer to God.

Shirley Spina
WHOEVER YOU ARE, AND WHEREVER YOU ARE ON YOUR JOURNEY OF FAITH, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

Since the nineteenth century, Christian women in the United States and Canada have initiated cooperative activities in many areas of concern for women and children, recognizing the critical role of prayer in mission work and their call to promote world peace through world mission work.

Now, hundreds of thousands of women (and men, youth, and children) from around the world and in every region gather to collectively worship on the first Friday in March. Over 170 countries join in an identical order of worship. Each year, a different country serves as the writer of the World Day of Prayer worship service and other materials. Women of that country’s national World Day of Prayer (WDP) committee interpret scripture within their cultural context and prepare a worship service; women around the world lead the services.

This year the women of the WDP Committee of Slovenia call us to worship with the words: “Come— everything is ready.” We are invited to learn about Slovenia’s history and rich culture. The women share their stories of intergenerational wisdom, traditions, and experiences of God’s profound love.

Come, bring your friends, and join us for this time of worship and fellowship with Christian women around the world. For more information call Diane Jackson 707-539-9311.

THANK YOU FROM F.I.S.H.

F.I.S.H. is so thankful for our generous response to the February collection of groceries. This is indeed a lean time for many clients, and your help is so timely.

Blessings on all,

Dian Jorgensen
F.I.S.H. Board Member

UMCOR REACHES CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE EXPERIENCED DEVASTATION IN THE WAKE OF DISASTER

When disasters such as Haiti’s 2010 earthquake or Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 strike around the globe, we watch these dramas unfold on our televisions, feeling entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act.

Since 1940, when UMCOR’s forerunner was established at the onset of World War II, we’ve continued to respond to those in desperate need throughout more than eighty countries around the world. UMCOR’s response isn’t something they do, it’s something we do.

When You Give, You Equip Christ’s Body to Serve in His Name

That’s because your generous giving on this Sunday allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ’s church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion, or gender—we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need. Because you give, the United Methodist Church’s compassionate response to human suffering continues today. And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond to offer aid in Jesus’ name. It’s your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes.
In this, our last installment of United Methodist Women (UMW) history, we bring our focus to the present and future. The following is an excerpt from “Forward Through the Ages” and the article written by Doris Guyon:

In the 1970’s our name was changed to United Methodist Women, and in 1982 Santa Rosa UMW celebrated the 100th birthday of our local (Santa Rosa) unit.

Today’s UMW is built on the firm foundation of the past. We have 110 members. We still have rummage sales and bazaars and a tea or luncheon in the spring. Most of our members support us with a yearly pledge. We still study topics that interest us. Every year we make major contributions: at least $5,500 to the Conference for Missions, plus $1,400 for local projects such as FISH, the battered-women’s shelter, Friends Outside, Hospital Chaplaincy, Women’s Recovery, Fred Finch, and Children’s Village.

Each month we have a luncheon and interesting program for all our members, and we also find much support for each other through our six smaller circles.

Some things never change! Stuck into the book of minutes from the 1880s was a handwritten note: “Gone to Ladies’ Aid. Lock the back door and shut the lattice.”

As we approach the 150th Anniversary of UMW, we have been reflecting on our history and the women who have helped to build our church. Is it time to ask again how we attract new women to our church and UMW?

With holidays such as St. Patrick’s Day, Easter, Mother’s Day coming up, we invite you to come see the incredible collection of items we have in our store. Your purchase helps our financial outreach.

If you are a hands-on person, we’d love to have you join us by working a shift at the store. Our shifts are 3-1/2 hours in length (4-1/2 hours on Saturday), and work times are quite flexible. Please contact any of our volunteers for more information or call our manager, Tamara, at the store (284-8659) and leave a message. Or you may email us at angelsattic@sonic.net. For shift availability, contact Diane Test or Susan Russel (see the church directory for phone or email contact).

We hope to see you at the store to shop – or volunteer! Either way (or both!) you will help our community outreach ministry.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 27

SPRING FLING
UMW Luncheon & Program
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

This event begins at 11:30 when we will view Silent Auction items provided by the Family Ministries Commission. Proceeds will go towards camp scholarships for our children and youth. At noon there will be a gourmet luncheon catered by UMW’s Ruth Circle, followed by a presentation by guest speaker Madeleine O’Connor, CEO of the Sonoma County YWCA. The cost will be $15 per person. Look for more information in next month’s Roseleaf.

Sponsored by United Methodist Women and Family Ministries, this fun afternoon will be a time of enjoyment, fellowship, and education for everyone – women, men, and children. Bring your friends and neighbors, too.
PARTNERSHIP WITH GROHE’S FLORIST

For more than three decades, Grohe Florists in Santa Rosa has provided our church with beautiful flower arrangements at a very reasonable cost. Beyond providing flowers for the worship areas, they are at the top of our recommendation list for weddings and memorial services.

In addition, Grohe’s gives back to our music program by “hiring” the Chancel Choir members to make special deliveries for Valentine’s Day and Mother’s Day, two of Grohe’s biggest delivery events of the year. This has worked well for more than 20 years. This arrangement has provided funds for choir music programs, workshops, and hiring musicians for special concerts.

Last year we were able to purchase our Easter azaleas from Grohe, and this year they will also supply our Christmas poinsettias. That makes quite a partnership! Grohe Florist has been in business since 1902 and is under its third ownership.

If you wish to participate in the Sunday Flower Dedication program, see the calendar on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the Montgomery church office. There are still a few open dates for the 2019 calendar year. Please follow the instructions on the pink signup sheet, and have your completed dedication turned in two weeks prior to your Sunday. Payment is just $15, and you get to take the flowers after the services!

Worship Committee

THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,

We are so grateful for all your prayers and expressions of condolences following the passing of my father, Ray Robbins. It has been a comfort and a blessing to our family.

Thank you,

Pamala and Bill Stephens

HIPPITY-HOPPITY… EASTER’S ON IT’S WAY!

Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 20
4:00 p.m.
Stony Point Campus

Dating back to the 17th century, during pre-Christian celebrations of spring, the egg is symbolic of the Earth’s rebirth. However, the decorated Easter egg itself was defined by early Christians as an Easter symbol of the resurrection of Jesus: the egg symbol was likened to the tomb from which Christ arose.

Noted by the Reverend Mary Jane Pierce Norton of the UM General Board of Discipleship, “There’s something about going to hunt the eggs just as we might go to hunt for Jesus in the tomb. And when we find them, it’s that joy that the women had when they reached the tomb first and found that Jesus was no longer there.”

In anticipation of this springtime event, Family Ministries has begun collecting plastic eggs, small trinkets, and candy—and cheerfully accepting more donations! (Please consider Fair Trade Chocolate Mini’s; they’re the perfect size!) Many hands will make light work of stuffing the eggs. Watch for announcements on how you can help!

In years past, we have hosted upwards of 300 families at this Stony Point Campus event, where over 3,500 eggs are scattered throughout the field—whew!

New this year will be a spring babies petting zoo plus a variety of information tables to engage the community. Please see Elizabeth Walton for volunteer opportunities!
2019 VIM Trip Goes to Redding

October 13 – 25

Save the dates to travel to Redding with the VIM Team. We will again work with Hope City, but this time in a different location. In 2018 the Carr Fire in Shasta County destroyed 1,079 homes, 22 commercial buildings, 503 outbuildings, and damaged many more. Rebuilding should start this spring, and we would like to help. Can you join us? You can sign up for one week or both weeks. Watch for our brochure with more information.

Santa Rosa is also getting ready to rebuild after our horrific wildfire in October 2017. Hope City is working on securing a dorm building, and we will be receiving teams from other areas. Hope City has four locations approved to build: two are in Coffey Park and two are behind Cardinal Newman High School. Site prep is being done. When work begins, we will be able to help build on a day-labor basis. Watch for information as we receive it. Contact Diane Jackson 707-539-9311 for more information.
OUR FUMC LEADERS HAVE BEEN BUSY! THIS IS THE TIME WHEN WE SUMMARIZE LAST YEAR'S ACTIVITIES AND FINANCES—AND ALSO PLAN FOR THE COMING YEAR. WE KICKED OFF 2019 WITH A WELL-ATTENDED CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 12; THEN, FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING JANUARY 23 TO REVIEW THE 2018 YEAR-END FINANCIALS; AND A JANUARY 24TH BUDGET SUMMIT MEETING TO DEVELOP OUR 2019 BUDGET. ON FEBRUARY 9 WE HELD A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL TO REVIEW AND ADOPT THIS YEAR’S BUDGET. WHEW! WHEN YOU SEE ONE OF OUR CHURCH LEADERS, PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR GENEROUS SERVICE! I ENCOURAGE YOU TO REVIEW, ON PAGE 6 OF THIS ROSELEAF ISSUE, THE UPDATE FROM SAM COX, OUR THOUGHTFUL AND DEDICATED CHAIR OF FINANCE, WHICH WILL GIVE THE RESULTS OF THOSE IMPORTANT MEETINGS.

AS PAUL TOLD THE ROMANS (CHAPTER 15:14-16, THE MESSAGE): “PERSONALLY, I’VE BEEN COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU ARE DOING. YOU SEEM TO ME TO BE WELL-MOTIVATED AND WELL-INSTRUCTED, QUITE CAPABLE OF GUIDING AND ADVISING ONE ANOTHER. SO, MY DEAR FRIENDS, DON’T TAKE MY RATHER BOLD AND BLUNT LANGUAGE AS CRITICISM. IT’S NOT CRITICISM. I’M SIMPLY UNDERLINING HOW VERY MUCH I NEED YOUR HELP IN CARRYING OUT THIS HIGHLY-FOCUSED ASSIGNMENT GOD GAVE ME, THIS PRIESTLY AND GOSPEL WORK OF SERVING THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF THE NON-JEWISH OUTSIDERS SO THEY CAN BE PRESENTED AS AN ACCEPTABLE OFFERING TO GOD, MADE WHOLE AND HOLY BY GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT.” WE ARE ALL THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF CHRIST’S MESSAGE IN THIS WORLD—PRAISE BE TO GOD!

I’M SO VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE CAPABILITIES AND GENEROSITY OF OUR FUMC LEADERSHIP AND OUR STAFF. ALTHOUGH THESE ARE CHALLENGING TIMES, WE ARE ALL VERYfortunate to be together.

WITH GRATITUDE,

HEATHER YOUNG
CHAIR, FUMC CHURCH COUNCIL
First United Methodist Church of Santa Rosa
1551 Montgomery Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Lori Sawdon, Lead Pastor: lori.sawdon@fumcsantarosa.org; ext 202
Lindsey Bell-Kerr, Associate Pastor: lindsey.bell-kerr@fumcsantarosa.org; ext 207
Sekove Veisa, Associate Pastor: sekove.veisa@fumcsantarosa.org; 545-3863
Jan Lappin, Coordinator of Creative Arts: jan.lappin@fumcsantarosa.org
Elizabeth Walton, Children’s Ministries: elizabeth.walton@fumcsantarosa.org; ext 206
Diane Wikse, FUMC Preschool Director: preschool@fumcsantarosa.org; 546-7012
Janis Brewster, Church Operations Manager: janis.brewster@fumcsantarosa.org, ext. 204

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION
707-545-3863

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTGOMERY CAMPUS</th>
<th>STONY POINT CAMPUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday Morning Worship</strong></td>
<td>8:00 a.m. &amp; 9:30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fijian Language Ministry</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Classes</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. &amp; 11:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery</td>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Methodist Youth Fellowship</td>
<td>-- See Dates &amp; Times inside – Blue Room, Montgomery Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spirit Café</td>
<td>Tuesday evening at Montgomery, 5:30 - 6:50 p.m.; light supper and informal worship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Roseleaf Guidelines
Please email your articles of 300 words or less and photos to communications@fumcsantarosa.org by the 10th of the month for them to be included in the following month’s Roseleaf. Please be sure to include your name and contact information with each article.