SEASONS OF Faith

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  phone 707-545-3863
Santa Rosa, CA 95407

1551 Montgomery Drive  fax 707-545-5375
Santa Rosa, CA 95405  www.FumcSantaRosa.org

WHOEVER YOU ARE, AND WHEREVER YOU ARE ON YOUR JOURNEY OF FAITH, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE
Seeds of a Sower

On Palm Sunday I overheard a child ask, “Why do we have Palm Sunday every year? We did it last year, too.” It is a great question. Why do we revisit, reenact, and remember the rituals of the Christian tradition and scriptures every year?

The seasons of the Christian year provide a rhythm, not only to our worship but also to our daily spiritual lives. Advent and Christmas help us remember that God comes in Christ Jesus to be One with us. Following Epiphany, we witness how God’s very essence is revealed in Jesus’ life and ministry. During Lent we consider how we have strayed from God, and the spiritual practices assist us in returning to God’s grace. Easter holds the hope of resurrection and new life in the face of loss, change, and even death. Pentecost gives life to the Christian community, which is charged with being Christ’s presence in the world today.

We repeat this annual cycle to remind us that God is always with us, to prompt us to be alert to God’s activity in our lives, and to be intentional about paying attention to God’s presence so that we can experience and give witness to God’s mysterious work of giving birth to new life in the face of the old. The rhythm of the Christian seasons mirrors the seasons of our lives that are sometimes tainted by disappointments, loss, change, and death. God accompanies us through these seasons, not only lending encouragement but also leading us to new life.

Whatever season you are currently experiencing, hold fast to the hope that the cycle will someday lead you through resurrection and new life. May the joy of Easter resound in your hearts and spirits.

Be the Hope,

Pastor Lori

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

Following is a letter excerpt from Los Rios District Superintendent Rev. Schuyler Rhodes:

“Bishop Minerva Carcaño, with the counsel of her Cabinet and in consultation with your Senior Pastor, Rev. Lori Sawdon, and with your Staff-Parish Relations Committee, has discerned a necessary shift in ministry focus for our brother, The Rev. Sekove Veisa.

“In a shared model, Rev. Sekove was appointed to serve both the First UMC of Santa Rosa and as Conference Coordinator for Fijian Ministry. For a number of reasons, however, and with the support of Bishop Carcaño and our Extended Cabinet, he has thus far been called to focus most of his ministry to the life and ministry of your church. Today the needs of the Conference Fijian ministries now require more attention, and so he will focus his time for the balance of this annual conference year on the work of helping the Conference coordinate the Conference’s Fijian ministries. Thus, he concludes his ministry at First UMC Santa Rosa, effective April 14, 2019.

PASTORAL VISIT FROM BISHOP

Tuesday, April 30
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Montgomery Sanctuary

Worship with Reflections on the Special General Conference 2019. All are welcome. Childcare will be provided.

TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE

Friday, May 17
7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Montgomery Lehman Chapel

Join us as we raise our voices in song and prayer and celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

This service will be our last until fall when Taizé services will resume.
WHOEVER YOU ARE, AND WHEREVER YOU ARE ON YOUR JOURNEY OF FAITH, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

WORSHIP SCHEDULE MAY 2019
THE UNEXPECTED ACTS OF GOD

8:00 a.m, 9:30 a.m, and 12:00 p.m.
at Montgomery Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. at Stony Point Worship Center
Tuesday 5:30 p.m. Spirit Café in Montgomery Fellowship Hall

MAY 5
An Unlikely Friendship
HOLY COMMUNION
8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. – Pastor Lori
11:00 a.m. – Pastor Lori
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship – Pastor Lori

MAY 12
An Astonishing Imagination
8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. – Pastor Lori
11:00 a.m. – Pastor Lindsey
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship

MAY 19
8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. – Pastor Dave Slorpe, Fence Movers
11:00 a.m. – Pastor Lindsey,
An Unexpected Change of Menu
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship

MAY 26
An Amazing Detour
8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. – Pastor Lindsey
11:00 a.m. – Pastor Lindsey
12:00 a.m. – Fijian Worship

SPIRIT CAFE
Tuesday, May 7
5:30 p.m. – Spirit Café – Pastor Lindsey
Tuesday, May 14
5:30 p.m. – Spirit Café – Pastor Lindsey
Tuesday, May 21
5:30 p.m. – Spirit Café – Missionary Paul Jeffrey
Tuesday, May 28
5:30 p.m. – Spirit Café – Pastor Lindsey

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION
AND PROGRAM FOR PAUL JEFFREY

Tuesday, May 21
7:00 p.m.
Montgomery Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

Paul Jeffrey has been our Covenant Partner in Mission for a long time. He will be retiring after many years of traveling around the world to interpret and report on the United Methodist Church at work in Mission and how we respond to needs of at-risk people. He will join us here at our church one last time on May 21st. We wish Paul well in retirement, so we are sending him off with a party. Join us to hear what he has been doing in our name these last few years, and send him off with our good wishes.

RECONCILING COMMUNITY
OF FAITH GATHERING

Monday, May 6
4:00 p.m.
Montgomery Library

Information: chealhome@gmail.com
All are welcome to join us as we build bridges of understanding and full inclusion at FUMC.

PFLAG

Monday, May 6
7:00 p.m.
Positive Images building
200 Montgomery Drive
Santa Rosa 95404

PFLAG acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. They meet every first Monday. Please join us.
SIGN THE BEAM MARCH 24 EVENT

Re-establishing the tradition of youth signing the beam of the Youth Room, 10 of our youth “left their mark” on March 24.

Following adding their names to the beam, Pastor Lori led a “Blessing of the Youth Room” and gave a brief message. We gave thanks to all those who helped renovate the room and scripture was read, followed by a unison prayer and commitment to make the space inviting and welcoming, accepting all who enter as a part of the group. We asked God’s blessing and help for our growth in grace, knowledge, and love.

We concluded the evening with a rousing game of Apples to Apples and closed with our UMYF benediction that was lettered on the wall by Janet Tonkin.

OSCAR NIGHT AT YOUTH GROUP

Many thanks to those who made our February 24th “Oscar Night at Youth Group” an elegant and colorful event:

- Miale Bridgwater who opened FUMC costume closets to our youth
- Lisa Brazie-Barker who brought a trunk of costumes
- Linda Morrissey who provided candlelight ambience
- Jake Walton who provided the nominated musical scores
- Mark Sawdon who showed the nominated “Animated Shorts”
- Pastor Dave Slorpe, our paparazzi
- Carolyn Derr for wonderful swag bag
- Elizabeth Walton and our youth advisors: Carolyn Derr, Lisa Brazie-Barker, and Mark Sawdon.

If you haven’t seen the pictures from Oscar Night, check out the Youth Ministry bulletin board in the Montgomery hallway!

CARING CORNER/PRAYER CARDS

The Caring Corner with prayer requests has been moved from a separate bulletin insert to the bulletin itself.

Prayer Cards are still available in the pew racks for you to submit prayer requests that the staff might be in prayer with you.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFERING

Each year at our California Nevada Annual Conference session, an offering is taken to benefit some cause or entity outside of our Conference geography. FUMC has not participated in this offering in recent years. This year the Conference Offering will benefit the Theological Seminary of the Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma.

In our worship services on Sunday, May 19, we will take a special offering for Lay Members to Conference to take for including in this year’s Conference Annual Offering.

Two years ago the offering went to Africa University. Last year it went to Puerto Rico disaster relief. Please consider giving generously to this special offering to benefit our sister church in Fiji.

YOUTH EVENTS CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JUNE 2
Youth and Parents’ Bar-B-Que
Welcome in-coming 6th Graders
Recognize graduating high school Seniors
12:30 to 2:00 p.m., Stony Point

SUNDAY, JUNE 9
Confirmation
9:30 a.m. Christ Church UM
11:00 a.m., Stony Point

JUNE 11-15, TUESDAY-FRIDAY
Vacation Bible School
STONY POINT
LINDA DUNBAR IS RETIRING!

Linda Dunbar is retiring in May from her work here at FUMC Preschool. She was Preschool Director here in 1993-1995, and she has been teaching here since 2007. We have had the benefit of Linda’s expertise with our little ones every day here for over 15 years.

Please join us on Sunday, May 12, 9:30 service, to recognize Linda’s work. A cake reception follows in Fellowship Hall.

Linda loves working with the 2-year olds and has developed a great program for our little ones. She also worked for many years with Debbie Howes in teaching Bible stories. Most of you know Linda from her children’s sermons, Sunday School teaching, and for FUMC Children’s Commission work.

BUTTERFLY GRADUATION

Wednesday, May 29
7:00 p.m.
Montgomery Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

Darlene will lead the children in a few special songs, and then we’ll hear what the children want to be when they grow up. Denise Wertz (Butterfly teacher) will prepare an “iMovie” of the children’s activities and friendships here. We will watch it all together, and then the children will each receive a copy of it to watch, again and again, at home. We’ll be sure to have Kleenex on hand for the parents! You are welcome to join us! Kahealani Ramoka from our church is graduating this year!

GET READY FOR SUMMER READING
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN READING PROGRAM

Did you know that United Methodist Women (UMW) has a Reading Program? Each year we purchase books from a list suggested by our national organization. Books are in five categories and will help keep us educated and entertained. Our books for 2019 have arrived and are waiting to be checked out of the UMW section of the church Library. Anyone can borrow the books; just sign the card in the front of the book and put it in the checkout box. When you return the book, retrieve the card, mark off your name, and return the book to the shelf.

Here are the books by category that we have ordered this year; COME CHECK THEM OUT!

EDUCATION FOR MISSION CATEGORY
- The Devil Came Down to Chinatown
- Threading My Prayer Rug

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY
- Eleanor: A Spiritual Biography
- Synergy: A Leadership Guide

NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY CATEGORY
- The Same Sky
- The Hidden Life Awakened

SOCIAL ACTION CATEGORY
- We Are All Fast Food Workers Now
- Where Do We Go From Here? Chaos or Community

SPIRITUAL GROWTH
- The Soul Making Room
- Spoken Into Being—Through Storytelling

If you should discover in your home book collection any of our UMW books from previous years, please return them so others can enjoy them.

DONATION OPPORTUNITY FOR “SAY”

DID YOU KNOW that goods dropped off at the Goodwill Industries Donation Box next to the Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) Coffee House (1243 Ripley St., 95401) are used for the youth at SAY?

Goods donated at that location are valued by Goodwill, and vouchers of equal value are given to SAY to be used by the youth to pick out their own clothing and other needed items. You can clean out those closets and help the youth at SAY at the same time!
Our fall VIM trip will take place **October 13-25**. We will help with rebuilding as a result of the Carr Fire in 2018. Work the full two weeks or join us for either week of October 13-18 or October 20-25—or even some other part of the two-week period.

Dorms will be available for sleeping, but RVs are also welcome or local motel rooms can be rented. We are still unsure of all the details at this point, as the rebuild volunteers are just getting organized. We will again be working with Hope City, the main contractor. Fire victims contribute what funds they have for materials, with labor done by volunteers. We are looking forward to again joining with the Hope City team.

Costs and location will be detailed at our **INFORMATION MEETING on Tuesday, May 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the Montgomery McMullin Room**. Pick up one of our brochures at church or check the church web page for more details. **Fees and forms will be due September 10**, but we would appreciate having a commitment as soon as possible so we can plan housing, food, and transportation. Contact Diane Jackson, 539-9311, to volunteer and/or for more information.

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**SUMMER OF SERVICE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**SOS**

June 11 to 15 (Tuesday-Friday)

During this Vacation Bible School (VBS) week we are anticipating over 70 fresh-faced, eager young people to join us at our Stony Point property for VBS 2019. This year our original theme is: **S.O.S.---Summer of Service**!

Throughout the week, campers and volunteers alike will be inspired to become Christ’s hands and feet in their neighborhoods and the world. Through dramas, crafts, Bible stories, and mission projects, the concepts of kindness, compassion, and justice will come to life!

Vacation Bible School is a long-held tradition at FUMC. We have already heard from several parents who are eager to find out when our camp is scheduled for this year. We even have past campers who have now aged out as 6th graders and are requesting to return as youth volunteers so that they don’t miss out on the experience! We are blessed!

**Do you have four days to offer the children of our community?**

A meaningful and lasting VBS experience is one that will continue to shape the faith development of our campers throughout their lives.

**Will you let God use you as an example of his love?**

See Elizabeth Walton to volunteer.
We can be a team!
Mere: 707-703-2269
Waiti: 707-322-1013
Tila: 707-623-0152
Taina: 707-328-4183

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Elizabeth Dale Seamstress
707-528-9112

www.cmpublications.com
For sponsorship information, please call (951) 776-0601
On Easter Sunday, Pastor Lori asked us for an important vote — Should the Easter Lily or the Dandelion be the recognized symbol of Easter? The impact of the lily cannot be denied—stark white, tall, and stately—the Easter Lily is a special, gorgeous flower that grabs our attention and respect! This potted plant doesn’t grow just anywhere, so it captures our vision and gives us pause, interrupting all the everyday thoughts we were preoccupied with. The Easter Lily seems out of place in “ordinary” spaces and pretty much demands a special occasion—like Easter!

The Dandelion…that weed? For Easter?? It’s name can’t even be legitimately capitalized! Pastor Lori made a compelling case for considering it, though; it springs up in the smallest spaces, in the little nooks and crannies. One might note that Dandelions force their way into the cracks of our lives—almost always uninvited and unwanted. We put tremendous effort into pushing them away, yet they always come back. Even faster than Jesus, she observed, only needing two days to return!

Dandelions also might represent the thousands of actions taken by our FUMC community that help us worship in warmth and safety – and with all the decorative reminders: flowers, music, the spoken words. Our FUMC Dandelions have been so committed, so busy!

Once again our FUMC Holy Week was so very beautiful and meaningful. Please go out of your way to thank our ministers, church staff, Worship Committee, choir, actors--the list goes on!

We are here because of our inspiring miracle of the resurrection, represented by the Easter Lily, and because of the many “Dandelion Acts” of our FUMC community. We give you, also, our attention and respect. Go Dandelions!

Heather Young
Chair, Church Council
First United Methodist Church of Santa Rosa  
1551 Montgomery Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

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Lori Sawdon, Lead Pastor: lori.sawdon@fumcsantarosa.org; ext 202
Lindsey Bell-Kerr, Associate Pastor: lindsey.bell-kerr@fumcsantarosa.org; ext 207
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

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<th>OUR WORSHIP SERVICES AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</th>
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<th>Montgomery Campus</th>
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<td>Sunday Morning Worship</td>
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<td>Fijian Language Ministry</td>
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<td>Adult Classes</td>
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United Methodist Youth Fellowship -- See Dates & Times inside – Blue Room, Montgomery Campus

Spirit Café  
Tuesday evening at Montgomery, 5:30 - 6:50 p.m.; light supper and informal worship

**Roseleaf Guidelines**  
Please email articles of no more than 300 words to communications@fumcsantarosa.org by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the following month’s Roseleaf. All submissions are subject to editing. Be sure to include your name and contact information with each article.