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

fax 707-545-5375

1551 Montgomery Drive  www.FumcSantaRosa.org
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

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

Last week the mail brought an envelope from my Dad. It contained a sole piece of paper—a check written to FUMC! I smiled, reminded of my father’s generosity expressed in multiple ways over the years. He has often given to the churches I have served, in addition to tithing to his own local church and giving to other organizations. He grew up in poverty, and his family was probably the recipient of many donations from neighbors and the church. Now he has the means to give back in gratitude for all he has received.

The wonderful thing about giving is that you can’t help but experience a good feeling when you do it. Humans are social creatures. We are made to live within the company of others, and initiating that connection—making it concrete—just feels good in and of itself. When we get too narrowly focused on ourselves, we lose track of the sense of connection to others that helping gives and, instead, experience isolation and loneliness. Cut off from meaningful contact, we drift alone in the universe.

No matter our circumstances, we can always experience human connection simply by reaching out to someone else. A simple phone call, a note of thanks, an email, an invitation to lunch or worship can rekindle a meaningful connection. When it comes to connecting, what you give is what you’ll get.

As the holiday season approaches, I encourage you to connect with someone who has been important in your life. Express your gratitude. Or reconnect with someone whom you haven’t seen for a while. The warmth of connection may be a surprising delight.

I’m grateful for the connection to Christ that unites us in faith and in ministry.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori
WHOEVER YOU ARE, AND WHEREVER YOU ARE ON YOUR JOURNEY OF FAITH, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

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

NOVEMBER 3 GIVING WITH HOPE FOR THE FUTURE
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY – COMMUNION
HAGGAI 2:1-9
8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. – Pastor Lori
11:00 a.m. – Pastor Lori
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship – Pastor Lori

NOVEMBER 10 GIVING AS A RESPONSE TO GRACE
LUKE 19:1-10
8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. – Pastor Lori
11:00 a.m. – Pastor Lindsey
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship

NOVEMBER 17 THANKSGIVING AS JOY
CONSECRATION OF 2020 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES
ISAIAH 12:1-6
8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. – Pastor Lindsey
11:00 a.m. – Pastor Lindsey
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship

NOVEMBER 24 THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9
8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. – Pastor Lori
11:00 a.m. – Pastor Lori
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship

SPIRIT CAFE
Tuesday, November 5
5:30 p.m. – Pastor Lindsey

Tuesday, November 12
5:30 p.m. – Pastor Lori

Tuesday, November 19
5:30 p.m. – Pastor Lindsey

Tuesday, November 26
5:30 p.m. – Pastor Lori
The Preschool was founded in 1992 as an outreach ministry by the FUMC Administrative Board. It continues to be a vital ministry to the church and the community. It was at full capacity this spring and summer and continues to be financially sound. At its founding, the FUMC Administrative Board wrote a Covenant with the Preschool, and, several years later, wrote a set of Bylaws. These documents had not been updated since that time.

Last fall, the FUMC Church Council approved a document-updating Task Force made up of the following:

- Norm Bryan (church member and Task Force Chair)
- Barbara O’Rear (church member)
- Fran Byrn (church member)
- Cathy Wieschendorff (church member and Preschool Board member)
- Gwen Neary (church member and Preschool Board member)
- Jacob Faircloth (Preschool parent and Preschool Board member)

Pastor Lori Sawdon and Preschool Director Diane Wikse also participated in the process.

It was obvious from the outset that the Covenant and Bylaws overlapped, and a decision was made to combine them into one set of Bylaws. The Task Force used the following criteria to help in its work:

- Bylaws from other successful preschools
- Discussions with the Preschool staff and Board
- Review of best practices, particularly in handling financial matters

Areas where the Bylaws were updated and strengthened include:

- Preschool Board officer responsibilities
- Financial responsibilities
- Preschool Director responsibilities and oversight

Preschool Board of Directors reviewed changes suggested in Task Force meetings as the process unfolded, and provided input.

The Preschool Board approved the final draft and recommended that the Task Force take it to the Church Council for approval. The Church Council approved the new Bylaws by unanimous consensus at their July meeting.

The Church Council reminded that, although the Preschool is responsible for most of its expenses (staff salaries, etc.), FUMC does not charge rent for the Preschool; however, the Preschool makes a donation to the church every month. The Preschool founders originally decided that it would be a church ministry rather than an independent entity, and the Council reconfirmed that the responsibility for the Preschool still lies with FUMC.

If you would like to discuss the process or review a copy of the Bylaws, please contact Norm Bryan or Diane Wikse.

On the day before Thanksgiving -- Wednesday, November 27 -- we will hold one of our favorite Preschool traditions: a Family Potluck Luncheon! We will serve chicken nuggets and macaroni and cheese, along with some of our families’ favorite recipes. The children make the table decorations. Parents take off work, and siblings (some of whom are Preschool graduates) and grandparents all join us for lunch in Montgomery Fellowship Hall. We all gather for a prayer and give thanks for all good things. Our pastors and church staff will also join us. The Thanksgiving Family Potluck has become a very special yearly event for all.

We offer all-school events throughout the year so that Preschool families can get to know one another. Some families establish life-long friendships at these events.

If you know families with young children, please let them know that the Preschool still has openings this Fall!

Diane Wikse
Preschool Director
Our September youth meeting found our youth learning about the Safe Parking Ministry of FUMC and CCUM. John Creager and Jennie Hartman shared some of the stories of our safe parkers, a ministry of both churches.

In our October meeting we discussed immigration, “The Law of the Land or the Law of Love.” Our youth researched online about how to get a Green Card and found the many hurdles that people must jump over in order to obtain one. A speaker from VIDAS gave us a personal look at immigration.

Later in October, the Youth Group hosted the Creepy Corner of the church Pumpkin Party. Did you come and get “spooked”?

As you can see by our calendar, our youth are active - meeting twice a month - and discussing current and valuable themes, with a bit of fun thrown in! Thank you for your support of the re-energized youth program! Stay tuned for more “youth moments”!

John Creager talks about the Safe Parking project.

Youth learn about Immigration; research to obtain a Green Card.

YOUTH CALENDAR

Nov. 3  CRAFTING “GRATEFUL GIVING”  
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Youth will be creating ornaments to sell at the UMW Snowflake Bazaar and talking about what it means to be generous. Proceeds will go to the Campership Fund (Lodestar is only 8 month away!!!).

Nov. 17  MOVIE NIGHT!  
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
“Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle.” Popcorn provided!

Dec. 1  “TIS THE SEASON FOR TRADITIONS”  
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
What are the symbols of the season and what do they represent? Guest Speaker: Pastor Lori; also planning for our Christmas Party!!!

NEW HOME FOR F.I.S.H.

F.I.S.H has a new home -- 1710 Sebastopol Road -- in an underserved neighborhood that will welcome the food-providing service. We will be ready to reopen the first of November. Stop by and check out this new location. Thank you all again for your continued support of our hungry neighbors.

Blessings,
Dian Jorgensen
Through an outpouring of love and generosity, members of our church have graciously supported the Giving Tree Ministry for many years by shopping for and donating gifts to children who otherwise would not have much to look forward to at Christmas. This year we have partnered with the Giffen Women’s and Children’s Shelter, our FUMC Preschool, and The Living Room to identify children and their siblings whose families are struggling to provide Christmas surprises.

The Giving Tree will be available at the Snowflake Bazaar (November 16) and for a few weeks after the bazaar. Look for the tree and claim a tag or two! Please wrap your gift and place a numbered tag on it. Bring gifts to the church office NO LATER than Sunday, December 8. Thank you!

VOLUNTEER ELVES ARE NEEDED TO DELIVERY GIFTS
Sunday, December 22, 12:00 noon following Stony Point worship
Pick up packages and deliver to families’ homes.

Contact Elizabeth Walton or Lisa Sereni to volunteer!

We are seeking Leadership Teams for each Thursday evening to recruit soup chefs; set up tables; and host a craft or activity (Elizabeth has ideas!). Leadership Teams need to be in place by November 10. Please contact Elizabeth or Pastor Lori if you are interested in being part of a team.

For the past several years, the children of FUMC and friends have presented a moving worship service complete with scripture, musical offerings, Advent wreath lighting, and a sermon in the form of theater. This year, our children and youth will present the entire worship service on Sunday, December 8, at the 11:00 a.m. Stony Point service. This service is always a joy for the congregation and a very special way to anticipate and celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Rehearsals for the worship play will begin in mid-November and include opportunities for singing, speaking, and non-speaking parts. This worship experience is open to all children and youth, so invite your friends to participate! Contact Elizabeth (545-3863 x206) for rehearsal times, dates, and location!
YOU ARE INVITED!

to a
United Methodist Women's
COOKIE BAKING
PARTY

ALL ARE WELCOME
Come bake and have fun!

Saturday, November 9, 2019
1:00 PM

Bake with dough provided or
Share your favorite cookie recipe
by bringing your own dough

Cookies will be sold at the
Snowflake Bazaar Cookie Walk

Contact Diane Jackson 539-9311
for more information

WHOEVER YOU ARE, AND WHEREVER YOU ARE ON YOUR JOURNEY OF FAITH, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE
RECONCILING COMMUNITY
OF FAITH GATHERING

Monday, November 4
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.

CHANCEL CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT
DECEMBER 21-22

The Chancel Choir, along with guest performers Four For His Glory, will present their 2019 Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 21, at 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday, December 22, at 4:30 p.m. The centerpiece of the concert will be the cantata *Canticle of Joy* by Joseph E. Martin, performed with orchestra. From the lighting of the first candle to the final celebratory chords, *Canticle of Joy* gives us the chance to lift our praise to the newborn King! Many familiar Christmas carols are sprinkled throughout the entire work, which is by the same composer who created this year’s Good Friday cantata, *Song of the Shadows*. Please plan to join us for one of these two concerts.

Jan Lappin
Director of Music

PFLAG

Monday, November 4
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. Please join us.

REMININDER TO ALL AMAZON USERS!

Christmas is coming! If you shop online with Amazon, don’t forget to use smile.amazon.com! This website will contribute 0.5% of each purchase to FUMC if you are registered with them. For first-time users, just follow these steps to register:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com password
3. Click the “Santa Rosa First United Methodist Church” choice from the “Choose a Charity” list
4. Start shopping – and don’t forget to use smile.amazon.com whenever you shop Amazon online!

SAFE PARKING
BREAKFAST CHEFS WANTED

Interested persons are invited to join members of the Homeless Ministries Task Force in providing Sunday breakfast for our Safe Parking guests in the Giffen House at the Stony Point Worship Center. Please contact John Creager for details.

TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE

Friday, November 15
7:00 p.m.
Lehman Chapel,
Montgomery Campus

Come sing and pray with fellow Christians in a close time with God! We meet on the third Friday of every month in the Chapel at FUMC Montgomery.

Hope to see you there!
United Methodist Women present

Our Annual

SNOWFLAKE BAZAAR

Saturday, November 16, 2019
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

MONTGOMERY FELLOWSHIP HALL
1551 Montgomery Drive

Gourmet Food Items Baked Goods
Jams, Jellies, Candy Embroidered Tea Towels
Dolls & Collectables Hand-Painted Tea Towels
White Elephant Boutique Pet Treats
Christmas Crafts Christmas decorations
Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Chocolate Church Cookbooks
Cookie Walk – select favorites Decorated aprons

Shop and then enjoy lunch and dessert.

Beautiful Christmas music throughout the day!

Please join us for fun and Christmas Spirit!

Proceeds go to the outreach ministries of
United Methodist Women
NOTE FROM TRUSTEES . . .

The Trustees would like to report that a new furnace has been installed in the Montgomery Williams Parlor, and a new furnace and water heater have been installed to serve Montgomery Fellowship Hall and upstairs classrooms.

Thank you for your patience during the installation process, and many thanks to the Foundation and the Church Council for assisting in the funding for these very necessary upgrades.

Contact: trustees@fumcsantarosa.org or Lynne Garrison at lynne.chandler@yahoo.com

Lynne Garrison
Trustees Chair

UNUSED GREETING CARD DONATIONS

When you donate your unused/unwanted greeting cards for the Friends Outside prison ministry, you provide a little joy in the lives of the families of those who are incarcerated. Bring your greeting card donations to the Montgomery church office and place them in the Outreach/Service Commission mailbox.
First United Methodist Church of Santa Rosa
1551 Montgomery Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

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<tr>
<th>STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>707-545-3863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lori Sawdon, Lead Pastor: <a href="mailto:lori.sawdon@fumcsantarosa.org">lori.sawdon@fumcsantarosa.org</a>; ext 202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindsey Bell-Kerr, Associate Pastor: <a href="mailto:lindsey.bell-kerr@fumcsantarosa.org">lindsey.bell-kerr@fumcsantarosa.org</a>; ext 207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan Lappin, Director of Music: <a href="mailto:jan.lappin@fumcsantarosa.org">jan.lappin@fumcsantarosa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Walton, Children’s Ministries: <a href="mailto:elizabeth.walton@fumcsantarosa.org">elizabeth.walton@fumcsantarosa.org</a>; ext 206</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diane Wikse, FUMC Preschool Director: <a href="mailto:preschool@fumcsantarosa.org">preschool@fumcsantarosa.org</a>; 546-7012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janis Brewster, Church Operations Manager: <a href="mailto:janis.brewster@fumcsantarosa.org">janis.brewster@fumcsantarosa.org</a>, ext. 204</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma Rea, Stony Point Worship Band Director: <a href="mailto:emma.rea@fumcsantarosa.org">emma.rea@fumcsantarosa.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Blum, Bookkeeper: <a href="mailto:laura.blum@fumcsantarosa.org">laura.blum@fumcsantarosa.org</a></td>
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| STONY POINT CAMPUS                          |
| Sunday Morning Worship                      | 11:00 a.m. |
| Sunday School                               | 11:00 a.m. |
| Nursery                                     | 10:00 a.m. - noon |

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.