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
This year The United Methodist Church will hold its regular General Conference on May 5-15, 2020, in Minneapolis. Among the many items to be discussed are proposed actions in response to the special General Conference of February 2019 that held fast to and strengthened the exclusionary policies regarding LGBTQ clergy and same-sex marriage. Several plans have been presented for consideration by the General Conference delegates, including a “Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation,” which received national attention early in January.

The General Conference is the only body that can make such a decision for The United Methodist Church. Whichever plan, if any, is passed, it will take years to implement. If a plan for separation is approved, Annual Conferences and local churches will likely have choices about how they wish to be aligned. We are a large and complex organization – 12.5 million members in 136 countries! No single plan will satisfy all; compromise will be necessary to set one another free to live the Christian faith as we are called by God.

Thus, we will be living in a liminal zone of uncertainty for a long period of time. Such is the nature of life. Life can change dramatically at a moment’s notice. Seasons of ambiguity invite us deeper into the spiritual practices which draw us closer to God, for whom all things are possible. I trust that we all are including The United Methodist Church in our prayers.

California-Nevada Annual Conference delegates to General Conference are these Laity: Michael Pope, Emily Allen, Rebecca Bernstein; Clergy: Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, Elizabeth Brick, and Staci Current. Bishop Minerva Carcaño will participate as a presiding bishop. We give thanks for these who are offering themselves to this critical role at this time.

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2020
THE WESLEYAN WAY

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

FEBRUARY 2  JOY AND HOSPITALITY
MATTHEW 24:34-40
8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. – Pastor Lori
11:00 a.m. – Pastor Lori
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship – Pastor Lori

FEBRUARY 9 PEACE AND HEALING
ISAIAH 11:6-9; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:7-20
8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. – Pastor Lori
11:00 a.m. – Pastor Lindsey
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship

FEBRUARY 16 LOVE AND HOLINESS
LUKE 15:11-24
8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. – Pastor Lindsey
11:00 a.m. – Pastor Lindsey
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship

FEBRUARY 23
8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. – Susanna Wesley
11:00 a.m. – Pastor Lindsey
12:00 p.m. – Fijian Worship

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26
7:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Worship –
Stony Point Campus

SPRIT CAFE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4
5:30 p.m. – Pastor Lori

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11
5:30 p.m. – Pastor Lindsey

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
5:30 p.m. – Pastor Lindsey

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25
5:30 p.m. – Pastor Lori

TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE

Friday, February 21
7:00 p.m.
Lehman Chapel,
Montgomery Campus

Please join us for an evening of prayer. This one-hour service combines quiet prayer and meditative song, performed in the style of the services in Taizé, France.
This is our main fundraiser for the year—and it’s an event for all ages! The children eat dinner with their friends and families, and then have their faces painted and make crafts. Parents, grandparents, and church members enjoy the dinner, then engage with each other in friendly bidding in our Silent Auction. Church members have the privilege of viewing the auction items beginning on Sunday, March 1, when we open the Silent Auction on the Fellowship Hall stage. Preschool parents can view the items during the week leading up to the event. You can start your bidding at the March 1st opening!

Tickets for the dinner will be available for purchase on Sundays, February 23 and March 1. Or, you can stop by the Preschool Office any time during the week to purchase tickets. Adult individual tickets are $18; children $10. Family tickets are $50 (available prior to the event only).

Bruno’s on Fourth will be catering the event again this year, so we can be sure of a hearty meal. It’s an all-vegetarian meal. We will also have gluten-free pasta.

If you have something you’d like to donate for 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!

FUMC Preschool was founded by members of our church and has been an outreach program for families with young children in our community for over 25 years. This yearly event is a time when the church comes together to support this special program. We hope you’ll be able to join us!
“The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

This seems like such an enormous undertaking; yet, in our Children’s Ministry program, we endeavor to do just that: make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Three weeks out of each month, after the Children’s Moment at the 11:00 a.m. Stony Point service, our children gather in a one-room classroom setting to engage with the word of God. Primarily we are using the United Methodist Deep Blue curriculum as a supplement to original lesson planning. We read a passage from the Bible, then do a service project, art, or science project and games to reinforce the subject of the scripture. In this way, our children are able to use many modalities of learning to help them understand God’s word.

On the second Sunday of each month, we encourage families to worship together, when children can witness their parents’ faith in action and actively participate in the worship service as scripture readers and ushers.

As one example of a class lesson, we recently had the children open their Bibles to learn more about the baptism of Jesus. Some of the questions we discussed were: Why was it necessary for him to be baptized? What is different about the way Jesus was baptized and the way we baptize in our church? What happens when we are baptized?

It was difficult for some of the children to understand how the Holy Spirit protects us and why it is important to belong to the Family of God...until we demonstrated it using water, Dawn dish soap, and table pepper. We were able to show that as children of God, we are protected (dish soap) from the world (water) of “bad choices” (pepper). By following Jesus’s example, we are able to repel evil, just as the pepper was repelled by the dish soap. Not only was this a fun hands-on experiment for the children, but it effectively drove home the point of the lesson.

Making new disciples of Jesus Christ is a huge undertaking, and it requires all of us to do our part. Sharing your faith with the children of our church is one important way to encourage their discipleship while planting the seeds of love.

We are looking for several leaders to join the team on a rotational basis to help pass on the legacy of faith. Please see Elizabeth to chat about how you can become a part of the Children’s Ministry team!

Elizabeth Walton
Children’s Ministry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIBLE STUDY WITH DIAN JORGENSEN</th>
<th>Sundays, 9:15 a.m.</th>
<th>Montgomery Library</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIBLE STUDY WITH NORM BRYAN</td>
<td>Sundays 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Montgomery Carriage House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOMEN’S BOOK STUDY WITH CATHIE BRYAN</td>
<td>Tuesdays 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Montgomery Lehman Chapel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unfortunately for us, our altar flowers provider, Grohe’s Florist, has sold their business. The consequence is that we will need to pay more for our altar flowers. Since Grohe’s had not increased our cost in over 20 years, we now will be paying current market price: each individual arrangement will be $20.00.

You will now have two opportunities for dedications each week. Please come by the office, fill out the form, pay your $20.00, and be put on the calendar. Volunteers at the desk have instructions.

Questions? Please contact Linda Morrissey 545-9901 bellemorrissey@comcast.net.

Worship Commission
DISCERNMENT TEAM REPORT

The Discernment Team commissioned by Church Council began semimonthly meetings in January. Team members are: Bill Stephens, Co-Chair; Norm Bryan, Co-Chair; Sonda Anderson; Sam Cox; Mike Ferrel; Pat Hannon; April Nichols; Paul O’Rear; Ian Riggle; Bill Ward; Pastors Lindsey Bell-Kerr and Lori Sawdon.

The Team is focused on answering two major questions:

- What should this church be about in the next generation?
- What resources will allow us to do what is necessary?

Our resource suggests that there are three different types of planning:

- Problem Planning to fix something to get back to normal;
- Developmental Planning to decide next steps in a logical progression;
- Frame-Bending Planning, “a process designed to highlight and disturb expectations in order to make space for the possibility of an unseen or unconsidered future.”

The current data on our congregation suggest that it is time for “frame-bending planning.”

The Discernment Team has been asked to set aside personal preferences and opinions in order to listen for God’s still small voice offering guidance through this process. It is challenging to let go of what we know to be right, true, and best – and to risk being open to the possibility of an unseen or unconsidered future! This is exactly the place of faith. We have staked our claim on the goodness and grace of God as we know God through Jesus Christ. This is the church of Jesus Christ. We trust that God will reveal the way for us to revitalize God’s church for the mid-twenty-first century.

We invite your prayers for the members of the Discernment Team and for our congregation. There will be opportunities announced soon for sharing and receiving input from the congregation. You are welcome to share your promptings from the Holy Spirit with members of the Team.

Pastor Lori

REMEMBERING FOUNDATION DONORS... AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

After the 9:30 a.m. Montgomery worship service on Sunday, February 23 --- please join United Methodist Foundation board members, and a surprise guest from the California-Nevada Conference, for coffee, dessert, music, and a brief celebration in Fellowship Hall.

We will remember friends and family by honoring donors who have enriched our lives with their gifts over 35 years, and learn about our Foundation’s new endowment project, the “Family Vision Fund.” Make sure those things you love about FUMC---fellowship of old friends, worshipping together, welcoming new members, Christmas carols and candlelight in the sanctuary, children playing in Fellowship Hall---will thrive in the future and last for generations. The “Family Vision Fund” initiative will be launched on February 23. See you there!

Paul O’Rear
FUMC Foundation Chair
Contributing to the local F.I.S.H. food cupboard is one of the main ways we support hungry people in Santa Rosa. With our special Thanksgiving offering, we send them financial assistance, and we bring food on the first Sunday of each month to help keep their shelves stocked. Many of our members volunteer time, either picking up food from local merchants or packing food bags in the local warehouse. FUMC has been one of the main supporters of F.I.S.H. since this food cupboard was established in 1972.

F.I.S.H. recently moved to a new location at 1710 Sebastopol Road (just east of Stony Point Road). Their new warehouse is bigger and parking is easier than it has been, but the rent is higher. Since this time last year, F.I.S.H. has had a 25% increase in people coming for food assistance.

Each year on the last Sunday in January, we sponsor a special food collection to replenish the increased food need over the holidays. We distribute grocery bags to the congregation members after each worship service, along with a list of needed food items, and request that you return those bags on the next Sunday (the first Sunday in February) filled with as many items as you can.

Cash gifts are also welcome so that F.I.S.H. is able to purchase additional needed food items from the Food Bank at $.19 per pound. If you prefer to designate your cash contribution for the warehouse rent, please note this on the memo line of your check. And of course, volunteers are always welcome! Let’s help F.I.S.H. continue this important work in our community!

Outreach and Service Commission
PFLAG acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. Please join us.

Monday, February 3
7:00 p.m.
Positive Images building
200 Montgomery Drive
Santa Rosa 95404

PFLAG

SONOMA COUNTY UNITED METHODIST LENTEN RECONCILING RETREAT

Saturday, February 22

REGISTRATION AND COFFEE
8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

RETREAT
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m
Christ Church United Methodist,
1717 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa

The year 2019 was a time of struggle and uncertainty for LGBTQ folks and their allies in the United Methodist Church. Join us at the start of the Lenten season for a time of reflection on all that has transpired in the past year. Through music, prayer, and spiritual exercises, we will engage the Holy Spirit’s healing power as we begin the road toward Resurrection. A $10 donation is suggested with lunch included. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. The Retreat will be led by Victoria McDonald, MA/RN.

RSVP BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17
office@sfchristchurch.org
Childcare by request.

RECONCILING COMMUNITY OF FAITH GATHERING

Monday, February 3
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.

Gallery 1551 Presents:

Karen Lynn Ingalls

January 19-April 12, 2020
Open M-Th 9-2pm & Sun 8:30-11
The FUMC Church Council’s first meeting of 2020 was held on January 11.

Trustees Chair Lynne Garrison reported that the Trustees continue to work on priority projects as funding allows, including work with the City regarding the conversion of Susanna Wesley House to a parsonage. A new fence behind Montgomery Fellowship Hall will be replaced later in the month.

Pastor Lori talked about the Discernment Team that has been established to plan the direction of our church for the future (see more information on page 6).

Finance Committee’s Sam Cox presented the 2020 church budget. The Council approved the budget that includes a Staff-Parish recommended COLA increase of 2.7% for pastors and staff (see Finance report on page 10). The budget involves a substantial deficit, with over $35,000 more in spending than anticipated. This follows several years of a downward trend so, while unfortunate, it is not truly a surprise. Pastor Lori shared that around 60% of our FUMC members are 65 years old or older. That also may not be a surprise as we remember the church of 40 or 50 years ago when younger people were usually the backbone of the church. We are so fortunate to have the great talents, experiences, and health of so many in our current congregation — and so very blessed with their energy and involvement. Still, we must acknowledge that our wonderful FUMC is a very different church today than it was in the past.

Pastor Lori said she and church leaders Bob Cheal, Sam Cox, and Norm Bryan continue to meet with Fijian Language Ministry leaders to facilitate their understanding of the structure and workings of the United Methodist Church.

In May 2020 the UMC General Conference will review and vote on several proposed organizational changes, including a “Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace for Separation” to create a new Traditional Church. Please pray for the conference delegates and bishops.

A special Charge Conference following the adjourned the Council meeting approved the Staff-Parish recommendation of Jacob Wilbur as a candidate for ordained ministry.

As we live through the events of 2020, please meditate and pray for our church, our nation, and the world.

Heather Young
Church Council Chair

F.I.S.H. THANKS YOU

Thank you again, our dear, generous congregation, for your response to F.I.S.H. and our neighbors in need. Your contributions to the Thanksgiving offering for F.I.S.H. resulted in $4,300 to help those in need in our community! It is very heartwarming to know how much care FUMC continues to show with its response to this continuing effort. Blessings to all of you in this new year.

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

NOTE FROM TRUSTEES . . .

It has been brought to the Trustee’s attention that several times, after the use of a room, the heater and lights have not been turned down or off. We must all be good stewards of our facilities. Every penny counts. Please remember to be mindful when you use the facilities for individual or group purposes. Make sure the heater is turned down, lights are off, doors and windows locked, and garbage cans emptied. Thank you!

We would also like to report that the fence behind the Montgomery Fellowship Hall has been replaced with the help of our neighbors.

Trustees continue to work on other priority projects as funding allows, including working with the City regarding the conversion of the Susanna Wesley House to a church parsonage.

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

Lynne Garrison
Trustees Chair
DEFICIT BUDGET FOR 2020 APPROVED; FUMC FACES ONGOING FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

For the third consecutive year, the Church Council has approved a deficit budget.

At its January 11th meeting, the Council, by consensus, approved a budget that is $35,373 “in the red,” with projected income of $794,600 and projected expenses, including mortgage interest and principal, of $829,973.

Finance Chair Sam Cox reported that “there is a sense of urgency. The urgency is not one of whether we can pay our bills this year; we have more than $160,000 in operating cash balances and reserves. Rather, the urgency is that we are using our cash at the same time we are weakening our capacity to grow through the cuts we are forced to make. The urgency lies in the fact that we have been saying this for a few years, and we really haven’t done much about it.”

In order to get the deficit down to $35,373, the Associate Pastor’s position has been reduced to one-quarter time effective July 1, 2020. In addition, $12,300 in FUMC Foundation funds that are normally not allowed for operational purposes have been authorized for one-time use within the 2020 church budget.

Upon recommendation of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, the approved budget does include a 2.7% increase for staff. Most staff members have not received a cost of living increase for several years. Hourly staff is subject to a new Santa Rosa wage ordinance which raises the minimum wage to $15/hour on July 1, 2020, and the minimum wage will be indexed to the Consumer Price Index each following year.

Sam also told the Church Council that “in October, 2023 we will have a mortgage balloon payment to pay off or attempt to refinance. If we stay on the present trend line, we will be a weaker candidate for refinancing. If we are able to refinance, we may be spending more than the current $110,000 a year for mortgage payments that could be used for ministries if we didn’t have a mortgage.”

“Fortunately, Pastor Sawdon has led us to the development of a Discernment Process for the church to determine God’s vision for the congregation’s ministry in the coming years, and what resources are needed,” Sam said. A Roseleaf story about the Discernment Process appears on page 6 of this issue.

Of the $829,373 in budgeted expenses, here are the allotted percentages: Personnel and Personnel-related comprise 49%; Building & Maintenance 28%; our Conference Tithe 9.8%; Office 3.2%; Food Costs 2.2%; and All Other Programs & Ministries 7.8%.

Projected income from pledged and non-pledged contributions totals $670,340, slightly less than the $677,584 received in 2019. Since 2013, the number of annual pledges at FUMC has declined by 30%, from 219 to 154, a reflection of the aging demographics of our congregation.

Especially given the deficit budget, 2020 financial pledges are still welcome from members who have not yet pledged. Pledge cards for 2020 are available in the church office.

In addition to approving the proposed budget, the Church Council “instructed church officers, staff, and work groups to manage funds conservatively and to seek ways to minimize the 2020 deficit.”
WHOEVER YOU ARE, AND WHEREVER YOU ARE ON YOUR JOURNEY OF FAITH, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE
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
Jan Lappin, Director of Music: 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
Emma Rea, Stony Point Worship Band Director: emma.rea@fumcsantarosa.org
Laura Blum, Bookkeeper: laura.blum@fumcsantarosa.org

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION
707-545-3863

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.