



JAIL MINISTRIES

We have been working with Sonoma County Jail to help with some of their programs with the inmates:

- We collect unused greeting cards for the inmates to send to their families.
- We collect books for the Inmates Library Cart.
- We collect children’s books for their “Read Me A Story” program where the inmate records the story and then the book is sent to their children along with the recording of mom or dad reading to them.



VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

Each year we send a VIM Team of about 20 – 30 people for 2 weeks to an area where there has been a Natural Disaster such as a hurricane, tornado, flood or fire that overwhelms the community’s ability to rebuild on its own. The team works as volunteers to rebuild houses for those who cannot afford to rebuild on their own. Team members pay all their own expenses. In 2019 we have been involved in:

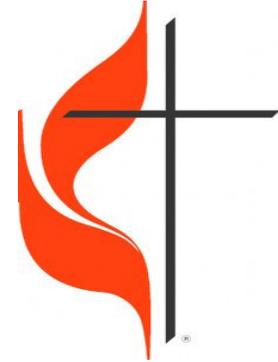
- Building houses in Middletown.
- Building houses in Santa Rosa’s Coffey Park
- In 2020 we are talking about a rebuilding project in Paradise or in Redding, CA



DISASTER RESPONSE

During the wildfires in Sonoma County in October 2017 we:

- Opened a shelter in the church for 2 weeks for over 100 people.
- Collected money & goods to meet fire victims’ immediate needs.
- Created a taskforce to see how we might be of help in long term recovery.



First United Methodist Church
Santa Rosa

Outreach & Service Commission

EDUCATION

JUSTICE

ACTION

“A church without service dies like a tree with neither roots nor fruit, without nourishment or purpose.”



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

We highlight the six General Church offerings:

- Human Relations Day
- UMCOR Sunday
- Native American Sunday
- Peace with Justice Sunday
- United Methodist Student Day
- World Communion Sunday

In addition we take:

- An Easter offering to support our Covenant Partner in Mission, Missionary to Nepal, Katherine Parker
- A Thanksgiving offering to support FISH, our local food pantry.
- A Christmas offering for Family Support Center & The Living Room, both homeless facilities serving families.



FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS

We **serve** Fair Trade coffee & tea at our church coffee Hour.

We **sell** Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate, cocoa & olive oil, at cost, as a justice issue. Fair Trade eliminates the middle man and sends the profits back to the farmers, allowing a guaranteed wage and a better lifestyle for their families.



HOMELESS MINISTRIES

We support the **Homeless Ministries Taskforce** which:

- provides a **Safe Parking Program** for up to 10 homeless families to sleep in their cars each night.
- provides **Sunday breakfast** to Safe Parking patrons to help form community.
- works with local non-profits and government to **advocate for housing and homeless services.**
- encourage community involvement and volunteering

Our Tuesday night **Spirit Café** provides dinner & worship for over 100 homeless each week.

We sponsor a room at **The Family Support Center**, a shelter for families.

We collect toiletries, socks & underwear for **The Homeless Services Center** during Advent.

We collect backpacks & school supplies for women & children at **The Living Room**, a daytime drop-in center.

Once a month during the winter we host the **Nomadic Shelter** where homeless can receive a meal and a place to sleep overnight.



HUNGER MINISTRIES



COMMUNITY GARDEN

We provide a community garden where members and neighbors can have their own plot to grow healthy vegetables.

The donation beds are planted and harvested with several tons of food taken to FISH, the local food pantry.



F.I.S.H. (Friends in Service Helping)

We are one of the founding members of FISH, our local food pantry. FISH served 58,000 people in 2017. We support them each month with:

- volunteers who pick up food at local merchants, sort and bag food, man the phones and hand out food to customers.
- a food collection on the first Sunday of each month.
- donations of produce from our community garden.
- a special offering at Thanksgiving.
- a “Fill a Bag” collection of food in February.