



Concord United Methodist Church

1645 West Street, Concord, California, 94521

Phone: (925) 685-5260, E-mail: concordumc@sbcglobal.net,

Web-site: www.concordumc.org

August, 2018

The Concord Connection

Seeking God, Serving the Community, Supporting Each Other

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00 a.m. Worship
in the Sanctuary

10:15 – 11:45 a.m.
Nursery Care
Available

9:00 a.m. Adult
Bible Study

9:00a.m. New Life
Celebration
Oglesby-Close Hall

10:30 a.m. Children
and Youth Sunday
Schools

10:30 a.m. Worship
in the Sanctuary

11:30 a.m.
Fellowship &
refreshments in
Oglesby-Close Hall

Wednesday Hour of Prayer

6:30-8 p.m.
Chapel

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for
articles is on the
**1ST TUESDAY, 10
AM** of each month.
No exceptions.
Please email articles
when possible.
Thank you,

*Marilyn Robrecht –
Editor*

Homecoming

Sunday, September 9
One Service 10-11:30 am

**During the
Service
A Celebration
of the
Mission and
Ministries of
CUMC**

Spud Fest
**A Choir
Fundraiser
Following
the
Service**



Summer Bible Challenge is ending and Spiritual Exercises will resume! Pastor Lee

Summer Bible Challenge is ending

We have had a Summer Bible Challenge. Many people read the Bible during the summer time. We will have self-reports from the readers and a drawing for the two winners in late August. The winners of the two beautiful Bibles donated by Ray Spears will be announced at September 9th services.

The next Bible Challenge will be during Advent (ending on Christmas Day) and Lent (ending on Easter Sunday). In the meantime, I recommend that church members use spiritual exercises to have abundant lives!

Parallel Principle

Think about our body, mind, and spirit. For a healthy body, we need good eating, sleeping, and exercise. A parallel principle works here. For a healthy mind, we need to study, think, and apply those studies to the real world. Likewise, for a healthy spirit, we need Bible reading, prayer, worship, fellowship and service to others. To have an abundant life, we need to do these physical, intellectual, and spiritual exercises every day. All three areas, body, mind, and spirit, are under the parallel principle.

Independent Principle

Even though body, mind, and spirit are working with the parallel principle, they are independent. In other words, even though we have healthy bodies, if we do not study, we do not understand the realities of the world. Even though we study all subjects, if we do not have spiritual exercises, our spirit can be tempted to err. Likewise, even though we are spiritually strong, when we do not practice healthy eating, good sleeping habits, and physical exercise, our bodies get weaker and sicker.

Every intelligent and physically healthy person should do these spiritual exercises if they want to have a happy and abundant life. Every spiritual person should study and do physical exercises as well.

Spiritual Guide Principle

Among the body, mind, and spirit, spirit should be priority number one. If we are healthy but without spiritual guidance, we might use our physicality for fighting, violence, or crime. If we study hard but are without spiritual guidance, we might use our knowledge for fraud and conspiracy. Look at all the smart lawyers who have helped with political scams and business deceits! When we are in the right relationship with God, we will use our physical health and intellectual power for the good of the community.

We do not want to nurture strong and healthy criminals nor smart and knowledgeable crooks. We want to raise humble, grateful leaders who sacrifice for our communities. That is why I emphasize spiritual exercises.

How to practice Spiritual Exercises?

This is a simple Three Step Process:

1. Take 20 minutes a day and read one chapter of the Bible with a prayerful attitude. This is the expression of **humility**. We need the guidance of the Holy Spirit every day.
2. Write down whatever you learn from the reading by asking, "What should I give thanks to God for?" This is the practice of **gratitude**. We give thanks to God for everything, including our pain.
3. Find a small group of people and share your gratitude with them weekly. It might lead to providing services to others in the name of Christ. **Charity** is the fruit of our faith. If you do not belong to any small group, create one with your friends. (Just start with 2 other people that you know.)

The key to a successful and abundant life is to make these exercises a habit (like eating and sleeping) and to do them with others (for accountability). Then Sunday services will become just a celebration and fellowship with others before God! Let us build up a great community together through the practice of these spiritual exercises!



HOMECOMING SUNDAY
September 9 –One Service—10-11:30 AM

Vacations are over, the kids are back in school and it's time for a welcome home from summer at CUMC!

During the 10:00 AM service on Sunday, you will hear from Music, Missions, Education, Finance, Youth, UMW, the Men's Group, Christ Care, Worship, Good Timers, Stephen Ministries and all the other committees and groups that make up our church family. Each will have an opportunity to give a 2-3 minute presentations with PowerPoint slides, skits or a short synopsis. Come and see what keeps CUMC moving and grooving at worship and in the community. We'll introduce our Sunday School teachers. Then we will end the morning with a **SPUDFEST LUNCH**: A fundraiser put on by the choir to help enhance the music program in the coming year.

Tickets \$6 each, children under 12 free on sale for the next 3 Sundays and at the door!

Committee & Group Leaders

I hope you have been considering what kind of presentation your group will be doing for Homecoming Sunday. **I will need to have everything in advance (by September 2) to get the timing and the order set.** Let me know if you are planning a skit, an announcement, music or just sending slides for PowerPoint (limit of 2 minutes or less per group, please). **If you would like to have a display in Oglesby-Close Hall** during the Spud Fest, please contact Jane Lincoln, jbaddyman@yahoo.com.

(Please contact Sandy Blazer 925-323-1800 or e-mail Wyrmlady@aol.com) with the presentation for your group)

Come and Be Welcomed Home!!



Church & Society Committee

We want to thank all of you who contributed so generously to the Backpack Drive this year. **We received more than 20 backpacks plus enough supplies and cash contributions to fill those and more.**

Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, who sponsored the drive, told us that any donations that they don't use are given to the Mt. Diablo School District for homeless and foster children.

**Food
Pantry
Needs**



SHARE food pantry is a non-profit organization manned entirely by volunteers from the local community and funded entirely by various types of donations.

SHARE's mission is simple: We are committed to help feed the hungry in central Contra Costa County without prejudice and with dignity.

All nourishing food donations are appreciated, but the list below shows important items that frequently run out. No glass, please.

Food contributions should be placed in the basket in the Narthex. They will be taken to SHARE by Ken Carpoﬀ.

August	Peanut Butter, Jelly, Crackers (Saltines, Graham), Tuna, Spaghetti
September	Canned Meals -- Pasta, Chili, Stew
October	Canned or Dried Beans, Refried, Pinto, Black, Kidney, Pork & Beans, Tuna, Spaghetti
November	Sugar, Flour (preferably 4 or 5 pound bags), Tuna, Spaghetti
December	Anything from the above list

Cans with pop top are especially appreciated for the homeless.

Fresh fruits and/or vegetables are also welcome.

**Summarized Statement of Activities
7/31/2018**

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
INCOME	200,276	191,579	8,697
EXPENSE	193,910	189,724	(4,186)
SURPLUS	6,366	1,855	4,511

Although the net results of operation ended in a surplus YTD, of \$6K, we are still behind in Pledges and Open plate by (10K). and Fund Raisers Program totaling to approximately \$18K, thereby ending in a net positive amount of \$8K in total Income. This was offset by the excess of actual expenses against budget in the approximate amount of (\$4K) plus projected annual surplus of \$2K to arrive at the net surplus of \$6K.

**Report on Gift Cards
July 2018**

	Month	YTD
SALES	7,175	46,760
INCOME ON DISCOUNTS	263	1,514



Just a few of the gift cards we have on hand!!!

Gift cards available to purchase from our inventory of over 30 vendors that we keep on hand.

Visit the Prosperity Table in Oglesby-Close Hall after the 9 and 10:30 services

Gift cards available to purchase from our inventory or to order from over 500 participating vendors!



UMW Reading Slips Needed ASAP

If you are participating in the UMW 2018 Reading Program and have not yet turned in your reading slip, now's the time as the district would like the slips by September 1st. Please mail them to Delores Loague, 5731 Lewis Way, Concord CA 94521-4826, e-mail ldjb@astound.net and she will send them on to the district. **Thanks very much!**



In Our Prayers

The family of Pat Brumley following her death on July 22. Her service was held on August 18.

The family of Bev Steindel who passed away on August 6, her service was held on August 17.

Doug McKeehan following the death of his wife, Joyce on August 4.

Chuck Rogers who is at home recovering from a stroke. **Lee Woods** who is in Kaiser, W.C

Chuck Morones who is at home recovering from spinal surgery.

Continued Prayers:

Eldonna Dayton, Mary Ginocchio, Don Johnson, Marge Boyer, Sud & Midge Sundsten, John & Connie La Coste, Bill Shannon, Doug McLeod, Diane Rogers, Carole Engler, Chris Gregory.

Quiet Time of Prayer Wednesdays 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The Chapel will be open for a weekly time of prayer.

We invite all who want to pray and are feeling a little depressed because of all the tragedies in the past few months.

We feel that a quiet time of prayer will help those who are feeling down and don't know how to get feeling better. Prayer is a very powerful way to get us through times that are difficult, so please come and join us. You need not be a member of our church community, just someone who needs a little extra prayer. God Bless

Open Door Bible Study Sunday 9am – 10am Susannah Wesley Room

Join Us!

Pat Brumley led the Open Door Bible Study for many years. Under her knowledgeable and caring leadership, so many people were able to learn, grow and reinforce their Christian beliefs on their spiritual journey.

Pastor Lee would like to see this important Bible Study group continue, and two of the current members, **Sandy Maguire and Sue McGuire**, have agreed to do their best to continue Pat's program.

We all lead busy lives so there's **NO HOMEWORK!** We purchase a book at a reasonable price, and each week in class we read a chapter and then discuss questions in the book on the chapter read.

In recent years, the author and Pastor Max Lucado's best-selling books have been chosen for our Bible study. We'll begin with one of his books.

On Homecoming Sunday, September 9th, we'll be at a table to answer questions. Before that date, one way to see the program in action is to visit the Open Door Bible Study any Sunday 9-10am. Please phone Sandy Maguire [925-256-4272](tel:925-256-4272) or Sue McGuire [925-997-2257](tel:925-997-2257) with any questions.

Learn Chi Gung/Tai Chi Fridays at 9am Sherrill Hall

Tai Chi exercises our brain and body.

No class on Sept. 7, 14 & 21.

The gentle exercises helps with your balance to prevent falls. The emphasis is on breathing, and getting oxygen flowing throughout the body. Helps one keep calm and lowers the blood pressure. The key is to keep the body moving.

Although we gear this towards the senior citizens anyone may attend. If you can't stand you may sit. Classes led by Irving Lee as a Community Service. There is no charge.

Irving Lee
(925) 708 9252



SEPTEMBER IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH

Stewardship Sunday is September 23!



Concord United
Methodist

Concord United Methodist Church And Alzheimer's Services of the East Bay Invite Individuals living with memory loss and their caregivers to a specially designed worship service. Sing, worship and fellowship with families that are coping with Alzheimer's and other forms of memory loss.

Every 4th Saturday from
2pm – 2:30pm, In the Chapel

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D.W.C.N.W.

Diagnosed with Cancer, Now What? A small group for cancer patients.

DWCNW **will not** be meeting during the month of **August**.

It will return to its regular schedule in September.

Meets the **Second and Third** Thursdays of the Month, **6pm -7pm** in
Susannah Wesley Room

Led by Steve Pierce, 925-518-4447