



Concord United Methodist Church

1645 West Street, Concord, California, 94521

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

Web-site: www.concordumc.org

November/December, 2016

The Concord Connection

Seeking God, Serving the Community, Supporting Each Other

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00 a.m. Worship
in the Sanctuary

8:45 – 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

CHANGE IN Newsletter Deadline

Beginning on
January 3, 2017
the deadline for
articles is on the
**1ST TUESDAY, 10
AM of each month.**

No exceptions.
Please email articles
when possible.
Thank you,



December 18, Fourth Sunday in Advent-Christmas Cantata One Service, 10:00am service—Sanctuary

Join us for a traditional Christmas Worship Service Celebration featuring the CUMC Chancel Choir singing Morning Star, a Christmas Cantata by Joseph M. Martin. Come early for a joyous Christmas message in word and song.

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve Services **5:00pm Family Service** **9:00pm Traditional candle lighting service**

December 25, Christmas Day
One Service, 10:00am service—Sanctuary
Join us as we come together in the Sanctuary for worship.

Sunday January 1, 2017
One Service, 10:00am service—Sanctuary

Sunday January 8, 2017
We resume regular worship services at;
8:00am, 9:00am and 10:30am

The Tapestry Bell group will be featured at the 10:30 service on Sunday, January 8th. Please come and enjoy the wonderful sound of hand bells! It's a great way to "ring" in the New Year!

Our Church Long Term Plan

Pastor Sungho Lee



At the church conference, I shared our church long term plan in my pastor's report. However, not all the church members attended the church conference. So, I decided to share the same plan through our church newsletter.

We started a feasibility study to develop senior housing on our church campus this month. Our church long term plan has three steps.

- (1) **Feasibility Study:** By June 2017, we will find out whether that plan is feasible or not. The Christian Church Home will do the feasibility study for us. They will find out whether we can get enough money from the government and non-profit agencies to build the buildings. They will also find out whether the neighbors and city of Concord like those plans. They will also research whether our land is big and strong enough for many houses. It will take about six months for them to give us the report.
- (2) **Planning:** The second step would be planning time. We will discuss what kind of buildings will be built. We will discuss how to keep the stained glass windows and where we will put our sanctuary with other buildings. We will discuss how to renovate the class rooms so that the pre-school can be a part of the whole "village." It will take another six months for us to finalize the drawings and plans based on our consensus.
- (3) **Construction:** The third step would be actual construction. It will take about a year. So after two or three years we will have different faces of our church! Please do not ask me when this would happen. Only God knows the time. However, we will prepare the future of our church so that our church can continue in a new way. As Jesus said everything on earth will pass away but God's promise will last forever. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

Trustees will update all the new development regarding this plan. Some people donated offerings for this and we have received \$22,000 so far. We need a total of \$35,000 to finish this study. If you want to help us to finish it, please send your check with the remarks, "Feasibility Study."



United
Methodist
Women

UMW General Meeting Wednesday December 21, 2016

Business Meeting: 10:00 am in Sherrill Hall

Program: 11:00 am to 12:00 noon

Celebration of Christmas

Lunch to follow hosted by Abigail Circle



Good Timers

Tuesday January 10, 2017

12 noon, Sherrill Hall

Bring a friend. Bring a sandwich,
drinks and dessert provided.

For more information please call
Pam or Dean: 777-9868

Sunshine Basket of Hope

As we travel on our journey through life, many challenges face us that are beyond our control. The price of goods and services go up and down without our permission; our children need a larger sized shoe or larger jacket. Children always seem to grow after you have bought them their winter coat and shoes. Some unexpected expense happens and that seems to happen around the holidays, when the weather turns cold. Salaries on the other hand, stay constant they do not go up when you need them to, so juggling the monthly budget is a challenge at best.

Today parents struggle to keep the budget afloat, working two minimum wage jobs, doing homework with the kids while keeping a roof over their head. While my sons were growing up we always had their friends over during their Jr high and high school years, 5 teenage boys eating out of the refrigerator 4 or 5 times a week. I was so proud to have a place where they felt they could come and feel safe. What a treat and a burden at the same time, I worked three jobs while going to college to do it. Sleep was in 2-4 hour blocks, then on to the next job, to study or on the Bart to school. I was so blessed to have a place to live and a safe place for my children.

Prior to that life was rough, I did all the right things, I was a single parent, I had a job, purchased a house, lived a modest life, and one day my life changed. My employer hadn't paid me, after a meeting he said he was waiting for receivables to come in and all would be fine. This had never been a problem in the past, so I worked and waited, blew through my savings while waiting and then he closed the doors, he walked away with millions while his employees, all with children, paid the price.

My savings was gone, had no job, with a mortgage and a child to take care of. Finding a job during a recession is not easy. Finding help is not easy either, we eventually played games with PG&E so that we could stay warm, they finally turned us off. Three months with no lights or heat, then I lost the house, living in a car for two weeks waiting for an apartment we could afford was not easy. We then had the holidays, my son wanted a friend to come over for dinner and we could not afford the extra expense. I was devastated that I could not provide this for him. I was invited to share holidays with co-workers and friends, which I did not participate in because I could not afford to bring anything. I was always taught that you don't ask anything of anyone that you cannot do for yourself.

Now I am much stronger for all of the experiences that I have had, I have a career that I love, to many degrees to mention, wonderful children and a wonderful husband. So now it is my turn to give back, but I did not want to have people sign up, I did not want people in need to stand out, or feel ashamed. So at the end of each service there will be a basket with envelopes that say "Sunshine basket of hope". Please take one if you are in need.

Please enjoy this simple gift. As we travel on this journey called life, some months are easier financially than others. **Sunshine Basket of Hope** is here to help. All we ask is that you pass this simple gift forward by holding a door for a stranger, giving someone a smile, or extending a handshake.

May your holidays with friends and family be joyous!

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

God Bless,

Deborah Vanoni

In Our Prayers



The family of Linda Olivieri following her death on November 6. **Elaine deProsse** who fell Dec. 4th and broke the humorus bone in her arm. **Karen Sola** who fell on Dec. 6 and broke her wrist.

Continued Prayers:

Carole Engler, Bill Maguire, Babe Busick, Sud and Midge Sundsten, John & Connie LaCoste, Shirley & Bill Shannon, Marge and Bill Boyer, Doug McLeod, Barbara Robbins, Milton DeGroot, Jeff Simmons, Chris Gregory.

Dear Kathy & Concord Methodist,

Thank you all for the generous collection of shampoos and lotions. Our seniors really enjoy having the special items I their birthday bags. We appreciate all your thoughtfulness.

Thank you so very much,
Nancy at Meals on Wheels.

Carol Sing!

The Carol Sing on December 3rd was a huge success! Over 250 attended, including the participants; singing groups from three area high schools, HouseBlend, the orchestra and our choir. That night we welcomed two Marines who accepted over 300 Toys for Tots! We purchased 277 toys with the money made from the sale of Snowman Soup. The night of the Carol Sing, there were over 30 toys donated! Thank you to everyone who helped with this event.



On Saturday December 10th, the Mt. Diablo Chapter of the Harley Owners Club made their yearly Toys-For – Tots run to CUMC. Due to the weather they brought the toys in their cars, but we did have 5 come on motorcycles! They brought a total of 177 Toys for Tots! Many thanks to Artie Sola and Karen Sola for arranging this event and for Sandy Blazer, Linda Jinks and Jane Lincoln for keeping those refreshments coming!

The family of Lewis Henslee, Jr.

thanks you for the prayers, memorial gifts, cards, food and telephone calls we received following the death of our husband and father. Your love and compassion were gratefully received, and we wish God's blessings on you all.

Catherine Henslee and family



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. The time will be from 7 to 8 p.m. You need not be a member of our church community, just someone who needs a little extra prayer.

God Bless



Membership/Baptism Class

12 to 1pm in the Sanctuary office. The dates for the classes are; **Sundays; January 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2017.**

If you are interested in becoming a member, have questions or would like to be baptized, please notify the church office or on Sunday, fill out the form in the bulletin and place in the offering plate or turn in to the church office.

GIFT CARD UPDATE!!!!

Order gift cards today that are not in our inventory and pick them up next Sunday!!

On Dec. 18 you can order cards for Christmas

*******but, you must be able to pick them up at the church office on Thursday, Dec. 22 between the hours of 10am and 1pm.*******

If you plan to come at 10am **please call the office** to make sure **Fed-Ex** has delivered the cards. 685-5260



The Prosperity Team will not be selling or taking orders on Dec. 25 or Jan. 1. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We'll see you on Jan. 8, 2017!!

We will not be dealing with any airline or cruise gift cards due to complications.

We have **\$5.00 Starbuck's cards**, in inventory, they make perfect stocking stuffers!!

Our inventory now includes; **Blaze Pizza, Chili's, Panda Express, Rite Aid (all \$25) and Visa Five Back cards. (\$50)**

For information on the Visa card see the Prosperity Team in Oglesby-Close Hall.

Your Prosperity Team



ITALIAN DINNER

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2017



Concord United
Methodist Church

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

FREE TAX PREPARATION

FREE FEDERAL AND CALIFORNIA INCOME TAX RETURN PREPARATION will again be offered by AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers on Wednesdays and Thursdays here at the church (classrooms 1 & 2) and at other locations on different days. The service, provided by IRS certified tax counselors, is available starting February 2017. Tax-Aide does not specify an income limit but the service targets low and moderate income taxpayers of any age with special attention given to seniors 50+.

Beginning January 1, 2017, to make an appointment for Tax-Aide please call (925) 405-5234 (available 24hrs/everyday). For general information and other site locations, call: (925) 726-3199.

To complete your tax return, Tax-Aide will need you to bring to the appointment your:

- Social Security Card or ITIN letter and photo ID for all individuals to be listed on the return
- Photo ID
- All W-2s
- All 1098's and 1099's
- Other income and deduction records
- Your 2015 Tax Return and documents
- Covered California: All documents including 1095A

**January 8, 2017 noon to 12:30pm
CUMC, Oglesby/Close Hall.**

Bring a friend.

It's easy to fall! But we really don't want to.
Learn to avoid falling. AND if you fall,
Learn to mitigate injuries.

Presented by Irving Lee with over 30 years
of experience.

AND it's FREE!!!

Time to Start Planning for Winter Nights

Winter Nights will be coming to CUMC March 13 to March 27, and it's time to start thinking about what we can do to make Winter Nights even better than last year. Good Shepherd Lutheran and St. Bonaventure's Catholic churches will be working with us to make sure our guests are safe and well cared for. Our **first planning meeting** will be on Saturday, January 7, 10:00 AM in Sherrill Hall. Currently there are 9 families, 12 adults and 14 children, including 6 boys ages 3 to 11, and 8 girls ages 15 months to 15, in the program. Our job will be to provide shelter, 3 meals per day, homework help, and hopefully some fun activities. If you have ideas on how best to do that, please come to the meeting. All are welcome!

The Concord Connection

Concord United Methodist Church
1645 West Street
Concord, CA 94521
925/685-5260

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 76
CONCORD, CA 94521

Martin Luther King Celebration

***Monday, January 18, 2016, 12:00 Noon
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1024 Trinity Ave., W.C.
Rev. Dr. Henry Perkins,
First Baptist Church, Pittsburg, Keynote Speaker
Music by St. Benedicts Gospel Choir &
Pianist Dwight Stone***

COME, LEARN & ENJOY!

**Sponsored by Social Justice Alliance of Interfaith
Council & Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center**

Effective January 1, the following changes will occur:

The **Nursery** will be open for ONLY the 10:30 a.m. Service (staffed 10:15 – 11:45 a.m.)

CUMC's Office Hours will be:

Tuesday-Thursday: 8:30 – 12 noon,
AND 1:00 – 5:00 pm
Friday: 8:30 – 12:00 noon