

Morgan Hill United Methodist Church **Good News**

Walk with Jesus during Holy Week



Palm Sunday is March 25. During the worship service, we start by rejoicing with the children as they wave palm branches, remembering Jesus' entry to Jerusalem. Later in the service, we remember the last week of his life.

Seder Meal, Thursday, March 29, at 7pm. We will recall the Passover supper Jesus had with his disciples. Volunteers are needed to help set up before, and clean up following the meal.

Good Friday is March 30. On this day, and during the entire week, the Sanctuary will be open from 9am to 6:30pm. This is a "Come and Go" opportunity to walk the Stations of the Cross.

Easter Vigil will be observed Holy Saturday, March 31. We will open the doors of the Sanctuary for individuals to come and go to offer private prayers and light candles through the day. Devotional materials will be available.

Easter is April 1.

- **6:30am—Youth-led Sunrise Service.** We meet in the Fellowship Hall, then walk a few blocks up Nob Hill to have the service in a field overlooking our town. It's usually chilly, so wear a warm jacket and sturdy walking shoes.
- **9am —Easter Celebration Service at Gilroy United Methodist Church.** We welcome the risen Christ. Pastor Patrick will officiate.
- **11am—Easter Celebration Service at Morgan Hill United Methodist Church.** We welcome the risen Christ. Pastor Patrick will officiate.



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Don't be late for church on March 11!

Daylight Savings Time begins March 11. On Saturday evening, March 10, set your clocks (including the one in your car) ahead by one hour.



A word from our Pastor: *Participating in Lent*



Pastor Patrick Davis

Lent (Latin: **Quadragesima: Forti-eth**) is a solemn religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, before Easter Sunday. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of Christians for Easter through prayer, repentance, charitable giving, and self-denial (as practiced in some form of fasting). Lent is observed in traditional churches such as the Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, Methodist, and Catholic Churches.

Some evangelical churches also observe the Lenten season. Its purpose is to heighten and enhance the experience of Holy Week culminating in the joyful celebration of Easter Sunday. During the Season of Lent emphasis is placed on Jesus journey toward Jerusalem, his arrest, trial, crucifixion by the Roman government, and ultimate resurrection.

In Lent, many Christians commit to fasting, as well as giving up certain luxuries in order to replicate the sacrifice of Jesus Christ's journey into the desert for 40 days. Many Christians also add a Lenten spiritual discipline, such as reading a daily devotional or praying through a Lenten calendar, to draw themselves near to God. The Stations of the Cross, a devotional commemoration of Christ's carrying the Cross and of his execution, are often observed. Some Protestant churches remove flowers from

their altars, while crucifixes, religious statues, and other elaborate religious symbols are often veiled in violet fabrics in solemn observance of the event. Throughout Christendom, some adherents give up the consumption of meat.

Lent is traditionally described as lasting for 40 days, in commemoration of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, before beginning his public ministry, during which he endured temptation by Satan.

Holy Week and the season of Lent, depending on the religious denomination and local custom, end with an Easter Vigil at sundown on Holy Saturday.

May your Lenten journey this season be one of spiritual reflection and renewal. Please note the opportunities here at MHUMC to support and assist your faith practice during this Season of Lent. I plan to preach a four part series on "The Last Week of Jesus" as we ponder what the Gospels really teach about Jesus's final days in Jerusalem. Also, save the date for our Christian Seder Meal, and plan to walk the Stations of the Cross during Holy Week. Then plan to participate in our Youth-led Easter Sunrise Service and two opportunities to Celebrate Easter Worship: at Gilroy UMC at 9 am, or at 11 am here at Morgan Hill UMC.

Enjoy your faith!

Pastor Patrick



LENT

UMCOR Sunday, Mar. 11: Offer disaster aid in Jesus's name

Together, we reach children, families, and communities who have experienced devastation in the wake of disaster.

When disaster strikes around the globe—Haiti's 2010 earthquake or Typhoon Haiyan in 2013—so many watching the drama unfold on our living room televisions feel entirely helpless. How could any one person make a difference in the wake of such widespread devastation? As responders around the globe scramble to help survivors, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR, is prepared to act.

Since 1940, when UMCOR's forerunner was established to meet the needs of those suffering overseas at the onset of World War II, we've continued to respond to those in desperate need—today throughout more than eighty countries around the world.

The response of UMCOR isn't something "they" do, it's something "we" do.

When You Give, You Equip Christ's Body to Serve in His Name

That's because your generous giving to UMCOR Sunday (**formerly One Great Hour of Sharing**) is what allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

Because you give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today:

- When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, we responded
- When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, we responded
- When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, we responded
- And when the next mass crisis occurs, we will be prepared to respond

UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer because United Methodists give through UMCOR Sunday. In fact, it's your generous giving that allows us to respond when disaster strikes.

Not "they."

We.



For more information about UMCOR and how to support the organization, please visit www.umcsgiving.org/umcor.

After Hurricane Maria in September 2017, UMCOR teams of volunteers went to Puerto Rico communities and distributed food, water, cleaning supplies (like these "flood buckets"), and items for children.

Photo by Misael D. Rodriguez Auijano

Interfaith CommUNITY: Focus on our Community

At the February 26 meeting of the Interfaith Community of South County (ICSC), the following topics were on the agenda. If you have a question about any of these, please contact our representative, Dan Hazen.



1. Short meditation led by Ven. Piya of DMC Morgan Hill
2. Gun violence – how does ICSC want to respond?
3. Immigration reforms
4. Plight of Dreamers' Campaign
5. BLM
6. #MeToo #TimesUp
7. Safe Car Project update
8. Spring/Summer festival
9. Faith of our Neighbors (DMC)
10. Cecilia's Closet
11. Closing prayer (*see page 8*)

Martin Luther King, Jr. interfaith service brings many together

by *Baba Aziz*

Greetings of peace and tolerance to you and your loved ones.

Wow! What a glorious celebration fitting of the man (MLK, Jr.) and our times! This was another one of those moments we all have liked to last for as long as possible.

The clergy as a group was in rare form, the participants were in sync, and the words were right and rightly delivered. To our clergy, thank you for your leadership and guidance. To our ICSC lay group, thank you for stepping up and answering the challenge graciously and resolutely.

Onto the next event!

Salaam, Peace, Shalom, (in many other languages if I could).



Above and right: South County pastors and worship leaders participated in the celebration and witness of Martin Luther King, Jr. at the January 15 interfaith service.



Photos by Baba Aziz

News from the Youth



*Jeannie Clayton,
Youth Director*

Youth Plan for Easter

Our youth are planning for the Easter Sunrise Service. Easter is April 17 and we will make our annual trek up Nob Hill Terrace to watch the day break and worship and have Holy Communion. The property owner has told us that our church and youth have been holding this service for over 50-plus years!

Meet at the church on Easter morning at 6:30am, walking up the hill as a group at 6:45am. The hill is very steep. We expect the road to be open for folks who want to drive. Wear comfortable shoes, dress warmly and bring a flashlight!

Youth Group: study, mission, service, fun!

Youth group is for grades 4th through high school. Special service, mission worship and fellowship events are part of the way our group builds their faith foundations. Learning happens through Bible study, games and of course since it's the tween/teen age—Food!

Join us for the Connect Bible study group - meets Thursdays from 5:30-6:30pm (except for the 4th week of each month).



Serving our community

During the cold-weather season, the youth are serving dinner at the Gilroy Armory homeless shelter on the third Sunday of the month.

The youth serve at the Sharing the Bounty community meal on the fourth Wednesday of every month, 5:30-7:30pm.

Youth serve as ushers the 4th Sunday of the month. Meet at the church at 9:45am.

Join us!

Contact Jeannie @ 408-981-4034 or you can also go to www.mhumc.com for a current schedule and list of events.

You are welcome here!

As a Reconciling Congregation, we celebrate God's welcome to us and to all people, including any who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender and their families. At Morgan Hill UMC, your friendship is valued and safeguarded. You are accepted for who you are. You have a home!

www.rmnetwork.org/



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

Sharing the Bounty offers food, fellowship



Each Wednesday evening, 6-7pm, we offer a hot dinner in our Fellowship Hall. Dinner is open to whomever needs it, no questions asked. Food is prepared by Martha's Kitchen, but servers and other helpers are needed for the meals. Contact Denise Melroy if you wish to help.

Join the Prayer Community for the United Methodist Church

A prayer community has been formed in response to the Council of Bishops initiative, Praying Our Way Forward. We are called to a posture of prayer, praying for God's leadership to guide us effectively in fulfilling the mission of the church. All United Methodists are invited to pray for God's guidance.

The website UMCprays.org includes thoughtful daily meditations, or "prayer posts." You can subscribe to them to receive them by email if you wish.

In prayer, we can be one in Christ.



PRAYING OUR WAY FORWARD

 We are One in Christ
 UMCprays.org • A UMC Prayer Community

Contribute to Easter Lily décor



We will be taking donations for the purchase of Easter Lilies to decorate our sanctuary.

Watch for more information in the weekly Announcements email and the Sunday bulletin.

We remember Sue Hice

It is with deep sadness that we inform you that our sister in Christ and member of Gilroy UMC, Sue Hice, died January 11, 2018, around noon at St. Louise Hospital. Her sister, Sheila, was by her side. Much love and appreciation is also extended to those of you who came to visit Sue during her illness.

A memorial service was held February 3, 2018, at Gilroy United Methodist Church.

Sue was one of the founding members of the South County Community Interfaith Council. Let us continue to give God thanks for Sue's life and witness and hold her family close in prayer. In our living and in our dying, we belong to God (Romans 14:8).

May the Peace of Christ be with Sue's family and with you.

- *Pastor Patrick*



Weekly facility use

To schedule an event or arrange to use the church facilities, call Jeannie in the church office.

Sunday	8:30am Adult Sunday School (FH) 9am Meditation (W) 9:30am Choir practice (S) 10am MHUMC Worship (S) 11:30am Leadership Team (2nd Sundays) 2pm Good Grief! (1st, 3rd Sun) (W)§ 3-6pm HC Worship (S, FH) 6-7pm HC Choir (W)
Monday	7am Coffee on Main (KFH) 5:15pm Women's Workshop (2nd, 4th Mondays) (W)§ 7pm Divorce Recovery (1st, 3rd Mondays) (W)§ 7pm Recovery Workshop (2nd, 4th Mondays) (W)§ 7pm Sew it Seems (FH) 7:30pm Choir practice (S)
Tuesday	1-5pm Pastoral Support (by appt.) (W) Armchair Theologians (1st, 3rd Tuesdays (call John Braslin for time, location)
Wednesday	8-9:30am Staff (P) 10am-noon Office hours (W) 5:30-7:30pm Sharing the Bounty (FH)
Thursday	4pm Helping Children Cope with Divorce (1st, 3rd Thursdays) (W)§ 4pm Circle of Care (2nd, 4th Thurs) (W)§ 4-5:30pm Youth Connect (FH) 6pm Women's AA (Library) 7pm Confident Parents Skills (1st, 3rd Thursdays) (W)§ 7pm Men's AA (FH)
Friday	9:30am-12:30pm Office hours (W) 7pm HC Prayer (S)
Saturday	8-10:30am Open AA (FH)



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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Happy Birthday

3/5: Edith Ohene-Nyako
3/19: Bill Tindall
3/19: Caroline Colicchio
3/24: Jim Swartz



is Sunday, April 1, 2018

Abbreviations

- (W) Wesley Cottage (FH) Fellowship Hall
- (S) Sanctuary (KFH) Kitchen, Fellowship Hall
- (CH) Carriage House § Recovery Works Couns. Ctr.
- (P) Parsonage (HC) Home of Christ Church

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Next newsletter deadline:
March 27, 2018
For April Issue

Pastor: Rev. Patrick E. Davis
Dir. of Youth: Jeannie Clayton
Church Admin: Jeannie Clayton
Adult Ministries: Trish Catalano
Children's Ministries: Jeannie Clayton
Church Historian: Mary Ringo
Finance Team Lead: Tony Rangel
Historic Restoration Coord: Mary Richardson
Interfaith Coord: Dan & Margaret Hazen
Lay Leader: Megan Richardson
Lay Member Ann. Conf.: Trish Catalano
Mission/Outreach Team Lead: Jeff Rangel
Membership Care Coord: Janet Braslin
Newsletter & Website Editor: Wanda Garrett
Prayer Team: Megan Richardson
Special Events Coord: Pete Hanlon
Staff-Parish Rel. Team Lead: Ashley Saffell
Treasurer: Wendy Ringo
Trustees President: Eugene Davis
United Methodist Women Pres: TBD
Worship Team Lead: Darcy Foster



**Opening
Hearts,
Opening
Minds,
Opening
Doors**

The Prayer To Our Father

Abwûn

"Oh Thou, from whom the breath of life comes,

d'bwasmâja

who fills all realms of sound, light and vibration.

Nethkâdasch schmach

May Your light be experienced in my utmost holiest.

Têtê malkuthach.

Your Heavenly Domain approaches.

Nehwê tzejânach aikâna d'bwasmâja af b'arha.

Let Your will come true – in the universe (all that vibrates)

just as on earth (that is material and dense).

Hawvlân lachma d'sûnkanân jaomâna.

Give us wisdom (understanding, assistance) for our daily need,

Waschboklân chaubên wachtahên aikâna

daf chnân schwoken l'chaijabên.

detach the fetters of faults that bind us, (karma)

like we let go the guilt of others.

Wela tachlân l'nesjuna

Let us not be lost in superficial things (materialism, common temptations),

ela patzân min bischa.

but let us be freed from that what keeps us off from our true purpose.

Metol dilachie malkutha wahaila wateschbuchta l'ahlâm almîn.

From You comes the all-working will, the lively strength to act,

the song that beautifies all and renews itself from age to age.

Amên.

Sealed in trust, faith and truth.

This is a translation from the Peshitta, a 2nd century A.D. translation from Hebrew into Syriac, a dialect of Aramaic. [See more about the Peshitta from Wikipedia.](#)

This prayer was offered at the Feb. 26 meeting of the Interfaith CommUNITY of South County. See related article, p. 4.

