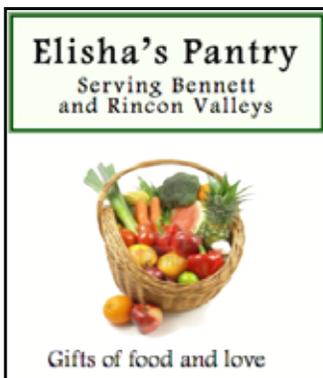




## Connections

Thank you to Gayle Pickrell for these photos from the September VIM Middletown Work Project. Ted, John and Gayle did a lot of painting. Steve and Gary had various jobs. We were working at two houses, and helping with the inside work at the new Volunteer Center, which is where we have been eating our meals on the kitchen that was just finished. All in all, a good week. Weather was perfect — not too hot, not too cold. Good group of about 30 of us from various churches.



Another very successful annual fundraiser at Bethlehem Lutheran Church that supports both FISH and Elisha's Pantry. The initial total raised was over \$10,000! Besides the money raised, the evening was warm, welcoming and fun with great food, drink and with various raffle items and the silent auction. It was a very successful evening.

Many of the Elisha's Pantry Steering Committee members were working very hard to make sure the evening went well and everything seemed to go smoothly. Many volunteers from both Elisha's Pantry and the Bethlehem Lutheran Pantry helped to make this event so awesome. A big thank you for a very successful event and enjoyable evening.



### October Birthdays

- 1 Roger White
- 14 Hannes Boevers
- 16 Donna Lawrence
- 19 Grace Schulman
- 20 Carl Sokol
- 20 Jeannette Dothee
- 22 Hailey Boone
- 25 Austin Coolidge
- 29 Anne Colby
- 31 Jack Wikse

## From the pastor...



I am in Orlando for a few days this week for my brother's wedding. I had already planned to visit the Pulse Nightclub as a way of paying my respects to the victims of last June's massacre, and then, I learned of the shooting in Las Vegas.

Again we lament another shooting. I do not equate the value of owning a weapon with the value of a human life. I am sick of our legislature's inaction on gun control. I do not think this is a political issue, but a moral and ethical issue to protect innocent people and get (NRA) money out of politics.

I think Jesus weeps for us, and yes, with us; especially with the families and friends of the victims and the shooter. This is tragic. We need to have real conversations about violence, weapons, politics, and the legacy we want to leave our children and grandchildren.

As we pray in Florida, California, or wherever we find ourselves, let us pray for the victims and their families. Moreover, let us pray that God would cleanse us of our complacency. May we be brave in conversations with our friends and family. May we hold our elected officials accountable. May we find the resolve, as a nation, to end gun violence.

In the peace of Christ,

Lindsey

2

## CHRIST METHODIST PRESCHOOL



September is ending and we are ready to welcome October with open arms, hand in hand with all the new friends we have made this school year! We have spent this month learning about



Friendship, School, Babies and Families! During family week we brought in pictures of our families and decorated handprints of each of our family members. During Friendship week we got to know all of our friends names

as well as made friendship bracelets and a new friendship quilt for our classroom! We have enjoyed sunshine and clouds! With all of that we are really getting into the swing of this school thing and are ready for all the excitement the months to come have to bring!!



Arlene





Get ready for our fun, Halloween party for the young at heart!

When? Friday evening October 27th at 5:30 PM

Where? Christ Church Sanctuary

What to bring? Your wonderful self, family and friends

Costumes would be awesome, if you're in the mood.

A Halloween pumpkin to carve or paint...an old tradition...

Food? Pizza and apple cider will be provided. Potluck salads, side dishes and desserts are welcome.

Questions? Phone, email or text Anne at 322.5715, [apcolby@comcast.net](mailto:apcolby@comcast.net)

Please sign up on the information table in the sanctuary so we know how many to plan for. More information on its way!

### SCUMY CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Sunday, October 1	1:00 – 2:30pm	SCUMY Middle School Youth Group, FUMC Stony Point Ministry Center
October 6 *	6:00 – 9:00 pm	Corn Maze, Petaluma Patch (\$15)
Sunday, October 8	1:00 – 2:30pm	SCUMY Middle School Youth Group, FUMC Stony Point Ministry Center
Sunday October 15	1:00 – 2:30pm	SCUMY Middle School Youth Group, FUMC Stony Point Ministry Center
Sunday October 22	1:00 – 2:30pm	SCUMY Middle School Youth Group, FUMC Stony Point Ministry Center
Sunday, October 29	Noon – 6:00 pm	Harvest Festival, Stony Point Campus

\* RSVP to Jacob Wilbur (phone/text) 707-318-1906



## MUSIC TAILORED TO YOU - PLEASE SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

Whether you sing, play an instrument or can rattle a shaker, opportunities abound at Christ Church, tailored to your needs and schedule. And all for one great price. (\$0) Want to participate in a song, play for a service, sing with the choir at the Advent Event? We'd love to have you! Can't make it to practice every

week? No problem. We'd love to have you! Just sign in on the choir calendar. **We will be having more special music this year, so if you can play or sing something, please let Carol-Jean know.** Please share your gifts, whatever they are and however/whenever you can.

## AN INSPIRING SUMMER AND CONFERENCE

Fall has come, the choir is singing again, but the fun times of a memorable summer still cling to me, even as I am already reviewing music for the Advent Event. Our family of four had a wonderful adventure, driving back to Minnesota to unite with our other 12 members and meet the two new babies who were born in May and June. We also got to visit with friends along the route whom we hadn't seen in decades. Our 6,000+ miles of travel also included Yellowstone Park, Mount Rushmore, and following the Lewis and Clark Trail to the Pacific Ocean. We even got to sleep in a tipi. More adventures awaited us once we got home, and suddenly, it was time to go back to school and work.

In late August, as part of the continuing education afforded me by Christ Church, I attended a weekend conference in Santa Cruz called *Cultivating an Individual Relationship with Christ*. It was sponsored by a sister community of an esoteric group I study and worship with called, simply, Christian Community. It was just what I needed, when I needed it, and I feel strengthened to do my work with you and for you.

Though filled with thoughts and ideas, the weekend was about getting out of our thoughts and experiencing the living presence of Jesus. We read the story of Jesus asking Peter, "Who do you say I am?" and the dialog that followed. We looked at some of the ways we can be in relationship to Christ, and can move back and forth among the levels throughout a day or a lifetime:

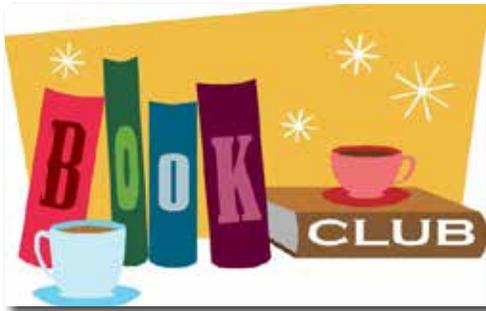
- 1) Who are you? = I am a Seeker, Jesus is a Stranger I am learning about (or challenging!).
- 2) Have mercy on me! = I am in need of help or healing. Jesus is the Healer. My faith in Jesus allows power. "Your faith has made you well."
- 3) Teach me/guide me on the path. = I am a disciple (Greek for student). Jesus is my teacher and guide.
- 4) Send me/Dwell in me. = I am an apostle (the sent). Jesus is Lord. We are sent out into the world, doing work in the world, not students any longer. His power works through us.

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We had the opportunity, through reflection, group and one-on-one discussion, to talk about where we felt we were and what were the challenges to us having a closer relationship with Christ.

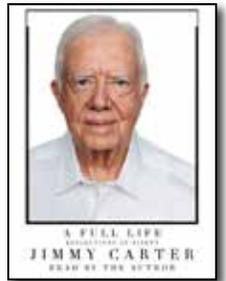
We also looked at the story of Mary and Martha, how one is busy with life's tasks and the other sits in the presence of Christ. The two women illustrate what a balancing act life can be and how easy it is to get caught up in our own activity. One of the presenters, Rev. Patrick Kennedy, said in his gentle way, "We wake up into a world of busy. It is good to take time to sit in the presence of Christ... Somehow, we can remember to do certain tasks or call a friend. Why can't we remember to call God?"

It was inspiring for me to be in a community of Christians who were all wanting to further their relationship with Jesus, some for the first time, and to look at how I need and can do more of that in my own life. It was also good to remember what a joy and privilege it is to spend time in the presence of Christ. And from Christ flows my ability to do good work in the world. Another quote from Rev. Kennedy: "It's almost like we just need to be encouraged to dare to sense, to ask, "Are You There?" to believe that we are invited to be with him."



## WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

Monday, October 9 @ 7pm  
Anita Pitzer's house



In October, we will be talking about Jimmy Carter's latest memoir: [A Full Life](#).



In November, we will be reading Gayle Pickrell's recommendation: [Lilac Girls](#) by Martha Hall Kelly. This debut novel reveals the power of unsung women to change history in their quest for love, freedom and second chances.

Both books are at Copperfield's now. Happy reading!



## TAIZÉ WORSHIP SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH

*Friday, Oct. 27*

6:30 pm      Labyrinth Walk, Labyrinth  
7:00 pm      Taizé Worship, Sanctuary



## RECONCILING CORNER

The unity we seek: a response to the proposal of the Uniting Methodists Movement

*by Reconciling Ministries Network | Sep 18, 2017*

For over forty-five years, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer (LGBTQ) people have borne the brunt of The United Methodist Church's debate over the inclusion of our community. While LGBTQ people continue to graciously offer our gifts and graces to the denomination, the dialogue about us carries on as if the policies and practices are not still actively causing us harm. For this reason, the recent launch of the Uniting Methodists Movement (UMM) is of great concern to Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) as we continue our 30+ years mission of advocating for LGBTQ justice in The UMC.

The foundational statement of the UMM is another example of fellow United Methodists advocating for changes "about us, without us" and once again asserts the false notion that a unity of substance can be achieved while discriminatory policies remain in place. The proposal joins a long tradition of prioritizing a surface level kind of unity over the well-being of LGBTQ people, particularly those most vulnerable in the South, and fails to embrace an unprecedented opportunity to set our church on a new course toward justice, reconciliation, and health.

Countless numbers of LGBTQ people and allies have made the painful decision to leave the church they love in order to honor God, themselves, and their calling. Thankfully, the church has failed to chase every LGBTQ person and ally away. As we live into our United Methodist Baptismal covenant of resisting evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves — which includes oppression of LGBTQ persons — we seek to change the church and transform the world one pew, pulpit, and community at a time.

As Reconciling United Methodists, our commitment is to the LGBTQ lives found at every intersection of humanity.

We grieve the fact that international headlines are filled with queer teens who have died by suicide, hate crimes against LGBTQ persons, the murder of trans women of color, new pieces of anti-LGBTQ legislation being proposed and enforced regularly, and pervasive cultural attitudes of misogyny, racism, homophobia, and transphobia often taught in our churches and certainly perpetuated by the denomination's silence.

Those being harmed by systemic evils should be able to turn to the church — the place that proclaims to be a sanctuary for those who are marginalized and disenfranchised by systems of oppression and power. This is the calling and purpose God has set before us. Prioritizing first the institutional survival of The UMC, at the cost of LGBTQ people or our foundational purpose to be that which we proclaim — a sanctuary — is, at best, unfaithful.

The unity we seek is one that speaks to our shared purpose to proclaim and model love and justice as disciples of Jesus Christ and to share the good news of the gospel with all God's children. These children of God include the teen rejected by their family after coming out, the

*continued on page 7*

young trans woman worried for her physical safety, the lesbian immigrant whose marriage is threatened by unjust immigration policies, the bisexual senior who fears a return to the closet when moving to assisted living, and the gay Nigerian who fears for his life under oppressive anti-LGBTQ laws.

We know that they belong to God. And it is our church's work to ensure they know that too.

The United Methodist Church has a great many resources to use faithfully in its mission of "transforming the world." The world is aching with need of the faithful prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness we see poured into ministries in our local churches. But until "diversity of opinion" is no longer equated with a loyalty to policies that institutionalize discrimination and reinforce harm towards LGBTQ people, the church will simply remain a mere shadow of what it could be – of what God calls all of us to be.



# NORTH BAY ORGANIZING PROJECT

PROYECTO ORGANIZATIVO DEL NORTE DE LA BAHIA

The North Bay Organizing Project (NBOP) Issues Assembly is October 15 at the Glaser Center at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. This is an important meeting for us as we will vote on 3 issues that NBOP will work on for the next 2 years. The issues under consideration are: housing, education, immigration, environment and homelessness. Any questions contact Karin Jones or John Davenport.



Join us for a Community Open House and Block Party  
as we celebrate

## **30 YEARS OF ENDING HUNGER AND FEEDING HOPE!**

**Saturday, October 7, 2017**

**11:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Redwood Empire Food Bank**

**3990 Brickway Boulevard | Santa Rosa, CA 95403**

**Free & Open to the Public**

Learn about our innovative hunger-relief programs, engage with our community partners, sample homemade culinary creations and tour our facility!

*- Live Music - Local Wine & Beer - Food Trucks -*

Whether you're a long-time supporter, a volunteer, or are just interested in learning more, we hope you'll join us as we mark this historic milestone. This event is generously sponsored by Exchange Bank and is free and open to the public. Beer, wine and food offerings will be for sale.



There are so many of you who serve Christ Church... without mentioning a word about it.

- Water is flowing again in the kid's playground water fountain thanks to Ron Simpson.
- Sometimes it takes an absence to realize what a person contributes to Christ Church. Thank you, Linda Carroll, for making the altar beautiful every week!
- Thank you to Gayle Pickrell for cleaning up the One Drive for the powerpoint!
- We are thankful that we are Christ's Church!



One of the ways that we care for each other here at Christ Church is through prayer. We have a team of people who regularly

pray for folks who are in need of spiritual and physical healing. Would you like to join those folks who pray daily for others in need? Would you like more prayers for yourself or people you are close to? Our prayer chain members feel honored to receive prayer requests from you. Contact Barbara Magnuson.



We also welcome written prayer requests you can put in the offering plate on Sundays. Prayer request cards are in the "Gray Pad" folder. We have listed names below so that we might all be in prayer for each other.



"God does nothing except in response to believing prayer." ~John Wesley

Glo Wellman and family

Joy Louise Nazaroff

Darlene and Wayne Davis

Tom & Irene Clark and family

Roger White and family

Jean Houser

The Coolidge family

Bob & Janet Smith's granddaughter, Annika, and family

The Jann family

The Wikse family

Mac MacKenzie

The Lawrence family

All those who struggle every day without a support system

Our church family & community

Those who are experiencing violence throughout the world

Those who are struggling to survive natural disasters

Our United Methodist Church as it continues to wrestle with issues of full inclusion in divided world.

# October 2017



## Sunday, October 1 *BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN*

	8:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	9:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	1:00 PM	SCUMY Middle School Youth Group	FUMC Stony Point Ministry Center

## Monday, October 2

	10:00 AM	Pantry Steering Committee	Conf Rm
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## Thursday, October 5

	4:00 PM	Food Distribution	Elisha's Pantry
	6:50 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary

## Friday, October 6

	1:00 PM	Handicrafts	Conf Rm
	6:00 PM	SCUMY – Corn Maze (\$15)	Petaluma Pumpkin Patch

## Sunday, October 8 *COMMUNION*

	8:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	9:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	1:00 PM	SCUMY Middle School Youth Group	FUMC Stony Point Ministry Center

## Monday, October 9

	7:00 PM	Women's Book Group	Anita Pitzer's House
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## Thursday, October 12

	4:00 PM	Food Distribution	Elisha's Pantry
	6:50 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary

## Friday, October 13

	1:00 PM	Handicrafts	Conf Rm
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## Saturday, October 14

	4:00 PM	Christ Methodist Preschool Silent Auction	Sanctuary
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## Sunday, October 15

	8:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	9:30 AM	Worship, <i>Communion</i>	Sanctuary
	1:00 PM	SCUMY Middle School Youth Group	FUMC Stony Point Ministry Center

<b>Tuesday, October 17</b>			
	6:00 PM	Finance Committee	Conf Rm
	7:00 PM	Ad Council	Conf Rm
	7:00 PM	SPR	TBA
<b>Thursday, October 19</b>			
	4:00 PM	Food Distribution	Elisha's Pantry
	6:50 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
<b>Friday, October 20</b>			
	1:00 PM	Handicrafts	Conf Rm
<b>Sunday, October 22 CHILDREN'S SABBATH/AMNESTY LETTERS</b>			
	8:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	9:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	1:00 PM	SCUMY Middle School Youth Group	FUMC Stony Point Ministry Center
<b>Tuesday, October 24</b>			
	6:30 PM	CMP PJ Story Time	CMP
<b>Thursday, October 26</b>			
	4:00 PM	Food Distribution	Elisha's Pantry
	6:50 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
<b>Friday, October 27</b>			
	1:00 PM	Handicrafts	Conf Rm
	5:30 PM	Labyrinth Walk	Labyrinth
	6:30 PM	Taizé Worship	Sanctuary
<b>Saturday, October 28</b>			
	5:30 PM	Family Life Halloween Party	Sanctuary
<b>Sunday, October 29</b>			
	8:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	9:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
	Noon-6pm	SCUMY Harvest Festival	FUMC Stony Point

**KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS**

- CCUM Christ Church United Methodist
- CMP Christ Methodist Preschool
- FUMC Montgomery First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa
- FUMC Stony Point First United Methodist Church, 2150 Giffen Avenue, Santa Rosa
- NBOP North Bay Organizing Project
- SCUMY Sonoma County United Methodist Youth Group
- SPR Staff Parish Relations