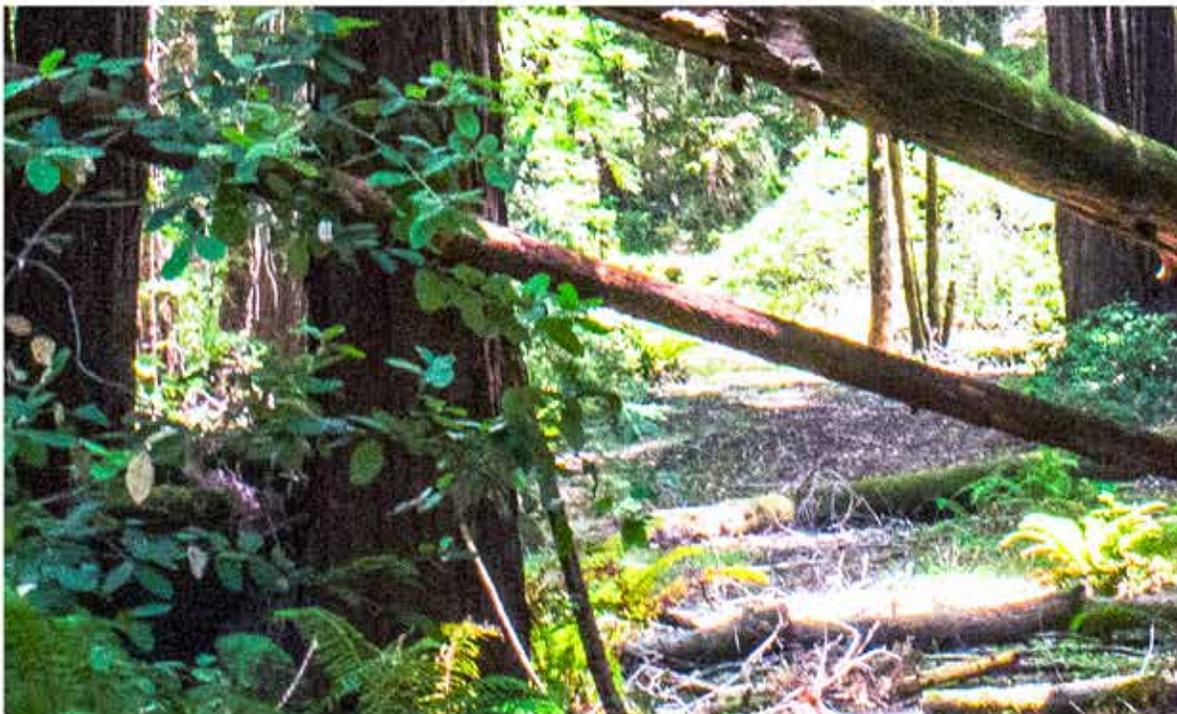


Connections

Life is a journey...
It's not where you end up
but how you get there.



From the pastor...



Beloved,

As you know, last week was our Annual Conference Session. The highlight for me is often the reading of the appointments, and it is my joy to be reappointed to serve with you for another year. We have several

changes in appointments in our Sonoma County Circuit this year, and I'm looking forward to meeting the new clergy soon.

Additionally, at conference we have daily plenaries. The keynote speaker this year was Rev. Marlon Hall, who is a professor at Duke Divinity, an anthropologist, and a yoga instructor, among other things. (You can check out his website at www.theworkofthepeople.com) He was dynamic and engaging, and he reminded us again and again that the church needs to remember its mission, turn outward into the community, and dream bigger.

I was reminded of our congregational meeting back in May. The focus of that meeting was on our internal administration, our children's program, and our Safe Gatherings policy. All of these are important aspects of our congregational life to be sure, and we will be seeing some of the feedback from that meeting incorporated in our church life in the months to come. Also, my greatest hope in that meeting was when someone asked the entire group what we would be doing to address homelessness. Someone else expressed concern for immigrants. Christ Church, at its best, has always been about the wider community.

My hope for this fall is that we would hold a mission study as a congregation. I will be pulling together a small group of us to go out in the community, to see what other churches are doing, to visit possible mission partners, and – most importantly – to pray. In order for it to be true discernment, we must each come free of agendas, and open to how God may lead us.

There is already so much work that we, as individuals, are doing in the community (and even on our church site). A congregational calling is not in lieu of this work. A congregational calling is about rediscovering the specific “why” behind Christ Church's mission (and existence), and a congregational calling is about finding new ways to engage new people in the mission of the church.

I invite you to pray with me as we convene this study together. As always, it is my privilege to serve with you.

In Christ,

Pastor Lindsey



A Few Words about Blessing.

We've been learning about blessing in Sunday school.

An awesome reminder from Life of the Beloved by Henri Nouwen ...

“Let me first tell you what I mean by the word “blessing.” In Latin, to bless is benedicere. The word “benediction” that is used in many churches means literally: speaking (dicto) well (bene) or saying good things of someone. That speaks to me. I need to hear good things said of me, and I know how much you have the same need. Nowadays, we often say: “We have to affirm each other.” Without affirmation, it is hard to live well. To give someone a blessing is the most significant affirmation we can offer. It is more than a word of praise or appreciation; it is more than pointing out someone’s talents or good deeds; it is more than putting someone in the light.

“ To give a blessing is to affirm, to say “yes” to a person’s Belovedness. And more than that: To give a blessing creates the reality of which it speaks. There is a lot of mutual admiration in this world, just as there is a lot of mutual condemnation. A blessing goes beyond the distinction between admiration or condemnation, between virtues or vices, between good deeds or evil deeds. A blessing touches the original goodness of the other and calls forth his or her Belovedness.”

FAMILY POTLUCK BBQ AND CAMPFIRE DELIGHT!

NOT TO BE MISSED!

Day: Saturday, July 7th

Times: 1:00 Swim, 3:00 BBQ, Allen’s homemade ice cream and evening campfire sing along and S’mores

Place: Linda and Dave Allen’s home

Bring: Potluck items to BBQ and beverages; swimsuits and musical instruments

Who: The entire Christ Church congregation is invited.



CCUM VOLUNTEERS WORK AT MT SHASTA

Bob & Myra Gaiser, Dave & Linda Allen, John Davenport and Gayle Pickrell were part of the Calif-Nevada Care-a-vaners who worked at Mt Shasta Camp to help open the camp for the summer season. Some of the jobs included splitting wood, burning branches & bark, repairing fire circle benches, painting, adding a roof overhang, taking out gas pipes. Gas pipes are no longer needed now that the camp has solar panels and electricity. The Care-a-vaners go on work projects to help churches who don't have the people-power or can't afford to make improvements on their facilities. They also help open and close the Shasta Camp every year.



BOB SMITH HONORED BY SEEDS OF LEARNING

Bob Smith received the 2017 Sonoma Volunteer of the Year award for his dedicated service of building schools in Nicaragua and El Salvador with Seeds of Learning.

He was one of 31 volunteers to receive the award. Bob hasn't missed a work project trip in the last 18 years, and has considered it one of the highlights of each year. This year, because of the violence that has erupted in Nicaragua, similar to what has been happening in El Salvador, Seeds of Learning is partnering with the Cielo Foundation to work in the Yucatan peninsula to build schools.

We give thanks to Bob Smith and his dedication to build schools in Central America.



SHED BUILD

Dave Allen, Bob Gaiser, John Davenport, Fred Ptucha and Fred's grandson were part of the 700 volunteers who built 90 sheds on the Piner High School campus on Saturday, June 9. All the sheds have been delivered to fire victims for storage on their property before they are able to build.

The Build was sponsored by Hope City, who also directed the rebuilding of homes in Lake County after the fires in that area. First United Methodist, Santa Rosa, helped organize our Volunteer in Mission efforts in Lake County and now in Santa Rosa.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity needs volunteers on July 17-19 and 24-26 to help with projects for the community. If you can help, please contact John Davenport, [johndaven@sbcglobal.net](mailto: johndaven@sbcglobal.net).



A MESSAGE FROM SPR

For the last several years Christ Church has been blessed with Cindy Piccinini as our administrative assistant. She has done a wonderful job of keeping us connected through the monthly newsletter and the weekly bulletin. She has worked with our renters making sure that payments have been made on time, she has done a great job of helping our trustees maintain our facility, and she has helped put together the Sunday powerpoint. She has done all this with a smile and friendly greeting to those who have come to the office. She has worked behind the scenes to make sure Christ Church runs smoothly. During the fires last October, Cindy made sure that all of our members were accounted for and coordinated help for those in need.

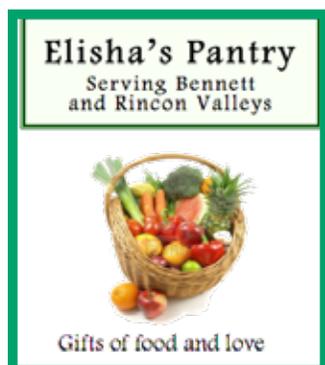
Due to restructuring our staffing needs at Christ Church, Cindy will be leaving us at the end of June. We gratefully thank her for her service and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

SILENT AUCTION

The final count is in! This year's auction brought in \$4,840 for the church! Way to go!

NEEDED: SANTA ROSA PLUMS

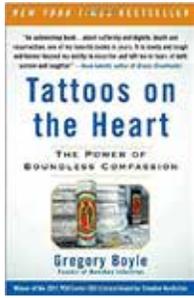
My source for Santa Rosa plums to make the jam I sell as a fundraiser for the pantry has told me they don't have a good crop this year. Please let me know if there is anyone who can donate plums to me or if you know someone I can contact.



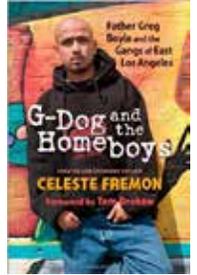
ELISHAS PANTRY

Volunteers still needed! July is our month to work at the Pantry. Please take a look at the calendar on the back table and see if there is day this you would like to spend helping others. We need shoppers on Wednesday mornings and helpers on Thursday afternoons. Bring a friend!

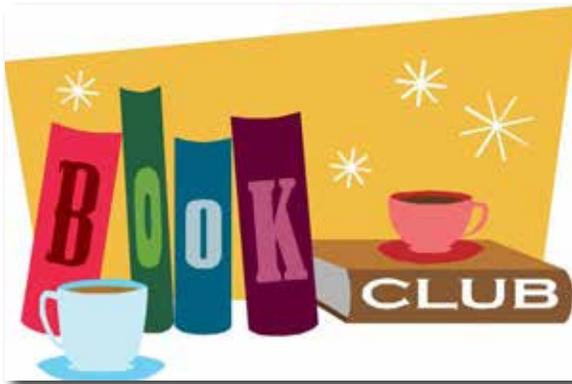
POTLUCK THEOLOGY Potluck Theology group will start Sunday, September 9 with Dave Allen at the helm. You are invited to join a few of us to explore the powerful stories of



Father Greg Boyle's book, Tattoos On The Heart, a collection of short stories set in East L.A. where he learns how to communicate with and nurture gang members toward finding respect for themselves and hope for their own future. We will also use a second book for reference, G-Dog And The Homeboys, by Celeste Freemon. The stories in "Tattoos" narrated are narrated on audio by the entertaining author himself, after which we will discuss the impact Father Greg has on people's lives (himself included), his church, and the community. There will be time to socialize during the potluck before the audio begins.



There will be a sign up sheet for the Potluck Theology group at the table in the back of the sanctuary after each Sunday service during the summer. Books will be available for participants. For more information, contact Dave, 707-540-3079.

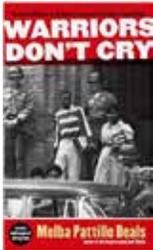


WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

Monday, July 9, 7 PM

Anita Pitzer's house

In July we are reading Jodi Picoult's **SMALL GREAT THINGS**. The story of an African American labor and delivery nurse and the racism surrounding her care of a white supremacist couple's newborn son.



We'll follow this in August with **WARRIORS DON'T CRY** by Melba Pattillo Beals, one of the 9 black high school students who broke segregation in Little Rock High School in Arkansas in 1957. Lynda was there this spring and will share that experience with us.

CHRIST METHODIST PRESCHOOL



The school year is over and Summer is officially here!!! And we have been having a blast! We've been busy spending last moments with friends moving on, blowing billions of bubbles, splashing in the water, coloring with chalk and all other things summer brings. Not only are we saying see you later to some old friends but we are welcoming new friends to join in the fun! We look forward to a fun filled summer with our friends before starting a brand new school year! There always more adventure to come at CMP!



Arlene



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

- Sue Tredick has been helping Anne Colby every Sunday morning by coming in early and setting up for church. Kudos to both of you!
- Bob Smith installed smoke/carbon monoxide detectors in every building. They work off the church WiFi and will send an alert to the designated "guardians" of the system!
- Deborah Weinman power washed the breezeway and freed all the cobwebs from the eaves. Who knew it was so white under there?
- Jim Rankin and Dave Allen got the hearing loop working in the sanctuary. Say what?
- Glo Wellman has once again stepped in to help with worship planning over the summer. Awesome!
- Meg Hurt, Lois Nimmo, Linda Carroll, Karin Jones and more are helping Carol-Jean get the music organized. A happy note!
- We are thankful that we are Christ's Church!

A LETTER TO GOD FROM A CHURCH SECRETARY...

To you with love and laughter

Dear God: It's me again. I just went through another ladies luncheon and didn't yell at one woman, even though I could have. If my mouth had not been full of cookies when Mrs. Ryan asked me to look for her gloves again, I might not have made it.

Lord, I really try to be patient with the congregation, but that's my problem right there Lord. BUT, you see Lord, I don't know how you feel about printing the church bulletin but if you knew what it was like have black ink on your white blouse, you would know how I feel. And Lord, if I didn't have to make up half the stuff to put in the church newsletter it wouldn't be nearly so hard. Sometimes I get carried away and the next thing I know I've given a whole sermon to the congregation over a pie plate left in the kitchen!

It's not that I don't like my job, but sometimes, Lord, I just don't think I can type one more bulletin or newsletter. If I could just type one right, I would feel a lot better about the whole thing. Just because I print the time for a dinner at 6:30 a.m. instead of p.m. you would think I had changed the words in the Bible! I know I put the number backward for the hymns last Sunday, but I thought the words to "Onward Christian Soldiers" sounded great to the tune of "What A Friend We Have In Jesus". And Lord, you know that when it was time for the unison prayer and everyone said, "Help us with our antiquities" that we were not referring to the older people in the church.

I really felt bad about the back of the bulletin too, Lord, I didn't mean to print it upside-down. r know it's hard to flip it over, but I was in a hurry. Why did everyone get so angry when I suggested they-tape mirrors to their heads? Lord, couldn't you help them laugh?

The worst thing I did was when I typed the sermon topic: "Breeding in the Sheaves". The ladies decided they didn't want to hear the sermon!

Well, Lord I do my best, but being a Church Secretary isn't exactly the same as secretary to the mayor!

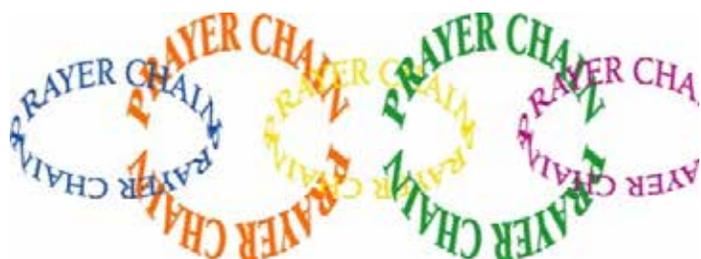
(taken from a Petaluma UMC newsletter and by them from a UMC church newsletter in Reno, Nevada)



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.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

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

Darlene Davis

Heather Boone

Roger White

Barbara Schmidt and family

Glo Wellman and family

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

The Lawrence family

All those who were affected by natural disaster

Our church family & community

Those who are experiencing violence throughout the world

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

A FINAL NOTE FROM CINDY:

*I'm so glad we had this time together
Just to have a laugh or sing a song
Seems we just get started and before you know it
Comes the time we have to say... So long!*

July 2018

Sunday, July 01		
9:30 AM	Worship, <i>Communion</i>	Sanctuary
10:30 AM	Time for Reflection	Sanctuary
Monday, July 02		
10:00 AM	Pantry Steering Committee	Conf Rm
6:30 PM	Social Concerns	Conf Rm
Wednesday, July 04 – INDEPENDENCE DAY		
Thursday, July 05		
4:00 PM	Elisha's Pantry food distribution	Elisha's Pantry
Friday, July 06		
1:00 pm	Handicraft Group	Conf Rm
Saturday, July 07		
1:00 PM	Church Potluck, BBQ & Campfire Fun	Dave & Linda Allen's house
Sunday, July 08		
9:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
10:30 AM	Time for Reflection	Sanctuary
Monday, July 09		
7:00 PM	Women's Book Group	Anita Pitzer's house
Thursday, July 12		
4:00 PM	Elisha's Pantry food distribution	Elisha's Pantry
Friday, July 13		
1:00 pm	Handicraft Group	Conf Rm
Sunday, July 15		
9:30 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
10:30 AM	Time for Reflection	Sanctuary
Thursday, July 19		
4:00 PM	Elisha's Pantry food distribution	Elisha's Pantry
4:00 PM	Adjust/Rebuild After The Fires	Sanctuary
Friday, July 20		
1:00 pm	Handicraft Group	Conf Rm
Sunday, July 22		
9:30 AM	Worship, <i>Amnesty Letters</i>	Sanctuary
10:30 AM	Time for Reflection	Sanctuary
Thursday, July 26		
4:00 PM	Elisha's Pantry food distribution	Elisha's Pantry
Friday, July 27		
1:00 pm	Handicraft Group	Conf Rm
Sunday, July 29		
9:30 AM	Worship in the Garden	Sanctuary
10:30 AM	Time for Reflection	Sanctuary