



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™

Officemaderaumc@gmail.com

The Grapevine

500 Sunset, Madera CA 93637 -

(559) 674-8704

Sept 2024

Sunday Morning Schedule:

10:00 am: Worship

Office Hours:

8:00 am - 12:00 pm Tuesday-Friday

Phone: 559-674-8704

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September 2024

From the Pastor

I've been preaching about the prophet Elijah for the past few weeks. God called Elijah at a critical time in Israel's history. The kingdom had split in two with Israel to the north and Judah to the south. The kingdom of Israel was drifting away from their covenant relationship with God. Under Ahab and Jezebel's rule they were turning away from worshipping the one true God and meshing their religion with the fertility religions of the neighboring nations. Elijah spoke boldly and was used by God to perform mighty miracles to remind people that Yahweh alone is the true God. He is an example of courageous faith, and also of human weakness when he got so discouraged he asked to die. Praise God that he doesn't always give us what we ask for but knows what we truly need.

I wrote a song to go with the first part of Elijah's story. God sent Elijah to say that because they were worshipping the false god Baal, representing rain, lightning, and fertility; that there would be no rain until Elijah called for it. During the ensuing famine, God provided for Elijah's need by ravens acting like DoorDash, delivering two meals a day, and then later through a poor widow who trusted God to miraculously supply flour and oil each day. Then God sent Elijah to have a contest with the worshippers of Baal to see who was the real God by seeing which God could send down fire to consume a sacrifice. God sent the fire, and then sent the rain, and the people shouted their affirmation of faith, "The Lord is God!"

I have received quite a bit of appreciation for the song I wrote, so I am including the lyrics in this newsletter. The tune is from a whaling sea chanty called “The Wellerman.” I thought the vigorous tune would fit well with Elijah’s tough and powerful personality. I appreciate the church letting me try some unusual creative things now and then.

Pastor Jim

The following youtube link would let you hear the song: [Elijah Chanty \(youtube.com\)](#) The link should work on digital versions of the newsletter, otherwise, If you search for “Elijah Chanty youtube” it will find it.

I’d love for others to use the song, just please give me credit as the author of the lyrics. (See Lyrics below)

Elijah – (Wellerman Tune)
words-Jim Garrison, August 2024

Elijah was a prophet bold
He lived in the Bible days of old
And to the wicked king he told
The message of the Lord – huh!

There is no other God
Who sends the snow and rain abroad
The others are just a fraud
So, worship God alone

O Ahab, king of Israel
Married the wicked Jezebel
Into her evil ways he fell
And turned away from God



God sent Elijah to explain
That there would be no dew nor rain
Until they turned to God again
And trusted in the Lord

There is no other God
Who sends the snow and rain abroad
The others are just a fraud
So, worship God alone

Dry fields began to wilt away
Elijah went to the brook to stay
Ravens brought him food each day
Provided by the Lord

Then God sent him to the door
Of a foreign widow poor
Although she gave, she got much more
By trusting in the Lord

There is no other God
Who sends the snow and rain abroad
The others are just a fraud
So, worship God alone

The time had come to end the drought
Elijah called King Ahab out
The question really was about
Which god was truly God?

The contest was on Mt Carmel
With prophets of the false god, Baal,
The true God, everyone could tell
Was the one who sent down fire

There is no other God
 Who sends the snow and rain abroad
 The others are just a fraud
 So, worship God alone

False prophets shouted out their prayer
 They danced with frenzy and despair
 Nobody heard, no one was there
 Their god could not send fire

Elijah prayed to God Most High
 And fire fell down from the sky
 The people all began to cry
 The Lord, The Lord is God!



There is no other God
 Who sends the snow and rain abroad
 The others are just a fraud
 So, worship God alone
 (repeat chorus)

Finance Committee

Paul said in Romans 8:28, ***“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”***
 “His purpose” is for us to spread the news that God is with us, and that through Jesus Christ we are saved by grace.

The generosity of our church family is evident in its commitment to serve and give. We believe in God’s ability and power to provide for us, and we trust in His promises. God is faithful in meeting all our needs.

Our general fund uses your regular giving, which is budgeted based on what the congregation pledged to give at the end of last year. Most expenses are paid out of the general fund. During the hot summer months, we typically have higher bills.

For the operations of the church (general fund transactions):

For the month of July 2024:

Total Income	\$ 16,452.83
Total Expenses	<u>22,245.43</u>
Net (Loss)	\$ (5,792.60)

For the year of 2024:

Total Income	\$ 144,682.00
Total Expenses	<u>164,531.63</u>
Net (Loss)	\$ (19,849.63)

7/31/24 Balance in the General Fund
\$98,039.49

7/31/24 Balance in Restricted Funds
\$63,138.42

7/31/24 Balance in Endowment Fund
\$90,553.09

Notes:

We have paid all tithes to the conference for 2024.

Thank you for your gifts and your service to the church.

Please continue to pray for our church.

Nancy Simpson, Treasurer

The Prayer Warriors of MUMC

Throughout the years, our church family has remained strong in its commitment to prayer. The prayer group meets every Monday morning at 6:45 in the conference room, even on holidays. All are welcome to come and pray.

A Prayer Box, with prayer cards, is located in front of the church office entrance. If you have a prayer request during the week, you may call the pastor or church office, or place your request in the prayer box. On Sundays, prayer cards are available to fill out and place in the offering plate or the prayer basket. (If you do not want your prayer request announced in church with the Joys and Concerns, please write it on the card.)

The prayer group sends cards to those in need of prayer, to let them know our church family is remembering them.

Thank you for your prayers for this church family and for others.

UMW Corner

UMW will have a busy September. Our meeting this September will be the Fall Festival! So please volunteer to help Eric Gonzalez in any way you can. There will be a Prayer Table that will need volunteers, as well as the Craft and bake sale which will need goodies. Ask Nancy Sherrod if she needs any more items for the drawing for

the Special Olympics. She may also need volunteers to man the ticket table. Remember to come and bring family to share in the lovely vendors and food trucks that will be outside and the church family will be on the inside, from 10am-3pm.

Regular meetings will be starting October 19 at our regular time of 9:30am. Hope to see you there!

Nurture and Care

Some of you may not be aware of a small group of volunteers in our congregation who work tirelessly to minister to our elderly and disabled. Working in teams, these individuals send cards, make calls, and visit those who are unable to consistently worship with us in person. Our volunteers are often accompanied by Pastor Jim. As a part of our Missions Committee, Mary Long chairs this subcommittee and keeps it organized. If you know of someone in need of this type of care, please notify Mary or Pastor Jim so that we may add them to our list. Of course, all of our individuals for care are kept confidential. If you are interested in offering nurture and care to others, please feel free to join us. We meet the second Wednesday of each month in the **Conference Room at 6:00 p.m.**, so our next meeting will be on **September 11, 2024.**

MUMC Trustees Committee

The bulb for the eternal flame was replaced (it had burned out). Additional replacement bulbs have been ordered.

The locksmith came to repair the front Social Hall single door lock. Due to the age of the lock, parts are difficult to obtain; therefore, this may take several weeks.

We are in the process of repairing a leak in the cooling/heating wall unit in classroom 6.

The next regular Trustees meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Bobby Carter, Chair

Food Distribution Update

Our food distribution continues! I want to explain the difference.

Brown Bag – 55+ seniors – prepaid, and on a list. This is the first Thursday AFTER the third Monday. **September 19th @9:00 a.m.** Regular distribution – free for any Madera resident 18+ -- First come, first serve. This is the LAST Wednesday of the month. 10:00 a.m. The **next one will be on September 25th**

Your help is always needed and wanted. We ask volunteers to come a ½ hour early. I am so thankful for our wonderful volunteers.

Blessing Bags

What does the Missions Group do??.....

Many of the answers would probably be as follows.... Just for Fun, 4th Sunday Luncheon, Christmas progressive Dinner, and Trunk or Treat, just to name a few.

However, Missions does way more than just that. Missions Group also does outreach projects, such as Rise against Hunger and the Water Ministry. A few months ago, it was decided to expand our outreach efforts, and one of the ideas was to do hygiene bags for the homeless. With a very generous amount of \$500 from Missions and \$100 donation from a member of the congregation, the Blessing bags were formed.

A total of 50 Blessing bags (25 female and 25 male) was assembled on July 26th and distributed on July 27th, with the help of church members, our church youth, a few Boys Scouts and even a wonderful family from the community. These blessing bags had not only hygiene items, but we all decided to put a few items that would help provide protection during the summer. We added travel-size eating utensils and dog treats. We also passed out waters during this time, with use of funds from the Water Ministry.

We are looking forward to making over 100 Blessing bags in January 2025, which will focus on some winter items, such as socks, gloves and possibly beanies.

Sincerely,
Dianna Combs

Rise Against Hunger

We're about two months away from our Rise Against Hunger event. On Saturday, November 9th, we will need 80 people to come and help package 20,000 meals in about 3 hours. If you've done it before, you'll remember that it's a lot of fun, with a great energy of camaraderie. If you haven't done it before, you'll be amazed. There is a job for every ability level. Invite your friends!

We have almost reached our fundraising goal of \$8,100. As of this writing, we still need a few hundred more. So close. It's never too late to donate!

Online Giving

This online giving portal may be accessed through our website at maderaumc.org. At the Top of the opening page, there is a red "Donate" button, which will take you to our Online Giving site. There you will find various options.

You may also use our QR Code that will take you directly to our Online Giving site. Just open your phone camera and hover it over the QR Code. Then touch the pop-up that appears.



September Birthdays

- 1 Allen Crosson
- 2 Alex Scalzo
- 3 Cindi Wood
- 4 Joanne Stokes
- 6 George Wilson
- 7 Bonnie Beshears
- 9 Clyde Waggoner
- 11 Kimberly Galano
- 13 Lynn Slaw-Severson
- 13 Wendy Tuttle
- 14 Todd Wilson
- 15 Kathi Smith
- 16 Barbara Freeman
- 16 Cade Boehm
- 17 Becky Goodwin
- 19 Curtis Pasma
- 24 Pat McDaniel
- 24 Jerry Overstreet
- 24 Mickey Capo
- 26 Cynthia Hurenkamp
- 26 Michael Wilson
- 28 Andre Griffin



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September Wedding Anniversaries

- 8 Clyde & Mary Waggoner
- 14 Bill & Gloria Hoffrage
- 26 Alex & Danielle Scalzo
- 30 Mark & Jaime McDaniel

If your Birthday or Anniversary is incorrect or is not listed, please call the church office so we can update our records.



September 26th, 2024 @9:00am

***Please send any Articles you would like
In the Grapevine by the date above.**



Greeters Schedule

- 9/1 Diana & Paul Brack
- 9/8 Bobby & Alice Carter
- 9/15 Nancy & Kevin Sherrod
- 9/22 Dianna & Marie Combs
- 9/29 Geri & David Brown



Coffee Fellowship

- 9/1 Dianna Combs
- 9/8 Nancy & Kevin Sherrod
- 9/15 Geri Brown & Pat Galleano
- 9/22 4th Sunday Luncheon (Mary & Willie Long)
- 9/29 Dianna Combs



Madera United Methodist Church
Welcomes you to a

FALL Festival

POP UP EVENT

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

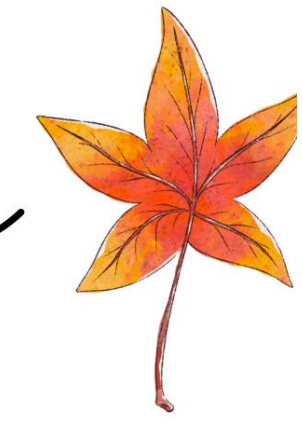
10AM-3PM

A VARIETY OF VENDORS

CRAFTS-ARTS- FOOD

MUCH MORE

**Crafts for all Seasons and Bake Sale in the Social Hall
sponsored by UMW**



500 SUNSET AVE MADERA CA



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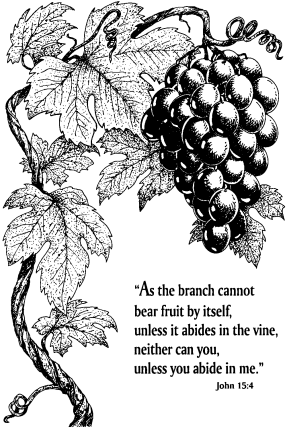
<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 10:00am Worship Service Communion	2 6:45a (CR) Prayer Group 4:00pm (Cedar) Small Group 6:00p Scouts (SH-CR)	3 5:00p (CR) Trustees	4	5 6:30am Bible Study (Perko's Café)	6	7
8 10:00am Worship Service	9 6:45a (CR) Prayer Group 4:00pm (Cedar) Small Group 6:00p Scouts (SH-CR)	10	11 6:00pm (CR) Nurture & Care	12 6:30am Bible Study (Perko's Café)	13 6:00p Social Hall closed (Emmaus)	14 Fireside Room & Social Hall Closed
15 10:00am Worship Service	16 6:45a (CR) Prayer Group 4:00pm (Cedar) Small Group 6:00p Scouts (SH-CR) 6:00p (CR) Finance	17 5:00p (FR) Missions 6:00p (CR) Church Council	18	19 6:30am Bible Study (Perko's Café) 9:00am 55+ Food Distribution	20	21 Fall Festival @10am
22 10:00am Worship Service 4 th Sunday Lunch	23 6:45a (CR) Prayer Group 4:00pm (Cedar) Small Group 6:00p Scouts (SH-CR)	24	25 10:00am Food Distribution SPRC 5:30 pm (CR)	26 6:30am Bible Study (Perko's Café)	27	28
29 10:00am Worship Service	30 6:45a (CR) Prayer Group 4:00pm (Cedar) Small Group 6:00p Scouts (SH-CR)					



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"As the branch cannot
bear fruit by itself,
unless it abides in the vine,
neither can you,
unless you abide in me."

John 15:4

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