



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

Nov 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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November 2024

From the Pastor

Give thanks in all things –

November looks to be a full month. Elsewhere in this Grapevine you can read about our Charge Conference with potluck, our Community Worship Service (same day as Charge Conference), Rise Against Hunger event, our Stewardship Sunday, Thanksgiving Day, and the first Sunday of Advent. There will also be important elections as well as our concerns for friends and family facing illness or transitions. We can celebrate and give thanks for the “good” things, and thank God for giving us strength to handle the “not-so-good” things. I’m so thankful we don’t face our difficulties alone. We have the ever-present help of God and the supportive love of our church family. In everything, give thanks!

Pastor Jim

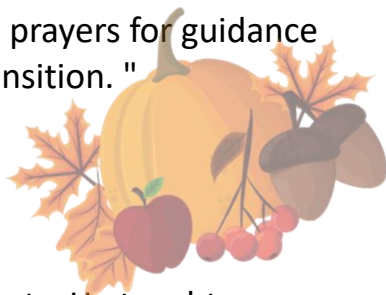
New Journey

I'm not sure where to begin, it's been an amazing 4 years being with you all. I enjoyed my time together with everyone. I have met amazing new people during my time here. I would have loved to stay longer as your secretary, but for financial reasons, I needed to look elsewhere. I hope everyone will leave me in their prayers on my new journey. You will all be in my prayers! 😊

-Natalie Mireles
Church Secretary

"We are sad to be losing Natalie as our church secretary, but happy for this opportunity for her. The Staff Parish Relations Committee (like a personnel committee for the church) will be making arrangements to cover secretarial tasks in the short term, and for hiring a replacement in the near future. We ask for your patience and prayers for guidance during the time of transition. "

Pastor Jim



Finance Committe

God gave each us talents. He taught us how to show empathy, sympathy, humility, and compassion. He gave us "heart," the ability to know how to give back love, not just using our five senses, but using our inner selves, something that comes from deep within our hearts.

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." (Colossians 3:12)

Our church family is full of loving Christians who feel that "heart" God gave us. Because of this generosity, we are able to continue to do the Lord's work, and as a church, to give back to God.

The finances over the past few years at MUMC have been stable. In our economy, it is not easy for organizations to have expenses that are less than the money taken in. Our church is no exception. We are thankful for our faithful givers, knowing that some givers give annually during the last months of the year.

For the month of September 2024:

Total Income	\$	19,299.51
Total Expenses		<u>25,199.57</u>
Net (Loss)	\$	(5,900.06)

For the year of 2024:

Total Income	\$	181,842.72
Total Expenses		<u>213,974.67</u>
Net (Loss)	\$	(32,131.95)

9/30/24 Balance in the General Fund
\$88,759.81

9/30/24 Balance in Restricted Funds
\$66,861.90

9/30/24 Balance in Endowment Fund
\$97,702.57

We have paid all tithes to the conference for 2024. The 10% we give will benefit God's work world-wide.

We will soon be doing our stewardship drive for 2025. Please remember to be prayerful as you determine what your plan of giving will be for next year. We will ask for your cards by November 24. The church needs your pledge, your promise to give back to God through the works of this church.

Thank you for your gifts and your service. Please continue to pray for the generosity of our church.

Nancy Simpson, Finance Chair

Estate Planning and RMDs

Remembering your church in your estate

We all have something to pass on to others when we leave this world, and whether you are a young person or an older adult, you need to think about how you want to distribute what you have so that others can benefit. We don't know when our final moment will come, so it is never too soon to make those plans.

Your church can be a beneficiary of your estate or a life insurance policy. If you have not already done so, consider

naming Madera United Methodist Church as a beneficiary.

Sometimes churches receive property, such as land or a building, a vehicle, or other tangible asset. This is often difficult for a church to accept. Although the donor may think it is thoughtful and generous, it sometimes causes more issues than benefits. Monetary giving is more beneficial for the church.

That said, our building is in constant need of attention. If you are planning to give to the church as a beneficiary, you might consider designating some of your giving to the Building Maintenance Fund.

Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)

If you have an individual retirement account (IRA), and you have reached the age for which you are required to distribute annually some of your account (called a Required Minimum Distribution, or RMD), you may give some or all of this distribution to the church, with greater tax benefit than if you gave to the church from other accounts.

This is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution. A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is a distribution made directly by the trustee of your individual retirement arrangement (IRA), other than an SEP or SIMPLE IRA, to certain qualified

organizations. The total QCDs for the year cannot be more than \$100,000.

If all the requirements are met, a QCD may be nontaxable. This means it will not be reported as income, and because it will not be in your income, it cannot be reported as a deduction on your Schedule A. However, this is a greater tax benefit than what a Schedule A deduction will give.

Some of our church family has already taken advantage of this benefit. If you would like to hear more about it, contact the administrator of your IRA.

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.

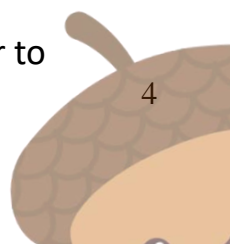
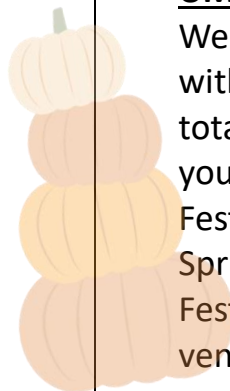
Thank you for your prayers for this church family and for others.

UMW Corner for October

We are very grateful for everyone's help with the Fall Festival. The festival made a total for UMW of \$1,492.80. Thank you, Erica, for organizing a successful Fall Festival. It has been decided to have a Spring Fling in May of 2025, and a Fall Festival in September of 2025. The vendors are looking forward to these events. We have also scheduled the Rummage Sales for 2025. They will be February 27th-March 1st and October 2nd-4th, 2025. So, if you need to get your items together you now have dates to be prepared.

As the year is winding down, we are happy to say that UMW is continuing to provide opportunities to give back. It was decided at the meeting that we will be asking for donations for Doors of Hope, there is a bottle in the Narthex with the Pennies for Pines box. This bottle is for change, or any donation you would like to give for Doors of Hope to help them with their ministry. We also decided to give a donation to UMCOR for relief for Hurricane Helene.

We will be meeting in November to



discuss a couple of future items, so we hope to see all the ladies of our church at the next meeting. It will be November 16th at 9:30am in the Conference Room, 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 sub-committee 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 **November 13, 2024**.

MUMC Trustees Committee

Five (5) LED exterior lights were purchased to illuminate the stained-glass windows for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

The toilets adjacent to the nursery were clogged; plunging was unsuccessful; plumber cleared the line 100 feet from the building.

The front entrance doors to the Narthex are begin sanded, stained and sealed to prevent further damage to the wood.

Dianna Combs discovered that the valves were leaking in the kitchen sink facing the courtyard. David Simpson replaced the valve; then realized that the garbage disposer was also leaking. David replaced the garbage disposer and also will replace the remaining valves.

The timer for the chiller/boiler was changed to a later start time on Sundays, and the thermostat temperature was raised. The switch from chiller to boiler will be made at a future date (depending on the weather).

The next regular Trustees meeting is scheduled for November 5, 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.

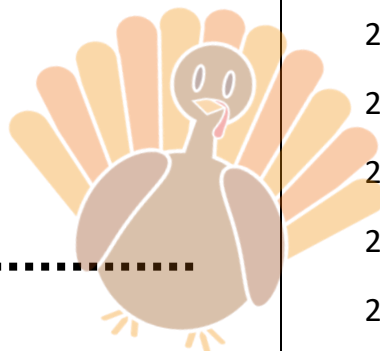
Brown Bag – 55+ seniors – prepaid, and on a list. This is the first Thursday AFTER the third Monday. **November 21st @9:00 a.m.**

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 November 27th** Your help is always needed and wanted. We ask volunteers to come a ½ hour early. I am so thankful for our wonderful volunteers.

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.



November Birthdays

- 2 Danyel Bissett
- 4 Joyce Martinez
- 4 Lauren Garrison
- 5 Glen Hunt
- 5 Jason Pasma
- 7 Jolene Stephenson
- 12 Paula Garrison
- 12 Hannah Boehm
- 12 Debi Brown
- 15 Roxie Hew
- 15 Kathy Garrison
- 19 David Simpson
- 20 Norma Velasquez
- 20 Linda Westcott
- 20 Javier Valenzuela
- 21 John Hall
- 21 Vivian Chicconi
- 22 Steve Hanson
- 23 Sally Frazier
- 24 Gordon Kennedy



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- 25 Erica Gonzalez
- 25 Brendlee Bissett
- 28 Willie Long
- 29 Tina Long
- 29 Lex Bufford

November Wedding Anniversaries

- 3 Gordon & Carol Kennedy
- 5 George & Rita Wilson
- 15 Steven & Heather Boehm

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



November 27th, 2024 @9:00am

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

Greeters Schedule

- 11/3 Carol & Gordon Kennedy
- 11/10 Liz Kutschinski
- 11/17 Mary Ann Crosson
- 11/24 Dianna & Marie Combs

Coffee Fellowship

- 11/3 Alice & Bobby Carter
- 11/10 Sue & Candy
- 11/17 Bert & Sue
- 11/24 4th Sunday Luncheon



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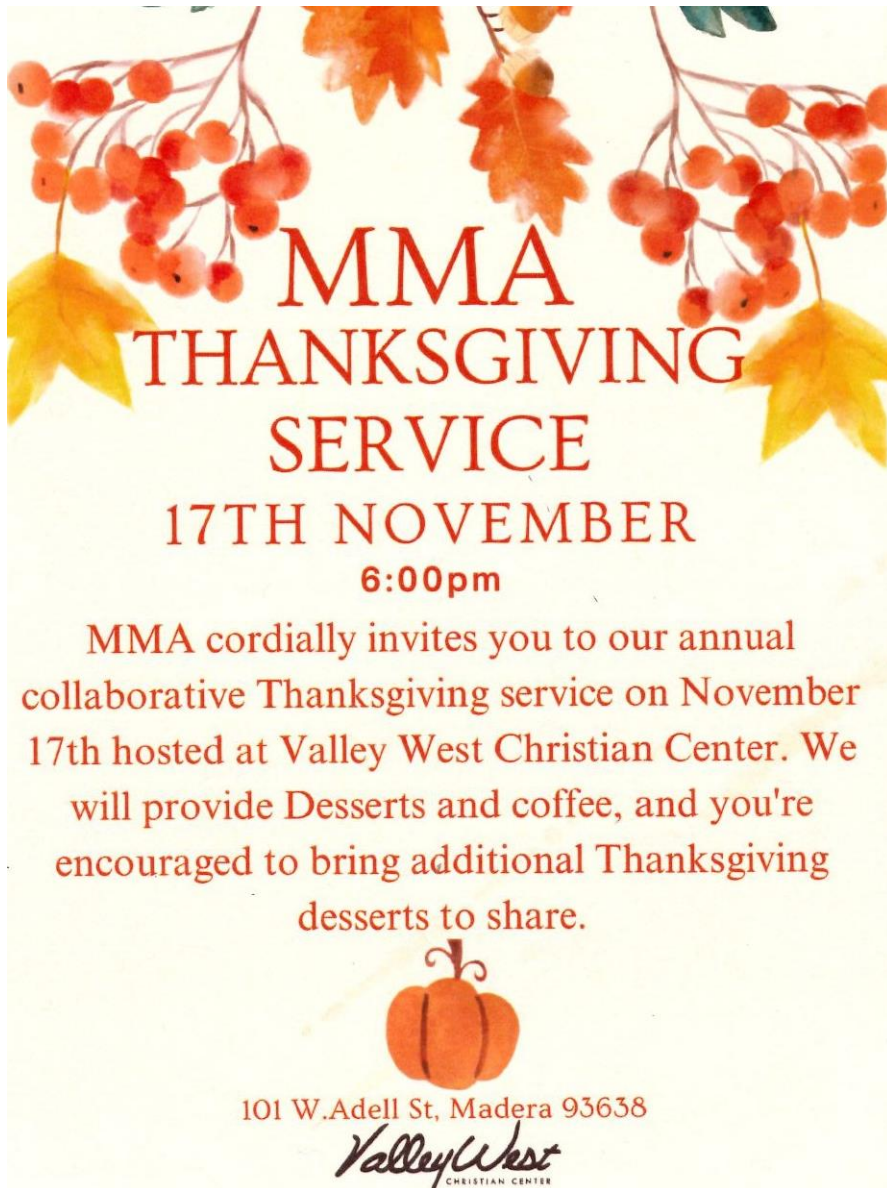
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<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>	
						1	2 @7am-11pm Scouts Pancake Breakfast
3 10:00am Worship Service Communion	4 6:45a (CR) Prayer Group 4:00pm (Cedar) Small Group 6:00p Scouts (SH- CR)	5 6:00p (CR) Trustees	6	7 6:30am Bible Study (Perko's Café)	8	9 Rise Against Hunger	
10 10:00am Worship Service	11 6:45a (CR) Prayer Group 4:00pm (Cedar) Small Gro 6:00p Scouts (SH- CR)	12	13 6:00pm (CR) Nurture & Care	14 6:30am Bible Study (Perko's Café)	15	16 UMW @9:30am (CR)	
17 10:00am Worship Service Charge Conference @12pm MMA Thanksgiving @6pm	18 6:45a (CR) Prayer Group 4:00pm (Cedar) Small Group 6:00p Scouts (SH- CR) 6:00p (CR) Finance	19 5:00p (FS) Missions 6:00p (CR) Church Council	20	21 6:30am Bible Study (Perko's Café 9:00am 55+ Food Distribution	22	23	
24 10:00am Worship Service 4th Sunday Lunch	25 6:45a (CR) Prayer Group 4:00pm (Cedar) Small Group 6:00p Scouts (SH- CR)	26	27 10:00am Food Distribution SPRC 5:30 pm (CR)	28 Thanksgiving Day	29	30	



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A vertical poster for a Thanksgiving service. The background is a light cream color with watercolor-style illustrations of autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and red, and clusters of red berries. The text is centered and reads: "MMA THANKSGIVING SERVICE 17TH NOVEMBER 6:00pm". Below this, a paragraph of text invites people to a collaborative service at Valley West Christian Center, mentioning desserts and coffee. At the bottom, there is a small illustration of a pumpkin, the address "101 W. Adell St, Madera 93638", and the "Valley West Christian Center" logo.

**MMA
THANKSGIVING
SERVICE**
17TH NOVEMBER
6:00pm

MMA cordially invites you to our annual collaborative Thanksgiving service on November 17th hosted at Valley West Christian Center. We will provide Desserts and coffee, and you're encouraged to bring additional Thanksgiving desserts to share.

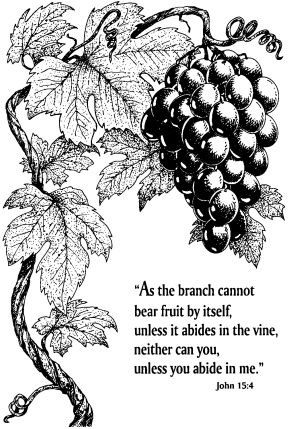
101 W. Adell St, Madera 93638
Valley West
CHRISTIAN CENTER



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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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