



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

Feb 2025

Sunday Morning Schedule:

10:00 am: Worship

Office Hours:

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Tuesday-Friday

Phone: 559-674-8704

Contents

Pastor's Message

Committee
Spotlight

Member Profile

Landscape Plan

Finance Report

Trustees Report

Blessing Bags

Plant A Tree

Birthdays &
Anniversaries

Online Giving

Deadline

Calendar



February 2025
From the Pastor

With St. Valentine's Day just a few weeks away we will be seeing lots of red and white hearts wherever we look. The heart shape symbolizes love – a word that covers a spectrum of affection from trivial to profound. When someone posts a picture or a joke online we can click a heart emoji to say, "I love it." We can "love" our favorite pastimes from stamp collecting to international travel. We can "love" our favorite foods. When someone says they "love" spaghetti, the famous third grade retort is "then why don't you marry it?" That leads us into deeper uses of the word. "Love" can refer to romantic attraction, lifelong commitment, and raising children. One of the most famous of Bible verses tells us that God so loved the world that he sent Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God with all we've got and then to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. His teachings describe love as practical actions, not just intense feelings. The Bible describes love as the fruit of living under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. With God's help we can love beyond our natural human ability.

Our congregation partners with a ministry whose name sums up how we live as Christians – Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC). Everything we do should be an expression of love in Christ's name. Love INC is a ministry of connection. It facilitates connecting churches with the needs of people in the community. It helps churches work together to do more than we can do separately. It connects people in need with God and with loving Christians and generous churches.

We have worked with Love INC for a number of years with our furniture ministry. We provide storage space for donated items and Love INC finds the people who need them and arranges for delivery. Our local Love INC is undergoing a restart with a new director and a refreshed board. I have recently joined the board. There will be a fundraising banquet for Love INC on February 11 where our church will have a table. We will be hearing more about this vital ministry in the months to come.

The Bible says, "We love because God first loved us." We have received love from God in the name of Christ, and in the name of Christ we are sent to share God's love with others. In the coming weeks, I pray that every time you see a heart, you will remember that you are deeply loved by God and also filled with God's love for others.



Pastor Jim

Committee Spotlight – Trustees

Much of the work of the trustees is governed by specific requirements of "The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church." It states, in part, that the trustees will supervise and maintain all property belonging to our congregation so that the ministries of the congregation can be effective. We are to work with the church council to respond to God's call.

The trustees together have several legal and administrative functions. They are to:

- Oversee, maintain, and supervise all local church property
- Report annually to the charge conference on the state of the church's property, equipment, investments, and resources
- Receive and administer all gifts made to the congregation; make certain that all trust funds of the congregation are invested properly
- Ensure that the articles of incorporation of the congregation are kept up to date, if applicable
- Be responsible, in conjunction with the pastor, for all use of the church buildings and grounds
- Maintain adequate insurance coverage on all church property and develop appropriate risk management policies
- Submit to the committee on finance the annual budget requests for insurance, property maintenance and improvement, and new property purchases;
- Be accountable to the charge conference and to the church council.

The 2025 members of the Madera United Methodist Church trustees are:

Bobby Carter, Chair
 Bert Roper, Vice-chair
 Julie Flowers, Secretary
 Fred Mossman
 Crystal Wiggins
 Doug Baron

David Eddy
 Vivian Chicconi
 David Simpson

The committee meets at 5:00 p.m. on the first

Tuesday of each month. All meetings of the trustees are open, and anyone who would like to attend is encouraged to do so. Suggestions, and volunteers, are always welcome. Come to a meeting, or speak to one of our trustees, if you have any ideas or concerns that you would like to address.

Get to Know Your Church Family

Each Sunday, as we greet one another in church and gather afterwards for refreshments, there is not enough time to learn about each other.

Beginning this month, you will learn about someone in our church family, either as an individual or as a couple. We will honor the ones who are living, and some who have passed. Our first profile is **Muriel Lynn**.



You will find Muriel most Sunday mornings in the front pew of the sanctuary, directly facing the pulpit.

Muriel was born in Ft. Bragg, California and raised in the Central Valley. Growing up, she lived in Modesto, Lemoore, Hanford, Selma, and Fresno. Her father was a teacher and a

coach, so her family moved around quite a bit. She spent 26 years in Auburn, California (gold country) before moving to Madera.

Muriel graduated from high school in 1953, and went to college at Fresno State, where she received her bachelor's degree. She returned later for her Master's degree at California State University, Fresno.

She was married twice, and had five children. Unfortunately, her oldest son passed away. She now has 12 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren, and says her family is "scattered."

She was a teacher for most of her working life. She first taught at La Vina Elementary and later went back to school and worked for Heartland, then called Madera Center for Handicapped. She started working in Biola for the Fresno Association for the Mentally Retarded and moved to Kerman. She eventually quit working there and went back to teaching and taught at El Capitan Middle School in Fresno.

Muriel was a science teacher and taught special education for many years. Just before she retired in 1995, she had the opportunity to travel with Pacific College students concert choir to sing in St. Peter's Basilica. They started in Rome, and traveled for three weeks, singing in five different countries.

She retired in Fresno and began traveling. She said, "I started traveling everywhere with friends. We took supplies to Mulege, Baja. I

traveled to China, Hong Kong, Europe several times, and the last trip I took was to New Zealand and Australia.”

Before she was a Methodist, she was a United Presbyterian. She began going to Grace United Methodist Church in Fresno with a friend and sang in the choir there. She also participated in a small camp for special ed kids.

After retirement, Muriel moved to Auburn. There, she attended Sierra Pines UMC. She moved to Madera from Auburn to be close to her two daughters.

Her hobbies are playing tennis and golf, and making stained glass, which she can no longer do because her eyesight is not good now.

During the pandemic, she found Madera United Methodist Church on Facebook. Bert Roper was the pastor then, but the church was closed. When the church re-opened, she attended here, and Jim Garrison was the pastor. She soon transferred her membership. In October 2024, Muriel was a pilgrim for Walk to Emmaus at MUMC. “That was wonderful!” she said. “It’s hard to explain. It was a good experience. There were a few people who did a lot. I got to hear other people’s stories and got hugged a lot.”

Muriel’s grandfather taught her how to play the harmonica when she was six or seven years old. She played the piano, violin, and organ. About eight or nine years ago, she returned to playing the harmonica. The first time she ever performed was at MUMC.

Before, she just played for herself.

Muriel enjoys being a part of this church family. She is in the Tuesday Bible study, Madera Women in Faith, and comes when able to church functions. When asked what makes her glad that she is at Madera United Methodist Church, she just said, “Love.”

Landscape Plan Update

On Sunday, January 23rd, Bert presented two concept plans that the Trustees are looking at to improve the outside appearance of the church and also to be better stewards of our resources: saving water with a drip irrigation system, native plants, eliminating turf, etc.

You will be receiving two communications in the next week or two. One will be a Constant Contact informational email that will show you the two plans, what each plan involves, and the approximate cost of each plan.

The second communication will be a survey probably Survey Monkey or a similar platform. We ask you to please take the time to read and fill out the survey. We are seeking your opinions, your questions and an indication as to whether you are or would be willing to support the landscaping project financially.

Grace and peace, Bert Roper

Finance Committee Update

If you looked at the Finance Reports throughout the year 2024, you may have been

discouraged at the figures as they dipped deeper each month after January. October had the lowest figure, but the generosity of our church family, and the continued commitment to this ministry showed clearly in the financial report at the end of the year. We are so very blessed to have such a generous and loving church family. The year 2024 ended with a net income. We paid 100% of our tithes to the general conference, and we also contributed the second-mile giving, which goes to a fund that helps other churches in need. God always provides.

For the month of December 2024:

Total Income	\$ 31,996.45
Total Expenses	<u>27,572.23</u>
Net Income	\$ 4,424.22

For the year 2024:

Total Income	\$ 294,715.85
Total Expenses	<u>294,123.61</u>
Net Income	\$ 592.24

\$3,000 was transferred into the Building Maintenance Fund at the end of the year.

12/31/24 General Fund Balance	\$125,987.96
12/31/24 Restricted Fund Balance	\$64,455.98
12/31/24 Endowment Fund Balance	\$95,429.14

The 2025 Approved Budget is attached. Thank you for your gifts and your service to the church and please continue to pray for our church.

Nancy Simpson, Finance Chair

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Trustees Report

The LED tubes on the West side of the sanctuary have been replaced. The large, glass doors leading out to the courtyard from the Social Hall have been repaired and are now in good working order. A timer has been installed in the kitchen to replace the switch controlling the stove hood vent.

An outdoor dusk to dawn light has been installed in front of the conference room to light up the parking spaces for the pastor, secretary, and guests.

All the carpeted areas of the church have been professionally cleaned, as well as the pew pads in the sanctuary. We would like to thank the 20 volunteers helped complete this task by moving furniture and large items on Thursday, and then returned on Saturday to replace them. The church secretary's desk was exchanged for a newer, more usable one, that was donated by CAPMC, and our volunteers moved it into place for her.

The refrigerator in the choir room, which is used to store our candles, had a large amount of ice in the freezer that was preventing the door from closing. It has been defrosted and cleaned out; it appears to be operating properly.

As requested in our recent audit, all areas of



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the church have been video recorded in order to account for our furnishings and equipment. These recordings will be transferred to a flash drive and stored in the church safe for use, if needed, for insurance purposes.

We would like to remind everyone to PLEASE check all doors when exiting the church; especially the large, wooden doors leading to the narthex and the door leading out to the courtyard from the kitchen. These doors are often locked but not closed completely, leaving the church buildings vulnerable.

The next regular meeting of Trustees is scheduled for February 4, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Bobby Carter, Chair

Blessing Bags

The Missions Committee is finalizing gathering items for Blessing Bags. The bags will contain hygiene items as well as other articles which to be used and are needed by the Madera homeless. Dianna Combs is coordinating the project and is still accepting donations for the objects that are placed in a drawstring bag.

The first distribution was last July and was very well received. This time a total of 150 bags are being assembled to be distributed with the help of church members, our church youth, a few Boys Scouts and other helpers. The bags not only will have hygiene items but include items for the cold such gloves, socks, lip balm as well as travel size

eating utensils and dog treats. The winter distribution is scheduled for February 8.

If you can contribute, please make checks out to the Church and note Blessing Bag in the memo section of your check.

Penny Pines Is Now Plant-A-Tree

For the past few years, Madera UMW (United Methodist Women, aka United Women of Faith) has been supporting a program called Penny Pines, which is a reforestation and forest education program through the National Garden Clubs, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization.

Penny Pines is now known as Plant-A-Tree, and UMW continues to support this program. There is a donation box located in the Narthex, where you can donate your spare change. The donations are used to purchase and plant seedling trees in the California forests.

The donations are sent to National Garden Clubs and are designated in honor or memory of people from our own church family.

In the Narthex, just next to where the donation box is located, you will see a tree, which is not a Christmas tree. The ornaments on this tree have the names of those we have already honored.

February Birthdays

2/ 4 Marie Combs
2/ 8 Marcella Andrews



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- 2/ 8 Boyd Cox
- 2/11 Maya Garcia
- 2/14 Caroline (Kay) Mayer
- 2/15 Julie Blackstone
Pat Galleano
Gloria Taylor
- 2/17 Katy Milliken
Jim Long
- 2/18 Barbara Pasma
- 2/19 Connor Miller
- 2/21 Danielle Pasma Scalzo
- 2/27 Mark McDaniel
Rick Slaw-Severson
- 2/28 Izabella Wilson
Marlene Lee

February Wedding Anniversaries

- 2/14 Willie & Mary Long
Bert Roper & Sue First
- 2/17 Allen & Mary Ann Crosson

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

Greeters

- 2/ 2 Greg & Rosalie Robinson
- 2/ 9 Susan Miller
- 2/16 Liz Kutschinski
- 2/23 Bobby & Alice Carter

Coffee Hour Host/Hostesses

- 2/ 2 Susan Miller
- 2/ 9 Carol Kennedy
- 2/16 Dianna Combs
- 2/23 4th Sunday Lunch – Mike &
Vivian Chicconi

AV Team Assignments

- 2/ 2 Crystal & Doug
- 2/ 9 Martha & Fred
- 2/16 Sue & Tiffany
- 2/23 Crystal & Doug

A map showing Methodist Churches serving the Central Valley is attached.

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.



February 24, 2025 @ 12:00 noon

Please send Articles for the Grapevine by this date.



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The Grapevine

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
2 10:00 am Worship Service Communion	3 6:45 am Prayer Group (CR) 9:00 am Crafts (CR) 4:00 pm Small Group (Cedar) 7:00 pm Scouts (SH/CR)	4 9:00 am Small Group (CR) 5:00 pm Trustees (CR)	5	6 6:30 am Bible Study (Perko's) 9:00 am Crafts (CR)	7 7:00 am TOPS (CR)	8
9 10:00 am Worship Service	10 6:45 am Prayer Group (CR) 9:00 am Crafts (CR) 4:00 pm (Cedar) Small Group 7:00 pm Scouts (SH-CR)	11 9:00 am Small Group (CR)	12	13 6:30 am Bible Study (Perko's) 9:00 am Crafts (CR)	14 7:00 am TOPS (CR)	15 9:30 am (CR) UMW
16 10:00 am Worship Service	17 6:45 am Prayer Group (CR) 9:00 am Crafts (CR) 4:00 pm Small Group (Cedar) 6:00 pm (CR) Finance 7:00 pm Scouts (SH-CR)	18 9:00 am Small Group (CR) 5:00 pm (FS) Missions 6:00 pm (CR) Church Council	19	20 6:30 am Bible Study (Perko's) 9:00 am 55+ Food Distribution (PL) 9:00 am Crafts (CR)	21 7:00 am TOPS (CR)	22
23 10:00 am Worship Service	24 6:45 am Prayer Group (CR) 9:00 am Crafts (CR) 4:00 pm Small Group (Cedar) 7:00 pm Scouts (SH-CR)	25 9:00 am Small Group (CR)	26 9:00 am Food Distribution (PL) 5:30 pm SPRC (CR)	27 6:30 am Bible Study (Perko's) UMW Rummage Sale Prep	28 7:00 am TOPS (CR) UMW Rummage Sale	

Madera United Methodist Church
Finance Committee
Proposed Budget for the Year 2025

Approved by Church Council January 21, 2025

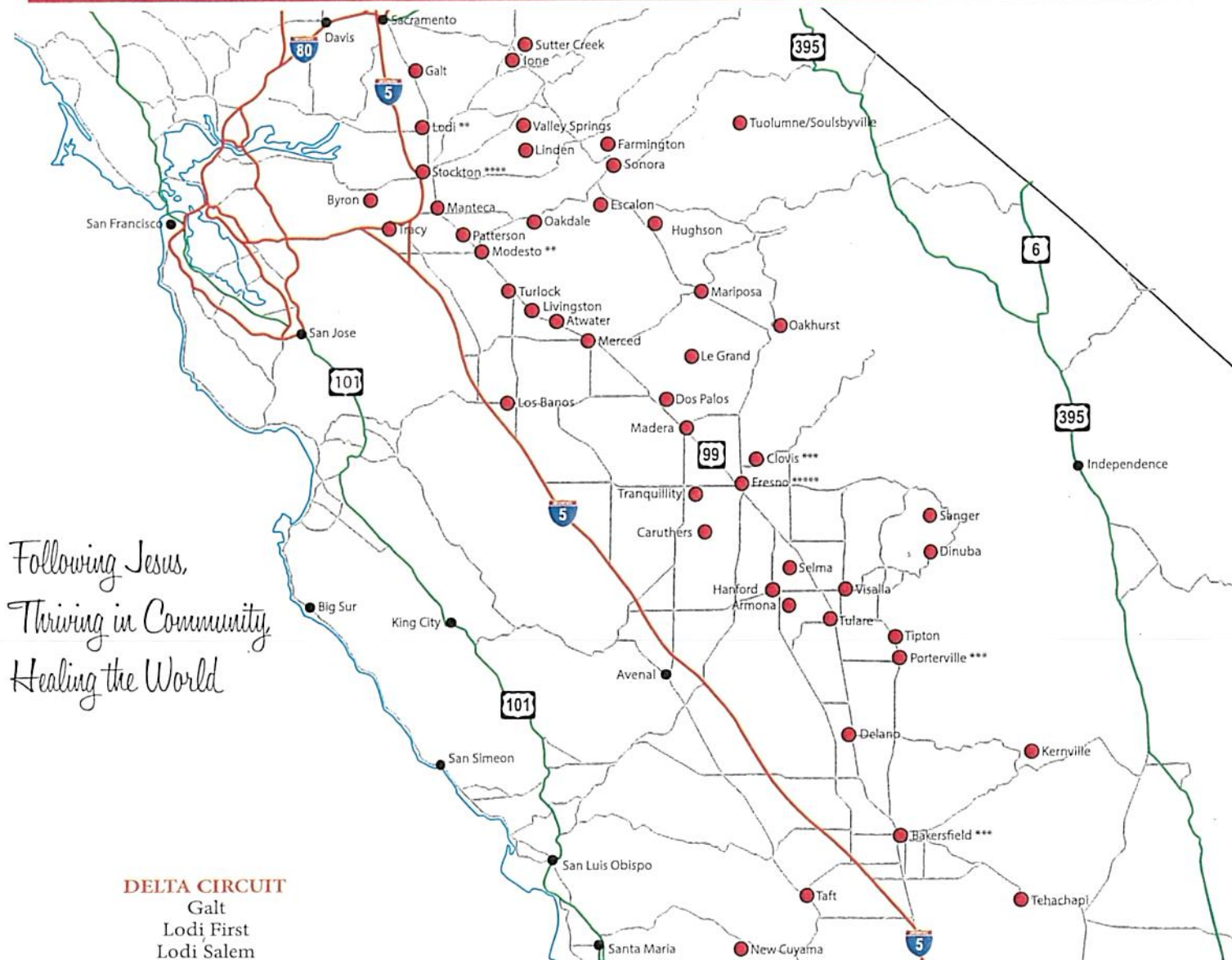
	Budgeted 2024	ACTUAL 2024	Proposed Budget 2025
<u>INCOME</u>			
4100 Sunday Offerings			
4150 General	244,000.00	254,492.97	252,500.00
4180 Plate	9,000.00	5,888.36	9,000.00
Online Giving	3,000.00	1,974.39	3,000.00
Equitable Compensation Grant	16,000.00	9,999.96	10,000.00
Thrivent Payments		1,873.00	2,000.00
4220 Usage	20,000.00	20,487.17	21,100.00
Total 4100 Sunday Offerings	292,000.00	294,715.85	297,600.00
 Transfers to/from Restricted Funds	 (1,000.00)	 (3,000.00)	 (1,000.00)
Total income to be used for general fund expenses	291,000.00	291,715.85	296,600.00
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
6100 Ad Council Board			
6110 Education & Bible Studies	400.00	0.00	200.00
6130 Hospitality	250.00	250.00	250.00
6135 Prayer Group		23.56	100.00
6150 Scouts	200.00	200.00	0.00
6160 Emmaus	400.00	325.00	325.00
6170-1 Worship	1,500.00	1,066.46	2,200.00
6170-2 Licensing	500.00	489.00	500.00
6180 Children/Youth			
Total 6100 Ad Council Board	3,250.00	2,354.02	3,575.00
 6200 Conference Apportionments	 27,600.00	 28,471.59	 28,760.00
Total 6200 Conference Apportionments	27,600.00	28,471.59	28,760.00
 6400 Askings			
6450 Second Mile Giving	2,760.00	2,847.16	2,876.00
Total 6400 Askings	2,760.00	2,847.16	2,876.00
Total Apportionments & Askings	30,360.00	31,318.75	31,636.00
 6500 Operation Expense			
6505 Advertising	500.00	100.00	400.00
6510 Annual Audit	600.00	595.00	600.00
6515 Communications	500.00	249.24	400.00
6520 Grounds	10,000.00	10,220.00	10,000.00
6530 Insurance			
6540 Liability	18,015.84	18,015.84	20,000.00
6560 Workers' Comp	1,300.00	1,585.00	1,700.00
Total 6530 Insurance	19,315.84	19,600.84	21,700.00

Madera United Methodist Church
Finance Committee
Proposed Budget for the Year 2025

Approved by Church Council January 21, 2025

	Budgeted	ACTUAL	Proposed Budget
	2024	2024	2025
6570 Janitorial Supplies	1,550.00	1,276.12	1,447.54
6580 Mileage Reimbursements	100.00		100.00
6590 Office Expense	15,000.00	12,213.36	10,000.00
6605 Professional Services	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
6610 Repairs and Maintenance	7,519.00	13,262.13	8,200.00
6620 Taxes			
6630 Utilities			
6640 City of Madera	12,000.00	10,290.10	11,000.00
6650 PG&E	23,000.00	27,259.90	29,000.00
6660 Telephone	1,400.00	1,356.18	1,400.00
6670 Alarm	800.00	722.00	800.00
Total 6630 Utilities	37,200.00	39,628.18	42,200.00
Total 6500 Operational Expense	95,284.84	100,144.87	98,047.54
6700 Other Salaries & Benefits			
6710 Admin Asst.	15,500.00	13,370.67	14,000.00
6730 Child Care	2,500.00	2,180.72	2,500.00
6740 Guest Minister	600.00	300.00	500.00
6745 Janitor	12,000.00	11,098.44	12,000.00
6750 Lay Exp./Annual Conf.	900.00	1,017.36	1,300.00
6760 Organist	9,500.00	8,396.70	8,250.00
6765 Pianist			
6770 Staff Development	250.00	87.00	100.00
Total 6700 Other Salaries & Benefits	41,250.00	36,450.89	38,650.00
6800 Pastor			
6230 Clergy Pensions & Benefits	12,791.16	12,791.16	12,993.46
6820 Accountable Reimbursements	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
6840 Health Insurance	19,776.00	19,776.00	20,520.00
6850 Housing	20,000.00	19,999.92	20,000.00
6860 Salary	57,288.00	57,288.00	59,178.00
6870 Utilities	6,000.00	6,000.00	7,000.00
Total 6800 Pastor	120,855.16	120,855.08	124,691.46
Total Expense	291,000.00	291,123.61	296,600.00
Misc. Income			
Misc. Expense			
Net Income	0.00	592.24	0.00

The United Methodist Churches Serving the Central Valley



*Following Jesus,
Thriving in Community,
Healing the World*

DELTA CIRCUIT

Galt
Lodi First
Lodi Salem
Stockton Central
Stockton St. Paul's
Stockton Holy Cross
Stockton St. Mark's

GOLD 'N VALLEY

Ione
Sutter Creek: Creekside
Linden
Farmington
Escalon
Oakdale
Sonora
Tuolumne/Soulsbyville
Valley Springs

STAN-JOACHIN

Modesto Centenary
Modesto First
Tracy
Byron
Hughson
Manteca St. Paul's
Patterson
Turlock

MERCED

Madera
Atwater
Dos Palos
Le Grand
Livingston
Los Banos
Merced
Mariposa
Oakhurst
Tranquility

FRESNO CREEKS

Clovis: United Japanese Christian Church
Clovis: Memorial
Clovis: Fresno Korean
Fresno: Grace
Fresno: Grace en Español
Fresno: Wesley
Fresno: St. Mark's
Fresno: St. Paul's

KINGS RIVER VALLEY

Hanford
Armona
Caruthers
Sanger
Selma

VISALIA

Tipton
Visalia
Dinuba Palm
Porterville: First
Porterville: Grand Ave.
Porterville: Vida Nueva
Tulare

KERN

Bakersfield: Wesley
Bakersfield: First
Bakersfield: St. Mark's
Kernville: Kern River
New Cuyama
Taft
Tehachapi Valley
Delano



"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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