



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

April 2025

Sunday Morning Schedule:

10:00 am: Worship

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 559-674-8704

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April 2025

From the Pastor

We admire people who have lots of resilience and determination. We call people “heroic” when they press on against the odds. We call them “brave” when they refuse to give up. But is “giving up” always a bad thing? During the season of Lent many people “give up” something as a means of spiritual growth. Lent is always a good season to give up bad habits; but this meaning of “giving up” is more about stopping or abstaining from something. When we urge someone not to “give up,” we usually mean, “don’t surrender,” or “don’t stop trying.” But a key aspect of being a Christian is surrender, “giving up” control of ourselves and putting God in control. Even Jesus, on the cross, “gave up” or “surrendered” his spirit – letting go of his physical life to save us from spiritual death. Accepting Christ as our Lord means “giving up” the driver’s seat to Jesus and letting him guide us.

Another sense of “giving up” is to quit trying. We value effort and persistence. But is there also a time to quit trying? God asks us to always give our best effort to follow Christ, but sometimes our biggest spiritual breakthroughs come when we give up. We need to give up trying to earn God’s love and approval. We need to give up trying to earn our salvation. We need to give up our pride that imagines we can handle life on our own. We need to give up trying to perfect ourselves, and fix others, and make everything work out all right. Until we give up trying to do it ourselves, we aren’t ready to depend on God.

So, give up trying to do it yourself and never give up trusting in God. Surrender to God, but don't surrender to temptation. Give up your bad habits but never give up on praying. Always be thankful that God has not given up on you or on me.

Yours in Jesus,
Pastor Jim

Committee Spotlight – UMW

United Women in Faith is a Methodist affiliated organization that has been of service to the church at large for 156 years. The group is the women of the church that organize and fundraise to keep the light of the world in service. The purpose at Madera UMC is to help women and children in the area, through organizations that focus on them. They also look globally at service groups that help women and children with food and safety insecurity unable to care for themselves.

The Madera United Methodist Women (UMW) group has been of service to the church and community since the establishment of the church on "B" Street. They have had circles which are small groups of women meeting together in fellowship to help grow spiritually and communally and have had many a fun fundraising opportunity including Mother's Day Tea fashion shows, rummage sales, and gift sales. The group continues to fundraise in these ways so that we can help local organizations like Olive House, Special Olympics and Doors of Hope.

Currently the focus is on the Spring Fling that will be on May 10, 2025. Erica Gonzalez is organizing the vendors and outdoor spaces. Others hope to have the inside of the church for a drawing to help another organization to be determined, and the Friends of the Madera Library will be in the Fireside Room. Madera UMW will be having a bake sale and all are encouraged to bring your yummiest desserts, jellies, or cookies. UMW meetings are the 3rd Saturday of each month. The group hopes to see you April 19th at 9:30 am in the Conference room. All women of any age are welcome!

Know Your Church Family



Doug Carpenter slips into a back pew in church on Sundays, but his kind heart and loving spirit is known by many within the church family.

Doug was born in Redwood City, California, and raised in Los Altos and Sunnyvale in the Bay Area. He has two sisters, both still living. Peggy lives in Sunnyvale, and Lisa lives in Los Angeles.

They were raised by parents who attended church. "I went to the Raynor Park Christian Church in Sunnyvale, where I was chairman of the property and grounds until I took this job here," he said. He remembers seeing the land cleared when the church was built. "I was the

youngest charter member of Raynor Park Christian Church,” he said.

In 1994, Doug moved to Madera with his wife and eight-year-old son, Kyle. A year after, his second son, Ryan, was born.

In Sunnyvale, he had been a building inspector for 16 years. Just like his name implies, he was a carpenter. He became a foreman and then a superintendent, working his way up until he became an inspector.

“I came here (Madera) as an inspector,” he said. “I worked here for four years, and I went back to the Bay Area for five years because the opportunities were good, and I knew everybody in Los Altos and Sunnyvale.” After five years, he came back to the Central Valley. The City of Fresno needed inspectors. “They were having 750 inspection requests per day. Work was plentiful,” he said. “Work was going nuts. Everybody was building...everywhere.” So, he worked in Fresno for a couple of years, and in Salinas for seven years. “Then I got injured,” he said. At that time, he retired.

When he first came to Madera, his family attended several churches. For a while, they attended Harvest Church. “It was a big, with a lot of families,” he said. He liked that. “There at Harvest, they wanted the kids to go in the other room, and I wanted my boys with me because I wanted them with me every chance I could get. I had to sit in church when I was young. I had to be quiet and listen.”

Later, he decided to visit other churches. “I

came to this church because my neighbors are Mary and Willie Long. I knew they would go here. I visited here, and I visited a couple of other churches. But I like this one because it kind of reminds me of the church in Sunnyvale.”

Although Doug and his wife divorced, he remains connected with his sons. Kyle is in Oregon, married with one son, Remy. Doug has Remy’s picture in his phone, and proudly shows the picture of his three-year-old grandson.

Ryan lives in Washington state, just north of Seattle. On April 12, Ryan and Monica will be married, and Doug will be there. He is excited for them, and looking forward to seeing both of his sons and his grandson, who he has seen only one time.

Doug loves being a part of the church family at Madera United Methodist Church. “I’m glad to be here,” he said. “You guys have opened your arms, and it’s just been wonderful.” He wants to see our church grow, and to see more people attend church. “Not many people are going to church anymore, and it’s kind of disheartening not to see young people. I love hearing children’s voices when they sing. There’s just nothing, nothing more pure. It just resonates. It’s like those bells,” he said.

Lent and Easter Schedule

Madera UMC will host the April 13 Palm Sunday Community Worship Service in cooperation with the Madera Ministerial

Association and provide refreshments. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table in the sanctuary or let Ginnie know if you are able to provide a dessert for that evening.

There will be a Maundy Thursday Service on April 17 at 6:00 pm, and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church will coordinate the April 18 Good Friday Chant Service beginning at noon.

April 20 Easter morning will begin with a 6:00 am Sunrise Service on the front lawn with coffee, juice and Danish afterwards, and then we'll have the regular service at 10:00 am. Please bring Easter lilies anytime during Holy Week as they will be on display for the Sunday service, and all are encouraged to bring silk flowers for the cross anytime during office hours that week.

Landscape Plan – Part Three

The third part of the four-part plan for the Landscape Project that the Board of Trustees has for the front of the church is a Survey Monkey questionnaire to gather information from the congregation about the likes, dislikes and ideas for the project. ***Everyone is encouraged to respond!*** The survey will determine which of the two plans garners the most congregational support, if one or both plans need to be modified or if the Trustees proceed with the project at all.

As a reminder, Part One was the presentation that Bert gave to those who were present at the 4th Sunday Lunch on January 26th. Then Part Two was a letter sent via Constant

Contact and the March Grapevine. The letter contained pictures of the two concept landscape plans as well as information about how they are similar and different. It also explained where some of the money for the project comes from.

The Survey Monkey survey was sent on Saturday March 29 and if you haven't already, please take the time to fill it out. The Trustees feel that since we are asking you to support this project financially, we would like to hear from you.

If you have any questions or thoughts, please feel free to call either Bert Roper (559) 223-1613) or Bobby Carter (559) 760-9951.

Spring Fling

The 4th Annual Spring Fling will be May 10th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on the front lawn. There will be numerous craft and food vendors outside while inside, UMW will be selling delectable pies, cakes, jellies, cookies and other items.

In the Social Hall, there will be various home and décor items available for a drawing. Tickets are purchased then placed in bags for the desired item. A drawing for the item will then be held toward the end of the festivities. Proceeds from the drawing will benefit Madera Special Olympics.

If you know anyone who might be interested in a vendor booth, contact Miss Erica at 559-871-4540 or the Church office at 559-674-

8704 for applications. Plan to attend and take advantage of this great outreach opportunity.

Women's Retreat

Rev Ella Luna-Garza will inspire all on May 17, 2025, with her presentation entitled "Love Letters" based on 2 Corinthians 3:3. This interactive session will be held in the Fireside Room from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm with lunch provided. The event is sponsored by the Missions Committee.

As pastor of the Merced UMC, Rev Luna-Garza specializes in making connections and relationship building. She says, "...our job as disciples of Christ is to help the world see the church and the church see the world and somehow bring those two things together so that we are indeed making a difference in community."

All are welcome to attend but you are asked to please call the Church office 559-674-8704 with your reservation so we'll know how many we'll have for lunch.

Finance Committee Update

Praise to our blessed Lord, for all He has done, and continues to do for us. We are His people, His church, and we are so blessed to be a part of this loving and caring congregation.

As the Apostle Paul said to the Corinthians, ***"I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and***

that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought." (1 Corinthians 1:10)

Our church family has a united spirit. The outpouring of love and concern for each other and for our community, the devotion to active prayer life in the church, and the adoration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, are the reasons we chose the phrase, "Celebrating Christ by Serving All."

Thank you for your support to this church through your donations. Because donations are our only source of income to operate the church and provide ministry and outreach to the community, the church depends on your generosity.

For the month of February 2025:

Total Income	\$ 21,516.12
Total Expenses	<u>21,830.21</u>
Net Income (loss)	\$ (314.09)

For the year 2025:

Total Income	\$58,557.97
Total Expenses	<u>46,532.04</u>
Net Income	\$12,025.93

2/28/25 General Fund Balance	\$121,684.89
2/28/25 Restricted Funds Balance	\$ 63,874.26
2/28/25 Endowment Fund Balance	\$ 95,429.14

Tithing is our biblical guide for giving, and our church is faithful in paying 10% of our income each month to the conference. The conference uses our tithes to provide global outreach in many various areas.

Thank you for your prayers, your presence,
your gifts, your service and your witness.
Please continue to pray our church.

Nancy Simpson, Finance Chair

Trustees Report

During the last big rain, the storm drain on Sunset was compromised, and some major flooding occurred. The East driveway of the church was damaged by water rising to the street, thereby causing erosion. The Madera Irrigation Department (MID) closed the driveway for safety, since a sink hole is a possibility. MID is in the process of planning for the repair/replacement of the driveway.

The ceilings in the conference room and office have been painted. Cord covers were installed in the office, and finance office (covering the internet cables on the walls).

A contractor has verified that the door frames leading to the restroom in the Fireside Room can be widened to 36 inches, and Trustees is in the process of obtaining quotations for the work to be performed.

Fred Mossman replaced the two front tires on the lawnmower (tractor), tuned up the engine, and replaced the battery. David Simpson and Bobby Carter will clean it up and plan to list it for sale.

We would like to welcome Mike Chicconi to the Trustees committee. He will be replacing Vivian Chicconi who has agreed to serve on

the SPRC committee. Trustees would like to thank Vivian for her service to this committee and her continued willingness to serve this church.

Please check out the Survey Monkey on Constant Contact to voice your opinion(s) regarding the landscape plan.

The next regular meeting of Trustees is scheduled for April 1, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to join us for April Fool's Day!

Bobby Carter, Chair

Upcoming Community Events

24th Annual Men of Integrity 2025 Retreat is April 25 through the 27 at Sugar Pine Christian Camp. For more information or to register, call Paul Dodson 559-706-6896.

Madera Prayer Breakfast will be May 1, 2025, at 6:50 am in Hatfield Hall at the Madera Fairgrounds. Keynote Speaker: Dr Andre Stephens. Youth are invited to design placemats to be used at the Breakfast. See Miss Erica if you know a young person who would like to contribute a placement.

Troop 116 Eagle Scouts

The Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and requires a Scout to demonstrate leadership, service, and outdoor skills, including

completing an Eagle Scout Service Project and earning a minimum of 21 merit badges.

Seventy-seven members of the Madera UMC Boy Scout Troup 116 have earned the rank of Eagle Scout. A plaque with their names commemorating this achievement is in the narthex and has been updated to include those who attained this distinct honor within the last 10 years. Those recently included are:

2014: Timothy Allen Lindblom,
 Conner Magnuson, Eric Niino, Jr,
 Joshua Thornton
 2015: Branden Ging
 2016: Thomas Nishimoto
 2019: Matt Godinez. Brenden Lindblom,
 Vincent Mosqueda
 2021: Elijah Ceballos
 2023: Diego Mosqueda
 2024: Michael Armenderez



April Birthdays

4/ 4 Doris McCarty
 4/13 Mary Long
 4/14 Nancy Sherrod
 4/15 Shinya Goto
 Mike Chicconi
 Gloria Hoffrage
 4/16 Tammie Boehm
 4/18 Rita Wilson
 4/21 Jim Unti
 Doss Maxfield
 4/26 Carl Janzen
 Alice Carter
 Scott Marsh
 4/28 Paul Brack
 4/30 Janice Lowder
 Renee Thornton

April Wedding Anniversaries

4/ 3 Phil & Rebecca Janzen
 4/17 Dennis & Deborah Janzen
 4/27 Richard & Susan Wilson
 4/28 Gerrit & Cynthia Hurenkamp

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

Greeters

4/ 6 Paul & Dianna Brack
 4/13 Bobby & Alice Carter
 4/20 Bonnie Mazzoni & Muriel Lynn
 4/27 Ginnie Sterling & Nola



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Coffee Hour Host/Hostesses

- 4/ 6 Geri Brown
- 4/13 Palm Sunday Committee
- 4/20 Ginnie Sterling & Nola
- 4/27 4th Sunday Lunch – Gordon
& Carol Kennedy

AV Team Assignments

- 4/ 6 Crystal & Doug
- 4/13 Martha & Fred
- 4/18 Good Friday - Crystal & Doug
- 4/20 Sue & Tiffany
- 4/27 Martha & Fred

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.



April 25, 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 5:00 pm Trustees (CR)	2 SPRC 5:30 pm (FR) 5:30 pm Campfire (CR)	3	4 7:00 am TOPS (CR)	5
6 10:00 am Worship Service Communion	7 6:45 am Prayer Group (CR) 9:00 am Crafts (CR) 4:00 pm Small Group (Cedar) 7:00 pm Scouts (SH/CR)	8 9:00 am Small Group (CR)	9 5:30 pm Nurture & Care (CR)	10 6:30 am Bible Study (Perko's) 9:00 am Crafts (CR)	11 7:00 am TOPS (CR)	12
13 Palm Sunday 10:00 am Worship Service Community Palm Sunday Service 6:00 pm	14 6:45 am Prayer Group (CR) 9:00 am Crafts (CR) 4:00 pm (Cedar) Small Group 6:00 pm Finance (CR) 7:00 pm Scouts (SH- CR)	15 9:00 am Small Group (CR) 5:00 pm Missions (FR) 6:00 pm Church Council (CR)	16 5:30 pm Campfire (CR)	17 6:30 am Bible Study (Perko's) 9:00 am Crafts (CR)	18 Good Friday 7:00 am TOPS (CR) 12:00 pm Good Friday Service w/ Holy Trinity Episcopal Church	19 9:30 am (CR) UMW
20 Easter 6:00 am Sunrise Service (FL) 10:00 am Worship Service	21 6:45 am Prayer Group (CR) 9:00 am Crafts (CR) 4:00 pm Small Group (Cedar) 7:00 pm Scouts (SH- CR)	22 9:00 am Small Group (CR) 5:00 pm Missions (FR) 6:00 pm Church Council (CR)	23	24 6:30 am Bible Study (Perko's) 9:00am 55+ Food Distribution (PL) 9:00 am Crafts (CR)	25 7:00 am TOPS (CR)	26
27 10:00 am Worship Service 4 th Sunday Lunch	28 6:45 am Prayer Group (CR) 9:00 am Crafts (CR) 4:00 pm Small Group (Cedar) 7:00 pm Scouts (SH- CR)	29 9:00 am Small Group (CR)	30 9:00 am Food Distribution (PL)			