

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

The Messenger

San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church

February 2012



Shrove Tuesday



Pancake Dinner & Silent Auction

Methodist Activity Center, February 21st at 6:00 p.m.



All are invited to feast on freshly made pancakes and other "breakfast-for-dinner" fixin's as we celebrate "Fat Tuesday" and support our Wesley College Age Fellowship planning a mission trip to San Francisco in March.

Come in your pj's! And your tennis shoes! (Pancake races -- a popular tradition in the UK - are being planned....)



Also, a silent auction will be held. Come and bid on items such as voice lessons, dance sessions, painting and guitar lessons, and a business or personal logo designed especially for you!

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 22, 7:00 p.m.

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

1701 Fredericks Street

(down the street from SLOUMC)



Thoughts From Pastor Jane

“Christ was faithful over God’s house as a son, and we are his house.... Heb. 2:6

We have often talked about how our facility is a necessary tool of ministry, for it provides the structure needed for Christ’s Spirit to effectively flow in and around the people abiding in it, growing and transforming everyone in God’s love.

In the same way, our congregation has a necessary “people structure” that makes possible the same effective Spirit flow and, hence, growth and transformation.

You may or may not know what SLOUMC’s congregational structure looks like and who are presently serving as its “beams.” So here is a little run down for your reference.

We have administrative teams that oversee our finances, staff, building, and congregational leadership. They are:

FINANCE TEAM. This team regularly monitors our church budget and, if needed, makes recommendations on spending alterations and how best to utilize the “manna” with which we have been provided. On this team are representatives of other administrative teams – Staff Parish Relations and Board of Trustees, plus our Church Council Chair, Treasurer, Finance Secretary and several “At-Large” members. Currently the Chair of our Finance Team is **Kent Butler**.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES. This team oversees the care and development of our facilities. This includes our new facility, the Wesley Building, and, in conjunction with the staff of the UMCC, the Children’s Center. Our Trustees oversee the care of our grounds, our computers, the parsonage and our property insurance, among other things. There are nine persons who serve on the Board, and each serves for a 3-year term. The Chair of our Board of Trustees will be determined at its next meeting in early February; the name will be announced to you in our March *Messenger*.

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS TEAM. This team oversees our staff and the staff-congregation relationship. It makes sure our staff is honored and cared for and congregation concerns regarding staff are effectively and lovingly addressed. We have many staff under the care of SPRC: our Children and Youth Ministry Coordinators, our Organist, our Administrative Assistant, our Events Coordinator, our Sextants and your Pastor. As with the Trustees, there are nine persons on this team, each serving a 3-year term. The Chair of our Staff Parish Relations Team this year is **Mark LaFaille**.

NOMINATING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAM. This team together discerns and invites members of our congregation to serve as the various “beams” for our structure. It invites participation on the administrative teams listed above as well as mission teams described below. In addition, this team provides leadership support and training for those serving our church and also out in the community. This team is headed by the Pastor and is comprised of nine persons who are commonly nominated and voted on by the congregation at our All-Church Conference. Persons serving on this team also do so for a three-year term.

In addition to our Administrative Teams, we have several official “Ministry Teams” that nurture the program life of the congregation. Included are...

Thoughts from Pastor Jane (cont.)

WORSHIP TEAM(S). Beginning this year, two teams overseeing the planning and implementation of our worship services. There is an “8:50 Service Team” headed by **Scott Thorshov** and **Rich Van Houten** and an “11:00 Service Team” headed by **Carrie Pardo**. Both teams are comprised of members of their respective worshipping communities and there is no set time limit for service.

FELLOWSHIP TEAM: A large and varied group of individuals help make the large and varied group of fellowship opportunities happen at our church. There is no official head of this team at the present time, and we are grateful for all who take on leadership for a particular event and make it wonderful!

SPIRITUAL GROWTH TEAM: This is a constellation of a various teams who oversee the education and spiritual growth of particular constituencies in our congregation. Presently, we have a Children’s Ministry Team, headed by **Melanie Statom**; a Jr. High Youth Ministry Team, headed by **Claire Grether**; and an Adult Ministry Team, headed by **Pam Clark**.

SERVICE TEAM: This, too, is a constellation of a variety of teams focused on mission activities of all sorts, including Global Missions, headed by **Lois Butler** and **Susan Brown**; COSROW (Commission on the Status and Role of Women), headed by **Helen Slusher** and **Peggy Sharpe**; **Betty Sorrentino**, our Parish Nurse; People’s Kitchen homeless ministry, headed by **Mary Whiteford**; Homeless Shelter and Overflow ministry, headed by **John Burdett**. There are other mission teams as a part of this constellation, too! Overseeing it all is **Jere Roseboro**.

In addition in addition, there are *United Methodist Women*, *Wesley Foundation College-Age Ministry*, and *Welcoming and Membership* teams, serving various communities within our congregation, and committees such as “*Scholarships*” and “*Memorials*” that oversee special funds received by and released to the congregation and community.

Last but certainly not least, there is the overarching body of oversight and administration of our church and her structure: the CHURCH COUNCIL. Representatives of all official areas of church life are part of this group, and they comprise the body that votes on major policy decisions of the church as well as its annual budget and any mid-year changes thereof. **Pam Clark** has served as our Church Council Chair for the past three years and is continuing for the coming year, at least temporarily. The Committee on Nominating and Leadership Development has not yet completed its work in this area.

You are always welcome to attend meetings of any of these teams, groups and committees, with the exception of the SPRC, which always meets in confidence. If you would like to contact any of the leaders mentioned above, their info is listed in the Church Directory, or contact the Church Office. Meetings are listed on “Calendar” page of the SLOUMC web site, and, weekly, in our Sunday worship bulletin.

What a great people structure we have at SLOUMC! (Just like our great “structure structure”, yes?!) Please keep all of our “beams” in your prayers as they create a safe and strong place for God’s hope, community and compassion to grow and flow in and through us *ALL!!*

God's Winning Team — That's You

*You are awesome!
Do you hear it? Believe it? Know it?
Then own it!
Glow with it!
Smile!
Kick up those heels up and celebrate!*

You are part of an amazing, winning team - the People of God at SLO UMC - who know God's goodness, and share it often. Your giving is shaped by many possibilities and opportunities, such as:

Planned giving – when you think and pray ahead of time about what you will give, based on a percentage of your income, or a formula that makes sense, or has meaning for you.

Annual giving – when you fill out a pledge card and commit to a weekly, monthly, or annual amount for a year.

Worship giving – when you come to church for a special worship, like at Christmas or Thanksgiving, or Easter, and you give out of the joy that's in your heart at these special times of the year.

Spontaneous giving – when you connect personally with someone's story; you didn't know ahead of time you were going to reach into your wallet, but it feels really good. There are all sorts of motivations too!

Compassion – you see yourself in someone else's need.

Community – the connections you have with your neighborhood and church group are important, and you want to be part of making that grow.

Challenge – you enjoy achievement and improving on previous accomplishments.

Reasonability – what makes good sense and is doable.

Commitment – you believe it's important to say what you will do, and then honor that promise.

There is no bad way to give. Instead there are many styles and manners of giving, which have meaning for each individual, depending on what motivates you at a given time or place. Did you know that as of January 8 this year, 89 pledges, totaling \$219,466 were prayerfully offered up to God? Wow! That is to be celebrated! **Planned** and **annual** pledges assist our church in planning this new year of mission and ministry.

Last year you had many opportunities to share with special offerings. Some highlights of your **worship** and **spontaneous** giving were:

Give Ye Them To Eat (Mexico): \$1,112

Disasters: over \$3,000 for disaster response in Japan, Haiti, and our own country

Missionary salary support: \$3,795

Youth Ministries: \$1,450

Your giving is as individual as your journey with God. You may focus on just one way of giving, or many. God does not prompt us out of shame or guilt, only joy in serving.

Thank you for being an awesome part of this winning people of God. Thank you for your giving.

In Celebration,

Lauren Brown, Diane St. John, Susan Richardson (Stewardship Co-Chairs)

Children of Abraham Interfaith Prayer and Meditation

Jewish – Christian – Muslim

The Third Monday of the month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the SLOUMC Bell Tower Room

Brief readings from each of the faith traditions descended from Abraham will be followed by periods of silence with the intention of breathing God's spirit of peace and cooperation into this confused and hurting world. For additional information please call the church office at 543-7580. We hope that you will join us for this simple shared expression of God's love.

COMING SOON! BEACON ART SHOW 2012

Tuesday, February 7th at 5:00 pm is the deadline for artist applications to the fifth SLOUMC Beacon Art Show. Selection will be made by jurors Nixson Borah, North County Artist and Professor Emeritus, Fullerton College, Dr. Ruth Saliklis, Exhibition and Development Director, San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, and Pastor Jane Voigts. BAS 2012 is open to all artists in and beyond our congregation. Information: www.sloumc.com

Many special events are planned in conjunction with the Beacon Art Show. Following the opening on Friday evening, March 2nd during Art After Dark, the exhibit is open Thursdays through Sundays, March 3 – April 8, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm (docents needed!). Also coming soon! March 17 “Loving the Dragon” Poetry Workshop, March 24 “Look, Listen, Sketch” Family Day, and Monday evenings March 12 – April 2 “When Religion Meets Art & Artists” Film Series – all opportunities for our congregation to support as greeters, servers, installers, and promoters. Watch for more information and be sure to volunteer.

Youth Ministries

Thank all of you that participated in the California Pizza Kitchen youth group fundraiser! We were able to raise over \$200 that is going straight towards our junior high kids. So thank all of you so much for your support.

This month we will be participating in Souper Bowl Sunday where our youth will be accepting donations that will be taken to the charity of their choosing to help fight hunger in our community and our world. We will also be participating in several other youth group activities that are to-be-determined (or at the time of me writing this they are), so keep an eye on your email for updates. If you are not on my email list, please let me know and I will definitely add you! Call the church office for more information.

United Methodist Children's Center

The United Methodist Children's Center is preparing for its famous rummage sale coming on Friday, Feb. 3rd (4:00 to 6:00 p.m. with a \$5 donation), Sat., Feb. 4th (8:00 to 2:00), and Sunday, Feb. 5, (9:00 to 1:00). We always appreciate your donations and your purchases. Our rummage sale sends our teachers to the CAEYC conference. (The California Association for the Education of Young Children, our professional organization.) This year the conference is March 16th and 17th in San Diego. Ten UMCC teachers are planning to go by Amtrak because of the long drive. .

The teaching staff has been going through the procedure necessary to be re-accredited by the NAEYC, the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Each classroom is creating a portfolio showing evidence of over 150 criteria that relate to Curriculum, Community Relations, Physical Environment, Teaching, Teachers, and Relationships with families, children, and co-workers. The administration does the same with different criteria that includes Health, Families and Leadership and Administration. The process is arduous, but the journey and the results are worth the effort.

Registration for UMCC begins in March. Because we have a long waiting list, if you know of any Methodists that would like to come to our program, please have them call us because they do go to the top of the list.

This January, the classes are talking about Fairy Tales, Community Workers, and Space. If you would like to read to the classes, “Read Across America” is coming up on March 1st. and 2nd. In any event, please know that you can come visit us anytime! Martha and Claire

Children's Ministries

Awakening to the "Thin Places"

[Becky Eldredge writes,](#) " William Barry, SJ, in his book, [A Friendship Like No Other](#), invites us to be aware of our "thin places," those moments where we easily find God. Barry's challenge to name for ourselves our "thin places" was a challenge I took to heart, and I have come to two conclusions.



First, there are "thin places" that occur in my life that are unique, special places that I do not get to visit very often, but when I do the felt presence of God is almost overwhelming. Many of mine are places in nature, such as the beach, my grandparents' farm, and being in the North Georgia Mountains, and they invite me to understand the vastness and creative power of our creator. As I stand and soak in the beauty of nature these places offer, I also find that I understand that my mere presence in life is but one piece of God's magnificent, ongoing creative work.

Second, as Barry's question of "thin places" remained on my heart, I found myself pondering it often during my [Examen](#). Over time, I began to realize that there are some very basic rhythms and routines of my life that allowed me to readily and easily find God: snuggling my daughter, Abby, while sipping my morning coffee; sitting down to lunch with my kids after preschool to hear about their day; reading to my kids and our night time ritual of prayer; and savoring the few quieter moments with my hubby after the last door of my kids' room was closed. I was surprised to find that the rhythms of my life are spotted with moments that easily allow me to find God. Without realizing it, these moments are checkpoints to see how the ones I love are doing and even more importantly "still points" that allow me to savor the gifts in my life and to deepen my awareness of God in all things."

In preparation for the penitential season of Lent may your families be blessed with by a deep awareness and understanding of all the "thin places" where God's felt presence has been and is being made known to you. Jesus shows us that the starting point of all fruitful self-examination comes from a place of love. We need not fear any darkness that may be in need of healing and change when we know ourselves to be beloved sons and daughters.

Children's Ministries News:

Sunday 2/5/12: During the coffee hour between worship services, Nathan and Sonja Bair, encouraged by their December Bible/Book study, invite interested families in for a discussion about continuing this quarter with a new study. This gathering meeting will be followed by our SLOUMC Children's Ministries Advisory Board winter meeting. All are welcomed to participate.

Location: Sunday School Room 3. (Child care will be provided.)
Contact the church office for more information.

Next Children's Third Sunday of the Month Musical offering: 8:50 Family Worship Service, 2/19/12
(Please let Melanie know if your child would like to share any special musical gift!)

Soon to come !: Details regarding a special Beacon Art Show Workshop for families and children and another family- oriented Spring Contra-Dance set for April!

Widow to Widow Fellowship

Saturday, February 11th, we will meet at church at 10:00a.m. and travel to Pismo Beach to see the Monarch Butterflies and then will stop at Marie Calendar's for lunch. Please bring \$3.00 to help cover gasoline costs.

March 10th (Saturday), we will meet at 10:00a.m. at church to drive up the coast to see the Elephant Seals and will stop for lunch in Cambria at the Main Street Grill. Please bring a warm jacket and \$5.00 for gasoline.

Saturday, April 14th, meet at church at 10:00a.m. for a ride out in the country to see wild flowers and have a picnic. Details will follow later.

Questions: call the church office.

Two Special Events this Month for Congregation & Community

“The Sweet Potatoes” in Concert Sunday, February 19 4:00 pm

All are invited to a fun and family-friendly time of original faith songs and storytelling brought to you by *The Sweet Potatoes*, a wonderful county/folk ensemble from Los Angeles. Laura Hall, one of the “Potatoes,” was the keyboardist for *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*, so you know it’s going to be a fun and fabulous afternoon! Admission is free. Brought to you by “Week Beginnings.”

“It Must Be Grief” Exploration Friday-Sunday, February 24-26

Grief is part of the human experience. Everyone has suffered the loss of a loved one or friend, has had health problems, has experienced relationship problems and many other stressors that can cause grief. If you have ever wondered why it hurts so much when we grieve, why people experience grief differently and why some people seem to “snap out of it” while others struggle with grief for a long time, you are invited to explore the issue of grief in its many forms here at SLOUMC. Friday, February 24th from 6:30-9:00PM in the Terrace Room, friends and members of SLOUMC will share their unique perspective and experience with grief with the hope that it may promote more understanding and compassion. There will be time for questions and time for others to talk about their experience with grief. Saturday, February 25th from 6:30-9:00PM in the Sanctuary we will offer a screening of the critically-acclaimed movie *Wit*. Featuring Emma Thompson, *Wit* is the story of a woman who discovers she has terminal cancer and discovers much about suffering, meaning and hope. There will also be time for discussion following *Wit*. Please consider attending one or both nights and learn the healing power of “weeping with those who weep.” Sunday morning at both services Hospice Partners Chaplain Kenneth Shadle will offer a message of Grief and Hope. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Jane.

Wesley Fellowship

Wesley had a nice Christmas break and are now back into full swing of things. We just had a great bonding time in Mammoth Lake, when one of the student's family owned a house there so we were able to go and hang out with each other for some bonding.

The group also will be watching the film *Wesley*, to learn more about what the Methodists believe. We will be doing this with Pastor Jane in hopes that students can learn the generosity and goals of the church at large.

This month Wesley will be hosting a pancake dinner on Feb 21st to raise money for our San Francisco mission trip. Please help spread the word to friends and family and attend yourself. Also, we will be having a silent auction so if you have any items, skills, talents to donate please contact Molly Stuckey asap mollywilliamsstuckey@gmail.com

Students have expressed a desire to get to know the church more and have asked if they could go to people's homes. So I am looking for someone to host Wesley on a Sunday evening at your home. Let us know if you are interested or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer leader and attending Wesley group and investing in the students lives.

Lastly on Feb 12th we will be screening the documentary *Not For Sale*, about modern day slavery. Then we will all be fasting at some point before the 26th and donating the money we would have spent on food to the cause. Then on Feb 26th there will be the Freedom Sunday, where we pray and hope for change. We would love any of you to join us in prayer and participation.

**Readers to UMCC (preschool) wanted for
READ ACROSS AMERICA**

on the mornings of March 1 and 2. Contact Jill Sabol, Martha Chivens, or Claire Grether

A Letter From Our Missionary

This letter is from our missionary, Helen Sheperd, in Mongolia. She works primarily with a Hospice program there. Our missionaries maintain regular contact with their supporting churches and Global Ministries committee would like to share this letter with our congregation.

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May you know the joy of the celebration of his birth more this year than ever before. In this world of conflict, may you be reassured of God's unconditional love for you. May hope, peace, joy, and love fill your hearts and lives this Advent season and in the coming year.

Grace Hospice::

Having student nurses with us at Grace Hospice daily, without a break, for two months, we now have some time to focus on other things in our hospice team, and be even more intent about improving our individual care of patients and their families. The students opened my eyes a couple of times to some really key issues of individual patients, which resulted in making a huge difference in their care. After this practice period was concluded I met the Mongolian teacher who is teaching the hospice classes at the nursing college. In addition to talking about the specifics of grading and the like, we talked of frustrations, and even had a few laughs together. Dr. D., a pediatric physician by training and is a fine person, compassionate and truly interested in the students. What a privilege it is to be part of the —hospice team□ of teachers offering educational experiences for the students.

With no students to teach each day, there is now time to get acquainted with new hospice home care patients by personally visiting in their homes. Today in the bitter cold my translator, our new mission intern, and I ventured out to meet a thirteen old girl with bone cancer. My translator and I are not adept at finding addresses (that is an understatement of the truth), but today we found our way to this young girl's home. I really wanted to see how things were with her and her parents. It was a powerful experience, one which certainly touched my heart and humbled me beyond belief. H.E. was lying in her bed and experiencing significant shortness of breath, as well as profound weakness, so there was not a lot of talking, as it was just too hard for her to communicate verbally.—She had to concentrate on breathing. She and her little sister and parents moved to the City from the countryside in May just to get her some treatment. After a diagnosis of bone cancer of her leg the tumor grew rapidly and she rapidly lost strength and became bedbound. The tumor in her thigh is huge, now. When she is struggling to breathe, her father (and only her father) holds her to his chest to ease her discomfort., which has been profound especially due to the spread of cancer to her lungs. After praying with H.E. and talking with-her parents about her care and if she wanted to remain at home I was changed by this encounter. How could our hearts have not been softened by such an intense experience—so devastating to this loving family. How could we leave with concern for ourselves and our discomforts and our worries? As I went to bed it was with her on my mind. All I could do was lift her up in conversation with God.—Praying for peace and comfort for her and her family.

Just two months ago we lost a 21 year old patient with the same kind of disease, bone cancer with lung metastasis. What a lovely young woman. She is gone and her family is struggling to stay together. And, now a 17 year old boy with bone cancer has been referred for Hospice care. I haven't met him yet, but he is next on my list of people to visit. Mainly, I want to know that this family is getting enough support.

We are still looking for a nurse and doctor to hire and train for hospice work.—But, no one has applied.

We are in desperate need of a couple of new nurses and two new doctors. The problem in recruiting is not just the fact that we can't compete with some well-funded, new, private hospitals, but it is also that we are holding out for new staff who really have hospice enthusiasm, compassion, and are Christians. (This has been an especially difficult year with three new staff members who did not have these three characteristics.) We are increasing the salaries, and that is actually the easy part, but finding compassionate, hospice-hearted, young doctors and nurses will take a miracle, perhaps only achieved through the prayers of many. I would like to hire some of the nursing students who are practicing at Grace Hospice. Please pray for us. If we don't find some staff soon, I can envision closing our Hospice soon. That is how critical it is that we find some new staff.

A Letter From Our Missionary (cont.)

OTHER MISSION NEWS:

The newly organized music program is going well with lessons on the horsehead fiddle and soon on the yattig instrument. Informally, we also have guitar, drum, and piano lessons as young people desire. I am hopeful that with all of the energy Dr. S.T. Kimbrough is pouring into this program that some day, soon, we will in fact have some traditional instrumental music in the worship service.

Bible Study:

The short range goal for Bible study is that those who call themselves Christians will know what we celebrate on December 25th, and will say —Christmas, —the birth of Jesus or something similar AND NOT say that we are celebrating the —new year.

Advent Activities:

Nothing really new this year, but still Advent is a time of excitement with the preparation of gifts; staff party; visiting patients to pray with them, sing carols, and give each one a gift; and of course Christmas cookies to bake; and sharing the reason for this joyful season.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

We give thanks for all of the donations we have received to continue God's work here in Mongolia under the GBGM of the UMC. Thank you for your part in this UMC mission. if you feel so led by God. any gifts would be greatly appreciated .

If you wish to send a donation through the Advance, 100% of it will be sent to Grace Hospice if you write —GBGM Advance #14928A — on it. OR If you wish to make a donation for the express purpose of maintaining the six churches and two mission centers and their programs, please make your donation to: #00209A - —Mongolia Mission Initiative. And, if you wish to contribute to my salary support, please use this number: #11810Z— —Helen Sheperd

Please mail donations to this address: Advance GCFA; P.O. Box 9068, GPO; New York, NY 10087-9068, U.S.A.

PRAYER SUPPORT:

- 1- Batkhuu , our former treasurer, and his family
- 2- Grace Hospice—need a new doctor and nurse
- 3- Grace Hospice staff to have the stamina to make it through another long, cold winter of home visits .
- 4- God's guidance in future planning for Grace Hospice and the UMC mission in Mongolia.
- 5- The Mongolian government— that a major change will happen with bribes no longer necessary.
- 6- All of those people who are without shelter and food this winter.

Peace and Joy to you,

Helen

“It Might be Grief” Weekend Offerings

Grief is part of the human experience. Everyone has suffered the loss of a loved one or friend, has had health problems, has experienced relationship problems and many other stressors that can cause grief. If you have ever wondered why it hurts so much when we grieve, why people experience grief differently and why some people seem to “snap out of it” while others struggle with grief for a long time, you are invited to explore the issue of grief in its many forms here at SLOUMC. Friday, February 24th from 6:30-9:00PM in the Terrace Room, friends and members of SLOUMC will share their unique perspective and experience with grief with the hope that it may promote more understanding and compassion. There will be time for questions and time for others to talk about their experience with grief. Saturday, February 25th from 6:30-9:00PM in the Sanctuary we will offer a screening of the critically-acclaimed movie Wit. Featuring Emma Thompson, Wit is the story of a woman who discovers she has terminal cancer and discovers much about suffering, meaning and hope. There will also be time for discussion following Wit. Please consider attending one or both nights and learn the healing power of “weeping with those who weep.” Sunday morning at both services Hospice Partners Chaplain Kenneth Shadle will offer a message of Grief and Hope. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Jane at (805) 543-7580.

Attendance Dec. /Jan.

December 24 (Christmas Eve)
about 300
January 8 — 198
January 15 — 164
January 22 — 180

In Memorium

Grace McChesney
December 24, 2011

Alice Starkie
December 29, 2011

Mildred Whitson
January 22, 2012

Nettie Jean Dodds
January 23, 2012



February Birthdays

Dawn Stimson	2/2
Hannah Richardson	2/2
Katy Reno	2/3
Molly Overland	2/3
William Howell	2/6
Margaret Yun	2/7
Thomas Trimble	2/11
Glenna Berry- Horton	2/12
Andrew Carter	2/14
Chet Newman	2/15
Colette Gunkel	2/15
Melva Coates	2/15
Rebecca Johnston-Carter	2/15
Joanie Scholz	2/17
Mary Ellen Gold	2/17
Mary Takagi	2/18
Tina Niebuhr	2/18
Miriam Weisenberger	2/20
Moriah Schumann	2/22
John St. John	2/28

“God Talk” will meet on Thursday, February 9th at 10:30 am in the home of Sarah Bower. We’d love to have you join us for scones and coffee...and conversation about God. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information, contact the church office at 543-7580.

The Lunch Bunch Book Club will meet on Friday, February 24th at 1:30 pm in the Narthex. We will be discussing: *Sarah’s Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay. There are many copies available at the library with a short waiting list...so should be easy to get a copy. Questions... call the church office.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Membership is an important step on your faith journey. If you are considering joining the church (or would just like to learn a bit more about SLOUMC), we invite you to attend our New Member Class where you will learn about the history and beliefs of the United Methodist Church, ways you can continue your spiritual journey, and how to become involved in SLOUMC and its ministries.

Sunday, March 4 from 3:00-5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room

Dinner and conversation will follow from 5:30-6:30

To help in our planning, please contact Pastor Jane or call the church office (543-7580) if you’d like to attend and if you need childcare.



February Anniversaries

Judy & Sil Cadenasso	2/14
Gerry & Donna Lawson	2/14
Clancy & Katy Reno	2/18

“LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY.....” Lk 11:1

Can you even imagine how many times you have recited The Lord's Prayer --- as a child, a teenager, and now-- in church, at bedtime, at the break of day-- in times of trouble, in times of joy and praise,? How have the words resonated for you through the years. In what ways does the prayer come alive to you each time you pray the words Jesus taught us. The Lenten study groups will explore the import, meaning, and spiritual transformation found in our most beloved of prayers. Sign ups will begin Sunday, February 12 in the narthex. The groups will meet weekly beginning with the week of Feb 26 continuing until Easter. We invite you to join this always timely study. If you have questions, contact the church office.



BELIEVE OUT LOUD
February 11, 2012
9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Join fellow United Methodists to learn how we can be a fully inclusive church for all of God's children: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and straight. The Reconciling Ministries Network is conducting a training event on using public narrative to create change in the United Methodist Church.



ABOUT THE TRAINER: Shells is a second year seminary student. He is working towards receiving a masters in theological studies with the intent to move towards a phd program eventually. This is Shells first year working with RMN. He is a jurisdictional organizer for Northern Illinois, West Ohio, and California Pacific conferences, as well as an intern working on developing a transgender resource for the trans extension ministry.

San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church
1515 Fredericks St. in San Luis Obispo
For more information, contact Reverend Rich Bolin at (805) 528-1649
Lunch will be provided for a free-will offering. Please RSVP by using the form below or via e-mail at richbolin@gmail.com. (In order for us to prepare enough food for all attendees.)

YES! I will be attending **The Believe Out Loud Workshop - Saturday, Feb. 11**

Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: (____) _____

Tear off and remit to Trinity or SLO United Methodist Church by Sunday, Feb 5, 2012

Sunday Worship in February:

"I Love to Tell the Story": *Journeying through the Big Stories of the Bible* continues through the first half of the month.

February 5: Mark 2:1-12

I Love to Tell the Story: The Gospels and Acts (Matthew-Acts)

February 12: 1 Thessalonians 5

I Love to Tell the Story: The Epistles (Romans-Revelation)

February 19: Transfiguration Sunday

Special guest preacher: Gershom Sikaala. Gershom is an evangelist from South Africa who has inspired thousands around the globe. This promises to be a most exciting worship experience!

February 26: 1st Sunday of Lent

Special guest preacher: Ken Shadle of Hospice Partners of the Central Coast. Ken will preach on "Grief and Hope" as a part of the *It Might Be Grief* weekend here at SLOUMC.

Direct From LA

THE SWEET POTATOES

Songs and Stories of Faith

Featuring Laura Hall, Kelly Macleod & Rick Hall

In Concert
Sunday, February 19
4:00 p.m.

A fun and inspiring evening of faith, music and storytelling
Bring the whole family!

Admission is Free
All are Welcome

San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church



Kelly Macleod
“Private Life”



Laura Hall
“Whose Line is it Anyway?”



Rick Hall
“Curb Your Enthusiasm”

San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church "MindCare Ministries" presents

IT MIGHT BE GRIEF

A Weekend of Explorations, Community, and Support
For All Presently Dealing with Sadness and Loss



FRIDAY NIGHT, FEBRUARY 24

6:30-9:00pm • SLOUMC Terrace Room

Panel Discussion: Grief Has Many Faces

Jeanne Sterling: "Spiritual Steadiness When
Everything Else Is Changing"

Liz Johnston, LCSW, PhD Fellow: "Anticipatory Grief"

Jason Sisk-Provencio, Seminarian: "Grief in the LGBT Community"

Leslie Cone: "Grief and the Spiritual Journey"

Elizabeth Arnold: "Addiction and Grief"

Erin Eichperger: "Grief and Children of Divorce"

*Develop understanding and compassion
for your grief and that of your neighbor*

SATURDAY NIGHT, FEBRUARY 25

6:30-9:00pm • SLOUMC Sanctuary

Movie and Discussion:

WIT (starring Emma Thompson)

*All are invited to view this critically acclaimed
account of a woman's struggle with cancer and
what she teaches us all about sorrow, loss and life*



SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 26

8:50am & 11:00am • SLOUMC Sanctuary

Message: Grief and Hope

Guest Speaker, Kenneth Shadle, Chaplain
at Hospice Partners of San Luis Obispo will preach
at both Sunday morning worship services

Come hear a special message of comfort and hope

San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church

1515 Fredericks Street, San Luis Obispo
(between Grand and Hathaway, near Cal Poly)

(805) 543-7580 • www.sloumc.com

Questions? Contact Rev. Jane Voigts at pastor@sloumc.com



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San Luis Obispo United Methodist Church



Small Groups In Study Pastor's Sermon Series on "The Bible"

Join a small group study of your choice. There are weekly small group study sessions exploring the "The Bible" its themes and its lasting importance for our lives. Pastor Jane's sermon will carry the theme along with weekly Bible passages, and with your ideas, will foster a lively discussion in a safe and supportive setting. There are currently two study groups: Mondays at 2pm and Tuesdays at 11am. More study groups are being developed. For more information, contact the church office.

Parents with Young Children Small Group?

"Small Group" ministry at SLOUMC is on the move, and we are hoping to put together a small group especially tailored to the needs and lives of young families. If you are interested in being a part of a short-term (or long-term) small group that would meet regularly at someone's home to share a meal, conversation and learning while your children receive childcare, etc., please join Sonja and Nathan Bair between worship services on Sunday, February 5 to share ideas of how to best make it work. If you can't make it on the 5th but would like to participate in the small group, please contact the church office.

San Luis Obispo
United Methodist Church
1515 Fredericks St.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405
Phone: 805-543-7580
Fax: 805-543-7579

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