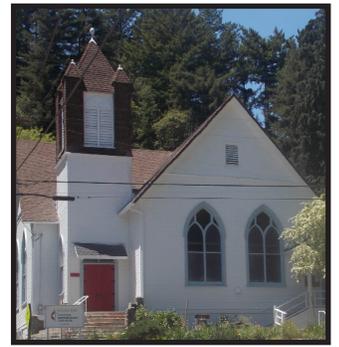


Boulder Creek United Methodist Church Mountain Messenger January, 2019



Our Vision

*"To illuminate the world with
God's love by serving our
community as faithful followers
of Christ."*



Concert by Valley Singers

This local group of young people under the direction of Gabe House helped us prepare for the joy of the Christmas season. The concert was enjoyed by family friends and members of our church.

Thanks to the many local church members who supported the singers and their families by bringing refreshments.

To see the concert by the Valley Singers, check out this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/ValleySingers>



Planning Retreat

Saturday, Jan. 5, 10:00 a.m. at the home of Gina and Dan Jett. If you have an idea of a program or a vision for our church in 2019 (and beyond) please contact one of our Leadership Team prior to Saturday.

Our Leadership Team is:

Gina Jett
Linda Lininger
Dan Gett
Maggie Barr
Wayne Hendryx
Gabe House
Ted Bond
Clyde Vaughn

We'd love to hear your ideas and dreams.



365 New Days!

*Clyde's
Corner*



365 new days ... when I'm being cynical I suggest that we have that many days to make all new mistakes. Why repeat the same, boring problems. Let's do it up right with whole new errors.

Of course the option is to learn from our mistakes and try to do something that makes a positive change, in our own lives, in the lives of our family and friends, in the life of our community. 365 days to do something WONDERFUL!

Our Leadership Team is planning a retreat to look at the future of our church. Where do we want to be by the end of 2019 - where do we want to be in five years?

A carefully written document by Cathy Warner indicates the Methodist classes began in our valley in 1865, more than 150 years ago. The earliest church was built in 1874 on the site of our current church. You can see more of our church history at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qG7s8loqkmU>.

That's a trunkload of laurels on which we can rest, but the question is what is next? Will the first church in the San Lorenzo Valley still be serving God and God's people? If so, how will we be serving them?

I am proud to be part of a church that is meeting so many needs. The 12-Step groups that are able to use our facilities for their meetings are enabled to make vital changes in their lives. The renters that we have are able to find affordable Section 8 housing in a very difficult rental market. And, by the way, I saw one of them on the roof clearing leaves from the rain gutter.

I urge you to contact a member of our Leadership Team and share your vision of our church before our planning meeting, Saturday, January 5.

Please continue to pray for me and for our church,

-Rev. Clyde

You Are Welcome Here!

As a Reconciling Congregation, we celebrate God's welcome to us and to all people, including any who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender and their families. At Boulder Creek UMC your friendship is valued and safeguarded. You are accepted for who you are. **You have a home!**



Our District Superintendent: From the U.S./Mexico Border

[Excerpt from our Superintendent's Letter]

Greetings and peace to you in the name of Christ Jesus. Some of you have heard that I recently went down to the border of US/Mexico and was arrested. In this newsletter, I write to you to share my account of what happened and why I decided to do what I did.

In the recent years the US/Mexico border has seen escalating tensions as more and more people, especially from Central America, have arrived to seek asylum. This rise in the number of migrants, an average of 175 unaccompanied children per day, according to Customs and Border Protection, is directly tied to the rise of gang violence in Central America.



The two most notorious of the gangs, with memberships of 10,000 to 13,000, were started in the US. The period from the late 70s to the 80s was known as 'Central American Crisis'. Central America was ridden with civil war between Pro-Soviet communist-leaning forces and US-backed forces. The US poured in millions of dollars every day to feed the war while the civilians fled by the masses and began arriving in the US. It was in the rough neighborhoods of Los Angeles that Central American refugees learned the ways of gang life to protect themselves from other gangs and formed MS-13 (Mara Salvatrucha) and the 18th Street Gang (Calle 18, Barrio 18).

The US Government eventually rounded up these gang members and deported them back to Central America where there was limited police presence. This resulted in gang memberships exploding, and criminal activities spreading through every facet of their society, including crimes such as murder, corruption, extortion, drug-trafficking, kidnapping, human-trafficking and smuggling. What is known as the 'Violent Northern Triangle' in Central America, which includes El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, has the highest homicide rate of not-at-war deaths in the world today. Though the exact number is unavailable, I heard it is as high as 90% for murder cases in that area that are uninvestigated.

Today, the majority of migrants arriving at the US/Mexico border are in search of basic safety. For most of them, they choose between being subjected to the gang control, or fleeing. The US should, at the very least, feel partially responsible for the levels of violence in Central America, and those seeking asylum. Instead, the response of the US authorities have been to delay and deny the asylum process, separating migrant children from their parents, and finally this year, on November 25th, the US border patrols fired tear-gas on migrants; a substance banned in warfare.

I want to close with my reason for what I did. It was not long ago, on June 14, 2012, that I attended a ceremony of naturalization and took an oath to become an American, "I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince..." I knew then that there were millions of undocumented immigrants fearfully residing in the US, and even more with hope to find a way into the US. They would do anything to take my place. Why was I able to receive a citizenship with relative ease while they are shunned at every step? I distinctly remember a feeling that this was not a fair process! My path to citizenship was deemed "legal" simply because my parents had economic means.

Having gone through the process, I can share with you that the US citizenship is a process that favors those with



money, over the poor. Should this really be the criteria for naturalization? It was then I made a deep commitment to myself, should there be any opportunity to use the "privilege of citizenship" to offer my voice to the voiceless, I would. I picture in my mind, Jesus who befriended those on the fringes of the society, even saw himself in their places and said, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40 NIV)

Rev. Shinya Goto, Superintendent of the El Camino Real District

[the full text is posted in the social hall]



JOYS:

For the rain, and hills and fields turning green in anticipation of spring.

For gatherings of families and friends for the holidays.

For firefighters and other first responders who keep us safe during our winter months.

For our tenants who take such good care of their residences and the surrounding grounds. We are pleased to be able to offer Section 8 housing.

For a great staff that continues to work with little fanfare. Let's be sure to thank them!



CONCERNS:

For our Family and Friends: On Sundays we name those whose situations rest heavily on our heart, or who have reason for a new joy. If you have a prayer concern please be sure to share it with the pastor or prayer coordinator.

Linda's niece, Beth, passed away after an extended illness. **Kristin Centofante's brother, Frank,** recovering at the hospital.

For those who are homeless as our nights get colder and the rains have come.

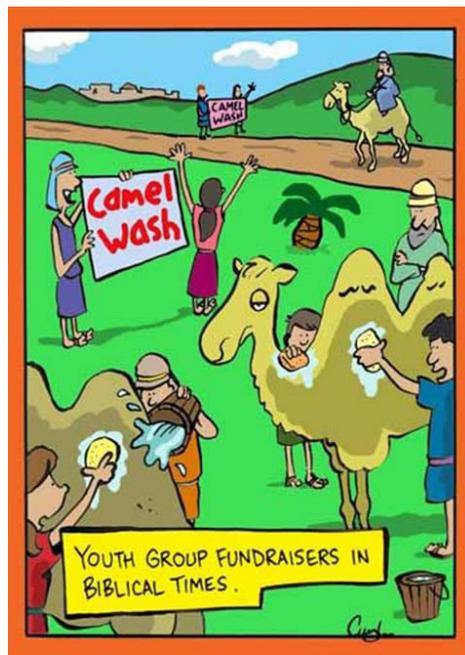
For our **shut-ins** who are unable to be in church because of age or illness. Our prayers are with them.

If you have joys or concerns and desire prayer, please contact Linda Lininger, our prayer coordinator, LindaLinCA@aol.com, the Pastor or the church office with your request.



Our faithful choir is there to lead us in music every Sunday. We are grateful to Gabe House for his leadership and our wonderful choir members.

THANK YOU!



Be sure to log in to our church Facebook page to see the sermon from previous Sundays.



You'll want to copy and paste the URL to find our facebook, then please "like" us and become part of our social media family.

<https://www.facebook.com/Boulder-Creek-United-Methodist-Church-179851719450777/>

January Birthdays

5 Frank Golding
Meghan Chiechi
11 Carly Adams
13 Laura Devine
23 Tony Chiechi
25 Daniel Robert Gripkey (2008)
30 Diane Hutchinson



January Anniversaries

January 16, 1994 Clyde & Sheila Vaughn

*If your birthday or anniversary is not listed and you would like to have it added, please send your information to the office:
bcumc@bcumc.com*



Calendar

Jan. 5, 10:00, Planning Retreat at the home of Gina & Dan Jett. Please bring your ideas and something to share for a potluck lunch.

Jan. 6, Rev. Clyde, Epiphany Sunday, "God is Among Us!" Matthew 2:1-12, **Communion**

Jan 13, Worship led by Gabe House, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Jan. 20, Worship led by Gabe House, John 2:1-11

Jan. 27, Worship led by Gabe House, Luke 4:14-21

Feb. 3, Rev. Clyde, "Jesus at the Cliff" Luke 4:20-30, **Communion**

Check out our website at
www.bcumc.com.

Website

Boulder Creek United Methodist Church

Church office: 831.338.6232

Web: <http://bcumc.com>

Join us on Facebook, friend us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Boulder-Creek-United-Methodist-Church-179851719450777/>

Pastor: Rev. Clyde Vaughn: 831.662.8908

Cell: 831.212.1052

Children's Ministry Director: Ted Bond
831.419.0241

Church Administrator & Bookkeeper:
Gina Billington 831.246.0394

Prayer Chain, please contact the pastor, or the prayer chain coordinator, Linda Lininger, LindaLinCA@aol.com, if you wish prayers for family members or friends.

Worship Leadership

Ministers: People of the parish

Music Director: Gabriel House



The February Mountain Messenger deadline for information will be Sunday, Jan. 27.

January, 2019 Mountain Messenger

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831-338-6232

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