



Community United Methodist Church
1480 Poplar Avenue - Oakdale, CA 95361
Office: 209 847-7777

JANUARY 2023

Pastor: Jeff Holder
Cell: 209 840-7939

CHURCH CHATTER

Monthly Newsletter of Events and Information

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

We share so much....

I was feeling a little tired the other early evening. I had been switching between four major projects for the church and for our Conference that need to be done right now. Irritated by how these things can gang up on me, I put my pen down and started to reflect.

In my childhood, a pastor was required to preach once a week, lead a midweek study for the adults, keep us on the straight and narrow, perform weddings and funerals, and call on the sick.

The range of jobs for a pastor today include plant maintenance issues, multiple ministries, nightly meetings for various church initiatives, plus late-night hours of work. These things can easily take the joy out of joy.

But then, I shifted gears and began to think about all of you. It's humbling to look at the other side of the coin sometimes for a more truthful perspective. Some of you are giving 150% to our church.

The things that you initiate and perform keep the lifeblood of our congregation flowing. Your insights and honesty keep it real. Your willingness to try new things is refreshing.

All of these kinds of things you do, despite a terrible round of winter illnesses and even sad loss. Paying the bills, getting to work or wherever your life calls you, taking care of family or experiencing medical difficulties, taking care of your home when the wind blows the fence over, or the water begins creeping up on the back patio. There are just too many things to list.

We're all busy. My work can be a little isolating, but solving your own problems and meeting your needs for life is much the same. Sometimes we all have to stop and say, "Lord, please give me the strength and show me the way."

We all need to be on guard for our church this year. Coming out the pandemic has been one of the most difficult tasks this church has ever experienced. But we're moving in the right direction. It certainly has taken more than auto pilot to maintain our inertia. And now, it's in the books. We have miles to go in 2023 to bring our church to a place of viable vitality.

So, I want to thank you all for everything you've done for the church this past year. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for the things you continue to do, and for those that you will initiate and accomplish this year. Together, we will be a better and stronger church, leading by the Holy Spirit in both evangelism and local mission, by this time next year. Feel the joy.

Gratefully.

Pastor Jeff

happy new year 2023

MARKET PLACE ON POPLAR

1st Saturday of each Month

Booth Space \$20

February 4th - 8am to 4pm

Feb 4th - Mar 4th - April 1st - May 6th - June 3rd - July 1st - Aug 5th - Sept 2nd - Oct 7th

For more info: CraftFairInfo@yahoo.com

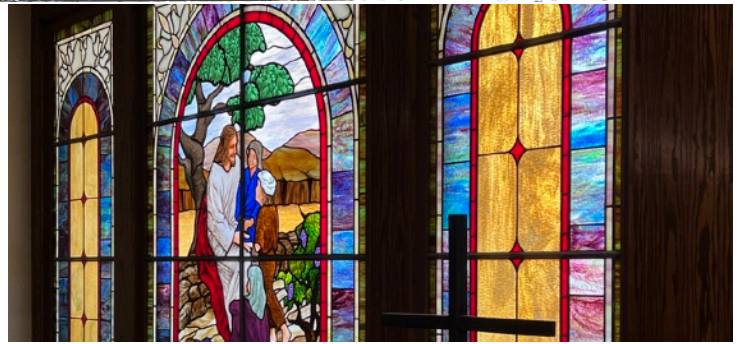
Our NEW Website:

<https://methodistchurchoakdale.org>

NEW Facebook page:

MethodistChurchOakdale

Please SHARE & LIKE our new FB page



MEALS @ MARKET PLACE Come Eat!!

Our own Lee Merritt is cooking up food to eat at Market Place or ready for carry out to eat at home or share with a friend. *No need to cook dinner on first Saturday of the month.*

All Market Place booth fees and earnings from the church booth, go toward building & yard maintenance fund.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Email: cumcOakdaleAdmin@gmail.com

Lay Minister: Frank Remkiewicz
(209) 630-1882
clay.remkiewicz@gmail.com

Pastor Jeff Holder:
(209) 840-7939
vjHolder@att.net



Quote for the month

"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives."

John F. Kennedy

January

Frankie Rebiskie 6th - Butch Sanders 10th
Jack Stever 16th - Hannah Gorman 20th
Kristy Gorman 21st - Nancy Smith 24th
Nikita Smith 25th - Stephen Smith 26th



CALENDAR of EVENTS

Meetings here at the Church

Canoeing Spiritual Group	Tues Zoom Mtg 6:30pm
Scouting Night	Mondays - 6pm
Alanon	Mon 7pm/Thurs noon/Fri 6pm
Life & Grief Support w/Pastor Jeff	Tuesdays 1pm
Addiction Ministry/Hand in Hand	Thursday 7pm
Art Classes w/Carole Earle	Tues/Thurs 9:30am/Tues 1:30
Oakdale Garden Club	3 rd Tues 10am
Market Place on Poplar	1 st Sat 8am-4pm



STARRY STARRY NIGHT

by Frank Remkiewicz

Recognize this painting? It is one of the world's most recognizable paintings. The artist is the oft troubled Vincent Van Gogh. The painting was done towards the end of Van Gogh's life as he drifted back into a blue period. The painting, as most student's of art will tell you is a reflection of his sometimes confusing life.

Now, hold onto your socks because we are about to perform a "paradigm shift". A paradigm shift is a whole new way of looking at the world and changing that world in a significant way.

Look closely at the small village in the bottom middle of the painting. It is set below an enormous sky in the middle of a crystal clear night sky. Think about stepping outside your house on a cold clear night. It is 2 am and the high glow has faded out.

It is Christmas 2022 and the baby Jesus is wrapped in a warm blanket, sound asleep. You look at the Christ child as you have looked at your first child, brand new and not even an inkling of his potential. You think of the endless possibilities in front of Our Lord.

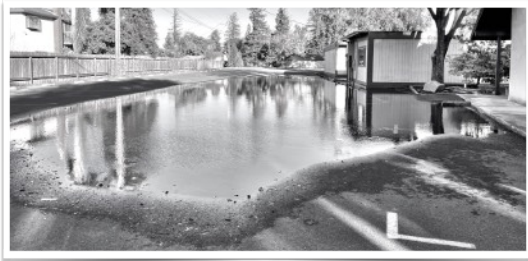
Then you start outside into the crisp January night and you look up to the heavens. The stars are so bright they almost blind you. The backdrop is so black it shimmers. And then the you realize what an awesome God to have created such a magnificent world. How great and how good must our God be.

You now head back in to your tiny house in this small town. The door opens and you look inside and there is the little baby warm and cozy, sleeping peacefully. You glance back at the night sky and the enormity of the miracle lights up your world. The baby asleep in the house is one and the same awesome, omnipotent God that created the universe! And He has come to your house.

PARKING LOT LAKE - GONE!

by Nancy Podolsky

With the massive amount of rain, the back church parking lot has been looking like a lake. The large dry well drain in the parking lot had not been pumped out in years and was FULL of debris and leaves. The dry well is now pumped out and keeping the parking lot clear of water.



BIBLE STUDY GROUP

by Pastor Jeff



Pastor Jeff is leading a Zoom Bible Study on Tuesdays @ 6:30pm Call for a Zoom link if you are interested in attending: Pastor Jeff (209) 840-7939.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Be a host after church for a great time for friendship/fellowship. If you or can be a host, please **contact Judy Bradley** (209 985-3590) It is less effort to prepare food if working together with someone else. After church coffee time will only happen if there is someone signed up to host.

