



Community United Methodist Church
1480 Poplar Street - Oakdale, CA 95361
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April 2025

Pastor: Jeff Holder
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CHURCH CHATTER

Newsletter of Events and Information

Easter Season

We begin the final week of the Season of Lent on **Palm Sunday**, April 13th. The church will be decked-out in Palms, welcoming Jesus. If you don't believe it, O come and see. We will all have our palm fronds in hand and ready to do the greeting. This begins "Holy Week.."

1. On Thursday Evening, we celebrate **Maundy Thursday (April 17th)**, a remembrance of the last supper in the upper room in Jerusalem. We will hold our service **at Escalon UMC** and celebrate with our friends there. The service begins at 6PM, and includes a meal and communion. The service will be jointly led by Pastor Jeff Holder and Pastor Peggy Bosch. We would love to have a decent-sized group of CUMC worshipers come. We will be circulating a sign-up list for this earlier in April.

2. On **Good Friday (April 18th)**, we will have an event at noon, for all people including those who could not attend Maundy Thursday service. This will be a love feast, of soup and sandwiches, and features our sharing the bread and beverage with each other. This is a lovely and simple meal, and a good way to understand the significance of Good Friday. . We will be circulating a sign-up sheet for this event as well. Please sign-up and come together with your fellow siblings in Christ.

3. **Easter service** is on Sunday, **April 20th**, at **10am**. Let us fill the church! We have been promised a bright future through Christ, and a bright future as a church by DS Mary Maaga. We will be doing new things, and this includes each of you. Come, Easter Sunday, to do a new thing. Our service will begin in the sanctuary and end in Johnston Hall, for our final Love Feast - finger food and beverages, before you hit the Brunch circuit. Don't miss a meaningful Holy Week and a Happy Easter you will remember.

Blessing to you . . .
Pastor Jeffrey Holder

Maundy Thursday

April 17th - 6pm
Escalon

Join with the Escalon UMC at 6pm in their social hall on Maundy Thursday. It is a service to remember the last supper in the upper room. A simple meal will be served to commemorate that meal Jesus and the disciples had together. There will also be a telling of that story and communion with the breaking of bread.

Easter Sunday

April 20th
10am

*He is not here;
he has Risen!*
Luke 24:6

Sunday Service Speakers



Sunday Services - 10am

April 6th

Pastor Jeff Holder

April 13th - Palm Sunday

Pastor Jeff Holder

April 20th - Easter Sunday

Pastor Jeff Holder

April 27th

Tracy Tennes

Thank You Pack 365

The Scouts and their families came out for a clean up day at the parsonage and church grounds. A BIG job at the parsonage was to move a lot of dirt away from the house. The dirt was hauled away to the church field and dumped there. Thank you Chef Lee and cousin Jim for providing a lunch for all the workers.

Also, they will be leading a Love Oakdale project here on April 26th cleaning up the meadow, mowing the lot, repairs on the shed, and more. THANK YOU!!!

Editor: NancyPodolsky@gmail.com

Meet a Member. . .

Darlene Banducci a true country girl. She was born in rural Fresno County and attended school in Kerman, CA. She grew up with two brothers and one sister, who is still living. Kerman is a farming community, where many, including her family, raised grapes for raisins.



After graduating from Fresno State with a degree in home economics, Darlene moved to Oakdale to take a job at the local high school. One day, a member of the office staff invited Darlene and her girlfriends to visit her family's ranch, where they met her brother, Roy. With four women to choose from, Roy ultimately set his sights on Darlene. It took him a week to call and ask her to dinner—along with some married friends who were all expecting babies at the time. After dating for about a year, they went shopping on Valentine's Day and ended up at a jewelry store, where they bought a ring to "seal the deal." Married for 58 years, Darlene and Roy built a life together, raising a son and two daughters. They were later blessed with two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, with a fourth great-grandchild due to arrive in July.

Being married to a devout Catholic, Darlene attended the Catholic Church with Roy for 10 years until they had a falling out with the congregation. Since she had previously been a member of the Kerman Methodist Church, they began attending CUMC when it was still in the stone building.

In between raising three children, Darlene taught home economics at the high school, junior high, and continuation school, eventually retiring 34 years ago. She primarily taught cooking—perhaps the reason her cookies are so delicious. A talented seamstress, Darlene has also sewn banners for the church and crafted kneeling pads. She and Roy used to update the church bulletin boards every month. Additionally, Darlene took charge of stocking and maintaining the church kitchen, ensuring it was kept clean and ready for the many meals prepared there.

Now facing vision loss due to macular degeneration and a burst vessel in one eye, Darlene at 92, continues to live in her home on their ranch with the support of caregivers.

Correction

Nancy is not the longest-standing member of CUMC. That distinction belongs to Judy (Chicou) Bradley, who has been a member for over 75 years as of February. She has been a member for several months longer than Nancy who reaches the 75 year mark in October.

April Fools' Day.

by Frank Remkiewicz

April 1 is traditionally known as April Fools' Day. I know we have all played jokes on our friends just as our friends have played jokes on us. How could you grow up in America and not have had this happen? Even as adults, we still do this. Back in my Marine Corps days, we used to send a brand-new tank crewman down to the next tank to bring back a "can of muzzle blast". For the non-firearms people, a "muzzle blast" is the fire, smoke, and debris that flies out of a rifle, shotgun, pistol, etc. that follows the bullet or projectile out of the barrel when the weapon is fired. Of course one cannot get a "can of muzzle blast" but new guys generally don't know that until that person gets to the next tank down, asks the tank commander for a can, and the tank commander falls down laughing. These tank crewmen have a strange sense of humor, but that is what an April Fools' Day joke is.

St. Paul, takes a more serious tone when, in 1 Corinthians 4:10 he writes "We are fools for the sake of Christ,...". The English Cambridge dictionary definition of fool, "a person who behaves in a silly way without thinking." We should all be "fools for the sake of Christ". If we engage in a radical love of our neighbor, we love everyone equally and without reservation. Our societal norm would be to love all those who love us. Our society would consider us to be "foolish" if we love those who have done us harm or who simply do not love us. Christ has commanded us to love our neighbor as ourselves, and Christ says that everyone in this world is our neighbor. Loving those who do not love us seems to be against our instinct, the very definition of foolish, but that is what Christ requires of us.

April 20, 2025, is Easter Sunday. It is the day that through the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, all things are made new again. It is a perfect day to renew our love for all humankind. It is the perfect day to once again become "fools for the sake of Christ."

Church Family

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April

4th Judy Nikkel	13th Doug Kolsters
6th Darlene Banducci	20th Jim Coleman
7th Gloria Baguess	