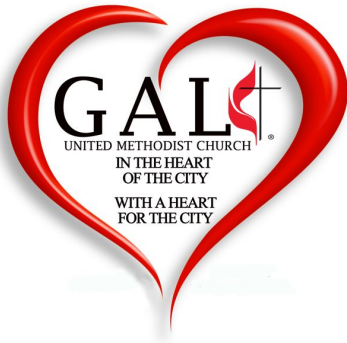


Galt UMC This Week



Galt UMC is a warm welcoming family who worship, pray, learn, and love one another by serving our community so that everyone can encounter the Risen Lord and experience transformation through God's Grace.



December 12, 2022

Let's Talk – A Word from Pastor Mary Maaga mjzmaaga@yahoo.com 530-417-6584



Blue Christmas, also known as The Longest Night, is a Christmas Season Worship Service that creates space for people who are grieving or going through any kind of hard time to “celebrate” Christmas without having to fake how we actually feel. I remember attending a Blue Christmas the year my husband died. He had passed in October and was I doing my level best to make Christmas special for my young children. That meant wearing my colorful sweaters, decorating the house, baking cookies, and wrapping presents – and also crying some when the kids were at school. I felt crazy. People would ask how I was doing, and I honestly didn't know. “Okay, I guess” was my standard reply. I would look at the nativity figurines in my home and ask, “Where are You God?” A very faithful Christian woman guessed correctly that God felt very far away and invited me to come to The Longest Night service they were having at her Church. I went with no expectations: just planning to sit and enjoy quiet music and light a candle for Boikanyo. I received so much more than I expected – my grief didn't go away, but God felt nearer and that helped a lot. Hope was born that night. If you are feeling blue this Christmas, for any reason, I encourage you to come to our Blue Christmas at Galt UMC this year: 5pm on Wednesday, December 21st, which is the longest night of 2022.

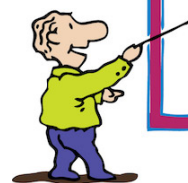


Advent Blessings, Pastor Mary



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent
Joy

Our theme for Advent and Christmas 2022 is *Where Christmas Happens*. The journey of Advent is an opportunity to prepare yourself for a NEW BIRTH OF FAITH. This week Christmas Happens HERE! We will hear the words of the Prophet Isaiah and enjoy the music of Adam Gates.



Contact us:

Mary Maaga, Pastor
Galt United Methodist Church
571 C Street
Galt, CA 95632
Telephone 209-745-4133
e-mail at: galtumc@gmail.com
In-person worship: 10am Sunday
Contribute online: galtumc.org

NEWS & Notes

Heifer Project Special Christmas Offering

For the next two Sundays and on Christmas Eve we are collecting a special offering for Heifer Project. What is Heifer

Project? It is a mission organization that strives to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside farmers and their communities. Their goal is to increase incomes so families can afford nutritious food, shelter, clean water, access to health care and a safe environment to raise their children. How is this done? By sending animals into communities that have been given resources for the maintenance and reproduction of these animals. Much of Heifer Project's work takes place in the Americas, including the United States; East Africa; and the poorest countries of Asia. Please learn more by logging on to heifer.org – there you will find inspiring stories and lots more information.



You can contribute to Heifer Project by writing a check to Galt UMC and putting Heifer Project in the notation, or you can take a colorful envelope as you enter the Sanctuary and put cash in it. On Christmas Eve whatever is given toward the offering will go to Heifer Project as well. Here's something FUN about our offering. WE GET TO DECIDE WHAT "ANIMAL" WE PURCHASE. For example, if we raise \$1000 then we can purchase a "mating pair of cattle"; for \$5000 we can gift a whole ARK of pairs of animals that includes cows, oxen, sheep, pigs, beehives, goats, chicks, rabbits, etc.; and any amount we send can be designated toward purchasing equipment and non-toxic fertilizers for access to clean water. Once we know our total offering we will take a "straw poll" (get it, cows, straw??) in early January during Worship and decide what we will buy.



Church Office Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday 9am – 1pm



One tradition of Advent is to prepare for Baptism on Christmas Eve! In the United Methodist Church, we believe in a single Christian baptism, so if you've been baptized in any Church that confesses Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior then you are baptized in the UMC. But let's say you have never been baptized in any Church. Maybe your folks didn't get around to it when you were little, or you weren't sure about what you believed when you were a teenager. So now you are an adult and you haven't been baptized. Wouldn't it be amazing to make that commitment on Christmas Eve? Or maybe you are now a parent and you would like to make a decision to raise your child as a Christian and would like to have your son or daughter baptized. Please let Pastor Mary know if you want to discuss this further for yourself or your child(ren). Oh, how the angels will sing this Christmas Eve!



Membership Vows Being Taken December 18

It's not too late to join Karen and Kristine Honer, Jessie Dennison, and Bob and Ann Webb in joining Galt UMC next Sunday. Just let Pastor Mary know. The Honers and Jessie will be joining during Worship at Galt and the Webbs during Worship at Bruceville Point.

GREETERS SCHEDULE

December 18

Anne Albrecht
Sharon Drake

December 25

Judy King

Hospitality Host

December 18

Ann Mitchell
Barbara Anderson



December 25

Pastor Mary



Tuesday, December 13, in person: 11am: BIBLE STUDY. Christmas in Scripture: Luke's Gospel We will take a break from Bible Study Dec 20 and Dec 27. We will be back weekly on January 3rd.



Tuesday, December 13, 6:30pm Building Committee for FP&RC, Inc.



Wednesday, December 14, 8-11:30am Sunshine Food Pantry prepares food boxes for delivery to seniors.



Wednesday, December 14, 10:00am to 12noon Pastor Mary hosts Methodist Circuit for meeting and lunch.



Saturday, December 17, 9:00 to 11:00am: Rotary Christmas Boxes distributed.

Welcome to Worship

Sunday, December 18, 10am Worship JOY. Adam Gates joins us on the piano.



Sunday, December 18: 1:30pm: Bruceville Point in person worship.



Please be aware: Effective immediately: The Sunshine Food Pantry and Resource Center INC is a separate nonprofit entity from Galt UMC. We are asking that all future donations be made by 2 separate checks. Thank you for your generosity! Please also note: Checks made payable to Sunshine Food Pantry and Resource Center INC: on memo line please indicate Building Fund OR Food Fund.

WEEKLY Sneak Peek



Blue Christmas Service - December 21st 5pm

Also known as "The Longest Night", a Blue Christmas service recognizes the loss and loneliness that can be felt during the holidays due to the loss of loved ones, illness, or upsetting transitions of all kinds. There will be gentle music provided by Adam Gates, prayers, and a chance to light a blue candle as an acknowledgment of how hard this holiday season is for you. We will create a soft, calming atmosphere where you are sure to experience the presence of the Lord and the caring of your Church family.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Carols, candles, the Christmas story, and the musical talents of pianist Betty Metzger

Saturday, December 24th 5pm:



Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 25th 10am

In the Church Social Hall: wear comfortable clothes, enjoy hot chocolate, eat cookies, sing carols, give thanks to God for the birth of His Son!

Worship on New Year's Day



If you're looking ahead, you will see that a wonderful thing has happened! New Year's Day is on a Sunday this year! That means that we will start the year together with a "Wesley Covenant Renewal" and Holy Communion. Can you imagine a more blessed way to welcome 2023?



Quilt Club @ 11am on Mondays will resume on January 2 We will take a break on the 19th and 26th.



The Work of the Church – How Our Church

Works by Pastor Mary

When people become members for a United Methodist Church they vow to “accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.” It is this “whatever forms they present themselves” that has Methodists on the front lines of protest, community action, and (hold on to your hats!) yes, even politics. This vow reflects the dual emphasis of our faith: we seek God’s Grace to show us the way to holy living AND we seek to transform the communities we live in (and the world at large) to reflect God’s Kingdom. There is something so inspiring about this knitting together of personal and social, individual and community. Christ’s gift of salvation is not only for the saving of our own souls, it is for the salvation of the world. What a wonderful thing to remember as we celebrate the birth of God’s Son, the true light that enlightens everyone. Galt UMC is a shining light to this community, and so are you!



Working toward officially switching our Sunshine Food Pantry over from being an outreach ministry of Galt UMC to being its own non-profit 501(c)3 corporation has been a huge task! Thank you, Pearl Silva, for all your diligence and

dozens of hours on the phone! Because of her efforts, and the ongoing leadership of Faye Gaines, we are able to accept funds for the construction of a building for the Sunshine Food Pantry & Resource Center, Inc. separate from offerings to Galt UMC. If you know of anyone who has a RMD (required minimum distribution) on a pension who would like to contribute toward this awesome community project, please log on to sunshinefoodpantrygalt.org

“Take care of your body. It’s the only place you have to live.” —Jim Rohn

Our District Prayer focus this week:

December 18: Pray for ministry at UOP.

December 25: Pray for our ministries of the Central Valley and our Superintendent, the Rev. David Niu



Bricks to Honor Loved

Ones

The Sunshine Food Pantry & Resource Center, Inc. is selling bricks for the walkway of our new building that can be purchased in honor or memory of a loved one. Log on to sunshinefoodpantrygalt.org and follow the prompts. This is a wonderful gift for the person on your Christmas list who already has everything!



Bruceville Point

Ministry

Pastor Mary met with Staff Parish Relations Committee to request that she be supported in bringing in person worship to Bruceville Point every Sunday afternoon at 1:30pm as an extension ministry of Galt UMC. For the past year, around 15 people would watch our online worship at 10am every Sunday, and Pastor Mary spent one day a month meeting with the people there. Now our “Bruceville Bunch” is coming on their facility bus for Bible Study on Tuesdays at 11am and Pastor Mary is having 20 plus people for worship on Sunday afternoons. Would you like to help lead worship and get to know the people there? Just let Pastor Mary know.



A distinguished group of wise men who brought gifts to the baby Jesus. Is that all you know? Stretch your knowledge and smile a little with Chuck as he explains the Wise Men. Test your knowledge of the Christmas Story.

To watch Chuck’s video: [Click Here](#)



December, 2022

To my Church Family,

I want to thank you all for your kind words of sympathy and concern after the recent tragic accident and passing of my son Marc.

Myself, my daughter, Marc's four children and all of my family appreciate your concern and condolences greatly.

Thank you to all who sent food to help use through this tragic event. We all so much appreciate your help.

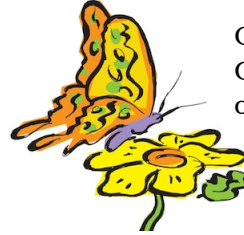
A huge thank you to Faye and all the food pantry volunteers for the groceries that helped our family so much. Marc's son, Matt was touched by this love you gave him for the "special" bag of "loaded potato soup" and the card.

Again, thank you so very much.

Love Anne Albrecht

IN LOVING Memory

Margaret Luginbill



Our beloved Sister in Christ passed into heaven on December 6, 2022.



A well-worn one-dollar bill and a similarly distressed 20-dollar bill arrived at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired.

As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation.

The 20-dollar bill reminisced about its travels all over the country.

"I've had a pretty good life," the \$20 proclaimed, "Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest restaurants in New York, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean."

"Wow!" said the one-dollar bill. "You've had an exciting life!"

"So, tell me," says the \$20, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?"

The one-dollar bill replies, "Oh I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Lutheran Church."

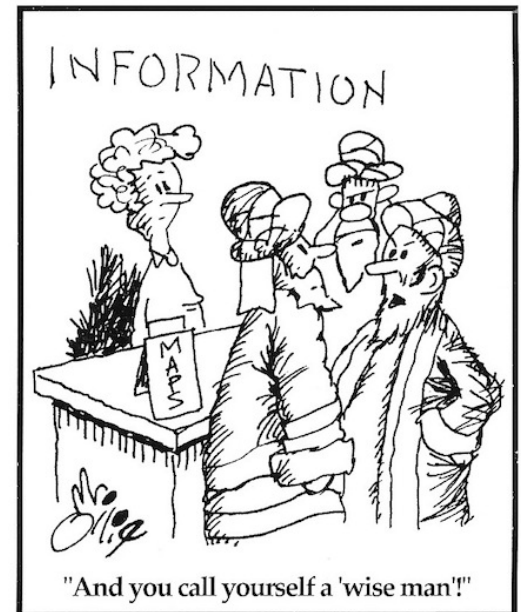
The \$20 bill interrupts, "What's a church?"



ROB SEIBEL who went above and beyond the Trustee duty of removing piles of potentially hazardous wet leaves around the church property last Sunday morning. After the wind and rain storms from previous days, the leaves were piled up against steps and walkways.

Ponder this: Some of us learn from the mistakes of others. The rest of us have to be the others.

I MAY NOT BE A "WISE MAN," BUT AT LEAST I NEVER GOT SO LOST I HAD TO ASK HEROD FOR DIRECTIONS.



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Galt United Methodist Church

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