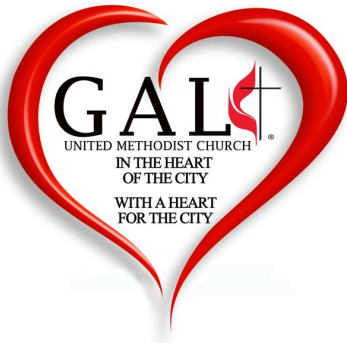


Galt UMC This Week



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 19, 2022

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



Gift giving is definitely an art, not a science! Every year I give things that I think are JUST RIGHT only to discover that something else I thought was NO BIG DEAL ends up being the remembered gift of that Christmas. The Maaga family LOVES Christmas. By this I mean, we forego birthdays and all other special occasions to double down on Christmas. Starting in August if there is anything needed for the home, we wait and wrap it and put it under the tree. Right now, the corner of our living room looks like Santa's workshop! I take a moment to pause and wonder at the love, grace, and abundance of my life every time I

walk by – having lived in different circumstances at an earlier time in my life, I don't take now for granted. My heart bursts with appreciation that God has sent me to live and work among you here at Galt. Each and every one of you is a gift to me. It is a privilege to love you during your hard times and celebrate with you during your good times. Thank you for trusting me to lead our Church forward. I have started to tell my colleagues that Galt UMC is a "mouse sized" Church with a lion's heart. 2023 is going to be a year, I believe, when the Galt community will hear us roar. Enough on that for now, let's get back to GIFTS! So, one Christmas when my kids were little and I had been living as a single Mom/widow for a couple of years, I decided to buy my daughter Zola a really great doll house. The only problem was I had to build it,



and as someone who had never so much as heard of an "L" wrench before (yes, Rob, Jim, and Ed, go ahead and laugh!), you can just imagine how late into the night I was working. But I felt it was worth it for the delight Zola would feel when she saw the doll house that Santa brought! Christmas morning dawned and the huge hit of that whole morning was not the doll house at all, but the giant candy cane chew bone that the kids had bought for Amy Wonder Dog! John and Zola were so happy with Amy's delight that they hardly

cared what had been given to them. That dog of ours chewed that giant candy cane chew bone for at least 10 hours straight, and totally consumed it by New Year's. It remains one of our best family Christmas memories. When I think of this story it reminds me to be open to the unexpected gifts of Christmas both given and received. And always to remember that the most important gift of all is that Christ is born!

Merry Christmas, Pastor Mary

***Help a Stranger, Praise a Child, Light a Candle,
Share Your Love, Sing for Joy, Lend a Hand, Pray
for Peace, Understand.***



Contact us:

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Galt United Methodist Church
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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

Heifer International's mission is to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth. For more than 75 years, Heifer has provided livestock and environmentally sound agricultural training to improve the lives of those who struggle daily for reliable sources of food and income. Heifer currently works in 21 countries, including the United States, to help families and communities become self-reliant by providing a range of livestock, trees, seeds, training, water conservation techniques, and the protection of local ecosystems and biodiversity.

You can contribute to the Heifer Project, now known as Heifer International, by writing a check to Galt UMC and putting Heifer 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 International as well. We will continue to take special offerings for Heifer through Epiphany Sunday, January 8th.



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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God's Kids Say and Do the Funniest Things

A little boy came home and announced "I learned all about the very first Christmas in Sunday School today! There wasn't a Santa Claus way back then, so these three skinny guys on camels had to deliver all the toys. And Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer with his nose so bright wasn't there yet, so they had to have this big spotlight in the sky to find their way around."

After Sunday school, a five-year-old girl complained to her mother that she had a stomach ache.

"That's because your stomach is empty," her mother said. "You'll feel better if you have something in it." She gave the girl a snack, and the girl felt better right away.

That afternoon, the family pastor dropped by for a visit. While chatting with the mother, he mentioned he had a bad headache all day long.

"That's because it's empty," the girl promptly said. "You'll feel better if you had something in it."

Our District Prayer focus this week:

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

GREETERS SCHEDULE

December 25

Judy King

January 1

Anne Albrecht
Sharon Drake

Hospitality Host



December 25

Pastor Mary

January 1

Ann Mitchell
Barbara Anderson





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.



Saturday, December 24th 5pm:

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



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?



Upcoming Worship

Sunday, January 8th



We will remember the Gifts of the Magi as our Advent-Christmas journey arrives at Bethlehem where the star has stopped. *O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.* We welcome back Betty Metzger at the piano. Prayer for Epiphany: “O God, by a star in the east You revealed to all peoples Him whose name is Emmanuel. Enable us who know Your presence with us so to proclaim His unsearchable riches that all may come to His light and bow before the brightness of His rising, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.”



Thursday, December 22,
7:30-10:00am — Sunshine

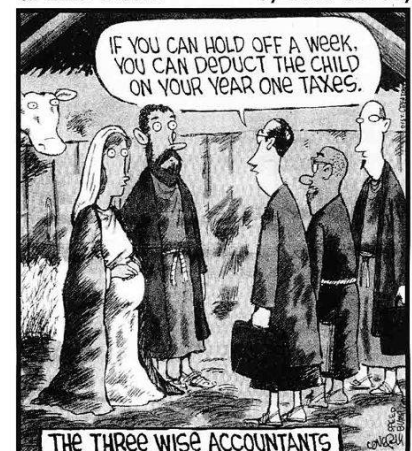
Wednesday, December 21, 8-11:30am
Sunshine Food Pantry prepares food boxes for delivery to seniors.



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

SPEED BUMP

by Dave Coverly



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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A Mountain of Toys - -

The Sunshine Food Pantry and Resource Center Inc. served as the distribution point for a whole pile of donated toys .



Managers from Galt's Les Schwab Tires brought their entire collection in plastic bags. The collection included a whole row of bicycles!



On another afternoon toys were separated into tables for various ages of girls and boys.



We received donations from Les Schwab Tire Center in Galt.
Heritage Senior Mobile Home Park in Galt.
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church.
Sunrise Rotary donated gift cards to kids over 12.
We gave gifts to over 100 children at the Rotary Christmas Box distribution on December 17.

Twas the Night Before Jesus Came

Twass the night before Jesus came
and all through the house,
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care
in hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
not once ever kneeling or bowing a head,
And mom in her rocker with baby in her lap
Was watching the Late Show, while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When what to my wandering eyes should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was there
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray
I knew in a moment this must be the DAY!

The light of His face made me cover my head
It was Jesus returning just like He had said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in His hand
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for a name!
When He said "It is not here" my head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love
He gathered to take to his Father above.
With those who were ready He rose without a sound.
While all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees but it was too late;
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear;
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call
We'll find the Bible was true after all!

(Shared by Ed and Freddie Delgado)



Merry Christmas from Chuck Knows Church.

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



Dear beloved Sisters, here's an update from our last week's meeting.

Despite the heavy rain on Saturday, we were able to deliver the "goodies to the Galt Police Department.

Thank you David and Debra for donating the cookies, Mariah and Mercedes for creating a beautiful poster/card and Mona for more cookies and joining us.

We had a wonderful gathering at the Kumar's for lunch. Those present were Paster Mary, Mona, Eva, Faye, Dottie, Kimberly, Sabrina, Mariah, Mercedes and Inez. Inez we were so glad you could join us and we hope you had a good time.

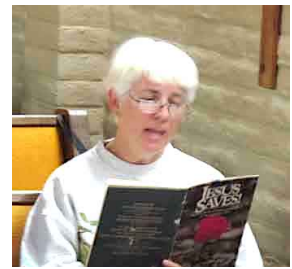
As part of the program we remembered and celebrated those members that have passed away - Margaret, Jeanne, Mazie, Patricia, Pat, Shirley, Leona, Chandra, Mary, Louis, Shirley, and Anita.

We remembered those that have moved to other places - Bonnie, Shirley, Tanya and William, and Joann.

We remembered our past pastors that graced our pulpit - Craig Dale, Helen Mansfield, Judy Robbins, Joe Carmichael, Norm Mowery.

It was a wonderful time of celebration.

- Rosie Kumar, President of UWIF



Inherit the Mirth by Cuyler Black



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We had a choir!

Pictured: Dennis Yoder, Margaret Luginbill, Mary Lewis, Eva Roach, Leona Dameron, Jan Ellis, Greg Davidson, George Ahern, Margaret Duecker, Ron Dameron, Jay Long





Galt United Methodist Church

Mary Maaga, Pastor
Church telephone - 209-745-4133
Morning Worship
Online at galtumc.org



Galt United Methodist Church
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Galt, CA 95632

