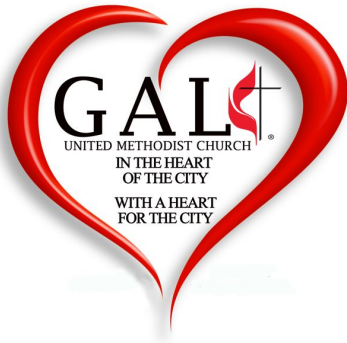


Galt UMC This Week



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 5, 2022

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



As a child my absolute favorite thing to do at Christmas was sneak out into the living room after everyone had gone to bed and turn on the lights on the tree. What is it about a lit Christmas tree that glows with more than strings of lights? There is something about the memories the tree holds, and the warmth and hope we feel as we look at it. As most of you know, I was not raised in a Christian home, so there were no Nativities around, no stories of Jesus's birth were told, no Church services. Yet there was something about the tree and its light and the silence in the house that spoke to my soul. When we complain about the materialism of Christmas and how people have forgotten "the reason for the season", I think we forget that people don't choose how they are raised. Many people are growing up just like I did – longing for something more but not knowing how to get it. I feel quite emotional when I think about our Nativity out in front of Galt UMC. I think about how many people will pass by and for a moment, at least, they will feel their hearts warmed by something spiritual, by Someone who loves them. For me, our Church Nativity is for our beloved Galt what that shining tree was for me growing up: a promise of new birth.



Advent Blessings, Pastor Mary



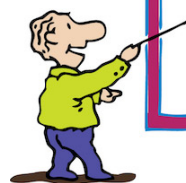
THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent
Hope

December 11;
Shepherds "Come and See"

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 in Places We Least Expect! The Lord's Lambs will go upstairs for Sunday School; Papa Earl will read us his favorite Christmas book "The Night Tree" for the message; Mattie Shepherd will sing "O Holy Night" and for the first time in many, many months Dennis Yoder plans to sing!

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

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.



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

Would you like to join Galt UMC and become an official member of our Church family? We would love to have you join us! Let Pastor Mary know if you would like to do so. Karen and Kristine Honer are joining as is Jessie Dennison.

Quilt Club 11am Mondays upstairs



Nine women came to our first meeting of the Quilt Club this past Monday! Please bring any handiwork you would like to work on, or plan to work toward a group quilt, or just come for the warmth and love. We are grateful that Sharon Hebein is patching us together like the beautiful quilt the Lord has called us to be.

"What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what can I give Him—
Give my heart."
- -Christina Rossetti



This week at our Church

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
WEEKLY
Sneak Peek



Facebook Live on the Scriptural Basis of Christmas

So far nearly a thousand “watches” have been registered for the first 3 sessions of Pastor Mary’s Facebook Live series on the Scriptural basis for the holidays. Her FB Live class will be next Sunday, December 11th. Starting on January 8th she will shift back to ZOOM and begin teaching on Paul’s letter to the Romans from 4 – 5 every Sunday.



Bible Study
 Tuesday, December 6, in person: 11am: Christmas in Scripture: Matthew’s Gospel.



Sunshine Food Pantry
 Wednesday, December 7, 8-11:30am Sunshine Food Pantry prepares food boxes for delivery to seniors.

Preparation time also for public food distribution on Thursday.



Food Distribution Day.
 Thursday, December 8, 7:30 to 10:00am



United Women in Faith
 Saturday, December 10, 10am United Women in Fellowship at church, followed by lunch at Rosie Kumar’s home, 1108 Paddington.

Welcome to Worship

Sunday, December 11, 10am
 Worship SHEPHERDS & GOD’S SURPRISES *Lord’s Lambs Sunday School during Worship!*



Community Outreach
 Sunday, December 11: 1:30pm; Bruceville Point in person worship.



Bible Study
 Sunday, December 11: Sunday, December 11: 4pm – 4:30pm Bible Study with Pastor Mary on Facebook



Monday, December 12: 11:00am - - Quilt Club.



Take Note!
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.

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:



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

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!



The Work of the Church – How Our Church Works by Pastor Mary

Because of our emphasis on discipleship, it probably won't surprise you to know that Methodists have influenced THREE of the most impactful organizations for easing human suffering: Salvation Army, Alcoholics Anonymous and Heifer Project! It was William Booth, a Methodist minister, who created the Salvation Army in London in 1865 in response to Churches failing to welcome the poor, the hungry, and the vulnerable. Alcoholics Anonymous group meetings of mutual support and accountability were shaped by the "Oxford Group Movement" of which John and Charles Wesley were founding members. Heifer Project was born of a desire to end hunger in the world following World War 2. It has been closely linked with the Methodist Church through the support of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and also through many Methodist leaders who have expressed their love of Christ and their discipleship by working for Heifer Project. I am proud that we support Alcoholics Anonymous by offering a place for 5 groups a week to meet in our upstairs conference room. I am proud that our Sunshine Food Pantry serves the same vulnerable people who have benefited from the work of the Salvation Army. And I am pleased that the Galt UMC Finance Committee has decided that this year our special Christmas offering will go toward Heifer Project.



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

Last Sunday Pastor Mary brought in person worship to the Bruceville Point community for the first time. Galt UMC has been their online worship for the past two years. Twenty-two people attended worship. Yesterday! Then, this past Tuesday 9 people from Bruceville arrived on their transport bus to attend in person Bible Study.

GREETERS SCHEDULE

December 11

Anne Albrecht
Sharon Drake

December 18

Sharon Drake
Judy King

Hospitality Host



December 11

Anne Albrecht

December 18

Ann Mitchell
Barbara Anderson

Our District Prayer focus this week:

December 11: Pray for St. Mark's UMC, Stockton

December 18: Pray for ministry at UOP.



Chuck is back explaining all things Methodist!

This series of 3 to 5 minute videos seeks to enlighten serious church happenings in a humorous way.

Advent Wreath: Four candles in a circle with a big one in the middle? Yep, take a moment and learn the basics about the Advent wreath. Chuck introduces you to what those candles symbolize. You'll smile and learn with Chuck.

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

Sign outside Christian Church, Woodward IA
"I finally got it all together
and now I forgot where I put it."

The Roving Camera Eye

Activities from around Galt UMC



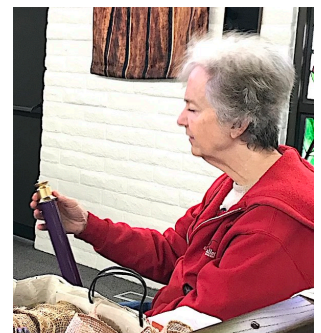
Last Monday morning a bus from Bruceville Point brought 9 residents for in-person Bible study. Several from Galt UMC were present for the study. The group is ready to meet again this coming week.



Pastor Mary puts "her thoughts" in order.



Yes, it's true, it takes some effort to transition from Thanksgiving to Advent/Christmas. But it's also lots of fun!! Just take a look at the team at work.



Pastor Mary gets ready to "light up the night"



Ricky Toynbee and Richard Farhat assembled the outdoor Nativity scene.



Lessa Klotz and Olivia's boyfriend Jacob helped decorate the altar.



Pastor Mary and Lessa Klotz decorate the altar for the Advent Season.



Galt United Methodist Church

Mary Maaga, Pastor
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Morning Worship
Online at galtumc.org



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