

University Presbyterian Church

University Press

"Where love of God and love of neighbor live at the heart of our life together."

October 2009

Christian Hospitality and the H1N1 Virus

Pastor Chris Erdman

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Years ago we spent a year together going deeper in the Christian practice of hospitality. Hospitality is not merely about being nice; it's an expression of the gospel. In Christ, God hosts us . . . God welcomes us. We, in turn, are to welcome one another.

Of course we practice this welcoming toward each other every week when we gather and Pass-the-Peace to one another. It is a vital part of worship. We're not just being nice. In one way or another we're intentionally saying to others, "The peace of Christ be with you." This small ritual becomes a blessing, a prayer that helps create a hospitable environment for others to encounter God in the place we gather for prayer each Sunday. And so, we practice hospitality toward one another.

But at the Lord's Table, during the sacrament or Holy Communion (the Eucharist), it is God who welcomes us. It is the high point of Christian worship in which we are fed mystically by Christ, we are nourished by the mystery that is God in us, we are united with the fullness of God. There is no other action like this in the world. It is unique and irreplaceable.

The current concerns about the H1N1 flu virus affect our worship practices. Some of us may be unconcerned. We're healthy, and we may feel that there's too much hype about this pandemic already and don't want to hear about it at church. But there are people among us who are concerned. Their health may be more fragile. Their immune system may be suppressed. They may just hate getting sick. How can we continue to greet one another, to share in Communion—both physical acts—while also insuring a high level of care so that all people can

worship regardless of their health concerns at this time of increased susceptibility to what for some is a very dangerous virus?

With guidance from infectious disease experts our elders are guiding us to do several things.

First, practice basic good hygiene when you are here at church. Wash your hands often. Avoid touching your face. If you sneeze or cough, cover up. Be sensitive to those around you at meetings or at worship.

Second, we are placing a few well-placed hand sanitizers around the facilities to help us all stay as germ free as possible.

Third, when you Pass-the-Peace, remember that clasping hands is only one among many ways of welcoming others into worship. Be intentional with eye contact, a slight bow, a gentle hug. Recognize that someone might not, for one reason or another, want to touch—being intentionally greeted is good enough.

And fourth, we will slightly modify our Communion practice. For all intents and purposes you'll hardly tell the difference. During our Communion services, you will come forward to receive, as is our custom, pre-torn bread. Then, instead of dipping in the chalice, you will take one of the small, individual cups from a tray held by an elder or deacon and return to your seat. One elder calls this a "Combo Meal"—it's essentially a combination of both styles of Communion practices at UPC.

In these ways we hope to continue to practice warm Christian hospitality, providing both welcome and safety for all at a time when of increased anxiety.



New Member Potluck

October 25
5:00 pm

Mark your calendars and join the fun as we welcome our newest members. Check Connections for details!

All Church Potluck

CROP WALK – October 25, 2009



It's that time of the year again. The annual Church World Service Fresno/ Clovis Crop Walk will be held on Sunday, October 25. This year's host is Memorial United Methodist Church in Clovis at 1726 Pollasky (near Shaw and Clovis Ave.). Registration opens at 2:00 p.m. and the walk begins at 2:30 p.m.

Individuals and families are encouraged to participate in this fun (but not athletic) event. It would also be a great group activity. Maybe your bible study, Sunday school, youth group, book club, etc. would like to walk together. Wagons, strollers, wheelchairs are okay, but please no bikes, scooters, skates or skateboards. Two routes are available:

1.5 miles and 3 miles.

Walkers will receive a sponsorship form to collect donations from family and friends. Donations can also be gathered and submitted online at via UPC's crop walk webpage at <http://www.churchworldservice.org/goto/upcfresno>. Funds raised will go to our local Community Food Bank, as well as disaster relief in the U.S. and abroad. If you can't walk yourself, consider sponsoring someone who is. Signups for walkers and sponsorship will continue until the day of the walk. Look for the table out in front of the church between services. For more information, contact Kathleen Smith.

UPC Basketball Hoop Speaks to the Neighborhood

One day, many years ago, young UPC trustees John Sunderson and Doug Haas hoisted the basketball hoop at the west end of the UPC parking lot. Our prayer was that our youth would derive many hours of hoop-shooting joy from it. I am sure our youth have shot a few hoops. But the hoop has turned into a neighborhood outreach over the years. Men and women, boys and girls from

around the neighborhood use that hoop on a regular basis. Evangelism decided to speak to the audience. Go and look at the backboard. We took down the backboard, repainted it, and the pole, and then applied Scripture to the backboard. So far God has protected the backboard and no graffiti has been painted onto it.

STARS

All seniors, come be a part of some very lively discussion at the monthly STARS (Seniors That Are Really Special) meeting on Wednesday, October 21, at 1:30 PM in the Great Room. We will be

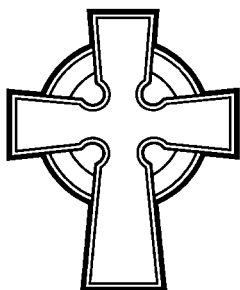
looking at some interesting situations in which we will have the opportunity to "be the judge." As always, we will enjoy one another's company and yummy dessert, too.

Prayer And Healing Service

Our monthly *Prayer & Healing Service* joins sisters and brothers in Christ, listening for the whisper of our Lord's voice. You are invited to join us on October 20, at 7 pm for a time of praise, prayer, healing, and meditation. Come

let the breath of God wash over you and listen for his loving voice in your life.

This service is held on the third Tuesday of every month, and you are encouraged to put it on your calendar.



Youth Ministry

Katie Schuman

Doctor. Lawyer. Teacher. Musician. Mother. Father. What do all these people have in common? They all played a part in the Youth Ministry when they were in high school. University Presbyterian Church has nurtured hundreds of students over the years. Leaders and volunteers have given their time and devotion in prayer to make the ministry "successful." It is those individuals that I thank. Great thanks to those that attended football games, lead small groups, offered a home for a pool party, and much more. In recent months my gratitude goes out to the Morgan and Nunez families for making our room renovation a reality, Joe Wilson and Linda Stolling for offering to teach Sunday school, Wendy Warnes for her dedication, Shawn Simas for his years of hanging out with the youth, Linda Jean Voth for bringing snacks to events, parents being willing to have screaming youth in their backyards for a summer evening, and many more of you. No matter how big the commitment or small... all of your support has been encouraging to our youth.

As our ministry is developing, more of you are urged to take part. It could be a commitment to pray, housing an event, volunteering at activities, or

simply attending events that the students are involved in through school. I came to University Presbyterian Church as a sophomore in high school with only the background knowledge of Christianity that I saw on television and grandparents who were deep into the faith but had hurt the family in many ways. What I found at the UPC Youth Group, and later at UPC as a whole, was the exact opposite. I was surrounded by a caring group of fellow students and volunteers who took great interest in me. It was because of the dedication that our people had to love one another that I kept on coming back. To see that tradition carry on in our Youth Ministry would be an answered prayer.

This fall brings new outlooks on Youth Ministry. We will be taking part in an evening Youth Group Night on Sundays and our new student leadership team has been meeting regularly and students are forming stronger bonds. All are welcome to take part in this exciting time of our youth. If you feel God calling you to take part in our ministry, please contact me, upckatie@gmail.com or by phone at the church. I can't wait to hear from you!



We're thankful for you!

UPC Prayer Corner

Please continue to pray for those facing health issues.



If you would like the UPC prayer chain to pray for you, or someone else, call Sue Vinicor, 255-7015.

Lao Partners — a New Dimension

By now you should have received our letter about our Lao Partners upcoming trip to Laos.

UPC's Lao Partners has steadily evolved over the past eight years, with our members making six trips to Laos to work with the Lao Evangelical Church in areas of medical assistance, computer technology, English teaching and pastoral training. These joint activities have served to build a working relationship and a foundation of mutual trust between our Lao Partners, the leadership of the LEC – and also with local government officials.

This relationship has begun to take on a new and more **tangible** dimension in the past year with our partnership with *Living Waters for the World*. UPC's Lao Partners commitments have included:

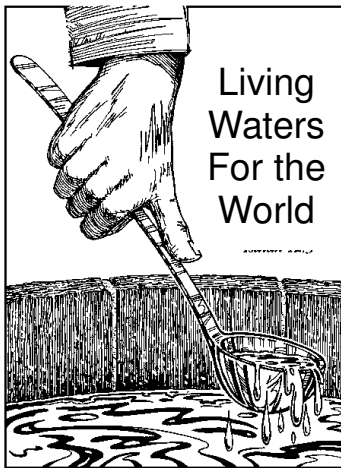
- Our sending four people to attend *LWW's* Clean Water University in Mississippi.
- Calvin Crest becoming the *LWW's* campus for Clean Water U – West with the first classes set for early October,
- Lao Partners sending a four-member advance team to Laos in June.
- Our helping Pastor Khampheng of the LEC to attend this October's Clean Water U – West training, and Lao Partners preparing to send eight people to Laos in October to install the first *LWW* water purification plant.

A significant part of this **tangible** commitment is the costs of such an installation project, including:

- Purchasing equipment and supplies for the water plant installation.
- Sending assessment, installation, and training teams – along with translators – to Laos (our team members pay their own way). Making at least two mandatory follow-up trips to assure the ongoing viability of each installation. (We hope that these will be *multi-phase* follow-up trips that would incorporate assessments, installations, and training for future *LWW* installations in Laos).

Lao Partners' projections are that we will need an additional \$2,500 to complete this year's project – which will serve as the *initial model for future installations*. We are excited that LEC has committed to sending Pastor Khampheng to Clean Water U this fall. We see this as a demonstration of their intent to assume increasing responsibility for future installations

We welcome your support and prayers. Please contact Sandra Eaton if you would like to participate in the prayer team for this year's trip to Laos.



Lao Language Outreach

In late August, UPC hosted a Lao language revival. Almost 150 gathered in our Great Room for a full day of worship, music, singing God's praise and messages of joy, grace and salvation. Special guest speaker was Dr. Inta Chanthavongsouk, chairman of the Lao Council of Churches. A delicious lunch of Lao food enriched the fellowship. We thank God for the

dedicated leadership of our commissioned lay pastors, John and Lorna Bosavanh and all who made this important event happen. The Lao language members of UPC continue in their outreach to the Lao speaking community to share the love of Jesus Christ.

Adult Education

The "Christian classic" we will be talking about in January and February is "The Seven Storey Mountain" by Thomas Merton. Please be reading this marvel-

ous spiritual autobiography during the next three months. If you need help getting the book, contact Pastor Tedd.



Reading
Thomas
Merton

Reel Theology celebrates a special birthday

John Calvin was born 500 years ago this year and as we come to All Saints Day, Nov. 1, we will view a documentary titled. "John Calvin: His Life and Legacy. "

Place Oct. 24 at 6:30 pm on your calendar. The DVD is published by the Office of Theology, Worship and Education of the PC(USA). Well-known

Calvin scholars and scenes from Geneva and Paris are a part of this documentary. You may view a trailer on the pcusa.org website. Type in "Calvin Jubilee" in the search box to view.

Communications from the congregation

Susie Joy Mast's "Heartprints" article can now be found on our website at www.upcfresno.org. Click on "Library," then click on "From our church family." Her article is listed there. If you would like to share spiritual thoughts or

poems, feel free to email a piece to mstephenson@upcfresno.com. If you do not have internet access , call the church office at 439-8807 and set up a time to use one of our computers.



God has poured out his love into our hearts....
Romans 5:5

Thank you

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards and phone calls we received. It meant so much to Wayne and me.

We knew we were in God's hands.
-Wayne and Dorothy Curtis

Come And Have Some Fun

Are you looking for a group of friends to laugh with, talk with, and just enjoy Christian fellowship? GALS' NIGHT is for you. Please join us on Oct. 22 for movie night in the Majesty Theater. We will start the movie at exactly 7:00 so we

can be out by 8:30. New women are always welcome, so we hope to see you there!



Come For the Fun



OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 8:30-12 pm, New Members Class GR
4 World Communion Peacemaking Offering	5 6:30-8:30 pm Contemplative Outreach	6 Deacons Mtg, 7 pm	7	8	9 	10 Church workday 8:30 a.m. Women's Retreat-Calvin Crest
11 Blood Pressure Screening Women's Retreat	12 6:30-8:30 pm Contemplative Outreach	13 Presbyterian Women 9:30 am	14	15	16 Clippers, 5 p.m., Woodward Park	17 10-12 pm New Member Class, GR 7 p.m. Fresno State football game, parking at 5 pm
18 2-4 p.m. new member class Serve at Poverello House	19 6:30-8:30 pm Contemplative Outreach	20 Prayer & Healing Service 7 pm	21 STARS, 1:30 pm GR 	22 Gals' Night Out 7 pm	23	24 Reel Theology 6:30 pm
25 Daylight-saving time, set clock back one hour New Member Potluck 5 pm 3:30 Session mtg	26 6:30-8:30 pm Contemplative Outreach	27 Ministries 7 pm	28	29	30	31 2 pm Fresno State football, parking at noon.  Prayer Retreat-Pacific Grove

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday

8:30 Worship
9:45 Teaching Hour
ALPHA
11:00 Contemporary
Worship
11:00 Lao Worship
12:00 Son Daze

Monday

12:15 Staff Meeting

Tuesday

9:30 Women's Bible Fellowship
3:30 Computer Lab
6:00 Scouts

Wednesday

9:30 Women's Bible Study
3:30 Tutoring
7:00 GAYG (off site)
6:30 Women's Ensemble
7:00 Chancel Choir
8:30 Men's Ensemble

Thursday

6:00 AM For Men Only
5:30 PM Bell Choir

Friday

6:00 PM Lao Music Team

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University Presbyterian Church
1776 E. Roberts Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710

Non-Profit Organization
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Return Service Requested

Hours of Worship:

Sunday Morning Worship

8:30 AM (Traditional w/ASL)

11:00 AM (Contemporary)

Sunday Lao Service 11:00 AM

Sunday School 9:45 AM

Pastors:

Rev. Chris Erdman

Rev. Tedd Lyons

Rev. Sharon Stanley

Mr. John Bosavanh

Mailing Label

Roll Up Your Sleeves for Church Workday

The next church workday is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 10, at 8:30 a.m. On this workday we will be working on touch-up painting, cabinet and drawer repair in the classrooms and sidewalk/paver repair. If you have skills in these areas or are able to volunteer your muscles for such work, contact Russ Wilson at 299-0473.

Our next workday for fall leaf cleanup will be in late November or early December so watch your newsletter and Connections for more details.

Clippers

Climb up in your surrey with the fringe on top, your bicycle, or your new-fangled automobile and join the Clippers for an old-fashioned Picnic in the Park on Friday, Oct. 16. We'll be gathering at the Valley View shelter in Woodward Park at 5:00 p.m. for hot dogs and all the traditional trimmings. At sunset, we will have the very special treat of hearing Fresno artist Doug Hansen take

us on a trip with "Mother Goose in California," which also just happens to be the title of his beautiful new book.

The cost is \$5.00 per person. Be sure to call Gloria Pearson or Jean Ann Fulton to reserve your place at the table! No ants invited!

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is the newsletter of University Presbyterian Church.

DEADLINE

for the November Newsletter is October 15.

