



*Joyfully Sharing God's Boundless Love with All in Our Community  
without Limitation, Exception, or Condition*

**UNIVERSITY PRESS**

**September 2018**

## **Living in God's Love Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow**

*by The Reverend Renn Serna, Senior Pastor*

UPC has been a place of living God's love for 50 years! It is hard to imagine it has been 50 years since God called us together as a church body and charged us with the task of living in response to God's amazing love. In May 1968, the San Joaquin Presbytery appointed Rev. S. William Antablin and an adventurous group of believers to start a new church plant here in Fresno. In May 1969, the following year, the University Presbyterian Church was chartered with 128 founding members. As they say, the rest is history.



Some of us have been a part of the UPC journey since the beginning, while others of us have joined at different times along the path. My start with UPC began just over a year ago when I had my first official interview with the Pastor Nominating Committee. That's when I began to fall in love with the people and the vision of UPC. No matter when your journey with UPC began, all of us have stories of how this community has challenged, inspired, and supported us along the way which tell the larger story about how special UPC really is.

This coming year marks our 50th year together, and that is definitely an anniversary worth celebrating! All year long we will celebrate with special events, concerts, and worship services to encourage us remember who God has called us to be and give thanks for God's faithfulness over the years.

The festivities begin Sunday, September 9 at special worship at the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. At 5 p.m. that day, we come together for a church potluck where we celebrate and lift up stories from our first 10 years in ministry together. A number of church members, who were a part of our congregation from the early years, plan to share what they remember about our church during that time, as we give thanks for God's faithful stirrings in our humble beginnings.

Other potlucks and celebrations are planned throughout the year, lifting up the various stories and seasons in our life together. The whole season of celebration, culminates with joyful worship and festivities the weekend of May 19, 2019 when we give thanks for all God has done these past 50 years and commit ourselves to the next 50 years. Our theme for this year is "Living in God's Love, Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow." We want to recognize how God has been with us every step of the way, and how He continues to be with us as we step together into the adventure ahead.

Part of this journey is recognizing how God has uniquely created us for the particular work we

have been given. One of the things Session has been wrestling with in preparing for our anniversary celebration is the question: "Who are we as a congregation?" What makes us different from the megachurch down the street, or even a Presbyterian congregation across the country? What kinds of people do we most naturally attract and what unique purpose has God given us as a congregation to live out?

One of the ways Session has answered these questions is to put together a compilation of UPC's Core Values describing who we are when we are most fully living into God's call for us. These six values have remained constant throughout our church history and help define the unique ways God is calling us to be in relationship with Him and one another. These values have been woven throughout our church DNA since the beginning, challenging us to live into who we are more fully.

### The Six Core Values of UPC:

**Rooted in Jesus** — Because of God's redemptive love, we center our individual and communal lives on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

**Excellence in Worship** — Because of God's awe-inspiring goodness, we strive for authentic, soul-filling worship which brings glory to God by bringing our best.

**Authentic Relationships** — Because of the relational nature of God, we are committed to being present to one another in community as we journey through life together.

**Service to Community** — Because of God's self-sacrificial love for the world, we are called to imitate Christ by humbly serving our neighbors.

**Unity Over Uniformity** — Because of our oneness in Christ, we don't have to think alike, look alike, or act alike in order to belong.

**Lifelong Learning** — Because of Jesus' call to love God with our whole selves, we value questions, honesty, and wonder.

Our Session fully believes these core values are central to what makes UPC special, and represent who we are when we are living into God's love for us in the fullest. This fall we explore each more fully in worship and in conversation. The article below invites you into the conversation beginning September 9 with our Sunday morning Adult Education. There will be many ways for us to celebrate together this coming year. I hope that you join us to share your story of what UPC means to you, and help us dream together of what God has in store for us next. I personally have been so blessed by the year I have spent getting to know all of you and living into the joyful call God has for our church. I can't wait to see what the next 50 years brings!

Blessings, *Pastor Renn*

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## Family Values: Exploring Why UPC Exists

*by The Reverend Dustin Maddox, Associate Pastor*



### UPC's Five Core Values

- Rooted in Jesus
- Excellence in Worship
- Authentic Relationships
- Service to Community
- Unity Over Uniformity
- Lifelong Learning



As we launch our 50th Anniversary Year, we want to intentionally remind ourselves of who we--the people of UPC--are and why UPC was formed in 1969 and continues to thrive in this place and time. As you have read in the article above, we have identified Six Core Values which have evolved over the past year through a process of exploration, unearthing, and naming. Looking back and looking at where we are today, we asked: What matters most to us at UPC? What anchors us in who God has called us to be? What guides our mission? What has influenced our leadership decisions as well as everyday ministry plans here at UPC?

Now it is time for us together to envision and explore these core values to see what new questions and answers will lead us into the future.

Between services, from September 9 through October 14, Elder Micah Qualle and I are providing a hands-on time of deeper explanation and exploration of the role of our core values, with an invitation to share stories about how these have been at the core of our life together over the last 50 years. We are excited to invite you into imaginative conversation to wonder what it might look like for these values to guide us for the next 50 years. Come each Sunday morning at 10:15 a.m. and add your voice to the conversation about the University Presbyterian Church's Core Values.

Grace + Peace, *Pastor Dustin*

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## Come Sing Melodic Choir Anthems This Fall

*by Cactus Harris, Director of Music & Arts and Resident Organist*

I was asked an interesting question recently, one that I realize many may be wondering: "What is a choir anthem?" With that, I thought it would be wise to start writing about a few of these terms and practices we have in worship, which might pique your curiosity. Pre-Reformation, during the 13th century, the music of the church began to transform from basic unison chant, into polyphonic

compositions. Polyphony (poly=many; phony=sounds) came from composers adding more voice parts above or below the pre-existing chants, thus creating beautiful harmonies. These pieces written in Latin were specifically for the church choir because of their complexity. The individual pieces became known as "Motets" and played an important role in the liturgy.



Fast forward to the Reformation and the establishment of the Anglican Church of England. Drawing off the "motet," English composers wrote their own sacred choral pieces and called them "anthems." Again, the intent of the anthem was to have a short sacred piece composed for the choir that complimented the scripture reading and liturgy. This practice has morphed in many different ways through the Protestant tradition, but the principal has remained the same; to glorify God and inspire the listener.

**Fall is a great time to join either the UPC Chancel Choir or Bell Choir.** Being in these music ensembles is an enriching way to be involved as we lead the congregation in worship. Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and the Bell Choir rehearses Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Come be a part of one or both of these talented and enthusiastic fellowships! E-mail me with questions or for more information at [cactus@upcfresno.org](mailto:cactus@upcfresno.org).

In harmony, *Cactus*

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## Let the 50th Celebration Begin | Sunday, September 9 in Worship @ 9 & 11 a.m. | a Potluck @ 5 p.m.



Over the next year, we are celebrating the 50 years of UPC by each decade. **The festivities begin Sunday, September 9 at special worship services at 9 and 11 a.m. At 5 p.m. that day, we come together for a church potluck** where we celebrate and lift up stories from our first 10 decade (1968-1978) in ministry together. A number of church members, who were a part of our congregation from the early years, plan to share what they remember about our church during that time, as we give thanks for God's faithful stirrings in our

humble beginnings.

If you have any pictures or memorabilia you would like to share, we would love to add it to our slide show. If you have a great memory from that decade and would like to share it, please let us know that too!

Email photos and/or stories to: Lisa Matson at [lisamatson@cusd.com](mailto:lisamatson@cusd.com) and/or Dustin Maddox @ [dustin@upcfresno.org](mailto:dustin@upcfresno.org).

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## Women's Retreat: Register by September 2

*by the Women's Retreat Planning Committee*

Register by Sunday, September 2 for the UPC Women's Retreat at **Calvin Crest | September 21-23.**

*Made in the Image of God* is the theme by which each woman are invited to discover her own unique preferred spiritual connection with God and come away with a mind-body prayer skill for dealing with stress. Through reflections on three foremothers of our faith: Mary of Nazareth, Miriam of the Wilderness Journey, and Mary of Magdala, this year's facilitator, Denice Leslie, retired United Methodist pastor, encourages each person to find herself in the full reflection of God. Prayer, worship, fellowship, crafts, and the great outdoors revives during our weekend together and sends us home renewed by our experiences together.



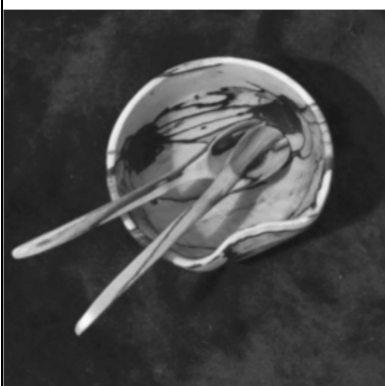
The group mission project for the Retreat is assembling Homeless Bags. (See the article below to find out how you can help even if you are not going to the Retreat.)

Cost is \$180 for a shared room and \$190 for single occupancy. **CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED.** Scholarships are available so cost does not keep any woman away who wants to attend. To register, come by the table on the patio between services.

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## Lao Lunch Supports Our Partnerships in Laos

*by Charlie Warnes for the SEA Ministry*



After installing seven *Living Waters for the World* (LWW) clean water systems, our partners in Laos and we have mutually agreed to shift our focus to two other areas:

Our friend Pastor Saykham continues to head up the growing network of 'home churches' in the metropolitan Vientiane area. He is concentrating his church growth efforts on the less advantaged neighborhoods that are prone to poverty, unemployment and growing drug problems. In that context, he has identified a need and opportunity to establish vocational training and apprenticeship programs. He has asked us for our advice and support in this endeavor.

Our last three LWW installations have been in rural villages, where our hygiene education classes were conducted in local elementary schools. We thus became aware of a significant need for rudimentary sanitation education and facilities (toilet and hand washing) at some of those schools.

Pastor John Bosavanh is making a trip to Laos this fall as a means for continuing to nurture and



build our relationship with the Lao Evangelical Church. A key part of this trip is to further explore ways we can effectively support our Lao friends in these areas.

As a support to this mission, **Lao Partners is conducting a raffle and luncheon between the UPC worship services on Sunday, October 7.** Tickets are on sale Sunday mornings from September 9-30. Members of our Lao congregation are preparing delectable box lunches for \$7 each, and also egg rolls (two for \$1). Thai tea is available for \$2.

Raffle items are the hand-crafted wooden salad bowl and a pandao bed cover (shown), our team members bought during our 2016 trip. Also a beautiful hand-woven shawl will be available in the raffle. Raffle tickets are \$2 each, or three for \$5 available also on Sunday mornings in September.



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## Homeless Bags: How You Can Help

*by Women's Retreat Planning Committee*



The congregation is invited to support this year's Women's Retreat mission project of assembling homeless bags with donations of the items on the list below. After the September retreat, the bags will be available in the Narthex of the church and on the table under the window in the Great Room for you to take to hand out to homeless people. Please place donated items in the bright striped collection boxes provided in both the Narthex and Great Room. Financial donations are also gladly accepted if you want us to shop for you. Make your check out to UPC, mark it for "homeless bags" and put it in the collection plate or bring it to the office. Thank you for helping out.

**ITEMS FOR HOMELESS BAGS:** Bottled water, bars of soap (unscented preferred, place in zip lock bags), toothbrush/toothpaste, energy bars/granola bars, peanut butter crackers/cheese-cracker cups, fruit cups, foil pack tuna/chicken, pop can soups, pairs of new socks, small wash clothes, small sized sunscreen, chap stick, small boxes of Band Aids, small tubes of antibiotic ointment, and maxi pads.

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## Annual Holiday Boutique: Coming in November

*by Jean Ann Fulton, for the Presbyterian Women*

The annual UPC Presbyterian Women's Holiday Boutique is **Saturday, November 10 & Sunday, November 11.** This unique boutique offers crafts, baked goods, green growing things, wonderful collectibles, and white elephants. It's perfectly timed to coincide with holiday gift giving and decorating.

Donations are always welcome! Keep the Boutique in mind as you clean out cupboards, china cabinets and garages. We hope you find treasures someone else might want. (Good, slightly used items only; no clothes or furniture, please.)



Throughout the fall, we invite you to join us for Workshops many Mondays from 9:30-11 a.m. Call one of the numbers below to find out when we meet for Workshops to share ideas, work on crafts, and make final plans for the Boutique.

Watch the weekly church bulletin for updates on the Boutique. For more information, call Jean Ann Fulton at 432-5092 or Ruth Kallenberg at 431-7681.

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## Groundskeeper Needed



We are now hiring a 10 hour/week groundskeeper to assist with mowing, weeding, and general yard maintenance at UPC. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, contact the church office at 559-439-8807 or email the office at [info@upcfresno.org](mailto:info@upcfresno.org) for an application.

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## UPC Groups

### WEEKLY

**Contemplative Prayer:** Come **Mondays at 6:30 p.m.** to the Godly Play Room (Rooms 3-4) for Christ-centered meditation. No previous experience is necessary, just a desire to spend quiet, still time with the Divine. For more information, email Cathy Wingert at [wingy104@aol.com](mailto:wingy104@aol.com).

**Women's Bible Study:** The group meets **Wednesdays from 9:30 - 11 a.m. and begins meeting again on September 12**, studying Isaiah. They welcome you to join them this fall as they are starting this new study. For more information, contact Laura Lindegren at [punkin2826@yahoo.com](mailto:punkin2826@yahoo.com), or call her at 299-1838.

**Thursday Evening Bible Study:** The group meets **Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room**. They are currently studying the Gospel of Luke. For more information, email Ceci Johnson [atcjartistquilts@gmail.com](mailto:atcjartistquilts@gmail.com).

### MONTHLY

**Intercessory Prayer Service:** This is a monthly service where all are invited to come pray for loved ones, members of our congregation, community, and world. Join them on **September 10 (this month) at 7 p.m.** For more information, contact Pastor Tedd at [teddlyons@gmail.com](mailto:teddlyons@gmail.com) or 906-1438.

**Presbyterian Women (PW):** Presbyterian Women have their first meeting of the fall on **Tuesday, September 11 at 9:30 a.m. in the Great Room**. The program features the River Park Senior Club's fitness director Erik Wahlberg, along with refreshments and a short business meeting. Join us! Also, see the article above in this newsletter for information on our Holiday Boutique in November. For more information on PW, or the Boutique, email Ruth Kallenberg at [rbkallenberg@gmail.com](mailto:rbkallenberg@gmail.com).

**Clippers:** Clippers will have a Barbecue and Potluck **Friday, September 14, at 6:00 p.m. in the Great Room**. Bring a salad or dessert of your choice. Tri-tip, rolls and drinks will be provided. \$2 per person for the tri-tip. Guests are welcome. RSVP by September 11 to one of these hosts: Ben & Cathy Douglas at 299-1793, Louis & Hollie Volpp at 325-7362, or Ruth Kallenberg at 431-7681 or [rbkallenberg@gmail.com](mailto:rbkallenberg@gmail.com).

**UPC Food Pantry:** The monthly food distribution will take place on **Saturday, September 15 at 8 a.m.** Come and help by texting Dustin at 288-0083 to volunteer. If you would like to donate to the food of the month item for the distribution, **the food item for September is hot or cold cereal and shelf-stable breakfast food**. Bring your donations to the Narthex on Sunday mornings or drop

them at the office during the week. Would you like to help stock shelves on Thursday mornings prior to the distribution? Text Pastor Dustin at 288-0083.

**Taizé Contemplative Worship:** A Taizé contemplative, musical prayer service is held the third Sunday of the month in the Sanctuary. Worship in the Taizé style this month on **September 16 at 6 p.m.** For more information, email Cactus Harris at [cactus@upcfresno.org](mailto:cactus@upcfresno.org).

**Pub Theology:** Join the discussion on **Tuesday, September 18 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** at Sequoia Brewing Company, on the corner of Champlain and Perrin in the Piazza Del Fiore Center. Add your voice to the discussion of a variety of topics concerning faith, religion, and God. Seating is limited so come early to ensure a spot. The group meets monthly on the third Tuesday. Listening and discussion are encouraged. Drinking is optional, but with respect to the host venue, we ask you order something. For more information, contact Pastor Dustin at [dustin@upcfresno.org](mailto:dustin@upcfresno.org) or 288-0083.

### **An Opportunity for the UPC Community**

**Annual Crop Walk Hunger Walk:** The Walk is held on **Saturday, October 21 in the Tower District**. If you want to participate or have any questions, look for brochures in the Narthex or email Kim Leslie at [kimbroughl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kimbroughl@sbcglobal.net).

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## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

### **September Birthdays**

3 Greg Pozovich  
4 Tom DeWitt  
6 Beverly Ellis  
Shannon Pozovich  
Wendy Warnes  
8 Dione Lyons  
Tony Bounthapanya  
9 Margie Cobb  
Ren Adams  
10 Barbara Schlueter  
11 Claire Buchanan  
Melinda Vinicor  
13 Deborah Qualle  
Laurel Kiel  
Patrice Sanders  
15 Gregory Faulk  
Carol McMillen  
18 Sue Vinicor  
27 Micah Qualle  
28 Pamela Leonhardt  
30 Nate Berend

### **September Anniversaries**

12 Norm & Sue Christiansen  
Ken & Anne Klapste  
24 Kevin & Cathy Wingert

### **September Calendar**

3 Labor Day - Office Closed  
4 Deacons 6:30 p.m.  
5 Choir Rehearsal  
6:30 p.m.  
6 Thursday Bible Study  
6:30 p.m.  
Bell Choir Rehearsal  
6:30 p.m.  
9 50th Anniversary Kick-off  
10 Contemplative Prayer  
6:30 p.m.  
Intercessory Prayer 7 p.m.  
11 Presbyterian Women  
9:30 a.m.  
Session 6:30 p.m.  
12 Women's Bible Study  
9:30 a.m.  
Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.  
13 Thursday Bible Study  
6:30 p.m.  
Bell Choir Rehearsal  
6:30 p.m.  
14 Clippers 6 p.m.  
15 Food Distribution  
8 a.m.  
16 Literacy Mentor Training  
12:30 p.m.

### **September Calendar cont.**

17 Boutique Work Day  
9:30 a.m.  
Contemplative Prayer  
6:30 p.m.  
18 Pub Theology 6:30 p.m.  
19 Women's Bible Study  
9:30 a.m.  
Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.  
20 Thursday Bible Study  
6:30 p.m.  
Bell Choir Rehearsal  
6:30 p.m.  
21-23 Women's Retreat - Calvin  
Crest  
24 Boutique Work Day  
9:30 a.m.  
25 Ministry Meetings  
(times vary)  
26 Women's Bible Study  
9:30 a.m.  
Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.  
27 Thursday Bible Study  
6:30 p.m.  
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.  
28 Fresno Pacific Artists Concert  
7 p.m.

## **UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

1776 E. Roberts Avenue | Fresno, CA | 93710 | 559.439.8807 | [www.upcfresno.org](http://www.upcfresno.org)

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**University Presbyterian Church**  
**1776 E. Roberts Avenue**  
**Fresno, CA 93710**  
**(559) 439-8807**

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**Sunday Worship Schedule for September**  
9 a.m. Classic Worship | 11 a.m. Contemporary Service  
11 a.m. Lao Language Service | except the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
**Pastors**  
The Reverend Renn Serna, Senior Pastor  
The Reverend Dustin Maddox, Associate Pastor

**Return Service Requested**

Mailing Label Here

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