Dear Church Family,

As Lent draws to a close, and we prepare for our final walk to Jerusalem, I pray this has been a holy time for you – a time of deep reflection, a time of self-awareness, a time of reconnection to God through Jesus, the living Christ.

This time of year can seem long and lonely as we wait for the warmth of the sun to come back into our lives. But these times are important because they cause us to “hunker down” and spend time with ourselves. In our fast paced world we don’t get a lot of quiet, alone time, the kind of time that allows us to think deeply and pray fervently.

It takes discipline and self-awareness to find Sabbath time and honor it with our full presence. My hope is that, as we move from winter to spring, as we move from Lent through Holy week to Easter, you will take with you the habits of Lent. Let prayer and spiritual discipline inform and direct your life. Take time to quiet yourself so that each day you experience a little Sabbath. Then your days will invite new life, new energy, faithful following of Jesus, and kindness, compassion and love for your brothers and sisters.

Before Easter, before the resurrection, we must experience the painful death of things past – things that eat at us, tempt us, anger us, persuade us into unhealthy relationships – things that we are invited to lay at the feet of Christ, offer up to God, knowing God can and will take over. As we empty ourselves we make room for refilling. We make room for God, for goodness, for love, for strength, for courage.

May you find Holy week a week of emptying and Easter a time of refilling and new life! Join us on the journey.

Blessings, Pastor Kelley

Holy Week Schedule
March 29th – Palm Sunday               April 2nd – Holy Thursday
April 3rd – Good Friday                April 5th – Easter Sunday

View the Calendar, Page 9, for More Details
What's happening to Church? Excerpts from a Post by Michael Christensen, Ph.D., Drew University

“I’m certain that God is in the future, but wonder if the church has a future.”--Leonard Sweet

"The future of the Church is Shalom for All--the people of God, seeking the shalom of the community to where they have been sent into exile (Jeremiah 29:7).”--Michael J. Christensen

Three Questions:

What do we mean by ‘church’?

What is the future of the Church in North America in light of declining church attendance, increasing secularism, growth of the NONES (no religious affiliation), rise of the DONES (I'm done with church), and closing of churches?

How can we “do church” differently to help us love God and our neighbor (and even our enemy) as we love ourselves?

Decline in Attendance

What researchers forecast for decades now is undeniably true: traditional church attendance continues to decline (Gallup, Pew, Barna)

Although more than 40 percent of people “say” they go to church every week, statistics show that fewer than 20 percent actually attend regularly.

In other words, more than 80 percent of Americans are finding more fulfilling things to do on Sundays.

Growth of the “Nones”

People claiming no religious affiliation rose from 15% in 2007 to 20% in 2012, pointing to the growth of the “Nones” (None of the Above)—who may believe in God, may be spiritual, but not religious (Pew Research 2012).

Nearly two-fifths of the nation’s adult population (38%) now qualifies as post-Christian (as measured by 15 different variables related to people’s identity, beliefs and behaviors) (Barna).

If current trends continue, Christians will become minority in a post-Christian secular culture.

Rise in the “Dones”

Newly reported Rise of the “Dones” (Done with Church). [Who often are key lay leaders in local churches and national Christian leaders (who are not pastoring churches)] E.G. Barbara Brown Taylor, Episcopal priest, wrote about “Why I left Church”. Donald Miller, Blue Like Jazz, confessed on his blog: “I don’t go to church very often…and most of the influential Christian leaders I know (who are not pastors) do not attend church…I also believe the church is all around us, not to be confined by a specific tribe.”

Christians leaving traditional churches say they’re still spiritual, but church no longer meets their needs. They become unaffiliated believers who may sometimes go to church, but they’re done with church commitments, congregational conflict, and cultural Christianity.
If less than 20 percent actually attend church regularly, where do they go to church?

About 70% attend traditional churches and 30% participate in alternative forms of church today, according to Graham Cooke, author of Permission Granted to Do Church Differently in the 21st Century. But these percentages will reverse themselves within the next 10-15 years.

“Followers of Jesus in the US who do not attend a local traditional church will grow from 30% to approximately 70%,” says Cooke. One third will still attend traditional churches, one third will meet to worship God in alternative structures (homes, schools, restaurants, pubs, parks, theaters, hotels and shopping malls. “And one third will live out their faith in the fields of media, arts, and culture.”

In other words, increasing numbers of those who follow Jesus are not following him into a classic church building. And the remaining remnant can't afford a pastor or sustain an annual church budget.

The Good News

Change is blowing in the wind, creating new opportunities for church redevelopment and fresh expressions of ecclesia. It's time to ‘do church differently. 'We can watch with cynicism, resist the changing tide…OR, we can do church differently in the Third Millennium of Christianity.

Once unsustainable churches close, new ecclesial life can emerge.

Falling church attendance does not mean a decline in the practice of Christian faith. Rather, the Church is morphing as believers look for alternative ways to worship God and love their neighbor as oneself. Congregational life is migrating to small groups for intentional community, simple worship and vital mission in the world. The structures of the local church and perceived boundaries of the traditional parish are shifting and transforming into a more fluid organism and inclusive community of faith. Church is manifesting in communities, organically, and missionally.

Emerging Alternative Church Structures

Jesus said: “you cannot pour new wine into old wineskins…” (Luke 5:37-38), but you can create new wineskins for new wine. A new old story of “God so loved the world…” has been emerging and the people of God are learning how to tell the old story in new ways.

Essential Elements of Ecclesia

Ecclesia=called out ones. Out of the world and into community, to worship God and to participate in God’s mission in the world.

Permission Granted to Do Church Differently

Re-think Church.
Re-imagine Faith.
Envision ecclesia as community centers
Conclusion

Ecclesia is essential; structures change.
The Church has a future…if we re-purpose church buildings and re-form ecclesia
Time for church as the people of God to leave the temple and be the tabernacle in the world.
Time to get out of the church building and into the community.
“Be the Church you want to see in the world.”

The Answer?

Churchtogether.today

Church has left the building!

Remembering Angelica Pastor

Angelica Pastor, grandniece of Jean Navarro, passed away on Saturday, March 22, 2015, at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital.

A closed casket service will be held Saturday, April 4th, 3 p.m. at St. John’s United Methodist Church.
Rev. Mike Turgeon will be officiating.

KATHY EASTMAN TO WALK IN THE HUMAN RACE FOR SOL

Kathy Eastman is asking for supporters for her walk in the 2015 Human Race on May 9th to support Seeds of Learning.
The Human Race is a nationwide community fundraising event for nonprofit organizations and is the largest collaborative fundraising event in Sonoma County as well as the largest Human Race in the nation! Let’s support Kathy and the Seeds of Learning in this fundraising event. Contact Kathy for more details.
Our Trustees at Work . . . thanks,

Additional Signage with Hours of Service & Pastor’s Name

New Entrance Signage

New Flower Bed Curbing – Thanks to Phil Horton

One Original Picnic Table
PLUS Two Additional New Tables
EQUALS THREE TABLES TO ENJOY UNDER THE TREES

The additional tables were purchased from accumulated Undesignated Memorial Gifts received over the past several years. In addition, a new safe for the Administrative Office was purchased from Memorial gifts to safeguard offerings and important documents.

The Trustees have a monthly Work Party the second Saturday of each month
From 9:00 a.m. to noon
ST. PATRICK’S DAY DINNER

The traditional annual St. Patrick’s Day Dinner was held on Friday, March 13th in the church sanctuary.

The Fellowship Committee served in excess of forty dinners consisting of the traditional corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and carrots. Phyllis Johnson made her famous Irish soda bread.

A special birthday cake honoring our Administrative Assistant Becky Jackson’s birthday was served as dessert along with an assortment of shamrock cookies and candies.

The dinner served as a fundraiser for the church that netted a profit of $146. Our thanks to Chef Grace Johnson and all of her helpers who made the evening an enjoyable event. We will look forward to next year’s event!

Join Us for Our 2nd Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4th, 10:00 a.m. to Noon

(Sponsored by the Outreach Committee)
United Methodist Women Group to Re-Organize

The UMW met in March and decided to re-organize under the leadership of Kathy Eastman and Grace Johnson with Becky Jackson serving as secretary/treasurer. The group will meet in April and quarterly thereafter. A Craft Fair is being planned for October 3rd and will be held both in the church sanctuary and outside on the patio. All women of the church are invited to join UMW.
LIFE AFTER THURSDAY SET FOR APRIL 3RD

In the 40 plus years that 823 Debbie Street has been in existence, we doubt the walls, windows, and ceilings have EVER heard such laughter as that which pealed forth during the March "Life After Thursday." Twenty-seven folks from St. John's found their way to the GREATEST repast in Sonoma County! This month there was a great balance of salads, hot dishes, and yummy desserts. We were so happy to see new faces and certainly hope you all discovered the joy in getting to know your fellow parishioners just "a little bit better" in a relaxed setting.

April will find us returning to the lovely home of David and Louise Graves, 6048 Country Club Drive. We gather at 6:30 pm, giving time for our "employed" friends to join us. Please bring a dish to share, and your own place setting, including plate and silverware. RSVP 584-8947.

If you need a ride, please call Hans or Julie: 978-2848. We have room for five more and will make an extra journey if needed.

A Major Fundraising Event – Mark Your Calendars

Please join
St. John’s United Methodist Church
by supporting their:
“Donation Drive Fundraiser”

Bring your gently used clothing, housewares and other resalable items to:
5150 Snyder Lane-Rohnert Park

Enter off Parkway Drive

Saturday, May 16th
9am-2pm

(See Page 10 for Acceptable Items)
April 2015

St John’s United Methodist Church
5150 Snyder Lane
Rohnert Park California 94928

Office Hours: Tues - Fri 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m. Cong Care</td>
<td>4:30 pm Disciple II</td>
<td>12-2 pm; 5-7 pm Stations of the Cross</td>
<td>10 am- noon Community Egg Hunt</td>
<td>3:00 Angelica Memorial service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 a.m. CPR</td>
<td>12:30 p.m. Staff</td>
<td>7:00 pm. Maundy Thursday Service</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. Life After Thursday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m. Staff</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. Bible Study, Brookdale</td>
<td>7 p.m. Book Study</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. Cong Care</td>
<td>4:30 pm Disciple II</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary’s Pizza Dine &amp; Donate</td>
<td>7 p.m. Book Study</td>
<td>7:00 pm Outreach mtg @ church</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Church Renewal</td>
<td>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 a.m. CPR</td>
<td>12:30 p.m. Staff</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. Bible Study, Brookdale</td>
<td>7 p.m. Book Study</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. Cong Care</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m. Staff</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. Bible Study, Brookdale</td>
<td>7 p.m. Book Study</td>
<td>4:30 pm Disciple II</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary’s Pizza Dine &amp; Donate</td>
<td>7 p.m. Knitting Purlis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 a.m. CPR</td>
<td>12:30 p.m. Staff</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. Bible Study, Brookdale</td>
<td>7 p.m. Book Study</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. Cong Care</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m. Staff</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. Bible Study, Brookdale</td>
<td>7 p.m. Book Study</td>
<td>4:30 pm Disciple II</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary’s Pizza Dine &amp; Donate</td>
<td>7 p.m. Knitting Purlis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 a.m. CPR</td>
<td>12:30 p.m. Staff</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. Bible Study, Brookdale</td>
<td>7 p.m. Book Study</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. Cong Care</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m. Staff</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. Bible Study, Brookdale</td>
<td>7 p.m. Book Study</td>
<td>4:30 pm Disciple II</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary’s Pizza Dine &amp; Donate</td>
<td>7 p.m. Knitting Purlis</td>
<td>6:30 pm Cmte mtgs</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 a.m. CPR</td>
<td>12:30 p.m. Staff</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. Bible Study, Brookdale</td>
<td>7 p.m. Book Study</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. Cong Care</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m. Staff</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. Bible Study, Brookdale</td>
<td>7 p.m. Book Study</td>
<td>4:30 pm Disciple II</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary’s Pizza Dine &amp; Donate</td>
<td>7 p.m. Knitting Purlis</td>
<td>6:30 pm Cmte mtgs</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 a.m. CPR</td>
<td>12:30 p.m. Staff</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. Bible Study, Brookdale</td>
<td>7 p.m. Book Study</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. Cong Care</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m. Staff</td>
<td>2:30 p.m. Bible Study, Brookdale</td>
<td>7 p.m. Book Study</td>
<td>4:30 pm Disciple II</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary’s Pizza Dine &amp; Donate</td>
<td>7 p.m. Knitting Purlis</td>
<td>6:30 pm Cmte mtgs</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EASTER! 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

| Worship 10:30 a.m. | 9:30 a.m. CPR |
| Preaching: Rev. Kelley O’Connor | Mary’s Pizza Dine & Donate 7 p.m. Knitting Purlis |
| 12:30 p.m. Staff | 2:30 p.m. Bible Study, Brookdale 7 p.m. Book Study |
| 9:30 a.m. Cong Care | 7:00 pm Church Renewal |
| 7:00 a.m. CPR |

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

| Worship 10:30 a.m. | 9:30 a.m. CPR |
| Preaching: Rev. Kelley O’Connor | Mary’s Pizza Dine & Donate 7 p.m. Knitting Purlis |
| 12:30 p.m. Staff | 2:30 p.m. Bible Study, Brookdale 7 p.m. Book Study |
| 9:30 a.m. Cong Care | 7:00 p.m. Church Renewal |
| 7:00 a.m. CPR |

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

| Worship 10:30 a.m. | 9:30 a.m. CPR |
| Preaching: Rev. Kelley O’Connor | Mary’s Pizza Dine & Donate 7 p.m. Knitting Purlis |
| 12:30 p.m. Staff | 2:30 p.m. Bible Study, Brookdale 7 p.m. Book Study |
| 9:30 a.m. Cong Care | 6:30 pm Cmte mtgs 7:30 p.m Church Council meets |
| 7:00 a.m. CPR |

26 27 28 29 30

| Worship 10:30 a.m. | 9:30 a.m. CPR |
| Preaching: Rev. Kelley O’Connor | Mary’s Pizza Dine & Donate 7 p.m. Knitting Purlis |
| 12:30 p.m. Staff | 2:30 p.m. Bible Study, Brookdale 7 p.m. Book Study 7 p.m. Trustees |
| 9:30 a.m. Cong Care | 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal |
| 7:00 a.m. CPR |

**Holy Week at a Glance**

**March 29th—Worship Services - 10:30 am**

**Maundy Thursday April 2nd - 7 pm**

**Stations of the Cross April 3rd – 12-2 pm; 5-7 pm**

**April 5th - Sunrise – 7:00 am Worship Services – 10:30 am**
GOODWILL ACCEPTS:

- Appliances- small, portable & working (toasters, irons, microwaves, telephones, vacuum cleaners, etc.)
- Area Rugs
- Art Supplies (canvas, paintbrushes, etc- NO PAINT)
- Artificial Xmas trees
- Automobiles, boats: Call 866-233-8586 or go online @ www.GoodwillCarDonation.org
- Baby clothing
- Basketball hoops – portable
- Bicycles (any condition)
- BBQ's(without propane tank)
- Books and magazines
- Canopies
- Cassette tapes, records
- CD & DVD players
- CDs, DVDs & videos (commercial)
- Clothing
- Decorative throw pillows
- Electric power tools
- Encyclopedias
- Exercise equipment
- Furniture, electric chairs/recliners
- Games: board games and video games
- Gas power tools (Gas/oil drained out, chain removed)
- Handbags, backpacks, luggage
- Household items
- House wares
- Jewelry/accessories
- Kerosene heaters (kerosene drained out completely)
- Freezers, Refrigerators, Air Conditioners (Yolanda Only; must pay a $10 core charge in the outlet center first and get a receipt before dock will take donation)
- Large appliances (electric stoves/ovens, dishwashers, washers & dryers) Yolanda Only
- Linens (bedding)
- Mirrors
- Metal bed frames
- Metal desks & filing cabinets Yolanda Only
- Purses
- Rubber rafts
- Shoes
- Sleeping bags
- Stereos & speakers
- Televisions & monitors (working)
- Tools
- Toys*

GOODWILL DOES NOT ACCEPT:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Ammunition/explosives
- Animals/animal beds
- Baby items – strollers, furniture & toys *
- Bathroom fixtures ie: toilets, medicine cabinets, tubs, light fixtures, countertops, sinks
- Batteries, propane
- Bean bag chairs
- Bed pillows
- Blinds (unless in original box)
- Camper Shells
- Clothing or any other items with tears, stains or holes
- Children’s bunk beds
- Food items
- Hazardous materials (paint, chemicals, poison, etc.)
- Hide-away beds, hospital beds
- Horse trailers
- Light bulbs, including fluorescents
- Mattresses/box springs
- Modular office furniture
- Newspapers
- Pianos/organisms
- Playground equipment (swing sets, pools, slides)
- Scooters - motorized
- Tires/wheels
- Wall to wall carpet & padding
- Water beds
- Water-soaked items
- Weapons
- Windows/doors

EWASTE ACCEPTED:

- Cell phones
- CD & DVD players
- Computer parts
- Copiers (small, desk top size, and lg. office copiers)
- CPUs (computers), monitors
- Laptops
- Fax machines, printers, scanners
- Ink cartridges/toner
- TVs (working or not working; Screens cannot be broken)
- Wires and TV cables

*ANY ITEM RECALLED BY CPSC-PLEASE CHECK THEIR WEBSITE FOR A LIST- www.cpsc.gov

ACCEPTANCE OF ANY DONATION IS UP TO THE DISCRETION OF THE GOODWILL EMPLOYEE