

Community United Methodist Church

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Pastor Ofa Haunga

July 2014 Newsletter

~ From Pastor Ofa ~



This is a warmest greeting to all the members of the Oakdale United Methodist Church and all the members of the Oakdale Community from your new pastor Ms. Ofa Uepi Haunga (Pastor Ofa). Let me greet you in the name of the Lord God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, Mediator, Comforter, and Ruler of the Universe. I am so grateful that God has been merciful and gracious to all of us, brothers and sisters in the Oakdale Community, keeping us safe and sound in our journey from time to eternity. In Psalm 138:1-2 the psalmist claimed “I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.”

My name is Ms. Ofa Uepi Haunga. I am from the kingdom of Tonga, a tiny Island in the South Pacific. I was born and grew up in Tonga. Both my parents have been lay speakers of the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga. I grew up in a Christian home and witnessed being a Christian at a very young age. I came to accept Jesus Christ as my personal Savior at the age of sixteen in a high school outreach camp.

My maternal grandfather was a minister of the Wesleyan church and my ancestors were also ministers of the Wesleyan church. My early life experiences revolve around the Wesleyan ministry. I have enjoyed the Sunday school activities, Bible studies, skits, retreats, recital of bible verses, singing praise and sacred music, biblical dramas and many Spiritual activities.

I was married to a Wesleyan ordained minister and we have three grown daughters. All my daughters are residing and working in the Bay area. I recently graduated with my Master of Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, May 25, 2014. I was a high school teacher in Tonga, and then migrated to the US in 1995. I began teaching in various public high schools in Los Angeles from 2001-2007. I also taught at Evergreen Valley High School in San Jose from 2007-2008.

My call from God is “to go out and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28: 19-20). This great commission is my ultimate call to work with every member of the Oakdale UMC and everyone in the community for the transformation of the world. My motto is to work as a team in building relationship with families and the community as a whole. At the same time Pray, Pray, Pray and be persistent and earnest in praying to our loving and gracious God. Let me conclude with these verses. In Micah 6:8 “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?”

Blessings and May God’s Grace and Peace be with you all.

Ms. Ofa Uepi Haunga- servant of God.

~A Note from your Lay Leader~

The 2014 California -Nevada Annual Conference Session (ACS) is now behind us. I was honored to represent Oakdale Community United Methodist Church.

As some of you know there is always legislative action to be taken care of at ACS. There are also meetings and talks regarding some of the social problems facing our modern day world. Some of the social items discussed were human trafficking, global warming, immigration, and deportation.

Wherever you stand on issues facing the world we live in, ACS is a good place to get together, listen, and openly discuss the facts.

There are worship through music, sermons, praising God as people talk about what God is doing in their churches and communities.

I was asked by Pastor Ofa to read scripture during Service of Commissioning & Ordination that was held Friday evening.

As Pastors are placed by the Bishop during the ACS, we look forward to a new year in the life of the church. Please join me in welcoming Pastor Ofa Haunga to the Oakdale and Riverbank Parish.

Your brother in Jesus Christ,

Joe Officer

~Staff Parish Relations Committee~

The next meeting for the SPRC committee will be Sunday, July 20th after church in the Library.

Saturday, June 21st, 2014, the Staff Parish Relations Committee had a meeting with Mariellen Yoshino, our District Superintendent who introduced Pastor Ofa Haunga, who was appointed by the Bishop to be the new pastor in Oakdale. After the interview with her we accepted the Bishop's recommendation. We will be sharing her with Riverbank and will be sharing Sundays. Riverbank's worship service will now move to 8:30AM and Oakdale will start at 10:30AM starting July 6th, 2014.

Let's give her a warm welcome! Andy Anderson, SPRC Chairperson

~ Trustees~

The trustees will meet Monday, July 7nd at 7:00 pm for their regularly scheduled meeting. Please get in contact with one of them if there is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Hi to all in our beautiful United Methodist Church. The good Lord is watching over us. Our trees are doing very well; all we need to do is provide more water to them. We have had some donations made to the Church, so that we can finish the windows in the parsonage, which will be completed soon and new blinds to go in the windows. The Trustees are happy and look forward to working with Pastor Ofa. We are looking for funds to get the sprinklers working correctly. If you have some extra funds, please fly them to the donation pot, so we can keep things growing and green. If you see anything that needs to be done, please call me or contact a Trustee. We meet the first Monday at 7PM each month. Have a nice summer and I'll see you around.

Judy Bradley, Trustee President

~United Methodist Women~

The United Methodist Women met on Thursday, June 12th for a wonderful meal at The Cottonwood. This was their last scheduled meeting until September. Be watching the bulletin for more information.

Save these Dates

Thursday, September 11 th at Noon	United Methodist Women's Luncheon Meeting
Wed. /Thurs. October 1 st & 2 nd	Rummage Sale Set-up
Fri. /Sat. October 3 rd & 4 th	Rummage Sale
Thursday, October 9 th	United Methodist Women's Luncheon Meeting

~United Methodist Men~

The United Methodist Men will be doing BBQ/Picnics for the months of July and August. Our first BBQ will be on July 6th when we welcome Pastor Ofa. Be watching your bulletins for the date for the August picnic. The United Methodist Men have taken the summer off for their breakfasts. We will resume on Sunday, September 14th, be watching for additional information on the time in the future.

~Finance~

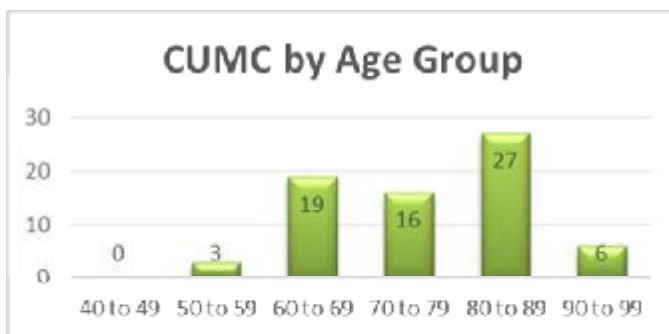
The Finance is happy to report that the church has received a \$16,000 donations to go toward the Heating & Air Conditioner. With the monies raise with our dinners and the Chocolate festival we have \$18,284.5. That is almost enough to replace one unit in the Sanctuary.

The Financial committee is working on putting together another application for the Beulah Grant. We would like to see a new screen and new speakers in the Sanctuary, and possibly a sound system for Johnson hall.

~Beulah Grant Review~

Are You Feeling Old?

Did you know that the average age of CUMC congregants is 76.5 years?



Beulah Home

The Beulah Home, located in the Oakland Hills, was founded by the Woman's Home Missionary Society (predecessor organization of United Methodist Women) of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1912 as a residence for retired missionaries, deaconesses, and ministers.

In 1968 the Beulah Home Board determined that because of societal and economic changes, it was no longer feasible to operate the Home as a residential facility. The assets from the sale of the Home were transferred to the United Methodist Women with an agreement that a permanent fund be established. The founding principles of Beulah Home directed that it should strive to recognize and facilitate support systems "to enhance the Quality of Life of Older Adults".



Last year, your Finance Committee worked to obtain a sizable grant from the Beulah Older Adult Grant Fund to encourage and invite broader elder parishioner participation through video and audio enhancement support for worship.

Thank you Beulah Fund!

With support from you and the Beulah Older Adult Grant Fund, CUMC was able to install a major upgrade of our video projection system.



The "high definition" projector provides not only a brighter image, but an image that is sharper/crisper - essentially it's easier on your eyes. Also, we have upgraded the controlling computer and network to better work with new media formats and interfaced the computer with our current audio system. We are now able to utilize "online" video services as well as the standard DVD formats. Our congregants are now able to view and hear high quality slides and videos.

What did you say? The assisted listening devices are portable headsets that are provided to individuals that have difficulty hearing. These can be used with or without regular hearing aids and greatly improve the audio for our tired ears.



The Praise Team is on the same page as the congregation. Much time is dedicated to putting together the slides that are used every Sunday to keep us informed and up to date as well the joy of singing the songs of praise together. The Praise Team members were unable to view the announcements and songs. Our Praise Team now can see the same projected video through a dedicated video screen.

What people are saying?

- "Wow, I can read the words now."
- "I feel part of the service now, I just love it"
- "Everything is so much brighter"



- "After so many years, Mom is really happy to hear the beautiful music"
- "I feel we are a part of the service"
- "Glad that we don't have it (the projector) in the aisle anymore - it was so distracting"
- "Now, I recognize the faces (of people) on the slides"
- I (the video operator) can run the slides without the worry of it abruptly hanging (stopping)."
- "I wasn't hearing much of the sermon, let alone understanding it. Now, I hear every word, crystal clear"

What do YOU think?

Has the Beulah Grant helped you?

Please send me a note or comment on these new systems.

Ken Iwahashi, ken@kkicorp.com, 209-479-5315

~Other Important Information~

Please keep in your prayers:

Frankie Rebiskie Jeanne Wharff Our Church and Church Families

Please call the office if you know of someone who needs our prayers.

~Other Important Dates~

September 3rd	Life Line Screening at the church
October 3rd and 4th	UMW Rummage Sale

~Greeter Schedule~

July 6	Delores Lindsey	July 13	Carolyn Hallinan
July 20	Nancy & Kirby Smith	July 27	Ann Butler
August 3	Marsha Kolsters	August 10	Joyce Riddle

Please let the office know if you would like to be a greeter. Thank You!

~Counter Schedule~

July 6th	Ken Iwahashi	Doreen Stever
July 13th	Jim Austin	Ann Butler
July 20th	Herb Williams	Nancy Smith
July 27th	Jim Fonda	Marsha Kolsters
August 3rd	Andy Anderson	Carolyn Hallinan
August 10th	Kirby Smith	Joyce Riddle
August 17th	Roy Banducci	Phyllis Pottle
August 24th	Glen Gorman	Margie Anderson
August 31st	Ken Iwahashi	Becky Williams
September 7th	Jim Austin	RuthAnn Spencer
September 14th	Herb Williams	Judy Bradley
September 21st	Jim Fonda	Doreen Stever
September 28th	Andy Anderson	Ann Butler