



The Church Bell for Nov.-Dec. 2020

Susanville United Methodist Church
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This Issue's Highlights

Nov. 01 marks my first year at Susanville UMC. What a year! I thank God every day for all of you and look forward to sharing the coming years with you. We have much work ahead, and I can't wait to see what awaits us!

Spiritual Formation – pg1 Connecting with God in new ways keeps our relationship with God fresh. Where will 3 simple words take you in your relationship with God and others?

Leadership – pg 2 Discipleship is a critically important way of deeping our understanding of and relationship with God.

HOPE Food Pantry – pgs 3-6 This ministry continues reaching more and more people each week. This issue's photos help convey the operation's scope and impact.

Giving Back – pg 7 This Christmas season, you can spread joy in multiple ways.

Our hearts and souls grieve the recent losses of Larry Beck on Sept. 24, Janet Balding on Oct. 02, and Fred Zuehlke on Nov. 01. Please hold their families in your prayers. ~ CW

Spiritual Formation: Good Morning Jesus

This month's exercise is both simple and powerful. Before you even crawl out of bed, and no matter what your mood might be, start every day saying *out loud*, "Good morning Jesus."

Yes, God knows our thoughts and feelings, but when we speak words, we give them a greater presence, a greater significance. When we begin our days greeting God's presence among us, we are more likely to sense God's presence throughout our day. These three simple words can wash away despair and help us recenter our minds on hope and possibilities.



In Memoriam

On a full blue moon, Nov. 1, 2020, the Zuehlke family lost Frederick Zuehlke at 91 years old. He was fighting lung cancer. In his last 40 years of life, he loved the students and parents who came to dance classes at Joan's Studio of Dance, his wife's second career of their life.

From the 1960s to mid '90s, Fred and Joan were the owners of Tinkers To Teens, selling toys and Schwinn bicycles in Susanville. Fred and Joan enjoyed living in their restored historical Spaulding home in uptown Susanville.



Fred and Joan celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in Aug. 2020. Joan and their sons Doug and Jon would like to thank the Lassen community as they stopped by to see Fred in the final months of his life, and for their love and support.



This week I will pray for

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Lord, thank you for...
Please bless...
Help me/them with...

Leadership Through Love

Creating and growing discipleship groups is a key component of our church's growth. This article explains the origins and importance of these groups. Nurturing each other through discipleship groups will deepen our faith and produce stronger leaders for our future. ~ CW

From <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-how-did-john-wesley-empower-lay-people>

Nearly all the leaders of the early Methodist societies were lay people. [In the mid 1700s,] John Wesley established a system to develop and empower them by organizing them in small groups [called classes] for accountability and support for living the Christian life. The intent was to help people become disciples who live out their love of God and neighbor.

Each week, small groups of 12-15 members met weekly with their class leader to give an account of how they were living their faith as they answered the question: "How is it with your soul?" guided by [Wesley's] General Rules [do no harm, do good, stay in relationship with God].

Class leaders, appointed by Wesley, were lay **women and men** who could be trusted with the spiritual formation and care of others. They served as role models, mentors, and discipleship coaches for the Methodists in their pursuit of holiness of heart and life. Class leaders shared in the pastoral work that needed to be done when the appointed

clergy, or circuit rider, was absent. They were the disciples who made disciples.

The class members formed habits of (1) doing no harm by avoiding evil of every kind; (2) doing good to all people; and (3) attending upon all the ordinances of God, like participating in worship, receiving communion, reading the Bible, praying, and fasting.

Doing no harm and doing good helped the Methodists love their neighbors as themselves. By "attending upon all the ordinances of God" they learned to love God with all their heart, soul, and mind. And by meeting together every week they were "watching over one another in love."

Wesley observed, "Advice or reproof was given as need required, quarrels made up, misunderstandings removed: And after an hour or two spent in this labour of love, they concluded with prayer and thanksgiving." (*A Plain Account of the People Called Methodists*, II.6)

Requiring all Methodists to meet weekly in their class meeting, and then in the larger society meeting on Sunday night, was the primary way John Wesley equipped and empowered lay members. This weekly discipline of mutual accountability, encouragement, and support for living the Christian life changed people's lives and equipped lay people to participate with Christ in God's mission in the world.

In Memoriam

My wonderful wife Janet passed away from breast cancer and dementia at age 82 on Oct. 2, 2020. She was in hospice care at home with her daughter Ellen as her nurse, and with Martin at her bedside, along with sons Paul and Harold.

Janet and I were in love during high school then married on Sept. 14, 1957 after we graduated from Chaffey Community College in Ontario, CA. Janet worked to support me while I finished courses at Long Beach Univ. for a teaching credential. With the credential in hand, and our newborn son Harold, we moved to Catalina Island where I taught for four years while Janet managed our household and enjoyed Island life.

In 1964, we resettled in Alta Loma with a new house, teaching assignment, and three children, Harold, Ellen and Paul. In 1965 we bought a lot at Eagle Lake north of Susanville, where we would



later build a house and move there in 1987. Janet was my partner, a loving wife and wonderful mother. We celebrated our 63rd wedding anniversary at St Mary's Hospital, knowing but not saying, it would be our last together while holding every minute dear to our hearts.

Janet was involved with family gatherings, Girl Scouts, PTA, her children's cross country running team, church secretary, bowling, college classes, our church, substitute teaching, and until recently a volunteer at Banner Hospital.

I must add that Janet supported my habit of running by helping me at over 100 events where she often worked at aid stations for runners. Bless her.

She is survived by her husband Martin, Children: Harold, Ellen and Paul, grand children Chase, Levi, Travis, Victoria, Charlotte, Emory, Jena, and great grandchildren Dylan, Audrey, Levi, and Hunter.

In remembrance, and fortunate to be Janet's husband, Martin Balding.

HOPE Food Pantry

More Clients! More Food!

More Blessings!

During the month of October, we averaged **75 clients representing 246 hungry mouths at home each week**. We helped feed 1,233 people last month! The graph below shows our steadily increasing demand since we opened at the end of May.

Thanks to our new partnership with the Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN), during Sept. and Oct. **we received over 12,000 pounds of food at NO cost. Praise God!** To complement this blessing God sends us more blessings in the form of new volunteers, new donors, and even a delivery truck from Morning Glory Dairy – see photos on the next pages. That saved us a tremendous amount of work!



This October, we hosted a “Baby Essentials Drive” each Friday. We received more than we anticipated as you can see in the photo on the next pages. All of this will go directly to Lassen County Public Health’s Lassen H.E.A.R.T.S program for distribution.

And on Saturday, Oct. 31 we held a Harvest Festival Drive-Thru and handed out goodie bags to kids as families drove by. So much joy!

We’re able to bless so many people because of the many businesses and individuals who have given generously of their time, prayers, and financial donations. **Thank you for your support!**

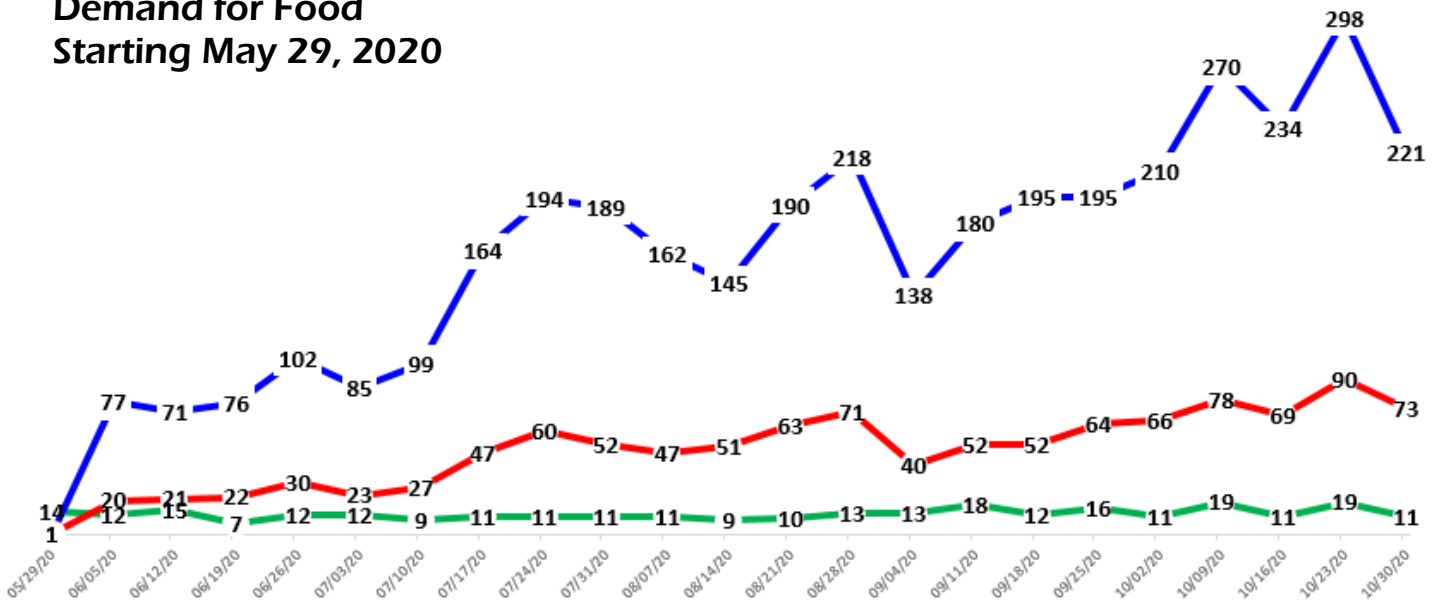
Donations Needed

We spend most of our budget on food to supplement our stock, but people need additional items to be healthy. We always need...

- Body soap (bar or gel)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Socks (new)
- Toilet paper
- Toothbrushes and Toothpaste
- Shampoo

You can drop off your donations each Friday from 3-6:00 pm at the HOPE Food Pantry.

**HOPE Food Pantry
Demand for Food
Starting May 29, 2020**



BLUE = # of mouths fed **RED** = # of clients served **GREEN** = volunteers

Friday Mornings at the Food Pantry



Cody from Morning Glory Dairy met our volunteers at the Food Bank's bi-weekly drop-off near Grocery Outlet.



3 pallets of food delivered to our door means 4,500 pounds we did *not* have to lift in and out of pickup trucks!



It's a blur of activity and flying empty boxes as our volunteers sort through the latest delivery before we open.

Serving Our Community



Mandy S. confirms our inventory and updates our shopping list just in time before our clients arrive.



Our volunteers pray before we open the doors (left); it's our last moment of calm for hours!

Many of our regular clients arrive early because we have a reputation for being friendly and generous. Pastor Charles talks and prays with them while our shoppers fill their orders. Kids are encouraged to decorate our sidewalk. ☺



Donations Help Us Bless Others



Our church family and our community generously donated over \$800 worth of diapers, wipes, and formula to our “Baby Essentials” drive. Our Harvest Festival Drive-Thru (below) ended October on a joyful note with costumed children visiting us for bags of assorted goodies. Thanks to Mark & Mandy S., Marlene T., Anne W., and Georgianne H. (not pictured) for all of your help!

After volunteering her time at the food pantry representing the Susanville Rotary Club, Jamie W. contacted our own Mandy S. and donated \$300 to our HOPE Food Pantry on behalf of Soroptimist International of Susanville (above). Both ladies are outstanding representatives of each organization as well as the community spirit that knits Susanville together. Please thank them when you see them!



Sharing Christmas Warmth Near and Far

New Ways to Support the Christmas Shoebox Program

It is time once again to start packing a shoebox! Jerri K. has the shoeboxes and brochures needed to do this fun project. Filling boxes with toys and other special items is a great family and friend activity.



These boxes bring much joy and blessings to those who pack them and the children and their families who receive them. Samaritan's Purse deliver these boxes to children all around the world!

This year, Samaritan's Purse is offering an incredibly unique and convenient option. You can go online at samaritanpurse.org/buildonline and build a shoebox online or they will build it for you. The cost is \$25.00 which includes the \$9.00 donation for shipping and handling. If you prefer packing the traditional way, the deadline for returning boxes to Jerri is November 20, 2020. If you use a plastic box, please make sure they are sturdy.

For boxes and brochures, or if you have questions, contact Jerri K. directly or the church office. Let's get packing! ~ Jerri K.

Volunteers Needed

Millions of people of all ages volunteer their time, talents, and resources to assist The Salvation Army's work all over the world. The volunteers are critical partners in helping The Salvation Army fulfill their promise of "Doing the Most Good."



The Army serves individuals and families in our community by responding to physical needs and helping meet spiritual needs. In addition, they also provide summer camp, back to school, and Christmas gift programs to local youth.

The Susanville Salvation Army needs volunteers to serve with them this Christmas season. One way to serve is to ring the Red Kettle Bell. **The Red Kettle Campaign is their major fundraiser** that enables them to provide assistance throughout the year. Ring as a club, group or individual.

To get involved or for more information, please contact Carla M. at our local Salvation Army office, 1560 Main St. or 530-257-0314.

Staying Connected

Office is CLOSED until further notice for safety.

Phone messages and emails are checked daily.

530-257-5893 susanville_umc@frontier.com

Visit our website at SusanvilleMethodist.org

Bishop Rev. Minerva G. Carcaño
District Superintendent Rev. Blake Busick
Pastor Rev. Charles White
Choir Director Dennis Roberts
Pianist Karen Sherve
Custodian Janiska Nordstrom

Sunday Worship Services @ 9:00 am in person and 10:45 am via Zoom.



Follow us on Social Media
and share us with your friends!

facebook.com/umcofsusanville



instagram.com/susanville_methodist

Join Us Online!

Our worship services, programs, and events continue happening online throughout the week via Zoom.



- Worship – Sunday morning at 10:45 am
- Bible Study – Tuesdays at 6:00 pm
- Coffee with the Pastor – Thursdays at 6 pm

For all the login info you need to join us, visit our website at...

SusanvilleMethodist.org/online

Church Bell articles are due by the 20th each month.

Submissions CharlesWhite@protonmail.com

Printer Church Office

Reporters All of You!



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Memorial Tree Lighting

Nov. 2020 marks the 17th year of the Honey Lake Hospice "Light Up A Life" tree lighting. Due to COVID-19 concerns, we will not gather this year, but we are continuing the tradition of placing doves on our Hospice Memorial Tree.

To honor the memory of your loved ones, you may have their name inscribed on a dove and placed on the tree. Forms are available at Margie's Book Nook and Plumas Bank. \$10.00 per laminated paper Dove and \$100.00 per perpetual acrylic Dove.

Our tree will be placed outside at Eagle Lake Village. The tree lights up at night, from Nov. 21 through Jan. 01. Please visit our Memorial Tree this holiday season. For more info call Honey Lake Hospice 530-257-3137.

THIS MAIL IS LIKE YOU: FIRST CLASS!



Methodist churches typically hold a stewardship drive each fall. With as much as we have going on right now, we plan to do this in early 2021. In the meantime, consider taking advantage of our online giving option.

SusanvilleMethodist.org/donate

Thank you so much for your amazing support as we continue to serve Susanville!

Thrift Store Volunteers Needed

CR Stuff Thrift Shop needs volunteers Monday - Friday from 10am - 4pm. If you feel comfortable working with the public, please contact Crossroads at 530-251-0701 for more info and to volunteer.

Serving Our Members

If you need help getting to a doctor's appointment, the grocery store, etc., several of our members will help get you there and back home. **While self-isolation is being practiced**, please contact our office if you need prescriptions picked up or other household necessities.

Keep Those Prayers Coming!

Our prayer warriors continue meeting faithfully online every Monday at 11:00 am via Zoom and offer to God prayer requests that have been received. **The best way to submit your prayer concerns** is through our website.



SusanvilleMethodist.org/prayers

We continue to see God's hand working in the lives of people who need prayer, and there continue to be praises for answered prayers.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.
"For God so loved the world..."