



May 2020 Bridge

Yreka United Methodist Church
502 N. Fairchild St, Yreka CA 96097

**Pastor
Toni Hartman**

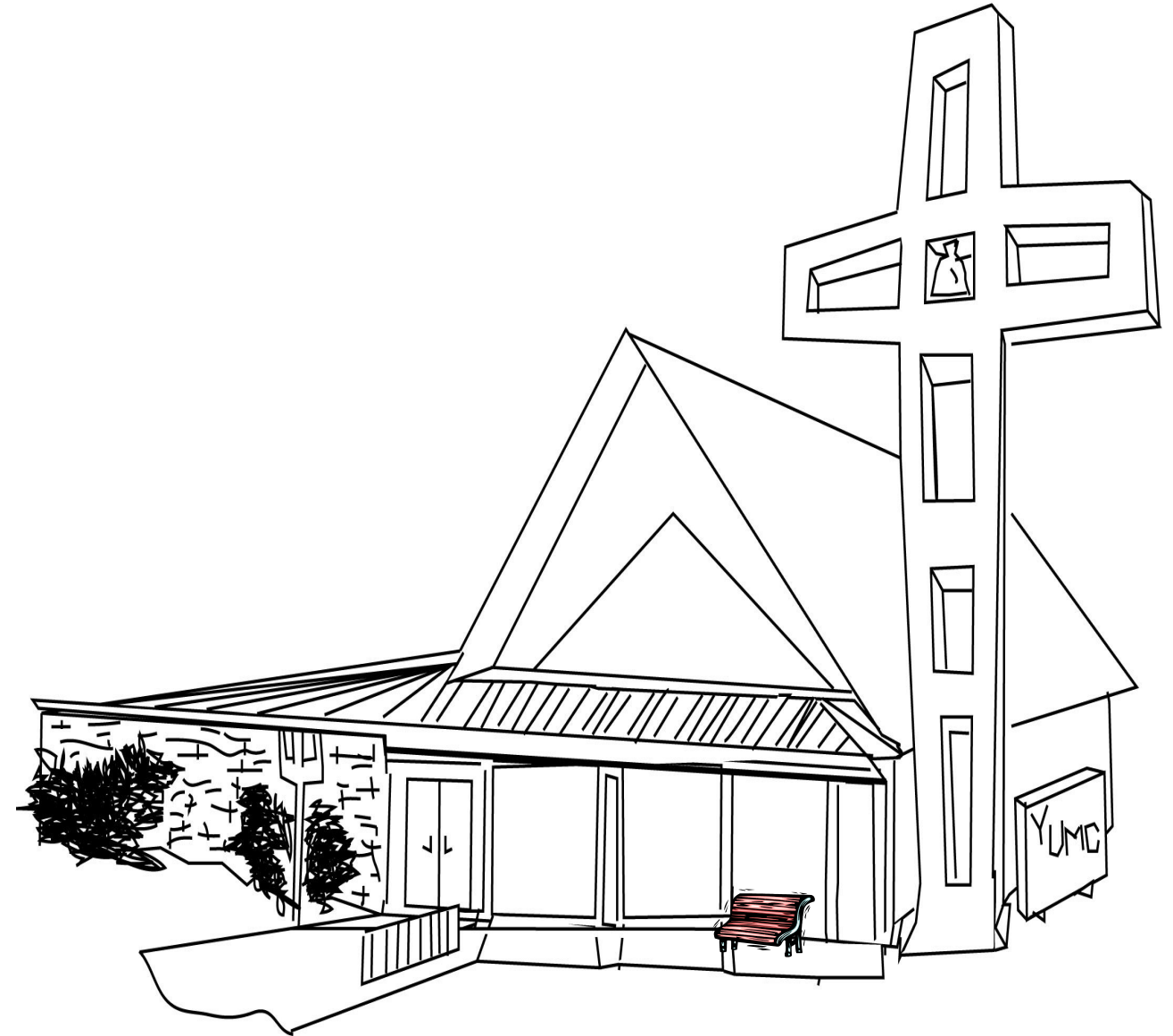
Office Hours

Monday thru Friday

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Office Manager

Michael Burleson-Raney



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A Note from Pastor Toni

To say that things have changed drastically and dramatically is a GROSS understatement! This is the first pandemic of the 21st century, and like the other global pandemics we have experienced in our contemporary history, it is proving to be deadly as well. This current pandemic has had an unprecedented impact across the globe. Countries are closing their borders; non-essential businesses have closed; restaurants, gyms, churches, parks, offices, barbers, hair salons and daycares to mention a few. COVID 19, has reached every continent except Antarctica. They all have caused major disruption around our world. This pandemic has forced us into a place where we must live differently than we are comfortable with. And many people are beginning to get very restless.

Churches have temporarily adapted to the restrictions, and pastors are having in depth conversations about what the church and its ministries might look like after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted (or at least eased).

I have been participating in Webinars through some of the professional ministry organizations that I follow, and I'm learning a lot about what may be the "*new reality*" for the church! Much of the conversation is about whether worship attendance, pastoral care, Sunday school, small groups and financial giving will return to normal or whether there will be a "*new normal*." Traditionally we think in terms of Attractional ministry; which is an old model and very much a seniors and boomers way of seeing how to be the church. It's inward thinking rather than outward thinking. The younger generations, those on the margins, and singles and starters call this thinking: "*institutional self-centeredness*." They want us to bring our sacredness outside. So, what will our wider community need and how will YUMC help to meet those needs? It is a provocative question that must be addressed and considered. The churches that survive and thrive in the new world will be those that consider a move toward repentance and outreach first!

There is, at least temporarily, a greater empathy in the air. Can the church make it last? I love the inspiring images we are seeing on the media of neighbors standing on balconies performing music for one another, or on doorsteps applauding emergency and health care workers, or reaching across six feet to deliver food packages. People are meeting neighbors they never recognized previously. The new neighborliness is actually bridging ideological and political divides.

And have you picked up on the new business mantra on TV? *We're here for you!* Church, we have the unique opportunity and obligation to keep the "*new neighborliness*" going. This is more than just radical hospitality. It's about forging new relationships deliberately! Social distancing and isolation have made internet conferencing the new norm. I am reconnecting with old friends, and connecting more often with relatives I don't get to see much! There is a new spirit of forgiveness and acceptance in the air. The feedback from our sister churches is that internet participation in streaming worship is *higher* than their average attendance for the past several years. People who have dropped out of the church for whatever reason, or who are on the mailing list but never attend, or who are just friends of friends without a church connection, are feeling compelled to come to God. People are delighted that they can participate in their pajamas and share their breakfast with the Holy Spirit! J The message is clear church. Now that we have ventured onto the internet, we must stay with it. That means investing more money and energy to make internet participation ever more personal, interactive, confidential, and inspirational.

Tom Bandy is an internationally recognized consultant, conference speaker, and leadership coach for Christian organizations and faith-based non-profits. This is a recent comment he made to the Council of Bishops:

"...All the Christians will collect in one place, united more by ideological conformity than spiritual journey. They will experi-

ence shortness of breath (as the Spirit is constrained) and show signs of coughing and wheezing (as they shift blame for the ills of society on anyone other than themselves). A positive response for our churches will be to embed a new attitude among clergy and denominational leaders. The church growth mantra "Go Big" must be replaced with a church depth mantra "Go Deep." Sacred properties must be replaced by sacred practices, and "going to church" must be replaced by "coming to God." The real issue is not the freedom of the religious institution to do what they want, but the freedom of the Spirit to blow where it wills!!!! YES! Preachers will need to exegete the community before they attempt to exegete the Bible. Members will need to remove the log from their own eyes before they attempt to do surgery on the speck in their neighbors' eyes. I strongly believe that this is time for each Methodist church to take ownership of its own direction, its own ministry, its own gospel. We can no longer wait on some other authority to grant permission to be an agent of change.

Sounds to me like Dr. Bandy is suggesting that each church take up it's mat and walk! This makes me excited and at the same time feeling very challenged! *In many ways I think that it is harder to choose change when we feel like we don't have to do so. But will that make it easier to adapt to change when we have no other choice?*

I hope that YUMC will choose to adapt as our choice! Are we willing to risk trusting God and the Holy Spirit to lead us to discover a bigger and clearer role as the church, meeting the social challenges of our future? We may just find out that the new norms for ministry are actually way more beneficial than we could have ever imagined. With God all things are possible and, in our world now, we must embrace and believe that new ways will not only be possible with God but probable!

Excited to be in the boat with all of you!!

Pastor Toni

From the Leadership Board May 2020

Restricted Operations during Pandemic.

Our facilities remain closed per the Governor's order.

Special Charge Conference.

The Special Charge Conference on April 21 was attended by about 13 members. The Leadership Team was authorized to apply for a Paycheck Protection Plan loan from the Small Business Administration. Two days later the LT approved the application which has since been submitted. If the loan is funded we anticipate that it will be forgiven.

Continued Good Works during Pandemic.

Our ministries go on despite locked doors. The Tailgater's are still feeding people.

Sarah Frey has organized a member telephone contact program so that each church member is contacted every week.

Our youth ministry is keeping in touch with the youth so that they feel connected while observing social distancing.

To minimize their financial stress, during the pandemic all church employees remain employed, including making preparations for when the doors open.

Finances.

Although for two weeks after the Governor's shut down order our receipts were dismal but thanks to the resourcefulness of the congregation in finding ways to send their donations, income is back to normal. BIG THANK YOU to the congregation from the Leadership Team!!

Expanded outreach in the digital age.

With advice from our techno-guy Mike Bray the LT commissioned Cliff Lantz to begin evaluation and negotiation with a local vendor to expand our internet capability to allow the Pastor Toni and the worship team to function on the internet independent of access to Mike's cell phone. It is anticipated that our Worship Team will broadcast our services even after the current shutdown ends. This may stimulate interest in our church within the community but the direct impact is that our housebound members will be able to enjoy Sunday services from home.

In His service,
Joe Allison
Leadership Board Chair

The Church Budget

I have been writing about the church budget for the past couple of months. You may remember I said a budget is a plan. According to Robbie Burns, “The best laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft a-gley.” and our financial plans have truly gone awry recently. In February our utility bill was well over \$3000.00 which is hard for most of us to imagine. But we have gas, electricity, water, sewer, telephone and trash removal bills to pay also. Before the need for social distancing, our building was used every day by several groups. Many of these groups paid rent. While we expect that our use of gas, electricity and water will go down this month, we will still have a bill to pay for each of these. That is why it is so important for you to continue the support of our church.

Do you pay your pledge online?

Just go to your bank website and click on “pay bills”. Fill in the information requested
Name of Payee: Yreka United Methodist Church
No account number is needed.

Address: 502 North Fairchild St.
Yreka, CA 96097

Phone: 530-842-4291

Enter the amount and how often you would like to send your contribution. You can schedule a one-time payment when you will be out of town, or schedule a regular weekly or monthly payment.

Questions? Call the Church Office at 842-4291. Michael is a whiz!

2020 YUMC Leadership Team

Joe Allison - Chair

Kelly Atchley - Children & Youth Ministries

Deb Bein - Personnel

Charles Cook - Facilities

Sarah Frey - Congregational Care

Cliff Lantz - Finance

Jenn Villani - Adult Ministries & Missions

The Leadership Team meets on the third Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm in Room 8 of the Education Bldg. All church members are welcome to attend.
Our next meeting is to be announced.



May 2020

Birthdays

JoAnn Bicego	1
Vern Smith	4
Allison Wells-Leal	6
Anita Lantz	7
Sadie Gorseth	7
Audrey Stott	7
Bill Doron	8
Donna White	10
Duane Johnson	11
Bonnie Whitlow	20
Cliff Lantz	21
Debby Whipple	23
Barbara Matthews	29
Colleen Alvarez	29



What's Happening with Saints Alive! in May!

*It is my sincere hope and belief that this
column will be full of things in our
June Bridge.*

*Saints Alive events are open to anyone 55
or older, or anyone who knows
someone 55 or older!*

*If you have questions or
comments please contact
Michael in the office.*



**UMM
BREAKFAST**
Will not be happening.
Hopefully it will be able to
happen in May.



**Yes there will be a 2020
YUMC Yard Sale this summer!**
What we don't know yet is when!

So as you are using this time to clean out
your garages please set aside your
household goods, furniture, tools, craft
stuff etc. for our future Yard Sale.
We accept everything, big or small,
however, **NO CLOTHES** please!

Once we are worshipping in the church again we will set a Satur-
day date and we will start accepting your items at the church.
Until then please store your goodies at home.

This event is the primary source of funding for YUMC's
Outreach efforts, and the United Methodist Men.
Questions? Call the office at 842-4291



Time to sign-up for Secret Sisters!

So if there are any other secret sisters that
would like to participate. Please contact Mi-
chael and he can send you a form over the
email as we haven't got started yet and we
are thinking up some creative ideas on how
we can get this started soon.

The Book Club –May 2020 Selection

(An exuberant subsidiary of YUMC's Saints Alive!)

meeting on the second Thursday of each month

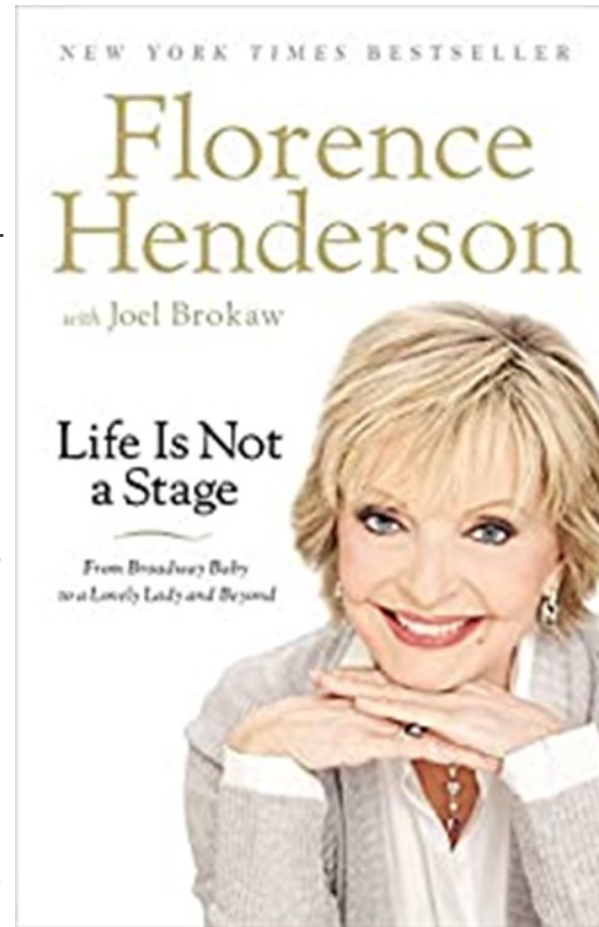
--except during the 2020 Pandemic--

presents:

Carol Brady, the character Florence Henderson played on the perennially popular sitcom the Brady Bunch was the perfect mother, but Henderson's background growing up in the aftermath of the Great Depression was a sharp contrast to that innocent suburban idyll. And though Mrs. Brady is the character she's most associated with, Henderson's talents have taken her career far beyond the scope of one TV sitcom. From The Tonight Show, to Broadway with Rodgers and Hammerstein, to her more recent appearance on Dancing With the Stars, Florence opens up about her life in and out of the spotlight. From her challenging childhood, to her extramarital affairs and divorce, Florence writes with honesty and wisdom in this inspiring memoir.

This Book Club Selection was chosen by Dwala Smith, and will be shared whenever it is safe to do so. In the meanwhile, keep on reading!

PS This book is not available everywhere, but can be found in many thrift book stores and online. If you'd like some help ordering it, just let Anita know at 530-468-2119, or at anitalantz@att.net.



The Book Club –June 2020 Selection

(An exuberant subsidiary of YUMC's Saints Alive!)

meeting on the second Thursday of each month

--except during the 2020 Plagues--

presents:

BRIDGE OF CLAY is the breathtaking story of five brothers who bring each other up in a world run by their own rules. As the Dunbar boys love and fight and learn to reckon with the adult world, they discover the moving secret behind their father's disappearance.

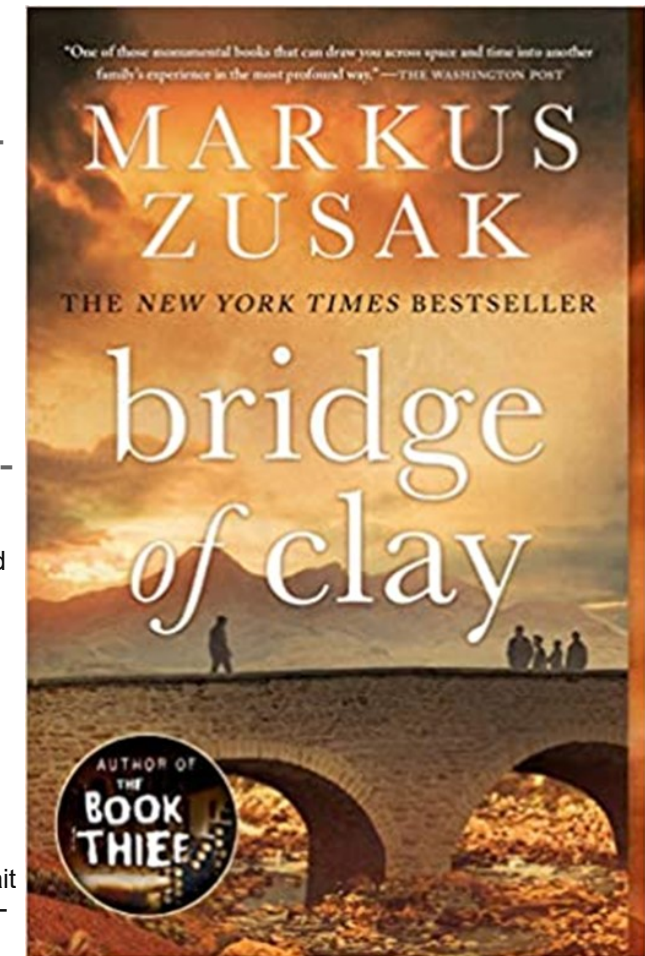
"This book is a stunner. Devastating, demanding and deeply moving, *Bridge of Clay* unspools like a kind of magic act in reverse, with feats of narrative legerdemain concealed by misdirection that all make sense only when the elements of the trick are finally laid out." —*Wall Street Journal*

"Markus Zusak crafts an unforgettable saga." —*US Weekly*

"In a complex narrative that leaps through time and place and across oceans, Zusak paints a vivid portrait of the brothers trying to regain their balance by keeping their family's story alive." —*Time*

"It blew me away." —Jodi Picoult, bestselling author of *A Spark of Light* and *Small Great Things*

This Book Club Selection was chosen by Mary Skeahan, and will be shared whenever and wherever it is safe to do so. Stay tuned!



IMPACT



It has been a tough end-of-year for our seniors, but they are a resilient bunch and continue to stay positive throughout this pandemic. Here is what a few of them are planning for the future:

AUDREY STOTT:

Audrey will be going to College of the Siskiyous to get her Associates in Criminal Justice, and she will continue to throw for track. After receiving her Associates Degree, she plans to transfer to Southern Oregon University.



LARAINA CHITWOOD:

Laraina has been the recipient of multiple scholarships for academic achievement. She will be attending Simpson University in Redding, CA and has recently qualified for the direct acceptance program into nursing school.



SKYLER LANE:

Skyler will be attending Shasta Community College in Redding, CA. He starts classes in August, and although the dorms are currently unavailable, he has found a place to stay in Redding. He plans to get a degree in Criminal Justice and become a CHP Officer.

Please keep these kids in prayer. Thank you for all your love and support!!

Tailgater Update

YUMC is continuing to serve those in need on the streets of Yreka. An average of 120 guests show up each Sunday afternoon for lunch, the majority of which are either unsheltered or marginally sheltered. We see very few children and often a single family member will come to pick up food for those at home, which we encourage during this time of social distancing. During “normal” times we like to interact with all of all our guests, but this is not possible right now. Those working on the street are asked to wear protective masks and gloves, and hand sanitizer is provided for both the team and those visiting. The safety of everyone is very important to us.

Thank you to everyone who is continuing to donate money and supplies. You are making such a difference in so many lives during this very difficult time. People are so grateful for the food and knowing that they have not been forgotten. And to those who are praying for our safety...thank you!! We feel it every time we go out. We walk in faith and prayer!

