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December 2017 “The Bridge”

Yreka United Methodist Church

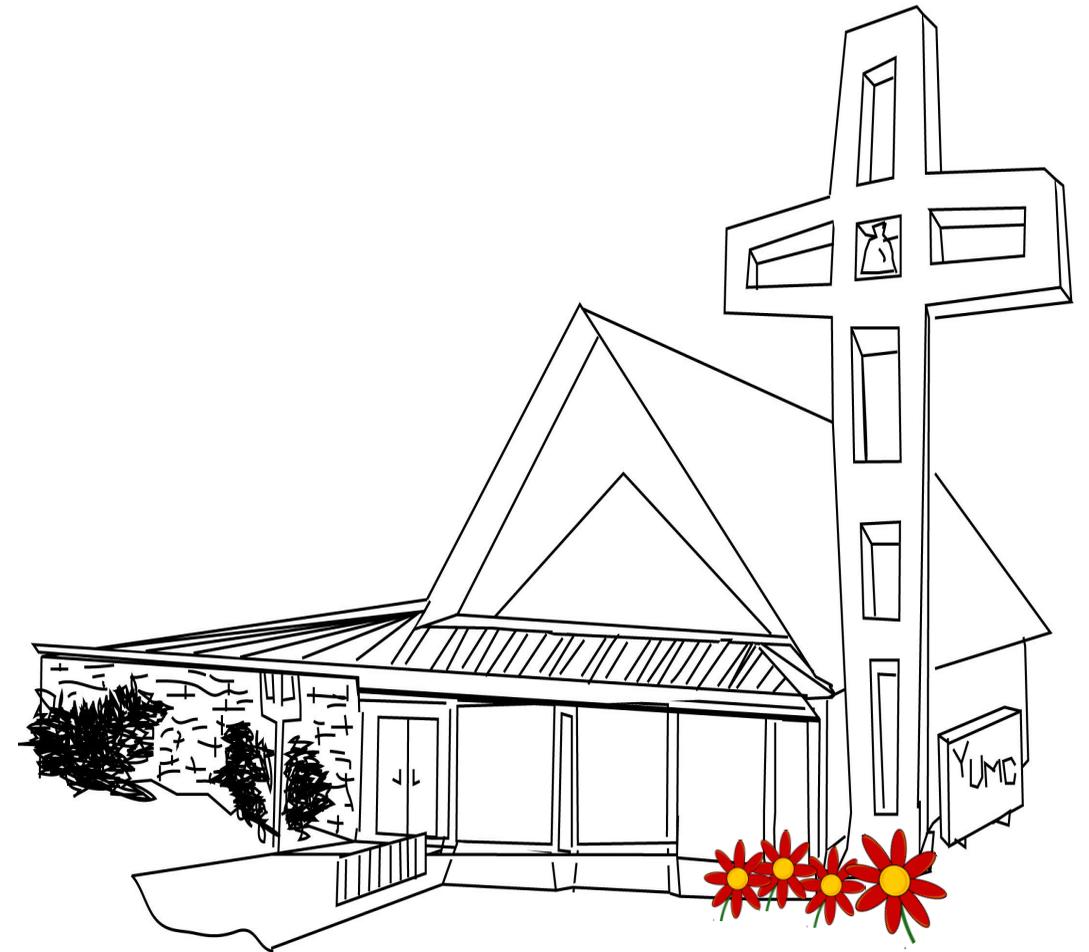


Where: YUMC
When: 4 Wednesdays—
11/29 thru 12/20.
Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

We will learn about God’s gifts of Advent and the true meaning of Christmas through the magical miracle of the Christmas story.

Questions? Contact:

Susan Erhardt: 412-1693



A Stephen Ministry Congregation



Dear YUMC,

It's hard to believe that we are almost at the end of another year! As we move into the Christmas season please remember that our mission in the community is to *partner with God in bringing people to the transforming power in Jesus Christ!* This is a great time of year to re-invite folks who have been missing from our fellowship and invite friends for the first time to join us in December activities, worship on Sundays and Christmas Eve!

We are having Sunday morning, Christmas Eve day, on the streets with our Tailgate Ministry once again! We had an amazing turnout last year and everyone enjoyed fellowshiping with our friends on the streets. There will be one Christmas Eve service at 8:00pm that evening. Let's all become more invitational during this season when people tend to receive invites to fellowship and worship more openly.

For all of us this season can be a time of distraction and extreme busyness; office parties, and neighborhood gatherings, tree-trimming, gift-

giving, shopping, travel! The distractions can be stressful to say the least. *PLEASE...* take the time this month to reflect on the meaning and reason we celebrate Christmas. Read the Christmas story in Luke 1 and 2. Listen to the Christmas Carols that splendidly tell the story of Jesus, the Son of God. Stop long enough to thank God and be grateful for all that He does and is to each of us. Visit someone you haven't seen for a long time, homemade platter of cookies in hand. Mother Teresa so profoundly expressed her understanding of Christmas when she said, *"It's Christmas every time you let God love others through you...every time you smile at your brother or sister and offer them your hand."* Pray that people will see the love of Christ in you; that His heart will shine through yours, and that you might share His story with them. Lose the *"Happy Holidays"* and shout out loud, *"Merry Christmas!"* no matter where you are or who you are with. Make a statement of your faith each time someone wishes you happy holidays with a joyful response of Merry Christmas!

I pray often for more boldness for all of you; that God would give you a winsome and bold spirit; to stand out from the crowd and let them know who you are and *WHOSE* you are! We need to proclaim the Name of Jesus in His birthday season! One of the characters in the Bible that we hear a lot about is Jesus' disciple Peter. Peter would have never met Jesus without his brother Andrew. Andrew had an encounter with Jesus and he went to Peter and said, *"The guy that I just met is unlike any other guy you'll ever meet in the world! Come and see."* That's all you need to do. You

don't have to try to convince somebody. You don't have to have all the answers to their questions. Just let your light shine and the Holy Spirit will do the convincing! Give your friends the gift of worship on Christmas Eve this year. It will be the best gift you can give.

May this Christmas Season be filled with anticipation and new beginnings as we truly celebrate the reason for Christmas. The Christ child is here, the Christ child has come! Emmanuel, God is indeed with us!

A Blessed and very Merry Christmas,

Pastor Toni





An Ugly Christmas Sweater Party

12/17/17

4:00PM – 7:00PM

IMPACT POTLUCK & Ugly Christmas Sweater Party

Join us for potluck, games and fellowship.
We can enjoy our time with the youth and each other as we compare notes on the awful tastes of our friends and family (and the bravery of the people who are wearing the worst sweaters ever).

Contact Colleen Alvarez at: 598-0769

Yreka United Methodist Children & Youth Programs

Seventh Day Adventist Turkey Give-away. December 16 at 3pm

After Thanksgiving, I'm sure there's a few turkeys you'd like to give-away. Since we can't help you with those, how about help with these?



December 16 at 3pm

The SDA will be giving away turkeys and Christmas food bags. If you or someone you know could use one, stop by and pick one up. Donations of stuffing and gravy are needed if you are able to help out.



December 2017

Robin Watson	1
Ruth Boyd	2
Florence Wilkins	3
Marilyn Pope	5
Dave Gravenkamp	6
Steve Renner	10
Jennifer Embury	11
Veronica Corpz	11
Marv Gould	13
Jeff Chitwood	16
Susan Gravenkamp	16
Kerry Erickson	18
Paula Cook	23
Deborah Dickens	27
Vivianna Sanchez	31
Dean Boyd	31



Jeff & Pam Chitwood	4
Jack and Mary Skeahan	10
Milt & June DeBuhr	27
Mike and Christal Duncan	28



December 3

Join Us After Church
For the Soup Potluck
And our Annual
Charge Conference.

DECEMBER MUSIC EVENTS

COS Choir at YUMC

December 4th at 7:00pm

MESSIAH CHOIR

December 14th at 7:00pm

@ COS Theater

December 15th at 7:00pm

@ Grenada Berean

December 16th at 7:00pm

@Yreka Nazarene



Saints Alive



Dream Team 12/5 at 5pm

Lunch-a-Bunch 12/12, 11:30am at Strings

Fun & Games 12/14 at 2pm

Mountain Trails Walk to Emmaus

We are looking for pilgrims and need the applications now.
We also need workers applications now.

It is going to be at a new setting at the Organizational Bible Camp between Klamath Falls and Medford off of 140. There will be showers! You only have to bring your bedding since there are bunks in the cabins. Everyone will be sleeping in cabins and there are plenty. This is a huge opportunity. Please help us make this happen!

Dates to Remember

Joint team— March 23 and 24

Men's walk— April 12-15

Women's walk— April 19-22.

4th Day—May 5 in Klamath Falls.

Questions? Please contact Melisa Raffaelli : (541)778-3182.



November 6

We finished our work in Egbe and Valerie is home now but Mike and I have stopped in Belgium to spend a week with Helen our former Rotary exchange student from 1992.

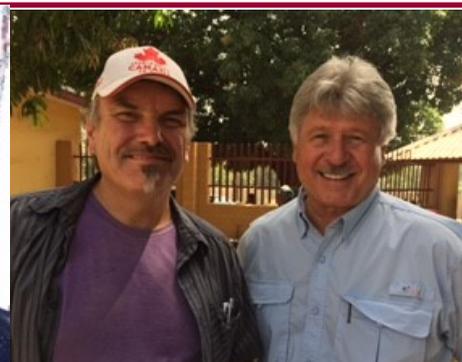
Our last week was good. Mike worked on an AC for the new morgue. I continued to care for patients and Valerie continued to do outreach and dental hygienist work. Valerie visited a leper sanitarium with one of the regional docs. Valerie was instrumental in helping the current dental therapist get started on outreach with blessings from the powers in charge.

The economy in Egbe and in Nigeria overall is not so good. Many government employees have not been paid for 8 to 10 months. I don't know how people survive. The roads are in horrible condition so it takes 3 hours to travel 45 miles. We had an exciting detour when we left Egbe to travel to Abuja. There was a huge traffic stoppage so we went up and over some small mountain roads to bypass it and there was a car in flames on the road and 2 other big trucks stuck in the dirt ruts.

We feel blessed by our time in Egbe and thank you all for your prayers and support.

Mike and I will return next Saturday from Belgium.

We love you all, Christal and Mike 🤗❤️👍🤗



Egbe, Nigeria, 2017

by Christal Duncan, MD

I am often asked by others, or even I ask myself the question, “Why do you keep on returning to Egbe Hospital?” This was our fifth mission trip to Egbe. Why does God keep on calling us to Egbe?

I have many answers.

First of all, and most important- We feel that God has spoken to us to serve this community in Nigeria. The doors just keep on opening to return to Egbe and the people there want us to return. We have said “Yes, send me!” when God has spoken.

Other reasons that we can see are- While I am there, I am teaching the Nigerian Family Practice residents in Obstetrics and Gynecology. In the 5 years that we have served there, only one other OB/Gyn has been there for 3 weeks. If

I weren't there, who would be teaching them these subjects and skills. I have seen tremendous growth in the skills, and in the clinical judgement of the doctors there during my time. I am teaching the full range of Obstetrics and Gynecology subjects. These doctors are the future leaders of the country.

Another reason is the patients who come to see me - the majority of them come to me for infertility.

Many have sought treatment elsewhere without success, many have no means to go elsewhere, but all are suffering the shame of having no children, in a society where a woman's identity is all about their children. There are infertile couples everywhere in the world, but the resources to treat infertility are limited in a third world country. About 40% of infertility is due to female factors, 40% is due to male factors, 10% of the time, both have issues, and 10% is unexplained. I work with both partners to help them resolve their problem. I also talk with them about adoption, but the adoption process is difficult, and not only that, it's not really socially acceptable to raise adopted children instead of having your own biologic children. Never-the-less, there is more openness to adopting now than when we first started serving there in 2012. It's very gratifying to have them come to see me with their children, when we return, who were conceived as the result of treatments and healings that were received. Families are being created who would not otherwise be there. One of the older couples of Egbe told me their infertility story on my first trip to Egbe, and with the help of a missionary doctor, with surgery, they were able to have a family- 5 children, who have been such a blessing to them.

Another reason for returning to Egbe, is to support the mission staff. Our presence helps support the full time missionaries with spiritual, physical and emotional support. Mike is able to accomplish tasks that they have not been able to get to, or they don't have the skills to accomplish. I am able to see patients and do surgeries that they would not normally take care of without an OB/Gyn physician. We have also found ourselves in a position to mediate between staff who have had miscommunication issues with each other. This time with Valerie with us, we were able to promote the new Dental Clinic and Dental Outreach. The Dental Therapist who is working there full time had been feeling unappreciated and unwanted through miscommunication, and we were able to help alleviate this situation. One of the missionary couples is spending their time in outreach to the isolated villages, where there is no knowledge of Jesus. We

were able to visit several of these villages on this last trip. We also spend time in daily devotions, prayers and Bible study with those at the hospital, which is an encouragement to all. We grow by our interactions with each other as believers, wherever we are in this big world.



Another really strong reason is that our presence brings more people to the hospital, who may never have heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ before. Each patient who comes to the hospital is told about the Good News of Jesus, and many come to know Christ for the first time, or make a recommitment to Christ. I pray with every patient who comes to see me. Jesus can heal much better than I can by myself. I am just used as an instrument for healing by the ultimate healer. We as missionaries also go on prayer rounds and pray for each patient in the hospital. Even the Muslim patients do not refuse prayer. They are all seeking healing. They may be looking only for physical healing, but can find spiritual healing while they are at the hospital. The chaplains spend time with the patients daily, teaching and bringing them to Jesus. Other retired pastors in the community also come to spend time with the patients. Each day there is a patient devotional in the large waiting room. Most people come to the hospital clinic early in the morning and wait their turn to be seen. They are willing to wait all day without complaints.



Another great reason is that we have developed relationships with so many Nigerians- the kids at the orphanage, the Nigerian workers at the complex, the local pastors, the Nigerian doctors, the former nursing student who adopted us in 2012, and many in the local community, who look forward to our visits. We are financially supporting a critical engineer at the hospital, a girl at the orphanage, and we re-established a scholarship fund for the graduating orphans, so that they may attend university or vocational school after they graduate from the orphanage (at the end of secondary school)- basically when high school is over.

Many times we fund patient care through the Benevolent Fund at the hospital, for those who have no means. There was a woman with a large uterine tumor who needed surgery, who was also crippled from polio, whom I was able to pay for her bill. Valerie saw some in the outlying villages with horrible teeth, who were not able to pay for services, but she was able to contribute for their care. The hospital has to charge something, as they have to pay their staff- even so the charges are only about 20% of what they would have to pay elsewhere. Even with the payments, the hospital survives by contributions and donations from out of the country.

We have met many Nigerian missionaries who are evangelizing in dangerous areas- to the Muslim community. Abubakar Ibrahim is a young man who was in training to be an elite Islamic teacher. During his university education in Saudi Arabia, he found Jesus while he was taking a comparative religious class. He realized that no-where in the



Koran did it state that if you were a follower of Islam that you would go to heaven. Jesus has appeared to him multiple times, and he committed his life to being a follower of Jesus. He was imprisoned by his family initially, but was able to escape with the help of his mother, and now he spends his life witnessing to the Muslim community in Nigeria, and shepherding those who have come to know Christ like himself. He lives a dangerous life, but God has protected him from harm and his work is flourishing. We have been a part of his work by supplying him with solar powered audio Bibles in the local native languages.

We have learned more about the community and the leaders this last time. We were able to meet the King of Egbe, and receive his blessing, on Unity Day- a celebration of the 12 clans (or tribes) of the Egbe area. It was a time of great celebration with music, dancing, speeches, sporting events and food. The 12 chiefs are part of every significant event in Egbe. There was also a dedication of the new Morgue on the hospital grounds (which Mike worked on), a Music School performance, with the introduction of a new book written by the oldest chief- Chief Samoyan- called Oibo Egbe- the story of the first Christian missionary to Egbe. We also met with one of the oldest couples in Egbe several times, Abraham and Alice Dada, who have played a great role in Egbe. They donated the land and opened the orphanage in Egbe. Abraham was on staff at Egbe hospital for many years. Currently they have taken in a young teenage foster daughter who was in a bad situation with her broken family, even though they are in their late 80's. They are always willing to help. The Babawaruns are also an older couple- he is a retired pastor, who have played a significant role in the community. On Unity Day he got on his knees and led a community prayer re-dedicating the community to following God an all aspects of life. To listening to God each day, and to walking the path that God leads us on. It was quite inspiring. Can you imagine this happening here with thousands of people kneeling in prayer outside?

We also met the Campion Family this time. There are 4 siblings- now in their 60's who were born and raised in Nigeria, as their parents were missionaries in Egbe for 35 years.



The father was a physician and their mother a nurse. The 4 children have been the spearheads for the revitalization of Egbe Hospital. Under their guidance the entire hospital has been rebuilt or renovated. It has been a labor of love. They partnered with the local ECWA church organization, Samaritan's Purse and SIM to accomplish this. It was great to hear their stories of growing up in Nigeria and of their adventures, and also about their current lives. 3 of the siblings came this time with some of their family members- spouses and children. They were all put to work in various capacities around the hospital grounds. Don and SueAnn Campion and Betsie Campion Smith are the 3 who are the movers and shakers. They were constantly meeting and visiting with people to continue pursuing the goal of maintaining a vital hospital and a vital community in this region of Nigeria. We were truly impressed with their commitment to this project. Don and SueAnn own and run an airplane support business in Florida, and through this business they have made connections with people that have furthered this work of God. They return to Egbe every 6 months. They have been called by God to serve the people of Egbe. So, like the Campions, God has called us to serve the people of Egbe. Not just once, but again and again. As long as God keeps calling us, we will keep answering,

“Here I am, send me!!!”

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="font-size: 4em; color: #800040; margin: 0;">DECEMBER</h1> 				1 11:30 am Small Group 2:00 pm Strong Women	2 Tailgaters 8:00 am SA Cabaret	
3 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Svc Noon Charge Conference Noon Tailgaters 2:00 pm IMPACT Youth	4 7:00 am Morning Prayer 12:30 pm Crafting/Cause 2:00 pm Strong Women 5:00 pm WOW 7:00 pm COS CHOIR	5 9:00 am SA Quilting 5:00pm SA Dream Team 5:30 pm Worship Team 6:30pm Choir Practice	6 6:00 pm Kingdom Kidz	7 2:00 pm SA Fun & Games 5:00 pm WOW 6:30 pm Sacred Space Worship Service	8 11:30 am Small Group 2:00 pm Strong Women	9 Tailgaters 8 am
10 8:00 am UMM Breakfast @ Poor George's 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Svc Noon Tailgaters 4:00 pm IMPACT Youth	11 7:00 am Morning Prayer 12:30 pm Crafting/Cause 2:00 pm Strong Women 5:00 pm WOW	12 9:00 am SA Quilting 11:30 am Lunch-a-Bunch @ Strings 5:30 pm Worship Team 6:30pm Choir Practice	13 2:00 pm Strong Women 6:00 pm Kingdom Kidz	14 2:00 pm SA Fun & Games 5:30 pm Leadership Mtg 5:30 pm WOW 6:30 pm Sacred Space Worship Service Messiah Choir @ Weed	15 11:30 am Small Group 2:00 pm Strong Women Messiah Choir @ Grenada	16 Tailgaters 8:00 am Messiah Choir @ Yreka Nazarene 7pm
17 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Noon Tailgaters 4:00 pm Ugly Xmas Sweater Party	18 7:00 am Morning Prayer 12:30 pm Crafting/Cause 2:00 pm Strong Women 5:30 pm Leadership Mtg 5:30 pm WOW	19 9:00 am SA Quilting 5:30 pm Worship Team 6:30pm Choir Practice	20 2:00 pm Strong Women 6:00 pm Kingdom Kidz	21 5:30 pm WOW 6:30 pm Sacred Space Worship Service	22 11:30 am Small Group 2:00 pm Strong Women	23 Tailgaters 8:00 am
24 / 31 12:30 pm Christmas Eve Service on the Street with Tailgaters 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 MERRY CHRIST- MAS	26 5:30 pm Worship Team 6:30 pm Choir Practice	27 2:00 pm Strong Women	28 5:30 pm WOW 6:30 pm Sacred Space Worship Service	29 11:30 am Small Group 2:00 pm Strong Women	30 Tailgaters 8:00 am