



June 2020 Bridge

Yreka United Methodist Church

502 N. Fairchild St, Yreka CA 96097

**Pastor
Toni Hartman**

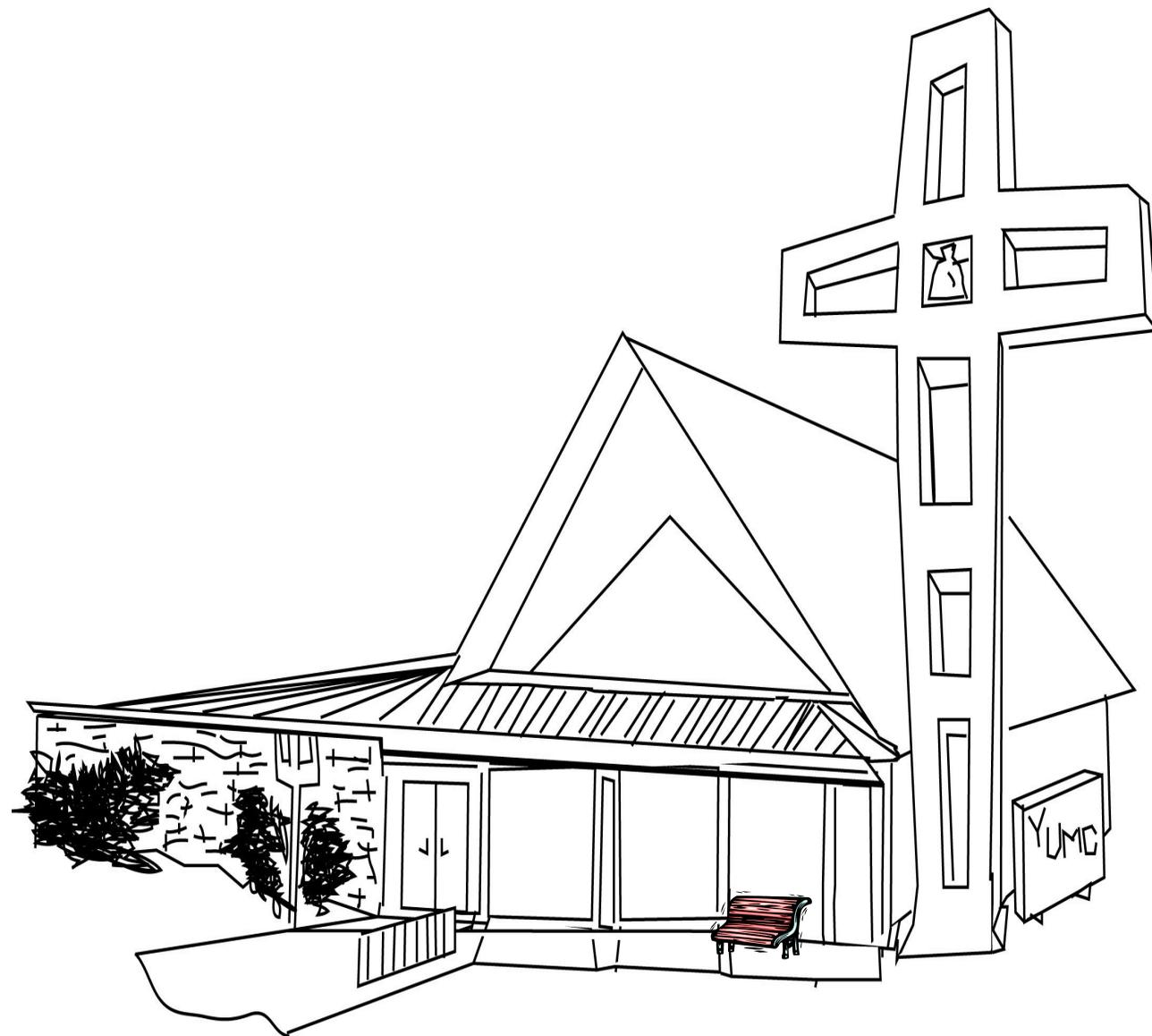
Office Hours

Monday thru Friday

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

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A Note from Pastor Toni

1 Covidians 12:1-11

Now concerning the wearing of masks, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that in the time before Covid, we were enticed and led astray thinking that we were not responsible for one another's health. Therefore, I want you to understand that no one speaking in the spirit of love ever says 'masks be cursed!'; and no one can say 'masks are a really good idea for everybody!' except through a spirit of love.

Now there are varieties of masks, but the same spirit of wearing them; and there are varieties of mask wearers, but the same virus; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same precautions that must be shown to everyone.

To each is given a manifestation of a mask for the common good. To one a mask is given through our mask makers, and to another a purchased one online, or in a store according to the same spirit of protection. Some fashion one after watching a video on YouTube, to another... they already had some. The knowledge of need-

ing to wear one according to the same spirit, to another faith that the same spirit will improve health and save lives.

Another receives the gifts of healing by this generous spirit, to another this seems no less than the working of a miracle, another prophecies that we'll get through all of this sooner by observing these loving precautions, to another the discernment of figuring out how all can get one, to another the knowledge that a mask hides all kinds of mouths and tongues, to another the understanding that those mouths and tongues are still there, behind those masks.

All these are activated by one and the same spirit, and we hope to allot to each one individually just as they choose.

In other words, wear a mask!...

Because loving our neighbor as ourselves is the crux of it. When we wear a mask, we are saying that we love and care for ourselves, and that we love and care for our neighbors. If our neighbor is sick (and perhaps doesn't even know it yet) our

masks help protect US. If WE are sick (and perhaps don't even know it yet) our masks help protect OUR NEIGHBOR... it is a tangible and visible manifestation and practice of our LOVE."

Written by the Rev. Greg Brown of Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Charlotte, NC

Your pastor completely concurs!

Pastor Toni



May 28, 2020

A letter from Bishop Minerva G. Carcano.

Beloved Pastors, Lay Ministers and Lay Members of the Churches of the California-Nevada Conference,

I pray you are safe and well. Your conference and district staff members join me in sending you our support and love. We are here for you.

As you are aware, the states of California and Nevada have moved to allowing the re-opening of worship gatherings. Because of conversations of religious leaders with state government that I have been a participant in, I knew that this was coming. I have shared all information with our Extended Cabinet and our Conference Lay Leader, who for some time have been working on protocols for this day. Our Extended Cabinet and Conference Lay Leader meet every Monday serving as our Conference response team to the COVID-19 pandemic.

After continued work with conference staff and leadership including conversation with pastors and lay leaders, and much prayer, I am asking that the church buildings, the conference center, and district offices of the California-Nevada Conference remain closed through the end of June 2020. I hope that the following report helps you understand and support my decision.

Our Extended Cabinet along with other conference staff members have been very diligent in collecting the best practices of our connectional UMC in this pandemic. We have also been engaged in deep conversation about the implications of re-opening our church buildings.

I am so very grateful for all that the pastors and lay leaders of our local churches are doing in response to COVID-19. I give God thanks for every single one of you! May God continue to strengthen you and bless you. In your experiences in this time of pandemic many of you have raised some very serious concerns. We share these concerns with you.

- In the words of John Wesley, how do we do no harm and do all the good we can in this moment of pandemic illness and death?
- What are the necessary things we must do to prepare for re-opening our in-person worship services?
- What would cause us to be re-closed after re-opening?
- How can we be sure that we are following government orders?

These are but some of the very important and practical questions that have arisen. As our conference staff has worked on protocols – the necessary things that must be done before re-opening our churches – they have an evolving document for us that is already over 30 pages. The length of our draft protocols is a sign of the seriousness with which we are required to prepare for moving to in-person worship. There are, however, some equally important concerns that we must consider as the Church.

Many of our pastors whose church worship has gone virtual, report that they are being joined by members who had not been participating in the life of the church for some time, and by new persons. As we consider re-opening our churches, how will our local churches stay connected to these persons? How will our local churches continue to connect and minister to persons who may not yet feel safe to join in-person worship services?

What are the things that our local churches were doing before the pandemic that in retrospect were not necessary and perhaps were even draining the church of time and energy that could have been used for more relevant mission and ministry?

As we come closer to the day of returning to our church buildings, is our return focused just on ourselves or are we truly opening up our churches, our hearts and the fullness of our discipleship to planting ourselves anew in a world in need of continued transformation and a word of mercy and hope?

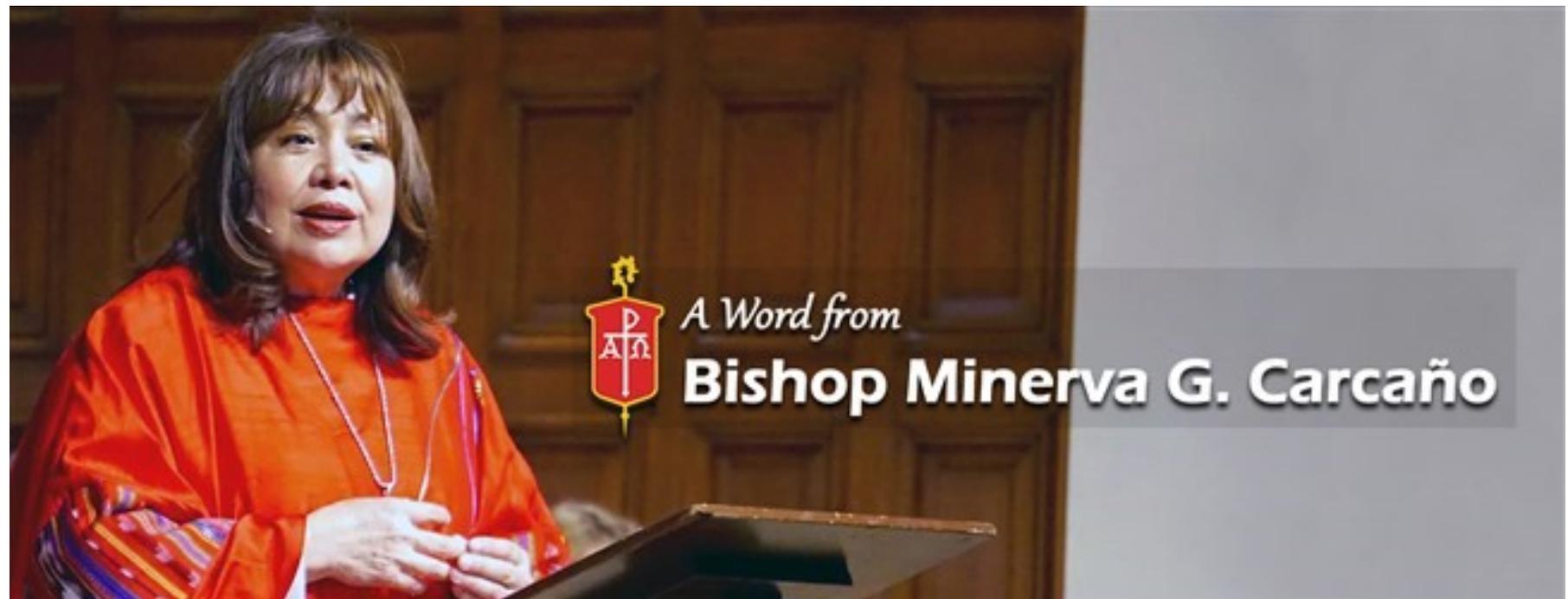
The protocols we are preparing are to assist our churches meet federal and state guidelines while also requesting that each local church be responsible for assuring that they are meeting county and local health orders. The implementation and sustaining of necessary protocols for safely returning to in-person worship, is a complex process that requires the training of pastors and lay leaders.

As these protocols are drafted it has been in the awareness that the indicators of the presence of the Corona virus have risen in areas in the region of our Conference that have been re-opened to even minimal degrees. Some counties have seen such a rise in COVID-19 infections that they have ordered a strict continuation of shelter-in-place. While some of our more rural communities have thankfully not seen any cases of the virus.

In this complex situation I would restate that I am asking that our California-Nevada Conference church buildings, conference center and district offices remain closed through the end of the month of June 2020. This time will allow our conference staff to complete our protocols for this next phase, test them and provide training for pastors and lay leaders. A small number of churches who demonstrate the greatest readiness for re-starting in person worship in their church buildings will be invited to assist us in testing the protocols for church re-openings. A summary overview of the protocols in development are shared with you in this issue of the *Instant Connection*.

I pray that in this next month you will continue to do your very best work. Consider the learnings you have gained from this time of shelter-in-place. I also invite you to join me in a season of prayer whose focus is asking God how we are to serve as disciples of Jesus Christ in a world that will never be the same.

Blessings,



From the Leadership Board June 2020

Restricted Operations during Pandemic.

Our facilities remain closed per the Governor's order. Our bishop has issued similar instructions. Pastor Toni briefed the Leadership Board on some ways to bring our members closer together during these times. Implementation of her ideas depend on both the Governor and the bishop but she'll keep us all posted.

Paycheck Protection Program.

The Small Business Administration approved our application which funded in May. The approved amount should be sufficient to pay our employees for eight (8) weeks and help with the overhead (utilities, etc.). We anticipate that the loan will be 100% forgiven when we submit our application for that procedure after the money is spent. We will keep you posted. Big thanks to Cliff and Michael for taking the lead on getting this done.

Continued Good Works during Pandemic.

Our ministries go on despite locked doors. The Tailgater's have applied for and should receive shortly a grant to help feed people.

Finances.

We are no longer running a severe deficit because you have found a way to support the church notwithstanding that we are prohibited from meeting. Your contributions, supplemented by the Paycheck Protection Program, have influenced the Leadership Team to authorize resumption of tithes to the conference.

Expanded outreach in the digital age.

To facilitate our Worship Team Sunday morning broadcast the Leadership Board authorized installation of a higher speed internet connection to the sanctuary through Northland Cable. Over time we expect to convert our existing internet service at the office to the Northland Cable.

In His service,
Joe Allison
Leadership Board Chair

June 2020

Birthdays

Tracie Lima	2
Vivian Marsh	10
Duncan Chitwood	11
Rob Bicego	11
Alexys Gorseth	14
Becklyn Stott	16
Mary Holmes	20
Beverly Everett	21
Blake Chitwood	23
Susan Erhardt	24
John Burleson-Raney	26

Anniversaries

Cliff and Anita Lantz	4
Richard and Bonnie Garvin	8
Deborah Dickens & Tracie Lima	27



What's Happening with Saints Alive! in June!

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



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 Saturday 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

It doesn't look like we will be able to get secret sisters off the ground. We will definitely try again next year.

We are on the calendar for a Potluck in January, maybe we could do that, enjoy each other's company and fill out our secret sisters paperwork. What do you think?

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.

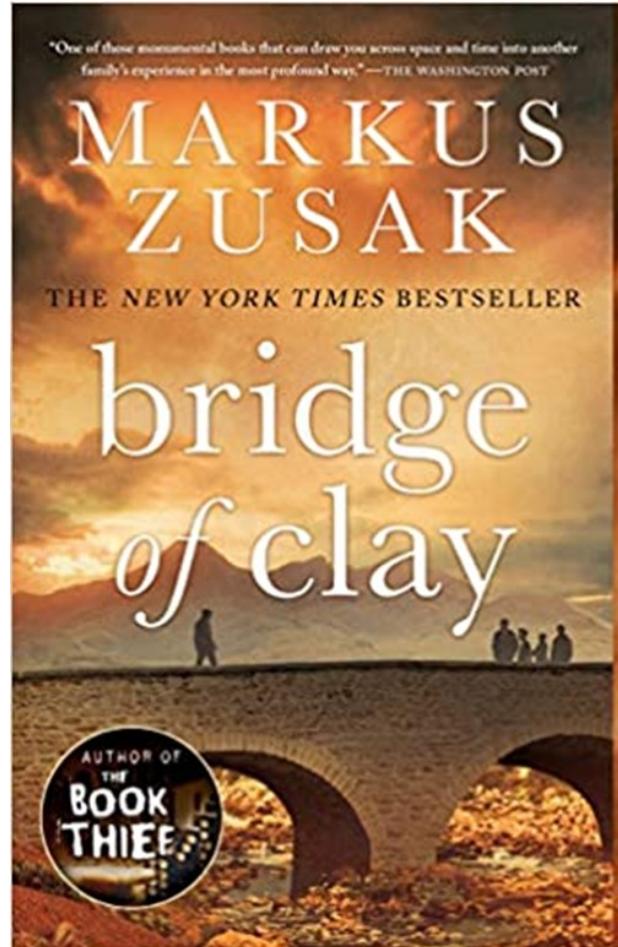
“This book is a stunner. Devastating, demanding and deeply moving, *Bridge of Clay* unspools like a kind of magic act in reverse, with feats of narrative legerdemain concealed by misdirection that all make sense only when the elements of the trick are finally laid out.” —*Wall Street Journal*

“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!



The Book Club –July 2020 Selection (An exuberant subsidiary of YUMC’s Saints Alive!)

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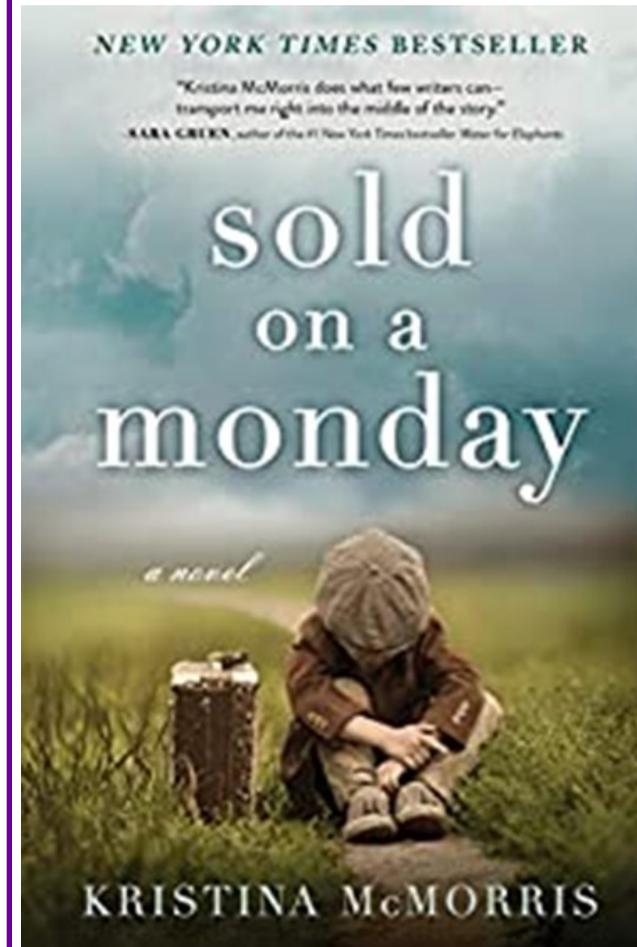
--except during the 2020 Plagues

presents:

This novel is set during the Depression Era of 1931. A sign was in the yard where two small boys were playing that read “2 children for sale”.

Times were hard in America. The Stock Market crashed, Banks were closing, no money, no food, people out of work, long bread lines waiting for food. Many families with children couldn't afford to feed them. Some parents passed their children to farmers to help with the farming. Other parents sold their children thinking it would provide their children a better life.

This story is about Ellis Reed, a newspaper reporter trying to keep his job. He saw the sign and the two boys playing. He took a picture of the boys and wrote a story for the newspaper. But when it leads to his big break, the consequences are more devastating than he ever imagined.

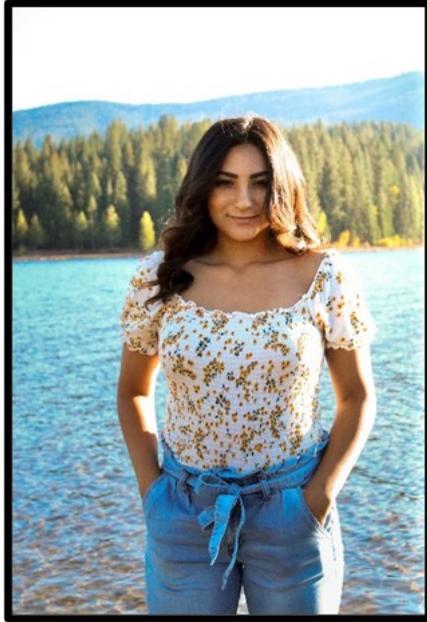


Inspired by an actual newspaper photograph that stunned the nation, *Sold on a Monday* is a powerful novel of love, redemption, and the unexpected paths that bring us home .

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

IMPACT

Last month, we featured three of our four graduating seniors, and this month we feature one more: Abbi! We are all very proud of their hard work and dedication, especially in light of COVID-19. Please consider printing this page and praying for these young adults on a regular basis, as they launch into the next chapter of their lives!



ABIGAIL “ABBI” ALVAREZ:

Abbi will be attending Shasta College in Redding, CA. She plans to become an athletic trainer. Abbi is currently searching for housing in Redding, since the dorms are unavailable due to the pandemic.



Congratulations!!



AUDREY STOTT:

Audrey will be going to College of the Siskiyou 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.



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.



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.

Tailgaters

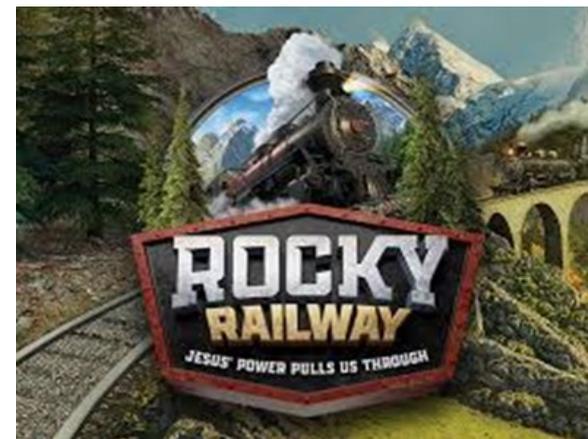
Tailgaters would like to send warm and loving thoughts to Jim Frey. We miss you!!

Heal fully and then come back and join us!

Ladies, don't forget the Rummage Sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "Hell" to someone that doesn't care much about you!

Next Tuesday there will be tryouts for the Choir. They need all the help they can get!



Just in from our conductor...for the safety of all involved and in accordance with our Bishop's guidelines, Rocky Railway VBS will be taking a detour this summer and will be pulling into YUMC station Summer 2021. Thank you to all of you who were willing to step up and help this year. I hope we can all be together chugging down the rails together soon.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

These are just a few of the funnies sent in by Jim Frey. Look for more in future newsletters.