

Central United Methodist Church

3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95204

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Sunday, November 3, 2024



*Indicates please stand as you are able.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

GATHERING MOMENT

INTROIT

All Are Welcome

(by Marty Haugen)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Today we gather in the presence of God, remembering the saints who have gone before us—the faithful ones whose lives tell the story of God’s love.

All: **We remember their courage, their sacrifices, and their devotion. Their stories inspire us and remind us of the legacy we carry.**

Leader: We give thanks for the saints—those known to us and those known only to God—who lived as witnesses to Christ’s grace and truth.

All: **Their lives were not perfect, but they were faithful. Through their trials and triumphs, they showed us the way of love, justice, and peace.**

*OPENING HYMN

Come Down, O Love Divine

UMH #475

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

MISSION & MINISTRIES MOMENT

RITE OF FRIENDSHIP AND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS (10:00am)

***PASSING THE PEACE**

(Stand, bow or wave, with the word "Peace be with you!")

All Sing:

On Eagle's Wings

*And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand.*

ANTHEM

Sine Nomine

(by Ralph Vaughn Williams)

PRAYER CARDS COLLECTED

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:28-34 (Pew Bible NRSV, page 49)

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN**

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones vs. 1, 4

UMH #90

SERMON

"Love Your God, Love Your Neighbor"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTOR'S PRAYER

THANKSGIVING

WORSHIP WITH OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

Bless Thou the Gifts

UMH #587

Bless thou the Gifts our hands have brought; bless thou the work our hearts have planned.

Ours is the faith, the will, the thought; the rest, O God, is in thy hand.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS

Dianne Runion
Helen Underhill
Dean Morris
William DuBois
Sammy Tovera
Sandra Jennings

Ray Sanborn
Ron Duncan
Rupert Cooper
Don Smiley
Donna Miller
Phillippa Warfield

Gary Putnam
Allison Smiley
Chuck Edgecomb
Barbara Burrue
Paula Clements
Patricia Coito

COMMUNION

UMH #23-24

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right and a good and joyful thing...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sing: *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Sing: *Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.*

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Sing: *Amen, amen, amen.*

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Let Us Break Bread Together

UMH #618

Take Our Bread

UMH #640

Eat This Bread

UMH #628

SENDING FORTH

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

Shalom to You

UMH #666

***Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.
May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.***

*POSTLUDE

***The Flowers on the altar are given by Butch Bible in celebration of his birthday on
November 5. Grateful for another year!***

SERVING YOU TODAY

Rev. Dr. Sungho Lee, Senior Pastor
Laura Dinges, Worship Leader
Mary Juarez Dalton, Children's Moment
Ric Campero, Music Director
Monica Adams, Organist/Pianist
Cherie Hudson, Facilities Coordinator
David Campero, Livestream
Steven Adams, Sound/Media
Mark Wharff, Media

Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the souls you can, in every place you can, at all the times you can, with all the zeal you can, as long as ever you can. ~ John Wesley

**ALL-CHURCH CONFERENCE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024
4:30PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

WELCOME CENTER

If you are a visitor, please use this information for your convenience!

Sunday Schedule

- 8:30 am Worship Service in the Fireside Room of the Knoles Building in English
9:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, choir room (behind the Sanctuary)
10:15 am Worship Service in the Fireside Room of the Knoles Building in Cambodian language.
11:00 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary in English.
- Childcare (under age 5) is available in the Knoles building. A friendly caregiver welcomes you!
 - Godly Play (leave 11 am service Following Children's Moment)
- 12:15 pm Fellowship Hour in the Fellowship Hall



If you would like to donate to CUMC use the QR code, or go directly to our donation page at:
<https://cumcstockton.org/donate/>

Sermon in a nutshell: "Love your God, Love your Neighbor" (All Saints Sunday) (Mark 12:28-34)

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other"; and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbour as oneself",—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.' When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Starting question: Why are those two commandments the most important ones in the Bible?

That's what the scribe asked Jesus when he approached him in the middle of a heated debate. Jesus answered without hesitation, reminding us of the foundation of our faith: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. It's simple, yet profound. Everything in our faith, in our lives, rests on these two principles.

We become stories when we die.

On this <All Saints Sunday>, we reflect on the lives of those who have gone before us—those who loved God and loved their neighbors. Their lives have become stories, and those stories now inspire us. This brings us to a deep truth: when we die, we don't just vanish. We become stories. But what kind of stories will we leave behind?

If the stories told about us after we die are filled with moments of love for God and love for others, then our lives will have been a reflection of heaven on earth. But if our stories are full of regrets—"could have" and "should have"—we leave behind memories of torment, not just for ourselves, but for those we impacted. The choices we make now are writing the stories people will tell when we are gone.

Life is short here on earth.

This idea of legacy—of becoming stories after we die—isn't foreign to Scripture. The Bible is filled with reflections on life's brevity and the impact we leave behind:

In Psalm 90, we are reminded that our days pass quickly, but even in that short span, we leave an imprint. We celebrated Rupert Cooper's life and dedicated the sound booth in his name. His life becomes eternal in heaven.

Ecclesiastes 7:1 tells us that a good name, our reputation, is more valuable than wealth or possessions, and our story at the end of life is often more important than the circumstances of our birth. Jesus told us a story of a rich fool (Luke 12:16-21).

Jesus tells a parable about a wealthy man whose land produced an abundant harvest. Instead of sharing his surplus or using it wisely, the man decided to build bigger barns to store his grain and goods. He thought to himself, "I'll take it easy, eat, drink, and be merry," assuming he could enjoy his wealth for years to come. But that very night, God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?"

Jesus ends the parable with a warning: "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God." The story illustrates the futility of placing trust in earthly wealth without considering one's relationship with God and others.

What is their legacy?

In Hebrews 11, we hear stories of saints whose faith still speaks even though they have long passed. Their stories of faith, hope, and love continue to echo in the pages of Scripture.

We see the same theme in the story of Tabitha (Acts 9:36-39). The story of Tabitha (also known as Dorcas) is found in Acts 9:36-39. Tabitha was a disciple in the town of Joppa, known for her acts of kindness and charity, specially making clothes for the poor. She became ill and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room.

When the disciples heard that Peter was nearby, they sent for him. When Peter arrived, he was taken to the room where Tabitha's body lay. The widows she had helped were there, weeping and showing him the clothes, she had made while she was alive. Moved by the impact of her life, Peter prayed, and Tabitha was miraculously brought back to life. Her story illustrates the power of faith, the importance of good works, and how a life of service can touch many people.

We remember their stories.

Today, as we remember the saints who have passed in the last year, we remember not just their deaths, but the stories they left us. Their love for God and their neighbors is the reason we call them saints.

And now, we must ask ourselves: What will our stories be? We are still writing them, every day, with our words and our actions. Will our lives be stories of love, service, and faithfulness? Or will they be marked by missed opportunities and unfulfilled potential?

What stories will be remembered by our descendants?

As we gather today to remember the saints, let us also consider the story we are living right now. We are still writing our legacy. Let our lives, like the saints before us, be stories of love for God and love for others—stories that will continue to bless and inspire future generations. Spend your time to serve God and neighbors, use your talents for mission and ministries, give your treasures to God, and share your testimonies with others. Your story will be filled with joy and peace forever! Amen.



No matter where you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here. Period.

THANKSGIVING IN A BAG

Our Thanksgiving in a Bag project has started. This year our goal is to prepare 48 bags filled with items for a Thanksgiving meal for August School families.

Bring your purchases to the Fellowship Hall kitchen on Sundays, November 3 and 10. Or at the office on Mondays and Thursdays between 11.00am and noon. Bags will be delivered Wednesday, November 13.

- This year's shopping list
- 1 Box of Stuffing
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Small Bag of Rice
- 1 Can or Packet of Turkey Gravy
- 1 Can of Cranberry Sauce
- 2 Cans of Vegetables (Corn, Green Beans, Peas, Yams, Mixed Vegetables)
- 1 Can of Fruit (Peaches, Fruit Cocktail, Applesauce, Pears)
- 1 Cube of Butter
- Pie. Or a pie crust, and items needed to make a pumpkin pie
- Frozen Turkey

You may purchase everything on this list or just some of the items. Invite your co-workers, neighbors, or relatives to join you in this project. Places you might shop are Winco, Food for Less, Smart and Final, Costco or Save Mart.

If you are unable to shop but would like to make a financial donation, put your check in the offering plate this Sunday or mail it to CUMC, 3700 Pacific Ave., Stockton, 95204. Be sure to write: Family Ministry, Thanksgiving in a Bag on the memo line.

BOOK GROUP

2 book titles were shared - both easy reading: *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams and *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. Copies of both seem to be available. Discussion date might be delayed due to holiday activities.

THE BOOK CART

Check out our stocked book cart.... Sundays after church in the fellowship hall while you enjoy coffee hour. Both adult and children's books are available. Take a book to enjoy and/or bring a book to share.

SAVE THE DATE – December 22, 3:30pm

Messiah by G. F. Handel Excerpts from Part 1 featuring Central UMC Chancel Choir, Stockton Singers and Soloists and Chamber Orchestra. Sunday, December 22, 2024, 3:30 PM, Sanctuary, Central UMC 3700 Pacific Ave. Stockton, CA. **Free Will Offering.**

FOOD CLOSET

I know your grocery bill is high but what if you had no money? What would you do and where would you go for food? I asked one of our clients why he didn't just go to the Father McCoy Dining Hall and he said, " It's difficult to get to from this area and I don't have money for the bus. Also, it's really dangerous to sleep over in that area." For the food closet to reopen in mid-October, I need:

- Tuna Kits
- Campbell's chunky soups with pull tabs
- Water
- Vienna Sausage cans
- Chips
- Small variety cereals
- Milk—shelf stable
- Cup of Soup—Ramen
- Granola Bars
- Packets of Peanuts

Please remember that our homeless population does not have access to can openers so pull tabs are a must.

Thank you for all you continue to do! ~ *Dianne England*, diannengland49@gmail.com

ANGEL TREE

It's Angel Tree time again this year. I just received the names of 105 children from 47 families. If you can help, please let me know. These are the areas where you can get involved.

- Tag making
- Gift wrapping
- Calling caregivers
- Gift purchasing
- Cookie and candy buying
- Delivering gifts

Please let me know if you can help. ~ *Dianne England*, diannengland49@gmail.com, 209-298-8632

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO UMW/UWF LUNCHEONS?

When we reorganized to become a less formal women's group, it was with the understanding that women would volunteer to coordinate and host the monthly luncheon. For two years, 3 volunteers have done that. With 2 exceptions, others have not stepped forward. If you wish the luncheons to continue, it is time to do so. You can pair up with a friend.

Barring that, we recommend that you attend and support the monthly "LUNCH ON US" program. If you have questions or want to volunteer, contact Connie Edgecomb, Glenda Schubert, or Martha Tipton.

Also, there will not be a Christmas Tea this year.

THANK YOU...

To those who returned altar vases. We are still looking for a 12" orange, opaque, dew-drop-shaped one (the color of orange sherbert) and a taller white ceramic one that is a mosaic of small mirror-glass pieces. That one is used especially on All Saints Sunday coming up and New Year's Eve. Please check your cupboards + shelves to see if you have one. Thank you. ~ *Martha Tipton*, Flower Committee

CENTRAL HISTORY/SANCTUARY/STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

For those of you who are interested in the design, construction and specifications of our 60-year-old sanctuary as well as a timeline history of Central Methodist Church, there is a brochure on the table in the narthex. There is also a brochure on our stained-glass windows there that discusses the design, scriptures used and for whom the windows were dedicated.

HEARING ASSIST UNITS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR WORSHIP

As of this week, four hearing assist devices are available for those who need help with hearing worship services.

If you feel that you are a candidate for a hearing device, please go directly to the audio/visual booth to receive a unit. Our volunteers and staff are happy to help you!

Please be patient as they are also busy preparing for the service.

If more than four devices are needed, we will make accommodations as soon as we can. By October, we will be upgrading to a newer ADA approved system.