Marge Loudy was a farm girl. At her Memorial Service this past Saturday, I mentioned in my Eulogy that I thought it was fitting that we were remembering her life on the first full day of Fall – the season of harvest, the season at the heart of farming. The harvest is evidence of a good crop, and a confirmation of all the efforts that have gone into it prior to that time.

The theme of harvest has been running through my mind as I am hearing and seeing the disappointing uncivil rhetoric in our nation – staring often, sadly, from the President, and on down. It makes me think about the final message in my Seed sermon series this summer. We finished that series by looking precisely at The Harvest of a planted seed. The lesson to help us do that was the familiar passage about The Fruit of the Spirit, from Galatians 5:22-23.

I know that, sometimes, the metaphors in Scripture can feel very abstract. But what I’m seeing and hearing is making me realize again how important the “seeds” in our hearts and spirits are. As Paul reminds us just a little bit later, also in his letter to the Galatians, we will harvest (“reap”) what we plant (“sow”). The English Standard Version of Galatians 6:7 puts it bluntly in this way: “You will always harvest what you plant.”

When I take this message to heart, I see that not only is it important for us to ponder what is within us that is reaping a harvest of incivility, but we must also be very cautious about what seeds ugly rhetoric sows in our world, because its harvest will only reflect those seeds. Even if our broader society or our leaders seem to forget this basic truth, we as people of faith cannot.

Perhaps our mindfulness about this is what we can bring to our current climate. We do seek to follow some basic lessons and guidelines of our faith that tell us to pay attention to what is in our hearts – to remember that this “inner world” impacts our “outer” one, and to remember that we’re called to plant within our hearts seeds of the Spirit, so that we might harvest its fruit. Who else is reminding us of these fundamental, basic guidelines to shape our relationships with each other?

So, brothers and sisters, we have work to do – starting with ourselves! But, the benefits of this work will absolutely not be strictly personal or private. We may be exactly the “seeds” our nation and world need at this very moment, so that the harvest might be a very different one from the disconcerting one I’m seeing around us, as well as the bitter one looming potentially before us.

I think Paul’s words to the Galatians are worth hearing again. Maybe you will find them as fitting for us today as I do – and pay close attention to the ones I’ve bolded:

Make no mistake, God is not mocked. A person will harvest what they plant. Those who plant only for their own benefit will harvest devastation from their selfishness, but those who plant for the benefit of the Spirit will harvest eternal life from the Spirit. Let’s not get tired of doing good, because in time we’ll have a harvest if we don’t give up. So then, let’s work for the good of all whenever we have an opportunity. (Galatians 6:7-10a)

Yes: we have much prayerful work ahead of us; but, thanks be to God, we never face our work alone, but in the strength of the Holy Spirit; and the harvest of this good work is definitely worth it!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Myrna
Please let us know if you know of someone who could use our prayers of intention so we can include them on our list.

Continued prayers of healing for our homebound and/or chronically ill, and those who are recovering from accidents/illnesses, who include: Charles Dumm, Dorothy Feick, Barbara Humphrey, Lynne Kersting, Priscilla McIntire, Charlotte McMahon, Pauline Palmeri, Betty Quadros, Mary Lou Smith, Mae Stagnaro, Darrell Thomas, and Marie Watson.

Mary Lou Smith is currently at the Hayward Convalescent, located at 1832 B St., Hayward, 94541. She’s in Rm. 28. Also, shortly she will be moving to a board and care.

Although Lynne Kersting was scheduled to return home today, he was re-admitted to the hospital for yet another surgery today.

Lester Davis, 99, is on Hospice care at Carlton Plaza’s Memory wing.

... And, speaking of Birthdays and Anniversaries....

If you'd like your birthday and/or anniversary to be recognized correctly in the Spire, please send us your special date(s) if you haven't yet entered it in the “Birthdays and Anniversary” booklet now located in the back of the Sanctuary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birthdays</th>
<th>No Anniversaries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Borruso</td>
<td>October 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mareta Fletcher</td>
<td>October 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Skinner</td>
<td>October 14</td>
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<td>Bev Worthington</td>
<td>October 18</td>
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<td>Judi Pitcher</td>
<td>October 19</td>
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<td>Jericho Zapata</td>
<td>October 21</td>
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<td>Helen Feick</td>
<td>October 22</td>
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<td>Marilyn Madsen</td>
<td>October 31</td>
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Office: (510)483-0606
9 am—1 pm, Monday—Friday

Pastor: Rev. Myrna Bernadel-Huey
pastor@fumcsl.org
NOTE: Fridays are her day off.

Office Manager: Kathy Moore
office@fumcsl.org

Music Director: Dr. Ondine Young

Accompanist: Marcie Avalon
marciemusic@theavalonfamily.com

Custodian: Nancy Skinner
custodian@fumcsl.org

Facilities Manager: office@fumcsl.org

Prayer Chain (Confidential): Dawne Teske (357-0770)
dawneteske@att.net

Wedding Coordinator: Judi Pitcher
### Our Shared Ministry

Regular **monthly** meeting days and times:
- 1st Tues.: UMW off for the summer; Trustees, 7 PM., in the Wesley Rm.
- 2nd Tues.: Finance Committee, at 6:30 PM, in the Library
- 2nd Thurs: Lay Leadership Development, 10:00am, Wesley Rm
- 2nd Sun.: Staff-Parish Relations (SPRC), 12:30 PM, in the St. Francis Rm.
- 4th Sun.: Church Council, 12:30 PM, in the St. Francis Rm.;

Regular **weekly** Christian Education/ Spiritual Growth/ Health gatherings:
- Sundays: Children’s Sunday School, during worship; Adult Sunday School, ~11 AM-~12 PM: Bible Study, in the Library, and Video Study *Apocryphal Jesus* in the St. Francis Rm.
- Mondays: Gentle Exercise Class, 10:30 AM in Hale Hall. Taught by Nancy Skinner
- Wednesdays: Meditative Communion, 12:15 PM (except the Second Wednesday), Chapel

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**Our Facebook** page is now back up and running. Take a minute and look for updated information. Also, share with your friends...it’s a great outreach. Thanks to Tracy Zapata for bringing Facebook back!

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**Keep Your Mind Fit**

**Scryptogram:** Each letter in the passage is replaced with another. Solve the code and discover the verse(s). Solution on bottom of page 5

Knczc cghv zsbe lnd, H gf bln dnczddnobhes, gsv bln ahjn: ln blgb pnahnwnbl hs fn, blezml ln yndn vngv, xnb clgaa ln ahwn:

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**UMCOR FLOOD BUCKETS**

**Kit Assembly Sundays Have Been Extended**

**Dates Just Added:** Sunday, October 1st and 8th

Plan to stay a little longer after Sunday Worship on Oct. 1 & 8 to help assemble UMCOR “Cleaning Kits” (“Flood Buckets”) that will be sent to hurricane and flood victims.

Thanks to generous cash donations, we will be able to fill our goal of **20 buckets**!

No supplies are necessary.

*BUT, help is needed to put them all together!!*
Behind the Scenes With SPRC: Hiring

Staff Parish Relations Committee (aka SPRC) brought two new staff members on board during 2017: Office Manager, Kathy Moore; and Music Director, Dr. Ondine Young. Here’s a peek into some of the background work associated with those hiring efforts.

First, Job Descriptions needed updating! For example, our Office Manager job description was so outdated that it had no mention of social media or electronic communications! To kick-start this effort, we asked for input from existing staff; searched our Conference newsletter and internet for job descriptions of similar positions; and brainstormed what responsibilities were envisioned going forward. Multiple drafts were reviewed by the entire SPRC before finalizing. Although this sounds relatively straightforward, this step alone required multiple task force meetings, resulting not only in an updated job descriptions, but a new template that we will use to standardize the format of all job descriptions.

Next -- advertising the position. In addition to including an announcement in our church newsletter and bulletin, and encouraging the congregation to spread the word, the positions were posted in multiple job sites on the internet.

As resumes came in, SPRC reviewed and ranked the applicants according to qualifications and experience. Top ranking candidates were invited to participate in a phone screening interview with the hiring task force. These interviews gave us a chance to verify the employee’s qualifications, and determine if what they were seeking in their next position was a fit with our needs. This helpful step, allowed us to select which candidates we would invite for in-person interviews. Several members of SPRC participated in the in-person interviews for our Office Manager and Music Director, making a hiring recommendation to the full SPRC.

Thanks to all SPRC members who assisted with this effort and to the volunteers who assisted in orienting our new employees! And, we will be embarking on this process again soon, as we develop our job description for the newly approved staff person to work with children and youth!

- Adele Dow,
SPRC Chair
Solution to Scryptogram:

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: John 11:25

As the cost of postage has gone up, we are going to have to charge more. So, the cost for the Spire by mail will be $15 for the year. Just send your check to the Church Office with “for the Spire” in the memo line.

Looking Ahead...

Weds—Friday, Sept. 27-29: Leadership Institute, at the Church of the Resurrection UMC in Leawood, Kansas

THIS Sun., 4 PM: Our new Bay District Communion and Pot-luck, at the Taylor Memorial UMC (1188—12th St.; Oakland)

Sun. October 1 and 8 Health kit assembly, after Worship
Sun., October 22—Laity Sunday
Sun., November 12—Church Conference
Sun., Dec. 2nd-Sandwich assembly for homeless in Kitchen

In The Methodist Connection

D.C. forum set on peace on Korean Peninsula

WASHINGTON — A forum on peace on the Korean Peninsula will be hosted by the United Methodist Board of Church and Society Nov. 13-15 at the United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill. Topics of discussion will include the history of conflict in Korea, faithful advocacy, peace-building, nuclear security and foreign policy, and there will be an opportunity to meet with Congressional representatives. The registration deadline is Oct. 27.

Read press release

Way Forward sketches ideas for bishops

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) — The Commission on a Way Forward, meeting behind closed doors in Berlin, is sketching possibilities for The United Methodist Church’s future that it will present to the denomination’s bishops in November. Heather Hahn has the story.

Read story  More about Way Forward Commission

Experiments in understanding

KELLER LAKE, Mich. — Three graduate students moved into Windsor Manor at Clark Retirement Community just over a year ago. They are part of a 19-month experiment to improve care
First United Methodist Church of San Leandro is a Christian Community which believes that every person is a Child of God. We invite you to grow with us in your relationship with God, through a repeating cycle of Prayer and Praise, Study, and Service.

For more information, please visit us on Facebook while our website is under reconstruction.

Sunday Schedule:
9:30 AM Worship & *Children’s Sunday School
11:00 AM Adult Sunday School & *Children’s Choir
*September—June

Service Ministries and Agencies FUMC Supports:
- Interfaith Homelessness Network (IHN) “April Showers” on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of each month at the Girls’ and Boys’ Club of San Leandro
- Red Wagon food collection to benefit Davis Street Family Resource Center. You may bring in non-perishable food items to share as part of the Offertory on any Sunday Morning—or place items any day of the week in the barrel in the Breezeway.

Contact the Church Office: (510) 483-0606
Office Manager Hours: Monday-Friday; 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
FUMC Office E-mail address: office@fumcsl.org

The Spire is published on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month by the First United Methodist Church of San Leandro. Articles may be submitted electronically at office@fumcsl.org.

All Articles Due by 9:00 am Monday of Spire Week.