

# Galt UMC This Week

Galt UMC is a warm welcoming family who worship, pray, learn, and love one another by serving our community so that everyone can encounter the Risen Lord and experience transformation through God's Grace.



February 15, 2021

## Let's Talk

A Word from Pastor Mary [mjzmaaga@yahoo.com](mailto:mjzmaaga@yahoo.com) 530-417-6584



Years ago I was given a wonderful plant by a dear friend. She told me exactly where to plant it, how deep to dig the hole, what fertilizer to put in the soil, and how often to water it. I am not a gardener, so I needed those very specific instructions! In a matter of weeks the most wonderful blossoms appeared – they looked like 4<sup>th</sup> of July sparklers in bright blue, perched atop an improbably thin stem. These blossoms gave me delight every time I entered our front door. In time, they faded and died away, as all blossoms do, and I missed them. I mentioned that I am not a gardener, right? I thought that was the end, that I would need to receive a whole new plant in order to enjoy those wonderful blossoms. What joy, when the following year the blossoms returned without any effort on my part this time! The work that I had put in the previous year – the location, the depth of the hole, the fertilizer, and the commitment to watering – continued to provide what was needed for growth. What a powerful spiritual lesson! I believe that the work we put in to practice a Holy Lent this year will provide beauty and healing for your heart and soul for years to come. This is our season for GROWING FAITH. Let's put ourselves in the hands of THE Master Gardener and see how beautiful we can become.

In His Holy Presence, Pastor Mary



**in person at noon in the parking lot on Wednesday, February 17**  
Message: "From Ashes to Fire: A Time Set Apart for Growing Faith" Scripture: Psalm 51:1-17 **Online Worship available too**

*O God, maker of every thing and judge of all that You have made, from the dust of the earth You have formed us and from the dust of death You would raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of Your calling. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.*



**February 21** —

**In person at 11am in the parking lot; online Worship available too**

Message: "Where the Seeds Fall"

Scripture: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



### **Lent Journey 2021: GROWING FAITH**



The symbolic power of forty days and forty nights runs throughout Holy Scripture: Noah with 40 days of flood before the rainbow; Moses with 40 days on the Holy mountain receiving the laws of God; Jesus our Lord for 40 days in the wilderness defeating temptation; and us every year during the season of Lent. The season between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week is called Lent, which means "spring" and can include pledges by Christian people to fast – as in "give something up for Lent" – or increased commitment to prayer, learning, or Worship. The

hymn "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" is a powerful guide to the spiritual work in the 40 days ahead.

Verse 1 invites us to **mourn our sins** – it is an invitation to engage in healthy shame and a desire to do better. *Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray, teach us with Thee to mourn our sins and close by Thee to stay.*

Verse 2 invites us to **be strong through Christ to battle our sin** – we are more than conquerors through Christ who loves us. *As Thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win, O give us strength in Thee to fight, in Thee to conquer sin.*

Verse 3 invites us to **put God before all earthly desires** – seeking first the Kingdom of God is an ongoing spiritual discipline. *As Thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord, to die to self, and chiefly live by Thy most holy word.*

Verse 4 invites us to **make a home in our heart for the Lord Jesus Christ** – prayer, Worship, loving kindness, the fruits of the Spirit. *And through these days of penitence, and through Thy passiontide, yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus with us abide.*

Verse 5 invites us to **anticipate heaven** – Christ's victory over sin on Good Friday and death on Easter morning through His Resurrection. *Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past, an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.*

# NEWS & Notes



## New Bible Study Series

### How the Bible Was Made — on ZOOM starting February 21, 4:00pm

Pastor Mary will teach on the following topics: Why a New Testament?; How do we know what we think we know?; the challenges of translations; the impact of science and culture, and much more! The class will take place on each of the Sundays of Lent, plus Palm Sunday. Each class will include a 30 minute presentation, followed by 30 minutes of questions and discussion. Please send Pastor Mary an email ([mjzmaaga@yahoo.com](mailto:mjzmaaga@yahoo.com)) if you would like to be included in this class. As of this week we have 36 people signed up, 19 from Galt UMC! There is room for only 40 students. If you haven't signed up yet, better hurry!



## Finance Update

Total Deposits for: **February 7 :**  
General Fund \*\$ 3247.20  
Lift 10.

Total Deposits for: **February 14 :**  
General Fund \*\$ 2737.33  
Lift 100.

\*Includes OnLine giving this past week

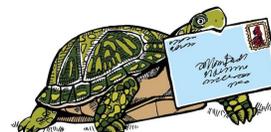
To fund all our staff and programs without dipping into savings we need \$13,500 in giving per month.



Would you like to be trained to film, record sound, and/or edit the finished product? Is this the Lenten vow God is calling you to make? Please talk with Pastor Mary, Pastor Joe, or Dennis Yoder to learn more.

Worship Technicians Needed

## Giving Possibilities



We love getting checks

Give Online 

[Click Here](#)

571 C Street  
Galt, CA 95632



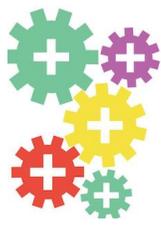
Musicians Needed

### Who Play Musical Instruments

Our Worship music coordinator Dennis Yoder is looking for musicians willing to play a hymn or praise song that we can record for our online Worship. If you are able, please call Dennis at 916-747-8771.



Every few weeks Pastor Mary puts copies of her sermons in the mail to those who have requested them. If you would like to receive printed copies of her sermons, please let her know. Or if you are receiving printed versions and no longer require them, you can let her know that too.



# Your Church at work this week



**Finance Committee** - 10:00am - Tuesday, February 16.

**Matthew's Gospel Bible Study** - Wednesday, February 17., 6:30-7:15pm FaceBook Live

This week we are continuing with Jesus our Lord's teachings from the Mount of Olives on Tuesday of Holy Week. He teaches us how to be about the work of loving God – and He is very specific! Please join us either live, or you can find the recorded video on Pastor Mary's FB page.

**UMW meet:** UMW will be meeting this Saturday, February 20th, at 10:00 am. Rosie Kumar will be leading the meeting and will discuss the training she attended, "Leadership Development." Rosie will send out the Zoom connection.--

**Campfire Time** - Sundays on ZOOM - next meeting February 21, at **9:00am**

We laugh, we tell stories, we love one another! All are invited. No long-term commitment needed. Just let Pastor Mary know you want to receive the ZOOM link. Last time we had nine people around the Campfire.

**Special Charge Conference** - Thursday, February 25, 4:00pm, to elect Rob Seibel and Ed Delgado to the Board of Trustees.

**Church Council** immediately following.



## Grace Groups

The format is the same every week: Pastor Mary reads a short Scripture and gives an opening prayer, then we check in with "how is it with your soul?" followed by sharing on a topic. Grace Groups

are refreshment for the soul! Maybe you'd like to gather several friends and start a third one. Just let Pastor Mary know.

"Companions in Faith" Grace Group, Tuesdays 3pm

Second Grace Group (yet to be named), Tuesdays 6:30pm

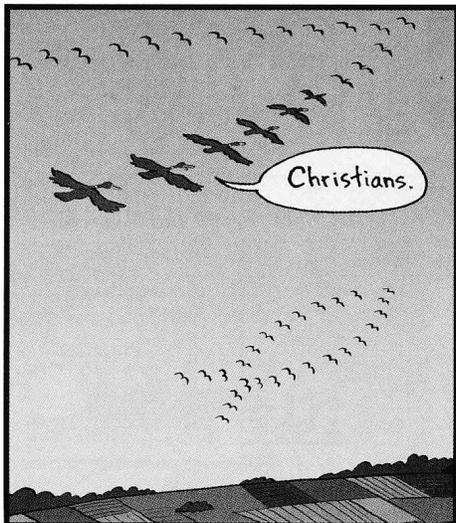
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## Congratulations

Dennis and Betty Yoder have been blessed with TWIN great granddaughters!

Madeline Powell has a puppy dog after being blessed by members of our Church family with a fence and a doggy door.

**Inherit the Mirth** by Cuyler Black



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com  
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## Typos that gnash the teeth

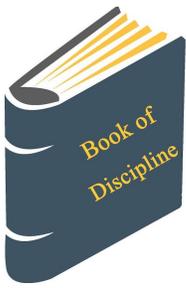


Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a good chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

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Sign in an IRS office:

"In God we trust. Everyone else we audit."



**A Word from our United  
Methodist Book of Discipline  
(2016)**

This is from the section on "Our Theological Task" subsection "Scripture":

*We properly read Scripture within the believing community, informed by the tradition of that community. We interpret individual texts in light of their place in the Bible as a whole. We are aided by scholarly inquiry and personal insight, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As we work with each text, we take into account what we have been able to learn about the original context and intention of that text. In this understanding we draw upon the careful historical, literary, and textual studies of recent years, which have enriched our understanding of the Bible.*

A few days before Valentine's Day, a customer walked into a Post Office and noticed a middle-aged, balding man standing at a counter, methodically placing "Love" stamps on bright pink envelopes with hearts all over them. The man then took out a perfume bottle and started spraying perfume all over them.

Curious, the customer asked the balding man what he was doing.

"I'm sending out 1,000 'I Love You' cards signed, 'Guess Who?', the man replied.

"But why?" asked the other customer.

"I'm a divorce lawyer," the balding man said.



On-Line Worship - Available on **Saturdays** each week at [GaltUMC.org](http://GaltUMC.org).

Paul: Renewal through Grace



[Click Here](#)

37:19

"The secret to living well and longer is: eat half, walk double, laugh triple, and love without measure."

- - Tibetan proverb



Ever seen a little smudge mark on someone's forehead as they walk out of church? That's a sign of the cross and it means it's Ash Wednesday during Lent.

[Click Here](#)

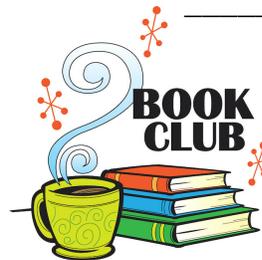
2:17

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Jeff and Bil Keane

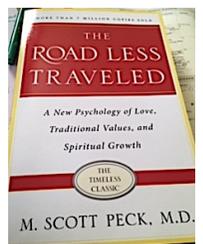


"We learned the fourth commandment: 'Honor thy father and thy mother.'"

from [JoyfulNoiseletter.com](http://JoyfulNoiseletter.com)  
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane



The Road Less Traveled by M. Scott Peck is filled with stories, insights, and encouragement. **We**



**will meet on Monday mornings at 11am over ZOOM starting March 1st.**

The book can be found on Amazon new for under \$20 and used for less than \$10. Please acquire your own copy. So far, 4 people have signed up - if you would like to join us, just let Pastor Mary know. **This is one of those books that has been known to change lives.** If you have not ever read it before, you are in for a huge treat!