

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle enables us to journey in prayer through every region of the world and through every week of the year affirming our solidarity with Christians all over the world, brothers and sisters living in diverse situations, experiencing diverse problems and sharing diverse gifts. Lord, hear our prayer ...



This week we pray for China, Hong Kong, Macau

INTERCESSIONS

Give thanks for:

- The survival of Christians and Christian churches even though they have been persecuted.
- The Christian Conference of Asia.
- Those who struggle for human rights against great odds.
- Christians meeting in house churches.
- Growing congregations.
- The China Christian Council, the Amity Foundation, the Hong Kong Council of Churches.
- Ancient Chinese pottery and works in jade.
- Chinese characters, and the illuminating ink strokes of Chinese calligraphy.
- Peking duck, sweet and sour sauce, and snake soup.
- Those with a concern for the poor and disadvantaged.

Pray for:

- Those suffering unemployment in cities and those who are unable to find homes.
- The rural poor, and those forced to labour in the countryside.
- Refugees from North Korea.
- Women and female children, who do not have equal status or opportunity.
- Those suffering from forced sterilizations, abortions and infanticide.
- A spirit of compassion, tolerance and acts of love for new arrivals in Hong Kong from mainland China.
- Marginalized groups such as the aged, disabled, single parent families, and migrant workers.
- Educational reforms, that they may bring about a holistic approach to learning.
- Miners and all those who face hazardous working conditions.
- A reduction in the amount of pollution and environmental damage.



THE MESSENGER

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

*March 21, 2010
5th Sunday of Lent*

Lenten Worship Order

Focus Scripture: Isaiah 43: 16-21

- ***Gathering & Centering***
Welcome and Invitation
Song
Reading and meditating
on Scripture
Song
- ***Reflecting on the Word***
Sermon
- ***Responding to the Word***
Prayers of the people
Offering
Announcements
- ***Sending Out***
Song
Benediction



***Thank you to our worship
leaders today: Aeri, Becky,
Donna, Matthew, Wendy,
and Jenny***

***Our worship leaders next
week will be Aeri, Becky,
Tony, and Michael***

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother/God 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

View from the EMC Chair

By Derek Lang



The passage from Isaiah 43:16-21 tells the Israelites to forget the disasters of the exile and be prepared for God to create something new and do something wondrous. "Forget the former things; do not dwell in the past," says the prophet. [Isaiah 4:18]

I do not know where the saying "forgive and forget" came from. But whoever said that could not possibly have had someone offend him/her. Forgiveness – well, maybe if I pray hard enough, my heart will soften and I can accept the other person's apology. But forget? Do we ever really forget? Or is it not more often the case that when we meet that person or situation we get that gut-wrenching feeling where we live through it all again?

A colleague recently came back to work. He had been fired many years ago for behavioral problems in the workplace. He was unprofessional and physically abusive to some other colleagues, leading to the end of his career at our company. For the most part we got along while he was here or maybe I have been able to forget whether I was in the direct line of fire. But when I saw him in person again, a knot formed in my stomach. We exchanged pleasant greetings, but I still do not know whether I can trust him for anything serious. I did not think I would have to deal with these feelings, but already in the past week I have run into him twice. It is something I really need to pray about.

"See, I am doing a new thing!" [Isaiah 4:19]

When Jesus died and rose again, He interrupted a cycle of sin and brokenness.

He taught us that we have the option to turn the other cheek, to forgive and love our neighbor. As we contemplate the meaning of this Lenten season, I pray that I (and we) can be open to God doing new things in our lives – changing us and changing those around us in love.

****Maundy Thursday @ Lake Merritt UMC, Apr. 1st, 7:00 p.m.***

Our sister church has invited us to celebrate a seder meal with them on Maundy Thursday. This is the day we usually remember Jesus' command to his disciples to "love one another as I have loved you." While this is traditionally remembered through a foot-washing ritual, we will instead partake in the ancient sacred meal remembering the exodus of our faith ancestors. RSVP's are requested no later than this upcoming Sunday, Mar. 21st. If you are interested in attending, please let Emily know. A love offering will be taken to cover the cost of the meal.

Good Friday Service Apr. 2nd, 2010

5:30 – 6:15 p.m. Chinese [Mandarin/ Cantonese] service

6:15 – 7:15 p.m. Communal "Last Supper"*

7:30 – 8:45 p.m. English service

*A light communal dinner will be served. We hope this will be a time of quiet reflection and fellowship as we ponder Jesus' last moments of life and his death. RSVP's would be most welcome to help us prepare for the dinner.

Please RSVP's to 510.452.1020 / rockofages@gmail.com [Rev. Peter Lau] or pastoremalee@gmail.com [Rev. Emily Lin]

CCUMC 321 8th Street Oakland, CA 94607



Marking Lent By Remembering Hunger

The Outreach Ministry Area calls attention to the big red barrel in our foyer during the remaining season of Lent. What better way to mark Lent and practice alms-giving than bringing healthy canned goods, dry goods and more to share with our brothers and sisters in Alameda County. Might it be possible to fill the barrel by Easter Sunday?! Let's do it together!

Let's Raise the Roof!

The 2010 Kumi Benefit Dinner Planning Team is moving into high gear as we vision to raise \$25,000 to build the first wing of the School in Uganda. You'll recall the enthusiasm surrounding our mission trip last summer, and how the cornerstones were laid by Aeri, Ben, Burt, Becky, Valene, Dustin, Peter and Donna. The walls now reach window-height, and we'd like to see the first three classrooms completed so school can begin! Our fundraiser dinner is a Chinese Banquet at Legendary Palace on April 29th, 6:30 PM. We need you to buy tickets and bring your friends and associates who might be interested in learning how a small church in Chinatown is sharing big dreams with YCVM in Africa. See Jane for tickets, and if you'd like to help, stay after SOUP for a planning session. Also, remember to pray that God will be glorified, and that miracles will continue to happen in our very midst!