**RUMMAGE SALE, BAKE SALE AND SOUP CAFÉ**

We had a very busy and fruitful event this year. It was gratifying to not only rid ourselves of all the rummage but to welcome our neighbors to the church; it was a job well done by all! We made $1703.00 which we will add to our Christmas Boutique total to then distribute to the various charities we support.

**SUMMER CAMP**

 We have reserved July 7th through July 13th for Summer Camp this year. Please let us know if you are interested in joining us, rates are reasonable and we always have a wonderful and restful time.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Sometime in August we will be having our annual Picnic in the Parking Lot…exact date and theme to be determined. Also, we hope to travel to the beach sometime in September; we have missed this event the past couple of years and are looking forward to bringing it back.

Dear Occidental Community,

What a joy it was to participate in the 59th annual rummage sale at our church last weekend! I’ve been thinking about the sale, and I believe that it’s quite fitting that we hold it the weekend immediately following Easter. I know the timing of the rummage sale is based on practical realities (i.e., that’s when the preschool is on break for a week), but I think God is at work in those practical realities. I think the timing of our rummage sale is meant to be: just days after Easter, it’s hard to miss how the rummage sale is a beautiful embodiment of resurrection life in our community.

At our sale, I see resurrection life… in the sharing and affordable sales of clothing and household items, in the offering of quality food to the community, in the fellowship created, in the reunions with old friends and in the meeting of new ones, in the raising of money for those in need, in the faithful service of all who contributed, in the opening of our doors to our neighbors. The rummage sale is an event that gives life to others and in so doing brings us joy: if that’s not Christ’s resurrection Spirit at work, I don’t know what is.

My friends, God’s resurrection power is alive and well. The rummage sale was a clear reminder of that. But now that the event is over, my prayer is that we can continue to see God’s resurrection power not only in the big events like the rummage sale but also in the little moments of our everyday: a warm smile that lifts our spirits, a good book that revives our soul, a long walk that nurtures our body, or a favorite song that brings us joy. In the big events *and* in the small moments, let us remember: wherever life is, there is God.

As we continue in Eastertide, I want to invite us to continue to watch for signs of this resurrection life. Let’s continue to notice God’s life among and in us. Let’s give thanks for this life. Let’s share this life with others. Just like the women at the empty tomb, let’s continue to be witnesses to resurrection.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tiffany