HE akleat: March 17, 2017

Newsletter of the United Methodist Church of Thousand Oaks Inviting and Engaging People to Live as Disciples of Jesus Christ

### HOLY WEEK 2017

April 9 PALM SUNDAY Service 10a One Special Blended Service

April 13 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7p Service with Communion

April 14 GOOD FRIDAY 9a-5p Stations of the Cross 7p Good Friday Service

April 15 HOLY SATURDAY 7 p Easter Vigil

APRIL 16 EASTER Service of Resurrection 10 a.m. 11 a.m. Butterflies & Egg Hunt!

"The God We Can Know"



Pastor John Yoon



making faith real

1000 E. Janss Road Thousand Oaks (805) 495-7215 www.umcto.org





## Multicultural

Today, some families in the Conejo valley live in fear for a family member who is undocumented. Will they be at home tonight? How do we as Christians respond to the issues of refugees and immigrants? The UMCTO Multicultural Ministry team has been learning about the issues – connecting with conference training and leadership, learning from other church or non-profit experts and reading widely on the subject. We will be providing a series of learning opportunities in 2017 for UMCTO and the community. Here is the first offering - an excerpt of Bishop Bruce R. Ough's 1/30/17 statement as President of the Council of Bishops for The United Methodist Church.

Jesus was explicit in his teachings. In Matthew's gospel Jesus says, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." (Matthew 10:40).

Refugees and immigrants arrive among us, not only with their needs, but also bearing gifts of energy, resourcefulness, love of liberty and hope. These gifts have always contributed to the renewal of our society and the church.

Above all, these strangers bring to us the Christ. When we welcome a stranger we welcome Jesus, and when we welcome Jesus we welcome our creator. Refugees, immigrants, those yearning to be free—these are the ones whom Jesus spoke about when he said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35).

Repeatedly Jesus tells his disciples: "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 16:25)

The original Greek language is far more poetic, powerful and prophetic. In finer translations of the Greek language, we hear Jesus saying: "Whoever seeks to build a wall around their soul shall destroy it; whoever tears down the wall (around their soul) shall bring their soul to a living birth."

The very soul of our country is at stake. When we abandon strangers who are at risk of bigotry, xenophobia and violence we not only destroy their hope, we destroy our own souls. When we fail to assist the refugees fleeing danger, we not only place them in harm's way, we do harm to our own souls. When we build walls of concrete, or walls of divisive rhetoric, or walls of fear, or walls of immoral immigration policies, we build a wall around our own souls. Christ calls us to tear down the walls around our souls that we might live fully and abundantly.

Bishop Bruce R. Ough, President Council of Bishops The United Methodist Church January 30, 2017

Submitted by the UMCTO Multicultural Ministry team

### We are praying for...

Linda Arvizu Tyler Bacon Jonathan Brubaker Jerry Dunklin Carlene Embree(Bacon) Sue Embree (Barwick) June Glasmeier Eilers-Gutierrez family Pam Gross Don & Randy Harold Jean Hensel David Hill (Gramlich) Emma Knutson Howard Kaiser (Hamilton) Mark Lescher (Ruwhiu) Richard Lolley Shirley Moran Leydi Negron O'Brien & González family Jacklyn Overstreet Nancy Pietrangelo Diane Ray Mary Jo Robertson Elli Schubert Sharon & Peter Stoterau Shirley Stuckey Beth Ugino (Gramlich) Louise Stevens (Williams) Pamela Wilson Young B. Yoon

#### MILITARY

Chloe Diestel Natalee Dueber Jeremy Embree Jesse D. Negrongarcia Brock Pooler Mark Rabens Wesley Rabens Shane Raede Jake Stonestreet David Walker

#### HOME BOUND

Mary F. Apgar Jerry Dunklin Doris Fish Maxine Howe Neva Howe Tom Maxwell Carl Shaw Marge Wilson

## Worship

#### PALM SUNDAY APRIL 9

### ONE SPECIAL BLENDED SERVICE @ 10:00 A.M.

"Experience Holy Week Workshop", a craft and learning workshop for the whole congregation - as we join the crowds singing "Hosanna! Hosanna!"





#### MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 13 7:00 P.M. COMMUNION SERVICE He washed their feet at the Last Supper

> GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 14 ONE SPECIAL BLENDED SERVICE 10:00 A.M.

"It is finished."





APRIL 15 7:00 P.M. at the fire pit In silence, the world awaits...



### Formation

#### CHRISTIAN YOGA - BACK AT UMCTO!

Come worship the Lord with your body, mind, and soul while practicing Christian Yoga.



- **Who:** This class is open to all ages and all levels. Modifications will be shown.
- Where: United Methodist Church Thousand Oaks, Dickerson Hall
- When: Mondays from 1:30- 2:25 pm starting March 20th

**What to bring:** sticky yoga mat, 2 yoga blocks, yoga strap, Mexican blanket or a thick towel, and a willing spirit. Wear comfortable clothing

Any questions??? Contact Jenny at jny67@sbcglobal.net.

#### ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Jenny Klossner, MA, has been practicing Yoga since 1999. The practice transformed her life in many areas which is what motivated her to share this special gift of yoga with others. Her classes are balanced as she focuses on proper alignment, safely moving in and out of poses, intelligent sequencing, and linking movement with breath. She has been teaching yoga since 2008 to all ages from children to seniors. She completed her 500 hr. professional program through Yogaworks and Level I Yoga Therapy Program from LMU. She is also a certified instructor for the Arthritis Foundation and is certified in Mat Pilates. Her teaching is continually inspired by the many benefits students express in different areas of their lives. For more information-jennyshealingyoga.com. Jenny has been walking with the Lord since 1984. She has led Bible studies, has been on four mission projects, and has served in worship bands.



I look forward to meeting you. Feel free to invite a friend!



### Formation

**Empowering People to Follow Christ** 



## UMCTO AND CUMC WOMEN'S RETREAT A DAY TO NURTURE YOUR SOUL

### MARCH 25, 2017 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

CLU 60 W. Olsen Rd., LINDRING HALL

Mary Garbesi is Director of Congregational Care at Brentwood Presbyterian church. She also served as Director of Spiritual Formation at Santa Monica First United Methodist church. She will lead us in a one day retreat, helping us develop spiritual practices for a deeper experience of Christian faith.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: CONNIE JONES @ 805-338-6496



Retreat & lunch is \$25.

Taking reservations on the patio starting Sunday, March 12 - 22 or call Connie 338-6496 or Diana L 499-3716

#### **ABOUT THE LEADER**

Mary is Director of Congregational Care at Brentwood Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles. She formerly served as Director of Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation at Santa Monica First United Methodist Church. Having begun her professional life as an occupational therapist, Mary went on to study theology at Fuller Seminary and psychology at Loyola Marymount University where she received a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology. She is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. In 2004, Mary became certified as a Spiritual Director and has a private practice in both spiritual direction and counseling. She serves as a supervisor for spiritual direction interns. Mary was raised in the Friends (Quaker) tradition and influenced by the contemplative approach to living. Participating in the Two Year Academy for Spiritual Formation (a ministry of the Upper Room) served to deepen her knowledge and experience of Christian spirituality and opened her to the wisdom of other faiths. Mary enjoys nature, reading, walking, cooking for friends, yoga, listening to music and tending the plants that grace her patio and apartment.

## Formation

# ABOUT THAT EASTER CELEBRATION BETWEEN SERVICES...



Be sure to stay **after** first service or **come early** before second service.

#### There will be a **butterfly release**!



Robert and Diana are creating a special kind of Easter

**hunt**...not your "run-of-the-mill, look down and see eggs scattered all over the grass" kind (I mean mulch). No! The bigger kids are going to have to use their noggins a little more to find the prize at the end. There will be the traditional egg hunt for the wee ones, though.



BTW, **DON'T eat a big breakfas**t before coming to church on Easter...Wanda Williams is planning a healthy, tasty Easter spread on the patio.



#### STEWARDHIP CAMPAIGN BEGINS AFTER EASTER SEASON

We are fortunate once again to have Tracy Diestel lending her enthusiasm and creativity to the annual Stewardship campaign, as chairperson of that committee. Tracy's theme last year was-"God is on the Move" - (remember that?).

Using that theme, all our various committees and ministries held "ministry gatherings", open to all church members, where we talked about our ministries and the dreams we shared for future growth, using those dreams as the foundation for budget requests. The ministry gatherings were well received and many of us met folks we'd only seen in worship, while others got to know each other even better. Tracy is a connector of people, if nothing else!

In Tracy's words: "The feedback from our ministry gatherings was very positive. The next step of planning and setting a vision is to communicate how that vision is progressing. This is where I need your help with the thread of what we started last year. Before I start stewardship, it is important that we communicate a message to the congregation of how your team heard the message from those gatherings and used the generous gifts given to our budget to make that happen.

It is important to see giving in action. Also to share the good news as often as we can. As we shared last year, we as the ever hard working Methodists, need to stop to celebrate that God is on the Move. That takes a moment to pause from all the things we do, look up and share."

Even though the Stewardship campaign won't officially start until the 30th of April, we'll be hearing in worship some of that feedback during our Ministry Moments and perhaps the eblasts.

Stay tuned for more info about this year's Stewardship campaign: "Defying Gravity!"

## Outreach

#### **THERE FOR YOU - STEPHEN MINISTERS**

"Do this in memory of me." As we continue through our Lenten journey we are reminded that life in Christ is life with Christ and the community of believers. Because of the love we have received from Christ and the acceptance of Christ's model of empathy towards those who hurt, this gives us a reason to step out of our comfort zone and offer compassion and "a cup of cold water".

If you know of someone hurting, suffering, various kinds of loss, or other life challenges, Stephen Ministers are available to be by you through these difficult times.

Remember this? from little Michael Jackson...

#### "I'll Be There"

Songwriters BERRY GORDY JR, BOB WEST, HAL DAVIS, WILLIE HUTCH

You and I must make a pact We must bring salvation back Where there is love, I'll be there (I'll be there)

I'll reach out my hand to you I'll have faith in all you do Just call my name and I'll be there (I'll be there)

> To find out more about how to get a Stephen Minister, please contact Stephen leader Susan Ruwhiu #818-889-9931 or the Church #805-495-7215.

#### NATIVITY PROJECT UPDATE & THANKS

When asked if we could do another nativity set this past year, it was hard to say no. Seeing the impact the nativity project has had on church members, our community and even some communities across the country, it is hard NOT to continue this ministry of hope, love, and joy. It was my intention to make an announcement about making them again, but we couldn't finish them fast enough before they were going out the door.

Special thanks to our hard working humble servants. Dick Wiley cut all the nativities and did it in a way that would make it easier to ship, as well as adding a

#### 2017 CROP WALK WRAP-UP by Mike Ambrose

We had another banner year at CROP walk and UMCTO continues to lead the way! The walk raised over \$42,000 and we had 432 walkers and volunteers. Our church led the way in both categories as well, with 85 volunteers and walkers, raising \$8,800. Wow!

Special kudos go to Dori and her youth team for putting out great sidewalk chalk markers to show the way at all of the major turns. In addition Dori is the go-to for securing water donations to ensure that all walkers stayed properly hydrated on a beautiful day for a walk.

I personally was **stressing out** because it rained all morning. I was preoccupied with worrying about the route signs and markings being washed away; being short on registration volunteers; is it going to stop raining? - when suddenly I'm asked to speak with a young lady about something. I turn around and see a team of five young people clad in powder blue Honda track suits. The nearest one asked me, "Hi, we are the Helpful Honda team and we would like to know if you can use a random act of helpfulness?" NO JOKE, folks! This really happened!

After accepting their generous offer and seeing the sun peek out, I knew things we going to go well!

Stephen

Ministry

We are blessed, we are blessed, we are blessed!



3-D aspect to the finished product. This was a good thing, because this year another nativity was shipped out of state. Special thanks to our painters, Sandee Dueber, Aidee Ofer, Bob and Eileen Fischer, Steve and Daelene Rainer, Sydney and Jill Elsemore.

Through the generosity of our church we were able to gift a few sets to families who lost someone special. Also we couldn't have our new Pastor not have a nativity.

Thank you all so much, and if YOU would like to order a set for next year, let me know! Peace, Tracy Diestel



## Outreach

#### COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR HARVEST PANTRY

In early February of this year, Tom Maddux received a donation from Coast Hills Credit Union toward the purchase of a **new rolling cart**. (see portion of email below)

Our kitchen has several of these carts and they get A LOT OF USE by church members, the pantry, the homeless ministry and Westminster Free Clinic. Truly a MUCH NEEDED piece of equipment, as you can see from the picture to the right. Hurrah for rolling carts!



Good afternoon, Thomas

I am pleased to inform you that we have set aside \$450 from our Community Action Committee funds to support the purchase of a new food cart for the United Methodist Church of Thousand Oaks Harvest Food Donation Program. You should receive your check within the next two weeks.

Thanks for reaching out and good luck with the program!

Amanda Hollingworth Community Relations Officer CoastHills Credit Union

If you or anyone you know would like to participate in this ministry, please call Tom Maddux or the church office.



#### GET ON THE BUS! WITH CRAFTERS, KNITTERS AND TALKERS

Each year, the Wednesday morning Crafters, Knitters & Talkers members make blankets for children who go to a prison to visit a parent.

The blankets are made with fleece - exactly 1 and a quarter yards. The completed blankets will be delivered to the "Get on the Bus" ministry at the end of April.

We invite anyone who wants to help to join us in this easy and fun craft. We meet on most Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. in the Bride's Room. Or, if you can't join us, we sure could use fleece. Thank you for any donations. Just drop them off in the church office and we'll do the rest! Kathy Ayers

## UMW

#### UMW SPRING LUNCHEON & BOWL PAINTING PARTY 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Saturday, April 1



Childcare Provided

**Part 1** (11 to 12:15) Dickerson Hall – UMW update, entertainment, Many Mansions' speaker, and lunch. Cost: \$10.

**Part 2** (Begins at 12:30) Rooms 11 & 12 - Ceramic Bowl Painting Party – Women, youth & children will enjoy this activity. Hopefully the children will understand they won't take the bowl home with them.

Suggested donation: \$5, \$10, or \$15 per bowl.



What Happens to the Bowls? UMW pays Many Mansions \$15 for each bowl. Many Mansions provides all materials used to decorate the bowls. They also pay to have them fired and glazed. At their annual fundraiser, "Bowls for Hope", the bowls will be on display. For \$35, guests who attend "Bowls for Hope" get a meal and can select a bowl to take home. Thus, the 500 families who are residents of Many Mansions' affordable housing benefit from our dona-

#### Make a reservation with Donna Kirby or on the patio March 19 or March 26



Learn more about Many Mansions of Thousand Oaks. On Monday, May 1 st at 10:30 a.m.

Many Mansion's will be conducting a tour. Following the tour, the UMW group will be getting together at a local restaurant for lunch.

Sign up for this event will be available at the registration for the Many Mansions Bowl Painting event.

#### UMW SPRING BOUTIQUE AND BAKE SALE

April 30th is the date for the UMW Spring Boutique and Bake Sale. Items needed for the sale: gently used decorative items, vases, craft items and any bake goods. The sale will be between church services and after the Traditional service. We were able to raise \$3,238 from sales at our spring and Christmas fundraisers last year. A contribution of \$6,287 was given to the Mission projects in the United States and around the world for women and children from our organization. We would appreciate any flower pot donations for succulents (donation of succulents as well). The team will plant and decorate these items. They will make nice Mother's Day gifts.

#### NORTH DISTRICT MISSION U

Mission U will be held on July 7 thru 9, 2017 at Cal Lutheran University. Our own Elizabeth Hokama and Robert Gonzalez will be presenters of two of the studies for this event. More detailed information will be given in the near future.

#### **NEW UMW CIRCLES**

New UMW Circles are being formed this spring. Meetings will be held once a month. The meetings can focus on a particular activity or project. Some examples of possible topics or projects: UMW Reading Program discussions of books, Response and New World Outlook magazine articles. Also, discussions about Social Action issues, making of crafts and other items for future Boutique sales or also a little something to cheer up church members when making visits to local rest homes. Contact Lois Sheen if you are



interested at (805) 497-3451.

#### HEART TO HEART VISITATION TEAM

We are forming a new team of women who will visit shut-ins about once a month. Please contact Lois Sheen (805) 497-3451 if you would like to participate.

# FYI

#### A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS...

<₽

#### **TRUSTEES ON THE MOVE!**

A new patio drain system; a fresh, clean, safe playground ...and have you seen how shiny the floors in Dickerson Hall, Wesley and the classroom are? Facility Manager, Mitch Schrader, is one of those who bears the cross of maintaining/ repairing our church grounds and facility. To that responsibility, he recently added the task of setting up and taking down the three crosses on the west side of our sanctuary.





Dick Wiley operated the big skip loader to remove the giant pile of dirt and level the north forty as part of the patio drain and playground renovation project.

17 volunteers from UMCTO and 33 Volunteers from an interfaith organization, scouts and scout parents really worked hard inside and out and did an awesome job. The Interfaith group was from the Mormon Temple, the Islamic Center and several other churches in our community.

**UMW Book Club** will meet at the home of Lois Sheen at 7:30 pm on Monday, March 27, to discuss "*Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea*" by Barbara Demick. On Monday, April 24, we will meet at the home of Barbara Marshall to discuss "*A Man Called Ove*" by Frederik Backman.

Contact: Donna Mullennix

#### **RECOMMENDED READING FROM THE BOOK WORM** - Jan Maddox

Laugh Your Way to Grace By Rev. Susan Sparks



In this personal and funny look at humor as a spiritual practice, Rev. Susan Sparks presents a convincing case that the power of humor radiates far beyond punch lines. She gives permission to let the power of humor open up space for new and transforming grace in our religious practice. A space where healing, light, forgiveness,love,compassion, creativity, and healing connection live.



# Calendar

# April 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 9:00 A Modern Worship – children's Sunday School 10:15 A Estudios Biblicos para Adultos 10:15 A Youth Bible Study 11:00 A Traditional Worship	Superv - Rabens- Rm 11 11:30 A Centering	4 9:00 A Harvest 9:00 A Intercessory Prayer 10:15 A Spirituality Class – Wesley Room 2:30 P UMCTO Staff Meeting 3:00 P Study Buddy 7:00 P BS Troop #716 Parents Meeting – Room 11 7:00 P Multicultural Committee Meeting 7:30 P AA Meeting	Bride's Rm 9:30 AM Mom's Bible/Book	6 9:00 A Harvest 3:00 A Study Buddy 7:00 P Pastor's Lenten Study 7:00 P Youth Group 7:30 M Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 9:00 A Harvest 6:00 P Community Dinner Program	1 11:00 A UMW Luncheon & Bowl Painting 8 9:00 A Stephen Ministry C Education - Wesley Room
9 10:00 A Special Palm Sunday Blended Worship 11:00 <u>A "Experience</u> Holy Week" Workshop	10 9:00 A Harvest 11:30 A Centering Prayer – Sanctuary 1:15P Yoga – D. Hall	11 9:00 A Harvest 9:00 A Intercessory Prayer Group 10:15 A Spirituality Class – Wesley Room 2:30 P UMCTO Staff Meeting 7:00 P Finance Committee Meeting – Pastor's Office 7:30 P AA Meeting	12 9:00 A Harvest 9:30 A Crafters, Knitters – Bride's Rm 9:30 A Mom's Bible/Book Study–Wesley Room 5:00 P Westminster Free Clinic 7:00 P Youth Bible Study	13 9:00 A Harvest 7:00 P Maundy Thursday Service	14 9:00 A Stations of the Cross 6:00 PM Community Dinner Program 7:00 P Good Friday Service	15 7:00 P Holy Saturday Vigil @ fire pit
16 EASTER! 9:00 A Service of Resurrection 10:00 A Patio Celebration Butterfly release, egg hunt 11:00 A Service of Resurrection	17 9:00 AM Harvest 10:00 AM Stephen Ministry Supervision - Rabens-Room 11 11:30 AM Centering Prayer - Sanctuary 1:15P Yoga - D. Hall 7:00 PM S.M. training-Wesley Room	18 9:00 AM Harvest 9:00 AM Intercessory Prayer Group 10:15 AM Spirituality Class – Wesley Room 2:30 PM UMCTO Staff Meeting 3:00 P Study Buddy 7:00 PM SPRC Meeting – Pastor's Office 7:00 PM Trustees Committee Meeting – Wesley Room 7:30 PM AA Meeting	Bride's Rm	20 9:00 A Harvest 3:00 P Study Buddy 7:00 P Youth Group 7:30 P Chancel Choir Rehearsal	21 9:00 A Harvest 6:00 P Community Dinner Program	22
23 Stewardship Kickoff 9:00 A Modern Worship – children's Sunday School 10:15 A Estudios Biblicos para Adultos 10:15 A Youth Bible Study 11:00 A Traditional Worship	Prayer – Sanctuary 1:15P Yoga – D. Hall 7:00 PM S.M. training–Wesley Room	25 9:00 A Harvest 9:00 A Intercessory Prayer 10:15 A Spirituality Class – Wesley Room 2:30 P Staff Meeting 3:00 P Study Buddy 6:00 P Visit to Lighthouse Women's Shelter 7:00 P Church Council Meeting – Wesley Room 7:30 P AA Meeting	26 9:00 A Harvest 9;00 A 9:30 A Crafters, Knitters – Bride's Rm 9:30 A Mom's Bible/Book Study–Wesley Room 5:00 P Westminster Free Clinic 7:00 P Youth Bible Study	27 9:00 A Harvest 3:00 P Study Buddy 7:00 P Youth Group 7:30 P Chancel Choir Rehearsal	28 9:00 A Harvest 6:00 P Community Dinner Program	29 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry training– Wesley Room
30 UMW Spring Sale 9:00 A Modern Worship - children's Sunday School 10:15 A Estudios Biblicos para Adultos 10:15 A Youth Bible Study 11:00 A Traditional Worship						

#### UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF (805) 495-7215

Senior Pastor, Rev. John Yoonpastorjyoon@umcto.org					
Worship Director, Gabe Salazar					
umctoworship@gmail.com					
Dir. of Children & Youth Ministry, Robert Gonzalez					
robert.gonzalez@umcto.org					
Asst. Dir. of Children's Ministry,Diana Raine					
diana.rainer@umcto.org					
Multicultural Ministry OutreachMaria Reyes					
maria.reyes@umcto.org					
Organist, Romy Brubakerromyncleo@yahoo.com					
Office Admin, May Simondsadmin@umcto.org					
Facility Manager, Mitch Schraderdmsch@earthlink.net					

### **Sunday Worship Times**

9:00 a.m., Modern Worship Service
& Children's Sunday School/Nurserycare
10:15 a.m. Parent Connect, Room 4
10:15 a.m. Estudios Biblicos para Adultos, Wesley Room
Youth Sunday School, Rooms 15/16
11:00 a.m., Traditional Worship Service





#### REQUESTED RETURN SERVICE

1000 Е. Јаизя Коар Тноизаир Оакs, СА 91360 Уоісе: 805.495.7215 FAX: 805.495.3510 нттр://www.umcto.0rg