



March 14, 2018

Newsletter of the United Methodist Church of Thousand Oaks

Making Faith Real

WHAT MAKES A HERO?

We Invite YOU

to hear the
GOOD NEWS

of Jesus'

Death-Defying

Ministry!

HOLY WEEK 2018

9A Modern Service
11A Traditional Service

MAUNDY THURSDAY MARCH 29

7P Last Supper Dramatization & Communion

GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 30

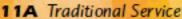
9A-5P Stations of the Cross
7P Tenebrae Service

HOLY SATURDAY MARCH 31

6P Easter Vigil

APRIL 1 EASTER SERVICES OF RESURRECTION

9A Modern Service
10A Bible Scavenger Hunt,
Art Project & Family
Celebration!





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



A Word from Your Pastor...

Dear Heroes of UMCTO.

We are journeying through "What Makes A Hero?" during Lent this year. We have been thinking about all those fictional pop culture heroes from the comic books and movies, as well as those real-life heroes. We have been thinking about who we would imitate if we were called upon to be a hero, someone who has taught us important life lessons. While there are many names and figures we can think of, the name Chesley Sullenberger comes to my mind. He is certainly a hero to 155 people and their families for a very good reason. I have come to appreciate him for not only his quick thinking but also how he conducted himself after that miracle landing. As you know he was the pilot for US Airways on January 15, 2009 in New York, when the plane he was flying was struck by a large flock of Canada geese. Both of the plane's engines were damaged, and Sullenberger made a fast decision to perform an emergency water landing in the Hudson River. He famously announced, "Brace for impact," as the plane came down on the water. The landing was a success, and all 155 passengers and crew aboard the plane survived. And Captain Sullenberger was the very last person to leave the plane. He also conducted himself with patience and humility during the FAA investigation. His quick thinking and superior piloting skills meant life rather than death for everyone that day on what is now called the "Miracle on the Hudson." Later in his book. "Highest Duty: My Search of What Really Matters", he writes: "We all have heard about ordinary people who find themselves in extraordinary situations. They act courageously or responsibly, and their efforts are described as if they opted to act that way on the spur of the moment.... believe many people in those situations actually have made decisions years before. Somewhere along the line, they came to define the sort of person they wanted to be, and then they conducted their lives accordingly..."

I don't know if you ever thought of it this way or not, but we are all heroes for the Kingdom of God. We all decided that's who we wanted to be when Christ came into our life. And in our walk with him, we conduct our lives accordingly. During Lent, we focus on our greatest hero, Jesus, who redefined what a hero is. As you and I go through the last couple of weeks remaining in Lent, may we continue to journey with our Hero, Jesus, and ask Him for wisdom, strength, vision, courage, patience, love, peace and joy. For this we have been called, to act faithfully, courageously and sacrificially.

Your Friend, John

We are praying for...

Healing

Nancy Berry Jonathan Brubaker Carlene Embree(Bacon) Sue Embree (Barwick) Paul Fotsch Richard Foote (Fotsch) Pam Gross (Williams) Ezequiel Hernandez David Hill (Gramlich) Jim Horton (Dueber) Bruce Love (Glasmeier) Louise Lush (Simonds) John Marshall Shirley Moran Gary Morr Jim Petras (Harvest) Daelene & Diana Rainer Erica Rockabrand Shawn Rowe (Slataer) Debbie Schrader Beth Ugino (Gramlich) Bob Wiliams Young B. Yoon Roberta Zema (Hamilton)

HOMEBOUND

Mary F. Apgar Buren Blackwelder Doris Fish Maxine Howe Floyd Hutchings Tom Maxwell Elli Schubert Marge Wilson

MILITARY

Jessica Chable Chloe Diestel Natalee Dueber Jeremy Embree Kevin Gramlich Jesse D. Negrongarcia Brock Pooler Mark Rabens Wesley Rabens

TLC FOR OUR SANCTUARY - INSIDE AND OUT



INSIDE: KNITTERS & CRAFTERS USE THEIR TALENTS

Thank you to the ladies in the Wednesday Knitters, Crafters, and Talkers Group! When the baptismal font lost it's cover, they stepped up to create the new, LOVELY cloth cover that matches the colors in the sanctuary.



Next time you're on the west side of the narthex where the baptismal is stored, do notice the new cover.

Here, Donna Kirby checks the edges. She used her serger machine to professionally finish all the sides.

OUTSIDE: A NEW LOOK?

No, this is not a new look for the church. On February 5, 6, and 7, our Trustees squeezed a fumigation into the facility's BUSY schedule, tenting every building except Wheatland which will come later.

If you happened to be out of town, here are a few photos of what that looked like. A lot of fabric!

Thank you to all facility users for your patience during this event!





UMW NEWS AND NEWSMAKERS

Liz Hoskinson and Dani St. Clair received Special Recognition Awards on UMW Sunday, January 28.

Lois Sheen, President, and Barbara Marshall, Membership Coordinator are shown with them.

Guest speaker Rev. Camille Mattick, with UMW members Marge Mayfield, Lois Sheen, Debbie Williams, Rhonda Garrett, and Barbara Marshall check out 2018 UMW membership directories being distributed on UMW Sunday to other members.



UMW READING PROGRAM

Pictured are the women who completed reading program plans during 2017.

Juanita Wilson, Barbara Marshall and Heidi Kane are shown in the photo to the right.









READING PROGRAM PLANS

5 books each year. - 1 from ea category.
10 books each year. - 2 from ea category.
15 books each year. - 2 from ea category.
PLUS 5 additional books from any category.
20 books each year. 2 books from each category
PLUS 10 additional books from any category.
All this as well as regular reading of Response and New World Outlook magazines.

Doris Gillespie, Erica Whalen, Donna Kirby, Lois Sheen, and Jan Maddox are here on the left.

UMW SPRING LUNCHEON - APRIL 14

All women are invited to "flock together" for fellowship, musical entertainment and inspiration. Our Spring luncheon will be held in Dickerson Hall beginning at 11 a.m. The program will focus on the amazing work being done by Abolish Slavery Now (ASN), an organization dedicated to combating human trafficking. Some of the founding members will tell about their work and how they have freed children from slavery in Ghana and are educating communities in California to speak on behalf of the enslaved here, offering them freedom and shelter. Childcare will be provided. \$10 for women, \$5 for children ages 12 or under.

To make a reservation, sign up at the UMW table on the patio March 25, April 1, or April 8, or call Donna Kirby at (805) 495-1997 or email her at fmkdgk@hotmail.com.



ABOLISH SLAVERY NOW

Pictured are hands of people in Ghana who have been freed from slavery.

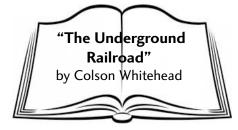
Abolish Slavery Now (ASN) exists to combat human trafficking, focusing on education and advocacy relating to California's slave trade.

ASN seeks to educate and empower communities to speak on behalf of the enslaved in our midst, and to offer freedom and shelter whenever they come into contact with enslaved persons.

Beyond America's borders, ASN is committed to freeing enslaved children in Ghana where an estimated 10,000 children are held captive against their will in the fishing industry, and a perhaps larger number in the cocoa farms.

MARCH UMW BOOK CLUB

will meet at the home of Doris Gillespie at 7:00 pm on March 26, to discuss



APRIL UMW BOOK CLUB

will meet at the home of Ann Gramlich at 7:00 pm on April 23, to discuss



YOUTH-ful COMMUNICATIONS - from Patty Cogles

Laura Cifuentes, Erica Whalen and I have started using an App called **Band** to manage acolytes and youth group communications. If you want to keep up with youth group -download the App "BAND-organize your groups" available for both Apple & Android. Once downloaded search for: "I.D. Generation UMCTO Youth" for all things youth group, "UMCTO Dance" for those interested in creative arts ministry, and "UMCTO Acolytes". This app allows us to communicate in a timely manner and it goes straight to your phone notifications. In it, you will find a calendar of upcoming youth-related events and a tool to RSVP.

If you have trouble setting this up, feel free to contact Patty at 918-568-7597 or Erica Whalen at 805-587-2304.

AND HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING!

- 1. All-day Ski/Snowboard Trip to Snow Valley during Spring Break. Sled, Ski, Snowboard or Just enjoy the snow. Only 15 spaces available for those needing lift tickets or lessons. **We need drivers!** Leaving church at 7:30 am, returning at 7:30 pm. Bring lunch and snacks, we're stopping at In & Out for dinner.
- 2. On March 24, , we are Marching for Lives alongside teens in our nation to bring awareness to the issue of school shootings.
- 3. We're planning on helping the elderly with spring cleaning in April. Pat St Clair is the contact for this.
- 4. Registration for Spanglish Camp 2018 is open. It can be found online through the conference website, or on Facebook at UMC Spanglish. It's on Memorial Day weekend, May 25-28.

UMCTO VBS 2018

Rolling River Rampage - June 24 to June 29!

The theme is white water rafting; Experience the ride of a lifetime with God! We will be decorating using rafts, kayaks, paddles, life vests, Christmas trees and camping gear. If you have any of these items and are willing to let us use it for VBS please let Heidi know.

We would also like to make a craft that uses 4-5 inch slices of tree branches. If you are cutting down a tree please let us know!

We are starting to put together our adult staff!



Please consider helping this year. Help is needed in all areas. Crafts, Games, Mission/ Science, Bible Stories, Registration, Music.

THE USS GENESIS IS READY JUST IN TIME FOR VBS!

Many thanks to

Malissa Marlow
(pictured on the
next page with
her family) for the
paint job, and Diana
Lolley for making
the replacement
canopy...and Richard
Lolley for organizing
it all!







The Marlows - Fred & Laura, Megan, Malissa, Melanie, Matthew & Mariah.

PARENT CONNECT!

Take some time after first service to connect to your child's Sunday School lessons, to connect

with other parents and to connect to Pastor John's sermon and discuss ways to apply them at home and with your family. Grab a cup of coffee, get a donut for the kids.. Sign your child in to childcare in room 3 then... Connect with other parents in room 4 (just off the playground). Facilitated by **Laura Marlow**. We start by 10:30 a.m. and are done by 11 a.m. Here she is with Fred and their five beautiful kids. Parents with experience! See You Sunday!



Camps by grade level: Younger Elementary Grades 1-3, Elementary Grades 3-6, Junior High Grades 6-9, Senior High Grades 9-Graduated Seniors (unless otherwise noted).

CAL PAC SUMMER CAMPS

Early bird rates until March 31! Register online.

For parents who want a Christian summer camp for their children, grades 1 through just graduated, consider the United Methodist summer camps. The schedule shown here is for Lazy W Ranch.

Go to our Cal-Pac Conference website to view all the options here in Southern California and to register; or call the church office.

http://www.calpacumc.org/campandretreat/

Aldersgate (Pacific Palisades)
Cedar Glen (Julian)
Colby Ranch (Angeles Forest)
Lazy W Ranch (San Juan Capistrano)
Wrightwood (Wrightwood)

Summe	r Schedule Adventure Camp	2018
June 24-29	7th-10th grade	\$500
	Canyon Camp	
June 24-29	3rd-8th grade Little Canyoneers	\$440
July 1-4*	1st-3rd grade	\$230
July 8-13	Elementary Camp 3rd-6th grade	\$440
July 15-20 -	Junior High Camp 6th-9th grade	\$440
July 22-28 -	Senior High Camp 9th-Graduated Sr.	\$440
	onclude by 10:30am to accomodate the ailable. Requests can be made during 1	

We value radical hospitality

MEMBERSHIP CARE

Are you interested in serving on a visitation team?

Tursing Home Visits

Would you like to make phone calls or write notes to our church family members?



Want to help with coffee and or hospitality?



Do you see a need that isn't being met; or Is there a way you would like to serve - a team you would like to join?



Contact **Wanda Williams** or the church office to get connected!

For Whom the...Dinner Bell Tolls?

Calling all who would be willing to host a dinner table of 8...or 12....or more.....or less. Progressive dinner, anyone?

If so, please contact Wanda to coordinate.



What a blessing you all have been during this past year. Thank you so much for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, hugs and words of encouragement. I have certainly come to understand the meaing of the Church Family and feel so blessed to have a very special one. I am recovering very well from three surgeries and it is wonderful to look foward to a healthy future.

Thank you all again and God bless you for helping me through this difficult year.

Sharon Stoterau



FOR BUREN AND JANE, "IT'S BEEN A WONDERFUL LIFE!"

This is a much abbreviated story of an American life. But it is also a Methodist story and a love story, which really means it is just another witness to God's intersection with his people.

Buren Blackwelder was born on January 19, 1924 in Charlotte, NC. He had a sister 13 years his senior and a brother 8 years older. Tragically, at the age of 13, he and his siblings were orphaned. An angelic member of a local Methodist church (Miss Baines) convinced The Children's Home, a Winston-Salem Methodist orphanage, to take in the teenager, even though he was well past the age of acceptance (mostly infants). No Charles Dickens story here, at this orphanage, he was loved and nurtured, graduating from RJ Reynolds High School, ready to head off to a local college.

That ambition lasted only until a recruiter for the Navy came by, looking for potential naval aviators. Buren jumped at the opportunity. He would eventually complete his college education at George Washington University in Wa., D.C., but at the beginning of

his naval career, he was



Buren - 23 years old

off to Greece in 1949 to fly the Hell Diver and train Greek Air Force pilots on that plane. Buren, known as Blackie to his friends, achieved the rank of Captain before leaving the navy in 1976, only being passed over for admiral because he had never had combat duty, (having received his commission on D-Day!) During his career, he rose to third in command of the U.S.S. Ticonderoga aircraft carrier. He sailed the globe, delivered planes to the South Koreans during the Korean conflict, was on the Ticonderoga in the Gulf of Tonkin during the Viet Nam war. It was a satisfying and distinguished career.



his naval career, the dashing naval officer chanced to notice a cute girl at a local club while on leave from his carrier in New York City. She was there with her sister and not at all interested in the fellow who seemed to have had too much to drink. (He was sans

Significantly during

his uniform that day, definitely not showing his best side.) He persisted in getting her number and finally she agreed to go out with him. It wasn't long before these two knew they were meant for each other. Jane and Blackie were married in 1971 in Bowling Green, VA. and Jane says she never again saw him tipsy.





Continued next page

Our Family

The last 5 years of Blackie's military service was on the Island of Crete, providing support to the Greek Air Force. Retiring from the Navy in '76, he went to work for Northrup on Crete for 6 more months before an opportunity arose to take over a position in Iran, which was ruled at the time by the Persian monarch Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Shah of Iran, an ally of the U.S. Blackie's work involved supplying target drones to the Iranian Navy and the couple's domicile was in Bandar Abbas on the Persian Gulf.

The Iranian Navy built them a home and Northrup provided them money to furnish it, as well as a houseboy to live with and work for them.



The drones - Bandar Abbas



Their street in Bandar Abbas





The Blackwelders' houseboy, "Mohuram" (sic) became their very good friend and helper.

During these years, Jane said her home was a hub for all Northrup business and Iranian Navy entertaining, and she wore evening gowns 5 days a week for all the receptions they hosted! The Shah himself even came to Bandar Abbas once and Blackie was introduced to him.

If you are a student of history or lived through those days (or want to Google it), you'll recall that the Shah was overthrown by the Iranian Revolution on 11 February 1979. Jane relates how the lead up to that time was tense, with uncertainty as to who to trust and concern for their own safety. Halliburton Corporation had stepped up to evacuate US ex-pats but at first Jane refused to leave her husband. She eventually did go to the United Arab Emirates, then back to the states to wait for Blackie to join her. He finally got out of Iran on a tub boat.

The next assignment with Northrup was in California, and here is where they landed in 1979. They joined the United Methodist Church of Thousand Oaks in September of that year. Blackie worked as project director over the parts of the world stretching from Egypt to Japan until 1993 when he retired to work full-time with Jane in her own successful career as a real estate agent.

Recently, Blackie's declining health has necessitated his move to Sunrise Senior Care home in Westlake VIllage. Jane lives nearby and visits him twice a day. She threw him a birthday party on his 94th birthday in January, with Pastor John attending.

Ask Jane anytime about her life and love; she will reply:

"It's been a wonderful life!"



Calendar

APRIL 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Easter Sunday 9:00 A Modern Service of Resurrection 11:00 A - 12:00 P Traditional Service of Resurrection 6:00 P AA Meeting – D. Hall 8:00 P AA Meeting – D. Hall	school 9:00 A Harvest 10:00 A - Stephen Ministry Supervision - Room 11 6:00 P PDAP of Ventura County - Room 16	3 9:00 A Harvest 9:00 A Prayer Group 10:15 A Spirituality Class –Wesley Room 3:00 P Study Buddy Tutoring 7:00 P Stephen Ministry – Room 8 7:30 PAA Meeting - Dickerson Hall	9:00 A Harvest 9:30 A Crafters, Knitters, Talkers – Bride's Room 9:30 A Mom's Bible/Book Study - Wesley Room 10:00 A Stephen Ministry Supervision - Room 11 5:00 P Westminster Free Clinic 6:30 P Youth mentor meeting 7:30 P Choir Rehrsl	Buddy Tutoring 7:00 P Estudio Biblico para	Harvest 5:30 P Community	7 9:30 A UMW Board Meeting – Wesley Room 10:00 A Food Forward Training – Room 11
8 9:00 A Modern Worship & Children's Sunday school 10:15 A Estudios Biblicos para	1:45 P Healing Faith Yoga 1:45p; Pilates 3:15p -D. Hall 6:00 P PDAP - Room 16 6:30 P Disciple Fast Track Bible Study 7:00 P Troop #716	10:15 A Spirituality Class –Wesley Room 3:00 P Study Buddy Tutoring	Study - Wesley Room		Harvest 5:30 P Community Meal Program	14 9:00 A - 12:00 P Stephen Ministry Continuing Education - Wesley Room 11:00 A UMW Spring Luncheon – Dickerson Hall
9:00 A Modern Worship & Children's Sunday school 10:15 A Estudios Biblicos para Adultos, Parent Connect & Youth Bible Study 11:00 A Traditional Worship 11:00 A Rehearsal for Lenten Play 6:00 P AA Meeting – D. Hall 8:00 P AA Meeting – D. Hall	10:00 A Stephen Ministry Supervision - Room 11 1:45 P Healing Faith Yoga 1:45p; Pilates 3:15p -D. Hall 6:00 P PDAP - Room 16 6:30 P Disciple Fast Trk Bible Study	Class –Wesley Room 3:00 P Study Buddy Tutoring 7:00 P Stephen Ministry– Room 8 7:00 P Trustees	18 9:00 A Harvest 9:30 A Crafters, Knitters, Talkers – Bride's Room 9:30 A Mom's Bible/Book Study - Wesley Room 2:00 P North District Union Committee Meeting – Wesley Room 5:00 P Westminster Free Clinic 7:30 P Choir Rehrsl	19 9:00 A Harvest 3:00 P Study Buddy Tutoring 7:00 P Estudio Biblico para Adultos y ninos 7:00 P Faith Journey Book/Bible Study – Wesley R 7:00 P Youth Group – D. Hall		21 5:00 P Fiesta Church
22 Stewardship CApaign 9:00 A Modern Worship & Children's Sunday school 10:15 A Estudios Biblicos para Adultos, Parent Connect & Youth Bible Study 11:00 A Traditional Worship 11:00 A Rehearsal for Lenten Play 6:00 P AA Meeting – D. Hall 8:00 P AA Meeting – D. Hall	9:00 A Harvest 1:45 P Healing Faith Yoga 1:45p; Pilates 3:15p -D. Hall 6:00 P PDAP - Room 16 6:30 P Disciple Fast Trk Bible Study 7:00 P Troop #716 PLC Meeting	10:15 A Spirituality Class –Wesley Room 3:00 P Study Buddy Tutoring	Meeting -Rms 11/12 9:00 A Harvest 9:30 A Crafters, Knitters, Talkers - Bride's Room 9:30 A Mom's Bible/Book Study - Wesley Room	26 9:00 A Harvest 3:00 P Study Buddy Tutoring 7:00 P Estudio Biblico para Adultos y ninos 7:00 P Faith Journey Book/Bible Study – Wesley R 7:00 P Youth Group – D. Hall	5:30 P Community	28 8:30 A - 10:00 A UMM Breakfast & Discussions with Pastor John UNITED METHODIST
29 Start of Stewardship Campaign 9:00 A Modern Worship & Children's Sunday school 10:15 A Estudios Biblicos para Adultos, Parent Connect & Youth Bible Study 11:00 A Traditional Worship 11:00 A Rehearsal for Lenten Play 6:00 P AA Meeting – D. Hall 8:00 P AA Meeting – D. Hall	30 Training - Large Church Initiative @ San Diego 1st UMC 9:00 A Harvest 1:45 P Healing Faith Yoga 1:45p; Pilates 3:15p -D. Hall 6:00 P PDAP 6:30 P Disciple Fast Trk Bible Study 7:00 P Troop #716					

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH STAFF	(805) 495-7215
Senior Pastor, Rev. John Yoon	pastorjyoon@umcto.org
Dir. of Youth Ministries & Adult Studies, Patricia Cogles	patricia.cogles@umcto.org
Directory of Children's Ministry, Amy Eads	amy.eads@umcto.org
Multicultural Ministry Outreach, Maria Reyes	maria.reyes@umcto.org
Worship Director, Gabe Salazar	umctoworship@gmail.com
Organist, Romy Brubaker	romyncleo@yahoo.com
Office Administrator, May Simonds	@umcto.org
Facility Manager, Mitch Schrader	dmsch@earthlink.net

Sunday Worship Times

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

www.umcto.org



The USS Genesis "Before" picture. Remember this?

Thanks again, Malissa, Richard and Diana!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THOUSAND OAKS UNITED
METHODIST CHRUCH
1000 E. JANSS ROAD
THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91360
VOICE: 805.495.7215
HTTP://www.umcto.org

