



Newsletter of the United Methodist Church of Thousand Oaks

Making Faith Real

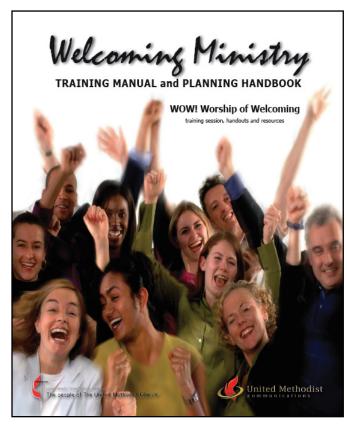
#### ON OCTOBER 8 - AFTER SECOND SERVICE

### WELCOME NEW PEOPLE AND THE WOW! IN WORSHIP

A workshop with Rev. Nicole Reilly, Director of New Ministries for Cal-Pac Conference (since July 2014.)

A graduate of Claremont School of Theology and recipient of the Reverend Edwin H. Witman Pastoral Care Award, Rev. Reilley's commitment to new ministry and congregational development is reflected in her extensive involvement with the Cal-Pac New Ministries Essential Ministry Team (and formerly the Board of Congregational Development) as well as her direction of the Cal-Pac House Church Network.









#### A Word from Your Pastor...

Have you noticed new visitors in our Sunday morning worship services lately?

Well, in Bishop Schnase's book "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations", he points out the importance of practicing intentional "Radical Hospitality." As we think about new people coming to worship in our church, I want to encourage all UMCTO members to consider what it means to practice Radical Hospitality in the coming months. Please allow me to make a few suggestions.

Make a commitment personally to welcome a stranger or visitor on Sunday mornings. How do you know if someone is new or visiting the church? Well, if you don't know them, they're a stranger to you, and you to them. If you are not sure if someone is new to the church, say "I don't think we've met before, have we? Let me introduce myself...." If someone makes a new friend on a Sunday morning, that's a good sign that we're doing the work of Jesus Christ.

Personally inviting at least one person/family to Sunday worship or a church event during Fall season would be another way. Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas are coming up, they are wonderful opportunities; concerts, special services, Advent Programs, and Small Groups also are excellent ways and less threatening for new visitors. Remember there are people looking for direction, guidance, and support, or simply looking for a place to belong. Where can they go?

At the same time, we need to care for the people who are already here. If you notice that someone or a family hasn't been present in worship or church, call them to let them know they were missed; if they are in need, care for them in a way that is appropriate or, let us know in the office of their needs.

During this Fall and coming months, I would like us to be mindful of practicing Radical Hospitality at UMCTO. I'd also love to hear from you about how this practice is making a difference and how we can improve and do more as a church.

See you at church,

Pastor John

#### **REMINDER!**

One 10:00 a.m. Worship Service on October 1

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY** 

# We are praying for...

Tyler & Travis Bacon Jonathan Brubaker Carlene Embree(Bacon) Sue Embree (Barwick) Paul Fotsch Don Harold Marianne Harold Randy Harold Jean Hensel & family David Hill (Gramlich) Richard Lolley Dan Lush (Simonds) Shirley Moran Leydi Negron Nancy Pietrangelo Daelene Rainer & family Erica Rockabrand Susan Ruwhiu & familiy Sharon & Peter Stoterau Beth Ugino (Gramlich) Peggy Souther & family Louise Stevens (Williams) Pamela Wilson Young B. Yoon

#### **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 Jesse D. Negrongarcia Brock Pooler Mark Rabens Wesley Rabens

#### **OCTOBER 8 AFTER 2ND SERVICE.**

# Welcoming Ministry

And to prepare for this workshop with Nicole Reilly, consider these...

#### 7 PRACTICAL ELEMENTS OF WELCOMING

adapted from the UMCOM.org article by the same name

Summary: Creating a welcoming and hospitable climate in your church begins at the parking lot and continues into the heart of the congregation. The ministry of welcoming is the responsibility of the entire church family, not of a committee or a few volunteers. To create a lifestyle of welcoming in your congregation, remember these seven practical elements.

- 1. Display visible, clear and concise signs that a first-time visitor can easily understand and follow.
- 2. Station greeters at all building entrances, not just the sanctuary. "Hello and welcome, my name is Bruce Borner!"
- 3. Train ushers to be your worship "hosts" (not gate-



keepers). "This way to the "children's corner of the Narthex!"

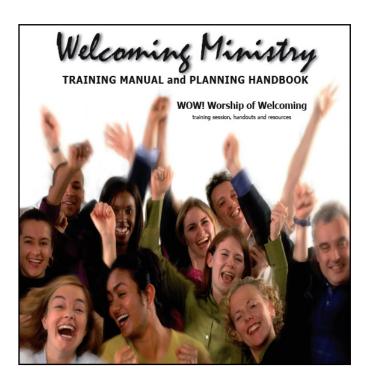
4. The congregation is even more influential than the greeters and ushers in creating a welcoming climate.

Ask Eileen Fischer about John & Dagny Brookes sometime. You've seen their names on that rock at the corner of the preschool playground.

5. Offer cues and aids during worship. Never assume people know what you know! Discover how to make worship more welcoming with a "WOW! Worship of Welcoming" training session. Do you plan to attend the UMCTO session on October 8?

- 6. Invite people to stay for social time and announce where to find the coffee!
- 7. Remember to say "thank you for coming" and "we hope to see you again." Pastor John never forgets!

To learn more about developing a welcoming ministry in your congregation, visit umcom.org/learn/welcome-your-guests OR, attend the workshop on October 8!



### WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OCTOBER 8?

Rev. Nicole Reilly will be preaching in both services.

There will be a **luncheon** provided after worship to sustain you for the workshop. No one wants to work on an empty stomach!

Questions? Ask Wanda Williams!

#### We welcome all people into Christian community





#### SEPTEMBER 16, 2017 FIESTA CHURCH

from Dori Fotsch

**Theme:** A strong foundation: as a church, we so often build our lives on material things, things of this world, but together we can make God the foundation and base of our fatih.

At September's Fiesta Church, there were 61 people in attendance. (New visitors = about 25...lots of kids, per usual)

Of the visitors...

One was a Study Buddy family, one was a family where the youth had started attending youth group, and there were 4 or 5 VBS families.

I want to to thank our Church for the "investment" in the spiritual lives of our Community. Fruits are being harvested, and more to come.

**Gracias, UMCTO!** 



### Community



#### STUDY BUDDY - VOUNTEER RECRUITMENT



At La Reina High School's Volunteer Fair on September 13, 2017, Dori Fotsch was busy recruiting student tutors for the Study Buddy program that starts up again on October 26. If **you** can volunteer to tutor, please see Dori. Times are Tuesdays &/or Thursdays, 4-5:15. She also needs folks to walk the kids from school to our church at 2:25pm, helpers to read with the kids (3:00pm) or supervise recess/playtime (3:30pm), **Contact** Dori Fotsch 805-402-2100.

#### PLAYGROUND DONATION OF TIME AND CHIPS! THANK YOU, DICK WILEY & RICHARD LOLLEY

A big thank you to **Dick Wiley**, who donated 8 cubic yards of kid-friendly wood chips for the pre-school playground in September....then, with assistance from **Richard Lolley**, spread them appropriately. Thank you Dick and Richard! Now, there is a nice thick, soft and safer layer underneath those jungle gym bars!



#### **UMW FALL LUNCHEON**



The United Methodist Women will have their Fall Luncheon on Saturday, October 7, at 11 a.m. in Dickerson Hall. Reservations can be made at the UMW table on the church patio after each worship service on September 17, 24 & October 1. \$10 reservation includes lunch served from a taco truck plus dessert. Vicki Moreno will give her testimony of how God and her faith have given her the strength she needs as the



mother of a special needs son. Dr. Molly Rearick will tell about a program which has enriched Vicki's autistic son's life and of other teens and adults. There will be time for shopping from the "mini store" of gifts made by the students in the program.





Dr. Molly Rearick, founder and director of Reid's Gift, will tell about a program which has enriched Vicki's autistic son's life and the lives of other teens and adults with disabilities. We'll have a "mini store" where you can "shop" for gifts made by the students in the program!

#### **NEW UMW "DAHLIA CIRCLE" BLOOMS!**

Dahlia is the name of the new circle that was begun in June. In the language of flowers, its name means staying graceful under pressure, drawing upon inner strength to succeed, making life changes in a positive way, staying kind despite being tested by life events, finding a balance between adventure and relaxation, and commitment to a certain ideal. The 12 members



of Dahlia Circle believe this supportive small-group can contribute to the blooming of these same qualities in us.

Meetings are held in the Wesley Room at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of each month (except in September, when we meet on the second Monday.) At our August 7th meeting, circle members decorated

"Blessing Boxes". As special blessings from God are recognized, members are encouraged to give God thanks and deposit some money in the box as a token of their gratitude. Then, when the UMW World Thank Offering is collected in November, members contribute the amount of money accumulated in their boxes.

Six of our members are shown with their boxes in the photo (top row: Lois Sheen, Kathy Ayers, Juanita Wilson, and Susie Johnson; bottom row: Barbara Marshall and Debbie Williams). The 6 members not in the photo are Rhonda Garrett, Leslie Maunu, Marge Mayfield, Rebecca Rawnsley, Susan Ruwhiu, and Mina Yoon. Call Lois Sheen at (805) 497-3451 to join the circle or get more information.

Outreach We share our resources

#### **UMCTO HARVEST FOOD PROGRAM** by Tom Maddux

#### FRESH VEGGIES ANYONE?

The Harvest Food program had a successful summer and is looking forward to new opportunities in the fall. One of those is the expanding relationship with **Food Forward** which has been a significant source of our access to fresh produce. Every Thursday at 6 pm we pick up a dozen or so of the ever present Food Forward boxes of produce donated at the Thousand Oaks Farmers Market which we distribute to families on Friday morning. Starting this month we will also collect donations from the Westlake Farmers Market on Sunday afternoon. This will be a valuable source for our Monday morning distribution.

#### **NEW DONORS**

Several other new sources of donations includes Smart & Final on Lindero next to Costco and Smart & Final in Newbury Park where we pick up twice a week. We also pick up from L.A. Foods off of Kanan Road. This distributor has donated sliced lunch meat to Harvest and a new component of the company, E-Pallet which is developing a wholesale operation, has been donating dry goods and cans of various items of fruit, beans, etc. after they take pictures for their catalog.

#### **OUR UMCTO VOLUNTEERS**

A number of members of UMCTO have been long term loyal participants in the program from when we started in 2012 and continuing to date. Nancy Berry started coming on Friday to help with the bagging of bread products and has continued to help us have enough plastic bags to use for bread, pastries and other items. Linda St. Clair picks up donations from Olive Garden and the Cheesecake Factory every Tuesday. Rose Cole as you might expect is our flower specialist.



Every Wednesday Rose comes in to arrange the flowers that we pick up from Trader Joe's in Westlake for distribution to our families. Loren Dacanay is busy educating our youth at Thousand Oaks High School during the day and on Tuesday picks up a donation of bread, pastries and bagels from Panera's on Lindero. Eileen and Bob Fischer and Russ Maddox pick up donations of pastries from Starbucks on Arboles and Erbes on MWF. Susan Johnson collects a bread donation from the Great Harvest bread store in Newbury Park and helps in the kitchen on Mondays. Barbara and John Marshall have picked up bagels from Noah's Bagels on Moorpark on Wednesdays for a number of years. Mary Lou and Vern Miller have donated bags and bags of lemons from their prolific lemon tree. Susan Ruwhiu comes in several mornings a week to help prepare bags of soup for distribution as well as many other food items. Erica, Edward, and Ciara Whalen have been increasingly active in helping with the preparation of food for distribution as well as doing the new pick-up at Smart & Final.

#### **MORE UMCTO VOLUNTEERS**

To these sixteen participants from UMCTO we add co-founder **Jerry Hong and Candis Hong** who pick up many days of the week from Vons and Pizza Hut on Kanan, Pizza Hut in T.O., L.A Foods, Wal-Mart, T.O Farmers Market and do even more pick-ups when we are away on vacation. **Mitch Schraeder** is an invalu-

able participant at the food distributions, at fixing the tables and carts that need repairs, and at picking up at Vons, Sprouts, Smart & Final and on the weekly trip to Foodshare in Oxnard to pick up an average of 1,000 pounds of food. Shirley Hamilton has been supportive of the program and definitely helps with the clean-up of the kitchen. If you add an aging Tom Maddux to the list, you have twenty active church members participating, maybe more than 10% of active church members.

(Continued on next page)

#### **UMCTO HARVEST FOOD PROGRAM** (continued)

#### WELCOME, JILL!

Our newest volunteer is **Jill Elsemore** who has been participating on Monday or Tuesday mornings. We always welcome and can make good use of new volunteers either in the morning food sorting and preparation or in picking up donations in the mornings or between 5 and 9 pm.

#### ALSO GRATEFUL FOR MONETARY ASSISTANCE

Financial support of the Harvest program has been most generous with contributions to the **combined Harvest and Shelter account** and we greatly appreciate your support. We probably spend over \$225 a month for both activities which is not a large amount when you consider what is provided in the Shelter program with the weekly Friday night dinners, the winter sleep-overs on Friday night and what our 100 families would have to pay at any local market for the food they receive every week, probably at least \$200 per family per week.



Crates of food all ready for families.



Who?: YOU and interested churches in the Conejo

Valley and surrrounding area

When: October 14, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15 per person - free to UMCTO members

Experience a Sample of Stephen Minister Training and Learn How You Can Become a Stephen Minister

Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshops are halfday events where you and others from your congregation can: Catch a vision for lay caring ministry;

Experience a sample of Stephen Minister training; and Learn the basics about Stephen Ministry—how it works, the benefits it offers, and how to be a Stephen Minister.

Attending one of these workshops is not mandatory for beginning Stephen Ministry—but they are an excellent way to get your questions answered and learn what Stephen Ministry is all about.

SESSION 1: Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief

SESSION 2: An Introduction to Stephen Ministry

SESSION 3: How to Care in a Distinctively Christian Way

**Quesions?**: Ask Lisa Rabens, Dianne Clouter or any UMCTO Stephen Minister

# Calendar

# OCTOBER 2017

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday   |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| Morld Communion Sunday  10:00 A - 11:00 A One Special World Communion Service 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM AA Meetings   | Rabens Room 11<br>1:30 PM - 2:30 PM<br>Healing Faith Yoga  |  | 4 9:00 A - 11:30 A Harvest 9:30 A - 11:00 A Crafters, Knitters, 9:30 A - 11:30 A Mom's Bible/Book Study- Wesley Room 10:00 A - 12:00 PM Stephen Min Supervision - Wilson - Room 11 5:00 PM - 10:30 PM Westminster Free Clinic     | 7:00 PM - 9:00<br>PM Faith<br>Journey<br>Book/Bible<br>Study<br>7:00 PM - 8:30<br>PM Youth                                | 6<br>9:00 A - 11:30<br>A Harvest<br>12:15 PM -<br>1:30 PM<br>Friday i.e.<br>Group<br>5:30 PM -<br>8:00 PM<br>Community<br>Meal Program  | 7<br>11:00 A -<br>1:15 PM<br>UMW Fall<br>Luncheon -<br>"Gifts<br>Galore"   |
| 8 9:00 A - 10:00 A Modern Worship Service & Children's Sunday School 10:15 A - 11:00 A Estudios Biblicos para Adultos & Youth Bible Study 11:00 A - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship Service 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM "Welcome New People and the WOW in Worship" with Nicole Reilly 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM AA Meetings                    | 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM<br>Healing Faith Yoga<br>6:00 PM - 7:30 PM PDAP<br>of Ventura County               | 10 9:00 A - 11:30 A Harvest 9:00 A - 10:00 A Intercessory Prayer Group 10:15 A - 12:00 PM Spirituality Class - Wesley Room 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Finance Committee 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM AA Meeting                                      | 11 9:00 A - 11:30 A Harvest 9:30 A - 11:00 A Crafters, Knitters, 9:30 A - 11:30 A Mom's Bible/Book Study - Wesley Room 5:00 PM - 10:30 PM Westminster Free Clinic - Flu shots 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM UMW Girasol & Ruth Circle Meeting | A Harvest<br>5:00 PM - 8:00<br>PM Girl Scouts   | 13<br>9:00 A - 11:30<br>A Harvest<br>12:15 PM -<br>1:30 PM<br>Friday i.e.<br>Group<br>5:30 PM -<br>8:00 PM<br>Community<br>Meal Program | 14<br>8:00 A - 1:00<br>PM Stephen<br>Ministry<br>Area-wide<br>Workshop   |
| 9:00 A - 10:00 A Modern Worship Service & Children's Sunday School 10:15 A - 11:00 A Estudios Biblicos para Adultos & Youth Bible Study 11:00 A - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship Service 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM AA Meetings  | of Ventura County  | 17 9:00 A - 11:30 A Harvest 9:00 A - 10:00 A Intercessory Prayer Group 10:15 A - 12:00 PM Spirituality Class - Wesley R 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM SPRC Meeting 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Trustees Committee Meeting 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM AA Meeting | 18<br>9:00 A - 11:30 A<br>Harvest<br>9:30 A - 11:00 A<br>Crafters, Knitters,<br>Bride's Room<br>9:30 A - 11:30 A Mom's<br>Bible/Book Study -<br>Wesley Room<br>5:00 PM - 10:30 PM<br>Westminster Free Clinic                      | Study<br>7:00 PM - 8:30<br>PM Youth   | 20<br>9:00 A - 11:30<br>A Harvest<br>12:15 PM -<br>1:30 PM<br>Friday i.e.<br>Group<br>5:30 PM -<br>8:00 PM<br>Community<br>Meal Program | 21<br>9:00 A - 3:00<br>PM UMW<br>Annual<br>Celebration<br>-San Diego<br>First UMC  |
| 220 9:00 A - 10:00 A Modern Worship Service & Children's Sunday School 10:15 A - 11:00 A Estudios Biblicos para Adultos & Youth Bible Study 11:00 A - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship Service 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Study Buddy Safe Sanctuary Training 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Study Buddy Darent meeting 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM AA Meetings | Healing Faith Yoga<br>6:00 PM - 7:30 PM PDAP<br>of Ventura County<br>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Troop<br>#716 | 24   |   | A Harvest 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Study Buddy Tutoring 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Faith Journey Book/Bible Study 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Youth | Community   | 28<br>8:30 A -<br>10:00 A<br>UMM<br>Breakfast &<br>Discussions<br>with Pastor<br>John<br>3:00 PM -<br>7:00 PM Fal<br>Harvest &<br>Fiesta |
| 29 9:00 A - 10:00 A Modern Worship Service & Children's Sunday School 10:15 A - 11:00 A Estudios Biblicos para Adultos & Youth Bible Study 11:00 A - 12:00 PM Traditional Worship Service 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM AA Meetings   | of Ventura County  | 31 9:00 A - 11:30 A Harvest 9:00 A - 10:00 A Intercessory Prayer Group 10:15 A - 12:00 PM Spirituality Class - Wesley R 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Study Buddy Tutoring 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM AA Meeting                                      |   |   |   |  |

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

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www.umcto.org

#### **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

#### **REMINDER!**

One 10:00 a.m. Worship Service on October 1

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY** 

#### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

1000 E. Janss Road Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 Voice: 805.495.7215 FAX: 805.495.3510 Http://www.umcto.0rg

