

UMCTO Vision Effort – Sept. 2018 update

Vision team — Phyllis Borner, Larry Ciuffitelli, Candis Hong, Donna Mullenix, Joe Park, Jon Ruwhiu, Tim Snyder, Donna Ventura, Wanda Williams

- Weekly meetings beginning late June 2018 using UMC vision tool
- Church survey completed July 2018
- Small groups completed August 2018

UMCTO Vision Effort - Sept. 2018 update

Key Survey Feedback:

- 169 surveys completed & 611 comments
- 89% open to change & growth
- 70% satisfied or very satisfied with the church and 18% dissatisfied or very dissatisfied
- 45% feel their spiritual life is stronger than 2 years ago and 40% are inspired after worship
- Strong interest in more small groups, adult study and fellowship
- Suggestions to improve worship, family and youth ministry

UMCTO Vision Effort – Sept. 2018 update

Short Term Actions Identified:

- Monthly communion together followed by fellowship (began 9/2/18)
- New signage (Janss/Windsor, Windsor/Whitecliff and campus maps/signs)
- · Improve marketing of the church
- Revisit & improve our welcoming & hospitality

UMCTO Vision Effort – Sept. 2018 update

- Community demographics & needs assessment – in process
- Learning about Methodist church growth
 in process
- Work ahead values, vision & mission; strengths, challenges & opportunities; develop vision recommendations for Council, Council guidance & implementation

UMCTO Vision Effort – Sept. 2018 update



Please continue to pray for the church, our community and world.



"God, we thank you for the **United Methodist Church of Thousand Oaks.** We believe that you have a plan for us, to give us a future with hope. Help us be courageous and faithful in following where you lead us. We pray for your Spirit to inspire us, to unite us and break through our doubts and our fears. Embolden us to always be a church in action. Help us to move forward in faith to bring light, life and love throughout the earth. In Christ's name we pray. Amen"



Words from Wanda

One Body, One Church

The vision of having us all together for communion was such a blessing in September. The Worship, the music and more importantly the connection and positive energy shared with one another was such a gift! God is good!



World Communion Sunday

We will be continuing in the spirit of One Body, One Church on Sunday, October 7th at 10:00 am.

October 7 is World Communion Sunday in which churches all over the world will be in remembrance of our Lord together, connected by a common faith. There are no differences among the children of God. What a beautiful thought, a belief in the world and a hope of peace and love.

Following our worship service we will be dedicating the mediation garden created by Elizabeth and Galen Hokama. Then the fellowship just keeps going with an international potluck in Dickerson hall. You have some time to look up that Greek salad recipe or get the ingredients for lasagne. No recipe, no worries - we want you there regardless. There may be some surprises in store so don't miss out on the fellowship fun. Being connected with one another is a powerful gift.

Keep the following dates on your calendar... One Body, One Church at 10:00 a.m.

November 4th - All Saints Day - Bell Choir will be playing the bells



Bobby Howard Williams went home to our Lord Sunday, September 16th, 2018 after a year long battle with cancer. Please pray for his wife Carolyn and his family.

We are praying for...

Healing - Comfort James Adams Joanne Adams (Eads) Ionathan Brubaker Paul Fotsch Doris Gillespie Pam Gross (Williams) Randy Harold Ezeguiel Hernandez David Hill (Gramlich) Mary Lou Miller **Pryor Family** Rainer Family Richard Family Shawn Rowe (Slater) Leslie Schrieder (Hamilton) Elli Schubert Sharon Stoterau Beth Ugino (Gramlich) Erica Whalen Carolyn Williams family Pam Wilson Yoon Family 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

FIESTA CHURCH

IS

MESSY CHURCH!





The Multicultural Committee, headed by Tim Snyder, is re-branding Fiesta Church as Messy Church, (though the Messy Church worship will continue to be offered in both English and Spanish.) If you haven't heard of Messy Church, it is a "fresh expression" of ministry. originating in the U.K., that our UMC denomination has been providing training for, and is fully supporting with three United Methodist Regional Coordinators.

Questions? Leyla Wagner of Huntington Beach UMC, Field Coordinator for Messy Church, USA, will be attending UMCTO services on September 30. She will be in the Wesley Room after each service to tell us more and answer questions. RSVP if you plan to attend the meeting after second service, as lunch will be served. Contact: Dori Fotsch, Maria Reyes or Laura Marlow

MESSY CHURCH - A PRIMER

Messy Church is:

- ... Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality.
- ... It's primarily for people who don't already belong to another form of church.
- ... It meets at a time that suits people who don't already belong to church.
- ... It typically includes a welcome, a long creative time to explore the biblical theme through getting messy; a short celebration time involving story, prayer, song, games; and a sit-down meal together at tables. All elements are for, and should include, people of all ages, adults and children.

Messy Church isn't...

- ... just for children
- ... a club The whole of Messy Church is about worshipping God, having fellowship, exploring faith matters.
- ... a way of getting people to come to church on Sunday. If people wanted to go to established church, they would be going by now. Messy Church is interdependent with established church, but will usually operate as a separate congregation or church.
- ... just for families All are welcome: single, widowed, childless, divorced. Church is inclusive, not exclusive.

For more on Messy Church, visit https://www.messychurch.org.uk/what-messy-church-and-isnt

United Methodist Women Fall Luncheon October 13, Noon to 2:00 p.m. Dickerson Hall





Bee Thankful

Calling All You Busy Bees! Take a Break!

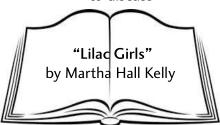
- Gyro Sandwiches, Greek Salad, Baklava
- Musical Entertainment
- Door Prizes
- Bring Your "Blessing Box"
- Play a Game to Express Your Thankfulness to God
- Learn about Westminster Free Clinic, their healthcare services and student intern program. They've added many new services recently.

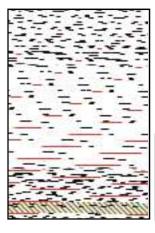
\$10 for women, \$5 for children under 12 Free childcare if requested by Oct. 7

Make a reservation on the patio 5ept. 23, Sept. 30 or Oct. 7, or call Donna Kirby at (805) 495–1997

SEPTEMBER UMW BOOK CLUB will meet at the home of Valarie Neel

at 7:00 pm on Sept. 24,
to discuss







Special Mission Study For All: Men, Women & Youth

Topic:

Did you know that the United Methodist Church in the United States has three missionary conferences that are so poor that they must depend on help from people outside their own conferences? These conferences are Alaska United Methodist Conference, Red Bird Missionary Conference, and Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference.

Study Leaders:

United Methodist Women have invited retired United Methodist minister Edward Mc Rae and his wife, Martina, who are currently members of Simi Valley United Methodist Church and who taught a study about these missionary conferences at Mission U in 2017 and 2018, to present a shortened version of the study at our church in two 2-hour sessions.

Dates and Times:

Session 1 will be held November 17. Session 2 will be held December 1. Both sessions are scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon. Come a bit early to enjoy refreshments. All men, women and youth are welcome to attend the study.

Preparation:

Although you are not required to do so, if you'd like to do some advanced reading on the subject, you can check out a copy of the textbook from the UMW book cart, or you can purchase a Kindle version from Amazon.

Outreach

Inasmuch as you do unto one of the least of these, my brethren, you do unto me.

STUDY BUDDIES 2018/2019

We will begin tutoring again on October 23, continuing to the beginning of May! The times will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tutor time is 4 - 5 p.m.

There are various, easy ways to contribute:

- 1) Volunteer to be a Tutor. One day or both, 4 5 p.m.
- 2) Donate a beach towel
- 3) Volunteer to be a Walker. One day or both, 2:20 3 p.m.
- 4) Volunteer to read one day or both, 3 3:30 p.m.
- 5) Donate granola bars (chocolate chip) or Goldfish. **Contact** Dori Fotsch!

STUDY BUDDY HAS A NEW INTERN = ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ!

Elizabeth has volunteered in our Study Buddy program, since she was in 6th grade. (Some may also know her from helping in years past with VBS) This will be her 9th year as a volunteer in our program. Elizabeth graduated from TOHS in 2017. She brings with her a love for the children, and a very sweet, kind soul. She is not sure of her future career, but is definitely considering teaching. I am thankful that she has accepted this position with our program!

When I asked her to give me some of her wisdom about tutoring, she said this. "Its important to get to know the kids. They need to know we care. This is just as important as completing their homework". Wow! What wisdom!

Study Buddies Intern Elizabeth Hernandez





HARVEST PANTRY UPDATE

The Harvest program at UMCTO has enjoyed another year of successful distribution of food to families who have insufficient food resources. Our emphasis remains on families with children but we also provide food to individuals. Since 2012 the program has expanded with respect to sources of food, number of recipents, and volunteers in the program. We have over twenty active UMCTO members participating in the program and we always need and welcome new volunteers to help pick up donations and prepare food for distribution. We distribute food on Monday 10-11:30 a.m., and Wednesday and Friday 10-11:00 a.m. We also have a number of volunteers from the community including several from Westlake Village UMC and St. Matthew's UMC, Newbury Park

The growth of the program is evident in the results below from May which we report to the Ventura County Foodshare organization of which we are a participating pantry. A second source which is not reported in our results comes from Food Forward which we participate with in leading the collection of donations of produce at the Thousand Oaks and Westlake Farmers Markets on Thursday and Sunday afternoons and also in picking up donations from backyard picks in the county as well as from the fields of growers who donate grapefruit, oranges, lemons, carrots, tomatoes and other products. (see more about Fast Forward on page 6)

May 2018 Results:

Average Families/Clients served Per Week in May 2018: 118

Average Individuals Served Per Week in May 2018: 497

Average Children Served Per Week in May 2018: 218

Average Crates of Food Distributed Per Week in May

2018: 308

Average Pounds of Food Distributed Per Week in May

2018: 7700

FOOD FORWARD DONATIONS AND HARVEST

The Harvest food pantry also partners with Food Forward. Food Forward is a nonprofit organization that hosts volunteer-powered events to rescue fresh surplus produce from backyard fruit trees, orchards, farmers markets, and the downtown Los Angeles Wholesale Produce Market that might otherwise go to waste. This abundance is connected to hunger relief agencies and community partners helping to fight hunger, reduc food waste, and build a more equitable food system in Southern California.

The total amount of fresh produce our Harvest organization has received and given out via Food Forward in 2017.

Total Pounds Received: 51,117.00 Market Value: \$88,432.41





THANK YOU, UMCTO! from the hard working folks of the Harvest Pantry

We very much appreciate the support that the Harvest program receives from the generous donations of UMCTO members in time and financial contributions as well as the use of church resources to carry out the program. Thank you, UMCTO!

HARDWORKING TRUSTEES

Our Board of Tustees have been up on the roof, in the sun, coating the flat roof sections of the Sunday School rooms in anticipation of the winter rains we all look forward to. They also plan to change light bulbs in the sanctuary soon. I guess they have no fear of heights! Thanks are owed to the Board, as well as the following volunteers who have answered the call to help out.



Jim Whalen
Mitch Schrader
Jessica, Josh and Dori
Fotsch
Dick Wiley
Bruce Arvizu
Jerry Hong
Tim & Julia Snyder
Ernesto Sr. and Ernesto Jr.

Contact Richard Lolley or the church office if you want to join this fellowship! There is always much laughter and camaraderie.



Next, the whole roof will need the thick white coating.



at left: a casualty of the work... at least it is inanimate!



KIDS CHURCH with Amy Eads

Kids church is up and running and it is a joyfest! The kids are singing praise songs and are enjoying our learning by doing approach!

I am so grateful for such a tremendous group of leaders who have jumped on board with our new program.

As we dig deeper into discipleship, the kids are going to understand that the Bible is alive and pertinent to their everyday lives. They are participating in the stories and developing a strong foundation of faith. Anytime you need your spirits lifted, please pop in and see what we are doing!

Gabe, if you need a drummer in a pinch, contact the Rawnsley family!



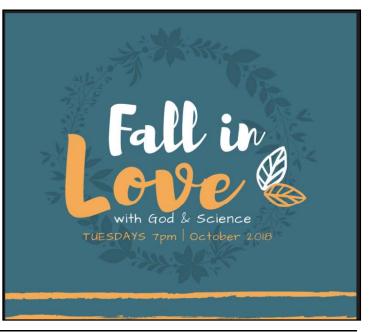


And....we are growing

YOUTH NEWS

And, kids! When you get a bit older, you can join Patty Cogles' youth group! Patty is starting a 4-week series on God & Science. To help her with this series, she has asked some of our congregation's scientists to help facilitate this video series.

Note: Youth Group will be meeting on Tuesdays instead of Thursdays to accommodate Patty's own school schedule.



TIME TO SIGN-UP FOR FAMILY CAMP 2018!

OCTOBER 26, 27, 28 El Capitan State Beach

Theme: "We Are Family" honoring ONE BODY, ONE CHURCH





Spend a wonderful weekend at Family Camp on the El Capitan State Beach with other UMCTO families. Play in the surf, fly a kite, enjoy BBQ and roasted S'mores. There will be worship, campfire singing, and fun in the sun, and you get to sleep beneath the stars!

Sign-ups begin Sunday, September 23!

Cost is \$75 per family of 3 or more

\$35 per individual adult

\$25 for an individual child (must be accompanied by an adult)

Deposit of \$25 required to hold your spot!

Only 60 spots available, so sign up quick!!!

A Few Stats About El Capitan State Beach

Address

2 El Capitan State Beach Rd Goleta, CA 93117

Activities

Surfing, Hiking, Fishing, Camping, Beach Walking, Picnicking, Birdwatching, Biking, Tidepooling

Amenities

Restrooms, Trails, Paved Bike Path, Tide Pools, Campground, Camp Store, Accessible Features

Pet Policy

No dogs allowed on the beach

We need lots of help! Game leader, meal planners and cooks, craft people, etc.

If you would like to help plan and/or produce this special event, or if you have suggestions for fun things to do, call or email Amy Eads.

amy.eads@umcto.org or (805)495-7215, ext. 303

A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL! THANKS TO...

Thank you to all those listed below who participated in the Talent Show held on Saturday, September 15! Who knew UMCTO had such hidden talent (a magician even!)



Plus one walk-on talent: Elena Park who played "Mary Had A Little Lamb" on the piano.

Thank you also to additional helpers - besides all of the amazing food that showed up! Mina and John

Yoon BBQ was incredible! Jon Ruwhiu, Susan Peterson, Shirley Hamilton, Sandy Samuels, Tracy and Craig Diestel

Annie and Savannah provide their version of the "news"



HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE & MEMBERSHIP CARE OPPORTUNITIES

1) Hospitality Leader/Team (aka "First Impressions")



Duties:

- Bring out and put away welcome cart each Sunday. Keep cart stocked with Upper Rooms, visitor and membership pamphlets.
- Greet everyone attending church.
- For visitors, mail post cards, call or email thanking visitors for attending. Introduce visitors to members during fellowship. A suggestion has been made that following the worship service visitors be given a tour of our church.

This is a new leadership opportunity to Open Doors, Open Hearts And Open Minds. If interested please contact a Worship Team member or Lay Leaders.

2) UMCTO Membership Care Volunteer

Duties:

- Update worship attendance into Powerchurch.
- Maintain a quarterly attendance report for Church Council.
- Prepare two district reports, one in January and the other in July.
- Update prayer list for Intercessory Prayer group on Tuesday morning and keep staff/prayer chain informed.
- Coordinate New Members class (usually one class a year).
- Organize visitation and/or send cards to homebound.
- Coordinate baptism with Pastor and Worship leadership.
- Package and distribute Homebound communion kits to volunteers first Sunday of every month.

Contact Lay Leaders Julia Snyder or Bob Garrett.

FYI



Are you tired of always writing checks for your donations? Do you sometimes forget to bring your checkbook with you to church? Well, now you have another option to make your life easier! You can make your donations on-line through PayPal. This is a very safe payment tool and you do not need to have a PayPal account to use it. You can use any major credit card or debit card and you can even set it up as a recurring payment to satisfy your annual pledging. Just click on the "Donate" button on the www.UMCTO.org home page under Quick Links (see snapshot below). Any questions can be directed to Donna Ventura, chair of the Finance Committee, at donnaventura@me.com.

View of the front left side of our webpage, umcto.org



RECOMMENDED READING FROM THE UMW BOOK CART by Marge Mayfield

"The Book of Joy" by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams

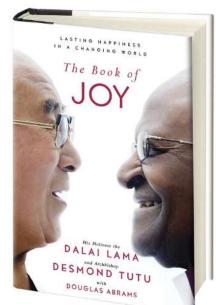
Our UMCTO UMW offers you the pleasure of reading "The Book of Joy by His Holiness Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. These two amazing men meet to collaborate an 80th birthday and ponder the art of being joyful. Desmond Tutu offers his Christian perspective steeped in his instinctual orientation and prayerful habits. Dalai Lama has a secular, universal philosophy and presents his views in an intellectual and scientific manner that includes his habit of meditating. Douglas Abrams joins the conversations as a co-writer to orchestrate their words into symphonies of wisdom on the subject.

This book includes much humor yet is balanced with the gravity of today's world. After defining the parameters of joy, they tackle the questions of how do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering and how can we experience joy in the midst of worldwide terror and turbulence? They also address the obstacles to joy, how one attains it and what we need to do to ensure joy will be attainable by our future generations. The last 40 pages offer various

things to do to enhance your joy. All these questions have been addressed before.

So, what makes this book worth your time to read is two-fold. First, these men share from their life experiences and the wisdom derived therefrom. They certainly have had experiences I could learn from. Secondly is their beautiful, authentic, playful and spirit-filled relationship. It takes on a persona of its own. It became a constant companion that I enjoyed while reading this book. It reminded me of

how important relationships are. For all the joy God could give us is nothing if we are not sharing it with our Lord and others. Their unique format has offered hope and help for our ow search for this ellusive emotion. It can be found in our stable and able blue book cart near your Sunday morning coffee spot. Enjoy the joy!



Calendar

September/October

Cundov	Mondov	Tuesday	Modpoodov	Thursday	Eridov	Coturdov
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 A Modern Worship & Kid's Church 10:15 A Estudios Biblicos para Adultos, Parent Connect & Youth Bible Study 11:00 A Traditional Worship 6:00 P & 8:00 P AA Meetings — D. Hall	9:00 AM Harvest 6:00 PM PDAP of Ventura County 7:00 P Scout Troop #716 7:00 P UMW Book Club	9:00 A Harvest 9:00 A Intercessory Prayer 10:15 AM Spirituality Class 6:00 P Lighthouse Visitation 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting 7:30 PM AA 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 5:00 P Westminster Free	27 9:00 A Harvest 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	28 9:00 A Harvest 12 P Friday ie group – Wesley Room 6:00 Community Dinner Program	29
30 9:00 A Modern Worship & Kid's Church 10:15 A Estudios Biblicos para Adultos, Parent Connect & Youth Bible Study 11:00 A Traditional Worship 6:00 P & 8:00 P AA Meetings — D. Hall	9:00 A Harvest Food Processing 6:00 P PDAP of Ventura County 7:00 P Scout Troop #716 7:00 P UMW Dahlia Circle Meeting	2 9:00 AM Harvest 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Intercessory Prayer Group 10:15 AM - 12:00 PM Spirituality Class 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM Dog Pound AA Meeting	9:30 A Crafters, Knitters, Talkers 9:30 A Mom's Bible/Book Study	4 9:00 A Harvest 7:00 P Estudio Biblico para Adultos y ninos 7:00 P Faith Journey Bible Study 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Youth Group	5 9:00 A Harvest 12 P Friday ie group – Wesley Room 6:00 P Community Dinner Program	6 9:30 A UMW Board Meeting
7 World Communion Sunday 10:00 A Kid's Church 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM One World Communion Worship Service 11:00 A Hokama Meditation Garden Dedication 11:00 A International Potluck- Progressive 11:15 A Youth Bible Study 6:00 P AA Meetings – D. Hall	8 Columbus Day 9:00 A Harvest 6:00 P PDAP of Ventura County 7:00 P Scout Troop #716	9 9:00 AM Harvest 9:00 A Intercessory Prayer Group 10:15 A Spirituality Class 7:00 P Finance Committee Meeting 7:30 P Dog Pound AA Meeting	9:00 A Harvest 9:30 A Crafters, Knitters, Talkers 9:30 A Mom's Bible/Book Study	11 9:00 A Harvest 7:00 P Estudio Biblico para Adultos y ninos 7:00 P Faith Journey Bible Study 7:00 P Youth Group	12 9:00 A Harvest 12 P Friday ie group – Wesley Room 6:00 P Community Dinner Program	13 9:00 A Stephen Ministry Continuing Education - Wesley Room 12:00 P UMW Fall Luncheon
14 9:00 A Modern Worship & Kid's Church 10:15 A Estudios Biblicos para Adultos, Parent Connect & Youth Bible Study 11:00 A Traditional Worship 2:00 P Adelante Communidad (Community Resource Fair) 6:00 PP AA Meetings – D. Hall	9:00 A Harvest 6:00 P PDAP of Ventura County 7:00 P Scout Troop #716	16 9:00 A Harvest 9:00 A Intercessory Prayer Group 10:15 A Spirituality Class 7:00 P Trustees Committee Meeting 7:30 P Dog Pound AA Meeting	9:00 A Harvest 9:30 A Crafters, Knitters, Talkers 9:30 A Crafters, Knitters, Talkers	18 9:00 A Harvest 7:00 P Estudio Biblico para Adultos y ninos 7:00 P Faith Journey Bible Study 7:00 P Youth Group	19 9:00 A Harvest 12 P Friday ie group — Wesley Room 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Community Dinner Program	20 5:00 P Messy Church
21 9:00 A Modern Worship & Kid's Church 10:15 A Estudios Biblicos para Adultos, Parent Connect & Youth Bible Study 11:00 A Traditional Worship 6:00P AA Meetings – D. Hall	22 9:00 A Harvest 6:00 P PDAP of Ventura County 7:00 P Scout Troop #716 7:00 P UMW Book Club	23 9:00 A Harvest 9:00 A Intercessory Prayer Group 10:15 A Spirituality Class 1:30 P Study Buddies 6:00 P Lighthouse Visitation 7:00 P Church Council Meeting 7:30 P Dog Pound AA Meeting	8:30 A Conejo Valley Garden Club 9:00 A Harvest 9:30 A Crafters, Knitters, Talkers 9:30 A Mom's Bible/Book	25 9:00 A Harvest 1:30 P Study Buddies 7:00 P Estudio Biblico para Adultos y ninos 7:00 P Faith Journey Bible Study 7:00 P Youth Group	9:00 A	27 Family Camp
28 Family Camp 9:00 A Modern Worship & Kid's Church 10:15 A Estudios Biblicos para Adultos, Parent Connect & Youth Bible Study 11:00 A Traditional Worship 6:00P P AA Meetings – D. Hall						

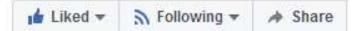
Facility Manager, Mitch Schrader......dmsch@earthlink.net

want ads

In need of **vases** for deliveries to those in need or to brighten someone's day. Please bring to the church office at your earliest convenience....thank YOU!

on Facebook at UMCTO

on the web at WWW.UMCTO.ORG



Sunday Mornings at UMCTO

9:00 a.m., MODERN Worship Service

& Kid's Churchl/Nurserycare
10:15 a.m. Estudios Biblicos para Adultos, Wesley Room
Youth Sunday School, Rooms 15/16
11:00 a.m., TRADITIONAL Worship Service

ONE 10a.m. Worship on 1st Sunday of Each Month

RETURN SERVICE

THOUSAND OAKS UNITED
METHODIST CHRUCH
1000 E. JANSS ROAD
THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91360
VOICE: 805.495.7215
HTTP://www.umcto.0rg

