

THE MESSENGER

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Greetings from Pastor Jane



Hello Palm Springs and the United Methodist Church of Palm Springs! I am getting ever more excited to meet and learn about you all!!

As I write this, I'm wearing a sweat-shirt. Weather in Iowa today is cloudy, stormy and the temperature is supposed to reach 75 degrees, if we're

lucky.

I of course am embracing this moment as "sense memory," knowing I am moving to an exotic and wonderful and most different new land. I'm so looking forward to all the discovery that awaits.

The first thing that especially piques my curiosity is how "full-timers" in the Coachella Valley navigate life in the summer, with its especially high temperatures and low crowds. What do folks do in the afternoon heat? What are especially lovely things to do in the cool of the morning? How about evening? What are some especially crazy things folks do this time of year? (I'm always up for encountering the unusual!)

As those of you here for the summer are my prime sources for these questions, I'd like to hear your answers! If you would like, I would enjoy having you take me to what you consider some especially worthwhile and/or fun haunts.

I'd also like to start meeting community leaders of the Palm Springs/Coachella Valley area and be introduced to significant organizations. Do you have folks and groups you'd suggest I contact? Would you like to help make the introduction and/or take me to a meeting?

As we wait for the fall - and our greater congregation - to return and for our life together to get back into full swing (including "cottage meetings" that the Staff Parish Relations Committee will be setting up so I



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *The church office will be closed on Wednesday, July 4th.*
- *Please consider donating any gently used warm-weather clothing.*
- *What is lectio divina? Come find out at Open Doors Adult Sunday School!*
- *We have a new District Superintendent starting July 1.*

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can officially start getting to know you all), I plan to be out and about the stomping grounds that shape our ministry. I will also be out introducing myself to those of our UMCPs family who are currently homebound. If you stop by my office at the church and I'm not in, look around the neighborhood. I'll be the one carrying a pink parasol!

I also very much look forward to getting to know you as we begin worshipping together. One of the things I most enjoy doing to get to know a congregation is inviting its members' suggestions for sermons. So, let me know! What text would you personally really like to be the subject of a sermon? Maybe it's one of those oddball scriptures you've never understood, or one that you have such difficulty accepting, or something you especially like but because it's not in the prescribed lectionary you never get to hear discussed from the pulpit. Perhaps you have a question on Christian lifestyle or what's going on in the world for which you'd like to hear my thoughts.

Your questions and preaching suggestions are ALWAYS going to be helpful as I discern what I'm called to say as your shepherd, so please never hesitate to pass them along. In addition, I'd like to have our "Fifth Sunday" worship regularly feature a sermon from your suggestions. Our first "Fifth Sunday" service will be July 29, and it will be fun for us all to discover upon what text the sermon will be based! Check upcoming communiques as to where the brightly decorated "Sermon Suggestion Box" can be found.

Okay, that's it for now. I've got to get back to packing. (I need to work up a bit of a sweat to counteract the shivers! :)) Look forward to seeing you SOON!!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED WEDNESDAY

In observance of the Fourth of July, the church office will be closed Wednesday, July 4th. Have a safe holiday!



THANK YOU, CHURCH FAMILY



Last month, the church asked for help stocking our closets for our guests who visit during our feeding programs. You responded generously, and we have been able to stock the closet with clothes! Thank you for your generosity! But the work doesn't end there. If you would like to donate gently used warm-weather clothing, we would greatly appreciate it! Donations can be dropped off during church office hours. Blessings!

LECTIO DIVINA— AN ANCIENT SPIRITUAL PRACTICE FOR THE MODERN AGE

Rob Bell, in a video series called “NOOMA,” posed a thought provoking rhetorical question that has stuck with me, “Maybe the question isn’t whether or not God is still speaking to us today, but rather, whether or not we are still listening.”

On Sunday, July 1st the Open Doors Adult Sunday School will be discussing that very question, does God still speak to us today? Personally, I believe God is as vocal as ever, but we have just become more skilled at drowning out the voice.



The ancient practice of Lectio Divina reminds us of the simplicity and importance of talking with God. Prayer, just like reading scripture, is not a one-sided monologue. Prayer and reading scripture invite us into dialogue with the Divine.

Consider joining in this Sunday as we learn about the four-part process of Lectio Divina, which is Latin for Divine Reading. It involves reading the same passage or story four separate times, and approaching the scripture differently during each pass.

Lectio (Read) – at the most basic level, what is happening in the story or passage, take in the basic plot, setting, and characters. Is there a single word or thought that stands out to you in the excerpt?

Meditatio (Reflect or Meditate) – Allow time and space for God to speak to you. Avoid the urge to analyze or study the text, just allow the words to speak to you. Reflect or meditate on that word or thought that speaks to you.

Oratio (Respond or Prayer) – What do you think God is saying to you through this? Now respond to that tug on your heart, voice your thoughts and feelings to God in response to the passage.

Contemplatio (Rest) – Allow time and space one again for God to speak to you. If this spiritual practice is like a conversation, this is the portion where you let God have the final remarks. Rest, and take in the new insight.

All are welcome Sunday, July 1st from 9:00- 9:45am to come and learn more about this spiritual practice and to try it out as a group.

Jeremy Wells, Director of Christian Education

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NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT JULY 1

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I pray that God's grace is manifesting itself in so many wonderful ways in your ministry as we move toward the completion of another appointment year and the beginning of new ministries July 1.



I know that you will warmly welcome the Rev. Melissa MacKinnon as she comes to lead the East District. May she be blessed in this ministry as she works among you! You will come to respect and love her!

I thank you for your kind expressions of care and gratitude as I transition into the retired relationship. The work of a Superintendent is challenging but I have so appreciated the opportunity to get to know so many clergy colleagues, church leaders (especially members of the SPRC) and members of congregations. Working with you all has been a blessing! You will be in my heart and in my prayers as I trust the amazing grace of the Holy Spirit will abide with each of you!

May God bless our life and work together!

Rev. Jan Wiley (Retiring) East District Superintendent

A CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

Pastor Jane will be joining us for our Church Council meeting that will take place on Tuesday, July 17th at 7 pm. Church Council meetings are open to the entire congregation. Attending this Church Council meeting is a great opportunity to hear from Pastor Jane and get to know her a little more. We hope to see you on the 17th at 7 pm!



JULY BIRTHDAYS



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|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 2- Kai Sierra | 12- Jean Smoot | 22- Caroline Ryan-Moore | 27- Lemuel Carlos |
| 3- Sonja Bjugstad | 14- Poul Bahnson | 22- Paul Thompson | 30- Dick Prior |
| 4- Richard Clapp | 15- Luke Worrell | 23- Dee Wescott | 31- Ernest Stroman |
| 5- Betty Cahill | 16- Aileen Houghton | 23- Stanley Potrude | 31- Ruth Messenger |
| 7- Ann Marie Lekakis | 19- Darlene Ockerman | 24- Sandra Froehlich | |
| 8- Jaci Davis | 19- Keith Young | 24- Marjorie Aikens | |
| 9- Galen Sheetz | 20- Kali Veikune | 25- Sue Gonzalez | |
| 11- Nina Davis | 21- Jim Abel | 27- Craig Stumpenhorst | |
| 12- Shelli Lackey | 21- Doug Purcell | | |

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1- Mel & Ruth Messenger | 21- Stanley & Lucy Pedida |
| 7- Dick & Jane Prior | 24- David Ponsar & Terry Anderson |
| 7- Terri-Rae Elmer | 28- Bill & Lois Giannopoulos |
| 21- Ed & Marjorie Hartman | 31- Roland & Annette Funk |



THE NERDY CHRISTIAN— SOMETHING TO PONDER

Just like a hot water faucet that doesn't immediately deliver hot water, there is a time gap between the cause (turning the handle) and when we experience the effect (receiving hot water). The tendency is to overcorrect while waiting for the effect (so, turning the water even hotter), and the solution becomes a new problem (burned hands). Cause and effect are not closely related in time and space.



Excerpt from *Canoeing the Mountains - Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* by Tod Bolsinger

