

# THE MESSENGER

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## Talking Church Has Begun!

I have had the pleasure of attending a gathering at the home of Keith and Sonja Bjugstad (down the street from the church) as well as a gathering in the conference room of Cabot Yerxa Elementary School in Desert Hot Springs (where Jody Diaz serves as Vice Principal). Two very different locales in the Palm Springs area, and local UMCPS members welcoming me at each!

Some of the folks in attendance have been part of the church community for a very long time, and some are brand new to the congregation and the city. I've very much enjoyed hearing about extra-special ministry experiences of the past as well as desires for what would be great for the church to add as we move ahead. Also observations about the present needs of area and great sparks of inspiration as to what we might try or try again, to live out our mission transform the world as the church transformed. It's all been very rich and fun.

There are several more "Let's Have Church" cottage meetings scheduled, and I hope to see you at one of them. If you can't make the one scheduled in your zip code, feel free to come to one that better fits your schedule. (You won't need to present a piece of mail showing proof of your address to gain entrance!) If you can't make any of the gatherings being presently scheduled, not to worry; we will be holding more once "The Season" begins.

I also want to say how much I have enjoyed my visits to members of the UMCPS community who are presently home-bound. I haven't made contact with everyone yet. If you have not heard from me by the end of the month, please let me know. Even if a visit at this time is not going to work for you, we can enjoy some chat on the phone.

Thanks to all!

Pastor Jane



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Do you know about the new communication cards?*
- *We had five folks join the church on September 2nd! Welcome to the church family!*
- *New small group study on scary words in the bible starts in October!*
- *Make sure you get your sermon suggestions in for the fifth Sunday sermon!*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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## WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THESE NEW CARDS?!

If you've attended worship within the last couple weeks, you might be wondering two things:

1. What happened to the red books?
2. What's the deal with this card?



These cards are our communication cards- a card for folks to fill out when they would like to connect with the church and receive information about some of the programs and opportunities available. There is also a space on the back of the card for prayer requests.

These connection cards have taken the place of the red books. We hope that newcomers will fill out these cards, and our regular attenders will only fill these out to update their contact information or prayer requests. This card does not need to be filled out weekly!

We have already received some wonderful responses and information from folks that the red books just did not facilitate.

Questions? Email [admin@umcps.org](mailto:admin@umcps.org).

## SCARY WORDS OF THE BIBLE



Registration is now open for a new Halloween inspired small group study where we will explore some of the scariest words in the Bible! What does it actually mean when Jesus tells Peter to "Get behind me Satan." Or what was Jesus talking about when he spoke of "hell" where there's weeping and gnashing of teeth? Have you ever wondered what the book of Revelation means when it describes the "apocalypse?"

In this small group we will attempt to remove the mysterious and scary elements from these Biblical concepts. You will learn where these words and concepts came from and how they've changed from the time of Jesus to our current day understandings.

Week 1: Hell - Gehenna - Sheol

Week 2: Devil - Satan - Adversary

Week 3: Apocalypse - Revelation - Tribulation

The study begins Monday October 8 at 6:00pm, or Wednesday October 10th at 10:00am and will go for three weeks. Register online at:

<http://umcps.org/get-involved/scary-words-of-the-bible/>

## SAVE THE DATE– PHOTOGRAPHY SESSIONS AVAILABLE SOON!

We are working on a new directory for the church, which means we will be taking pictures soon!

Church directories help create community by helping us put faces to names and by also giving members access to contact information, which helps encourage communication and connection outside of Sunday services.



Make a mental note that November 12 through the 14, we will have photographers from Lifetouch at the church to take your picture for our new church directory. More information about reserving your photography session will come out soon!

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## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!



Last Sunday, we were blessed to have five people join our congregation. Welcome, and we are so happy to have you as part of the church!

From left to right: Pastor Jane, Jean Utley, David Anderson, Linda Douglas, Cecil Douglas, Bill Ford

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## BIRTHDAY AND BUS PASSES

Help us celebrate Pastor Jane's 60th Birthday on Sunday September 30, 2018.

There will be a Cake and Coffee Reception during coffee/fellowship hour hosted by the Mission Team.

If you would like to, please bring a card. If you would like to do more, please contribute to a fund we have created that will allow us to purchase one-day bus passes for the homeless in our community to help them get to the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission and other helpful places.

To donate to this fund, please write "Bus Pass" on your check and/or offering envelope, in honor of Pastor Jane's birthday.



## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

16– Jody Diaz  
 16– Dee Childs  
 22– Pastor Jane Voigts  
 27– Alex Lallman  
 28– Anthony Childs  
 30– Jack Davis

happy  
 birthday  
 to you!

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY STARTS NEXT MONTH!

Dust off your needles, the Prayer Shawl Ministry is starting up again next month!

The group will meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, from 1 to 3 pm. All are welcome to attend. These wonderful knitters and crochet-ers are even willing to teach you!



## “KNOW YOUR STORY” NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!



By popular request, we have made the current study "Know Your Story" available in an online format. You can visit our church website at

<http://umcps.org/get-involved/know-your-story/> and find a weekly devotional that will help you follow along as we work on creating our own spiritual autobiography.

You are encouraged to find a partner or your own small group community to share in this practice together. Updates will be available each Thursday for you to follow along. Week 1 has already been posted.

If you have any questions, email Jeremy Wells, Director of Christian Education, at [jeremy@umcps.org](mailto:jeremy@umcps.org).

## FIFTH SUNDAY SERMON– WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

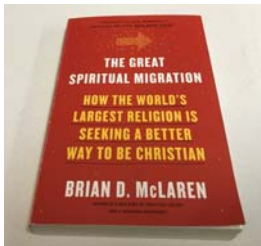
As Pastor Jane announced back in July, the sermon topic for every fifth Sunday will be determined by you! Our next fifth Sunday will be September 30th, so be sure to drop off your sermon ideas this week! The box is located just outside the sanctuary.

Have a fabulous sermon idea now? Email [pastorjane@umcps.org](mailto:pastorjane@umcps.org)



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## SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE RETURNS NEXT MONTH!



Sunday Night Live, the church book study group, is back in session starting Sunday, October 7th. The book study will go October 7th through November 18th, from 5 to 6:30 pm.

Questions? Email [admin@umcps.org](mailto:admin@umcps.org)

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## WHAT KNOWLEDGE IS OF MOST WORTH?

Recent events have helped the United Methodist Church of Palm Springs to be on the way to becoming well poised for potential changes based on knowledge and beliefs the membership considers to be of worth. Our new leader, Pastor Jane, uses soft approaches for gaining a broad spectrum of information about our church organization, programs and members. Her style is commendable. She has invited the membership to interact with her in open committee meetings, at Fellowship and Messy Church and through individual appointments. Monthly in Church Council meetings she shares her vision. The current cottage meetings add another opportunity for members to meet and talk with our Pastor and to also learn more about each other. Her approach is providing her with a wealth of information for use when she might invite the congregation to determine what knowledge is of most worth and apply it for the future of our church.

Jack Blackburn, Chair of Church Council

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## FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE NEXT SUNDAY!

Have you gotten your flu shot yet? Well, here's your chance!

Next Sunday, September 23rd, folks from Coachella Valley Pharmacy will be available after worship for those interested in getting a flu shot. Fill out a form ahead of time with your insurance information, drop it by the church office, and then just show up for your shot after worship in the Christian Education building.

No insurance? No problem! Flu shots will cost \$22. Forms are available in the church office.



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

UMCPS.ORG

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Our History

It was September of 1962 when the first members of the United Methodist Church of Palm Springs held their first service of worship at Weifel's Mortuary. Temple Isaiah then invited the new congregation to use their sanctuary for worship on Sunday mornings. The Methodists worshiped at Temple Isaiah from 1962 to 1965 rent free. During those three years, the friendship between the congregations grew, and after 50 years there is still a very strong bond between the UMC of Palm Springs and Temple Isaiah. We celebrated these 50 years together in worship in January 2012.

Our Mission

We are a congregation committed to justice and reconciliation for all\* people, regardless of age race, economic or marital status, gender identity or sexual orientation.

May this worship experience nourish your soul, fill your heart and lift your spirit.

**\* ALL MEANS ALL**

Our Vision

Inspiring the world as passionate followers of Jesus Christ so all may experience

God's life-giving love.

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THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER

Each Sunday on the back of the worship bulletin, we provide a list of our friends and loved ones who are in need of prayer. Can you take a moment to pray for these folks?

Please email the church office at [admin@umcps.org](mailto:admin@umcps.org) if you would like to add a name to the list. Names remain on the list until the office is notified to remove the name.



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DON'T FORGET YOUR RECYCLABLES!

The church collects bottles and cans to help support our feeding programs. If you happen to have these items in your home, would you consider bringing them to the church? They can be dropped off in the church office Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 4 pm, or on Sunday mornings. During one month, our feeding programs provide meals for over 400 hungry people. Your bottles and cans can go a long way in supporting this program!

