

# THE MESSENGER

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## Talking Church

I have reached the two-month mark as your pastor! And I can say whole- heartedly I am having a wonderful and wonder-full time!

I want to thank you for all the ways you "are church." You love and care for one another deeply; you love and care deeply for those who come to our campus to be fed; you have curious, open minds and hearts (I couldn't believe how long our "what's weird about this scripture" portion of my sermon the other Sunday lasted...so many of you had good observations and wanted to share...and, yes, receive a pack of Smartees!) I am so excited to see what God has in store next for us all.

That's why I'm especially looking forward to now "talking church" with you. I look forward to learning about what of our church's history you'd like me to know. I'd like to know your special memories. Also your deep hopes for the future. Ideas you have. Also your questions and even your fears. Whatever you'd like to share.

And I'm also looking forward to coming to your neighborhood for our visits. I look forward to learning more about what life is like where you live; anything about your community you'd like to share. Ironically, I spent last September adventuring through Europe. This year, I get to adventure through the Coachella Valley. All very good!

I hope you will be able to be a part of one of our "Let's Talk Church" cottage gatherings. If you can't, please let me know and let's plan a personal visit together.

See you in church! And around town!

Pastor Jane



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *The Church Council has been busy! Read some of the things accomplished this year.*
- *"Let's Talk Church" is a great way to get to know your neighbors and Pastor Jane.*
- *There is a youth movie night on September 8th!*
- *Unable to attend the most recent small group study? You can follow along on our website!*

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## THE LATEST FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council is the primary decision making body of our church and we have been having a busy year!

The council has been a busy and faithful one in 2018, and anyone is invited to attend.

The following list represents some areas of discussion, study and decisions made by the Council in this year:

- Approved the church budget for 2018
- Approved Pastor Jane's salary and benefits package
- In an adjourned Charge Conference, approved Dick Clapp as Chair of Finance and Keith Bjugstad Chair of SPRC
- Approved the appointment of a committee to investigate and propose the process/concept for a change of our church name (The committee is still deliberating it's charge) Chair: David Tallman
- Approved a plan presented by the Mission Team for a Feeding Task Group to study and recommend changes for our feeding programs. The Task Group completed its work which was approved by the chairs: Lois Giannopoulos and Tim Griffin
- Approved the hire of Erin Forgét-Wells as Church Secretary
- Approved the appointment of a task group to study and recommend technological changes and improvements for the church sanctuary and worship experience; Leader: Jeremy Wells
- Recommended the exploration of our church's representation in Palm Springs' parades in addition to the Pride Parade
- Approved the revision of the print version and a new electronic version of our Church Directory (The last Directory was published in 2015) Leaders: David Tallman and Erin Forgét-Wells
- Received a report concerning the new church web site

Pastor Jane has jumped right in, and Church Council meetings provide a unique opportunity to discuss issues with her. During the August meeting, among other things, she spoke of the seven areas where we can all strengthen our discipleship.

Church Council meetings take place the third Tuesday of the month and are open to all who wish to attend.

Blessings,  
Jack Blackburn, Church Council Chair



## CHECK OUT THE LIBRARY

Have you found yourself realizing you might be spending too much time in front of a screen lately? Why not take a break from technology and escape in a book from the church library? Reading regularly not only makes you smarter, it also helps improve memory function!

Swing by the library before or after worship on Sundays or during the week from 9 am to 4 pm to check out books by James Patterson, Clive Cussler, Danielle Steele, David Baldacci, and many more!




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## YOUTH GROUP MOVIE NIGHT SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH



Saturday, September 8th. 3:00 - 6:00 pm in the church Fellowship Hall

All high school-aged youth are invited to a new youth group kickoff movie night! We will be watching one of the most renowned Anime films of all time, Spirited Away, by Hayao Miyazaki. There is no cost for this event. Dinner and movie snacks will be provided! We will enjoy the movie, dinner, discussion, and brainstorming of what the youth would like in their ministry during this school year. **Sign up at <http://umcps.org/get-involved/youth-movie-night>**

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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

4– Mercy Estigoy

7– Richard Dresp

10– Jim Kubath

13– Angelica Gutierrez

14– Katrina Pettersen

16– Jody Diaz

16– Dee Childs

22– Pastor Jane Voigts

27– Alex Lallman

28– Anthony Childs

30– Jack Davis



## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

10- Jim &amp; Maxine Kubath

10- Richard &amp; Sharon Dresp



## KNOW YOUR STORY ONLINE DEVOTIONAL



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 autobi-

ography.

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).

## LET'S TALK CHURCH

How many of us remember with a giggle the Church Lady (Dana Carvey) and Church Chat on Saturday Night Live? Well please don't confuse Church Chat with our new program, "Let's Talk Church!" Cottage meetings, or as we are calling them, "Let's Talk Church!" are, simply put, a time to get to know Pastor Jane and for her to get to know us. Expect conversation to center around mutual sharing of faith journeys, visions and dreams for our church, and the voicing of any fears or concerns we may have. And oh yes, because the cottage meetings are going to be structured geographically, it is also an opportunity to get know our church neighbors a little better. We will be meeting in members' homes or other neighborhood spots conducive to comfortable conversation. And did I mention these meetings are one and done? Unlike the small group offerings, which are a several week commitment, each group will meet only once.



**So why attend?** Recently I had the opportunity to explore a Bible lesson nightly with a group of adults at Vacation Bible School. My favorite part of the lesson was listening to others and their thoughts and opinions. It helped to expand my understanding of God's word and the faith stories of those around me. In the process, I became more in touch with my own faith story and developed a deeper connection to others in our church. The cottage meetings hold the same promise, the sharing of what is on our hearts and minds and deepening our relationships with each other in an atmosphere of Christian fellowship.

**How do I sign up?** This Sunday several of us will be available throughout the fellowship time to provide more information about the cottage meetings and help you sign up. There will also be a link to sign up in the Friday email entitled This Week at Our Church. Your dedicated members of the cottage meetings task force are Sonja Bjugstad, Jody Diaz, Keith Froehlich, Melinda McInerney, Doug Oostdyk, Ruth Pitts, Patty Slough, Erin Forget-Wells and of course, Pastor Jane. Let's Talk Church!

Patty Slough

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## WANTED: BELL RINGER

The bell choir needs another ringer! If you can read music and are interested, call Ed Hartman at 760-325-6298.

Rehearsals for the bell choir will begin Wednesday, September 26th at 7 pm.





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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[UMCPS.ORG](http://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!