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Provocative

"Provocative." It's a word that you probably don't think belongs in church, except perhaps if there's a dress code. And it's not under the "What to Wear" column.

When you look up "provocative" in the dictionary, you don't get what sounds like helpful answers if what you aim to be is a loving community: "causing annoyance, anger, or another strong reaction, especially deliberately." Synonyms are: "annoying," "irritating," "exasperating," "infuriating," "provoking."



Why in the world would Christians want to think, talk, pray, and plan to be more provocative?

It's a good question, one that we'll be exploring at UMCPS over the next few months.

Why??

Well, for one thing, we felt called at the beginning of last year to begin a process of Strategic Planning for our future, and the leaders we felt called to bring into our congregation to help us do that have led us to creating five "Provocative Proposals" for our future. We were encouraged to come up with significant dreams, based on who we are, what we value, what we see the world around us needs, and what we know God can do.

At a workshop in November, participants discerned five profound visions in which UMCPS sees itself 1) more holistically serving the hungry who we feed; 2) housing the poor - a problem that is evermore afflicting not only the Coachella Valley but our entire nation, 3) creating deeper avenues of love, trust, community and care to our LGBTQ neighbors, 4) revamping our approach to ministering to and with

Palm Springs youth, children, families and the elderly; and 5) developing an intentionally relevant and transformative ministry for and with those who reside in here "part time" - the reality for a large portion of our congregation and community.

While the intent in exploring these possibilities is certainly not to "annoy," "irritate," "exasperate," and the like, we have been encouraged to label them "provocative." They are intended to "provoke." So maybe there is more to that word than meets the eye, at least when you go to dictionary.com.

And there's another important thing: Jesus was provocative! He was always willing to be those above-listed "provocative" synonyms to the Powers that Be, when need be.

And the Kingdom Jesus came to proclaim was coming into being through Him was nothing if not provocative in terms of being extra-significant and extra-remarkable. His message certainly provoked lots of conversation as well as people willing to give their lives to his profound dreams er, provocative proposals!

Over the next few months, we'll be exploring that word and concept: provocative. We'll be looking at each of our remarkably provocative proposals and start developing teams to explore how we, backed by the Spirit, can bring them into reality. We'll look at how and why WE want to be more provocative in our lives, in our spirituality, in our giving - since that's the way of Jesus and the way of God's Kingdom and the way of New Life.

I look forward to some remarkable journeying with you!
Pastor Jane

Life Groups Begin February 2nd! Register Today

We believe that people are meant for community, but we also recognize that authentic community is hard to find in today's world. For ten weeks, beginning the week of February 2 through Easter, the entire UMCPs community is invited to participate in an intentional community building ministry called Life Groups.

Each week we will gather in groups of 8-12 people to share what's really going on in our lives, to pray together, to grow together, and simply *do life* together. You will find over the 10 weeks together that this new community offers strength, comfort, and an authentic expression of Christ's love in your life.

Register online at <https://umcps.org/get-involved/life-groups/> or by visiting the Welcome Table at Sunday Worship. Each group is capped off at 12 members and new groups will continually be added to ensure everyone who wants to participate can find a Life Group.

Current Open Groups (because two groups have already filled up!):

- Tuesday Morning 10:30 am at UMCPs with Doug Oostdyk
- Wednesday Evening 6:00 pm at Moxie Restaurant on Palm Canyon Dr.
- There is a third registration option: "I would like to join a life group but none of these times work for me"

Jeremy Wells, Director of Christian Education

An Invitation to Carnegie Hall

Many of you remember that the Chancel Choir participated in a major concert in June 2018 at Carnegie Hall. We have received an invitation to go back for another major concert with Pepper Choplin.

Here is the invitation from DCINY:

In recognition of your dedication to musical excellence and due to your stellar previous appearance on the DCINY Concert Series, it is with great pleasure that I extend an invitation to you and the United Methodist Church of Palm Springs Choir to participate in the World Premiere performance of The Seven Noels on the DCINY Concert Series in New York City. This performance is planned to take place on Monday, November 16, 2020 at Carnegie Hall's Isaac Stern Auditorium under the baton of Maestro Pepper Choplin. Congratulations to you and your singers on this wonderful achievement and recognition!

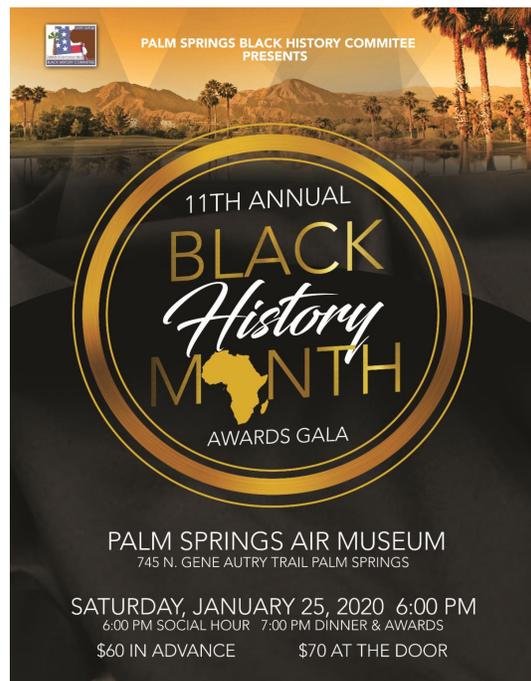
Jonathan Griffith DMA

In order to secure our option to participate we must make a commitment by the end of January. The cost to attend as a singer is \$790/person and to attend as a VIP supporter is \$395/person. We will leave on November 13 and return on November 17. We will be offering a reasonable package of flights from Palm Springs, ground travel, and hotel accommodations. Prices will depend on how many people to a room. If you are interested please see me after Sunday morning church services or email me (music@umcps.org).

Everyone who went on the last trip had an awesome time. More details will follow as we get closer to the event. If you are interested a deposit of \$200/person will be due at the end of the month and can be considered as a contribution to the church.

Thank you for supporting the music program.
Wayne Hinton, DMA

11th Annual Black History Awards Gala Will Honor Pastor Jane



Pastor Jane has been chosen as The City of Palm Springs Black History Month Committee's Clergy Person of the Year! A gala celebration of all this year's honorees is taking place on Saturday night, January 25 at the Palm Springs Air Museum. If you would like to attend the gala (and be part of one of UMCP's tables), please contact Pastor Jane ASAP about purchasing your ticket(s).

Pastor Jane thanks everyone for their support and their prayers for the Committee and the great work they do for the Palm Springs community!

Temporary Mailing Address for Larry Brown

Larry Brown has relocated to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. His temporary mailing address is

Larry Brown
General Delivery
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

Bobby Jo Valentine Concert on February 16

We are excited to welcome an incredible singer songwriter to UMCPS in February!

Save the date- Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 4:00 pm. This concert is hosted by the Christian Education team. Bobby Jo Valentine (BJV) is an incredibly talented songwriter and storyteller who will be sharing his new release "Temporary Weather."



"He's been called a hopeful, realist poet and a philosopher for the people. His songs are both earthbound and mystical, and speak to the gentle, everyday awakenings of an openhearted life.

Bobby has given a Ted Talk, has been awarded Song of the Year three times from West Coast Songwriter's Association, is an out gay advocate for equal rights for all, and has performed thousands of events around the globe."

After a sold-out show at UMCPS in 2016, we are excited to welcome him back! Consider checking out his work at BobbyJoValentine.com

Tickets will go on sale February 2nd.

The concert will be Sunday, February 16 at 4 pm in the church fellowship hall.

'Our Way Forward' Lunch January 26

To our snowbirds and all with questions: Please be part of a lunch gathering on Sunday, January 26 (following 11 am worship) in which the "Our Way Forward" Leadership Team will share what's been happening in the UMCPS strategic planning process since last April. We'd love to know your thoughts and inspirations! It should last about an hour. If you have questions, contact Pastor Jane. [Click here to email Pastor Jane.](#)

2nd Annual Birthday Bash

You are invited to the 2nd annual Birthday Bash-Potluck-Game Night in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 1 from 5 to 7 pm. Anyone with a birthday (celebrated or not, and yes, we will not be asking for your birth year) is welcome to be part of a fun, delicious, and fun evening!

Bring a dish to share (entree, salad, snacks, dessert, etc) a game if you wish, and a team spirit. You'll eat dinner at your birth month table, we'll share in conversation, food, activities, and then choose from various small group games. There is something for all ages to enjoy, friends, are welcome!

P.S. I hear birthday cake will be served as well...



Renewal of Vows Pictures



[Click here to see more pictures from the Renewal of Vows Ceremony](#)

Interested in Joining the Church?

Are you interested in becoming a member of the church? Would you like to transfer your membership from another congregation? You are always welcome!

Anytime you are ready to join the church, simply contact Pastor Jane for a meeting. This meeting is an opportunity to connect with Pastor Jane and to learn more about one another as well as the church. At that point we can determine a Sunday morning to welcome you during worship.

Questions? Interested in setting up a meeting? [Click here to email Pastor Jane.](#)

Electronic Sign-up for Altar Flowers

You can now begin signing up for altar flowers for 2020! [Click here to access the form.](#) You can also access the form on the church website (umcps.org) under "Get Involved."

Altar flowers are a wonderful way to honor a special person or a special moment in your life. All you need do is sign up for the date you would like and the church office will do the rest! The cost is \$42. The flowers are yours to take home after worship.

[Click here to request your special date.](#)

happy
birthday
to you!

January 15- James Bentley
January 15 - Bob Irwin
January 15- Joe Parisi
January 17- Dennis Gieseke
January 17- Martha Battiest
January 17- Joan Smith
January 17- Martha Latto
January 17- Eric Bahnson
January 19- Linda Douglas



January 16- Palu & Salesi
Kapukapu

January 27- Brent & Marilyn
Wisely

January 19- Dixie Wood
January 21- Carrie Allan
January 21- Nancy DeMorris
January 24- Maureen Brealey
January 24- John Long
January 29- Melinda McInerney
January 30- Bill Giannopoulos

January 29- Janet & Terry Brager

Folks Fed During Feeding Programs

Attendance for the last several weeks at Just Pancakes:

- January 5- 54 people
- January 7- 39 people
- January 12- 65 people
- January 14- 64 people

Attendance for the last several weeks at Well in the Desert as well as Desert Diner Luncheon:

- January 7- 159 meals served
- January 9- 34 people
- January 14- 181 meals served

Sunday Attendance and Fellowship Hour

Attendance for the last two weeks of worship:

- January 5- 188 (117+71)
- January 12- 208 (141+67)

Fellowship Hour Responsibilities for January:

- January 19- Finance Committee
- January 26- SPRC

