

## THE MESSENGER

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### A Hunger to Connect

It continues to be such a joy to be a part of the “Cottage Meeting” project Patty Slough and others dreamed up to help me better get to know you. On December 12th, I had the extreme pleasure of meeting in Marguerite Bidwell’s room at Hallmark with several other UMCPs parishioners (of several ages!) who jaunted over to this retirement/ assisted living facility (now Marguerite’s home) just up the street from our campus.

I have learned a lot of great things about the congregation in these Cottage Meetings. One of my big takeaways is, interestingly, the gratitude everyone has for this chance not only to get to know me better but also to get to know one another better. The message I am gleaning is that while we have a joyous time worshiping and fellowship-ing with one another on Sunday morning, there is a great hunger for more opportunities to connect with other members and friends of the congregation, get to know the folks we don’t yet know that well, and grow in Christian love.

I look forward to seeing how we can feed that hunger!

I am very grateful to Amy Bahnson, who has happily agreed to jump start a Social Events Ministry for the congregation. And I’m thrilled several folks have already jumped in to form a team that will plan simple opportunities at the church and around town for anyone and everyone to get together, enjoy beloved community, and have fun. Like you, I can’t wait!

I’m also looking forward to the opportunity on Friday night, December 21 to together attend WildLights at the Living Desert. More information on that is in another article in this newsletter. Please know if the \$12 entrance cost is a burden for you, or night driving to Palm Desert is a worry, please let the church office know. We don’t want anyone left out because of financial or travel considerations.

As you will learn from reading the sharings below, there are many opportunities for us to be with one another as Christmas approaches, as the journey to Christ’s birth in Bethlehem (and Scrooge’s Christmas Day transformation!) gets ever closer to becoming reality. I very much look forward to being on the road to all of it with you. And with your friends! And with all who will make the UMCPs their home for this very special Season.

Pastor Jane



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *You are invited to a pop-up cottage meeting at Windsor @ 2 pm on the 19th.*
- *Join us for a church outing to the Wild-Lights @ the Living Desert on the 21st!*
- *Save the date for a special birthday bash on January 12th!*
- *The church is collecting clothing for Cabot Yerxa Elementary School. Drop off your donations today!*
- *Can you help before and during Christmas Eve services?*

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS & COCOA– SUN. DEC. 16 @ 3:30 PM

All are invited to bring the joy of Christmas to our community with some traditional Christmas caroling and a soup/sandwich potluck dinner! We will have two different caroling groups available for you to choose from, either walking around the neighborhood or driving to visit some of our members who are living in retirement homes and in assisted living facilities.



We will then all come together for a potluck dinner and games back at church. What a great opportunity to invite your friends!

No need to RSVP! Just show up Sunday at 3:30 pm with soup or sandwiches to share! If you are willing and able to provide transportation for caroling, contact Jeremy Wells at [jeremy@umcps.org](mailto:jeremy@umcps.org).

## CHURCH OUTING– WILDLIGHTS @ THE LIVING DESERT

Do you like Christmas lights? Do you love the zoo? Do you like spending time with friends? Then join us Friday, December 21st for a church outing to WildLights at the Living Desert.

Some folks will meet for dinner prior to the WildLights. Dinner will be at Buffalo Wild Wings located at 72-920 CA-111, Palm Desert, CA 92260. Meet at 5:30 pm. If you prefer, you can meet the group at the Living Desert at 47900 Portola Ave, Palm Desert, CA 92260. Please RSVP so we know who is attending! Contact the church office at 760.327.5931 or [admin@umcps.org](mailto:admin@umcps.org)

## YEAR-LONG BIBLE STUDY COMING IN FEBRUARY!



Disciple Bible Study is a one-year study working through the entirety of the Bible, from the creation story to the New Jerusalem in Revelation. This unique study will meet 34 times during the year, and we will utilize video streaming to allow our snowbirds and part-year residents to participate fully as well.

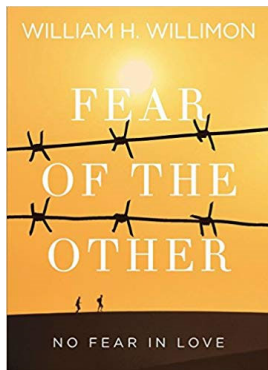
If you are interested in this study co-lead by Pastor Jane Voigts and Director of Christian Education Jeremy Wells or have any questions, please contact Jeremy via email at [Jeremy@umcps.org](mailto:Jeremy@umcps.org) or by phone at 760-327-5931. The dates and times of the sessions will be scheduled to accommodate the group who signs up.

## CHRISTMAS CANTATA NEXT SUNDAY!

One of the best parts of the Christmas season is the music! Join us next Sunday the 23rd as the choir performs *Come Now to Bethlehem* (by Dale Wood, arranged by Douglas E. Wagner) for their annual Christmas cantata. Experience the story of Christ's birth through a contemporary arrangement of Christmas carols, bringing new life to a familiar story. The choir will perform at both the 9 am and 11 am services. May the music bring you joy and help refocus your attention on the true meaning of Christmas as we journey together toward the birth of Jesus.

## OVERCOMING FEAR— NEW SMALL GROUP IN JANUARY!

Do you ever feel like the world is telling you that you are supposed to fear the stranger, to fear the immigrant, and fear the "other?" In 2019, you are invited to kick off the New Year with a study by United Methodist Bishop and popular author William H. Willimon that will help you



conquer these false narratives and live a life of hope and joy that's found in loving your friends, loving the stranger, and even loving your enemies.

Do you want to move from simply tolerating the other, to a place of embracing the stranger as Jesus taught? Do you want to shift away from fearing change towards embracing the ever-changing movements of the Spirit in this world?

Offerings will be available the week of January 14th, January 21st, and January 28th. More details to come!

## POP UP COTTAGE MEETING DECEMBER 19TH

Looking for an opportunity to talk to Pastor Jane about the church? Well, then, "Let's Talk Church!" at one of these pop up cottage meeting opportunities.

Cottage meetings are structured to be one time, small groups of 6-10 people, meeting in a relaxed and informal environment for approximately an hour and a half. These meetings are a great opportunity to get to know Pastor Jane as you share faith journeys, as well as hopes and dreams for the church. Sign up by emailing [admin@umcps.org](mailto:admin@umcps.org), or by calling the church office at 760.327.5931.



**Wednesday, December 19 at 2:00 at The Windsor**

December doesn't work for you? Stay tuned for the January schedule coming soon.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

16- Lorinda Church      31- Juan Gutierrez  
21- Chrysta Wong-      31- Charles Stebbins  
Sierra  
24- Simon Hughes  
24- Rachel Holder  
25- Vijith Chandrasena  
27- Carlene Hart  
28- Roland Funk  
28- Susan Lallman  
29- Silvia Clinkscales  
31- Betty Battista

happy  
birthday  
to you!

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

20- Sandy & Keith Froehlich  
23- Nina & Jack Davis  
28- Sarah & Richard Clapp  
29- Joe & David Dean



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## ANGELS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

We are having two worship services on Christmas Eve- a family service at 5:30 pm and a candlelight service at 10 pm- and we need some help! We are in need of:

- Parking lot attendants- smile, wave, and help guests find parking in both the east and west lots
- Greeters
- Ushers
- Luminary lighters- help light the luminaries that line the paths to the sanctuary

Contact the church office at 760.327.5931 or [admin@umcps.org](mailto:admin@umcps.org) if you feel called to help.

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## CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY PLAY



At the 5:30 Christmas Eve Service we will be offering a brief Christmas play inspired by Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." There are speaking and non-speaking roles available for all ages (that means you too, adults)!

If you would like to be a part of this Christmas production, please contact Jeremy Wells at [jeremy@umcps.org](mailto:jeremy@umcps.org) All are welcome to

participate!

## CHILDREN'S CLOTHING DRIVE FOR CABOT YERXA

The church is collecting children's clothing for Cabot Yerxa Elementary School in Desert Hot Springs:

- Clothes - pants, shorts, shirts, jackets, underwear in sizes 5-6, 6-8, 8-10, 10-12
- Shoes in sizes 13, 1, 2, 3
- Socks- youth sizes



Accidents happen and sometimes kids need a change of clothes during the school day. Unfortunately this means that the parents often take the child home for the day, which means missed learning time. These clothing donations will help keep the kids in the classroom. Donations can be brought to the church Sundays through Thursdays.

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## NEW MEMBER LUNCH- JANUARY 6TH

Would you like to learn more about joining the church, Methodism, discipleship, and faith? Join Pastor Jane for a 'New Member Exploration' where we will explore all these topics and more in a safe environment. You can also ask questions and get to know some leaders of the church. Lunch will be provided.

**Sign up online at [umcps.org/new-here/new-member-lunch](http://umcps.org/new-here/new-member-lunch)**

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## SAVE THE DATE- BIRTHDAY BASH JANUARY 12TH, 5-7 PM



Come one, come all to the first event of the year hosted by the new church social group, the "Merry Methodists."

The first annual "Birthday Bash" will be held Saturday, January 12th from 5- 7 pm in the church Fellowship Hall, where we will be celebrating YOU and all church members in a fun celebration. Come find out who shares your birthday month, play games of skill and chance, learn about upcoming social events, and have your cake (and eat it too)! In true Methodist fashion, this will be a potluck event, so bring your favorite dish or dessert to share!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 12th from 5-7 pm. Email the church at [admin@umcps.org](mailto:admin@umcps.org) to RSVP and include your birthday.





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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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FREE TO A GOOD HOME

There are two wheelchairs and one walker available to a good home. Contact the church office if you are interested!

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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

We hope you can join us for worship this Christmas Eve!

There is a family service at 5:30 pm and a candlelight service with communion at 10 pm.

Merry Christmas!

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CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

The church office will be closed from Tuesday, December 25th through Saturday, December 29th.

We pray that you have a blessed Christmas season!

