

# THE MESSENGER

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 19 OCTOBER 1, 2018

## Are Your Ears Burning?

Perhaps you have heard me say (because I've been saying it frequently these days), "If you feel your ears burning, it's because I'm bragging on my congregation to someone!"

And I'm only sort-of kidding. That sudden burn you feel may still be because of desert summer temps (although they've cooled significantly, so maybe not!). And such thinking is up there with rabbit's feet and sitting in the proper position to ensure a Cubs (or "your team here") victory.

Nevertheless it's true. I am singing your praises to all who ask how my new appointment is going so far. I am not only having a great, fun time; but I'm constantly awed by how dedicated, energetic, open-minded, kind and wise you are in the various ways you minister, lead, and love.

And transform! Right now, our campus is undergoing fantastic improvements of all sorts. A brand new kitchen. Solar panels. New improved lighting for our parking lot. And it's all made possible by an ongoing Glory Campaign that has already and continues to make our facilities excellently ready to serve all who seek to worship, be fed, and find space for realizing dreams for God's realm...especially in the Coachella Valley. I can't thank our Trustee Chair Steve Buechler and the whole, super-committed Board of Trustees for all they are doing at present. I invite you to thank them, too!

Next Sunday, October 7, we will be celebrating - again, and this time fully officially! - my coming to the United Methodist Church of Palm Springs to serve as your pastor. It promises to be a very special day, with a delicious catered lunch (amidst the exciting construction!) following worship. I hope, if you are able, you will be able to join in the joy.

And even if not, better get ready to put more ice on your ears....

See you in church, and around town!

Pastor Jane



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Scary Word Study Starts October 8th! Sign up on the church website.*
- *It's okay to stand up, socialize, and leave during the postlude now!*
- *We are accepting applications for reading volunteers!*
- *Prayer shawl ministry and the United Methodist Women start meeting again!*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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## SCARY WORDS IN 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. Sign up on our church website at <http://umcps.org/get-involved/scary-words-of-the-bible/>

## TO LEAVE OR NOT TO LEAVE, THAT IS THE QUESTION!

I have been a church organist for many years and in every church there was a postlude that functioned as exit music for the congregation to leave the sanctuary. When I came to the United Methodist Church of Palm Springs, I learned there was a tradition for the congregation to stay seated during the performance of the postlude. I was happy to oblige and soon found myself trying to find more and more dramatic music to perform for the postlude to entertain those who were listening.

My personal feeling, and one shared by Pastor Jane and the staff, is that the service should end with the singing of "Let There Be Peace On Earth." Everyone is standing, holding hands and ready to exchange greetings and conversation as they move to share fellowship. Rather than ask everyone to sit and listen to an exit music performance, I will just play some simple music to accompany the congregation as it leaves the sanctuary. It may be a reprise of an earlier hymn from the service or a simple short work.

It is fine if you want to sit and let the majority of people leave or converse with a friend or leave as soon as we finish singing. We hope this leads to a simpler, user friendly end of our services. Please share with me or Pastor Jane any thoughts you have about this new approach to ending our services. As always, I am happy to make your worship experience more meaningful.

Wayne Hinton, Music Director

## COTTAGE MEETINGS MYTHBUSTERS

Who ya gonna call?

O.K., now that this catchy little tune has been planted in your head for the rest of the day, we want to do some serious ghost, err, myth busting. Some questions have been asked about the cottage meetings and we are here to answer them and dispel as many ghosts, err, myths as we can.

- **What kind of time commitment is involved in the cottage meetings?**  
- It is one and done. If you attend a cottage meeting, be prepared to spend anywhere from an hour and a half to two hours for a one-time-only meeting commitment.
- **Why is it so secretive where we are going to meet and who our host will be?**  
- No secret at all. It all boils down to logistics. Scheduling Pastor Jane, the host, members, and sometimes venues is a challenge and has required puzzle-fitting and patience on all of our parts. The good news is that we now have at least one meeting scheduled in every major zip code with more to come. Our goal is to insure that everyone who wants to participate has an opportunity.
- **Is this a thinly-veiled attempt to get me to sign up for committee work?**  
- Absolutely not. It is what it is, Let's Talk Church. It is an opportunity to meet with Pastor Jane and some of your neighbors and talk about our church, what is important to you and what you hope for our future church.
- **Do I have to sign up for a cottage meeting?**  
- We hope you will want to come to a cottage meeting, but also realize that some of you have already met with Pastor Jane privately or in another setting and do not have a need at this time. It is wonderful that we have a pastor that is so available to us and you should not worry if you do not have need for a cottage meeting at this time.
- **I have transportation issues, or I am concerned that I will have difficulties navigating in a place I am not familiar with. What can I do?**  
- If you have any concerns about getting out and about, please let us know, so that we may make plans to support you. Call Erin in the church office and let her know what is going on.
- **Do I have to attend a meeting in my zip code; the time and date don't work for me.**  
- If another zip code's date and time works best for you, by all means please go to that meeting. We do ask that you sign up for the meeting you plan to attend.

**Any other questions?** Members of your Cottage Meetings Task Force are here to help you. Sonja Bjugstad, Jody Diaz, Keith Froehlich, Melinda McInerney, Doug Oostdyk, Ruth Pitts, Patty Slough, Erin Forget-Wells and Pastor Jane. **Let's Talk Church!**

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

October 1- Beda Bevington

October 3- Linda Phillips

October 3- Brent Wisely

October 3- Richard Allegra

October 4- Ruth Ritter

October 6- Amy Bahnson

October 6- Christina Reitz

October 6- Yvonne Gonzalez

October 6- Joe Dean

October 7- Salesi Kapukapu

October 9- Terry Brager

October 13- Dottie Seymour

October 16- Hapi Veikune

October 19- Juan Gutierrez

October 19- Linda Rudolph

October 20- Dick Zinnert

October 21- Vicki Nyi

October 22- Patsy Crouser

October 23- Cathy Dykstra

October 28- Tina Stormont

October 31- Lin Manuel



## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

October 1- Conrad & Judy Garvey

October 2- Stanley Potrude & Richard Allegra

October 9- Doug & Robin Purcell

October 12- Galen & Harriett Sheetz



## AIDS WALK 2018



Grab your favorite walking shoes and come join a group of friends from church who will be walking in the AIDS Walk! The walk will take place Saturday, October 20th at 8 am at Ruth Hardy Park.

This is a 5 K Walk which equals about 3.1 miles. The course is all flat and through a lovely area around the park. We will be raising funds for the Desert Aids Project (or DAP) which provides a variety of services right here in the Coachella Valley.

The DAP uses the motto to 'Care for Everyone'. Today about half of the patients and clients of the DAP do not have AIDS and are being helped and treated by this great organization.

If you would like to join the fun and walk with us, please contact Doug Oostdyk at 616-915-9924 or [d.oostdyk@outlook.com](mailto:d.oostdyk@outlook.com). Walkers of all levels and ages are welcome to join. We will be wearing our awesome tie-dye church shirts.

## COMMITTED TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education team is excited about what's going on! Over the past several weeks the entire team has been researching our community to learn how other churches are ministering to and meeting the needs of children, youth, and families. We have reached out to conference leaders about welcoming families into the life of the church and we believe that the efforts, prayer, and energy put into this project will help us be more effective at teaching the love of Christ to the greater Palm Springs area. In the coming months we will be working closely with the families in the church with children and youth as well as those families who worship at Messy Church to explore how we can expand in ministry and service.



There will be some exciting updates and changes discussed and introduced in the coming months! If this is an area of ministry in the Church that you feel passionate about please contact Jeremy Wells, the Director of Christian Education, at [jeremy@umcps.org](mailto:jeremy@umcps.org) to learn about getting involved.

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## READING VOLUNTEERS FOR CABOT YERXA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On Sunday morning, Pastor Jane shared her dream and vision for ministering to the children in Desert Hot Springs at Cabot Yerxa Elementary School. In case you missed it, we would like to have volunteers read and spend time with the kids at the school.

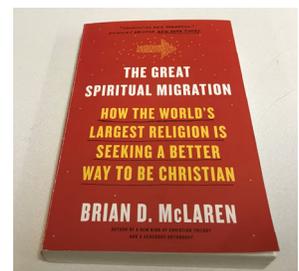
There was an amazing outpouring of interest and support for this program and, for that, we thank you! If you have filled out a volunteer form, please be sure to turn it in to the church office by Thursday, October 4th.

We are still looking for volunteers and for someone who feels called to drive this ministry. If you would like to be a volunteer, visit <http://volunteers.psusd.us/> and fill out the form (please make sure to select Non-Supervisory Volunteer). If you would like to lead this ministry, email [admin@umcps.org](mailto:admin@umcps.org) to let the office know.

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## SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE RETURNS OCTOBER 7TH

Sunday Night Live, our 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. There are two books available for purchase in the church office (\$13 each).





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## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY RETURNS OCTOBER 10TH

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

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



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[UMCPS.ORG](http://UMCPS.ORG)

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## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



Summer has passed and fall is here, so it's time for the United Methodist Women to become active with their mission work once again. We will meet on October 3rd at 10am. The kitchen in the fellowship hall will be under construction during that time so we will meet in the church atrium.

Roselie and Patsy are responsible for the program and devotion. They have Anne Solemen and Dorothy of Twenty Nine Palms speaking about hats. We want all ladies to bring their favorite hat or a hat that has a memory from your past. All ladies of the church are welcome to attend. A lunch will be served. Looking forward to seeing you there!

The East District United Methodist Women had a meeting on September 22nd at West Covina United Methodist Church. The speaker was the newly appointed East District Superintendent, Rev. Melissa Roux MacKinnon. Four ladies from our unit were in attendance, Lorna Range, Rosalie Stottlemeyer, Sharon Riemann and Vera Glur.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Vera Glur, President of the UMW