

THE MESSENGER

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Fun and Beloved Community

This was my first Thanksgiving in Palm Springs, and I must say, it was glorious! I can't tell you what a joy it was to be part of the Thanksgiving feast we put on for our greater community.

Walking into Fellowship Hall happily decorated in a Thanksgiving theme, I saw nothing but smiles. From those at the welcome table making me a name tag, to those in our spanking new kitchen, so looking forward to serving the myriad of home-cooked courses, to those still setting out the desserts, to those excitedly introducing the friends they brought to the friends they already knew, to those who we regularly serve on our "Just Pancakes" mornings and "Desert Diner" afternoons. Everyone knew a fun time of beloved community would be had.

I had a great time chatting and better getting to know so many! And that's what everyone was doing. And that's what Thanksgiving is all about - being grateful for many things, but most importantly FRIENDS.

I'm looking forward to my first Christmas season, too! Having spent the last 5 winters in Iowa, I'm very much looking forward to seeing Santas flying over palm trees and nativity scenes amidst the cacti and yucca.

I am most especially looking forward to preparing for Jesus' coming with you. The season of preparation, Advent, has a fun theme this year: Scrooge! Mr. Jeremy is leading several groups in a creative study: "The Redemption of Scrooge," and my sermons through December will also focus on how the Scrooge in us and in our world today can find the joyous transformation that Christ and Christmas are powered to bring.

I hope you will be part of our journey to the manger this year! And bring your friends! There's lots more fun and beloved community at UMCPS to be had!!

Pastor Jane



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Have you made your way onboard the Steward-Ship? There's still time!*
- *Did you know 10% of your body heat escapes through your head? Dress warmly and read more winter safety tips!*
- *We are going Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 16th!*
- *Can you help before and during Christmas Eve services?*

TIME, TALENTS, AND TITHING

Hello cast, crew, and passengers! The Steward-Ship has been back in port for two weeks now. I want to thank all of you who have returned your pledge cards for your hard work as we move toward tithing together. Don't fret if you haven't turned in your pledge card, there is still time! Our goal for this year was to place emphasis on garnering your support for the church through your generous offerings of your time, talents, and tithes by getting one-hundred households to pledge their commitment to God, Church, and our community.



As of last count, we have missed the mark with only 70 households pledging their commitment. However, as Albert Einstein once said, "In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity." Our Steward-Ship is in need for your gift that allows our cast, crew, and passengers to promise something for everyone. Your crew are busy at work planning the course to empower our ministries to reach farther than the four walls of our sanctuary. We need your pledge, so we may set our course for adventure. With God as our Captain, we have accomplished so many great things together. Look at what we have accomplished in the past three years: we have installed new solar panels, gave our restrooms a make-over, installed new chairs in the alcove, renovated our kitchen, installed desert landscaping, and much, much more. So now our church has had her face lift, it is time to invest in what brings us all together- sowing our love and our community.

Whether you are a steward for God, a crew member keeping the decks clean, or passenger along for the ride, our next cruise is sure to be exciting and filled with plenty of love! As Anne Frank said, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." Are you ready for an open smile on a friendly shore? If you have not done so already, complete your pledge card to show your support with your pledge of your time, talents, and movement toward tithing regardless of how large or small. Make your commitment now!

Stewie the Steward, a.k.a. Bryan Quinton

Co-Chair of Stewardship

REDEMPTION OF SCROOGE– A NEW ADVENT STUDY!



It's not too late to sign up for this fun and inspiring 3-week Advent study based on Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol." Advent is the season we prepare our hearts for the Christmas miracle, this year you are invited to get ready through the visitations of the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future!

Three offerings are available. Each group will meet for three weeks beginning the week of Dec. 3rd:

- Mondays at 6:00 pm at the home of Jeremy and Erin in Cathedral City. (Dec. 3, 10, & 17)
- Tuesdays at 6:00 pm at the home of Ernie Stroman in Palm Springs. (Dec. 4, 11, & 18)
- Wednesday at 10:00 am in the Christian Education Building at church. (Dec. 5, 12, & 19)

Directions to the home group studies will be sent out prior to the start of the study

Sign up at umcps.org/get-involved/advent-study

WINTER SAFETY TIPS

During the winter months cold temperatures and wet weather can make life challenging. Here are a few tips that can help keep you safe:

- Avoid slipping and falling. Make sure to wear shoes with good traction and non-skid soles.
- Be fashionably safe. Carry your party shoes with you and change into them after you enter the event.
- Dress for warmth. Don't let indoor temperatures go too low. Dress in layers both inside and outdoors. Wear socks, a scarf, heavy coat, and especially a hat! Heat loss out of your head averages about 10-11% of your total body heat.
- Check the car. Get your car serviced before winter storms arrive. Check the tires, oil, antifreeze, battery, and especially the windshield wipers, as the summer heat causes wiper blades to deteriorate faster. Pack a blanket, a flashlight and water in case weather or traffic delays your trip.
- Check your home. The tendency to plug too many items (Christmas tree lights) into an extension cord increases during the holidays. Make sure you have a heavy duty extension cord that will handle the load. Toss out any frayed light cords and never plug an electric heater into a power strip! The outlet can overheat, causing it to short-circuit and potentially catch fire.



Please stay safe and enjoy the Holidays!

Carlene Hart

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



All are invited to come help bring the joy of Christmas to our community with some traditional Christmas caroling and a potluck dinner! We will have two different groups available for you to choose from, either walking around the neighborhood and singing to our church neighbors, or driving to visit some of our members who are homebound, 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!

If you are willing and able to provide transportation for caroling, please email Jeremy Wells at jeremy@umcps.org.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2- Ric Seay
4- Rex Waggoner
4- Alan Evans
5- Mihiri Chandrasena
9- Jim Hamilton
12- Ed Hartman
13- Lucy Pedida
16- Lorinda hurch
21- Chrysta Wong-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
31- Juan Gutierrez
31- Charles Stebbins

happy
birthday
to you!

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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



ANGELS NEEDED!

Christmas Eve services are on the horizon, and the church needs a couple extra angels to help serve that evening.

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 if you feel called to help.

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 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 to change their clothes during the day. Unfortunately this means that the parents 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.

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

TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE TO CHURCH

Several people within the community have inquired about having someone pick them up and bring them to church on Sunday.

Requesting a Ride: If you need transportation on Sunday, phone the church office. If someone is available to provide a ride, we will tell you. If no one is available to pick you up, we will give you information for SunDial shared ride transit service.

Volunteering to Provide a Ride: If you are able and choose to provide transportation to & from church on Sunday morning, please contact the church office at 760.327.5931 or admin@umcps.org.

SunDial Transit Service: Several church members use SunDial services for transportation to church on Sunday morning.

SunDial riders complete an application form for eligibility to receive a SunDial ADA Certification ID Card before accessing the shared ride transit service. If you, or someone you know, needs this service, phone Customer Service, 760-343-3451 for information and to request an application form and assistance with the process.

Applications are available online or in the church office.



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PALM SPRINGS

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

UMCPS.ORG

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.

CHURCH OUTING- WILDLIGHTS!

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.

All interested folks will meet for dinner before heading to the Living Desert Zoo.

Adults \$12

Members / Military (with ID) \$10

Children (3 - 12 years old) \$10

Children (under 3) FREE *Children strollers and Wheelchairs available for a \$5 fee.

More information to come!

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Parents are invited to bring their children to the church for an evening of food, fun, and activities while they enjoy a night out (or in)! Pizza, popcorn, and drinks will be provided for kids. This is a FREE event for children! Register at umcps.org!

