

# THE MESSENGER

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 2 JANUARY 15, 2019

## An Exciting Season of Epiphany!

We are in the season of Epiphany and continue to celebrate the amazing gift of Jesus – God coming to earth in human form. As part of that celebration, we are invited to explore ways the Spirit of God is remarkably manifest in our lives and our world that we previously may not have realized. To that aim, I am excited to announce a couple of projects I am launching in a couple of weeks.

### Earth Church

This is an idea I began to develop when pastoring in San Luis Obispo, and I'm rebooting and bringing to Palm Springs. It's based on one of my favorite quotes, from 13th century Christian theologian and mystic Meister Eckhart:

*"Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things...."*

*If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature—even a caterpillar—*

*I would never have to prepare a sermon.*

*So full of God is every creature."*

I think many of us find God very alive in nature...providing sermons to us even! So that's what we'll seek to discover in an hour of "Earth Church." Whoever would like to come is invited to meet me at WhiteWater Preserve on Saturday morning, February 2nd at 10 am. We'll gather around a picnic table to do some centering prayer, maybe sing a simple song, hear a reading of scripture... and then



we'll be sent out on our own, into the beautiful natural environment around us, to see what particular "sermon" God might have for each of us that day. After about 20 minutes of listening and observing we'll gather back around our designated picnic table to share our discoveries and some snacks. You can be home by noon...or stay longer to hike more!

If you are mobility challenged and would like to participate in Earth Church, you can easily "plant yourself" on one of the several nice benches at the entrance to the preserve and there explore how God's



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Pastor Jane is working on two new projects! Will you join her for one?*
- *The church will be the new Tuesday location for Well in the Desert lunch every week. Can you help?*
- *The UMW will be having a soup fundraiser on February 3rd!*
- *Every wanted to work your way through every book of the bible AND be able to apply it to your life? Why not join the new Disciple Bible Study? Informational meeting will be Sunday, January 27th at 1 pm.*

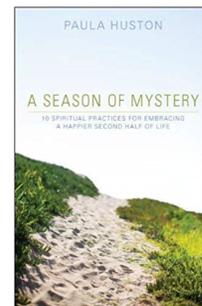
Spirit in nature is speaking to you.

Please bring friends! Earth Church is especially designed to touch those who might feel uncomfortable worshipping and exploring the Divine within the confines of church walls.

And please come to me with your questions. We'll be trying Earth Church every few months, in different natural locations, etc. It's a grand experiment...and great way for us to grow in Christ together.

### “Spirituality of Aging” Book Study

From my observations caring for my parents in Iowa over the last five years and then coming to Palm Springs – a community filled with those encountering the challenges – and gifts – of aging, I would like to offer at least one opportunity every year for all to explore how our spiritual life can enhance and transform our experience of “growing old.” Indeed, it can be the richest time in our walk with God!



My inaugural offering begins Friday, February 1. It's a study of the wonderful book, “A Season of Mystery: 10 Spiritual Practices for a Happier Second Half of Life” by Paula Huston (an award-winning Christian writer, teacher and friend who lives in Central California). The study will last for 10 weeks – if you can't make them all, come to the ones you can! We'll meet in the Christian Education Building on Friday mornings from 10 – 11:30 am. Again, bring your friends! And bring me your questions.

Whew! There are LOTS of exciting new things happening at UMCPS right now. Christ indeed is born and let us witness him growing all around us by leaps and bounds!!

Pastor Jane

### MERRY METHODISTS NEXT EVENT- FEBRUARY 10TH!



The Merry Methodists (the new social group of the church) is already hard at work planning their next event! The Merry Methodists would like to invite you on a trip to the Palm Springs Art Museum on Sunday, February 10th from 2-4 pm with a reception following in the church Fellowship Hall. This is a FREE

event open to anyone and everyone (bring your friends)! For more information, contact Amy Bahnson at [bahnsonp@aol.com](mailto:bahnsonp@aol.com).

The Merry Methodists hosted a fabulous and fun birthday party on January 12. You can see pictures of all the fun online at

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/zP399kSYotopacVv9>

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE MORE FOOD TO THE HUNGRY!

Beginning February 5th, our church will be joining four other churches in Palm Springs in hosting the Well of the Desert lunches. Our day is every Tuesday. The Well cooks the food off site, brings it to our Fellowship Hall, serves the food to our guests, and cleans up afterwards. As you can see, the staff of the Well does almost all of the work. However, to help with serving, the Well is requesting a few volunteers from our congregation.



So, would you be willing and able to assist on just one Tuesday of the month from 11:00 to 1:00? If so, kindly call or email the church office and tell Erin which Tuesday (1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th) would be best for you. I'm sure that the guests will appreciate your kindness.

## A 'SOUPER' FUNDRAISER FOR UMW ON FEBRUARY 3RD

The United Methodist Women (UMW) will be having a soup sale fundraiser on Super (or Souper!) Bowl Sunday, February 3rd. Funds raised will help support the UMW in its missional efforts throughout the world. There will be a variety of soup selections available for \$5 for a 16 oz container. First come, first served!!

### Selections available:

- Turkey Wild Rice in a cream base
- Ground Turkey Chili in a rich tomato base
- Split Pea with Ham
- Chicken Vegetable with Noodles
- White Chicken Chili
- Pasta Fagioli
- Chicken Tortilla Soup
- Squash soup (vegetarian)
- Corn chowder (vegetarian)
- Broccoli Cheese (vegetarian)
- Carrot Soup (vegetarian)

## WANT TO GET BETTER AT READING YOUR BIBLE?

I know that reading your Bible can be challenging, especially when trying to read it by yourself! I came across a resource that we have been using in the small group studies and sometimes in Sunday School that I think may help us all be better at reading our Bibles- [www.TheBibleProject.com](http://www.TheBibleProject.com)

This non-profit organization has created incredible animated video summaries of every book in the Bible. These brief videos help you to look for key themes, understand the author and the author's intent in writing, and in so doing helps unravel the sometimes confusing stories. The videos help place the stories into the greater assumed timeline of other Biblical events and see how what your reading ties into the greater narrative of the Bible.

The most important element to me, is that it beautifully connects the Old and the New Testament to show one unified story that points us towards understanding God through Jesus.

I encourage you all to spend some time on the website [www.TheBibleProject.com](http://www.TheBibleProject.com) and I encourage you to be spending time in the Word. And together, I believe, you will find an enriched reading experience along your discipleship journey.

Jeremy Wells, Director of Christian Education

# January 2019

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed  | Thu  | Fri                            | Sat   |
|---|---|--|--|--|--------------------------------|---|
| <p>7:30 am Just Pancakes</p> <p><b>9 am Worship</b></p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p> <p><b>11 am Worship</b></p> <p>Office Hour Hosted by: [Name]</p> <p>12:30 pm New Member Lunch</p>                         |   | <p>1 Church Office Closed</p> <p>7:30 am Just Pancakes</p>   | <p>2 7:15 am UMM Breakfast</p> <p>7:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7 pm AA</p>  | <p>3 3 pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>6 pm Praise Band Rehearsal</p> <p>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>   | <p>4 6 pm Rock Club</p>        | <p>5</p>  |
| <p>7:30 am Just Pancakes</p> <p><b>9 am Worship</b></p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p> <p><b>11 am Worship</b></p> <p>Office Hour Hosted by: [Name]</p> <p>12:30 pm New Member Lunch</p>                         | <p>7 7:30 pm Kairos</p>   | <p>8 7:30 am Just Pancakes</p> <p>5 pm Trustees Meeting</p> <p>5-6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p> <p>6:30-9 pm Rock Club</p>                                   | <p>9 7:15 am UMM Breakfast</p> <p>10 am UMW Meeting</p> <p>1 pm Prayer Shawl Group</p> <p>6 pm SPRC</p> <p>7:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7 pm AA</p> | <p>10 11:30 am Desert Diner</p> <p>4:30 pm Coffee W/ Pastor Jane @ Ernest Coffee</p> <p>6 pm Praise Band Rehearsal</p> <p>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>    | <p>11</p>                      | <p>12 9 am Palm Springs Concert Association</p> <p>10 am Modern Men Tryouts</p> <p>5 pm Birthday Bash</p> |
| <p>7:30 am Just Pancakes</p> <p><b>9 am Worship</b></p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p> <p><b>11 am Worship</b></p> <p>Office Hour Hosted by: [Name]</p> <p>Indowment &amp; Social Justice</p>                    | <p>14 5:30-9:30 pm Modern Men</p> <p>6 pm Small Group Study</p> <p>7:30 pm Kairos</p>   | <p>15 7:30 am Just Pancakes</p> <p>4 pm Social Justice Team</p> <p>5-6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p> <p>6 pm Finance Committee</p> <p>7 pm Church Council</p> | <p>16 7:15 am UMM Breakfast</p> <p>10 am Small Group Study</p> <p>7:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7 pm AA</p>  | <p>17 3 pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>6 pm Praise Band Rehearsal</p> <p>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>  | <p>18</p>                      | <p>19</p>   |
| <p>7:30 am Just Pancakes</p> <p><b>9 am Worship</b></p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p> <p><b>11 am Worship</b></p> <p>Office Hour Hosted by: [Name]</p> <p>JMW</p> <p>Virginia Friichtenicht Funeral Service</p> | <p>21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Office Closed)</p> <p>5:30-9:30 pm Modern Men</p> <p>6 pm Small Group Study</p> <p>7:30 pm Kairos</p> | <p>22 7:30 am Just Pancakes</p> <p>5-6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>  | <p>23 7:15 am UMM Breakfast</p> <p>10 am Small Group Study</p> <p>1 pm Prayer Shawl Group</p> <p>7:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7 pm AA</p>           | <p>24 11:30 am Desert Diner</p> <p>3 pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>4 pm Care Team Meeting</p> <p>6 pm Praise Band Rehearsal</p> <p>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>25 5:30 pm Messy Church</p> | <p>26 All Church Clean Up</p>   |
| <p>7:30 am Just Pancakes</p> <p><b>9 am Worship</b></p> <p>10:15 am Sunday School</p> <p><b>11 am Worship</b></p> <p>Office Hour Hosted by: [Name]</p> <p>Care Team</p>   | <p>28 5:30-9:30 pm Modern Men</p> <p>6 pm Small Group Study</p> <p>7:30 pm Kairos</p>   | <p>29 7:30 am Just Pancakes</p> <p>5-6:30 pm Boy Scouts</p>  | <p>30 7:15 am UMM Breakfast</p> <p>10 am Small Group Study</p> <p>7:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7 pm AA</p>  | <p>31 3 pm Staff Meeting</p> <p>6 pm Praise Band Rehearsal</p> <p>7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>  |                                |   |

### UPDATE ON THE STEWARD-SHIP!

Happy 2019 to my church family! We are in the process of shoring up our 2019 Annual Budget and there is still time for everyone to come aboard our Steward-ship. Even if you give cash on a weekly basis, we still want to recognize your contribution. Thus far we have had a wonderful response for our ministries and we have had 84 households pledge this year, but we are short of our 100 households who are pledging. Please be sure to get in your pledge card soon to ensure you don't miss the Love Boat – full of fun and excitement for EVERYONE! THANK YOU!!



Stewie

a.k.a. Bryan Quinton, Co-Chair of Stewardship

### WE NEED YOUR FACE!!!



The church is working on a new directory and it will not be complete without your face!

Lifetouch will be at the church February 15th and 16th to take pictures for our new church directory! Snowbirds and new members, we

want to include you too!

You can sign up through our church website ([umcps.org](http://umcps.org)), or Erin can sign you up Sunday mornings before and after worship.

### WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!



Cindy and D.C. Lepley joined the church on January 13th at the 9 am service.



We had six people join the church at the 11 am service. From left to right: Cindy Weinberg, Doug Weinberg, Mark Strickland, Steve Hamilton (also baptized that day), Mike Judy (also baptized that day), and Jack Mellman

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 15- James Bentley

January 15- Joe Parisi

January 17- Dennis Gieseke

January 17- Martha Battiest

January 17- Joan Smith

January 17- Eric Bahnson

January 19- Linda Douglas

January 19- Dixie Wood

January 21- Nancy DeMorris

January 24- Maureen Brealey

January 24- John Long

January 29- Melinda McInerney

January 30- Bill Giannopulos



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

January 16- Palu & Salesi Kapukapu

January 27- Marilyn & Brent Wisely

January 29- Janet & Terry Brager



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## THANK YOU!

In December, the church began collecting clothing for the children at Cabot Yerxa Elementary School. One of our church members, Jody Diaz, is the assistant principal. Here is a special message from Jody:

*"I want you to know how wonderful that is that our congregation was so generous. Our secretaries got work and organized them all and have them ready to put to work!! We really appreciate the time, money and thought that our folks put into this community giving. Please let everyone know how thankful we are here at Cabot Yerxa!!!"*

The church will continue to collect clothing for Cabot Yerxa. If you would like to donate items, you can bring them by the church office (Monday through Thursday) or in the Narthex on Sunday mornings.

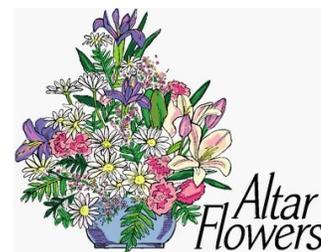
Items needed:

- Pants, shorts, shirts, jackets, underwear .... all sizes 5-6, 6-8, 8-10, 10-12
- Shoes- size 13, 1, 2, 3
- Socks- youth sizes

## ALTAR FLOWERS

It's a new year, which means there is a new flower chart and new opportunities to order altar flowers!

To sign up, choose the date you would like to host the altar flowers and write your name on the chart in the narthex of the sanctuary. The cost is \$42. All you need do is sign-up for the date you would like and we do the rest. This is a great way to celebrate someone's birthday or honor someone special in you life.



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## ALL-CHURCH CLEAN UP



Calling all volunteers! It's that time of year to spruce up and make this church sparkle!!! There is a list of jobs and there are tasks that everyone can help with. No experience necessary! Please come join us on Saturday, January 26th from 8:30 am to noon.

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## COTTAGE MEETINGS AVAILABLE IN JANUARY!

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

- Tuesday, January 29 , 2 pm @ Keith and Sandy Froehlich's home (Palm Desert)
- Wednesday, January 30, 6 pm @ Dan and Lorinda Church's home (La Quinta)



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.

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## SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE AND FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

Attendance for the last two weeks of worship:

January 6- 155

January 13- 191

Coffee Hour Responsibilities for January:

- January 20- UMW
- January 27- Care Team



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF  
PALM SPRINGS

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## SCROOGE! WHAT A BLESSING!

I wanted to offer a special thank you to all of the children, youth, and adults who came together to help make a fun and adventurous Christmas play happen. The group shared a short rendition of Charles



Dickens A Christmas Carol at the Family Worship Service on Christmas Eve. Thank you all for your willingness to try something different and new! And thank you to the congregation for embracing something a little outside of the box over Christmas.

Enjoy these fun memories!

Jeremy Wells, Director of Christian Education

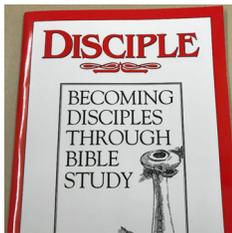
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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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

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## NEW YEAR-LONG BIBLE STUDY STARTING SOON!



For those interested in the new year-long study, Disciple Bible Study, you are invited to attend an informational meeting Sunday, January 27th in the Christian Education Building. Bring your questions, calendars, and planners!

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.

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## MESSY CHURCH IS GOING FISHIN'

Luke chapter 5 tells us this strange story of Jesus calling his first disciples. He calls out from the shore to some ordinary fishermen accomplishing their daily tasks on the lake. Jesus asks three fishermen to stop what they are doing, consider a new life, and follow Him into the unknown. Peter, James, and John were famously invited to become “fishers of people.”

This month, and this year, Messy Church is taking this story to heart. We feel called to broaden the reach of this amazing ministry in the community and feel that we are being led into a season of fishing. To meet that call we have created a goal of ministering to and serving 10 new families —however you define family — through the Messy Church community. We have seen how this ministry can touch lives by bringing the message of Jesus to all ages through games, songs, crafts, food, and community.

If you would like to learn more about what it means to be a disciple who fishes for people, come to Messy Church on Friday, January 25th 5:30-7:30 pm. We will explore this story from Luke 5 together and see how Messy Church and how each of us can faithfully live out our calling to be fisher of people.