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Playing Tourist

My cousin came for a visit last weekend. He had never been to Palm Springs before, or even California, so I had the opportunity to play tour guide. And, as is so often the case when I'm playing tour guide, I had the opportunity to be a tourist as well, going places I'd never been before and/or seeing familiar things through his very wide eyes.



Of course there were forays to the "must go to" Palm Springs restaurants that are mid-Century modern in their design and color scheme. It was so pleasing to hear my cousin's extended "Wowwww!" when we drove through Twin Palms estates. We gently laughed at the fact that it was "Splash" weekend and young people from all over were going to be crammed into hotel pools and dancing while a dj under a large nearby umbrella spun records into the wee hours. (*"How sanitary is that?? Ugh, we're such oldsters!!"*) I loved filling him in with the unique history of the Palm Springs area that significantly includes the Agua Caliente Tribe, the most classic of movie stars, hospice for AIDS victims, never-ending care for the needs of the Valley community, the Tram, and of course, Joshua Tree. (These are things I know so far to regale, at least!)

[Click here to read more from Pastor Jane](#)

Why Church?

This past weekend my wife Erin and I researched gyms in the community and went to tour Planet Fitness. During the tour of the facilities our salesperson never even mentioned the quality of the products or our personal benefit we would get by joining. Instead, she wisely focused on the values of the community that we would be potentially joining. We were essentially told that if we sign up, we agree to be a part of community of acceptance and non-judgment.

Over the same weekend we explored cross fit, which likewise expressed their sales pitch in terms of their values as a community: teamwork, commitment, and effort.

With such great opportunities for community out there, it piqued my interest as a part of the Summer of Curiosity, why should someone choose church over these other great communities on Sunday morning?

[Click here to read more from Jeremy Wells on "Why Church?"](#)

It's Time to Make a Joyful Noise!

It is time to plan for music for the Fall and Winter season. We have had a wonderful summer of music for the services. Many new talented faces have joined to share their talents in enhancing our worship. These included Instrumentalists Cecil Douglas (trumpet), Tom Peters (electric flute), Amy Bahnson (flute), Jack Davis (clarinet), and singers Rodney Davis, Mark Strickland, Sarah Clapp, Ana Rangel, and Christian Quevedo. We are really blessed to have so many wonderful musicians in our church community!



Our music program is expanding and I would like to invite any members of the congregation and the community who have an interest in sharing their gifts to join in. No auditions are necessary. Our music groups include the Choir, Joyful Noise (our contemporary ensemble), and the Bell Choir, under the direction of Dr. Ed Hartman.

Rehearsals for Joyful Noise begin Thursday, August 29th @ 6 pm, followed by Choir rehearsal at 7:15 pm. If you want more information about participating in the music groups, please email Wayne Hinton at Music@UMCPS.org or call 951-660-6011.

Dr. Wayne Hinton, Music Director

Upcoming Pride Team Opportunities and Events

As the summer is winding down, the Pride Team is gearing up for some wonderful opportunities:

- **Sunday, September 8th**- Rev. Denyse Barnes from Hollywood UMC will be preaching at our church. She will also be conducting a seminar called "Creating Safe Spaces for LGBT Youth & Young Adults" (date and time to be determined).
- **Sunday, September 15th**- There will be a Pride Team meeting following worship. All are welcome to attend.
- **Thursday, September 19th**- The Pride Team is hosting the film "For They Know Not What They Do" at Cinema Diverse LGBTQ Film Festival at the Cultural Center in Palm Springs. The film will be shown at 7:30 pm and tickets are \$13.50.
- **Saturday, October 20th**- The Pride Team will be walking in the AIDS Walk. Sign-ups will be available soon.

- Have a knack and passion for sewing? The Pride Team is looking for volunteers to sew the Pride and Trans-gender flags together that were at the Stonewall Commemoration.

Please contact Luke Worrell (lukeworrell@aol.com) if you have questions or would like to get involved with the upcoming Pride Team events.

The Pride Team also sends spiritual support to Rev. Anna Blaedel during her Iowa conference trial. We pray that these people of God see the value of this incredible person. [Click here to read about Rev. Anna Blaedel.](#)

THIS SATURDAY- Children, Youth, & Family (EXTREME) Bowling!

This Saturday, August 17 from 12:00 - 2:00 pm @ Palm Springs Lane

All are invited to this EXTREME bowling adventure this Saturday from 12 to 2 pm at Palm Springs Lanes. For \$5 you'll get pizza, beverages, bowling shoes, and two hours of unlimited games!

Enjoy a couple of hours knocking down pins (or attempting to) and having fun with others in the church community. See you there!

"The Sabbath"- New Book Study with Pastor Jane and Rabbi David

A very special opportunity awaits all who'd like to be a student in September!

Pastor Jane and Rabbi David Lazar are going to be co-leading a book study on the book "The Sabbath" by Abraham Joshua Heschel. This book is a beautifully composed classic that explores Jewish practice, tradition, and scriptural understandings of God's command to "remember the Sabbath and keep it holy." There is so much to learn, talk about, and explore regarding our own ways of observing the very sacred container of time we call "Sabbath."

All are invited to this 7-week class that begins on **Wednesday, September 4** and ends on Wednesday, October 30. Please note we will not meet on October 2 or 9 because these Wednesdays are in the midst of Jewish High Holidays (which we are all invited to attend with the Or Hamidbar community). The time of class is 5:30-7:00 pm and will take place in the Walker Smith Education Building at the church.

[Click here to sign-up.](#)

Mid-Year Stewardship

It has been an exciting, Spirit-filled summer! As you have read in the newsletters or heard at church, the desert climes have not slowed down the work of UMCPS in our mission of welcoming all, discovering Spirit and serving hope. This has been made possible by your 2019 pledge; all who are touched by our programs and services are most grateful for your pledged commitment.

[Click here to read the rest of the mid-year stewardship letter.](#)

Save the Date for All-Church Retreat

The all-church retreat will take place during the weekend of October 4 through October 6 at Camp Sky Meadows. Please mark your calendars! This retreat is a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth and deeper community, and is open to all ages. More information to come!

Become a Reading Volunteer @ Cabot Yerxa Elementary School

Here's a chance to spend quality time with children and in a very important way-helping them learn to read. UMCPS is once again building a team of reading helpers at Cabot Yerxa Elementary School In Desert Hot Springs.

To apply, go to <https://www.psusd.us/Page/6363> and fill out the application to be a **NON-SUPERVISORY VOLUNTEER** (this means you Will NOT be supervising students; rather, you are helping in the classroom.) You will need to take a brief course on mandatory reporting as a part of the application process.

If You Have Questions, please contact Pastor Jane directly-
pastorjane@umcps.org

Earthquake Preparedness

[Click here to read what to do in case of an earthquake during a worship service in the church sanctuary.](#)

Are you ready for the next earthquake? [Here is a list of recommended supplies to have ready.](#)

Getting to Know Our Young Adults



Peter Bahnsen, son of Poul and



Amy Bahnson, is a graduate of Palm Springs High School. He graduated magna cum laude from University of California, Stanislaus with a degree in psychology. Presently he is working in Sacramento for a non-profit organization that operates group homes for troubled youth. Peter first worked as a counselor but is now working in the organization's main office for quality improvement, finding how to improve the life of youth in the homes. He is getting married in September to a young woman from Stockton that he met while they were both attending college. The young couple very recently purchased a home in Sacramento.

Peter's brother, Erik is also a graduate of Palm Springs High School. He just completed his degree in environmental sciences at the University of La Verne, graduating summa cum laude. This summer Erik is working with AmeriCorps in Wisconsin doing trail maintenance. His next assignment will be to teach for two years in Kentucky. After completing his AmeriCorps commitment, Erik plans to return to school for graduate work.



August 16- Grace Kodama
August 24- Jean Utley
August 26- Scott Hughes
August 26- Doug Oostdyk
August 26- Cecil Douglas
August 28- Harriett Sheetz
August 28- Cindy Lepley
August 29- DC Lepley
August 29- Tristan Pettersen



August 15- Patsy & Ken Crouser
August 21- Diane & James Weist
August 21- Cindy & DC Lepley
August 22- Dennis & Maureen Brealey

Sunday Attendance and Coffee Hour

Attendance for the last two weeks of worship:

- August 4- 93
- August 11- 102

Coffee/Fellowship Hour Responsibilities for August:

- August 18- Worship Team
- August 25- Christian Education Team

