

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALM SPRINGS

# THE MESSENGER

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## New Office Hours!

Merry, Blessed Christmas! I hope you all experienced God's grace in an extra-special way this season- at least once!

I had many extra-special and extra-gracious experiences this Christmas, and with you!!

- Making our Christmas Promo video - thanks to all of you who were so gamely a part;
- Working with Jeremy on applying the journey - and redemption - of Scrooge as our worship/ study Advent theme;
- Caroling at neighborhood care centers;
- Enjoying the inspiring video of our choir's June Carnegie Hall trip;
- Gathering to Hang the Greens (and a gajillion beautiful Christmas ornaments) in the sanctuary;
- Shopping for children's clothes to donate to CabotYerxa;
- Seeing the WildLights at the Living Desert
- Leading Christmas Eve worship with the assistance of so many of you in so many ways;
- Meeting and greeting many new UMCPs guests, winter members, and friends and family of yours;

...these are but a few of the wonder-full memories I have of my first Christmas celebration with you. Thanks so very very much.

And onto the New Year!

One of new things I will be doing beginning next week is having official "Office Hours," ie periods of time I will for sure be in the office and available to meet with you for whatever reason. As you probably know, the tasks of the pastor require - and invite - her to be out and about the community quite a bit. Now that I have been on the job in Palm Springs for several months and better know the rhythm of things at the church - as well as my own! - I have decided to make my regular office hours:



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Join us for an all-church Birthday Bash Saturday, January 12th @ 5 pm!*
- *The closet in the Fellowship Hall is in need of men's winter clothing.*
- *New small group study on "Fear of the Other" starts January 14th!*
- *There are all kinds of events that are coming up for Black History Month. How will you participate?*
- *Thanks to so many generous hearts who helped raise over \$3500 for our special Christmas offering.*

(Continued on the next page)

- Tuesday mornings, 9:30 am - noon
- Thursday mornings, 9:30 am- noon

Again, please feel free to stop by during these times to discuss/ask questions about whatever. In case I'm out of town or engaged in a pastoral emergency, you may wish to phone the church office first, to make sure I'm in.

I am so looking forward to the adventures in discipling, healing, and transformation God has in store for us - and through us for Palm Springs - in 2019.

Onward! Upward! Outward! In Christ!!

Pastor Jane

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## JOIN US FOR A BIRTHDAY BASH!

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, 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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## NEW MEMBER LUNCHEON- JANUARY 6TH @ 12:30 PM

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. Sign up via the church website- [umcps.org](http://umcps.org).

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## HAVE COFFEE WITH PASTOR JANE!



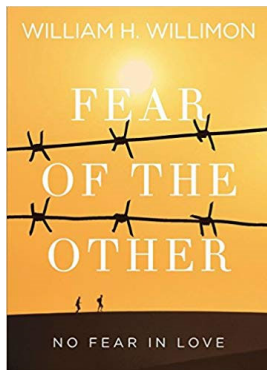
Would you like an opportunity to get to know Pastor Jane? Meet us on Thursday, January 10th at Ernest Coffee on 1101 N Palm Canyon Dr, Palm Springs, CA from 4:30 to 6 pm. All are welcome!

## FELLOWSHIP HALL CLOTHES CLOSET

Most of you know that the Mission and Social Justice Teams distribute used clothing to the guests we serve at both sessions of Just Pancakes and at Desert Diner. Now that the new Fellowship Hall closet is ready, the Teams are again ready to accept donations of gently used clothing. What do we need, you ask?

Most of our guests are male, so we need lots of men's clothing suitable for the current climate including long pants (like jeans), long-sleeved shirts, hoodies or other sweatshirts, jackets (not parkas), and, of course, lots of socks. Would you like to help with this ministry? If so, kindly drop the items off in Fellowship Hall. If the Hall is closed, you may bring the items to the church office. We, but more important, the guests, thank you for your generosity.

## 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!

## EARTH CHURCH

Join Pastor Jane for a unique opportunity to worship God in the great outdoors, where nature will provide the sermon! This unique worship opportunity will take place at the Whitewater Preserve in Whitewater, California. More details to come.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



January 7- Wayne Roberts  
January 9- Erin Forgét-Wells  
January 9- Sally Parisi  
January 10- Win Dews  
January 10- Bill Battiest  
January 11- David Dean  
January 13- David Ponsar  
January 14- Ron Ross  
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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## BLACK HISTORY MONTH– SAVE THE DATE(S)

With a new year comes many new opportunities to get involved in the church and the surrounding community. Here are some upcoming events to put on your calendar:

- Sunday, January 20th, 2 pm- Martin Luther King Jr Celebration @ The Church of St. Paul in the Desert. The program begins at 2:00 p.m. with guest speakers, live performances, and refreshments to follow
- Sunday, January 27th 2-4 pm- Gospel Fest @ James O Jesse Desert Highland Unity Center Outdoor Theater
- Saturday, February 2nd, 6 pm- 10th Annual Awards Gala at the Palm Springs Air Museum. See Jody for tickets. We are honoring Tuskegee Airman Bob Friend with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Funds raised go toward graduating senior scholarships \$60 per ticket.
- February 7th and 10th- PS Art Museum Collaboration. Enjoy free admission to the art museum on both days.
- Saturday, February 23rd- Parade and Town Fair

## SPIRITUALITY AND AGING– NEW STUDY WITH PASTOR JANE

Pastor Jane will be leading a 10-week study of the book "A Season of Mystery: 10 Spiritual Practices for Embracing a Happier Second Half of Life" by Paula Huston on Friday mornings beginning February 1. More details to come soon!

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## SCHEDULE YOUR CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY TODAY!

Were you unable to get your picture taken in the fall? No worries! Lifetouch will be at the church February 15th and 16th to take pictures for our new church directory! You can sign up through our church website, or Erin can sign you up Sunday mornings before and after worship.

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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:



- Wednesday, January 16 @ Melinda McInerney's home (Palm Springs)
- 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 three weeks of worship:

- December 16th- 194
- December 23rd- 210
- December 24th- 232
- December 30th- 182

Coffee Hour Responsibilities for January:

- January 6- SPRC
- January 13- Endowment & Social Justice Team
- January 20- UMW
- January 27- Care Team



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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**

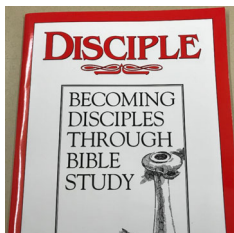
### Our Vision

Inspiring the world as passionate followers of Jesus Christ so all may experience

God's life-giving love.

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## NEW YEAR-LONG BIBLE STUDY STARTING SOON!



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.

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## SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING UPDATE

Thank you for your generous hearts! You have raised over \$3,500 for our special Christmas offering that will be split between the Pastor's Discretionary Fund (to assist those coming to the church with emergency needs) and the "The Border Church," a United Methodist ministry shepherded by Rev. John Fanestil of FUMC San Diego.