



Your monthly news & updates

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We Shall Not Be Moved!

As you may now know, a majority of UMC delegates from around the world voted at our recent Special General Conference to not be a denomination that wholly welcomes and includes LGBTQI brothers and sisters. This has been a painful, ugly debate for many years. And it's really not about who should be included in our church as much as who should be in power. Other issues underlie what's been going on, too: should Methodists take the Bible seriously or literally? What should a Christian understanding of other faiths be? These are but some of the issues. Majorly unfortunately, it's the hurtful brouhaha about the welcome of LGBTQI persons that has been put in the spotlight. It can seem that this is the only issue in the current debate. It's not.

In any case, it has been a very distressing several days for me and for you and for many many Methodists. Especially our Methodist LGBTQI brothers and sisters. The good news is that the Western Jurisdiction, the geographical UMC body of which we are a part, has been supporting and instigating full inclusivity for ALL for quite some time. AND our WJ leadership has made it clear we will continue to pursue this, our call, even if it means we birth something new.

What will happen as we journey onward I do not know, but I have faith that something wonderful is afoot.

I was especially touched by the several UMCPS'ers who were able to join together in our sanctuary Tuesday night, after the SPG had concluded. I wanted to make sure everyone knew - knows - UMCPS highly values making safe space to vent frustrations, to shed tears, to answer questions, to share inspirations and hope, and most importantly, to simply and authentically be with one another.

In our informal worship service, we sang uplifting, helpful hymns; we heard powerful scriptures and meditated on them. We shared information and asked questions - Will our ministry to LGBTQI have to change? (ABSOLUTELY NOT!) What should we call ourselves if the UMC is no longer? (For the time being, I'm place-holding with "Untied United Methodist Church" and "The Palm Springs Church of Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors") What about our property? What about our apportionments??

As I told folks at our Tuesday service, I at present don't know the answers to some of your excellent questions but promise to investigate and let you know when I do.

We closed our time together passing around a candle and offering prayers. Among the prayers lifted up was a plea to remember Jesus died and then three days later joy came - comes - with the morning; to remember God is with us always; to bless our continued efforts to reach out to the needful and lost all around us; to remember God's light shines on the next step we are to take, not what five steps down might be; to have the courage to love those we love, those we have yet to meet, and most importantly those we fear; and to bless and keep our joy-filled, fully inclusive congregation well in the midst of the storm.

I was truly filled with hope hearing the depth of wisdom and faith in these prayers as well as witnessing the depth of love all extended to all. Even though we don't know what the future holds, and it will be undoubtedly confusing, confounding and messy (just like it was in Jesus'

time!), I believe we've a special mission - even more special than before - to be a community that courageously leads God's dream for our world onward "for such a time as this." And isn't afraid to have a fun time doing so.

What a beacon of light we will continue to be in a world addicted to chaos, controversy, cynicism, and fear. We shall not be moved!

Pastor Jane

[Click here to read a message from Rev. Donna Pritchard, chair of the Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team](#)

United Methodist Women- Next Meeting, March 6 @ 10 am

United Methodist Women will present the annual "A Call to Prayer & Self-Denial" observance at the church on March 6, focusing on the theme "Building a Thriving Generation of Children & Youth Worldwide."

This annual observance gives members & friends a chance to study & reflect on a particular theme & to designate funds for ministries related to the year's theme. This year's service provides an opportunity to learn more about:

- the circumstances children & youth face around the world,
- how United Methodist Women is promoting their well-being & equal opportunities for them, &
- how we can support children & youth in need through "A Call to Prayer & Self-Denial" offering.

Through the observance in 2017, United Methodist Women raised more than \$685,000 for maternal and child health programs. The 2019 offerings will provide funds directly to programs & advocacy to support well-being and equal opportunities for children and youth in need.

Attend the observance on March 6 at 10:00 am to reflect on the gospel of Christ, to pray together, and to designate funds to enable programs for a thriving generation children and youth.

Endowment Fund Committee Call for Funding Requests

The United Methodist Church of Palm Springs Endowment Fund operates under a charter originally approved by the Church Charge Conference on September 26, 1997 and re-approved at the 2012 Charge Conference.

The Endowment Fund was created to provide opportunities for members and friends to make charitable gifts to our church and become a permanent endowment of financial support and a living memorial. It is administered by the Endowment Fund Committee under the authority granted by the Church Charge Conference.

The committee is ready for requests! [Click here to read the committee guidelines for requested funds.](#)

[Click here for a fund request form.](#) Please submit completed forms to Bill Bangham- w.bangham@gmail.com

Exercise Your Core This Lent!

We all know (or should know!) that if we want to move well, stand well and feel well we need a strong core. And exercise of our core is key.

This Lent, as we embark on a 6-week journey with Jesus to the cross and beyond, we are going to be encouraged to strengthen our spiritual core with our 7 essential Christ discipleship practices: (1) daily prayer, (2) weekly worship, (3) taking a class, (4) serving the congregation, (5) serving the world, (6) moving toward tithing, and (7) seeking and finding joy.



We will be preaching on one of these discipleship practices each Sunday, and during the week following, you will have an opportunity to try it out in community with friends of the congregation. Here are some of the exercises you can add to your calendar:

- Week 1- Daily Prayer
 - Saturday, March 9 at 9 am- Jeremy Wells and Noelle Rollins will be leading a contemplative walk on the labyrinth in the memory garden of the church
- Week 2- Weekly Worship
 - Friday, March 15 at 7 pm- Jeremy and Noelle will be leading a very special contemplative worship experience in the Taize tradition
- Week 3- Taking a Class
 - The Week of March 17- Jeremy will set up an very short-term Bible study online that all can take, and can learn how to take online Bible studies in the future.

The rest of our exercise adventures will be described in the mid-March newsletter. It is our hope that developing our capacities and desires to practice the 7 "Expectations of Discipleship" will indeed strengthen the core of our faith so we can boldly walk ahead, and stand Divinely still - however Christ needs us - for the important and challenging journey ahead.

I look forward to working out with you! Sneakers optional! :)

Snowbird Shindig With Pastor Jane

Calling All Snowbirds, Seasonal Members, and Winter Visitors! Whatever term you prefer, this invitation is for you! You are invited to a SNOW BIRD SHINDIG:

**Wednesday, March 27th from 4 to 5:30 pm
at the home of Pastor Jane**

Enjoy friends, fellowship and help us celebrate you, our seasonal members! Light refreshments will be served. More information to come as the event nears.

[Sign up for the Snowbird Shindig](#)

Disaster Planning

As promised, we are going to start talking about having a plan, as the next time a disaster strikes, you may not have much time to act. The recent rain storm we had on Valentine's Day was a wakeup call.

Planning ahead reduces anxiety. Prepare now for a sudden emergency and remember to review your plan every time we change to/from daylight savings time.

Assess yourself and your household.

- Do you live alone?
- Do you drive or own a car?
- How good is your sense of smell? (i.e. gas leak or smoke)
- Do you have any physical, medical, thinking or learning limitations?
- Has your sense of hearing or vision decreased?
- Are you reliant upon any medical equipment?
- Are you reliant upon a caregiver?

Think about how you can resolve these or other questions that pertain to you and your situation, and discuss them with your family, friends, and caregivers

[Click here to read more on disaster planning and communication.](#)

Senior Driving Class- Saturday, March 9th

The California Highway Patrol invites California's older drivers to attend a free Age Well, Drive Smart class to learn the tools to driving safer and driving longer. The class is a way for seniors to educate themselves, evaluate their driving abilities, and improve their driving skills.

*Certificates given after the class **may** qualify you for a discount on your insurance.*

When: Saturday, March 9th @ 10 am

Where: Fellowship Hall of the church

How: Sign up Sunday morning before or after worship, [or visit the church website](#)

Next Merry Methodist Event- Sunday, March 10th

The Merry Methodists are at it again! They are hard at work planning two March social outings/events. The first outing will take place on Sunday, March 10 as we attend the musical production, "9 to 5," at the [Rancho Mirage High School](#) for their 2:00 pm matinee. Let's support our local school and our youth, Alex Lallman, who is a member of the cast!



The tickets are \$25 and we'll plan to go out for dinner following the performance.

The second March social event will take place the evening of Saturday, March 30th. More information to come!

[Reserve Your Tickets](#)

Mission Clothing Needed

Many thanks to the church members who have provided gently used winter clothing to the Mission Clothes Closet in

Fellowship Hall. Now that the weather is about to change to warmer temperatures and since most of our guests for both sessions of Just Pancakes, as well as Desert Diner, are men, we of the Mission Team are asking for donations of casual clothing such as jeans, shorts, t-shirts, and polo type shirts for the guys. And crew or mid-crew socks are always appreciated. Many thanks for your consideration.



A Time of Discernment – Listen First, Then Respond

I know that many of you share my pain, frustration, and even disbelief as to the results of the Special General Conference (SGC) of the United Methodist Church. Given that we here at UMCPs are a Reconciling Congregation and stand for inclusivity, it's disheartening to see the larger denomination's vote to further restrict who is welcome in the Kingdom of God and who is not.

As I write this article though, I find it somewhat painfully fitting that we are already in a season of discernment as a church. We are currently doing a three-week study on vocation and what it means to listen to God's call in our lives. Not too long ago we completed a long study on transition and change in the church, which helped us answer our "why." Pastor Jane and church leadership are also exploring how we might do some strategic planning to create a long-term plan for sharing our many gifts and blessings with the community and the world.

Even though there is much pain and grieving over the denomination, there is simultaneous curiosity and borderline excitement about the many possibilities of how we might be called to serve the world around us in the coming months and year. During this upcoming time of Lent in particular, I encourage us all to be in a time of discernment, a time of listening to God first before responding. I strongly believe that through all of the chaos and mess that has come from the SGC, God will call churches and individuals to do amazing things in response. We here at UMCPs have an opportunity to be a shining light of God's grace and love in the world, but first we must listen before we respond.

I encourage everyone to take time to be in prayer, to be talking with your brothers and sisters in Christ about how we might be placed in a position to be agents of peace and reconciliation, to be instruments of God's healing vision.

I know that our hearts are pained by the decisions of the denomination, but that doesn't discount our mission or mean that God is done with us yet. There is still much work to be done, and God we pray that you speak with clarity and passion as to how we can help further your Kingdom here and now. We will continue to serve and love all, and we know that at UMCPs, all means all.

Jeremy Wells

Memorial for Galen Sheetz, Saturday @ 2 pm

There will be a memorial for Galen Sheetz on Saturday, March 2 at 2 pm at the church. There will be a reception to follow in the fellowship hall.



Worship at Hallmark- Sunday, March 10

On Sunday, March 10th at 1 pm we will be holding our monthly worship service for the residents of Hallmark Palm Springs, an assisted living facility located down the street from the church. The service will start at 1 pm and will last about 30 minutes. Anyone is welcome to be a part of this new ministry. Please [email Pastor Jane](#) if you would like to get involved!

Have You Submitted Your Contact Info for the Church Directory?

Members, regular attenders, and snowbirds, we need to confirm your participation in the upcoming church directory. ***Your information will not be submitted without your permission.***

Please click the button below to submit your information. You may also call, email, stop by the church office, or swing by the welcome table outside of the sanctuary on Sunday morning to confirm your information for the new church directory.

Submit Your Info



March 1-Donna Dyar
March 7-Becky Bloom
March 8-John Whearty
March 10-Keith Froehlich
March 11-Mary Ann Sealey
March 14-Keith Bjugstad
March 21-Richard Tallman
March 24-Robert Burgess
March 24-Everett Diaz
March 25-Judy Garvey
March 26-Raelene Bloom



March 16 -Julie & Scott Hughes
March 17-Walter Stevenson &
Alan Evans
March 21-Sue & Lonnie Lynch
March 26-Chrysta Wong-Sierra &
Joey Sierra

Sunday Attendance and Coffee Hour

Attendance for the last two weeks of worship:

- February 17- 228
- February 24- 240

Coffee Hour Responsibilities for March:

- March 3- Finance Committee
- March 10- SPRC
- March 17- Endowment & Social Justice Team
- March 24- UMW
- March 31- Care Team

[Click here to view the March calendar at a glance](#)

