

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF PALM SPRINGS

THE MESSENGER

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 20 NOVEMBER 1, 2018

Pride!

In my research and writing on the comedy of the Bible (a scholarly and fun passion of mine), including auxiliary explorations into the relationship of comedy and peacemaking, one of the avenues always lifted-up is that of “carnival.”

When we think of a carnival, what probably comes to mind are colorful decorations, fun games, boisterous and joyful activity everywhere, folks in outrageously playful costumes...and that’s it.

While some carnivals may be fun for fun’s sake, there is a tradition throughout history of carnival for political/peacemaking reasons. In the ancient Church a “Feast of Fools” was held once a year: priests became dunces and peasants became bishops and all sorts of Kingdom of God “play craziness” was allowed to ensue. In 1990’s Serbia, students gained much momentum for their cause to unseat strongman President Slobodan Milošević by throwing a “Cordon against Cordon”: when the Serbian army blocked off the street where peace-marches occurred, the marchers decided to throw a big party in front of the police line complete with two-weeks of barbecues, beauty pageants, pet shows, games, flowers and disco.

The Bible has its own examples, including Jesus & Co’s ridiculous burlesque of a military parade on Palm Sunday and the Jewish festival of Purim, when congregants annually enjoy a wacky over-the-top re-enactment of the liberating Book of Esther.

The purpose of “political carnival” is to have a fun time creating a bold glimpse of an “upside down” (or “right-side-up” world). Sort of like like The Beatitudes, with wigs. (!) Carnival makes social transformation playful and joyful and gives us the energy and hope to do the tough stuff of incremental, oft-halting change that must follow once the party is over.

We are approaching one of the biggest festivals of the Palm Springs “Season”: “Pride Weekend.” It promises, as always, to bring much “Romp and Circumstance.” (!) While I have yet to witness the Palm Springs “Pride,” I’m sure it will be filled with lots of fabulous costumes, good and gaudy humor, and encouragement for everyone to enjoy a great weekend-long celebration with and for those who have for centuries been painfully marginalized.

Especially this Pride weekend, as we become evermore aware of backlash against LGBTQI rights, as well as continued violence against other vulnerable members of our greater community (especially, right now, our Jewish brothers and sisters), may I invite us all to carnival with a purpose? While we openly and justifiably mourn and express great concern for the current state of things, we can also zestfully and purposefully grab that spirit of joy and fun and play - not to forget about what’s going so wrong — but to remind us from head to toe that with God, fear and destruction and oppression do not have the last word. Ever.

And when the Pride party is over, let’s all find ourselves returning to the hard work of creating God’s all-inclusive and harmonious world newly energized by the laughs enjoyed and new friends made while galavanting about.

A HUGE thanks to all who have organized our Pride Weekend Booth and Parade Float. I so look forward to seeing you - and everybody - there!!



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *New small group study ‘Faith 101’ starts November 5th. Sign up on the church website.*
- *Want to have a voice in planning social events for the church? Contact the church office to join the new social event ministry.*
- *Sign up to get your picture taken for the new church directory.*
- *Hanging of the greens will take place December 2nd*

CHURCH THANKSGIVING POTLUCK DINNER

The seventh annual Church Thanksgiving Potluck is approaching and we need your help.



The meal will take place Thursday, November 22nd from 11:30 am to 2 pm. Volunteers are needed to help prepare food, serve food, and decorate. Email Lois Giannopoulos at lgiannopoulos45@gmail.com to sign up to help.

All are welcome to attend this meal and celebrate all we have to be thankful for as a church family.

CHARGE CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 18TH!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 18th! We will be holding our annual church charge conference that Sunday following worship. Lunch will be provided.

TRUNK OR TREAT SUCCESS

Trunk or Treat on Halloween was a great success! Thanks to all who participated and helped with supplies. We had around 175 folks come through for tricks, candy, and treats. We even had a family from the neighborhood join us in decorating their car and passing out candy.



FAITH 101– NEW SMALL GROUP STUDY STARTS THIS WEEK!

It's time to get back to basics! The next small group is a three-week study called Faith 101, and it's a great opportunity to look at some basic questions of our faith.

Small group studies are a great way to connect with folks in the church as well as challenge your thoughts and ideas (which, in turn, is a great way to grow in faith).

Sign up at umcps.org/get-involved/faith-101. Groups are offered Monday evenings at 6 pm and Wednesday mornings at 10 am beginning the week of November 5th.

SOCIAL EVENTS MINISTRY STARTING SOON!

We're looking for some wonderful folks (yes that's you) who are interested in helping to launch an exciting new ministry at the UMCPS. Beginning in the new year, we'd like to plan monthly gatherings for people who enjoy getting to know the person at the other end of the pew and like hanging out with some neat folks. Whether it's game night or an event at the church, going on outings to local places only seen when you have company, or a gathering at someone's home. We want to offer great times with great folks and that's where you come in - brainstorming ideas, planning, and getting the word out.

If you are interested in being part of this team, please email admin@umcps.org or call 760.327.5931 to notify the church office. The first meeting time (and naming the group) will be decided soon!

HANGING OF THE GREENS– DECEMBER 2ND!



The Worship Team would like to invite you to the annual 'Hanging of the Greens' and trimming of the Christmas tree on Sunday, December 2nd at 4 pm.

There will be a potluck of soups, breads, and cookies as well to ensure all have sufficient energy!

More information to come. Questions? Call Betty Bidwell at 760.770.5088.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 3- Eddie Choy

November 4- Shelbi Lackey

November 4- Wayne Roberts

November 4- Marcia Ross

November 5- Susan Nolingberg

November 8- Virginia Friichtenicht

November 8- Betty Thorness

November 10- Richard Chandrasena

November 11- Marguerite Bidwell

November 11- Bryan Quinton

November 13- Mel Messenger

November 13- Shelby Davis

November 13- Jeremy Wells

November 16- Vera Glur

November 22- Terri-Rae Elmer

November 22- Howard Cecil

November 24- Dick Hoffman

November 24- Daniel Church

November 24- Mary Phillips

November 25- Pat Myers

November 27- Diane Weist



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

November 10- Marjorie & Richard Tallman

November 12- Raelene Hayes and Becky Bloom

November 15- Susan & Adrian Lallman

November 23- Darlene & Jerry Ockerman

November 26- Lorinda & Dan Church



AIDS WALK 2018- A RECAP



Our church had 5 people participate in the walk, and three members manned a booth where free waters and candy were passed out, along with some information regarding the church and various ministries. It was a beautiful morning and a great outreach opportunity.

Thank you to all who participated in the 2018 Desert AIDS Walk. We can't wait to participate again next year!

THE GOOD SHIP STEWARD-SHIP

Welcome aboard our SS UMCPS Steward-Ship. We have lifted anchor and begun our voyage to the adventures of giving our monies, talents, and moving towards tithing. You've met some of our crew... Queen Mary Steward, the Steward of Personal Finances and leader of our voyage, our extraordinary steward of our talents and time and our Activities Steward, Martha Steward (she was off painting the shuffle board court), and we can't forget Steward Little, who is our Chief Steward of all the little things that make our voyage excellent in so many little ways that people don't even think about.

We are setting sail to learn about giving, learn about God, and learn about love. And, as our Steward of Endless Grace and Goodness, Jimmy Steward reminded us, not everybody is ready or able to travel with us or think about giving to our church right now. That's okay! All are invited to travel with us no matter where they are in their faith journey and spiritual explorations. Like everything in our life with God, holy care-taking is about going on a journey, a journey we take together, in our vessel, the church! Anyone can join us at any time, as all are welcome!

So, come, join us on our fun-d ship... ON THE GOOD SHIP "STEWARD-SHIP"

HELP NEEDED!

Erin, the church secretary, needs volunteers to greet and check-in folks when they come to get their picture taken November 12th through November 14th.

If you have a couple of hours to spare, please call Erin at 760.327.5931. Any amount of time you can help would be most appreciated!

SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE 8X10 PHOTO

When was the last time you had your picture taken by a professional? Or a professional photo of your family?

Lifetouch will be at the church Monday, November 12th through Wednesday, November 14th. Time slots are available in the afternoon and evenings. Call 760.327.5931 or stop by the office to sign-up.





UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF
PALM SPRINGS

P0 Box 2007
Palm Springs, CA 92263

Phone: 760.327.5931
Fax: 760.320.0091
Email: admin@umcps.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

UMCPS.ORG

“CHER” IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON

Join Ginger Snap and friends on Saturday, November 24th at the American Legion Post 519 for a holiday fundraiser. Tickets are \$25 each. Proceeds benefit the American Legion Post 519. Call 760.320.2420 to make your reservations.



COTTAGE MEETING CATCH UP

As we approach a very busy time of year for our church family, the cottage meetings will take a brief break. However, before we turn our attention to other important events in the church, we want to provide a little catch-up on what has occurred thus far.



We hope you have caught some "buzz" from one of the 57 people who have participated in cottage meetings so far. Nine cottage meetings have been held throughout the community in Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, and Palm Desert. It has been a great opportunity to meet Pastor Jane in a relaxed community location, including people's homes, Cabot Yerxa Elementary School, and even poolside! Thank you to all of our great hosts for making this happen.

You say you weren't able to attend one of the fall cottage meetings? No worries! The cottage meetings will resume in January with a continued focus of Let's Talk Church! coming to a community location near you. Stay tuned for updates in The Messenger and in the Fellowship Hall.

Are you interested in hosting a winter cottage meeting? Please email Erin at admin@umcps.org to let us know! The Cottage Meetings Task Force will be working behind the scenes in the months of November and December to be ready and we want to get all of our hosts and locations identified for the January launch.