



# Voice of the Hills



Newsletter of

## CHAPEL OF THE HILLS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
DESCANSO, CA

*Lent - February-March 2016*

**NEW WORSHIP TIME!**  
**Beginning March 6, 2016**  
All Ages Sunday School - 9:30 am  
Worship - 10:30 am  
(See all the details on pages 2 & 3)

## Upcoming Events

**Couples Study - Feb. 5th**  
(See Page 5)

**Ash Wednesday - Feb. 10th**  
(See this page)

**Dwayne Grimes Memorial**  
**February 12, 11:00 am**  
**Small reception to follow then**  
**join the family at the Graveside**

**Missions Sunday - Feb. 28th**  
(See Page 5)

**Couples Study - Mar. 4th**  
(See Page 5)

**New Schedule Begins**  
**- Mar. 6th** (See Pages 2 & 3)

**Time Change - Mar. 13th**  
(Spring Forward See Page 3)

**Worship Workshop -**  
**Mar. 19th** (See Page 5)

**Easter Week - Mar. 20th -**  
**Mar. 27th** (See this page)

## Save the Dates

**Preschool Sunday - Apr. 24**  
(See Page 6)

**All Church Campout -**  
**June 3rd - 5th** (See Page 6)

**ANNUAL Western BBQ LUAU**

**"NEW" DATE FOR 2016**  
**Saturday, June 11th**  
**4:30 - 8:30 pm**

## Lent 2016

The season of Lent is a time that has been set aside by the church for reflection and introspection. This has been a part of the church for centuries. The season of Lent is six weeks leading up to Easter.

**Ash Wednesday - Feb. 10th, 1:00 pm & 7 pm**  
We will, once again, offer two services on Ash Wednesday. Each service will last about 30 minutes. This is a great way to begin the season of Lent.

**Palm/Passion Sunday - Mar. 20th, 10:30 am**  
Join us for this special worship which commemorates Jesus' last week on earth from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem to his death on the cross.

**Maundy Thursday - Mar. 24th, 7:00 pm**  
Join us for this special worship which celebrates Jesus' last evening with his disciples. The service will take place in the Fellowship Hall downstairs and will include communion.

### Easter Sunday - Mar. 27th:

**Sunrise Service - 7:30 am - In the Garden**

Join us in the garden for this special early morning worship.

**Easter Breakfast - 8:30 am - In the Hall**

Join us between services for a nice, hot breakfast.

**Sunday School (for all ages) - 9:30 am - In the Sanctuary**

Sunday school being at 9:30 am sharp with music in the Sanctuary. At 9:40, everyone is dismissed to their classes.

**Easter Worship - 10:30 am - In the Sanctuary**

Invite your neighbors, friends, and family for the most important worship service of the year.

**Easter Egg Hunt - 11:30 am - Outside**

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**PASTOR JOHN'S  
DESCANSO HOURS (approx.)**

Mondays 10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Tuesdays 10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Wednesdays 11:00 am - 7:00 pm  
Thursdays 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Call his cell phone to see if he is  
in the office before coming over.

**SUNDAY MORNING (FEB)**

**Worship Service—10:00 am**  
Sanctuary

**Children's Sunday School**  
After Children's Moment in  
Worship Service

**Lunch—All Welcome**  
After service in Fellowship Hall

**CHURCH STAFF &  
LEADERSHIP**

Senior Minister  
**Rev. John K. Demaree**  
<pastor@chapelofthehills.org>

Lay Leader  
**Andrew Strother**  
Church Council Chair  
**Don Dyer**

Accompanists  
**Linda Dee Ames**  
**Karla Jorgensen Ponce**

Country Treehouse  
Preschool Director  
**Terri Bell**

Office Assistant  
**Syndee D'Spain**

Youth Directors  
**Jill and Alan Sawyer**

Bookkeeper  
**Krystal Scott**

## Pastor's Pen Faith Development Workshop

A few weeks ago, many of you took a survey. The results of that survey were shared in a special meeting on January 16th. The meeting had as its focus Intentional Faith Development. Part of the results led to these statements of agreement at the meeting.

### Perceptions of Our Current Ministry

- The main purpose of the church is to Build Spiritual lives by helping others, teaching biblical principles, and baptizing new followers of Jesus Christ.
- We hold in balance the need for age appropriate lessons with the strong desire that our children, youth, and adults worship together.
- The current format for our Sunday school lacks adequate Faith Development options for youth and adults.

Our church has struggled in the past with how to approach Sunday school and adult opportunities for Faith Development, like Bible Studies. Sitting altogether in prayer, listening, and sharing, we were able to discern a path forward that can meet all of the goals mentioned above.

With the vote of the Church Council on January 31st, we are on our way to implementing a new Sunday morning schedule. These changes WILL NOT take affect until Sunday March 6, 2016. A more complete and detailed description of the meeting and our plan is available from the office.

### New Sunday Morning Schedule Beginning March 6, 2016

9:00 am-9:30 am - Praise Band Practice  
9:30 am-9:40 am - All Ages Singing in the Sanctuary  
9:40 am-10:20 am - All Ages Sunday School Classes  
10:30 am-11:30 am - Worship (formatted as usual)  
11:30 am-12:00 pm - After Church Lunch

Paid Nursery Care will be available from 9:25 am-11:35 am  
Infants-4 years old during Sunday School  
Infants-6 years old during Worship  
(though kids are encouraged to be in the worship until after Children's Time)

### Resources We Need

To make all of this possible, we will need your help. Here is a list of things we need to make this plan work.

- A Nursery Worker - 2.5 hours per Sunday - \$30 - \$40 a week
- Teachers for 1-4 different classes each week
- Nursery Assistants - volunteers to be a second pair of eyes for the Nursery Worker

Blessings,  
*Pastor John*

# Children's & Youth Ministries

## Youth Group Mondays - 6:00-7:30 pm



Our youth group meets at the church with dinner, some activities, and discussions about how best to deal with being a teenager in this day and age. If you know someone

in 7th grade or older, have them come some Monday night and join the dozen or more other youth as they learn about the teachings of Jesus and how they still apply to today's crazy world.

## District Summer Camps



Our camps are week-long, overnight Christian-based camps where your child will engage in worship, small group activities, large group activities, and games. They could also participate in activities, such as swimming, archery, ropes courses

and many, many more.

At summer camp, your child will grow in their faith, learn leadership skills, grow their self-esteem, develop inter-personal skills with peers and adults, make life-long friendships, and have fun. There is a \$50 discount for the 6-day camps if you sign up before March 31st and a \$25 discount for all camps if you sign up before May 31st. Need-based scholarships may be available through the church and directly from the camps.

Visit [www.calpaccamps.org](http://www.calpaccamps.org) or ask Pastor John or Jennifer for more information.

Act Now - The best early Bird discounts end March 31st.

### CAMP CEDAR GLEN in JULIAN

Younger Elementary Camp - 1st-3rd: (Sun.-Wed.)  
July 10-13, 2016

Elementary Camp - 4th-6th: (Sun.-Sat.)  
July 10-16, 2016

Junior High Camp - 7th-9th: (Sun.-Sat.)  
July 17-23, 2016

Senior High Camp - 9th-Graduated Seniors: (Sun.-Sat.) July 24-30, 2016



## Rethinking Sunday School And Faith Development

One of our concerns with the existing Sunday School program is that it is not age appropriate. Younger kids take much more personal attention. Teens are bored with rote school-like lessons. Tweens get lost in the mix. Therefore, a big part of the changes we are bringing to Sunday school revolve around creating age-appropriate options.

Age groupings will have to be flexible based on the sporadic attendance of children and teens. It is our prayer that having a more structured format will help nurture a more regular attendance and lead to growth until these classes become necessary on a weekly basis.

### The Ideal Class Structure

- Verbal Non-readers (3-5 years approx.)
- 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Teens (7th grade and up)
- Adults

In addition, we have the following actions and goal.

All ages will base their curriculum on the same scripture. A curriculum such as *Whole People of God* will be used, which has age-appropriate lessons all around a single scripture.

Worship will often be on the same scripture, so that the lessons learned in Sunday school are reinforced in the multigenerational worship experience. The purpose of this is so families can discuss the lesson together after worship and through the week. Family conversations about the lessons and opportunities to put those lessons into action as a family are essential to building spiritual lives.



## TIME CHANGE MARCH 13th

Don't be an hour  
late to church!

# Ministry Teams

## Are You Participating?

A Vibrant Fruitful Church is one in which its members are participating in the life and ministry of the church. If you don't see your name on one of these lists, please let me know and I'll be glad to add your name. Our church has a lot of potential for growing its ministries and presence in the mountain communities, but we need your help, your ideas, your passion, and your presence.

*~Pastor John*

## Children and Youth Team

Children and Youth is tasked with overseeing, managing, and enhancing the programs of the church focused on children and youth including Sunday School and Youth Group.

Alan Sawyer	Jill Sawyer	Teresa Turner
Syndee D'Spain	Michelle Ward	Judy Inskeep
Maureen Marino	Claudia White	

UPDATE: Sunday school for all ages will be taking place very soon. We are looking forward to the new changes and having Sunday school for adults, teens, and children.

## Building and Property Team

Building and Property is tasked with taking care of the building and maintenance issues of the church including the parsonage.

Dave Somes	Mark Burrows	Jeff Lashmet
Bill Sturgeon	Don Dyer	Alan Sawyer
Bob Merigan	Lee Wirschem	Larry Newsome

## Faith Development and Outreach Team

Faith Development and Outreach is tasked with maintaining developing programs to help people in and outside the church experience the love of Jesus Christ through prayer, healing, study, and service.

Teresa Burrows	Shirley Somes	Jaye Strother
JoAnn Sturgeon	Judy Inskeep	Claudia Parent
Jennifer Demaree	Diana Shea	Martha Salzano
Chris Lashmet	Barbara Wesselink	
Autumn Cunningham		

Update: Our newest ministry collecting clothes is going very well. See the article about the new shed for this ministry on page 6.

## Worship Team

Worship and Music is tasked with advising and helping the Pastor with decisions regarding worship. They will also support the pastor with creative ways of bringing the message of worship to the congregation in passionate, authentic ways.

Shirley Dyer	BJ Nicholson	Deborah Mancini
Chuck Inskeep	Bob Merigan	Linda Dee Ames
Alan Sawyer	Caroline Rogers	Jennifer Demaree
Jeannie Cram		

Update: An expanded list of readers are participating each Sunday. Jeannie Cram has learned how to operate the worship computer and Syndee D'Spain has learned how to set up and operate the worship computer. We are happy to train anyone else as well. Worship runs smoothly because of everyone's help. Thanks to all of you on behalf of the congregation.

## Administrating and Record Keeping Team

Admin and Record Keeping is tasked with getting the office paperwork organized and keeping track of future records.

Syndee D'Spain	Linda Dee Ames	Chris Lashmet
Teresa Turner	Krystal Scott	

## Church News

### The Season of Lent

The Season of Lent is here again. Most Christians know about Lent, but they don't really know Lent. The first thing we often think about Lent is giving up chocolate or desserts or coffee or something. But Lent is not about giving up something. Lent is about getting to know God more closely and deeply.

If you want to give up something for Lent, then give up something that is distracting you from God. Perhaps food or TV time. Then replace that time with a Faith Development activities, like Acts of Kindness, Prayer, Worship, or Study of the scriptures.

#### Prayer Partners

On the first Sunday of Lent (February 14th), you will be invited to enter your name and draw out a name as a prayer partner through the season of Lent. The tradition is to send your prayer partner a couple of notes of praise and encouragement during the 6 weeks of the season. Then on Easter Sunday, you are encouraged to bring a small gift to give as you reveal your name to the person you have been praying for all season.

#### Easter Lilies

One of the most beautiful parts of our sanctuary each Easter is the Easter Lilly Cross. We would love for you to participate in the decoration of the sanctuary. You can bring a Lily plant in on Palm Sunday or Maundy Thursday or you can make a donation to a Lilly fund and others will buy lilies with this flower fund. If you would like make a donation you can simply write Lilly Donation on a check or put cash into a giving envelope and write Lilies on the front of it.

### Worship & Hospitality Workshop

The second in our series of Saturday workshops will meet on Saturday March 19th from 10am-1pm. Food and Child Care will be provided once again.

This workshop will focus on ways to make our worship more meaningful and more accessible to our younger friends who are now attending all of worship with us. We will also look at music in light of one of our pianist moving away. Finally, we will also look at Hospitality as it so directly connected to worship. Everyone who attends worship or wants to is invited to this meeting.

### Couples News



We have been enjoying our couples fellowship. Last month, we began the series called "Laughing Your Way to a Better Marriage" from the beginning again. This is a great series with lots of laughter and many ideas for thought and action. We will have our next meeting on Friday, February 5th, at 6:30 at Bob and Lisa Cardinal's home. Each month, we have a potluck before we watch the video clip. Even if you are not part of a couple, you are welcome to join us.

Our March gathering will be on March 4th at the home of Alan and Jill Sawyer. Never attended? Why not consider giving it a try and come to the next gathering. For questions, call Shirley Somes 445-1097 or Theresa Burrows 473-9810.

### Mountain Mesh Internet

We have been enjoying over a year of Mountain Mesh internet. We wanted to express a great thanks to Mike for the discount we are getting on the service. We can't say enough about Mike's friendly demeanor and great service.

### March Mission Project

On March 13th, we are going to bring back one of our favorite mission projects, Manna Bags. These are bags you can hand to anyone in need. These are especially nice if you see a person who is asking for money that they may spend in any number of ways. These bags are a far better way to help.

On the 13th, we will need help assembling as many bags as possible. Each kit will contain items similar to the following:

- o One small bottle of water
- o One individual sized serving of ravioli
- o One individual serving container of applesauce
- o One granola bar or healthy snack
- o One plastic spoon, fork, knife and napkin set
- o Individually wrapped hard candy
- o One pair of socks

Please don't go out and start buying items. Instead, talk with Jennifer Demaree about how you can help. Donations of money are always accepted.

## More News

### Church Council



Our first Church Council meeting of the year was on January 31st. It was well-attended and we covered a variety of topics including financial reports from 2015, voting for a new worship time (see page 2), and our new dates for the Luau.

The Luau this year will be on Saturday, June 12th. A Luau meeting will be held after church on February 14th.

Our Next Church Council meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, April 17th. At this meeting, we will be discussing the results of the March Worship workshop, and checking in on Luau preparations.

All are welcome to attend these open meetings around the lunch tables.

### New Clothes Shed

Work is beginning on a new shed behind the church. This shed is being paid for by a grant we received in December from the Georgia Lynch Fund.



Brad Inskeep is taking on the job of construction. We hope to have it done and equipped with shelves, so that we can organize the clothing and other items being given to the church.

With the new shed in place, we will be able to house a variety of items that are so desperately needed in our community. A big thank you is given to Judy Inskeep who filled out all of the paperwork so that we could receive this wonderful grant in the first place.

### Prayer Chain



Last year, we renewed our church Prayer Chain again. The response has been overwhelming. We have over 30 people sign up. Linda Dee took over the phone part of the prayer chain and has done a wonderful job, but she will be leaving us in just a few short weeks.

Deborah Mancini Wirschem has volunteered to take over the reigns. We want to say a big thank you to both of these women. We are very lucky to have such dedicated people in our church.

Since more than half of the people have email, Pastor John will continue sending out prayer requests via email. Some who have email will prefer a phone call and so receive both. To sign up to receive prayer chain emails and/or phone calls, please email the church at [Office@chapelofthehills.org](mailto:Office@chapelofthehills.org) or call Deborah at the number below.

IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER CONCERN,  
YOU CAN CALL OR EMAIL

Deborah Wirschem  
619-403-7486  
[Prayers@chapelofthehills.org](mailto:Prayers@chapelofthehills.org)

## SAVE the Date

### PRESCHOOL SUNDAY

April 24th, 10:30 am

Join us for this special worship in which we celebrate our Preschool ministry. The Preschool is one of our most vital ministries to the mountain communities. This special Sunday is way to recognize their work and care.

### All Church Campout

June 3rd-5th

Reservations will soon be available for our annual Church campout. Every spring, the couples group sponsors our all-church campout in the Laguna Mountains. We reserve an entire campground. The campground has a central campfire area.

The climax to the weekend is an outdoor worship service on Sunday morning. Everyone from the church is invited to the service. If enough people request it, the bus may be available to bring people up to the campground for worship.

# Thank Yous



## Pew Pal Labels

Thank you to Syndee D'Spain and Kristy Sawyer for our updated Pew Pal tags. Syndee printed and laminated a new set of tags, and Christy took off the old ones and replaced them with brand new ones. Many pastor's and members of other churches are envious of our pew pals. Thank you again for keeping them looking nice.

*Pastor John*



## January Missions

Thank you to everyone who donated mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, and socks. This winter has been a cold one, and these warm gifts were very appreciated. Pastor John handed them out in Gautay during Feeding America. Everyone who wanted an item got one, and in the end there was nothing left. Job well done.



## Christmas Gifts

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gifts that the church gave to our family in December. All of us appreciated being personally acknowledged with individual gifts. We are so blessed to be a part of this loving congregation.

Blessings and Love, *Pastor John & Jennifer*



## Christmas Dinners

Four families received a full turkey dinner with all the extras. Each also sent there deepest gratitude for the generosity of the United Methodist Women and everyone who helped provide funds and time for this endeavor.

We should especially thank Jaime Dyer who puts in more hours than anyone getting everything so organized that not even Pastor John can get it messed up. We also need to thank Claudia Parent and Bob Merigan who contacted the families and made arrangements to get the food and gifts to the families. This is a simple act, but its impact goes far beyond what we can even imagine.



## Bob Jones, Jaime Dyer

Advent Wreath and Nativity Banner Set

It's been a couple of years, but I am reminded as we pack up after Christmas each year of the gifts of Bob, and Jaime.

The wonderful Advent Wreath and Candle holder that Bob made is in its 3rd year of service and makes the Advent wreath so much nicer and easier to set up. In its present location, it shined upon the beautiful banners that Jaime Dyer made.



## Linda Dee Ames

February 14th will mark the final Sunday for Linda Dee playing at our church. In my 6 years as pastor at Chapel of Hills Linda Dee has played the piano faithfully every other Sunday, for Choir performances and special worship services. Linda Dee has also served as Lay Leader, and Prayer Chain Coordinator. She helped with finances as a check signer., and was usually present to help at our many special events. Linda Dee and Evan will both be missed, and we send them on their way with our love.

*Pastor John*



## John Nilsen Concert

A big thank you to those who were able to make it to the January 16th concert. John really made our piano rock out part of the time, sound like organ chimes others, and melodically play some of the old time favorites in between.



# This month and Easter at Chapel of the Hills

## **Couples, Feb. 5th**

Couples meets the first Friday night of each month September through May. Couples and singles of all ages are welcome.

## **Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10**

We will be holding 2 services on Ash Wednesday, 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Each will be the same and will include ashes.

## **Couples, March 4th**

Couples meets the first Friday night of each month September through May. Couples and singles of all ages are welcome.

## **First Sunday of New Schedule**

**March 6th** Starting on March 6th our worship will begin one half hour later at 10:30 am. At 9:30am, Sunday school will begin for all ages.

## **Time Change, March 13th**

Don't forget to SPRING FORWARD.

## **Mission Project, March 13th**

In March, we will be assembling Manna Bags. These are emergency bags that can be given to people in need.

## **EASTER WEEK**

### **Palm Sunday - March 20th**

Easter Week begins with Palm Sunday where we remember and celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem for that final time nearly 2000 years ago.

### **Maundy Thursday - March 24th**

This evening at 7pm we celebrate Jesus final mandate: to Love one another.

### **Easter Sunday - March 27th**

(See the front page)



## *Chapel of the Hills*

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OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS OPEN DOORS  
The People of the United Methodist Church

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Place  
Stamp  
Here