



# Voice of the Hills



Newsletter of

## CHAPEL OF THE HILLS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
DESCANSO, CA

*Lent - February-March 2017*

### Lent 2017

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

#### Ash Wednesday - Mar 1st, 1:00 & 7:00 pm

We will, once again, offer two services on Ash Wednesday. Each service will last about 30 minutes. This is a powerful and spiritual way to begin the season of Lent.

#### Prayer Partners

On the first Sunday of Lent (March 5th), you will be invited to enter your name and draw out a name for 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.



### Upcoming Events

**Couples Study - Feb. 3rd**  
(See Page 5)

**Scout Sunday - Feb. 5th**  
(See this page)

**Missions Sunday - Feb. 19th**  
(See Page 5)

**Ash Wednesday - Mar. 1st**  
(See this page)

**Couples Study - Mar. 3rd**  
(See Page 5)

**Time Change - Mar. 12th**  
(Spring Forward See Page 3)

**Missions Sunday - Mar. 19th**  
(See Page 5)

### Save the Date

**Easter - April 16th**  
(See Page 5)

**Preschool Sunday -  
April 30th** (See Page 5)

### Prayer Garden

### Eagle Project



Over a decade ago, Erik Cram completed his Eagle project which included adding 6 benches to our prayer garden. Over those years, they have been a place of rest in quiet moments, and the place of our Easter Sunrise services. The years had taken their toll on the benches, however. This month, we celebrate a second Eagle Project as Jonathan Zentmyer, Pastor John's stepson, has completed his Eagle Project by refurbishing the benches. Thanks to very generous donations, we were able to upgrade to hardwoods that should last a very long time. On Scout Sunday, February 5th, we will take a moment after the service to dedicate the completion of Jonathan's work. I hope you have opportunities to enjoy the beautiful setting of our prayer garden.

## ANNUAL Western LUAU

**Saturday, June 3rd  
3:00 - 7:00 pm**

CHAPEL OF THE HILLS  
COMMUNITY UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
25153 Viejas Blvd.  
Descanso, CA 91916  
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office@chapelofthehills.org  
Web:  
www.chapelofthehills.org

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

Mondays 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Tuesdays 9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Wednesdays 11:00 am - 7:00 pm  
Thursdays 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

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

**SUNDAY MORNING**

**Sunday School—9:30 am**  
All Ages

**Worship Service—10:30 am**  
Sanctuary

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

**CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

Senior Minister

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

Lay Leader

**Andrew Strother**

Church Council Chair

**Don Dyer**

Office Assistant

**Syndee D'Spain**

Country Treehouse

Preschool Director

**Terri Bell**

Youth Directors

**Jill and Alan Sawyer**

Bookkeeper

**Krystal Scott**

Nursery Attendant

**Raylah Peterson**

## Pastor's Pen

### Faith Development Workshop

On January 29, a small group of members came for a meeting to talk about Sunday School and our outreach to the community. The turnout was small, but the few who were able to make it were very enthusiastic and we shared a lot of great ideas and feedback. I hope as we move forward with some of these ideas that everyone will join in to help make them successful.

We spent the first half of our meeting talking about Sunday school and Sunday mornings. All of our teachers are very committed to continuing with our current schedule and setup. There was much praise for the Adult Sunday school class in particular. This means there will be no change to our Sunday morning schedule.

We did talk a long time about the Worship hour. The youngest kids are going downstairs after children's time and Raylah, our nursery coordinator, needs a helper when the number of kids exceeds 2 or 3, especially now that a baby is coming on a regular basis. We did a lot brainstorming about making worship more kid-friendly, and are even planning to make the 5th Sundays a child-focused worship service. This should happen about 4 times a year. April 30th is the next 5th Sunday and will be Preschool Sunday. It is also our goal, even though it is a difficult one, to get our youth involved in some way with worship occasionally.

Children need to experience worship, so that as they grow older it doesn't seem like a foreign experience. We want to get the kids involved in tasks like ushering, lighting the candles, ringing the bell, and handing out bulletins. Kids who can sit through the 10- to 15-minute sermon time should be encouraged to do so. More on this will be rolled out over the next few weeks. You can read more about this on page 3.

The second hour, we talked about our community and how to reach out to them through advertising, and events. We talked about a great many subjects from the band smiling more to youth summer involvement in Feeding San Diego.

One of our main goals to is be more intentional with our mission work. We will be publishing in the bulletin and in our next newsletter and complete year's schedule of mission projects. This will allow everyone to see the big picture of what we do, and what is coming up next. We are going to focus more of our mission work around the Feeding San Diego ministry that is already happening. Baskets will be handed out soon so we can collect bulk amounts of items that the people coming to Feeding San Diego may need. Please see March Mission on page 5 or contact Judy Inskeep for more information.

Lastly, we are going to be more intentional about connecting with the Catholic church and working on a combined event or community project. There is so much need here. Reaching out as a passionate followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to inspire the world. I hope you are inspired by these ideas to get involved and share God's love in real and practical ways.

Blessings,  
*Pastor John*



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church®**

# 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 any 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. Please remember the youth do not meet on days school holidays/days off or if there is rain or snow.

## Children in Worship

A year ago, we re-arranged our Sunday morning schedule adding time for a dedicated Sunday school hour for all ages. A year later, our teachers are still dedicated to the format and promise that this schedule brings to our church.

Our focus at a recent meeting was on children in worship. The role and place of children on Sunday mornings has changed over time. In the 1950s, it changed to children having Sunday school while the parents went to worship.

What researchers have discovered since then, however, is that the separation of children from worship has been a major factor in young adults leaving the church. Not having grown up with the experience of worship, these young adults too often found it to be a strange and uncomfortable experience that they were suddenly thrust into it at the end of youth Sunday school classes.

Having children in the worship starting at a young age builds the memories and intergenerational relationships that allow a church to continue on generation after generation. Singing together, praying together, giving together, hearing the words of scripture together, and sharing in communion together; are the things that bind us together. They are things that make us the "Body of Christ."

Here are some ideas that we have come up with to help in our goal of integrating children into worship.

- Allowing parents to make the choice about their children staying in worship or going downstairs after the children's time, but encouraging them to keep them in worship if possible.
- Allowing the children to be more involved in worship by handing out bulletins, helping with the offering, reading scripture, and other ways that we can think of as time goes on.
- The fifth Sundays will be a special worship designed for even more participation by our children and youth by helping with the music and the sermon time.

We welcome your ideas. Please share them and be a part of this grand adventure.

## 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.)  
June 25 - 28, 2017

Elementary Camp - 4th-6th: (Sun.-Sat.)  
June 25 - July 1, 2017

Junior High Camp - 7th-9th: (Sun.-Sat.)  
July 9 - 15, 2017

Senior High Camp - 9th-Graduated Seniors: (Sun.-Sat.) July 23-29, 2017



TIME CHANGE

MARCH 12th

Don't be an hour late to church!

# Financial Report

The end of the year number that were not ready for our January 22nd Church council meeting are in the chart below. The 2nd and 3rd columns show what we brought in and spent in 2015 and 2016. So one can compare, the 4th and 5th columns show last year's and this year's budgets. Thanks in part to the equitable compensation from the overall church and to an increase in giving over the last four months of the year, we came out in the black about \$4,500 for the year. We have some major expenses in the coming months with roof work needed on our Classroom building and the Parsonage that we rent out. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask Pastor John, or come to our next Church Council Meeting.

## 2015 and 2016 Financial Information

Budget	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
Line Items	Jan-Dec	Jan - Dec	Full Year	Full Year
<b>SUNDAY GIVING</b>				
Known Givers	\$63,145.93	\$60,696.31	\$53,250.00	\$57,000.00
Loose Plate	\$5,315.30	\$2,820.00	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00
<b>FACILITY (rentals &amp; preschool)</b>	\$29,241.00	\$27,615.00	\$28,500.00	\$28,500.00
<b>FUNDRAISING</b>				
Luau	\$3,938.00	\$4,244.65	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Other Fundraising	\$1,100.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
<b>MISC</b>				
Equitable Compensation	\$16,981.86	\$30,739.40	\$30,739.38	\$31,008.00
Misc Income		\$0.00		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$119,722.09</b>	<b>\$126,115.36</b>	<b>\$121,239.38</b>	<b>\$125,258.00</b>
<b>APPORTIONMENTS</b>	\$5,292.94	\$10,276.50	\$9,828.00	\$9,741.39
<b>OUTREACH / PROGRAMS</b>	\$1,605.93	\$952.75	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
<b>STAFF/CONTRACTORS</b>	\$9,584.08	\$10,286.99	\$9,800.00	\$9,800.00
<b>PASTOR</b>	\$79,397.84	\$84,972.01	\$88,707.00	\$88,311.00
<b>TRUSTEES</b>				
Facility (Maint. & Utilities)	\$13,041.06	\$8,830.42	\$14,400.00	\$10,000.00
Insurance	\$5,312.51	\$4,941.04	\$4,500.00	\$5,100.00
Office	\$991.69	\$730.33	\$375.00	\$400.00
Worship	\$578.36	\$393.37	\$700.50	\$700.00
Banking Fees	\$40.00	\$220.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Payroll Expenses	\$3,569.75			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$119,414.16</b>	<b>\$121,603.41</b>	<b>\$129,310.50</b>	<b>\$125,252.39</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$307.93</b>	<b>\$4,511.95</b>	<b>-\$8,071.12</b>	<b>\$5.61</b>

## Church News

### Prayer Chain

Last year, we revived our church Prayer Chain. The response has been overwhelming. We have over 30 people who receive prayer concerns and updates.



Deborah Mancini Wirschem leads the phone call portion of the Prayer chain. We want to say a big thank you to her. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated person 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,

TO SIGN UP OR IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER CONCERN,

YOU CAN CALL OR EMAIL

Deborah Wirschem  
619-403-7486

### Couples News

We have been enjoying our couples fellowship. Last month, we began the series called "Love to Stay." This series is a reflection and study format with interactive questions and group discussion around scripture and a video presentation



We will have our next meeting on Friday, February 3rd, at 6:30pm at Barbara Weselink's. 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 3rd but does not have a location yet. 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.

### February Mission Project



Between now and February 19th we will be collecting hats, mittens, gloves, scarves. These will be handed out at Feeding San Diego in Guatay on February 23rd. Our goal is to bring in at least 80 items, so that everyone who comes to the Feeding San Diego on that Thursday will have a chance

to select one item for themselves. Scarves and hats are especially appreciated.

### March Mission Project

Throughout the month of March, Judy Inskip will be coordinating the filling of several plastic baskets. These are different than opportunity drawing baskets. Each basket will be filled with one item that will be available for those coming to Guatay's Feeding San Diego distribution. These items, mostly toiletries and the like will then be replenished as needed throughout the year.

Judy will be coordinating the exact items for each basket and people to purchase the items. Donations of money towards the toiletries are always accepted.

## SAVE the Date

### Easter Week

**Palm Sunday - April 9th - 10:30 am** Worship

**Maundy Thursday - April 13th - 7:00 pm** Worship

**Easter Sunday - April 16th**

- Sunrise Service - 7:30 am - In the Garden
- Easter Breakfast - 8:30 am - In the Hall
- Sunday School (for all ages) - 9:30 am - In the Sanctuary
- Easter Worship - 10:30 am - In the Sanctuary
- Easter Egg Hunt - 11:30 am - Outside

### PRESCHOOL SUNDAY

April 30th, 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 our way to recognize their work and care.

## More News

### Church Council



Our first Church Council meeting of the year was on January 22nd. It was well-attended and we covered a variety of topics.

**Equitable Compensation** - Pastor John reported that the church was awarded the entire amount we asked for, which is \$1,000 more than what we received in 2016. In addition, our apportionments were reduced. Finances for 2017 look promising.

**Signs** - Don Dyer has ordered lettering templates in the font used by the Forest Service. Delivery expected this week. Once the routing on the borders is complete, Linda Hoody will paint the letters.

**FINANCE: Apportionments** – All 2016 apportionments were paid. We are current on all bills. See financial report on page 4.

**ROOF(S):** Don Dyer and Lee Wirschem have requested bids from a roofing contractors for replacement or repairs to the classroom building roof, and the contractor should be able to submit it in 2 to 3 weeks. The parsonage is also in need of roofing repairs. A special Church Council meeting will be called once bids are in.

**KITCHEN:** Jeff Lashmet brought up a discussion of the refrigerator and freezer used by the preschool, which are in need of replacement. He is researching single-door refrigerator and a small upright freezer to replace the old, small chest freezer.

**LUAU:** The 2017 Luau will held on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Due to cooler weather in June, it was decided to move the time to 3:00 to 7:00 pm, with the main drawing held at 6:30. Luau-related discussions were:

- Entertainment; all are in favor of hiring the Kuku Nuts for music again. Their fee in 2016 was \$400.
- Heaters needed at least in the dining/seating area. Dyer can get four of them: others may be able to find more.
- A designated Emcee, who has no other responsibilities, would help to keep the evening moving along on schedule.
- The preschool's participation was a welcome addition last year, and it was agreed we should ask them to take part again.
- The social media advertising for the Turkey Dinner seemed to work well, so it should be used again for the Luau.
- Parking concerns were disgust at an earlier meeting and will be dealt with as we get closer.

### Trustees Worklist

These are a rolling list of work projects needed around the church.

- Classroom wing roof repair or replacement; Parsonage roof as well – soliciting bids and call special meeting of Church council late February for vote.
- Signs - Being made at El Cap High School
- Stove – call Cisco (SDG&E) to determine why the pilot keeps failing and right oven is 100 degrees lower than indicated temp. Schedule for an upcoming 3-day weekend so that stove and island can be moved if necessary.
- Replace latch on trash enclosure.
- Repair door jamb of preschool shed that was damaged by winds in January storms. (This was done by Pastor John)

### Mountain Mesh Internet

We have been enjoying over two years 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.

### John Nilsen Concert



A big thank you to those who were able to make it to the January 14th concert. John really made our piano rock out at times, sound like organ chimes others, and melodically play some of the old time favorites in between.



# Thank You



## Bob Jones, Dave Browder, Jaime Dyer

Another wonderful Christmas and New Year's holiday have come and gone. I wanted to take a moment and thank once again those who make our sanctuary and church look so beautiful.



The wonderful Advent Wreath and Candle holder that Bob Jones made is in its 4th 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.

Having the large Nativity set that Dave Browder made in front of our church, makes our church quite festive for all who pass our way throughout December. Thank you Bob, Dave, and Jaime. The gift of your craftsmanship continues on.



## 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

Several families received Christmas gift cards and food this Christmas season. Each family 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 who contacted many of the families and individuals, 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.



## Military Care Packages

Good Morning members and children of Chapel of the Hills Community UMC, Happy Holidays! Thank you so much for the care package. We received it on 23 Dec, just in time for Christmas! I

got some of the Marines and Sailors together on Christmas Eve to share the package with them. One of our combat camera Marines happened to be nearby and he was kind enough to take a few pictures for us, which are attached. I thought the kids might like to see the Marines enjoying their cards. Everyone really loved them. It was very special getting to read all of the cards that the kids all worked so hard on.

Everyone also loved the brownies. As I'm sure you can imagine, it's not always easy to get into the Christmas spirit while we're separated from our families. Having homemade brownies really seemed to bring a piece of home out here to us. Thank you again for everything. It was all very much appreciated. God bless you and everyone at Chapel of the Hills Community United Methodist Church.

SSgt Jeremy M. Fisher

Merry Christmas!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the care package. It means a lot to take time out of your busy holiday schedule to plan, organize, and send us a box filled with goodies. The brownies were especially good with some ice cream the cooks broke out tonight. We will cherish the cards and the goodies over the weeks to come.

Sincerely,  
CPO Ryan Reppe, US Navy

I just got a package from your church and I am insanely appreciative for the cards the kids wrote, the amazing brownies that all the boys can't get enough of, and all the candy. We are going to take a Christmas photo and send one to you and the church for all that you guys have done for us.

Mario Wilson, US Navy



# This month and Easter at Chapel of the Hills

## **Couples, Feb. 3rd**

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

## **Mission Project, Feb. 19th**

In February we will be collecting hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens.

## **Ash Wednesday, Mar. 1**

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 3rd**

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

## **Time Change, March 12th**

Don't forget to SPRING FORWARD.

## **Mission Project, March 19th**

Judy Inskeep is organizing a toiletries drive for the Feeding San Diego distribution in Guatay. See article for details.

## **EASTER WEEK**

### **Palm Sunday - April 9th**

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 - April 13th**

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

### **Easter Sunday - April 16th**

See page 6 for all of the events this morning.



## *Chapel of the Hills*

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Place  
Stamp  
Here