

Voice of the Hills



Newsletter of

CHAPEL OF THE HILLS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DESCANSO, CA

April - May 2016



He is Risen!

"Christ is Risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair. Walk with gladness in the morning, see what love can do and dare."
~From the hymn *Christ is Risen*

Preschool Sunday



NEW WORSHIP TIME!

Preschool Sunday Join us **April 24, 2016** for this year's preschool Sunday. Doors open at 10:00 am. **Worship begins at 10:30 am.** Another change we made was the addition of a paid Nursery Attendant. Nursery Care will be available on Preschool Sunday from 10:00 am to 11:45 am.

Annual Western Luau

NEW DATE: June 11th



Our Annual Luau will be Saturday evening June 11th. We welcome our preschool families to this wonderful event on its new date. Dinner is served 4:30 to 7:30 pm. Entertainment, prizes, and drawings will go on to 8:30 pm.

Upcoming Events

Couples Study -

April 1st (See Page 5)

Pastor John Vacation -

March 27 - April 3rd

April Mission -

April 10th (See Page 5)

Church Council Meeting -

April 17th (See Page 6)

Preschool Sunday -

April 24th (See Page 6)

Couples Study -

May 6th (See Page 5)

Mother's Day -

May 8th (See Page 5)

May Mission Project -

May 29th (See Page 5)

All-Church Camp -

June 3-5 (See Page 4)

Annual Western Luau -

June 11 (See Page 6)

Save the Date

Descanso Parade -

July 9th (See Page 6)

CHAPEL OF THE HILLS
COMMUNITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
25153 Viejas Blvd.
Descanso, CA 91916
(for mail use: PO Box 235)
Phone (619) 445-3617
Cell Phone (619) 993-5748
Fax (619) 445-3617
Email:
office@chapelofthehills.org
Web:
www.chapelofthehills.org

**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

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

Accompanist
Karla Jorgensen Ponce

Country Treehouse
Preschool Director
Terri Bell

Youth Directors
Jill and Alan Sawyer

Bookkeeper
Krystal Scott

Nursery Attendant
Raylah Peterson

Pastor's Pen

On Saturday, March 19th, We had our second Saturday workshop. This one covered topics of Worship and Hospitality. These topics intertwine as we think about visitors coming to our church. We had a great discussion and I want to share with you some of the highlights from our meeting.

We started by learning that visitors begin to make up their mind about returning to a church in the first 10 minutes. This means that the hospitality of our campus and our members makes a big impact.

(Some demographics of our town are on the bottom of page 7.)

Here are some of our **Radical Hospitality** Highlights:

1. The entrance driveway has no signage. There is no way to know that the driveway entrance to our church is indeed the entrance. Better signage is needed.
2. Some of the storage from our Luau and other events gets stacked up behind the sheds and often looks like a mess. It's the kind of thing you wouldn't want friends to see around your house.
3. The Entrance to the chapel is not marked in any way. Not very welcoming to a new member.
4. The Entryway (Narthex) of the church needs a renovation. Unfortunately, the days of church libraries has past. We lifted lots of ideas for the space. What ideas do you have?
5. Keeping our sanctuary clean is important. We only get one chance to make a first impression. Help cleaning and organizing the sanctuary is always appreciated.

Passionate Worship

For the second hour of our meeting, we talked about worship. Music, is of course, always front and center when we talk about worship. One of the most important attributes of any worship is to be authentic. Our worship music is authentic for the praise band we currently have. Being authentic and good is more important than choosing a specific style. We learned that young adults are looking for a blend of traditions and new.

The reality is that it's getting harder to supply a pianist each week. We wished Linda Dee well on her way as she moved to Kentucky last month. Karla let us know that she was accepted into Pharmacy school starting this fall. Karla will hopefully be available to play on occasion, but it is getting more difficult for her to be available. Caroline has been very wonderful to step in from time to time, but is not always available.

The suggestion of the group was that for April we will try an experiment. We are going to let the praise band or a smaller contingent play all of the worship music. This will include the hymn, doxology, offering, and *Shalom*. We will discuss this more at the next Church Council meeting on April 17th.

The other worship topics we discussed were ways to involve the children who are now worshiping with us on a regular basis, and ways to make the worship more interactive. Come to worship and experience the changes for yourself.

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 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



Children's Ministries at Chapel of the Hills

We are three weeks into our new schedule. Things are going very well. Our Sunday school teachers are doing a great job. It has been fun teaching the adults during their Sunday school time. Our teachers are finishing up a new background check process through the conference recommended group Safe Gatherings.

However, these changes are still settling in with everyone. Here is another quick guide:

- 9:00 am - 9:30 am Praise Band Practice
- 9:30 am - 9:40 am Sunday School Music
- 9:40 am - 10:20 am Sunday School Classes
- 10:30 am - 11:30 am Worship
- 11:30 am - 12:00 am Lunch

The Changes are working well this Easter. We are adding a 7:30 am Sunrise Service and 8:30 Breakfast into our new schedule. For Preschool Sunday on April 24th, we will have to change our schedule by not having our Sunday School hour.

NURSERY CARE

At our January church council meeting, we agreed to search for a paid Nursery Care provider. I hope you will take an opportunity to introduce yourself to our new Nursery Attendant Raylah Peterson. She began starting March 6th and will be a regular part of every Sunday morning. Having a Nursery on a weekly basis is a big part of Radical Hospitality.

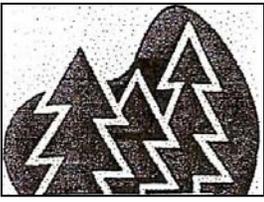
We are looking forward to offering Nursery Care for our Preschool Sunday on April 24th. The preschool is a big part of the ministry and outreach of our church. Offering Nursery Care will hopefully nurture that relationship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Please take a moment to thank our large group of volunteer teachers. Those who are serving now and those who will serve in the months to come. Their dedication to this new schedule and structure is important to our church's growth.

Please take time to share with your family, neighbors, and friends all of the wonderful changes happening at our church.

Pastor John



2016 Chapel of the Hills Church Camp Out



- WHEN:** Friday, June 3 - Sunday, June 5 (Check in anytime after 2pm Friday, Check out 2pm Sunday)
- WHERE:** Wooded Hills Group Camp. This area offers great hiking, pine and oak trees, and mountain bike trails. (Directions are available at church.)
- WHAT:** Come with a tent, RV, trailer (no hookups and no dump station), or whatever you can find, and live out amongst God's wondrous creation for one or two nights.
- FRIDAY:** At leisure, arrive anytime after 2pm. There are no scheduled events for Friday, just come and relax with friends.
- SATURDAY:** Nature hike in the morning. Afternoon, bring things you would like to do such as board games, horse shoes, volley ball, bike, painting, photography, singing, visiting, reading, etc.
- POTLUCK DINNER - 5:30 pm.** Each family is responsible for a main dish, salad, or dessert. Plates and forks will be furnished. Bring your own drinks.
- CAMPFIRE:** Entertainment around the campfire after dinner.
- SUNDAY:** Breakfast will be provided at 8:30 am and will consist of eggs, sausage, bacon, French toast, etc. (A monetary donation is requested for this meal.)
- WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:30 AM.** led by Pastor John. You will need to bring your own chairs.

THINGS TO BRING

RV or tent, water, wood for fire, potluck contributions, hiking shoes and clothes, jackets, bug repellent, camping gear, food, utensils, lanterns, flashlights, chairs and tables, etc.
Don't have a tent or RV, ask Pastor John and he will see if a tent can be arranged.

Please reserve a camping spot as soon as possible.

Cost: Suggested Donation of \$25.00 /family (please don't let the cost keep you from coming)

*Return to Pastor John or Shirley Somes or
Mail to: Chapel of the Hills, PO Box 235,
Descanso CA, 91916-0235*

Make Checks payable to Chapel of the Hills, UMC

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Number of people: _____ Number of vehicles: _____

NOTE: Kids and Teens are required to have a responsible adult present for supervision.

Church News

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, April 1st, at 6:30 hosted by Bill and Joanne Sturgeon at the home of Dave and Shirley Somes. Each month we have a potluck meal before we watch the video clip. Even if you are not part of a couple, you are welcome to join us.



Our May gathering will be on May 6th at the home of Brad and Caroline Wellnitz

Never attended? Why not consider giving it a try. For questions, call Shirley Somes 445-1097.

April 10th Mission Project Tax Day Goodies!

For several years, we have been provided a sweet treat to our postal workers at the Alpine, Descanso, and Pine Valley Post Offices on or near April 15th - one of their busiest days. Jennifer will be collecting baked goods on Sunday, the 10th, and then ask folks at church to deliver them on Thursday or Friday. Our postal workers do a lot to help our communities the whole year through, please take this opportunity to give them a big thank you, and help show God's love in a real and practical way.

Mountain Mesh Internet

We are still enjoying our discounted Mountain Mesh internet service at the church. If you are looking for high-speed internet, you might try Mountain Mesh. If you do, say that you heard about it from us.

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 moved back to Kentucky last month.

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 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

Mother's Day Sunday, May 8th

Don't forget this special Sunday. Celebrate your mother by bringing her to church, or coming to church to celebrate all mothers.

May Mission Project - May 29th

In May, we will be assembling UMCOR HEALTH Kits. These kits are handed out shortly after natural disasters and other events where families and individuals have lost everything have occurred. From now until May 29th, we will be collecting the following:

- **Hand towels** 15 x 25 inches to 17 x 27 inches;
- **Washcloths**
- **Metal nail files and nail clippers**
- **Bath-size soaps** 3 oz. and larger sizes only
- **Toothbrushes** Adult size, individually wrapped
- **Adhesive bandages** ¾ inch to 1 inch-size
- **Sealable bags** one-gallon size

There are further restriction and descriptions, please contact Jennifer Demaree BEFORE you buy anything. Cash donations are gladly accepted.

More News

Church Council



Since our first Church Council meeting of the year on January 31st, we met again as a Luau planning meeting. We covered a variety of topics.

The Luau seems to be in good shape for its all new date of Saturday, June 11th. (See article below). We will continue to discuss it at our next Church Council meeting which has been scheduled for **Sunday, April 17, 2016.**

In addition to the Luau, we will be discussing the results of the March 19th Worship and Hospitality workshop.

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

Mobile Food Pantry

Feeding America provides this essential service to our community almost weekly. It comes to the Descanso Town Hall on 1st & 3rd Thursdays (next Apr. 7th) at 10:00 am. On 2nd & 4th Thursdays (next on Apr. 14th), it comes to Guatay at 10:00 am. You are invited to come to either or both drop-offs. With a small amount of paperwork and a willing friend, your food can be picked up by someone else and delivered to you.

Don't forget every Wednesday after the 2nd Monday delivery by the Salvation Army and San Diego Food Bank in Guatay 10:00 - 10:30 am.

Feeding America Volunteers, thank you for helping out in both Guatay and Descanso. We appreciate you giving your time in all kinds of weather to help distribute food.

Preschool News

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY April 24th, 10:30 am

Join us for this special worship in which we celebrate our Preschool ministry. We often think about the preschool as a separate organization using our facility, but really they are a ministry of our church. We are one together. Ms Terri and the other teachers teach more specific Bible lessons than any other preschool in which I have been involved.

Our weekly chapel times are a way for me to connect the church and the kids. I meet with the kids almost every week they are in session. We sing songs, I tell a Bible story and then we share prayer concerns.

I know it's always a crowded Sunday, but we want the preschool parents to meet you. So mark your calendar for this year's preschool Sunday even if you just come afterwards to mingle with the families.

Pastor John

SAVE the Date

Luau Saturday, June 11th

Before you know it, the Luau will be here. The Luau seems to be in good shape for its all new date of Saturday, June 11th. The Kukui Nuts have been scheduled again this year for entertainment, along with the preschool children. There will be vendor booths again and the best BBQ west of the Mississippi. I might be biased. Help us be prepared by volunteering to help however and whenever you can.

Descanso Parade July 9th, 10:00 am

Save the date for this important Descanso event. We are still working out how we might participate this year. So save the date and keep your eyes and ears open for further information.

Thank You



Thank You Judy and Brad Inskeep

Work is almost finished 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, Judy's son, has taken 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.

If you see Brad, let him know how thankful we are for his dedicated work to making a quality shed that will last a very long time.

Blessings, *Pastor John*



Easter Sunday

It takes a lot of work to pull off Easter at Chapel of the Hills. I want to thank those that I know about, and a general thank you to everyone who are helping make this Easter the special day that it is.

First, thank you to those who came in this week and weeded, trimmed, planted, and watered to make our garden and grounds beautiful. Second, thank you to those who prepared the sanctuary decorations, cleaned, setup, put away, prepared eggs and goodies, bought flowers, and more. Third, a thank you to Caroline who is stepping in once again to play the piano for worship. And finally to all those who commit their time week in and week out. Last but not least, thank you to our cooks, and helpers who are preparing our delicious Easter Breakfast.

Blessings, *Pastor John*



March Mission Project

Thank you to all who participated in the March Manna Bag project. Many of you took some of the Manna bags to personally hand out. We would love to hear your stories of what happened when you gave them out. If you would like to make your own Manna Bags throughout the year, Jennifer would be happy to give you a copy of the instructions.

Pastor John

Do You Know Descanso?

Some data about the residents of our town.

GENDER

Male	828	51%
Female	794	49%

AGE

<25	435	26.8%
25-44	353	21.8%
45-64	687	42.4%
>64	220	13.6%

HIGHEST EDUCATION BY HOUSEHOLD

Some High School	114	11%
High School Degree	188	18%
At least Some College	627	60%
Graduate Degree	114	11%

HOUSHOLD TYPE

Married w/Children	156	19%
Married no Children	223	28%
1 Person alone	200	25%
Other	227	28%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

150,000 or more	43	7%
75 - 149,999	186	31%
30 - 74,999	217	36%
Less Than 30,000	160	26%

Easter Season at Chapel of the Hills

Couples Study, April 1st

Couples of all ages and stages are welcome to our monthly gatherings. Including a pot luck dinner and video study.

Andrew Strother Preaching, April 3rd

Pastor John is taking a much needed vacation with his family.

Tax Day Mission Project, April 10th

For several years, we have gathered plates of goodies to take to our local post offices. Don't forget to bring your donations on April 10th.

Preschool Sunday, April 24th

Join us for this special Sunday where we get a chance to praise God for the wonderful work of our preschool ministry.

Couples Study, May 6th

Couples of all ages and stages are welcome to our monthly gatherings. Including a pot luck dinner and video study.

Mother's Day, May 8th

Come and celebrate all mothers everywhere with this special worship.

Mission Project, May 29th

In May, we will be assembling Health Kits for UMCOR to distribute to disaster survivors.

All-Church Campout, June 3 - 5th

Everyone is welcome to join us for this exciting weekend in the mountains.

Annual Western Luau, June 11th

Mark Your Calendar for the New date of our Annual Luau. Join us for this exciting event.



Chapel of the Hills

Community United Methodist Church
25153 Viejas Boulevard
PO Box 235
Descanso, CA 91916-0235

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Place
Stamp
Here