



Voice of the Hills



Newsletter of

CHAPEL OF THE HILLS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DESCANSO, CA

October - November 2016



Annual Turkey Dinner & Holiday Craft Bazaar

Saturday, Nov 12 ~ Starts at 4 p.m.

Adults \$8.50 ~ Seniors \$7.50

Children \$4.00 ~ Family \$21.00

(Family includes 2 adults + children under 12)

Turkey with all the trimmings. Pumpkin pie & Complimentary beverages



Our Craft Bazaar

is stuffed full of handmade items: needle crafts, Christmas décor, homemade yummys~ something for everyone on your list, and you, too!

Chapel of the Hills Community UMC, Descanso
Phone 445-3617

Upcoming Events

Preschool Back to School Night - Oct. 11th (See Page 4)

Couples Study - Friday, Nov. 4th (See Page 5)

TIME CHANGE - Sunday, Nov. 6th (See Cover)

All Saints Sunday - Nov. 6th (See Page 5)

Church Council - Sunday, Nov. 6th (See pages 5 & 7)

Mission Sunday - Nov. 13th (See Page 5)

Turkey Dinner — Saturday, Nov. 12th (See Cover)

UMW Bazaar—Saturday, Nov. 12th (See Page 4)

Church Conference - Tuesday, Nov. 22nd (See Page 5)

UM Student Day - Sunday, Nov. 27th (See Page 4)

TIME CHANGE

NOV. 6



DECEMBER

December is a very busy month at Chapel of the Hills. We will have many special events. Look for a special Advent Newsletter.

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 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

I read a great article earlier this month. 50 great ideas to get your church more involved in your community. This is the NUMBER ONE task of our church as we seek to share God's love. It's too easy to think about getting more people in worship, but as this sample will show we need to go out to our world, not sit back and expect the world to come to us. The complete list is available on our church website. Don't just read it. Pray about it and turn it into action.

1. Learn to regard your community as an extension of your congregation. A church's mission field goes beyond its membership to include all the people God calls it to serve. You are connected to individuals who never set foot in your building.
2. Know that what's happening within the church — preaching, worship, music, Bible study — is no longer enough to attract people in an age when church attendance is no longer a cultural expectation.
3. Acknowledge the synergy between the Great Commandment in Matthew 22 (love your neighbor as yourself) and the Great Commission in Matthew 28 (go and make disciples). Evangelistic outreach expresses our love of others.
4. Remember that Jesus primarily engaged people through everyday encounters, rather than in the Temple or synagogues. He fed people, met their everyday needs, and enjoyed the fellowship of others.
5. Pray regularly for your neighbors and lift up community concerns.
6. Attend to the faith formation of existing members. Willingness to share faith and reach out to others develops as one grows in faith and discipleship.
7. Get out in your neighborhood. Walk the streets. Map the area, and record your observations. Note how the community is changing.
8. Assess community needs and assets. What are the needs of your context? Who are your neighbors, and how can you serve them?
9. Be attuned to where God is already at work in your community. Listen and learn.
10. Know that ministries that truly bless a community often arise out of conversations where you listen for the hopes and dreams of people in your community.
11. Interview residents of the community. Sit in a park, diner, or coffee house. Ask simply, "What are your challenges, hopes, longings, and dreams?"
12. Involve many people from your church in this work. Hold one another accountable to the tasks of engaging and learning from others.
13. Discern clusters of issues and concerns that arise from these conversations. Ask what issues, suffering, injustices, or brokenness might you address. Build authentic relationships.
14. Strive for meaningful engagement with others, not superficial gestures.
15. Make sure you are reaching out to people for the right reasons. If your motive is simply to get them to come to church, people will see right through to it.
16. Collaborate with others who are also passionate about the community. Don't reinvent the wheel if you can partner with someone else serving the community.

50 Great Ideas

17. Challenge each church group with an inside focus to find a way to become involved with the community outside the church. A choir might sing at a nursing home, or trustees could sponsor a neighborhood clean-up.
18. Extend recruiting and advertising for church groups and events to audiences beyond your congregation. For example, recruit for choir members in a local paper or community list serve.
19. Plan “bridge events” designed explicitly to draw people from the community by providing for them something they need or enjoy — block parties, free concerts, seasonal events, parenting classes, sports camps, or school supply giveaways, etc.
20. Hold these events off church property or outside the church walls in venues where people feel comfortable and naturally congregate.
21. Get the word out through a well-planned publicity campaign.
22. Encourage church members to invite their friends and neighbors. It is less threatening for them to invite someone to a community event than to worship.
23. Have a well-trained hospitality team. Make sure guests are enjoying themselves and know their attendance is appreciated.
24. Recognize that many “unchurched” people are spiritually inclined but apprehensive about attending church because they feel unwelcome, distrust institutions, or have been hurt in the past.
25. Pay attention to the heightened receptiveness to spiritual engagement around religious holidays such as Easter and Christmas.
26. Offer offsite worship services on special days, such as Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday, and Easter. Select familiar venues where people feel comfortable — parks, restaurants, parking lots, coffee houses.
27. Plan creative outdoor events, such as live nativities or “blessing of the animals” services, to help make your church visibly present to the community in creative ways.
28. Hold your Vacation Bible School in a local park or recreation center. Canvas nearby neighborhoods to invite families.
29. Reach out to local media. Community outreach is often newsworthy, and reporters are often looking for religiously themed stories around the holidays. Connect spiritual outreach to community service.
30. Acknowledge that many served through feeding and clothing ministries, justice ministries, weekday children’s services, and other ministries of community service have no other connections with our churches.
31. Ask if these ministries inadvertently convey an “us and them” attitude or communicate that “you are not worthy of joining us.”
32. Identify aspects of church life, such as characteristics of the building, that may make some feel unwelcome. Are there alternatives that may reduce barriers for some to enter?
33. Treat everyone as a person of dignity who deserves respect.
34. Extend genuine hospitality to those you serve.
35. Focus first on building relationships of understanding and trust.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor John

Children and Youth News

Youth Group Mondays, 6:00 pm



Our youth group currently meets at the church for a meal, 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 other youth as they learn about the teachings of Jesus and how they still apply to today's crazy world.

The youth meet on Mondays from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. They DO NOT meet on holidays or when the roads are bad because of rain or snow.

World Communion Sunday

Special Offering - October 2, 2016

Around the globe, countless gifted and qualified people face financial obstacles that hinder them from preparing for the vocation God has given them, especially youth and young adults. For ethnic students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college.

On Sunday, October 2, we asked for a special offering to help Seminary students just like your pastor was.

United Methodist Student Day

Special Offering - November 27, 2016

Across the country, the people of The United Methodist Church are serving the people God loves in Jesus' name. We're doing it at home, but so often we'd like to do more.

Right now there are UMC young people—who might not have had the resources to attend a school of their choice, or, for some, any school at all—who've been sent by you into the world God loves because of your giving to United Methodist Student Day. When you give generously you are support these students as they prepare for a life that unites faith with knowledge. What no one person or congregation can do alone, we're doing together.

Preschool News

Back to School Night (Oct 11) & New Staff Members

The preschool board is preparing a delicious spaghetti meal for Tuesday, Oct 11th. Many of the preschool families will be there as we celebrate 42 years of ministry to the children of the Mountain Empire.

The preschool has six wonderful staff members at the moment as the enrolment numbers continue to be up this year. Ms. Jamie & Ms Denise are full-time teachers. Amanda Mauzy has been a teacher's aide this past year, she is now moving up to a Beginning Level Teacher position.

Kodie Bell is still helping out as an Aide, along with Krystal Scott and the newest aide, Raylah Peterson. Raylah also provides our Sunday morning childcare. Together, they create one of the best preschools anywhere. Our community is very lucky to have

Crafty Women

UMW Bazaar—Nov 12th Christmas Brunch—Dec 10th

Chapel of the Hills ladies will be busy for the next few weeks creating items for the UMW Bazaar at the Turkey Dinner on November 12th. We will be having fun making all sorts of crafty and food items for the bazaar. Please let me know and try to join us Tuesdays, starting October 4th, from 9:30 am - 3:00 pm at my home. Little ones are always welcome.

Our 3rd annual Christmas brunch this year will be December 10th and it will be held at the Town Hall just like last year. It promises to have as always wonderful food, great baskets, and the ladies from the Guatemala project selling handmade items made in Guatemala.

~ Judy Inskeep

Church News

Church Council (Nov 6) & Annual Charge Conference (Nov 22)

You can read all about our September 18th meeting on page 7. Our next meeting will be after church on November 6th. Our agenda for the meeting will include the Turkey Dinner, which will be a week later on the 12th, and get an update on the signs and other items from our September 18th meeting. Please save the date for this meeting and plan to stay through lunch.

Our Annual Charge Conference meeting will be Tuesday evening November 22nd. This meeting is where we approve our officers for 2017, and take a look back at the previous year. A lot has changed in the past 12 months. This is our opportunity to celebrate and look forward to the future.



All Saints Sunday November 6th

Rituals can be a good way of experiencing and celebrating the grace of God.

Traditionally, on the first Sunday of November, we remember God's abundant grace by celebrating the lives of those in our church family and community who have finished their course of faith in the past 12 months.

On this Sunday, we list the names and light a candle in remembrance. In so doing, we remember that those who are absent from our midst are now present with the Lord.

If you would like a family member or friend named in this service, please contact Pastor John by Wednesday, Nov. 2nd.



Couples Study Nov. 4th

This group of church and community members usually gets together once a month and has a potluck and watches a video study. Our next meeting will be Friday, Nov 4th, at 6:30. It will be at the home of Allan and Jill Sawyer. Even if you are not part of a couple, you are welcome to join us. The potluck will start at 6:30 followed by the video and the dessert and discussion.

Never attended couples? Consider giving it a try and come to the next meeting? For questions, call Shirley Somes 445-1097 or Theresa Burrows 473-9810.

Christmas Cards and Goodies for Military Service Members November 13th After Worship



Join us on Sunday, November 13th, after worship to make cards for the military that are serving overseas. We will be sending care packages again so please bring some fresh baked cookies or brownies. Donations of money to help cover the shipping costs are always welcome.

If you have a friend or relative currently serving in the military (especially overseas), please let me know and we can send a care package to them as well.

Jennifer Demaree

Mountain Mesh

Mountain Mesh Internet

Two years ago, Mike, from Mountain Mesh hooked up our church with internet service. His prices beat the Verizon Wireless cost we were paying, and supplied us with more data, and a faster speed.

After two years of using this service, I have been well pleased with the results. I want to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Mike and Mountain Mesh for their dependable fast service. I would certainly recommend that Mountain Mesh be one of your options if you are considering high speed internet access.

MountainMesh.net

~ Pastor John

Community Outreach

Mobil Pantry



Feeding America provides this essential service to our community almost weekly. It comes to the Descanso Town Hall on the 1st & 3rd

Thursdays (Oct. 6 & 20, Nov. 3 & 17) at 10:00 am. On 2nd & 4th Thursdays (Oct. 13 & 27, Nov. 10 & Wednesday, the 23rd) , it comes to Guatay at 10:00 am. You are invited to come to either or both drop-offs. There will be no food drop-off on Thanksgiving, November 24th. Usually arrangements are made for a special drop off on Wednesday the day before.

With a small amount of paperwork and a willing friend, your food can be picked up by a friend or neighbor and delivered to you.

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.

Thanksgiving and Christmas Outreach

The United Methodist Women have a number of different Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach items planned for this coming holiday season.

1) Once again, they will be assembling **Single Serving Meals** from the Turkey Dinner fixings and freezing them. These meals will be available for Seniors and others who might not have another way to have a delicious Thanksgiving meal. These heat and serve meals will warm the hearts of many of our neighbors here in the Mountain Empire. If you know an individual who would enjoy one of these meals, please let Claudia Parent or Jaime Dyer know.

2) Christmas, the celebration of Jesus' birth, will be our largest outreach this year. Jaime Dyer will lead the UMW in putting together **large food baskets** of unprepared food for 5 families in our church and community. The UMW will be encouraging the congregation to donate food for the basket and money for gift cards for the family members. Each meal will include a frozen turkey and all the fixings to put together a bountiful meal, plus additional food to help feed the kids during the long break. Many of the families we have helped have invited neighbors and actually fed even more people with the extravagant generosity of the UMW. More information about this wonderful ministry will be in the bulletin.

This combination of radical hospitality, risk-taking mission and service, and extravagant generosity is exactly what we need in order to become know as the church that truly cares for those in need. Ask Jaime Dyer or Judy Inskeep how you might be able to help with either of these ministries.



Church Council Minutes (Sept 18, 2016)

Equitable Compensation

Our church receives grant style money from the larger United Methodist church to help pay Pastor John's salary. This grant is called Equitable Compensation. Each year, we have to apply for those funds. At our September meeting, we approved our application for 2017. We are asking for \$37,333. This amount along with our estimates of other income would fully fund our 2017 budget. Last year, we received about 90% of what we asked for. How much we will receive depends on how many churches are asking for funds, and the amount of money the larger church has to start with. We will find out sometime in December.



What This Money Means

This money means we can focus less on the electric bill and more on Outreach, Worship, Faith Development, Missions, and Community. The times are weighing hard on our community and our church. Many of our close friends and neighbors have felt the brunt of our country's financial woes over the last 5 years. Remote communities are often the last to experience recovery. The need for hope of Jesus Christ is immense. This money means we can continue to focus on sharing the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ. God has big plans for our church and community.

Eagle Project

Next up, Jonathan Zentmyer presented his proposal to do his Boy Scout Eagle Project at our church. He described a plan to replace the 6 benches in our prayer garden. The benches were originally part of an Eagle project of Eric Cram. They are in need of replacement and refurbishment. One already fell apart and had to be removed.

Luau

We also had a discussion about this year's Luau. Results of a survey given out to a few church members appeared in Sunday's bulletin for a few weeks. Some highlights of that was a need for better parking options and possibly a person or persons dedicated to directing parking. Bob Merigan offered his driveway and connected field for parking of Vendors and Church members, so that the field we use for parking now can be for guests only. We also set the date for the 2017 Luau. It will be Saturday, June 3, 2017. We talked about possibly starting and ending it a little earlier based on how chilly it gets on June evenings. More will be discussed about the 2017 Luau in January.

Church Signage

We have been talking about church signage for some time now. At this meeting, Pastor John showed some examples of where signage is needed and what it might look like. Don Dyer offered up his students and their woodshop to make a number of the signs we need. Linda Hoody and Andrew Strother joined Don to create a taskforce to organize and see that the signs are made and installed. They will be meeting in mid-October and welcome any input on the location and types of signage we need around the church. The hope is to have some of the signage up by the Turkey Dinner on November 12th.

Social Media

Pastor John talked about the use of social media and the need to increase our visibility. Six years ago barely anyone in Descanso had internet access. Today, many families have internet, and there is even a Facebook group just for people of Descanso called Descanso Neighbors. Pastor John shared that it's time we start using these new tools to better connect our church with the community. One start is that, as of the middle of August, a video recording of every week's sermon is being put on the website for everyone to watch. Advertising online can also be done in a very specific way and for a lot less money than a mass mailing like we did last winter.

November at Chapel of the Hills

November 6, 2016

Don't Forget to



FALL BACK

All Saints Sunday, Nov. 6th

Join us for this special once a year service where we remember those of our church, family and community who have passed on the last year.

Turkey Dinner, Nov. 12th

Our Annual Turkey Dinner and Craft Bazaar is set for Saturday, November 12th. See the front cover for more information.

Mission Sunday, Nov. 13th

Remember to bring your leftover Halloween candy and cookies or brownies to put into the Holiday military care packages. Then stay after church to make some Christmas cards to include in the packages.

Church Conference Nov. 22nd

Join us on this special Tuesday evening as we eat together and celebrate the ministry of the past year and look forward to the year of ministry to come.



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