



Voice of the Hills



Newsletter of

CHAPEL OF THE HILLS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DESCANSO, CA

December/January 2015-2016

Christmas Tree Decorating

Join us Sunday, December 6th and help decorate our Christmas tree during worship. Watch over the first weeks of December as our church is transformed by the Christmas spirit.

Christmas In the Mountains Brunch

Join us for a wonderful gathering on December 12th from 10 am to 1 pm at the Town Hall for a delicious meal, a carol sing-a-long, handmade bags and crafts from Guatemala, and great fellowship. Proceeds from the event help the United Methodist Women provide mission outreach to the local community during the holiday season and throughout the year (see page 5).

Caroling Party

Join us Monday, December 14th. For our annual Caroling party. Sponsored by the youth, everyone is invited to come and join in. (see page 3).

Sunday of Lessons and Carols

Join us Sunday, December 20th, for a worship filled with music from our Christmas Choir and Praise Band woven together with scriptures and stories of the season. It will be a worship to remember.

Carols and Candlelight
Christmas Eve Worship Service
Thursday, December 24th
6:00 pm

Invite your friends and join us for a family-friendly Christmas Eve service! We will hear once again the story of a child: born in a stable, laid in a manger, savior of the world. This year our children will be reading scripture on video!

Upcoming Events

December 12th

Christmas Brunch (see this page)

December 14th -

Christmas Caroling (see page 3)

December 20th –**Music Sunday**

(see this page)

December 24th -

Christmas Eve Service—6:00 pm

(see page 1)

January 8th -

Couples Potluck - 6:30 pm

(see page 6)

January 16th

Faith Development Workshop -

10:00 am (see page 2)

January 16th

John Nilsen in Concert - 3:00 pm

(see page 4)

January 31st

Church Council - 11:30 am

(see page 6)

SAVE THE DATE

February 10th

Ash Wednesday - 7:00 pm

(see page 5)

CHAPEL OF THE HILLS
COMMUNITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
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Descanso, CA 91916
(for mail use: PO Box 235)
Phone (619) 445-3617
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—2:00 pm
Call his cell phone to see if he is
in the office before coming over.

SUNDAY MORNING

Adult Sunday School
9:15 —10:00 am
Upstairs Classroom

Worship Service—10:00 am
Sanctuary

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

Potluck Lunch—All Welcome
After service in
Fellowship Hall

**CHURCH STAFF &
LEADERSHIP**

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

Lay Leader
Andrew Strother

Office Assistant
Syndee D'Spain

Accompanists
Linda Dee Ames
Karla Jorgensen Ponce

Country Treehouse
Preschool Director
Terri Bell

Youth Directors
Jill and Alan Sawyer

Bookkeeper
Krystal Scott

Pastor's Pen

Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany together make one of the seasons of the church year. Advent is the preparation for the Coming of the Christ child, Christmas is the celebration of his birth, and Epiphany is a celebration of the response of the Magi and our response to the birth of Christ. Every teaching and event in the life of Christ is a call to action for us. It's not enough to simply know the right thing, and believe the right thing, we must do the right thing.

Of course, what is the right thing? In order to do the right thing, we must study, worship, and learn what is right. We can't do that in a vacuum. We can't do that all on our own and isolated. We need each other. We need the support of a community of believers. We call that community of believers "the Church."

Advent is the perfect time to renew your commitment to God and to the church. It's a season of beautiful music and a wonderful hope-filled story. Come and transform your mind, your spirit, and your actions. Be a part of the community of believers. Come to church.

In Christ's Love, *Pastor John*

Faith Development Workshop

January 16th - 10:00 am—1:00 pm

Child Care WILL be provided—A light Lunch will be served

How does a small church do Sunday School and Bible Studies?

Dakota tribal wisdom says when you discover you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount. However, churches often find themselves trying other strategies:

1. Buy a stronger whip.
2. Arrange to visit other sites to see how they ride dead horses.
3. Pass a resolution declaring: "The horse is not dead."
4. Harness several dead horses together for increased speed.
5. Appoint a committee to study the dead horse.

The goal of this Saturday meeting is not to keep riding a dead horse. It's to learn about new ways of doing Christian Education, outside the box ways. The reality is that across churches of all sizes the 1950's style Sunday School programs worked great to get the kids in the doors, and their parent's in the pews, but even 40 years later it was doing nothing to get those kids who loved Sunday School to actually attend church as young adults. Today fewer and fewer families go to church at all.

Creating a Christian education program that we can keep going, and that truly helps people of every age develop as Christians over a lifetime is our real goal. In the state of transition where we find ourselves, we have the opportunity to implement a program that is much more likely to do just that.

Who is invited?

Short answer: **EVERYONE!**

Everyone who has ever taught Sunday School, or attended Sunday School or a Bible Study. Everyone who has children who attend Sunday School, or who will in a few years. Everyone who is looking for a Bible Study for any age.

Ministries

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

Our youth group 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 dozen or so other youth learn about the teachings of Jesus and how they still apply to today's crazy world.

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

Don't forget that the Youth will be off for the Christmas break. We will meet December 7th and 14th and then return on January 11th.

Christmas Potluck & Caroling Party December 14th



Do you like to sing Christmas carols? Do you like to eat? Then you need to join the youth who are hosting our annual all-church caroling party.

Everyone is invited to **gather at the CHURCH** this year on Monday evening, December 14th, around 6:00pm. We will begin with a potluck dinner followed by practicing some of our most favorite carols, and then we will car pool around to several homes of our neighbors in Descanso. This is a great way to celebrate the season of love. See You There!

Christmas Choir

YOU'RE INVITED TO SING!



Once again, our own Caroline Rogers is getting together anyone interested to come practice for a few evenings and then sing in worship on December 20th.

Anyone and everyone who can carry a tune and has the spirit of Christmas in their hearts are invited to attend.

Rehearsals are:

Wednesday, December 2, 6:45 pm—7:45 pm
Wednesday, December 9, 6:45 pm—7:45 pm
Wednesday, December 16, 6:45 pm—7:45 pm

Couples News



Merry Christmas! And Happy New Years!

We will have our next meeting on Friday, January 8th at the home of the Jessups. Even if you are not part of a couple, you are welcome to join us.

We are continuing to use the delightful video series entitled "Laughing Your Way to a Better Marriage" Never attended couples? Why not consider giving it a try and come to the next meeting. For questions, call Shirley Somes 445-1097 or Teresa Burrows 473-9810.

Save these Dates for our Future gatherings

February 5th - @ the Cardinals
March 4th - @ the Sawyers
April 1st - TBD
May 6th - TBD
June 3 - 5th - All-Church Campout

Mission & Service Opportunities



Adopt-a-Family

Christmas for most of us is a joyous time filled with family, good friends, and good times. For many in our own in local communities, however, the holidays are even more stressful than normal times. Many families who are barely making ends meet have nothing extra for Christmas. This is our opportunity to help. We are continuing our annual outreach to these families.

Once again, the UMW will be providing Christmas food baskets for 5 families. They are also collecting cash donations so that the parents of these families will have a little extra to buy gifts for their children. I hope you will be generous, so that others may experience the joy of Christmas.

New Shed for Clothing Ministry



This month, we are receiving a check to pay for a new storage shed and shelving and such to go inside. We will need help putting it all together and organizing the clothing and other items for this new ministry. Contact Judy Inskip or Pastor John and let them know you want to help.

This is all possible because Judy wrote an application to the Georgia Lynch Foundation. They awarded us a grant of \$2,000 toward this project.

SPECIAL EVENT

JOHN NILSEN

Saturday, January 16, 3:00 pm

Chapel of the Hills UMC

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

John will be sharing an hour of his time and talent on the 16th. This is a wonderful opportunity for all ages to enjoy a great concert. The concert is free. A freewill offering will be taken during the concert, and CDs will be available for sell.

ABOUT THE PERFORMER

John Nilsen began studying classical piano from his mother at age six. He founded the Magic Wing recording label in 1987. The label has a catalog of fifteen successful titles, each with international distribution totaling more than 1 million copies sold.



You're Invited to
**Christmas
 Brunch**
in the Mountains

Saturday, December 12th ~ 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 At Descanso Town Hall



*Delicious Meal
 Great Gift Baskets
 Carol Sing-a-long
 Shop The Guatemala Shop*

*Proceeds help Chapel of the Hills'
 United Methodist Women provide a
 Merry Christmas to Local Families*

*Please call Judy Inskip,
 445-3823 to save a seat.*

Tickets are \$10 each.

Directory Information Cards

For many of you, who have experienced a photography company coming to our church to make a picture directory, the very thought brings a cold chill. Most people these days don't like to have their picture taken or to endure the pitch to spend hundreds of dollars on custom photos.

On the other hand we need an updated directory desperately. That's why there are Directory Information Cards available for you to update your information. Please fill these out completely, even if you think the church already knows it all. From this information we'll be able to make a complete and accurate directory right here at church. No hassle, no fuss, no sells. Please return your card as soon as possible. Thank You!

Pastor John's 2016 Goals

I discussed a few goals at the Church Conference. I came up with these goals in consultation with the part of the church council responsible for overseeing my work called the Staff Parish Relations Committee. I hope you will see the high value in each of these goals, and will help me in following through on each of these throughout 2016.

1. Set up a meeting with representatives of our church, the Catholic church, and the Town Hall to discuss the needs of our community and hopefully come up with a single project or ongoing need in our community that the three entities can collaborate to address. If you would like to be a part of this project or you have ideas, you are more than welcome to talk with me at any time.
2. Increase my emphasis on Intentional Faith Development and Extravagant Hospitality by addressing the needs of Sunday School and Bible Studies for children, youth, and adults, and to find ways for our church to reach out to new families, and existing families in our community.
3. To hold five all-church meetings around the issues most pressing our church this year using the Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation as a foundation for each meeting. These issues are listed in order I believe they need to be addressed.

(Jan)	1. Sunday School and Bible Studies	(Intentional Faith Development)
(Mar)	2. Worship, Music, Choirs, and Child Care	(Passionate Worship)
(May)	3. Mission Projects	(Risk-Taking Missions and Service)
(July)	4. Advertising/Hospitality	(Radical Hospitality)
(Sep)	5. Facility Concerns and Future Planning	(Extravagant Generosity)

In Christ's Love, Pastor John

Church Council

At our November 20th Charge Conference meeting, the people listed below were elected into office starting January 1st. Please let them know how much we appreciate their service and time. If you have any concerns about the church or Pastor John, you can talk directly with one of the SPRC members, If you have a facility issue, you can talk with one of the Trustee members. We are still looking for at least one more member of the Preschool Advisory Committee

Our Next Church Council Meeting will be after church on January 31st.

Before our meeting on the 31st, we will be having a special meeting to discuss Faith Development in our church especially in terms of Sunday School. Please read the article about that meeting on page 2. The plan is that a recommendation will come out of that meeting and be voted on at the January 31st meeting.

CHURCH COUNCIL (15 Members)

Council Chair: Don Dyer

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Jennifer Demaree

Lay Leader: Andrew Strother

Name	Primary Responsibility/Sub-Committee
<u>Class of 2016</u>	
Chris Lashmet	SPRC
Alan Sawyer	Trustees
Bob Merigan	Finance
<u>Class of 2017</u>	
Linda Hoody	SPRC
Jeff Lashmet	Trustees
Chuck Inskeep	Finance
<u>Class of 2018</u>	
Jeannie Cram	SPRC
Dave Somes	Trustees
Lee Wirschem	Finance
Ex Officio Members (with vote)	
<u>TBD</u>	President/Representative, United Methodist Women
<u>TBD</u>	President/Representative, Preschool Board
Samantha Jorgensen-Ponce	Youth/Young Adult Member representing SPRC 2016

LEADERSHIP (NOMINATIONS) (6 Members)

2015	2016
Jaime Dyer	Linda Hoody
Judy Inskeep	Syndee D'Spain
Jeannie Cram	Christie Sawyer

PRESCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (9 Members)

2015	2016	2017
Jeff Lashmet	Susan Neville	Jeanie Cram
TBD	Syndee D'Spain	Jaime Dyer
TBD	Shirley Somes	TBD

Thank You's

Holiday Bazaar



A special thank you to so many who helped make the bazaar such a success. Every Tuesday for several weeks, ladies met at my home or worked at their homes on their own to create our bazaar items. Thanks to everyone who helped so much.

Judy Inskeep

Annual Turkey Dinner



The United Methodist Women would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the Annual Turkey Dinner and Bazaar a success.

The kitchen crew was efficient and ready for all the hearty appetites that came to eat and that waited for them. We can't forget all the willing hearts and hands that were part of the preparations and clean up - those who prepared the turkeys ready to serve - those who put up tables and set and decorated them, and took them all down the next day.

Then, there were all the behind the scenes things that needed to happen - somebody had to put up and take down the signs around town, wash the dishes during and after dinner, serve and bus the tables, etc. Thanks so much to everyone who came, ate, pitched in, and helped.

Jenifer Demaree

Military Gifts



A special thank you to everyone who donated leftover candy or baked goodies, or made cards for our military care packages.

Your efforts big or small help make the holidays brighter for several men and women serving our country. We will report back in the next edition of the newsletter with details about the packages and their recipients.

Jennifer Demaree

Turkey Dinners



A special thank you to the UMW for putting together family and individual turkey dinners. I had the chance to ride with Claudia Parent as we delivered many of these meals.

Every single recipient was overjoyed for the food and for the kind loving spirits that thought to make the meal possible. A big thank you to Jaime Dyer who goes above and beyond each year to make sure everything is in place and ready to go.

Pastor John

POINSETTIAS



Flowers always make our sanctuary look more festive. If you would like to buy and donate a Poinsettia or other Christmas Flowers to our sanctuary, you are more than invited to bring them in any Sunday starting on December 13th. You are also welcome to take them home after the Christmas Eve worship or after church on the 27th. If you'd like your plant to go to a family in the community after December 27th, please let Pastor John know.



Christmas at Chapel of the Hills

Sunday, December 6th

In worship, we will all participate in decorating the tree.

Saturday, December 12th

Christmas Brunch in the Mountains
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Monday, December 14th

Pot-luck meal and Caroling 6:00 pm. We will be starting at the church this year, and carpooling.

Sunday, December 20th

Music Sunday. Join us for a service filled with music from our Christmas Choir and the praise band.

Thursday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Worship. At 6:00 pm we will have our family-friendly worship with beautiful music, candlelight, and carols.

Friday, January 8th

Couples Study. Join us for an evening of fun learning what it takes to grow as a couple and in all our relationships.

Saturday, January 16th

Intentional Faith Development Workshop 10:00 am—1:00 pm

Saturday, January 16th

3:00 pm: John Nilson in Concert. We will have international pianist and heartfelt Christian John Nilson performing at our church. All are invited.

Sunday, January 31st

Church Council meeting after church.



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