



# Voice of the Hills



Newsletter of

## CHAPEL OF THE HILLS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
DESCANSO, CA

April - May 2017



### EASTER WEEK!

- Sunday, April 9th -**  
10:30 - Palm Sunday Worship
- Thursday, April 13th -**  
7:00 - Maundy Thursday
- Sunday, April 16th -**  
7:30 - Sunrise Service  
8:30 - Easter Breakfast  
9:30 - Sunday School  
10:30 - Easter Worship  
11:30 - Easter Egg Hunt

### Upcoming Events

- Couples Study -**  
April 7th (See Page 5)
- April Mission -**  
April 16th (See Page 5)
- Easter Sunday -**  
April 16th (See Page 6)
- Preschool Sunday -**  
April 30th (See Page 6)
- Couples Study -**  
May 5th (See Page 5)
- Mother's Day -**  
May 14th (See Page 5)
- May Mission Project -**  
May 21st (See Page 5)
- Annual Western Luau -**  
June 3 (See Page 6)
- Save the Date**
- All-Church Camp -**  
June 30-July 1st (See Page 4)
- Descanso Parade -**  
July 8th (See Page 6)

### Preschool Sunday



Join us **April 30, 2017**, for this year's preschool Sunday. Doors open at 10:00 am. **Worship begins at 10:30 am.**

Nursery Care will be available on Preschool Sunday from 10:00 am to 11:45 am.

### Annual Western Luau

NEW DATE AND TIME

Saturday, June 3rd, 3:30 - 7:00 pm



Our Annual Luau will be Saturday evening, June 3rd. We welcome our preschool and church families to this wonderful event.

(More information on Page 3)

CHAPEL OF THE HILLS  
COMMUNITY UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
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office@chapelofthehills.org  
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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

THE CHURCH IS NOT CLOSING. Like the elementary school game of telephone, I was told today that so-and-so, said that this person said that another person said that another person told them that the church is closing. Let me repeat. The church is not closing. Not in our near future, and, I pray, never.

This all started because the church is receiving financial help from the body that facilitates all United Methodist churches in our area called the California-Pacific Conference. They are giving us money to help pay my salary. It's called equitable compensation. It makes sure that pastors of small and struggling churches receive a salary equitable to other pastors.

Because we are receiving these funds, as we have at different times over our history, the conference did an evaluation of our church. They looked in equal measure at our financial strengths, our spiritual strengths, and the potential of our community. It was no surprise to the anyone that financially we are struggling. Small churches often lean on a few larger givers to bear the lion share of costs, and over the past few years, of no direct fault of the ministry of our church, a few of those larger givers have moved on. Leaving us in need financially.

It is not surprising to anyone, either, that our attendance on Sunday mornings has dipped within the normal cycle of our church which historically has gone from 30 to 60 in worship over its 60+ year lifetime.

What was surprising to everyone was just how many great things we are doing despite these concerns. Our preschool is exploding as new families are finally starting to return to our community. We have a very vibrant worship service with a huge high quality praise band compared to a majority of United Methodist churches. Our youth group is busting at the seams thanks to the dedication and care of Alan and Jill. Our clothing ministry now collects and distributes an unbelievable amount of clothing every single month. Our new adult Sunday School class is going well. This is just a small sampling of the great things people brought up.

All of these things, however, we take for granted. Some who attended the review had to be prodded to remember more than one or two of them.

What we are lacking, it seems, is advertising. One member described us as "**The best kept secret in the mountains.**" We can't stay a secret any longer...we are called to go forth and transform the world. That means telling people about the wonderful things God is doing in the world today, and how God is working through our church.

Closing? Hardly! We are poised to explode. We have everything in place, but know one knows we are here. **We need your help.** Start talking to your neighbors, family, and friends. Get the word out!

Blessings,

*Pastor John*



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

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

## Church 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. There will be no meetings April 10th, and 17th.

### Couples News

We have been enjoying our couples fellowship. We are currently watching 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



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. Never attended? Why not consider giving it a try and come to the next gathering.

Our April gathering will be on April 7th at the home of Caroline (Rogers) and Brad Wellnitz.

Our May gathering will be on May 5th at the home of Mark and Teresa Burrows.

Never attended? Why not consider giving it a try. For questions, call Pastor John at the church office or on his cell phone.

### District Summer Camps



Our camps are weeklong, 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 \$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 before they fill up!

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

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

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

## Annual Western Luau Saturday, June 3, 2017 3:30 pm - 7:00pm

Featuring San Diego's Own  
Kukui Nuts

A Door Prize of a  
\$1200 Travel Voucher

Pony Rides

Vendors

The best Hawaiian Pork Dinner  
East of Hawaii

Adults: \$10 - Seniors: \$8  
Children under 12: \$5

# March 19th Faith Development and Hospitality Review

In early 2016, we changed a lot at our church. Worship times changed, Sunday School for all ages was added. And we also made some goals for the next year. On March 19th, everyone was invited to come and sit down to review what we have accomplished and look toward the next year as we make improvements on the what we currently do, and prepare to try new things. Below is a recap of that meeting. I hope it encourages and inspires you to take an active role in the ministry of our wonderful church.

## **Sunday School:**

The teachers present at our meeting are committed to making the new schedule work, as we seek ways to invite and welcome more families to church and Sunday school. The teachers are able to attend worship, which is a big improvement over the old concurrent schedule. The curriculum is working well, and the new adult Sunday School has been well-received.

There are a few areas that need more work. The first was child care and the younger elementary age kids during worship. Raylah, our Nursery coordinator, is often left to watch any infants plus the younger elementary kids, or when there are no infants, Raylah leaves and the kids are on their own with Judy and/or another adult.

Questions that came out of the discussion included:

- How can we make worship more children-friendly?
- How do parents feel about their children in worship?
- Can we find ways to connect our Monday night Youth with Sunday morning worship?

Our first suggestion was to make the 5th Sundays of each year special children worship services. The next 5th Sunday is April 30th, which is Preschool Sunday.

## **Hospitality:**

Here are some specific areas of improvement that we can do right now to make a larger impact in our community and on Sunday mornings.

- Band needs to smile more
- We need to reach out to preschool families with some attendance since we now have a base of consistency in program.
- District has funds that we can ask for.
- Collect toiletry items to hand out at Feeding San Diego (We began this in late March, Thanks Judy!)
- Community Service Project – Kid (Youth) Friendly
- Hot Chocolate/Coffee at Feeding San Diego
- Youth – Summer Involvement in Feeding San Diego
- Community Level – Mission Project and/or Event with Catholic Church (Meeting coming soon)
- Make a Calendar of Monthly Mission Projects (See this on Page 5)
- Parade and Fair - Participation

### April 16th 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 around April 15th - one of their busiest days. Jennifer will be collecting baked goods on Sunday, the 16th (Easter!), and then ask folks at church to deliver them on Monday or Tuesday. 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.

### Mother's Day Sunday, May 14th

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

The United Methodist Women of Chapel of the Hills will be leading this special worship.

### Monthly Mission Projects

To help people plan for the many monthly mission projects we do, here is a complete year overview.

- **April** - Tax Day Treats (Baked Goods)
- **May** - UMCOR Project to take to Conference—United Methodists send a variety of kits to respond to emergencies and needs around the world
- **June** - None (Pastor attends Annual Meeting)
- **July** - Parade/Fair Involvement
- **August** - Back to School Items for Descanso Elementary (Pens, paper, etc.)
- **September** - 9/11 Treats and cards for Fire and Sheriff Stations of Descanso, Pine Valley, and Alpine
- **October** - TBA
- **November** - Christmas Military Care Packages
- **December** - Help for local families including food and gifts for children
- **January** - Coats and Winter wear for Feeding San Diego
- **February** - Kleenex for School
- **March** - Manna Bags

### United Methodist Women

Spring 2017 opens with several opportunities for the women of our church and community to get together. The Community United Methodist Church of Julian has invited the women of our congregation to attend their "Step Into Spring" annual fashion show. The event will be held **Tuesday, April 25th** at their church (Hwy. 78 at Pine Hills Road in Julian). A \$25 donation includes a luncheon that begins at 11:30 a.m. Dessert will be served at 7:00 p.m. for a \$15 donation. Tickets must be obtained in advance by calling Sherri Pope at 760.765.2768.

First Church San Diego will be host to the United Methodist Women and Prayers & Squares' quilt ministry's Spring Quilt Show on **Saturday, April 29th 10:0 am - 4:00 pm**. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

The Chapel of the Hills UMW received a thank-you letter from New Entra Casa. They extended appreciation for our monetary gift of \$350. The money will help provide services to women in need. It is so wonderful that our UMW chapter is able to support the valuable work of New Entra Casa.

### May Mission Project - May 21st

In May, we will be collecting items for UMCOR Layette Kits. Many women do not have clothes with which to welcome their child into the world. Layette kits provide basic supplies for their baby's needs.

Customs shipping require every kit be identical, so please talk with Jennifer Demaree before buying anything. She also has a complete list of requirements for each item. *Donations of cash for supplies are always welcome.*

Kit Items:

- 2 Receiving blankets (28x28 to 32x32)
- 6 Cloth diapers (Pre-folded or plain diapers only)
- 2 Shirts (Undershirts or onesies)
- 2 Washcloths (Infant size only)
- 2 Gowns or Sleepers
- 1 Sweater or Jacket (Open in front, bought or hand-knitted, crocheted, or sewn)
- 2 Diaper pins

Additional Notes:

- **All items must be new**
- Due to the fact that strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT KITS CONTAIN ONLY THE REQUESTED ITEMS**, nothing more.

## More News

### Church Council



Since our first Church Council meeting of the year on January 24th, we met again as a Luau planning meeting and covered a variety of topics.

The Luau seems to be in good shape for it's all new date of **Saturday, June 3rd, 3:30pm - 7:00pm**. 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 though I might be biased.

Our next Church Council meeting has been scheduled for **Sunday, April 9, 2017**. We will be discussing the Luau and 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 San Diego provides this essential service to our community almost weekly. It comes to the Descanso Town Hall on 1st & 3rd Thursdays (next Apr. 6th) at 10:00 am. On 2nd & 4th Thursdays (next on Apr. 13th), 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 each Wednesday after the 2nd Monday delivery by the Salvation Army and San Diego Food Bank in Guatay 10:00 - 10:30 am.

Feeding San Diego 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 30th, 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. Terri Bell teaches more direct lessons on the Bible 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

#### All-Church Camp Out June 30th - July 2nd

With the move of the Luau, the church camp out has moved to the end of June, rather than the beginning. It will be held at the same location and have the same format with camping Friday and Saturday night and worship for all Sunday morning at Wooded Hills Campground near. Look in the June newsletter for a sign-up form.

#### Descanso Parade July 8th, 10:00 am

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

## Thank You



### March Mission Project

Thank you to all who helped fill one of Judy's baskets. The supplies of razors, soap, dental floss, toothbrushes and many other personal hygiene products were greatly appreciated by the Guatay folks at Feeding San Diego. Many of the items were completely taken and the baskets are already being refilled for next month. This is a great addition to the clothing ministry that has been going for almost two years now. Please thank Judy and ask how you can help.

*Pastor John*



### Thank You for Eagle Scout Project

I would like to thank everyone at the church for their support during the making and installation of the new prayer garden benches, my Eagle Scout project. I'd like to especially thank Mr. Wirschem for sponsoring me and giving input on their design, Mrs. Hoody for helping haul them from my house to the church, and Mr. Lashmet for helping install them. Thanks to everyone who donated funds as well.

*Jonathan Zentmyer*

## A History Lesson

### 39th(??) Annual Western Luau History

I was asked a few days ago how long have we been doing the Luau. The short answer is that no one knows for sure. However, in the cleaning of the office and organizing of paperwork I was able to go back and look through paperwork which is all organized by year. The sad truth is that even in the year-end reports very little is mentioned about the Luau, even after it was a regular fundraising event.

Here are some quotes I was able to find.

**July 1974** - David Ellsworth proposed dates for church picnic at Salters Ranch - 1st choice Sept 8, 2nd choice Aug 4. Suggested each bring own hamburgers and buns plus a salad or dessert.

**February 1977** - Barbara West suggested someone contact the people who now live on what was the Salter property regarding the possibility of having the church's Luau there again this summer as it has been in the past.

**May 1977** - Jim Dyer will be responsible for getting the pigs and will help Cecil Cline check into how to build a barbecue pit and where it should be constructed. A motion has been made by Glen Rivers that money be set aside for fire bricks for the barbecue.

**July 1977** - Cecil Cline reported that the permanent barbecue pit will be located near the rock wall at the back of the prayer garden next to the road. Approx. 6' x 4' made with fire brick with a steel plate cover that will be closed except when in use.

**August 1977** - Thanks were expressed to Cecil Cline and Chuck Tanner for making the BBQ pit. Cecil presented a bill for \$40.00 for materials. Church picnic planned for September 11th. To be in charge are Tanners, Clines, Holts, and Salters.

**In 1978** - the end of year budget shows the first mention of the Luau on a financial report. Under income: LUAU - \$379.60

**In 1979** 25th Anniversary Flyer - August 5th: Annual Luau

It would appear that 1978 was the first year that the modern Luau as a public event and fundraiser was first held at the church in 1978. That makes this year the 39th annual Luau.

## April and May at Chapel of the Hills

### **Couples Study, April 7th**

Couples of all ages and stages are welcome to our monthly gatherings which include a potluck dinner and video study.

### **Maundy Thursday, April 13th**

Join us for this intimate evening service where we remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples.

### **Tax Day Mission Project, April 16th**

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

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

7:30 - Sunrise Worship  
8:30 - Breakfast  
9:30 - Sunday School All Ages  
10:30 - Easter Worship  
11:30 - Easter Egg Hunt

### **Preschool Sunday, April 30th**

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 5th**

See April 7th above.

### **Mother's Day, May 14th**

Come and celebrate all mothers everywhere with this special worship led by our UMW.

### **Mission Project, May 21st**

In May, we are collecting supplies for UMCOR Layette Kits and assembling them to bring to Annual Conference. See page 5 for more details.

### **Annual Western Luau, June 3rd**

**3:30 - 7:00**

Invite Everyone You Know! Talk about it at work, at Perkins, at Easter brunch, online, etc.!



### *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  
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