

Voice of the Hills



Newsletter of

CHAPEL OF THE HILLS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DESCANSO, CA

June 2017



Aloha Y'all!
It's Time for
The Annual

Western Luau

Saturday, June 3rd
3:30 to 7:00 pm
At Chapel of the Hills Community UMC
25153 Viejas Blvd ~ Descanso

FUN! * Kalua Pit BBQ Pork Dinner * **PRIZES!**

Live Music Featuring *The Kukui Nuts*

Tickets at the Door * www.chapelofthehills.org * 619.445.3617

Bring The Kids!



June 3rd—3:30 to 7:00



Pastor John's Last Sunday June 25th

Pastor John will be away for 10 days at the Annual Conference of all Southern California United Methodist Churches. He will then return to Descanso for one last Sunday of leading worship with us.

I hope that you can be there to say Goodbye to him and his family and wish them well on their journey to a new church and new adventures.

Upcoming Events

- Annual Western Luau - June 3 (See Cover)
- Annual Conference - June 10 - June 18
- Pastor John's Last Sunday - June 25th
- All-Church Camp - June 30 - July 2nd (See Insert)

Save the Date

- Meet our new Pastor - Stay Tuned for Date
- Descanso Parade - July 8th

CHAPEL OF THE HILLS
COMMUNITY UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
25153 Viejas Blvd.
Descanso, CA 91916
(for mail use: PO Box 235)
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office@chapelofthehills.org
Web:
www.chapelofthehills.org

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

Goodbye

This word is pretty foreign to me. I have been lucky enough to serve fairly long terms at each of my churches. In the United Methodist Church, pastors are appointed a year at a time. Each June, I am appointed by the Bishop to serve a church in our conference from July 1-June 30 of the following year. I have been lucky enough to be appointed to Chapel of the Hills 7 years in a row. This year, however, the bishop has seen a calling to appointment me to a new church. And so I am faced with this word, *goodbye*.

How do I say goodbye to so many people after so many years that include so many memories? To say "it isn't easy" is an understatement. This, however, is what I signed up for. The United Methodist Church was started over 200 years ago on the idea of *itineracy*. Itineracy means to move about. Pastors from the very beginning of Methodism were itinerant. In the those days, you might only see a pastor a few days a month. They would travel from town to town in a large circle called a circuit. They used to say bad storms were only fit for crows and Methodist pastors, because they traveled by horseback rain or shine to make their circuit.

Two hundred years later, luckily, I don't have to ride a horse everywhere, but I do have to move from time to time. As hard as it is to say goodbye I'm still a fan of our church system. Change is not something to dread. Change is good. Change is life and growth. Things that don't change are dead. I can't always explain why a move happens or doesn't happen, but the flow of change keeps us focused on God's presence in our lives and leads us to put our trust in the unpredictable and adventuresome nature of the Holy Spirit.

I'm not leaving you in the lurch. Someone will follow me, just as, I am following someone at my new church. Just as we have come to know each other and build such wonderful friendships, I am sure that they, too, will come to know and love each and everyone of you. We will never forget each other or the seven years we have spent together, but we will make new memories along our separate journeys.

I **KNOW** that God has big plans for Descanso and Chapel of the Hills. As Moses said, "I have seen the promised land." I will not be the pastor to lead you into that future, but your next pastor may just have the right gifts and experience that God needs to help make amazing things happen. And those great things will be based on the foundation of our time together and the time of every other pastor who has served this church faithfully over the past 60+ years.

Looking back on the past 7 years a lot has changed, and we have accomplished some amazing things. Looking at this photo it really sinks in just how long I have been at Descanso. Joanna was only 4 in July of 2010. I remember the warm way that everyone welcomed our family into the church. It was a last minute change that caught everyone by surprise, but you didn't let that get in the way of showing me and my family true hospitality and love.

(continued)



Joanna age 5

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This coming weekend will be my 8th Luau. Since we moved it from after July 1st to before July 1st, I get to experience one more luau than my years of service. The Luau is a huge event which takes a lot of work and dedication. When it comes time to serve, this church never fails to step up and lend a hand. It will be hard to forget the 2013 Luau when Lee got up and danced. We have been willing to make some major changes to this event and that willingness has paid off with improvements in attendance, especially from the preschool families.

After a remodel of the downstairs, we started celebrating our 60th anniversary year with a special worship led by former pastor Lee Truman downstairs in the original sanctuary. He served here in the late 1950s. Several pastors came to worship with us over that year, and together we gained strength from remembering the work the Holy Spirit has been doing over all these many years, and we turned our focus toward the Holy Spirit's work into the future.



In 2015, as a church, we took on the call to support Imagine No Malaria. Between our pipe cleaner Mosquitoes and my 200-mile hike of the John Muir Trail we raised over \$3,000. That surpassed many of the churches in San Diego, some much larger than our own. It was truly inspirational to see everyone coming together to support a cause that is so desperately needed, but so far removed from our daily lives.

Jonathan became a member of the United Methodist Church at this church and completed his Boy Scout Eagle Project, the new benches in the prayer garden, here as well. Lee Wirschem, Jeff Lashmet, and Linda Hoody each helped out along the way. Many others of you gave financially to the project. We are grateful for your love and support of our family over the years.



My main mission has always been "to share God's love in real and practical ways, and lead others to do the same." While our numbers have not grown, the amount and various ways we share God's love have such as the thriving clothing drive and the new shed to store those clothes that Judy is so faithfully managing. Our church touches so many lives, and will continue to do so for years and years to come. Indeed, I must say that dreadful word, goodbye, but I leave assured that God's work continues. Thank you to everyone who has supported me over the last seven years. Your words of encouragement, friendship, and love have sustained me through good times and bad. I will never forget your love and caring.

Blessings,
Pastor John

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.

Look out for a summer schedule coming soon.

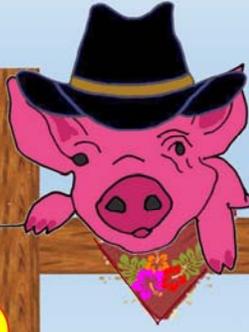


Church Council

The Church Council met after church on May 28th. They covered a wide range of topics including completing our leadership roster for the 2017 year, and voting to send our March and April giving to Missions and Ministries of the Wider United Methodist Church.

We also talked about several Trustees issues, one of which was a rampant mice problem in our church. The preschool is dealing with the problem on a daily basis and several people agreed to help with traps and bait stations outside and inside the church. Brad Inskip has been hired close up holes under doors and in walls where they can get in.

Lastly we discussed last minute Luau issues and plans to deal with those issues.



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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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