

The A Fine

MURRIETA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 24652 ADAMS AVE., 92562
PO BOX 602, 92564
PH: 951-677-6174 Fax: 951-698-1754
Email: mumc@murrietaumc.org Website: www.murrietaumc.com

Monthly Newsletter of Murrieta United Methodist Church | January 2019 |

“Light Shining out of Darkness” by Rev. Scott H. Andrews

Poet William Cowper (1731-1800) began his poem “Light Shining out of Darkness” with these words:

*God works in mysterious ways his wonders to perform,
he plants his footprints on the sea
and rides upon the storm.*

I too believe, and have experienced the fact, that “God works in mysterious ways”. I believe that most of you reading this would agree. I also believe that God worked his “mysterious ways” through the passing of a friend of mine.

At this time of year, 11 years ago, a “recovery friend” of mine passed away. “Yvonne T.” was 72 years old when she passed on to glory. She had also celebrated 39 years of sobriety. Yvonne and I hadn’t known each other all that long (three years). However, as with many friendships within my 12 Step program, Yvonne and I became friends quickly. She wanted to know about me and how long I had been sober. She wanted to know about how I had “worked the program”. She was at our 6:00 AM meeting almost every morning. When she was there, she always greeted everyone the same . . . with a smile and a hug. Her presence shined God’s light into our lives. As I remember the light she shared with us, I have to tell you that I learned not only from her presence, but Yvonne’s passing.

Yvonne had been fighting cancer for a while. She finally reached a point in her treatment that the doctors told her that “it wasn’t working”. For a short while, many of us knew that her passing was coming. Yvonne had talked to several of us about the day when she would eventually no longer be able to be with us at our meetings. She even had us post a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) Order on our bulletin board. She wanted us to know that she was ready to go. I believe that God was working through Yvonne to show those of us around her that we don’t need to fear death. Yes, Yvonne had her moments when she questioned God about what was happening. However, she, with great strength of character and dignity, lived the last months of her life ready to make the final transition.

Yvonne firmly believed that “one day at a time” was more than just a cliché. For 39 years, she lived “one day at a time”. Yvonne believed that all we need God gives us for this day. Yvonne simply took one day at a time, one step at a time, and one moment at a time. She allowed us to see what this meant to her, and how we could do the same. I believe that God was working through Yvonne to teach us that eternity belongs to him, and that we have but a few moments that we call life. Moments he gives to us to live and love and hope and shine.

Yvonne’s light never stopped shining. When members of our 12 Step group would come to visit her, she would smile and say to her family “look my people are here”. God’s light shined through Yvonne with every visit, every hug, every tear, every laugh, every smile, every kiss, and every moment we were given with her. Even in her final days in hospice, Yvonne didn’t stop shining for us. I believe God was teaching all of us that no matter what we face in life our light can still shine into the lives of others . . . that darkness need not overcome us.

I thank God for his “mysterious ways”. Through my friend Yvonne’s passing God reminded me of the importance of trusting him in all things, taking one day at a time, and letting his light shine through me. I thank you Yvonne for allowing God to work through you for our benefit. I thank you God for working through Yvonne to share your light.

In His Name,

Scott

A New Year's Resolution?



Until he moved on to become president of the Southern Baptist International Missions Board, David Platt was pastor of The Church at Brook Hills, a mega-member congregation in Birmingham, Alabama. His ministry there—and now in his new position—has always been focused on the fulfillment of Jesus' Great Commission: *"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you"* (Matthew 28:19-20).

In an interview with *Outreach* magazine during the time he was at Brook Hills, Platt was asked, *"Do you use "numbers" to gauge your success in disciple-making?"* His response was, I believe, instructive for any and all of us who take Jesus' words seriously. He said, *"Numbers count to us because people count to us. However, we no longer gauge our success by the numbers of people coming in to worship with The Church at Brook Hills. Instead, we look at the number of people who are leaving our building to impact the world with their individual lives. Our success is gauged by how many people are abandoning their lives to make disciples of all nations."*

Jesus also said that *"those who lose their life for [his] sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will find it"* (Mark 8:35). So the key question becomes, how much of our life together as a congregation, and our individual lives as church members, are we willing to "abandon" in order to do what Jesus commands? How much life are we willing to give up so that others may find new life in Jesus?

If we measure all that we are and do by that standard, and make adjustments accordingly, what will this congregation look like? How will we function? What will we accomplish? How will Jesus judge us?

In this season of resolving to do things differently, it's something to think about!

Pastor Tom

Spiritual Gifts Discovery Workshop



Spiritual Gifts

God designed you for a purpose...he has a plan for you and your life, and He is waiting patiently for you to understand it. He built into you specific Spiritual Gifts...special abilities that He plans for you to use in making a difference in the world. The Apostle Paul talks about those gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 where he says: "Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed...There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them."

Murrieta United Methodist Church is offering a special **Spiritual Gifts Discovery Workshop** course which is designed to help you understand what Paul was talking about and how it pertains to you. The course is offered on three consecutive Sundays, January 13, 20, and 27, from 10:15 AM until about 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall (Classroom #4). There are no costs but monumental benefits. The is led by Pastor Tom Rothhaar, Pastor Cathy Wright, and Tom Pilkington. You are encouraged to sign up at the Welcome Center between services.

Tom Pilkington

Pages Circle



PAGES Circle will meet on Thursday, January 10th at 10:30 AM to discuss the book *Eleanor: A Spiritual Biography, The Faith of the 20th Century's Most Influential Woman* BY Harold Ivan Smith at the home of Donna Chamberlain. The book for February will be *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?* by Martin Luther King, Jr.

All books read by PAGES are part of the national United Methodist Women's Reading Program. Call Donna at 951-696-1190 for more information. All women of the church are welcome.

Donna Chamberlain

MURRIETA UNITED METHODIST MEN



The Methodist Men Installation of Officers dinner is on Tuesday, January 22nd, from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. The dinner is potluck. A potluck sign-up sheet will be available between services at the Welcome Center each Sunday until January 13th. Pastor Scott will officiate the installation after we enjoy dinner and fellowship together. All men and their wives are invited to come and enjoy dinner, friendship and Christian fellowship. Please note that child care will not be provided.

On Sunday, January 13th the Methodist Men will begin a book study of Adam Hamilton's Christianity's Family Tree: What Other Christians Believe and Why. The UMM Book study is held each Sunday between services in Fellowship Hall, room 8, from 10:15 AM to 10:50 AM.

If you would like a closer connection to the church, a deeper faith, and a stronger relationship with Christ, join us. For more information please contact our President, Dave Mathews, at 619- 997-7594, the Chaplain, Andy Huntington, at 951-698-3824, or our Treasurer Mike Knowles, at mikek_bus@msn.com.

SAVE THE KINGS!!!



On Sunday, January 6th Murrieta United Methodist Church is observing Epiphany, the day the Christian church celebrates the visit of the Wise Men to the Christ Child. We would like you to join us in this celebration by bringing wise men with you to church. No, we don't mean your wise old grandpa who taught you to tie your shoes and how to do long division. We mean the wise men from one of your nativity sets. So before you put them all away, save out your favorite wise men and bring them to church. We'll place them at the front of the church to remind us of the great joy of the coming of the Christ Child into our lives!

The Worship Committee



The Sonrisers, a circle of the church's United Methodist Women, is a fellowship and service group which supports the youth in our church along with others here in Murrieta. We sponsor a chili cook off in the fall

and a spaghetti dinner in the spring to raise money for camperships for the youth in our church. We also support the UMW's Christmas Tea.

Sonrisers would like to invite you to meet with a loving group of women at 8:00 AM on the third Saturday of each month to spread God's love by serving our church and our community. Want to find out more? Join us for our first meeting in 2019 on Saturday, January 19th at 8:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. Each meeting begins with devotions and a light breakfast prepared by members of the group.

All women are invited to join us. For more information please contact Toni Spencer at 951-504-8950.

UMW THANKS ... AND A NEW YEAR START



Murrieta United Methodist Women (MUMW) would like to thank all who came, entertained and/or assisted at the December 2nd Christmas Tea. It was such great fun.

MUMW has been active again for one complete year. We are grateful that we have been able to donate \$680 to United Methodist Women's global missions, \$320 through coinage collected in our little boxes to the World Thank Offering, \$100 to Rady's Children's Hospital in honor of Justin Dubinski, and \$100 to the Methodist Hospital in Arcadia this past year. In addition, the Sonriser's Circle has contributed close to \$1200 to the local Sierra Service Project and camperships. PAGES Circle also contributed \$55 to the UMW Legacy Fund and \$47 to US against Alzheimer's. We are also most grateful to all who contributed socks for the United Methodist Safe Harbors Network in San Diego.

All women of the church as well as all pastors (active and retired) are invited to our next meeting on Sunday, January 13th at 12:15 PM in Fellowship Hall. To start the New Year, MUMW members and guests will gather for a lunch of salad, lasagna and bread. During the meeting officers will be installed and Laura Rothhaar will provide an enlightening program entitled "*Spiritual Growth: Time, Service, and Offering.*" All UMW members will then have an opportunity to make their yearly pledge.

For more information, contact Susan Jeffries at 951-943-4421.

Donna Chamberlain
Communication Coordinator



December, as always, was a busy month for the Food Pantry. At the coat distribution on Friday December 14th coats for 136 families were handed out! Many people are a just little warmer due to the generosity of the community and our congregation! The team of volunteers, led by Kristin Barr, did a great job of collecting and handing out many coats, blankets, scarves and hats. The families that come to the pantry really look forward to this event each year.

The Murrieta Stake of the LDS Church asked each stake/ward to collect Christmas bags and they did a beautiful job. The bags were handed out on Friday, December 21st. We are so blessed to have them partnering with us on these special days.

Finally, Mark Sorensen and the Missions team of volunteers also provided a great Christmas breakfast featuring breakfast pizzas on Friday, December 21st. Families look forward to the breakfast each month. Attendance is always higher at Christmas, showing how much the breakfast is appreciated. We are so grateful to have such a dedicated group of workers coming out each month to provide this special service.

The congregation has been faithful in providing support this ministry for another year. Not only does our church family support the golf tournament but many also make contributions to the pantry's dedicated account throughout the year. We serve an average of 100 families each week and this continues to be the special way in which we reach out to our community each week during the year.

Thank you all, Happy New Year from the Pantry Team

SAVE THE DATE!



festivities!

Join us on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at 12:30 in Fellowship Hall in celebrating and honoring WES SCOTT for his 40+ years of service as our choir director. Sign up to register your attendance at the welcome center for food, fun &

*Donations/ gifts payable to MUMC/ Scott Ministries

WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Wednesday morning Women's Bible study, led by Linda Bouch and Cindy Granzow, begins again on Wednesday, January 9th from 10:00 AM -11:00 AM in Fellowship Hall, rooms 7 & 8 with the book Twelve Women of the Bible . Cost of the books is \$7.00 and will be available at the Welcome Center on Sundays. Please contact Cindy Granzow at 951-677-5244 for more information.

Cindy Granzow

YOUTH NEWS



Welcome to this beautiful New Year!!! Isaiah 43:18-19 sets the tone for this time of year perfectly, as we dream about the possibilities of the coming year:

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Welcome, youth!

God has amazing things in store for all of us this coming year!

The MUMC Youth Group is preparing for our Youth Service on Sunday, January 13th! We are all SO excited to share our passion for mission with our congregation! We hope everyone can be there to share with us!

Upcoming events:

Sundays, Jan 6th, Jan. 13th, and Jan., 27th we will have regular youth group 12-3pm in the youth room.

Saturday, Jan. 12th we will have our youth service dress rehearsal in the sanctuary 10am-noon.

Sunday, Jan. 20th is Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, so we will have no youth group so families can have a fun weekend together!

February 8th is our "Amazing Race", where we will race all over Murrieta and Temecula searching for clues to find God's love!

February 16th - 18th is our District Wrightwood Winter Camp 2019: Please register for camp at <https://calpaccamps.campbrainregistration.com/>

In the peace of Christ,
Your MUMC Co-Youth Directors

Jennifer Jones
(951)239-9220
Jonesjenn1975@gmail.com

Mandy Allen
(951)536-5817
Mandyallen1216@aol.com



MISSIONS

Thank you for your generous support!

Our Fourth Annual Los Posadas Christmas celebration, was held in Colonia Santo Niño (near Mexicali) on December 8th and was a huge success. Your generous support provided wonderful toys for the children in Colonia. You should have heard the ooh's and ahhhh's as the gifts were opened.



This year, we had young boys and girls leading the parade dressed as Mary, Joseph, and the three wise men who were holding signs. They handed out invitations to attend the free lunch following the parade, as well as a listing of other events in the life of the church... something is happening almost every day.



The next planned project at our Sister Church, probably in the spring, will be to enclose a shade structure next to the sanctuary, because the church is running out of room to house all of the children who come for Sunday School. And that is great news!!



2018 Monthly Giving for November

Week of November 4	\$13,813
Week of November 11	\$ 6,635
Week of November 18	\$ 8,955
Week of November 25	\$ 8,515
Total	\$37,918

Needed Monthly \$50,190
Bruce Hartwig, Finance Chair
annandbruce347@gmail.com

YOUNG AT HEART



If you've graduated from the 345 (30s, 40s, and 50s) group and you are looking for some friends to socialize with, here is the group for you! We meet for food and fellowship on the second Saturday of each month. The next meeting of the Young at Heart group is on Saturday, January 12th where we'll attend the retirement lunch for Wes at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Come and help us celebrate Wes's 40 plus years in the music ministry. Please contact Carol Scott for more information at 951- 676-5377.



January 2019 PRAYER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Pray for our UMW Circles	2 Pray for Women's study	3 Pray to fulfill our church's vision— Loving God	4 Pray for our pantry volunteers	5 Pray for our United Methodist Men
6 Pray for our Nursery Staff	7 Pray for church staff	8 Pray for our Board of Trustees	9 Pray for our Finance Minis	10 Pray to fulfill our churches vision— Loving Others	11 Pray for our Food pantry patrons	12 Pray for our United Methodist Women
13 Pray for our Youth and Children's Ministries	14 Pray for Pastor Scott and Family	15 Pray for our Worship Ministry	16 Pray for our Missions Ministry	17 Pray to fulfill our churches vision— Serving People	18 Pray for all who are lonely	19 Pray for our Sonriser's Circle
20 Pray for our Men's Study	21 Pray for Pastor Tom and Family	22 Pray for our SPRC	23 Pray for our Church Council	24 Pray for our Music Ministry	25 Listen to God	26 Pray for direction in your life
27 Pray for our ushers and greeters	28 Pray for our Caring Ministry	29 Pray for all who mourn	30 Pray for those who are homebound	31 Pray for spiritual growth		



- 1/1 Dean Johnson
- 1/1 Jada Jones
- 1/2 Stan Dilkey
- 1/3 Tonia Capps
- 1/3 Penny Johnson
- 1/3 Melissa Scott
- 1/6 Madeline Dawe
- 1/6 Lenore Vogel
- 1/7 Bill MacAfee
- 1/7 George Steele
- 1/7 Ann Walling
- 1/12 Darcy Sorensen
- 1/14 Kim Boone-Nakase
- 1/15 Savanna Harris
- 1/15 Chuck Miller
- 1/15 Wendy Szot
- 1/17 Karen Bpatist

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1/17 Bruce Hartwig
- 1/17 Katie Ramos
- 1/18 Carole Stoops
- 1/20 Chloe Shumate
- 1/24 Scott Macdonald
- 1/25 Christy Watkins
- 1/26 Sylvia Muse
- 1/26 Felizal Navarro
- 1/28 Evelyn Hill
- 1/28 Jiana Rivera
- 1/29 Tia Jones

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1/16 26 Years | Mike & Gini Knowles |
| 1/18 15 years | Chris & Grace Esber |
| 1/19 7 years | Ed & Alice MacAfee |
| 1/25 32 years | John & Dorothy Kropf |
| 1/27 46 years | Don & Carolyn Greywood |
| 1/30 65 years | Bob & Gini Andreasen |

MURRIETA UNITED
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P.O. Box 602 , 92564
MURRIETA, CA 92562

Loving God, Loving Others, Serving People

Return Service Requested

BE WARM, BE KIND



OFFICE HOURS
M-TH 8:30 AM-3:30 PM

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:
**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**
RE M I N D E R :
**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**
Tuesday January 15,
(Due by Noon)

Murrieta United Methodist Church

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



Editor: Judy Gilmore

E-Mail articles to
judyg@murrietaumc.org

Office Phone: 951-677-6174
Office Fax: 951-698-1794

Sunday School 9:00 AM
Pre-K–5th grade (1st Sunday of the month
in worship with family)

****Nursery and Child Care are available
Sundays 8:45 AM to 12:15 PM**