



The Vine

MURRIETA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

July 2019



CHRISTMAS
in July

Christmas in July
by Rev. Scott Andrews

Save the Date! Save Sunday, July 21st for a very special event at Murrieta United Methodist Church. This year we are celebrating Christmas in July. Festivities begin during Sunday morning worship services at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM and conclude that afternoon with a program at 3:00 PM with a Christmas goodies bake sale to follow. Activities for children will be held during the bake sale. Our hope is to recapture the Christmas spirit.

Cost is \$10.00 per person and \$5.00 for children under the age of 12. Tickets are available on Sundays (only) between 10:00 AM and 11:00 AM and 12:00 PM —12:15 PM This is a fund raiser for the church.

Love

By Rev. Scott Andrews

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." – Matthew 5:43-48

"The Sermon on the Mount is perhaps the greatest sermons preached by perhaps one of the best preachers around!" A seminary professor once said this – tongue in cheek of course – to a class I was a part of. Of course, it is the great sermon of Jesus. Of course, Jesus is the great preacher of the New Testament. And yet, we all need to spend more time in this section of Matthew's gospel (Matthew 5:1-7:27). Over the next few months, I'm going to use selections of this sermon for my monthly Vine article.

Jesus is being a radical in this passage. I know that's a loaded statement with many different connotations with it, but it's the truth. Jesus is being a radical. He's describing a way of living that is difficult for most of us.

As I've stated before, there are multiple words for love in the Greek language. The one used here is agape. This is best described as "unconditional" or "unconquerable". It's the love that God has for us in spite of us. It's love that we can not earn. It's the love that God, by God's very nature, gives to us. It's the love we are called to have for one another.

But Jesus takes it further. He tells us that it's easy to have this love for those who love us. It's difficult to have this love for those who hate us. It's work. It takes effort. We prefer to not do this. We would rather hate. A colleague of mine once said "Hate is easy. That's why it's so easy to sell." Jesus tells us we are to love with the same love that God loves us. Why? Because God loves the person we hate. God is already loving the person we struggle with. God loves this person or these people. Therefore, we need to love them too.

If it were only that easy. It's not. It's difficult. It takes effort. It's not what we prefer to do. But it is what God through Jesus asks us to do.

So . . . who do you need to love?

In Christ,
Pastor Scott

"Be kind and compassionate . . ."

Ephesians 4:32



United Methodist church consultant Andrew Ponder Williams posted on an e-newsletter to which I subscribe an article titled "Kindness is the New Evangelism." He begins with this observation: "So much of the narrative in our culture today can be summarized as just plain mean. From the way customers behave at the corner restaurant to the dialogue of lawmakers on Capitol Hill, there is no shortage of people being nasty. Kindness is simple but challenging. Kindness is global. Kindness is Christian. Kindness is contagious. As Christians at our best, we spend our energy decrying the cruelty of all those around us. At our worst, we fall victim to the same cruelty within the walls of our congregations. What if, instead, our response to society's fixation on bad behavior was to model a different way?"

He then goes on to suggest that an intentional and tangible focus by church members on "simple acts of kindness," directed at those outside the church could become "our new approach to evangelism." His specific "starter ideas" include leaving snacks for community groups using the church facilities, a sermon series on kindness as a faith-based lifestyle, defining kindness as being central to the church's mission and values, offering kindness to community people experiencing some sort of crisis (like sending notes of encouragement to the staff of a bank that has been robbed), and passing out cookies at senior centers and college campuses.

Regardless of what our church is doing—or might choose to do—corporately, I believe what we, as individual members of the body, do to create a kinder world can make a significant difference. And, if we intentionally make it clear that we are acting as Christians and church members, our witness becomes that much more specific, and the church becomes that much more attractive.

So how might we find ways to reach beyond the church family and, as recognizable and self-identified representatives of our church and our Lord, do our part to change our culture in a positive way? What can you and I do to make a helpful difference and, thereby, make Christianity and the church that much more attractive?

Fire up your imagination and put it to work. Bake and give away some cookies (if that's your thing); identify and meet a neighbor's need for help; find a place in the community to volunteer; be a mentor; give a gift; write a letter of encouragement; babysit for a busy mom; walk a neighbor's dog; visit a nursing home; be intentional about spreading joy; meet meanness with kindness.

We may not be able to change the whole world; but we can make a difference in our corner of the world—and we can keep the meanness of the world from being our norm.

Pastor Tom



2019 Monthly Giving for May

Week of May 5	\$17,362
Week of May 12	\$ 6,719
Week of May 19	\$11,024
Week of May 26	\$ 9,210
Total	\$44,315

Needed Monthly \$50,524
Bruce Hartwig, Finance Chair
annandbruce347@gmail.com

YOU CAN HELP



NOTES FROM THE PANTRY

Our thanks to the Golf Committee who did such a great job organizing the 16th Annual Dinner/Golf fund raiser. The event raised a little over \$15,000, which was fantastic. But as the cost of food continues to rise, our cost can be upwards toward \$40,000.00 a year just for basic staples! We rely heavily on contributions that come in the rest of the year. If you are one of the pantry supporters who could not attend the fund raiser or just want to make a donation you can do so at any time.

Look for sales on canned goods (Spam, tuna, chicken, stew, etc.) as all donations are most welcome! For your convenience the pantry basket is out by the Welcome Center each Sunday or you can stop by the church office Monday through Thursday from 8:30 PM – 2:30 PM to drop off your donations.

We pray that God will continue to guide the pantry as he has for the last nineteen years.

The Pantry Team.



Youth and Children's Choir

The Children and Youth Choirs will resume after the Fall Kick-Off in September. For more information, please contact Selena Andrews (selenamumuc@gmail.com) or Christian Dauz (christiandmumc@gmail.com).

Co-Directors of the Children & Youth Choirs,
Selena Andrews & Christian Dauz



**FAITH AND FAMILY NIGHT
AT LAKE ELSINORE STORM**

Purchase tickets for the Storm "Faith and Fellowship Night" baseball game on Friday, July 19th (\$9 per person game only or \$10.50 for a tailgate picnic. Parking passes are \$8). Sunday, July 7th is the last day to buy tickets. See Ken and Debi Johnson at the Welcome Center on Sundays.



CARING MINISTRY

The Caring Ministry Team is in need of more individuals who are willing to prepare meals for those who need assistance for a short time. If you would like to be a part of the meal train, please email Eula Anyiwo at mainnenna@gmail.com.



UNITED METHODIST MEN

Our next meeting is at 8:00 AM on Saturday, July 13th meeting in Fellowship Hall. All men of the church: members and visitors alike are invited to come and enjoy friendship and faith with men devoted to being Disciples of Christ. If you have questions please contact Pres. Dave Mathews, 619-997-7594, Chaplain Andy Huntington, 951-533-4781 or Treasurer Mike Knowles (mikek_bus@msn.com).



YOUNG AT HEART

If you don't fit in with the 345 (30s, 40s, and 50s) group but you are looking for some friends to socialize with, this is the group for you! Those of us who have graduated from the 345s are invited to meet in Fellowship Hall on the second Saturday of each month for either a potluck or an event out in the community. On Saturday, July 13th we will gather from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM for an old fashioned Methodist potluck! Bring a dish to share and don't forget to your plates and silverware. As our special guest speaker, Ken Hedrick, will tell us about his part in a special archeological dig during his trip to the Holy Land.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
PRAY A DIFFERENT WAY**



Are you artistic? Do you doodle? Do you have challenges sitting still for very long? Do you sometimes struggle with coming up with the "right" words? Or do you have difficulty staying focused when praying? Then, you might want to come to the next United Methodist Women's meeting on Sunday, July 14th at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Based on the book by author Sybil MacBeth entitled *Praying in Color: Drawing a New Path to God*, fellow UMW member Vickie Mantecon will demonstrate the Praying in Color methodology on communicating with God each day. If you have colored pencils, bring them.

A chicken salad sandwich and fruit will be provided for lunch. All women of the church are welcome. For more information, contact Susan Jeffries 951-943-4421.

Donna Chamberlain
Communication Coordinator

PAGES Circle



PAGES Circle will meet on Thursday, July 11th at 10:30 AM to discuss *Courage is Abundant in the Abstract: Take Your Dreams from Abstract to Reality* by Selena Einwechter. Einwechter's book encourages us to follow our dreams. PAGES will meet again in August to discuss the novel *The Same Sky* by Amanda Eyre Ward. Call Donna Chamberlain at 951-696-1190 for more information. All women of the church are welcome to join us and participate.



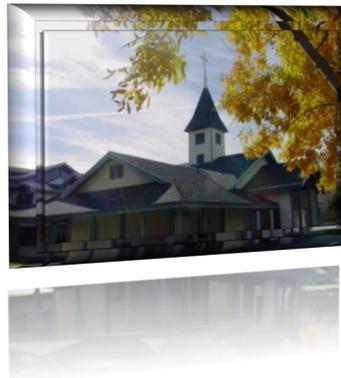
SONRISERS

The Sonrisers, a circle of the United Methodist Women, is a fellowship and service group for women of MUMC. There is no Sonrisers meeting in July. Our next meeting is on Saturday, August 3rd where we'll gather in the parking lot in back of Fellowship Hall to carpool to Oceanside, take the train to San Diego and then the Ferry to Coronado. We hope you will join us. For more information please contact Toni Spencer at 619- 504-8950.

Loving God, Loving Others, Serving People

MURRIETA UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
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MURRIETA, CA 92562

Return Service Requested



Murrieta United Methodist Church

Sunday Education Schedule

- 9:00 AM — Children's Sunday school for Pre-K - 5th grade & Jr. High (Fellowship Hall)
- 9:00 AM — High school Youth—worship in the sanctuary
- 9:45 AM — Children's resumes in Fall
- 10:15 AM — Youth choir resumes in Fall
- 10:30 AM — Jr. High Youth Group (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:00 PM — Sr. High Youth Group (Youth Room)

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

**No Sunday school 1st Sunday of each month—worship with families in sanctuary

A Monthly Publication
Editor: Judy Gilmore
Deadline: Monday, July 15th
(Due by Noon)

E-Mail articles to
judyg@murrietaumc.org

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE 9:00 AM & 11:00 PM

Murrieta United Methodist Church



<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiv9csgWfFpEZ5Plomdk7kQ>

Find us 
on Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/murrietaumc/>



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

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