

**Ojai United
Methodist
Church**

**120 Church Rd
Ojai, CA 93023**

THE MOUNTAIN VIEW

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2018

PASTOR'S CORNER!

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Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow!

There is so much to be thankful for! We have endured an incredibly challenging time over the past couple months, and it is important to take a moment to reflect on all that has transpired. God's fingerprints are all over our journey, as we observe God's Love Reflected in countless ways.

The season of Lent is a time of spiritual reflection, self-examination, and fasting (sacrificially giving something up, particularly things that keep us from fully engaging in relationship with God, and/or adding things that bring us closer to God and neighbor in service). The 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays) represent the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness after His baptism.

We will take these 40 days to collectively reflect on "how it is with our soul" (John Wesley asked this question often). We will have two ways of centering ourselves and growing spiritually each week:

- ♦ **Ash Wednesday Service (2/14) and Weekly Wednesday Prayer Services (2/21—3/28) at 5:15pm.** In the Ojai Valley (and surrounding areas) we have a new relationship with ashes after the fire. We gather for the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday and contemplative prayer services each week that follows. We will center on the stages of grief, setting our sights on the hope of new life in Christ as we watch signs of new life grow in our soil.
- ♦ **Sunday Lenten Worship Series—REHAB (2/18—3/25).** We probably think of "Rehab" in relation to the medical recovery from surgery or other illnesses, or pertaining to drug and alcohol addiction. This Lenten season, we are going to observe the Lenten discipline of Spiritual Rehab. Learning to live differently, setting a "new normal" where God becomes the sole One whom we lean on to navigate the journey of life.

We will gather together to participate in a **Mission Project** (service)—supporting UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) by putting together Relief Kits. Our congregation, along with our Mission Area Churches, will collectively send our kits to help those in need around the world.

Lent leads us towards Palm/Passion Sunday & Holy Week, where we will hold a service for Maundy (Holy) Thursday and participate in the Good Friday Service at Libbey Bowl.

In Christ,

Pastor Cathie

Overwhelming Thanks!

Words fail to express the fullness of my heart and the depth of my gratitude for the gift you shared with me at Christmas. Thank you so much! ~ Pastor Cathie





Happy Birthdays

JANUARY

Ruth Avakian	4th
Bob Tholl	16th
Elaine Nelson	24th
Brandon Marks	26th
Valerie Tholl	29th

FEBRUARY

Lee Criege	3rd
Wilma Coke	5th
Jeanne Keyser	6th
Marie Forrest	16th
Chris Gillmon	16th
Lorayn Nelson	17th



Ojai UMC kicks off 2016-2017
Ministry Initiative for Healthy Living

Get Moving with



The same super fun dance workout with Latin and world music just slower and lower impact. Perfect for Seniors, beginners and those with joint issues and anyone who hasn't exercised in a while. Anyone can do it, really! Zumba Gold can even be done seated.
Led by Lorraine Mariz

Mondays 10am to 11am

Ojai United Methodist Church
120 Church Rd, Ojai
(805)646-3528

Everyone Welcome!

\$5.00 per class

Contact Lorraine
javajoeojai@yahoo.com
(805)216-4306

Ojai UMC members are FREE!



All are welcome to join us on the last Sunday of each month from 3pm—5 pm for Bingo! Our friendly spin on the game is that each of us brings a small wrapped, or in a bag, gift (approx. \$5) . The suggested donation is \$1 per bingo card with a maximum of 3 cards. As the game is played, if you have a bingo, you select one of the gifts. After all the gifts have been taken, time permitting, we continue to play and you can take away a gift (that has now been opened) from someone else.

It has been a great opportunity for those in attendance to talk, laugh and have fun. We encourage you to ask a friend to join you.

Snacks and drinks are provided. If you have any questions at all, please contact Linda Harris at (805) 272-8644. We look forward to seeing you!!



'Like' us on Facebook and recommend our page to your friends – let's help spread the word! You can find us at <https://www.facebook.com/OjaiUMC>

God's Girls

In January we met for dinner at Cal Marco, and a wonderful evening was had!

ALL Women are invited to attend our God's Girls gathering. A group of men sometimes meet up for dinner at the same time (see Ed or Art for info).

Our February Gathering will be on Wednesday the 21st at 6:00pm at Agave Maria.

RSVP to Linda Aldous (824-4404) by Monday, February 19th.

Also, please remember our furry friends and bring a food item for our contribution to the Ojai Valley Humane Society.



Spaghetti Dinner ~ Sunday, February 18th!



Mark your calendars! Kim Armstrong has offered her amazing culinary skills to prepare a spaghetti dinner for us to enjoy on February 18th at 5:30pm in Peterson Hall. We hope you will invite a family member(s) or guest(S). Reservations are required to insure there is enough food for all that attend. Donations are appreciated, but not required. Please RSVP to the church office.



Ojai UMC paid all 2017 amounts for Apportionments, Pensions and Insurance. We should receive a 100% Certificate from the CalPac Conference for Apportionments again.

Balance for various accounts as of January 9, 2018:

- Parking Lot Fund: \$21,247.68
- Church Growth: \$3,908.73
- Family Shelter Meals: \$120.96 (Since starting donations for this cause, we have averaged \$65.00 - \$68.00 received per month).

Final end-of-year reports were delayed for last Church Council meeting due to issues related to the Thomas Fire (bank and business closures and checks to individuals not yet cleared/cashed).

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
MARIE FORREST, TREASURER**

Editor's note: After this report was submitted, OUMC received reimbursement from the North District the insurance deductible of \$2,500.00 related to the deep cleaning that was needed after the Thomas Fire.



OJAI FOOD PROJECT

As you all know, there was a great need for food and shelter after the fires destroyed so many homes in the Ojai area. The Help of Ojai food pantry gave away a lot of their stocked food. A list of food items needed to restock their shelves is included. Please drop off the canned goods, etc., to either our church on Sunday morning or the church office prior to Thursday, January 25, 2018.

I will be picking up and delivering the food to the Help of Ojai Food Project on February 3, 2018.

Thank you for your support of this ministry. God bless you.

Linda Aldous/Member of OUMC

Hubmaster of Help of Ojai, Community Assistance Program

FEBRUARY'S MOST NEEDED ITEMS

Peanut Butter (greatly needed)

Spaghetti

Boxed Macaroni and Cheese

Spaghettios

Canned Raviolis

Chili Beans

Instant Mashed Potatoes

Bottled Water

Ensure Drinks (any flavor)

Chips (small bags)

READINESS 360 PROJECT

Over the course of 2018, the Church Council and Pastor Cathie will be working with Rev. Steve Petty who is a coach/consultant referred by Nicole Reilley (New Ministries/Cal-Pac). It is important that Ojai UMC remain a vital part of the community and attract new members; both from our good works and from investing time and energy in things that make a difference. Rev. Petty is a retired Methodist pastor with experience in revitalizing both the churches he pastored to, and now as a consultant. After our first meeting, we had much to think about. Some changes are simple; such as removing some of the chairs in our Sanctuary (most churches are considered to be "comfortably full" at 80%; removing a portion of the railing around the Communion Table—visitors from other types of churches may think it means they may not come to the table; take one thing OUMC does well and do it better! Another important change will be our website, which is going to be undergoing a makeover. The reason is that most people under 50 that are new to an area, are going to look for their new church home by looking at church websites. On most websites you can see past sermons, hear what the music will sound like, what the church looks like, etc. Obviously a website is a critical tool to attract newcomers.

The issue of deferred maintenance will continue to be a part of what we address. A clean and inviting church says to someone who is seeing it for the first time that we love our church and we take care of it. We will be brainstorming ideas and we would love feedback from our congregation! Take a few moments and think of five low cost things that can be done to our campus that you feel would make a difference. It would be greatly appreciated if you could put those ideas in writing and submit them to Pastor Cathie (she has an inbox in the hallway near her office). She will share your ideas at the next Council meeting. Thank you for your input!



On January 13th and 14th, 2018, North District Superintendent, Jim Powell, organized two meetings at Camarillo UMC to begin addressing the UMC response to the recent Thomas Fire and Montecito disaster. Representatives of area churches from the affected areas were specifically invited to attend the meeting and Ojai UMC was well represented. DS Jim Powell announced that Cal-Pac will be submitting grants to UMCOR for financial assistance in helping meet the needs of individuals affected by the recent fires and mudslides. At this time, Cal-Pac has already submitted a \$10,000 grant application to meet immediate needs and develop a housing facility at Camarillo UMC for work teams coming to the area. As a result of discussion on both days, it was determined that a grant for up to \$100,000 would be submitted to hire two part-time Disaster Case Management Development Team positions for up to three months each who would secure information of sources of aid and assistance to victims of the Thomas Fire with the purpose of identifying unmet needs for those individuals and families not meeting any of the aid guidelines. Additional grant application(s) would be developed based upon the assessment of the Disaster Case Management Development Team. In disaster situations, it is said that the time is: Rescues -10 days; Relief -100 days; Recovery -1,000 days (or longer).

Having attended the meeting myself, it can be mind boggling as to the scope of the work that UMCOR does. If you are unfamiliar with this humanitarian relief and development arm on the United Methodist Church, I recommend that you go to their website for information (www.umcor.org). The good works they do assist people all over the world!

At times like this, we all wonder what we can do to make a difference. UMCOR's website listed some much needed things that go directly into the hands that need it. So in honor of UMCOR Sunday, March 11, 2018, we will come together to create 40 Hygiene Kits. See below for further details.

Linda Harris/SPRC



UMCOR Sunday, March 11, 2018

After our church services on March 11th, we will gather together to put together Hygiene kits which will be sent on to UMCOR for future distribution. There are 3 ways you can help ~ a donation at church allocated to purchase the items required for the kits; purchase items for the kit and bring to church; and join us to put the kits together. Spreadsheets will be distributed during church services so that you may sign up and indicate your preferred method of helping. Our intent is to complete 40 kits. Below is list of what is in each kit (all items must be new):

Hand towel 15"x25 " to 17"x27" (Kitchen , cleaning, and microfiber towels not acceptable)

Wash cloth

Bandages (6) ~ 3/4" to 1" size

Toothbrush (Adult size/do not remove from packaging)

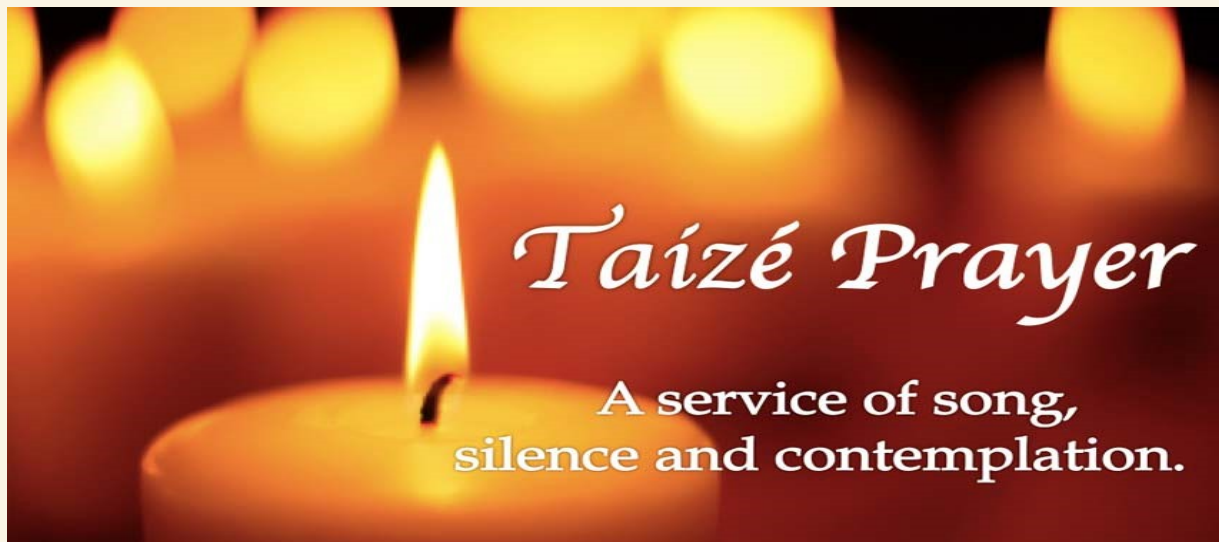
Metal nail file or clippers (No emery boards)

Bath size soap—3 oz. or larger (No Ivory or Jergens soap due to moisture content)

1 One-gallon size sealable bag

\$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN US IN PRAYER



FROM THE ASHES TO NEW LIFE

A mid-week Lenten Series

Feeling drained by the chaos of the Thomas Fire and Mudslides? Let us journey through the stages of grief, moving from the ashes into the promise of new life in weekly 30-minute contemplative prayer services.

Wednesdays during Lent—2/21 to 3/28

5:15pm—In the Sanctuary

ALL ARE WELCOME

Call the church office (646-3528) or e-mail pastorcathie@gmail.com for info.

In

INSPIRE! MINISTRY WITH NORDHOFF HS

Think it's just about snacks for teachers?! Think again!

Ojai Unified School District is the poorest in Ventura County. 45% of the student body live below poverty level. 18% of students receive multiple D's and F's. The teachers are the lowest paid. Our children are hurting, and the teachers and staff who support them are paying out of their own pockets to serve the children of our community well.

As those called to Reflect God's Love to the world around us, we provide food once per month and leave a "Prayer Box" so teachers and staff can receive prayers from us, their neighbors. This love and support of the teachers lets them know we care about them and the work they are doing in the community, and fosters a relationship between NHS and OUMC.

Want to be a part of the delivery team and serve as a host, meeting those who come by for a nibble or prayer? Let Pastor Cathie know.



~ PARISH PRAYER LIST ~

For strength and health: Joy Young, Family of Paul Barker, Bobbie McMullen, Millie Morris, Butch Lambert, Joy Bodell, Robin Chambliss, David Williams, and Diana Criger

For those unable to attend church: Bob Unruhe, Norma Mitrany, Alan Spencer, Jeanne Keyser

Other prayers: For people and their families affected by natural disasters and acts of terrorism

Prayer List Updates: Please submit Prayer requests to the church office: ojaiumc@gmail.com or 805-646-3528.



~REFLECTIONS OF GOD'S LOVE~

Reflections of God's Love abound in our congregation, and those who deserve acknowledgement are many! Here is a short list and some photos to speak 1000 words!

- ♦ Art, Ed, and all those who spend countless hours making sure our campus is clean and safe!
- ♦ The Church Council / Leadership Team—who live out discipleship in dedicating themselves to building God's Kin-dom here in the Ojai Valley (and give up hours and hours of time to do so)!
- ♦ Linda Aldous—who despite the risk of breathing issues, volunteered over 13 hours at the Red Cross Shelter during the Thomas Fire.
- ♦ Judy & Mary—who serve the needy in our community by delivering Meals on Wheels.
- ♦ All those who supported NHS Inspire Ministry at such a crucial time after the fires.
- ♦ The Ojai Valley Shelter Meal Team (led by Linda & Carol) who lovingly serve and dine with our neighbors.
- ♦ The Christmas Caroling Team—who brought joy to our home-bound members.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON, MONDAY - FRIDAY

JANUARY 2018

Mon Jan 1, 2018	New Year's Day HOLIDAY - OFFICE CLOSED
Tue Jan 2, 2018	9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel 6pm - Boy Scouts (PH)
Wed Jan 3, 2018	9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel
Thu Jan 4, 2018	7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal (ChR)
Fri Jan 5, 2018	Office Closed 12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club (PH)
Sat Jan 6, 2018	2pm - Anne Youngdale Memorial (S)
Sun Jan 7, 2018	10am Worship - Sanctuary 11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio
Mon Jan 8, 2018	10am - Zumba Gold (PH) 12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)
Tue Jan 9, 2018	9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel
Wed Jan 10, 2018	9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel 5:30pm - Prayer Group 6pm - God's Girls
Thu Jan 11, 2018	7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal (ChR)
Fri Jan 12, 2018	Office Closed 12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club (PH)
Sun Jan 14, 2018	10am Worship - Sanctuary 11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio 11:30am - Church Council Meeting
Mon Jan 15, 2018	10am - Zumba Gold (PH) 12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH) 1pm - Bible Study (FR) 5pm - Handbell Rehearsal
Tue Jan 16, 2018	9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel 7pm Boy Scouts
Wed Jan 17, 2018	9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel 5:30pm - Prayer Group 7pm - Church Council Meeting
Thu Jan 18, 2018	7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal (ChR)
Fri Jan 19, 2018	Office Closed 12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club (PH)
Sun Jan 21, 2018 **	10am Worship - Sanctuary 11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio
Mon Jan 22, 2018 **	10am - Zumba Gold (PH) 12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)
Tue Jan 23, 2018 **	9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel
Wed Jan 24, 2018 **	9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel
Thu Jan 25, 2018	7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Fri Jan 26, 2018	Office Closed 12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club (PH)
Sat Jan 27, 2018	8:45am - 3pm - North District Training
Sun Jan 28, 2018	10am Worship - Sanctuary 11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio 3pm - Bingo! Bring a Friend (PH)
Mon Jan 29, 2018	10am - Zumba Gold (PH) 12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club
Tue Jan 30, 2018	9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel
Wed Jan 31, 2018	9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel

**PASTOR CATHIE @ LEAD CONFERENCE IN COLORADO

FEBRUARY

Thu Feb 1, 2018

Fri Feb 2, 2018

Sun Feb 4, 2018

Mon Feb 5, 2018

Tue Feb 6, 2018

Wed Feb 7, 2018

Thu Feb 8, 2018

Fri Feb 9, 2018

Sun Feb 11, 2018

Mon Feb 12, 2018

Tue Feb 13, 2018

Wed Feb 14, 2018

Thu Feb 15, 2018

Fri Feb 16, 2018

Sun Feb 18, 2018

Mon Feb 19, 2018

Tue Feb 20, 2018

Wed Feb 21, 2018

Thu Feb 22, 2018

Fri Feb 23, 2018

Sun Feb 25, 2018

Mon Feb 26, 2018

Tue Feb 27, 2018

Wed Feb 28, 2018

Office Closed

12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club

10am Worship-Sanctuary

11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio

10am - Zumba Gold (PH)

12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)

1pm - Bible Study (FR)

9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel

9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel

7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Office Closed

12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club

10am Worship - Sanctuary

11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio

10am - Zumba Gold (PH)

12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)

1pm - Bible Study (FR)

9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel

4pm - Church Council - Skype

Meeting with Rev. Petty

Ash Wednesday

9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel

5:15pm - Ash Wednesday Service

7pm - Church Council Meeting

7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Office Closed

12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club

10am Worship - Sanctuary

11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio

10am - Zumba Gold (PH)

12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)

1pm - Bible Study (FR)

9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel

9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel

5:15pm - Lenten Prayer Service

6pm - God's Girl's - Agave Maria

7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Office Closed

12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club

10am Worship-Sanctuary

11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio

3pm - Bingo! Bring a Friend (PH)

10am - Zumba Gold (PH)

12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)

1pm - Bible Study (FR)

9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel

9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel

5:15pm - Lenten Prayer Service

*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

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