

**Ojai United  
Methodist  
Church**

**120 Church Rd  
Ojai, CA 93023**

# THE MOUNTAIN VIEW

MARCH - APRIL 2018

## **PASTOR'S CORNER!**

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It is the season of Lent, and many Christian traditions practice a suspension of singing "Alleluia/Hallelujah" during this contemplative season in order to fully prepare for the radical praise and Alleluia when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. We can certainly hone our spiritual practices by following tradition and engaging in spiritual routines, and I encourage each one of you to discern for yourself how you will bring this to fruition in our lives as we journey through this Lenten season.

That being said, I have an enormous hallelujah inside my heart that cannot wait to burst out in praise of God! The forty-day Lenten season does not include Sundays, as they are considered "little Easters," and so I hope and pray that my writing this letter on Sunday gives space for it to be shouted from the mountain-top! HALLELUJAH! I passed my written and oral exams for ordination, and will be presented before the Annual Conference in June for Ordination in Full Connection!

Praise God for continual presence throughout the entire journey. I began exploring my sense of God's call to ordained ministry nine years ago, and after two cross-country moves, two Master's Degrees, and serving two churches in full-time ministry, I am incredibly excited and humbled to have accomplished this goal by God's grace and with all of your support!

Ordination in Full Connection is a vocational and spiritual goal for clergy, yet it is not a final destination. The journey to this point has been long and arduous, filled with many obstacles and tasks that are not always enjoyable. Yet, the journey continues with a commitment to hard work and the certainty of challenges along the way.

Such is the life of discipleship! Once we profess our faith and enter into membership in the Church, we enjoy community with God and one another, and sometimes the responsibilities come with challenges. Each one of you has committed yourself to service to God and one another, and I thank you for your dedication!

Thank you for being a part of my journey to Ordination in Full Connection, and I look forward to seeing where the Spirit of God takes us in our future work together. May we continue to grow in God's grace and love, Reflecting God's Love to those in our community who have not yet known their beloved-ness in God's eyes!

**In Christ,**

***Pastor Cathie***





## Happy Birthdays

### MARCH

Margie Ota	17th
Pat Johnson	25th
Lois Sorenson	26th

### APRIL

Marjorie Wichman	4th
Nicholas Marks	7th
Joy Bodell	9th
Joan Hagar	14th
Tanci Valadez	15th
Pastor Cathie Capp	26th
Morgan Marks	30th

Happy Anniversaries to Allen & Marleen Spencer (3/15), Greg & Denise Stafford (3/23), and Ed & Nancy Dennis (4/22).



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

**Ojai UMC members are FREE!**

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



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, new items only). 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 February we met for dinner at Agave Maria, and in spite of the cold weather, everyone enjoyed a good meal and indoor dining.

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 March gathering will be on Wednesday the 21st at 6:00pm at Soule Park. Our God's Girls get togethers are normally on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

RSVP to Linda Harris (272-8644) by Monday, March 19th.



## Meet Rev. Steve Petty ~ Sunday, March 4th

With Pastor Cathie, Michael Marks, and Kate Hallock having all completed their Safe Gatherings Training (UMC), they will accompany our youth (Sarita, Brandon, and Nicholas) to the Bishop's Confirmation Retreat on March 2nd – 4th. On that Sunday, Rev. Steve Petty will preach in worship to develop a relationship with the congregation at large. Rev. Petty is guiding Pastor Cathie and our Church Council on issues stemming from the Readiness 360 Project (Church growth, creating effective missions, etc.). Please extend a warm "Oh-Hi" welcome to Rev. Petty during our coffee fellowship! Pastries served too!



As of February 13, 2018 the current amounts held in savings for ongoing projects are as follows:

- Parking Lot Fund: \$21,687.86
- Parsonage Improvements: \$7,425.00
- Church Improvements: \$425.00

The current General Fund balance is \$40,390.99. Of this amount the following are allocated for certain project:

Church Growth: \$2,908.33  
Homeless Meals: \$165.72  
Thomas Fire: \$27,192.61

Property taxes will be paid in March.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
MARIE FORREST, TREASURER**



#### **MOST NEEDED ITEMS**

**Peanut Butter**  
**Spaghetti**  
**Boxed Macaroni and Cheese**  
**Spaghettios**  
**Canned Raviolis**  
**Chili Beans**  
**Instant Mashed Potatoes**  
**Bottled Water**  
**Ensure Drinks (any flavor)**  
**Chips (small bags)**

## **OJAI FOOD PROJECT**

Thank you for your continued support of this important cause in our community. The delivery we made in February, with your generous donations, really made a dent in the depleted supplies on hand! 15 bags of groceries were delivered....a record for us!

You may continue to bring in your food donations and I will let you know during announcements on Sunday as to the deadlines for March and April.

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

**Linda Aldous/Member of OUMC**

**Hubmaster of Help of Ojai, Community Assistance Program**

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### **READINESS 360 PROJECT**

2018 will be a busy year as the Church Council and Pastor Cathie work with Rev. Steve Petty; a coach/consultant who specializes in revitalizing churches. If you would like to know how to get involved with this project, please call the church office to ask for details. One of the most important things you can do is simple ~ invite a friend or neighbor to join us on Sunday! Our continued growth will be greatly enhanced by this simple gesture.

Rev. Petty stressed early on the importance of our campus and sanctuary being in good order; clean and inviting. In February, new patio chairs will be available for seating on the patio, before and after our service. This will allow for a chance to really enjoy that cup of coffee with our church family! The new planters with lovely flowers will remind us that spring is near.

One way for our church to be noticed from the street is both with signage (which will be in the works) and to trim the trees along Church Road. It was suggested we keep the double doors open on Sundays. To take the doors one step further, they will be painted a vibrant color that will tie into the colors of the stained glass that surrounds the doors. And, new LED lights will be installed near that entrance so that the stained glass will be illuminated when the lights are on.

You may have noticed that the junipers have been removed from the area on Church Road (and in front of the double doors). This is to make way for drought tolerant plants that will enhance the look of the entrance on that side of our sanctuary. The plants will be smaller as to keep them from becoming so tall that those doors can not be seen. It has been frequently mentioned that it was difficult to spot our sanctuary from the road. Stay tuned as we continue to seek ways to make our church comfortable for you, and inviting to those we wish to meet.

# UMCOR SUNDAY

**March 11, 2018**

UMCOR Sunday is March 11th, so mark your calendars! UMCOR is the humanitarian relief and development arm of the United Methodist Church ([www.umcor.com](http://www.umcor.com)) and their good works assist people all over the world. As mentioned in our last newsletter, Cal-Pac is submitting grant applications to UMCOR to help aid and assist victims of the Thomas Fire.

UMCOR Sunday provides us with an opportunity to lend a hand as well!! After our church service on March 11th, we will gather together to assemble "Hygiene Kits" which will be sent to UMCOR for future distribution. We have all heard news reports during the recent fire and floods where people leave their homes with nothing but the clothes on their back. This is where this type of kit becomes so important! There are three ways you can help ~ a donation at church allocated to purchase the items required for the kits, purchase items for the kit and bring them to the church office, and join us to put the kits together. A sign up sheet 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 the 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



## Easter Services ~ April 1st

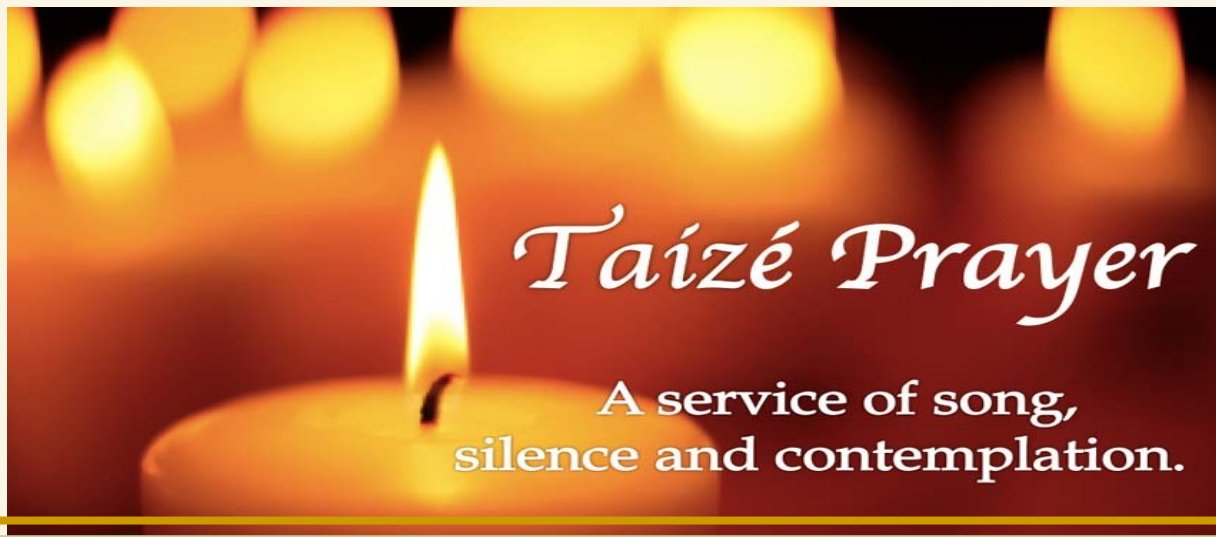
Please join us on Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus! We will have two services that Sunday, with a breakfast after the Sunrise Service, and another breakfast before our 10:15am Service! So mark your calendars and join us for celebration, worship, music and food! Please ask friend, family or neighbor to join you!

***Sunrise Service ~ 6:30am ~ Breakfast 7:15am***

***Breakfast 9:30am ~ 10am ~ 10:15am Easter Service***



## 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](mailto:pastorcathie@gmail.com) for info.



### ~REFLECTIONS OF GOD'S LOVE~

Reflections of God's Love abound in our congregation, and those who deserve acknowledgement are many!

- ⇒ **Chris Gilmon** ~ for always being willing to help set up for events including meals, memorials, fundraisers, and worship services!
- ⇒ **Linda Harris** ~ for dedicating her whole heart to the ministry of the church, including (but not limited to) our campus renewal and beautification projects, our Fun Fellowship Bingo, and the production of our Newsletter!
- ⇒ **Linda Aldous** ~ for coordinating volunteers and cooking the food for our monthly hot dinner at the Cold Weather Shelter! (Thank you to the whole team!)
- ⇒ **Marie Forrest** ~ for coordinating meals when members could use some help and nourishment.
- ⇒ **Anonymous givers** ~ for pledging to the ministries of the local church even while not being regular participants of the congregation.



~ PARISH PRAYER LIST ~

*For strength and health:* Joy Young, Mary Kelly, Bobbie McMullen, Millie Morris, Deborah Hicks, Butch Lambert, Joy Bodell, Robin Chambliss, and David Williams

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

*Other prayers:* Lisa Church, *and* 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](mailto:ojaiumc@gmail.com) or 805-646-3528.



CONGRATULATIONS

A Note from Denyse Barnes



Greetings to my Ojai UMC Family!

I have received so much love, support, and encouragement from you all over the last three years. You have all played such a significant part in my journey and I am so thankful for each one of you. It has been a while since I last sent you an update on what I am up to and where I am on this journey!

In December of last year, I submitted my last final paper and completed my studies for my Masters in Divinity at Claremont School of Theology. I will graduate on May 22nd 2018—and you are all welcome to attend! The final semester was particularly hard, I was working almost full time at Hollywood UMC, taking three classes and writing my papers for my application as a provisional elder.

I learned in mid January that my papers had passed and interviewed last week. I am thrilled to let you know that I passed my interviews and will be commissioned as a provisional elder on June 16th of this year. Again, all are welcome to attend, and I would love to see some of you at the ceremony at the University of Redlands.

Life at Hollywood keeps me very busy! My responsibilities there now include Youth, Adult Education, Pastoral Care, and a number of small groups which meet at various times during the week and include Spirit Pub, Queer women, and a grief group. I take part in all worship services across both campuses and preach occasionally also.

I am getting used to living here now, although I miss Ojai and all my friends very much! The dogs are well settled and we now walk a few miles every day, which is good for them and for me also!

I can be reached by email at [denyse\\_barnes@outlook.com](mailto:denyse_barnes@outlook.com) and would love to hear from you if you have the time!

Much love, peace, and blessing to you all!

*Denyse*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9AM TO NOON, MONDAY - THURSDAY. CLOSED FRIDAYS.**

## MARCH

Thu Mar 1, 2018 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 Fri Mar 2, 2018 12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club  
 CONFIRMATION CAMP till Sunday

Sun Mar 4, 2018 10am Worship-Sanctuary  
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio

Mon Mar 5, 2018 10am - Zumba Gold (PH)  
 12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)  
 1pm - Bible Study (FR)  
 5:15pm – Handbell Rehearsal (C)  
 6:30pm – Ojai Community Chorus (S)  
 7pm - Girl Scouts (PH)

Tue Mar 6, 2018 9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel  
 Wed Mar 7, 2018 9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel  
**5:15pm - Taize Prayer Service (S)**

Thu Mar 8, 2018 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 Fri Mar 9, 2018 12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club

Sun Mar 11, 2018 10am Worship - Sanctuary  
**UMCOR SUNDAY** 11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio  
 12pm - UMCOR Project (CR)

Mon Mar 12, 2018 10am - Zumba Gold (PH)  
 12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)  
 1pm - Bible Study (FR)  
 5:15pm – Handbell Rehearsal (C)  
 6:30pm – Ojai Community Chorus (S)

Tue Mar 13, 2018 9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel  
 Wed Mar 14, 2018 9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel  
**5:15pm - Taize Prayer Service (S)**

Thu Mar 15, 2018 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 Fri Mar 16, 2018 12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club

Sun Mar 18, 2018 10am Worship - Sanctuary  
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio

Mon Mar 19, 2018 10am - Zumba Gold (PH)  
 12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)  
 1pm - Bible Study (FR)  
 7pm - Girl Scouts (PH)

Tue Mar 20, 2018 9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel  
 Wed Mar 21, 2018 9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel  
 5:15pm - Taize Prayer Service  
 6pm – God's Girls (Soule Park)

Thu Mar 22, 2018 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 Fri Mar 23, 2018 12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club

Sun Mar 25, 2018 10am Worship-Sanctuary  
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio  
**3pm – Bingo! Bring a Friend (PH)**


Mon Mar 26, 2018 10am - Zumba Gold (PH)  
 12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)  
 1pm - Bible Study (FR)  
 5:15pm – Handbell Rehearsal (C)  
 6:30pm – Ojai Community Chorus (S)

Tue Mar 27, 2018 9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel  
 Wed Mar 28, 2018 9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel  
 5:15pm - Taize Prayer Service

Thu Mar 29, 2018 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 Fri Mar 30, 2018 12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club

## APRIL

Sun Apr 1, 2018



Mon Apr 2, 2018

Tue Apr 3, 2018  
 Wed Apr 4, 2018  
 Thu Apr 5, 2018  
 Fri Apr 6, 2018

Sun Apr 8, 2018

Mon Apr 9, 2018

Tue Apr 10, 2018

Wed Apr 11, 2018  
 Thu Apr 12, 2018  
 Fri Apr 13, 2018

Sun Apr 15, 2018

Mon Apr 16, 2018

Tue Apr 17, 2018  
 Wed Apr 18, 2018

Thu Apr 19, 2018  
 Fri Apr 20, 2018

Sun Apr 22, 2018

Mon Apr 23, 2018

Tue Apr 24, 2018  
 Wed Apr 25, 2018  
 Thu Apr 26, 2018  
 Fri Apr 27, 2018

Sun Apr 29, 2018

Mon Apr 30, 2018

## EASTER SUNDAY

**6:30am – Sunrise Service**  
**7:15am – Breakfast**  
**9:30am – Breakfast**  
**10am Worship-Sanctuary**  
**11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio**

10am - Zumba Gold (PH)  
 12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)  
 5:15pm – Handbell Rehearsal (C)  
 6:30pm – Ojai Community Chorus (S)  
 7pm - Girl Scouts

9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel  
 9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel  
 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club

10am Worship - Sanctuary  
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio  
 10am - Zumba Gold (PH)  
 12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)  
 5:15pm – Handbell Rehearsal (C)  
 6:30pm – Ojai Community Chorus (S)  
 7pm - Bear Den (PH)

9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel  
 4pm - Church Council - Skype  
 Meeting with Rev. Petty

9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel  
 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club

10am Worship - Sanctuary  
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio  
 10am - Zumba Gold (PH)  
 12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)  
 5:15pm – Handbell Rehearsal (C)  
 6:30pm – Ojai Community Chorus (S)  
 7pm - Girl Scouts (PH)

9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel  
 9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel  
 6pm – God's Girls (TBD)  
 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club

10am Worship-Sanctuary  
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio  
 10am - Zumba Gold (PH)  
 12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)  
 7pm - Bear Den (PH)

9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel  
 9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel  
 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 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)  
 7pm - Girl Scouts (PH)