

**Ojai United
Methodist
Church**

**120 Church Rd
Ojai, CA 93023**

THE MOUNTAIN VIEW

MAY - JUNE 2018

PASTOR'S CORNER!

Burning Bush

Phone:

805-646-3528

E-mail:

ojaiumc@gmail.com

Website:

www.ojaiumc.org

Editor:

Linda Harris

Pastor Cathie contact:

pastorcathie@gmail.com

Cell: 626-676-6267

When I was discerning my call to ministry, wrestling with whether this meant attending seminary and going into ordained ministry, I was also taking a Disciple Bible Study at Pasadena First UMC. One evening during our time of joys and concerns I said I really (really!) wanted God to show me a clear sign of what I was supposed to do. I wanted my own burning bush, with God's voice clearly speaking to me, saying, "Cathie, take off your shoes for this is holy ground, and by the way, attend Princeton Theological Seminary." Kendall sat across the table from me and gracefully spoke these words, "But Cathie, everything seems to be going smoothly and doors keep opening for you as you go through this process. Isn't that kind of like your burning bush?" This exchange was transformational for me. I wanted God to shake my shoulders and abrupt my life in a physical way, so much so, that I had ignored the visceral way in which God was calling me and paving the way towards seminary.

Fast forward five years. I was preparing to move back from Princeton. I felt powerfully drawn back to California, despite not having a job lined up upon my return. A leap of faith. My plane ticket for June 11th was purchased, my office was packed, and I was selling the few belongings I had while renting a furnished room. I again cried out to God asking for a sign of affirmation that I was doing the right thing. The Thursday before Memorial Day Weekend I received a call from the then-DS telling me I was being appointed to the Ojai UMC. That phone call was my burning bush, and I knew I was standing on holy ground.

Fast forward four years. I was disoriented from traveling to the East Coast on a red-eye flight and exhausted from the workload leading up to Easter and a conference the week after. I spent two hours alone hiking six miles in the Wissahickon Valley Park just a few blocks from my friend's church near Philly. I steeped in the sense of God's presence. My soul was stilled in remembering that God is my strength and the One guiding my life and ministry journey. As I neared the end of my hike, I heard, saw, and felt a bright red Cardinal flying right in front of me. I stopped in my tracks and recognized the power of God, times two: both the color red and a bird are images used to depict the Holy Spirit. I looked around to find where it was, and I heard the rustling of leaves in a bush nearby. I grabbed my camera to take pictures of it and realized the Cardinal inside the bush gave the illusion of it being on fire but not being consumed. I gasped and acknowledged that I was surely standing on holy ground!





HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

MAY

Judy Jansson	2nd
Charlotte Leonard	11th
Robin Chambliss	29th
Sarita Hallock	29th

JUNE

Linda Aldous	11th
Brent Stafford	17th

Happy Anniversaries to Lee & Diana Criger (5/10)
and Art & Linda Harris (5/5).



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>



California-Pacific Conference awarded UMCOR Grant for Thomas Fire & 1/9 Debris Flow

UMCOR has awarded our Cal-Pac conference with a grant to provide assistance to the survivors of the Thomas Fire and Debris flow of January 9th. **UMCOR 805** is providing case management services to survivors and collaborating with area churches and social service agencies to provide services and long term recovery efforts with families and individuals. Ojai UMC is supporting **UMCOR 805** efforts and collaborating with them to reach those in need. If you would like to be a part of the volunteer efforts or if you and/or a family member (or your neighbor) are suffering from the aftermath of either of these two disasters please contact:

Heidi Amundson, Recovery Director ~ (805) 850-3969 or Heidi.calpac.umcor@gmail.com

***Carmen Hortiales, Case Manager ~ (805) 850-3961 or Carmen.calpac.umcor@gmail.com**

***Spanish speaker**



God's Girls

Due to the Mother's Day Tea in May, God's Girls will not be meeting in May, but will resume in June.



As of April 18, 2018 the current amounts held in savings for ongoing projects are as follows:

- Parking Lot Fund: \$23,262.68
- Parsonage Improvements: \$1,425.00
- Church Improvements: \$1,350.00

The total expenses for the cleanup from the Thomas Fire amounted to \$60,655.63. The total was covered by a \$2,500.00 donation from the North District and our insurance carrier provided the remainder.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the funds listed above for continued, much needed improvements, should designate on their check the name of the fund you wish to support. (See Trustee's Report on Page XX for further information on projects).

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
MARIE FORREST, TREASURER**



OJAI FOOD PROJECT

Thank you again for your amazing support of this important ministry of our church. We were able to supply 8 full bags of food items on our last delivery!!

You may continue to bring in your food donations and I will let you know during announcements on Sundays as to the deadline for our June delivery.

God bless you.

Linda Aldous/Member of OUMC

Hubmaster of Help of Ojai, Community Assistance Program

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)

Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor. Proverbs 22.9

READINESS 360 PROJECT

The Church Council and Pastor Cathie have been continuing to work with Rev. Steve Petty to explore ways to reach out to our community by creating new ministries (and enhance existing ones), attract visitors to our church, creating interesting events for both members and our community, creating fund raising events, and even how to shorten our council meeting!!! Our last session was called “Why and How do we Organize? How to Accomplish Anything?”. The lesson to be learned is first accomplish a **purpose** (create with a goal in mind), **establish a process** (creates a framework), **make decisions/create plans/evaluate resources, involve people in working on the program** (each occasion should include 1/3 new people), **run the program** (bring everything together as best as possible), **evaluate everything** (make a list) and then **improve** and **repeat**. As we move forward in the coming months, consider how you might like to take part in an event, because all help is deeply appreciated and it can be fun and rewarding.

The Church Council is also continuing work on projects to beautify our campus. Our “can’t miss” orange door has been painted and fresh, drought tolerant landscaping is taking off with beautiful flowers! All of this was done to accentuate where our sanctuary is located, for those that are not familiar with our large campus. There is more information regarding our projects in the Trustee’s and Treasurer’s reports in this newsletter.

PASTOR'S CORNER!
(continued)

Fast forward four years. I was disoriented from traveling to the East Coast on a red-eye flight and exhausted from the workload leading up to Easter and a conference the week after. I spent two hours alone hiking six miles in the Wissahickon Valley Park just a few blocks from my friend's church near Philly. I steeped in the sense of God's presence. My soul was stilled in remembering that God is my strength and the One guiding my life and ministry journey. As I neared the end of my hike, I heard, saw, and felt a bright red Cardinal flying right in front of me. I stopped in my tracks and recognized the power of God, times two: both the color red and a bird are images used to depict the Holy Spirit. I looked around to find where it was, and I heard the rustling of leaves in a bush nearby. I grabbed my camera to take pictures of it and realized the Cardinal inside the bush gave the illusion of it being on fire but not being consumed. I gasped and acknowledged that I was surely standing on holy ground!

Five minutes after I returned to my friend's church, while I was stretching on the floor of her office, my phone rang and it was our District Superintendent informing me that I was being appointed to a different congregation. This time I did not need to ask for a burning bush, I already experienced it just moments before. While the particularities of this call were surprising and evoked sadness and anxiety, God's clear presence and providence in the process is a source of divine peace and calm.

Where have you seen evidence of God's presence lately? What burning bush moments have you encountered (or maybe even overlooked)? How can we open our hearts and minds (and eyes and ears) to be attuned to God's work and provision around us?

I pray that over the coming months we find God's Love Reflecting all around us, enveloping us in the grace of our Lord, and that we are reminded of God's power and provision in times of transition and beyond.

May the love of God, the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us now and forever. Amen.

In Christ, *Pastor Cathie*





Mother's Day Tea

Saturday, May 12, 2018 ~ 3:00pm

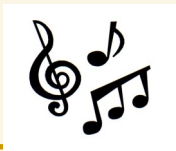
Please join us on Saturday, May 12th for our annual Mother's Day event! This year it will be a tea, fit for the Queen (that all mother's are)! Volunteers have been busily working to make this a very special occasion. Delicious tea, small sandwiches and treats will be served. Tickets are \$10.00 each and are available on Sunday's after the service or call the church office to reserve. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

Happy Mother's Day

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON FILLED WITH MUSIC ~ OUR CHURCH WILL BE HAVING A CONCERT ON SUNDAY, JUNE 10TH AT 4:00PM IN OUR SANCTUARY. OUR OWN CHRIS GILLMON WILL BE ON THE PIANO, ALONG WITH OTHER LOCAL MUSICIANS.

COMPOSERS WILL INCLUDE CHOPIN, ROBERT SCHUMANN, MOZART, BRAHMS, AND J. S. BACH.

NO ADMISSION FEE~ FREE WILL OFFERINGS ONLY WITH ALL PROCEEDS GOING DIRECTLY TO OUR CHURCH.



PLEASE FEEL FREE TO INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

CONCERT JUNE 10, 2018



~ CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST ~

For strength and health: Carol Longhom, Shannon Lott, David Sygeel, Mary Kelly, Elaine Nelson, Bobbie McMullen, Millie Morris, Deborah Hicks, Butch Lambert, Joy Bodell, Robin Chambliss and Jean Ball

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

Other prayers: Family of Matt Cooper, Jim & Jean Strathdee, requests by NHS Faculty and Students, 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 or

805-646-3528.

Trustee's Report

At the beginning of the year the church council members submitted a list of projects they thought needed attention. Many of the projects are the results of deferred maintenance that needed addressing. There were 37 projects on the list. We knew we could not immediately address all 37 items, therefore, we asked the council members to select the top 8 projects to be addressed. The final 8 priority projects with their estimates are as follows:

- 1) Fumigate the Church for termites, which includes replacing the wood around the front church windows where needed. Estimate is \$10,975.00
- 2) Paint the double doors leading into the Sanctuary. Estimate is \$75.00. This project is completed.
- 3) New signage on Maricopa Highway and Church Street for the church and Noah's Ark. Estimate is \$400.00. The church and Noah's Ark signs on Church St have been addressed. The sign along Maricopa Highway will be addressed with priority #4.
- 4) Repair and paint the church sign on Maricopa Highway. Estimate is \$125.00.
- 5) Trim the juniper bushes along Church Street. The estimate is \$750.00. The trimming of the junipers was done. The decision was made to remove the junipers between the sidewalks leading to the double doors, then replace the area with drought tolerant plants. The area now has beautiful plants and flowers with a watering system.
- 6) Repair the 2 bathrooms at the Parsonage. The estimate is \$7,500.00. The project has not been funded as of now, but will need to be addressed very soon.
- 7) Fumigate the two Noah's Ark buildings. The estimate is \$4,700.00. The project has not been funded as of now.
- 8) Refurbish the Fireside Room. The estimate is \$3,500.00. The project has not been funded as of now.

Once the 8 projects have been completed, we will review the previous list again, add any other projects from the council and or the congregation, and begin the prioritizing process over again. We thank the congregation for your input and patience while we move forward with addressing the deferred maintenance projects, plus new projects brought to the council for consideration.

The Trustees would welcome any donations to the projects still outstanding. If anyone would like to donate to a specific project, please note the project on your donation. Thank you.

OUMC Trustees — Art Harris and Ed Dennis

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

8

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

MAY

Tue May 1, 2018 9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel (S)
6:30pm - Boy Scouts (PH)

Wed May 2, 2018 9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel (S)
6pm - Cub Scouts - Webelos (PH)
6:30pm - Ojai Community Chorus
Dress Rehearsal (S)

Thu May 3, 2018 6:30pm - Cub Scouts Pack Meeting (PH)
7pm - Chancel Choir

Fri May 4, 2018 12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club (PH)
6pm - Scout Registration (PH)
7pm - Ojai Community Chorus Concert

Sat May 5, 2018 10am Worship - Sanctuary
11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio
Morning - Blood Drive (Parking Lot)
3pm - Ojai Community Chorus Concert

Sun May 6, 2018 10am - Zumba Gold (PH)
12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)
2pm - Nooma Video Series (FR)
5:30pm - Bell Rehearsal (CR)
7pm - Bear Den (PH)

Tue May 8, 2018 9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel
6pm - Scouts Meeting (PH)

Wed May 9, 2018 9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel

Thu May 10, 2018 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Fri May 11, 2018 10am - Oak View Bridge Club

Sat May 12, 2018 **3pm - Mother's Day Tea**

Sun May 13, 2018 10am Worship - Sanctuary
11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio

Mother's Day

Mon May 14, 2018 10am - Zumba Gold (PH)
12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)
1pm - Nooma Video Series (FR)
5:30pm - Bell Rehearsal (CR)
7pm - Girl Scouts (PH)

Tue May 15, 2018 9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel (S)
6pm - Scouts Meeting (PH)

Wed May 16, 2018 9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel (S)

Thu May 17, 2018 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Fri May 18, 2018 12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club (PH)

Sun May 20, 2018 10am Worship-Sanctuary
11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio

Mon May 21, 2018 10am - Zumba Gold (PH)
12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)
1pm - Nooma Video Series (FR)
5:30pm - Bell Rehearsal
7pm - Bear Den (PH)

Tues May 22, 2018 9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel (S)
7pm - Scouts Meeting (PH)

Wed May 23, 2018 9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel (S)

Thu May 24, 2018 7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Fri May 25, 2018 12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club (PH)

Sun May 27, 2018 10am - Worship-Sanctuary
11:30am - Coffee Fellowship - Patio

Mon May 28, 2018 **MEMORIAL DAY**
12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)
5:30pm - Bell Rehearsal (CR)

Tue May 29, 2018

Wed May 30, 2018
Thu May 31, 2018

JUNE

Fri Jun 1, 2018

Sun Jun 3, 2018

Mon Jun 4, 2018

Tue Jun 5, 2018

Wed Jun 6, 2018
Thu Jun 7, 2018*

Fri Jun 8, 2018*

Sun Jun 10, 2018

Mon Jun 11, 2018

Tue Jun 1, 2018
Wed Jun 13, 2018

Thu Jun 14, 2018

Fri Jun 15, 2018

Sat Jun 16, 2018 **

Sun Jun 17, 2018

Mon Jun 18, 2018

Fri Jun 22, 2018
Sun Jun 24, 2018

Mon Jun 25, 2018

* Pastor Cathie participating in AIDS Life Cycle

** Event in Redlands, CA

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

9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel (S)
12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club (PH)
10am Worship - Sanctuary
11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio
9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel (S)
10am - Zumba Gold (PH)
Disaster Preparedness Training
(Time to be determined)
12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)
9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel (S)
7pm - Scouts Meeting (PH)
9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel (S)
9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel (S)
7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel (S)
12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club (PH)
10am - Worship - Sanctuary
11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio
4pm - Concert
5:30pm - Celebration to honor Pastor
Cathie/Pot Luck dinner (PH)
9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel (S)
10am - Zumba Gold (PH)
12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)
1pm - Nooma Video Series (FR)
7pm - Girl Scouts (PH)
9:45am - Noah's Ark Chapel (S)
Annual Conference
6:30pm - Noah's Ark Graduation (S)
Annual Conference
7pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Annual Conference
12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club (PH)
9:45am - **Pastor Cathie's Ordination
& Denyse Barnes Commissioning**
10am Worship - Sanctuary
11:30am - Coffee Fellowship - Patio
10am - Zumba Gold (PH)
12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)
12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club (PH)
10am Worship - Sanctuary
11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio
10am - Zumba Gold (PH)
12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)