

**Ojai United
Methodist
Church**

**120 Church Rd
Ojai, CA 93023**

THE MOUNTAIN VIEW

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2019

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PASTOR'S CORNER!

Dear beloved community,

Happy New Year! 2019 is here!

Witnessing the birth of our Lord and Savior through the eyes and spirit of this faith community was an absolute joy. This Christmas season proved to be a mysteriously magical time as we eagerly and joyfully welcomed God earthbound. While I wish we could bask in the feeling of good cheer, carols, and twinkle lights, I am so energized for this new year.

I pray that 2019 deepens our love for one another.

We all have the capacity to love and open our hearts bigger - more than we know. Loving others is a holy and sacred act, that is strengthened through genuine friendships, honest conversations, and authentic kindness.

A new year means another chance to extend and receive love!

I pray that 2019 inspires fruitful and necessary ministry.

No matter how it manifests itself, whether it is a small group, an extension ministry, or an outreach program, we are called to immerse ourselves in ministry that brings glory to God's kin-dom. May we intentionally listen to the needs of the local/broader community so that we respond faithfully!

Finally, I pray that 2019 illumines God.

We can continue to grow in love for one another because God loved us first. We can continue to seek fruitful ministry because we have the example of perfect ministry through Jesus Christ. And we can continue to illumine God through our actions that are inspired by the Holy Spirit who loves relentlessly, who forgives endlessly, and who extends radical compassion.

May we turn our eyes to God in all that we do!

Friends, I am beyond grateful that 2019 will be filled with laughter, fellowship, growth, and love. There is no place that I would rather be. Thanks be to God!

Peace always,

Pastor Rachel





OJAI FOOD PROJECT

Dear Congregation,

The generosity of the donations from our congregation has been such a blessing to support our food ministries. The following is a summary of what is happening to help our community:

On the third Tuesday of each month, we prepare approximately 20 sandwiches which we take to Help of Ojai for distribution. The money for this comes from your donations during special plate offerings.

Sandwich distribution will be on January 15th and February 19th.

On the second Monday of the month, our church participates in the Winter Shelter Dinner Program.

This program is held at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Ojai. Volunteers from our church are asked to arrive at 5:45pm. We usually feed between 25 to 35 clients. The monthly cost for this program is between \$125 to \$135. This program will run through March 2019. Sign up sheets are passed around each month requesting volunteers.

Winter Shelter Dinners will be served on January 14th and February 11th.

The food drive is an ongoing ministry. So feel free to bring any of the items listed to the church for drop off.

God bless and thank you for your generosity!

Love, Linda Aldous and Carol Longhom

Coordinators of The Homeless Program and Hubmasters of The Help of Ojai Pantry Project

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

Peanut Butter
 Canned Vegetables
 Canned Fruit
 Canned Cranberry Sauce
 Canned Gravy
 Pasta Sauce
 Canned Raviolis
 Canned Chili Beans
 Boxed Turkey Dressing
 Rice A Roni
 Pasta
 Instant Mashed Potatoes
 Boxes or Bags or Rice
 Chips (Small bags)
 Nuts
 Canned Salsa
 Spaghetti
 Boxed Macaroni and Cheese
 Spaghettios
 Ensure Drinks (Any flavor)

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





Happy Birthdays

January

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

February

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

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

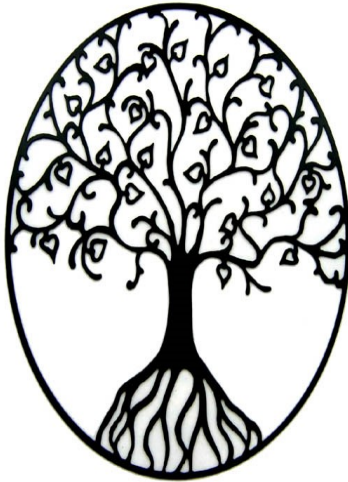


God's Girls will kick off the new year by gathering on Wednesday, January 16th, at Cal Marco Restaurant in Ojai at 5pm. During the winter months, God's Girls will continue to meet at 5pm.



To RSVP, please contact Jean Ball at (805) 649-1904.

Tree of Life



The Tree of Life honors those persons who have supported our church through their gifts, service, and talents. On Heritage Sunday (February 10th), the honorees will be named. Nominations are now being accepted until January 20. Nomination slips will be in the Sunday bulletins or available from the church office. You may also call Denise Stafford at (805)798-4284 to offer a nomination. Thank you.

Denise Stafford



- * Ojai UMC ended the year of 2018 with all payments for Apportionments paid weeks prior to the deadline. In addition, all Insurance/Pensions have been paid to Conference as well.
- * Our Seasonal Offering (Christmas) surpassed the total of any other time in recent years. We took in \$1,565.00 as of the end of the year.
- * The Parking Lot Fund has grown to \$24,652.68.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
MARIE FORREST, TREASURER**



- * During the Christmas season, members of our congregation reflected God's Love in a variety of ways as seen in some of the photos in this newsletter. Those activities included:
- * The annual Hanging of the Greens in our Sanctuary, which included Pastor Rachel's parents, Rev. William and Betsy deBos.
- * Those that took time to cook, serve, and clean up to help those in need at the Cold Weather Shelter. (Notice the smiling faces in the photo on page 2).
- * Ed and Nancy Dennis headed up our Christmas caroling to visit members and friends who live at the Gables and the Gardens. Thank you to all who participated to brighten up the Christmas season for those that heard the beautiful music. (Notice more smiling faces in the photos on page 5).
- * Ryan Hayes for his willingness to serve where necessary (and always with a smile)!
- * Men in our congregation widening their bond by getting together over a meal (or work)—community building at its best.
- * Family present at church during the beautiful Christmas season. Happy New Year!

Trustee's Report

Happy New Year to you all! 2018 was a busy year for our church, and 2019 promises to be busy as well. We would like to thank everyone for the contributions that have been made to maintain and improve both our church and parsonage.

Below is a list of some of the projects completed over the past two months (and some upcoming projects):

- * A third television was hung in the Sanctuary to assist Pastor Rachel and Chris with viewing what is being shown on the monitors seen by the congregation. The television was graciously donated to the church.
- * Costs have been finalized to remodel the guest bathroom in the parsonage. The Church Council approved the remodel costs so that we could go forward and sign a contract with a contractor. (the same one that did the work on the smaller bathroom). The remodel will begin on, or near, January 17th.
- * We have been meeting with a technology consultant to help us determine our options regarding possible change of our telephone and internet service to a new company, or remain with our current provider. The issue is that our internet speed is extremely slow, and access is almost impossible in various areas due to the lathe and plaster walls. Additional telephone lines are needed to serve and support our office personnel, our congregation and the community services we support. We are discussing the change with Spectrum, and our current provider, AT&T. More information will be provided as we proceed through this process.
- * Going forward into this new year, we will begin work on the Fireside Room. Monies for this project have come from donations. This project is estimated to begin approximately March 1st. We will begin contemplating our options in February, and if anyone has any suggestions, please feel free to let us know. We will have some cardboard color swatches on the walls for you to view. All involved want this room to be welcoming and comfortable (and timeless in décor).
- * The next major project that needs our attention is the termite situation in the Sanctuary. Work has already been done on the exterior front windows frames by replacing, or fixing, and painting them. The interior windows were also repaired where needed and the paneling at the bottom of the windows was replaced. The next step is to fumigate the entire church by tenting the entire structure, plus drill and treat the subterranean termites on the south wall of the Sanctuary. The cost of this work to still be done is \$8,250.00. There is currently \$3,213.00 in our "termite fund". We will need to raise another \$5,037.00 through gifts and donations over the next two months. We hope all will find a way to give a little extra money towards this important work so that this project can be completed. This type of project is not as exciting as seeing the Fireside Room refurbishment, but it is every bit as important.

Respectively submitted:

Ed Dennis and Art Harris-OUMC Trustees

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

JANUARY

Tues Jan 1, 2019	New Year's Day
Thurs Jan 3, 2019	6pm - Cub Pack Meeting (PH)
	7pm - Choir
Fri Jan 4, 2019	12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club (PH)
Sun Jan 6, 2019	10am - Worship - Sanctuary
	11:30am - Coffee Fellowship - Patio
Mon Jan 7, 2019	10am - ZUMBA Gold (PH)
	12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)
	6:30pm - Scout PLC Meeting
Tues Jan 8, 2019	7pm - Scouts (PH)
Wed Jan 9, 2019	6-6:45pm - Tiger Den (PH)
	7pm - Church Council
Thurs Jan 10, 2019	5:30 - 7:30pm - Wolf Den (PH)
	7pm - Choir
Fri Jan 11, 2019	12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club (PH)
Sun Jan 13, 2019	10am - Worship - Sanctuary
	11:30am - Coffee Fellowship - Patio
Mon Jan 14, 2019	10am - ZUMBA Gold (PH)
	12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)
	6:30pm - Scout Troop Meeting (PH)
Tues Jan 15, 2019	7pm - Scouts (PH)
Wed Jan 16, 2019	5:15-7:45pm - WW (Weight Watchers)
	6-6:45pm - Tigers Den (PH)
Thurs Jan 17, 2019	5:30-7:30pm - Wolf Den (PH)
	7pm - Choir
Fri Jan 18, 2019	12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club (PH)
Sun Jan 20, 2019	10am - Worship - Sanctuary
	11:30am - Coffee Fellowship - Patio
Mon Jan 21, 2019	10am - ZUMBA Gold (PH)
	12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)
Tues Jan 22, 2019	7pm - Scouts (PH)
Wed Jan 23, 2019	5:15-7:45pm - WW (Weight Watchers)
	6-6:45pm - Tigers Den (PH)
Thurs Jan 24, 2019	5:30-7:30pm - Wolf Den (PH)
	7pm - Choir
Fri Jan 25, 2019	12:30pm - Oak View Bridge Club (PH)
Sun Jan 27, 2019	10am - Worship - Sanctuary
	11:30am - Coffee Fellowship - Patio
	3pm - BINGO (PH)
Mon Jan 28, 2019	12:30pm - Ojai Bridge Club (PH)
Tues Jan 29, 2019	7pm - Scouts (PH)
Wed Jan 30, 2019	5:15-7:45pm - WW (Weight Watchers)
	6-6:45pm - Tigers Den (PH)
Thurs Jan 31, 2019	5:30-7:30pm - Wolf Den (PH)
	7pm - Choir

FEBRUARY

Sun Feb 3, 2019	10am Worship - Sanctuary
	11:30am Coffee Fellowship - Patio
Mon Feb 4, 2019	10am - ZUMBA Gold (PH)
Tues Feb 5, 2019	7pm - Scouts (PH)
Wed Feb 6, 2019	5:15-7:45pm - WW (Weight Watchers)
Sun Feb 10, 2019	HERITAGE SUNDAY
	10am Worship - Sanctuary
	11:30am - Coffee Fellowship - Patio
Mon Feb 11, 2019	10am - ZUMBA Gold (PH)
	5:45pm - Homeless Dinner
	@ St. Andrew's
	7pm - Girl Scouts (PH)
Wed Feb 13, 2019	5:30-7:30 - Wolf Den (PH)
	5:15-7:45pm - WW (Weight Watchers)
	7pm - Church Council
Thurs Feb 14, 2019	7pm - Choir
Sun Feb 17, 2019	SCOUT SUNDAY
	10am Worship - Sanctuary
	11:30am - Coffee Fellowship
Mon Feb 18, 2019	10am - ZUMBA Gold (PH)
Tues Feb 19, 2019	7pm - Scouts (PH)
Wed Feb 20, 2019	5:15-7:45pm - WW (Weight Watchers)
	5pm - God's Girls
Thurs Feb 21, 2019	7pm - Choir
Sun Feb 24, 2019	10am Worship - Sanctuary
	11:30am - Coffee Fellowship - Patio
	3pm - BINGO (PH)
Mon Feb 25, 2019	10am - ZUMBA Gold (PH)
Wed Feb 27, 2019	5:15-7:45pm - WW (Weight Watchers)
	5:30-7:30 - Wolf Den (PH)

Happy Valentine's Day



Happy
New Year