

**Ojai United
Methodist
Church**

**120 Church Rd
Ojai, CA 93023**

THE MOUNTAIN VIEW

MARCH - APRIL 2019

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Beloved family,
I greet you in the name of God, who loves all persons, period.

It would be foolish of me not to acknowledge that we are in a time of denominational chaos. The United Methodist Church continues to navigate the implications of voting to pass a plan that will tighten the restrictions barring LGBTQIA+ brothers and sisters to be ordained or married in the walls of any UMC. A brief about what happened at the Special General Conference 2019 is on page 2.

In the unjust time, here is what I am consistently reminding myself: we are not Good Friday people, nor are we Holy Saturday people. *We are Easter people.*

On Good Friday, the powers that be hammered nails into the hands and feet of Jesus. All of those whom he loved, all those who were given sacred worth, all those who internalized who Jesus was... Children who sat with him, women who were heard by him, sinners who were loved by him, lepers who were healed by him, the blind who were given sight by him, the marginalized who were still with hope because of him... cried out in despair. Darkness and hopelessness covered the world as Jesus' earthly life drained from his body.

On Holy Saturday, the day directly following the death of Jesus, people sat in the unknown. In disbelief. In anger. In heartache. In grief. In darkness.

But on Easter morning, God revealed light in the darkness. God revealed hope. God defeated death. When flawed humans decided to remove the truth of love, life, and hope from the earth, God said 'Absolutely Not', and startled all who minimized God's power. God refused to be shut out and shut down.

I must admit that I am sitting in these moments of Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Sitting in these moments is appropriate, acknowledging our pain and sadness is necessary.

But I may not live here forever. Because I know God isn't finished. We may not dwell here forever because *we are Easter people.*

We are people of resurrection, new life, and knowing that God has the last word. We are people who believe in the Spirit's ability to transform darkness to light, that God's persistence and love will prevail. We are Easter people. We are resurrection people. We are the people of God who loves ALL.

While the global denomination is struggling to recognize the sacred worth of each human, Ojai United Methodist Church's commitment to be radically inclusive to all persons remains true. We are committed to loving all God's children and will stand in solidarity with our LGBTQIA+ brothers and sisters. Beloved, when life is hard, when we feel like death and separation have won, we look again to the Easter story and find the promise of God prevails. This is our hope, this is our strength. May it be so throughout the rest of our days. Amen.

Peace always, Pastor Rachel



Special Called Session of General Conference 2019

The United Methodist Church held a Special Called Session of General Conference in St. Louis, Missouri late February to reconsider the church's current position on issues of human sexuality. On February 26, 2019, the majority of the 822 General Conference delegates voted to pass The Traditional Plan, which affirms and also strengthens the official United Methodist position that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian Teaching.

This decision is grieved by many people within and beyond the United Methodist Church, especially painful news for our LGBTQIA+ siblings and their allies. We do not know yet the next steps or the full implications of this decision or the process by which the denomination will discern its next steps.

What we do know is that Ojai UMC will continue being a place of community, love, and forgiveness. We will do our best to embody God's love and embrace one another in this time of unknown. I cannot stress this enough. We also know that the Bishops of the Western Jurisdiction will continue loving all persons, being the body of Christ, and being a presence of reconciliation.

OJAI FOOD 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 of Rice
Chips (Small bags)
Nuts
Canned Salsa
Spaghetti
Boxed Macaroni and Cheese
Spaghettios
Ensure Drinks (Any flavor)

Dear Congregation,

We continue to make sandwiches for the homeless every third Tuesday of each month. We make between 16 to 20 sandwiches and bring them to the Help of Ojai CAP Office. This ministry costs between \$25-35 each month. Our next sandwich drop off date is March 19th.

We also are continuing to collect non perishables for the Help of Ojai Pantry Project during March and April. These items will be boxed and donated to needy families in this area. I will have a list of the most needed items and will post it in the Narthex (also see sidebar). This project is ongoing and it would be greatly appreciated if you can spare a can or boxed food item every Sunday. Thank you!!

Our Winter Shelter Dinner Program is on the second Monday of the month between December through March, and March 11th will be our last dinner until December 2019. This program is held at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Our volunteers are asked to arrive at 5:45pm. We feed between 25-35 homeless clients. The monthly cost is between \$125-\$135. A sign up sheet will be passed around on Sunday, March 3rd and 10th.

I want to thank all the people who brought non perishables over the past few months. The Help of Ojai Pantry was so grateful for the ten bags of food! I also want to thank all the people who supported the Homeless Dinner. It is greatly appreciated.

Last of all, I want to express my extreme gratitude to all those who volunteered to make or bring food or helped serve food to the clients at our past three Homeless Dinners.

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

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



Happy Birthdays

March

Margie Ota - 17th

Pat Johnson - 25th

April

Nicholas Marks - 7th

Joy Bodell - 9th

Joan Hager - 14th

Tanci Valadez - 15th

Morgan Marks - 30th

And wishing the following couples a very happy anniversary: Allen & Marlene 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>



Youth fundraiser was a success!

Thank you to everyone who supported our youth!

Over \$400 was donated for our youth fund at the delicious baked potato bar luncheon after church on Sunday January 20, 2019. Shout out to Bob Roddick for creating a delicious meal.

From these funds, the four youths who attended Winter Camp 2019 went with \$100 scholarships each. The extra funds will help with future camp scholarships and future youth events. Thank you all again!



- * All invoices and obligations are current, including the January 2019 Insurance/Pensions and Apportionments which were just received from Conference after mid-February.
- * The balance in the Parking Lot Fund, which is held in savings is \$27,862.68. The balance on the loan which was used for improvements is \$1,275.00.
- * Funds held in checking for refurbishment of the Fireside Room totals \$4,816.17.
- * Funds held in checking for CAP meals totals \$73.34. We have one more month (March) to provide supper, breakfast the following morning, and a lunch during the month. December through March we participate in the Cold Weather Shelter meal program and the expense for that is approximately \$160.00 each month. From April through November we provide sandwiches once a month. That expense is \$30.00 each month. All donations made between April through November above the \$30.00 needed each month are saved in the account for the latter months.
- * Heritage Funds donated were placed in the General Fund and amounted to \$1,045.00.
- * A new sub-division has been created in savings to manage funds for the Termite Fund. With the transfer of funds, which had been held in checking, the balance is \$4,535.82 as of February 26, 2019. This amount excludes plate offerings on February 24th as it has not be counted and confirmed yet.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
MARIE FORREST, TREASURER**



~ CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST ~

For strength and health: Rev. Tim Mull (Pastor of Ventura UMC), Jill and Doug (friends of Laurie King), Ted and Pearl (son and daughter-in-law of Pauline Malos), Linda (cousin of Marie Forrest), Joy (friend of Laurie King), Diana Fineburg (singer in OUMC Choir), Marilyn F. and Ginger B. (friends of the Tholl's), Lynn Hernandez, Sandra Haigler (mother of Nick deBos-Haigler), Craig (son-in-law of Nancy Cutler), Bill Ferguson (friend of Doreen Farr), Peggy Boring (grandmother of Pastor Rachel), Mark Robins (friend of Chris Gillmon), Franco (neighbor of the Tholl's), David and Barbara Mark, Debbie (sister of Linda Harris), Margo (best friend of Joy Coggleshall), Susan (sister of Linda Aldous), Lorraine Mariz, Shannon Lott (daughter of Kim Armstrong), Zane W. (grandson of Pauline Larwood), Mary Kelly, Donna (friend of Mary Kelly), Linda Brown (sister of Marlene Spencer), Carol Longham, Lee Criger, Donna Gross, Pat Johnson, Pauline Malos, Millie Morris, and Deborah Hicks.

For those unable to attend church: Ruth Avakian, Joy Bodell, Robin Chambliss, Jeanne Keyser, Norma Mitrany, Elaine Nelson, Nancy Scantlebury, Alan Spencer & Bob Unruhe.

Other prayers: CalPac Camping Community, Ojai Unified School District, Ojai's homeless neighbors, Families affected by natural disasters, all victims of terrorism, First Responders, Noah's Ark Staff & families, and our political leaders.



~REFLECTIONS OF GOD'S LOVE~

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

- * On Heritage Sunday the following were honored for their love and good works at our church: Linda Aldous and Carol Longhom, Judy Jansson, Charlotte Leonard, Michael Marks, Don and Ruth Cutler, and Rev. John and Barbara Nagel. All received leaves on the Tree of Life. We were blessed to have Rev. Nagel and his wife present to receive that honor.
- * Doreen Farr, Denise Stafford, Marlene Spencer were instrumental in guiding us through the history of our church so that we could plan a celebration worthy of 60 years in the Ojai Valley. As always, there were others that brought Peterson Hall to life for that event and they include Diana Criegeer, Bob and Valerie Tholl, Art and Linda Harris, The Hayes family and Nick deBos-Haigler.
- * Bob Roddick for the absolutely amazing food prepared for the Baked Potato Fund Raiser that raised money for our youth to attend Winter Camp. People are still talking about how good the food was!!!

Small Group: SABBATH AS RESISTANCE

During the Lenten season, two small groups are meeting to dive into the topic of Sabbath. Sabbath is a Godly act of resistance against our busy, anxiety-filled societal pressures. We will look into Sabbath best practices, our biblical foundation of Sabbath, and create support among one another as people navigating how to slow down and resist the 'busy'.

All are welcome to be part of these small groups - the more the merrier!

We will meet on Mondays at 7pm (Mar. 11-Apr. 8)

OR Wednesdays at 10am (Mar. 13- Apr. 10)

If you are interested in joining, please contact Pastor Rachel by email at ojaiumcpastor@gmail.com or by phone at 808-277-0613.

Trustee's Report

The guest bathroom remodel at the parsonage has been completed! During the demolition of the bathroom floor, it was determined that the old flooring needed to be removed so that a new sub-floor could be installed before the installation of the vinyl plank flooring. Even with the new sub-floor, we were able to stay within our established budget.

The broken front window in the Sanctuary was replaced the day before Heritage Sunday. It is thought that the crack was the result of a sonic boom sometime in January. Thanks to a generous donation from one of our members, we were able to pay for the new window without tapping into General Funds.

We have received three estimates on potential updates to the Fireside Room (the word potential is used because we took into account what improvements would complete the room long term). The estimates were presented to the Church Council on February 13th for review and feedback. Another meeting will be held with the Church Council in March to continue the conversation. Thank you to the generous donations that have been received for this project. The Church Council wants to ensure this money is used wisely.

We mentioned in the last newsletter that another top priority is the termite extermination in the Sanctuary. Thank you for the generous donations towards this project. While not as exciting as a remodel on the Fireside Room, this is a much needed project to ensure that the OUMC Sanctuary is standing for at least another 60 years. We are getting closer to our monetary goal that needs to be met in order to pay for this extermination. If you are interested in making a donation towards this project you can note on your check "Termites" It is amazing how quickly your generosity adds up. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted:

Ed Dennis and Art Harris-OUMC Trustees





~GOD'S GIRLS~

God's Girls will be meeting on March 20th at 6pm at Asian Fusion.
To RSVP, please contact Jean Ball at (805) 649-1904.

The men in our congregation usually get together on the same day to dine together. For info reach out to Art, Ed, or Nick.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

MARCH

Fri Mar 1, 2019
Sun Mar 3, 2019

Mon Mar 4, 2019
Tues Mar 5, 2019

Wed Mar 6, 2019

Thurs Mar 7, 2019

Sun Mar 10, 2019

Mon Mar 11, 2019

Tues Mar 12, 2019

Wed Mar 13, 2019

Thurs Mar 14, 2019
Sun Mar 17, 2019

Mon Mar 18, 2019

Tues Mar 19, 2019

Wed Mar 20, 2019

Thurs Mar 21, 2019
Sun Mar 24, 2019

Mon Mar 25, 2019

Tues Mar 26, 2019

Wed Mar 27, 2019

Thurs Mar 28, 2019
Sun Mar 31, 2019

World Day of Prayer
10am - Worship - Sanctuary
11:30am - Coffee Fellowship - Patio
3pm - BINGO! (PH)
10am - ZUMBA Gold (PH)
7pm - Scouts (PH)
7pm - Noah's Ark Book Club (S)
ASH WEDNESDAY
7-10am - Ashes Before Work
5pm - Ash Wednesday Service (S)
5:15pm - 7:45pm Weight Watchers
6pm - Pack Meeting (PH)
7pm - Choir
10am - Worship - Sanctuary
11:30am - Coffee Fellowship - Patio
10am - ZUMBA Gold (PH)
6:30m - Scout Troop Meeting (PH)
7pm - Lenten Small Group Meeting
7pm - Scouts (PH)
7pm - Noah's Ark Book Club (S)
10am - Lenten Small Group Meeting
5:15 - 7:45pm - Weight Watchers (S)
6pm - New Member Class (FR)
7pm - Church Council (FR)
7pm - Choir
10am - Worship - Sanctuary
11:30am - Coffee Fellowship - Patio
5:30pm - St. Patrick's Day Dinner!
10am - ZUMBA Gold (PH)
7pm - Lenten Small Group Meeting
7pm - Scouts (PH)
7pm - Noah's Ark Book Club (S)
10am - Lenten Small Group Meeting
5:15 - 7:45pm - Weight Watchers (S)
6pm - God's Girls (Asian Fusion)
7pm - Choir
10am - Worship - Sanctuary
11:30am - Coffee Fellowship - Patio
10am - ZUMBA Gold (PH)
6:30pm - Scout Pack Meeting (PH)
7pm - Lenten Small Group Meeting
7pm - Scouts (PH)
7pm - Noah's Ark Book Club (S)
10am - Lenten Small Group Meeting
5:15 - 7:45pm - Weight Watchers (S)
7pm - Choir
10am - Worship - Sanctuary
11:30am - Coffee Fellowship - Patio
3pm - BINGO!

APRIL

Mon Apr 1, 2019

Tues Apr 2, 2019
Wed Apr 3, 2019

Thurs Apr 4, 2019
Sun Apr 7, 2019

Mon Apr 8, 2019

Tue Apr 9, 2019
Wed Apr 10, 2019

Thurs Apr 11, 2019
Sat Apr 13, 2019
Sun Apr 14, 2019

Mon Apr 15, 2019

Tues Apr 16, 2019
Wed Apr 17, 2019
Thurs Apr 18, 2019
Sun Apr 21, 2019

Mon Apr 22, 2019
Tues Apr 23, 2019
Wed Apr 24, 2019
Thurs Apr 25, 2019
Sun Apr 28, 2019

Mon Apr 29, 2019
Tues Apr 30, 2019

10am - ZUMBA Gold (PH)
7pm - Lenten Small Group Meeting
7pm - Scouts (PH)
10am - Lenten Small Group Meeting
5:15 - 7:45pm - Weight Watchers (S)
7pm - Choir
10am Worship - Sanctuary
11:30am - Coffee Fellowship - Patio
10am - ZUMBA Gold (PH)
7pm - Lenten Small Group Meeting
7pm - Scouts (PH)
10am - Lenten Small Group Meeting
5:15 - 7:45pm - Weight Watchers (S)
7pm - Choir
Pinewood Derby (PH)
10am - Worship - Sanctuary
11:30am - Coffee Fellowship - Patio
10am - ZUMBA Gold (PH)
7pm - Girl Scouts
7pm - Scouts (PH)
5:15 - 7:45pm - Weight Watchers (S)
7pm - Choir
EASTER SUNDAY
10am - Worship - Sanctuary
11:30am - Coffee Fellowship - Patio
10am - ZUMBA Gold (PH)
7pm - Scouts (PH)
5:15 - 7:45pm - Weight Watchers (S)
7pm - Choir
10am - Worship - Sanctuary
11:30am - Coffee Fellowship - Patio
3pm - BINGO!
10am - ZUMBA Gold (PH)
7pm - Scouts (PH)

