

UMCTO Connect

Friday, May 10, 2019

A Weekly Eblast of News & Newsmakers from UMCTO

Pastor's Corner

Last Sunday our District Superintendent, Rev. Jim Powell preached a powerful sermon on the power of forgiveness based on John's Gospel Story of the Risen Christ appearing to the disciples, especially to Peter. During that encounter, Jesus forgave Peter with a force that changed not only Peter's life but many other lives forever. DS Jim reminded us that *Shift 2.0* begins with that forgiveness and it needs to be an ongoing discipline. Living with Forgiveness frees us to welcome, forgive, serve and be generous, and one more, it frees us to practice radical hospitality. At the workshop following the worship, Pastor Jim focused on building authentic relationships with one another in the community and becoming a church that is intentional about providing a radical hospitality. **Here is a copy of the handout** DS Jim used for the workshop in case you weren't able to join us.

Pastor Jim reminded us that fellowship is internal work, but hospitality is external work. Hospitality is more than fellowship with one another. It's about opening our hearts to others and building relationships. Our church has done a wonderful job of offering a hospitality to many, in fact, it is why some of you have decided to make UMCTO your church family. Barbara Marshall is one of the people who joined UMCTO Family because someone showed her and her late husband John that radical hospitality. She will share her story this Sunday during Stewardship

Moment. DS Jim reminded us, however, like everything else, how we do hospitality needs to go through some changes, some reshaping. And so in the next few weeks and months, we are going to be looking at revamping how we do hospitality here at UMCTO. I invite you to continue to read the book *Shift 2.0* and join our discussion and sharing at upcoming Church Council meetings. We know it's not going to be simple; I can't explain to you plainly how this will all come together.

In the Gospel Lesson for this Sunday (John 10:22-30), there is an exchange between the people of Israel and Jesus. The people of Jerusalem were asking, "If you are the Messiah, TELL US PLAINLY." If Jesus is the Messiah, they expect Jesus to tell them exactly how His Kingdom will be established and how *Shift 2.0* would work. And they want to know now. Tell Us Plainly, say the people to Jesus, that would make life so much easier and predictable. Jesus simply responds, "...The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me....My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me..." And so as we continue to find ways to grow our church both spiritually and in numbers, may we listen to the Voice who will lead us there.

This Sunday we will also honor all of our mothers for their love and sacrifice in our lives. My mother left this world 12 years ago and of course our dad left this earthly home a year ago and I know some of you said good bye to your mother this past year. Even though we take comfort in knowing that they have entered into their eternal place with Jesus, we still miss their love and presence in our lives every day. I still remember my parents voices. The bible says, "Honor your mother and father." It is a command, not only for the people of Israel but for all human races and cultures. *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother—this is the first commandment with a promise; so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."* Ephesians 6:1-3 Some things don't change.....

Come and join us at Church this Sunday, as we thank our mothers. Our children will join us in worship at the end to surprise our mothers and after worship we will come together on the patio and share Mother's Day Special Cakes. We hope to see you and your family as we find a way to Worship and Give from a Place of Gratitude.

See you at church,
Pastor John

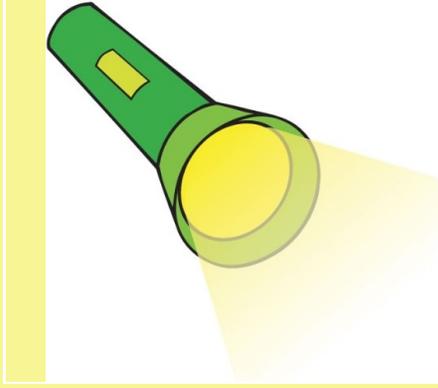
Spotlight on:

Giving from a Place of Gratitude

Words from Woody Brokenburr

What does gratitude have to do with church giving?

Absolutely everything!



Gratitude is fundamental to stewardship and generosity. In the absence of gratitude, stewardship can't truly exist.

Gratitude emerges when we comprehend the source of who we are, what we have, and all that is.

Gratitude reminds us we are not self-made, but God-made.

Gratitude prompts us to see ourselves in community with each other and, most importantly, with God.

Gratitude liberates us from the false notion of self-reliance and moves us to reliance upon our Creator.

Gratitude does not evoke a sense of obligation or indebtedness but feelings of humility and intense joy!

An expression of gratitude is an acknowledgment of the bigger picture and God's place at the center of it. Gratitude compels us to give back as an expression of thanksgiving and moves us to connect more deeply with God.

I ask you to pray about how you will participate in our Stewardship Campaign "Giving from a Place of Gratitude."

Giving is an expression of gratitude for our blessings.

– *Laura Arrillaga-Andreessen*

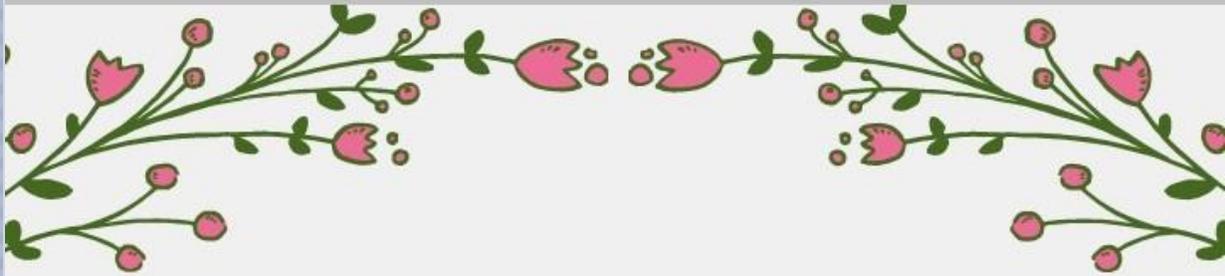


Talent Survey - Here!

Hey! Is this YOU? The one who hasn't completed the church talent survey? Please consider how your talents can contribute to the mission of UMCTO, then click below! You never know what new life, friends, joys, and missions are waiting for you and your particular gifts and graces.

GOD HAS PLANS!

[SURVEY HERE](#)



MESSY CHURCH INVITES YOU TO....

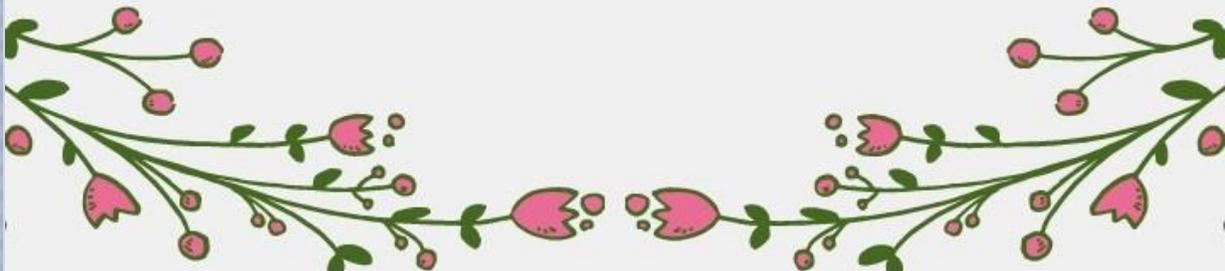
CELEBRATION FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Let's honor the women who love us
unconditionally!

FEATURING SPECIAL MUSIC, DINNER, AND GIFTS!

Join us on May 11, 2019 at 5 PM for an awesome party
celebrating our dear mothers!

UMCTO: 1000 E. Janss Rd, Thousand Oaks
Contact: Dori @ 805-402-2100 or Maria @ 805-300-1607



**Mark Your Calendars and START
PRACTICING!**

Richard Lolley is putting together the boards
and bean bags for the greatest competition on
Earth! Well, maybe the greatest at the corner of
Janss and Windsor.

**Mark your calendars for the annual CORN
TOSS TOURNAMENT June 2, right after
church.**

Seeking players, snacks and cookie donations.
Look for sign-ups soon.

United Methodist Church of Thousand Oaks | 805-495-7215 | 1000 E. Janss Road |
umcto.org