



UMCTO Connect

Friday, September 6, 2019

The Weekly Eblast of News & Newsmakers from UMCTO

PASTOR'S CORNER

"Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple."

It's back to school, back to church after a wonderful summer season of traveling and vacation, and at UMCTO this Sunday, we are excited to have our choir back with us in worship from the summer break. But let's be honest, the above verse from Luke 14:25-33 is not the kind of scripture passage you want to come back to after a little R & R. It is a difficult word for the church to hear, especially as our church is trying to reach out to non-church people with the message of acceptance, love and grace. I know what some might say, "You can't demand that of people."

But then I remember something that was said at a stewardship seminar some time ago, "People are looking for something worth giving your life to." Maybe that is the reason why many of you have chosen to follow Christ. And that is why you are willing, even eager to pay the price. Our parents and mentors often remind us, "there is a cost to everything important." Jesus is no different, from time to time, he comes to remind us that there is a cost to everything important, including

Christian Discipleship. It demands something of you. “The Price of Discipleship.” How will you respond to these tough words of Jesus? Are they good news or bad news? These are tough words, but my prayer is that in your life and mine, these tough words are good news.

See you at church,
Pastor John

WHY SHOULD WE WORSHIP GOD?

from Jordan Duke, Director of Worship Arts

“Isn’t it a comfort to worship a God we cannot exaggerate?” — Francis Chan

The reason we worship God is because He is worthy of it. He is worthy of our worship, every single second of every single day. Everything that has breath was created to worship God.

On any given day, we often direct our worship toward something or someone that did nothing to deserve it. Only God is worthy to receive glory, honor and power, for He is the Creator of the Universe (Revelation 4). We should hold God in such high regard that we adore and cherish Him above all and before all. But in order for us to truly be able to worship God, we must know Him, or we must at least begin the lifelong quest of doing so. God’s Word, the Bible, is full of information about the God we serve. The Old Testament chapters in Psalms are infused with truths about Him, His character, and His ways. Here is just a glimpse into who He is according to many of them:

He is our Father, our God, our Rock, and our Savior. He is our Sun and our Shield. He is mighty, and established forever like the moon. He founded the world, He created the north and the south, and He rules over the surging seas. Our God is robed in majesty and armed with strength, and He is exalted over all nations. He fashioned the ear and formed the eye, and He determines the number of stars and calls them each by name. He does not treat us as our sins deserve, nor does He repay us according to our iniquities. He has compassion, He will not slumber, and He is big “G” God, greater than all little, so-called “gods.”

That is who our God is, and He is forever worthy of our reverence, adoration and devotion. His character is profound. His actions are remarkable. His sovereignty over the universe is unfathomable.

As Christ followers, let’s dedicate our lives to worshipping the only One who is worthy of it. For the next five days, we’ll focus on five ways we can worship God:

- We worship through music.
- We worship by adoring Him.
- We worship by serving His people.
- We worship by trusting His heart.
- We worship by surrendering our will to Him.

This list is not exhaustive; it’s just a springboard to help teach us to live a life of worship.

Reflect:

- Read through Psalm 98 and declare it to your God as you do.
- List three character traits of God from Psalm 98 (or any other Psalm), and offer your worship to Him.
- Write down any revelation that God speaks to you through today's Bible reading or devotional.

Scripture:

- Psalms 98
- Romans 11:36
- Revelation 4:8-11

INVITATIONS TO PRAY TOGETHER

• **SEPTEMBER 14**

Join us for a night of prayer for our church. We'll gather on Saturday, September 14 at 7:30 p.m. to pray in and over every room on campus.

Contact: Marge Mayfield

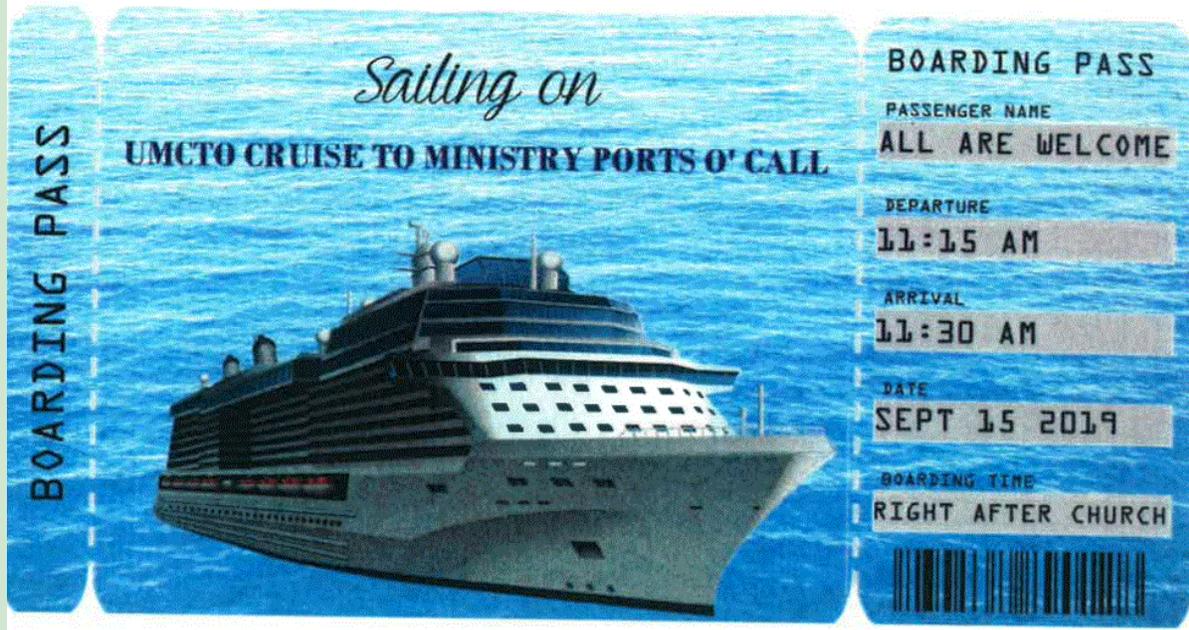
• **SEPTEMBER 29**

Directly following worship on Sunday, September 29, pause with us for prayer on the bridge exiting the sanctuary. We will form prayer circles and will pray for our church and it's ministries.

Contact: Phyllis Borner

20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."
Matthew 18:20

FALL MINISTRY FAIR - **SEPTEMBER 15**



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## PORTS O' CALL in Dickerson Hall

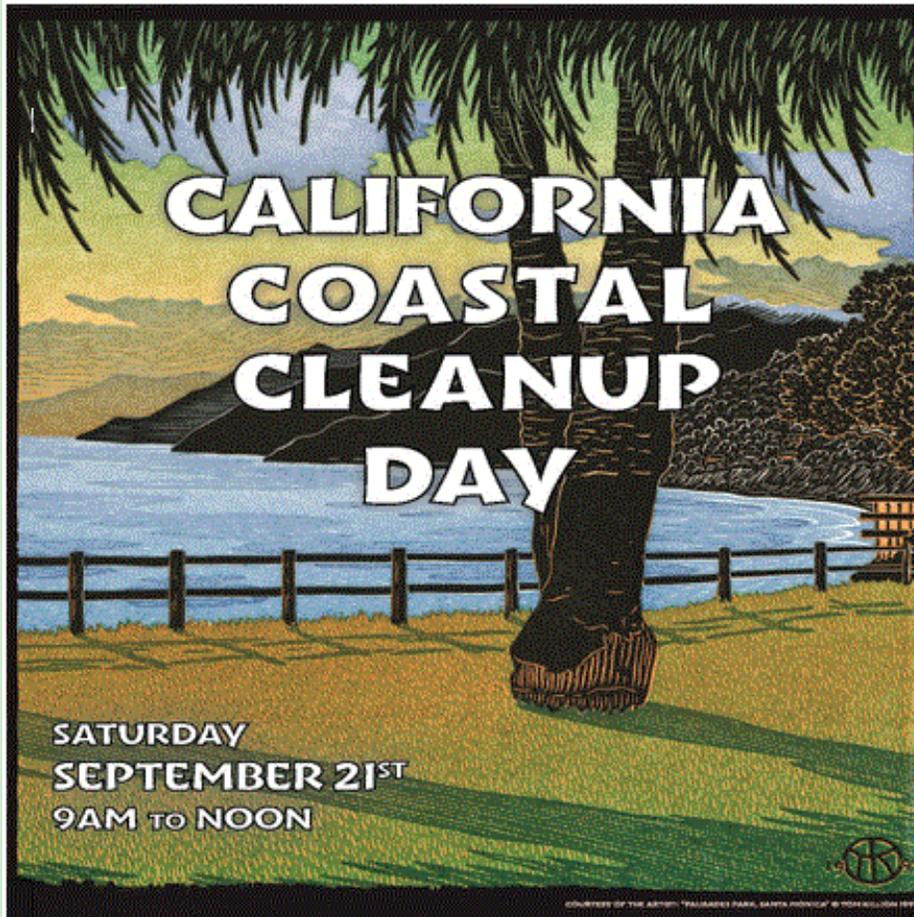
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Following worship service, *Captain John and his crew* invite you to *cruise* on over to Dickerson Hall.



There, you will find many interesting and fun *Ministry Ports o' Call* to stop at and explore. Discover what our church has to offer for the fall and find a port you'd like to call home. We will also enjoy some *cruising finger foods and drinks*. There might even be a few *creative animal towels/napkins....?*

So far, we have many folks who have asked for a booth and we want YOU to join us as we get ready to set sail! If you are a member of a committee or ministry and want to be included in our lineup of these ports o' call, please reach out to organizers Laura Marlow, Amy Eads or Captain (Pastor) John.



JOIN OVER 60,000 CALIFORNIANS AS WE COME TOGETHER
TO CLEAN UP OUR STATE'S BEACHES AND WATERWAYS

Let's Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle!
Bring your own bags, buckets, and a reusable water bottle.

For more information & site locations visit: www.VCcoastcleanup.org

 [Ventura County Annual Coastal Cleanup Day](https://www.facebook.com/VenturaCountyAnnualCoastalCleanupDay)
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Thank you to our sponsors!

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CALIFORNIA COASTAL CLEANUP PARTY - SEPTEMBER 21

Come join all the Conejo Valley and participate in the annual California Coastal Cleanup Day.

Here is the plan.

1. Meet at Borchard Park in Newbury Park near the tennis courts at 9AM, Saturday, September 21. Cleanup lasts until noon but come when you can. Cleanup to remove debris from beaches, creeks, rivers, and parks to protect wildlife from harm while taking care of our environment.
2. Pre-registration is not required. Walk-ins are welcome at all locations listed. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. All

volunteers must sign a volunteer waiver. Please wear closed toed shoes and sun protection. Volunteers are encouraged to BYOB; bring your own reusable bucket, gloves, and water bottle. Instructions, volunteer waivers, data cards, trash and recycling bags, gloves, and water will otherwise be provided.

Also want to encourage all attending to wear the Methodist Social Justice t-shirt. A great reminder of all the work Methodists do. [Here](#) is the link on where to buy them. Or wear a red Tshirt.

website www.vccoastcleanup.org

MESSY CHURCH - SEPTEMBER 21



Messy Church Team is ready for an exciting New Messy Church schedule!

Date: Saturday, Sept. 21

Time: 5 - 7 PM

Theme: God's Peace

Fun Facts About.... Messy Church!

Messy Church is a Creative Worship Experience

Messy Church is growing all over the world and in the US! We now have Pastors of UMC's serving as Coordinators

UMCTO Ave. Monthly Attendance last school year: 60

Ages of Children who attended last year: Pre K: 15, Elementary 1-4: 50; 5/6th Graders: 24; 7 - 12th: 16

There are ways for **YOU to share your gift** of Biblical Wisdom, Creativity, Presence, Cooking, Woodworking, Science, Music, Acting, Mentoring.....and more! It is a really positive experience for our Church!

For more info, Contact any of our UMCTO Messy Church Team Members: Maria Reyes, Dori Fotsch, Jill Elsemore, Pam Wilson, Tim Snyder!

Here is the link to Messy Church website: <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/what->

UMW FALL LUNCHEON - OCTOBER 5



Founders of the Methodist Woman's Foreign Missionary Society - 1869

**October 5th 11 a.m. - UMW Fall Luncheon
"Celebrating Our Legacy"**

**Make a \$10 reservation following worship services
beginning September 8th**

Free childcare if reservation made by September 29

Men Welcome, too!



Frances Kellogg Newbury - circa 1915

**Women of the Conejo
Frances Newbury - 1914**



**UMCTO Women's Society of Christian Service
Charter Members - 1965**

UMCTO FELLOWSHIP FALL FESTIVAL - OCTOBER 27

Fall is upon us and as we say goodbye to the summer of 2019, UMCTO wants to welcome the new season with a **Fellowship Fall Festival**. This event is in the planning stages and we need volunteers.

If you would like to use your gifts of creativity, hospitality, love of cooking/food, brute strength, or just good old joie de vivre, we NEED YOU!

Contact Rosalind Gallup or Jay Pryor to join the team!



THIS... (SHARING AMY'S WEEKLY EBLAST)

This is it! Our last Sunday of all in one summer kids church! Once again I want to thank Barbara Marshall for all her hard work and sacrifice in bringing the bible to life this summer. Some Sundays we had a handful of kids and other Sundays we had a room full of kids, and we loved it both ways! It was fun to watch the younger children mix with the older children, and many of the older children took the role of leader and mentor very seriously! What I loved the most however was really getting to know the kids personally. They love to sing praise songs which is a joyfest to be a part of, and they love to color! Those two things seem to transcend age levels. I'm looking forward to this Sunday as we learn about the cost of discipleship. It isn't always easy to do what it takes to be a follower of Jesus. To be all in we often have to walk away from other things in our lives that can be distracting. The actual verse speaks of "hating" our parents and families even our own lives, but don't worry...we only talk about love in kids church! Some big changes are coming for Kids Church which I will explain next Thursday...stay tuned!

See you at church!

Upcoming dates for families to remember:

September 15: Cruise through our Ministry Fair in Dickerson Hall! after church! Come see who we are and what we do and sign up to be part of a ministry or small group.

September 15: Kids Church returns!

September 21: Messy Church @7pm in Dickerson Hall...all are welcome.

AT THE TOP

Pictured at the top of this Connect is a picture of the Zuma Live Worship Band.

Our UMC Mission Area came together a couple weeks ago to fundraise for organizations who are helping victims of Human Sex Trafficking. Fundraising efforts totalled over \$2500 and will go to our Cal Pac Abolitionist task force. There were speakers sharing from their hearts about this current tragedy, great music from various UMC Churches as well as a professional Christian band dedicated to this cause. The food was great, especially the pies made by Malibu UMC members. It was a great day for a great cause!

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umcto.org