



UMCTO Connect

Friday, April 12, 2019

A Weekly Eblast of News & Newsmakers from UMCTO

Pastor's Corner

It's hard to believe but Palm Sunday has arrived, and the first thing that comes to our minds are parades. And rightly so, for we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, with crowds lining up the streets, waving palm branches, shouting "Hosanna to the Son of David and Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" Throwing a parade for a hero is an appropriate thing to do, with all the pomp and circumstance. And so this Sunday we will honor Jesus with our own parade, praise and worship. In Luke's Palm Sunday Story (Luke 19:28-30) however, there is no Hosanna, no children lining the streets, and no leafy branches (Palms). In Luke our Lord doesn't need palm branches or hosannas ringing, but He does need a colt, a young donkey.

We know for a fact that there were two processions in Jerusalem during that Passover week. From the west came Pilate with power: horses, chariots, and armor. He moved in with the Roman army at the beginning of Passover week to make sure nothing got out of hand. Then from the east came another procession, a commoner's procession: Jesus in ordinary robe riding on a young donkey. Luke has in mind the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9-10, the coming of a new kind of king, a king of peace. Jesus riding on a donkey symbolizes meekness, gentleness and humility.

Apostle Paul says it this way in his letter to believers in Philippi (Philippians 2:5-11), "*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,....he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.*" It is that humble mind that Apostle Paul is challenging us to emulate. And it is that humble mind we will come to remember and worship as we start the Holy Week this Palm Sunday.

We continue to commemorate Jesus' death, not because he was a hero, nor simply because he was divine, but because in his dying and resurrection, he

revealed the truth for all of us. And in doing so he ushered in new life and a new way of life for all of us. He Humbled Himself: He Chose to be Humble for Us. Does the Lord need anything? Yes. He needs us. The Lord doesn't only need us but also someone who is humble in mind

Come and join us this Palm Sunday to welcome Jesus into our hearts and get ready for the Holy Week.

See you at Church,
Pastor John

EASTER WEEK

10:00 a.m. PALM SUNDAY - April 14

Worship service with Children's "Palm Sunday Reenactment" and Music

7:00 p.m. MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 1

Service with Communion and Choir (youth participating, stay tuned for details)

7:00 p.m. GOOD FRIDAY - April 19

Tenebrae Service "Nails of the Cross"

5:00 p.m. HOLY SATURDAY - April 20

Messy Church and Easter Vigil

(see below)



YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US....

GOD'S EASTER SURPRISE!

Hosted by Messy Church!

**SATURDAY - APRIL 20 - 5 PM
1000 E. JANSS RD, THOUSAND OAKS**

**Easter Activities, Easter Egg Hunt, Simple Dinner,
and a Special Easter Vigil!**

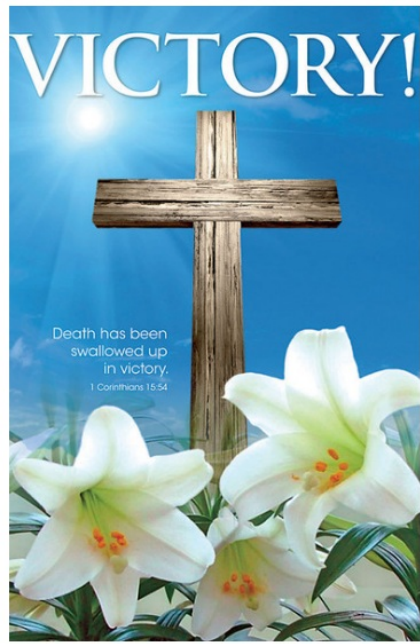
Contact: Maria @ 805-300-1607 or Dori @ 805-402-2100

EASTER SERVICE

EASTER SUNDAY! - April 21

Easter Service of Resurrection with Choir
Cantata "Journey of Hope", children and youth
participating.

Following Easter Worship Service, celebration
on the patio!



Your To-Do List



Easter Lilies Sale Last Sunday!

See Rose on the patio. Cost is \$9 to purchase a lily plant that will grace our sanctuary on Easter morning. Take your plant home after worship!



All Church Talent Survey

We all try to practice humility, as Pastor John reminds us of Christ's example,...but there is a time to expound on your gifts and graces! Please follow the link below to complete this short survey - tell us of your talents and abilities. We want to help you find the place where those gifts will GROW as they help grow the Kingdom of God?

[Talent Survey Link](#)

SHIFT 2.0 at UMCTO

Read the book and mark your calendars for May 5!

Church members are encouraged to read *Shift 2.0* by Dr. Phil Maynard. Copies

of the book are available in the church office.

North District Superintendent Jim Powell will be at UMCTO to preach on May 5 and he will lead a study on *Shift 2.0* after church.

The class will be held in the Wesley Room and lunch will be provided.

Kids Church News



SAFARI WORK PARTY!!!

10 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

APRIL 13 (tomorrow)

Work party will create safari animals & a Jeep - out of cardboard!
Bring your glue guns and Xacto knives.
Food and Drinks will be supplied.

HELP NEEDED

We are having a few Easter Egg Hunts! and need help collecting surprises that will go into our plastic eggs! It can be candy, it can be religious items, or you can just donate \$5+!

We are collecting items until April 18.

Here is a list of ideas!

From any Grocery Store: Mini Chocolates, Mini Eggs, Bubble Gum, Jelly Beans, Reeses, Small Packages of Gold Fish/Mini Pretzels (for little ones), tatoos, etc.

Online Ideas: Oriental Trading Religious Items

@ <https://www.orientaltrading.com> #13785957, #13757592, #13786009, #13719977

Don't like to shop? You can also donate \$5 - \$10 - \$15 to help! THANK YOU!

Questions? Email Dori Fotsch @ dfotsch@verizon.net

Youth News

+ Important Confirmation Notice!

In order to accommodate end of school year activities and graduation, confirmation will be postponed. Stay tuned for the new dates. We apologize for any inconvenience.

++ 2019 Sierra Service Trip - Chiloquin, Oregon

August 3-11

For youth grades 8-12. \$30 deposit holds your space.

Contact Patty Cogles or Tim Snyder

+++ Get Ready for Summer Camp - 2019!

For more info visit: <http://www.calpacumc.org/summercamp/> to find out all about these two options:

Elementary Ages

Camp Wrightwood

Grand & Me Camp (Grandparents & Grandkids Grades 1-3): June 30-July 2
Younger & Older Elementary Camp (Grades 2-4/4-6): July 21-24

Camp Lazy W

Little Canyoneers (Grades 1-3): June 30-July 3
Elementary Camp (Grades 3-6): July 7-12

JR & SR High School Ages

Camp Wrightwood

JR High (Grades 6-9): July 14-20
SR High (Grade 9-Graduated Senior): July 7-13

Camp Lazy W

JR High: July 14-19
SR High: July 21-27

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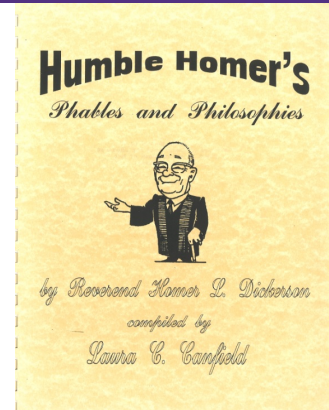
HOMER DICKERSON SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The Homer Dickerson Scholarship Endowment Committee is accepting applications from students eligible for this scholarship.

Applicants must be Conejo Valley students pursuing college degrees in a human services field, such as the ministry, medicine, teaching, etc.

The one-page application form and attached reference forms are available from a Committee member (Laura Cifuentes, Larry Ciuffitelli, or Linda St. Clair), or you can pick up an application in the church office.

Deadline for applications is May 1, 2019.



2019 WOMEN'S RETREAT

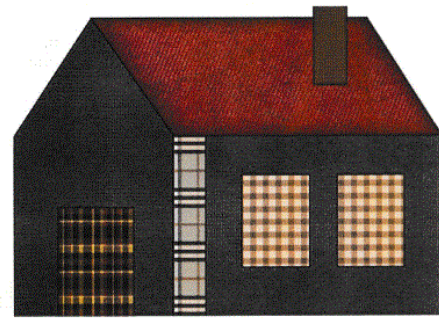
The theme is **Cozy Mountain Lodge**.
Serra Retreat Center.
May 17-19.

The deadline is approaching.

We would like everyone to register by the end of April and all money is due by May 1.

Visit the table on the patio after service. Don't miss out on this opportunity to spend a peaceful weekend in Malibu diving into the book of Ruth and discussing what it means to build relationships with each other having God as our foundation.

Click [here](#) for the application brochure and more information.



COZY MOUNTAIN LODGE

"God is our refuge and
strength..."

Psalm 46:1 (CEB)



**UMM & UMW
Celebration Dinner
Saturday, May 4
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Dickerson Hall**

**Make your \$10 reservation on the patio after worship on April 14 or 28 or
with Barbara Marshall at
(805) 529-523-7032.**

Childcare provided if reservation made by April 29.

Monthly Financial Reporting:	March	YTD (Jul-Mar)
Offerings & other income (actual)	\$33,719	\$374,663
Budget Requirements	\$44,227	\$398,297
Budgeted apportionments & quotas paid	22%	27%

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umcto.org