

West Covina United Methodist Church

June Newsletter 2019

Together in Ministry...An Oasis for the Community

From the desk of Pastor Jim



As I hope you are aware, these are changing and challenging times for the UMC. Change is never easy. Especially as we grow older. For those of us who have been "Methodists" for all or most of our lives, it hurts to see the church we know and love at odds from within. Some of you know that I am Wesleyan to the core! My theology, practice, and tradition is deeply rooted in my Methodist DNA. However, the salvation on the world does not come through Methodism but through God's saving act in Jesus Christ our Lord. In John 6:37 Jesus tells us; "... anyone who comes to me I will never drive away." Verse 40 concludes, "This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

Who am I to judge otherwise?

Bishop Hagiya's Call to Prayer and Confession

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

In preparation for "I See A New Church," our 35th Annual Session of the California-Pacific Conference, I am calling all of our clergy and laity into a season of focused prayer and confession as one body in Christ in the lead up to our gathering in Redlands, CA.

I believe that God is leading us through a wilderness as it is articulated in our theme scripture of Isaiah 43:15-21. And, in my prayers, I have come to the conviction that God's leadership of us as a Conference will not depend on legislative strategy or political agenda, but on our surrender to God as disciples of Jesus Christ. I ask you to join me in daily prayer for our entire California-Pacific Conference.

In trying to share how I have come to this moment, I think that it is important to review some key events that have transpired since the Special Called Session of General Conference 2019 in St. Louis, MO.

First, the Western Jurisdiction Mission Cabinet (WJMC), which is chaired by Rev. Donna Pritchard (Oregon-Idaho Conference) and includes the College of Bishops and Directors of Connectional Ministries, officially gathered in March of 2019 in Portland, Oregon, to set a strategy for moving forward. This resulted in the formation of task groups around key topics or areas of action and the issuing of a statement that invited all with ideas on these topics to share them with each group.

Outside of our Western Jurisdiction, a number of groups which are not official bodies of The United Methodist Church have also held gatherings in response to the Special Called Session. I will note only three among them because of their organization, momentum, and connection with our California-Pacific Conference:

- UMC Next (May 20-22, 2019 in Leawood, KS) - This group, led by Rev. Adam Hamilton of Church of the Resurrection, gathered to pray, listen, and consider the future of the denomination.
- UM Forward (May 17-19, 2019 in Minneapolis, MN) - This group's stated purpose was to center the voices of people of color, queer, and transgender voices.
- Wesleyan Covenant Association - This group, while it did not have one central gathering, has been organized and gathering in smaller events throughout the denomination.

Here in the California-Pacific Conference, our Appointive Cabinet (myself and all of our District Superintendents) have held intimate gatherings with clergy who might be called “traditionalist,” as well as those who might be called “progressive,” listening to our stories as well as our hopes for what lies ahead of us.

As the Extended Cabinet (all of the Appointive Cabinet as well as Conference Staff Directors, the Chair of our Conference Connectional Table, and our Conference Co-Lay Leaders), we have worked together with members of our General Conference delegation, beginning with the heartwarming worship service at First United Methodist Church of Pasadena, CA the Sunday following the Special Called Session.

In our Districts, we recently held our District Conferences where we heard directly from each other as to where things stand and what we see as possibilities for a greater future. Needless to say, I personally appreciate all of your participation as well as the leadership of our Cabinet and Conference leaders.

Gathering in such groups is something to be celebrated as it is the mark of an active Connection desiring to engage in the time-consuming work of discerning God’s will for our future. I commend all across our denomination and all here in our California-Pacific Conference who wish to be faithful to whom God is calling us to become.

Yet, what I would like to share with you is something that we learn early on in the practice of coaching which is how to resist the temptation to immediately fix something that our coachee has shared with us is broken. While it may take more time, what we learn instead is how to ask powerful questions because it takes such energy and diligence to confront what is difficult to address out loud.

My plan, for my subsequent letters, is to share with you the voices of those who were at these gatherings far from our California-Pacific Conference as well as those who met within our Conference so that their words may raise for us some powerful questions to consider.

Before we get there, I want to end this first letter with three powerful questions that arise out of my own prayers. These questions come from my own belief that this is a moment for us to focus on surrendering to God who is active in, through, and among us:

- How is it with our soul? - Are we hurt? Angry? Depressed? Excited? Energized? Inspired? How has it affected our work and how will it affect our plans?
- What is our ultimate goal? - What kind of church family, what kind of body of Christ, what kind of people of God are we trying to help fashion?
- How do we know for sure that God is leading us? - Are we relying on our greatest strengths or have we been asking our God to be made strong in our weakness?

In these coming days, join me in setting aside some time every day in preparation for our gathering and surrender ourselves to God in focused prayer and confession as one body in Christ.

Be the Hope,

Bishop Grant J. Hagiya
Los Angeles Area Resident Bishop



**CALIFORNIA-
PACIFIC
CONFERENCE**

Blessings!

Pastor Jim

| <i>Birthdays</i> | | <i>Serving our Lord</i> | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Jun 1 | Wilbur Olsen | Date | Service | Servers |
| Jun 3 | Tanner Wilde Cruzada (3yrs old) | Jun 2 | Liturgist | Alyanna Nalapo |
| Jun 10 | Gina Hamilton | | Communion Servers | Sam & Marlyne Pavalella |
| Jun 10 | Heidi Stevenson | | Ushers | Henry Paulo, Maggie Pang, Lidya Morrison, Marilyn Krieg |
| Jun 14 | Artemio Ramos Jr. | | Altar Flowers | Ellen Wright |
| Jun 16 | Vanessa Contreras (16yrs old) | | Coffee Hosts | Lorna Stephens & Dangelo Robinson |
| Jun 16 | Lois Klair | Jun 9 | Liturgist | Barbara Miller |
| Jun 19 | Rizaldo Bartolo | | Ushers | Corenda Ford, Liz Hurney, Ellen Wright, Lidya Morrison |
| Jun 27 | Maggie Pang | | Altar Flowers | Gary George |
| Jun 30 | Mary Hanebuth | | Coffee Hosts | Ray & Beverly Bulthuis |
| <i>Anniversaries</i> | | Jun 16 | Noisy Collection | <i>Bring your coins!</i> |
| Jun 15 | Bruce & Susie Leinbach | | Liturgist | Scott Bledsoe |
| Jun 21 | Ray & Beverly Bulthuis (67 years) | | Ushers | Corenda Ford, Liz Hurney, Ellen Wright, Lidya Morrison |
|  | <i>Happy Birthday to You!</i> <i>Happy Anniversary to You!</i> <i>May God bless & Keep you</i> <i>another year through!</i> | Jun 23 | Altar Flowers | Heidi Stevenson |
| | | | Coffee Hosts | Carolyn Arndt & Gina Hamilton |
|  | Altar Flowers Dedication forms are available in the Narthex. The cost per arrangement is \$35.00 You may sign-up and leave your dedication form and monies in the offering plate! | Jun 30 | Liturgist | Sam Pavalella |
| | | | Ushers | Henry Paulo, Maggie Pang, Lidya Morrison, Marilyn Krieg |
| | | | Altar Flowers | The Pangs |
| | | | Coffee Hosts | Charlie & Elaine Yan |
| | | | Liturgists | Youth Sunday |
| | | | Ushers | Henry Paulo, Maggie Pang, Lidya Morrison, Marilyn Krieg |
| | | | Altar Flowers | Corenda Ford |

New Members Welcome!

If you are interested in becoming a member
contact Pastor Jim at the church office
626-967-7996 or cell phone 808-346-7557

Please note: UMW will not meet in July & August. Also Choir will be on hiatus July through August.

Thank You

- Sam Pavalella & James Heathcote for maintenance of the newspaper recycle bin.
- Sam Pavalella for church maintenance and upkeep.
- James Heathcote for donating the new recording equipment in the Sanctuary.

Mutual Ministries



Inspirational Prayer: Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you. **James 4:8**

Prayer Concerns: Beverly Chell - healing & strength; Lois Klair - strength during cancer treatments; Reverend Manny Orio - healing from a fall; Ellen Wright- testing and upcoming knee surgery; Ray & Beverly Bulthuis friend David -had a stroke with eye damage. Leroy Alexander for strength and endurance. Sandra Brown- passed away - (mother of Craig Brown-Virginia Biacsi's son-in-law); Barbara Jordan- return of lung cancer (3x's) (friend of Virginia Biacsi); Mickie Neitzel- recovery from unexplained seizures (friend of Virginia Biacsi); Pam Stocking & family-healing from a stroke (Linda Robinson's family friend); Betty J. Price - comfort & healing from facial surgery, Dee Norris- stomach cancer has returned. (Ruby Miranda's cousin); Steve Hurney- prostate cancer treatments; Mary Hanebuth- strength & healing from lung problems; Forrest Martin-comfort in his illness & Carolyn Arndt as caregiver; Norman Burgess- comfort & healing. (friend of Pastor Jim); Cody Rourke- diagnosed with testicular cancer (great nephew of Pastor Jim); Semaya Pitts- baby with leukemia whose body has rejected bone marrow transplant & prayers for family (Virginia Biacsi's family); Ernest Wright- back and leg pains; Thelma McDonald-well being and healing from foot swelling. Wilbur Olsen - overall healing; Ron Fertig- healing from heart complications (friend of V. Biacsi & L. Clement); Doug Humphries- uplifting and healing from cancer (Virginia Biacsi's brother); Larry Clement - healing from continued eye procedures & treatments; Our Church, Our U. S. Government, World Leaders and World Peace! Those stricken by addictions and natural disasters Terrorism, world bombings, gun violence, Immigrants & families. Our men and women in the military and their families. Our Annual Conference and Delegates.

Missionaries: Tim Revett & Family (Paraguay) along with the pastors and ministries of the Paraguayan Methodist Church and the New Horizon Methodist School; Joint Commission in (Mexico); Chillah M. Waziri in (Nigeria).

Nursing Home/ Hospital: Irene Fleck, Shane Crum, Barbara Dugan, Dottie Morris

Shut-ins and Homebound: Sadie Williams, Beverly Chell

Military Service: Ann Marie Housen - Army Reserves Sgt. 1st Class, Kevin Cruzado -US Marine Corp. Medical Active Duty (Padayao's grandson); Alyssa Nalapo-Army Private 1st Class.

Joys and Celebrations: Congratulations to Corenda Ford & family on the birth of new great granddaughter Reina Emily Gomez born Friday May 17, 2019 weighing 7 lbs 8 oz's.

June 2019



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| Sunday | Jun 02 | Worship / Communion Sunday/ Ascension Sunday / Sanctuary / 9:30 a.m. Communion Servers: Sam & Marlynn Pavaella |
| | | UMW Bake Sale / Courtyard / 11:00 a.m. |
| Wednesdays | Jun 05 | Women's Bible Study / Parlor / 1:00 p.m. (every week) |
| Thursdays | | Choir Rehearsal / Sanctuary / 7:00 p.m. (every week) |
| Saturday | Jun 08 | Odd Couples / Norton Simon Museum +Lunch / See Millers |
| Sunday | Jun 09 | Worship / Pentecost / Sanctuary / 9:30 a.m. |
| Monday | Jun 10 | Pastor Jim to DCOM |
| Wed.-Sat. | Jun 12-15 | Annual Conference —Redlands California |
| Wednesday | Jun 12 | UMW Meeting / Parlor / 2:30 p.m. |
| Sunday | Jun 16 | Worship / Father's Day / Trinity Sunday/ Peace with Justice / Noisy Collection / Sanctuary / 9:30 a.m.- bring your coins! UMW Circle / 10:45 a.m. / North Room |
| Wednesday | Jun 19 | Juneteenth |
| Friday | Jun 21 | 1st Day of Summer |
| Sunday | Jun 23 | Singspiration / 9:15 a.m. / Worship / Chimesoloist / 9:30 a.m. |
| Sunday | Jun 30 | Worship / Youth Sunday / Independence Sunday / Sanctuary / 9:30 a.m. |



UMW Bake Sale

Sunday, June 2, 2019

11:00 a.m. in the Courtyard

Please make sure you stop by our table and check out our goodies!

We will also have **UMW cookbooks & magnets available!**



Odd Couples

Saturday, June 8th

Norton Simon Museum

Join your church friends on a visit to the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena. We will meet at the church at 10:00 AM to carpool. The museum features world-renowned art collections and a wonderful sculpture garden. There's even a café

where we can buy lunch! Entrance to the museum and gardens is \$15, \$12 for seniors (62+).

For more information, call Barbara or Jim Miller at 626-332-5363, or cell 626-327-0914.



Pentecost Sunday

Sunday, June 9, 2019

9:30 a.m. Sanctuary

Come experience the power of the Holy Spirit as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday together!!

“Many voices, one Spirit”



Father's Day / Trinity Sunday

Peace with Justice Sunday

June 16, 2019

Please plan to join us for Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

Our Special Offering will be designated for
Education / Sunday School.

UMW will be providing a gift in celebration & honor of All Fathers!!

Bring your coins as it is also Noisy Collection Sunday!



Cal-Pac Conference United Methodist Women is hosting Mission U (formerly known as School of Christian Mission) at Azusa Pacific University, July 26-28.

Take a deep dive into the Gospel of Mark, the topic of money, and the inspiring story of women organized for mission.

Come with a friend and have fun as you learn!

Registration fees

\$175 - Children (7-11 years old) and Youth (8-17 years old)

\$200 - Adult Commuters

\$275 - Adults, staying in a handicap-accessible dorm.

For more information, contact Barbara Miller, Dean 626-327-0914.

**Youth
Sunday**

*Come join us as our
youth lead us in*

Worship & Song!!

Sunday, June 30th

9:30 A.M. in the

Sanctuary

West Covina United Methodist Church is an
oasis for our community and a home for the
soul...where all are WELCOMED,
NURTURED and EMPOWERED to go forth
and participate with God in the
transformation of the world!



West Covina United Methodist Church

Located at 718 S. Azusa Avenue

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Pastor Jim's Cell: 808/ 346-7557

Parsonage: 626/ 653-9472

Church Office Hours: Tue.-Thurs. 9am-4pm

Worship Service Schedule:

9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship

9:45 am. Sunday School Classes- All Ages

10:45 Fellowship / Welcoming!

Prayer Room & Family Room available

Email: pastorjim.wcumc@gmail.com

(or) wcumcoffice1@verizon.net

Website: www.westcovinaumc.com Follow us on



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