

# Boulder Creek United Methodist Church Mountain Messenger March, 2017



## Our Vision

*"To illuminate the world with  
God's love by serving our  
community as faithful followers  
of Christ."*



*This is the 40 days prior to Easter,  
beginning with Ash Wednesday*

Lent is traditionally thought of as a time of self-denial and giving up some of our favorite indulgences (candy, cigarettes, red meat, etc.). Because of the pending denial, people often tend to overindulge the night before (Mardi Gras or Shrove Tuesday pancake supper).

Some people choose, instead, to adopt a new habit for Lent that gives to other people (such as visiting a Skilled Nursing, sending a greeting to a shut-in, or working at the homeless shelter).

These 40 days are an excellent opportunity to review our relationship with other people and with God. Some take on a habit of daily Bible reading, meditation, prayer or another way to deepen their Spiritual life.

How will you deepen your faith this Lent?

### Riding the Waves - Malcolm Marler

Do you remember what it is like to walk into the ocean?

It may be a little cold when I first put my toes and feet into the water. If it is hot enough outside, I am determined to keep moving ahead into deeper water as the waves begin to roll in, one after the other.

Sometimes I jump up each time when the wave comes over my waist to bide a little more time to acclimate to the temperature of the salty water.

As I go a little deeper, I turn my body sideways so that I don't take the full force of the wave on my chest. The water is just too powerful otherwise. Finally, I dive into the next wave and immerse myself fully and begin to swim.

For the next few minutes, I keep my feet off the sandy bottom and begin to move my arms and legs in order to tread the water. It allows me to keep my head above the water and go with the flow. I feel the power of the ocean and I become one with it.

I am reminded that life is like this.

Sometimes, I stubbornly face the waves with my feet firmly planted in the sand and falsely believe I can overpower them. It's not long before I'm knocked down with salty water up my nose. If I don't change what I'm doing, I'll drown.

So I think I'm gonna float for awhile and ride the waves. It's just too hard otherwise.

Want to join me? Come on in, the water is fine.

Our website is up and running!  
Check it out at

[Website](#)

[www.bcumc.com](http://www.bcumc.com).

Thank you to **Gabe House** for the hard work to create and maintain our website. It's a great tool to help people know more about our church.

**WOW!**



I have heard people say something like “If I were God (or king or President) I would...” Well. my friends, let’s be careful what we pray for. Our prayers for rain have been answered ... and I want to give my praise and gratitude for first responders and those who work for the utilities and roads (and, oh heck, you complete the rest of the list) to keep us safe, dry and warm.

Ya’ know, I’m glad I’m **not** God (you should be too!) because I would probably create a solution to a problem that would cause mega-problems somewhere else in the world. Our successful prayers for rain and snow did not include the mudslides and other crises we’ve been experiencing. That said, I’m certain the trees (and other vegetation) are soaking up the moisture as a part of their growth and protection against insect infestations.

An important part of our prayer life is to stop **telling** God how to run the universe and begin **listening** to God’s Word of Hope for us. It also means to offer prayers of gratitude, even when God’s answers are not convenient for us. I know some of you have not been able to get to work when roads are blocked, and some have experienced problems with roof leaks or other issues with your residence. I also know that the people that have no shelter are at risk. They have health risks and the discomfort and danger of being cold and wet. I have at times felt uncomfortable, but I am certain that my discomfort is nothing like our neighbor’s experience when they have no shelter!

So this is a time to give thanks (“in all things,” First Thessalonians 5:18) and ask for an understanding of God’s purpose in our lives.

I look forward to greeting you in Church as we begin the season of Lent this Sunday.

Blessings,

*Rev. Clyde*



***Go Ahead. You are Free Now -Yvonne Njoroge***

***UMCOR is creating a miracle happening in the desert***

It began with a call from U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. They called to ask if the church could help provide transition services to families that had been detained at the Arizona border and were ready for release.



*Photo by Barry Doyle photography*

Local pastors replied that not only could they help, but to BE the church, they must help. The first congregation involved called it the INN Project (since it was Advent), declaring they would make room in the inn for released families.

Once released into the care of the church, families are provided with food, shower and laundry facilities, lodging, and assistance in contacting relatives in the United States. Families can then travel to be with their relatives before appearing in court.

The churches involved in the INN Project try to anticipate a released family’s physical needs. However, what may be more important is the attention they give to restoring human dignity for detained family members, even before conducting intake interviews. The most powerful example of this act involves wristbands. Family members arrive at INN Project locations wearing wristbands with their alien number also known as A-0 Number or USCIS# stamped on it. Volunteers then have the honor of giving them a pair of scissors to cut off these bands, saying, “Go ahead. You are free now.”



## Word from Ted

*We live in a time of mass confusion. The election of 2016 has led many to the realization that their sources of information are not as reliable as they believed. This world of targeted ads and funneled media has left us in an echo chamber of our*



*own opinions. We now wrestle with concepts like “fake news” and “alternative facts.” How are we to decipher truth from lies in this strange new world?*

*In the book of Matthew Jesus has advice for just this situation. He says*

*“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes? or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.”*

*What Jesus means is that you can recognize the liars by who they are. Instead of judging a source of information by the content of its message, you should look at the character of the person or organization who is bringing you the message.*

*Why would Jesus say this? Because Jesus is aware that the most evil among us are going to claim to be good people, even Christians. Of course they would. It’s not like they are going to walk in and say “Hi! I’m about to screw you over.” Jesus wants to protect us from liars, by teaching us to listen to a person’s character, not their words.*

*This means no matter how much someone may support the positions we stand for, we should never trust them if we know they are not good people in their personal lives. This may seem obvious, but the church has failed to listen to Jesus on this one over and over throughout history. The most notable example in recent history, being the German church’s endorsement of Hitler.*

*How did a whole nation of Christians end up supporting one of the most evil men in history? Because people had the idea that faith and politics were not related. People believed that you had church and spirituality to deal with the afterlife, and politics to handle in the meantime. And that, while the blood of Jesus cleanses you of your sins for the after life, in this life you have to deal with politics and that means getting your hands dirty, making compromises, and working with bad people to get a good result. Jesus knows we will be tempted to think this way so he tells us “Don’t be fooled! A bad tree cannot produce good fruit.” You will never get good results by trusting an evil person.*

*In this time of confusion and misinformation, it is especially important that followers of Jesus pay attention to his words. Leaders will come to us asking for our support and they will claim to be Christian and they will support whatever causes we support, but if they are hateful, if they are divisive, if they are jealous, if they are prone to fits of rage, if they are narcissistic, power hungry, and self satisfied, you will know them by their fruit. They are not to be trusted. They are not to be followed.*

*Ted Bond*



## JOYS:

**Sunshine Johnson** is doing much better. Physical Therapy is helping her gain strength and she is getting out more.

We are **thankful for the coming of spring**. The blossoms are making our world more beautiful. With so much moisture, the green hills are a joy to behold.

**Alora Bond** has resigned as our Children's Ministry Coordinator to focus on her pregnancy and family. We send her out with gratitude and joy for her work and her changing situation.

## CONCERNS:

**Lalayna Carr's husband, Michael** died in a tragic automobile accident. Services will be announced soon. Thanks to Maggie Barr who organized meals for the family and all those who prepared food. Our love and prayers surround Lelayna, Amber & Anne.

**Katie Jacobson** still faces more dental surgery. She (and her mother!) is eager to get this behind her.

**Phyllis Mayfield** continues to regain her strength. Bouts with the flu have kept her down. Our love and prayers go to her!

**For victims of racial and ethnic hatred** as Jewish cemeteries and buildings are being defaced.

**First Responders and utility workers.** We continue to pray for those who do their important and dangerous work.

For our **shut-ins** who are unable to be in church because of age or illness. Our prayers are with them.

*If you have joys or concerns and desire prayer, please contact Linda Lininger, our prayer coordinator, [LindaLinCA@aol.com](mailto:LindaLinCA@aol.com), the Pastor or the church office with your request.*

## A NOTE OF

## THANKS!

Those who are members of our Leadership Team and make plans to move our church forward. **THANK YOU!**



Ron made several trips to Virginia Mason Hospital to reassess his treatment plan. He was struggling with back and some abdominal pain. A CT scan showed nothing positive but his tumor markers continue to grow slightly.



Dr. Picozzi, his oncologist felt that there was enough probability to warrant a new treatment plan, officially called, The Virginia Mason Protocol for Pancreatic Cancer. This intense regimen requires 5 1/2 weeks of treatment.

We keep Ron & Becky in our prayers  
Visit: [www.caringbridge.org/visit/ronperry](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/ronperry)



## March Birthdays

- 3 Sam Imrie
- 3 Jordan Johnson
- 6 Isaac Perry
- 10 Michelle Fauss
- 12 Amber Carr
- 15 Dominic Chiechi
- 17 Shanon Gripkey
- 20 Sunshine Johnson
- 21 Josh Geist
- 22 Chrissy Warner
- 26 Mae Slayer
- 29 Phyllis Mayfield
- 30 Linda Lininger



## March Anniversaries

- March 2 Mary & Russ Ericson
- March 21, 1993 Les & Shanon Gripkey

*If your birthday or anniversary is not listed and you would like to have it added, please send your information to the office:  
[bcumc@bcumc.com](mailto:bcumc@bcumc.com)*



## Calendar

Mar. 5, **First Sunday in Lent**,  
Rev. Clyde, "The Devil Made  
Me Do It!" Matthew 4:1-11,  
Communion

After Worship, **Leadership Team**

Mar. 12, **Worship** led by Gabe House

Mar. 19, **Worship** led by Gabe House

Mar. 26, **Worship** led by Gabe House

April. 2, **Fifth Sunday in Lent**, Rev. Clyde,  
"Alive in the Spirit" John 8:6-11, Communion

After Worship, **Leadership Team**

April 13, **6:00, Maundy Thursday  
Communion**

April 14, **Good Friday Service**

April 16, **Easter Sunday**

Sundays, **Choir Practice: 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.**

Sundays - Youth breakfast, 9:00  
a.m. Bible Discussion



The **April Mountain Messenger**  
deadline for information will be  
Sunday, March 26.

### **Boulder Creek United Methodist Church**

Church office: 831.338.6232

Web: <http://bcumc.com>

Join us on Facebook, friend us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/BoulderCreek-CAUnitedMethodistChurch>

Pastor: Rev. Clyde Vaughn: 831.662.8908

Cell: 831.212.1052

Children's Ministry Director: Ted Bond

831.419.0241

Church Administrator & Bookkeeper:

Gina Billington 831.246.0394

Prayer Chain, please contact the pastor, or  
the prayer chain coordinator, Linda Lininger,  
[LindaLinCA@aol.com](mailto:LindaLinCA@aol.com), if you wish prayers for  
family members or friends.

### **Worship Leadership**

Ministers: People of the parish

Music Director: Gabriel House

March, 2017 Mountain Messenger

[bcumc@bcumc.com](mailto:bcumc@bcumc.com)

[www.bcumc.com](http://www.bcumc.com)

831-338-6232

Boulder Creek, California 95006

12855 Boulder Street

P. O. Box 2187

Boulder Creek United Methodist Church