

# Boulder Creek United Methodist Church Mountain Messenger May, 2018



## Our Vision

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

## Baptism of Eliza Del Socorro Bond



The church gathered to welcome Eliza into the Christian family. The introduction to baptism says:

*"Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church and given new life by water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered without price. Christ has expressly given to little children a place among the people of God, a holy privilege that must not be denied them. Remember Jesus' words, "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Kingdom of God."*

## Pentecost Sunday

**Pentecost** is Sunday, May 20. Be sure to wear your red to help celebrate this, the birthday of the church.

The story of the Disciples is told in Acts 2. It is the story of people from around the world coming together in celebration of a Jewish Festival called Pentecost.

Join Gabe House as he brings new insights into this powerful story, which is honored as the day when the Disciples left the upper room to begin sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ to the whole world.



**All of them were  
filled with  
the Holy Spirit!**  
Acts 2.4



Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1908, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother at St Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. In 1911, due to Anna Jarvis' efforts, it was

recognized around the whole nation.

Jarvis spoke against the commercialization of the day and argued that people should appreciate and honor their mothers through handwritten letters expressing their love and gratitude, instead of buying gifts and pre-made cards.

Celebrate Mother's Day by honoring her, or her memory, as you join us at church.



## Travel is so educational

Sheila and I were thrilled to take a river cruise down the Rhine River. We had stops in four countries, then we spent additional time in Amsterdam, the German countryside and Berlin.

Our experiences were ups and downs, highs and lows, joyous and terribly sad. We arrived in the Netherlands just in time for the tulips. Beautiful! We saw buildings when architecture was elaborate, and celebrated amazing concert halls, museums and public buildings.

We also saw the ravages of war that have been a part of European history for centuries. The ruins of buildings continue to stand as a memorial to greed and violence. We visited the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam and relived her sad story. We also saw where the Wall stood in Berlin and there is a replica of Checkpoint Charlie staffed by actors. We learned that 139 people died trying to escape over the wall. There are memorials to these people.

Concerts, good food, good wine, laughter, history, sad and beautiful sights. All of these were part of our travels. We are so fortunate in the Bay Area that we are surrounded by so much beauty, and we do not have reminders of violence all around us.

I am reminded that Jesus calls us to be peacemakers and we follow the Prince of Peace. I am recommitted to a ministry of reconciliation and healing.

I'll hope to see you in church this Sunday.

Blessings,

*Rev. Clyde*

### You Are Welcome Here!

As a Reconciling Congregation, we celebrate God's welcome to us and to all people, including any who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender and their families. At Boulder Creek UMC your friendship is valued and safeguarded. You are accepted for who you are. **You have a home!**



## UMCOR grants continue to support ongoing recovery

By Bella Simonetti\*

"We take for granted the monumental work that we in The United Methodist Church do," said Bishop Thomas Bickerton, the board president for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). "It's normal to us, but it's viewed as exceptional work by the outside world."

UMCOR's board of directors approved an unprecedented amount in the form of grants during the annual spring board meeting. More than \$46 million was awarded in support of disaster relief and recovery, global health projects, and sustainable development.

A significant amount of money was approved for grants supporting ongoing recovery projects related to 2017 disasters, including wildfires in California and hurricanes.

It is estimated that last year's hurricanes caused more than \$200 billion worth of damage in the United States. To alleviate some of the burden on impacted communities in the United States and in the Caribbean, UMCOR approved \$7 million in grants during its 2017 fall board meeting.

"There's a lot of great work being done, and a lot to celebrate, but there's still a lot of hardship and suffering, as evidenced by many of these grants," said Cathy Earl, UMCOR director of disaster response and U.S. partner relations.

Communities devastated by 2017 hurricanes dread the upcoming hurricane season. "There are still homes and churches to be repaired," said Bishop Bickerton. "That reality is balanced by this drive to resilient reconstruction."

Known for being "the last to leave," UMCOR upholds its reputation by awarding recovery grants to its partners working on the ground. Board members approved almost \$40 million to support U.S. disaster response projects.

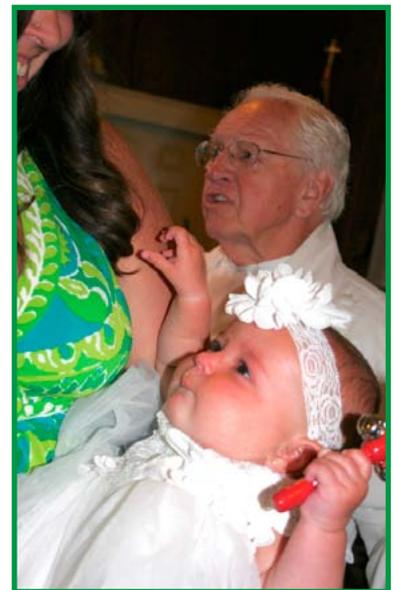
California-Nevada Conference of The United Methodist Church: \$1,348,989  
Project Title: Northern California 2017 Firestorm Recovery and Empowerment



## A Word from Ted

Please watch for word about the plans for our summer activity program (formerly known as our Vacation Bible School). We'll put out a special note on Facebook and an email will be sent to our church family.

## PICTURES FROM THE BAPTISM OF ELIZA BOND





### JOYS:

**Eliza Bond** was baptised on April 29. A large group of family were present to celebrate the event.

The **signs of spring** are all around us as the air is warming and trees and flowers are in bloom. A beautiful time of year.

### CONCERNS:

**Ron Perry:** Ron & Becky were able to spend a few days in Yosemite. He continues his chemo, and is not quite as strong as he was, but continues plans for more travel.

**Bob Belzer** is having chemotherapy at the VA hospital. He is there for five days and home on weekends.

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.*

Thanks to **Carol Baggerly** for tending our garden in front of the church with new spring plants. Nice to have our church grounds ready for the season!

**THANK YOU!**



Our swimming pool will be available for Memorial Day weekend. Plan to get your membership so

you can have a key.

Please remember that our insurance requires that **ONLY** church members can have a key, though you would be allowed to bring guests.

We will send out a mid-month mailing to let you know more details.



## Please join us to Celebrate International Women



On  
Saturday  
May 19, 2018



United Methodist Women Annual Brunch  
United Methodist Church of Santa Cruz  
250 California St.

Santa Cruz

Please RSVP by May 11th,  
Charlotte Clayton 423-5473  
or

The Church office 429-6800 x3

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Brunch—10:30

Program—11:00

Guest Speaker: Former Mayor of Capitola  
Stephanie Harlan



Come as you are or dress in your Ethnic Costume  
All Always Welcome



### May Birthdays

- 3 Laurel Johnson
- 10 Thia Geist
- 12 Sara Koehring
- 15 Rebecca Golding
- 16 Mary Koehring
- 17 Clyde Vaughn
- 20 Joseph Huffman



### May Anniversaries

- May 23 Jay & Bridget Parr
- May 24, 1975 Frank & Karen Golding

*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)*

## Grace's power over sin: Sanctifying grace

A UMC.org Feature by Joe Iovino\*

“What is more powerful,” the Rev. Matt O’Reilly asks, “your sin or God’s grace?”

“If it’s true that God’s grace is more potent and powerful, and can overcome our sin,” the pastor of St. Mark United Methodist Church in Mobile, Alabama continues, “what does that look like in my daily life?”

John Wesley’s fervent belief that God’s grace is more powerful than sin, motivated his tireless work to begin the Methodist movement. He gathered Christians into small groups for support and encouragement as they lived into their faith. Together they confessed their sin, watched over one another in love, and sought to love God and their neighbors as Jesus did.

Wesley taught that God’s grace shapes us throughout our lives. After God’s prevenient grace convicts us of our sin and our need for Christ, and after we receive forgiveness by faith through God’s justifying grace, our spiritual growth continues. By God’s sanctifying grace, we mature as disciples of Jesus Christ.

In a sermon, Wesley distinguished between justifying and sanctifying grace. “The one,” he writes of justifying grace, “implies what God does for us through the Son; the other, what God works in us by the Spirit.”

Sanctifying: Growing in grace

The word sanctify simply means “to make holy,” but not in a holier-than-thou sort of way. Instead, God’s sanctifying grace shapes us more and more into the likeness of Christ. As the Holy Spirit fills our lives with love for God and our neighbor, we begin to live differently.

As the Apostle Paul writes in Romans, “be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God’s will is—what is good and pleasing and mature” (12:2 CEB).

Sanctifying grace signifies to us that we haven’t arrived. The Rev. Gary Henderson of United Methodist Communications says, “We are reminded that we are under construction.” We are becoming all God created us to be.

In a hymn we know as “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (United Methodist Hymnal 384), Charles Wesley expresses a longing to be transformed by God’s grace. He writes:

Finish then thy new creation,  
Pure and sinless let us be,  
Let us see thy great salvation,  
Perfectly restor’d in thee;  
Chang’d from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

As we sing these words, we ask God to continue to work in our lives, to “finish” us into the “pure and sinless” people we were created to be. This may sound like a lot, but God’s grace is greater than our sin.

Grace over sin

Wesley prescribed some ways we can put ourselves in positions to receive God’s sanctifying grace. These “means of grace” are things we do to grow toward “holiness of heart and life,” as Wesley called mature faith.

The United Methodist Church understands the means of grace in four basic categories: acts of worship, devotion, justice, and compassion. Acts of worship include things like going to church and receiving the sacrament of communion. Acts of devotion are those private times of worship that include activities like private prayer and Bible study. We know these things draw us closer to Christ, but we don’t stop there.

Also important are acts of compassion like reaching out to our neighbor in need and telling a friend about God’s love for them. Acts of justice, working to eliminate racism and advocating for the poor and marginalized are also means of grace. Through participation in the means of grace, we put ourselves in spaces—physically, mentally, and spiritually—that open us up to allow God to fill us. We make room for the Holy Spirit to work on our hearts and lives.

We do not do these things to earn something from God. Our spiritual growth is a gift, given to us through the sanctifying grace of God.

As we seek to grow in love for God and neighbor, God works in us to eliminate sin from our lives. Why? Because God’s grace is greater than our sin. Not only following our deaths, but in our lives today.

Look for additional posts about prevenient grace and justifying grace.

\*[Joe Iovino](#) works for UMC.org at [United Methodist Communications](#). Contact him by [email](#) or at 615-312-3733.

Sunday, May 13, 2018  
at 4 pm

**Hollister United Methodist Church**  
521 Monterey St. Hollister CA



**A Performance NOT to be missed!**

There is NO CHARGE.

A 'Free Will' Offering will be taken for a donation to the St. Petersburg Men's Ensemble



## Calendar

**May 6, Rev. Clyde, "We Have Been Chosen" John 15:9-17, Communion**

**11:45, Leadership Team**

**May 13, Worship led by Gabe House, John 17:6-19**

**May 20, Worship led by Gabe House,  
Pentecost Sunday, John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15**

**May 27, Worship led by Gabe House, John 3:1-17**

**June 3, Worship led by Gabe House, Mark 2:23-3:6**

**June 10, Rev. Clyde, "We are Family!" Mark 3:20-35,  
Communion**

**11:45, Leadership Team**

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

Our website is up and running!  
Check it out at

[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.

**Website**



**The June Mountain Messenger** deadline for information will be Sunday, May 27.

### **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

May, 2018 Mountain Messenger

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

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

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