A Sermon Series on Connections

July 2
Matthew 28
Preaching: Andrew Ponder Williams
Director of Young People's Ministries

July 9
Preaching: Sharon McCart
Cal-Pac Disabilities Awareness Coordinator

July 16
Psalm 13 - Look Up!
Preaching: Rev. Paige Eaves

July 23
Psalm 23 - Look to the Side!
Preaching: Rev. Paige Eaves

July 30
Preaching: Rev. Claudia Genung Yamamoto
Cal-Pac Missionary to Kobe, Japan

Dear UUMC friends -

I am still basking in the afterglow of VBS! It was just so good to feel the strong heartbeat of our Wide-Awake Spiritual Place. Our volunteers did a great job of welcoming families to our campus. The beat goes on - here's how you can be a part of it:

* Notice when someone on our Spiritually Wide-Awake campus looks confused or overwhelmed. Ask if you can help or answer a question. This includes youth and young adults, who often arrive on their own.

* When you encounter a new person, recognize that much church stuff is completely new to most people. Offer to help with clear, understandable directions. For example, "KidJam is our Sunday morning program for children. May I lead you to the check-in desk?" or "Many of us hang out on the patio after worship. Do you want me to wait for you so that I can introduce you to some people?" or "These comfy chairs in the back are just for families like yours. You can keep your baby with you or take him to the nursery."

* When there is down time before and after events, spend at least 3 minutes talking with one another about something for which you are grateful. Invite a new person to join this conversation.

* After worship, send a link to the sermon to a friend or family member, saying something like, "When I heard this message, I thought of you and wished you were here to hear it, too." [http://uumcirvine.org/worship/messages](http://uumcirvine.org/worship/messages)

We'll be focused on Connections throughout July - connections to one another and to brothers and sisters around the world. All of it is grounded in our connection to the Holy One. Let us continue to offer new friends a life-giving community of faith.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Paige
Andrew Ponder Williams

We had a great time representing our MOC campus ministry at Annual Conference in Redlands. We shared information about our ministry with other United Methodist churches in the hopes that they will send any student they know heading to UCI our way.

We also made connections with other congregations that may be interested in learning more about our model of campus ministry. The response was really encouraging as lots of folks took some of our literature and colored in our fun map of the Los Angeles area.
Lunch Bunch-Tuesdays at 11:30am in Education Building Room C

Linda Dressler

Our current book "Parables of Jesus" by J. Ellsworth Kalas was finished June 27.


There will be no Lunch Bunch in August. It will begin again on September 5, with the Milton book.

For the month of October, we will be reading the book by “What’s Your Story" by Sarah Heath. Sarah might also join us for one of the Tuesday sessions.

November we will finish Milton book. We will then take a break for the month of December.

For more information please connect with Linda Dressler (linda.dressler@cox.net).

Choir Concert

Thank you for a wonderful show!!
A Hero Central Retrospective
by Joan Lundbohm

Hero Central Vacation Bible School was fantastic. We had 81 in attendance, 20 youth volunteers and about 20 adult volunteers. There were so many volunteers who helped me prep in the months ahead and then another crew that served during the week. I am so thankful to each one of you. We reached people who are seeking a church home. We welcomed many youth volunteers from Lion’s Heart volunteer organization and were so happy that some who served last year came back with friends. We learned that we are all superheroes in the eyes of God and that God's superheroes have heart, courage, wisdom, power and hope. Our Bible verse for the week was "Do Good! Seek Peace and Go After it!" Psalm 34: 14b

This year, the parents signed the children in and out directly with the teacher and parents really loved this. Opening assembly was an hour and included the music rotation which was led by Andrew and the youth. This made for a lively and very energetic opening assembly and also reflected the all ages Large Group of Kid Jam. Each child went home with a key chain and 5 cards on the key ring. All the artwork was done by Kate Jensen who volunteered her artistic talents to create five original superheroes. We had many first time group leaders and I am very happy to say that every group leader had a child or a grandchild who was attending Hero Central. This was wonderful and increased the opportunities for connections and relationships. Colin Ralston was the puppet, another great opportunity for one of our youth to grow in leadership. One of my goals as Director of Children's Ministry is to always be training up our future leaders and we did that in a big way this past week. Students in the oldest group were asking if they could volunteer next year!

I had great fun making all of the set decorations and on Friday afternoon they were picked up and will be part of Hero Central at UUMC Anaheim and from there on to two other Methodist churches.

Our Mission Project was Blessings Bags - families were asked to decorate a lunch bag that we gave them and fill it with grocery and gas gift cards and snacks. We collected about 25 of these and will keep them at the Volunteer Desk in the Church office to hand out to people who stop by needing some help.

Thanks to everyone who made Hero Central such an amazing success. A special thanks to Pastor Paige for her leadership and the great photos and video.

Blessings,

Joan
Hero Central VBS By the Numbers

81 Heroes-in-Training
15 kids from UUMC families
23 kids from Child’s World Preschool
2 kids from Seashore Academy
11 kids from Korean families
32 kids from families with no church affiliation
20 youth volunteers
25 adult volunteers
20 young people at Islands for volunteer lunch
150 hotdogs cooked and consumed on Friday
400 candy eyes applied to Ninja Turtle snack
500 balloons blown, worn, launched, and popped
2000 marshmallows thrown, skewered, and eaten
4000 stickers stuck
$5000 budget for VBS
$5000 spent on VBS
$250 sale of VBS decor to Cal Heights UMC-Long Beach
A Hero Central Retrospective

Do Good! ...Seek Peace!! ...and Go After It!!!
Fundraiser for International Solidarity Mission to the Philippines

Join us on July 9 at 5 pm in fellowship hall for Dinner, Entertainment, and Information!

Sharon McCart will be traveling to the Philippines from July 24 - Aug. 6 as a member of the Mission Team from the California-Pacific Annual Conference. The purpose of this trip is to show support for the indigenous people of that country, who live in deep poverty under terrible oppression. They have recently built their own schools (K-college) for the first time. Sharon's task will be to teach the faculty how to include students with disabilities in their classrooms.

Sharon sees this opportunity as God-given. Although she has wanted to go to the Philippines for several years, this year circumstances have fallen into place so that it is possible. In addition to teaching, she will meet with the Bishop of the Philippines Central Conference as well as a deaconess who is working to help churches become more welcoming and accessible to people with disabilities. She is working to make other possible connections.

This trip is expensive. Airfare alone is almost $1000 and there are other expenses as well.

Please support this fundraiser! We will hear more about the trip, be entertained by dancers and singers, and eat delicious food! More details to follow!

Sharon greatly appreciates your support! Any funds raised beyond what she needs will be shared with the rest of the team.
We Lift Up Prayers for Healing and Wellness for...
Barbara Albers
Adrienne Bailey
Bonnie Bennett
Paul Bennett
Carol Gauger
Wes Masenten
Ann Ownbey
Mike Sciutto
Junko Takagi
Camille Pinches
Buddy Price

We remember our homebound brothers and sisters..
Francis Baity, Paul Black, Bruce Burris, Dick Doyel, Thelma Friedel, Diane Monjay, Betty Quilligan

Dear Friends,
I want to send a heart felt thank you to all who sent cards and expressed their sorrow at the passing of my mother, Lettie Braudt. I especially want to thank the Mission Team who I was with in Weed, CA when I received word of mom's passing. They provided the hugs and love that I needed to help soften the impact of losing my mother. They epitomized the true essence of Christian caring.

Sue Harriss
Rev. Erin Roesch, Deacon in Residence

As a Deacon in the United Methodist tradition, Pastor Erin is a clergy person who specializes in bridging the church and the world.

Prior to moving to Irvine, Pastor Erin served as the Director of Development & Employer Recruitment at StepUp Ministry, a nonprofit committed to assisting low-income individuals in achieving economic stability through employment and life skills training. She also served as the Director for Prison Ministry and Community Organizing at CityWell Church, a bilingual church plant within the North Carolina Conference of The UMC, during this time.

Pastor Erin holds a B.A. in Political Science and a Master of Divinity degree from Duke University. Much of her undergraduate and graduate work centered on the intersection of church and local nonprofit engagement with poverty, race, incarceration, and public policy.

Julie Rachels, Finance Administrator

Julie Rachels grew up in Tustin and currently lives with her family in Irvine. She is a graduate of Vanguard University in Costa Mesa with a BA in Accounting. Julie has served as a pastor’s wife for the last 27 years for youth, college students, young adults and recently served with her husband Scott as senior pastor of Newport Mesa church in Costa Mesa. Julie and Scott have three wonderful daughters Madison, Lauren and Katie. Her family is passionate about missions and serving both globally and locally in the community.
Vision & Strategy Celebrates Excellent Workshop and Looks to UUMC’s Future

On May 30, your Vision & Strategy team gathered with an agenda that included evaluation of the May 13th workshop led by Coach Mary Scifres. The team agreed that the event was positive and helpful, and that it is important for all of us to remain knowledgeable about what is happening in all areas of the church. This helps us with our invitations to new people and with our ability to answer questions, even about programs in which we personally are not involved. Mary’s worksheets were sent out to everyone in a This Week @ UUMC email and added to the Church Business page of www.uumcirvine.org (http://uumcirvine.org/about-us/church-business).

The V & S team appreciated hearing how far the Trustees have come as they work through the many obstacles to completing the Patio Hospitality Project. The team is especially appreciative of Gbolohan Ogunbiyi, Dennis Kempke, Jack Lucas, and the Bilanchones who have contributed (or will contribute) endless hours to this work. What would we do without them?

The Liaisons for Belong & Be Love highlighted upcoming events to make sure that our calendars coordinate: Heifer volunteers at the fair, health screenings, youth events, adult education, and children's ministries. The Believe Liaison was pleased that 50 people participated in reading Aline Ohanesian’s book and attending her event.

V & S also double-checked arrangements for the May 30 exit of the rental Korean congregation and the June 4 move of our Irvine Dream UMC to the 11:00 slot.

The team concluded by working on the calendar of major events through the end of the year, and looking forward to discussions about how Coach Mary might help UUMC continue to move forward. Some major events include:

August 5-1: Youth Mission trip to Sierra Service Project
August 19: Board of Ordained Ministry Candidacy Summit
September 3: Quarterly Conference
October 8: Mission Fair/Auction, DS John Farley, preaching
October 15: Flu Shot Clinic (an outreach event)
November 19: Thanksgiving Brunch
December 2: Sanctuary Decorating for Christmas
December 3: Charge Conference
December 10: Christmas Concert
December 17: Children's Christmas Pageant
December 22: Messy Church Christmas

Your V & S Team includes: Bob Bilanchone (Lay Leader), Bonnie Wright (Belong Liaison), Janet Kempke (Worship Liaison), Lois Vaught (Believe Liaison), Jane Bernard (Be Love Liaison), Pastor Brandon Won (Dream Church), Brad Fowler (Chair), Rev. Paige Eaves (Sr. Pastor).
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