

## **UMCTO Connect**

**Friday, September 20, 2019**

**The Weekly Eblast of News & Newsmakers from UMCTO**

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### **PASTOR'S CORNER**

For this Sunday's sermon, I have decided to give Dr. Luke a little break and preach from Jeremiah's passage in our Old Testament Lectionary Reading. (Jeremiah 8:18-9:1) What's at stake in Jeremiah's passage are the grief, pain, confusion, mourning and tears in the lives of Israel's people at the time. Also at stake is Jeremiah's famous rhetorical question: Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?

As we look at the current situations of our world today, we too can't help but notice all the confusion, hurt, pain, destruction, violence and grief in the lives of people today, and we too ask ourselves that rhetorical question, "Is there no balm in Gilead, no physician there?" You might be wondering what that rhetorical question means or what it has to do with our faith today. I hope to share some of my insight and wisdom on this rhetorical question this Sunday, but here is a little clue: Questioning God is a part of our faith discipline in which we recognize that many times there are more questions than answers and it takes courage to challenge God with our questions in life. After all, haven't you asked God one

time or another, “Where are you God in all this?” There are no easy answers in life, but God is in the midst of our Greif, God grieves with us, and God’s love for the people of God never ends.

Hope you will join us as I try to paint some hope and healing in the world where there are much confusion, destruction, mourning, and tears. Yes, there is a balm in Gilead! And we will sing about it too with the African American Spiritual in our hymnal #375 “There Is a Balm in Gilead”: “Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work’s in vain. But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.....” May it be so for all of us!

See you at church,  
Pastor John

## **WORSHIP BY ADORING GOD**

*from Jordan Duke, Director of Worship Arts*

*“We don’t worship God because life is good. We worship God because He is good!” — Darlene Zschech*

For the first three days of this plan, we discussed what worship is and why we should worship God. It’s easy to worship God when we have ample blessings in our lives, and when He says yes to our prayers. We can and we should worship Him for those things! But, first and foremost, we worship Him for who He is.

Did you know that God is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent? What do these big “omni” words actually mean? Well, omni is a Latin root that simply means “all.” And while none of these words are actually mentioned in Scripture, they do identify the truth about God that we gather from it. Let’s dive in a little deeper to each of these attributes of God.

Omnipresent.

God is “all” present. He is everywhere, all the time, close to everyone and everything. He fills all of heaven and earth. Often as Christ followers, we might pray, “God, please be with me today.” While the petition of God’s presence shows our need for Him, this prayer is actually unnecessary. He is already here and there and elsewhere and all over the place, all the time. What our request should be instead is, “God, please make me aware of your presence.”

Omniscient.

God is “all” knowing. In regard to knowledge, there is no limit with God. He has it all, and He knows it all. Literally. There is not a second that goes by where God is not aware of everything. There is absolutely nothing that He should learn or have to think about. He is never caught off guard or surprised by anything, ever. He just knows. Mind blowing, isn’t it? And isn’t it comforting to know that God knows our needs before we even ask?

Omnipotent.

God is “all” powerful. All power belongs to God. He possesses it all. He can do anything and everything. He never gets winded, and He never grows weary. His strength is never zapped, and He never has to take a nap. We may see impossible things in front of us, but with God, all things are possible.

It truly is phenomenal to even comprehend just a portion of who He is. That is where our worshipping Him for who He is should come easy. When we don't understand something, just worship.

Reflect:

- Read through Psalm 145, and declare it to your God as you do.
- Of the three “omni” words mentioned above, which one fascinates you the most? Spend some time thinking about that facet of who God is, and worship and thank Him for who He is.
- Write down any revelation that God speaks to you through today's Bible reading or devotional.

Scripture:

- 1st Chronicles 16:23-31
- Psalms 139:7-10
- Psalms 145
- Isaiah 40:13-14
- Matthew 19:26
- Ephesians 3:20



## FROM AMY - ALL ABOUT KIDS

We had a great first week back to Kids Church last Sunday. A couple of weeks ago, I challenged our congregation to fill 10 volunteer positions in Kids Church. We didn't get 10, but we DID get 7 and that was enough to get us up and running! Well done Church!! God's provision is always perfect

and He is always faithful. The kids and I appreciate our church family so much. This week we will be understanding that Jesus did hard things. Its not always easy to be a follower of Jesus, but always worth the difficult things we sometimes have to do. The older kids will be navigating their way through the Bible in Heidi's Bible detectives class!

See you at church!



## OPPORTUNITY [ op-er-too-ni-tee ]

An **opportunity** is a situation in which it is possible for you to do something that you want to do.

Do you have writing, editing, graphic design, video or tech skills? As we rethink and review the story of how our church impacts people, we need a few hours from a few people to shape our communications on the web, in weekly email, social media and videos. Don't hide your talents under a bushel. If interested please contact **Tim Snyder**.

p.s. And, this is work you can do from home....

### CALIFORNIA COASTAL CLEANUP PARTY - SEPTEMBER 21

Come join all the Conejo Valley and participate in the annual California Coastal Cleanup Day.



Here is the plan.

1. Meet at Borchard Park in Newbury Park near the tennis courts at 9AM, Saturday, September 21. Cleanup lasts until noon but come when you can. Cleanup to remove debris from beaches, creeks, rivers, and parks to protect wildlife from harm while taking care of our environment.
2. Pre-registration is not required. Walk-ins are welcome at all locations listed. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. All volunteers must sign a volunteer waiver. Please wear closed toed shoes and sun protection. Volunteers are encouraged to BYOB; bring your own reusable bucket, gloves, and water bottle. Instructions, volunteer waivers, data cards, trash and recycling bags, gloves, and water will otherwise be provided.

Also want to encourage all attending to wear the Methodist Social Justice t-shirt. A great reminder of all the work Methodists do. [Here](#) is the link on where to buy them. Or wear a red Tshirt.

website [www.vccoastcleanup.org](http://www.vccoastcleanup.org)

### MESSY CHURCH - SEPTEMBER 21

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THOUSAND  
OAKS INVITES YOU TO

# MESSY CHURCH

FINDING GOD'S PEACE IN THE STORM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21  
5 - 7 PM

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES, FAMILY DEVOTION,  
& DELICIOUS DINNER INCLUDED!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

DORI @ 805-402-2100  
MARIA @ 805-300-1607

1000 E. JANS S RD, THOUSAND OAKS



## INVITATION TO PRAY TOGETHER - SEPTEMBER 29

Directly following worship on Sunday, September 29, pause with us for prayer on the bridge exiting the sanctuary. We will form prayer circles and will pray for our church and it's ministries.

*20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."*  
Matthew 18:20

# UMW FALL LUNCHEON - OCTOBER 5



**Founders of the Methodist Woman's Foreign Missionary Society - 1869**

**October 5<sup>th</sup> 11 a.m. - UMW Fall Luncheon  
"Celebrating Our Legacy"**

**Make a \$10 reservation following worship services  
beginning September 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Free childcare if reservation made by September 29**

**Men Welcome, too!**



Frances Kellogg Newbury - circa 1915

**Women of the Conejo  
Frances Newbury - 1914**

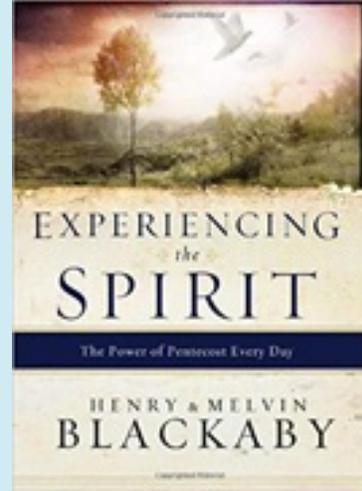


**UMCTO Women's Society of Christian Service  
Charter Members - 1965**

## **NEW BOOK STUDY OPPORTUNITY - OCTOBER 6+**

Join Laura Marlow in the Wesley Room  
after service, 11:30-1:00, starting October  
6 through December 8 to discuss  
"Experiencing The Spirit" by Henry and

Melvin Blackaby. **Please order your book ahead of time so you have it for the first meeting.**



"You'll see how the proof of the Spirit's presence is our awareness of God's personal assignments for us, plus our supernatural enablement to carry out those assignments. You'll find essential clarification on the difference between natural talents and spiritual gifts. You'll explore the dynamics of being filled with the Spirit through intimate relationship with Him, committed obedience, and radical departure from sin.

Instead of considering what you can do *for* God with your abilities and talents, you'll be encouraged here to seek what God wants to do *through* you supernaturally by His Spirit, empowering you beyond your personal competence and capacities. Release the Holy Spirit's work at the very core of your experience of the Christian life – as He releases you to serve God as never before."

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE....**

# **BE A STUDY BUDDY!**



## **ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY?**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR TUTORS WHO ARE NURTURING AND LOVE TO HELP CHILDREN SUCCEED ACADEMICALLY. STUDENT TUTORS 9TH GRADE AND UP FROM ALL AREA SCHOOLS MAY APPLY. WE ARE ALSO SEEKING ADULT TUTORS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS. ALL TUTORS MUST ATTEND ONE TRAINING TO INCLUDE OUR SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING. ALL ADULTS MUST PASS BACKGROUND CHECKS,**

**START DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2019**

**TUTOR DAYS: TUESDAYS +/-OR THURSDAYS**

**TUTOR/RECESS TIME: 3:30 - 5 PM**

**ATTEND ONE TRAINING: OCT. 13 OR 17**

**OTHER HELP NEEDED: 1) WALKING CHILDREN FROM GLENWOOD TO UMC @ 2:25 - 3 PM, 2) READ STORIES FROM 3 - 3:30**

**LOCATION: UMC THOUSAND OAKS @ 1000 E. JANS**

**CONTACT: DORI FOTSCH @ 805-402-2100 OR DFOTSCH@VERIZON.NET**

## **UMCTO FELLOWSHIP FALL FESTIVAL - OCTOBER 27**

Fall is upon us and as we say goodbye to the summer of 2019, UMCTO wants to welcome the new season with a **Fellowship Fall Festival**. This event is in the planning stages and we need volunteers.

If you would like to use your gifts of

creativity, hospitality, love of cooking/food, brute strength, or just good old infectious joie de vivre, we **NEED YOU!**

Contact Rosalind Gallup or Jay Pryor to join the team!



United Methodist Church of Thousand Oaks | 805-495-7215 | 1000 E. Janss Road |  
umcto.org