

La Tijera United Methodist Church & Center for Children Newsletter

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JULY 2011

Don't Forget—the Center is closed on Monday, July 4th—Happy Fourth of July!

Summer is here and that means water-play and lots of time outdoors. Please remember to send the following items with your child: sunscreen, (apply before school!) water-play clothes & water shoes, at least one change of clothes, and a hat.

Mayola's Corner

Summer is here—our graduates have graduated—and many of our children will be moving on up into different rooms! A huge thank you to our wonderful teachers and parents for making this year's "Movin' On Up" program and reception such a big success!

As most of you know, I had a family emergency recently and want to extend an additional thank you for all of your prayers and support during this difficult time.

In June, we said "goodbye" to Pastor Rachel as she moves on to her new appointment in Simi Valley. We had a lovely breakfast in her honor—she will be missed. Until an appointment announcement is made in August, Lyda Eddington will act as Interim Pastoral Leader.

All of us at La Tijera are very excited this summer—Camp Crossroads and our preschool classes have many fun activities scheduled. Don't forget to check



Our Graduates!

with your child's classroom teacher each week to see what is planned. Re-registration is still going on—please return your 2011-2012 packet to reserve your spot for the upcoming school year.

The Gathering

On Sunday, July 3rd at 6:30 p.m., be renewed with prayers for ourselves, others and the world, with music and silence that speaks to the heart at **The Gathering—An Evening of Sacred Song & Prayer**. Come and immerse yourself in the deep waters of prayer and music in our evening candlelight gathering the first Sunday of each month. July's Gathering will feature guest musician Dr. Malcolm Cole.



Dates to Remember in July

- July 1st: Center BBQ
- July 3rd: The Gathering—6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary
- July 4th: Center Closed
- July 15th: Parents' Night Out at the Center



Boy, our teachers can cook!



A quote for the Fourth of July:

"Life without liberty is like a body without spirit." -

Kahlil Gibran

Our Church—Exploring a New Direction



Extended Care sings!

A lot is happening at La Tijera United Methodist Church this summer . . . and we are excited to explore new ministries and a possible new direction.

The leadership and members of our congregation are exploring what it would mean to become a “Reconciling Church.” A Reconciling Church is one that has spent much time in prayer and discernment to adopt a statement that specifically names a welcome of people of all sexual

orientations and gender identities. This explicit welcome is necessary because our United Methodist Church holds official policies that exclude lesbian and gay people from the full life of the Church. While the enforcement of the policies is often diminished by “don’t ask, don’t tell” behavior, the spiritual harm is done.

Bisexual and transgender people have not been denied as a matter of policy, but there is much that can be done to provide warmth and welcome.

Through the Reconciling Ministries Network, we are entering into a time of study, prayer, and discernment to explore this possibility and what it would mean in the life and ministry of La Tijera United Methodist Church. We are entering this process with prayers for tolerance and the ability to listen to the Holy Spirit for guidance when exploring challenging issues.



Stage 3

Stage 3 welcomes Kylie and Joshua to our classroom. Summer-time is a great time for outside experiences. Activities will include more sensory play, water table experiences, wet sand play, sprin-

kler play, mural painting, science, and planting projects. If the weather is warm that day, we will do sprinkler play on Tuesdays and Thursdays, otherwise, we will do other activities. Please bring

in a swimsuit, water shoes, towel, and extra clothes on Monday and then take them home on Friday. Have a blessed summer!

Teachers Lynnette & Claudia

Remember—all fireworks are illegal in Los Angeles. Please have a fun and safe Fourth of July holiday.

Camp Crossroads

We would like to welcome all our new and returning families to our program. We still have space available so come join us for an exciting summer of fun adventure and fabulous field trips. If you have any questions, stop by the office and speak with Mayola. Thank you—Sharon

Stage 1 & Stage 2

Hello and Happy Summer from Stage 1 and 2 classrooms! We are all so excited about summertime—don’t forget to pack the sunscreen and hats for our littlest students. We wish you all a safe Fourth of July and a great summer—Stage 1 & 2 Teachers

Transition 1 & 2



Transition II kids are stars!

Transition I is enjoying the summertime! The children are enjoying the classroom activities and having fun. We regret seeing Pastor Rachel go and are glad to see Mayola return from her journey. Con-

gratulations to our graduates! We would like to welcome Amire Williams and his family to the Center. Thank you Nadia for the “treats of thanks” you contributed for the staff and for thinking of all of us. You are very supportive and motivational. Transition I would like to thank all of our parents for their support.

Kudos, Chestina

Transition 2

Summer is here parents! Please

bring extra clothes, a swimsuit, sunscreen, hat, towel, socks and shoes. Our children will enjoy fun activities—art, water play, planting flowers, playdough, a lunch picnic, etc. The children will also experiment with science projects and explore a variety of materials that promote creative thinking. Thank you parents for providing learning materials. We would like to send to Sallam a “very happy birthday and wonderful birthday wishes.”

Thank you, Ms. Mary

*A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows—
St. Francis of Assisi*

Room 3

Dear Parents,

Wow! I can't believe July is here already. We will start off this exciting month with our annual 4th of July picnic, which will be full of food and fun! Don't forget your swimsuit. Hope to see you there. Have a safe Holiday weekend

Ms. Jennifer



Room 3 getting ready to sing!



Room 5 being silly!

Room 5

How can I say “thank you” for the cooperation, generosity and kindness you have shown during the school year? This has been a wonderful and exciting year for me. The Graduation Ceremony was a huge success. Much love to Ms. Lyda for her time and effort in presenting music and drama to the children—thank you. Much love: to Katinka Lucy, the classroom

parent for connecting classroom communication to the parents. Thank you. Much love: to Allison Yoshinaga for going above and beyond in her giving to the class and sharing with me. Thank you. Much love: to Stefanni Gonzalaz for her donation of the curriculum workbooks and worksheets. Thank you. Much love: to Carmen & De'Andre Slack for your gifts. Thank you.

Much love: to Ivana Wang, Helena Seli, Verian Wilson, Tiana Czernin, and Denise Flowers. Thank you.

Moving on Up to the Summer!

Goals have been set, themes (calendar) created, activities and field trips planned . . . Let the summer begin!

Love & Peace, Ms. Mal



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From Lyda . . .

As many of you may know, starting on July 1st, I will be the Interim Pastoral Leader. I am excited about the possibilities before us as we walk together towards La Tijera's future. We might encounter a few bumps along the way and perhaps a mountain (or two!) to climb, but I know that we will meet each challenge with grace and the knowledge that fellowship with each other and the love of God will carry us through.

This summer we are starting a confirmation class with some of our middle school and high school church attendees—we will meet for 8 weeks and then come together in a special worship service to honor their completion of the program.

HealthRhythms is coming to La Tijera! Starting in August (date to be

announced) we are offering free to the community a HealthRhythms drum circle!

HealthRhythms is a research-based group drumming protocol which has demonstrated significant health benefits, including a boost to the immune system, reduction in stress & burnout rates and an improvement in mood



Many drums for many hands!

states. Relax and have fun playing drums creating "in the moment" music & rhythms! No experience necessary—adults only.

Interested church members will be invited to join together as we explore the possibility of becoming a reconciling church. We will watch the DVD "For the Bible Tells Me So" and use that as a starting point for our discussions together. The specific dates and times will be announced shortly.

If you haven't had a chance yet to check out The Gathering—An Evening of Sacred Song & Prayer, I encourage you to try to fit it into your busy schedules. It's a wonderful way to grab a moment of peace and prayer before starting your week.

Peace & Spirit—Lyda