



La Tijera

United Methodist Church Newsletter

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“WORSHIP IS A VERB. WORSHIP IS SOMETHING WE DO, NOT SOMETHING THAT IS DONE FOR US. WHEN WE WORSHIP WE ARE NEVER MERE SPECTATORS.”

- CLERGY COACHING NETWORK

Take a Knee by David Badash

The following article is an excerpt from an article in *New Civil Rights Movement* written by David Badash:

“Christopher Johnson has just told his players to feel free to take a knee. The New York Jets co-owner says he disagrees with the NFL’s new policy banning players from protesting police violence and killings of Black people by kneeling during the national anthem.

“I do not like imposing any club-specific rules,” Johnson says, as reported by *Newsday*. “If somebody [on the Jets] takes a knee, that fine will be borne by the organization, by me, not the players.”

“I never want to put restrictions on the speech of our players,” Johnson continued. “Do I prefer that they stand? Of course. But I understand if they felt the need to protest. There are some big, complicated issues that we’re all struggling with, and

our players are on the front lines. I don’t want to come down on them like a ton of bricks, and I won’t. There will be no club fines or suspensions or any sort of repercussions. If the team gets fined, that’s just something I’ll have to bear.”

Earlier Tuesday, the NFL issued the new policy, which states that all players who are on the field during the anthem must “stand and show respect for the flag and the Anthem.” Players are allowed to stay in the locker rooms during the Anthem, which effectively silences their protests.

Despite having gone on for several years, many Americans, thanks to conservatives, Fox News, and President Trump, do not understand what the protests are about.

President Trump falsely claims

the players are disrespecting the U.S. Armed Forces, the nation, and the flag. Trump has tweeted about the NFL dozens of times, misleading Americans.

In reality, kneeling during the national anthem, which was promoted by Colin Kaepernick, is about protesting police attacks and killings of Black people, especially young Black men.

So, it is definitely about race. And free speech, and oppression.

Here’s what Kaepernick said in 2016:

“I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color,” Kaepernick said.

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Dates to Remember . . .

06/03—Worship at 9:30 a.m. Communion will be served and ALL are invited.

06/03—6:30 p.m. The Gathering. An hour of meditation, prayer, silence, scripture, and music.

06/05—12n, Birthday celebrations at PATH West LA

06/10—Worship at 9:30 a.m.

06/13-16—Annual Conference in Redlands, CA

06/17—6:30 a.m., breakfast service at PATH West Los Angeles

06/17—Worship at 9:30 a.m.—We will celebrate “Fathering Day” by honoring the men in our lives during worship.

06/21—Ad Council meeting at 6:30 p.m.

06/24—Worship at 9:30 a.m.

07/01—Breakfast Church at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel Lounge

07/08—Worship at 9:30 a.m.

07/08—The Gathering at 6:30 p.m.

07/13—Movie Night—“Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA” at 7:00 p.m.

07/16—Small Group study, Short Stories by Jesus, potluck at 6:30 p.m. and study at 7:00 p.m.

07/23—Small Group study, Short Stories by Jesus, potluck at 6:30 p.m. and study at 7:00 p.m.

07/30—Small Group study, Short Stories by Jesus, potluck at 6:30 p.m. and study at 7:00 p.m.

Short Stories by Jesus

Date Change Reminder: The Gathering will meet on Sunday evening, July 8th at 6:30 p.m. Communion will be served. ALL are invited.

“Short Stories by Jesus, The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi,” small group experience will begin on Monday, July 16th and end on Monday, August 20th.

The renowned biblical scholar, author of *The Misunderstood Jew*, and general editor for *The Jewish Annotated New Testament* interweaves history and spiritual analysis to explore Jesus' most popular teaching parables, exposing their misinterpretations and making them lively and relevant for modern readers.

Jesus was a skilled storyteller and perceptive teacher who used parables from everyday life to effectively convey his message and meaning. Life in first-century Palestine was very different from

our world today, and many traditional interpretations of Jesus' stories ignore this disparity and have often allowed anti-Semitism and misogyny to color their perspectives.

In this wise, entertaining, and educational book, Amy-Jill Levine offers a fresh, timely reinterpretation of Jesus' narratives. In *Short Stories by Jesus*, she analyzes these “problems with parables,” taking readers back in time to understand how their original Jewish audience understood them. Levine reveals the parables' connections to first-century economic and agricultural life, social customs and morality, Jewish scriptures and

Roman culture. With this revitalized understanding, she interprets these moving stories for the contemporary reader, showing how the parables are not just about Jesus, but are also about us—and when read rightly, still challenge and provoke us two thousand years later.

We will meet for six Mondays at 6:30 p.m. to share a potluck meal together, and then begin this DVD/Book study at 7:00 p.m.

The cost of the book is \$10.00; however, no one will be turned away due to a lack of funds. To reserve your book, please RSVP to “info@latijeraumc.org.”

Woo hoo—book study and a potluck!

Breakfast Church in July

On July 1st, La Tijera's Sunday morning worship service will look a little different than it usually does—because it will take place around a breakfast table!

Breakfast Church happens outside of the sanctuary in a more casual setting and includes breakfast. Breakfast Church is informal, with space at the table for everyone.

At Breakfast Church, we explore scripture through questions and conversation,

and work through how scripture is relevant in the 21st century and how it can impact our lives.

At July's Breakfast Church, we will listen to the story of Jesus healing two people in Mark 5:21-43. In this reading, Jesus heals a woman who touches his robe, and heals the daughter of a synagogue leader who is told his daughter is dead.

We will share together and talk about isolation, restoration, healing and

risk.

Invite a friend and bring your appetite!

We look forward to seeing you at Breakfast Church on Sunday, July 1st at 9:30 a.m. Breakfast Church will meet in the Chapel Lounge, located behind the blue glass chapel.

Please RSVP to:

info@latijeraumc.org and in the subject line, please reference Breakfast Church. If you forget to RSVP, no worries—RSVP's help with the food planning, but there is ALWAYS room at the Table!

Annual Conference—Thirst No More

Annual Conference is the yearly gathering of the California Pacific Conference, a regional body of the United Methodist Church.

Bishop Grant Hagiya shares that our 34th Annual Conference theme this year is, “Thirst No More.” With the theme of “Thirst No More,” Bishop Hagiya shares, “We are emphasizing Disciple-making as one of the four major priorities of “Transforming Lives.” We are continuing our hope to change our annual conference sessions by reducing reporting and allocating our time towards vision-

ing, learning, relationship-building, and celebrating. I have the joy of introducing you to two of my Episcopal colleagues. Bishop Ken Carter, Resident Bishop of the Florida Annual Conference, who is one of the Moderators of the Commission on the Way Forward and is an expert in “Fresh Expressions” the British Methodist Church’s Innovation programs. Bishop Carter will be speaking and preaching on Thursday. Also, with us will be Bishop Gregory Palmer, Resident Bishop of the West Ohio Annual Conference, and one of the best preachers in the Council of Bishops. Bishop Palmer will speak and preach at Commissioning and Ordination Service

on Saturday.”

La Tijera UMC will have two voting members at Annual Conference this year. In addition to our Pastor, our Lay Delegate will be represented by one of our young adults, with another young adult acting as our Lay Delegate Alternate.

You are invited all to join together in prayer for our Annual Conference, which convenes June 13th—16th.

Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA

On Friday, July 13th at 7:00 p.m., La Tijera will host a screening of the film, **“Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA.”**

This film tells the story of how guns, and the billions made off of them, affect the lives of everyday Americans. It features personal stories from people across the country who have been affected by gun violence, including survivors and victims’ families. The film exposes how powerful gun companies and the NRA are resisting responsible legislature for the sake of profit—and thereby putting people

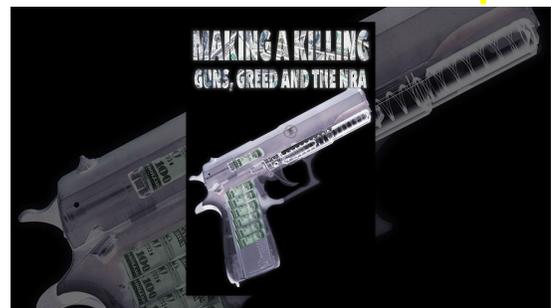
in danger. The film looks into gun tragedies that include unintentional shootings, domestic violence, suicides, mass shootings and trafficking—and what we can do to put an end to this profit-driven crisis.

This is event is FREE! The documentary is not rated; however, we recommend attendees be high school age and older. Popcorn and water bottles will be offered

To reserve your free ticket, please visit our website, Latijeraumc.org, and go to “News and Events” - or—you can visit Eventbrite.com

and search for “Making a Killing.”

We hope to see you on July 13th for “Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA.” #NoMoreSchoolShootings



Take a Knee—continued from page 1

Perhaps he didn't issue a press release or start a non-profit, but he made clear why he kneeled. And those who joined him knew why too.

And clearly, so does Chris Johnson.”

As a community of faith, La Tijera UMC stands in solidarity with Colin Kaepernick as he continues to set an example of every person's right to peaceful protest.

The vilification of Mr. Kaepernick and all those who kneel in unity with him is troubling. While the White House has not formally issued a comment on the NFL's ban on kneeling during the National Anthem, Vice President Mike Pence made the White House reaction

clear with a one-word tweet, “#Winning,” which included a picture of a CNN article about the news.

The NFL's decision to penalize players who chose to kneel is one which we should all keep a close eye on. The Vice President's response stating that the administration is “winning” by punishing those who protest is something that we should all think about.

La Tijera United Methodist Church

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We are a Reconciling church!
ALL are welcome here.



From Lyda . . .

From Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy.

To the Thessalonians' church that is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace and peace to all of you.

We always thank God for all of you when we mention you constantly in our prayers. This is because we remember your work that comes from faith, your effort that comes from love, and your perseverance that comes from hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father. Brothers and sisters, you are loved by God, and we know that he has chosen you. We know this because our good news didn't come to you just in speech but also with power and the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know as well as we do what kind of people we were when we were with you, which was for your sake.

(1 Thessalonians 1:1-5)

I just finished reading a book by Ron Crandall, United Methodist pastor and author, about small churches, and he wonders, "What difference might it make for members of a congregation to

spend time reading these verses and then ask themselves:"

- What is our church founded on?
- What does that mean?
- How much prayer is being invested for our church?
- What has our faith, hope and love meant?
- Do we know God loves us?
- What is our special purpose?
- How do others see the effectual power of the Holy Spirit in us?"

When thinking about our neighbors, both around our homes and in the broader community, he asks us to consider these questions:

- Who are the people around us who might not feel welcome at a church?
- Why do you suppose they don't attend?

- What problems in the community need to be addressed (racism, homelessness, education, marginalization of others, etc.)? - and—
- Could we do something about these issues?

This month, all are invited to spend time thinking about these questions and to dream, ponder, visualize or strategize about who we are at La Tijera United Methodist Church, and how we can better serve the needs we see all around us. If you don't attend church, I welcome your thoughts about any of these questions or a sharing of your experiences of church and faith.

I look forward to hearing from you with your thoughts, your ideas, and building relationships in this wonderfully challenging world we all live in.

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