

La Tijera United Methodist Church & Center for Children

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Now thank we all our
God, with hearts and
hands and voices;
Who wondrous things
hath done, in whom
this world rejoices.
Who from our
mother's arms, hath
led us on our way,
with countless gifts of
love, and still is ours
today.

Our Advent Study starts on Monday, November 28th at 7:00 p.m.. Take a journey this Christmas as we explore "The Journey" by Adam Hamilton. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real as you walk along this road.

One Small Candle

It's November and La Tijera United Methodist Church is thankful. We are thankful that we are discovering new ways to be "church." Mainline denominations have taken a big hit over the past few decades—and one of the reasons expressed is that churches just aren't relevant anymore. To be honest, that is a valid criticism of what has been going on in many churches. However, adversity can be a great gift and a catalyst to change.

Change has been happening for a while at La Tijera UMC—and some of the changes were painful and left many looking ahead with uncertainty. But while change can be difficult, it can also bring about new vision and vitality. And that's where we are today.

We are able to say a resounding "yes!" to new vision and clarity of purpose. La Tijera has thrown open its doors to reach out in greater vision to a world that



One small candle can light the dark.

needs faith, that needs connection, that strives for purpose and meaning. We are inspired to get involved with those who are seeking community and connec-

tion in the world. We are shouting out loud that we are a church who embraces all and we disagree with others who would exclude full participation in the church because of sexual orientation or gender identify. We are a body of Christ who is actively seeking and offering alternative ways to come together and experience God. We have decided to become one small candle, burning steadily and offering our light to all. One small child can lead the way, and one small candle can light the dark . . . and lead us home.

It's November and La Tijera United Methodist Church is thankful. We are children of the living God! Our hearts shine with God's love! We are all one small candle shining in the world.

The Season of Anticipation & Hope

The season of Advent is a time of anticipation and hope. The word "Advent" means "coming" or "arrival." This year, Advent begins on Sunday, November 27th.

One of the symbols of Advent is the Advent wreath. The Advent wreath is a circular evergreen wreath with five candles, four around the wreath and one in the center. The circle of the wreath reminds us of God, who

has no beginning and no end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope of God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. Candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus. The four outer candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent. The first candle is the candle of hope or expectation, the second is love,

the third is Joy and the fourth candle symbolizes peace. The center candle is the Christ candle.

Come and light the candles with us . . . share the light of hope, the light of love, the light of joy and the light of peace . . . with each other and with the world.

We are thankful . . .but sometimes it's hard



Making quilts!

The holidays are almost upon us . . .and times are hard. Reports of the economy improving are, we fear, greatly exaggerated. Many still struggle with unemployment . . .and for those who are employed, sometimes there just doesn't seem to be enough coming in to make ends meet.

While we struggle with the day to day stuff, we may also struggle with depression, anxiety, hopelessness, loneliness and anger. And sometimes, the holidays just seem to make

these feelings worse.

It's hard to leave our expectations of what we "should be doing" or "purchasing" during the holidays . . .if you start to feel overwhelmed, there are people who can help you when it all becomes a bit too much.

If you need someone to talk to, we have a Help Page on our website which lists different organizations that are there for you when things get tough. The Trevor Project, Didi Hirsch Mental Health

Facility, Harbor Interfaith Services, and the LAX Food Pantry are a few of the resources available to everyone.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

These words from John 16:33 remind us that hope, community, and love are also available to everyone. All are welcome . . .even when things are hard.

Sunday, November 20th—the Confirmation Class is leading worship as part of their confirmation journey. Come celebrate the youth of La Tijera!

La Tijera UMC and Center for Children wish you a blessed Thanksgiving!

Mayola's Corner

The year is passing so quickly! We are eagerly awaiting the holidays—especially Halloween. To see the babies all dressed up in their fabulous costumes is breath taking! We will begin this holiday season with our Annual Halloween Parade, trick-or-treating, and classroom parties on Monday, October 31st at 10:30 a.m. Don't miss it! Then, on November 17th, the P4C will host our Annual Thanksgiving Potluck International Dinner/Program from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. If you've never been to a La Tijera potluck, you are missing quite a treat! During the month of December,

we will have our annual winter program with our Pastoral Leader, Lyda. Come one, come all to our great programs!

Great progress has been made on how we communicate at La Tijera. You can view details of all the Center's upcoming events on our Facebook page and our website. Don't forget to "like" the Center & Church's pages!

A big thank you goes out to our P4C President, Stefanni

Gonzalez (Noah's mom—room 5) who rallied a group together for our first P4C meeting of the school year. We had a great meeting about what we wanted to accomplish this school year. Thanks to all who came out and supported our Center.

Thank you to all who have supported our hot lunch program. With the money earned, we were able to purchase two new refrigerators and a new stove. Thank you!

November Dates to Remember . . .

- 11/1—Health Rhythms Drum Circle
- 11/4—Center closed for Staff Development
- 11/6 - Daylight Savings ends
- 11/6—6:30 p.m., The Gathering—an Evening of Sacred Song & Prayer
- 11/11—Veteran's Day—Extended Care open only with sufficient enrollment

- 11/17-International Potluck
- 11/20-Confirmation Ceremony
- 11/21-23—Extended Care open only with sufficient enrollment
- 11/24-25—Center Closed
- 11/27—Advent begins
- 11/28—Advent study, "The Journey" begins



Happy Fall Season from Stage I and Stage II

Stage I would like to thank our parents for their interest in the International Dinner. It's a wonderful opportunity to share a meal and great conversation with our families. With donations from our parents, we will be putting together an "Entertainment" basket for the silent auction. There will be a sign up sheet in our room. We would also like to thank Lauren Evans, our new room parent! A happy and healthy Fall season to everyone! - Stage I Teachers

Stage II
Trick or Treat has come and gone and November is turkey time! During the month of November, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. There is so much we are thankful for. We will also be doing art projects with a harvest theme, and a Thanksgiving theme. Our curriculum for the month will include: Color—brown; Shape—triangle; Math—5 & 6; Phonics—G, H & I. Thanks to the parents of Gordon and Joaquin for providing the class with birthday treats to celebrate

their birthdays. The children enjoyed them! Thank you to all the parents who attended and supported our Halloween Parade and provided treats for Halloween, and thank you for attending the parent teacher conferences. A big welcome to Joaquin and Eli—we are happy to welcome new friends to our class. Happy birthday to Darius, 11/09 and Valynn, 11/11. Happy Thanksgiving & please drive safely.

- Ms. Rosy, Ms. Chely, Ms. Nancy



"If the only prayer you ever say in your whole life is 'thank you', that would suffice."—

Meister Eckhart

Greetings from Transition 1 & 2

Greetings and kudos to parents for continuing to be supportive of our classroom by helping us meet our needs. Happy birthday to our Transition 1 new friend, Maya Anossov on October 28th. We also welcome her parents to our room and thank them for the Halloween decorations. Our room parent, Ms. Shay, is always on top of things and made a thoughtful contribution to our children of pumpkin treat holders. How cool is that? Kudos to the parents for

treats to fill the pumpkins. We are putting together a "health" basket for the silent auction—a sign up sheet for donations will be in our room.

The parent teacher conferences went well and were very informative. It was great to get such wonderful feedback from our parents. Thank you for taking the time and for sharing. Happy Thanksgiving! - Ms. Chestina

We welcome Nyla, our new friend, to Transition 2 and thank the family for choosing our wonderful program. I would also like to thank all the parents who attended the parent teacher conferences. In November, the children will learn more letters, numbers, the sounds the letters make, counting up to 30, and other fun activities.

We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving! - Ms. Mary

Hello Parents! from Room 3

Autumn is here and it's that time of year when families prepare for the holidays. The Center is hosting our International Thanksgiving dinner where we can get together and share with each other. The children will perform and you won't want to miss that! We will provide further information about our classroom's silent auction basket soon. We hope you have a fun and safe

Halloween. Thank you to all the parents for participating and signing up for our classroom's Halloween party. I am sure that all the children will have a fantastic time!

I would like to let you all know that Room 3 has found a room parent—Brandyn Spicer (Bianca's mom.) Thank you Brandyn for volunteering to be our room parent!

Thank you—Ms. Lupe

Exciting News!

In collaboration with our sister church, Los Angeles Korean, we were able to replace the sand in our infant yards with lovely, new sand! Oh my goodness—what a difference it makes! We are so excited to work together with LAK to improve our campus.



A mountain of new sand!

Be inspired—get involved!

La Tijera United Methodist Church
& Center for Children
7400 Osage Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Church: (310) 649-6367
Center: (310) 641-4173
Lyda Email: lyda@latijeraumc.org
Mayola Email: mayola@latijeraumc.org

Rethink Church . . .
Rethink Possibilities

Don't forget—our Taize-inspired worship experience—The Gathering—An Evening of Sacred Song & Prayer will be at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 6th. Health Rhythms Drum Circle is on Tuesday, November 1st at 7:00 p.m.

“Friend” us on Facebook—La Tijera United Methodist Church is on Facebook!



From Lyda . . .

One of the deep philosophical and religious questions that I have been challenged with recently is “Why did the chicken cross the road?” No—I’m not joking! The question of why did the chicken cross the road is not so far removed from the story in Joshua 3 about the Israelites crossing the River Jordan.

We all have rivers (or roads) to cross. Every transition—jobs, relationships, leavings and returnings, upturns, downturns—puts us back to the water’s edge. We’ll always need to cross the River Jordan’s of our lives. And sometimes, it’s really scary. So how do we do it?

The first thing that can help us in times of transition and “river crossing” is to prepare. Take a spiritual inventory of where you are and dis-

cern what is holding you back from greater trust in God. Remember—God is there before you, beside you and behind you. The usual becomes the unusual with God.

Step 2 is simply to take the first step.



Ceremony of Crossing Over the Jordan River

The Israelites would still be at the water’s edge if they didn’t take that first step. Your feet have to get wet before God’s miracles can take place.

Step #3—take someone’s hand and bring them along! Don’t follow the chicken as it crosses the road. Don’t go it alone! Take someone’s hand and walk the road together. In God’s kingdom, no one is left behind.

You can supply your own answer to why the chicken crossed the road. But when it comes to your personal life crossings, remember the story of Joshua and step off the river bank and walk hand in hand with God and community towards God’s best future for us all.