



La Tijera United Methodist Church & Child Development Center Newsletter

VOLUME VII, ISSUE II

NOVEMBER 2017



**THE
GATHERING ...
NOVEMBER 5TH
AT 6:30 P.M.—
AN HOUR OF
SILENCE,
MEDITATION,
PRAYER,
SCRIPTURE,
AND CHANT-
LIKE MUSIC.
WE WILL CELE-
BRATE ALL
SAINT'S DAY.
COMMUNION
WILL BE
SERVED.**

UMQCC Response to Judicial Council 1017 Decisions

This article is an excerpt from the United Methodist Queer Clergy Caucus' reflection on the Western Judicial Council's recent rulings.

"As trained clergy, our theological, biblical, spiritual and Wesleyan grounding gives us the location to be pastoral, to be teachers, and to be prophetic preachers," says Rev. Dr. Israel Alvaran of San Francisco, and Elder ordained in the Philippines Annual Conference. "We claim our role in the local settings where we are serving," he says, "even as we also understand our role in the larger Church — a Church that we believe needs our dream of a faith community that is whole and just."

Anticipating the outcome of the Judicial Council decisions from dockets that included "rule of law" cases in Annual Conferences where LGBTQAI+ clergy were

the focus, as well as a review of the constitutionality of the "incompatibility clause" in the United Methodist Book of Discipline brought up by CalPac & Denmark, the UM-QCC held three witness activities in Los Angeles where the Council was meeting. In acknowledgment of the forthcoming All Saints Day, United Methodist lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender saints were lifted up and remembered for the ways in which they served and moved the church.

"We seek justice, promote healing, and manifest the Church in a new way for our time," the Caucus recorded as it refined its vision statement, strengthened by its collective of those LGBTQAI+ persons who have publicly felt called to be "out" in a denomination that continues to discriminate.

The Caucus, whose core values embody Divine inspiration and insist on honoring God's call on humanity, says it is striving for "collective wholeness" in the Body of Christ and the Church it serves.

"It's disappointing that the Council declined to rule on the unconstitutionality of the so-called 'incompatibility clause' that has been harming LGBTQAI+ people for nearly 45 years," says Rev. Dr. Althea Spencer Miller, Assistant Professor of New Testament at Drew Theological School in New Jersey. "But we know the truth that God's created people are never incompatible with the Gospel," the Biblical scholar asserts, "and we expect that the denomination that has nurtured us and taught us about God's forgiving love will one day repent of its 45-years of damaging doctrinal abusive power."

For the complete article, please visit: www.umqcc.org

Dates to Remember . . .

11/05—Worship at 9:30 a.m.—Communion will be served—it's All Saint's Day

11/05—The Gathering at 6:30 p.m.—an hour of prayer, meditation, silence, scripture & music

11/05—Daylight Savings Ends

11/10—Movie Night at 7 pm

11/12—Worship at 9:30 a.m.

11/16—All Church Charge Conference at 7:00 p.m.

11/19—PATH West LA Breakfast Service at 6:45 am

11/19—Worship at 9:30 a.m.

11/23—Thanksgiving—Center Closed

11/24—Center Closed

11/26—Worship at 9:30 a.m.

11/27—Advent Small Group study begins at 7 p.m.

12/03—1st Sunday in Advent—Worship at 9:30 a.m. Our worship series, "Angels Among Us" begins. Communion will be served

12/03—After worship, we will decorate the Christmas Tree in Chapel Lounge!

Journey to Christmas

"I am grateful for what I am and have. My thanksgiving is perpetual ... O how I laugh when I think of my vague indefinite riches. No run on my bank can drain it, for my wealth is not possession but enjoyment." - Henry David Thoreau

Advent is a journey that moves us towards the miracle of Christmas—the joy of a tiny child bringing peace on earth and maybe a bit of peace and hope into all of our lives.

La Tijera United Methodist Church, a place where ALL means ALL, and ALL are welcome, invites you to be a part of that journey. We will hear the story of Mary and Joseph, the Baby Jesus, the angels, the shepherds, and the magi. Wonder with us at their insight, their willingness to listen for God's voice, their love, and their fear as their journey brings to us the One who

brings light and revolution to the world.

Sunday, December 3rd, is the start of Advent. Our Advent worship series, "Angels Among Us—#DoNotBeAfraid" will begin. After worship on December 3rd, we will decorate the Christmas Tree in Chapel Lounge and enjoy a festive pizza lunch together.

Families of all shapes and sizes are welcome to Messy Christmas on Friday, December 8th—see below for details!

On Sunday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m., our family-friendly lessons, carols & candlelight service will be held in the sanctuary. Our approximately one hour long service will be filled with mystery and joyous wonder as we hear the Christmas story told in scripture and song.

On Christmas Eve, 100% of our Christmas Eve Offering will be donated to Suicide Prevention and Awareness Programs at Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services.

Faithful—Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph

We're not that different from Joseph. True, we may not be part of a story that will be remembered for all time, but like Joseph, we encounter circumstances that we'd never choose for ourselves. At times, it can be tempting just to walk away, but Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when

we don't understand, faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides. Join Adam Hamilton as he examines Christmas through the eyes of Joseph and learn to accept and glorify God's will even when our situation makes it difficult to do so. Our Advent small group study will meet at 7:00 p.m. be-

ginning on Monday, November 27th and will continue for four Mondays through December 18th. Books are \$10.00—but no one will be turned away for a lack of funds. Please email "info@latijeraumc.org" to reserve a spot!

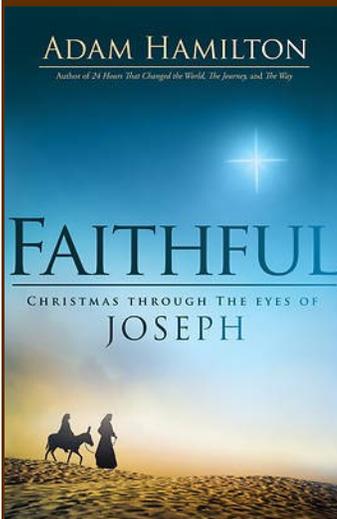
Messy Christmas!

Our family-fun Messy Christmas will be on **Friday, December 8th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.!** At 5 p.m., we will gather for fun and Christmas craft activities! After our craft time, we will have a time of celebration with singing and listening to the story of Christmas. We will end our time

together by sharing a meal. Our menu is: Pizza, salad, dessert, water and juice. At Messy Christmas, you won't sit quietly— you will create, dance, pretend, make some noise and laugh! Register on our website, or email us at "info@latijeraumc.org."

Please RSVP no later than

Friday, December 1st. Please let us know how many adults and children will be attending, along with the ages of the children. Please advise if there are any medical restrictions or special needs requirements so that we may better serve your family.



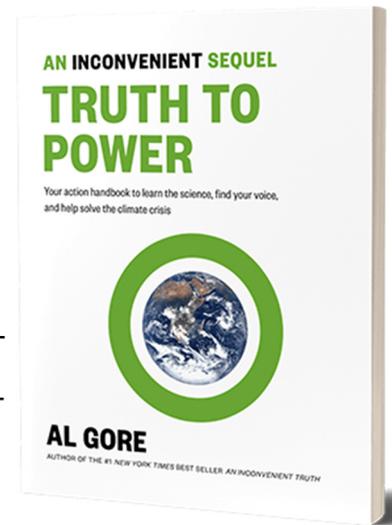
Movie Night!

Join us on Friday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m. for a free screening of the film, “An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power” by Al Gore.

There’s still time ...A decade after AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH brought climate change into the heart of popular culture, comes the riveting and rousing follow-up that shows just how close we are to a

real energy revolution. Vice President Al Gore continues his tireless fight traveling around the world training an army of climate champions and influencing international climate policy. Cameras follow him behind the scenes — in moments both private and public, funny and poignant — as he pursues the inspirational idea that while the stakes have

never been higher, the perils of climate change can be overcome with human ingenuity and passion. This documentary is rated PG for thematic elements and some troubling images. We suggest ages high school through adult. Popcorn will be served!



Bag It Up Holiday Meals for Families in Need

The LAX Food Pantry is an emergency food resource for low-income clients in Inglewood, Westchester, El Segundo, Hawthorne, and portions of Los Angeles. We are once again participating in their annual “Bag It Up” program and have provided the requested menu for a family of 4:

Canned meat (chicken, roast beef or ham)—1 large can or 2 small cans—needs to feed 4 people)

1 package of instant potatoes

2 cans of vegetables

1 can of fruit

1 family sized can of soup (no broth please)

1 large package of pudding or jello

1 jar of peanut butter (18 oz)

1 package pie crust & filling or cake mix & frosting

1 box dry cereal

1 large package Bisquick All Purpose Mix (not pancake mix)

1-2 boxes of macaroni & cheese

Please—no perishables, glass containers or oversized cans. We request that additional items not on

the suggested menu not be included in the Bag It Up bags. The addition of a reusable bag in the Bag It Up meals would be greatly appreciated.

We request that each person wishing to donate fills up a bag with a complete meal of the listed items—you are invited to find a friend to help complete a bag!

The Bag It Up meals need to be dropped off at the church no later than December 3rd at worship.

These meals will be used to provide Christmas dinners to families in need.

Thank you!

Church Charge Conference

In the United Methodist Church, we gather once a year with our amazing District Superintendent, the Rev. Mark Nakagawa, to reflect, vision forward, and celebrate the mission of La Tijera UMC. It’s called a “Charge Conference” and during our time together, we pre-

sent our reports about the state of the church, our accomplishments and membership, and our dreams and plans for the future.

This year, our Charge Conference will be on Thursday, November 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel Lounge.

We have a lot to celebrate and a lot to dream forward.

We hope to see EVERYONE on November 16th—and did I mention that there will be snacks? All are invited—bring a friend and hang out with Rev. Mark!

**La Tijera United Methodist Church
& Child Development Center**

www.latijeraumc.org

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We are a Reconciling church!

ALL are welcome here.



From Lyda . . .

There's a wonderful song from Sesame Street called "Saying Goodbye." The first verse is: "Saying goodbye, going away, seems like 'goodbye' is such a hard thing to say. Touching a hand, wondering why ... it's time for saying 'Goodbye.'"

Here at La Tijera ... we have come to a time of saying goodbyes. This month, we say goodbye to Mayola Hayes, the Director of the Center for Children, who is retiring at the end of this month.

Saying goodbye can be hard, but saying goodbye to Mayola is very, very hard. Mayola has been a part of the Center for Children for 22 years, and I've been fortunate enough to have known her for most of those 22 years.

Mayola's commitment to early childhood education is evidenced by her incredible work ethic, her care of all our Center families, and her ability to honor children and celebrate each child's gifts and abilities.

There are so many memories I have of Mayola guiding the Center and everyone

under her care. Stories of so many children who wanted "just five more minutes" at the Center when it was time to go home (a common occurrence with all four of my kids!) because they were having so much fun. Memories of Mayola's ministry to families who just needed someone to talk to—someone who would listen to them with compassion and offer guidance in love. Times when you just needed someone to laugh with after a hard day, or ask a question about your child, or need reassurance that everything was going to be okay. Mayola was always there, ready to offer wisdom, insight or a much-needed hug.

We know that goodbyes are a part of life, but that doesn't make them any easier. I am so very grateful for the joy and wisdom Mayola brought to the Center and shared with all of us. I am so very grateful for the years of advice and insight Mayola shared with me. I am so very grateful for the laughter we shared. I am so very grateful for the texts she sent me to cheer

me up after a particularly challenging day.

So ... it's time for saying goodbye. Goodbye to an amazing person who has been a part of my life for over 20 years. Ecclesiastes 3 tells us that there is a season for everything and a time for every matter under the heavens ... a time for crying and a time for laughing ... a time for mourning and a time for dancing.

Thank you, Mayola, for the laughter and the dancing, for the love and caring, for the wisdom you so freely shared with us all, and for the precious gift of your warmth and friendship.

We say goodbye with tears and gratitude and wish you much joy, health and happiness. You have touched so many lives and I am grateful that one of them was mine.

Thank you for your years of service and ministry and for making La Tijera a better place because you were here.

It's time for saying goodbye ... my friend, goodbye.