



# October Newsletter

## We are a Reconciling Church!

It's official—La Tijera United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Community. As part of the process in becoming a Reconciling Church, we rethought and rewrote our Mission Statement. **The new Mission Statement of La Tijera United Methodist Church is:**

La Tijera United Methodist Church embraces Jesus' message that God loves and accepts every person. We practice acceptance, belonging, caring, compassion, and spiritual growth. We believe in creating space at the Table for all God's children to transform our Church and world into the full expression of Christ's inclusive love.

We respect the inherent and valuable contributions

each member makes to the Body of Christ. We celebrate our diversity and recognize the sacred worth and dignity of all persons regardless of sexual orientation, race, age, ethnicity, physical or mental capacity, education, or economic or marital status.

As we journey towards reconciliation, we proclaim this statement of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion and discrimination within the church. We welcome all persons to full participation in the life and ministries of La Tijera United Methodist Church.

At the same time, we recognize that there remain differences of opinion among us. We do not seek

to erase our differences. We welcome all in our journey together in faith toward greater understanding and mutual respect. As a Reconciling congregation, we invite all people to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, understanding, and mutual respect.

*All this is from God, who reconciled us ... through Christ, and who gives us the ministry of reconciliation. - II Corinthians 5:18*



## October 2nd is World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday—celebrated the first Sunday in October—is one of the most venerable of special Sundays. This day has taken on new relevancy and depth of meaning in a world where globalization often has undermined

peace and justice—and in a time when fear divides the peoples of God's earth. On this day, we celebrate Oneness in Christ, the Prince of Peace, in the midst of the world we are called to serve—a world evermore in need of peacemaking.

World Communion Sunday provides scholarships for U.S. racial and ethnic minority students and international students, on both undergraduate and graduate levels.

Our Table is open—and ALL are welcome!

## Sunday School!

On the first Sunday of each month, Dawn Jacobs will teach Sunday school for our younger friends, and on the third Sunday of each month, Lynnette Slocomb will teach. On the second and fourth Sundays, the kids will have a special time with Lyda during worship, and then will enjoy activities in the sanctuary with the older kids.



# Confirmation Class Rocks Their Bake Sale!

The Confirmation Class of 2011 is active in their chosen mission for this year—raising money for the refurbishment of the Center for Children’s play yards. On Sunday, September 18th, the Confirmation Class raised \$252.50 with their Bake Sale!

Isabelle, Fiona, Kane, Kallan, Kyla and Keira were excited to host their Fall Bake Sale and want to say a big thank you to all who supported their cause.

A huge thank you to Dawn Jacobs, Lisa Marlin and Mimi Muro for helping to provide wonderful bread, rolls, brownies, cakes, toffee, and cookies to sell.

Throughout the months of June, July, August and September, the Confirmation Class has been meeting each week to

study, discuss, and explore what it means to be a United Methodist. It’s been an intense process, and all of us at La Tijera UMC are very proud of them. On a Sunday to be announced in November, the Confirmation Class will help lead worship as part of their Confirmation process,



Shopping at the bake sale! Everything looks good!

and will make their public Confirmation affirmation on that date! When we have the date, please mark your calendars and support our wonderful Confirmation Class of 2011! This is an incredibly important step in their faith journey, and marks their initiation into church membership.

As a church community, on that day, we will pledge to support and guide our newest members as they continue to grow as Disciples of Christ. It is an awesome and sacred gift to nurture these young adults in the La Tijera family of faith. Come and celebrate them and rejoice! Keep your eyes open for the date of this awesome event!

## La Tijera Honored Teachers and Students on September 18th

And on the 8th day, God created . . . TEACHERS! And when God finished creating the Teacher, God stepped back and admired the work of God’s hands. And God saw that the Teacher was good—very good!

On Sunday, September 18th, we honored the memories of teachers who helped shape our lives. We also celebrated the wonderful teachers at our Center for Chil-

dren, and lifted them up in their important ministry in guiding and nurturing the children in their care.

We celebrated the new school year by blessing the backpacks of the children and adults whose days are filled with new adventures and learning. We wish you all many blessings this school year!



## Mark Your Calendars for October . . .

### Sunday, October 2nd

9:30 a.m.—World Communion Sunday. Our Table is open and all are welcome.

6:30 p.m.—The Gathering—an Evening of Sacred Song & Prayer

### Tuesday, October 4th

5:30 p.m.—Parent Meeting in Extended Room

7:00 p.m.—Health Rhythms Drum Circle in Chapel Lounge

### Sunday, October 9th

9:30 a.m.—The Hymn Dingers will play during worship!

### Sunday, October 16th

9:30 a.m.—Laity Sunday-celebrate the people of the church!

### Thursday & Friday October 20th & 21st

All classes close at 4:00 p.m. for Parent Conferences. Extended only will be open until 6:00 p.m.

### Sunday, October 23rd

9:30 a.m.—Which kind of commandment was the greatest?

### Sunday, October 30th

9:30 a.m.—It’s Reformation Sunday! The bell choir will play.

### Monday, October 31st

Halloween Festivities at the Center!

**Important Date for Center Families**—all updated immunization records must be turned into the office no later than

### Wednesday, October 12th.

# Our Congregation Supports Mental Health

---

On Sunday, September 25th, Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services held their 13th Annual Alive & Running 5K Walk/Run for Suicide Prevention. People from around Southern California teamed up to raise awareness with more than 1,000 participants. A Wellness Expo was held and surrounded by caring people and families, lives that were cut short were remembered and commemorated.

Worldwide, there are more deaths due to suicide than to accidents, homicides, and wars combined. A person dies by suicide every 15 minutes in the United States, and a suicide attempt is estimated to be made once every 40 seconds. Suicide is the second leading cause of death in college students, and the third cause of death among 15 to 24 year olds.

These statistics are staggering and La

Tijera United Methodist Church has taken this issue to heart. We are looking for ways to support the work of Didi Hirsch, and we were able to donate money to help sponsor a runner in the Alive & Running event. We plan on sponsoring runners in the 2012 Walk/Run for Suicide Prevention.

Another important voice in suicide prevention is The Trevor Project. The Trevor Project's programs include The Trevor Lifeline—a suicide prevention lifeline for LGBTQ youth; Trevor Space—an online, social networking community for LGBTQ youth ages 13 to 24; The Trevor Lifeguard Workshops—workshops that use a structured, age-appropriate curriculum with trained facilitators to address topics including sexual orientation and gender identity, the

impacts of language and behavior on LGBTQ youth and suicide prevention skills in schools.

What should you do if you suspect someone you know is thinking of suicide? Remember, you are never alone. You are not responsible for anyone who chooses to take their own life. As friends, family, faith community, and loved ones, all you can do is listen, support and assist the person in getting the help they need. Connect the person to resources. Accept and listen to the person's feelings and take them seriously. Respond if a person has a plan to attempt suicide. Empower the person to get help. When you care, you can help save a life!

La Tijera UMC's website is being updated to include a list of suicide prevention telephone numbers and services.

## More than Sunday Mornings

---

La Tijera United Methodist Church is more than a place to go on Sunday mornings. Yes, we have a joy filled celebration every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m., but being a church is so much more than just showing up on Sundays.

We are continually exploring ways to make a difference in the world—

whether it's in our own community or on a global level. At times it feels like we are only making a very small ripple in a very large pond . . . But one small ripple can start another, and then another, and pretty soon, the still, large pond is alive with movement.

La Tijera is alive with movement. We have thrown our doors wide open and are

embracing God's world. We are passionate in our belief that God loves everyone. We believe in doing as much good as possible, causing no harm, and staying in love with God.

*Be inspired—get involved! Church is not just Sunday mornings anymore!*

## Extended Care

---

Fall leaves are everywhere and we are having so many fun activities! Mrs. Lynnette will be continuing her weekly art projects, and our Halloween Parade and Party will be on Monday, October 31st. Parents, please remember that if your child is riding the van for school drop off, they must be at the Center **no later than 7:30 a.m.**

## Greetings from Stage III

---

We are so excited this month—we are having so many fun activities for our little angels: Halloween decorations, a Halloween party, and our annual Halloween parade.

Curriculum for this month will be square shapes; the color orange; the letters A, B, C; the number 1; and we will practice shape sorting; drinking from a sippy cup; taking shoes and socks off and putting them back on; and walking up and down steps while holding on to the railing. Our vocabulary emphasis will be on clothing words. Have a wonderful and safe Halloween!

Ms. Marisol, Ms. Sharon and Ms. Claudia

# Mayola's Corner

---

As we complete the transition from summer to fall, it is time for the teachers to begin their instructional and educational curricula. September was our "getting acquainted" and observation month. Effective October 1st, all classroom activities will begin at 9:30 a.m. everyday. If you would like your child to participate in the educational activities, he or she needs to be in their classroom by 9:00 a.m. Check your child's mailbox for homework packages starting this month. Now that cooler days are approaching, don't forget to put a sweater or jacket in your child's cubby for outside time.

The Department of Health requires that all children be immunized. During the first two weeks of October, all updated immunization records must be turned into the office. All immunization records

need to be provided to the Department of Health by October 14th; therefore immunization records must be received in the office no later than **October 12th**.

Did you know that if you recommend a family to the Center for Children and the family stays for six months, you will receive half off of one month's tuition?

**We are having our first annual Parent's Meeting on October 4th at 5:30 p.m.** We are hoping to have a huge turnout. Some of the topics we will cover are:

- Parenting Tips
- Upcoming Events
- Fundraising Ideas

- Halloween & Thanksgiving Refreshments will be served!

We have immediate openings for children 6 weeks through 5 years of age.



The Blessing of the Backpacks!

## Hello from Stage I

---

Thank you to all the parents who have done and continue to do our calendar board and a big thank you for all the thoughtful donations. We truly appreciate all you do!

Stage I welcomes our newest babies, Mekhi and Dylan, to the classroom. They are a blessing as are all the children.

We will have Parent Teacher Conferences on October 20 & 21st. A sign-up sheet for a conference time will be posted in our room. Don't forget—school closes at 4:00 p.m. on those days.

We'd like to thank Lyda for the beautiful service on Teacher Appreciation Sunday. Many of us are still feeling

the glow of the kind and thoughtful words that were spoken.

Happy Autumn, Happy Halloween and Blessed Yom Kippur.

Smiles—Stage I

## News from Stage II

---

The month of September has flown by and now it is time for "trick or treat!" October is finally here. We will begin to see leaves turn orange, brown, yellow, and red, and fall to the ground. This tells us that fall is here again and Halloween is just around the corner. On Monday, October 31st, we will hold our Halloween party. The children are encouraged to come to school in their costumes. We ask that parents please send a change of clothes so that the children can change out of their costumes after the party. Children are welcome to bring treats to share with their friends.

Our curriculum this month: phonics-D,E,F; math-3 and 4; colors—orange and black; shape—square. Our focus will be on Halloween, the fall season, fire safety, Christopher Columbus, and arts & crafts. Happy birthday to Gordon on 10/28.

**Reminders:** Please label all items brought to school. We look forward to seeing you during Parent Teacher Conferences!

Thank you—Ms. Rosy, Ms. Nancy and Ms. Chely

---

## Transition II

Throughout the month of September, all the children were observed regarding their social, emotional, and fine and motor skills. The children have developed well academically and in their language. In October, the children will be tested in the above areas. I am anticipating that we will have a full turn out for our parent teacher conferences to admire the achievements of our youngsters. A parent reminder: Please provide extra clothes and pull-ups for your child.

Thank you—Ms. Mary

# Transition I

Fall has arrived and we are off and running. The children in Transition I have been experiencing wonderful nature walks to take a peek at the beginning of Fall. The children enjoyed gathering leaves, bark and sticks and viewing the early presence of Fall. The children made a Fall collage mural out of their collections of foliage. Great job Transition I! I would like to thank all the parents in Transition I and II—they have been such a great support to our classrooms. We couldn't have a better room parent than teacher Shay, who is supportive of our classroom needs and displays a personal interest in the children's needs being met, and brings her experience as a teacher to her room parent duties. Teacher Shay—we appreciate you!

Also, thank you to Lyda and Mayola for the Teacher Appreciation Sunday.

—Ms. Chestina



*The Center's Open House will be on Thursday, November 3rd.*

**From Shay, Room Parent:** Hello Transition I parents! My name is Shay, and I am Sharohn's mom. As room parent, one of my responsibilities to the classroom is to observe some of the things needed to improve their environment. We would greatly appreciate the following donations: a wall clock and a grip step stool for the classroom.

Thank you!

# Room 3

Welcome to Room 3! It's been a wonderful month full of excitement by welcoming friends and getting acquainted. October is here and Room 3 has created a fun curriculum for this Halloween month. Our class will create a pumpkin patch and we will discuss fun facts about pumpkins. Please have your child bring a pumpkin (any size) into class so we can create our very own pumpkin patch. We

will also have a Halloween classroom party—keep on the look-out for future announcements.

Please check out our weekly lesson plans to track your child's daily learning experience. Each week we have a different classroom theme and will reinforce your child's learning with a weekly

*Don't forget—the Center for Children will be open on Columbus Day—October 10th*

letter, shape, color and number. Homework will be given upon request beginning October 7th. A sign-in sheet will be posted if you are interested in your child receiving homework.

Happy birthday to Bianca who turned 3 on September 30th! - Ms. Lupe

# Room 5

Welcome to Room 5! Our theme for this month focuses on the child and family. Activities will focus on life skills, self-help skills, classroom helpers, counting on our calendar, the letters in each child's name, following classroom rules, and listening to others. Next month we will start "Star of the Week."

The children's posters should be finished by the end of September. Our Show & Tell day is Wednesday.

Thank you—Teacher Lynnette



**If your child is in Room 3—don't forget to bring in a pumpkin!**

**LA TIJERA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
& CENTER FOR CHILDREN**

7400 Osage Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Church Phone: (310) 649-6267  
Center Phone: (310) 641-4173  
Lyda Email: Lyda@latijeraumc.org  
Mayola Email: Mayola@latijeraumc.org

***Rethink Church . . .  
We are a Reconciling Community***

**[www.latijeraumc.org](http://www.latijeraumc.org)**

*Don't forget to check our website for news on what's happening in the life of La Tijera United Methodist Church. We are finding ways to **Rethink Church** and invite you to take a look at our new Mission Statement found on page 1 of our Newsletter and on our website.*

***“Be Inspired—Get Involved!”***

*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, October 2nd. Health Rhythms Drum Circle is at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 4th.*

## From Lyda . . .

As I enter the fourth month of my service to the life and vision of La Tijera United Methodist Church, I stand amazed at who we are becoming.

We have made a commitment to welcome all into our lives as a Reconciling community. We know that there has been spiritual harm done to those who were made to feel unwelcome in their faith communities. We are willing to take a stand and live our faith out loud—GOD LOVES EVERYONE—and we are firm in our resolution to bring that reality to the United Methodist Church.

We have heard God's call to open our eyes and our hearts to those who are different from us. We are inspired to support mental health and wellness. We are involved in promoting inclusiveness not only on Sundays, but in every relationship with every person we encounter.

We are willing to stumble and perhaps fall, firm in the knowledge that we can, with God's help, rise up again to face a new day.

We all struggle. We all have challenges. There are so many times when it just

doesn't seem worth it and it would be easier to give up. But then—you see someone smile and let the mom with the crying child go ahead of them in the check out line . . . a child gives part of his lunch, unasked, to a homeless person at the beach . . . the high school kid invites a kid from the special education class to sit with them . . . and you realize that giving up is not what we are meant to do. We are here to do the best we can, to find hope whenever we can, and to pass it on. Each one of us can be a light when the world is full of darkness. And if we stand together, sharing our light and warmth with all the people we can, the light of Love will change the world. Become the Light. Pass it on.

