



United
Methodist
Church
Westlake
Village

Covenant

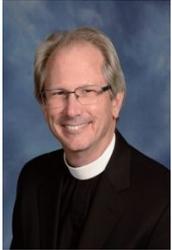
The mission of the Church is to make, mature and mobilize disciples of Christ
for the transformation of the world.

Volume 2022, Issue 8

August 2022

BUILDING THE BODY

Personal Resilience – Family Wholeness – Congregational Growth – Community Vitality



Pastor Walt

As we move into the second half of 2022, we have a great opportunity to live out our faith in fresh ways that stimulate health and well-being in our personal lives, our families, our congregation, and our community. We are finding our way to manage our lives in and out of the pandemic's shadow. It has not been easy, yet a new day is dawning and the chance is ours to *Set a Course for a Better Life*, one that is informed by the purposes of Jesus and infused with the power of the Spirit, and moves us toward a renewed life and better tomorrow.

God is calling us forth to celebrate life, in all the positive ways we experience it. Strengthening, expanding, and broadening it, with grateful and hopeful hearts, in spite of the difficulties. It is becoming clear, dear friends, that we are now to be about "Building the Body." First, we need to be personally resilient - able to recover quickly and well from difficulties or set-backs; we want to garner a sense of wholeness for our families - a harmonious unity of caring and support among our loved-ones. We must grow our congregation - in its membership and its faithful witness to the power of God's redemptive love and justice. We also desire vitality throughout our community - strong, active,

and full of life giving energy for all its people. As we emerge from the shadows, we are seeking health and well-being in which God's peace and justice reign and God's grace and love abound.

I invite you to embrace along with our leadership team these ideas of "Building the Body" and help us move forward successfully. After worship on Sunday, August 21, we will be gathering to vision and plan - to discern how best to propel ourselves further toward growth and health. We'll be meeting in Alton Hall; lunch will be provided. Contact the church office if you plan to attend, so we know who to expect and how much food to prepare.

Let us help one another and our neighbors rekindle an excitement for life, its possibilities and its promises. Let us claim the resurrection spirit of our faith and have it overflow to those around us, be it through worship, study, fellowship, or service.

**Building the Body:
Personal Resilience
Family Wholeness
Congregational Growth
Community Vitality**

We can do this. Let us do this!

Amen.

Walt

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUNDAY

Don't want to mention it ... in that it seems we just started Summer ... yet ... **Sunday, August 21** is our Back-to-School Sunday ... Wow!

We will be doing a **Blessing of the Backpacks**, advancing our students to their next year of Sunday School, and **presenting Bibles to our Third Graders** (or whoever else has not had this Elementary level opportunity) that Sunday or the next. Check in with the church office, so we know who to expect for our Sunday School program and for the Bibles.

Blessings upon all of our families!

August Finance Question: What are some of the ministries that Apportioned Funds (Apportionment Donations) support?

Answer:

It is a method of giving that proportionally allocates the churchwide budget to conferences and local churches. The funds are used to support World Services Fund (global outreach underwriting Christian mission around the world), Ministerial Education Fund (United Methodist Seminaries), Interdenominational Cooperation Fund (our unity with other Christian communities) and is affirmed as we witness to a common Christian faith, meet human suffering and advocate for peace and justice all over the world, and other important Christian missions of the United Methodist Church.

Follow up question? How is our apportionment giving going for 2022?

Answer:

To date for 2022, UMCWV has received \$5,000 for Apportionment giving. In previous years, UMCWV has contributed \$35,000 - \$50,000. Last year, we were able to pay over \$45,000 towards Apportionment giving. We are hoping that the congregation will see the need to give to Apportionments and contribute to this important fund.



You are invited to sing and ring!



All singers are encouraged to sing with the Chancel Choir for Back to School Sunday on August 21.

We will practice on

Thursday, August 11 and 18 in Alton Hall at 7:30 p.m.

All singers need to be fully vaccinated.

Covenant Ringers will begin practicing on Wednesday, August 24 from 6 – 7 pm and play for church on September 11.

If interested in ringing, please contact

Nick Newkirk at newkirk49@yahoo.com or 818-581-1495.

Vocal and handbell choirs for children and youth will begin at a later time.

We have a choir for YOU!
New singers and ringers are always welcome.
No auditions required.
Enrich your life with music and new friends.

Questions? Contact Gloria Hilliard at glomusic49@gmail.com or 818-512-4473.



MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

By Carol Ames, Communications Coordinator

The past few weeks have seen the congregation experiencing some emotional times. First, was a **fond farewell for Pastor Rachel** as she moved to Santa Clarita UMC to be its lead pastor. Her last Sunday at UMCWV was June 26 and there were a few special ways to celebrate her ministry here for the past five years, including a surprise (to her) video shown during worship of the children and youth's expressions of what they learned from her and how they will miss her. *Be sure to watch that service on YouTube if you weren't at church that Sunday. Many thanks to Paul Fey for helping with the video of the kids.*



End of student's video shown in worship



Farewell reception with friends in Alton Hall



Pastor Rachel's farewell cake

The **Chancel Choir** had an **end-of-year and farewell party** on June 29th for two bass singers who have now moved out of California. Fred Cunningham has relocated to Texas and Ken Dickey has moved to Florida. They and their families will be missed in choir and the church, including Yvonne's delicious and decorative desserts.



Choir party dessert by Yvonne

The **new home for MANNA** is coming along quite nicely. In fact, its goal for being open and serving the community in a much larger facility was the end of July. The nonprofit has operated out of a 945 square foot house on Crescent Way for 50 years and its new facility about a half-mile away has 7,700 square feet of space! *Watch for a story and announcement about its opening in the Thousand Oaks Acorn.*



MANNA's new home, 95 N. Oakview Dr. in Thousand Oaks

UMCWV welcomed in person on July 10 the **Rev. Kristi Smith**, the new **Pastor of Conejo Connect Family Ministries**. Pastor Kristi is not an associate pastor for UMCWV, but shared by the three UMCs in the Conejo Valley – in Thousand Oaks, St. Matthew’s in Newbury Park and our church. You may be familiar with Flat Stanley, but she introduced “Flat Wesley” to the three congregations and encouraged people to take one with them on their summer travels, then send her a photo of where they took Flat Wesley. If you’re on **Facebook**, look for and join the **Conejo Connect group page** that Pastor Kristi has started, then you can see those submitted photos. She has also started scheduling some Conejo Connect activities at a variety of fun places, with people from all three churches invited to come meet one another. Eating ice cream seems to be a popular activity this summer, with July times scheduled at Coaches in Newbury Park and Little Calf in Thousand Oaks. There were also a beach day and a time at Longevity Coffee on Pastor Kristi’s calendar. *Joanna is including the information for these gatherings in the UMCWV Friday emailed announcements, so watch for them and join in on the fun!*



Pastor Kristi holding a Flat Wesley



Kristi and her welcome cake



People enjoying a hot dog lunch and welcome of Kristi and her family



A good group enjoying ice cream at Little Calf on July 19



Where in the Conejo Valley is Pastor Kristi!

If you have a favorite place you would like to introduce me to as I plan more meet and greets, please send me an email. If there is a time of day that would best fit your schedule, I would love to schedule something then.

- Pastor Kristi

conejoconnect805@gmail.com

805-402-6231

Instagram: @conejo_connect

Facebook: Conejo Connect

august



MISSION
MOMENT

As United Methodists, we are committed to creating abundant health - spiritual, mental, and physical well-being for all. Unfortunately, sometimes people "lose their way" in life due to a brain disorder which compromises their mental health. Mental illness can effect people of all types of families, education, and economic conditions. It is a medical condition that often disrupts a person's thinking, feelings, mood, ability to relate to others, and daily functioning.

Through community collaboration and education, the **National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI)**, the largest national non-profit mental health organization, is dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness, and it is primarily supported by donations. NAMI brings resources, expertise, and a range of support options in order to:

- * raise awareness and replace stigma with understanding
- * provide free educational programs or support groups
- * advocate for equal care through legislation, and
- * invest in research and development of new treatments.

Particularly with the isolation and disruptions of COVID, cases of mental illness have been on the rise. Please support improving mental health by donating to NAMI this month. Thank you!

Mental illness is often misunderstood, and it has been associated with mystery and misunderstandings about archaic things like asylums. The closure of state hospital facilities impacted our area by releasing people with brain disorders onto the streets where cities and counties were unprepared & under-funded to take on those who needed services. With no place to go, many were homeless or struggling to make their way. Let's not turn away from them to fend for themselves. It's time to learn about the silent visitor in our neighborhoods.

Mental illness is a medical condition that often disrupts a person's thinking, feelings, mood, ability to relate to others, and daily functioning. In years past, 60 million (1 in 5) Americans face the reality of living with a mental illness. Some conditions (such as chronic depression or extreme anxiety) have been made more severe due to the Covid pandemic (with isolation, lack of continuity, loneliness).

Through community collaboration and education, NAMI advocates for a life of quality and dignity - one without discrimination - for all those affected by the illness. NAMI makes significant contributions by:

- *Raising awareness and replacing stigma with understanding,
- *Providing free educational programs and support groups,
- *Advocating for equal care through legislation, and
- *Investing in research and development of new treatments.

Please support mental health and NAMI by donating this month . Thank You!

Donate online here:



Or mail a check to the church office:

made payable to: UMCWV

memo line: NAMI

UMCWV

1049 S. Westlake Blvd.

Westlake Village, CA 91361

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

TREASURER'S REPORT

Sherry McBride	8/01	Brandon & Nicole Ledford	8/04
Evelyn Rogers	8/01	Phil & Jeanie Severance	8/06
Jim Robinson	8/02	Dominic & Shannon DeSantis	
Ann Berry	8/03		8/09
Elliot Cutbill	8/03	Aaron & Liz Peak	8/11
Sunny Benjamin	8/06	Charles & Amy Comparato	8/12
Sharon Pember	8/06	Rick & Terry Gehr	8/13
Walter Benson	8/07	Michael & Amy Stone	8/14
Linda Keithley	8/07	Jim & Diane Lawson	8/15
Wilma Dixon	8/09	Alex Loewenthal & Patty Chamness	8/16
David Stuart	8/09		
Glenda Chunko	8/10	Chris & Kitty Soltow	8/17
Cari Lewis	8/10	Steve & Carol Ames	8/20
Janie McKay	8/10	Mark & Chrissy Shihabi	8/20
Michael Wood	8/11	John & Candice Shehorn	8/21
Agnes Dougherty	8/12	Mike & Bobbie Teobaldi	8/22
Dina Gray	8/13	Mike & Gloria Hilliard	8/24
Dorie Kracker	8/13	Les & Cheri Neal	8/24
Hayley Wood	8/13	Don & Linda Keithley	8/26
Sean Boring	8/15	Rick & Carol Schroeder	8/26
Meredith Hart	8/15	Craig & Donna Murphy	8/27
Nicole Menges	8/15	Richard & Linda Disney	8/29
Jack Elginer	8/16		
Cindy Martinez	8/16		
Jack Rogers	8/16		
Debbie Dilg	8/18		
John Shehorn	8/18		
Luke Comparato	8/20		
Karie McMurray	8/20		
Katie Comparato	8/22		
Julie Simonsgaard	8/22		
Joseph Caparoni	8/23		
Connie Hopkins	8/24		
Parker Armetta	8/25		
Mary Nolan	8/26		
Margot Aldcroft	8/28		
Abbie Fenton	8/29		
Beth Steele	8/29		
Kayla Newkirk	8/31		

June Income:	\$37,180
June Expenses:	\$46,752
Fiscal YTD Income:	\$321,294
Fiscal YTD Expenses:	\$330,703



MANNA FOOD DRIVE

SPECIAL MANNA DROP OFF
UMCWV PARKING LOT
AUGUST 14
BETWEEN 3:00 - 3:30 PM.
DRIVE THROUGH WITH YOUR ITEMS.
WE WILL COLLECT AND DELIVER TO MANNA.

ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL CATHIE LOEB
 AT (818)439-7990.
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Kingdom Dreams, Violent Realities

Reflections on Gun Violence from Micah 4:1-4
 "...they shall beat their swords into plowshares" Micah 4:1

The Social Concerns Committee will continue to offer this three-week Bible study produced by the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church. *The study will be held over Zoom, Sundays at 4 pm.*

Remaining days are:

Aug. 7	Week 2: Transformation	Micah 4:3
Aug. 14	Week 3: Flourishing	Micah 4:4

If you wish to participate, please register:

REGISTRATION

BeeVees



August 29

7:30 p.m. on Zoom

"The Last Thing He Told Me"
by Laura Dave

.....

If interested in participating, zoom link can be found at umcwg.org



umcwg

ATTENDANCE

	In-Person	YouTube
June 5	81	58
June 12	84	45
June 19	42	58
June 26	114	58

The June YouTube totals represent views on YouTube as of 7/26/22.

Ministries of the church happen through the faithful efforts of its lay people.

CHURCH COUNCIL:

Chair: Greg Stuart

OFFICERS

Lay Leaders:	Cari Jackson Lewis, Jeanie Severance
Lay Delegates to Annual Conference:	Lynn Dokken, Candice Shehorn, Rick Schroeder
Treasurer:	Lee Friel
Financial Secretary:	Agnes Dougherty
Church Historian:	Carol Ames

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

Communications:	Carol Ames
Finance:	John Shehorn
Foundation:	Cari Jackson Lewis
Nominations:	Pastor Walt
Staff Parish Relations:	Phyllis Marbach
Stewardship:	Pastor Walt
Trustees:	Ken Dougherty

PROGRAMMATIC COMMITTEES

Christian Education:	Amy Comparato
Growing Place:	Lynn Dokken
Membership Care:	Boyd & Peggy Donavon
Membership Growth:	Rick Schroeder
Missions Committee:	Cathie Loeb
Music:	Barbara Ghosh & Carol Ames
Social Concerns Committee:	Chris & Kitty Soltow
Worship:	Linda Menges

AGE-LEVEL MINISTRIES

Family Ministries:	Liz & Aaron Peak
Men's Ministries:	John Shehorn
Women's Ministries:	Candice Shehorn
Youth Ministries:	



STAFF - PARISH RELATIONS

SPRC is always interested in hearing from our Church Family. You may e-mail members at SPRC@umcww.org, contact the chair, Phyllis Marbach, through the church office or attend one of its upcoming meetings for a brief discussion time.

S
P
R
C

Nicole Ledford
Dave Crawford
Polly Tattersall Martin } 2022

Candi Wilcox
Roz Thebaud
Don Phillipson } 2023

Phyllis Marbach, chair
Doug Menges
Tom Sutphen } 2024

COVENANT DEADLINE
For September issue: Noon August 15

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Walter C. Dilg, Jr.
waltumcww@gmail.com

Pastor of Conejo Connect Family Ministries:
Rev. Kristi Smith
conejoconnect805@gmail.com

Business Manager: Vinia Pavlath
vinia@umcww.org

Program Secretary: Joanna Longo
joanna@umcww.org

Director of Music: Gloria Hilliard
gloria@umcww.org

Organist: Jenny Lee
jenny@umcww.org

Bell Choir Director: Nick Newkirk

Custodian: Manuel Poot

Treasurer: Leroy Friel

Financial Secretary: Agnes Dougherty

The Growing Place Preschool
Director: Jen Sorensson



Resident Bishop:
Rev. Dr. Grant
Hagiya

North District Superintendent:
Rev. Melissa R.
MacKinnon

Office Phone:
805-497-7884

Welcome!

*Join Us For Worship Each Sunday
At 10 a.m.*

*In-person worship is available in the
sanctuary.*

*Check website for additional details or
changes in scheduling.*

Or

*Join us for the online service live at 10 a.m.
each Sunday at umcww.org - or watch it
later on our website or YouTube.*

*UMCWW continues to thrive. To see ways
you can be a part of our community, go to
umcww.org*

 *Setting a Course for a Better Life*
United Methodist Church
Westlake Village