



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 2024, Issue 4

April 2024

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVES: Resurrection Spirit



Pastor Walt

What a glorious Holy Week observance and Easter celebration we have had this year. Christ is risen indeed and active in our midst. Alleluia!

As we look forward to this Spring, we are excited for what lies ahead, as the good people of UMCWV

live more fully into the resurrection spirit. Much is going on in the world, our country, and our community that needs a touch of love and grace, compassion and respect.

As you look into the mirror this month, continue to ask the Lord until you are crystal clear about it, what God would have that person (YOU) say and/or do to further Christ's ministry. For surely, dear friends, you have been called for such a time as this! God desires your partnership in the new creation around us.

Pastor Walt

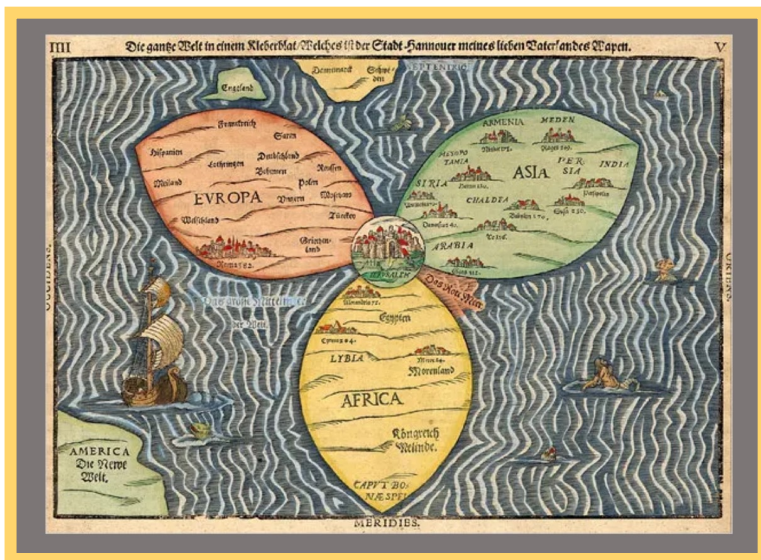
TAKING A CLOSER LOOK: ISRAEL & PALESTINE

Pastor Walt will lead a 4-week study on Israel & Palestine, seeking to give participants a sense of historical background on the Middle East conflict and crisis.

The class will be via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Mondays, April 22 & 29 and May 13 & 20.

The first three sessions of the class will look at the general history of the area from ancient times up through the Ottoman Empire, the emergence of nationalism and the Zionist movement, and the State of Israel and subsequent military engagements. The fourth session will host Rabbi Barry Diamond of Temple Adat Elohim to discuss antisemitism and navigating the current situation.

If you wish to attend the class, sign up by contacting Pastor Walt or the Church Office.



Here is the Zoom link credential, meeting ID and password.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82162634495?pwd=b3hqSzRWaUloaGxsZndtalE3WC9mdz09>

Meeting ID: 821 6263 4495

Passcode: umcwv

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

By Carol Ames, Communications Coordinator

The Conejo Interfaith Refugee Team (CIRT) hosted a potluck dessert reception on Sunday, March 3 at Ascension Lutheran Church. It was an evening designed to give attendees information about how local refugee families are being helped to settle in their new homes. One refugee shared her story via Zoom; two other speakers were a representative from the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and an immigration attorney. Chris Soltow moderated the program, as he is the person who got CIRT started at UMCWV – and it has now grown to include volunteers from many other faith-based and community groups. Gary Evans and several others from our church have been quite involved as well. The evening was well attended by at least 85 people, with about 25 being from UMCWV.



Conejo Interfaith Refugee Team event on March 3

Team UMCWV had a total of nine CROP Walkers for the 46th Conejo Valley CROP Hunger Walk, six who walked on March 17 from CLU and three who walked at a different time. (Not pictured are Linda Menges, Cathy Seabury, Tom Sutphen and Pam Sutphen.) Kitty Soltow also participated by helping at the registration table. There has not been report yet on how much money was raised by folks at UMCWV, but participation by sponsoring a walker is also important. Donations support Church World Service (CWS), with 25% of the raised funds staying in the local community for use by hunger relief programs. Thank you to the walkers and to all who donated!



Five CROP Walkers: Katy, Kiki, Janelle, Chris, Barbara

Palm Sunday worship on March 24 was an exciting time with at least 30 children waving palm branches, the Sunshine Singers and Melody Makers singing and the Tintinnabulators ringing. Katie and Nick did a great job directing these choirs. After Charissa's A Time with Children, there was a service project for the kids in Sunday School. Easter baskets were assembled for James Storehouse, to be given to foster children served by that non-profit. Many thanks to all in the congregation who donated baskets, candy, toys and books for this project.



Waving palms, ringing, singing & Children's Time



21 Easter baskets were assembled in Sunday School for delivery to James Storehouse

Background to Kovaleva Duo Benefit Concert on April 28



Easter baskets readied for foster children

Many Mansions' 20th Annual **Bowls of Hope** was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 24. This is a major fundraiser for Many Mansions and was very well attended, with the Hyatt's Grand Plaza Ballroom and its Foyer quite crowded. Several varieties of soup, plus salad and dessert were served. Attendees could select a painted bowl to take home and a number of fundraising opportunities were available – a raffle, silent auction and wine pull. UMCWV was well represented by approximately 25-30 people attending or volunteering, including Rick Schroeder, President & CEO of Many Mansions, and Doug Menges, Vice President of Real Estate. Many Mansions provides affordable housing and services to 1,700 adults and children in 20 apartment communities located in Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, Oxnard, Santa Paula, Fillmore, Sylmar and Sun Valley.



"From Empty Bowls to Hopeful Homes"

Anna Kovaleva, 21, is from Moscow. She has played piano and studied to be a musician for as long as she can remember. After graduating from high school, she was accepted to the most prestigious Moscow Conservatory in Russia. Unfortunately, she had to abruptly quit her studies due to the unprecedented events of war between Russia and Ukraine. Her family made a decision to escape from Russia in fear of her father and brother being drafted to the army. Struggling to comprehend the idea of fighting against their own brothers, with her Ukrainian mother and Russian father, the family sought refuge in the United States. They were fortunate to start their new life in California, but they had no work permits, no income, limited English, and no home. Anna said it sometimes felt as if they would have no future. However, they received help from people whose kindness and support they will never forget. They have God's peace in their hearts and have the privilege to offer their musical talents to others. As a great achievement in these difficult times, Anna was accepted to CSUN as a senior student with a partial scholarship and is studying under Prof. Dmitry Rachmanov. Despite the family's financial struggles, Anna hopes to receive her degree to become a professional musician. *Her senior recital is scheduled for April 17 at 4:30 p.m. in Matsumoto Hall (Recital Hall) in the CSUN Music Building.* Anna intends to continue her studies at CSUN for her Master in Music degree.

Elena Kovaleva, Anna's mother, was born in Ukraine and graduated from a music school, college, and conservatory specializing in violin in the city of Saratov. As a professional violinist, she worked in music schools in Saratov and Moscow, as well as in orchestras in Volgograd and Moscow. She is also a private music teacher, giving lessons in piano and violin, and has played in trios and quartets.

Anna's father, Andrew, is a Seventh-Day Adventist minister, and has volunteered his time at an Adventist church in Simi Valley. He has his work permit and is trying to find employment.

The **brother/son** is living with family friends and working in Northern California.

The family's standing as refugees is uncertain and that leaves them to rely on help from the community.

Your contributions will serve as a vital support for this family as it strives to establish a new life in America, and to help Anna pay her tuition. They are all humbly grateful for any financial support received from the community.

Kovaleva Duo Benefit Concert



Featuring
Anna Kovaleva, piano & Elena Kovaleva, violin

Sunday, April 28 ~ 3 p.m.

With a Ukrainian mother and Russian father, the Kovaleva family sought refuge in the United States and was fortunate to start their new lives in California.

A freewill offering will be taken to support the family

Sanctuary
United Methodist Church Westlake Village
1049 S. Westlake Blvd. – www.umcwv.org – 805-497-7884

Saturday Night Suppers-International Heritage



*Saturday April 20 @ 5:30 in Alton Hall
Hosts: Candice & John Shehorn,
Linda Northrup & Dave Schlueter
Come taste variety of cuisines & celebrate
International Heritage!*

Education Scholarships Available for 2024-2025



Details will be Provided in April

Village Voices Chorale

presents

Love is in the air



May 3, 8:00 pm ~ May 4, 2:30 pm

Gloria Hilliard, Director ~ Christine DeKlotz, Accompanist

**Bank of America Performing Arts Center
Scherr Forum Theatre — 2100 East Thousand Oaks Blvd.
Thousand Oaks, California**

Tickets: (\$30) call box office (805) 449-2787, Cash-only Opportunity Drawing
or Village Voices at (805) 501-7341, —exciting themed baskets
or visit bapacthousandoaks.com/box-office —drawing during intermission

To donate, or for more info, please visit us at

villagevoices.org



Earth Day - April 22



Our half day Vacation Bible School Camp is back!! Come join the fun!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

COKESBURY'S

HERO HOTLINE

Called Together
to Serve God!



JUNE 24-28

MON-FRI

9 AM

JOIN US
FOR A WEEK OF FUN!



SAVE THE
DATE!



July 22-26,
2024

Pizazz Music Camp is an exciting adventure in music using **non-religious curriculum** for singing, dancing, acting and handbell/choir chime ringing,

*Details & Apply online at www.PizazzMusicCamp.org
Applications being accepted now!
Save \$30 by June 1*



Pizazz Music Camp is happy to be back for its 30th year.

Open to students entering grades 1 - 8 (Fall 2024)

Daily Schedule

Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. + 7 p.m. performance



1049 S. Westlake Blvd. - 805.497.7884 - email: pizazz@umcwv.org

Pizazz Music Camp reserves the right to cancel this program if new developments occur regarding health concerns, natural disasters or insufficient enrollment. If so, a full refund will be given.

Two of the Pizazz teachers this year are members of UMCWV who participated in Pizazz when growing up in the church: Singing - Katie Phillipson, and Bells/Chimes - Katy (Menges) Herbst de Cortina.

April Mission of the Month

UMCOR Sunday is a denomination-wide celebration designed to raise awareness and support for the ministry of The United Methodist Committee on Relief – otherwise known as UMCOR. The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs to ensure 100% of gifts given for humanitarian response and recovery go directly to communities in need.

These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and represent hope and healing to those most vulnerable.

UMCOR provides hope for communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by war, storms or other crises. This ministry is achieved exclusively through your generosity. Last year, your generosity helped deliver **\$1.7 million** towards the following ministries:

- **International Disaster Response** efforts provide assistance following natural or human-caused disasters outside of the United States. Typical emergency response efforts include the distribution of food, hygiene supplies and facilities, non-food items, psychosocial support and shelter.
- **U.S. Disaster Response** works with annual conferences in the United States to alleviate suffering caused by disasters that strike within the United States and its territories. In partnership with conference-level disaster response coordinators, UMCOR journeys with affected communities throughout a disaster's cycle.
- **Global Migration** provides relief and recovery in the form of food aid, basic necessities, and legal and transportation services for vulnerable migrants and refugees.
- **Relief Supplies** UMCOR Sager Brown Depot and affiliate warehouses within the UM Relief Supply Network collect relief supplies that are assembled by United Methodist volunteers for distribution in the United States and its territories in response to disasters.

UMCOR's goal is to assist vulnerable people affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their nationality, race, religion or status. We believe all people have God-given worth and dignity.

THE UMCWV MISSIONS COMMITTEE
IS ASKING UMCOR SUNDAY
ITS MISSION OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL!

Thank you for your consideration.

To donate:
Write a check to UMCWV with UMCOR
on the memo line or
Donate online at umcwv.org and
select UMCOR fund.

Mission Project Donation Drive - April

Craft Supplies for Camp Many Mansions

For the month of April we will be collecting craft supplies for Camp Many Mansions. Please look over the list and see what you can donate. Bring items to church any Sunday in April and look for the Donation Box on the patio.

Thanks for your participation!

List of items to donate:

Popsicle Sticks, Google Eyes, Construction paper, Paper plates, Glue sticks, Beads, Non-air dry children's safe clay, Gallon of Liquid Glue, Acrylic Paint, Perler beads, Liquid food coloring, lime activator, Craft rolls, Colored tissue paper, Water balloons, Pipe cleaner, Gallon Ziploc bags



**Non-perishable food
drop off available every Sunday!**



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

HOPKINS, Tom & Connie	04/04
MENGES, Doug & Linda	04/12
LOEB, Wayne & Cathie	04/13
COOPER, Gene & Carolyn	04/14
THROOP, Joyce & Robert	04/21
LANGBERG, Steve & Susan	04/23



TREASURER'S REPORT

February 2024 Income:	\$45,711
February 2024 Expenses:	\$47,051
Fiscal YTD Income:	\$102,565
Fiscal YTD Expenses:	\$92,332

ATTENDANCE

	In-Person	YouTube	Total
Feb 4	75	57	132
Feb 11	86	55	141
Feb 18	75	14	89
Feb 25	135	N/a*	135

The February YouTube totals represent the number of views as of 3/28/2024.

**technical issues service was not streamed and not available on Youtube.*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

OLSEN, Sandra	04/01
TATTERSALL, Jennifer	04/01
MEIRON, Zachary	04/02
MURPHY, Mairin	04/02
SORENSEN, Curt	04/04
ELGINER, James	04/06
BONDS, Nancy	04/11
HAWKINS, K. Jean Gilbert	04/12
HARRISON, Don	04/15
CHAVOY, Cassia	04/17
KENNEDY, Judd	04/20
MONTELEONE, Lil	04/22
STEPHENS, Jake	04/23
MARTIN, Bill	04/25
SWANSON, Glen	04/25
DOUGLASS, Macey	04/27
PHILLIPSON, Jennifer	04/27
STUART, Michael	04/28
CHAMNESS, Patty	04/29
FEY, Nathan	04/29
STULL, Richard	04/30

Finance Corner

Q. How is the financial condition of UMCWV as of December 31, 2023?

A. UMCWV's financial condition is solid due to the generosity of its members AND apportionments contributions. Our apportionments payment of \$70,830 met the California Pacific Conference 85% requirement for meeting 100% obligation fulfillment in 2023. **Thank you,**



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

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair: Rick Schroeder

OFFICERS

Lay Leader:.....Jeanie Severance
Lay Delegates to Annual Conference:..... Boyd Donavon, Candice Shehorn,
John Shehorn, Rick Schroeder
Treasurer:.....Lee Friel
Assistant Treasurer:.....John Shehorn
Financial Secretary: Agnes Dougherty
Church Historian Carol Ames

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

Communications:..... Carol Ames
Finance: John Shehorn
Foundation: Don Phillipson
Nominations: Pastor Walt
Staff Parish Relations:..... Phyllis Marbach
Stewardship..... John Shehorn
Trustees Mike Stone

PROGRAMMATIC COMMITTEES

Christian Education.....Amy Comparato
Growing Place.....Lynn Dokken
Conejo ConnectRick Schroeder
Membership Care.....Jeanie Severance
Membership Growth
Missions Committee Cathie Loeb
Music..... Barbara Ghosh & Carol Ames
Social Concerns CommitteeChris & Kitty Soltow

AGE-LEVEL MINISTRIES

Family Ministries:
Men's Ministries: Tom Hopkins
Women's Ministries:..... Candice Shehorn

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Clergy..... Pastor Walt
Youth Rep
General Nancy Moravec, David Keddle, Boyd Donavon



STAFF - PARISH RELATIONS

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

S
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C

Phyllis Marbach, chair
Doug Menges
Tom Sutphen

} 2024

Polly Tattersall Martin
Jan Sorenson
Cindy Faccone

} 2025

Roz Thebaud
Candi Wilcox
Linda Northrup

} 2026

COVENANT DEADLINE
For May issue: **Noon April 15**

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

Director of Children & Youth Ministries:
Charissa Birmingham
charissaumcw@gmail.com

Administrative Director: Vinia Pavlath
vinia@umcw.org

Media Tech: Kallie Smith

Director of Music: Gloria Hilliard
gloria@umcw.org

Organist: Jenny Lee
jenny@umcw.org

Bell Choir Director: Nick Newkirk
NNewkirk49@yahoo.com

Children's Choir Director: Katie Phillipson

Treasurer: Leroy Friel

Financial Secretary: Agnes Dougherty

Kids Zone Attendant: Aurora Smith

The Growing Place Preschool
Director: Jen Sorenson



Resident Bishop:
Rev. Dr. Dottie
Escobedo-Frank

**North District
Superintendent:**
Rev. Melissa R.
MacKinnon

Office Phone:
805-497-7884



HEARING LOOP INSTALLED
Switch hearing aid to T-coil

Welcome!

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

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

Or

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

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

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



Setting a Course for a Better Life

United Methodist Church
Westlake Village