



United Methodist Church Westlake Village

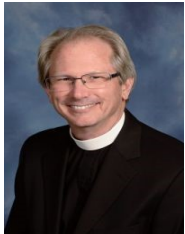
Covenant

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

Volume 2024, Issue 5

May 2024

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVES: Rev. Darren Cowdrey



Pastor Walt

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank has discerned and the decision has been affirmed, that the Reverend Darren Cowdrey will become your next Pastor beginning July 1. His first Sunday in the pulpit will be July 7. I hope you can arrange your calendars to be present and provide him a warm welcome.

Pastor Darren is married with two grown children. He has served a number of parishes in Orange and San Diego counties and, with his wife Brenda working in Pacific Palisades, he looks forward to

relocating to our area. He currently serves San Luis Rey Valley UMC in Oceanside.

I am hopeful that you will appreciate his gifts and graces, especially those in children and youth ministries, his passion.

As we wind our way through our “goodbyes” these next two months, please ready yourselves to welcome Pastor Darren in your lives. Blessings await.

Pastor Walt



SAVE THE DATE

God's Speed, Walt!

PASTOR WALT'S RETIREMENT

LUNCHEON JUNE 23

AFTER THE SERVICE IN ALTON HALL

RETIREMENT

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

By Carol Ames, Communications Coordinator

The weather outside on **Easter Sunday** was rather gloomy, but the rain held off until after the worship service ended. Inside the sanctuary, however, there was much rejoicing – with special music and Pastor Walt’s Easter sermon – “Jesus Teachings: I Am the Resurrection and the Life.” Refreshments and an Easter egg hunt for the children were both held indoors as the grass was too wet from the rain on previous days, including on Saturday night.

Not complaining, as we needed the rain.



Scenes from Easter Sunday worship & egg hunt in Alton Hall

The week after Easter, on April 7, Pastor Walt was on vacation and **Lay Speaker Ryan Blanck**, from St. Matthew’s UMC in Newbury Park, delivered his message, titled “Eight Days Later.” The choir and Gloria also took a well-deserved day off, with Tracy and Jenny providing beautiful music. Linda, as liturgist, kept the service flowing smoothly.



Linda, Ryan, Tracy & Jenny

Saturday Night Suppers met in Alton Hall on April 20, with an international theme. Hosted by and with thanks to Candice & John and Linda & David, there was an activity where the 30 people attending were able to share a little about their birth city and heritage. They were asked to place a sticker on the U.S. city where they were born and then also list the country from which their parents came, a maternal side list and a separate one for their paternal side. The results were interesting, as only three people were born in the western half of the United States, one was born in Canada and the rest were born in several midwestern, southern and eastern states. The majority of their ancestors came from Germany, England, Scotland and Wales, with one or two coming from several other countries. *The potluck of international foods and the fellowship were also great!*



International Night at Saturday Night Suppers

The children’s choirs participated and brought their enthusiasm to the worship service on April 21, in addition to the **Chancel Choir** with drummers during its “African Alleluia” anthem. In celebration of Earth Day, the **Sunshine Singers** sang “I’m Counting the Colors in My Life,” with one young soloist. The **Melody Makers** sang “The World is a Rainbow,” with three soloists plus piano and cello accompaniment. Charissa’s *A Time with Children* followed, with dismissal to Sunday School after that – for the making of bird feeders and other crafts.

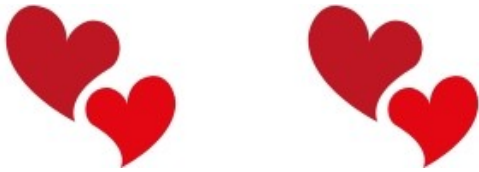


*Sunshine Singers, Melody Makers, A Time with Children
Sunday School*

Kallie, our media tech, put one cross on the wall in her office and now it has blossomed into our **cross wall**. There were various crosses around campus, including the metal cross on the monument sign that was removed when the sign was refurbished. We mounted these crosses on the wall and created “cross art” in the office! The crosses are visible as you enter the reception area of the church office. *Thank you, Kallie, for the inspiration!*



Cross wall in the church office



Bring your mother to church on Sunday, May 12. We will recognize all mothers for all they do!

Education Scholarships Available for 2024-2025

Raymond "Ray" Todd Memorial

- HS Graduate GPA min 3.0
- Community Service
- Athletics and/or Music

To Apply: Email Charissa Birmingham

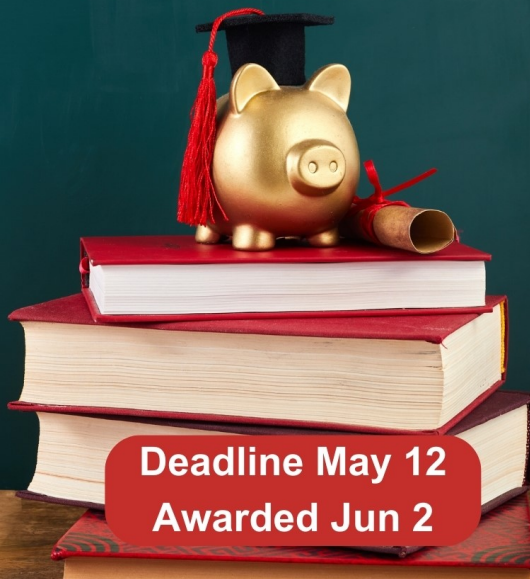
charissaumcwv@gmail.com

Women's Ministries Council

- HS Graduate or College Student
- Female

Nancy Phillipson Memorial

- HS Graduate or starting college after a break
- Musician & plan to major or minor in music or join a choir or band in college



Deadline May 12
Awarded Jun 2



GRADUATE SUNDAY
JUNE 2, 2024 @ UMCWV

GRADUATES HONORED AND
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS WILL BE
ANNOUNCED



BeeVees

A women's book and video discussion group for women of all ages.

Schedule: 7:30 p.m.

May 6 - "Someone Else's Shoes" by Jojo Moyes

June 3 - "Lady Tan's Circle of Women" by Lisa See

July 1 - "Never Let Me Go" by Kazuhiro Ishiguro

July 29 - "Our Missing Hearts" by Celeste Ng

Call Dorie at 805-262-2355 for location



Altar FLOWERS SPECIAL SALE!

*Celebrate a birthday, anniversary or
remember a loved one with flowers!*

Order now thru June at sale price of

\$35

Email: vinia@umcuw.org

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



More About Rev. Cowdrey...

Rev. Cowdrey grew up in South Orange County and headed up to Northern California with his new wife Brenda to go to seminary and start **their** life together. He has a Master's of Divinity degree from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, and started his professional ministry career in Alamo, California.

His journey took him to churches in Canada and Texas before returning to Southern California with his wife Brenda and two children, Miranda and Joseph. He currently serves at San Luis Rey Valley United Methodist Church and will come on July 1 to UMCWV. He also served for a year as the director of camping and family ministries for the California-Nevada Annual Conference.

Rev. Cowdrey believes in church and has first-hand experience that 'church done well' is a blessing to the person as well as to the people that person engages.

In his spare time he enjoys chasing after his dog and watching sports. He is also a pretty good film and television guy. The wider culture is always thinking in terms of meaning and context. Sometimes we just have to show how it's theological, too.



Rev. Darren Cowdrey

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

COKEBURY'S
**HERO
HOTLINE**
Called Together
to Serve God!

JUNE 24-28
MON-FRI
9:00 - 11:30 AM

FOR AGES: 4 - CURRENT 5TH GRADE

REGISTER AT UMCWV.ORG
UNDER "CHILDREN AND YOUTH"

For More Information Contact:
Charissa Birmingham
charissaumcwv@gmail.com

ONLY \$30!

REGISTER NOW!





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.

May Mission of the Month



Since 1977 Haven Hills has lifted up survivors of domestic violence to transform their lives. It offers shelter, crisis intervention, counseling, advocacy, and activities supporting increased economic opportunity for over 2,500 women and

men each year. By doing this, it helps survivors of domestic violence find the strength within themselves to break the cycle of abuse and build a new productive, and joyful life for themselves and their children. During the month of May when we celebrate our mothers, the Missions Committee has chosen to lift up Haven Hills in Canoga Park as our Mission of the Month. Haven Hills is one of the largest and oldest domestic violence organizations in Los Angeles.

By providing safety, shelter and support to Domestic violence survivors, it saves lives, inspiring change, and transforming victims to empowered survivors. By donating to Haven Hills, you can help mothers/parents raise their children in a safe and healthy environment.

The Missions Committee thanks you for your consideration and support of Haven Hills.

Pay by check:

Make checks payable to UMCWV, with May Mission of the Month on the memo line. Mail checks to the church or place them in an offering plate any Sunday in May.

Donate Online:

Click on "Donate" on the church website: umcwg.org. Select Mission of the Month.



The church office will be closed on Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day.

Non-perishable food drop off available every Sunday!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Anniversaries	
SIMONSGAARD, Julie & Jeff	05/10
PHILLIPSON, Tom & Jennifer	05/19
FEY, Paul & Elaine	05/21
MARTIN, Polly & Bill	05/21



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NAGEL, Lauren	05/01
HERBST DE CORTINA, Katy	05/03
SORENSEN, Jan	05/04
YOUNG, Donna	05/04
CARMEN, Doris	05/06
SELLERS, Joyce	05/06
SHIHABI, Chrissy	05/09
COMPARATO, Amy	05/10
MEAD, Dick	05/10
JACQUES, Tyler	05/11
LOEB, Cathie	05/11
NAGEL, Amy	05/15
TEOBALDI, Bobbie	05/15
GEHR, Rick	05/20
PEMBER, Charley	05/21
HAMAKER, Luke	05/22
CRAWFORD, Dee	05/27
LANGBERG, Steve	05/27
ZIMMERMANN, Rosemarie	05/27
DONAVON, Peggy	05/28
ALBERTSON, Brian	05/29
MENGES, Christine	05/29

TREASURER'S REPORT

March 2024 Income:	\$53,191
March 2024 Expenses:	\$47,531
Fiscal YTD Income:	\$155,756
Fiscal YTD Expenses:	\$139,738

ATTENDANCE

	In-Person	YouTube	Total
Mar 3	75	64	139
Mar 10	86	60	146
Mar 17	75	72	147
Mar 24	135	128	263
Mar 31	202	92	294

The March YouTube totals represent the number of views as of 4/30/2024.

Finance Corner

Q. How does it help our church to make large donations to the church while I am still living. What are some of the ways this can be done?

A. Donating large gifts to your church while you are alive can be a meaningful way to support its mission and activities. Here are some of the best ways to make such donations:

1. **Cash Donation**
2. **Appreciated Assets**
3. **Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs)**
4. **Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)**
5. **Real Estate**
6. **Life Insurance**
7. **IRA Charitable Rollover**

Before making any significant donations, it's essential to consult with a financial advisor or tax professional to understand the potential tax implications and to ensure that your donation aligns with your overall financial plan. Additionally, you will want to discuss your intentions with the church's leadership to ensure that your gift will be used in a way that aligns with your wishes and the church's needs.

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 June issue: **Noon May 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



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