



Woodside Road United Methodist Church  
2000 Woodside Road  
Redwood City, CA 94061

**Dated Material**

# Tidings

The Newsletter of Woodside Road United Methodist Church

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## March 2016

April Tidings articles are due by March 15  
April Tidings will be available March 27

Dear Friends,

I find it hard to believe that it's been eight months since I began my journey as your pastor. I am grateful and humbled that you have welcomed me into your midst, and so quickly allowed Daniel, Tiernan, Evelyn, and me to become a part of this community of followers of Jesus.

Prior to my appointment as your pastor you began a series of strategic planning conversations with one another and Rev. Greg Bergquist, our Conference Superintendent for Leadership Development. As I understand it, out of these conversations came three mission focus areas: worship, spiritual growth, and community service. During these past eight months I have tried to align my own ministry at Woodside Road United Methodist Church with these goals, and will continue to do so through conversations with you, trial and error, and discovering new ways of practicing ministry together.

Over the next month we will complete our Lenten journey through the celebration of Jesus' last supper on Maundy Thursday, his crucifixion on Calvary, and the eventual joy of his resurrection and the promise of new life at Easter. After we move through these remembrances and celebrations it will be time to intentionally be in conversation with one another about how it is that "We seek God, welcome all, and love and serve our neighbors" as Jesus' disciples here at the corner of Woodside Road and Alameda de las Pulgas.

We are a different community than we were a couple of years ago when you first began the strategic planning process. There are people who were intimately involved in the planning process who are no longer part of this congregation. New people have arrived in our midst. We've started working on some of the goals that you named a couple of years ago, but there is still plenty of work to do as we discern God's future for us.

In mid-April we will have a couple of "Town Hall" style meetings; meetings that will hopefully lead to additional conversations throughout 2016. The first of these will be offered on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. The second will be offered on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am. The structure of both of these meetings will be the same. I hope by offering evening and morning opportunities we are able to reach the breadth of the congregation. If offering childcare at either of these times would be helpful to you, please let me know and I will start working on making that happen.

The agenda for these April meetings will be straightforward. How are we seeking God, and where can we go deeper? How are we welcoming all, and where can we go deeper? How are we loving and serving our neighbors, and where can we go deeper? These will be brainstorming sessions. There won't be any wrong answers, and I am hopeful that there will be lots of right ones. I look forward to these conversations and hearing where it is you see Woodside Road UMC responding to Jesus' call to discipleship and where it is that you hear Jesus calling us into deeper discipleship.

See you in church,

*Katie*



By **Mary Nelson**

**Members Present:** Alice Allen, Cassie Allen, Bev Barr, Carole Clarke, Barbara Fleenor, Betty Kibbe, Mary Marchini, Helen Marin and Mary Nelson

**Absent:** Geneva Anderson, Doris Bogart, Elizabeth Prasad, Evelyn Berk, Anne Hinton, Helen Lomas and Jean Massing.

On Monday, February 1st, Thoburn members met in Waters' Hall at 12:00 noon. Barbara Fleenor served delicious brownies and fresh fruit. Devotions were led by Bev Barr. Mary Nelson reported that 2015 pledges were paid; pledge cards for 2016 have been received in the amount of \$940.00.

Betty Kibbe told the group about the informative and inspiring Women's Bible Study Group that she attends on Wednesday mornings. All participated in a good discussion about Lent - how it was celebrated and memories of Lenten activities from our past. It was suggested that we learn more about the history, customs and timing of the Lenten season for our March meeting. Katie was invited to meet with us to lead the discussion, she is not available, but she has given us several good references to use.

The meeting was closed with our prayer circle. 20 personal health bags were packed for the Service League and will be delivered by Bev. Thoburn's next meeting will be on March 7<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00 noon, Carole Clarke will be our Hostess.

**UMW** One Day Spiritual Retreat, Saturday, March 5th, at Willow Glenn UMC in San Jose.



Redwood City 2020 is hosting Redwood City Together's third annual "Community Dinner and Dialogue" on Tuesday, March 29th from 5:30-8pm at Sequoia High School in the multipurpose room. You are invited to come and share your stories, experience immigrant youth art, celebrate our diverse community, and foster a welcoming environment for all. Dinner is free. Childcare and interpretation are available. RSVP: <http://tinyurl.com/zdcelu9>.



Remember that rooted deeply and firmly within scripture and our Christian traditions is the vision that we are expected to be faithful stewards of all we are and all we have. This can be done by making the best use of our talents, the time allotted to each of us and the treasures we possess. Stewardship must be seen as a lifelong attitude and ever deepening commitment.

-Howard Macway



### Senior Fellowship Lunch

Senior Fellowship Lunch - St. Patrick Day's Lunch, Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Veterans Memorial Senior Center, 1455 Madison Ave, Redwood City. Lunch tickets are very limited so contact Jean for a reservation if you think you are going to attend. Meet at 11:45 to get your ticket. For more information call Jean Massing 650-368-0561. No donation.



### **No E-Waste Collection**

The church will no longer collect E-waste. The E-waste collection program has been discontinued by the vender due to lack of profit. Many thanks to all who supported the program.

# Human Trafficking

## Awareness Day May 14



Join us as we explore the effects of modern-day slavery in the Bay Area, learn to recognize it and work to prevent it here in our own San Mateo County neighborhoods!

**San Mateo County History Museum  
and Courthouse Square  
2200 Broadway, Redwood City  
Saturday, May 14, 2016,  
10:30 am to 4 pm**

**Rally • Speakers • Awareness Walk •  
Fair Trade Vendors • Music • Discussions •  
Reception • Survivor Art**

A citywide art exhibit April 14-May 15 will explore the topic as well.

### Examples of art depicting the theme



Rebecca Osgood  
*The Suppliant*



Kay Craven  
*Ministering Spirit*



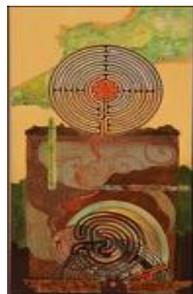
Rebecca Osgood  
*We Are Not Consumed*



Joyce Savre  
*Even Angels Pray*



Joan Spencer  
*Labeled*



Judy Person  
*Let Go And Enter Within*

## United Methodist Women Focus on Eradicating Sex Trafficking of Young People

by Jane Day

Our District United Methodist Women held a workshop on February 6 to inform us about the sex trafficking of children and teens in our communities and ways we can get involved in helping eradicate it. Human Trafficking is a huge illegal and profitable business that preys on all ages and genders. Wikipedia reports that in 2004 it was thought to be one of the fastest-growing activities of trans-national criminal organizations and estimated to have generated close to 9 billion dollars that year. Children and teens are especially vulnerable to being victims, and our national UMW is urging us to get informed and involved in helping the most vulnerable young people and working to eradicate this business.

There is much concern in San Mateo County about this matter, and a large group of volunteers and local agencies have come together to hold a Human Trafficking Awareness Day rally in Redwood City on Saturday, May 14, 10:30 am to 4 pm, at Courthouse Square. Please attend if you can. There will be speakers, a panel, videos of survivors' stories, and more. Georgi Laberge is one of the organizers. To learn more, pick up a flyer at church and visit the website [BeforeOurVeryEyes.org](http://BeforeOurVeryEyes.org).

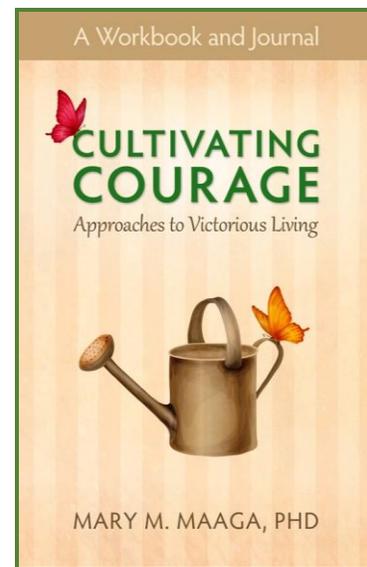
Here's a summary of what I heard at the UMW workshop. Our national UMW is partnering with Shared Hope International (SHI), a Christian organization whose purpose is to raise awareness of the threat and help victims and potential victims to escape and build healthy lives. The speaker was Beth Edmonds from SHI. She explained how recruiters prey on a vulnerable young person by pretending to be their friend, giving them things they want and gradually getting them into drugs and sexual activities. She described services that SHI provides to help victims escape and get support services to help them rebuild their lives. A woman who had been a victim as a child and teen came with the speaker, and told her own story. She had been sexually and emotionally abused as a child, which made her very vulnerable to being exploited. All her life she had believed she was a bad person, and her life had not gone well. She finally is getting help from SHI and is profoundly grateful for the support she's receiving to rebuild her life. She knows now that she's not a bad person and God loves her.

UMW and SHI are working with other organizations and government agencies in a number of cities to identify and help vulnerable young people avoid being lured into trafficking, and to provide support for ones who escape. They need us to appreciate the seriousness of this business and raise awareness about it in our congregations and communities. Also we can all learn warning signs that suggest a young person is a victim or potential victim, and inform agencies that could help them. If you ever suspect someone is a victim, call the Human Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888, and then appropriate organizations will investigate.

The most vulnerable young people come from homes where there is one or more of these: domestic violence; emotional, physical, sexual or substance abuse; or extreme poverty. Children who are homeless or runaways are at particular risk of being trafficked. Indications that a young person might be vulnerable or already involved include signs of physical abuse, unexplained absences from school, changes such as sexualized behavior, expensive clothes, bragging about having money, having friends who are older or have a different lifestyle, and signs of gang affiliation.

Concerned individuals can also help by being advocates for the victims - press elected officials to keep this business in the public eye, support efforts to rehabilitate rather than punish the victims, and support funding for government services that can help victims.

There is not much reliable data about the extent of sex trafficking in the US, and much more research needs to be done. Wikipedia reports that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security tells school administrators and staff, "Each year, as many as 100,000-300,000 American children are at risk of being trafficked for commercial sex in the United States." In 2007 the New York State Office of Children and Family Services estimated that New York City was home to more than 2,000 sexually exploited children under 18, and at least 85% of them had had some contact previously with the state's welfare system, mostly through abuse or neglect proceedings. In 2013, Louise Slaughter (D-NY) testified at a Ways & Means Human Resources Subcommittee hearing in strong support of a bill she and Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN) submitted to address the high rate of children in foster care who are being recruited into sex trafficking within the United States. I haven't found out what happened to that bill.



Saturday, March 12, 2016  
Gilroy United Methodist Church, 7600 Church St.  
Gilroy, CA 95020

9:30 am - Doors open  
10:00 - 11:30am - Dr. Maaga presentation part I  
11:30am to 12:30pm - Soup lunch & book sales/signing  
12:30 - 2:00pm - Dr. Maaga presentation part II

There will be a free-will offering for Dr. Maaga.

Reservations ([gumc.cn@gmail.com](mailto:gumc.cn@gmail.com) or 408-842-4021)

Reservations appreciated so we know how many lunch guests to plan for, but please come if you find at the last minute that you can join us.

Grow your courage, no matter how rocky  
or barren your garden plot might seem.

Twelve lessons, designed to inspire courage in addressing life's challenges, will show you how to find and fix the parts of your life that are holding you back from becoming the best person you can be. Through clearly articulated teachings, entertaining stories, and self-directed exercises that will challenge the way you think about yourself, you'll identify the fears, habits, and mentalities that keep you from living the life you desire.

Topics include the necessity of boredom, the enduring power of loss, the need for courageous role models, why anger and tears are good, trusting your gut, learning to say no, and how resentment poisons what we love. You will also learn how to access and communicate with your Soul Self, which the author describes as "the spirit of life that is uniquely expressed in you."

As a pastor and life coach, Dr. Maaga has worked with people from every walk of life. She has discovered approaches that can bring about a permanent change in how you experience life and how you relate to others. As you work through the exercises, you'll feel as though Dr. Maaga is with you every step of the way.

## One Great Hour of Sharing

In March you will be asked to participate in two different special offerings. One of those is the Easter offering which this year is raising money for Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties; you will get a letter about this in the upcoming days. The second special offering is One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) website says this about OGHS:

For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special One Great Hour of Sharing offering, laying the foundation for UMCOR's ministry of relief and hope.

Donations UMCOR receives through this offering, along with other undesignated gifts made throughout the year, cover our costs of doing business. Gifts like yours make it possible for UMCOR to use 100% of all other contributions on the projects our donors specify, instead of on administrative or fundraising costs.

UMCOR does not receive United Methodist World Service or apportionment funds, so without your offerings, UMCOR would not exist.

Because we keep operating costs under 10% of our total budget, undesignated gifts may actually exceed UMCOR's administrative needs. When that happens, your support is channeled to under-funded programs, where they're most needed. They also may be used to allow UMCOR to respond to disasters immediately after an event and before funds can be raised.

On Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> you are invited to give generously to this offering (side note: this is Katie's favorite offering all year long). While it is not the sexiest offering out there, it is one of the coolest since our offerings on March 6<sup>th</sup> (or later if you aren't in worship on the 6<sup>th</sup>) mean that 100% of our offerings during other times of the year go to support the causes that have touched our hearts. Again, how cool is that?

## Holy Week Worship



Our Holy Week worship opportunities begin on March 20th at 10:30am for Palm Sunday. Join us in worship as we welcome Jesus into Jerusalem with palm branches, songs, shouting

stones, and the story of Jesus' entrance into the Holy City as told in Luke's gospel (Luke 19:28-40). We will begin by singing familiar hymns like *All Glory, Laud, and Honor* and *Tell Me the Stories of Jesus* as we celebrate this most unlikely king! We will close our service singing, *What Wondrous Love Is This* as we ask about that same king and his love, "What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life to lay aside his crown for my soul?"



On Maundy Thursday also known as Holy Thursday (March 24) at 7pm we will gather in the chapel for a service of Holy Communion and Tenebrae as we remember Jesus' final meal

with his disciples, the new commandment that he gave his disciples to love one another, and the story of his crucifixion. As we tell the story of Jesus' crucifixion from John's gospel (John 18 and 19) we will extinguish candles as we move through the story of Jesus' final hours.



At 10:30am on Sunday March 27th we will celebrate Easter Sunday. We will sing our alleluias and praise God for the gift of new life received through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Children will remain in worship throughout this worship service. Nursery care will still be provided for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.



## EDUCATION AND YOUTH NEWS

by Jane Day

UMYF is planning to attend Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco on May 8, and help serve lunch after the service. Some of the teens are hoping to participate in a Sierra Service Project this summer.

Sunday School will meet on March 6, 13 and 20 but not on Easter Sunday, March 27. On March 20, Palm Sunday, we will have a palm procession at the beginning of worship, and we invite anyone who would like to join us to do so!



### Easter Egg Hunt!

We will have an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, March 27, for children age 10 and younger. Please invite your friends, neighbors and relatives!

We'll gather outside the Narthex around 9:55 am. Katie will welcome everyone and talk briefly about the meaning of Easter. Children in Kindergarten or younger will go first, then the older ones. We'll invite all the children to attend worship with their families afterwards, and there will be special Easter busy bags for them.

Our teens will stuff colorful plastic eggs beforehand and hide them that morning. We hope a lot of adults will come early that day and stand along the edges of the lawn. That ensures the children stay away from the streets, and it is fun to watch them.

We'd be happy to also have a few volunteers to help prepare the busy bags beforehand, or help hang pennants around the yard. Please let Jane Day know ([janemday@earthlink.net](mailto:janemday@earthlink.net) or 650-384-5607) if you can help with either of these.



### Work Day Saturday, March 5th

Work Day will be Saturday, March 5th 9:00am to 12:00 noon. If you have some free time come down and join us in helping to keep our church in tip-top shape!



### MARCH

Tina Petelo	March 1
Cathy Taylor	March 10
Viliami & Lili Puna (A)	March 11
Mark Pense	March 11
Nigel Blackwood-Chirchir	March 12
Jane Day	March 12
Luisa Serkes	March 13
Jane Petelo	March 19
Elenoa Petelo	March 25
Glenn & Mary Nelson (A)	March 25
Scott Pense	March 28

### APRIL

Jean Massing	April 7
Kirmala Dayal	April 8
Rebecca & Kashwan Reddy (A)	April 11
William Petelo	April 13
Kashwan Reddy	April 14
Carole Clarke	April 16
Greg & Nancy Brown (A)	April 17
Anne Hinton	April 18
Joe Palumbo	April 21
Teri Folau	April 26
Elaine Stern	April 28



Albert Hopkins of Los Altos passed away on January 5, 2016. A memorial service was held at the Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Avenue, Los Altos CA 94024. On Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 1:00 pm.

# MARCH 2016

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		<b>1</b>  <b>Triple S 6pm</b> <b>Harry's Hofbrau</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  <b>Choir Practice</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>Work Day</b> <b>9am to noon</b> <b>Trustees meeting</b> <b>to start at 8am</b>
<b>6</b> 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45-1:30 UMYF 11:30 Coffee Fellowship <b>One Great Hour</b> <b>of Sharing</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>Thoburn Circle</b>    <b>12-2pm</b> <b>Watters Hall</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>Choir Practice</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 10:30 Family Worship 11:45-1:30 UMYF 11:30 Coffee Fellowship <b>Daylight Savings Begins</b> 	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  <b>3:30pm Ad Council</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  <b>Choir Practice</b> <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45-1:30 UMYF 11:30 Coffee Fellowship <b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>Maundy Thursday</b> <b>Worship at 7pm</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>Good Friday</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:55 Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:45-1:30 UMYF 11:30 Coffee Fellowship <b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

