

Tidings

The Newsletter of Woodside Road United Methodist Church
"We Seek God, Welcome All, Love and Serve Our Neighbors"

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September 2016

October Tidings articles are due by September 14
October Tidings will be available September 25

Dear Friends,

I'm writing this on the day that Daniel dropped Tiernan off for his first day of kindergarten. Many of you know by now that Tiernan is attending John Gill's Mandarin Immersion program this year. Neither Daniel nor I speak Mandarin, and we certainly can't read or write it. Daniel and the kids have been watching some YouTube videos this summer of basic Mandarin, and one of the teachers at Trimont (Annagi's) speaks Mandarin so Evelyn is pretty good at counting to ten. Which is to say that we're in for an interesting ride this school year!

I am really grateful for the way that Tiernan has embraced this new opportunity. At least he's embraced it in theory, I haven't picked him up from his first day yet! Doing something new, doing something that is challenging and foreign, involves taking a risk that you may end up in over your head. I am personally rather risk adverse, which is one of the reasons why being a part of a Christian community is so important to me. Since I shy away from risk, being a part of a community allows me to take risks standing shoulder to shoulder with you, my brothers and sisters in Christ.

As we approach September we are ready to begin discerning if God is calling us to become a Reconciling Congregation. Here at Woodside Road United Methodist Church we have long proclaimed that we "Welcome All." Becoming a Reconciling Congregation means that "all" includes gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer+ people. That plus sign is there because expressions of human sexuality and gender identity are not nearly as straightforward and clearly defined as they are in my kids' where do babies come from book.

Friends, this process means we're taking a risk together. For some of us this is a risk that is well worth taking. For others of us this is a risk that we're really not so sure about. For some of the risk would be not engaging in this process and continuing things as they are. Following Jesus has always involved risk taking. The stories of the early church are filled with people who risked everything to practice their faith and share that faith with others. In more recent times many of the Civil Rights leaders of the previous century grounded their work in the teachings of Jesus and saw the justice work that they were doing as responding to a call they had from God. In comparison the risks these people took on what we're doing is a lot less scary, but real nevertheless.

So as I write this, even before we embark on this journey, I want you to know that just as I am proud of Tiernan for beginning Mandarin Immersion kindergarten, I am proud to be a part of this community – this group of Jesus' followers. I hope that you be part of the potluck dinners in Watters Hall on September 18th and 25th at 5:30pm when we welcome Stevie-Jolie Stallmeyer (the 18th) and Craig Wiesner and Derrick Kikuchi (the 25th).

See you in church,

Katie

Report on Multicity Conference: Cultural Intuition and Social Imagination

Report by Jane Day

This event was organized by the CA/Nevada Conference and held at St. Paul UMC in Fremont on August 13. It was a call to clergy and laypeople for change, and it was a powerful day. The keynote speaker was Dr. Soong Chan Rah, Professor of Church Growth and Evangelism at North Park Seminary in Chicago. Pastor Katie, Elaine Stern and I attended.

Rev. Greg Bergquist, CA/Nevada Conference Superintendent for Leadership Development, opened the meeting. He said the Christian church has experienced cataclysmic change about every 500 years, the last big disruption being the Protestant Reformation. And here we are now, 500 years later, in another time of great disruption in our world, a society in which whites will soon be the minority, and where church membership is declining. In order to revitalize our churches we have to change, and that requires discarding language and structures that stifle change. United Methodists have strong minds and reasoning skills, but we need to engage our hearts and social imaginations to feel God's call today. This is collaborative work.

Dr. Rah called attention to all the wars and thousands of refugees fleeing those, homeless and hungry people in every city, and huge disparities in health care, education and wealth through most of the world. Churches can lead cultural change in peaceful ways, to build healthy communities and congregations that are diverse and strong. He based his presentation on Jeremiah 29:4-7, where the prophet is speaking to the priests and citizens who had been taken from Jerusalem into exile in Babylon, around 700 BC. He tells them that God says to settle down there, work for the good of the cities where they are sent, and pray for them; because *if those cities are prosperous, they will also prosper*. It's a powerful call to let go of the past, accept their new reality, and engage with their new world to make it better. It rings true for us now. When we hang on to the past, it doesn't make our world better. He cited the example of "white flight" from cities to suburbs in the 20th century, which was a reaction to the new cultural groups settling in cities. The result in the cities was ghettos, and that has led to many of the social problems we struggle with now.

Greg Bergquist talked about change – it's hard and scary. But he knows this diverse world is a great gift, and his Facebook motto is "I live to change." He introduced a panel of pastors and laity who discussed ways their churches have become more diverse and created deep connections with their communities. We heard that Salinas UMC welcomes homeless people from 6am to 1pm, offering rest, food, safety; and their once all white congregation is now diverse. St. Paul UMC in Fremont is diverse and actively seeks diversity in all leadership positions. They offer a Vacation Bible School every summer that attracts a very diverse group of about 65 children who are not otherwise part of the church. Recently one was asked why she came back every year, and she said because she liked the hugs. St. Paul also shares a parking lot with a Muslim mosque. There were other similar stories.

Dr. Rah's second presentation was about cultural intelligence and intuition, which we need to develop. We tend to interpret things very narrowly, only in terms of our own culture. All humanity was created to be like God, but we often fail to respect, appreciate and embrace cultural differences. In order to build a diverse congregation, we must overcome this barrier. Different cultures communicate and worship differently so we have to listen. When a new idea is proposed, be intentional about working it out in a multicultural setting.

To begin developing leadership that is culturally sensitive and effective we need to build "social capital", which means serving others in appropriate ways without being asked. (For example, an appropriate gift for a new Korean family in your neighborhood would be a box of Tide, but that might not be appropriate for a family from another culture!)

The most effective leaders in a multi cultural setting are *not* usually the strong leaders of distinct groups, instead it's people who are "on the edges", meaning connected to several groups, who will usually be better at communicating and building consensus.

Dr. Rah's closing topic was "The Need for Lament". When things change, it is very important to recognize and mourn what we are losing or have lost, so we can eventually move on. In particular, multi ethnic churches *must* deal with the "dead bodies in the room" – that is, all the damage that's been done to native and immigrant groups by the dominant culture. We must learn that history and mourn it with them.

Thoburn Circle



Jane Day and I attended a well organized Mission U event in San Rafael on August 20th. I attended the Climate Justice workshop led by Reverend Sharon Delgado, a

retired minister and author. How are we facilitating climate change and what more can we do? This will be our discussion topic at our next UMW meeting on Labor Day, **Monday, September 5th**, at noon in Watters Hall. **Helen Lomas**

UMW 2016 Mission U Learning Together for the Transformation of the World Report by Jane Day

Each year the CA/Nevada United Methodist Women choose a few specific mission topics they will study and support that year, and they schedule several presentations. This year the missions are Climate Justice: Call to Hope and Action; The Bible and Human Sexuality; and Latin America: People and Faith – Geographical Study. The thread that connects these topics can be found in Genesis 1: 26-27, where humans are called to be caretakers of creation. On August 20, Helen Lomas and I attended a session of Mission U that was held at San Rafael UMC in San Rafael.

Helen attended the Climate study, which focused on the effects of carbon in our atmosphere, what is being done by various nations to reduce carbon emissions, goals that have been set by various countries, what has been accomplished so far, and possible other solutions.

I attended the Sexuality study, which affirms that sexuality is a gift from God and is good, and that there are various healthy physical and emotional expressions of it. We discussed what the Bible says about sexuality, when and how to teach children about it, and our responsibilities for addressing the sins of human trafficking, sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults, and sexual abuse and oppression that is rooted in sexism, racism, and abuse of power. Our church was apparently the only one represented that has offered sexuality education to teens in recent years. A retired pastor in the group offered this wisdom: adults should work out healthy relationships *before* marrying!



What do you want out of life?

It is natural to desire both the essentials and the reasonable comforts of life.

But you should keep a healthy balance between the two.

You have been delegated by God to make a unique contribution to life.

It may seem insignificant to you, but from God's viewpoint you are irreplaceable.

Be willing to share with others, especially to those who are less fortunate.

Howard Macway



Our Fall work day is coming up on Saturday, September 10th. 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!



SEPTEMBER

Lisa Hicks-Dumanske	September 1
Carla & Harry Sillin (A)	September 4
Debra Clark-Trimble	September 6
Harry Sillin	September 7
Katie Sillin	September 7
Cindee Kibbe	September 10
Patti Fletcher-Riley	September 12
Lauren Righini	September 12
Carla Sillin	September 14
Cleo Susan Guarino	September 20
Janice McOmber	September 23
Jim & Marlene Yoder (A)	September 25
Mary Marchini	September 29
Marshall Serkes	September 29
Evelyn Berk	September 30

OCTOBER

Ty Swanson	October 2
Mary Ellen Pense	October 2
Jeff & Patti Riley (A)	October 2
Georgi La Berge & Warren Dale (A)	October 3
Marlene Yoder	October 10
Elizabeth Prasad	October 17
Hulita Folau	October 20
Beverly Barr	October 23
Frank Taylor	October 25
Nancy Brown	October 26
Eric Brown	October 26
Wendi Brown	October 26
Betty Kibbe	October 30
Ben & Hulita Folau (A)	October 30

If you do not see your name listed, it's because we don't have your birthday or anniversary information. Please let the church office know your information so that we may correct it.



Senior Fellowship Lunch

Thursday- September 22 - Lunch at Mountain Mike's Pizza, 391 El Cammino Real, Belmont, meet at 11:30 sharp.

No donation required.

Call Jean Massing 650-368-0561.



Woodside Road United Methodist Church is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on 10/18/16. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis.

Please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.

Abbreviated from Irene Zinkel's daughter,
Lorna Hutcheson:

Dear Pastor Katie and Congregation,

Enclosed is a check that Mom, Irene Zinkel, wanted to give the church specifically "to be used for The Memorial Fund."

It is with my heartfelt Thank You that I deliver this to you. The church and each one of you were a big part of both my Mom and Dad's lives.

Mom had many beautiful memories that she would think and talk about with smiles, such as getting "turned around" (aka lost) in Woodside Hills one evening when driving some of you gals home after a meeting at the church, and just happening to end up at the house of another member of the congregation when stopping to ask for directions.

I especially want to thank Mom's wonderful friends who made a point to keep in touch with her and visit her even when she no longer was able to make it down to the church. Each time she received a call from one of you, a card from the Circle ladies and especially the visits from various special friends, she was overjoyed... Many nights after Mom would go to bed, she would have very special and heartfelt "talks" with God and Daddy that sounded like they were both right there in her room with her. After hearing from one of you or seeing one of you, she would share those talks or visits with them, telling them just how happy and special it always made her feel and how special you were.

Please accept Mom's gift and know that she gave it purely out of love and appreciation.

Many thanks and much love,

Lorna Hutcheson

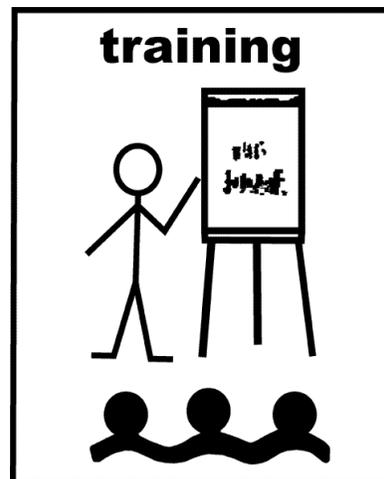
Education News



Regular Fall Sunday School for children will begin on September 18! Everyone is invited to help us celebrate this new year, with a brief meeting in Watters Hall at 9:45. We'll serve breads, juice, tea and coffee, and introduce teachers and curriculum. Please join us! It is lovely for the children to see how our congregation supports their program.

Save this date!

October 15, 2016 (Saturday)
9:00AM until noon



SPRC Training workshop

St. Paul's UMC in Fremont
Watch for details and registration
information to come.



**Fall Events to Prepare WRUMC
to Become a Reconciling Congregation**

A Reconciling Congregation in the UMC is one in which the congregation votes to explicitly and actively seek, welcome and embrace GLBTQI+ persons into their congregation. We at WRUMC have always welcomed all comers, but recently it has dawned on some of us that we need to officially become a Reconciling Congregation, so that GLBTQI+ persons will know for sure that they're truly welcome here. We also realized that we need to learn more about such alternative identities and lifestyles so we can help all visitors feel comfortable. To begin, we're planning several educational events for this fall. Please put the following on your calendar, invite friends, and participate if you can.

Sundays, 5:30-7:00 pm in Watters Hall:

Sept. 18 - Stevie Jolie Stallmeyer, San Mateo County LGBTQ Commission Co-Chair, will speak about her experience as a transgender woman.

Sept. 25 - Craig Wiesner and Derrick Kikuchi, members of First Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto, married in that church over 25 years ago. They own and operate Reach and Teach Book Store in San Mateo.

We'll serve a light supper at 5:30, with speakers and discussion from 6:00-7:00 pm.

Transportation will be provided for anyone who requests it.

October 2 - November 13:

Pastor Katie will lead a Bible Study "Holy Conversations: Talking about Homosexuality", on Sundays, 11:45am-1:00pm. (No class October 16)

The committee spearheading this program is Pastor Katie, Meg Emori, Jane Day and Jan Ireland. If you'd like to join us in planning future events, let one of us know.

Join us for
Campfire Night!
September 10th
6:30 to 8pm

We look forward to an evening of campfire songs, skits, stories, and, of course, 'smores!



Woodside Road United
Methodist Church
2000 Woodside Road
Redwood City

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1916783498549003/> for more information