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*September*

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Woodside Road United Methodist Church

2000 Woodside Road

Redwood City, CA 94061

***Dated Material***

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# Tidings

The Newsletter of Woodside Road United Methodist Church

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## September 2017

October Tiding articles are due by September 15

October Tidings will be available October 1

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Dear Friends,

Is there a difference between going to church and going to worship? And if so, what is that difference? As your pastor, I spend a fair bit of time “at church,” but certainly not all of it is worship. As committee members and volunteers many of you spend time “at church,” as you do the work of being disciples of Jesus Christ, but not all of that is worship either. It’s service and fellowship and study – good, valuable stuff, but not worship.

In the sermon on August 20<sup>th</sup> I shared these words from Presbyterian pastor Andrew Foster Connors, ““This text [Micah 6:1-8] is a challenge to do justice as part of our worship experience, and to do worship with our acts of justice as part of the liturgy.” Which suggests to me that just as being at church doesn’t mean we are worshipping, being at worship doesn’t necessarily mean we are at church. Sure, it’s important to gather together as the body of Christ for times of shared worship, but we also worship God as we write letters to our elected officials, march and rally for justice, cook food for the people at local homeless shelters, and the list goes on and on.

The worship team met recently and discussed how as a community we might more intentionally focus on worship at 10:30 on Sunday mornings. How can the hour from 10:30 to 11:30 be about the work of worship instead of all of the other reasons why we come to church? One of the ways we think we can be more intentional at 10:30am is by preparing for 10:30am earlier. Our proposal, we will try this beginning Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> and evaluate at the end of October, is this:

10:15am – choir/music rehearsal ends

10:20am – hymn sing

10:25am – prelude

10:30am – welcome

Yes, this means that if you want to participate in the hymn sing you need to be “at church” early. The trade-off is that before the worship service begins we will have had the opportunity to spend 10 minutes getting our hearts and minds ready for worship. As your pastor, this means I won’t be running around 10 minutes before worship begins still wondering what I’ve done with my keys or setting up a kids’ station in the sanctuary. The choir, liturgist, and other worship leaders will have time to center and focus in a structured way that we haven’t made space for recently. And hopefully the whole congregation will be able to move more smoothly from business and fellowship and service to worship.

As we do this over the eight weeks following Labor Day, perhaps we will fall in love with this new pattern. Perhaps we will discover that there is way of centering ourselves for worship that better fits this community.

In Psalm 46 the psalmist tells us that God says, “Be still and know that I am God.” While worship isn’t always about being still, in lives that are busy and full, we have to be intentional about finding times of stillness. I hope you will join with the worship leaders of the congregation in this act of centering and preparation.

See you in church,



## Thoburn Circle



By Helen L

Thoburn Circle will be meeting on September 4<sup>th</sup>, Monday at 12 noon in Watters Hall. We will be discussing our study sessions that Mary N, Bev B and Helen L will be attending on August 26th in Palo Alto. Remember to bring items for our personal care bags or donations for purchasing the items for fifteen bags.

Helen Lomas

### Triple S

*Triple S will meet on September 12 at Harry's Hofbrau, 6:00-6:15 meetup.*

## Finance Committee

Offering  
7/31/17  
Income \$105,121  
Expenses \$113,996  
Deficit 8,875

### OUR TIME

We did nothing to earn the hours, the days, the weeks of our lives. Time is a gift of God. How we choose to use it is a matter of stewardship. Some people lead lives of frenetic activity, always over extending themselves to the point of exhaustion, while others sit around in apathetic boredom. Some spend all their hours serving the needs of others at the expense of their own, while others live only for themselves.

As Christian stewards we try to manage time wisely and in a balanced way. We give our time gladly to family and friends, to strangers, to the community the church and to ourselves.

UMC Stewardship

## El Camino Real District UMW 2017 Calendar

**September 16** District UMW Executive Team Meeting, Campbell UMC

**October 20** D'LTE: Leadership Training Event for District UMW team members

**October 21** California-Nevada Annual Conference UMW Annual Celebration, Lommis UMC

**December tba** District UMW Executive Team Meeting Christmas gathering and pass off of materials to new officers.

**Adult Spiritual Formation** will resume after Labor Day on Sunday, September 10th. We will be working with the book *When Did God Become a Christian?* by David Kalas (available from Cokesbury or Amazon). Class meets on Sundays following worship in the library. If a weekday timeslot would work better for you, please let Katie know. If there is interest, we will schedule a second session. As always Adult Spiritual Formation is open to everyone. It is not necessary to buy the book. Come check us out!

### Bay District Joint Worship Service

District Superintendent Staci Current invites us to a Bay District worship service on World Communion Sunday, October 1, 2017 at Taylor Memorial UMC in Oakland. The service of worship begins at 4:00 pm. Following worship there are plans for a potluck, more details to follow. We will also do an installation of the district superintendent and blessing of circuit leaders, pastors, and laity.

**Campfire night** is coming back to Woodside Road UMC! On September 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm to 8pm we will again gather on the Alameda side of the building for a time of singing, skits, s'mores, and fellowship. Everyone is welcome – this is a great event to invite your friends to!



# Youth

## Education and Youth News

**Sunday School for children pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade** resumes on Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> following the youth moments in worship. Cathy T will be the teacher. The curriculum for the fall is Deep Blue Kids. During September and most of November the worship service themes will follow the Sunday School themes. This way we can all learn and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ together. A big thank you to Elenoa P for leading the children during these summer months.

If you have any questions call the church office at 650-368-3376 or email [katrinka3ten@comcast.net](mailto:katrinka3ten@comcast.net).

### Save the Date

Oct 1 -- Season of Stewardship begins and World Communion Sunday, Bay District worship service 4pm  
Oct 8 -- San Francisco/Peninsula CROP Walk 1pm Menlo Park  
Oct 28 -- Pumpkin Party and Potluck 4-6pm Watters Hall  
Oct 29 -- Stewardship Luncheon 11:30am Watters Hall

Many thanks to those who brought in backpack supplies for local children.



**Mark your calendars for the CROP Walk on Sunday, October 8th** in support of Church World Service and the Ecumenical Hunger Program. We will gather together at Nealon Park in Menlo Park (800 Middle Ave, Menlo Park 94025). Registration begins at 1pm, the walk starts at 2pm. Walks of lengths between 1 and 5 miles are available. You can sign up online here <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/menloparkca> or see Katie for a fundraising packet.

# Sept 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:45-1:30 UMYF	4  12-2pm Watters Hall	5	6	7  Choir Practice 7:30pm	8	9 Campfire Parking lot 6:30-8:00 PM
10 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:45 Adult Spiritual Formation 11:45-1:30 UMYF	11	12	13	14  Choir Practice 7:30pm	15	16 Trustees meeting 8-9AM Workday 9-12
17 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:45 Adult Spiritual Formation 11:45-1:30 UMYF	18	19 2:30pm Finance 3:30pm Ad Council	20	21  Choir Practice 7:30pm	22	23
24 10:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 11:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:45 Adult Spiritual Formation 11:45-1:30 UMYF	25	26	27	28  Choir Practice 7:30pm	29	30