

June 2019

Help us save paper, toner, and postage fees! If you are willing to access WRUMC's Tidings online, please let the church office know, and we'll take you off the "snail mail" list and add you to the email only list!

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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June 2019

July Tidings articles are due by June 15.

July Tidings will be available on the last Sunday in June.

Dear Friends,

I don't listen to that many podcasts, but on the ones that I do listen to there's been an ad recently that lifts up the importance of belonging. And, according to the ad, what better way to demonstrate our belonging than matching tee-shirts? In case you were wondering, this ad both intrigues me and bugs me. It intrigues me because it's right; we do need to belong. We need community. We need a circle of friends and family who will laugh, cry, and journey through life with us. It bugs me. What none of us needs another tee-shirt. If I'm wrong, and you do need a tee-shirt, let me know, I'll hook you up. We have lots of tee-shirts at my house.

For the last few weeks I've been talking about Belong Circles, and how I want to have a Belong Circle at WRUMC. A few of you have even told me you want to be a part of a Belong Circle. For those of you who haven't heard, Belong Circles are an initiative of PICO California (of which Faith in Action is a part) to address the "us and them" dynamic that exists in so much of our public life. These circles are an opportunity to connect across our differences, dream about what our communities could be, and take prophetic action in order to create that community. While I've talked about this, it isn't all just talk. I've asked David Corrales to consider a Belong Circle which includes both folks from WRUMC and Templo la Luz. Adriana Guzman of Faith in Action has asked about hosting Belong Circles for the Redwood City community here at WRUMC which would include those of us who call this congregation home.

I'm pretty sure that we've all experienced the feeling of not belonging. As a parent watching one of my kids struggle with not belonging, or what I perceive as not belonging, gets my Mama Bear hackles up and can be harder to handle than when I myself experience feelings of being left out. The feeling of not belonging is really kind of a miserable one. And I think Jesus knew this, or at least learned it, and therefore walks with us as we continue learning to draw the circle wide.

One of my favorite stories in the Bible is told in Matthew 15 and Mark 7. In Matthew's gospel a Canaanite woman comes to Jesus (in Mark she's Syrophenician) and asks Jesus to heal her daughter. Jesus responds, "Go away. I've come to save the children of Israel." The Canaanite woman responds, "Help me." Jesus responds, "It's not right to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." Ouch. Talk about not belonging. But the woman doesn't back down. She responds, "Even the dogs eat the crumbs of the master's table." And in that moment Jesus has an "ah-ha" moment. He wakes up and realizes that even he, Jesus, has been drawing the circle too small, and that more folks than he ever imagined belong. And within the hour the Canaanite woman's daughter is healed.

When it comes to those we call the Church, the circle of belonging is wide. When it comes to those we call the Church, it's made up of human folks who are going to sometimes get it wrong. But over and over again we get to keep trying. We get to keep drawing a bigger and bigger circle because that's what we watched Jesus do. It's a circle that involves argumentative "outsiders", squirrely children, reluctant disciples, and overenthusiastic ones as well. It's a circle that reminds us, from our baptismal vows, that Jesus has opened the "church... to people of all ages, nations, and races." Here at WRUMC we'd add "all sexual orientations and gender identities" as well.

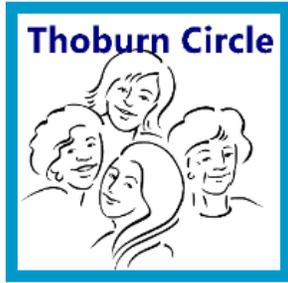
And what we learn here at church we get to carry with us out into the world beyond these walls. We get to carry this circle of belonging into the places where we work, live, and volunteer. We get to carry the circle of belonging into the grocery stores where we shop, the community centers we visit, the libraries where we check out books.

We aren't always going to get it right. But we're going to keep practicing. We're going to keep following Jesus. And we're going to keep on drawing the circle wide.

See you in church,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katie".

United Methodist Women



Members: Evelyn Berk, Jane Day, Katie Goetz, Anne Hinton, Helen Lomas, Mary Marchini, Jean Massing, Helen Marin, Janice McOmber and Mary Nelson.

Thoburn Members Absent: Alice Allen, Bev Barr, Carole Clarke, Betty Kibbe and Elizabeth Prasad.

The members met in Watters Hall at noon for lunch and socializing. Mary Nelson provided a dessert and fruit commemorating Mother's Day this coming weekend.

Resettlement issues for refugees were discussed since Katie's family are directly involved. Managing the lifestyle, language, meal preparation and agencies dealing with relocation can be overwhelming. Churches have been very supportive.

Helen mentioned two UMW Bay District Mission U programs, one in Quincy on June 8th and 9th and another on August 3rd in Santa Rosa. The UMW Annual Celebration will be at SSF Hope UMC.

Jane offered her home for the June meeting. A potluck will be planned and Helen Marin will help with the phoning. Anne offered to present a program.

Katie led us in a meditation to help calm our stressful lives and to feel God's presence. We packed the personal care bags. Helen Lomas took them to the Service League in Redwood City.

Our Circle is the only group preparing the bags for the released prisoners. We have the next three months to collect items for our meeting in September on the 2nd, Labor Day at 12 noon in Watters Hall. Helen Marin will be our hostess.

Helen Lomas

TRIPLE S

Triple S will meet at 6 pm at Harry's Hofbrau on June 4th.

Finance Committee

Financial facts

4/30/19

Income \$77,434

Expenses 69,407

Positive \$8,027

WE GIVE

To belong to our congregation is to be a steward. Some may say that "stewardship" is just a polite way of referring to financial giving to the church. But it far from that.

One character in some of Jesus parables is the steward ---the servant character charged by the master to care for the man's property. It is the master, not the steward, who owns the property, but the stewards responsible for it and is accountable to the master. So, it is, said Jesus, between God and us. As God's stewards, we have three responsibilities:

Receiving: We receive with joyful thanksgiving the many gifts that God showers upon us ---time, talent, treasure, our bodies, our friendships, natural resources, and the beauty around us.

Managing: We take good care of what we received. We manage those resources wisely, for our own good and the good of others.

Giving: Out of gratitude in receiving so abundantly, we want to share with others.

UMC Stewardship

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Birthdays

<i>Shylah Danica Williams</i>	<i>June 3</i>
<i>Camille Taylor</i>	<i>June 3</i>
<i>Peggy Pagen-Quebec</i>	<i>June 16</i>

Anniversaries

<i>Roger and Elaine Stern</i>	<i>June 7</i>
<i>Anne and John Hinton</i>	<i>June 8</i>



Congratulations to our Graduates

Nico Guarino, son of Nicola and Marc Guarino, will graduate from Peterson Middle School and attend Wilcox High School next fall.

Camille Taylor, Cathy and Frank Taylor's daughter, graduated in March with a B.S. in Physical Anthropology from University of Oregon.

Peace with Justice Sunday - June 16th

Peace with Justice Sunday enables The United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs. The special offering benefits peace with justice ministries in the annual conference and through the General Board of Church and Society. 50% of the offering stays within our Annual Conference funding work like California Church Impact's program to help ex-felons expunge their records, UMC Merced's program working with children caught up in the deportation crisis, and First UMC Palo Alto's program for homeless teens. The other 50% of the offering goes to the General Board of Church and Society and helps fund programs like Justice for our Neighbors and projects that work to shut down the school to prison pipeline. Please give generously on June 16th!

Did You Know?

Outlet is a program of Adolescent Counseling Services here in Redwood City. *Outlet*, located at 643 Bair Island Road, Suite 301, provides support groups, social opportunities, and education for LGBTQ+ youth, their families, schools, and community. On Tuesdays from 4-7pm there is a drop in space for LGBTQ+ youth (ages 10-18). On Thursdays from 6-7:30pm there is a drop in group for trans youth (ages 10-18). We are in conversation with the education coordinator at *Outlet* to host a SOGIE training at Woodside Road UMC in the fall. Don't know what SOGIE is? That's okay, neither did I. SOGIE stands for sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression. This would be an opportunity for us and the wider community I'm thinking that it should involve a taco truck dinner as well!

Belong Circles

"A Belong Circle is an intentional gathering of 10 people who believe in a world of equity and dignity for each of us. Belong Circles are a response to a narrative that tells us that it is either us or them, dividing us and making us believe there is not enough for all to thrive. Belong Circles provide spaces for us to build relationships of trust, connect across our differences, imagine what our communities should be and create opportunities to turn this vision into reality by taking prophetic action together."

Are you interested in being part of such a Circle? Circles meet four times. Contact Katie for more information.

Opportunities for Service

1 – Work day will be Saturday June 1st, 9:00 am - noon.

If you can't make the whole three hours, any amount of time you can give will be appreciated. Come meet new friends from Templo La Luz and have a good time. If you have questions, contact Joe Palumbo or any Trustee.

2 - We are looking for folks to help teach Sunday school.

Curriculum is provided. This summer we will be using Sparkhouse's All Kids curriculum. Stories include Abraham, Jacob, and an extended time in the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew's gospel.

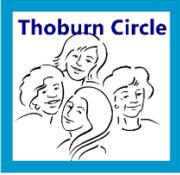
Staff, teachers, youth leaders, and other folks working with children and youth need to complete "Safe Gatherings" training. This on-line training helps to protect our young people, you, and the church. Email Katie (katiemgoetz@gmail.com) for the weblink. Once you do this, you're good to go for the next three years!

3 - Can you arrive at church a few minutes early?

We can always use help preparing the Sanctuary for worship. See Katie for details.

4 - Also, there is a new Fellowship Time sign-up sheet available. June is covered (thank you!), but opportunities to serve in this way are available in July and beyond. Responsibilities include providing food, set up, and clean up. Partnering with a friend or two is always encouraged and snacks can be as simple (chips and salsa or crackers and hummus) or as complicated (homemade cakes or little finger sandwiches) as you like.

June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<p>1 8 am Trustees</p> <p>9 am Work Day</p>
<p>2</p> <p>10:30 Worship 10:45 Sun Sch 11:45-1:30 UMYF 11:30 Coffee Fellowship) 11:45 Adult Spiritual Formation</p>	 <p>3</p> <p>Noon Jane Day's House</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Triple S</p> <p>6 pm Harry's Hofbrau</p>	5	6	7	8
<p>9</p> <p>10:30 Family Worship 11:45-1:30 UMYF 11:30 Fellowship 11:45 Adult Spiritual Formation</p>	10	11	12	13	14	15
<p>16</p> <p>10:30 Worship 10:45 Sun Sch 11:45-1:30 UMYF 11:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:45 Adult Spiritual Formation</p>	17	18	19	20	21	22
			<p>Annual Modesto</p>	<p>Conference CA</p> 		
<p>23</p> <p>10:30 Worship 10:45 Sun Sch 11:45-1:30 UMYF 11:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:45 Adult Spiritual Formation</p>	24	25	26	27	28	29
<p>30</p> <p>10:30 Worship 10:45 Sun Sch 11:45-1:30 UMYF 11:30 Coffee Fellowship 11:45 Adult Spiritual Formation</p>						