

St. Mark's Messenger

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DEAR FRIENDS,

The church is a place for honest, open, and respectful conversation about the biggest issues of our lives. When we are at our best, we are growing spiritually by opening our hearts and minds to each other.

This is an especially vital role for us right now, when there appear to be such widely differing life-affecting views among us. This is a time for generous compassion all around. It's a time for listening.

Each of us has taken a unique path. Each of us has real and authentic reasons for feeling and thinking as we do. We have much to offer each other if only we have a safe and nurturing way to do it, and the patience and openness to simply listen.

Our goal is not agreement. It is not to try to get others to agree with one point of view or another. Rather our primary goal is understanding. Not just tolerance, though that's at least a start. It is through understanding that we are able to accept each other and grow closer to one another.

Love is not the result of this process, it is the beginning. In fact, if I understand Jesus correctly, love IS the process.

John Dominic Crossan suggests that Jesus taught in parables as a way of stimulating honest, open, and respectful conversation. This is quite a change for those of us who have grown up thinking that parables have a specific interpretation or meaning. Also, while we think of parables as short anecdotes, Crossan says it likely took Jesus about an hour to teach a parable—and the conversation among his listeners may have gone on much longer.

In the *First light* video study last week, we began talking about the parable of the vineyard owner and his workers, and within a few minutes several different opinions were expressed and a robust conversation had started. (You're invited to join the video study at any time—it's on Mondays from 1 to 2:15 p.m. in the New Room.)

Would you like to be part of this, or another discussion group? Let me know. We'll schedule it at your convenience, and we'll provide childcare.

We were very sorry to learn last week that Rev. George Rosemier, our Minister of Visitation, is leaving us to pursue a different direction. He and Pam have been there when we needed them—they have helped so many of us through difficult times. We will miss their caring and generous spirits, their friendship, and their willingness to go above and beyond. And we wish them all the best as they take the next steps in their journey together.

See you in church.

Craig

WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION BEGINS FEBRUARY 12

This year's retreat theme, "Breaking Through Boundaries", will be an opportunity for each woman to reflect upon who she is and discover what God is calling her to do. It is to acknowledge that barriers are sometimes in the way and to determine when and how God is calling her to break through the boundaries that threaten to hold her back.

All women are invited to attend this retreat in Pine Valley for a fun and meaningful weekend, March 24-26. Through music, discussion, and activities attendees will explore together who we are, and the One who calls us into boldness. Let us discover together what God's written and living Word will show us.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers are a wonderful way to honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion. There are several dates for the remainder of the year that no one has ordered flowers for the altar. Please be sure to stop by the church office to place an order

The cost for a basic arrangement is \$45, and a rose arrangement is \$50. It is preferable that payment for flowers be made at the time the order is placed. If you have any questions, please contact Malinda in the church office.

SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO PARTICIPATE

"The Hunger walk for the Community Christian Service Agency (CCSA) will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at Mission Bay (De Anza Cove) starting at 8 a.m. and is a 5k walk"

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12

This special offering is a request of the California Pacific Annual Conference. The funds are used for programs and projects throughout the Conference that support youth and young adults in their Christian walk, to nurture their faith development, to equip young leaders, and to empower young people as world-changing disciples of Jesus Christ. An special offering envelope will be available in the Sunday bulletin that day.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

Every week two dedicated volunteers clean the pews by organizing the information in the pew pockets, replenishing the pens, and straightening the pew Bibles in preparation for church on Sunday morning. There are currently 16 pew volunteers who rotate services every 8 weeks. We are looking to add to the group of volunteers. So if you are looking for a way to serve in the church but are limited on time, please consider becoming part of the "pew crew." Martha Hilker has been faithfully coordinating the pew crew for well over a decade, so please contact her at 858-273-4393 for more information.

CHAIR YOGA

Stretching our muscles while deep breathing is something everyone knows is important but sometimes we don't know how to get started. Maybe Chair Yoga is the place for you to begin. You do all the same stretches while using a chair to help provide stability. No headstands or pretzel bending, just moving body and breath. You are invited to chair yoga at 7:30 a.m. through the month of January in the Social Hall.

Please note: Class time has changed from 7:30 to 8 a.m. to allow more flexibility to those who need it. Please call the office for more information.

WEEKLY VIDEO STUDY CONTINUES

The origins of the Bible and Christianity are examined in-depth in the video study *First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God*. Filmed on location in Galilee and Jerusalem, these challenging videos feature renowned scholars John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg. The study will continue through February, from 1 to 2:15 p.m. in the New Room, near the church office. Rev. Craig leads this discussion, and you are invited to come to as many or as few sessions as you like.

LET US KNOW!

Picture-taking and video recording are frequently done during church events. Some of those pictures may be published in our church publications, slideshows, on our website, or on our social media pages. If you do not wish to have your picture published, please let an usher know, or contact the church office by phone or email.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2017

8:30 AM Pastor's Sunday School/NR
9:30 AM Church /Sanc
12:00 PM Tongan Fellowship

SHARE YOUR FRIENDSHIP STORIES!

You are invited to share a story about your best friend(s). These stories will be compiled for our youth, and published in a special Valentine's insert in the Messenger. While Valentine's is often associated with romantic love, in the New Testament love is mentioned as an important part of friendships within the emerging Christian community. The earliest disciples supported and encouraged each other. We still continue to do that today. We're accepting funny stories, serious stories, stories from your childhood or present, even stories about your best friend the dog! Please submit the stories to Kris Nieder by February 4, via email: kris@stmarksumcsd.org.

CCSA OFFERINGS

Thank you to everyone who supports Community Christian Service Agency with food, clothing, volunteer hours, and financial support. We are grateful for your continued assistance. Beginning on Sunday, February 5, St. Mark's will have plastic bins in the Narthex of the church to drop off your CCSA Offerings. The food and clothing offerings will be taken to CCSA weekly where they will be distributed to our neighbors in need. All financial offerings identified for CCSA can be put in the offering plate. If you would like to volunteer your time to help CCSA, please contact Connie Villarreal at 858-274-2273.

PREPARED FOR LENT WITH A TIMELY BOOK STUDY

It takes moral courage to provide a preferential option for the poor in obedience to the imperatives of Jesus found in Matthew 25. Dr. Paul Farmer was solving social as well as physical ills in Haiti before he had finished medical school in Boston, but he did not stop there. The subject of Tracy Kidder's biography, *Mountains Beyond Mountains* continues to inspire healing to this day. You are invited to a study starting February 10, which will meet for four (4) Fridays at the home of Joy Lewis, 4904 Mt. Hay Drive. Please contact either Joy Lewis at 858-735-0691 or Debbie Abbott at 858-717-1632 for details.

YOUR PRESENCE

Sunday, January 29, church attendance was 153.

PASTOR'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Begins at 8:30 a.m. in the New Room. Everyone is invited. Child care is available.

Below are the lectionary readings for this week:

Isaiah 58:1-9a

Psalm 112:1-10

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Matthew 5:13-20

When we joined the United Methodist Church, we made vows to commit ourselves to support the Church by "our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness."

IN OUR PRAYERS

- ♥ *Dave & Marisa Newman*
- ♥ *Maria Penalosa*
- ♥ *Dwight Branscom*
- ♥ *Erin Reichman*
- ♥ *Terri Dillen*
- ♥ *Joyce Martin*
- ♥ *James French*
- ♥ *Zeke Prust*
- ♥ *Shelly Johnston*
- ♥ *Eileen Ayars*
- ♥ *Austin Cook*
- ♥ *Tricia Martin*
- ♥ *Ron Hess*
- ♥ *Vicky Schulke*
- ♥ *Bernice Morrison*
- ♥ *Lee Smith*
- ♥ *Felix Mena*
- ♥ *Floyd Murphy*
- ♥ *Forrest Sedgwick*
- ♥ *Christine Kay*

and our military personnel, including:

- ♡ *Kris Brendal, Army*
- ♡ *Robert S. Chisholm, Navy*
- ♡ *Craig Clemans, Marines*
- ♡ *Paul Clemans, Air Force*
- ♡ *Blake Cross, Navy*
- ♡ *Brandon (Dempster) Lewis, Navy*
- ♡ *Samuel England, Navy*
- ♡ *Lenny Hezelett, Navy*
- ♡ *Amanda Hoadley, Navy*
- ♡ *Michael Hunter, Navy*
- ♡ *Brady Jackson, Army*
- ♡ *Jeremy Munson, Navy*
- ♡ *Milo Riegle, Marines*
- ♡ *Nathan Streeter, Army*
- ♡ *Robert Tarango, Navy*

Condolences to the friends and family of Liz Branscom who passed away on January 29.

NEXT WEEK @ A GLANCE

Monday, February 6, 2017

1:00 PM First Light Study/NR
6:00 PM Carillon Bells/SH

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

7:00 AM Men's Breakfast/Offsite

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

10:00 AM Friendship Circle/NR
5:00 PM Peace Ringers/SH
5:30 PM Bible Study/NR
6:00 PM Glory Ringers/SH
Youth Group/Rm. 10

Thursday, February 9, 2017

8:00 AM Chair Yoga/SH
4:15 PM Cherub & Hallelujah Choirs/CR
5:20 PM Chimes/SH
7:00 PM Chancel Choir
Boy Scouts/SH

Friday, February 10, 2016

11:30 AM 39ers Lunch/Offsite

Saturday, February 11, 2016

10:00 AM Art Show/Sanc

Sunday, February 12, 2016

7:45 AM Pancake Breakfast/SH
8:30 AM Pastor's Sunday School/NR
9:30 AM Church /Sanc
12:00 PM Tongan Fellowship

MUSIC FROM THE POINT

The **Vocal Jazz Ensemble** and **Chamber Singers** from Point Loma Nazarene University will perform in our Concert Series on February 26, at 4:30 p.m. under the direction of Dr. Keith Pederson here at St. Mark's. These talented students are selected from performance groups at Point Loma Nazarene University. The Vocal Jazz Ensemble sings various styles of jazz music, both unaccompanied and with rhythm section. The Chamber Singers perform secular and sacred music from the Renaissance to contemporary on campus, in the community, and in local churches. A reception will be held after the concert to meet and greet these students and their director. Please invite your friends and family to attend.

FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Please be sure to come by the Social Hall on Sunday, February 12, between 7:45 and 9:30 a.m. to share a delicious pancake breakfast with your friends and family. All are invited!

ST. MARK'S SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Scholarship Committee of St. Mark's has awarded scholarships to the following college students to help them in their pursuit of higher education. Scholarship funds are part of the legacy of St. Mark's and additional contributions are received from members of our church for all qualifying students. We are now honoring these 6 recipients:

Jacob Bradley
2691 Havasupi Ave.
San Diego, CA 92117
San Diego State University
Criminal Justice Major

Tyler Culp
4715 W 28th St.
Joplin, MO 64804
University of Missouri, Columbia
Mechanical Engineering Major

Nicole Gongora
4304 Clayford St.
San Diego, CA 92117
Cal State Fullerton
Child & Adolescent Development Major

Chris Peterson
7671 Stalmer St., #B
San Diego, CA 92111
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Mechanical Engineering Major

Natalie Tomassino
2860 Arcola Ave.
San Diego, CA 92117
San Francisco State University
Theatre & Psychology Major

Elizabeth Watson
3673 Mt Aclare Ave.
San Diego, CA 92111
National University
Teacher Preparation Major

39ERS LUNCH

The 39ers social group will be meeting at 11:15 at the Country Waffle at 5252 Balboa Ave on February 11. Please RSVP with Wendy Holman if you plan to attend so she can make sure there is adequate seating for all.

SERMON VIDEO AVAILABLE

Video of each Sunday's sermon is available via our website: stmarksumcsd.org/sermons or our YouTube channel: stmarksumcsd.org/youtube.