



April 2017

Issue No. 69

Top Topics - Shortcut Links

[Leading Out with Pastor Steve](#)

[Men's Breakfast April 2nd](#)

[Holy Week and Easter](#)

[Children's Easter Celebration Help](#)

[New Sermon Series](#)

[Get in the Loop!](#)

[Be Out There Sunday](#)

[Women's Retreat Planning](#)

[The Sojourners](#)

[Confirmation Sunday](#)

[Project Chacocente Meeting](#)

[Men's Retreat](#)

[Generosity 365](#)

[Who We Are](#)



Leading Out with Pastor Steve

Leading Out...

I don't watch much television. When I do, I usually watch sports like any old athlete does. But I do have a soft spot for supernatural mysteries. In the 1990s, every Sunday night was filled with family and friends gathered to watch Agents Mulder and Scully on the *X-Files*. I enjoyed so many of their creepy investigations into the paranormal, urban legends, research gone haywire, and extraterrestrial encounters. When the show reached its conclusion in 2002, I found myself kind of lost, at least until I found the TV show *Lost*. Once again, I found myself drawn into the questions about what the island was, what escape might look like, and trying to unravel the illogical leaps of a paranormal plot.



Eventually, *Lost* reached its conclusion as well, and I found myself searching for another series that scratched that strange place in my imagination. So this year, when a friend told me that I needed to watch *Stranger Things* on Netflix, I knew that, at last, I had another TV show. *Stranger Things* follows the story of a mother and a group of children investigating the disappearance of Will Byers. Their investigation discovers a psychokinetic girl, multiple dimensional travel, botched scientific experiments, and messages they keep receiving from Will. Will isn't dead; he is alive. As Will's mother and friends investigate, people try to explain away their experiences and stories...but they know what is true.

Easter is coming upon us. We have navigated our way through the season of Lent and soon we will find ourselves celebrating Jesus' resurrection. We know the story in its most general sense: Jesus is crucified and buried. On the third day after his death, women come and find the tomb empty, and an angel tells them that Jesus has been raised from the dead. As a story, it is filled with extraordinary, paranormal, and supernatural events. But there is more:

- There is a great earthquake. Matthew 28:2
- The Roman guards freeze out of fear of an angel. Matthew 28:4
- When Jesus resurrected, many of the saints came out of their tombs and were witnessed in the Holy City. Matthew 27:52-53

You get the point. These events don't happen to us every day...or ever. Yet right in the center of our Christian faith are these *Stranger Things*...events which might seem unbelievable, but for those who believe and have experienced the risen Christ in some way, shape, or form; these stories are true.

On April 16th, we will gather to celebrate the risen Christ with song, with drama, through the scriptures and through biblical teaching. We will take our place in the age-old witness that Christ is risen, still today. Yet more than proclaiming that God raised Jesus from the dead 2000 years ago; our witness must be to how we experience the risen Christ today, in the midst of our lives.

People may not believe our witness...it may be too strange for them to believe. But we know that it is true...

With Grace,

Pastor Steve
speralta@umcv.org

Men's Breakfast This Saturday!

**Saturday, April 1
8:00 a.m.**



**Rex Parker will talk about his experiences
at Project Chacocente.**

GET CONNECTED - GET FED - GET TO IT

Please join us for food, fellowship, and fun!

Holy Week and Easter

Holy Week

Palm Sunday
April 9
Worship at 9 & 10:30 a.m.

Holy Monday*
April 10
Bible study at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Tuesday*
April 11
Bible study at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Wednesday*
April 12
Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday
April 13
Worship at 7:00 p.m.
at Santa Clarita UMC
26640 Bouquet Canyon
Saugus)

Good Friday
April 14
Worship at 7:00 p.m.
Special kids' activities
at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil*
Saturday, April 15
Worship at 7:00 p.m.

*New this year!

here
for
good

EASTER

STRANGER
THINGS

SEEING IS BELIEVING

JOIN US!

APRIL 16

8:30

9:45*

11:00*

*Children's activities

Do not be afraid, I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Matthew 28:5b-6a, NRSV

Valencia United Methodist Church

Easter Celebration for Children - Help Requested



This is a great way to share the good news and share God's love. We're looking for assistance with our children's Easter celebration. What a great day to serve as there will be lots of joy all around. You can help at either the 9:45 or 11:00 a.m. worship hour.

All activities are planned and prepped. If you can help, please call Karyn, 255-1301 or email her at kmalchus@umcv.org.

New Sermon Series - *Stranger Things*

STRANGER THINGS



SEEING IS BELIEVING

April 30 and May 7

Part of the Easter story involves a series of strange, inexplicable post-Easter encounters with Jesus. They happen to normal people while doing normal things they have always done, but Jesus suddenly shows up. Join us as we explore how Jesus shows up in our lives today.

Get in the Loop!!

Get in the Loop!



We are launching a new program to communicate with our church family in a more efficient and relevant way. We will begin text messaging to the congregation to keep everyone up-to-date with the latest information on events, unpaid service, announcements and reminders.

We have entered many cell numbers already, and will be sending out our first welcome text tomorrow, on April 3rd. You may opt out at any time by texting the word STOP.

If you do not receive a text from VUMC by April 5th, and you would like to be on our list, please let us know and provide us with your cell phone number. You may email the info to: ssleutjes@umcv.org.

Be Out There Sunday - April 23rd

#beoutthere

We won't have regular worship on Sunday, April 23rd. Instead, Valencia UMC is going to "be out there" in our community and we need you to serve! There are a number of projects to be done for local organizations, including:

- Bowman High School
- Bridge to Home winter shelter buildings



- El Buen Pastor UMC in Santa Paula
- Family Promise Resource Center
- LA County Youth probation department
- Rio Vista Elementary School



There will also be projects available in Fellowship Hall. There is a way for everyone to serve.

Information about how you can serve will be available during Coffee Fellowship on April 2nd, 9th and 16th. All are welcome to join. This is another good opportunity to invite a friend to join you and the VUMC community. You may also sign up online by [clicking here](#).

2018 Women's Retreat Planning Kick-Off



The first meeting to plan the 2018 retreat will be held on Sunday, April 9th at 11:45 a.m. in the library. All are welcome to help us get things started. If you like to lead, teach, sing, craft, show hospitality, organize, or have fun, then we have a

way for you to serve. There is no obligation, and new ideas and input are invited.

The Sojourners

The Sojourners

A new study and fellowship opportunity for older seniors.

The Sojourners are men and women who have been blessed with a very long life. We will meet in the library on the second Tuesday of each month, beginning April 11th from 10-11:00 a.m. Our time will be spent growing in our spiritual lives, praying with each other, and sharing friendship. For more information, call Mary Tedrow at (661) 644-6345.



Confirmation Sunday - April 30th

Fourteen youth have spent six weeks learning about the church, learning about God, and learning about themselves. The youth listened to, and talked about, John Wesley's ideas and what is the Methodist Church. They studied scripture to learn about what following Jesus really means. And finally, they completed spiritual gifts training and wrote their faith statements.

Please join us on April 30th for Confirmation Sunday!



Project Chacocente Meeting

Nicaragua Mission Trip Informational Meeting

If you are interested in learning more about the 2018 trip to Project Chacocente, please join us for a brief meeting on Sunday, April 2nd at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

We will offer details about what the trip entails and past team members will be available to answer your questions.



SAVE THE DATE ~ Men's Retreat

All men are invited to a weekend of spiritual renewal, fellowship, and fun!



Date: September 15 - 17, 2017

Place: The Oaks Retreat Center, located in Lake Hughes just 45 minutes from Santa Clarita

Cost: \$195; includes lodging (triple-occupancy, 3 beds per room), meals, and activities including laser tag and rappelling

Sign-ups begin May 4th, and space is limited to 45 guys.

Generosity 365



How To Give Tax-Free Gifts To VUMC With Stock Transfers

If you want to give a tax-free gift to VUMC by transferring some stock, call Deb Baur in the church office at 255-1301.

The process is: you transfer your stock to the California Pacific United Methodist Foundation's account (see below for account information). The stock is then sold and the funds are distributed to Valencia UMC. Then, the foundation completes the appropriate tax forms and sends them to you.

Here is the foundation's account information to make the transfer:

Merrill Lynch, DTD 5198, account name: California Pacific United Methodist Foundation, account number: 230-04498

Deb is the contact person for the foundation staff and will inform them of the planned transfer. She will need details such as the name of the stock, number of shares, name of donor, when the transfer is expected to take place, and from whom (i.e. broker) to expect the transfer.

The process can take up to a couple of weeks, so if you'd like to take advantage of this opportunity, act now!

Who We Are



Vision Statement

We are a community of faith where lives are continuously transformed through Jesus Christ.



Mission Statement

Our Church exists to:

Invite people

Nurture them with Christ's love and the Word of God

Send them out to serve others.



Our Core Values:

Worship - Public and private

Small Groups - Building relationships

Service - Using God-given gifts