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Leading Out with Pastor Steve

Leading Out...

"This commandment we have from God: Those who love God ought to love their brother and sister also."

-1 John 4:21, CEB

Thank you for the warm welcome! Seriously, I'm not just talking about your kindness over these last four weeks; I'm talking about the temperature and the two wildfires that have burned in the greater Santa Clarita area! I'm ready for fire season to be over...

Unfortunately, we are headed into another kind of "fire season." As the Republican and Democratic parties complete their nominating conventions, we find ourselves in one of the ugliest presidential elections in the history of the United States. I have never seen this amount of finger-pointing, name calling, shaming, and outright untruths being thrown around.



I'm worried. When I was in high school and college, I studied about "yellow journalism" and propaganda; what they looked like and how they were used. I'm worried because it seems our society is no longer able to identify either; instead, we swallow them and propagate them. We've stopped having the deeper conversations about why people think one way or the other...the kinds of conversation that may not bring agreement, but bring respect and help us find the common grounds that we can stand on for the greater good. We've stopped going back to the original source material to make sure commentators aren't taking quotes out of context. We've stopped fact-checking what we see in our feeds.

Why have we stopped conversing with one another? Why have we resorted to sound-bites and out of context quotes and name-calling instead of conversation about the big issues of the day? What might the Bible have to say to us, as Christians, in the midst of this atmosphere? How do we keep from being driven by fear in our lives and in this election? Has this divisional behavior found its way into our church?

Starting August 7th, we will embark on a five-week sermon series entitled, *The Others*. Specifically, we will explore the New Testament's understanding of grace and how it should impact the way we view others. We will also discuss the love Christ modeled and how that love should be a more powerful motivator than fear.

It may seem strange that a new pastor would wade into such a difficult sermon series at the beginning of his or her time at a new church...and I would agree. But the call of God and the season we are in demand that we do this work. Now, I promise I will not be endorsing any particular candidate or party. I will be addressing behavior and the role of Christians in these divisive times. I pray that we become the light set upon a stand that brings healing and peace into the world.

I look forward to continuing this process of us getting to know one another. I hope that this is the beginning of a long and rich partnership in ministry.

In Christ,

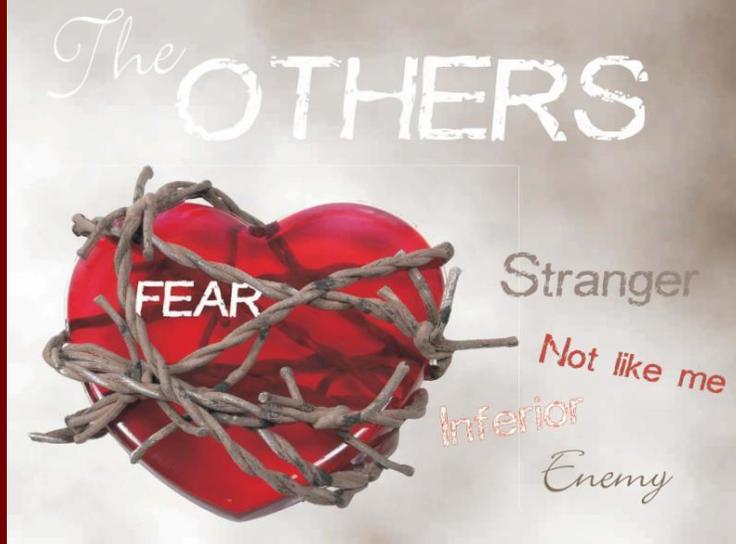
Pastor Steve
speralta@umcv.org

P.S.

If you wish to dig in deeper to the matter on your own or with some friends, the breakdown of the series follows Bishop William Willimon's new book, *Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love*. Copies of the book will be available for purchase on the patio beginning on Sunday, August 7th, or you can order it from Cokesbury or Amazon.

Upcoming Sermon Series

August 7, 14, 21, 28 & September 4



Men's Retreat in September

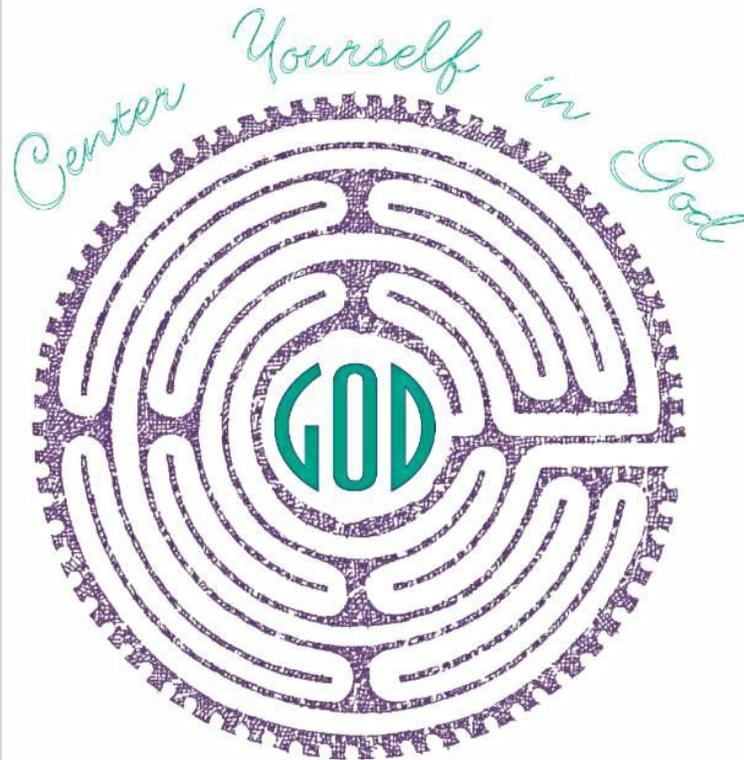
Valencia United Methodist Church
2016 Men's Retreat

TRUST
in the **LORD**

Men, take some time for your soul at this year's men's retreat, September 9-11, at Pinecrest Conference Center in Lake Arrowhead. Come and be inspired, have fun, and take time to rest at this mountain retreat center. Your \$140 fee covers lodging, all meals, activities and more! We can't do everything all the time - sometimes we just have to stop, listen and be still. You will return home to your loved ones with your soul filled up with the living water which Christ provides.

For more information, and to sign up, contact David Schutz, enjoyone@gmail.com or Stuart Thompson, valenciastu@yahoo.com.

Women's Retreat - Save the Date!



2017 Valencia UMC Women's Retreat

The 2017 women's retreat is coming. It will be held from Friday, January 20th to Sunday, January 22nd, at the Serra Retreat Center in Malibu. Our theme this year is *Center Yourself in God*. The cost is \$240 which includes six meals. Sign-ups will begin on Sunday, August 28th, on the patio. A \$50 deposit is required when you sign up. We look forward to having you join us.



Influence



Anyone currently serving in our children's, youth, or adult education ministries, and all who are interested in learning more, are invited to this year's *Influence* event on Saturday, August 20th, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Together we will worship, fellowship, learn, and get excited for how God is leading us. Breakout sessions for individual ministry areas will offer practical training to help you lead with more confidence. Watch for more information in the bulletin. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend.

Blessing of the Backpacks



In preparation for the upcoming school year, we will have a special blessing of backpacks, students and teachers, during both worship hours on **Sunday, August 14th**. All kids and youth are invited to bring their backpacks to church with them.

Bike and Build



Bike & Build

Every summer, our church hosts a Bike and Build group of 30-40 people for an overnight stay in Santa Clarita. These young adults have spent their summer cycling across the country while helping to build affordable housing along the way. The group staying with us this summer left Maine on June 20th, and will arrive here on August 30th. They will leave the following morning to ride to Santa Paula, and then to Santa Barbara where their trip will end on September 1st.

As their overnight hosts, we provide them with a place to shower, rest and sleep, as well as dinner and breakfast. We are looking for a group that would be willing to feed them dinner on the night that they are here. If you, your family or your small group would be interested in helping, please contact Michelle, mandrews@umcv.org.

For more information about the organization, follow this link: [click here](#).

Youth Kick-Off

An advertisement for a Youth Car Rally. It features a winding road on a green field. A purple car with a smiling face is driving away. A white Volkswagen Beetle with a smiling face and the number 53 is driving towards the viewer. A sign on the left reads "Parent Meeting 5 p.m.". The text on the right says "YOUTH CAR RALLY SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2016 5 P.M. START TIME AT VUMC 8 P.M. FINISH & S'MORES! DINNER PROVIDED ALONG THE WAY!".

YOUTH CAR RALLY
SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2016
5 P.M. START TIME AT VUMC
8 P.M. FINISH & S'MORES!
DINNER PROVIDED
ALONG THE WAY!

Parent Meeting
5 p.m.

Circle of Faith - Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is hosting its first ever Circle of Faith build day on Saturday, August 20th, and is looking to have many SCV congregations, of all faiths, sign up and gather together in support of our military veterans. Please contact Jeff Meyer, jeffmeyer@icloud.com, if you'd like to be part of a VUMC contingent at the Circle of Faith event.



Block Party

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY!



Annual Block Party - September 18 - 4:30-7:30 p.m.

It's Block Party time again! On September 18th we open up our campus for fun, food and fellowship for all. Our Block Party is a way we show our neighbors that we are #hereforgood. This year it will also be a way for us to introduce our community to Pastor Steve. On top of all that, Block Party is a great opportunity to spend time with your church family!

We'll have the usual water slides, rock climbing wall, photo booth, crafts for the kids, carnival games, fun DJ, plus hot dogs with all the "fixins" and more! There is something for everyone at the Block Party and it's all FREE!

We hope you will plan to attend, but even more importantly, we hope you will invite a friend, neighbor or coworker. Your invitation could be the first step for someone to connect with a faith community that welcomes all, nurtures faith, and makes a difference in our world. Start thinking now about who you might invite to this special event.

Our Block Party = fun, food and fellowship. Don't miss it!

VUMC KidZone

 VALENCIA United Methodist Church

We need YOU in the VUMC KidZone!

We're super excited about our upcoming year!! Between Pioneer Clubs, Sunday school, choir, Christ-Centered Kids (CCK) and VBS, we really feel like we have a lot of different avenues to reach the next generation for Christ. We need people from our church family to help us do this, and yes, that's YOU. You know that thing Jesus said, "go and make disciples," that begins right here with our very own. As we build our teams for the upcoming year, please pray about how you can be a part of the big commission with us. It will likely turn out to be one of the best things you do this year (we're a really fun bunch!). Here are some ways to plug in this fall:

Pioneer Clubs Guide and Jr. Guide - Pioneer Clubs meets on Wednesday evenings. Please contact Pioneer Clubs, pioneerclubs@umcv.org.

Littlest Angels Choir Director - Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Please contact Sherry, sklahs@umcv.org.

Sunday School Leaders and Assistants - Sunday mornings at 9 or 10:30 a.m. Contact Karyn, kmalchus@umcv.org.

No experience is required for any of these openings. You just need a heart for God and a heart for kids, we'll equip you for the rest - we look forward to hearing from you!

Sunday School Updates

Wet n' Wacky



Wet n' Wacky Sunday School

August 21st, 9 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday school will be Wet n' Wacky!!!

Wear a bathing suit and sunscreen, bring a towel and prepare to have a TON of FUN!!!



Breakfast and Bibles

All 3rd graders are invited to attend!

Breakfast: Saturday, August 27th, 9-11 a.m.

Come enjoy a pancake breakfast and participate in a wonderful time of learning all about the Bible.

We'll be playing games, singing songs and even taking a tour of the church!



Third Grade Bible Presentation

Sunday, August 28th, 9 and 10:30 a.m.

3rd graders will be presented with their very own Bibles as a gift from their church family at the 9 and 10:30 a.m. worship hours.

This is a very special tradition and we hope your child can join us!
To RSVP, contact Karyn Malchus at kmalchus@umcv.org.

Service Opportunity

The Children's Law Center of California represents LA County foster youth in their dependency hearings. They are looking for volunteers to serve as education rights holders for court-involved youth, and will be hosting several training sessions in August and September. If you are interested in learning more, you may contact Patrick Hirsch at hirschp@clcla.org or (323) 318-1033.



Generosity 365

A Flexible Way to Give to Valencia UMC

It has never been easier to give to Valencia UMC while keeping your current financial options open. Including Valencia UMC in your will or living trust, or as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or life-insurance policy, means that you can plan now with confidence and trust that your generosity will support Valencia UMC after your lifetime. A bequest to Valencia UMC does not alter your current lifestyle in any way; offers flexibility; is revocable so you can change your mind at any time should your circumstances change; and enables you to make an impact on the ministry program or area of our church you wish to fund.

For information about a legacy gift to Valencia UMC through your will or living trust, please contact the VUMC Generosity 365 Team through Deb Baur at the church office, umcv@umcv.org.

GENEROSITY
365

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

Please join us in worship on Sunday:

9:00 a.m. Classic Celebration
10:30 a.m Contemporary Praise

Valencia United Methodist Church
25718 McBean Parkway
Valencia, CA 91355

We are located at the corner of McBean and
Avenida Navarre, across the street from the hospital
(661) 255-1301

umcv.org

Stay Connected

