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VALENCIA
United Methodist Church
E-Zine

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Leading Out with Pastor Steve

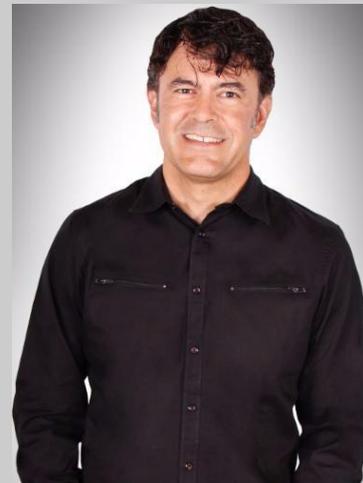
Leading Out...

"And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new!'"

-Revelation 21:5a, NRSV

I don't know why, but there is something about New Year's Day. There shouldn't be; after all, it is just another day, just like the one before it. But there is something about turning the page and starting over. There is something about the emptiness of the new calendar and the possibility of what the next year might hold for us...new starts, new possibilities, new goals, and new adventures.

So when you take the old calendar down; stop and take a look over the last year. Start in January and work your way forward: see where you have gone, what you have done, and what you have accomplished. Ask yourself what you left undone or what you would have done differently.



Now take the fresh, unmarked calendar and walk your way through the year. See the clean slate before you and the gift of another year. Then pray...thank God for the new year and ask for guidance and blessing in the months to come. Remember that we follow a God who is with us and who is at work making everything new...including you and I!

Part of being made new involves walking a new path. In January, we will begin a new sermon series entitled *The High Road*. With the disciples, we will follow Jesus to a mount beside the Sea of Galilee and listen to him unpack the way of the Kingdom of God. His words will call us to change our ways, change our values, and help us see the world in a new way. His words will make us new.

Will you walk a new path with me in 2017? Will we seek the Kingdom of God first in our lives? Will you change out your calendar and be made new? Join me on January 8th as we renew the Wesleyan covenant and start to walk Jesus' high road. I pray that 2017 will be a powerful and exciting year where we grow closer to Christ and in hope, faith, and love.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Steve
speralta@umcv.org

New Sermon Series - The High Road



THE HIGH ROAD

Jan. 8 - Feb. 26

Voices from every corner of society try and tell us what we should do and how we should act. Each of these voices has a viewpoint, an agenda, and a community. In the midst of these voices, Jesus arrives with a different message and a higher calling. Join us as we explore how Jesus calls each of us to choose The High Road.

Pioneer Clubs Drive-In Movie Night

Drive-In Movie! Free Popcorn!
January 14th, 2017 6:30-8:30 p.m.



Make a car out of cardboard...bring a lawnchair...have a blast with your family watching *Finding Dory*!

Contact Steph or Ellen at pioneerclubs@umcv.org for more info.

Bridge to Home



Winter Shelter

The SCV Winter Shelter is open and offering shelter, meals, and hospitality to their clients. VUMC will be providing dinner, as well as morning and evening hospitality, on January 28th & 31st, and February 19th & 20th. Sign-ups will be taken during Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, January 15th and 22nd, or feel free to contact Scott Malchus: malcflynn@gmail.com.

Holy Communion and Food Drive

We will be observing Holy Communion on two days this month, both on January 1st and January 8th. Our **Communion Sunday Food Drive** items will be collected on the January 8th date, in the hallway of Fellowship Hall.



We will be collecting for Help the Children, and their needs this month are canned soup, canned fruit, pasta sauce and ramen noodles.



Please bring your donations on **Sunday, January 8th** to help feed the children in our community who do not have enough to eat, or the proper nutrition their growing bodies need.

Thank you for blessing these children with God's love and generosity.

Special Free Concert



California Chamber Artists

present a free performance of

Tchaikovsky's Souvenir de Florence &

Mozart's Quintet for Clarinet and Strings

Sunday, January 22, 7:00 p.m.
Valencia United Methodist Church
25718 McBean Pkwy, Valencia, CA 91355

Clarinetist Daniel Geeting and cellist Joyce Geeting are leading members of the ensemble. Others include David Ewart and David Mason of Valencia, Mickey Da Silva of Thousand Oaks, and Louise Brown and Cecile Asuncion, all Los Angeles professionals. California Chamber Artists have been performing around the state since 1984 as far north as Santa Rosa and as far south as Los Angeles.

Donations will be accepted.

For information call (818) 340-3940.



Project Chacocente Team

Needs for Chacocente Mission Team!

Our mission travel team of 13 people leaves at the end of this month for a week-long trip, and they need our help! If you can offer assistance in any of the following areas, please contact Kim Fisher at 713-0234.

- Dental Supplies (toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss)
- Suitcases that have working rollers and can be left in Nicaragua, to transport dental and school supplies
- LAX drivers: early morning drop-off on January 28th, and late evening pick-up on February 4th



Lenten Study - Hosts Needed



All-Church Lenten Study Hosts Needed

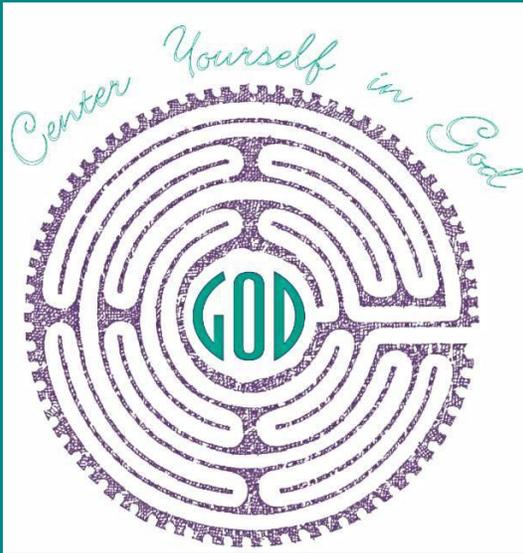
We will begin a six-week all-church study in March and are looking for singles, couples, men, and women to host a small group. Groups can meet at the church or in your home, and materials and training are provided. If you would be willing to serve in this way, or would like more information please contact Michelle Andrews: mandrews@umcv.org.

Annual Charge Conference

Our VUMC Annual Charge Conference will be held on January 24th at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend.

Annual Charge Conference

Women's Retreat 2017



2017 Valencia UMC Women's Retreat

When: **January 20-22**

Where: **Serra Retreat Center, Malibu**

We are currently at full capacity, but please contact [Nada Quinn](#) to be placed on the waiting list.

Generosity 365

GENEROSITY
365

Stewardship in 2017

Stewardship is a commitment of mind and heart to the Lord; a way of life that needs constant renewal and transformation. This time of year has always been one of looking forward to a new year, reflecting on the changes we need to make in our lives and resolving to follow through on those changes. Perhaps those who seek to make resolutions to be better stewards might find inspiration in one or more of the following examples:

Stewardship of Prayer:

Resolve to strengthen your relationship with the Lord through prayer. Notice how often you pray and what hinders you from praying. If you are a beginner, commit to short, daily prayer times.

Stewardship of Family and Friends:

Resolve to set aside more time to stay connected with your family and friends. Eat dinner together, schedule regular outings, and go to church together. Practice patience and forgiveness.

Stewardship of Health:

Resolve to get those medical and dental checkups. Adopt healthier eating habits. Add exercise and other physical activity to your daily routine.

Stewardship of Possessions:

Resolve to possess a little more "lightly" this year. Consider ways you can reduce the amount of all that stuff you own. Distinguish between those items that are necessary and those that are considered luxurious and unnecessary.

Stewardship of the Faith Community:

Resolve to serve your faith community in some way this year in small groups, mission or ministry.

Stewardship of Money:

Resolve to render sacred your annual budget. Re-prioritize your financial goals to ensure that the Lord comes first in your spending. Take positive steps to improve your financial health.

Stewardship of Work:

Resolve to be faithful to your daily, work-related tasks and offer them up to the Lord. Cultivate your skills. Deepen your knowledge. Be mindful of how you are building the Kingdom of God.

Stewardship of Mind:

Resolve to keep your mind active. Commit to being more informed on the issues of the day. Read your Bible.

Stewardship of Neighbor:

Resolve to be a person of hospitality and mercy. Make time and space for others who enter your life. Be more aware of those times when a neighbor, co-worker, fellow church member or stranger, needs a moment of kindness, a little attention or an affirming gesture on your part.

Stewardship of the Poor:

Resolve to live with more compassion and in solidarity with those less fortunate. Remember the poor in prayer, and commit to helping relieve in some way, the plight of those who are impoverished or marginalized.

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