



January 2018

Issue No. 78

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## Leading Out with Pastor Steve

### Leading Out...

*"For last year's words belong to last year's language  
And next year's words await another voice.  
And to make an end is to make a beginning."*

T.S. Eliot, "Little Gidding"

It's late December and once again the previous year and its calendar, marked up and filled with victories, defeats, triumphs, mistakes, losses, and lessons learned gets plucked off the wall and folded-up. In its place is the new calendar, filled with the blank space of an unwritten future and unknown future.

On the one hand, this exchange of calendars and examination of life is ceremonial: an arbitrary division of time. My 2018 calendar already has events, dates, deadlines, and experiences penciled in. Plans made in 2017 will be carried out in 2018. On the other hand, this transition of years becomes a meaningful place to pause, reflect, and consider what we will do differently in the upcoming year.

The words from T.S. Eliot speak to that notion of ending and starting: of letting go of the past and turning to embrace what might be...of accepting what has been, but walking with intention towards something new.



Biblically speaking, we refer to this rhythm as repentance. Our contemporary culture has limited the understanding of the word to the experience of being convicted by your sin and returning to God, yet repentance can be the simple course correction we always need to remain in the way of Christ. Repentance can also be used to describe the vows and plans to improve ourselves or to grow in our faith or to be more generous. Repentance isn't always an action of guilt; it can also be an action of aspiration.

So what are your aspirations for 2018? (I like aspirations so much better than resolutions!) What change would you like to see in you? What change would you like to see in the world? How can you make intentional steps toward affecting those changes?

Of course, the New Year brings a shift in the church calendar as well. This January, we will start a new sermon series called, *We're Gonna Need a Bigger Table!* We will explore the experiences of four people who were declared "unrighteous" by the greater circle of Jewish faith, and see how Jesus and the Holy Spirit were already at work including these "outsiders" into the Kingdom of God, and how the early Church came to understand God's movement in their day. I truly believe the old adage, that when God has been generous with you, you need to build a bigger table and not a higher fence.

May the generous grace, love, and mercy God has poured forth on us inspire us to be generous with our grace, love, and mercy to each other and to the world.

Happy 2018,

Pastor Steve  
[speralta@umcv.org](mailto:speralta@umcv.org)

## New Sermon Series



### We're Gonna Need a *Bigger* Table...

#### All Means All

January 14  
Jesus and the Woman at the Well

January 21  
Jesus and the Adulterous Woman

January 28  
Peter and Cornelius

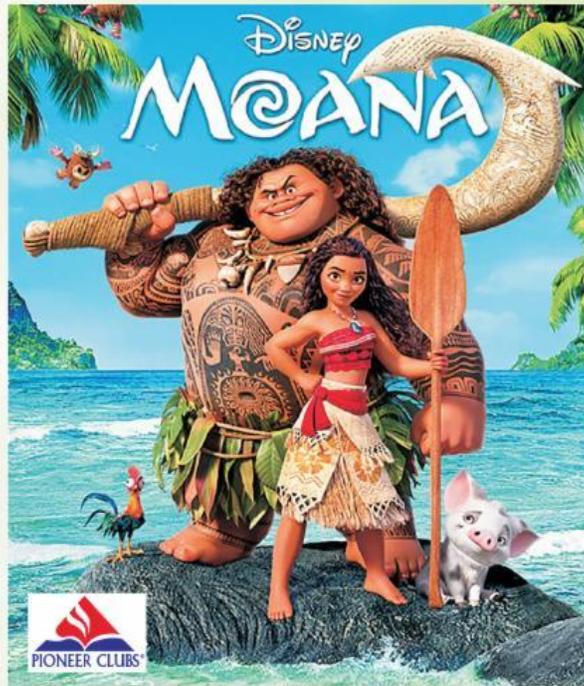
February 4  
Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

## Pioneer Clubs Drive-In Movie Night

# DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, January 13, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Make a car out of cardboard or bring a lawn chair! Enjoy your drive-in experience with free popcorn! If you want some ideas on where to get large boxes, please contact Ellen or Stephanie at [pioneerclubs@umcv.org](mailto:pioneerclubs@umcv.org).



Valencia United Methodist Church ~ 25718 McBean Pkwy, Valencia, CA 91355  
661.255.1301 ~ [umcv.org](http://umcv.org) ~ [#hereforgood](https://www.instagram.com/hereforgood)

## Living Well

Free  
Admission

# Living Well

## A Healthy Start

Saturday  
Feb. 3  
9 a.m. to  
12:30 p.m.

RSVP  
by Jan. 25  
[umcv@umcv.org](mailto:umcv@umcv.org)  
661.255.1301



Program:

Two General Sessions

Two Break-Out Sessions (choose  
two from the following)

- Fitness
- Nutrition
- Centering Prayer
- Yoga

Nutritious Lunch

Child care provided.

## Financial Peace University



### Financial Peace University

January 14 - March 18

What if you were following a plan for your money that you knew worked? With Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, you can take control of your money, get out of debt, and create a plan for your future. The 9-session class will meet on Sunday afternoons, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., and is open to the community.

For more information, email the class coordinators: [fpu@umcv.org](mailto:fpu@umcv.org).  
To sign up, [click here](#).

## New Adult Small Group

A new small group will meet at the church on Tuesday evenings, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. beginning January 16th. The 6-week study, "Loving God" is open to all adults. Join us for study, fellowship and conversation. For more information, and to sign-up, email [Michelle Andrews](mailto:Michelle Andrews).



## Project Chacocente Mission Trip

### Project Chacocente Mission Trip January 20 - 28

Fourteen people will make the trip to Nicaragua at the end of the month. Please keep them in your prayers as they travel and work: Kim Brosnan, Mindy and Rich Cope, Sharon Cummings, Kim Fisher, Greg Hayes, Rex Parker, Pastor Steve, Barry Pontius, Len Resnick, Rigo Rosales, Randy Sain, Bill and Katie Susdorf.



We are looking for drivers to get the team to and from LAX. If you would be willing to drive on the morning of January 20th, or the evening of January 28th, and have room for at least 3-4 passengers and their luggage, please contact [Michelle Andrews](mailto:Michelle Andrews).

## Annual Charge Conference

Our VUMC Annual Charge Conference will be held on January 17th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All are invited to attend.

Annual Charge Conference

## Generosity 365

GENEROSITY  
365

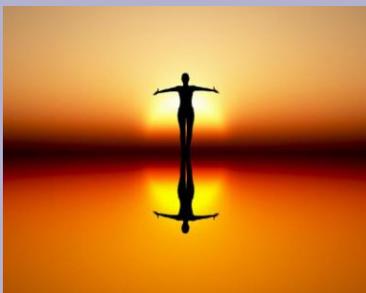
*He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.*

2 Corinthians 9:7-12, NRSV

## THANK YOU!

The Stewardship Team sincerely thanks our VUMC church families' generosity in 2017 and wishes everyone a joyous and prosperous 2018!!

## 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