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Leading Out with Pastor Steve

Leading Out...

One year ago, I was busy packing up my house in Newbury Park and preparing for my move to Valencia. In some ways, I have no idea where the last year has gone: time seems to have accelerated. In other ways, it feels like a distant memory: we have done so much together and come so far. Thank you for your warm reception and your willingness to accept me as your pastor. I am grateful to be here.

So, now that we know each other, the big question on my mind is, "What comes next?" I am convinced that our church is at a crossroads in its history yet again. We have some important decisions and transitions to make regarding mission and ministry. I am relieved that we hit this crossroad not as a result of crisis, but out of the natural rhythm of ministry and church life. We seek God for direction and possess the power to make our own call regarding priorities, direction, and emphasis of ministry. We can make these decisions with purpose rather than be forced in a direction because we have no strength, vitality, or energy to actually follow God.



Let me be clear: I believe that Jesus has commanded that we be in ministry. Through the last two sermon series, *Greater Things* and *Mission Possible*, we have been exploring Jesus' intent for the church, and the mission he has given for us to carry out. Following Jesus' instructions means that we care for the suffering, heal the broken, find the directionless, and reconcile people to one another and to God. In our Valencia UMC mission statement, we profess that, "We are a community of faith where lives are continually transformed through Christ." If we can shape our ministry and mindset around all that Jesus has called on us to do and be, we can fulfill this mission if we all work together toward that vision.

It won't be easy. Fulfilling the mission of Jesus Christ means that we have to remember who the church belongs to: the church belongs to God; it does not belong to us. Our next sermon series, *Tales from the Vineyard*, will unpack several of Jesus' teachings regarding Israel, the temple, and the people of God. Along the way, we will be asking, "Are we good tenants in God's vineyard...or have we seized control of God's vineyard and claimed it for ourselves?"

As we examine our ministries and activities, we may need to change some of what we do in the hopes that we can share the gospel of Jesus Christ in a way that speaks to a new generation. The average age in our church is 49, which makes us young for a Methodist Church, especially in our area. However, the average age in our community is 36. The age difference between our church and our community is not a cause for panic, but it is a call to action. What is Christ calling us to do and be, so that over the next 3-4 years, we see that age gap lessen? Do we have the spiritual maturity to design our church so that it is accessible and meaningful to a younger generation? Do we have the spiritual foundations to recognize that we are supposed to be carrying out God's mission and not serving ourselves?

These are big questions and the answers to them might be frightening or a little uncomfortable; but I remind you that Christ has promised to be with us and that we have the help of the Holy Spirit. I also remind you that no effective ministry begins by dealing with surface behaviors, traditions, or programs. All great movements of God begin with prayer: the kind of prayer that requests that we be changed; prayers which ask that our hearts be changed to desire the things God desires; and prayers that ask that we would be single-minded in our faithfulness to the mission Christ has given us.

I am blessed to be here with you all, and I hope that you feel the same.

In Christ,

Pastor Steve
speralta@umcv.org

Block Party Luau



Y'all Come Choir!!



Summer 2017

Three more Sundays!!

Come Sing with Us! July 2nd, 9th, and 16th

Every year the Chancel Choir invites people to sing with the choir at the 9:00 a.m. worship on Sunday mornings during the summer. It's easy!

Just come to the Sanctuary and rehearse with the choir at 8:00 a.m. and then "Make a joyful noise to the Lord!"

New Sermon Series Coming...

Tales from the Vineyard

Jesus often taught using little stories with a deep, heavenly meaning. We call these stories parables, and when we dig beneath the surface of the stories, we find that Jesus had some very powerful and timeless things to say about God, about faithfulness, and about us.

In our next sermon series, we will explore a few parables set in a vineyard and see what Jesus has to say about grace and forgiveness, gratitude and faithfulness. We will also ask ourselves, "What kind of party invitation has Christ sent us?" So pull up your Adirondack chair, pour a glass of wine, and let's learn from Jesus...

July 16	"Grace for Granted"	Matthew 18:21-35
July 23	"The Unfairness of Grace"	Matthew 20:1-16
July 30	"Lip Service"	Matthew 21:23-32
August 6	"The Tenants from Hell"	Matthew 21:33-46
August 13	"My Fair Wedding"	Matthew 22:1-14

Fourth of July



CELEBRATING AMERICA

In observance of **INDEPENDENCE DAY**,
the church offices will be closed.

Monday and Tuesday, July 3rd and 4th

Chacocente Informational Meeting

Chacocente 2018 - Informational Meeting

Sunday, August 27th
11:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Anyone who is interested in learning more about the 2018 mission trip to Nicaragua is invited to attend this brief meeting. We will share dates, costs, what you need to know

before you travel, and what you can expect while on the trip. The meeting is open to anyone who would like to learn more about Project Chacocente and our partnership with them.



Vacation Bible School Thank You!!

We had an amazing
week!

Thank you so much to each and every one of you who helped to make VBS a success. From our station leaders, to our crew leaders, to the kitchen helpers, to the many who contributed items... Thank you for making a huge difference!



Habitat for Humanity



Habitat for Humanity Saturday, July 15th

Habitat is building more than 80 homes at the 21500 Centre Pointe Parkway location for former military personnel and their families. The hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and breakfast and lunch are provided by Habitat.

This project is a great way to show your appreciation for the service and sacrifices of these American families.

If you're interested in participating, please contact Jeff Meyer at 644-5515 or jeffmeyer@icloud.com.

Israel Trip

Israel Trip - May 2018

Meeting with Pastor Steve, July 12th at 6:30 p.m.

Have you ever dreamed of going to the Holy Land? Does the idea of taking a pilgrimage with your church family appeal to you? If the answer is "Yes" then we have an exciting opportunity coming up for you:

Discover Israel: A Journey of Faith
May 21 - 29, 2018

Double Occupancy - \$4,249 per person
Single Occupancy - \$4,949 per person
Triple Occupancy - \$4,219 per person

5-Day Jordan Extension (optional) - \$1,499 per person
Prices include airfare and all land transportation.

A special presentation with a representative from Collette Vacations is scheduled for Thursday, September 28 at 6:30 PM. All who book before or on September 28, 2017 will receive a \$250.00 discount. Brochures are available in the office.

All are invited to come to a meeting with Pastor Steve on July 12th at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, to ask any questions and learn more.



New Employment Opportunity at VUMC

Employment Opportunity at Valencia UMC!

Are you a gifted organizer, recruiter, and motivator? Do you have a gift for welcoming people and helping people find a place in the community? If this is you, our church is looking for someone to oversee the connectional ministries (Hospitality, New Members, Guest Welcome, and Ministry Connections).

The Connectional Ministries Coordinator is a paid, part-time position (10-15 hours per week) which includes the following responsibilities:

- Welcoming, assimilating, and equipping all who attend VUMC into the life and ministry of our church through implementing a warm and inviting guest welcome process
- This role impacts our mission to "invite" people to become a part of our community of faith...by providing all members and guests with the knowledge and understanding of how they are gifted and connecting them with opportunities to serve and/or grow in their faith.
- This position has a direct impact on our vision to "nurture" and to "send out" those who attend our church.
- This position is also responsible for planning and coordinating programming that helps our congregants to become leaders within our community and in the world.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please contact the church office (umcv@umcv.org) for more information.

Men's Retreat 2017



UM Dodger Night



Save the Date for
UM Dodger Night!!
Saturday, August 12th

*Ticket sales begin July 9th on the
patio.*

Calling all VUMC baseball lovers!

Tickets for the Dodgers vs. Padres game
will cost \$45 and include seats in the Coca-Cola Pavilion,
Dodger Dogs, and other snacks.

Generosity 365



Financial Aid 101

Many parents pay for college with a combination of current income, savings, and financial aid. By learning the basics of financial aid, you'll be able to understand how the aid process works and compare the aid awards your child receives.

...[click here to read more...](#)

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.

