



March 2017

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Leading Out with Pastor Steve

Leading Out...

Koran Hackman was perusing his Facebook feed when he saw a post from his mother that made him pause. She posted a picture of his nephew and wrote this caption, "My mother told my grandson, "If you're bad, Santa will not give you gifts under the tree." My grandson told her, "I don't believe in Santa I believe in God and through him, all things are possible." He is only three, but knows the Word. Can I get an amen?"

Koran took to Twitter, copying his mother's post and commenting, "My nephew speaks in Power Ranger quotes, he ain't say none of this."

He posted it on December 10th. Since then, over 279,000 have "liked" the post and it has been re-tweeted more than 133,000 times. People seemed to appreciate the goodnatured calling out of his mother, stretching the truth about her grandson. As Koran told the Huffington Post, "I think we all have family members who do things like this. It's relatable for so many people."



In time, his mother saw his tweet and pulled down her post. She also appreciated the goodnatured jab and thought it was funny.

(article by Elyse Wanshel, Huffington Post - December 15, 2016, "Black Voices")

Have you ever been called out?

You know what I mean: has someone ever called upon you to step forward from the rest of the crowd? Maybe it was in recognition of your excellence? Maybe it was to hold you accountable for a mistake, error, untruth, or inaction? Maybe it was to call you to a greater commitment or sacrifice?

Of course you have. Whether it was a friend, a family member, a teacher, a co-worker, or a coach, each of us has experienced being called-out. For those who choose to follow Christ, well, we have been called-out by Christ as well.

What do I mean? Well, when we read about Jesus saying:

"...whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 10:38-39, NRSV)

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19, NRSV)

"...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8, NRSV)

We can read them as he is calling us out. He is calling us out to live and to love in the ways he has instructed us to do. He is calling us out to represent him and God's kingdom in the world. He is calling us out from the ordinary into the extraordinary.

As we move into the 40 days of Lent, we will focus on the way Christ has called us out. In particular, we will explore Jesus' last words from the cross to examine how he is calling us out. Some of the sayings will be affirmations. Some of the words will be convicting.

I encourage you to attend our Ash Wednesday service (Wednesday, March 1st at 7:00 p.m., family-friendly worship at 5 p.m.) to begin your 40-day discipline. Take on the traditions of reading scripture, praying, and fasting to still your soul and focus your heart and mind on what God has for you in Jesus Christ. Participate in the all-church study and commit to worship every Sunday during this season. I promise you, you will not be the same come Easter morning.

With Grace,

Pastor Steve
speralta@umcv.org

New Sermon Series - *Called Out*

March 5-April 9



Jesus' ministry and actions cause him to be "called out" by the powers and authorities of his time, eventually leading to his crucifixion. Jesus' final words from the cross model and set forth behaviors and values that we, his followers, are *Called Out* to live by. Join us as we hear Jesus' final words from the cross and consider how we are *Called Out* to live lives that practice forgiveness, repentance, courage, compassion and surrender.

Family Promise

The next VUMC
host week
is coming
March 12-19.



Sign up on the
patio at Coffee Fellowship on
March 5th to help serve these families working hard
to get back on their feet.
You may also [click here](#) to sign up online.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday

March 1



Contemplative Worship 7 p.m.

Family Worship 5 p.m.

Habitat for Humanity



Come on out on March 11th!!

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 jeffameyer@icloud.com.

New Meditation Series

Mark your calendars!!



**NEW RESTORATIVE
MEDITATION SERIES!!**

SUNDAYS:
MARCH 19
APRIL 23
MAY 21
JUNE 25
1:30 - 2:30 P.M. IN THE CHOIR ROOM

THURSDAYS:
MARCH 9
APRIL 13
MAY 11
JUNE 8
4:00 - 5:00 P.M. IN THE CHOIR ROOM

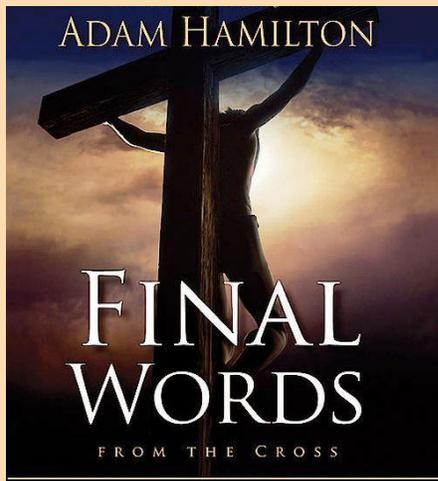
For more information, contact [Beverly Silsbee](#).

All-Church Workday



...this month on March 25th, from 9 a.m. to noon. There will be something for every age and stage to help beautify our campus in preparation for Easter. Donuts and coffee will be provided. Simply [click here](#) to sign up to help!

All-Church Lenten Study



All-Church Small Group Lenten Study

There is still time to sign up for small group during the all-church study. The six sessions will include conversation and teaching based on the traditional last words of Jesus. There are open groups meeting on a variety of days and times.

All are invited to be a part of this study. Contact Michelle Andrews, mandrews@umcv.org for more information.

Confirmation Classes Begin March 5th

Confirmation is open to all youth, 7th - 12th grade, who are interested in learning more about their faith, the United Methodist Church, and joining the church.

Participants are expected to be at all six classes, which will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings (except April 2nd and Easter Sunday).



Confirmation Sunday will be April 30th. For more information, contact David Stradling at dstradling@umcv.org.

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.



Holy Week and Easter

Valencia United Methodist Church

EASTER

STRANGER THINGS

Seeing is Believing

April 16 8:30 ~ 9:45 ~ 11:00
Children's activities at
9:45 & 11:00 a.m.



Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday, April 9, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.
(at Santa Clarita UMC, 26640 Bouquet Canyon, Saugus)
Good Friday, April 14, 7:00 p.m.
Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.

April 23 ~ #beoutthere Sunday

Join us for hands-on projects to help our community!
For more info, email umcv@umcv.org



here
for
good

Generosity 365

GENEROSITY
365

You are a rock star! You have a passion to make a difference where you live, work and worship.

VUMC members have always been mission-minded for causes that are close to our hearts. I'm sure you have tons of ideas for strengthening our church and community so let's bring some of those ideas to life and practice being generous by using our gift of mission.

Interested and intrigued? Contact [Melanie Meyer](#), chairman of the Generosity team, for more information! #giveforgood.

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