



Campbell

CONNECTIONS

News and Views from Campbell United Methodist Church

November 2015

Warp and Weft: Weaving Wholeness

November 1 – All Saints’ Sunday

We value the long and deep tradition that roots us. And so, we honor wisdom that comes in and from the saints whose shoulders we stand on.

November 8 – Commitment Sunday

We value the practice of gratitude as a way of life. And so, we give generously and confidently, knowing that there is always enough.

November 15 –

We value the richness of a diverse community. And so, we work to develop the bonds among us, even when understanding one another takes effort.

November 22 – Thanksgiving Sunday

We value family. And so, we give thanks for those whose love creates home.

In this church and in each of our lives, how do we merge our values and our actions?

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grat·i·tude

[grat i tood]

noun

the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness

Campbell Connections

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hreynolds63@gmail.com.

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**If there are 5 Wednesdays in a month
the newsletter will be mailed on the 4th
Wednesday & the deadline for articles will be
on the 2nd Wednesday.*

*If you have any questions regarding
the mailing, please call the office at
408-378-3472*

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**CAMPBELL UMC is a RECONCILING
CONGREGATION**

CHURCH STAFF

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CUSTODIAN, Hector Estrada

Church Office: 408 378-3472
Web Site: www.campbellunited.org

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Sunday Worship: 10:00 am
Adult Sunday School: 8:50 am
Children's Sunday School: 10:15 am
African Ministry: 11:30 am
Quiet Communion: 6:00 pm Tuesday

Bright Days Preschool
Mary Smith, Director: 408-378-8422
www.brightdayspreschool.com



Kathi's Pastoral Reflections

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

We've heard that sentence before, but what does it mean? The reverse of that statement would be obvious: where your heart is, is where your treasure goes. And frankly, that's how most of us have heard this saying preached, even how I have preached it myself: that you can see where your heart is by looking at where you spend your treasure -- your time, your money, your energy. That's true, but it's not particularly good news; it's just obvious.

And it's not what Jesus said. He said it the other way around. Jesus said that where you put your treasure is the place your heart will follow. According to Jesus, there is a way to alter your affections, to steer your heart toward the things you want to love. Now that's good news. We can decide what we want to care about, and then we can do something that will change us inside until we really do care about those things. We can decide who or what we want to love, and then we can do something to direct our hearts toward that love. What Jesus is saying is that what we do with our money affects us spiritually. What we choose to do with our money can change how purely we love and how deeply we feel committed to the things we want to be committed to.

The point of this saying, I think, is not that how we spend our money reveals what sort of people we already are. The point is that how we spend our money determines what sort of people we become.

Martin Luther, the great reformer of the Church, used to say that everyone needs to experience three conversions: conversions of heart and mind and purse. He didn't say that because he was a fundraiser. He said it because he wanted people to know how deeply satisfying the spiritual life can be, and he knew that unless we commit all of ourselves to it, without reservation, we're not likely to know that for ourselves.

This year your church is inviting you to practice living in the way you've always wanted to live: freely, unburdened by worry, focused on the things that you want to matter most. Jesus promised it: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Put your treasure -- even your money -- into your faith, and your heart will follow it there.

As we get read for Commitment Sunday on November 8 -- as you think about the pledge you will make to the church's work in 2016 -- I'm asking you to make a pledge that's beyond your comfort level. Write on your pledge card an amount that you might otherwise be inclined to say, "I'd like to if I could." Offer it because you're willing to try trusting that Jesus meant it when he said, "... all these things will be given to you as well." Offer it because just making that step toward God with your treasure has the power to change your heart and your life. If you find, during the year, that you can't live with the pledge you have made, the church will gladly and compassionately understand. But I have never yet heard of that happening.

So try it. Practice the life you want to live.

With love, with blessings -- Kathi ❖

On The Campus

Time For A Good Book

As we move deeper into fall and the weather is beginning to cool down, now is the time to do indoor activities. One of the best indoor activities is to relax and read some really good books ... by the fire, in your favorite chair, snuggling in your bed, with tea and cookies. So I want to invite everyone to join the UMC Book Club. We met the last Monday in September and shared all the books that we have read over the summer. From the 22 books presented, with much difficulty (as all the books looked wonderful), we selected six books, as well as the two Silicon Read selections, to read and share over this next year. Everyone is welcome to join us, whether you've completed reading the book or not. Discussions are lively, informative and fun. There are no wrong answers as to your interpretation of the books. Come join this great group of informed and interesting people.

We meet from October through April (taking a break for December) on the last Monday of the month from 4 – 5:30 pm in the Fireside Room.

The books for this year are:

OCTOBER 2015 ...

Your Own Personal Hemingway Selection, facilitated by Susan Sargent

NOVEMBER 2015 ...

Dead Wake by Erik Larson, facilitated by Ron Schwartz

DECEMBER 2015 ...

Take a breather and get started on the January book

JANUARY 2016 ...

Triangle by David von Drehle, facilitated by Ellen Droke

FEBRUARY 2016 ...

Memory Of Water by Emmi Itaranta - Silicon Reads Selection

Sherwood Nation by Ben Parzybok - Silicon Reads Selection

MARCH 2016 ...

The Martian by Andy Weir, facilitated by Donie Keyes

APRIL 2016 ...

Worthy Fights by Leon Panetta, facilitated by Dave Sargent

MAY 2016 ...

All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr, facilitated by Dick Sheehan

Anyone interested in the list of all 22 books presented, contact Lou Woodburycatcott (email: louwoodburycatcott@gmail.com; phone: 408-246-5087), and she will happily send you a copy of the list.

Lou Woodburycatcott ❖

Alternative Gift Faire

On Sunday, November 22, 2015, our Church will be hosting an Alternative Gift Faire in the Fellowship Hall. This is an opportunity to do some Christmas shopping following our worship service. A shopping list will be provided in the bulletin on November 22 so you can see the charitable organizations available; i.e., Heifer Project, Habitat for Humanity, UMCOR, Heart of the Valley, etc. If you choose to make a contribution, a card representing the charitable organization you have selected will be provided so that you can contact the recipient as to the gift donation you have made in their name. If you are unable to do your shopping the day of the Faire, cards will be available at the Church Office through 12/22/15.

Joyce Hocker, (408) 268-4646 ❖

Don't Miss the Halloween Organ Concert!

A Halloween Organ Concert will be held on Friday, October 30, at 7:30 pm.

Organists are Margaret Kvamme and Michael Wright.

There is no admission charge but there will be a free-will donation box.

Come in a costume and you may win one of the three prizes!

Mary Ann Gee, Music Ministries ❖

Building a Culture of Gratitude

Do you notice all the work that is done by volunteers around the church?



There's a lot of it: every week congregation members do small and large jobs that make a difference for the rest of us. We know "the church" should thank these people — but who is "the church?" It's all of us!

There's a new Gratitude Board in the lobby of the Fellowship Hall where you are invited to post a note every time you notice something that makes you want to say "thank you." Maybe you have a name to attach to that gratitude, or maybe you don't — either way is okay.

Write on the board, read the board, use it to communicate your appreciation for all the good folks who make this Campbell UMC campus and community a good place to be. ❖

Methodist Connection

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE 2015 GENERAL CONFERENCE IN PORTLAND



Every four years, delegates from the entire international United Methodist Church gather to consult and make policy for the Church. In 2016 -- May 10-20 -- the General Conference will meet in Portland, Oregon. A large number of volunteers will be needed in Portland. This is a great opportunity to watch a fascinating institutional process. It's also an opportunity to be part of an offering

Campbell UMC Snapshots An Historical Skip Around Campus



Veterans Day, November 11, celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans.

Many of our church members have served in the Armed Forces. Clyde Allen, Franklin Cooke, and Fen Holmes are veterans of World War II.

The City of Campbell has erected a Veterans Memorial, located at the Campbell Civic Center, to honor our veterans.

Susan Sargent, Church Historian ❖

of hospitality to our United Methodist sisters and brothers from all over the world.

Pastor Daniel and Pastor Kathi are both planning to be there for at least

part of the Conference.

If you'd like to volunteer, you can do so online at <http://westernjurisdictionumc.org/gc2016/>❖

Worship in October



United Methodist Women

El Camino Real District UMW

2016 Slate of Nominees

The El Camino Real District UMW Committee on Nominations is pleased to present the following slate for election at the El Camino Real District UMW Annual Celebration to be held October 24th at Hope UMC in So. San Francisco.

First Two-Year Term

Vice President

K Stone, Almaden Hills, San Jose
Currently serving as the District UMW Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator.

Treasurer

Sharon Davis, Walnut Creek
Accountant; Long tenure as Treasurer for Walnut Creek UMW.

Social Action

Pat Farrow, Willow Glen, San Jose
Social Action Coord. for Willow Glen UMW. Actively engaged social justice advocate.

Second Two-Year Term

President

Sally Wenzel, Campbell
Has served the District UMW as Treasurer, Education and Interpretation Coordinator and most recently as President.

The Committee on Nominations thanks these nominees for their willingness to serve as well as all they have done on behalf of United Methodist Women.

The Committee on Nominations anticipates releasing an updated slate early the week of September 28th. Please be looking for it.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the slate, please contact me at 408-238-0833 or huntercj@aol.com.

Connie Hunter ❖

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN BOOK REVIEWS

by Darlene Dyer

Three books have been reviewed that cover current issues affecting everyone in today's world.

Immigration/Racial

Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Ifemelu and Obinze are young and in love when they depart military-ruled Nigeria for the West. Beautiful and self-assured Ifemelu heads for America where despite her academic success she is forced to grapple with what it means to be BLACK for the first time (color is not a word used in Nigeria).

Quiet, thoughtful Obinze had planned to join her but post 9/11 America was closed to him. He instead plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London.

This is a remarkable novel of love, race and identity ... ❖

Mental Illness

January First by Michael Schofield

This is a true story of a child's

descent into madness and her father's struggle to save her. Jani began life with a genius IQ and by age three she could read advanced books, do advanced math problems in her head and even knew the periodic tables of chemistry. She was exhibiting bizarre behavior, which her father felt was a result of her genius abilities. Years of trying to understand what was wrong with Jani ended at age six when she was diagnosed with schizophrenia.

This memoir brings us face to face with upheaval in a family trying to create a "normal" life for a child with a serious mental illness. ❖

Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender/Gay/Queer (LBTGQ) Community

In From the Wilderness by David E. Weekly

This is an autobiography of David when she is a four-year-old girl and knows it is all-boy activities she prefers. Life was a battle as she progressed through school; but by

age 16, she was able to confide in a teacher, who directed her to a school counselor. This helped her to eventually be seen at Cleveland Medical Hospital and be accepted into transformation to the sexual identity he always knew was for him.

Another positive change was his selection of the name David for his new identity. The name David means *Beloved of God* or *One who serves God*.

This is the story of life as a closet-transgender person. An ordained Methodist Minister since 1984, he waited 28 years before sharing his story with his congregation on August 30, 2009. His support team was his wife and children, plus the District Superintendent. Support also came from the Bishop of Oregon Conference.

This is a fast read and an eyeopener from the pen of a man born without the "right equipment" to be who he knew himself to be. ❖



Circuit Writer **Rev. Larry LaPierre**

God, You Are In This Place

Whenever I attend worship I always read the Call to Worship before the service starts. I do that for two reasons. 1) I don't like repeating words that I have not read and therefore might not say with proper reverence. 2) I want to know whether I agree with the theology implied or stated in the prayer. If I don't agree with all of it, then I will say only the parts that I do agree with. Reading this and any other prayers in the bulletin helps me to prepare for worship.

On September 27 I was particularly impressed with the Call to Worship. It began with a statement of faith: "God who created us, you are in this place." That is a remarkable statement of faith particularly if we believe that God is actively present and not simply implied by the symbolism of the church building.

The response took us beyond the usual prayers in which we ask God to bring healing to us or to someone we love. We prayed, "Fill us with your power, embrace us with your peace, show us your presence." It isn't often that I've been with a congregation that openly asked God for these types of blessings. Imagine what we could do if we were filled with God's peace and power and thus enabled to somehow recognize the presence of God with us and even within us!

We were led deeper into this prayer when we heard and responded to "God who strengthens us, help us to know 'We are in your hands, we are under your protection, we are covered by your love.'" All of these images convey a sense that God is actually present with

us. When I reread this prayer the image that came to mind as I read the words "we are covered by your love" was of a young child smiling as a loving parent pulled a blanket up to keep the child warm. For a variety of reasons many of us may have difficulty believing that God is "covering" us with God's love. Perhaps some of those reasons will diminish in their importance to us as we repeat this prayer on a regular basis.

In the third stage of this prayer we heard, "God who changes us, we ask for," and I need to stop right there. Do we ever think about God changing us? In the culture of Northern New England where I lived a good deal of my life, we tended, perhaps unconsciously, to believe that we changed ourselves. Hard work, "pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps" and, perhaps a little luck were what we thought helped us to improve. We weren't always so clear that God made it possible for us to change. Much less did we imagine that God changed us in ways that we might have agreed with but never thought to ask God to make.

"Eyes to see the invisible, ears to hear your call, hands to do your work, and hearts to respond to your love" -- did we realize what we were saying? We were asking God to use us to live God-centered lives of loving service. It is a lot to ask for, but it is no more than God wants us to have. It is also, when we receive these gifts, an opportunity to add meaning to our lives however capable or limited we are by our circumstances.

Rev. Larry LaPierre ❖

Congregational Care Ministries

Around God's Table

I am thinking of guest speaker Jay Emerson Johnson's sermon on September 27, and trying to discern what I take away from his message.

He lifted up the table, prominent at the heart of our chancel, as a symbol of coming together, acceptance and inclusiveness. When we are at the table, we are one. We are all together. In our diversity, in our differences, when we come together for worship and sacraments around God's table, we are one.

Dr. Johnson's sermon was entitled, "So That Nothing May Be Lost." This comes from John's story of the feeding of the 5,000, when Jesus tells the disciples to "Gather up the fragments [the leftovers from the five loaves] so that nothing may be lost." Who are the lost ones that you might know? They are precious to God, and to all humankind. Gather them up in kindness, ministry, friendship, and love.

When Congregational Care Ministers take the consecrated elements for Holy Communion out to those who are homebound, we bring an extension of our table. We bring the loving church fellowship to them. We bring holy moments, a sacramental time with each other and with God. Neither time nor distance can separate, for it is God's Table and we are one.

Ellen Droke, Congregational Care Ministries ❖

CALLING ALL YOUTH!

United Methodist Youth Fellowship is back in action. It's pretty exciting to have such a large group of youth participating this year. There were 17 at our October 4 meeting! Along with a couple meetings under our belt, we've also been miniature golfing.

UMYF is for all 6th to 12th graders. We meet every Sunday from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Lunch is included, unless otherwise noted. There are two meetings a month, one service project and one event (could be an outing or movie/games in the youth room). There are a lot of great activities planned to get us through the beginning of next year.

Youth group is a great place to connect, have fun and become an active participant in our congregation. If you have any questions you can contact Melinda Knepp at melinda.knepp@gmail.com.

Youth Calendar

October

10/25 4:30 pm-7:30 pm Autumn Festival

November

11/1 11:30 am-1:00 pm Lunch & meeting

11/8 11:30 am-1:00 pm Creek Clean Up

11/15 11:30 am-1:00 pm Lunch & Meeting

11/22 TBA ABC Dinner

11/28 TBA Youth Room Movie



LEGO Mania Fun Day

Photos by Kallie Stroh, Director of Children and Family Ministries



Mailing Date: [October 21, 2015](#)

Next Newsletter **DEADLINE**

November 4, 2015

Return Service Requested

Become...

who God created you to be - fully human, fully alive.

Be found...

in a community where our differences are treasured as glimpses of beauty in the eyes of a creative God.

Be unafraid...

to cross boundaries for the sake of love and justice.

