



CHIMES

Whittier First UMC

Good News for All...through learning, action, and love

IN-PERSON & ONLINE Worship every Sunday @ 10am

   YouTube @WhittierFirstUMC

WhittierFirstUMC.com | Info@WhittierFirstUMC.com | 562.698.0022 | 13222 Bailey St., Whittier CA 90601 | 3.27.25

"24 Hours"



This Sunday we continue our Lenten series "24 Hours." Things are getting dark for Jesus. He appears before Pilate who gives the crowd a choice – free Jesus or free Barabbas. The crowd is made up of people who, on their own, might behave kindly toward Jesus. But crowds are not like individuals. They tend to act irrationally and violently. What can we learn about Jesus and about ourselves as we reflect on the Good Friday crowd that called for Jesus' crucifixion? Join us this week we are learn more about "Jesus and Barabbas." - Pastor Jon

In-Person & Online Worship

Sunday, March 30, 2025 @ 10am

Rev. Jon Wesley Waterson *Mark 15:1-15 NRSV*

COMING UP AT WHITTIER FIRST UMC

Sun, 3.30.25 **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

- 8:30 am **M&M Challengers Bible Study** Kraft Friendship Rm
- 10 am **Traditional Worship** Sanctuary & Online
- 10:20 am **Children's Sunday School** Library

Tue, 4.2.25

- 1:30 pm **Tuesday Art & Music** Wesley Lounge

Wed, 4.3.25

- 10:30 am **Sew n Sew** Admin 101
- 12 pm **Dreaming in Church** Kraft Friendship Rm
- 7 pm **Trustee Board Meeting** Board Room
- 7 pm **Wild Hope** Zoom Meeting: 816 1502 0760
Passcode: EWUMC!

Thurs, 4.4.25

- 5 pm **Jubilant Bells Rehearsal** Bell Room
- 7:30 pm **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** Choir Room

Sat, 4.5.25

- 9 am **Hope Circle** Kraft Friendship Rm

Sun, 4.6.25 **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

- 8:45 am **M&M Challengers** Kraft Friendship Rm
- 10 am **Traditional Worship** Sanctuary & Online
- 10:20 am **Children's Sunday School** Library

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

In-Person:

Sunday, March 23 2025: **56**

Online (Facebook & YouTube):

Sunday, March 16, 2025: **116**

TUESDAY ART & MUSIC

Elementary to middle school kids can learn, play and create with fun lessons, art projects, and singing. Tuesdays, 1:30 to 3:30 pm in the Wesley Lounge.

Contact C-J for more information.



UPCOMING CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:

April 12, 2025

SATURDAY 9 AM—12 PM in-person & online

Mission Collaborative 5K Walk for the Women's and Children's Crisis Shelter

The event will start at Central Park on Friends in Uptown Whittier promptly at 8:00am with sign in and same day registration starting at 6:30am. Registered walkers will receive a commemorative T-Shirt, medals for the first 600 walkers, refreshments, entertainment, and tickets to win prizes. The energetic 5K Walk route is through historical Uptown Whittier. Route is marked and maps will be provided. Parking is available in marked church parking lots, on the streets and in two Uptown parking structures. Sign ups are open now!



29th Annual 5K Walk Saturday, April 26, 2025 Central Park, Uptown Whittier

6:30am Sign in & Same Day Registration opens

7:30am Welcome Ceremony & Warm Up

8:00am Walk Starts promptly at 8am

at 6532 Friends Ave (& Bailey St), Whittier, CA 90606



Hope Circle meets in the Kraft Friendship Room on the first Saturday of the month at 9:00 am. All women are welcome to this breakfast meeting.

There is much to discuss, so join the fun.

Sew 'n' Sew Ministry meets every Wednesday morning in Admin. Room 101. If you like to sew, join the ladies at 10:30 a.m. during Lent.

Shawl Ministry meets on the fourth Monday of each month in the Kraft Friendship Room at 1:30 pm.

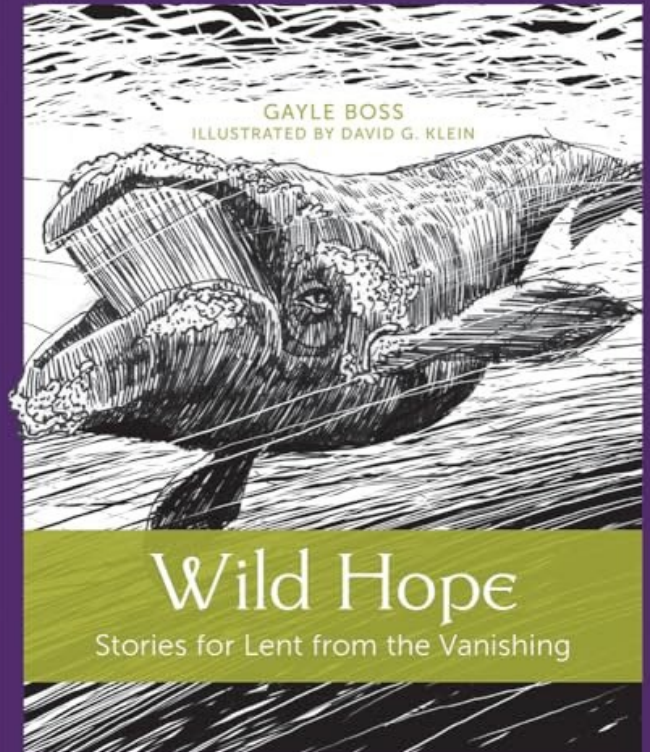
If you are new to the church and would like more information on how to become involved in a circle, or are interested in starting a new circle, please contact Donna Padgett (562) 360-0763.

Whittier First United Methodist Church is now on Instagram! Look us up at **@WhittierFirstUMC** (<https://www.instagram.com/whittierfirstumc/>)



You are invited...

to join **Hope Circle** for a book discussion on Saturday, April 5, 2025, From 9 to 11 am in the Kraft Friendship Room.



WILD HOPE: Stories for Lent from the Vanishing by Gayle Boss.

Come and join the discussion on the Lenten book *Wild Hope* by Gayle Boss. This is the same book that C-J is leading during our virtual Lenten discussion every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

The book is available to purchase and is also available on the Whittier Library app, Hoopla Digital.

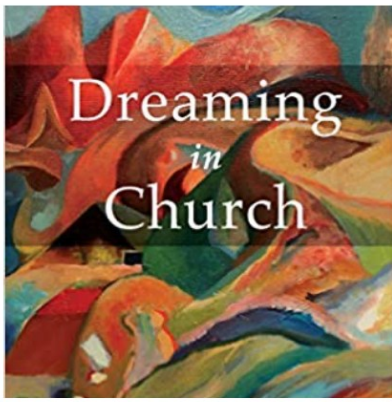
Bring a breakfast item to share and your thoughts on this meditative book as we head into Easter.

Contact Donna Padgett or Linda Holtz if you have any questions.

LENTEN STUDY VIDEO SERIES

During the season of Lent, Pastor Jon will be posting weekly Lenten Study videos on Thursdays in place of his Monday Morning Quarterback series.

Visit <https://www.youtube.com/@WhittierFirstUMC> and click on "Videos" for Lenten Study videos and the "MMQ" archives.



“Dreaming in Church” - Wednesday lunchtime (in person) study hosted by Pastor Geoff Nelson.

How might our dreams help us grow spiritually? Spiritual growth is one goal of Lenten observations. Come join this class during Lent of 2025 and learn how you may grow through using your nightly dreams. Pastor Geoff will help you learn the language of dreams, look at dreams in the Bible and church history (with pastor Jon’s help looking at John Wesley’s view of dreams). We will meet for six Wednesdays (bring a sack lunch). We will grow with each other and learn to explore our dreams. Our dreams can be a rich treasury of self-understanding and spiritual growth. Come learn how! **This study will meet in the Kraft Friendship room at Whittier First UMC at noon each Wednesday in Lent beginning March 12.**

“Wild Hope” - Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m. Zoom study with C-J Conklin.

“The purpose of Lent has always been to startle us awake to the true state of our hearts and the world we’ve made. Which wakes an aching, wild hope that something new might be born of the ruin.” —*Wild Hope: Stories for Lent from the Vanishing* by Gayle Boss, p. 8 (Paraclete Press, 2020).

My friends this is not going to be an easy Lenten study experience; I say this as both warning and invitation. I first became familiar with the author and artist in *All Creation Waits: The Advent Mystery of New Beginnings*. That book focused on mystery, anticipation, and danger for animals hibernating through the winter; this one tells the grief-filled stories of animals on the verge of extinction. There is though, a delicate and deliberate documenting of the efforts of scientists and conservationists around the world as well as new learning about diversity and adaptations of these creatures.

You are invited, but not required to read the whole book. Though there are 25 short selections broken up into weekly sections we will only tackle one or two each session, using vision divina, guided questions and scripture study to together “lament in the suffering and ruin that our species has caused them. But as with Lent itself, we are not called to remain in our grief, but to be awakened.”

“The promise of Lent is that something *will* be born of the ruin, something so astoundingly better than the present moment that we cannot imagine it. Lent is seeded with resurrection. The Resurrection promises that a new future will be given to us when we beg to be stripped of the lie of separation, when the hard husk suffocating our hearts breaks open and, like children again, we feel the suffering of any creature as our own. That this can happen is the wild, not impossible hope of all creation”.

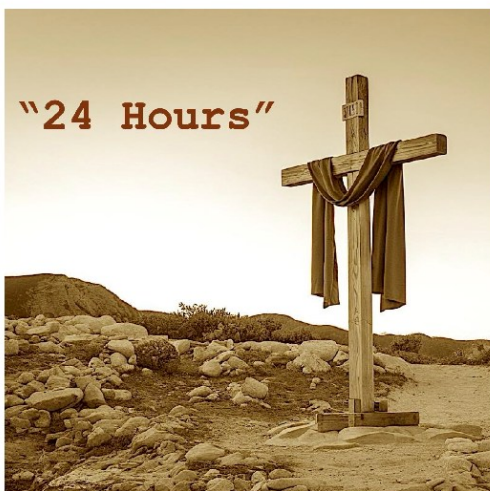
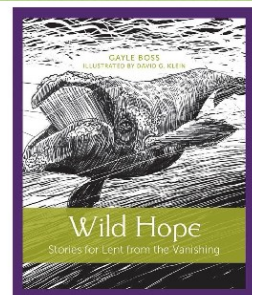
These short chapters are heartbreaking: *Wild Hope* is a difficult, moving book that is confronting and uncomfortable for the reader, but as Boss says in her introduction, **“hearts broken open in love create a new ark.”** May this Lenten season be a time of awakening, a time of compassion, and above all a time of wild, indescribable hope for all of us.

Group will meet on Zoom Wednesday evenings from 7-8:15.

Zoom Meeting ID [816 1502 0760](#) Passcode: [EWUMC!](#)

Learning Options

Lenten Studies - begin March 12



“24 Hours”

“24 Hours”

YouTube DIY study. Lessons posted each Thursday during Lent.

Pastor Jon is hosting a DIY study on YouTube. This study will closely examine the last 24 hours of Jesus’ life. It will be based on scripture passages from Mark’s gospel and Pastor Jon’s own experiences and reflections in the Holy Land. We will explore the scriptural accounts of Jesus final day before the crucifixion, the locations where these events took place, and consider their meaning for us today. Videos will be posted each Thursday during Lent on YouTube - @WhittierFirstUMC.

UMCOR Sunday

Sunday, March 30 is UMCOR Sunday, when we collect donations to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR Sunday covers UMCOR's operation costs so that 100% of donations received for emergency appeals go directly to communities in need. UMCOR is a rare disaster relief organization in that it can make that promise.

When people lose their homes due to floods, hurricanes, or wildfires, UMCOR is there. When communities are devastated by war or famine, UMCOR provides food, water, and medical care. In the past year, UMCOR offered generous relief and recovery grants to communities devastated by the hurricanes in North Carolina and the wildfires in Altadena and Pacific Palisades. But UMCOR can only respond because of the generosity of churches like ours.

To donate, visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZMHG/campaign/C-14Z6H>. You can also deliver or mail a check to the church office with "UMCOR Special Sunday" in the memo line.

SPECIAL
SUNDAY
UMCOR SUNDAY

ALLEVIATE
HUMAN SUFFERING
RESTORE HOPE
AND HEALING

