



CHIMES

Whittier First UMC

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

IN-PERSON & ONLINE Worship every Sunday @ 10am

 **Whittier First United Methodist Church**

 **facebook.com/WhittierFirstUMC**

WhittierFirstUMC.com | Info@WhittierFirstUMC.com | 562.698.0022 | 13222 Bailey St., Whittier CA 90601 | **08.10.23**



"Inspired"

Understanding how to read and relate to the bible as the "defining story of our lives."

Learning to wrestle with difficult passages in the bible.

Falling in love with the bible again, with all its beauty, messiness, and complexity.

This week we begin a new sermon series called "Inspired." The series is based on the book Inspired by Rachel Held Evans and it will look at the Bible from new perspectives. When Paul wrote that, "All scripture is inspired by God," he actually invented a new word, literally translated as "God-breathed." In this sermon we will explore what it means to say that the Bible is the "inspired" word of God. What claim are we actually making when we say that? What does it mean to call the bible the "defining story of our lives?"

–Pastor Jon

Join us for In-person or Online Worship: Sunday, August 13, 2023 @ 10AM

THIS WEEK AT WHITTIER FIRST UMC

Sun, 08.13.23

8:45 am **M & M Challengers**
Kraft Friendship Room

10 am **Traditional Worship**
Sanctuary/Online

10:20 am **Children's Sunday School**
Library

Tues, 08.15.23

5 pm **Messy Church**
Wesley Lounge

The church office is closed **August 28 & 29**, emails will be checked periodically, Info@WhittierFirstUMC.com

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

In-Person:

Sunday, August 6, 2023: **64**

Online:

Sunday, July 30, 2023: **100**

Save the Date Sun, Sept 3 @ 1 PM

Report back lunch Wesley Lounge for Pastor Angela who will share her experiences during her four month sabbatical.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS this SUNDAY

Students of all ages, grades and levels are invited to bring your backpack, laptop, lunch box, etc...to worship service to start the new school year with special prayers.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please submit prayers to the office at info@WhittierFirstUMC.com so our Whittier First UMC family can pray for you. They are shared every Sunday morning during worship service. Please mark confidential if you would like to keep prayers within the clergy team.

Starting in September— JOIN the CHANCEL CHOIR

Warm up those vocal chords and join the choir on Thursday evenings. The choir will learn music for upcoming services and you could now be a part of that celebration by adding your voice in praise of God. Thursdays at 7:30 pm in the Choir Room, right next to the Sanctuary. Contact Marvin Neumann with questions at 626.798.9332.

CHURCH CHILI COOK-OFF September 10th after Worship service

Our annual event is back!

Make a crock to serve 10-12

**Bring them to church after worship
to the luncheon**

**or keep warm in Wesley Lounge
during worship.**

This is a great time to bring a friend .

Cobblers welcome too.

**We need LOTS of people to come,
eat, and vote as well!**

Reservations not necessary.

Spread the word...

Spicy, veggie, hearty, healthy, chunky...

Now is the time to test out a favorite recipe!



Whittier First UMC
to host families
Aug 20th—Sept 3rd

Family Promise is a national organization that reaches out to homeless families and, working through churches and other faith-based organizations, provides temporary shelter, food and fellowship. Whittier First is proud to be one of the 15 churches in the San Gabriel area, and thousands of churches nationwide, that participates in this important mission. They are a non-profit organization that gets most of its funding from private donations and local fundraisers. Without congregations like ours – Family Promise could not survive.

A few times a year, participating churches are scheduled to host homeless families, or guests, in their church buildings, providing meals and offering our hand in friendship. On weekdays, children attend school and parents travel to the local central Family Promise office for help with job searches, HUD benefit applications, and counseling. The families are transported back to the church at dinnertime, most families have their own cars, where church volunteers are waiting with a home-cooked or store bought meal. Volunteers then spend time with the families and sleep overnight until they leave the morning.

For volunteers, there is a comfy bed in the Asbury building or you can take a snooze in the Kraft Friendship room. A typical schedule (subject to change) for our guests looks like this:

- * 5:30pm to 7pm Provide and serve dinner in the Kraft Friendship room
- * 7pm to 9pm Visit with guests in the Kraft Friendship or they can call it a day and spend time in their rooms located on the first floor of the Asbury building
- * 9pm to 7am Stay overnight
- * 6:30 am to 7:00 am Help serve breakfast (usually a grab and go) and pack a lunch for guests to take with them

If you aren't able to spend the night or cook/buy a meal—supermarket or restaurant gift cards are appreciated. Gasoline gift cards are also needed for our guests who own their own vehicles. A possible Volunteering your time for this important mission is a deeply rewarding experience. This is real time, real world Christian outreach at its best!

Contact the church office if you can help in any way, 562.698.0022 or Info@WhittierFirstUMC.com.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank's Pastoral Letter on Fires

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Yesterday the wind was high as I took off from Honolulu to West Coast. We were aware of the presence of Hurricane Dora, as the wind had been high for the last part of our trip. This morning I woke up to hear about the fires on Maui and Hawai'i island moving quickly because of the winds, and then the evacuation of the areas around Lahaina. We waited and prayed and reached out to our contacts. Finally, we heard that Pastor John Crewe and his family were safely evacuated from Lahaina to a shelter. Pastor Crewe reached out to District Superintendent (DS) Tom Choi and reported that they were able to get out and are spending time checking on members of the congregation to make sure everyone is safe.

Communication has been sparse because cell phone coverage was out. It appears that the Lahaina United Methodist Church building has also been destroyed. Our biggest concern is that the people of Lahaina, Maui, and Hawai'i island are safe, cared for, and surrounded by the love of God's people.

Also, today we heard from DS Sandy Olewine that there is a fire in our South District, about a half-mile from Ramona UMC. Rev. Kristie Grimaud has reported that all are safely evacuated, and it looks like the fire is getting contained.

On this day, as we hear about fires, evacuations, and deaths, we offer up our prayers for safety and life. We ask for God's Presence to comfort those who grieve, to give strength to those who are fleeing and those who are rescuing, and to open up a way when it seems there is no way. The people of God and this California-Pacific Conference are praying for you. They will be in action to provide the future resources that love requires of us.

Please pray with me, with us, for these communities who have lost so much on this day. Your prayers, your gifts to UMCOR www.umcmision.org, and your readiness to bring aid as needed are greatly appreciated.

God be very near.

Grace y paz,

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank
Resident Bishop of the Los Angeles Area
California-Pacific Conference of The United Methodist Church

Saturday, August 12
9:00 - Noon

Drive through or Drop by

La Mirada Methodist Church
15700 Rosecrans Ave.
umclamirada.org

Music & Refreshments

*For the Interfaith Food Center
Serving families in need in La Mirada,
Whittier, and Santa Fe Springs
interfaithfoodcenter.org*



SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 12:30-3:30 PM
FREE ADMISSION!

Family Peace Day Festival

SHARING AND CARING FOR WATER

Snacks-Crafts-Games-Stories
Special Guest: Touch Tank from
Aquarium of the Pacific!



Brought to you by First Friends Church Peace Camp
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