



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 | **06.20.24**



"WALKING THE WALK"

They say that in comedy, "timing is everything." That is probably true in a lot of areas of life. I have friends that are involved in the stock market and they are always trying to figure out when is the right time to buy and sell a stock. Good timing impacts the result of those decisions. Many things we do in life are affected by timing. Sometimes, our window of opportunity is very narrow and sometimes it is large. The Good News is that with Jesus, now is always a good time. This week we continue our sermon series "Walking the Walk." We will be talking and learning about "The Acceptable Time." -Pastor Jon

In-Person & Online Worship
Sunday, June 23, 2024 @ 10am

"The Acceptable Time", *II Corinthians 6: 1-13*, Rev. Jon Wesley Waterson

COMING UP AT WHITTIER FIRST UMC

Sun, 06.23.24 Graduate Sunday
8:30 am **M&M Challengers**
Kraft Friendship Room
10 am **Traditional Worship**
Sanctuary/Online
10:20 am **Children's Sunday School**
Library

Mon, 06.24.24
1:30 pm **Shawl Ministry**
Kraft Friendship Room

Wed, 06.26.24
9:30 am **Sew n Sew**
Admin 101

Thurs, 06.27.24
2 pm **Staff Meeting**
Conference Room
5 pm **Jubilant Bells Rehearsal**
Bell Room
7:30 pm **Chancel Choir Rehearsal**
Choir Room

Office Hours next week:
Mon 8:30am-5pm, Tues 10am-2pm,
Wed 10am-2pm, Thurs 8:30am-5pm,
and Fri closed

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

In-Person:

Sunday, June 16, 2024: **54**

Online (Facebook & YouTube):

Sunday, June 9, 2024: **99**



**Whittier Host
Lions Club**
Established 1922

WHITTIER HOST LIONS CLUB

IS SPONSORING A

FREE vision screening & free recycled EYEGLASSES

All ages are welcome

First come first served—come early

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024

8:00 am —1:00 PM

We cannot guarantee that all patients in line will be seen.
Screening may close early subject to attendance.

Sierra High School Gym
9401 Painter Avenue, Whittier



Sing with the Choir

Come and practice with the Chancel Choir at 9:15 Sunday mornings and sing the anthem for that day's service, **starting July 7th**. There are no Thursday rehearsals—only the Sunday warm-up at 9:15am. Contact Marvin Neumann, Music Director, 626.798.9332.

Congratulations!

WE'RE PROUD OF YOU

VIVIAN MENDOZA

MATTHEW RAY

DECLAN WESLEY MURRAY



Report on 2024 District and Annual Conference Submitted by Charles Bennett, Lay Delegate to Annual Conference

I Zoomed into the East District conference on May 11, immediately following giving Founder's Day church tours. The meeting conducted routine business and ended quickly.

The 2024 CalPac annual conference was held at the Marriott in Burbank. I stayed at the Quality Inn Burbank, a 10-to-15-minute walk away. The theme has changed drastically from last year, from Nourish to...Flourish. The **worship** style could be best described as "multicultural contemporary", with several services featuring the Harmony band from Toluca Lake. Opening worship carried a message of concern for Native American and Native Hawaiian peoples. Bishop Dottie Escobedo Frank preached on ministering to undocumented immigrants. As the first session began, a delegate took a tumble over the threshold to the hall and broke her arm; she remains in our prayers. The Memorial service was held Thursday evening, paying tribute to Brent Criswell, among others, and featuring a choir from Valencia UMC (when the East District hosts in 2025, we ought to put our choir forward!). Friday evening was the Young People's service, with many of the participants being of Pacific Islander heritage, and was also where two children were baptized by Bishop Dottie. Saturday was the commission and ordination service, preached by retired bishop Mary Ann Swenson. As with last year, I note that worship is significantly less formal and traditional than it had been a few years ago at Redlands. That's the downside to Bishop Dottie; the upsides are that she's more personal than our two previous bishops, and less concerned about rules arcana or being right (and that she has a little ol' chihuahua named Chica that OF COURSE I petted).

You cannot think about Annual Conference without considering the General Conference (GC2024) that concluded a few weeks ago. Delegates received a summary of CalPac's role in GC2024. As a result of General Conference, the LGBT issue that was hotly debated for my entire life is now mostly decided, making the CalPac session less stressful but with a bit of a mission crisis. What's the next social concern? Here are some causes that "auditioned" at CalPac.

- Environmental justice, reversing climate change and an end of a dependency on fossil fuels
- Filipinos suffering under oppressive right-wing regimes and an economy dependent on remittances from Filipino-Americans
- Acts of Reconciliation for the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii
- An end to the conflict in Palestine and the Israeli apartheid
- Justice and compassion for migrants (FUMCW is literally on the map as a migrant waystation!)

There were several programs and speakers on the topic of "flourishing", which was rather amorphous but appeared to mean programs that are attracting new members and doing good work. Wednesday evening session was a brainstorming "flourishing" session, to focus on what programs have been working in our local churches, and dream dreams (pipe dreams? Impossible dreams?) of what could be for our conference in the future. (One oft-repeated dream came from Conference Lay Leader Mele Maka, who dreamed of a church with an average age of 35). There were several panel discussions on the concept of flourishing, and videos were shown about "flourishing" programs throughout the conference, and also of how Lahaina has been rebuilding following a devastating fire. We received reports from various conference agencies, including from the Board of Ordained Ministry, from the Connectional Table (still helmed by Erin Hawkins), and from retired Bishop Grant Hagiya on Claremont School of Theology. There is again diversity in the 2024 class of ordinands. Thursday was Thursday in Black, to acknowledge the experiences of victims of domestic violence. (I wore my black "Jar of Hearts" EWC T- shirt). Friday's keynote speaker was Dr. Frank Rodgers of Claremont School of Theology, speaking on flourishing through trauma, noting the problems of a God that rationalizes sexual abuse, Auschwitz, and other suffering ("That God needs to die", he said).

I attended several special breakfasts, lunches and dinners. At the East District breakfast, Whittier again received the all-important gilt-edge certificate for paying 100% of apportionments. I attended both the Social Justice lunch and the MFSA (Methodist Federation for Social Action) lunch. The social justice lunch contained reports from Inglewood UMC on affordable housing, a report on the Philippines, and a history lesson on the MFSA. Thursday evening was the retirement dinner, featuring John Farley closing out 78 years of the Farley family in ministry in CalPac with a guitar solo (this completely different from the MFSA lunch, which featured DAVID Farley on guitar). Also retiring is Matt Seargeant (who will we tease now?) and Son-Pom Ye, who did a really poignant duet with his wife.

John Farley's retirement necessitated a cabinet reshuffle that included moving Sandy Oelwine to Assistant to the Bishop and two new District Superintendents. MoonYoung Lee will continue to be East District Superintendent, and add the responsibility of Dean of the Cabinet. For the 2024-25 appointment cycle, all five DSES will be non-white.

Conference has gained a new interim treasurer, with Christie Drenner replacing the long-serving Archana Carey. Due in part to this, the conference budget has again been pushed off of Annual Conference to a special session, likely in early October. Between now and then, there will theoretically be some dialogue where church leaders are asked for input. If asked, I will note that i) our apportionment burden is too onerous, ii) that there exist too many conference offices, and iii) that not enough resources are directed toward creating new generations of clergy, lay leadership and congregants.

In addition to Palestine and the Philippines, **Legislation** included i), Declaring the gun violence problem in this country a public emergency, ii) Two resolutions to stand in solidarity with workers who are fighting for a living wage & the right to organize, iii) Encouraging the use of gender pronouns, and iv) Creating a Hispanic Heritage Sunday. We voted to end our relationship with the United Methodist Church in Saipan and in Winchester, CA, while pairs of churches in Santa Maria, Santa Barbara and Pasadena have merged into single charges.

Fellowship: I continued my association with Jennifer Hampton of Chino, and I played board games with some of my new friends from my time in the Antelope Valley. I also conversed with Richard Bentley and Rich Boline (now in Los Osos) over breakfast on Friday morning. I had Friday dinner with Greg Pittman of my Lancaster church. I sort of stumbled into having breakfast with Izzy Alvaran of Reconciling Ministries (and now a member of CalPac!) Saturday morning at our hotel. Richard Bentley and Izzy Alvaran are collaborating with our brethren in Africa to advocate in favor of regionalization and beat back movements of disinformation and secession in Africa and the Philippines.

The 2025 Annual Conference will be somewhere in the East District. **What are our tasks between now and then?** Well, one thing this church and others in CalPac must work on are the mandated reporter mandates of AB506. I would also encourage this congregation to take advantage of the conference resources in the area of communication.