



CHIMES

Whittier First UMC

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

IN-PERSON & ONLINE Worship every Sunday @ 10am

You  **Whittier First United Methodist Church**

 **facebook.com/WhittierFirstUMC**

WhittierFirstUMC.com | Info@WhittierFirstUMC.com | 562.698.0022 | 13222 Bailey St., Whittier CA 90601 | 05.04.23



A Peculiar People

“In his book, Strength for the Journey, Peter J. Gomes writes: “*I will give you my definition of what a Christian is. To be a Christian is to be a changed man or a changed woman in an unchanged world.*” 1 Peter in our scripture for this week says we’re “*a peculiar people*”. We’re “*set apart*”, were “*different*”. We are to live differently, to love differently and to make a difference in the world. What does that look like in today’s world? What does it mean to say we “*belong to God*”? How does that truth shape how we live. Join us as we explore and reflect on these questions and as we feast together at God’s Table.”

–Rev. Dr. Faith J. Conklin

Join us for In-Person or Online Worship
Sunday, May 7, 2023 @ 10am

“A Peculiar People” I Peter 2: 4-10 NRSV

THIS WEEK AT WHITTIER FIRST UMC

Fri, 05.05.23

6 pm **Friday Faith Flicks**
Kraft Friendship Room

Sun, 05.07.23

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

10 am **Traditional Worship**
Sanctuary/Online

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

11:15 am **All-Church Picnic**
Central Park

Tues, 05.09.23

1:30 pm **Tuesdays Art & Music**
Wesley Lounge

Wed, 05.10.23

9 am **Sew n Sew**
Admin 101

Thurs, 05.11.23

5 pm **Jubilant Bells Rehearsal**
Bell Room

7 pm **Whittier Methodist Foundation**
Online & Board Room

7:30 pm **Chancel Choir Rehearsal**
Choir Room

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

In-Person:

Sunday, April 30, 2023: **83**

Online (Facebook & YouTube):

Sunday, April 23, 2023: **129**

During this time of transition, if you have questions about ministries, programs or outlooks of this congregation, or of the greater Methodist denomination, please contact Charles Bennett, Lay Leader and Lay Delegate to Annual Conference, (562) 852-2512 or charleshbennett89@gmail.com

Thirty years ago several former members deeded cemetery plots at Rose Hills to the church. They have been "rediscovered" and are now for sale by the Trustees. Rose Hills is selling their plots for approximately \$15,000 each. The Trustees have set a price of \$8,500 for each of our six available plots. Please contact the church office or Sharon Hastings (562-693-2303) for more information.

Dear Faithful Members and Friends of Whittier First,

The First Quarter 2023 Statements of Giving will not be ready to mail by the end of April as they usually have been. The Finance Committee approved purchasing new software to keep track of the financial giving by our pledging units and contributors of record. To save the church money, we decided to input the data ourselves, however, it is taking longer than anticipated. Please know we have detailed records of your giving that we prepare each week before depositing your pledge payments and gifts in the bank. As soon as this year's giving is input, year-to-date statements will be sent out.

Thank you for your commitment to generously give to the First United Methodist Church of Whittier. You are staying current with your pledge commitments and monthly gifts. For this we are truly grateful.

Blessings,
Lori Harris
Chairperson
Finance Committee

May is Mental Health Month

by Rita Murray

The World Health Organization tells us that “mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.”

A mental illness is a condition that affects a person's thinking, feeling, behavior or mood. These conditions deeply impact day-to-day living and may also affect the ability to relate to others.

- 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year
- 1 in 20 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year
- 1 in 6 U.S. youth aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year
- 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24

Despite the prevalence of mental illness, many people don't understand mental health conditions. There are many myths and misconceptions about what mental illness is and what it means to live with a mental health condition. All of us know someone whose life has been affected either personally or through a family member experiencing mental illness. The support of family, friends and the wider community, especially the church, is crucial to recovery. Yet, because of stigma, many are reluctant to share a diagnosis fearing they or their relative will be judged harshly.

Many of you know that I have been involved with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) for over 30 years. I'm not a mental health professional but my life has been affected by mental illness due to my mother having had a mental health diagnosis of bipolar disorder. As a child and young adult I wasn't told and didn't understand. I spent many years being embarrassed or angry. I have learned so much since then. I majored in psychology in college but most of my real understanding and knowledge of what was happening with my mother and how to help her came from NAMI. It's very important for me to help others understand that they are not alone and that treatment works. NAMI recognizes that the key concepts of recovery, resiliency and support are essential to improving the wellness and quality of life of all persons affected by mental illness. Part of doing that involves reaching out to the wider community to educate and inform.

See more information at www.NAM.org and NAMI Greater Los Angeles County at www.namiglac.org.

GUEST PREACHERS:

May 7th Rev. Dr. Faith J. Conklin, May 14th & 21st Rev. Mike Eggleston, May 28th C-J Conklin,
June 4th Rev. Dr. Faith J. Conklin, June 11th & 18th Rev. Mike Eggleston, and June 25th Rev. Don Roe



East District

California-Pacific Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Siosaia F. Tu'itahi
District Superintendent

Dottie Escobedo-Frank
Resident Bishop

April 27, 2023

Ginny Ball, SPRC Chair
1322 Bailey St,
Whittier, CA 90601

Dear Ginny Ball and the Congregation of Whittier First United Methodist Church,

On behalf of Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank and her Cabinet, I share with you that after much prayer and consultation, it is Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank's intent to appoint Rev. Jon Wesley Waterson to serve as your pastor effective July 1, 2023. Pastor Jon is a gifted and experienced pastor who has served for a number of years in the California-Pacific Conference. Pastor Jon is a spirit-filled leader and preacher with rich experiences in worship, music, young people's ministry, outreach and stewardship. As a church leader and developer, he is uniquely gifted to lead Whittier FUMC into an era of vibrant growth. Pastor Waterson will work together with Rev Angela Galanis-Price and your lay leadership for a smooth and effective ministry transition.

On behalf of our Bishop, I thank you for your faithfulness, and ask you to hold these fine pastors and their families in your prayers during this time of change.

In ministry together,

Rev. Dr. Siosaia F. Tu'itahi (Saia)

District Superintendent
East District

ST/kb