

THE CHURCH CHIMES

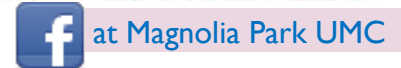
Magnolia Park United Methodist Church

We are here. We are caring. We are learning. We are worshipping God.



Moments
With
Pastor Chris

November 2018



Gifts of God

The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it... - Psalm 24:1

Of all the signs of vitality and growth in our church, and there are many, the one I think is most obvious and delightful is the growth of our children and youth ministries as evidenced by the number of young people that crowd the steps at children's time. Week after week we are all treated to their fresh faces and surprising thoughts about God and their lives. It's a wonder to me, and a true gift from God.

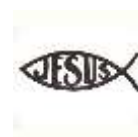
But allow me to introduce a sobering thought. According to Pew Research Center's 2014 *Religious Landscape Study*, fully 23% of Americans, some fifty-six million people now call themselves religiously unaffiliated and of that number 44% are millennials, people between the ages of 22-37. That's a huge percentage. But here's the kicker: most of them are not unacquainted with Christianity. Most grew up in the church but have walked away from a faith and a worldview that they do not believe is sustainable in the face of scientific and sociological realities they confront every day. So they simply drift away. And if the percentages hold true, this could be true for many of those dear children and youth on our steps today.

This month is traditionally stewardship month, the time when we are called to pray and reconsider our annual gift to the church. This year, as always, I hope you will take the financial needs of the church seriously as we do our best to create and sustain worship opportunities and programs that inform and strengthen our faith. That is what financial stewardship is all about—recognizing that everything we earn really belongs to God and responsibly returning a portion of those resources to the church. So please do that, and be prepared on Sunday, Nov. 18th to renew your pledge. But this year I want to call us to take a broader view of stewardship.

When we join the church, we vow to uphold it's ministries not only with our financial gifts but with our prayers and our presence, our service and our witness. These are incredible gifts of God that we are called to steward—to use responsibly and return to Him in service to each other for His glory. It is vital that we provide financial resources to sustain our ministries. But how are we, individually and corporately—retuning God's gift of prayer? Are we praying in a sustained way, asking God what we can do *personally* to make our church culture more inviting? We enjoy the presence of the Holy Spirit with us every day, in ways we cannot fully know. Are we returning that gift by being a positive presence to all the people of our church, the young and the old, the long-time member and the new? Are we listening to each other's stories and really hearing each other's needs? Finally, Jesus gave us the gift of His servant's heart, literally dying for us, and witnessing to us of God's deep and abiding love. Are we loving each other and serving each other? All the gifts we vow to give when we join the church are gifts of God, given to us to steward—to use responsibly to benefit our families, the church and the world, and bring glory to God. I believe that only a community built on these gifts will be able to sustain and hold future generations. Lucky for us, that is exactly the kind of community true Christianity manifests when we faithfully steward these gifts of God.

This month I ask you all to re-think your annual pledge. It is vital to the sustainability of Magnolia Park UMC. But I also challenge you to think about stewardship beyond the pledge campaign and even beyond this moment in our church, to the futures of the young people on our steps, and ask: "how am I stewarding the gifts of God—my prayers, my presence, my service and my witness for their sake? How am I creating a culture in this church that is more inviting and more inspiring than the post-Christian culture that calls them, and frankly calls all of us, to drift from a real, living faith? How am I using all the Gifts of God, given to me, to God's glory?"

Blessings,
Pastor Chris



DONATIONS WANTED

Baked goods, homemade jams, candies, etc.

**Please bring to Fellowship Hall on
Friday morning, Nov. 16th between
10:00am and 12 noon
on the day of the Boutique.**

United Methodist Women

Holiday Boutique

1:00pm to 9:00pm Friday, Nov. 16, 2018

Chili Dinner \$10.00 all funds to the Youth

Don't Forget, Many hands make light work.

Christmas Decorating of Fellowship Hall November 11th

Christmas Decorating Party in the Sanctuary November 24th

November Sermons *"Gifts of God"*

Nov. 4th - "The Inexhaustible Gift" - "There is no commandment greater than these" - Mark 12:31

Nov. 11th - "Limited Time Offer" - "Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him..." - Luke 24:31

Nov. 18th - "Increase" - "...he have thanks and broke the loaves" - Mark 6:41

Nov. 25th - "Who, Me?" - "'You are a king, then!' said Pilate" - John 18:37

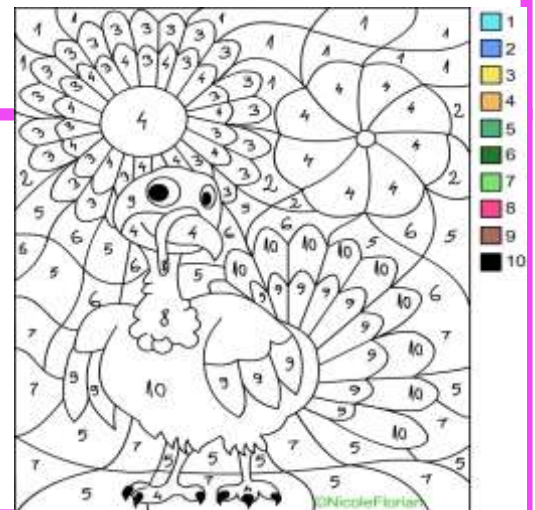
November Sunday School *"Who is Jesus?"*

Nov. 4th - "Who is Jesus?" - The Son of God

Nov. 11th - "Who is Jesus?" - The Rescuer

Nov. 18th - Thanksgiving Lesson

Nov. 25th - "Who is Jesus?" - Review



NEWSFROM YOUR YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group



Hey Everyone!

The Youth had an exciting and inspirational October. We had deep discussions about grace and tackled topics about stress, mortality, repentance, and growth. These topics had a good start in Sunday school and carried over into our Thursday night meet-ups. We had super energetic nights like our "Nerf Night", "Game/Taco Night", and our Halloween themed party! The youth band has also continued to be busy practicing for the upcoming UMW's Christmas boutique! The youth will be serving chili and performing at the Christmas boutique on November 16th at 4pm. Please come by to support your youth with a fresh bowl of chili and hear them play!

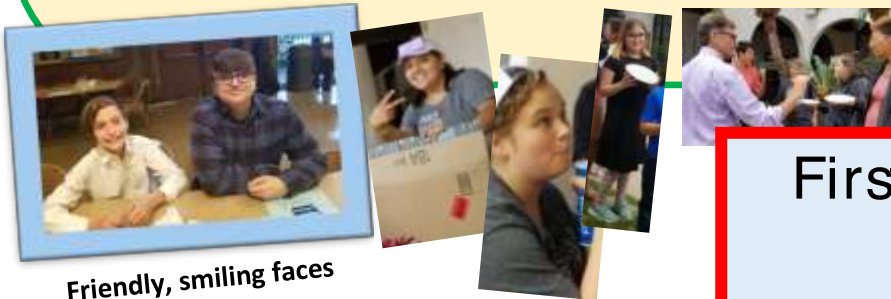
After that event, we will have our annual "Youth Thanksgiving Dinner" at Olive Garden on November 18th after church services.

This starts the holiday season and we wish a "Happy November" to all. It's going to be a special one for the church and the Youth Group!

If you wish to stay updated throughout the month on Youth activities please contact Patrick Senense at psenense@gmail.com to get on the mailing list.

Patrick Senense, Youth Director

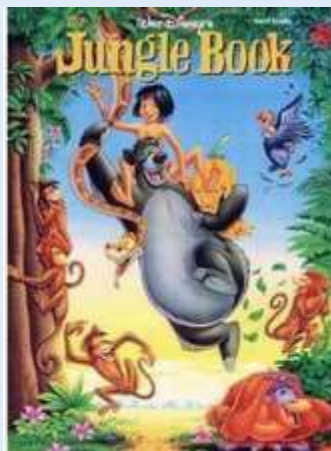
I  LOVE MY CHURCH!



Friendly, smiling faces

First Friday Family Night Featuring the movie "Jungle Book"

Doors open at 5:30pm.



The movie at
6:00pm.

Bring the family
and your friends!

It's **FREE!**
And so is
the popcorn!



November BIRTHDAYS:

- Nov. 2 Cadence Garwood
- Nov. 7 Elizabeth Scherer
- Nov. 7 Victoria Sonoda
- Nov. 21 Greg Switzer
- Nov. 24 Miranda Gibson
- Nov. 25 Nakayla Clark



We Acknowledge and Welcome Our New Members for 2018



- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Gary Boehm | Jason and Cheyene Garwood | Cayce and Kayla Bower |
| Sylvia Silveira | Kevin and Jazmyn Hammond | Warren and Teri Proulx |
| Noah Garwood | Victoria Sonoda | John Carr |
| Patrick Senense | James Legh-Page | Miranda Gibson |

Operation Christmas Child

Well it is that time of year again, where grabbing a shoebox and filling it with random items is not frowned upon. Of course it is for the amazing ministry of Operation Christmas Child. It is our chance to give a bit of Christmas to those children in need. If you have not participated in Operation Christmas Child before, now is your chance and it is not that hard to do! First grab any regular sized shoebox, cardboard or plastic will do. There will be spare wrapped boxes in Fellowship Hall for those who wish to grab one. Next you decide if you are going to be sending to a girl or boy and the age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Finally you can fill it with a medium to large "wow" item such as a soccer ball with pump or stuffed animal, then fill with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. The most important part of the box is your prayer. Pray over your box and you may also include a personal note and photo if you wish. Remember this is to let a child know someone is thinking of them, especially during a time of year that can already have its ups and downs. If you do have trouble coming up with ideas for your box, there will be pamphlets with gift ideas as well as an informational DVD which will be playing in Fellowship Hall. Each box must also be accompanied by a label and the corresponding envelope with the \$9 donation used for shipping. The collection dates at the Church are November 12th - November 18th. On the 18th we will be praying as a congregation over the boxes before they are sent out into the world! The very last day to drop off is Sunday the 18th of November. We are excited to see the boxes start piling up and can't wait to spread some Christmas cheer!

Love and Prayers,

Darlene and Timothy Gardner



We provide a storage box in the back of the sanctuary for donations to

**Burbank Temporary Aid Center
also known as BTAC**

They can ALWAYS use the following:

Canned goods with easy-open pull-tabs are especially appreciated and personal hygiene supplies such as toothpaste, tooth brushes and deodorant. **BUT Please, NO ramen noodles, or exotic, specialty-food items!**

Donations include but are not limited to:

Canned Ham or Chicken, Spam, Cereals, Jell-O, Macaroni & Cheese, Peanut Butter & Jelly, or Sugar. Canned soup, Cocoa mix, Box juices, puddings, Evaporated or powdered milk, Instant potatoes, rice or pasta, Pancake mix, Syrup, Canned fruit, Canned vegetables.

These are just a few of the items that can be given to help supply this food bank. Just one of our community missions.

**HOLIDAY SEASON IS NOW
DON'T FORGET BTAC DOATIONS**

Coffee Hour

Provided and served by **volunteers** of the congregation.



First weekend: UMW ladies. Gay Nichols, Pres.

Second weekend: Kathy K. - 818-644-7075

Third weekend: Sylvia S. - 818-532-4911

Fourth weekend: Ginie H. - 818-238-9783

Fifth weekend: Potluck lunch.

Beverly B. - 818-421-5142

Weekly support: Sandy B. - 818-521-9925

Thank you to Beverly Brinker, Worship Team Chairperson, who oversees this scheduling and the supplies. If you would like to donate food or your time to any one of these Sundays please contact Beverly. Any support is always welcomed and **volunteers** are always needed. Sign up today!

Helping hands make light work.

The **coffee hour volunteers** need your help. They put in the time to prepare your coffee hour and donate the wonderful treats that we all enjoy every Sunday. It would be appreciated and helpful if someone would step up each week to come to their aid in cleaning up. If someone would pitch in and help, they could leave with the rest of the group. Maybe a signup sheet would be helpful. Suggestions would be greatly appreciated and can be given to Beverly Brinker.

Remember, "Jesus washed feet, you can wash dishes."

SAVE THIS DATE

Do you like camping? Do you enjoy the outdoors? Being in the fresh mountain air?
Playing and praying with family and friends?



All Church Family Camp
March 30 - 31, 2019