



2012

Wednesday, February 22 ~ Saturday, April 7

Claremont United Methodist Church

211 West Foothill Boulevard

Claremont, CA 91711

(909) 624-9021

www.claremontumc.org

Pastor's Reflections upon beginning Lent...

I have been pondering Lent, wondering once again where God's nudges lead me as your pastor. I feel a longing in my heart to explore what it means to bless both beauty and pain. Our world and our lives are filled with both pain and beauty and the extent to which we can embrace and bless both enables us to be even more grounded disciples of Jesus of Christ.

The season of Lent is among the various occasions in our lives where we confront cruelty and death as well as joy and renewal. It is not something to be avoided; rather, it is a season to plunge into the depths. Beauty and pain are of one piece.

I don't have a neat and tidy Lenten series to lay out for you. The Spirit is perking and I trust the process. I will tell you that I intend to have the writings of the late John O'Donohue be in dialogue with the scripture texts. I am currently reading several of his books which are a lovely combination of philosophy, theology and poetry. He touches me through the pages.

So we begin this Lenten journey together, again. My prayer is that we grow deeper in love and wisdom and that we are equipped to live in this world, in this time.

Within this brochure you find signposts for the journey: worship services for the whole body; small groups and study groups, all intended to connect us with one another and with God as we ponder the meaning of Christ's life and death this season.

May you experience blessing in your pain and in your joy.

~ Pastor Sharon



Shrove
Tuesday



Pancake Supper

On **Tuesday, February 21** please join the youth of CUMC for their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, sponsored by the Education Commission. Delicious pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee and juice will be offered by the youth in the **Round Building** from **5:00-7:00 p.m.** Proceeds from the supper will support the youth in their work with the Alaska Service Trip in July, 2012. They will travel to Anchorage, Alaska with Susie and Dennis Holway, Rev. Dan Lewis and other adult leaders. In Alaska the group will see Alaska from the inside with Susie and Dennis, who served as missionaries there for over 30 years. They will also spend a week offering service to one of the local church camps, clearing trails, refurbishing cabins, and doing other needed repairs. Please plan to come for fun, fellowship and good food, as well as helping our youth to be of service to neighbors in Alaska. Tickets will be sold on the patio during coffee fellowship on Sunday morning; and will be available at the door.

Worship Services in Lent



lent begins with Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 22

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

CUMC will begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday worship at 7:30 p.m. on February 22. Worship will include the imposition of ashes and the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Childcare for infants and toddlers will be provided.



Children, Families, and Adults

These devotionals will be available throughout Lent on the table near the entrance to the narthex. We hope these short readings will help to deepen your experience of the holy in this Lenten season.

Children's Lenten Devotional: *Lord, I'm Listening: Daily Devotions for Lent*

With this devotional booklet and offering box, children are asked to listen—to Jesus' words and to the sounds of Lent! Rhyming couplets along with Scripture, brief devotional thoughts and suggested offerings lead the children (and families) of your parish to listen to Jesus and become aware of others' needs. Our One Great Hour of Sharing Calendar is a companion piece that will help us to consider needs here and around the world.

Resources for Families: *Springs of Living Water*

By Mark Neilsen

Author Mark Neilsen sees Lent as an opportunity to contemplate Holy Scripture so we can better understand the gift of salvation and the meaning of our baptism. These daily devotions provide families with a chance to receive the "living water" Jesus offered the Samaritan woman at the well in the fourth chapter of John's Gospel. Each time we gather as a family to pray with Scripture, living water gushes up within us to refresh our drooping spirits.

Resources for Adults: *Holy Habits for the Season of Lent*

By Rich Bimler

Bimler begins with a Scripture for each day of Lent and Holy Week and connects it with a specific "holy habit" intended to help readers focus more intentionally and joyfully on the Resurrection message for them in Christ's Cross and the Empty Tomb. Guaranteed to lighten hearts and brighten smiles.

On-Going Adult Studies



Bible Study: Seasons of the Spirit

Wednesdays, 9:45—10:45 a.m., Room 2

Lead Pastor, Rev. Sharon Rhodes-Wickett, leads the group as they study the scripture texts for the coming Sunday. The study includes engaging readings, lively discussion, and caring fellowship. This continuing study will begin exploring scripture passages for Lent on Wednesday, February 22.

The Boosters

Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Round Building Rec. Room

During Lent, The Boosters will view DVDs from Rob Bell's *Nooma* series. "*Nooma* is a series of short films that explore our world from the perspective of Jesus." *Nooma* is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion. You, too, are invited to join the Boosters as they use the *Nooma* films to explore the divine in everyday experiences.

The Growing Christians

Sundays, 10:30 a.m., Room 16

The Growing Christians Lenten study will be *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Final Days in Jerusalem* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Of this book Barbara Brown Taylor writes, "It is difficult to overestimate the importance of this volume for students of the Bible, especially those who mean to follow the Prince of Peace." Please consider joining Growing Christians for this meaningful study.

*Fellowship and mutual care are cornerstones of these ongoing study groups, and **new members** are **always** welcome.*

Sunday School



Pre-School-Third Grade Sunday School

Sundays, 9:20 a.m.

Room 13 and the Round Building Lounge

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise person who built a house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.” (Matthew 7:24–25)

Our Preschool/Kindergarten and First/Second/Third grade classes use Cokesbury’s “Rock Solid” curriculum. With lessons created around activities, crafts, stories and games, “Rock Solid” invites children to a faith experience that will help them come to know Jesus as God’s son and take his teachings to heart. In Sunday School they will experience God’s love and, hopefully, begin a lifelong journey to learn what God wants them to do and be.

Fourth-Seventh Grade Sunday School

Sundays, 9:30 a.m.

Room 23

Calling all Muggle Tweens! ALL 4th-7th graders check out the new Harry Potter Sunday School curriculum!



No quidditch or spells, just a great time with your friends.

Eighth-Twelfth Grade Sunday School

Sundays, 11:00 a.m.

Room 2

Youth in grades 8-12 are invited to come together for a mix of fellowship, scriptural studies, current issues, and teen support.



Newcomer's Class

Should I become a member...and why would I want to do that??? What is Claremont UMC about?

Pastor Sharon invites you to come to an informal setting where we can explore such questions over four Sunday evenings. This is a chance to become better acquainted and to learn where Methodism fits in the Christian stream. You are welcome to “stump the pastor” with any questions or concerns you have.

This is an opportunity to explore what it means to follow Jesus Christ through Claremont United Methodist Church. Pastor Sharon loves this time to explore together.

Sunday evenings **February 19, 26, March 4, and 11** from **6:00-7:30 p.m. in Pastor Sharon's office**. Child care will be provided if requested in advance.

Please indicate on your attendance card in worship, or contact the church office: churchoffice@claremontumc.org or (909) 624-9021 to indicate you will be there and if you need child care.



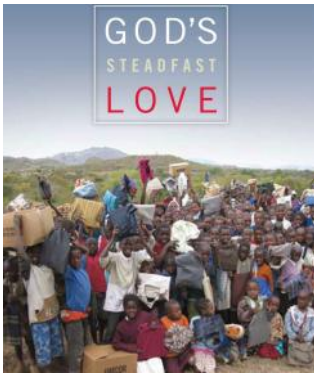
Easter Lilies and Designated Gifts

Once again you have the opportunity to order Easter Lilies in honor or in memory of loved ones. In lieu of, or in addition to, Easter Lilies, you may choose to make a donation to a variety of projects in the local community and/or ministries of CUMC. There will be inserts in upcoming issues of *The Window* and worship guides that will allow you to place an order or make a donation.

The Deadline for orders and donations is **12:00 p.m., Monday, April 2.**

You may pick up your lilies after the 11am worship service on Easter Sunday, April 8.

Special
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EASTER OFFERING



One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

During Lent, all are encouraged to find ways to contribute to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering, taken up on **Sunday, March 18, 2012**. Our gifts to **One Great Hour of Sharing** lay the foundation for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to manifest God's steadfast love throughout the world. May our gifts to OGHS help to bring hope and solidarity to communities at home and abroad in the wake of natural disaster, war, and other crises.

Many thanks to Sandy Wulf of the Missions Commission for her generous work in researching and preparing the OGHS calendar for our use during Lent.

May it be, for each of us, a part of our Lenten spiritual discipline.

Holy Week Begins...

Passion/Palm Sunday

Sunday ~ April 1, 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Liturgy of the Palms: Mark 11:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

Worship begins with the grand entrance into Jerusalem and ends looking toward the passion of Jesus Christ. Adults, children, bells, and dancers from CUMC's music program present Marty Haugen's "The Song of Mark" at both worship services. The oratorio-style presentation of this musical includes scenes of Jesus' ministry and follows the story through the passion.

The children & youth are invited to gather on the patio at 8:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. to begin the Palm Processional. They will enter the sanctuary waving palm branches with shouts of Hosanna!



Interfaith Seder: Sunday, April 1, 3:00 p.m.
Claremont Islamic Center.



~ **Thursday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.**

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
The Sacrament of Holy Communion and a service of Foot or Hand washing will be a part of worship.

Childcare for infants and toddlers will be provided.



Good Friday ~ **Friday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.**

at Claremont UMC

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

Tenebrae: *A service of darkness.* Worship will feature a reading of the Passion Story interspersed with Passion hymns and Taizé music.

Childcare for infants and toddlers will be provided.

Community Good Friday service: sponsored by Claremont Interfaith Council. This year the service will be at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1700 N. Towne Ave., Claremont.

Sanctuary open for **silent meditation: 12:00-2:00 p.m.**

Worship service begins: 2:00 p.m.



Holy Saturday ~ April 7

7:30 ~ 9:30 p.m.

Light!! Story!! Water!! Feast!!

Essential to humankind from ancient times, these four facets of the Easter Vigil will be celebrated through music, dance, drama, and holy ritual. This joyful festival begins with a “new fire” appearing through the windows of the darkened church and celebrates the whole story of salvation from creation to the paschal mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection, including the Baptismal Covenant and our Easter Eucharist. We conclude by sharing a “Break-fast” in the Narthex.

Childcare for infants and toddlers will be provided.



EASTER

Easter Sunday, April 8

9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Scripture Lessons:

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

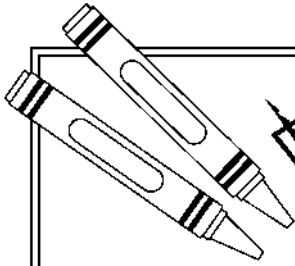
John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Festival services, with Easter music by CUMC’s various choirs, brass, bells, and organ. The worship service will conclude with Handel’s *Hallelujah Chorus*.

Rev. Dr. Sharon Rhodes-Wickett will preach.

*Childcare for infants and toddlers will be provided
at both worship services.*

*Sunday school for children through 7th grade
will be offered during the 9:00 a.m. worship service.*



PUZZLE

SIGNS OF *Rebirth*

Isaiah 35 describes the rebirth of a dry land when Jesus returns, as well as the signs of God's beautiful creation at springtime.

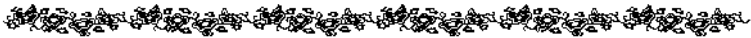
Directions: Solve each math problem. Then write the words in order, from smaller numbers to larger numbers, in the spaces below.

bloom $6+1=$ ____ blossom $2 \times 2=$ ____ rejoice $4 \times 2=$ ____

burst $3+3=$ ____ wilderness $2+1=$ ____ joy $5+5=$ ____

crocus $3+2=$ ____ desert $1 \times 0=$ ____ parched $0+1=$ ____

glad $2 \times 1=$ ____ shout $10-1=$ ____



"The _____ and the _____ land will be _____; the _____ will rejoice and _____. Like the _____, it will _____ into _____; it will _____ greatly and _____ for _____."

Isaiah 35:1-2, NIV

Answers:
"The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy."

Ministers: The Whole Congregation

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Dr. Sharon Rhodes-Wickett ~ Lead Pastor x224
The Rev. J. Daniel Lewis ~ Minister of Young People and Media x231
Martha Morales, M.A. ~ Minister of Christian Education x229
Elisa Oh ~ Seminary Intern
Jessica Johnston, M.Div. ~ Administrative Secretary x222
Lynnae Hernandez ~ Bookkeeper x225
Genaro Cordova ~ Facilities Engineer
Dr. Barbara Durost ~ Director: Music Ministries x227
Wendy Losh ~ Organist
Andrew Mohr ~ Program Support
Kathy Croughan ~ Liturgical Dance Choir Director
Donna Marie Minano ~ Director: Cherub Choir and Children of Song
Kathy Croughan ~ Director: Cherub, Children's, and Youth Dance Choirs
Christina Linton ~ Director: Preschool Music
Linda Sheldon ~ Wedding Coordinator
Kathryn Cordova ~ Nursery Attendant
Jacqueline Cordova ~ Sunday Custodian
Jeri Bollman, M.S. ~ Director: CUMC Preschool, 909-624-8223
Jeney Park-Hearn ~ The Clinebell Institute, 909-451-3690

Located in the California Pacific Annual Conference

The Rev. Dr. Mary Ann Swenson ~ Resident Bishop
The Rev. Dr. Bau Dang ~ Riverside District Superintendent

In covenant with United Methodist Missionaries

The Rev. Dr. Krista Givens ~ Germany
Rev. Claudia Genung ~ Japan

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