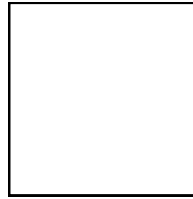




317 TERMINO AVE.
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Phone: 562-439-6804
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THE VOICE

BELMONT HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

open hearts
open minds
open doors



The people of The United Methodist Church®

April 2014

THE VOICE

BELMONT HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
317 Termino Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90814
www.belmontheightsumc.org [562] 439-6804



Palm Sunday, April 13

10:15 a.m. Worship with Palms & Children's Choir

Maundy Thursday, April 17

6:00 p.m. "The Table"

Good Friday, April 18

7:00 p.m. Worship

Somber worship service that plunges us into the darkness of the grave.

Easter Sunday, April 20

7:00 a.m. "Sunrise" Service at the Beach*

with Holy Communion

**at Bayshore & Ocean—bring your beach chair*

8:30 a.m. Praise Worship in the Sanctuary

9:00 a.m. Easter Brunch

10:15 a.m. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
with Holy Communion

11:30 a.m. Refreshments

Easter Egg Hunt for Children

after the 10:15 a.m. worship service

April 2014

Dear Friends,

Back in January when Bishop Carcaño asked us to do a survey for the Annual Conference, there were one or two references to our practice of weekly communion. As a result, I took that issue to the council and asked for input from them. After discussion, we decided to continue the practice of offering communion every week.

Traditionally, the Methodist churches have not been “sacramental,” with an emphasis on holiness rather than the sacraments of the church. I remember a Methodist friend in high school who only received communion on Maundy Thursday. There is a note tacked to the communion cupboard in the flower/communion room that indicates that communion was served here at Belmont Heights once a quarter plus Maundy Thursday and possibly on Easter or Christmas.

Another part of the Protestant practice of having communion less often is a negative reaction to the weekly mass of the Roman Catholic tradition that *always* includes communion.

Forty or fifty years ago and more, the church offered a place to gather for social events, for support of missions in the community and beyond, and for worship and religious practice. Members of church bodies spent a large part of their leisure time together, far beyond Sunday mornings only.

In more recent years, nonprofit organizations have dramatically increased in number. In 1942 Peter Dobkin Hall wrote, “In 1940, there were only 12,500 secular charitable tax-exempt organizations; today there are over 700,000.” The Foundation Center, which maintains information about philanthropy worldwide, reports that there are more than 1.5 million nonprofits in the United States today.

These organizations highlight areas of need and provide people an outlet for working with like-minded people on causes that are important to them. The church is no longer the only player in the areas of food and hunger issues, poverty, education, health, etc. I expect that most church members are also members of at least one civic, school, or social organization that is doing good work in the community.

How does this affect the mission of the church? Do we give up on raising awareness of hunger, poverty, injustice, etc.? No! But I think it is important for us to recognize and celebrate the mission work that our members do in other contexts.

All that being said, I believe that in the 21st century, our “ritual” of Holy Communion (the Eucharist, the Lord’s Supper, communion) is the one thing that sets us apart from other organizations. We gather together for the primary purpose of worshipping together. We gather to be in the body of believers. We gather together to be in the presence of Jesus Christ.

If we truly believe that Jesus Christ is present in the bread and the cup of communion, what better way to be in his presence than to celebrate Holy Communion every time we gather?

As with all things that become “common” through repetition, we recognize that the communion liturgy might be somewhat boring in its sameness week after week. Therefore, we will be offering some modifications and changes now and then to raise our awareness of the meaning of the words and the ritual we offer.

But we will continue to offer the presence of Christ in the bread and the cup each week.

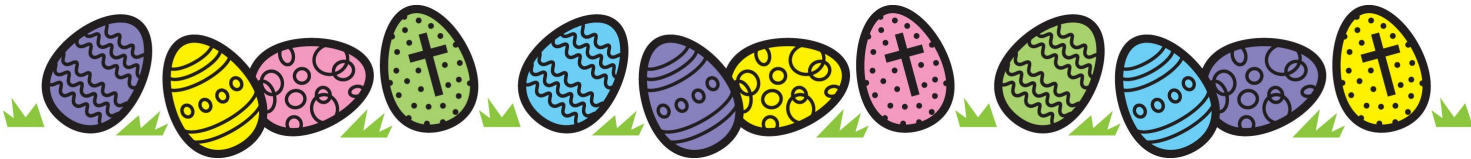
Blessings,

Pastor Cheryl

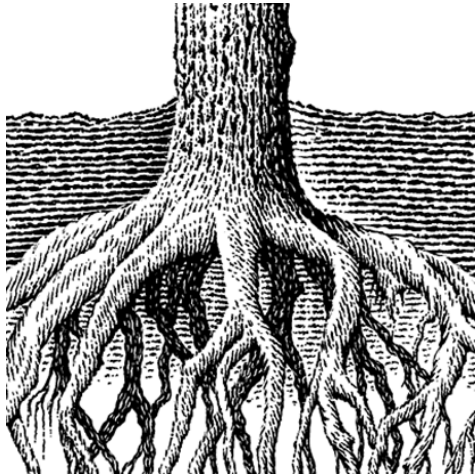
¹ Dobkin Hall, Peter, *Inventing the Nonprofit Sector*, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992), 13.

² <http://foundationcenter.org/getstarted/faqs/html/howmany.html>

APRIL 2014



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Choir Practice 7p [CR]	3 Finance Meeting 6:30p [P]	4	5 Boy Scout Troop 14 Rummage Sale 10a [FH]
6 Children's Choir 9:15a [BR] Stations 9:15a [P] Worship Svc. 10:15a [S] Coffee Hr. 11:15a [WH] Root Youth 5-7p [WH]	7 Boy Scout Troop 14 Meeting 7p [FH]	8 Trustees Meeting 6:30p [P]	9 Panda Express Women's Retreat Fundraiser 11a-midnite Ministry Team Meeting 3:45p [P] BHCA Mtg. 6:30p [P] Choir Practice 7p [CR]	10 Preschool Snow Day Preschool Board Mtg. 7p [WH]	11	12
13 Children's Choir 9:15a [BR] Stations 9:15a [P] Worship Svc. 10:15a [S] Coffee Hr. 11:15a [WH] The Root 5p [WH]	14 Boy Scout Troop 14 Meeting 7p [FH]	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 PS Chapel 11:45a & 3:45p [S] Choir Practice 7p [CR]	17 PS Chapel 11:45a & 3:45p [S] Maundy Thursday: "The Table" 6p [WH] (Prep begins 5:30p)	18 Good Friday: Worship Service 7p [S]	19 BHCP Parents Night Out 3:30p-8:30p [PS]
20 EASTER SUNDAY 7a Sunrise Beach Svc. 8:30a Praise Service 9a Brunch 10:15a Traditional Worship 11:30a Refreshments 11:30a Easter Egg Hunt	21 Boy Scout Troop 14 Meeting 7p [FH]	22	23 Choir Practice 7p [CR]	24	25	26
27 Children's Choir 9:15a [BR] Stations 9:15a [P] Worship Svc. 10:15a [S] Coffee Hr. 11:15a [WH] Sunday Schl. Teachers Mtg. 11:45a [P] The Root 5p [WH]	28 Boy Scout Troop 14 Meeting 7p [FH]	29	30 Cub Scout Pack 14 Meeting 6p [FH] Choir Practice 7p [CR]			BR = Blue Youth Room CR = Choir/Music Room CY = Courtyard/Bike Path FH = Fellowship Hall N = Nursery P = Parlor/Library PL = Parking Lot PS = Preschool S = Sanctuary WH = Wesley Hall YL = Yellow Room



THE ROOT
April Schedule

Sunday Youth Night: April 6th,
13th*, & 27th, 5-7 PM
(Wesley Hall)

**On 4/13, we'll stuff Easter eggs for the
Easter Egg Hunt on 4/20.*

Coming in May...
Spring Spiritual Retreat 5/2 & 5/3
Angels Baseball Game 5/25

SUNDAY SCHOOL APRIL MISSION

The Sunday following Easter, we will begin collecting new (or new-looking) shoes for the children at Bethune School. Please bring shoes (cash donations also accepted/ welcomed) starting April 27. There will be a collection bin outside of the sanctuary. Thank you for your continued support of these mission efforts. See Susan Thiedt for additional information.



EASTER TREAT DONATIONS NEEDED

This year "The Root" is hosting our Easter egg hunt and are in need of wrapped candy and hollow plastic eggs. Please see Ben Camp if you can donate.



A NOTE FROM JOHN WILLS
To my friends at BHUMC -

It has been my privilege to sing at Belmont Heights UMC for many years, and I hope my efforts have helped to enhance your worship experience. But time passes and things change, and people go off in different directions. That time has come for me. I will be leaving Belmont Height UMC as of Sunday, March 30, to explore other opportunities and possibilities. I don't think I'll call this "good-bye", but rather "See you sometime again!" perhaps to return for some future musical event. I leave you all in good hands, with the finest "Small but Mighty" music program in town! Thank you for all your kind words, and I wish you all the best!



Please remember our homebound members with cards, letters & prayers.

- Virginia Bradley (home): 9850 Garfield Ave. #77, Huntington Beach, CA 92646
- Mary Catherine Hinkle (home of daughter Georgiann Dobson): 2 Windward Way, Buena Park, CA 90621
- Dorothy Huff: 325 Loma Ave., Long Beach, CA 90814
- Ruth Hurtt (daughter's home): 309 Kingston Dr., Waco, TX 76712
- Helen Kirshman (home): 5341 La Pasada St. #7, Long Beach, CA 90815
- Donna McElroy (Long Beach Care Center): 4138 Vista St., Long Beach, CA 90803
- Grace Miller (home): 386 Havana Ave., Long Beach, CA 90814
- Guy Morrison (home): 1581 Northwood Rd., Apt. 274C, Seal Beach, CA 90740



Happy April Birthday!

- Grace Miller.....4/1
- Ben Camp.....4/3
- Anton Nel.....4/8
- Donna Baker.....4/8
- Jeanne Jessup.....4/10
- Harold Camp.....4/10
- Luc Niren.....4/12
- Carrie Rothenberg.....4/24
- Ian Nolte.....4/28

Centennial T-Shirts Now On Sale!

To commemorate our 100th anniversary, Centennial T-shirts are now available for purchase. We have designs for men, women and children. They are very reasonably priced, so you may want more than one (it's the perfect thing to wear to our upcoming Centennial All-Church Picnic this coming July 19th). See choice of designs below (children's basic t-shirt not shown) and pick up an order form in Wesley Hall during coffee hour, or download it from our website. See Cynthia Azarcon or call the church office with questions.



Check out our new banners!



*Twas the hundredth birthday of BHUMC
and wonderful visions were planned here to be.
Our banners, now ready, were strung up with care,
to celebrate our centennial
and for one and all to share!*



Upcoming Centennial Events

Centennial Concert
May 18th
Sanctuary
4:00 PM



Centennial Picnic
July 19th
(park location T.B.A.)
11:00 AM





If you are interested in becoming a member of Belmont Heights United Methodist Church, we will be offering a membership class on Sunday, June 1, from 12:00-2:30 p.m. Please talk to Pastor Cheryl if you are interested.



Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2014 7PM

5:30 PM—Preparation of the Table

6:00 PM—Gathering at the Table

Join us for worship as we begin our Lenten journey.

During Lent, we have been studying *A Place at the Table* by Chris Seay. On Maundy Thursday, we invite you to join us as we share in a meal as a “spiritual practice” that remembers Jesus’ last meal with his disciples. Following the practice of our Lenten journey through *A Place at the Table*, we encourage you to bring simple foods - perhaps comfort foods – that you enjoy. We will trust that there will be enough for everyone at the table.

At 5:30 we will begin by preparing the tables and preparing the meal to be set out. If you are able to be with us for this spiritual exercise, it is a ritual suggested by Seay on page 93 to remind us of our cleansing and forgiving. Please be present by 6:00 as we begin our meal together.

If you have food to share, bring what you have. If you cannot bring any food to share, bring yourself to the table to participate.



EVENT FOR:

BHUMC WOMEN'S RETREAT

EVENT DATE

Wednesday, April 09, 2014

EVENT TIME

11:00 AM - 12:00 AM

AT THIS PANDA LOCATION

XIMENO & LOS COYOTES

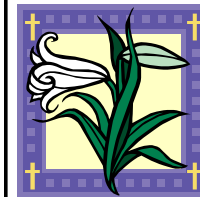
1994 Ximeno Ave

Long Beach, CA 90815

(p) 562-597-9100

Participating fundraiser guests are required to present a valid fundraiser flyer (hard copy or smart phone) with each order to receive credit for the fundraiser. Flyers may not be distributed inside or within vicinity of restaurant including, without limitation to, the restaurant parking lot before or during your fundraiser. Panda Restaurant Group reserves the right to cancel any and all fundraiser events for any reason and/or withhold payment of associated donation funds if the Panda Restaurant Group Fundraiser Guidelines are not followed.

✂ Clip this flyer and take it with you to Panda Express on the 9th! ↴



EASTER LILIES FOR THE SANCTUARY

I wish to order _____ plant (s) at \$9.00 each

(Please PRINT all names **CLEARLY**)

In honor of _____

In Memory of _____

To celebrate _____

☐ I will pick up my plant ☐ Please deliver my plant to a shut-in

Name _____ Phone number _____

Email _____

Please make checks payable to "BHUMC for Lilies" and return payment and this form to the Church office by **Sunday, April 13, 2013.**

Water Day

**from an article by Julia Frisbie at <http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Resources/News-Stories/2014/March/0306fivewayswaterlast>*

Saturday, March 22, 2014 was World Water Day, sponsored by United Nations and The United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR). According to the United Nations, at least 780 million people and as many as 3.5 billion people lack access to clean drinking water; an estimated 2.5 billion people are without sanitation. The demand for water grows as our global population increases and societies continue to develop. We cannot produce any more water, but we can use what we have more wisely.

While we missed Water Day itself, here are some thoughts for conserving water every day:

1. **Speed up your shower.** A 4-minute shower uses 20-40 gallons of water.
2. **Check for leaks** in pipes and faucets, especially your landscaping system.
3. **Landscape** with drought-resistant plants.
4. **Conserve energy.** Ninety percent of power generation is water-intensive, so turning off lights and unplugging unused appliances will help conserve water.
5. **Advocate on-line.** Use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. to tell the world to join the effort. Use an image from UMCOR's website as your profile picture for a few days to promote the cause.
6. **Donate!** UMCOR's Water and Sanitation (WASH) programs improve access to clean water around the world. Donations to Advance #3020600 keep water projects afloat.

TAX SEASON

Taxpayers throughout America can now get free assistance preparing and filing their income tax returns.

Taxpayers who want help can go to any of the 400 IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers nationwide. For those taxpayers who earned less than \$58,000 last year, the IRS also offers free brand-named tax software through its Free File Program.

Finally, please note that the IRS is no longer mailing forms to every taxpayer. However, you can obtain the tax forms you need by calling 1-800-TAX-FORMS (1-800-829-3676).

All of this information and more is also available online at IRS.gov.

(Public service announcement from www.boxer.senate.gov)