You’re invited... **Questions, Cats, and Contemplations:** a program of music by Samuel Barber and Aaron Copland

**Sunday, May 7 at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

Renée Hoffman Heath, *soprano*

and Katie Franklin Ledsinger, *piano and organ*

Please come for a **free** program that will include selections from Samuel Barber’s *Hermit Songs* and Aaron Copland’s *Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson*, as well as works for solo piano and organ. **All free-will donations** received will go toward Claremont UMC’s Circuit Ringers hand bell choir fund.

**To sweeten the deal...**

Claremont UMC’s Circuit Ringers will host a “Baked for Bells” fundraiser after (see the announcement below). So, really the recital should be called:

**“Questions, Cats, Contemplations, and COOKIES.”**

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**Baked for Bells!**

The Circuit Ringers Bell Choir is hosting a **bake sale immediately following Renée and Katie’s Recital** at CUMC on **Sunday, May 7 at 3:00 p.m.** The choir’s goal is to cover at least the cost of a new C3 casting bell. The original bell needed replaced because it had two cracks rendering it un-“ring”-able. The cost of the new bell was $1,100, of which we used $400 from the bell budget. There will be plenty of baked goodies made by the bell members (and you know they are the best bakers!). Please help us by attending Katie’s recital and donating at the bake sale. We gladly accept donations at any time through Claremont United Methodist Church with memo reference “Bell Choir.” If you have any questions about the fundraiser **please contact Pearl Viggers** at pearlviggers@gmail.com. Happy ringing!
If you haven’t done so, and you get a chance, you need to take a tour of Our Lady of Angels Cathedral in downtown Los Angeles. The cathedral was born from an older cathedral that was condemned and then severely damaged by the Sylmar earthquake. The cathedral was born from a theological idea: that the new cathedral had to both empty its southwest roots and be a place of welcome to all the peoples of Los Angeles.

So there are none of the usual stained glass windows. Instead, the windows are alabaster: a thin stone that lets the light shine through. Instead of a narthex, there is a huge outdoor plaza. Instead of an ornate high altar, there is a communion table cut and polished from a single taint boulder of red jasper.

Our round building was built from a theological idea as well. It was born as an educational building. The idea was to begin the education hour with an intergenerational gathering as the kickoff for Sunday school. Then children, youth, adults would scatter into the outside rooms. In a way, it was like a family being together for a meal, then going off to do their own thing.

But things change. Kids grow up and move away from home. Adult education moves to another room. Fellowship groups move to the lounges. A new group starts but meets outside. The round building becomes the home for breakfasts, reconciling lunches, Halloween gatherings, and the Clinebell Pastoral Counseling Center.

The round building is showing its age. The roof leaks. There is probably water damage. The carpet is worn out. It needs some reconstructive surgery. But even more importantly, it needs a new purpose. To what new ministries is God calling us? What news causes or missions do we need to embrace?

On **Sunday, June 4, Pentecost Sunday**, we are planning an **all-church brainstorming event** about what new ministries we need to plan. We’ll have more details as the date approaches, but please, mark your calendars. Plan to come, bring your ideas, your dreams for ministry, the things you feel God has placed on your heart for this church.

*Peace,*  
*Pastor Mark*

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As members and friends of Claremont UMC, we support the church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

Our Prayers...
Please Remember:
To publish someone on the public prayer list, she/he needs to give consent to be published. Remember to keep the church office updated on your loved ones on the prayer list.
Thank you.

New to the Prayer List
Abraham Alobaidi (job search, job interview)
Tracy Bell (Esther Trickett’s daughter-in-law)
Martha Bellinger
Climate Change Understanding
Diversity: Respect & Understanding
Love in the World
Jim Pirlo & Pete Serrano
Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka (World Council of Churches Countries of the Week through May 13)

CUMC Members
Alobaidi Family
Myrtle Atkins
Princess Auguste (housing for next year at CST)
Beverly Bickelhaupt (surgery recovery)
Vivien Bruner
Mili Dawai
The Haage Family
Fran Helgeson (surgery recovery)
Ray Lockhart
Le Schoenwetter

Unwillingly Absent
We list all temporarily or permanently homebound persons and their caregivers who are a part of Claremont United Methodist Church. This reminds us that they are a part of this church, and would be here if they could.
Myrtle Atkins; John Avera; Merrell Baker; Jean Bogus; Jay Carlisle; Lila Chick; Betty Cramer; Evelyn Edwards; Lila Haage; Ken Hunter; Orion Morrison; Bob & Lois Willsey.

The Prayer List is maintained by Jessica Johnston, CUMC’s Church Administrator. PLEASE keep the office updated regarding yourselves or your loved ones on the prayer list; please contact Jessica: churchoffice@claremontumc.info or (909) 624-9021. Thank you!
Friends and Family of CUMC Members

Friends and Family of CUMC Members

Alannah (Savannah Chalifoux’s daughter)
Arthur (from Anna & Natasha Scott)
Dario Andrade (Mary Ann Mamea’s brother-in-law)
Elizabeth Bernsmeier (Dick & Maralyn Tipping’s granddaughter)
Gerald Boggess (Jean Bogus’ friend)
Dean Clemena (Leslie Biglin’s grandson)
Coptic Cathedral Bombing Victims in Egypt
Susan Dahl (Teena DeChenne’s cousin)
Phyllis Elving (Cheryl Armstrong’s sister)
End to War: in all places with violent conflict
Myrlie Evers-Williams (Fran Gilfry’s friend)
Mark Ford, III (Jean Bogus’ friend’s grandson)
Goldie Foster (Nancy Goodman’s mother)
Margo Hadfield (Merritt & Charles Verrill’s friend)
Lann Hamilton (Tony Dalia’s friend)
Karen Hegedus (Jean Bogus’ friend)
Jim & Loretta Huffman (son & mother, friends of Jean Bogus)
Uzma Insar’s brother
Jenn Jensen (Bill & Mary Beck’s granddaughter)
Jim Jones (Susie Holway’s brother-in-law)
Colin Kaepernick & Black Lives Matter
John List (Jean Bogus’ brother-in-law)
John & Alena Mamea (Mary Ann Mamea’s family)
Military Members
Peacekeepers in Israel & Palestine
The People of Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, & Syria
Violeta Robins (Lourdes Orret’s friend)
Robin & Elizabeth Slater (friends of the Soltero Family)
Michael Taylor (Mary Ann Mamea’s aide’s 10 yr. old son)
Jocelyn Tuchon (Merritt Verrill’s daughter)
Todd Verrill (Charles Verrill’s brother)
Barbara Wallace (loved one of Juliana Manzano)
Bob Weiss (family member of Laura Lilley-Coles)
Jung Ja (Joy) Yu
All Facing Deportation
The Homeless & Hungry
Those struggling with Addiction; Mental Illness; Financial Hardship

Our Presence…
4/23/17: 171
4/30/17: 175
**Our Gifts, Service, Witness...**

**Membership Exploration Class**

**Tuesdays, May 23 and 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the Narthex**

Are you new to CUMC? Or have you been around awhile and want to learn more? Are you interested in learning more about this church and the United Methodist Church? Do you want to get acquainted with the Pastors, Mark and Martha, and others? You’re invited! **Please RSVP, especially if you need childcare, by Tuesday, May 16** by calling the church office (909) 624-9021, or email: churchoffice@claremontumc.info. Those who are interested will join their membership to CUMC on Sunday, June 4 during the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

**2017 First Quarter Giving Statements** are now available for you to pick up in the Narthex on the small table next to the front desk. Let us know if you’d like us to drop yours in the mail to you: (909) 624-9021 or churchoffice@claremontumc.info.

**Small Group Corner**

*Paula Hui is the Coordinator of CUMC’s Small Group Ministry*

“**Men’s Enrichment Group**” meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday morning of each month for food, fellowship, individual sharing, devotional study, and prayer. (Upcoming meetings will be May 10 and 24). We all hope you will consider this opportunity. Currently we meet in the **dining room of Mt. San Antonio Gardens** at 8:00 a.m., for about an hour and a half. Our devotional study is using the book *Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White*. Do call one of us if you’re interested or for more information: Ron Harrington, (909) 626-1329, Carl Williams, Harold Upland, Dick Tipping, Bill Beck, Dale Smith, Abraham Aloabaidi, John Tate, Frank Cookingham, Dave Harshman...

**Book Group: meets the 4th Monday each month.** The **next meeting** is **Monday, May 22 at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Narthex**. May’s book is *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander and Cornel West. Wilma McLeod will lead discussion. All are welcome! Please come, even if you are not able to finish the book. Questions? Wilma McLeod at (909) 985-5654.

**Thank you** to all who brought gifts for the Joan Macy School at the David and Margaret Family and Youth Services. There will be many happy girls and young women who receive the generous gifts that so many of you shared. Thank you for your generosity.
Bishop Hagiya’s Message on Judicial Council Decision No. 1431

As you have probably already heard, the Judicial Council met this past week and released its ruling on the South Central Jurisdictional challenge to Bishop Karen Oliveto’s election as a Bishop in our Western Jurisdiction.

The decision came as a 19-page digest that is thick and technical in nature, with numerous points that are up for interpretation and without a clear and concise direction. I want to reiterate the fact that, contrary to the news headlines, the Judicial Council did not invalidate Bishop Oliveto’s nomination, election, and assignment, none of which can be challenged by any other jurisdiction. Bishop Oliveto remains a Bishop in The United Methodist Church and is not required to step down. What the Judicial Council did rule was that Bishop Oliveto’s consecration is subject to examination.

I realize there will be many different responses to this ruling, and I can assure you that our Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops is working on a proactive strategy for the near future. Legal rulings usually create more questions than answers and this is how it seems to be in this case. What I want to emphasize to our California-Pacific Conference, and to the whole church, is that: “we must move forward.”

The ruling does maintain that Bishop Karen Oliveto remains a Bishop of the Mountain Sky Area of the Western Jurisdiction and we must all work together to move our church forward.

As a member of the Commission on the Way Forward, I put great hope in the process to which the Church has agreed and I pray that nothing will derail the Commission’s work because the Holy Spirit must be allowed to work with the Commission in coming up with some creative alternatives for the life of our church on this issue.

We may agree or disagree on the Judicial Council ruling. The California-Pacific Conference is one of diversity in many ways, including on this particular issue, and I am open to dialogue with you in hearing your concerns. But, my plea for us is that we trust the process and that we work together in moving forward in love and care, not allowing a legal ruling to bog us down and away from our mission as the Church.

My commitment is to pray for each of our laity, churches and clergy on this issue and others that confront you. I ask that you join me in prayer for the Church as we make our way ahead.

Bishop Grant J. Hagiya
Los Angeles Area Resident Bishop
The United Methodist Church

FRAGRANCES IN CHURCH (Men and Women):
Please be mindful that a person near you might have multiple chemical sensitivities or be asthmatic. Please avoid wearing strong smelling perfumes, colognes, and other cosmetics, as they might trigger a terrible reaction from persons around you. Thank you!
Pastor Mark’s Response to Judicial Council Decision No. 1431

As you may have heard, the Judicial Council for the United Methodist Church ruled that the consecration of Karen Oliveto was unconstitutional. That’s the headline everyone will hear.

The decision itself, beyond the headlines, is complex and multifaceted. The ruling left Bishop Oliveto in good standing because the Judicial Council has neither investigative nor punitive powers. The consequences of this decision have shifted to the Western Jurisdiction college of Bishops.

No doubt there are United Methodist Church churches that jubilantly celebrate this decision. Our church will not be one of them.

We will continue to stand, as we have done for 24 years, in opposition to every ruling, every rule, and every argument that does not acknowledge God’s unconditional love and acceptance of LGBTQ persons. We also stand firm in our witness that God has called LGBTQ persons to be full ministers of the gospel and, yes, even Bishops.

We will continue to be with those persons who have once again had their hearts broken by the church they love. As a congregation, we will continue to stand in protest and out of step with the denomination, while standing faithful and strong in the Spirit of God’s grace.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mark

SAVE THE DATE!

Youth Theater Works Presents...
Into the Woods Jr. at Claremont UMC
Thursday and Friday, June 29 and 30 at 7:30 p.m.
and Saturday, July 1 at 2:00 p.m.

Be careful what you wish for as Stephen Sondheim’s and James Lapine’s cockeyed fairytale comes to life in this adaptation of their groundbreaking, Tony Award-winning musical. Into the Woods JR. features all of your favorite characters – Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (and his beanstalk), and the Witch in this lyrically rich retelling of classic Brothers Grimm fables. Watch for more details on tickets and mark your calendars today!
An Update on the Alobaidi Family
from the Refugee Resettlement Committee April 2017

As most of you know, Abraham and Ashraf became U.S. citizens in January of this year. Their wonderful boys, Sajjad and Soheyl, served as tutors for them on their citizenship tests, especially helping Ashraf to prepare for her exam. Because the boys were under 18 when their parents became citizens, they, too, become citizens automatically. The future for the boys is bright and both are doing well in school and enjoying sports, especially soccer.

Like the biblical Abraham, Ibrahim’s name has been changed; not by God, but by Ibrahim himself, who believes that Abraham is more “American” and easier for Americans to pronounce. We are working to remember: Abraham not Ibrahim. The family also changed the spelling of their last name, from Al Obeydi to Alobaidi, hoping that this will also be easier for us to understand.

The California State Department of Disability has offered Abraham some minimal support in his search for a job. You probably know that he was badly injured in an accident in December 2014, when he was working for a contractor with the U.S. Post Office. He is quite disabled following the injury, and he will have another surgery in May to insert a nerve-stimulating device in his back that he hopes will reduce the constant pain he suffers in his left ankle and foot.

Despite all this, Abraham has secured a position with a contractor that does deliveries for Amazon. This job requires walking and climbing stairs as well as driving, all of which are very painful on his injured ankle and foot. The Department of Rehabilitation says that this is not a good job for him for this reason. This is a low paying job, but will allow him to have recent work on his resume. He has been trained, but will begin working in late May after the surgery.

Meanwhile, Abraham has been persistently looking for a better paying, permanent job. During the fall, he applied for more than 20 jobs. He has continued applying at this kind of pace in the new year. Last week, he had three interviews, including two callbacks. Abraham really needs the help of the whole church community. Please think about your friends and relatives who may be contacts for possible employment for Abraham. He is an IT technician with very strong skills focused on computer hardware repair. He can solve almost any computer problem, and has even built computers from various spare parts. Importantly, this is work that he can do despite his disabled left leg and foot.

Please keep the family in your prayers and think about people in your network who can help him make connections to a company that can offer him a good and safe job.

You’re invited to the Extravaganza at Camp Wrightwood! Visit Camp! See old friends and bring new friends! Play games! Meet the new camp director! Win camperships! Sunday, May 7, 2:00-6:00 p.m. at Camp Wrightwood, 1401 Linnet Rd., Wrightwood, CA $5/person includes dinner! Contact Broghan Hunt: broghanhunt@gmail.com
SAVE THE DATE FOR CUMC’S . . .

SUMMER SOIRÉE
Sunday, May 28, 3:30pm

Please come celebrate the gift of gathering generations AND the start of summer! There will be SOMETHING for EVERYONE! Events will start at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 28 and continue through breakfast on Monday, May 29.

You are welcome to participate in some or all of the events:

  Just the games! Just the food! Just the sing-along!

For those camping out, there are 3 options: outside on the volleyball lawn (option #1), inside in the Narthex (option #2), or in the parking lot in your camper van (option #3).
Camp Wrightwood Summer Camp 2017
$435 for 7 days of friends, food, and fun!
Ask about our Bring-A-Friend Discount!!
Elementary, Grades 3-6: July 2-8; Jr. High, Grades 6-9: July 9-15
Sr. High, Grades 9-Graduates: July 16-22

Help GREEN CUMC Receive The Window online!
Email Jessica: churchoffice@claremontumc.info.

The deadline for the May 17th issue of The Window is Sunday, May 7th.
GOD CARES FOR YOU!

Jesus tells his followers not to worry about their daily needs. What example does he give of God’s care for his creation?

Directions:
To complete Luke 12:27 (NIV), match the shapes under each blank with the letter shapes shown to the right.

Consider how the wild grow. They do not labor or spin.

Yet I tell you, not even in all his splendor was like one of these.” Luke 12:27, NIV
CUMC warmly welcomes you to worship and fellowship.

Office: (909) 624-9021    Fax: (909) 624-7308
Toll Free: 1-844-251-6335

churchoffice@claremontumc.info
www.claremontumc.net

CUMC Clergy and Staff
Rev. Mark Wiley ~ Lead Pastor x224
Rev. Martha Morales ~ Minister of Education & Caring Ministries x231
Jessica Johnston, M.Div. ~ Church Administrator x222
Genaro Cordova ~ Facilities Engineer
Kim Herney ~ Bookkeeper x225
Jeri Bollman, M.S. ~ Director: CUMC Preschool, 909-624-8223
Dr. Laura Harrison ~ Director: Sanctuary Choir
Katie Ledsinger ~ Organist; Director: The Circuit Ringers, Children Music
Sara Swift Tharpe, M.Div. ~ Director: Children’s Ministry
Haylee Coburn ~ Director: Preschool Music
Dr. Barbara Durost ~ Drama Coordinator
Kathryn Cordova ~ Nursery Attendant
Arturo Ruiz ~ Sunday Custodian
Insa Gohar ~ Pastoral Intern
Linda Sheldon ~ Wedding Coordinator
Leann Nabors ~ The Clinebell Institute, 909-447-6329, 909-451-3690
Susie Holway ~ The Window Editor

Located in the California-Pacific Annual Conference:
Rev. Dr. Grant J. Hagiya ~ Resident Bishop
Rev. Jan Wiley ~ East District Superintendent