



MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Sonora United Methodist Church



The Passion Story and Easter are the stories of the rock. Jesus is the cornerstone that the builders rejected. Jesus' death on the cross was planted in the rock of Golgotha. The stone rolled away to reveal the empty tomb. "You are my rock." How many songs can we sing about the rock of our faith? Lots, no doubt. What a month we have had, celebrating Jesus, our rock. This month we move through the later Sundays of Easter and to Pentecost Day. We move from Jesus the foundational rock to what is built upon the rock. The story shifts from what God has done, through Jesus, to

the building of the church. The Bible provides many metaphors for the church—the body of Christ, the fellowship of believers, the saints of God, those who wait for and are led by the Holy Spirit, and living stones.

Pentecost is our story. In many ways it is the birthday of the church, and not a moment of history to celebrate what was accomplished long ago, in a far away land. It is our origin story, reminding us of who we are and what we are meant to be. The Holy Spirit is certainly still alive and moving in our world, so this isn't a finite story, but a never-ending story. God is still creating, and the kingdom of God has not yet been brought to fruition.

The resurrection of Jesus created the focal point through which we understand our relationship with God. We become a part of the story being told. When we remember the birth of the church, we grasp the framework of what is built on our one foundation.

What question do we ponder as we move toward Pentecost? We are living stones, so what does that mean? How do we carry this foundational presence out into the world? How do we commit to building a church that transforms not just those inside, but those outside as well? How will our bodybuilding strengthen our whole neighborhood and not just ourselves? This is the

challenge of the living stones: discipleship for the transformation of the world.

Sermons and Scripture Readings for the month

May 7: "Whose Time Is It Anyway?"

Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2: 2-10

May 14: "Not Time to Quit"

John 14; 15-21

Psalm 66: 8-20

May 21: "Men and Women of Galilee"

Acts 1: 6-14

Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35

May 28: Pentecost

"Windcatcher"

Acts 2: 1-21

Psalm 104: 24-35

Women's Fellowship



Greetings All,

I am so grateful for spring and all the beautiful flowers, the birds singing and all the reminders of new life!
It is a busy few months coming up.

Friday May 12th at 1:00pm we will be setting up for our **2nd Saturday event on the 13th**, which **will run from 5:00 to 8:00 pm**. We will have Africa Team Ministries items available for purchase as well as a variety of giant cookies for sale. Check your recipes and let me know if you can provide some of your favorites. We are also planning to have a craft table where kids can make cards for their mothers and grandmothers for Mother's Day. Please let me or Lorraine know if you can help. I will start a sign up sheet for cookies and help.

The 4th Sunday is Memorial Day weekend, so breakfast plans will be announced if some of us want to get together.

Looking ahead to June, we will do **rummage sale set up on Friday June 9th at 1:00 pm**. The **sale is set for Saturday the 10th from 8:00 am until about 2:00 pm**. We are planning to use the parking lot again. We received some donations already, so thank you all for those. Any donations should be clean and in

good usable condition. **We will schedule a few pre-sorting days that will be announced.** Our rummage sale is usually our biggest fund raiser for the year, so **please plan to help as you are able.** Thank you all ahead of time for your support.

Blessings,

Karla Wasson

**NUTS
& BOLTS**
TOOLS FOR THE
CHURCH TODAY



Have you seen what is blooming around the church? It is purple flower time. The lilac tree is blooming near the back door of the parsonage, the wisteria is on the trellis over the gate into the front yard of the Parsonage, and the Dutch Iris is blooming in the Borrego garden on the Yaney street side of the church. I think I even saw some early roses in the front of the church.



Mary Jo Borrego was a long time member of the church, who was very active in the United Methodist Women, and served

as Missions Coordinator and was the Historian of the church among many other things. When she passed in 2011, donations were made to our Landscape Improvement fund.

I give thanks for Bill Dunlavy, Louise Leedy, Jerry O'Day, Karla Wasson, Diane Del Priore, and all the other people that I don't even know who have planted and tended the gardens around the church over the years. People have trimmed trees, pulled weeds and planted bulbs for so many years to keep our gardens in shape. If gardening is your joy, please bring your tools and spend a little time helping to keep our gardens beautiful.

May Birthdays

5/12 Mary Lou Nuzum

5/12 Lois O'Day

5/18 Nancy Fraleigh

5/21 Gail Pollard

5/26 Joyce Frazier

Staff Changes

Alice and Dan Townsend are cutting back. They have served faithfully for so many years, keeping our church clean and arriving early each Sunday morning to turn on the lights and the cooler or furnace to keep us comfortable in our 100 year old building. They will still be here on Sunday morning to greet us, but the main cleaning jobs are now the duties of Laura Mansfield.

Laura is the daughter of Alice Mansfield and grew up in the Sunday School of our church. She has been volunteering over the last couple of years, cleaning the parsonage as we fixed it up to be rented, changing out the banners in the Sanctuary as we go through the Christian year, and helping to set up tables for the Women's Fellowship many rummage sales. Welcome Laura!!

Sonora United Methodist Church

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Pianist: Juliet Simerley

Custodians: Dan & Alice Townsend

Newsletter Editor: Nancy Fraleigh

WORSHIP  WITH US!

