



## UMCTO Connect

Friday, August 16, 2019

The Weekly Eblast of News & Newsmakers from UMCTO

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### PASTOR'S CORNER

Preaching Professor, Dr. Eugene Lowry, suggests that sometimes it is fruitful for preachers to approach biblical texts by “looking for trouble.” I don’t necessarily approach biblical texts by “looking for troubles”, but this Sunday’s Gospel reading from Luke 12:49-56 is troubling. “I came to bring fire to the earth....Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division...” It is hard to believe Jesus said those words, but according to Luke, Jesus did. But isn’t this the person who earlier said, “Do not worry about your life, what you will eat, and wear....” “Blessed are those who are poor in spirit...” Wasn’t his birth heralded by an angelic chorus of “peace on earth”, but here he says he came to bring division, not peace. It is a difficult text to comprehend. It is difficult to speak of this Jesus on Sunday mornings; Jesus in this text seems out of character with the Jesus we are familiar with. So how should we hear this saying of Jesus in our world and lives? That is what’s at stake this Sunday.

Speaking of Fires and Divisions, they are no strangers to us in today’s world.

They are not necessarily brought on by Jesus, but they are real and we have to find our purpose and calling in the midst of them. And so how do you see Grace in the midst of Fires and Divisions? What does that Grace look like?

See you at church,  
Pastor John

## SAVE-THESE-DATES

**August 25** - SSP Sunday and Blessing of the Backpacks

**September 8** - UMCTO Fall Ministry Fair on the patio

Blessing  
of the  
Backpacks



## KIDS CHURCH

from Amy Eads' Weekly Eblast to Parents

Summer...It's winding down...! Not having school-aged children anymore makes the back to school planning and shopping a thing of the past for me, but also reminds me of what a fun and sometimes hectic time this can be. Those of you with children transitioning into new schools might be dealing with fear and anxiety, and those of you with kids going to school for the first time might be feeling that yourselves! The best part of it all is the freshness, the newness (not sure if that is a word), the chance to begin again! I read the following article and found it quite insightful, check it out!

["The Most Important Element in Back to School Preparations"](#)

This Sunday, we will not be following Pastor John's sermon, instead we will have a back to school lesson, craft and treats! Kind of a celebration of the end of summer and the beginning of school.

If you are still on vacation, enjoy! If you are back, hope to see you this Sunday!

**Note from the editor:** If you aren't on Amy's eblast address list, consider asking her to add you. Her emails are always a joy to read and an uplift to your day...even if you don't have little ones. Who knows, you may be inspired to join her team...!?

Please contact her at [amy.eads@umcto.org](mailto:amy.eads@umcto.org) or 805/410-2027!!

## Mom's Group Resumes ☐

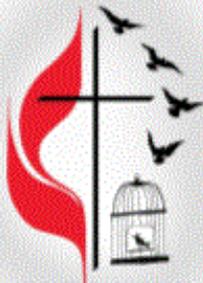
The Moms' Group resumes in the Wesley Room on August 21, 9:30-11:30 am.  
Contact Heidi Kane for more info!



# ZUMA LIVE

A CONCERT TO SUPPORT THE CAL-PAC ABOLITIONIST  
TASK FORCE AND END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

End Human Trafficking



Join the Flight

**BANDS \* BBQ \* BEACH**

FREE ADMISSION

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 24**

**3-6 PM**

Malibu United Methodist Church  
30128 Morning View Drive

*Presented by Your Local United Methodists*

## LISTENING POSTS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**UMC on Human Sexuality**

**Sunday, August 18th**

11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Wesley Room

Patty Cogles will be speaking and sharing her experiences from the Annual Conference.

**Viewing & Discussion of Bishop Grant Hagiya's Sermon "I See A New Church"**

**Sunday, September 1**

11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Wesley Room

**UMC Connections with Riviera UMC Lay Leader Donna Howard**

**Sunday, September 15**

11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Wesley Room

**Guest Speaker Rev. Denyse Barnes, LGBTQI Talk Force Chair**

**"Moving Forward Based on Relationships"**

**Thursday, September 19**

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Room 11/12

**AT THE TOP**

The photo at the top is taken at the Hollywood Bowl at the 50th Anniversary of the Tchaikowsky Fireworks Spectacular! Thank you Lois Sheen for the great picture and thank you, Barbara Marshall, for organizing this fun evening!