

# The MESSENGER

## Wesley's Words

A Guest Again and Mahalo

Thank you to the Ridgecrest UMC ohana (family) for the warm welcome I have received since my arrival on July 1<sup>st</sup>. You have patiently shared your names and aloha on multiple occasions. I have had meals and meetings with many of you as you seek to welcome, brief and inform me about our church and community. For that I am grateful.

Thanks to my predecessor, Pastor Rich LaShure who graciously welcomed me in May on my recon visit and who has been a big help in my transition. I am grateful for his ministry here and am honored to be following such a caring and dedicated pastor. The other "Wesley", Wes Hensley, has been great help as well. He showed me around town and explained innumerable aspects of the community and church to me. I would expect no less from someone with such a great name! Both Amy Ochoa and Tara Argain have given generously of their time in reviewing, explaining and teaching me about this church and how it operates. Any success I've had in my first month is primarily due to the efforts of these aforementioned individuals.

After living in one place for the past 14 years I've had to learn how to "move" again! There are some challenges to moving, especially when you do so from one state to another. Fortunately I've made such moves before. But I have needed to 'relearn' and 'remind' myself how this all works. Lots of details to be addressed and taken care of. One benefit of moving, especially in moving from one church community to another one, is becoming a "guest" again. When one is a guest, one shows appreciation, and honor and respect to the hosts or at least they should! Being a guest means I get to partake in new and different experiences. Being a guest means I see things with a new and different perspective.

Since all churches I know of pride themselves on being friendly and welcoming, the business of being a host and the business of understanding your guest is important. One of the queries I've occasionally asked new church members over the years is to give me feedback and insight on how they experienced their initial time in the life of the church. Most times this is positive. Since they are the ones who stayed I'm not too surprised at their positive response. But I also have received comments about not knowing what to do about communion, or where restrooms are located, or where they should sit, or being told they can't sit in that particular pew or being asked to stand & identify themselves over the microphone or that no one took the time to really talk and visit with them on their first Sunday. And they have also given me both positive and negative comments from their first few months of attending about how they perceive the layout of the building, the cleanliness of the facility, the style of worship, the friendliness of the congregation etc. As a pastor I've found such candid sharing extremely helpful and always thank them. At times I try to explain what I understand the circumstances of each issue are and seek to be careful not to be defensive or veer off into making excuses, though I am sure I have done this! For guests I've learned that there are no 'dumb' questions and not to assume they know what I know.

So it has really been a blessing and a wonderful experience to be a guest again these past few weeks as I get acquainted with this church. Thank you for patiently explaining and teaching me many things that make Ridgecrest UMC a wonderful Christ centered and Spirit filled community. Thank you for valuing me as your guest. In the next several months I will be transitioning from being a Ridgecrest UMC guest to being a Ridgecrest UMC host. I look forward to this time as we learn from each other.

Mahalo, Mahalo ke Akua,

*Pastor Wesley*

PS: Mahalo is Hawaiian for "Thank You" and "Akua" is Hawaiian for "God"; thus "Thank you God"

# In Service In Our Church

Lock up for August: Elsa Hennings

## AUGUST 2

Flowers: Available  
Liturgists:  
9:30 am: Jim Hoover  
Ushers: James & Sarah Guess  
Jim & Mary Netzer  
Acolyte: Available  
Counters: Kristin Hall, Cathy Mattis,  
Gretchen Hawes  
Fellowship Hosts: Scott Millett, Shirley Kidner,  
Diann Severson

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## AUGUST 9

Flowers: Available  
Liturgists:  
9:30 am: Available  
Ushers: Nina Lane & Family  
John & Paige Netzer  
Acolyte: Available  
Counters: Hazel Hensley, Nina Lane,  
Barbara Johnson  
Fellowship Hosts: Julie Gervais, Patty Wharton,  
Phil Archibald

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## AUGUST 16

Flowers: The Hoover Family  
Liturgists:  
9:30 am: Available  
Ushers: Stanley & Ellen Chassagne  
George & Elsa Hennings  
Acolyte: Available  
Counters: Sheri Boston, Calvin Johnson,  
Joanna Rindt  
Fellowship Hosts: Barb Johnson, Melanie  
Branson

## AUGUST 23

Flowers: The Gervais Family  
Liturgists:  
9:30 am: Laura Miller  
Ushers: Monte & Tina Frisbee  
Ken Wetzel & Patty Wharton  
Acolyte: Available  
Counters: Nancy Hodge, Wes Hensley  
James Guess  
Fellowship Hosts: Jennifer Small, Katie Eldridge

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## AUGUST 30

Flowers: Available  
Liturgists:  
9:30 am: Available  
Ushers: Youth  
Acolyte: Available  
Counters: Sheri Boston, Calvin Johnson,  
Joanna Rindt  
Fellowship Hosts: Available

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### Liturgists

If you are interested in being a liturgist, please feel free to sign up on the bulletin board by the church office. Do not feel obligated to do both services, just the service of your choice. If you have any questions please feel free to call the office at 375-7434

### Altar Flowers

The flower chart is located on the bulletin board outside the main office. If you would like to place flowers on the altar for a special occasion please sign up.

### Lost but Found

If you think you have lost something at the church, you may stop by the church office to see if it has been found.

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Office Hours:

Monday thru Friday  
8:00 am – 2:00 pm

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Ridgecrest, CA. 93555

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(760) 375-7434  
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Rev. Wesley Elmore

Church Secretary:

Tara Argain

Director of Music:

Doug Hallenbeck

Director of Youth Ministries:

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Sarah Guess

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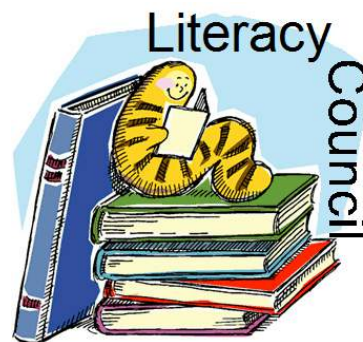
Church Office  
(760) 375-7434

**Our Purpose and Mission**

We are a richly blessed, loving and spiritual family of Christ who Shares God's love through our personal and congregational ministries. Our mission is to share Christ's love with all, through our tradition of scripture, sermons, music, and fellowship. We believe strongly in sharing our blessing with those in need.

Our church family welcomes you to join us in our bible based worship, prayer, and discipleship.

**--Mission Emphases--**



The Literacy Council is a volunteer organization dedicated to helping people learn to read, write and speak English. Dr. Laubach once said, "You must learn to love people, not for what they are now, but for what you know you can help them become."

**--Also--**



**Living Bread Ministry**

Living Bread Ministry is a program started and supported by local churches and managed by the Salvation Army. The program provides food to the needy in crisis situations in Ridgecrest and the surrounding area. Please give generously and help our community feed the hungry.

**Living Bread Ministry**



**Food Emphasis for August**

The Missions Committee has elected to designate a specific food each month to be provided to the Salvation Army.

The food item for August is:

**Peanut Butter and Jelly**

## Trustees & Choir Notes



The trustees had a week late meeting this month to accommodate our new pastor's schedule. We've enjoyed familiarizing Pastor Wesley with our facility during his time here. It

is interesting to tell someone new about our facilities and realize how much we have, how well it is taken care of and, most importantly, how willingly our trustees do the work, sometimes even before being asked.

Hazel, representing the Social Hall Building Renovation Committee, made a progress report to the trustees on the current status of the work being planned by that committee.

The entire sanctuary and office building had the carpets professionally cleaned just before Pastor Wesley arrived. This is a job that we try to complete yearly to preserve our investment in the carpet. No one would realize how much this is needed but it was interesting to see the before and after pictures that the cleaners provided. It WAS needed.

Approximately 15 of the padded chairs in the education building have been scrapped after their upholstery disintegrated. Rather than buy replacement chairs we have replaced them with nearly new padded folding chairs available from our storage. If these chairs are acceptable to the users of the education building we will avoid the cost of replacement chairs and will have good use for those in storage.

We have several projects in the planning stages including the replacement of the special fascia rain gutters around the sanctuary building. Keeping these gutters cleaned out presents a continual nuisance. We are planning on eliminating them without changing the outward sanctuary appearance.

In God's Service,  
Monte Frisbee  
Trustee President  
760-375-8353

P.S. There will be no Trustees meeting in August. Next meeting Sept. 2.



The Psalmist tells us to "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise." Psalms 98:4

Summer is a great time to make a joyful noise in honor of our Creator! It's not important that we are musically gifted to make a joyful noise. If that were the case He would have written "Make joyful music unto the LORD..." So find a moment to raise your voice in praise.

The Adult Choir is singing every Sunday in August and we will be returning to our Thursday evening rehearsals at 7pm in September once we return to two services. Perhaps this is the year that you join us? Or perhaps it's time to bring out that instrument, dust it off and come and play on the hymns and praise songs during services? My prayer is that those who God is nudging to become more involved musically, have the willingness to participate. We understand that everyone is busy and you can't commit to each and every rehearsal and Sunday service and that's fine. Join in and make a joyful noise with us as your schedule allows. Have a wonderful summer and find your way of making a joyful noise!

Doug Hallenbeck, Director of Music

# VBS, Congratulations, Craft Circle, & Free the Girls Update



## **Vacation Bible School 2015**

Thank you to all the volunteers and donors who have made this week of Growing with God possible! **A special thank you to:**

Amy Ochoa, Youth and Young Adult Director  
Roxann Gibbs, VBS Coordinator and Story Station,

Tara Argain\*, Secretary

### **Adult Station Leaders**

#### Games:

Bill Burns Jeff Tanner, Laura Miller\*

#### Story:

Patricia Pfahl

#### Craft:

Rosemary Gilbert, Patty Gomez

\* Held Experiment

### **Adult Group Leaders**

Priscilla Carefoot, Michelle Lopez, Toma Hansen

### **Kitchen**

Melanie Branson, Jay Hodge

### **Registration**

Diane Wadelin, Olivia Zade

### **VBS Adult Assistants**

Sheri Boston, Todd Neyman, Aaron Wadelin

### **Audio/Visual**

Steven Hall, Nate Clair

### **VBS Youth Assistants**

LaNeyha Gleason, Paulina Bautista, Meghan Branson, Emily Froehner, Chance Froehner, Laleajah Cooper, Julie Knight, Victoria Pillers, Caroline Pillers, Ashton Rice, Rachel Channer, Cheyenne Marx

Pastor Wesley Elmore

### **Congratulations to Dena Christison**

Dena Christison earned the Civilian of the Year honors for her contribution to NAWSCL being selected as winner of 2014 Chief of Naval Operations Achievement in Safety Ashore Award.



Are you into papercrafting, working on scrapbooks, making cards, or other crafts? We will be meeting for Crop or Craft Circle on September 19<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the Social Hall from 9 to 9. All crafters are welcome. We have had sewers, knitters, and scrapbookers. Most of us find the opportunity to work away from home a chance to indulge our work ethic. So come for all or part of the day and play, I mean work, at your craft. You might take this opportunity to make some crafts for the Silent Auction on October 17<sup>th</sup>. No reservations required, just show up!

### **Free the Girls Update**

Dear Ridgecrest United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your generous financial contribution to Free The Girls of \$650.00 on 6/12/2015. These funds will enable us to provide more women rescued from sex trafficking with the opportunity to earn a living selling second-hand clothing while going to school, getting healthy, and caring for their families.

Free The Girls made some incredible strides this past year. We expanded our reach and launched pilot programs with after-care providers in both Uganda and El Salvador--increasing the total number of women we have served to over 60. We are currently exploring launching additional pilot programs in other parts of Africa and Central America.

We are thrilled to be able to empower survivors to self-sufficiency and strive to continue to help more and more women each year--and your generous support makes this possible. We look forward to sharing stories of hope with you, and encourage you to stay connected with us through our website, social media, and monthly emails.

Gratefully, Selah Davenport

Free The Girls [www.freethegirls.org](http://www.freethegirls.org)

# Backpack Blessing, Friendship Circle, Trona & Inyokern Ministry, Youth Series, & Back to School



There will be a special Back-to-School Backpack Blessing during worship service, August 9, to bless students and school staff for a safe and fruitful new school year! Students are welcome to bring their backpacks, and school staff is welcome to bring their briefcases, if they wish.



The Friendship Circle is a United Methodist Women's group that meets on the second Wednesday of the month (usually). The group generally meets for an activity and to eat. During August, we plan to meet for a movie on August 12. We usually meet at 6:30 but this time it will depend upon which movie we choose to see. If you would like to join us, you are welcome. We will be choosing the movie a few days before. Let Laura Miller, Donna Weeks, or Sarah Guess know if you want to join us and we will make sure that you know when. The where will be at the movie theater! Of course, if none of the movies appeal to us, we will meet and do a back-up activity.

## Trona And Inyokern Ministry

I wanted to share with you that we (the lay servants in the Ridgecrest Church) are still supporting the churches in Trona and Inyokern. I volunteer to deliver the message once a month along with Pastor Karen Moore (retired) from Big Pine, Wes Hensley, and Hazel Hensley. I usually ask someone to come with me and have been really blessed to have the musical talents of Paula Herr and Kathy Cummings most of the times I deliver the message. It is a real blessing to share with these churches and when I am there, Ridgecrestians often double their congregation. Trona's service is at 9:00 on Sunday mornings and Inyokern's is at 11:15.

Wes is always looking for people who would like to share their gifts with one or both of these churches. Please contact him if you would like to share a message or enhance their worship in another way (musicians, singers, dancers, etc.). I would like to ask you to pray for this ministry. Pray for the message in both of these churches. Pray for strength and commitment for the lay servants and for the church members in Trona and Inyokern. Thank you.

--Laura Lei Miller, lay servant

## Youth Series Bible Study

Final Session of the Top Ten Bible Stories is this Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> in the Social Hall. The fun starts at 6:30 pm, hope to see you there!



Just a reminder that school will be back in session starting August 12. Please be watchful of youth walking or riding to school.

# SSP Sunday, Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit, Men's Devotional, Loss & Life Transition Class, Marvin Backman Memorial



The high school mission team will take over the entire Sunday worship service on Sunday, August 23rd at 9:30am, and bring to the congregation all their experiences, God moments, and joy that was had during their mission trip to the Navajo Nation in late July through the Sierra Service Project (SSP)



## **DEAD SEA SCROLLS EXHIBIT**

For the first time in Los Angeles—The California Science Center in cooperation with the Israel Antiquities Authority is proud to present the largest Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition ever mounted outside of Israel, featuring over 600 ancient artifacts on display. This special exhibition explores the science and significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls, manuscripts written and hidden in caves 2000 years ago and not discovered until 1947. The exhibition also features sections from 10 selections of the Dead Sea Scrolls, more than half never seen before in the U.S., including parts of the oldest known copies of the Hebrew Bible, also known as the Old Testament.

The church is offering discounted tickets to the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit at the California Science Center in Los Angeles for Saturday, August 29th. An information sheet, with ticket price information, is available in the narthex.

## **Men's Tuesday Devotional**

Men, start your day right by joining with others in a short devotional before work. We meet in the Fellowship Room on Tuesday Mornings 0630 to 0715. We read the devotion, discuss the author's questions and share our prayer concerns. No preparation is required, but you can request from the church office (760-375-7434, or [umcrc@verizon.net](mailto:umcrc@verizon.net)) that the devotion be emailed to you.

## **Loss And Life Transition Begins Tuesday, September 22**

If a family member or close friend recently died and you are in need of support to cope with changes following that loss, help is available. *Loss and Life Transition* is a free 10-week series, offering help after the loss of someone loved. This group will meet on Tuesday evenings at Crossroads Community Church, 6-8:00pm beginning September 22.

Call Jodi Ostrom at 760-371-0612 for more information



*We've Lost a Friend*

## **Marvin Backman Memorial**

A memorial service for Marvin Backman who passed into eternal life July 18, 2015 will be held Tuesday August 4 here at Ridgecrest United Methodist Church at 2:00 pm. Following the service there will be a reception in the Social Hall. Please wear Aloha attire or guayabere shirts. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Ridgecrest Regional Hospice.



# Birthdays of the Month

## AUGUST

- 2 Reid Baker  
Bryan Williams
- 4 Sharon Backman
- 5 Jenna Cope  
Elsa Hennings
- 8 Rennee Bradford
- 9 Sarah Guess
- 12 Tammy Ferris
- 17 Bob Scott
- 18 Chris Gibbs  
Debra Lane  
Martin Lininger
- 21 Zakary Atencio
- 23 Sheri Boston  
Todd Holland
- 24 Howard Anderson  
Alan Bradford  
Cheryl Haun
- 25 Lorelei Atencio  
Rob Gervais
- 27 Simon Austin  
Emilio Bautista
- 28 Laura Lei Miller
- 29 Aurel Hays
- 31 Vivian Wright



# Celebrating Anniversaries this Month

## AUGUST

- 5 Andy & Jeanine Corzine
- 7 Ed & Barbara Jayne
- 19 Bob & Aileen Scott
- 22 Ray & Minnie Miller
- 23 Mike & Paula Herr
- 24 Darrin & Sheri Boston



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 8:00 am UMM Breakfast 9:30 am UMW Meeting
2 8:30 am Choir Practice <b>9:30 am Single Service With Holy Communion</b>	3 6:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Boy Scouts Pack 341 & Troop 35 6:30 pm Bible Study	4 6:30 am Men's Devotional 2:00 pm Marvin Backman Memorial 5:30 pm HDQG Meeting 6:30 pm Sweet Adelines 7:00 pm Aquabonita 7:00 pm SH Renovation Committee Meeting	5 6:30 pm Youth Top Ten Bible Stories 6:30 pm Friendship Circle	6	7 5:00 pm Upper Room Supper	8 9:00 am Brownies
9 8:30 am Choir Practice <b>9:30 am Single Service with Backpack Blessing</b> 12:00 pm Family Pool Party at Pinney Pool 4:00 pm Combined Youth Pool party 5:00 pm Adult Sunday School	10 6:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Boy Scouts Pack 341 & Troop 35 6:30 pm Bible Study	11 6:30 am Men's Devotional 5:30 pm Juniors 6:00 pm Altrusa Meeting 6:30 pm Sweet Adelines	12 6:30 pm Friendship Circle	13 5:15 pm Mission Meeting 6:15 pm URS Meeting 7:00 pm SPRC	14 5:00 pm Upper Room Supper  (Flex)	15
16 8:30 am Choir Practice <b>9:30 am Single Service</b> 4:00 pm Combined Youth Pool party 5:00 pm Adult Sunday School	17 6:30 pm Boy Scouts Pack 341 & Troop 35 6:30 pm Bible Study	18 6:30 am Men's Devotional 5:30 pm Juniors 6:30 pm Sweet Adelines	19	20	21 5:00 pm Upper Room Supper	22 4:00 pm SSP Sunday Rehearsal in Sanctuary
23 8:30 am Choir Practice <b>9:30 am SSP Sunday</b> 5:00 pm Adult Sunday School	24 6:30 pm Boy Scouts Pack 341 & Troop 35 6:30 pm Bible Study	25 6:30 am Men's Devotional 5:30 pm Juniors 6:00 pm Altrusa Meeting 6:30 pm Sweet Adelines	26 7:00 pm Ad Council Meeting	27	28 5:00 pm Upper Room Supper  (Flex)	29 7:00 am-5pm BSA Leader Training  Dead Sea Scroll Trip
30 8:30 am Choir Practice <b>9:30 am Single Service</b> 10:30 am Youth Parent planning meeting in Social Hall 5:00 pm Adult Sunday School	31					

Summer Sunday Worship Schedule  
9:30 am  
Childcare Provided