



CHIMES

Whittier First UMC

Good News for All...through learning, action, and love

Live-Stream Worship every Sunday @ 10am at WhittierFirstUMC.com

 [Whittier First United Methodist Church](https://www.youtube.com/WhittierFirstUMC)

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RULES FOR LIFE

AN ANTIDOTE TO CHAOS
FEB 21 - MARCH 28

“Lent is a time to focus on the spiritual journey, to reflect on the inner self and to put our attention on Christ. The spiritual journey is always aligned with the inner self because we are invited to surrender our whole selves to the higher teachings of Christ. For the next 6 weeks, leading up to Easter, let us take time to reflect on these simple, yet difficult, 6 rules birthed from the journey to the cross. May we begin this journey intentionally seeking wisdom and insight from the scriptures; may we put to death the things in us, the ideas that distract us from the light of Christ so that we can be resurrected into the life of Christ.” -Pastor Angela

Feb. 21 Rules for Life, Rule 1: Treat yourself like someone you are responsible for helping
Mark 1: 9-15

Feb. 28 Rules for Life, Rule 2: Pursue what is meaningful (Not what is expedient)
Mark 8: 31-38

March 7 Rules for Life, Rule 3:
Stand up straight with your shoulders back
John 2: 13-22

March 14 Rules for Life, Rule 4: Compare yourself to who you were yesterday, not to who someone else is today
John 3: 14-21

March 21 Rules for Life, Rule 5:
Assume that the person you are listening to might know something you don't
John 12: 20-33

March 28 Rules for Life, Rule 6: Set your house in perfect order before you criticize
Matthew 27: 11-26

FRIDAY FLICKS — FEBRUARY 26 at 6:00 pm on Zoom

This month's Final Friday Flick is the 2000 classic "Chocolat" starring Juliette Binoche, Johnny Depp and Alfred Molina. *"When mysterious Vianne and her child arrive in a tranquil French town in the winter of 1959, no one could have imagined the impact that she and her spirited daughter would have on the community stubbornly rooted in tradition. Within days, she opens an unusual chocolate shop, across the square from the church. Her ability to perceive her customers' desires and satisfy them with just the right confection, coaxes the villagers to abandon themselves to temptation – just as Lent begins."*

We've worked out the technical glitches so PLEASE come and enjoy this inspiring, thought provoking film with Pastor Angela and C-J on Zoom.

The Children's Team is preparing Easter Baskets to deliver to Sunday School and Messy Church kids! We have baskets, grass and more but need a little help with the sweet stuffers! Donations of any of these treats (in fun or single serve size or individually wrapped) will help us make a Bible based Easter basket!

gum	Rolos	Snickers
Kit Kat	starlight mints	M & Ms
Milky Way	Almond Joy	3 Musketeers
Twix	mini packs of pretzels or goldfish crackers	Smarties
Swedish Fish	Life Savers (individual or rolls)	candy corn
peanut butter cups	Starbursts	packaged jelly beans (lots of colors)

Can you guess how each of these corresponds to Scripture? Drop the sweets off at the Office no later than March 27th so we can assemble safely and distribute!

Guided Meditation for Compassion

Feb 24 at 6 pm
Last Wed of the month



The Church needs 100 subscribers on YouTube. This will allow us to have a direct web link. Please go on YouTube and subscribe!

If you would like technical assistance to join the church worship service or the after church zoom coffee hour please contact the church office.



Messy Church continues online! 20 kids meet online the **third Tuesday of the month at 5 pm** for games, socialization, Scripture study and so much more. We deliver activity bags to go with the lesson, or grown-up can use the emailed resources to learn at on your own! This means if you have family members or grandchildren in another state we can send them stuff too! **March 16th's topic is "Jesus in the Wilderness"**. We miss our wonderful adult volunteers though, so if you want to log on and say hi to the littles, contact C-J or the office for the passworded link.

BISHOP HAGIYA

Briefing on COVID-19

2/10/2021

There are a number of important updates to share on our California-Pacific Annual Conference's response to COVID-19. Here is where we stand:

With the Supreme Court's ruling that churches can open with State, County and City restrictions, **the Cabinet is providing for our local churches in California a process by which limited indoor worship can take place.**

We are in a time when we are having to rapidly adapt to our constantly changing context; our path forward will continue to be adjusted in light of the circumstances. We do this to fulfill our mission in all the ways that we can without doing harm.

The process takes into account that the Supreme Court ruling qualified these openings based on the latest health updates from local authorities. This means that no singing is allowed and attendance must be limited according to where each Church is in the California State Tier Status Guidance:

Widespread (purple)

Indoor with modifications: 6 feet distance and No singing or chanting
Indoor activities must be limited to 25% of capacity

Substantial (red)

Indoor with modifications: 6 feet distance and No singing or chanting
Indoor activities must be limited to 25% of capacity

Moderate (orange)

Indoor with modifications: 6 feet distance and No singing or chanting
Indoor activities must be limited to 50% of capacity

Minimal (yellow)

Indoor with modifications: 6 feet distance and No singing or chanting
Indoor activities must be limited to 50% of capacity

The process also takes into account that more of our Seniors and health care officials are being vaccinated, and if you are in this category, you may attend indoor church events given the same protocols listed above. One's safety from COVID-19 increases with both vaccinations, and we are thankful for those who have received these already.

The process to be able to hold limited indoor worship services is as follows:

- Obtain permission from the appointed Pastor
- Obtain permission from the Church Council or equivalent, and
- Obtain permission from the District Superintendent

Remember that we must make these decisions from a faith perspective, which means that this is not as much about one's rights as the ultimate safety of those whom you care about and love. Before any action is taken at the local church, I ask that the clergy, lay leadership and loving church community stop and ask themselves, "if only one person in our congregation contracts the virus through a worship service or event, is it worth opening?"

Such a question can only be answered with deep prayer and discernment. John Wesley's key instruction of "Do no harm," must be taken seriously, and I trust that each local church can answer that for themselves.

Not everyone will be comfortable returning to public worship, and this means that our clergy and church leaders will be doing double the amount of work by providing both online and in-person worship. This is one additional element I hope all of our laity and churches will consider. Our clergy have been exhausted trying to provide a new online format for our churches, and asking them to double that will take an increasing toll on them. Please pray deeply over this additional workload you are asking of your clergy.

Patience is a virtue, and the prudent thing to ask for right now. The hope of the Cabinet is that we all remember to ask God for the patience to endure as we pray about all of these important issues.

Be the Hope,

Bishop Grant J. Hagiya

Los Angeles Area Resident Bishop

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Contactless Delivery Available

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Cookies available
Feb 21 –April 11

You can also donate
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