



# CHIMES

## Whittier First UMC

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

Live-Stream Worship every Sunday @ 10am at [WhittierFirstUMC.com](https://WhittierFirstUMC.com)

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# The Spirit of God is in the Natural World

APRIL 18 - MAY 23, 2021

"We are told that God took the earth and made us. God then breathed life into us and said that we are good. God made all of creation and we are all interconnected. The same materials that are in the stars are in us humans. When we grow disconnected from our creator, nature calls us back to remember the God who loves us. We are invited, in humility, to bow down to the ground. When we return to the ground we were created from, we remember who God is and how we were made to be good! May we touch the ground and the earth and celebrate God's beauty!" –Pastor Angela

**April 18** The Spirit of God is in the Natural World, Part I: Wind/Breath, *Genesis 2:4-7*

**April 25** The Spirit of God is in the Natural World, Part II: Cloud, *Exodus 24:9-16*

**May 2** The Spirit of God is in the Natural World, Part III: Ground/Dirt, *II Chronicles 20:13-19*

**May 9** The Spirit of God is in the Natural World, Part IV: Water, *Isaiah 44:1-4*

**May 16** The Spirit of God is in the Natural World, Part V: Light, *John 8:12-20*

**May 23** The Spirit of God is in the Natural World, Part VI: Fire, *Acts 2:1-13*

## DOINGS IN THE CALPAC CONFERENCE

*submitted by Charles H. Bennett, Lay Member to Annual Conference*

- General Conference, originally scheduled for 2020, has again been postponed another year; a virtual General Conference was considered but deemed not feasible due to the lack of reliable internet on the African continent, and the lack of vaccine availability outside a relative handful of countries. Groups desirous of changes to church policy toward the LGBT community are disappointed that the conference cannot be held, but they understand that it is essentially impossible to hold a fair General Conference in 2021.
- Melissa MacKinnon is being re-assigned from the East District Superintendency to the North, and we will be assigned Rev. Dr. Siosaia "Saia" Tu'itahi (*pictured*), late of Santa Ana UMC. Rev. Saia is the first Pacific Islander DS to serve stateside, and is married to Monalisa Tu'itahi, who has been elected a lay delegate to the General Conference.
- Both the District Conference (in May) and the Annual Conference (in June) will be held virtually this year, as they were in 2020, though they will be able to be held in person in 2022.
- Bishop Hagiya continues to issue statements on the pressing issues that have beset the country and world. In particular, he issued a strong statement in response to acts of violence against members of the Asian-American community.



Dottie Andersen, Lori Harris, Donna Padgett, & UMW President Martha Bailey

### AND THE QUIET DISCIPLE AWARD GOES TO...

Every year the United Methodist Women of Whittier First UMC selects someone to honor as a "Quiet Disciple." A "Quiet Disciple" is someone whose ministry is accomplished in an unassuming manner, who inspires others with her inner strength and whose faith and actions are a blessing to everyone she meets.

Last Sunday, **LORI HARRIS & DONNA PADGETT** were awarded this honor.

They have worn many hats over the years at church and in the community. Currently, Lori is the chair of the Finance Committee, volunteers at the Interfaith Food Center and Meals on Wheels. Donna leads Hope Circle & Susanna Wesley Circle, and does a beautiful job in decorating the

Sanctuary. They both support the Convalescent Aid Society here at church. This is only a small part of what they're involved in. Lori and Donna are amazing servants of God and we are so fortunate to have them as devoted church members.



## May BIRTHDAYS

1st

Nancyb Warner

2nd

Betsy Murray

3th

Helga Schaefer

5th

Alex De La Rosa

Audrey Padgett

6th

Coral Mendoza

7th

Betty Reynolds

10th

Bill Murray

11th

Sal Mendoza

12th

Emily Coutant

16th

Aaron Mendoza

17th

Jason Erb

18th

Sarah Peel

19th

Joey Villalobos

22nd

Jorge Erb

Gabe Moorman

26th

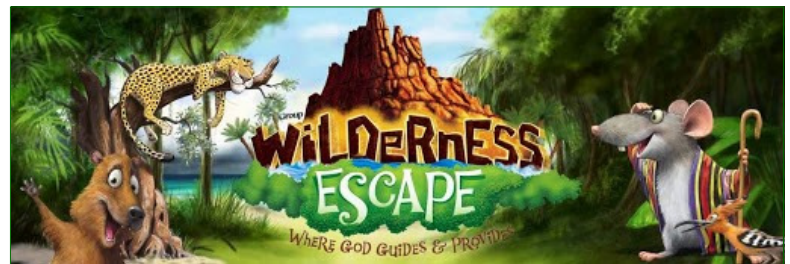
John Reynolds

30th

Ruth Miller

31st

Delilah Coutant



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**SAVE THE DATES**  
**6.28.21—7.2.21**



Thank you to  
Donna Padgett  
and Martha Bailey  
for the new spring-  
time flower  
arrangement that  
adorns the sanc-  
tuary altar.

## FRIDAY FAITH FLICKS — May 7 @ 6:00 pm, Kraft Friendship Room

For this Flick we will be watching it in person for the first time in over a year!

We will follow protocol & guidelines set by the state and Cal-Pac Conference: which means masks, social distancing of at least six feet, and a maximum of 10 people in the room. There will be no food, but film, fellowship and fun! Since there is a room capacity limit, we will need you to RSVP by contacting the office, 562.698.0022 or Info@WhittierFirstUMC.com

The Flick is the 2008 American comedy-drama film directed by Mark Pellington, **"Henry Poole is Here"** starring Luke Wilson and George Lopez.

*Having been diagnosed as terminally ill, Henry Poole purchases a tract house in his hometown, a working class suburb of Los Angeles, and awaits the inevitable, fortified with whiskey and frozen pizza. His peaceful solitude and self-imposed exile are disrupted by his meddling neighbor Esperanza Martinez, who insists she sees the face of Christ embedded in the stucco wall of his home and is convinced the image has miraculous powers when it begins to exude drops of blood. Before long, she is leading pilgrimages to his backyard and inviting Father Salazar from the local parish to bless the supposedly sacrosanct blemish. To Henry the image is a water stain.*