We are now living into the season of Easter, the 50 days after Easter, and before Pentecost. In scripture, these were the days when the people were in grief over the horrific death of Jesus and then, in joy over his resurrection. After realizing Jesus' resurrection, the people were in awe of his presence with them and then, were in awe of his ascending away from them. After his ascension, the New Testament people prepared for and then, received Jesus' gift of the Holy Spirit.

After our big celebration of Easter Sunday, we, too, must prepare for the giftedness of the Holy Spirit. We, too, await the spiritual fire that will feed our hunger and thirst for righteousness and holy direction. We, too, want to be awakened to what God has in store for us as individuals and as the Almaden Hills UMC family.

Pastor, preacher, and writer Adam Hamilton suggests that what we may be seeking is a “Revival.” He reminds us that “in the 1700s, John Wesley launched a revival challenging us to deepen our faith. It was a movement that would revive the faith of a nation and change the world.” Adam Hamilton says that perhaps this is the season “to ignite a new revival.”

In this month of April, in this season of Easter, what would it look like if we were to ignite a new revival? How might we explore spiritual revival in such a way that would “revive our faith and change the world”? During the Sundays of April, let us seek the revival of Psalm 85:6, “Will you not revive us again, that our people may rejoice in you?”

In the spirit of “revival” and seeing a newness of life, Pastor Mariellen

Soulfire Revolution from Bogotá, Colombia sings these words to us as we seek “revival” in this season,

“Let your presence fill this place
The world is a desert dry and thirsty
Your love is the answer full of mercy
Give us your eyes to see the hurting
Bring us back to life
Revival ....”

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**Easter Day -- April 1**

7 a.m., Sunrise Service
Followed by Breakfast, served until 9:45 a.m.

10 a.m., Celebration Service of Worship
Easter Egg Hunt following the service, and a visit from the Easter Bunny
Discovering Disciples
Kindergarten – 5th Grade Sunday School Program

April 1 – EASTER! Special Easter crafts and games in Judy's Art Room! Egg hunt following Sunday School! and a visit from the Easter Bunny

April 8 – 29, 2018 Theme: “Teach Us How to Pray”

Bible Verse: One of his disciples said to him (Jesus), “Lord, teach us to pray.” (Luke 11:1)

Prayer is talking with God. There are many ways to talk with God and many different kinds of prayers. Jesus taught his disciples to pray and gave them an example that we still use today. We call this example the Lord's Prayer.

Children will discover that:
- the Bible tells us that Jesus was a man who frequently talked with God;
- the disciples were curious about how Jesus prayed;
- Jesus taught the disciples a special prayer;
- Christians today still pray this prayer; it is called the Lord's Prayer;
- talking with God helps us feel closer to God;
- we can talk with God at any time about anything;
- there are many ways to pray.

Ships Ahoy!

As you reserve dates on your 2018 calendar, be sure to add Vacation Bible School which will be held July 16 - 20 from 9 a.m. until noon. The theme this year will be “Shipwrecked.” This adventure takes kids to an uncharted island, where they’ll send out messages in a bottle, hoping for a rescue. The lessons will anchor them in the truth that Jesus carries us through life’s storms. It will be an exciting week you won’t want to miss!

Large Cardboard Tubes for Our Island Jungle

This year we are going to transform the sanctuary and education wing into an island jungle. We need cardboard tubes... LOTS of tubes, the longer and wider the better. Gift wrapping tubes. Upholstery fabric tubes. Carpet roll tubes. Variety is great. Can you imagine walking through a bamboo forest? That's a lot of cardboard tubes! Contact Barton Wilson if you have some.
Mission and Outreach

South Bay CROP Hunger Walk
April 22 -- Begins at Hoover Middle School
Registration 1 p.m. – Walk at 1:30 p.m.

CROP Hunger Walks help to alleviate hunger by raising funds to support food programs both locally and internationally. Last year our Almaden Hills UMC walkers raised over $5,000 to combat hunger, which was the highest total of United Methodist churches in our area, and the second highest of all churches. This year’s CROP Walk for our area will be held on April 22 in the beautiful Rose Garden neighborhood. Plan to walk with us if you are able, or consider sponsoring one or more of our walkers. You may sign up via a website in the process of being created – the link will be provided at church and in weekly emails.

Bottles and Cans

We continue to be grateful to our faithful volunteers who bag the bottles and cans from our church recycling containers, and who sort the ones brought in on the first Sunday of the month. After our team has processed the donations, they take them to the recycling center to cash them in.

There are four things we can do to thank our “green team” and show that we truly appreciate their work --

1) Make sure that the bottles and cans are truly “California recyclable,” with CRV (California Refund Value) labels.
2) Make sure that the bottles and cans are empty and rinsed before bringing them to church.
3) If you put the cans in one bag and the bottles in another, that would save the team a step.
4) Even though you are not an official member of the committee, the volunteers would truly appreciate your occasional help on the first Sunday of the month in doing the sorting.

Well ... Hello, Dolly!

Our Almaden Hills choirs have set the date for this year’s Spring Concert -- Sunday, April 29, at 2 p.m. Our Handbell Choir and our Chancel Choir are rehearsing a selection of challenging pieces to amaze you!

After the bells have been rung and the choir has sung its most beautiful “Alleluias,” hold onto your hats because “Dolly” will be back where she belongs as the choir’s Broadway medley. “It Only Takes a Moment,” so “Put On Your Sunday Clothes” and be there in our sanctuary “Before the Parade Passes By.”

This concert is the perfect opportunity to invite relatives, neighbors and friends to our church. Tickets are $15 each, or five for $50. Children and youth are free.

AHUMC Financial Snapshot

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Conference Tithe Obligation (Apportionments)

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Note: Conference Tithes are paid in all months except January and July
Variety Book Study Group

Wednesday, April 18, 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room

The book for April is *Queen Sugar: a novel* by Natalie Baszile. Our discussion leader is Junetta McKewan. Anyone who has read the book is invited to the discussion.

The book for May is *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren.

Spiffing Up the Fellowship Hall

Our thanks to Leslie Hallenbeck, member of our Board of Trustees, for having new Venetian blinds installed over the upper windows in the Fellowship Hall, putting them up in time for the opening of our Warming Center. These new window coverings made the room look good for the Joint Youth Group's “Evening at the Luau” fundraiser, too.

If You Aren't In Our 2015 Photo Directory ... 

We have a rare opportunity to update our most recent Almaden Hills photo directory by photographing only the people who did not appear in it. Each person or group photographed will receive a free frameable copy of the pose selected -- no charge. Copies of other poses may be purchased. The contact information for each person or family will be included on the roster. The pages of photos and contact information will come with an adhesive strip to attach them inside the cover of the current photo directory.

We will hold the photo sessions at church on Monday and Tuesday, April 16 and 17, between 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

We want every face in this Almaden Hills “family album.” We need these pages to get to know each other, and to put names to faces. Over time the photos will become part of our church history.

Years from now, after the kids have gone off to college or to new jobs, you'll be glad to have this professional photo of the whole family. Don't let this chance get away.

The photographers cannot come unless we have enough people to make it worth their while. Consider including grandparents or grandchildren. Bring your pet, or the musical instrument you play, or a book you've written. Use your imagination.

Even if your photo will not be printed in the new directory, you may have your picture taken and receive the free 8 x 10 print.

The directory coordinator is Bonnie Home. To make an appointment to have your photo taken, contact her by e-mail at bonstance22@yahoo.com.
Thank you so much for all your cards and words of comfort after the recent death of my father, Deryk Wakelin. I was really touched by the outpouring of support, and feel I have been surrounded with love from my Almaden Hills UMC family. Thank you for being there for me.

~Libby Rettner

A huge thank you to everyone who has sent cards and to the JYM “feed the need” preparers and their sponsors for the delicious dinner left at my home!

~Jane Bode

I wish to thank the congregation for all the kind thoughts and prayers offered for Deb and me concerning the recent passing of Deb's mother, and the recent hospitalization of my sister in ICU with an infection. My sister is out of the hospital and recovering at home.

~Clyde Bingham

**Lead Role As Beast**

Joshua recently performed in Castillero Middle School’s production of Beauty and the Beast. The show ran from March 7-10 and the last two shows were completely sold out. Josh played the Beast, and he and the entire cast did a fantastic job. The choreography, costumes, set, acting, and singing were all wonderful. Josh is glad to be rejoining the church choir now that the show and all the evening practices are over. Congratulations, Josh!

**Soccer Champs**

Ikenna’s soccer team, the South San Jose Academy “Indios,” recently won the U11 Boys Norcal State Cup Competitive Soccer Championship. The championship game was held in Modesto CA on February 24, between the Indios and Rocklin Navy. The game finished in a goalless tie in overtime, and had to be decided on penalty kicks. The Indios won the penalty shootout!

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**The Chimes Editorial Staff**

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**Deadline for Next Issue:**
April 8