



# The Shepherd's Call

FEBRUARY 2018

## Vintage:

Casting the Ancient Anew

### At the Intersection Faith and Culture

As I write this, Ash Wednesday is just around the corner and Easter will be here before we know it and I know this, because both Ash Wednesday and Easter fall on secular holidays this year. Ash Wednesday is Valentine's Day and I find myself pausing to ask — how do we invite people to wear ashes on their heads on Valentine's Day? I am not certain that I have an answer yet. Easter, in contrast, falls on the first day of April — otherwise known as April Fools. Will we have a sunrise service? "Yes, we're gathering at 3:30 in the morning — April Fools!" — For the record, we're not having a service at 3:30 in the morning on Easter. But what we do have is this intersection of culture and faith and perhaps this is a good time to talk about how many of our Christian celebrations have pagan origins.

In this particular case, Ash Wednesday begins a period of 40 days of preparation known as Lent. A quick search online reveals many people who argue that this 40 days of preparation comes from a pagan ritual that took place in the spring and that we should thus abandon the practices of Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Easter if we are going to be true Jesus followers — the word Lent does come from a word that

means spring, but I don't think that is enough to throw out centuries of our tradition. And just because Jesus didn't say to celebrate Lent — and he didn't put ashes on his forehead, doesn't diminish the opportunity we have today. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus is tempted for 40 days in the wilderness. Moses and the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness for 40 years — and after being in the Holy Land, I can say: they didn't cover very much ground. In our Hebrew Scriptures, we hear of putting on sack cloth and ashes as a form of penitence and we are reminded in Jesus' teaching in Luke's Gospel to not be like the Pharisee thanking God that he is a Pharisee and not someone like the man who has come and penitent.

So it turns out, we have Christian traditions with secular roots that have been reclaimed and repurposed by the church over the centuries. These Christian traditions, at least this year, fall on other secular holidays giving us a sort of spiritual sandwich — pagan, Christian, pagan, Christian. And through it all are "we" God's people — the people of God who whether we are Christian or not, are searching for purpose and meaning in our lives. In worship this past Sunday, we talked about Jesus playing the fool.

### Inside This Issue

1	"Vintage" by Pastor Johan Dodge
2	Announcements
3	Good Shepherd School News
4	February 2018 Calendar

### Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

8152 McFadden Avenue  
Westminster, CA 92683

#### Office Hours

Monday 10:00am-12:00pm

Tuesday 9:00am-2:00pm

Wednesday, Thursday 10:00am-  
3:00pm

Rev. Johan Dodge | Lead Pastor  
714.897.0100

goodshepherdwestmin-  
ster@yahoo.com

Rev. Ase Nguyen | Vietnamese Pastor  
714.898.9108  
vn\_goodshepherd@yahoo.com

This Easter, this April Fools — we have the opportunity to play the fools with Jesus. As for ashes on Valentine's Day — I am eager to hear your thoughts.

Blessings,

*Pastor Johan Dodge*

# Announce-



## January

5<sup>th</sup> - Peter Thelander

9<sup>th</sup> - Bill Orth

11<sup>th</sup> - Nancy Oleinik

11<sup>th</sup> - Cheryl Thelander

20<sup>th</sup> - Terry Priester

---

17<sup>th</sup> - Julie & Steve Munroe

## February

8<sup>th</sup> - Sandy Niemczyk

10<sup>th</sup> - William Boyd

19<sup>th</sup> - Barbara Bohac

## Sunday Morning Hospitality

If you would like to help once a month on Sunday, please see Bill or Lin Somsak. Thank you.



## February Meetings

Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> -

Trustees Meeting, 7pm

Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> -

Preschool Board Meeting, 6:15pm



## Ladies Who Lunch



The next lunch gathering will be on **Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. at Lamp Post Pizza, 10130**

**Warner Ave., Fountain Valley,**

**714-968-6128.** It's in the first strip of the mall as you travel

East on Warner, past Brookhurst, on the South side of the street (across from Mile

Square Park). They have yummy lunch specials including nice salads, sandwiches, pasta and, of course, pizza.

Please let Peggy Reardon know if you plan to attend at 714-897-5883 or perkypeggy@aol.com. All ladies of the church (and their friends) are invited to join us for a relaxing visit and good food. See Linda Priester after

## Update on Thelma

Thelma Sleight has returned from rehab and is back at the Westminster Villa. If you would like

to send her a get-well card, please send it to this address,

13881 Dawson St., Garden Grove, CA 92843, Room #257.



# Good Shepherd School News



## February 2018

Learning to love is one of the most important things children learn during their early years of life.

The kind of love a child has experienced has a tremendous impact on how they see the world and how they return the love they have been given.

Teaching a child about the love of Christ is a very rewarding blessing for all of us that belong to the extended family of Good Shepherd!

Good Shepherd Preschool and After School is...

**"A place where you will feel loved."**

Come feel the love, be a part of that love, and then be an ambassador of that love to the community.

Come and share your love with our children at Good Shepherd. The children would love to see you. Thank you for all your prayers for our school, and be sure to tell a friend about our school. Come and take a tour at our school so you can see the transformation of our environment!

If you have some time that you would like to volunteer at Good Shepherd, we have different kinds of jobs for you to do.

**We are taking registrations for summer and fall.**



## February's News.....

**We'll have 3 new families starting Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>!**

**Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Plant/Tamales Sale, 10am to 3pm**

**Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Valentine's Party**

**Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>**

**School Will Be Closed**

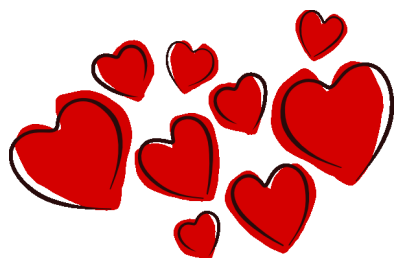
---

**\*** We feel so grateful and excited because we'll have 2 Eagle Scout Projects done soon in our school!!

---

**Your prayers support are greatly appreciated...**





# February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 3pm Viet. After School Program 7pm Women's Huddle 7pm Viet. Prayer Gathering 7:30pm AA Meeting	2 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall 7pm Viet. Bible Study - Member's House	3 9-2pm Viet. Computer Class 2:30pm Viet. Worship Team Practice
4 8am Viet. Service 10:30am Eng. Service	5 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:10pm Zumba - Wesley Hall 6:30pm Boy Scouts Meeting 7pm Men's Huddle 7:30pm Bible Study - Bjelland's Home	6 9am Shepherd Hands 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall	7 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall	8 3pm Viet. After School Program 7pm Women's Huddle 7pm Viet. Prayer Gathering 7:30pm AA Meeting	9 12:30pm Ladies Who Lunch @ Lamp Post Pizza 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall 7pm Viet. Bible Study - Member's House	10 9-2pm Viet. Computer Class 10am-3pm Preschool Plant/Tamales Sale 2:30pm Viet. Worship Team Practice
11 8am Viet. Service 10:30am Eng. Service	12 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:10pm Zumba - Wesley Hall 6:30pm Boy Scouts Meeting 7pm Men's Huddle 7:30pm Bible Study - Bjelland's Home	13 9am Shepherd Hands 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall 7pm Trustees Meeting	14 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall	15 3pm Viet. After School Program 7pm Viet. Prayer Gathering 7pm Women's Huddle 7:30pm AA Meeting	16 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall 7pm Viet. Bible Study - Member's House	17 9-2pm Viet. Computer Class 2:30pm Viet. Worship Team Practice
18 8am Viet. Service 10:30am Eng. Service	19 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:10pm Zumba - Wesley Hall 6:30pm Boy Scouts Meeting 7pm Men's Huddle 7:30pm Bible Study - Bjelland's Home	20 9am Shepherd Hands 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:15pm Preschool Board Meeting 7pm Church Council Meeting	21 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall	22 3pm Viet. After School Program 7pm Women's Huddle 7pm Viet. Prayer Gathering 7:30pm AA Meeting	23 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall 7pm Viet. Bible Study - Member's House	24 9-2pm Viet. Computer Class 2:30pm Viet. Worship Team Practice
25 8am Viet. Service 10:30am Eng. Service	26 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:10pm Zumba - Wesley Hall 6:30pm Boy Scouts Meeting 7pm Men's Huddle 7:30pm Bible Study - Bjelland's Home	27 9am Shepherd Hands 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall	28 3pm Viet. After School Program 6:30pm Zumba - Wesley Hall			