



La Habra United Methodist Church

Vista

February 2018

In a recent sermon I spoke about the healing of a man who was possessed. A number of you commented that this is a difficult topic. Are people ever possessed by evil? Is this different from mental illness? Can evil be called out of a person by the power of God as was the case in the Jesus story?

I was informed a number of years ago reading an excellent book by M. Scott Peck titled The People of the Lie: The Hope for Healing Human Evil. Peck was a psychiatrist for the Army, the Surgeon General, in hospital settings and in private practice. He had experience both as a clinician and as a researcher.

Peck understood evil as extreme, self-serving, and self-righteous behaviors. Evil persons often take out their particular form of perfectionism and intolerance on the vulnerable. They are adept at identifying the “scapegoat”. More often than not evil is extremely difficult to identify, let alone treat. True evil has no ability to empathize with another person. It is extremely selfish.

He distinguished evil as a diagnosis which is separate from psychological conditions. He argued that it was treatable, and suggested that the Christian world-view was best suited to its treatment. He saw evil as “militant ignorance.”

Our concept of sin involves “missing the mark.” We understand ourselves as being in need of God’s grace, forgiveness, healing, and guidance. We look to Jesus the Christ as our way back to God. We overcome this “militant ignorance” of evil by acknowledging God’s love, to know that our human tendency is to separate ourselves from God, to accept and embrace the presence of Christ as God’s gift to us, and to live lives filled with the joy and purpose of God’s spirit. This is what overcomes evil.

In the book he tells the story of a patient he called Charlene. She had come to him because “everything seems meaningless.” Since she had some religious background Peck asked her what Christians say about the meaning of life. Though she acknowledged that our purpose was to bring glory to God, she also said that she simply could not do that. “I don’t want to live for God. I will not. I want to live for me. My own sake.” This is evil at work.

We must not fall into the temptation of calling everything or everyone we don’t agree with or dislike as “evil.” True evil does exist. It can be healed by the power of God. We must constantly be aware of our own sin. “There but for the grace of God go I...” We must always submit ourselves to the loving will of God.

We can embrace the reality that God is already within us, that we can overcome anything that separates us from that love, and that we can live grace-filled lives.

New Year’s Blessings,

Pastor Doug

Out to Lunch Bunch

Out-to-Lunch Bunch meets every third Wednesday of the month. We get together for a nice meal and fellowship. Come join us for this month's event on Wednesday, February 21, at 1:00pm. We will be meeting at "Marie Calendars" on Whittier Blvd. Hope to see ya there!

happy
birthday

February Birthdays!!

<i>Joanne Shoup</i>	<i>5th</i>
<i>Kate McIntosh</i>	<i>10th</i>
<i>Craig McIntosh</i>	<i>13th</i>
<i>Mary Ford</i>	<i>13th</i>
<i>Chip Walker</i>	<i>15th</i>
<i>Cathy Doub</i>	<i>18th</i>
<i>Peggy Rubel</i>	<i>24th</i>
<i>Joan Estes</i>	<i>28th</i>

...if we have forgotten your birthday, please contact the church office.....

Preschool News....



Our preschool will be having a pancake breakfast Saturday February 3rd from 8am-10am \$10.00 all you can eat!!

Preschool will be closed Monday Feb. 19th in honor of President's Day...

The G.A.P.

God's Awesome People

The focus of the group is fellowship, sharing a meal together and getting to know one another. Everyone is invited.

Our next gathering will be held at the home of Barbara and Don Janeway. (937 Callahan Ln. Placentia) on Saturday, March 17, at 6:00 p.m. Barbara and Don will provide a main dish, so please bring a salad, dessert or an appetizer to share. Also, bring your beverage of choice. RSVP to Barbara (by March 12) Barbara.janeway@yahoo.com so she can plan accordingly. Come and enjoy good food and fellowship.

May 19 – Bill and Nancy Tittle
July 21 – Bob and Jonell Cadman
September 15 – Pat and Kevin Gaston
November 17 – Jim and Karen Hill

Dear La Habra United Methodist Church Family,

Even though I haven't lived in Southern California since I was 18, I have felt a part of LHUMC for many years, including when I was in a car accident as a young adult, the baptism of our daughters, the wedding anniversaries of my parents, and now, for both of their memorials at the end of their lives. You all, as a congregation, have been so supportive as you gave us hugs and cards, listened, advised, accepted and loved us over the years in the kindest of ways. Words of gratitude can hardly express how much this has meant to us! And, more personally, to me, as you have been my community that I have leaned on, each time I came down - especially in the last several years.

The only problem with being the exceptional group of people that you are is this: it is hard to find another church family that is as dear to me! You have inspired me, and I hope to carry it forward in helping to inspire others.

*With much appreciation and love,
Marilyn Hurst*





SPRC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (our personnel committee) has decided to make a change in our secretarial staffing. After over 4 years of service we will be saying goodbye to Kristi Hancock at the end of January. We will be handling most office functions through volunteers for the time being. We are reviewing many options, including the use of more volunteers, for handling the many functions of the church office. If you'd like to help in some way please contact Pastor Doug. We are scheduling a thank you lunch for Kristi in February. More on this to come! We wish her well in her future!

Wes Shaw (SPRC Chairperson)



LENT BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Doug will be leading a Bible Study o the Gospel of Mark. You are invited to attend either the morning or the evening sessions.

Morning Session will be from **10:30 till 11:45 a.m.** Evening Session **7 till 8:15 p.m.** We will meet in the church library.

The dates for this study are February 21 and 28 and March 7 and 14.

Bring your Bible and we will read through Mark's story of Jesus' life.

Pastor Doug