CIRCUIT RIDER
First United Methodist Church of Reseda
October 2017

Circuit Rider articles are due Oct. 20th.
The next Circuit Rider will go out Oct. 27th.
The Circuit Rider,
Periodical Permit Number: (USPS #858-460)
Published monthly 12/year.
By FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF RESEDA
18120 Saticoy Street, Reseda, CA 91335–3119
Periodicals Postage Paid at Van Nuys, CA
and additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Please Send Address Changes To:
THE CIRCUIT RIDER
18120 Saticoy Street Reseda, CA 91335–3119
Vol. 2017 No 17
October 2017

Dated Material
Please deliver by Oct. 6, 2017

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A welcoming family of Christian faith for all people.


**october EVENTS**

**Every week**

**Tuesdays @ 11:15** exercise in choir room

**Tuesdays @ noon** golden agers in fireside room

**Oct. 1:** world communion sunday

**Oct. 1:** trustees in lounge @ 11:30

**Oct. 7:** paper drive @ 8:30

**Oct. 7:** UMW Unit meeting @ 10:00

**Oct. 14:** Open Arms Walk (see Sharon Renta)

**Oct. 14:** country store 9:30 - 2 p.m.

**Oct. 15:** laity Sunday

**Oct. 19:** Maggie lu fellowship @10:00 in fireside room

**Oct. 21:** umm breakfast @7:30 in FH, followed by an all church workday @9:30

**Oct. 26:** umw exec board @9:30 in lounge

**Oct. 28:** harvest outreach @10:00—2:00

**Upcoming in November:**

**Nov. 2:** UMW unit meeting @10:00 in FH

**Nov. 4:** paper drive @8:30

**Nov. 5:** all saints sunday

**Nov. 5:** multi-church crop walk @northridge

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**Pledge Time is Coming!**

Yes, it is almost that time, when we faithfully put those pledges into the Joash Box. Do you know the history of the Joash Box? Let us look at 2 Chronicles 24 (CEV)

24 Joash was only seven years old when he became king of Judah, and he ruled forty years from Jerusalem. His mother Zibiah was from the town of Beersheba.

2 While Jehoiada the priest was alive, Joash obeyed the Lord by doing right. Jehoiada even chose two women for Joash to marry so he could have a family. Some time later, Joash decided it was time to repair the temple. He called together the priests and Levites and said, “Go everywhere in Judah and collect the annual tax from the people. I want this done right away—we need that money to repair the temple.”

But the Levites were in no hurry to follow the king’s orders. So he sent for Jehoiada the high priest and asked, “Why didn’t you send the Levites to collect the taxes? The Lord’s servant Moses and the people agreed long ago that this tax would be collected and used to pay for the upkeep of the sacred tent. And now we need it to repair the temple because the sons of that evil woman Athaliah came in and wrecked it. They even used some of the sacred objects to worship the god Baal.”

Joash gave orders for a wooden box to be made and had it placed outside, near the gate of the temple. He then sent letters everywhere in Judah and Jerusalem, asking everyone to bring their taxes to the temple, just as Moses had required their ancestors to do.

The people and their leaders agreed, and they brought their money to Jerusalem and placed it in the box. Each day, after the Levites took the box into the temple, the king’s secretary and the high priest’s assistant would dump out the money and count it. Then the empty box would be taken back outside.

This happened day after day, and soon a large amount of money was collected. Joash and Jehoiada turned the money over to the men who were supervising the repairs to the temple. They used the money to hire stonecutters, carpenters, and experts in working with iron and bronze.

These workers went right to work repairing the temple, and when they were finished, it looked as good as new. They did not use all the tax money for the repairs, so the rest of it was handed over to Joash and Jehoiada, who then used it to make dishes and other gold and silver objects for the temple.

Think about your pledge and the reasons for it. November is just around the corner.
It’s That Time again!

Crop Walk Time

November 5, 2015 @ Northridge Umc

Registration @ 12:30 pm

Walk Kickoff @ 1:30 pm

Signups during October

See Sheryl Meadows @ Scrip Table to sign up or to sponsor a walker

Let us show the other churches that Reseda 1st cares!
Hopefully you will remember me from our concert with the San Fernando Master Chorale at FUMCR in December 2015. I have a wonderful recollection of that event and the great hospitality and cooperation we received.

I’m writing you now about something very different that I want to bring to your attention and hopefully to your congregation as well. Since 1982 in Chicago I have been performing a one person play about the life of Father (now Saint) Damien, the priest who gave his life in the service of the lepers in Moloka‘i. This will be my 22nd production which has ranged from theatres to churches to universities. This performance will be at St. Alban’s Episcopal Church in Westwood across from UCLA, where I have been serving as minister of music for sever-
Saturday, October 7th, will be a talk about missionaries.

Thursday, November 2nd, will be a world thank offering program.

Saturday, January 6th, will be the installation of officers by Amybeth Lake, District UMW President.

Sunday, January 25th, we will celebrate UMW Sunday.

On Saturday, September 23, the North District UMW held their annual celebration at North Hollywood UMC. At this celebration the unit Quiet Disciples were honored. This would include our own Evelyn Jacoby! Boy, did we surprise her.

On several occasions now, it’s a very compelling and powerful story about courage and sacrifice.

About Father Damien

Joseph De Veuster, or, as he is best known to the world, Father Damien, was born in Temeloo, Belgium on January 3, 1840. Like his older brother, Pamphile, Joseph sought a religious calling with the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts. Pamphile was to serve as a missionary priest in the far distant "Sandwich Islands," but when it came time for him to depart, he was too ill to go. Despite the misgivings of his superiors Joseph was allowed to take his brother’s place.

He arrived in Honolulu on March 19, 1864 and was ordained as a priest in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace on May 31, taking the name Damien. First given charge of various districts on the island of Hawai’i, he spent eight years as a missionary of the natives, often traveling great distances to minister to the people of his districts. He also constructed several chapels with his own hands, both in Hawai’i and in Moloka’i.

In 1873, learning of the need for priests to serve the many Hansen's disease victims (biblical leprosy) confined by the Government at Kalawao on the island of Moloka’i, he and three other priests volunteered to go in succession, with Damien going first. With the sanction of his bishop, he soon was on a boat carrying cattle and 50 patients bound for Kalawao. The board of health supplied the unfortunates with food and clothing, but was unable in the beginning to provide them with either resident physicians or nurses. Damien discovered horrid conditions. From a safe distance, the superintendent of the board of health in Honolulu wrote to Bishop Maigret, “…the lepers can care for themselves, but as soon as the dreadful disease renders them helpless, it would seem that even demons themselves would pity their condition and hasten their death."

Father Damien insisted he be allowed to stay, despite the admonition that no clean man could live among 1000 lepers. He offered hope and Kalawao slowly became a place to live rather than a place to die. He spoke the Hawai’ian language. Assisted by patients, he built houses,
constructed a water system, and planted trees. He also organized schools, bands and choirs. He provided medical care for the living and went so far as to dig graves and make coffins for the dead. He was not a "retiring" personality. He did not hesitate to badger the Hawai‘ian government and his church for more resources. These efforts attracted worldwide attention, resulting in a heightened awareness of the disease and the plight of his victims. After twelve years, in 1885, he discovered in himself the first symptoms of the disease. Over the years he had done nothing to separate himself from his people. He shared his pipe, and he did not always wash his hands after bandaging open sores. He nevertheless continued his charitable ministrations, but finally succumbed on April 15, 1889 at age 49.

Shortly before his death, he wrote to his brother Pamphile, "I am gently going to my grave. It is the will of God, and I thank Him very much for letting me die of the same disease and in the same way as my lepers. I am very satisfied and very happy." He was buried in the cemetery next to his church, St. Philomena. The people of Kalawao had lost their strongest voice. Damien's death was widely noted throughout Hawai‘i and in Europe. As the years passed, his life of devotion served to inspire thousands.

Because Kalaupapa remained an isolation settlement and the world could not come to his church and grave, Damien's remains were exhumed in 1936 and reburied at Louvain, Belgium. In 1995 a relic composed of the remains of his right hand was returned to his original grave at Kalawao, to the great joy of Kalaupapa and the rest of Hawai‘i. Damien's life of service to the sick and outcast continues to serve as an inspiration. His statue now stands as the centerpiece of the entrance to the Hawai‘i State Capitol.

The Congregation of the Causes of Saints at the Vatican voted to recommend raising Father Damien of Molokai to sainthood. Canonization was promulgated by Pope Benedict XVI and the Vatican announced that Father Damien would be canonized on October 11, 2009.