

# CHRIST UNITED PRESS

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## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

By: Jan Farley, Interim Pastor



Have you ever been in a marathon? Most of us think about a race (Boston comes to mind) that's filled with the best runners in the world, and a few brave souls who would join them. Just last month we had the San Diego annual Rock in Roll Marathon (and half marathon). Marathons have become common and can be held for fun, for funding and for challenge. One year I walked a marathon, operative word is *walk!* It was on a Saturday and the following day, Sunday, I walked a half marathon. Why would I do this? It was to raise funds for breast cancer research.

The event was held in the town in which I grew up, Santa Barbara. Returning several decades after leaving home was both nostalgic and comforting. Walking all the places that I knew, it was beautiful as well as challenging. When you are walking (not running) 26.2 miles you have time for conversations! I was curious to talk to people who had walked or ran that distance. I wanted to get their perspective on the distance and challenge of that many miles. The common response was you can run/walk the first 20 psyched up, but at about mile 20 you seem to be overwhelmed with exhaustion, hurts and aches. Most importantly you cannot see the finish so you lose motivation, and weariness takes over. However, almost no one quits a marathon in the last mile, even limping they finish because the end is in sight!

In the book of Jeremiah is a scripture verse many of us have heard and even clung to when we needed comfort or assurance that things will turn out well (not just okay)! Jeremiah 29:11 says *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* The promise of a future and a hope that came at a time when they were ready to give up, being in exile in a foreign land, waiting to return to their homeland. Individually and as a community we can feel like we have waited so long for that time of release, or hope fulfilled. We long to see what God has in store for us. Sometimes we need reminding that we are Easter people, we have experienced in the work of Christ Jesus that future and hope, a life abundant here and now; and, a future with Him in eternity. Even when we lose sight of the way forward, God assures us of a future and a hope.

Blessings  
Pastor Jan

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## **CUPC Pastor Search Update**

**Step 1** - Selection of Interim Pastor Jan Farley - Completed April 1st. Pastor Jan is an integral part of moving us through the process of selecting a permanent pastor.

**Step 2** - Mission Study Team (MST). In process (see below) to discern how God wants our church to be lead with a new leader, and how we should be as a part of the community. This is currently the phase we are in.

**Step 3** - Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), final step - Committee consisting of members from the Session, Deacons, and Congregation. This will commence as soon as Step 2 (MST) has completed their work.

### **Where we currently are: Step 2 - Mission Study Team (MST) Information and Updates:**

Lynn Brown, Daphne Williams (Co-Chairs), Jackie McClish (Secretary), Gene Moore, NL Allen, John Scott, Brian Matthews, Linda Guzzo, Kyle DiCamillo, and Delores McNeely, Ex Officio.

There are 4 subcommittees preparing the Mission Study document which will serve as a guide for candidates Interested in our call for a new pastor, including our community involvement.

*Demographic* – Kyle, NL, John

*Community Study* – Linda, Daphne, Jackie, Brian, John

*Congregational Study Survey* – Lynn, Daphne, Gene, Delores

*Historical Background* – Jackie, Lynn, NL, Brian, Gene

The Demographic subcommittee is compiling data on our congregation and community.

The Community Study subcommittee is gathering information through community leader interviews. Their objective is to see how the community sees our church, and how we can serve the community.

The Congregational Study subcommittee developed (approved by the Session) the survey which enables the congregation to provide valuable input of their needs and views for the church. Three Congregational Gatherings were offered to discuss the process and/or answer questions about the survey. We encourage all to turn in surveys by July 30<sup>th</sup>. At that time, a summary of returned surveys will be compiled and distributed to the congregation, after Session approval.

The Historical Background subcommittee will summarize CUPC's history and its journey of present and future goals.

The entire team will work on the CUPC Mission Statement. We will keep you updated on our progress.

Peace and Blessings,  
Lynn Brown and Daphne Williams  
Mission Study Team Co-Chairs

**JUNETEENTH** Celebration was enjoyed by many!



**MAN OF THE YEAR!** Congratulations to Kyle DiCamillo who was CUPC's 2023 Man of the Year! Award was presented by 2022 Man of the Year, Jerry Shain.



**OUR PROPERTY COMMITTEE** works tirelessly to keep our campus beautiful!



**CRAFTY LADIES** made Juneteenth T-shirts at their June gathering! Great job ladies!

# ***GUEST PREACHING THIS MONTH***

## **NATE LANDIS - July 23**

Rev. Nate Landis, Ph.D., is a graduate of Claremont Graduate University, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and Eastern University. Nate is the founder and President of Urban Youth Collaborative, a non-profit organization that equips churches to support student leaders close to 100 public schools in the US and Mexico, where thousands of kids attend student-led faith clubs each week. As an evangelistic preacher and pastor, Nate loves sharing God's word with a wide variety of audiences. *He lives with his wife, Angela, and their children in Northern California.*



## **EM CUMMINS - July 30**

**Em Cummings, Ph.D, is a familiar face to CUPC and we are grateful to have him return to the pulpit July 30. Em is** Emeritus Professor of Counseling at San Diego State University. Em is an elder at Point Loma Community Presbyterian Church and very active in the life and mission of our Presbytery of San Diego.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

***GYM (Golden Years Ministry)*** - July 27th at 4:00pm via zoom. Contact Enid Allen, Mary Hubbard, or the church office for details.

***JAZZ ON THE PLAZA*** - August 5th from 4:00pm-6:00pm.

***THE MATTHEWS FAMILY*** will be hosting a special Fellowship Hour on August 6th after worship. Please join them as they celebrate their family reunion!

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