

May 2019



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## Pastor's Reflection

The Season of Lent was so enriched by the opportunity for all of us to enjoy a delicious Sunday brunch following each worship!

This took a lot of work. A great heartfelt thanks to the United Methodist Women, who not only organized each brunch, but contributed yummy foods. Thanks also to Kallah the Leadership Development Team and everyone else who participated in making the Lenten Brunches so successful.

Thank you to Kelly Vaughan who created the beautiful visuals for the Lenten Season and for the bright Easter Worship!

Thank you for the beautiful music, choir director, Joan Mortensson and the Chancel Choir shared, especially for the moving Easter Cantata and the for beautiful Spirit Ringers too!

Thank you to all those who work behind the scenes to do the little and big ministry jobs that strengthen the life of our church community.

I enter May with a heart full of gratitude, I bet you do too!

Your own,

Pastor Monique- Cheri

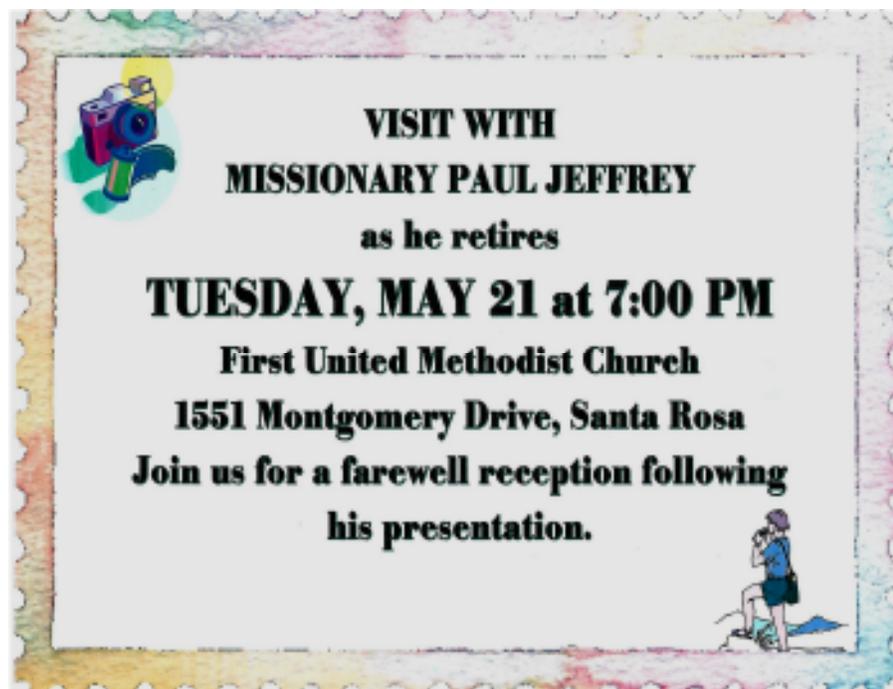
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Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Reverend Monique-Cheri  
Pierre, Pastor  
Office: (707) 887-1047  
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Office Hours Mon-Fri  
8 a.m. – Noon





**May-June 2019 Series:  
Connecting With an Unhurried God**

The series theme draws on the need for self care in order to continue our work of caring for others. It addresses the growing intensity and frenetic pace of life. The series will invite you to practices of making room, clearing out, slowing down, and prioritizing for the sake of holistic lives. “This holistic life involves living with the rhythms that allow us to thrive, finding a balance between work, play, rest, and reflection. Jesus calls his followers to more than just unbridled consumption or production. Rather, the Scriptures see our lives and bodies as gifts that should be nurtured.”

**Blessing for the Unhurried Life.**

May this journey change your way  
of thinking and being.  
May this journey open you to more loving,  
more living, and more thriving.  
May you know deeply that there is time enough  
for you, for your relationships, for your work,  
AND  
for prayer.  
And may you be re-acquainted each day  
with an unhurried God  
who is calling you to dive deeply into love.

May 5th	Lay Leader, Ron Stever will be the guest speaker.	
May 12th	“The Right Tempo”	Matthew 11:28-30
May 19th	“Preparing a Table”	Psalms 23
May 26th	“Tuning In”	Luke 10:38-42
June 2nd	“Living Light”	Luke 12:29-34
June 9th	“A Time for Every Matter”	Eccl. 3:1-13
June 16th	Rev. Marty Murdock will be the guest speaker.	
June 23rd	“Give It a Rest”	Mark 2:21-28



# THE GRAPEVINE

## The Prayer Connector

One of the Hebrew words for prayers in the Old Testament is palal, which means “to intervene, interpose.” Interpose means “to place or insert between one thing and another.”

Prayer is the connector between the natural and the supernatural. It’s like the wireless router in a house. It doesn’t create the power or information, but it is the contact point to receive it.

We are currently in the post resurrection new life event and through prayer, (either silently sitting in the awareness of Christ with you or in verbal prayerful conversation), the core power of resurrection flows into us. Let’s call that “resurrecticity”- that is the essence of this “new life” event, Christ Jesus alive and available.

To connect, here’s what you can do: for the next few minutes turn off all electronics. Put your phone and laptop in another room, because inevitably you will think of someone you need to text or something you need to do online.

Once all distractions are put away, Silently pray the words that Jesus taught his disciples:

“Our Father in heaven  
May your name be kept holy  
May your kingdom come.  
May your will be done on earth,  
as it is in heaven.  
Give us today the food we need,  
and forgive us our sins,  
as we have forgiven those who sin  
against us.  
And don’t let us yield to temptation,  
but rescue us from the evil one.  
(Matthew 6: 9-13)

Now go back through the prayer silently rephrasing each line in your own words. Personalize it by adding more intimate praise, confession, gratitude, and requests.

This beginning can be used to launch yourself into silent prayer. Do this as often as you can.

There is a point where we can simply be still in the expansive presence at the heart of all life. When worries, plans, thoughts about the day or random ideas arise, and you notice them happily bring your focus back to the expansive presence through the Holy Spirit. In this way, “resurrecticity” flows within and we connect.

*Edited by Pastor Monique-Cheri from  
“30 Days of Prayer for Spiritual Stamina”,  
by Melissa Spoelstra*

Mothers Day Coffee Hour  
Hosted by the UMM  
Following worship on May 12th.



# ***SOUL CAFE***

*a spirit-driven celebration promoting love, diversity, peaceful co-existence  
and community connection*

## ***PRESENTS***



## **MARIACHI JALISCO**

**Sunday, May 19th, 5pm - 6:30pm**

Forestville United Methodist Church  
6550 Covey Road

Playing the lively music of the Mariachi tradition originating from Jalisco, Mexico

**ADMISSION FREE.**

Donations to band encouraged!

**Soup & Salad Dinner benefits the local nonprofit FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**Mariachi music** as we know it today originated in the **Mexican** state of Jalisco. It developed as a unique version of the Spanish theatrical orchestra of violins, harp and guitars which arose in and around Jalisco and dates back to at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Evolving over time in the countryside of various regions of western Mexico, Mariachi brings a distinctively fun, uplifting instrumentation, musical genre, singing and performance styles! Great music to bring the whole community together in a celebration of peace, the power of love, intentional inclusion and so much more!

## THE GRAPEVINE



Winifred "Winnie" Brandling Newill, 93, of Forestville, CA passed away peacefully on Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019 with her

daughters by her side.

She was born and raised in Chester, Pennsylvania where she met and married Bill, the love of her life. This beautiful partnership lasted 57 years. Her sparkling personality and welcoming spirit was the draw of many lifelong friends who enjoyed her authentic kindness and her renowned bright smile.

She and Bill raised their three children, Billy, Mary and Betsy, with happiness and pride.

She was much valued and enjoyed her work as a private secretary for the superintendent of Dupont School District for 25 years. Winnie and Bill moved from Delaware in 1999 to Forestville to be closer to their family and to watch it grow.

The Methodist Church was always a very important part of her life and she practiced Christian values by example each day. She sang in the choir most of her life, was a devoted member of UMW, she was always active on committees, helping in the office or baking pies for the next church dinner. The fellowship of her many church friends enriched her life greatly.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband William "Bill" Newill Sr. in 2003 and by her cherished son, William "Bill" Newill Jr. in 2018. She is survived by her daughters Mary Connaway, Betsy Sanville (Rob), her grandchildren Chad Newill (Merissa), Amanda Paden (Jon), Alexander Sanville (Angela), Austin Sanville, Ryan Newill and Joseph Fons, and her daughters in law Eileen Newill and Teresa Newill.

Family and friends are invited to attend Winnie's memorial service on Sunday May 5, 2019 at the Forestville Methodist Church at 2pm. A small reception will be held directly afterward at her home on Second Street. Memorial donations can be made to Memorial Hospice in Santa Rosa or to the Earle Baum Center of the Blind in Santa Rosa.



Lake County Passion Play

May 18 & 19, 2019

The 39th annual Outdoor Passion Play of Lake County will be held May 18th and 19th. The Lake County Passion Play Grounds, off Highway 29, are the setting for the reenactment of Christ's Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. The property's gentle, rolling hills overlook one of America's most beautiful lakes: Clear Lake, make it a perfect setting.

More than 150 players re-enact this most touching of dramas. Mounted Roman soldiers sweep across the 1,000 foot stage; sheep wander across the hillside; a powerful sound system carries the dialogue faithfully drawn from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. A talented team of directors, producers, and costume designers work throughout the year to create this experience.

The Passion Play is not a spectacle. Rather, it is a prayerful expression of the faith of the people involved. Men, women, and children from many denominations come together to make this a truly Ecumenical experience. The unity among the players is a visible sign of the Holy Spirit.



**Sunday**

FUMC will celebrate Habitat for Humanity on Sunday, May 26th. Special offering envelopes will be in your bulletins.



### Communion at Heart

*submitted by Monique-Cheri , excerpted from  
Prologue to Fiesta Christiana  
by Justo L. Gonzalez*

It is by Worship that the church has always lived. On that dark and dismal night in which Jesus was betrayed, when his disciples were about to abandon him, when the horror of the cross loomed large, the Lord Jesus took bread, and he gave thanks and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take eat. This is my body which given for you..." And ever since, in catacombs and in cathedrals, in forest clearings and in funeral parlors, in wars and in weddings, amid trials and terrors, Christians have lived by the breaking of that bread and by eating of the "Bread of Life"

When in Communion we eat and drink, "in remembrance" of Jesus, we not only remember that dark night of the Last Supper, or the cross that followed it. We also remember his resurrection, the defeat of death. When we celebrate communion, we proclaim and remember the death of Jesus and the final victory in resurrection.

That's why it's possible to worship together in the best of times and the worst of times. In both joy and grief, we worship together and even in momentous disagreements We Worship Together! Life always has the final word.



### In Honor of Earth Day *by Pastor Monique-Cheri Pierre* "Earth to Humans"

Can you hear me? Are you there? I am here!

swimming in the sea, flippers splashing;  
crawling on the land, slithering here  
and flying there.

Gurgling down the drain, water, waste water,  
running to the sea

little nano particles of life strewn everywhere  
fragile, haunting, still wiggling  
upset, overturned, uproariously connected.

Earth to humans?

I am here. Where are you?

Talking through the clouds, mouths wide  
open singing in the trees,  
raucous screeching, hopping,  
turning, tugging, crawling, panting,  
aliveness earth.

I am here. Where are you?

Native American Ministries  
Today, Sunday, May 5, 2019

A stylized cross logo with four quadrants: top-left is red, top-right is yellow, bottom-left is black, and bottom-right is white. Each quadrant has a feather-like pattern pointing towards the center.

*Together, we empower local  
spiritual development and  
educate Native American  
seminary students to serve God  
faithfully. Special Offering*

## WORD SEARCH GENESIS CHAPTER ONE

G T H I V F S D S S N G I S I S

**BEGINNING**

**RESTED**

A N T O O R E E U E E S T T T T

**CATTLE**

**SEAS**

O T I U R F A T R Y L H O U S I

**CREATED**

**SEASONS**

F D R N T S R A E Y G A O H T R

**DARKNESS**

**SECOND**

E T O R R I T E G I O H H N A I

**EARTH**

**SEED**

H O F T H O H R L E T E A W R P

**EVENING**

**SIGNS**

W A T E R S M C E I S A E S S S

**FIFTH**

**SIXTH**

G R T S E E D G W S N O S A E S

**FIRST**

**SPIRIT**

R E H A T N E N S D T F I F T H

**FOURTH**

**STARS**

A T L R H V E I I S B E E G T I

**FOWL**

**THIRD**

S N E T E N I N X N E D D N S G

**FRUIT**

**TREE**

S E Z N T O F N T M N N E A R N

**GRASS**

**VOID**

A L I L O A T I H O H V K E I N

**HEAVEN**

**WATERS**

R N A C C O C G C U A N T R F A

**LIGHTS**

**WHALES**

G S A F O W L E R E E M E R A M

**MAN**

**WITHOUT**

E L Y I M A S B H T H I R D G D

**MORNING**

**YEARS**



A Word from

**Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño**

Sisters and Brothers,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Risen Lord. As I have shared during my episcopal visits following the special-called General Conference 2019, two critical matters approved at this General Conference had been referred to the Judicial Council for declaratory rulings: Whether the approved Traditional Plan was **constitutional** and whether a disaffiliation petition (90066) also approved, was constitutional, according to the Constitution of The United Methodist Church. The Judicial Council has been meeting this week and this morning released its decisions.

The Judicial Council determined that parts of the Traditional Plan were constitutional, but as in previous determinations of the Judicial Council, much of the enforcement sections of the Traditional Plan as approved by the General Conference 2019 were again determined to be unconstitutional (Judicial Council Decision 1378). On the disaffiliation Petition 90066 that provides an exit plan for local churches to leave the denomination, the Judicial Council ruled that it is in line with the Constitution of The UMC while also clarifying that the annual conference must approve the disaffiliation of a local church (Judicial Council ruling 1379).

In the preliminary work of analysis done by our Council of Bishops with legal counsel the following important rulings were highlighted:

1. The question of local churches exiting from the denomination is one that is determined by votes in the local church and at the annual conference. This retains the value of our connection.
2. The practice of certifying Board of Ordained Ministry members on whether they would follow the *Book of Discipline* in its entirety, including on matters of human sexuality/LGBTQ identity, was found unconstitutional. Current language around sexuality and restrictions on same-sex weddings and ordination of self-avowed practicing homosexuals was not in question and is retained.



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3. Accountability for bishops continues to be lodged in the jurisdictional college or central conference.
4. Exiting churches must pay their fair share of pension liability. Exiting clergy retain their pension but it is converted to limit further liability to the conference.
5. Seven petitions in the Traditional Plan were found to be unconstitutional, consistent with two previous Judicial Council decisions, and eight petitions were found to be constitutional.

There is no surprise in what the Judicial Council has determined. It is clear that the Judicial Council worked hard to provide the declaratory rulings requested of them. They are the interpreters of the law not the makers of the law. The General Conference makes the law. And, for too long the General Conference has chosen to act like the pharisees who were committed to the legalism of their own creation rather than the laws of grace, mercy, and love for all God's children that Jesus came proclaiming. The preservation of those pharisees' self-righteousness was more important to them than the vulnerability required by the commandments to love God and to love neighbor as we love ourselves, and it so appears to be the case with our General Conference as well.

There are those among us who are saying that the Judicial Council decisions now free us to move ahead. The decisions have been made, accept it and move on they say. These friends tend to be the same persons who unequivocally state that The United Methodist Church has been in decline for generations because of the debate over the full inclusion or the exclusion of our LGBTQ children and siblings. That we have been in decline is true, but it is not as simple as some would assume. Conservatives have left because they don't want to be part of a church where they have to deal with gay persons. Gay persons have also left because who would want to be part of a church where you are told in so many ways that you are unacceptable, less-than, incompatible with the very Word of God that they have placed their faith in! Many of their family members have left with them. Somehow, we forget to count them in the numbers of those who have departed, pushed out of the church. Post General Conference 2019 there are now those who consider themselves centrists who are also leaving. They are leaving because they are tired of a church that has made who one loves the litmus test of faithfulness.

Can we not see it? Our decline is not because of the long struggle over the matter of human sexuality. I believe it is because of the lack of commitment to the greatest commandments to love God and to love our neighbor. How can love for God be true when we reject those whom God has also created and called good? And how can love for neighbor be authentic when we say to our LGBTQ children and siblings that they are not worthy of the fullness of love just as God has created them?



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The exclusion of LGBTQ persons is but one broken place in the life of our church, but it reveals to the core of our life together our lack of love for God and neighbor. Truly loving God and authentically loving neighbor is what will reverse our decline and allow us to grow into the faithful and fruitful church that God calls us to be.

I keep praying that we will not be torn asunder by the pettiness of what seems to be our present inwardly focused missional direction that sounds like this: Let's exclude all LGBTQ persons and their supporters unless they conform to our punitive laws. Let's judge the righteousness of our LGBTQ children and siblings based solely on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Let's not hear the witness of their faith in Christ because it would make things much too complicated for us. Let's make God's love small and limited to only some, and certainly not to LGBTQ persons, so that we can control it. What happened to *being* the people called United Methodist who dared to make Matthew 28:19-20 its mission and the transformation of the world its bold vision?

I believe that the full inclusion of ALL God's children is the necessary first step to *being* the Church God calls us to be.

Your Sister in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Minerva G. Carcaño". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño



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# Western Jurisdiction

The United Methodist Church



April 26, 2019

## **A STATEMENT FROM THE WESTERN JURISDICTION COLLEGE OF BISHOPS**

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

The Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church has ruled on the constitutionality of the plan known as "The Traditional Plan" that was passed at the Special Called Session of General Conference 2019 (St. Louis, Missouri). In its ruling, some of the petitions were ruled constitutional while others were ruled unconstitutional, and a petition related to a plan for churches to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church was ruled constitutional. With humble gratitude, we acknowledge the diligent and faithful work of the Judicial Council. The decision, made during the Council's April 23-26 meeting, means that less than half of the Traditional Plan will take effect in the U.S. on January 1, 2020, with Africa, Europe, and the Philippines taking effect twelve months after the next General Conference. The petition on a gracious exit goes into effect immediately.

***You may review the Judicial Council's Ruling No. 1378 at <http://bit.ly/JCR1378> and No. 1379 at <http://bit.ly/JCR1379>. An explanation of both rulings is available at <http://bit.ly/UMNSApr26>.***

While graciously received, the intent of the Western Jurisdiction remains the same as was stated on the floor of General Conference 2019: to live in the spirit of "One Church." The Mission Cabinet and the delegations of the Western Jurisdiction endorsed the One Church Plan before the Special Session, believing it to be the best option for allowing faithful United Methodists of differing theological perspectives to be in ministry together. We believed the One Church Plan was an expression of Wesleyan values that we practice in the West. In the wake of the Judicial Council decisions, we continue our commitment to live into Beloved Community as one church in each of the conferences of the Western Jurisdiction.

Even now, efforts are underway to coalesce our plans and energy to help forge the future of our church. If you are interested and energized in assisting, we invite you to visit the Western Jurisdiction website to volunteer and join this movement. (<http://westernjurisdictionumc.org/ahomeforall>)

We commit to be true to John Wesley's tradition of the entire world being our parish. We will continue to relate with one in another in such a way that all people may find our United Methodist Church to be their spiritual home. We will remain united in our determination to make our Jurisdiction a home for all.

Next month, on May 17-18 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and May 20-22 in Leawood, Kansas, persons of courage and faith from the Western Jurisdiction will participate in discussions that are happening and are connecting with representatives from Conferences around the world about the next steps for our Church. Those discussions will continue as annual conferences convene this summer and when our Western Jurisdiction leadership gathers in the fall.



# Western Jurisdiction

The United Methodist Church



The ruling by our Judicial Council will spark new discussions in our churches and in our Annual Conferences and across the connection. We anticipate that difficult decisions will take place during General Conference 2020. Thus, the road ahead may feel like a wilderness. But we, your bishops, are prayerfully in conversation in many places, with many individuals and groups about your hopes and your vision for being church in this challenging time. We remain committed to ministry as one church for all and we ask for your prayers for the church and for the future of the love and grace as we travel this road together, not knowing where it will lead us, yet, but confident in God's presence with us.

Faithfully,

The Bishops of the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church

Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata, President

Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño

Bishop Grant J. Hagiya

Bishop Elaine J.W. Stanovsky

Bishop Karen P. Oliveto



May 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 12pm ESL <b>Church Cleaned</b> 5pm-7pm	<b>2</b> 9-11:30am Strings 10am-Noon Kindergymn 5:30pm Women's Disciple Group 6:00pm Bells 6:45pm Choir	<b>3</b> Pastor Day Off	<b>4</b> Pastor Day Off 9-11:30am Strings 7pm AA Set-up 8pm AA Mtg.
<b>5</b> Cinco De Mayo Native American Ministries Sunday 10am Worship 2pm Memorial Service for Winnie 3:45-5:15pm AA (FS)	<b>6</b> Pastor Day Off 12pm ESL 12:15pm UMW	<b>7</b> 12pm Senior Dining Site 6:30p Disciple Study	<b>8</b> 12pm ESL 1pm Food Closet <b>Church Cleaned</b> 5pm-7pm	<b>9</b> 9-11:30am Strings 10am-Noon Kindergymn 5:30pm Women's Disciple Group 6:00pm Bells 6:45pm Choir	<b>10</b> Pastor Day Off	<b>11</b> Pastor Day Off 9-11:30am Strings 7pm AA Set-up 8pm AA Mtg.
<b>12</b> Mother's Day 10am Worship 3:45-5:15pm AA (H)	<b>13</b> 11am Worship Planning 12pm ESL 6pm 4-H	<b>14</b> 12pm Senior Dining Site 5pm NLD 6:30p Disciple Study	<b>15</b> 12pm ESL 12pm Prime Timers <b>Church Cleaned</b> 5pm-7pm	<b>16</b> 9-11:30am Strings 10am-Noon Kindergymn 5:30pm Women's Disciple Group 6:00pm Bells 6:45pm Choir	<b>17</b> Pastor Day Off	<b>18</b> Armed Forces Day  Pastor Day Off 8am UMM 9-11:30am Strings 7pm AA Set-up 8pm AA Mtg.
<b>19</b> 10am Worship 11am Fellowship 3:45-5:15pm AA (FS) 5pm Soul Cafe	<b>20</b> 12pm ESL 6pm Scouts	<b>21</b> 12pm Senior Dining Site 6:30p Disciple Study	<b>22</b> 12pm ESL 1pm Food Closet  <b>Church Cleaned</b> 5pm-7pm	<b>23</b> Summer Grape- vine Info Due 9-11:30am Strings 10am-Noon Kindergymn 5:30pm Women's Disciple Group 6:00pm Bells 6:45pm Choir	<b>24</b> Pastor Day Off Kerry Vac Day Office Closed	<b>25</b> Pastor Day Off 9-11:30am Strings 7pm AA Set-up 8pm AA Mtg.
<b>26</b> Habitat Sunday  10am Worship 11am Church Council 3:45-5:15pm AA (H)	<b>27</b> Memorial Day Office Closed No Kallah Mtg	<b>28</b> 12pm Senior Dining Site 6:30p Disciple Study	<b>29</b> 12pm ESL <b>Church Cleaned</b> 5pm-7pm	<b>30</b> 9-11:30am Strings 10am-Noon Kindergymn 5:30pm Women's Disciple Group 6:00pm Bells 6:45pm Choir	<b>31</b> Pastor Day Off	

**June 1st Pancake Breakfast 8am-9:45am at FUMC  
Followed by Youth Park Parade.**