



# Orchard Park United Methodist Church

# WEEKLY NEWSFLASH

devotion by Pastor Trudy Franzen, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, El Dorado Hills, CA  
There are three things to take from **Mark 7:24-30**.

First, be open to setting aside the image of God you have always had in favor of a new image that will lead you to greater love. Does your image of God lead you to more love or less? More judgment or less? More compassion or less? Because chances are, if this god is leading you to exclude people, hate them, judge them, or treat them with disdain, this god is probably not the god you really want to follow. This god probably isn't God at all. Be open to the idea that God might be more mysterious and puzzling than you ever thought before, and some things you think about God might just be wrong.

Second, essayist Debie Thomas suggests, "Be open to the destabilizing wisdom of people who are nothing like you." Jesus was open to learning from someone entirely different from himself. Jesus allowed someone entirely different from himself lead him to greater love, and greater compassion. If God can do that, you can, too.

Third, remember that a God worth loving and following and believing in will always move you toward greater love, not away from it. A God worthy of creation will move it toward goodness and flourishing, not away from it. In difficult times, it is hard to see the big picture. It is. But the One True God leads toward healing, goodness, love and compassion. Not away from it.

If God finds that God-self is moving away from love, God self-corrects. We have that in scripture as well. God does change God's mind. God is open to growth and change and re-orienting God-self toward greater and greater love. God just cannot help it. THAT is the true nature or essence that does not change. The orientation toward love does not change. It is like God has an inner compass that always points to love. In every time and in every place, we constantly need reminding that God's creative and redeeming power always leads us to wholeness. We need that for ourselves and for others, too.

When we ourselves face despair or when we see it in others, we can remember that sassy, clever, foreign woman who changed God's mind. We can remember that God changes God's mind and does re-orient again and again toward love.

In the words of one Martin Luther, this is most certainly true. Amen.

## Remembering Those Who Served...

Erwin Bowell  
Wes DiAddario  
Burton Diller

William Gorman  
Jim Harp  
John Hayman

John Henning  
William Holmes  
Milo Hudson

Len Lohiser  
Albert Potter  
David Slotman



## May 30 Worship Participants

Worship Service 10:30 AM

Pastor: Rev. Vic Metivier

Music Director: Meiko Reigelman

Liturgist: Dan Liggett

A/V Operator: Margot Ip

The flowers on the altar on May 30 are given to the glory of God, in memory of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, and in honor of Alice, Mara and Jeremy's 11th birthdays from their mom and dad.

## Guest Speakers

May 30: Rev. Dr. Vic Metivier

June 6: Rev. Dr. Vic Metivier

June 13: Rev. Sue Russell

June 20: Rev. Dr. Vic Metivier

June 27: UMW

Beginning May 30, we will be reintroducing bulletins and congregational singing.

## Upcoming Events

May 30 @ 10:30 AM:

**Sunday worship**

May 30: **Peace with Justice Sunday**

May 31: **Memorial Day**

June 13: **Children's Sunday**

## May Birthdays

Carolyn Wrinn (5/12)

Scarlett Spinelli (5/13)

Rosalind Slotman (5/16)

Caleb Liggett (5/16)

Kathy Babcock (5/20)

David Marcus (5/21)

Magdeline Hayman (5/22)

Jordan Spinelli (5/30)

Thomas Stamm (5/31)

Alice, Jeremy & Mara Pugh  
(5/31)



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

## Prayer Requests

- Pray for Pastor Jennifer as she is out on medical leave.
- Pray for Marie Gorman, who is in Autumn View Rehab recovering from a fall. Her address there is 4650 Southwestern Blvd, Room 303, Hamburg, NY 14075.
- Praise God! After 4 months, Donna Gray is off antibiotics.
- Pray for Joan Zimmerman as she undergoes chemotherapy treatments.
- Pray for Rev. Brian Rotach as he is recovering from surgery.
- Pray for the health of Mike Stamm's father.
- Pray for the health of Dan and Shannon's friend, Christy.
- Pray for Candy and Joe's neighbor, Scott.
- Pray for Candy and Joe's neighbor, Roger, as he begins a new round of chemotherapy and continues his fight with cancer.
- Pray for Lurly Hunsberger.
- Pray for the people of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo after the eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo on Saturday.

Have a prayer request you'd like to share? Has God answered your prayer? Email opumc@verizon.net. We will include your prayer request or praise report in next week's NewsFlash.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

James 5:16

## Thank you to this month's St. Pauly's Clothing Shed volunteers!

Art Cooper (5/2), George Slocum (5/9),

Dan Liggett (5/16 & 5/23), Ed Nuse (5/30)

Orchard Park United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation.

We celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.