



Grace and peace of our Lord be with you all, as we welcome the New Year!

Our church had much to celebrate at our annual Charge Conference on December 6. Even though we are a small congregation, we once again undertook various capital improvement projects. Again, thanks to enthusiastic volunteers and grants, we successfully completed them at a fraction of the cost.

The annual budget of \$315,705 for 2025 has been adopted and approved. The new budget reflects minimal operational costs. Many of you may not know that our annual budget ten years ago was around \$365,000. If we had not significantly reduced expenses, it would have exceeded \$400,000 by now, and the funds in the Foundation would have declined to an unsustainable level for our needs. As you have observed, we have carefully managed our finances and sought to cut expenses as much as possible without compromising the church's ministries. Our financial effectiveness is yet another area of success that we celebrate.

I am very happy that we received seven new members last year. The church is a community of faith that gathers together. We have the most beautiful church campus, but we cannot be the church without people. I am grateful that God has blessed our church with new members, and I pray for God's continued blessings to add even more to our church family.

The Trustees have completed their evaluation of the prospects for hosting the daycare program of the Renu Hope Foundation and made revisions to the draft lease. Renu Hope has been diligently working with contractors to provide the overall cost of renovating the Education Building to the State. They recently discovered that constructing a new kitchen in the Education Building exceeds their anticipated budget, as it requires new plumbing, fire sprinklers, and appliances. Therefore, they have requested to also lease our kitchen in the Fellowship Hall. They operate daycare programs in other churches and are aware of our church's occasional use for weddings, funerals, and other events. The church's usage of the kitchen, when necessary, will take priority so it will not pose a problem. This additional use will generate more revenue than what they initially proposed. We are waiting for the final lease draft, which still needs to be approved by Trustees, the District Superintendent, and the District Committee on Buildings. After securing the District's approval, our church will hold another Charge Conference to give it the final stamp of approval. Please pray that everything goes smoothly and the lease begins to generate revenue.

Four technicians, including two from So Cal Gas Company, came to examine the broken furnace in the Fellowship Hall. They diagnosed the issue as a malfunctioning gas valve but were unable to fix it. I have yet to meet with another technician who has worked with ancient furnaces like ours. In the meantime, we are turning on the small furnace in the Matthews Room early Sunday morning and keep the partitions open to allow hot air to flow into the Hall. Thankfully, it heats the Hall very comfortably for fellowship.

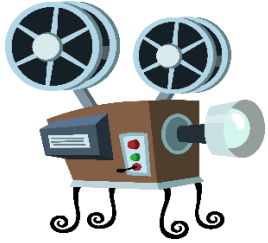
The year 2024 was a blessed year, and we welcome the New Year with the hope of continued blessings from our good and faithful Lord. None of us knows what the new year will bring apart from a few facts. The world will keep spinning swiftly, resulting in many uncertainties. Therefore, we must rely humbly on God for guidance and protection. Another certainty is that God will take good care of us, and we will witness God's new mercies during the New Year. I can testify to this truth through my experiences at the House of Faith over the past ten years. God has been incredibly gracious to all of us year after year.

Wishing you a healthy and happy New Year,

*Phillips*

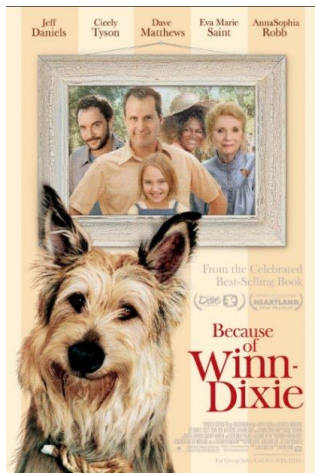


# Free First Saturday Movies



## Miracles from Heaven

Shows on January 4, 2025  
11:00 am in Faith Theater 2



## Because of Winn-Dixie

Shows on February 1, 2025  
11:00 am in Faith Theater 2

*Free First Saturday Movies offer a hearty refreshment menu with 1/4 lb. all-beef hot dogs, pizza, popcorn, candy, chips, cold and hot drinks, ice cream, and more.*

**Doors open at 10:30 am.**

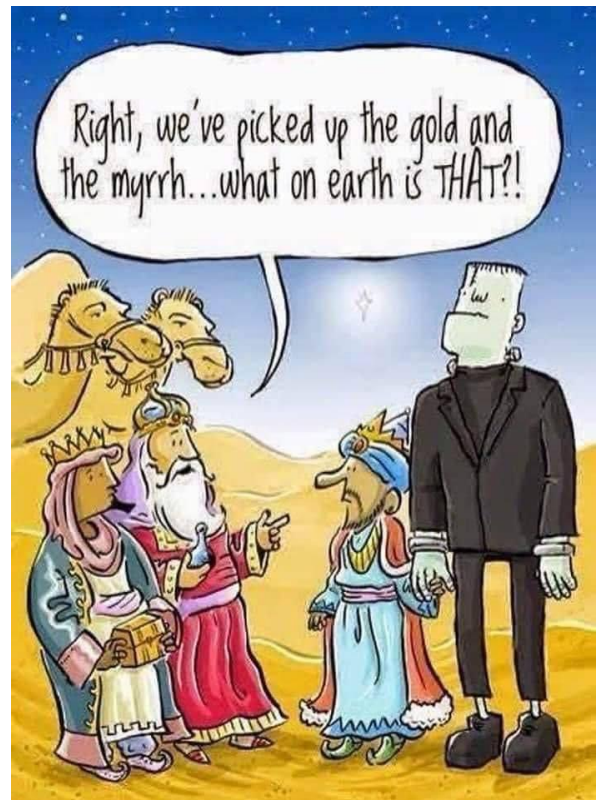
*For ramp access, use the Acacia Street door by the parking lot, open from 10:30 until 11:00 am.*

*Invite friends and neighbors to a great, inexpensive lunch at our free Saturday movies!*



**The Book Club** is reading  
**West with Giraffes**  
*by Lynda Rutledge*

will discuss it in **Camellia Room**  
on **Tuesday, January 14 at 10:00 am.**  
Call Deb at 909 228 8758 to join on Zoom.



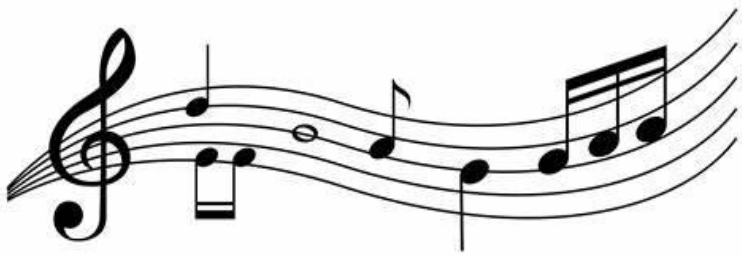


# Parent's Night Out Christmas Party



**Bring your children for Fort Building at the next Parent's Night Out January 24, 2025 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm**





# A Season of Musical Joy!



**The Chancel Choir**

← CHRISTMAS CAROLING ↓



CHRISTMAS  
EVE  
CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE





# Happy Birthday and Anniversary to...



## Birthdays

Marion Ruffner	January 3
Mike Pistilli	January 6
Harold Hudson	January 7
Bill Klein	January 10
Lorene Munoz	January 10
Rebecca Whang	January 11
Anne Mickel	January 14
Gary Barlow	January 18
Audrey Parra	January 18

## Anniversaries

Bill & Nancy Greening January 1



## Donations

Bring cereal and other non-perishable food to the Narthex any time during the month, and we will deliver it at the end of the month to **ICSC (Interfaith Community Support Center)** to distribute to families in need.

We also encourage you to bring donations of food, clothing, and household goods to the **Yucaipa Calimesa Family Assistance** at 35075 Avenue B, Yucaipa. They are open to the public MWF from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, and are a wonderful support for our elderly and disadvantaged neighbors, as well as the unhoused in our community.

# Thank you!



Marian Ruffner was able to help with the final checks and taping of the Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes when she visited her daughter! *And... she got the t-shirt!*



# January

# 2025

*The House of Faith, United Methodist Church of Yucaipa*



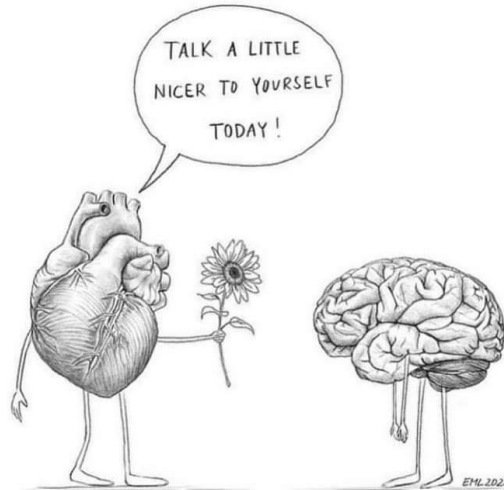
## Buy Stater's Scrip Cards!

Your grocery shopping can benefit the church by using scrip cards at Stater Bros Market. You get the full value of the card, but the church gets 6% of your shopping dollar to help support our General Fund. Scrip cards can be purchased from Fellowship Hall after worship, or from the office any time.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 <b>Miracles from Heaven</b> Faith Theater 2 11:00 am
		<b>New Year's Eve</b>	<b>New Year's Day 2025</b>			
5 <b>Sunday Worship</b> 9:20 am Hymn Sing 9:30 am Worship with Communion 11:00 Adults Camellia	6	7 <b>P.E.O. meets in Camellia Room</b>	8 <b>Pastor's Lunch</b> Legend China 8 at noon	9	10	11
12 <b>Sunday Worship</b> 9:20 am Hymn Sing 9:30 am Worship 11:00 -Please help with undoing the Sanctuary Christmas decorations	13 <b>Mark Bible Study with Rev. Deena on Zoom</b> 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	14 <b>Book Club</b> 10:00 am <i>West with Giraffes</i> by Lynda Rutledge	15	16	17	18
19 <b>Sunday Worship</b> 9:20 am Hymn Sing 9:30 am Worship 11:00 -Adults Camellia	20 <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> <b>Mark Bible Study</b> 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	21	22	23	24 <b>Parent's Night Out Fort Building</b> 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	25 <b>P.E.O. meets in Camellia Room</b>
26 <b>Sunday Worship</b> 9:20 am Hymn Sing 9:30 am Worship 11:00 -Adults Camellia	27 <b>Mark Bible Study</b> 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	28	29	30	31	<b>Because of Winn-Dixie</b> Faith Theater 2 11:00 am

**Sunday Services start at 9:20 am with a Hymn Sing, continuing with Worship at 9:30 am and Fellowship Time after. Adult discussion classes are held in the Camellia Room at 11:00 am, currently featuring short NOOMA films with Rob Bell. Please visit [www.yucaipamethodist.org](http://www.yucaipamethodist.org) for more information.**

Thank you God,  
for the roof over my head,  
a bed to sleep in, food on  
my table, and shoes on my  
feet. Forgive me if I ever  
start to complain and forget  
my great blessings.  
Amen



**Mom: "Leave the darn  
sign in the kitchen  
where it belongs!"**

**I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them;  
I will remove from them their heart of stone and  
give them a heart of flesh. – *Ezekiel 11:19***

United Methodist Church of Yucaipa  
35177 Beech Ave.  
Yucaipa, CA 92399



## *"The House of Faith"*

**Rev. Phillips Whang** - Senior Pastor  
**Deb Davidson** - Education Director

**Lauren Schafer** - Office Administrator  
**Coleen Dolinsky** - Music Director

[www.yucaipamethodist.org](http://www.yucaipamethodist.org) ♦ [office@yucaipamethodist.org](mailto:office@yucaipamethodist.org)

To submit articles or news items to the Friendly Visitor, please email items to:  
[deb@yucaipamethodist.org](mailto:deb@yucaipamethodist.org) or bring your submission to the office.