#### Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church

A Multi-Site Community of Faith serving the Saddleback Valley

#### December 2019

Pastors: Rev. Karl Stuckenberg Rev. Jon Waterson

#### **December Worship**

December 1 Unto Us - Promises Jeremiah 33:14-16

#### December 8

Unto Us - Listen For It Isaiah 40:1-5

December 15 Christmas Cantatas

#### December 22

Unto Us -People Get Ready *Luke* 1:5-13, 57-80

December 24 Christmas Eve Worship

December 29

#### Sunday Worship Schedule:

#### Mission Viejo Campus

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 11:00 a.m. Modern Worship

26001 Muirlands Blvd. Mission Viejo, CA 92691 (949) 837-2941

#### Rancho Santa Margarita Campus

9:30 a.m. Relaxed Traditional Worship11:00 a.m. Modern Worship

30605 Avenida de Las Flores Rancho Santa Margarita, 92688 (949) 589-1502



#### PASTOR KARL'S MESSAGE

"6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son, given; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6-7 (blending of NRSV/NKJV versions of the Bible)

#### Dear Church Family,

The first time I went to Ensenada on our church's mission trip in 2014, I drove right past a treasure. We were so close to Yugo's mission center after a long drive that I wasn't even paying attention to the surroundings. But there it was on the left-hand side of the road. A small sign on top of a red stand that read, "Tacos El Poblanos." Later that evening, we would return, and there I would discover the most amazing, fresh, authentic Mexican tacos I've

ever tasted. In a place, I would have continued to drive past. A place I would never stop. There was an extraordinary delicacy I could never have dreamed existed.

This reality is the heart of the Christmas story we want to tell this year. No, Christmas isn't going to be about tacos. But Christmas is all about finding the extraordinary in the ordinary. Isaiah writes, "For unto us a child is born." And it happened in the most ordinary of ways that God crept into our world through the birth of a



newborn baby. This ordinary baby would grow into an extraordinary savior who taught unimaginable love to a world desperate to know there could be hope.

Upon entering the season of Advent, we will spend time reflecting on the ways that an extraordinary God comes into the most ordinary places in our lives to bring hope where we need it most. Over the next few weeks, Pastor Jon and I will present a series of sermons reminding us to look for God's PROMISE, listen for God's WAY, and GET READY for a new life. All culminating in Christmas Eve services that will challenge us to SAY YES to the reality of Christmas in our daily lives.

In addition, there are many more ways to connect with Jesus at Shepherd of the Hills this year. Our *Round the table Carol Sing, Christmas Connect, Community Table, Christmas Cantata's* on both campuses, and a host of other great opportunities found in the pages of our Monthly Happenings.

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May you and yours be blessed by the good news of Jesus in this Christmas season.

With God's Peace,

Pastor Karl

## **Around the Church**

## Christmas Eve Worship

#### Tuesday, December 24, 2019

#### **Mission Viejo Campus**

**5:00 pm** Family Friendly Worship With Candle Lighting

**7:30 pm** Traditional Worship of Lessons and Carols With Candle Lighting

**11:00 pm** Worship With Communion and Candle Lighting

## Rancho Santa Margarita Campus

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**5:00 pm** Family Friendly Worship With Candle Lighting

**7:30 pm** Traditional Worship of Lessons and Carols With Candle Lighting

#### Holy Communion, Sunday, December 1

Holy Communion will be observed on Sunday, December 1, and will be held at all services at both campuses. The Communion offering will be going towards the Youth Service Fund. Since its creation in 1968, the Youth Service Fund has enabled youth to support one another in ministry here and around the world.

#### **Christmas Cantatas on December 15**

Cantata season is coming! This year's cantata at the RSM campus will be "International Carol Suites" by Mark Hayes, while the MV cantata will be "Love Came Down at Christmas" by Joel Raney. Choir performances will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra of strings, winds and percussion. Join us at any worship service on Sunday, December 15, for this special event.





#### Round the Table Carol Sing Sunday, December 8 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

RSM campus

Join us and sing your favorite carols. We start the evening with homemade soup and rolls, followed by Christmas cookies, hot cider and hot chocolate. Don't miss it!

## Longest Night Service -December 21 at RSM

We are having a special "Longest Night" service at the RSM campus on Saturday, December 21, at 7:00 p.m. It is for anyone struggling to find joy during the Christmas season--those who have lost loved ones or are



facing illness, divorce, loneliness and financial difficulties.

#### **Advent Begins December 1**

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas, December 1, and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year for Christians. During Advent, we prepare for, and anticipate, the coming of Christ. We remember the longing of Jews for a Messiah and our own longing for, and need of, forgiveness, salvation and a new beginning. Even as we look back and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a humble stable in Bethlehem, we also look forward anticipating the second coming of Christ as the fulfillment of all that was promised by his first coming. The colors for Advent are purple or blue.



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## **Give Ministries**

#### Hunger Sunday – Sunday, December 1

Don't forget the first Sunday of each month is "Hunger Sunday". Please select from the items below and donate one or more of the items on Sunday, December 1. All the food goes to South County Outreach for distribution to the hungry in Saddleback Valley. Items requested for December include: jelly (they have peanut butter), granola or protein bars, and cereal (hot or cold).

## South County Outreach Adopt-a-Family

Beginning today Give Ministries will be at both campuses to distribute SCO gift suggestion tags for families in need. Please wrap your gift and return with the gift card attached by December 8. For any questions, please contact Jenifer Waters at dydk322@yahoo.com or (949) 836-2246.

## Meeting for Mexico Mission Participants on December 8

A mandatory meeting for all going on the Mexico Mission Trip is set for Sunday, December 8. The meeting begins at 2:00 p.m. in the MV Sanctuary. For any questions regarding the Mexico Mission or this meeting, please contact Jeff Koller at jeff.koller906@gmail.com or (949) 683-5302, or email Pastor Jon at pastorjon@sothumc.org. **The YUGO VBS donation drive** begins December 8 as well. Check out the boards on Sunday mornings and consider donating one or more items to help make VBS 2020 a success. Contact Laura Arciniega with questions (larciniega@sothumc.org)

## The Community Table Is Every Wednesday at RSM

The Community Table provides a free meal to anyone whose budget is stretched or who wants to share a meal with others. Meals are served every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. See www.sothumc.org and follow the link on the home page for information on all the ways you may get involved.

## Blood Drive December 20 at RSM

The final Shepherd blood drive of the year is Friday, December 20, 1:00-7:00 p.m. at the RSM campus. To make an appointment to donate:

- Contact Mary Beth McGowan, (949) 702-7286 (cell), mary.beth.mcgowan@sce.com or Avis French, (949) 830-1167, eavisf@cox.net.
- Register online at www.redcrossblood.org and follow the instructions.
- Southwest Community Center December 27

Our turn to provide a hot noonday meal at Southwest Community Center is Friday, December 27. Stop by the Southwest Community Center table at the MV campus on Sundays, December 15 and December 22, and sign up to donate one or more items to help us provide a hot noonday meal. The center is located in Santa Ana and feeds men, women, and children who are in need of food. We serve a hot noonday meal bimonthly to the people at the center. The meal consists of a hot casserole, tossed green salad, buttered whole wheat bread, cookie or sweet bread, and a drink. If you can donate one of these items or would be able to go to the Southwest Community Center to help serve, 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., please stop by the table and sign up. For more information, please contact Shannon Clark at (949) 496-6017 or Jan Brooks at (949) 280-7758.

#### **Meal** Train

The Meal Train ministry provides meals (usually dinner) during a time when cooking is the last thing on your mind. We have volunteers ready on a moment's notice to help out and would be so blessed to do so. Contact Kathy Toon at (714) 292-7742 if you want to be added to the list of volunteers or if you know of a family in need.

#### AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way

• Sign up on the church patio

Sundays at either campus.

needed, make an appointment

Beth if you will need child care.

between services on

Child care will be offered

from 3:00-5:00 p.m. If

to support Shepherd of the Hills. When you shop at smile.amazon.com you'll find the exact same prices and shopping experience, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to a charitable organization of your choice. For more information, including how to sign up, go to shepherdofthehills.net/amazonsmile.

to start 3:00-3:45 p.m. to allow you to complete the process

before child care ends at 5:00 p.m., and notify Avis or Mary









## **Prayer Ministry**

## Merry Christmas from the Prayer Shawl Ministry

The following is a note received from a woman after a cancer diagnosis.

"I want to express how touched I was by the kindness and love you shared by gifting me with a beautiful prayer shawl. At the time I received it, I was still trying to understand and accept my diagnosis. The comfort the shawl brought me when I wrapped myself in it was truly a gift from God. I wanted to share just how much it meant to me. The thought that strangers are praying for me still amazes me. Thank you again."



It is such a wonderful feeling to know that our work helps to comfort people and that we are able to share God's love.

The Knit Wits are participating in the Community Table at RSM. We are creating scarves for the people attending the Christmas meal. We hope everyone finds a scarf they love. There is such a variety. The room where I was storing them looked like a rainbow of color! Each scarf is filled with prayer, hope and love. May each scarf bring the gift of love and warmth.

As we celebrate Christ's birth, share love this Christmas! As Tiny Tim says in A Christmas Carol, "God bless us, everyone." Have a blessed Christmas and a wonderful start to 2020.

offering.

## Silent Saturday

Thank you to all who supported us on Nov. 9. by your presence or prayers. It was an amazing day. Many blessings and wonderful emails have been shared. An especially wonderful part of the day was our new Prayer



Labyrinth. It added a richness in everyone's experience. Truly a "Pathway to Gratitude" and we are indeed grateful to God.

## Prayer Chain

Prayer is the key to the heart of God. Prayer is the only way to a real and personal relationship with God. Anyone interested in being on the Prayer Chain is welcome to join this powerful group praying for others. Please contact Carolyn Bohmholdt at cbohmholdt@sothumc.org and let her know you want to be added to the Prayer Chain. Each week a list is sent by e-mail noting the special needs for prayer for individuals within our church, friends and family members.

## **Stephen Ministry**

#### Christ caring for people through people

Stephen Ministry is a caring and supportive ministry for anyone going through a difficult time in their life—divorce, grief, financial problems, etc. It is confidential one-on-one care provided by a Stephen Minister who has received intensive training and can walk a person, with Christian love, through this period in their life.

If you or someone you know could benefit from this ministry (a friend, a relative or someone in the community), please let us know. If you would like information on becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact us at afranchello@sothumc.org, speak with us on a Sunday (you can recognize us by our blue name badges), call the church office or speak with a pastor.

## Pastoral Care at Shepherd of the Hills

James 5:13-15 reminds us that as the church we are to care for one another, especially in times of struggle and illness. Pastoral care is important in the spiritual life of a church, and Shepherd of the Hills wants to walk with you when life gets hard. Our Pastoral team wants to pray with you before surgery, visit you in the hospital, and walk with you through tough times. In addition to our Pastoral team, we have trained Stephen Ministers who are here to care for you as well. Confidential Pastoral Care pastoralcare@sothumc.org

or 837-2941

If you are in need of pastoral care, please call the office and let us know. We also have set up an email address at Pastoralcare@sothumc.org that is confidential and will go directly to our pastoral team so we can respond to those needs.

## "A Taste of Centering Prayer"

Father Bill Sheehan returning to

Kathleen Dowling Singh. Everyone is invited. If

Fr. Bill will be highlighting the book "Grace in Aging" by

transportation is an issue, rides will be offered. Free will

Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020 Lenten Silent Saturday Fr. Bill will

be speaking and participating. More information to come.

**Shepherd - Save The Dates** 

Friday, Feb. 28, 2020 "Grace in Aging"

Sunday, December 1 from 8:30 a.m. - 8:50 a.m. Join us in the MV Prayer Room for a brief introduction to Centering Prayer. Learn how easy the method is, the benefits to mind, body, spirit and soul while building our relationship with God and one another. Our time includes 5 - 10 minutes of quiet. *"Be still and know that I am God." Ps.* 46:10

## This 'n' That

#### UMW for December

At the October CalPac UMW meeting, **Laura Witczak** and her mother, **Florence Campbell**, were recognized for their commitment to missions, especially the past several years going to Mexico and building houses with Yugo.

Our November Board meeting featured distributing over **\$2200 to missions** from our local fundraisers. We expect to send more after our boutique. We presently have supported UMCOR, David & Margaret House, Toberman

Neighborhood House, Calexico Neighborhood House....all National or International Mission projects. We also have sent donations to Skid Row Ministries and Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force. In addition, we are supporting our local church by contributing to the Yugo mission trip and to the Good Sam Fund. We are grateful to all who support our fundraisers and make these mission gifts possible.



Our last **Leadership Team meeting** for the year will be December 5, 10:00 a.m., Aldersgate Room.

Sarah Circle will meet at 1:00 p.m., December 17, at the home of Peggy Rutherford.....secret pals to be revealed.

Deborah Circle is providing a meal for a needy family.

World Thank Offering suggestion: Think about an act of kindness you've given or have been given this month and and a gift for each one.

#### Adorn our Churches with Poinsettias for Christmas

Adorn our churches with Poinsettias for Christmas. Stop by the poinsettia table on the MV patio or the RSM lobby beginning Sunday, November 24 and order a poinsettia to help decorate our sanctuaries for Christmas. Poinsettias are \$13 and may be taken home following the Christmas Eve Services. If you do not want to take a poinsettia home, please feel free to donate \$13 toward the cost of a poinsettia.



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## MV Children's Ministry

#### Advent Wednesday Night Connect (MV)

Please join us for a very special Wednesday Night Connect on December 4! We'll share a meal, worship, and make Advent crafts. It will be a



wonderful time to connect with Jesus and with each other as we enter the Advent season! Questions? Laura Arciniega (larciniega@sothumc.org) 5:30-6:30 p.m. - Dinner provided by Shepherd (Shepherd Hall), and Advent activity (Youth Lounge). 6:30-7:00 p.m. - Worship in the Sanctuary.

## **RSM Children's Ministry**

#### December 1 - 22: "Create a Craft" Advent Workshop.

Sundays in Advent a table will be set up between services on the patio or lobby area, as weather permits. Drop by and create a craft!

**December 8: Posada** during both services followed by hot cocoa and pan dulce (Mexican sweet bread). The Posada performance by our children shows Mary and Joseph asking for Posada (searching for lodging) in Bethlehem just before Christmas. The children will sing some villancicos (Christmas carols).

We are seeking for **Sunday School volunteers** for both services. if interested, please email Cristina Flores at cflores@sothumc.org with dates and service time you are available. Thank you.

#### Christmas Camp at Lazy W Ranch

December 20-22, Lazy W Ranch (23852 Hot Springs Canyon Rd., SJC), for ages 7-14. \$85 per camper early registration, \$105 after December 1. Get into the spirit of the season with gingerbread house making, discovering more about the birth of Jesus, a nativity play on Sunday, and lots of fun, games and Christmas cheer. Contact Lazy W at (949) 728-0141 or eschoettger@calpacumc.org for information.

## **Preschool Happenings**

Excitement fills the preschool this month with the anticipation of Christmas. The sound of children singing can be heard throughout the school as they practice for the Christmas programs at both our MV and RSM campuses. Out on the play yard they

have fun dressing up as Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Kings and Angels as they act out the nativity and learn about the true meaning of Christmas. It is wonderful to see the children become aware



that to share and give is the most rewarding gift of all! Families will have the opportunity to participate in our outreach gift-tag program, "Operation Santa Claus". It is our hope that our children and preschool families remember to slow life down a little and take time to reflect on the "reason for the season", JESUS.

Please pass the word to your friends and families that we are starting registration for the next school year 2020-2021 in January. If you know of anyone who is may be looking for a preschool home, please have them give us a call at (949) 837-2993. In HIS Service,

Becci Lukes, Preschool Executive Director Sarah Galliver, RSM Site Director

#### **Resource Team**

#### **Resource Team Year End Giving**

As we approach the end of 2019, remember that gifts to be credited to 2019 must be legally received by the church office by December 31. "Legally" received means physically received in the church office or postmarked by December 31. Gifts received after December 31 will be credited to 2020.

### **Offering Envelopes**

For those who pledge and use offering envelopes, the offering envelopes for 2020 will be out on the patio at the Mission Viejo campus and in the lobby at RSM at the 22nd of December for you to pick up. If you are not able to pick

## Did You Know?

Our financial budget for 2019-2020 is \$1,211,100.00. We had 161 pledges from the Mission Viejo campus for a total of \$640,192.00 and 52 pledges from the RSM campus in the amount of \$248,088.00.

At our church council meeting we voted to remove 30 of our current members that had moved, died or were inactive bringing the total of our church membership to 617 members.

Our lay members to Annual Conference in June at Redlands will be the following: Diana Annett, Jan Newton, Gerry Easton, Rachel Colwell and Karen Wendel.

## **Golden Weds Celebration**

A celebration to honor all our Golden Weds will be held during the month of March. If you are a Golden Wed couple and your name does not appear on the following list, please contact the church



office at 837-2941 and let us know. Our records indicate the following couples have been married 50 years or more: Roland and Linda Bender, Walter and Joy Burgess, Carl and Carolyn Bohmholdt, Joanie and Cal Burt, Garland and Shannon Clark, Alice and Gary Davis, Mike and Mary Delaney, Gerry and Marcia Easton, Wil and Shirley Garcia, David and Michele Gibson, Philip and Vicki Godbey, Art and Iva Green, Bill and Sandra Greenfield, Wesley and Jenske Johnson, Les and Margaret Lee, Con and Lee Leatherman, Howard and Barbara O'Donnell, Carl and Virginia Pape, Clint and JoAnn Sherrod, Bill and Jeanne Smith, Chuck and Patti Snedeker, Don and Marilyn Wesley, John and Donna Wright and Veta and Tony Zarifis. If you have been married for 50 or more years and your name does not appear on this list, please contact the church office at 837-2941. This event is sponsored by the Event Team. In February, look for your invitation to the Golden Wed Celebration.

up your envelopes, please let the church office know and they will be mailed to you at the end of December. Please make an effort to pick up your envelopes either on Sunday or during the week. Help us save on postage.

#### **Financial Statements**

Year-end statements will be mailed the first part of January and include your giving from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. If you are behind on your pledge, please make an effort to bring your pledge up to date by the end of December. In My Shepherd, under your name, you can go to the "Involvement" area and see what you have given from July through the current Sunday and print out your own giving statement. The statement will show what you have donated to Shepherd of the Hills for 2019.

Our Lay Leaders are the following:

Church Council chairperson: Stephanie Foundoulis Church Council Vice Chairperson: Chris Allen Gather Lay Leader: Jim Riding Grow Lay Leader: Diana Annett Give Lay Leader: Lynn Zablocki Grow Lay Leader: (RSM) Melissa Geoghegan Give Lay Leader: (RSM) Open Finance Chairperson: Jan Newton Board of Trustees President: Cal Shores Staff Parish Committee Chairperson: Rick Annett

#### **Flower Chart Mission Viejo Campus**

Beginning Sunday, December 1, please stop by the MV office table and sign up to donate flowers. You can specify the reason for giving the flowers on a specific Sunday. Iva Green, our Flower Coordinator, orders the flower arrangements from Aliso Viejo Florist on La Paz Road. The flower arrangements are \$45.00. You may take the flowers home following the 9:00 a.m. worship service.

#### "Between the Lines" Book Group December 15

Join us for dinner and a lively discussion of *The Master & Margarita* by Mikhail Bulgakov. For questions or to RSVP, contact mary.beth.mcgowan@sce.com or (949) 702-7286.

#### **Shepherd Seniors Brunch – December 8**

The Shepherd Seniors brunch group meets December 8 at 11:00 a.m. for brunch at Mimi's Cafe, 22651 Lake Forest Dr., Lake Forest. The hosts are Les and Margaret Lee. RSVP to the Lees, elcubed@cox.net or (949) 768-8737, by Saturday, December 7.

## ecember Birthdays and Anniversaries

#### **December Birthdays**

December 1	Cameron Curry Stephanie Foundoulis Jennifer Serfas			
December 2	Julie Aird		TO XIII I L	SALES \
December 3	Will Conover		1	A MAR
December 4	Natalie Van Ruth	D	December 18	Chris Allen
	John Witczak			Carl Bohmholdt
December 5	Scott Narasaki			Caroline (Betty)
December 6	Derek Shimizu			Christie
	Ron Simpson			Brandon Edgar
	Carl Vanderbosch	D	December 19	Micah Pelissier
December 7	Jack Balikian		December 20	Ellie Chun
December 8	Lain Morgan			Caroline Conover
	Ramona Morris	D	December 21	Jacob Aird
December 9	John Conover	D	December 22	Collin Wasley
	Karen Wendel			, Nikolas Wisner
December 10	Mia Koller	D	December 23	Patty Croft
	Sandy Torre	D	December 24	Susan Delaney
December 11	John Thomson			, Vicki Godbey
December 12	Noah Pelissier			Becky Lewis
December 13	Matthew Foundoulis	D	December 25	, Jake Andrade
	Les Lee			Robby Andrade
December 14	Sarah Bardowell			Chris Curry
	Cynthia Marshall			Richard Sullivan
	Holden Van de Wal	C	December 28	Madison Lytle
December 15	Jackie Moffitt	C	December 29	Gary Davis
December 16	Fiona Morgan	C	December 30	Jason Boswell
	Bethany Strawn	D	December 31	Scott Kick
December 17	Ashley Gibney			Kate Waters
	Quinn Pursley	Г		
	Stephen Pursley			or incorrectly listed
	Hannah Moore			let us know at the c

#### **December Anniversaries**

December 12	Bob & Jennifer Figarotta
December 17	Mike & Margot Strawn
December 22	Carl & Carolyn Bohmholdt
December 23	Larry and Gail Holmes
December 27	Tom & Lynda Derby
	Jim & Kristi Morse
	Howard & Barbara O'Donnell
December 28	Richard & Robin Burrows
	Fred and Carol Smoot
December 29	Phil & Beverly Peace
December 30	Doug & Kim Nason
December 31	Walter & Joynell Burgess

#### 'Happenings' Deadline...

The Happenings deadline is generally the 10th of every month (January Happenings deadline is Tuesday, December 10). Deadline for the weekly Happenings is noon Mondays for the following Sunday. Please e-mail articles to jyamada@sothumc.org and bwestcott@sothumc.org.

#### **Activities Calendar Online**

For up-to-date information on church events, see the online calendar at sothumc.org.

ly listed your birthday or anniversary, please at the church office. Thank you!

#### **Shepherd of the Hills UMC Staff**

Karl Stuckenberg	Lead Pastor
	pastorkarl@sothumc.org
Jon Waterson	Site Pastor
	pastorjon@sothumc.org
Sam Nason	MV Director of Youth Ministry
	snason@sothumc.org
Kim Nason	RSM Music Director
	knason@sothumc.org
Cara Gallegos	MV Director of Traditional Music
	cgallegos@sothumc.org
Philip Bardowell	MV Modern Worship
	pbardowell@sothumc.org
Will Ferguson	RSM Modern Worship
-	wferguson@sothumc.org
Doug Nason	Director of Visual Arts
	dnason@sothumc.org

#### **Confidential Pastoral Care**

pastoralcare@sothumc.org or 837-2941

aura ArciniegaDirector of Family Ministries & Discipleship		
larciniega@sothumc.org		
Cristina FloresRSM Children's Ministry Director		
cflores@sothumc.org		
Amy StrawnChildcare and MV Sunday School Coordinator		
astrawn@sothumc.org		
Becci LukesPreschool Executive Director		
blukes@sothumc.org		
Sarah GalliverPreschool Site Director		
sgalliver@sothumc.org		
Jill YamadaChurch Administrator		
jyamada@sothumc.org		
Bob WestcottCommunications		
bwestcott@sothumc.org		



Connecting people with Jesus and each other so they become deeply committed followers of Jesus Christ

26001 Muirlands Blvd. Mission Viejo, CA 92691 Phone: (949) 837-2941 Fax: (949) 837-4175 www.sothumc.org

**Return Service Requested** 

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