

**Shepherd of the Hills  
United Methodist  
Church**

*A Multi-Site Community  
of Faith serving the  
Saddleback Valley*



# HAPPENINGS

## December 2018

Pastors:

Rev. Karl Stuckenberg

Rev. Jon Waterson

## December Worship

### December 2

*The Joyous Mystery  
Courage and Hope  
Luke 1:26-38*

### December 9

*The Joyous Mystery  
The Visitation  
Luke 1:39-56*

### December 16

*Christmas Cantatas*

### December 23

*The Joyous Mystery  
The Dream  
Matthew 1:18-25*

### December 24

*Christmas Eve  
See page 2*

### December 30

## Sunday Worship Schedule:

### Mission Viejo Campus

9:00 am Traditional  
Worship  
11:00 am Modern Worship

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

### Rancho Santa Margarita Campus

9:30 am Relaxed Traditional  
Worship  
11:00 am Modern Worship

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

## PASTOR KARL'S MESSAGE

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory...*

*--John 1:14a*

## Love Came Down and the Earth Stood Still

Dear Church Family,

In preparation for Christmas, I've been thinking a lot about what it means to be still. Stillness has a quality about it that is different from being frozen in place. Stillness isn't about becoming statuesque or holding your breath. In fact, stillness is about breathing in all that is around us. It is about a deep awareness that can only happen when we stop moving in this or that direction. Stillness allows for us to truly see, feel, and know what is taking place.

When you stand still at the edge of the Grand Canyon, only then can you really take in all the beauty in front of you. When you stand still at the edge of an ocean, you experience the rhythm of the tides, the smell of saltwater, and the texture of the sand beneath your feet. And when you choose stillness in the presence of others, you can begin to know them in a way that goes beyond the latest social media post or particular events in their life. This is why the Psalmist says, "Be still

and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10). He doesn't say, "Stop." He doesn't say, "Be quiet." He says, "Be still."

2018 years after the birth of Jesus, we have become less still and more frenzied. And this year, I want to invite you to the Christmas discipline of *stillness*. What if you were to spend a little more time being still this season, and a little

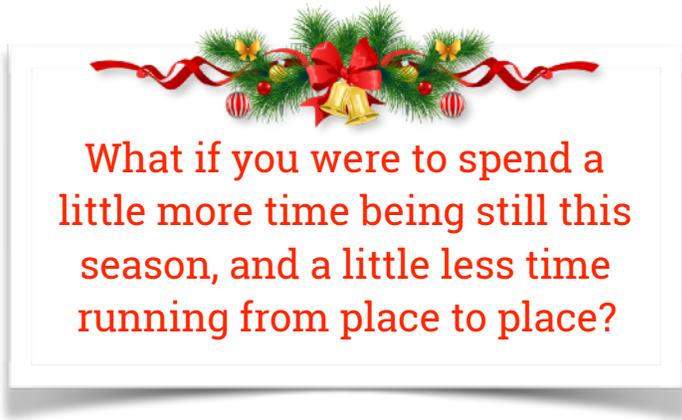
less time running from place to place? Could it change how you experience Christmas?

I believe there was a lot of stillness at the first Christmas. Think about Mary and Joseph. Here they are in an overwhelming situation and sitting in the stillness of a moment they could barely understand. What must that have been like to hold this baby in your arms that you knew was special in a way beyond what you could comprehend? All you can do in that moment is to be still and know.

Or think about the shepherds who spent most of their time frantically running after sheep, suddenly immersed in the stillness of this young family on that cold winter's night. These young men had probably never done anything close to being still, and here they were taking in a moment they knew was so special.

Love came down from heaven at Christmas, and the earth stood still. During the next few weeks, I want you to take time to be still—even for just a moment. When you are sitting in the chaos of Christmas gatherings and events, take a literal minute to be still and know the presence of God that surrounds you. Whether it be through noisy children or an empty room. Take time to be still and breathe in God's goodness.

With God's Peace and Stillness,  
Pastor Karl



# Around the Church



## Christmas Eve Worship

Monday, December 24, 2018

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

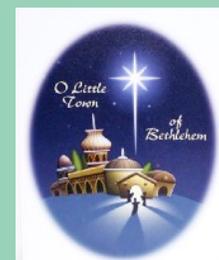
Margarita Campus

**5:00 pm**

Family Friendly Worship With Candle Lighting

**7:30 pm**

Traditional Worship of Lessons and Carols With Candle Lighting

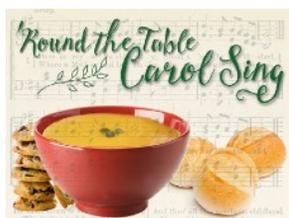


## Holy Communion, Sunday, December 2

Holy Communion will be observed on Sunday, December 2 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.

## Choral Cantatas at All Services on December 16

Choral Cantatas will be at all services on Sunday, December 16. The RSM campus presents "Christmas Canticles" by Benjamin Harlan. The MV campus features "Christmas Presence" by Pepper Choplin. Performances will be accompanied by a chamber group of strings, winds and percussion. Each service will be an uplifting celebration of Christ's birth.



## Round the Table Carol Sing

Sunday, December 2  
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. A highlight of the evening is our children's mini-Christmas pageant.

Don't miss it!

## Longest Night Service -

**December 21 at RSM**

We are having a special "Longest Night" service at the RSM campus on Friday, 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 2

The season of Advent, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas, December 2 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.

# Give Ministries

## Hunger Sunday December 2

Sunday, December 2 is "Hunger Sunday." We have joined forces with South County Outreach to alleviate hunger in South Orange County. We are requesting: peanut butter, jelly, macaroni and cheese, pasta (short), pasta sauces, canned pastas, hearty soups, chili, canned fruit, canned corn, canned peas, canned tuna or chicken, 2 lb. bags of rice, 2 lb. bags of beans, cereal, oatmeal (no green beans or stuffing please). Collection barrels will be near the entrance to the sanctuary at the MV campus and in the lobby at the RSM campus.



## Blood Drive December 7

The next blood drive is Friday, December 7, 1:00-7:15 p.m. at RSM. For an appointment to donate, contact Avis French at (949) 830-1167 / eavisf@cox.net or Mary Beth McGowan at (949) 702-7286 / mary.beth.mcgowan@sce.com. You may register online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or sign up on the church patio between services. We offer child care at this drive from 3:00-5:00 p.m. —if needed, please notify Avis or Mary Beth.



## Community Table Is Every Wednesday

Community Table provides a free meal to anyone whose budget is stretched or who wants to share a meal with others. Meals are served Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. See [www.sothumc.org](http://www.sothumc.org) for more information or to find out ways to get involved.



## Mexico Mission Orientation - December 9

A mandatory meeting for those planning to go on the Mexico Mission Trip is set for Sunday, December 9 at 2:00 p.m. in the MV Sanctuary. For any questions regarding the mission or this meeting, please contact Jeff Koller at [jeff.koller906@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.koller906@gmail.com) or (949) 683-5302.



## Southwest Community Center - December 28

Our turn to provide a hot-noon day meal at Southwest Community Center is Friday, December 28. Stop by the Southwest Community Center table on the Mission Viejo campus on Sundays, December 16 and December 23, and sign up to donate one or more items to help us provide a hot noon-day 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 on the patio to sign up. For additional information, please contact Barbara Mosher at (949) 582-8263.



## Support Shepherd with AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way to support Shepherd of the Hills. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://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](http://shepherdofthehills.net/amazonsmile).

# Around the Preschool

## Preschoolers Celebrate the Spirit of Christmas Season

*"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice"*  
—Philippians 4:4

The Pre-school is buzzing with the Spirit of Christmas season! It is wonderful to see the children become aware that to share and give, especially of one's self, is the most rewarding gift of all! The children will have the opportunity to participate in our outreach gift-tag program, "Operation Santa Claus" tree. Later in the month, (our favorite part of December) we will be enjoying our children's wonderful voices through the gift of song and praise that is shared with our families at our MV and RSM Christmas Programs. It is our hope that our children and

preschool families remember to slow down life a little and take time to reflect on the "reason for the season," JESUS.

Shepherd of the Hills  
United Methodist Preschool



Please pass the word to your friends and families that we are starting registration for the next school year 2019-2020 in January. If you know of anyone who is looking for a preschool home, please have them give us a call. (949) 837-2993

In HIS Service,  
Becci Lukes, Preschool Executive Director  
Sarah Galliver, RSM Site Director

## Children's Ministry



### Christmas Connection

Wednesday Evenings, November 28 - December 19  
MV Campus Shepherd Hall

Come enjoy a potluck meal and your choice of a Bible study or a kids' program!

- 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. - Potluck
  - 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. - Bible Study & Kids' Program
- (Kids second grade and younger must be accompanied by an adult)



### Joyful Noise Choir Performs in December

The Joyful Noise Children and Youth Choir will sing at the MV campus on Sunday, December 9 at both the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services and again on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, at the 5:00 p.m. service. All ages 4 years through middle school are welcome to join the fun! For more information, please contact Schehera McKasson at [sfmckasson@gmail.com](mailto:sfmckasson@gmail.com) or Alicia Riding at [alicia.bursonriding@cox.net](mailto:alicia.bursonriding@cox.net).

### Boy Scout Troop 1602 Visitation Nights

Shepherd's Boy Scout Troop 1602 is hosting visitation nights this fall. Webelos are invited on Tuesday, December 4 on the MV campus. Please contact [membership@missionviejo1602.mytroop.us](mailto:membership@missionviejo1602.mytroop.us) for information.

### Contact Us!

For Children's Ministry information, contact: Laura Arciniega, Director of Family Ministries and Discipleship, at [larciniega@sothumc.org](mailto:larciniega@sothumc.org); Cristina Flores, Children Coordinator at RSM, at [cflores@sothumc.org](mailto:cflores@sothumc.org) or Amy Strawn, Childcare and MV Sunday School Coordinator, at [astrawn@sothumc.org](mailto:astrawn@sothumc.org).

# Prayer Ministry

## Documentary: "A Rising Tide of Silence"

Friday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. (following Centering Prayer at 6:00)  
MV campus Sanctuary

"A Rising Tide of Silence" is a reflective portrait of Father Thomas Keating, internationally recognized as one of today's most influential spiritual leaders of the last 100 years. The film focuses on the Oneness of God in all of creation and the role contemplation is playing in the world. The movie was a winner at the Aspen FilmFest 2013. Fr. Keating was responsible for spreading Centering Prayer to every corner of the world through Contemplative Outreach founded in 1985. He passed away October 25, 2018. He was 95 years old. His life and teaching greatly changed many of us at Shepherd from our first Introduction to Centering Prayer in July 2008. For our first Silent Saturday, on March 9, 2013, Fr. Thomas personally remained in prayer the entire time of the event from his home at St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass, Utah. He will be greatly missed.



The Thomas Keating Archive is being housed at the Pitts Theological Library of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. This is a strategic, university-wide program aimed at broadening and deepening the knowledge of contemplative practices of the world's religious traditions. Emory also has a relationship with His Holiness, the Dalai Lama. Emory already was teaching Centering Prayer, and Keating's *Open Mind, Open Heart* is required reading in one of the religious studies courses.

## 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](mailto: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.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

My family had a joke at Christmas time saying, "It's the thought that counts, so think BIG." Over the years we came to realize that it IS the thought that counts. It means so much when someone says they have been thinking about you and praying for you. You know you are loved. This Christmas, remind someone that you are thinking about them and are praying for them. They will know you care.

I want to thank the Knit Wit ladies for making Prayer Shawl Ministry what it is today. We have given away over 1625 shawls and too many prayer squares to count. (I recently sent 75 prayer hearts from our congregation to the Tree Of Life Synagogue to stand in unity against hate and violence.) Our women not only pay for the yarn they use, they spend countless hours knitting and crocheting the shawls and squares. Thanks to each of you. Ours is truly a mission of love and caring. You are such special people!

From all of us involved in the Prayer Shawl Ministry, have a Merry Christmas season and a new year filled with God's blessings.

If you knit or crochet and want to get involved in our prayer shawl ministry, call Marilyn at (714) 821-9634.

We wish you all a joyous Christmas and a happy and healthy 2019!

### Prayer Chain:

E-mail sent to members of the Prayer Chain

### Prayer Teams:

Available weekly during both MV worship services and Communion Sundays at RSM

### Centering Prayer:

Christian Meditation, Sundays at 8:30 a.m. in the MV Prayer Room,  
First Friday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the MV Sanctuary and every Wednesday at 11:45 a.m. in the MV Sanctuary

### Prayer Room & Prayer Garden:

Available 24/7 at MV Campus

### Walk the Prayer Labyrinth:

RSM Campus

### Prayer Requests

Prayer requests can be made by calling the church at (949) 837-2941 or emailing [jyamada@sothumc.org](mailto:jyamada@sothumc.org) or [cbohmholdt@sothumc.org](mailto:cbohmholdt@sothumc.org).

If you have a confidential prayer request or concern, please email it to [pastoralcare@sothumc.org](mailto:pastoralcare@sothumc.org).

Anyone interested in becoming a part of Prayer Ministry, please contact Diana Annett at [annett1@cox.net](mailto:annett1@cox.net) or (949) 533-3028.

If you would like to be a part of the prayer chain, please contact Carolyn Bohmholdt at [cbohmholdt@sothumc.org](mailto:cbohmholdt@sothumc.org).

"...God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God and God abides in them."

--1John 4:16

# This 'n' That

## Resource Team

### Resource Team Year End Giving

As we approach the end of 2018, remember that gifts to be credited to 2018 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 2019.

### Offering Envelopes

For those who pledge and use offering envelopes, the offering envelopes for 2019 will be out on the patio at Mission Viejo campus and in the lobby at RSM on Sunday, December 2, for you to pick up. If you are not able to pick 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, 2018 through December 31, 2018. If you are behind on your pledge, please make an effort to bring your pledge up to date by the end of December. In MyShepherd, 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. It will show what you have donated to Shepherd of the Hills.

## UMW Activities for December



United Methodist Women thank you for your support this year. This month we will distribute funds to many local missions including **South County Outreach**, our own **Good Sam Fund** at SOTH, and **Mexico** mission trip.

If you missed shopping at our **Fall Boutique**, there will be a last chance sale on the patio on December 2 with additional baked goods as well.

**Sarah Circle** will meet at the home of Gloria Rose at 1:00 p.m. on December 11.

**Deborah Circle** will adopt a family for the holiday meal. AJ will collect items on the patio.

Have you turned in your **reading list** to Jinny? Have you completed your **pledge**? Please do both ASAP.

**World Thank Offering** suggestion for December: did you travel this year? 50 cents for out of town, \$1 for out of state, \$2 for out of country.

In 2019, United Methodist Women celebrate 150 years since our beginning. **Save the date of March 30** for a special speaker; Jane Stewart is our Cal Pac UMW Secretary and also the sister of Hartzell Alpizar. She has a special story of our legacy and her family to share with us.

## Adorn our Churches with Poinsettias

Adorn our Churches with Poinsettias for Christmas. Stop by the poinsettia table on the MV patio or the RSM lobby beginning Sunday, December 2, and order a poinsettia to help decorate our sanctuaries for Christmas. The poinsettias will be used to enhance the Christmas atmosphere on Sunday, December 16. 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.



## Golden Weds Celebration

A celebration to honor all our Golden Weds will be held during the month of February. If you are a Golden Wed couple and your name does not appear on the following list, please contact the church office at (949) 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, Garland and Shannon Clark, Alice and Gary Davis, Gerry and Marcia Easton, Wil and Shirley Garcia, David and Michele Gibson, Philip and Vicki Godbey, Bill and Norma Graves, Art and Iva Green, Bill and Sandra Greenfield, Wesley and Jenske Johnson, Les and Margaret Lee, Con and Lee Leatherman, Carl and Virginia Pape, Gordon and Carolyn Silkwood, 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. This event is sponsored by the Event Team.

## Shepherd Activities Calendar Is Online

For up-to-date information on church events, see the online calendar at [sothumc.org](http://sothumc.org).

# Birthdays and Anniversaries

## December Birthdays

December 1 Cameron Curry  
Stephanie Foundoulis  
Jennifer Serfas

December 2 Julie Aird

December 3 Will Conover

December 4 Natalie Van Ruth  
John Witczak

December 5 Scott Narasaki

December 6 Ryan Marshall  
Derek Shimizu  
Ron Simpson  
Carl Vanderbosch

December 7 Jack Balikian

December 8 Lain Morgan  
Ramona Morris

December 9 John Conover  
Karen Wendel

December 10 Mia Koller  
Sandy Torre

December 11 John Thomson

December 12 Noah Pelissier

December 13 Matthew Foundoulis  
Les Lee  
Linda Riffe

December 14 Sarah Bardowell  
Cynthia Marshall

December 15 Jackie Moffitt

December 16 Fiona Morgan  
Bethany Strawn

December 17 Ashley Gibney  
Quinn Pursley  
Hannah Moore



December

December 18 Chris Allen  
Carl Bohmholdt  
Caroline (Betty) Christie  
Brandon Edgar

December 19 Micah Pelissier

December 20 Ellie Chun  
Caroline Conover

December 21 Jacob Aird

December 22 Collin Wasley  
Nikolas Wisner

December 23 Patty Croft

December 24 Susan Delaney  
Vicki Godbey  
Becky Lewis

December 25 Jake Andrade  
Robby Andrade  
Chris Curry  
Richard Sullivan

December 26 Holly Holder

December 28 Madison Lytle

December 29 Gary Davis

December 31 Reta Hawkins  
Scott Kick  
Katie Waters

## December Anniversaries

December 12 Bob & Jennifer Figarotta

December 15 John & Stacy Bower

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 Burges

*If we missed or incorrectly listed your birthday or anniversary, please let us know at the church office.*

## Flower Chart

Beginning Sunday, December 2, 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 arrangement 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.

## Shepherd of the Hills UMC Staff

Karl Stuckenberg.....Lead Pastor  
pastorkarl@sothumc.org

Jon Waterson.....Site Pastor  
pastorjon@sothumc.org

David Enger.....Director of Student Ministries  
denger@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

Laura Arciniega.....Director of Family Ministries & Discipleship  
larciniega@sothumc.org

## Confidential Pastoral Care

[pastoralcare@sothumc.org](mailto:pastoralcare@sothumc.org) or 837-2941

Cristina Flores.....RSM Children's Ministry Director  
cflores@sothumc.org

Amy Strawn.....Childcare and MV Sunday School Coordinator  
astrawn@sothumc.org

Becci Lukes.....Preschool Executive Director  
blukes@sothumc.org

Cindie Reilly.....Preschool Site Director  
creilly@sothumc.org

Sarah Galliver.....Preschool Site Director  
sgalliver@sothumc.org

Jill Yamada.....Church Administrator  
jyamada@sothumc.org

Bob Westcott.....Communications  
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  
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[www.sothumc.org](http://www.sothumc.org)

**Return Service Requested**

**Happenings**  
**Issue 12 Volume 51**



**Round the Table Carol Sing**

December 2  
5:30 to 7:00 pm  
RSM campus  
See page 2



**Christmas Cantatas**

Sunday, December 16  
9:00 & 11:00 am at MV  
9:30 & 11:00 am at RSM  
See page 2



**Christmas Eve Worship**

Monday, December 24  
5:00 pm at MV & RSM  
7:30 pm at MV & RSM  
11:00 pm at MV Campus  
see page 2

Shepherd of the Hills

**Seven Grace Disciplines:**

Celebrate • Devotion • Development  
Tithing • Service • Sharing • Sabbath



**MV:**  
**Mission Viejo Campus**  
26001 Muirlands Blvd.  
Mission Viejo, CA 92691  
949-837-2941

**RSM:**  
**Rancho Santa Margarita Campus**  
30605 Avenida de Las Flores  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688  
949-589-1502

**Follow us online:**  
[www.sothumc.org](http://www.sothumc.org)

**Facebook Groups:**  
Shepherd of the Hills UMC  
Shepherd of the Hills UMC  
Rancho Santa Margarita Campus

**Sunday Morning Worship:**  
**Mission Viejo Campus**

9:00 am Traditional Worship  
11:00 am Modern Worship

**Rancho Santa Margarita Campus**

9:30 am Relaxed Traditional  
Worship  
11:00 am Modern Worship