



The Messenger

Corona United Methodist Church
2880 California Avenue, Corona, CA 92881
951-737-5225 coronaumc@aol.com www.coronaumc.com



April 2021

Pastor's Paragraph

*"The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Lord's Spirit is, there is freedom."
(2 Corinthians 3:17)*

Dear Friends,

Spring is here! With the time change, it feels like the days are longer and brighter. Change and new growth is coming. We see it in the pictures of the seeds that have sprouted under the care of our children and families. We see it in the beauty of God's creation. We see it in the slow re-opening and restarting of activities that have been dormant for a year. We are grateful and hopeful.

At the same time, we aren't free from the threat of the pandemic, violence, racism or prejudice. We are grieving for those we have lost – members of our family, church family and friends. We weep with those who weep.

This intersection of grief and hope lies at the very heart of our faith. The weeping of Jesus' family and friends on Friday and Saturday gives way to faith, hope and love on Sunday. The chaos, doubt and uncertainty of life alone is replaced by the assurance that God's love has overcome the greatest threat of all – death.

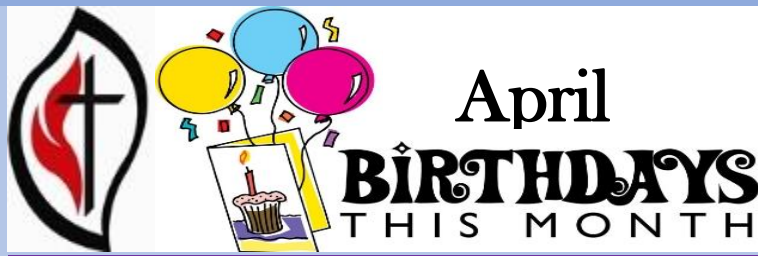
Each year, I have seen this lesson lived out in families within our church. Each time, I have seen God's grace lift up and restore those who feel lost. God's response to Paul's prayer for relief says it best, "*My grace is enough for you, because power is made perfect in weakness*" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

When we are at the end of our strength and we don't have any other place to turn, that's when we turn to God. And that's when we find something amazing: God is there, ready and waiting to carry us through the next step. And the one after that. And the one after that, for as long as it takes.

Healing takes time, but God is infinitely patient, loving and caring. We know we'll be healing when we see new buds and discover joys we thought we had lost. Don't wait. Turn to God today and rely on Jesus' love. It has the power to change the world, making lives better, one at a time.

I hope to see you on our online campus during Easter.

With hope,
Pastor Eric



April

BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH

4/2 Roger B. 4/3 Marc T. 4/11 Lyle W. & Matt V.
4/27 Mildred G. 4/30 Merci K. & Darlene S.



Celebrating Volunteer Corner

Thank you, Tom Munoz! Please join Pastor Eric, the Council, the Trustees, the Worship team and our scouts as we say thank you to Tom. Tom is a quiet, dedicated and hardworking member of our congregation. He doesn't seek attention or awards and is steady and sure in all he does. We recently had a glimpse of Tom's dedication as he was part of a re-opening planning call at 9:45 pm when he has a 3:00 am wake up call. Wow! Thank you, Tom, for who you are and for inspiring us in the way you serve. We are made better by you and your ministry.

(Want to recognize an unsung volunteer? Send us a picture and paragraph. We're grateful to all who

Remote Office Hours

The church building and office are closed, but the church is alive and well. And so are the staff! You may not be aware, but the staff are keeping regular office hours as they work remotely. We are working virtually for our safety and yours. The normal office hours for the church office are 8:30 am to 1:30 pm, Monday-Thursday. Cat regularly checks voicemail at the church (951-727-5225) and the email address, CoronaUMC@gmail.com. Pastor Eric is available at umcpastorschmidt@gmail.com and the Church Council president, Margaret Turner, is available at margareturner4@aol.com.

2021 Faces of Jesus – Where are the pictures/

One of the things people comment on during our worship services is the pictures of our church friends and family. We, too, love seeing your faces. It helps us to be connected and reminds us to reach out and touch each other. Please send us a 2021 picture. We've love to celebrate an occasion, joy or story with you. Please send your picture to CoronaUMC@gmail.com



Rev. Grant Hagiya, *Bishop*

Rev. Melissa MacKinnon, *District Superintendent*

Rev. Eric Schmidt, *Pastor*



March 20, 2021

Dear Members and Friends,

Who could have imagined a year filled with such radical changes in the way we live, think and act? Not only are we living through an ongoing pandemic, but trials related to racism and ideological differences, as reflected in the political, social and economic divides. Our churches' voice is needed.

The words of Jesus resonate, *"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"* (John 11:25-26).

This year, you have responded. You do believe. You choose not to belong to a dying church but to be part of the ministry of Jesus Christ. That's the way to a full life. Our online campus is here to stay. We've learned lessons on how to connect with people in new ways and we will leverage them.

Here are a few highlights:

- Seven new members joined the church in the past four months.
- Joint, online Sunday school classes are doing well.
- Bad Girls of the Bible has progressed from a monthly to a weekly gathering and we received new members as a result.
- Advent@Home gave our households the opportunity to engage in spiritual practices together.
- Missions & Outreach is actively serving our community.
- Our United Methodist Women are active and serving in amazing ways.

This is just a glimpse of the good work God is doing in, with and through us. Praise God! I appreciate the work of our Council and volunteers, who are actively working to help us sustain and preparing for re-opening.

As exciting as this seems, we are struggling. We are behind on our giving each month and our volunteers are tired. We need your help. How is God calling you to connect and engage? Please pray and respond by faith.

Jesus Christ is risen!

Pastor Eric Schmidt

An Appeal from Your Finance Committee

Your finance committee wants to appeal to the friends and members of the Corona United Methodist Church. We are not asking for more money, so relax and continue reading. We are making an appeal to those who give by writing a check for their contribution to seriously consider changing to “electronically” giving.

Electronic giving is easy and it can work around your giving budget with regards to timing. If you give depending upon your pay cycle or receiving your retirement check date you can easily set the date you give around those dates. Most importantly electronic giving is SAFE.

This can be done easily and in two (2) ways.

The first recommended way is to use ZELLE. This method is free and extremely easy to use. However, the banking institution you use must offer ZELLE to transfer money between banking institutions. Most banks do offer Zelle, so you will have to contact your bank and ask if they offer ZELLE to their customers. If they do and this is your choice follow these instructions:

- a. Enroll your email or US phone number through your mobile banking app or with Zelle app
- b. Enter the payee email address: **coronaumc@aol.com**
- c. Enter amount and send.
- d. Determine the frequency of giving.

Your bank will help with setting ZELLE up if needed.

The second recommended method is using direct deposit from your bank to the churches bank account. You will need to talk to your banking representative and then contact either Diane Encino or myself to provide you and your banking representative our account information.

It important to remember, both ways are safe, convenient and you can customize the timing and amount if you need to make a change.

Why are we asking you to consider giving electronically?

1. Electronic transfer of funds requires less time for our volunteers. There is no need to count, less admin involved and does not require making a deposit. Record keeping is easier.
2. We, the finance committee can budget more easily once we are able to determine the cycle of receiving.
3. It's SAFE. No worries if the mail isn't delivered or our mail box is vandalized.
4. Once done, it's done. No more worries.

God's Blessing,

Wayne Vinyard
Chair, Finance and Stewardship Committee

HEAR FROM YOUR COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Finance and Stewardship Wayne Vinyard wvinyard46@gmail.com

Jan 2021 Offering \$22,692

Feb 2021 Offering \$32,249

~The Church received in January \$6484.67 an endowment from the Helen Brame and in February a gracious gift of \$10,000. These are reflected in the totals above.

~\$26,000 per month is the amount required to pay all salaries and bills for the church.

If you have any question please contact Wayne

KUMQUAT JAM

No, it isn't November but we do have Kumquat Jam for sale, thanks to the Lum family. If you haven't tried this type of jam it is quite tasty, very similar to Orange Marmalade. It will be \$6.00 for an 8 oz jar; if you would like some please call the church to see when Cat will be there or call me . If you have a fruit tree with too much fruit (is that possible?), let me know and we will try to make a jelly or jam out of it. While we are talking jelly, if you have any jars 12 oz or smaller, we like to recycle so let me know. All profits support UMW Missions. Thanks for always being supportive. Linda McGranahan 951-858-4572

Corona UMC Outreach

As you know we have been helping Parkridge Elementary School this past year with school supplies and Christmas gifts. Now school is back with face-to-face instruction and the children need school clothes. They have outgrown the clothes from last spring when school went to all Zoom classes. The children are asked to wear polo shirts (no writing or logos) in white, black or navy. Pants, shorts or skirts need to be khaki. If you would like to help the kids out, please call Linda McGranahan (951-858-4572) or Cheryl Lum (217-766-7114).

Thanks for your generosity.

Linda McGranahan & Cheryl Lum

Outreach Chairs



April 2021						
◀ March						May ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Holy Thursday Bible Study @9am via Zoom Linda F. Bad Girls of the Bible @6:30 pm via Zoom Karen Eagans Scouts BSA @7pm via Zoom Mr. Carey	2 Good Friday	3 Church Clean-up @8 am
4 Easter Prayer Group @9:30am via Zoom Nikki Worship Online Coffee Hour @11am via Zoom Nikki	5	6 Faith Journey @9am via Email Linda F	7 SPRC @ 10am via Zoom Jan Nichols	8 Bible Study @9am via Zoom Linda F. Bad Girls of the Bible @6:30 pm via Zoom Karen Eagans Scouts BSA @7pm via Zoom Mr. Carey	9	10
11 Prayer Group @9:30am via Zoom Nikki Worship Online Coffee Hour @11am via Zoom Nikki	12	13 Faith Journey @9am via Email Linda F Trustees @6pm via Zoom Tom & Steve	14 UMW Exec @2:30 via Zoom Linda Faxon	15 Tax Day (Taxes Due) Bible Study @9am via Zoom Linda F. Bad Girls of the Bible @6:30 pm via Zoom Karen Eagans Scouts BSA @7pm via Zoom Mr. Carey	16	17
18 Prayer Group @9:30am via Zoom Nikki Worship Online Coffee Hour @11am via Zoom Nikki	19	20 Faith Journey @9am via Email Linda F Finance Committee @5:30pm via Zoom Wayne Church Council @7pm via Zoom Margaret	21 Administrative Professionals	22 Earth Day Bible Study @9am via Zoom Linda F. Bad Girls of the Bible @6:30 pm via Zoom Karen Eagans Scouts BSA @7pm via Zoom Mr. Carey	23	24
25 Prayer Group @9:30am via Zoom Nikki Worship Online Coffee Hour @11am via Zoom Nikki	26	27 Faith Journey @9am via Email Linda F	28	29 Bible Study @9am via Zoom Linda F. Bad Girls of the Bible @6:30 pm via Zoom Karen Eagans Scouts BSA @7pm via Zoom Mr. Carey	30 Arbor Day	

Please let us know if your ministry team or group has an activity for the calendar.