



The Messenger

Corona United Methodist Church
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February 2021

Pastor's Paragraph

Jesus said, *“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.”* Luke 9:23-24

Beloved,

The season of Lent (February 17-April 3) is a time for self-reflection and deepening one's relationship with God in Jesus Christ. For many the season leading up to Easter means giving up something they enjoy as a sign of contrition for the wrong they have done. Others will spend extra time in devotions and prayer, while a few more will carry a cross or nail in their pocket as a reminder of the sacrifice Jesus made for them and the whole world. If you want some great Daniel Fast recipes, ask Esperanza.

If those practices work for you, wonderful! Others may want to find different ways of observing this holy season. Here are a few ideas:

- Apologize to someone – Lent is a season of repentance and forgiveness. What better way to reconciliation? (Matthew 5:23-24)
- Do random acts of kindness – express your love for Jesus by loving others. Even better, do so and then spend time with the person. (Mark 12:30-31)
- Serve someone in need – volunteer your time to a charitable organization or help your neighbors during the season. (John 13:1-17)
- Read a book of the Bible – enhance your meditation and spiritual journey by letting the Spirit of God speak to your heart. (Hebrew 4:12)
- Say “thank you” – many people helped shape you into the wonderful person you are. Send a note of gratitude to one each week. (Colossians 3:16-17)
- Call a lonely person – Jesus taught his disciples to care for others (Matthew 25:31-36). Call and then just listen. Being present makes all the difference in a person's day and life!

We will be offering a 5-part Lenten series “Homemade Soup & the Soul” via ZOOM on Wednesdays during Lent. We'll share homemade soup recipes and eat together, talk about our experiences of God and use scripture to learn more about how our soul is made better by Jesus. Check out the information later in this issue.

May the peace of God and the blessing of the Holy Spirit fill you each day during this time of reflection and spiritual travel.

By God's grace and mercy,
Pastor Eric



2/7 Rhyan G 2/9 Barbara A & Cameron P 2/10 Herman S 2/12 Joey C
2/15 Katie Z 2/16 Mary Lou A & Brian E 2/17 Steven B & Rufus R 2/19 Lisa M
2/21 Martha H 2/23 Patricia B 2/25 Rosemary K



Volunteer Corner

Thank you, Linda McGranahan! Please join Pastor Eric, the Council, the United Methodist Women and the Missions team as we say "thank you" to Linda. She is quiet, steady and sure, with a compassionate heart. We are grateful for Linda's willingness to do what is needed without much fanfare. She is a marvelous servant-leader. Linda is helped by her husband Ralph, who has served in many ways. Thank you, Linda, for caring for us and helping us keep our eyes on our call to serve the needs of our neighbors – locally and globally.

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

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.

New Church Email Address

We have a new address! For email, that is. After struggling with some limits over the past couple of years, we are changing the primary church email address to CoronaUMC@gmail.com. It gives us a LOT more options and extras to help streamline what we do. Please use this address when contacting the office. We will keep the AOL account as a secondary account for a limited time.

Culture of Generosity (Our Intersection with Jesus)

We often talk about stewardship within our Church. Stewardship can be the act of giving our time, our talents and our gifts. It is my belief that the success of our church relates to being more relevant to our congregation and community. In order to be more relevant, we need to think in different terms when we talk about stewardship. We should begin to vision stewardship as developing a CULTURE of GENEROSITY within ourselves personally and as a congregation.

By definition, generosity is the **spirit and action of freely and frequently giving to others with purpose**. Generosity can also refer to an **overall spirit of kindness**. It is not a task. Generosity comes from the heart with feelings and compassion.

Why is this important?

Since the love and support of our church cannot currently take place within the church's walls, our church needs to function inside and outside of our walls too. I imagine, especially during this time, we have an overwhelming desire to reach out and to connect. Please think and pray how you may be able to help build our CULTURE OF GENEROSITY.

More to come in the next few weeks.

Wayne Vinyard

Volunteers Needed for Our Online Campus!



Corona UMC has an amazing online presence. In the last 28 days, we touched 3,300 people online. This is a great opportunity to connect and develop new ways to share the good news.

If you have skills or are willing to learn some, we need help in these areas:

- Social media – we need people to “meet & greet” others online before, during and after the services
- Preparing worship slides – Donna will train you!
- Video editing – Aaron is a master and will show you the ropes

We'll provide training. Send a note to Donna, Aaron or Pastor Eric if you are interested and available, even if it's just once a month.

How Are You Engaged?

You may not realize it but serving is the way we all can make disciples. Together we invite, connect and engage. Acquaintances we meet on the porch (Invite). Friends are made in the living room (Connect). Family is in the kitchen, preparing the food for our soul (Engage).

We need some help in the kitchen!

We're looking for people who are willing to roll up their sleeves and engage.

All you have to do is be willing to help when asked, ask questions and care for others. It's a blessing to have so many capable people in our church.

We have a place reserved for you. Come and join us! You'll be glad when you do.

Our own Sandy Olewine has been named District Superintendent for the South District of Cal Pac Conference. Those of you who have been around for a while will remember that Sandy's family lived in Corona back in the 60's 70's and 80's. They were active in Corona UMC. Bill Olewine was on Trustees and several other offices of the Church Council. Janet Olewine led the Handbell Choir, was chair of the 1987 Centennial Anniversary of the church and many other areas of leadership.

Sandy was a UMYF leader for Jr. High and High School UMYF. She was an excellent youth leader! We have always been proud that Sandy was a "Timothy" of our church, and now we are celebrating her latest promotion.

Linda Faxon

Announcement on South District Superintendent



It is with great joy that I announce the appointment of Rev. Sandra Olewine as the District Superintendent to the South District of the California-Pacific Conference of The United Methodist Church. Rev. Olewine will assume this position on July 1, 2021.

Sandy has such a remarkable ministerial career. She started her ministry as the Pastor at First United Methodist Church in Fontana, before becoming an Associate Minister of Holman United Methodist Church, working alongside our living legend, Rev. Dr. James Lawson, Jr. From there she served for over 10 years as a Missionary in Jerusalem with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM). Upon returning to Cal-Pac in the mid 2000's, she started a new church in the Long Beach area. She then served as the Senior Pastor at Santee United Methodist Church before being appointed as the Senior Pastor at First United Methodist Church of Pasadena for the past 7 years.

Sandy has been and is a General/Jurisdictional Delegate and an active member of the United Methodist General Council of Finance and Administration (GCFA). She is also active on the Board of Methodist Hospital.

Sandy brings such a varied and diverse appointment and ministerial experience level to the whole annual conference and the South District. I am looking forward to how her gifts and graces will bless our Conference as well as throughout the Connection.

I also want to thank Rev. John Farley who has served for 8 years as the South District Superintendent as well as the Dean of our Appointed Cabinet most recently.

Be the Hope,

Bishop Grant J. Hagiya

Los Angeles Area Resident Bishop

**You're invited to
"Homemade Soup
& the Soul"**

Join us at 7:00 pm PDT each Wednesday from February 24 thru March 24.

We'll gather to share recipes, reflect on soul care, practice a spiritual exercise together and share what's going on in our lives.

We'll meet via Zoom:
Meeting ID: 858 4429 9733
Passcode: 620958



Ash Wednesday Joint Service (Livestream)

WITH RIVERSIDE AREA MISSION AREA CHURCHES

Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 7 p.m.

Facebook Live @FirstChurchRiverside

ALL ARE WELCOME!



*"Remember
Your Death
(Memento
Mori)":
An
Invitation to
40 Days of
Kindness*

Ash Wednesday Joint Service (Online) will be held on February 17, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. We will be livestreaming on Facebook Live from the sanctuary of the hosting church - First United Methodist Church of Riverside (Pastor J. T. Kim). We will be welcoming **EVERYONE** to the service, especially the sisters and brothers from Corona UMC (Pastor Eric Schmidt) and Wesley UMC of Riverside (Pastor Langi Lolohea)!

Holy Week Joint Services: Wesley UMC will be hosting Maundy Thursday Service (April 1) and Corona UMC will be hosting Good Friday Service (April 2). Details of these joint services will be announced.

The Facebook link to First United Methodist Church of Riverside is: <https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchRiverside>

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

February 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Groundhog Day Faith Journey @9am via Email Linda F	3 Weds. Bible Study @8am via Zoom Pastor Eric SPRC @ 10am via Zoom Jan Nichols	4 Bad Girls of the Bible @6:30 pm via Zoom Karen Eagans Scouts BSA @7pm via Zoom Mr. Carey	5	6 Church Clean-up @8 am
7 Super Bowl Prayer Group @9:30am via Zoom Nikki Worship Online Coffee Hour @ 11am via Zoom Nikki Children's Fellowship @11:30 via Zoom	8	9 Faith Journey @9am via Email Linda F Trustees @6pm via Zoom Tom & Steve	10 Weds. Bible Study @8am via Zoom Pastor Eric UMW Exec @2:30 via Zoom Linda Faxon	11 Bad Girls of the Bible @6:30 pm via Zoom Karen Eagans Scouts BSA @7pm via Zoom Mr. Carey UMW Book Club @ 10 via Zoom Linda	12	13
14 Valentine's Day Prayer Group @9:30am via Zoom Nikki Worship Online Coffee Hour @ 11am via Zoom Nikki	15 Presidents Day Office Closed	16 Faith Journey @9am via Email Linda F Finance Committee @5:30pm via Zoom Wayne Church Council @7pm via Zoom Margaret	17 Ash Wednesday Weds. Bible Study @8am via Zoom Pastor Eric Ash Wednesday Service Online @ 7 pm Lent Starts	18 Bad Girls of the Bible @6:30 pm via Zoom Karen Eagans Scouts BSA @7pm via Zoom Mr. Carey	19	20
21 Prayer Group @9:30am via Zoom Nikki Worship Online Coffee Hour @ 11am via Zoom Nikki	22	23 Faith Journey @9am via Email Linda F	24 Weds. Bible Study @8am via Zoom Pastor Eric Homemade Soup & Soul @ 6pm via Zoom Pastor Eric	25 Bad Girls of the Bible @6:30 pm via Zoom Karen Eagans Scouts BSA @7pm via Zoom Mr. Carey	26	27
28 Prayer Group @9:30am via Zoom Nikki Worship Online Coffee Hour @ 11am via Zoom Nikki						