



The Messenger

Corona United Methodist Church
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January 2021

Pastor's Paragraph

"Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness."

Isaiah 43:19 (CEB)

Maligayang Pasko, Feliz Navidad, क्रिसमस की बधाई, Merry Christmas! We are ending 2020 on a bittersweet note. We have the celebration and joy of Christmas this week, followed by New Year festivities. Yet many people feel like we are living in shadows.

The shadow of COVID-19, the shadow of racism and prejudice and the shadow of elitism and political division are real. Our fears are more than imagined. We have lost loved ones to the pandemic. We feel neglected, lost and alone, frightened by "what if?" The light of day seems to last only a short while and then our fears, doubts and anxieties once again rise to the surface. That's the bitter part of the season of life we're all experiencing.

That's what makes Christmas so important to me. I'm not talking about the historical account, though that's significant. I'm talking about this year, next year, and the year after that. The blessing of Christ is simple: God keeps promises. To do so, Jesus enters into our world, bringing light, life and peace. That gives us hope. It fills our hearts with joy.

The hope I find at Christmas isn't a false sense of happiness, a smile or even a feeling of optimism. The hope of Christmas goes much deeper. The hope of Christmas comes from God.

God is greater than we could ever imagine. It's hard to grasp the majesty and joy of the moment when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. We struggle with the idea of a chorus of angels, much less the presence of a single angel. Too often we rest comfortably in our intellectual superiority, forgetting that God makes the wise foolish. It's only when we catch a fleeting glimpse of God's glory, the mysterious beauty of heaven, that we open our clenched fists and let God in.

Yet it's enough. God shows us there is a place beyond the shadows of fear and suffering. Jesus comes into our lives to invite us into that sacred space. No matter how difficult our situation may be. In spite of the disappointment and frustration we feel. Even when we are on the verge of death, Jesus comes to us. God is with us. I pray you will be open and willing to accept his love. Let him into your heart. You'll be glad when you do.

May the peace of Christ fill your heart and soul.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Eric



January

BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH

1/1 Chris W. 1/2 Louise B. 1/3 Ely G. 1/5 Nikki C. & Wing L. 1/6 Judy A.
1/8 Susan B. 1/10 Cat N. 1/14 Karen E. 1/20 Mary Ann H. 1/23 Joe A. 1/24 Ariel S.
1/27 Dana Carlson C. & Christopher M. 1/28 Shaylee C. & Ray E. 1/30 Deanna M.



Volunteer Corner

Thank you, Donna Parrish! We love hearing you sing with the God’s House band and each week through our online services! We appreciate all of your work behind the scenes, preparing each week’s slides, recording songs and more. Thank you for giving us a bright spot in our day through your faithful devotion and love. Please join Pastor Eric and the staff as we say “thank you” to Donna!

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

What Did You Think About the ZOOM Church Service?

We hope you were able to be part of the first ever CUMC worship service by Zoom on December 13th. We’d like to hear what you think. What did you enjoy? What could be better? Most of all, how often would you be interested in attending church by Zoom?

Office schedule from now until the New Year

Office open by appointment - Mon-Tues, Dec. 21-22

Office closed for holidays - Dec. 24, 25; Jan. 1

Office closed (staff vacation) - Dec. 23, 28-31

Regular hours resume - Jan. 4

Pastor Eric will be on vacation and holiday from Dec. 22-Jan 3; however, he is home. If you have an emergency, please contact him by phone or email. Otherwise, please contact Margaret Turner for program concerns and Marc Trifiletti for building or property concerns.

Missions & Outreach

The Christmas Spirit has come to Corona. This year Outreach “adopted” Parkridge Elementary School last summer and took a generous amount of school supplies donated by you. This month we “adopted” two families with a total of 7 kids for Christmas. Again, out of the generosity of you we delivered toys and clothes on Monday December 14. Also, each family received \$100 in grocery gift cards plus Walmart or Target or Lowe’s. Wow! This is the true meaning of giving to our community and the true meaning of sharing at Christmas. The Wise Men brought gifts to Baby Jesus and you have brought happiness and smiles to these children and their entire families. You brought the Christmas Spirit to Corona. Thank you for stepping up to help those in need.

Linda McGranahan & Cheryl Lum
Outreach co-chairs

Faith in Motion

For the past month our church family has been very supportive of a family of six. At this time, they are living with another family but our congregation has given them dressers, blankets, dishes, bunk beds, a washer and pest control as well as many other items. Now we are spreading Christmas joy by giving them gifts to make this time even more special. The children are receiving clothes and toys and the parents have been given small gifts and grocery gift cards. Without your prayers and support none of this would have been possible. Thank you, church family, for all your generosity.

Cheryl Lum & Linda McGranahan,
co-chairs Faith in Motion

The Bible Jesus Read

by
Philip Yancey

Join Bad Girls of the Bible on
Thursday nights beginning January
14 at 6:30pm via Zoom.

. Cheryl Riggs, PhD will be leading

RSVP to Karen Eagans at
kkeagans@aol.com

United Methodist Women

Corona and Riverside First

Helping Out

Will you help some of our members and their families have a good Christmas? As we approach the end of a difficult year, most of us are doing well. Our belts are tighter, but we're healthy. That's a blessing.

Some of our members and their families are struggling, mostly due to the impact of COVID-19, whether due to the illness or the economic impact the pandemic has had. If you would be willing to help out, please send a donation to the church with "Christmas Assist" written in the memo or on a note. All of the funds collected will be distributed to families in need as determined by Pastor Eric and Karen Eagans and Shirley Carr, co-chairs of Member Care.

Volunteers Needed for Our Online Campus!



We need your help. Corona UMC has an amazing online presence. We are currently reaching more than 3,000 people each month online. However, we have slumped in our online participation, in part because we need you to reach out and connect. And those doing the work of preparing online services are burning out.

If you have skills or would like to learn, we need help in these areas:

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

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.

Volunteers Needed to Engage!

How has Jesus called you?



You may not realize it but serving on a team is more than a responsibility. It's the third part of our intentional discipleship: 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.

We need some help in the kitchen!

We're looking for people who are willing to roll up their sleeves and serve on the Finance team and on the HR team (that's what the SPRC is). You don't have to have a finance or HR background. You just have to be willing to be a team member, ask questions and serve to the benefit of others.

Please contact Wayne Vinyard for information about Finance and Jan Nichols for information about the SPRC. They are listed in our directory.

It's a blessing to have so many servant leaders in our church. Our thanks go to all of the outgoing servant leaders and welcome to the new members of our leadership team. We have a seat reserved for you. Come and join us!

January 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day	2 Church Clean-up
3 Prayer Group @9:30am via Zoom Nikki Worship Online Coffee Hour @ 11am via Zoom Nikki	4	5 Faith Journey @9am via Email Linda F	6 Weds. Bible Study @8am via Zoom Pastor Eric SPRC @ 10am via Zoom Margert	7	8	9
10 Prayer Group @9:30am via Zoom Nikki Worship Online Coffee Hour @ 11am via Zoom Nikki	11	12 Messenger Input Due Faith Journey @9am via Email Linda F	13 Weds. Bible Study @8am via Zoom Pastor Eric	14 Bad Girls of the Bible @6:30 pm via Zoom Karen Eagans Scouts BSA @7pm via Zoom Mr. Carey	15	16
17 Prayer Group @9:30am via Zoom Nikki Worship Online Coffee Hour @ 11am via Zoom Nikki	18 Martin Luther King Jr.	19 Faith Journey @9am via Email Linda F	20 Inauguration Day Weds. Bible Study @8am via Zoom Pastor Eric	21 Bad Girls of the Bible @6:30 pm via Zoom Karen Eagans Scouts BSA @7pm via Zoom Mr. Carey	22	23
24 Prayer Group @9:30am via Zoom Nikki Worship Online Coffee Hour @ 11am via Zoom Nikki	25	26 Messenger Input Due Faith Journey @9am via Email Linda F	27 Weds. Bible Study @8am via Zoom Pastor Eric	28 Bad Girls of the Bible @6:30 pm via Zoom Karen Eagans Scouts BSA @7pm via Zoom Mr. Carey	29	30
31 Prayer Group @9:30am via Zoom Nikki Worship Online Coffee Hour @ 11am via Zoom Nikki						