



The Messenger

Corona United Methodist Church
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January 2021

Pastor's Paragraph

A New Beginning

Happy New Year! Those words may seem jarring to some of us. We're in a tough season. More of our friends and family are coming down with COVID-19. Some are going on to heavenly glory and eternal rest. Yet hope is on the horizon. There is a vaccine. 2021 brings opportunities and new life. God's grace comes to us where we are, no matter what our situation, location or attitude may be. Being in relationship means we mourn when others mourn, celebrate when others celebrate and we support each other in a loving, human way. Our hearts and prayers are with all of you.

Father Henri Nouwen wrote a meditation that speaks to this moment:

"We must learn to live each day, each hour, yes, each minute as a new beginning, as a unique opportunity to make everything new. Imagine that we could live each moment as a moment pregnant with new life. Imagine that we could live each day as a day full of promises. Imagine that we could walk through the new year always listening to the voice saying to us: I have a gift for you and can't wait for you to see it! Imagine.

Is it possible that our imagination can lead us to the truth of our lives? Yes, it can! The problem is that we allow our past, which becomes longer and longer each year, to say to us: You know it all; you have seen it all, be realistic; the future will just be a repeat of the past. Try to survive it as best you can. There are many cunning foxes jumping on our shoulders and whispering in our ears the great lie: There is nothing new under the sun... don't let yourself be fooled.

When we listen to these foxes, they eventually prove themselves right: our new year, our new day, our new hour become flat, boring, dull, and without anything new.

So, what are we to do? First, we must send the foxes back to where they belong: in their foxholes. And then we must open our minds and our hearts to the voice that resounds through the valleys and hills of our life saying: 'Let me show you where I live among my people. My name is 'God-with-you.' I will wipe all the tears from your eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone' (Revelation 21:2-5)." *

May the peace of Christ fill your heart and soul.

With hope,
Pastor Eric

* Henri Nouwen Society: daily meditation for January 1, 2021,



January

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

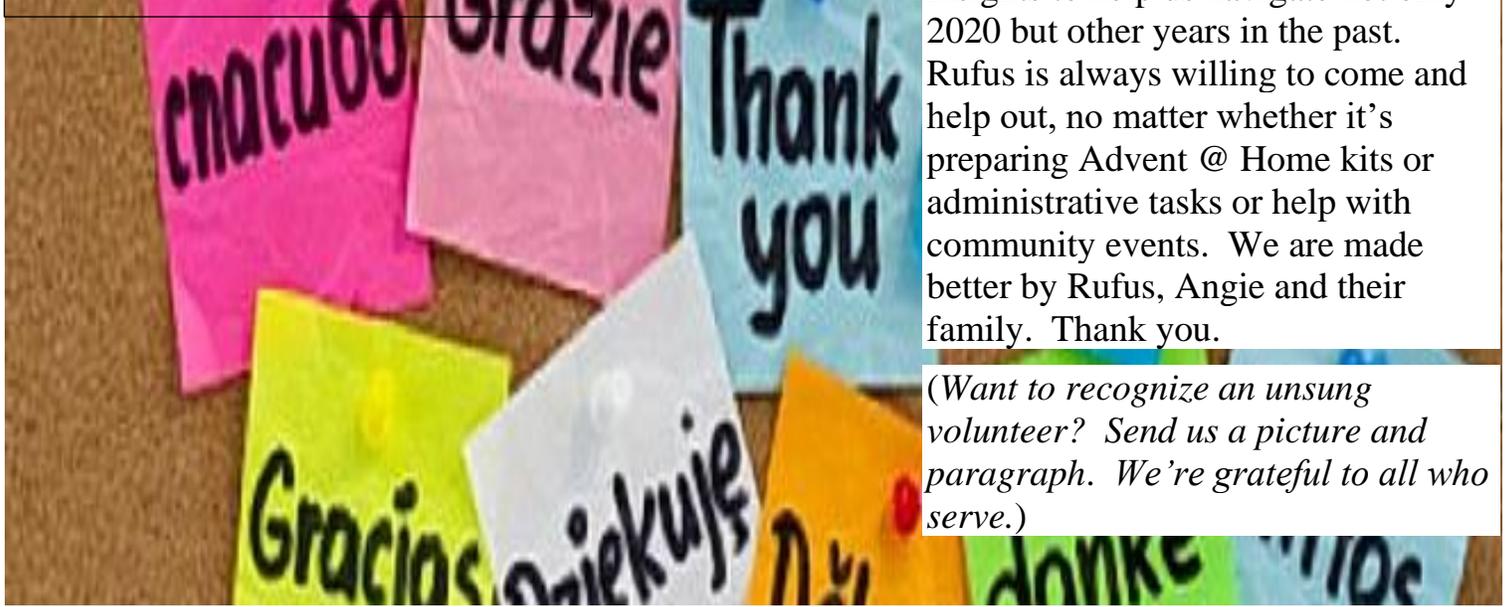
1/1 Chris W. 1/2 Louise B. 1/3 Ely G. 1/5 Nikki C. & Wing L. 1/6 Judy A.
1/8 Susan B. 1/10 Cat N. 1/14 Karen E. 1/20 Mary Ann H. 1/23 Joe A. 1/24 Ariel S.
1/27 Dana C. C. & Christopher M. 1/28 Shaylee C. & Ray E. 1/30 Deanna M.



Volunteer Corner

Thank you, Rufus Rosser! Please join Pastor Eric, the Council, staff and Finance & Stewardship team as we say “thank you” to Rufus. He has given his time and used his gifts and insights to help us navigate not only 2020 but other years in the past. Rufus is always willing to come and help out, no matter whether it’s preparing Advent @ Home kits or administrative tasks or help with community events. We are made better by Rufus, Angie and their family. Thank you.

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



New Church Email Address

We have been using an AOL email address for a number of years. It’s still valid, but comes with some limitations. You may not be aware, but we also have another email address: CoronaUMC@gmail.com. Beginning in 2021, we plan to shift to that address as the primary email address for the church. It gives us a LOT more options and extras that will help streamline what we do. So, save the address and we’ll see you online.

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? Send an email to Pastor Eric at umcpastorschmidt@gmail.com or to the office at CoronaUMC@gmail.com and let us know what you think.

Volunteers Needed for Our Online Campus!



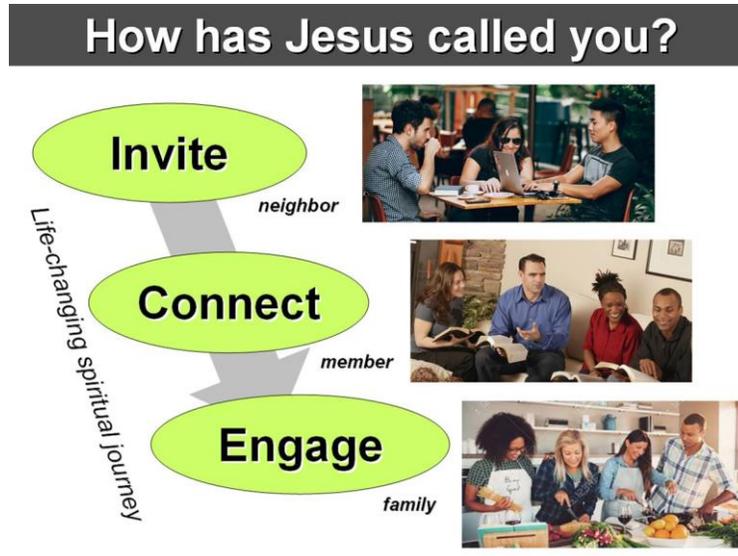
We need your help. Corona UMC has an amazing online presence. We are currently reaching more than 2,500 people each month online. However, we have slumped in our online participation, in part because we need you to reach out and connect. And those doing the work of preparing online services are burning out.

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

- 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.

Volunteers Needed to Engage!



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 (Engage).

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 (wvinyard46@gmail.com) for information about Finance and Jan Nichols (stuff4jan@aol.com) for information about the SPRC. They are listed in our directory.

It's a blessing to have so many capable people in our church. We have a seat reserved for you. Come and join us! The journey is worth it.

January 2021						
◀ December						February ▶
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 Children's Zoom Fellowship @11:30	11	12 Messenger Input Due Faith Journey @9am via Email Linda F	13 Weds. Bible Study @8am via Zoom Pastor Eric UMW Exec @2:30 via Zoom Linda	14 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	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 Finance Committee @5:30pm via Zoom Wayne Church Council @7pm via Zoom Margaret	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 Beulah Hensien, Viewing @11 Gravesite @12 At Rose Hills Whittier	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						