



The Messenger

Corona United Methodist Church
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July 2021

Pastor's Paragraph

*"For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
but to save the world through him."*

John 3:17

Dear Friends,

It's amazing how time flies. In some ways, Esperanza and I are amazed five years have gone by. It just seems like a short time ago when we drove up to the church on California Ave, ready to see what blessings God had in store.

God didn't let us down.

God's blessing is active and alive. It's not passive, something we hold on to. God's blessing wants to be shared, to be passed on to others. That's how we invite people to know God and the gift of grace. That's the first step to making disciples.

It doesn't matter what your age is, how you identify yourself or what your situation, circumstance or beliefs are, your life is touched when you encounter the living God. It makes us aware of the needs of our soul. Our soul wants to be filled. And connecting to a transcendent God whose nature is love, whose work is salvation and who uses grace as the means changes us for the better.

In today's world I can think of no more important place than the church. I'm not talking about the building, though that serves an important role. I'm talking about the assembly, the gathering of those who believe to engage in receiving God's grace and sharing that blessing with each other and with the community around us. That gives life meaning and purpose.

Paul found "one thing" that encouraged him through the ups and downs of life. For Paul, the one thing is knowing Christ. What a blessing!

May you find the one thing, God's blessing for you. And, when you do, pass it on. You'll be glad. Those who receive the blessing will be glad. And, when we show others how to show others how to do the same, we're making disciples. That's how the world changes. That's how lives are saved.

Thank you for the privilege of walking with you on your spiritual journey.

By God's grace,
Rev. Eric Schmidt, Ph.D.



July

BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH

7/1 Shirley C & Allison E 7/3 Carter F 7/5 Emma P 7/7 Richard S
7/10 Ralph M & Esperanza S 7/19 Betty N 7/21 Kathy M 7/23 Vicki R
7/24 Judy S



Celebrating Volunteer Corner

Thank you, Loni & Ben Cuatt! Please join Pastor, the Church Council, the Children & Youth Ministry team and our families and children as we say thank you. The Cuatts are a family who are “all in.” Not only do Mom & Dad participate, we have the joy of watching their two, young daughters grow up right before us. What a testament to a life of faith. Thank you for all you do for our Children, Youth and Families. Thank you for leading our Vacation Bible School. We could go on and on. We appreciate everything you do. We are blessed to have the Cuatt family as part of our church family.

(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.

There are three ways main ways you can financially support the church:

- Regular Mail: you may mail your gift to the church at 2880 California Ave, Corona, Ca. 92881
- Bank to Bank transfer using Zelle. Contact your bank for instructions. CUMC uses the email address; coronaumc@aol.com
- Drop Off: You can drop off your gift in the church's mailbox located in the parking lot.

If you have any questions you can contact Wayne Vinyard:
wvinyard46@gmail.com or 919-345-7518

Good News About Re-opening!

We have good news to share. After months of work, our Church Council, Pastor and re-opening team share a note we received:

“Corona's indoor in person worship plan has been approved by The Relaunch Review Team. When you determine it is safe to proceed with your relaunch plan, please follow all your plan's protocols and procedures. In addition, please keep apprised of the current standards set by the CDC, your local government and the State of California and make the needed adjustments.” (June 15, 2021)

Blessings,
Rev. Melissa Roux Mackinnon
East District Superintendent

Pastor Susan, the Church Council and our Re-opening team will work together to coordinate our first in-person worship service in 15 months. Our target date is Sunday, July 11th.

We ask for your help as there are many volunteers needed. We will still be wearing masks to offer protection for those who are not vaccinated.

The re-opening team will be working on a plan for small groups to meet. That's their next course of action once the preparations for a successful re-opening have progressed.

Pastor Susan will officiate at walk-thru communion at 11:00 am on July 4th.

Our thanks to all who have worked so diligently to help us to see this step happen. Praise to God for vaccines, essential workers and the opportunity to once again gather in person. We lift up our new normal as we serve the Lord.

WELCOME PASTOR SUSAN



Rev. Susan Juergensen is appointed to Corona UMC as pastor, beginning July 1st. We look forward to meeting you in person!

Please pray for Pastor Susan, her husband Mark and their family as they move from San Diego to Corona. Lord, watch over them and care for them in this time of transition.

Once the pastor is settled, there will be opportunities to welcome and meet Pastor Susan. Please watch The Messenger for details.

Please pray for our new pastor and the congregation. A note: it's okay to contact Pastor Eric after July 1st; however, all matters related to our community of faith should be directed to Pastor Susan.

Bio - Rev. Susan Juergensen

Pastor Susan was ordained a deacon in 1996 and an elder in 2000 in the California-Pacific Conference of the United Methodist Church. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Communication from The University of Evansville in Indiana, and a Master of Divinity degree from Drew Theological Seminary in New Jersey. Pastor Susan enjoys visitation, preaching, leading Bible studies and prayer the most in her duties with the church. She also likes to study leadership, mediation techniques and Bowen Family Systems Theory.

In her free time she power walks or visits the gym, takes in movies at the theater or spends time with her family & friends. Married to Mark Juergensen in 1997, Pastor Susan also loves to make time for family dinners with her son, Drew, and daughter, Mara, when they are home - her favorite dinner to make is a reservation. She is also personally interested in writing and becoming a better writer, having written, but not published an adolescent, Christian, fantasy fiction manuscript.

One fun fact: Pastor Susan earned a Gold Award in Girl Scouting as a teenager and her daughter, Mara, also earned a Gold Award in 2021.

Hello to all Church Members and Friends of the Church,

A few years ago a large bequest was received from a family whose parents had been long-time members of the church. Robert and Margaret Stanley. That donation was placed in a secure investment with the Bank of America.

Since March a group of six (6) people have been investigating and gathering information on how the church may want to use the money to enhance the church facilities. There were some guidelines from the donor which the church will follow during the decision making process.

The first item for consideration, the prospect of installing solar panels, was presented and approved in June by Trustees, Finance, and Church Council. The three required bids are now being sought. The goal is to place the panels so they are not visible from California Street and will begin immediately upon installation to reduce the cost of electricity for the church. One estimate is a savings of \$7,000 a year. The Stanley donation will be used for the complete cost of installation which will be approximately \$60,000.

The Stanley Committee Members have been looking at various ideas and have received comments and ideas verbally and via e-mail from many church members. If you have an idea, please forward your information to one of the committee members.

Sincerely, Margaret Turner, Jennie Ferrette, Susan Park, Rufus Rossier, Ben & Loni Cuatt

Outreach article

Outreach Corona UMC

Settlement House are inviting churches back to pack lunches for the homeless. We had to stop this volunteer opportunity back in March 2020 with the covid virus. The lunches are packed on one Friday a month at 11:00. At this time we don't know which Friday we will be assigned but hope to start in July. If you are interested in this Outreach project, please contact Cheryl Lum. (217-766-7114, cherylulum@yahoo.com).

Thank You

Linda McGranahan & Cheryl Lum

Outreach co-chairs

Corona United Methodist Women Book Readers Club

The Book Club read A Road Called Down on Both Sides: Growing up in Ethiopia and America by Caroline Kurtz for our choice in May 2021. We met via Zoom for our discussion.

This book is an autobiography of the author's life growing up as the daughter of missionary parents who were residing in Maji which is an area in Ethiopia. The reference to the road refers to the treacherous road that was the only way in or out of this remote part of Ethiopia.

Life in this remote area was truly exotic and primitive. Carolyn was a little girl in the 1950's when her family moved there. Her father was a Presbyterian Missionary.

They lived in a mud adobe home, a family of two parents and three little girls. More children came along as she grew up. They were an American family within their family circle.

The outside world was shaped by drums, jeeps, mule treks into the countryside, ostriches on the air strip, and the sounds of several Ethiopian languages she barely understood but longed to learn.

The family spend some time in America and when Caroline was sent to Illinois for college, she felt like she was in a foreign country. She returned to Ethiopia throughout her life and she was more than willing to struggle with the Communist dictatorship and constant hardships. She had a real heart for the people and the country and found her life's calling there in the Maji District. She introduced apples, solar energy and women's cottage industries.

Margaret Turner, Book Club Coordinator

July 2021						
◀ June						August ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Church Clean-up @8 am
4 Indep. Day 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. 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	15 Bible Study @9am via Zoom Linda F. 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	22 Bible Study @9am via Zoom Linda F. 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. Scouts BSA @7pm via Zoom Mr. Carey	30	31