



The Voice

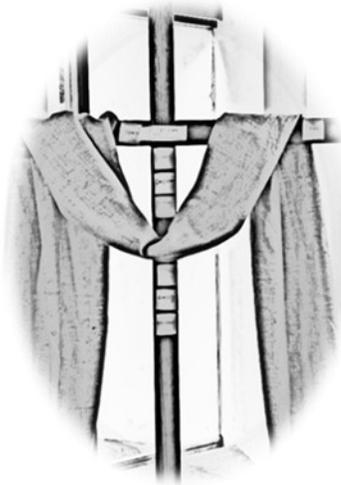
LA VERNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 2020

Back To Basics in the Fight against COVID-19

I send my warm greetings to all of my beloved faith community in the name of Jesus Christ.

For more than two months, we have struggled with a novel coronavirus pandemic that we have never seen before. Taking for granted, there have been horrific scenes and tragedies that left voids within us all, not to mention the national emergencies that put everyone on high alert and reminded us of our vulnerability. But this is not all. Schools have been closed; businesses have shut down; people have lost their jobs; and long-held events that some cities or religious organizations have been forced to cancel. This is our new reality that we have experienced in fear, since the Great Depression. I have never seen a case that our in-person worship services have been no longer practiced in our lovely sanctuary.



What is left of us is our faith community. We pray for each other. But this prayer requires our perseverance in hope that our God listens to our prayer. Scriptures tell us how we pray in times of hard situations.

-The apostle Paul encourages us a persistence prayer in his Philippians 4:6, *“Do not be anxious anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”* And, in his 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Paul says, *“pray without ceasing.”*

-Jesus taught a parable about a woman persistently pleading to a judge until he heeded her request with the intention of exhorting us *“to pray always and not to lose heart.”* (Luke 18:1).

-When we don't see immediate answers to our prayers, we sometimes tend to want to give up. This is when we need perseverance. Like a running marathon, effective praying requires endurance. In Matthew 7:7, Jesus tells us the wonderful promise for those who pray. He says, *“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”* If we continue to ask, seek, knock the door, our God will respond to open it.

-The psalmist sings God's protection and guidance in times of difficulty in his Psalm 23:4, *“Even though I walk through the darkest valley. I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”*

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This week, I got a call from a church member requesting urgent prayer. Right after hanging up the phone, I ran to the altar in sanctuary and bowed down on the ground to pray urgently and earnestly. “Lord, help us from the virus! Grab him tightly with your mighty healing hands!”

We don’t know how much longer our online worship service will be. We don’t know how long this difficult situations caused from the COVID-19 will last. We don’t know who might be impacted or not by this virus since all are vulnerable. But we know our God does not judge and forsake us in pain, but continues to comfort us with his guiding and protecting staff and rod.



GOD IS WITH US!

Let us pray continually and keep our faith in hope that this, too, shall pass away!

In Christ,
Pastor Park

BE PREPARED!!!

Yes, we are being asked to be prepared to protect ourselves during this siege of the Corona virus. But we also want you to be prepared for Online Worship on **Easter Sunday, April 12**, and **First Sunday Worship on May 3** when Communion will be a part of the service. You are asked to have bread and wine or juice ready if you would like to participate, or you may choose to receive the elements spiritually, taking the idea of the body and blood into yourself through each breath.

Meditation on the Moon and Easter

*I looked at the moon and beyond
the other day
And, as hard as looked,
I could not see the limits of the universe.
In fact, I could only see the moon
looking foolishly out of place,
surrounded by blue on a hot Summer’s day.*

Easter is a moon-gazing experience!

*I look, and as hard as I strain my eyes,
I cannot see beyond Easter.
I know, just as sure as I know
one hundred million galaxies
move rhythmically beyond the moon,
that there is a beyond to Easter.
Still, all I see is Easter,
looking foolishly out of place,
surrounded by softness on a new Spring day.*

A number of years ago I was traveling from Bishop to Annual Conference in Redlands and as I was heading east, south of Ridgecrest, there was the moon - right in from of me - full and bright but in the middle of the afternoon. This poem followed that experience. - Alma Roberts

HELPFUL TIDBIT FOR YOU

COVID 19 CHART BY POMONA VALLEY HOSPITAL

COVID-19 COMPARED TO OTHER COMMON CONDITIONS

SYMPTOMS	COVID-19	COMMON COLD	FLU	ALLERGIES
Fever	Common	Rare	Common	Sometimes
Dry Cough	Common	Mild	Common	Sometimes
Shortness of Breath	Common	No	No	Common
Headaches	Sometimes	Rare	Common	Sometimes
Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common	No
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Common	No
Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
Diarrhea	Rare	No	Sometimes*	No
Runny nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
Sneezing	No	Common	No	Common

*Sometimes for children
SOURCE: CDC, WHO, American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Many are finding it hard to be separated from other members of the church family. An easy remedy is to use your Church Directory and either text, e-mail, or phone others in the church. The Church Office will now be closed but we encourage you to still email the church office as well as Pastor with any requests for prayer and to seek contact information for resources when needed. Debbie will be working remotely from home throughout the week.

We have also been asked to adopt a Senior Mobile Home Park and make calls to seniors way otherwise be alone, just to say high and keep in touch. If you would be willing to participate in this new ministry, please let the church office know and contact information will be sent to you. 909-593-2013

Finally, if you are “itching” to get out safely, and you like gardening, especially weeding, have we got a plan for you! Seriously, come on down, bring small shovel, other tools, gloves, something to kneel on and just find a section where weeds are growing. We’re not using weed whackers, but want to get the roots. Your help will really be appreciated. A nice looking campus is a statement to the community that “Hey, we are still here!” Location for weeds is by the pergola, or the front Memorial Garden.

HOW TO REFRESH A WEBSITE

Who knew that a website, just like a human or a salad, needs to be refreshed from time to time? If you are 50 or younger you probably knew and think this article is a silly waste of time, but for those of us closer to the century mark than you are, it is a startling bit of information. I had trouble getting the current worship service on online, even after numerous tries. Then Pastor kindly informed me that I had to “refresh the website.” There it was, ready for me to hear, see, and enjoy. Pastor told me to look for an X in the upper left hand corner; no X to be found on my computer. Then he suggested I look for a circle that includes an arrow, I found one on the upper right, clicked on it and the X was revealed, clicked on that, and there was the worship. I feel informed, and most importantly, I won’t miss any future worship.

(from an 82 year old member of the church family)

SUNDAY SCHOOL, BOOK STUDY, CONFIRMATION???

Yes, these gatherings have had to be suspended temporarily, but they will resume as soon as the larger community is safely able to allow gatherings again. Our calendar has simply been suspended. A new kind of reality.

OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS THAT HAVE BEEN POSTPONED

LVUMC Yard Sale
LVUMC Spring Tea

The “Better Man” Conference.

United Methodist General Conference has been postponed until next year.

Annual Conference scheduled for June will not take place publicly but via technology.

A Message from our Church Committees

OUTREACH

A huge THANK YOU goes out to all of you for the Chocolate Easter Bunny money for Sowing Seeds children's baskets. Unfortunately, due to the Corona Virus, Sowing Seeds has had to find different ways of distributing food, but rest assured that the money you gave will be used for a grand celebration combining Easter and Mother's Day as soon as the DPI Labs parking lot can be reused for food distribution.

Sowing Seeds will continue to deliver food in pre-boxed packages on the following dates at a new location: April 1st, April 15th from 9AM to 1PM at the Fairplex Gate 17 off McKinley. You can just drive up in your car and the food will be placed in the car for you. They are still requesting a form of I.D. All volunteers have to be under the age of 60 years old.

Clothes distribution will not be in effect again until Sowing Seeds resumes food distribution at its usual location in the parking lot of DPI Labs off of Arrow Hwy. Nevertheless, we still need clothes as our supply is very low (especially men and boys). The clothes can be brought and placed outside in front of Debbie's office at the Church Tuesday through Thursday between 9-12 and we will get them down to the shed and sorted as needed. Thank you so much for this continued effort to assist those less fortunate than us. They are always so appreciative.

Thank you again for all you do every time you bring clothes, give money, buy food and gifts for our Outreach program! We are going through difficult times that affect all of us and we need to continue to strengthen each other through our prayers, our generosity and friendly calls to check on each other.

Outreach

TRUSTEES

The #1 Concern in life as of 3/31/2020 is the water system that comes off the city line (White arrow). The shutoff valve, just off the meter is leaking and barely shuts off, only under the strength of the great Daniel M. The replacement parts that fit the city flange are hard to come by and are being searched for. This is the main shutoff valve that leads into the line going to the campus (lower black arrow) This assembly is as corroded as it looks and is to the place that we desire not to do the work ourselves.

The #2 Concern is the sprinkler system at the Pre-School. The lines were severed during the construction of the pillars for the umbrellas and we're not sure where they are. At the same time there is a necessity to check on the valves that control the water distribution. We haven't decided how we are going to attack this problem yet.

#3 The Bottle Brush trees are a pain and causing damage to the wall(s) as well as intruding into the water valve system we are currently involved with. There are several tree trunks (As well as some trees themselves) that I would like to see removed but are a BIG challenge. (We need to establish a tree program)

#4 The women's restroom is having some floor work and painting done so that's why the toilets are setting in the breezeway. The partitions are in good shape, so tiles are the only tangible purchase.

#5 If anyone needs a basketball goal, we have one for you. This along with a bunch of other smaller debris back there is on the disposal list.

I love these challenges and I love this Church,

Allen Franke
Trustees