



The Voice

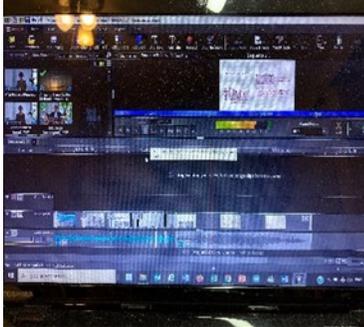
LA VERNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 2020

Many Emails, Many Meetings, Many Concerns, but Many Prayers

Praise the Lord!

I send my greetings to my beloved brothers and sisters in the grace and love of Jesus Christ. We are now experiencing our lives of uncertainty and lockdown for more than two months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Like many of you, I have also spent my days busier than before. Many emails have come and needed to be responded; many meetings have been performed; many concerns have been dealt with every day. But what I have done every day is prayer. Prayer for various concerns: prayer for people, prayer for church, and prayer for the world.



When I pray, I post my prayer lists on the cross, called “lech lecha” (“return” or “go” to God”). As the Prophet Micah proclaimed, we need to return to God from our lives of transgression or unrighteousness. He says, “[what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8). We return to God by our righteous and kind actions for others and our faithful relationship with God. He does not end, however, this prophecy for his Israelites.

He also prophesized that what people needed to do is to pray for God’s deliverance. In Micah 7:8, he says, “[w]hen I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me.” This is a Micah’s prayer in hope and God will deliver him and his people from their distress.

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We celebrate Mother's Day on the coming Sunday, May 10. When Koreans celebrate Mother's Day, they sing the song, "Mother's Grace," to express their appreciation. It goes as the following:

*"People say the sky
is the highest of the highest, but
I know there is something higher
The grace of my mother
who gave birth to me and raised me
Is higher than any blue sky
People say the ocean
is the widest of the widest, but
I think there is something wider
The grace of my mother
telling me to be a rightful person
Is wider than any blue ocean"*

I am also ready to call and sing this song to my mom on the coming day. I appreciate her so much, for her sacrifice and love for her children and family. Her grace given to me is higher than the blue sky and wider than the blue ocean.

Among many things that she has given to me, however, her prayer comes to my mind always, when I think of her. She prays all the time for her children, ministry, and people whom she knows or not. Her three sons are doing ministry at their local churches and two daughters are lay leaders of their churches. Although my mom prays for her children, she does not forget to pray for their local churches members whom she does not know.

My mom has never told me to pray, but has shown to me, from her life of prayer, what a Christian needs to do is to pray. I didn't appreciate her prayer when I was young, but now, I want to give my hearted thankfulness to her prayer. Because of her prayer, I am here as I am. Because of her prayer, I am also encouraged to pray for the community and all people who are in need of prayer. And, because of her prayer, I hold fast to hope that the COVID-19 pandemic too shall pass and we can see the world restored soon.

Although we have not met each other face to face, our Holy Spirit has led us to meet in virtual worship and prayer for each other, for all people. We are bonded together as brothers and sisters in the love of Jesus Christ.

No matter what happens and no matter how busy we are, let us pray continually. I know there are many people that still need our prayer desperately.

Thank you to all mothers for their courage and their prayer.

God is always with us,

Pastor Park

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN WE GATHER AGAIN FOR WORSHIP

No one knows for sure when it will be that we are able to gather together in our sanctuary for worship. At this time we expect to share our worship on line until the end of May. However, it makes sense from what we are learning that our corporate worship will include hand sanitizer, possibly masks, sitting apart, except for family members. Wow, that may mean we will finally get people to sit in the front rows - a pastor's dream. In addition, expect the time of greeting and "passing the peace" to be without warm hugs, even shaking hands. Offering plates may not be passed for a while, but set at the back of the church for persons to place their tithes, gifts and offerings in as they enter or leave the church. Clorox wipes will be available to wipe down toilet seats after their use, by the one who used it. (Did you ever think you would read this in a church newsletter?) The bottom line is that we want everyone to stay healthy, yet we desire to be together. Watch for news as to when that will be.

4th of JULY BBQ CANCELLED FOR 2020

At the April 28 ZOOM meeting, the Church Administrative Council approved canceling the July 4th Deep Pit BBQ. Though we do not yet know the City's decision about whether to proceed with the town activities, for July 4th, it seemed wise for us to make our own determination. To proceed we need to be deeply into plans at this time. Orders for meat need to be placed now. We put out over \$2000 to put on the BBQ, and there would be no guarantee that by the time the 4th arrives we would have an "all clear" from the state and county, or that guests from previous years would feel safe coming out this year. Of course we will miss the fellowship of working together on this event, and our church finances will lose the \$3000 support the BBQ gives to the Church budget.

If things clear up enough by July or August, we can hold the postponed Yard Sale, which takes no outlay except labor. So, as you are home, keep cleaning out and store it at home, and then join in a possible Summer Yard Sale. We will need everyone's help. It will be fun and the church budget will greatly benefit. We just have to wait and see.

ONLINE WORSHIP FOR MAY

As we "go to press," on-line worship is scheduled through May. If you would like to be part of the service by helping with the prayers, providing music - instrumental and vocal, or serving as liturgist, please contact Pastor at 909-868-8896. We are so grateful to Pastor Park for his expertise and many long hours in putting the services together, and to all of you that have taken time to make recordings with your phones and pads and sending them in.

2020 US CENSUS!

Be sure to respond now to prevent an interviewer visit to collect your response. The Census affects the drawing of legislative boundaries and location of funds from both Federal and State sources. IT IS SO EASY. Even for this "non-techie" doing it on-line was so easy! But if you prefer, a paper Census was delivered for our address at your home. A special number has been assigned for your address, and is listed in the communications with you. However, if you have a question, you may call 844-330-2020.



PRESCHOOL AND INFANT CENTER SCHEDULED FOR REOPENING

After a ZOOM meeting with the District Superintendent and other pastors and director of Preschools in the District, as well as exploring State laws and guidelines, we have decided at this time to reopen the Preschool on May 18. We have been closed this past month. Director Valerie Nieves has established guidelines for reopening.

- 1 - No parents or visitors will be allowed into the Preschool.
- 2 - Parents will sign in on a table set up outside and will relinquish their child to a teacher, outside.
- 3 - Teachers will wear masks.
- 4 - Hand sanitizers will be used coming and going.
- 5 - Temperatures of both staff and children will be taken throughout the day.
- 6 - Though social distancing among children is almost impossible, there will be limited number of students in each classroom.

To date, no staff member, student or member of their families have shown symptoms of been diagnosed with the Covid 19.

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Worship with us online at 9:55 a.m.

www.lvumc.org

Return Service Requested

 IN OUR 
Thoughts and Prayers

Those impacted by Covid-19

Those whom from their labors rest: Dennis Tarry
(uncle of Mary Burkin)

Please continue strength and healing prayers for:
Rubin S. Alano, Maria Amores, Claudia Boyle,
Shawna Butera, Kimball Coburn, David Fitzsimons,
Barbara Jackson, Angelita Jose, Tomiko Kitani,
Gwen Leonard, Len Marquez, Rey Martin,
Jamie Ortega, Beatriz Phipps, Helen Sandelo,
Ken Sandelo, David Svatos



**Birthdays
This Month**

Ben Pangilinan (3)

Eunice Medina (9)

Jacob Ortega (19)

Luke Taylor (24)