



The Voice

LA VERNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Summer 2020 Newsletter

When We Reopen Our Church Campus

Dear my brothers and sisters,

I send you my warmest greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that the love and grace of God overflow all of your life, no matter what your situation may be.

During this time of the novel coronavirus pandemic, we have asked ourselves the question, “When can we reopen our church campus and have in-person worship services and church programs?” Following the guidelines from both the State Government and California Pacific Annual Conference, our church’s Task Force for reopening worked diligently for our in-person worship services. In late June, when Governor Newsom shut down again all indoor activities and operations, our church has also planned for relaunching outdoor worship services and activities. The Task Force applied again for relaunching our worship services outdoor and is now waiting for the approval from our District. I hope we can get news from it soon.

While we are waiting for the approval, I would like to invite you to think what we need to remind ourselves before our church is reopened for in-person worship services.

Let us reopen our church faithfully and safely. Some of us may raise a question, “Why do we reopen our church while the coronavirus is still not mutating?” “Isn’t the church o.k. to continue to have online worship services and activities as we have done so far?” My answer is, “It is o.k., of course! Our church will continue to provide an online format for them. I don’t think that only in-person worship can be called a ‘true service.’ Some churches may choose to reopen their church facilities much later and some others choose earlier. It depends on their church’s situations and capabilities, not the matter of faithfulness or unfaithfulness.”



The church is not only the building in which people worship and pray. The church, however, is a people who are fed by the words of God and are invited to work together for its mission that feeds those who are spiritually hungry and socially-politically-economically marginalized. This is what we are called by God on what the church should be. Our Christian identity of “being fed and doing feeding” (I would call it ‘BFDF’) invites us to cultivate our discipleship inside and outside our community. What we pray and strive for reopening our church campuses is to keep desiring in faith for what our church is expected to be viable as a ‘BFDF’ during this difficult time.

When we reopen our in-person worship service, let us make our church a viable community by modelling a method of safety for many people to follow. How our church faithfully and safely does its ministry in a world of social distancing while maintaining online worship services for those who cannot attend is an unavoidable challenge, but an opportunity to make our church stand as a ‘BFDF’ and rethink its mission for transforming the world. Furthermore, when we gather for in-person worship services, we may come to know who have been suffering from financial hardships, sicknesses, and other concerns.

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We also know those who are vulnerable at this time, unable to join activities and services. When we share our concerns with our brothers and sisters in community, we may also experience unexpected feelings of grief, sorrow, and anxiety. But, don't be frustrated! We will surely experience God's healing power and His comforting grace and mercy upon all of us, because we are the church and the body of Christ that never be forsaken.

I would like to remind a few things when we gather together in person for worship and activities.

- **Safety:** The church is a people who particularly seek and follow all the best guidance of safety for others.
- **Trust in the Lord:** The church is a people who keep the faith that God of hope and resurrection knows all about making all things new and the impossible possible (Isaiah 43:18 & Luke 1:37).
- **Prayer:** The church is a people who cry out to God for those who are in need, especially for those who are vulnerable at this time.
- **Christian Tolerance:** The church is a people who do not fear their unavoidable challenge, but put their hands together to overcome it.
- **New Church:** The church is a people who do not hesitate to put new wine into fresh wineskins (Luke 5:38). Rather than going back to the exact same church we left mid-march, try to create a new church that can much viably extend the kingdom of God.

We don't know when we can reopen our church facilities, but we will reopen when our district allows us to do. I believe that it is all about God's decision. Please know that we should never stop our praises to God and never stop praying for others, our ministry, and for the world. When God's time comes to allow us to gather together for worship, let us respond to God faithfully and safely in our worship and ministry from both inside and outside the church.

Be the hope and model for the world.

Pastor Park

WHERE ARE WE IN TERMS OF REOPENING???

Well, we were anticipating an indoor worship the first of August - that is not going to happen with the current surge in Covid 19 cases in the county. However we have made a new application to the District Committee for Outdoor worship and are hopeful for approval soon. When we do know, we will be in touch. See the accompanying article (page 3) on Outdoor Worship to see what to expect. In the meantime keep watching the online worship each week at lvumc.org

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT WILL SUNDAY MORNING IN-PERSON OUTDOOR WORSHIP LOOK LIKE?

Outdoor Worship will happen on the grassy area between the sanctuary and Marshall Hall. You will come from the parking area to the two tables on the south end of the grass.

There you will be greeted, temperature taken, a very brief self-health check completed, and a “one time” waiver signed (for our insurance company). It will be necessary to wear a mask and to keep 6 feet away from others.

Once you have checked in at the tables you will go and find a chair, they are placed 6 ft apart. Family members who live in the same house can sit closer. Ushers will be available to guide you if you have any questions.

You are welcome to bring your own Bible, none will be set out.

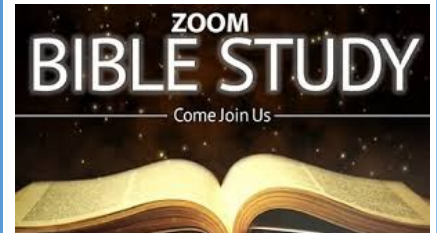
The Task Force is working hard to make sure our time together, though restricted, will be the best possible. We will miss our usual hugging greetings, and of course there will be no fellowship time after the service, nor the wonderful food we are used to, however, we will be together and can see each others' faces as we worship our God together. Remember we follow these guidelines in order to protect each other.



Outdoor Worship Service

A.M. SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

We have continued our Sunday Morning Bible Study through e-mails, and are exploring the benefits of meeting instead by ZOOM.



If you want to be a part during the Fall season (September, October, December please let Alma Roberts know so a student book can be ordered for you.

(909-392-0292)

CHURCH FAMILY UPDATE

KEEPING UP WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Alec Guest is at home recovering from recent abdominal surgery. They did find stage 4 cancer but are confident that they got it all in the surgery. He had lost considerable weight but his appetite has returned now. Cards would be really welcomed! 1985 Ninth Street, LV. 91750

David Fitzsimons is home from the hospital and is at the Cal-Vet facility in Westwood. Cards would be great! 11500 Nimitz Avenue, # A319L , Los Angeles, 90049

Ray Martin continues to recover at home 11908 Dunlap Avenue, Chino 91710

Christina Hernandez, like many of our seniors is confined at home, nanasplace46@gmail.com

Gwen Leonard is at home. Lessening of vision makes keeping in touch difficult. Calls and cards are welcome. 3530 Damien, # 273. La Verne 91750

Barbara Jackson is staying home but is good at communicating via e mail.
19kutcie39@gmail.com

Don Fankhauser continues his donut shop ministry and often brings a sack of donuts to those working at the church on Tuesday and Thursday. Thanks Don, you are a "sweet" heart. :-)

Ben Pangilinan continues to help with the Sowing Seeds for Life Food distribution at Fairplex every 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. (reminder: No food distribution in August)

Keith McHugh's garden behind Marshall Hall is very productive. Be sure to pick up some vegetables when you come down to weed alone. :-)

Some continue to come to the church to do maintenance, including weeding, where ever you see the need. All are welcome, just maintain distance and wear a mask if others are present. The back parking lot and garden are especially in need of weeding. Bring a shovel to loosen the weeds, a broom or rake to scoop up what you cut and a bucket (blue ones are available in the back area) to transport weeds to the dumpster. Come anytime—it will be appreciated.

Keep bringing in cans and bottles (thank you for separating them) . This past week we received over \$50 for the Youth Campership Fund, from turning them in. (The youth will be able to attend camp someday.)

Finally, let the church know of any needs you or your family may have.
As Tiny Tim would say, "God bless us, everyone."

A TRIBUTE TO *John Lewis*

Every now and then there comes along a person who is destined to make a positive change to history. Regardless of one's political beliefs, John Lewis was one of those persons. Some of his quotes demonstrate this fact.

"What we believe in *Faith*, we make real through *Hope*."

"Love is a better way."

"If we can get it right in America, maybe we can serve as a model to the rest of the world."

Lewis's religious faith was evident from his education at American Baptist Seminary to his adherence to non violence as the only way to bring about lasting social change. That enabled him to suffer being beaten, burnt with cigarettes and hot soup, bombed, confronted with fire hoses and dogs. He was one of the leaders of the March on Washington that led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and a leader in the walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge that resulted in "Bloody Sunday."

His life is a challenge to us to consider how we live out our lives as followers of the teachings and example of Jesus.

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*"Give me your tired , your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe  
free. The wretched refuse of your teeming  
shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-  
tossed to me, I lift up my lamp beside the  
golden door!"*



*The Statue of Liberty*



**URGENT!!!  
HAVE YOU COMPLETED  
THE 2020 CENSUS**

If not, you can reach the  
census at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov)

Do it today!

Simple - only 10 questions  
to answer.

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Pastor: Rev. Min-Kyu Park, Ph.D.

[laverneumc@gmail.com](mailto:laverneumc@gmail.com)

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

[www.lvumc.org](http://www.lvumc.org)

Return Service Requested



IN OUR



*Thoughts and Prayers*

Those impacted by Covid-19

Please continue strength and healing prayers for:  
Maria Amores, Claudia Boyle, L. Connie Brown,  
Shawna Butera, Kimball Coburn, David Fitzsimons,  
Ale Guest, Barbara Jackson, JoAnne Jackson,  
Angelita Jose, Tomiko Kitani, Gwen Leonard, Len  
Marquez, Rey Martin, Jamie Ortega, Rev. Harry  
Pak, Beatriz Phipps, Helen Sandelo, Ken Sandelo,  
Ara Shabanian, David Svatos.

Our Preschool teachers, students and families.



*Nicole Pifer  
Renae Reyes  
Mary Burkin  
Romeo Lardizabal  
Caden Stearns  
Monica Ortega  
Glenn Beutler  
Dee Dee Taylor  
Beatriz Phipps  
Leo Ortega Sr.  
Arvin Domingo  
Jelina Medina*