



The Voice

LA VERNE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Christmas 2020 Newsletter



Christmas Greeting from the Pastor

Dear beloved brothers and sisters,

My family and I send you warm greetings to you in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus!

In the midst of the pandemic, even though we do not share much in common with the season of Christmas that we had before, it is no reason not to celebrate the birth of our baby Jesus Christ and give our thanks to God.

Our Lord Jesus Christ came to save us, came as God's gift to show us the way, the truth, and the life. What a gift he is for us! That's why we have to say, "Thanks be to God!"

The gospel of John tells us how our baby Jesus came to us. It says,

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. . . . And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-2; 14)

Jesus, who is God's only son, was with God in the process of creation, and is the Word itself, came to us in a physical body and lived among us. Because the Word has become flesh, God has insight into our weakness and vulnerability. The Word became flesh and felt our sorrow. The Word became flesh and shed tears and sweat that tasted like blood (Luke 22:44). Even if we feel as though no one understands our deepest anguish, God has become like us in feeling what we feel. Whatever we go through in life, God has not abandoned us. God has made a commitment to stay by our side. If the Word became flesh and lived among us, we can trust that he loves us and cares about us. He is EMMANUEL! GOD IS WITH US!

Christmas is so much more than just a holiday. It is a holy day when our baby Jesus was born to be the light of the world, when our God came and lived among us, when we joyfully celebrate and give our thanks to God, when we share with everyone a good news that God's unfailing love never forsakes us, and when we assure our faith of EMMANUEL.

I would like to invite you to join our **Online Christmas Eve Service on December 23 at 7 PM. It is the candlelight service with family Christmas songs. This service will be uploaded on our church's website, LVUMC.ORG**

I pray that this service will touch our hearts with joy and peace. I also pray that you and your loved ones have a very good time in this season of Advent.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Park

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY MEETS VIA e-mail

That's right, since the closure of worship indoor on Sundays, the early morning Bible Study has been meeting online, but not on ZOOM, rather through e-mail. Teacher Alma sends out some background information, and asks questions as we move through the Student Book. Then each of the members of the class can share ideas and respond to the questions, We have always depended a lot on discussion. This isn't the same, not everyone responds, but it has proven to be meaningful to those who do. If you should want to join in on this, let Alma know and a Student book will be ordered for you. We are only 2 lessons into the Winter Unit.

ADVENT STUDY COMES TO AN END

Well, we made it. We were able to safely meet for our 5 week Advent Book Study of Adam Hamilton's INCARNATION. Ten 6 foot tables were spaced out around Marshall Hall and just one person was allowed at each table, unless from the same household. We came wearing masks and kept our distance. It worked. INCARNATION helped to explain the meaning of God coming to us as a human by exploring the names we use for Jesus. His heavenly royalty shows through the names MESSIAH, CHRIST, KING, ANOINTED ONE. His name JESUS means "the one who will save his people from their sins." EMMANUEL says "God is with us." We learned that God didn't just put on a human costume to look like us but that he actually became fully human while remaining fully God. That led to our realization that our understanding of God is too small. Perhaps we have limited God because our understanding of God is limited. God is so much more. We learned that there are two Lords used in the scripture. LORD, usually written in capital letters, translates Yahweh, the traditional name for God, creator of the universe. And, there is also Lord, the one who is personal, our Lord and Savior. The Gospel of John helps us to understand the meaning of Jesus as THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. All of these names belong to the child born in a manger so many years ago, whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas time.

You are invited to let your celebration expand with new understandings of God's intent when God became incarnate in Jesus to be our Messiah, to save us from our sins, to be with us, to be our light. Thanks be to God!

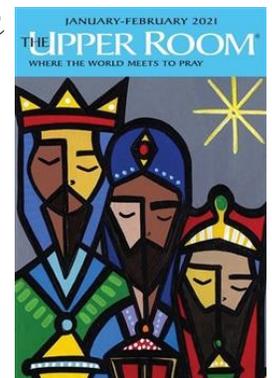
CONFIRMATION CLASS WILL RESUME IN 2021

Like many events, our Confirmation class was half way done when the Corona virus shut it down. There are four sessions remaining. We will be meeting during the worship hour on Sunday mornings - spaced out in the sanctuary as worship continues outside. Be sure to wear your mask. We will meet on January 10, 17, 24, and 31. We look forward to when Julia, Jasmine, Jello, Janelle, Stephen/Junior, and Abby will officially become a member of our church.



Begin 2021 in prayer!

*The January-February
Upper Room
Daily
Devotionals
are now
available!*



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Thank you so much for the very generous responses of food and monetary offers to create both Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets! Also, a big thank you goes out to the Boy Scouts who participated and collected enough food for us to reach our goals of food baskets and bring surplus food to the San Dimas food pantry. **Thank you to all!**

We successfully gave out 8 food baskets at Thanksgiving, up from the 5 we were originally going to do due to everyone's participation. We intend to give another 8 food baskets for Christmas which will be ready by Sunday December 20th. In addition, we were able to send up to 18 gift cards to Sowing Seeds for Life to add to some of their food boxes on December 9th to replace the usual toy drive we have.

Sowing Seeds for Life will continue to give out food in the upcoming year starting on the 2nd Wednesday of January via drive-through method. At this time, the site of distribution is unknown but information will be received by the beginning of January.

Although we are unable to give clothes out due to Covid-19, we have given several bags of clothes, which could not be properly stored in our shed, to Shepherd's Pantry in Glendora. We were able to give a generous bag of clothes to a little girl whose mother came to our church for assistance. So please, if anyone knows an individual needing clothes, give them the Church phone number and we can help them out!

May you all have a peaceful and safe Christmas!

Outreach Team



Merry Christmas and Blessings from United Methodist Church Trustees

"God grant you the light of Christmas, which is Faith; the warmth of Christmas, which is Love; the radiance of Christmas, which is Purity; the righteousness of Christmas, which is Justice; the belief in Christmas, which is Truth; the all of Christmas, which is Christ."

- Wilda English -

During the last two months, Trustees have been busy maintaining the buildings and grounds. Basic projects completed were trees being trimmed and removal of hazardous or dead ones; The weeds and a dead opossum were removed from the field and parking lot behind Marshall Hall; an estimate received from United Fence Company to repair/replace sections of the chain link fence surrounding the back parking lot and the preschool yard; Our men worked on sealing and painting the roof of a mobile home for an Outreach project; Hilary, Bjorg and Alma replaced a large area of the Infant Center playground grass with sod; the Infant Center and Preschool rooms/carpets were disinfected and deep cleaned, due to a Preschool teacher's exposure to Covid-19; the Infant/Preschool is back open and it's nice to hear the sweet little voices again.

Anyone who would like to be involved/help maintain or do repairs around the church/no matter how big or small is welcomed to come any time. Allen will post a list of areas in need of attention.

*"Let us realize that: the privilege to work is a gift, the power to work is a blessing,
the love of work is success!" – David O. McKay*

God is the reason for the season God Bless, Trustees

READ DIANE'S STORY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

In *The Invisible Child*, Williams tells the story of her physical disabilities and the emotional avalanche that she suffered beneath while learning to “parent on her back.” Williams ultimately learned to face her situation and accept the things that she could not control, and to focus instead on what she could. She also captures the powerful yet uninvited restraints and pleasures that caregiving added to the lives of her daughters.

With a fierce determination to raise her daughters into flourishing young ladies, Williams turned inwards to develop an undeniable faith that moves mountains. *The Invisible Child* is a story of triumph against all odds, and also a warm, heartfelt, and moving saga of unconditional love in a family that had to push past the turmoil in order to garner an unfathomable strength, and in the process carve out a life focused on solutions that lead to individual accomplishment, success, and peace.

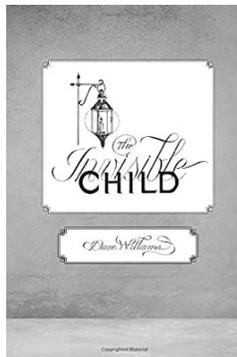
In her memoir, *The Invisible Child*, Williams chronicles the first 10 years of “parenting on her back.”

The Invisible Child can be purchased at the church office and is priced at \$15.00. Williams is donating 20% of the proceeds from each sale of the book directly to the church.

Contact Williams at 909-596-5184 to arrange for a FREE pick-up or a shipment by mail for \$5.

Bio: Williams is a Prayer Warrior, Author, certified John Maxwell Coach Speaker, and Trainer.

Please Connect with her on her at writerworks@gmail.com.



OPEN - CLOSE - OPEN - CLOSE - OPEN

At the start of 2020 our Preschool/ Infant Center was doing great. We were near capacity, the shade screens had just been installed, and the two indoor bathrooms were being refurbished with new paint, new floors, new small toilets. Then came Covid 19.

After first struggling with what to do we found ourselves closed down for 3 months. Later, finding our school considered an essential business because of our service to working parents, we opened to a very few students at first. We gradually grew and PPP funds received by the Church and Preschool allowed us to provide special safety supplies and salaries. As PPP funds diminished many of you responded to our plea for support.

We can't thank you enough for your kind and generous response.

Then in spite of all our safety precautions, there was an exposure to the Coronavirus and we had to quarantine for 2 weeks. During that time the rooms were disinfected and all of the carpets were deep cleaned. Now we are open again. It has not been easy for our staff or families, but everyone is doing their best to adjust. Please continue to keep the Preschool, Infant Center, and Staff in your prayers.

**PRESCHOOL
MINISTRY**



La Verne United Methodist Church

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

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Outdoor Worship ~10:00 a.m.

Online Service every Sunday ~7 p.m.

www.lvumc.org

Return Service Requested

 IN OUR 
Thoughts and Prayers

Those impacted by Covid-19

L. Connie Brown, Shawna Butera, Charles and Louanna Fankhauser, the Fankhauser Family, David Fitzsimons, Alec Guest, Cristina Hernandez, Barbara Jackson, JoAnne Jackson, Tomiko Kitani, Rey Martin, David Olson, Rev. Harry and Rev. Carmen Pak, Jeanette Rice, Percy Salta, Helen and Ken Sandelo, April Shackelford, Jennifer Simpson, David Svatos, Larry Weeden, all our seniors, especially those confined at home, our Preschool teachers and students, and all students who are in school.

***Scan our QR Code to take
you directly to our website:***

www.lvumc.org

