



# The Appian Wayfarer



## Good Friday Service April 19, 7:30 pm Joint Circuit Observance at El Sobrante UMC

This year the churches of our Circuit will be observing Good Friday here at ESUMC. The service will feature a mass choir and reader theater. Those interested in participating in the dramatic reading are invited to contact Noel Stout, [noelstout@yahoo.com](mailto:noelstout@yahoo.com), 510-754-1503.

## 16th Annual Women's Retreat, April 26-28, 2019 Ralston White Retreat Center, Mill Valley, CA

Join us for a relaxing weekend of comfortable accommodations and good food in a beautiful setting! We have planned two craft activities. If you prefer, bring a good book, paint, yarn, camera, musical instrument or anything else which you enjoy. You may also choose to spend quiet time by yourself or engage in great conversation with friends --- old and new. For the outdoor types, there are several hiking trails -- well marked and safe.

Worship service Sunday morning. ALL ACTIVITIES ARE OPTIONAL! This is your weekend to use doing whatever brings you pleasure and feeds your soul!

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Dwiggins 510-685-2101

## Conversation with Bishop Carcaño

Sunday, April 7, Conversation with Bishop Carcaño about the future of the UMC.  
2:30 p.m. at Epworth UMC in Berkeley.  
Please come and ask your questions!  
Want to Carpool? Come to the parking lot by 2 pm.

## Maundy Thursday Celebration

The most important festivals in the Jewish liturgical calendar are Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread that follows over the week after the Passover feast. Passover is primarily a family celebration that takes place around a meal and commemorates God's liberation of the Israelites from bondage in Egypt. Jesus' last meal with his disciples was a Passover feast.

On Maundy Thursday, April 18, we will gather together at 6:30 in Keislar Hall for a "Christian" Passover Seder. Our meal will be potluck. **(Those with last names starting with A-H, please bring a side dish; I-N please bring a salad; O-Z please bring a dessert.)** The main dish will be provided. As we come to the end of the celebration we will experience how Jesus transformed it in a way that points to our liberation from sin and death in the person and deeds of Jesus.



## Mark's Musings

*Last year about this time, I shared with you a summary of our Lenten study, "Methodism 101."*

*Coming off the recent Special General Conference, it struck me that as we look to the future, it would be worthwhile to retrace again the path that we have been on since the 18th century, to see if there are any lessons learned that might guide us going forward.*

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John Wesley was the son of an Anglican priest and received much of his early spiritual formation from his mother, Susanna. He grew up in Epworth, a small village half the distance from London to Scotland. He studied in Oxford, and then taught there at Lincoln College. He was joined by his brother Charles and a few friends in a semi-monastic lifestyle, spending many hours each day in prayer and study. Eventually, their practices expanded to help the poor and marginalized, visit the sick and those in prison. In his travels, he encountered the deep piety of the Moravians, and attended their meetings in Aldersgate Street in London. There on May 24, 1738, he felt his heart "strangely warmed. I felt I *did trust* in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and *an assurance* was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death" (emphasis added). This was a crucial turning point for Wesley. Until then, he had been convinced that obedience to God's law was the path to salvation - an obedience he was never sure he had fulfilled. But at that moment he realized that it was not what *he* could do, but what *God* had already done that would draw him to God. Trust in God and the Assurance of God's Pardon became the keystones of the Methodist message. This was a message that Wesley couldn't keep to himself: he immediately began preaching it to anyone who would listen. But because of his rocky relationship with the authorities in the Church of England, he had been forbidden to preach in the parish churches. And although not a golden-tongued orator, he was invited by another member of the small group that had formed at Oxford, George Whitefield - who had also found himself without a pulpit - to join him in Bristol to preach outdoors. Whitefield was a great preacher, and could attract thousands; Wesley was fortunate to inherit the crowds. But his message was received enthusiastically, and the crowds continued to grow. Over the course of his life,

Wesley would travel the length and breadth of England many times over: literally hundreds of thousands of miles.

It cannot be underestimated how desperate life was for most people in the newly industrialized world of the 18th century. In the cities and towns where industry had sprung up, workers were a disposable commodity from the perspective of the owners. They were little better off than slaves. The physical environment was very often toxic, especially in the mines, and disease was rampant. For the masses to hear that indeed they were beloved children of God, and that God did not intend them to live in such squalor was truly Good News. Did it require that they do what they could to turn their lives around? Absolutely. Drunkenness and what Wesley considered "frivolous" pursuits (basically, anything but prayer, Bible study, worship, and works of mercy) were forbidden. But it was well worth it.

John Wesley is famous for saying that "there is no holiness but social holiness." It's another way of saying faith without works is dead. And the spiritual energy that the Methodists and other evangelists unleashed changed and humanized the society around them. By the 19th century Methodism was not only a spiritual movement, but the inspiration for much of the legislation of the British Parliament that improved the lives of the populace as a whole.

Wesley had focused on prison ministry, where most of the prisoners were there because they couldn't pay their debts. Wesley helped with that. He was also an important influence in bringing the orphans off the streets and teaching them the three R's. He joined forces with William Wilberforce to fight against the abomination of the slave trade.

By the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Wesley's lay preachers had started migrating to the North American colonies. Eventually, he found himself ordaining a few to lead the movement. Among them was Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke. Asbury, in particular, became the John Wesley of North America, travelling some nearly 300,000 miles over the course of his career.

The Revolution had caused a major crisis for the Methodist movement: it was rooted in the Church of England, and those loyal to it, were seen as traitors. Several of the itinerant preachers left the former colonies, and Wesley eventually allowed for what was effectively an autonomous church, whose

leaders had been given by him the authority to perform the sacraments and ordain the clergy.

Wesley had little original to say about topics like the Trinity or the two natures in Christ. But we can distill a few theological fundamentals from his writings that stand out, both for his time and ours: faith is trust in God; God's pardon and reconciliation are assured; God has already given us the capacity to accept God's gift of the Spirit, whose love will draw us ever closer to God (a process Wesley called "perfection"); there is no holiness but social holiness. The method that guides us in this life of holiness begins with thoughtful reflection on the Bible, studying what those who have come before us can teach us; our personal and corporate experience of God's Spirit in our lives, and the human capacity of reason and understanding to discern what is truly of God.

The Methodist movement swept over America in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and splintered into several movements: African Methodists were spurred to establish their own churches in the face of racial prejudice. American egalitarianism inspired others to insist on a church that was administered not just by clergy but equally by laypeople. The issue of slavery split the church between those who rejected it and those who accommodated it. Pentecostalism owes its origins to the Methodist camp meetings that were everywhere.

Beyond the church, that Wesleyan striving for perfection inspired the leaders of the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The abysmal conditions of industrial workers led to the formation of the Methodist Federation for Social Service, now the Methodist Federation for Social Action, and inspired the passage of child labor laws and other worker protections. Over the years, the MFSA has addressed the social/ economic/ cultural issues that have confronted our society, and sought to improve the lives of everyone and everything. This social conscience is "baked in" to Methodism, and at an official level is represented by the Social Principles that address every aspect of our lives under the following rubrics: The Natural World; The Nurturing Community; The Social Community; The Economic Community; The Political Community; and The World Community. At the meeting of the General Conference, updates to these Principles are considered, and a whole spectrum of resolutions based on them are voted on, and then given over to

the Church generally and to the General Board of Church and Society, in particular, for implementation.

On the administrative side, as the 20<sup>th</sup> century wore on, the three largest Methodist denominations – Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal South, and Methodist Protestant – came to see the virtue in reuniting, and in 1939, they combined to form "The Methodist Church." The legacy of slavery, however, was perpetuated in the segregation of black churches and clergy in what was called the "Central Jurisdiction," which was not geographical but by race. Everyone knew that something would have to be done about this.

With the advent of the Civil Rights movement, it became clear that this Central Jurisdiction was no longer viable. And when "The United Methodist Church" was formed in 1968, it represented not only the folding in of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, an ethnically German church with a Wesleyan heritage, but perhaps more importantly, the abolition of the Central Jurisdiction, and the integration of all congregations into the geographical Annual Conferences. More recently, the United Methodist family of churches has extended to Europe, Africa and Asia. We are still in the process of transitioning from a national church to a global church.

What is the take-away from all of this for us today? 1. Faith is trust in a God whose love and pardon is assured; 2. God's love freely given is ours to freely receive; 3. There is no holiness but social holiness; 4. God cares about all things and persons on earth, and has given us the charge to look after them all.

Perhaps all of this is best summed up in Wesley's three simple rules: do no harm, do good, stay in love with God. And put an ALWAYS in front of each one.

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*The Special General Conference held last month voted to adopt the "Traditionalist" plan, doubling down on restrictions on the rights and privileges of LGBTQI persons in the denomination. While there are some further legal and procedural issues to clarify, it is not likely that the vote will be struck down in its entirety.*

*What does the future hold? Will the breach between the "inclusive" camp and the "non-inclusive" camp ever be healed? Ultimately this will be a matter of the*

heart, not of votes and procedures. It took nearly 130 years to begin to heal the wounds of slavery -- an issue driven by fundamentally opposed views of who is a fully human being. In some ways, the issue around sexuality is no different. We should not expect the gap to close any time soon.

In the meantime, Bishop Carcaño will be sharing her account of what happened at the Special General Conference and what will likely be its effect on our Annual Conference at churches throughout northern California and Nevada. The closest such meeting to El Sobrante will be at Epworth UMC in Berkeley on Sunday afternoon, April 7, starting at 2:30. All are welcome to attend.

See you in church!

Mark Zier

### Freedom School 2019

Education has been one of the cornerstones of Methodist outreach, from John Wesley's day to the present. Joanna Pace, a member of Open Door who has been working in and with the public schools in the area for many years, has taken on the role of Executive Director of the West County Freedom School, June 17 through July 26, that plans to enroll 40 students at Nystrom Elementary as scholars in the program.

Freedom Schools are a project of the Children's Defense Fund, and go back to the Freedom Schools in 1964 that were part of the Civil Rights Movement. The CDF has been organizing these summer experiences for children since 1995.

Sponsorship of one scholar is \$285, but no donation is too small. **Please consider donating.** Checks should be made payable to Open Door UMC Attn: Freedom School, 6226 Arlington Blvd., Richmond, CA 94805. **Many volunteers** will also be needed especially during the afternoons.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Joanna Pace, 510-860-3696, or Pastor Mark.

### Colorful Easter flowers for the altar

We now have a signup sheet in the narthex for colorful plants or flowers for the Easter altar. Please note however, that the dedication will be in the Easter Sunday bulletin and that you should bring your plant or flowers by Friday, April 19 which is Good Friday



## Birthdays This Month

- April 1 - Cory Tipton
- April 2 - Macy McCallister (Mark's wife)
- April 3 - Valerie Shattock
- April 6 - Brianna Gamache
- April 9 - Dorothy Philippi
- April 15 - Norma Jensen
- April 17 - Stacy Cerruti
- April 19 - Miranda McGoon, Tom Mason
- April 20 - Melissa Predny
- April 21 - Paddi Just
- April 23 - Michael Hollingshead
- April 24 - Gary Dwiggin
- April 26 - Wendy Allen
- April 27 - Steve Mainini
- April 30 - Frank Kafer

### Shirley A. Kille Memorial Scholarship Fund

Last year the scholarship committee awarded two \$1,500.00 scholarships from a pool of highly qualified applicants.

Now, it is time to think to 2019. Several people asked if they could donate to the fund, so we can award more than one scholarship. In response, I decided to match dollar-for-dollar any donations up to \$10,000.

If you are interested in donating in ANY amount, I will gratefully match it. Make checks to ESUMC, designated to Kille Scholarship Fund. If we receive enough to extend this to ten years, I will be 103. Wow!! Now that is something to look forward to!!

Thank you in advance for considering donating as you are inclined and able.

God bless. Ken Kille.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	<b>1</b> 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 6:30 PM Cubs, KH/FR/R1 7:30 PM <b>Handbells, S</b>	<b>2</b> 10 PM Painting Group, R1 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 4 PM <b>Faith Exploration, O/S</b> 6 PM Yoga, R1 7 PM Boy Scouts, KH 7:30 PM <b>Kairos, S</b>	<b>3</b> 10 AM <b>Bible Study, R1</b> 11:30 AM <b>Motion Class, KH</b> 1 PM <b>Crafty Ladies, R1</b> 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 6:15 PM Girl Scout Leaders, KH 7 PM Al Anon, FR 7 PM Alateen, R1 7:30 <b>Choir, C</b>	<b>4</b> 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 6 PM Yoga, R1 7 PM <b>Photo Club, R1</b>	<b>5</b> 10 AM <b>Motion Class, KH</b> 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 6:30 PM <b>EBARC class, R1</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>7</b> 10 AM <b>Worship, S</b> 11:30 AM <b>Fellowship</b> 12:15 PM <b>Lenten Study</b>	<b>8</b> 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 6:30 PM Cubs, KH/FR/R1 7:30 PM <b>Handbells, S</b>	<b>9</b> 10 PM Painting Group, R1 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 4 PM <b>Faith Exploration, O/S</b> 6 PM Yoga, R1 7 PM Boy Scouts, KH 7:30 PM <b>Kairos, S</b>	<b>10</b> 10 AM <b>Bible Study, R1</b> 11:30 AM <b>Motion Class, KH</b> 1 PM <b>Crafty Ladies, R1</b> 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 6:15 PM Girl Scout Leaders, KH 7 PM Al Anon, FR 7 PM Alateen, R1 7:30 <b>Choir, C</b>	<b>11</b> 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 6 PM Yoga, R1	<b>12</b> 10 AM <b>Motion Class, KH</b> 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 6:30 PM <b>EBARC class, R1</b>	<b>13</b> 10 AM <b>Blessing Closet, R2</b>	
<b>14</b> 10 AM <b>Worship, S</b> 11:30 AM <b>Fellowship</b> 12:15 PM <b>Lenten Study</b>	<b>15</b> 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 6:30 PM Cubs, KH/FR/R1 7:30 PM <b>Handbells, S</b>	<b>16</b> 10 PM Painting Group, R1 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 4 PM <b>Faith Exploration, O/S</b> 6 PM Yoga, R1 7 PM Boy Scouts, KH 7:30 PM <b>Kairos, S</b>	<b>17</b> 10 AM <b>Bible Study, R1</b> 11:30 AM <b>Motion Class, KH</b> 1 PM <b>Crafty Ladies, R1</b> 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 6:15 PM Girl Scout Leaders, KH 7 PM Al Anon, FR 7 PM Alateen, R1 7:30 <b>Choir, C</b>	<b>18</b> 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 6 PM Yoga, R1 6:30 PM <b>Maundy Thursday Celebration</b> 7 PM <b>Photo Club, R1</b>	<b>19</b> 10 AM <b>Motion Class, KH</b> 10:30 AM <b>GRIP, (off site)</b> 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 6:30 PM <b>EBARC class, R1</b> 7:30PM <b>Good Fri. Service, S</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>21</b> <b>EASTER</b> 10 AM <b>Worship, S</b> 11:30 AM <b>Easter Fellowship Luncheon, Egg Hunt</b>	<b>22</b> 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 6:30 PM Cubs, KH/FR/R1 7:30 PM <b>Handbells, S</b>	<b>23</b> 10 PM Painting Group, R1 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 4 PM <b>Faith Exploration, O/S</b> 6 PM Yoga, R1 7 PM Boy Scouts, KH 7:30 PM <b>Kairos, S</b>	<b>24</b> 10 AM <b>Bible Study, R1</b> 11:30 AM <b>Motion Class, KH</b> 1 PM <b>Crafty Ladies, R1</b> 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 6:15 PM Girl Scout Leaders, KH 7 PM Al Anon, FR 7 PM Alateen, R1 7:30 <b>Choir, C</b>	<b>25</b> 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 6 PM Yoga, R1	<b>26</b> 10 AM <b>Motion Class, KH</b> 12 PM <b>Women's Retreat, (off site)</b> 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 6 PM <b>Community Fair, KH, FR, + R1</b> 6:30 PM <b>EBARC class, R1</b>	<b>27</b>	
<b>28</b> 10 AM <b>Worship, S</b> 11:30 AM <b>Fellowship, KH</b> <b>Women's Retreat</b>	<b>29</b> 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 6:30 PM Cubs, KH/FR/R1 7:30 PM <b>Handbells, S</b>	<b>30</b> 10 PM Painting Group, R1 2 PM B&G Club, KH & FR 4 PM <b>Faith Exploration, O/S</b> 6 PM Yoga, R1 7 PM Boy Scouts, KH 7:30 PM <b>Kairos, S</b>	<b>Holy Week --- Easter April 21</b>				
			<b>April 2019 Calendar</b>				



### Prayer Concerns

Paulette Collins, Family of Sabrina Looney, Hailie James, Bob & Hilda Nessel (friends of Cheryl Brown), Pat Rockeman, Joan Landis and family, Family of Maxine Hilburn, Emery Phillips, Family of Betty Staley, Noel Stout, Family of Bob Parker, Darlene Fleming, Family of Valerie Kleinfeld, Cliff Kearsley (Frank Kafer's brother-in-law), Family of Sam Emmanuele, Flor Sanchez & her mother (Karen Jarrell's colleague), Wendy Allen, Bill Slessinger, family of Dorothy Williams, Lee Hunt, Edna Luffey, Marge Dean, Leota Merrithew, Karin Shuttlesworth, Gina Ledesma and her family (colleague of Karen Jarrell), Gary Stearns, family of Teresa Morin Stanton (friend of Lee Hunt), Sherry Banks, Victor Nozzolillo, the Fleming family (Steve, Denise Roby, & Michael), Laureen Kelly and Linda Goodman (nieces of Darlene), Gary Spearie (Paula Hammond's brother), those who continue to be impacted by natural disasters.



**Easter Egg Hunt & Luncheon  
April 21**

Save the date! Easter Egg Hunt for the children will take place following our worship celebration on Easter Sunday, April 21. Following, the Worship Committee is hosting a luncheon in Keislar Hall. All are welcome.

**Wayfarer**  
April 2019 issue

**El Sobrante United Methodist Church  
670 Appian Way, El Sobrante, CA 94803**



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Resident Bishop, Minerva Carcaño  
District Superintendent, Schuyler Rhodes  
Pastor, Mark A. Zier  
Director of Music, Eileen M. Johnson  
Lay Leader, Jacqueline Corl-Seidel  
Lay Minister, Charlene Kafer  
Treasurer, Marilyn Lomelino  
Office, Erika Cortez

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