



The Appian Wayfarer

The United Methodist Church: Open hearts · Open minds · Open doors

December 2019

Children & youth in juvenile detention

You have helped us out for years, letting our youth know you care. Your acts of kindness have reached out to them in their most troubled times. This year about 300 youth will spend the holidays in our Contra Costa County juvenile detention facilities. Your donation will help bring cheer to their surroundings.

Financial contributions gratefully accepted! Just \$10 buys a gift bag filled with all the items below and more.

Our Wish List

- Axe Deodorant Sticks and/or Axe body wash
- Suave full-size shampoo
- Full-size toothbrush and toothpaste
- White socks 9-11 or 13-14
- Black hair ties and combs
- Feminine hygiene products

If you prefer to provide other gifts, any of the following are also welcome:

- sports balls, paperback "teen" books, comic books, 500-pc. or less, jigsaw puzzles, dominos (double 6), playing cards, UNO, chess sets, 12" or smaller stuffed animals AND... any food gift-card is very much appreciated.

-- Remember: **Do not wrap gifts!**
Bring to ESUMC by Sunday, December 15.

Fred Finch

ESUMC has supported the center and its programs through the years in various ways, including a library renovation and repainting job about ten years ago. Today, our chief relationship is through Christmas gifts for young adults transitioning into independent living. This year's request is simple. A \$25 gift card from Target, Best Buy, VISA or American Express, etc., would be very welcome.

(Note: Merchant gift cards usually have no fees attached; those from credit cards usually do.)

Deadline: Bring to ESUMC by Dec. 13



Cub Scout Pack 134, Annual Pancake Breakfast

This is the Cub Scouts annual fundraiser.

Please join them on **Saturday, January 11, 2020 from 8:00am to 11:30am in Keislar Hall.** (\$8 individual, \$25 for a family of four (parents and kids)).



Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 Candlelight services

7:00 PM - for the whole family
with the Kairos Band

10:30 PM - traditional service
with chancel choir
& handbells



Jacqueline's Musings

Growing Young 2

ESUMC continues to explore what it will mean to 'grow young.' Since last month, the leadership team of 4 has been expanded to a dozen or so. All of these team members have taken a survey provided by the Fuller Youth Institute that assesses our congregation in terms of the six core commitments that have made it possible for other congregations to connect in a lasting way with the younger generation. Last month you read about Keychain Leadership and Empathy Today. This month we focus on the third and fourth core commitments: 'Jesus' Message' and 'Warm Relationships.'

For Jesus' Message, on the survey we took we received a score of 3.06 out of 5. It was our second highest score. The Institute's recommendation for improvement in this area was as follows: "Your church received a low score, which indicates you may struggle with welcoming young people into a Jesus-centered way of life. We recommend you give this area focused attention in the near future."

The core commitment around Jesus' message is to take it seriously. There are three important points. First, this commitment directs us to start focusing more on Jesus himself and less on abstract beliefs. We want to be a Jesus centered community, but not the only one. Talking about Jesus is not the privilege of just one denomination. But not talking about Jesus leads to a lack of knowledge and a wishy-washy attitude. His teachings are so clear, so relevant and so available through the Bible and sermons. We need to tell the story of Jesus. Jesus is Good. We should be Good!

The second point of this commitment is to be focused less on Heaven later and more about life now. How can we preach the good news now if it doesn't apply until we die? The Kingdom of God is now! Our message is that God is available to us now, to all of us now.

The third point is to express less dogmatic certainty and more authentic honesty. What does that mean? It means doubts happen. We can admit that doubts happen. Doubt leads to questions, leads to clarification, leads to deeper understanding and conviction/belief. Keeping silent about our questions and doubts can be toxic to our faith. We need to work on ways to enable discussion about ideas that are tough. Mental health, LGBTQI, Ethnic and Social (financial) boundaries are all

important to talk about. We are working to create safe spaces to address these and other issues.

The summation of this core commitment is that spreading the word (evangelism) is different. We are working to share, to live honestly and to show a faith that others can ask us about and follow. It is not our certainty but our honesty that makes young people better evangelists. We are moving toward Jesus.

So, what does that actually look like in our congregation? This was what our group had to address in our small group sessions. Some idea came to mind: Reestablish a Sunday school for the 'young' people in our congregation who are at risk of falling through the cracks if we don't pay attention; Translate the creeds into the language of everyday experiences; Small groups after church to discuss sermons, find their applicability to our lives; Ask young people to describe their faith or questions about it; Dedicate a Sunday to sharing with a "What's on your mind?" focus.

The fourth core commitment, Warm Relationships, was our strongest category, coming in with a score of 3.65 out of 5. The Institute commented: "Your church received a medium score, which indicates you may need to improve at creating a environment that is welcoming, accepting, authentic, hospitable, and caring. We recommend prioritizing this area after other areas where you may have received a low score." Since this whole questionnaire was predicated on having some young people in our church in the specific age range of 15-29 year olds we had an extra challenge. It became evident that it was more important to make sure that those younger members feel welcome and prepared for understanding and professing/living their faith.

The commitment is to fuel a warm community. This congregation does this pretty well on a level with the generations in it. But what do we have to offer 18-29 year olds? More important now, what do we have to offer 12-18 year olds? We learned that young people describe a warm community as something that feels like family. How can we be more like family to young people? That includes young people not in our congregation. Warm is welcoming, ACCEPTING, belonging, authentic, hospitable and caring. Our goal is to Be Family. It is not the style of our service, or the music, that matters most but the truth of it. The accessibility of the message in our service.

For this slice of the pie our work is to find ways to explore Christianity with young people, create a comfortable space to gather and share attitudes and

questions. Find a young person to mentor, but don't make them a project. People are not projects. Ask what they think of the church. Ask what they would like to see in the church. What would make them more comfortable? This is one of the areas that we, the committee, are focused on addressing. We look forward to 'mealings,' meeting over a shared meal, with different age groups that exist in our congregation, and to reaching out to some of the former youth.

As we move into this busy Advent/Christmas season it will be a challenge to keep our focus and energy on these things. We encourage your questions and assistance throughout the season. Coming in January, the last 2 core commitments!

Happy Holidays,
Jacqueline Corl-Seidel

Monthly Meetings

for December:

- **Worship Com.** - Sun., 8, 7:00 PM, OR
- **Ad Council** - Sun., 15, 1:00 PM, KH



- Dec. 3 - Irma Common, Don James
- Dec. 6 - Alyssa Mainini
- Dec. 7 - Carl Just
- Dec. 10 - Joshua Garcia
- Dec. 11 - Scott Loopstra, Mort Weishahn
- Dec. 15 - Sean Kille, Sharon Bullock
- Dec. 17 - Tina Ballagh
- Dec. 18 - Emmy Steiner
- Dec. 19 - Vickie Resso
- Dec. 21 - Suzy Harnois, Janine Moulton
- Dec. 24 - Carolyn Ulrich, Angeli Button
- Dec. 25 - Steve Ulrich
- Dec. 27 - Joan Holzinger
- Dec. 29 - James Renk (Shattock)
- Dec. 30 - Ray Lussier, Eldonna Cooley
- Dec. 31 - Donny Kinyon



ESUMC Treasurer's Report

Income	\$210,015.61
Expense	\$215,832.60
Shortfall	(\$5,816.99)

Christmas Poinsettias

Please sign-up to bring a Poinsettia, the sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. Make sure to bring your Poinsettia by Dec. 22nd.



Baby gifts!

Christmas Eve or Christmas Sunday

Celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus with a baby gift! Bring a gift to one of the Christmas services and we will deliver it to the Contra Costa County Women, Infants and Children's program offices.

Think **PRACTICAL!** Think **BASIC!** Diapers are well appreciated, as are simple clothing items for children up to age two.





Tell everyone about the Blessings Closet at the El Sobrante United Methodist Church. If you know of someone who is in need of new or slightly used clothing...

We have clothing for most everyone. No questions asked, EVER!
The Blessings Closet is open the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10 AM - 1 PM.
The Closet is located in Room 2. Questions? Call (510) 921-4969.

The Crafty Ladies Lunch

-Jan 8th 2020 at
1:00pm at El Cerros Mexican Restaurant in El Sobrante. Please contact Monika Smith @ 510-724-5099 or 510-323-5300.



Save the Date

Women's Retreat **March 20-22, 2020.**

Administrative Council Meeting

At the Administrative Council meeting held after church on November 23, we addressed a number of items. First, we heard from Treasurer Marilyn Lomelino about the state of our finances (a few thousand dollars in the red – see exact figures elsewhere in the Wayfarer). We also heard from Trustees Chair Laurie Corl about the need for reroofing the sanctuary. We have received one bid so far for \$150,000. In the past, we often 'borrow from ourselves,' i.e., pay for these expenses out of the Endowment Fund and then pay it back over time. No decisions have been made, and we're still waiting for additional bids, though it will clearly be a substantial sum.

Second, we discussed what appears to be a shortfall of some \$25,000 in pledges received to date for the 2020 asking budget. If the shortfall doesn't shrink considerably this month, the asking budget will need to be adjusted accordingly. That means generating more income, cutting expenses, or some of both – or taking the 'wing and a prayer' approach, and pray that the income will appear when we need it. Apart from pledges and regular income, the only way to generate more income would be either through fund-raisers or increased rental income. Cutting expenses largely comes down to staffing, since most of the rest of the budget is pretty bare bones. If anyone has ideas about how to proceed regarding increasing rental income, or suggestions about staffing, please send them along to the church office. We will revisit this issue at the next Ad Council meeting on Sunday, December 15.

Finally, we addressed three questions that Conference leadership has invited us to consider and then send them our thoughts as they do some strategic planning for the coming years. The three questions are: 1) How would it be helpful to hold up a mirror for your church to see what is really happening in it? 2) What types of leadership would increase the effectiveness of your church? And 3) Who in your community doesn't know they are loved? And do you feel a call to love them? The discussion ranged all over the map, and it will be a discussion that we will continue as we move forward.

Pastor Mark

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>10 AM Worship, S 11:30AM Fellowship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 PM CS Pack 134 Meetings, KH, FR, R1</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10 AM Painting Group, R1 4 PM Faith Exploration 6 PM Yoga, R1 7:30 PM Kairos Rehearsal, S</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10 AM Bible Study, R1 11:30 AM Motion Class, KH 6:15 PM GS Leaders, KH 7 PM AI Anon, FR 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, C</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6 PM Yoga, R1</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11 AM Motion Class, KH</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11 AM Memorial Service for Judy Buhlis</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10 AM Worship, S 11:30AM Fellowship 7 PM Worship Committee, OR</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 PM CS Pack 134 Meetings, KH, FR, R1</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10 AM Painting Group, R1 4 PM Faith Exploration 6 PM Yoga, R1 7:30 PM Kairos Rehearsal, S</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10 AM Bible Study, R1 11:30 AM Motion Class, KH 6:15 PM GS Leaders, KH 7 PM AI Anon, FR 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, C</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6 PM Yoga, R1</p>	<p>13</p> <p>11 AM Motion Class, KH 6:30 PM EBARC, R1</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10 AM Blessing Closet, R2 11 AM Cookie Exchange, KH</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10 AM Worship, S 11:30AM Fellowship 1 PM Plenary Ad. Council, FR</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10 AM Painting Group, R1 4 PM Faith Exploration 6 PM Yoga, R1 7:30 PM Kairos Rehearsal, S</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10 AM Bible Study, R1 11:30 AM Motion Class, KH 6:15 PM GS Leaders, KH 7 PM AI Anon, FR 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, C</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6 PM Yoga, R1</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:30 a.m. GRIP (off-site) 11 AM Motion Class, KH</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10 AM Worship, S 11:30AM Fellowship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30 PM CS Pack 134 Meetings, KH, FR, R1</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve 7 PM & 10:30 PM</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6 PM Yoga, R1</p>	<p>27</p> <p>11 AM Motion Class, KH</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10 AM Worship, S 11:30AM Fellowship</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Years Eve</p>	 <p>December 2019 Calendar</p>			

Prayer Concerns

The family of Judy Buhlis, Jerry Patterson (brother of Bob Patterson), Paulette Collins, Carl Just, Robert Johnson (former colleague of Karen Jarrell), the family of Helen Holzinger (Joan's mother), the family of Clinton Pierce (the father of Sabrina Looney), the family of John Cecil Looney (father of David Looney), Annette Allan (Noel Stout's sister), the family of Parker Walker, Ron Driskell (Karen Jarrell's colleague), Gary Dwiggin, Hailie James, Joan Landis and family, family of Maxine Hilburn, family of Betty Staley, family of Don Landis, family of Bob Parker, family of Valerie Kleinfeld, Frank Kafer's sister and brother-in-law Karen Kafer Kearsley and Cliff Kearsley, Lee Hunt, Marge Dean, Leota Merrithew, family of Teresa Morin Stanton (friend of Lee Hunt), Sherry Banks, Victor Nozzolillo, the Fleming family (Darlene, 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.

Wayfarer

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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 Minister, Jacqueline Corl-Seidel
 Lay Minister, Charlene Kafer
 Treasurer, Marilyn Lomelino
 Office, Erika Cortez

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www.esumconline.org

Facebook, search for "El Sobrante United Methodist Church"