



# The Appian Wayfarer

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

July 2020

## Congratulations to the Shirley Kille Scholarship 2020 Award Recipients

The committee interviewed three outstanding students on Zoom: Kassandra Isayana Ruiz (Pinole Valley HS), Jaszwan Veal (El Cerrito HS), and Ifeanyi Ashiedu (De Anza HS). After the interviews the committee decided that all three are very deserving, so we are awarding three \$1500 scholarships this year. Here's a blurb about each one of the winners:

**Jaszwan Veal** - El Cerrito High School - Is going to Howard University to study Psychology. She writes: "I am choosing to further my education and pursue a PhD in psychology to, not only progress by career opportunities, but, further understand the human mind and its outcomes environmental affliction. I want to work with children in both a clinical and research setting. My ultimate goal to meeting my future is to find success in myself and correct the miseducation of mental wellness and disease to benefit the lives of children."

**Kassandra Ruiz** - Pinole Valley High School - Is going to UC Berkeley to study business and minor in ethnic studies. She writes: "Upon graduation with a degree in business, I hope to own a coffee shop and import the coffee from Nicaragua that my family cultivates. Over time, as my business grows, I hope to make enough profit to donate to local nonprofits that emphasize on aiding the homeless and other marginalized group."

**Ifeanyi Ashiedu** - De Anza High School - Is going to UC Berkeley - Her undergraduate major will be Biology but looking to switch to public Health. She grew up with sickle cell anemia and always fascinated with her doctors and nurses who displayed the subject in their

work. She would like to become a pediatrician or epidemiologist.

And Ken Kille writes: "We're able to do this because of your generous donations to Shirley's Scholarship Fund. Thank You.

I also want to thank the committee members: Marilyn Lomelino, Carole Strauss, and Marialyce Romeo. Their assistance has really helped me and I **really** appreciate it.

On to next year!"

## Easy Care Garden

CONGRATULATIONS! The congregation has voted and our "Easy Care" garden is now beyond the planning stage and underway. My church phone survey unanimously voted in favor of proceeding with the project: 71 YES votes, 1 NO vote, and 1 Abstaining vote.

The work, being done by Fabian's Landscaping, includes a new and working sprinkler system, pruning the "almost destroyed" Manzanita Trees, installing weed-barrier cloth and mulch; and planting 25 plus ground-hugging Junipers. In addition, several new Manzanita Trees have been gifted to the project. With minimal work every two months, we will have our beautiful and green welcoming garden.

Special thanks to Bob Patterson who years ago set up a Memorial Fund designated for yard work. I know he is happy the work is being done; and looks forward to the new welcoming entrance at our Worship and Social Center.

Thank you to everyone for your support with this project.

Blessings, Love, and Stay Well,  
Ricki Walters

## Meet Pastor Emily!

Pastor Emily received her B.A from U.C. Davis, where she majored in International Affairs and minored in Music. While at Davis she also worked in campus ministry. In 2017 she graduated with her M.Div. from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC. While at WTS and afterwards, she worked at the UMC's General Board of Church and Society (also in DC) on the revision of the denomination's Social Principles. Emily comes from a double clergy family: her father, Alan Jones, who serves St. Mark's UMC in Sacramento and her mother, Susan Pickens-Jones, who retired from active ministry in 2010. Pastor Emily's appointment will be effective July 1, 2020



## Welcoming Pastor Emily

Dear Church family,

In light of the coronavirus we have yet to determine the best way for Pastor Emily to get acquainted and spend time with each of us. As you know her first Sunday with us will be July 5th. SPRC is proposing that we do **two simple projects**.

1. Everyone please make a banner or a sign welcoming Pastor Emily, If you are a family or a couple it will make it easier to do one big poster or banner. A simple " WELCOME PASTOR EMILY" or Hello Pastor Emily, whatever you would like to do. If you speak another language feel free to make your poster in that language. On Sunday morning the 5th of July you will need your poster or banner ready for the ZOOM worship service. As Pastor Emily greets us on Zoom we can all hold up our greetings.

2. SPRC is also proposing that we give Pastor Emily a welcome basket. We would like the church family to help us fill the basket. If you are a baker, please feel free to bake her something, a crafter, a craft you have made, painters, Quilters, afghan makers, needlepoint, Crochet folks any small project is appropriate. I have a list from her partner Pastor Jacey of things Emily likes.

Oatmeal Chocolate cookies, anything chocolate, banana bread, cinnamon buns, pumpkin bread, She loves strawberries and mangoes, needlepoint and embroidery, puzzles, British black tea, Harry Potter, Chronicles of Narnia, World Maps. She loves handmade towels, coffee mugs. gift cards are a great idea as well.

As you can see there is a lot to work with. I know we can come up with a beautiful basket. The BEST PART, all you need to do is leave the item or items on **your porch** on July 4th. Myself, Eileen Johnson, Marilyn Lomelino and a few others will make the rounds and pick everything up. It will be taken to the church and a big basket will be filled with all our treasures for Pastor Emily. We will present it to her on July 5th and it will be taken to the parsonage after the Zoom service.

If you are interested in being a part of the basket, please email or call me so we can schedule a time on the 4th to pick up your gift.

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with me or Marilyn or Eileen.

Blessings,  
Noel Stout, [noelystout@gmail.com](mailto:noelystout@gmail.com)  
SPRC Chair

<b>ESUMC Financials</b>	
June 2020	
Income	\$97,977.09
Expenses	\$104,851.40
Shortfall	(\$6,874.31)

## Braver Angels: July meeting

Braver Angels is a citizens' organization uniting red and blue Americans in a working alliance to depolarize America. Specifically:

- We try to understand the other side's point of view, even if we don't agree with it.
- We engage those we disagree with, looking for common ground and ways to work together.
- We support principles that bring us together rather than divide us.

The local El Sobrante alliance of Braver Angels is sponsoring a moderated discussion of one or more current topics (still to be decided) on July 21, 4:00 to 5:15 pm. All are welcome to come and listen to conversation with a small group of "reds" and "blues." Interested in joining the discussion? Please contact Eileen Johnson, [music@esumconline.org](mailto:music@esumconline.org), or Darcy Crosman, [dcrosman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dcrosman@sbcglobal.net) We are particularly interested in finding some conservative-leaning folks to participate.

## Mark's Musings

As I come to the end of my time with you as your pastor, I want you to know that it has been a privilege to serve you for these past six years. The Bible Studies (Maccabees!), the Crafty Ladies (Craft Sales!), the Stroll (Honey Bear!), the Fall Fun Fest (Mad Hatter!), all the other projects and the weekly worship celebrations with the Choir and Kairos have been great fun and immensely meaningful for me. But I, like many of you come to this moment with a heavy heart. Not because we will be parted – that's a temporary thing, and we have great memories to cherish. But rather because of the moment we're all living in.

Just a little over a month after I had arrived at El Sobrante, we learned of the killing in Ferguson, Missouri, of Michael Brown, a young unarmed black man who was shot following an altercation that had arisen when a police officer had ordered Brown and his friend to move out of the street and onto the sidewalk. His dead body lay in the street for four hours in the sweltering August heat before the authorities moved to do anything. It was an event that sparked protests and unrest in Ferguson for days. There was looting and destruction and the police came out with overwhelming military firepower. In the wake of those events, the Black Lives Matter movement, that had begun after the killing in 2012 of another unarmed black teenager, Trayvon Martin, took off. The movement was not uncontroversial, even though it was committed to non-violent civil

disobedience – after the manner of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Mohandas Gandhi.

Following this event, the anger and fear in the black community was palpable. I felt at the time that it was important to put out a public message to the folks who travelled up and down Appian Way that the United Methodist Church would stand in solidarity with such a movement. So that fall I put up on the marquee the message: Black Lives Matter.

It had hardly gone up, than we started getting phone calls in the church office. Not all that many – maybe a dozen or so. A couple of them were approving, and one young black woman actually came into the office to thank us for the message. But the large majority were critical. The most extravagant of them was a threat to send mobs with pitchforks. What struck me about the critical comments was how 'scripted' they were: nearly every one of them sounded like talking points lifted straight from the likes of Rush Limbaugh and Fox News, full of white anger and hate. Needless to say, none of those leaving these messages identified themselves.

But among the calls were a couple from the same woman, and we actually had something resembling a conversation. In the end we agreed to disagree, and I thought that was the end of it. But then a few days later I received the following letter (with no return address):

Hey Pastor Zier,

Please keep the message on the Church's marquee SPIRITUAL and NOT POLITICAL! Your Left-Wing hate Speech is NOT Appropriate or Appreciated.

Best wishes,

God

I've kept that letter to this day. I'm sure it came from her.

Now we find ourselves in a moment similar to those of the past. With the aid of smart phones

and social media, what has been laid bare are the structures of systemic racism and the over-militarization of the police across the nation, for whom, at least until recently, the phrase “I feared for my life” has been a get-out-of-jail-free card, no matter the circumstances. Let me be clear: most police officers are doing their jobs with integrity, honesty, and humanity. But the few-bad-apples explanation that we’ve heard in the past no longer seems to apply as an explanation for such similar instances popping up spontaneously all across the nation. Something’s wrong.

Last week I changed the message on the marquee to: Black Lives Still Matter. So far the reaction has been quite different. Even as I was putting up the letters, a handful of motorists honked their horns with approval as they drove by. So far, no angry phone messages. We can hope that maybe this time, the needle will move more dramatically towards justice across the land.

We’re reminded in this moment that the Christian life isn’t just about being nice. Nice is good, but when the heart of the Gospel also involves the proclamation of the kingdom of God reflected in a fair and just society, it means that we have to be willing, like Jesus, to speak truth to power. We must engage, and not withdraw from, the society we live in.

We heard last Sunday from Katherine Parker, and her work as a missionary in Nepal. She told us of the poverty and living conditions of so many who live in the interior of the country. She described a society in which women’s rights have been more of an afterthought than a priority. And while the government forbids missionaries like Katherine from publicly sharing their faith, it appears to welcome their work to build a more just and humane society.

Here at home, the separation between church and state is being shredded, at least for the time being. Unfortunately, the apparent goal in this strategy is to allow for more discrimination,

not less. The military budget is ballooning all out of proportion to our security needs – it’s all about feeding the beast of the military industrial complex. But it becomes a convenient excuse for not providing security for the people living on the margins right here in our backyards.

The urgency for a strong and clear witness to the social demands of the gospel is before us. And while not many of us are in a position to go out into the streets to make our feelings known, we can all make phone calls. We can all write letters. We can join car caravans. Give our decision makers a clear and unequivocal expression of your values and your expectations of them. Support the candidates who align with your values. Never give up! Never give up! Never give up!

God expects no less of us.

Mark Zier



July 1 – Janelle Abrams  
 July 15 - Kim Valentine  
 July 17 - Noel Stout  
 July 23 - Marilyn Cooley Santos, Monika Smith  
 July 28 - Rick Taft  
 July 29 - Robin Rahmgren  
 July 30 - Michael Resso, Lucille Wilson  
 July 31 - Erika Rahmgren

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>July Calendar 2020</b>			1 10:00 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b>	2 10 AM <b>Photo Club, (online)</b>	3 10 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b>	4
5 10 AM <b>Worship, (online)</b> 12:15 PM <b>Small Group (online)</b>	6 1:30 PM <b>Motion Class (online)</b>	7 7:30 PM <b>Kairos (online)</b>	8 10:00 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 7:30 PM <b>Choir (online)</b>	9 10 AM <b>Photo Club, (online)</b>	10 10 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b>	11 10 AM <b>Blessings Closet</b>
12 10 AM <b>Worship, (online)</b> 12:15 PM <b>Small Group (online)</b>	13 1:30 PM <b>Motion Class (online)</b>	14 7:30 PM <b>Kairos (online)</b>	15 10:00 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 7:30 PM <b>Choir (online)</b>	16 10 AM <b>Photo Club, (online)</b>	17 10 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b>	18
19 10 AM <b>Worship, (online)</b> 12:15 PM <b>Small Group (online)</b>	20 1:30 PM <b>Motion Class (online)</b>	21 7:30 PM <b>Kairos (online)</b>	22 10:00 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 7:30 PM <b>Choir (online)</b>	23 10 AM <b>Photo Club, (online)</b>	24 10 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b>	25
26 10 AM <b>Worship, (online)</b> 12:15 PM <b>Small Group (online)</b>	27 1:30 PM <b>Motion Class (online)</b>	28 9 AM <b>Census Meeting</b> 7:30 PM <b>Kairos (online)</b>	29 9 AM <b>Census Meeting</b> 10:00 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 7:30 PM <b>Choir (online)</b>	30 9 AM <b>Census Meeting</b> 10 AM <b>Photo Club, (online)</b>	31 9 AM <b>Census Meeting</b> 10 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b>	

## Prayer Concerns

Noel Stout; Edna Luffey; Paulette Collins; Mort Weishahn; Morie Oberg; the family of Nancy Corl; Lee Hunt; Paddi Just and family; the family of Pauline Webber; Teresa Berenger (Madeleine Trouerbach's daughter); Sherry Banks; the family of Judy Buhlis; Jerry Patterson and Dana Miller (brother and daughter of Bob Patterson); Robert Johnson (former colleague of Karen Jarrell); the family of Helen Holzinger (Joan's mother); Annette Allan (Noel Stout's sister); the family of Parker Walker; Ron Driskell (Karen Jarrell's colleague); Gary Dwiggins; Hailie James; Leota Merrithew, family of Teresa Morin Stanton (friend of Lee Hunt); 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 and the COVID-19.

**Wayfarer**  
July 2020 issue

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




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### 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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[www.esumconline.org](http://www.esumconline.org)

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