



The Appian Wayfarer

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.

Mark's Musings

Over the Memorial Day weekend, I read an opinion piece by Juan Cole entitled, "On Memorial Day: How the US Lost Its 'Battle of Aqaba' to the Coronavirus." Cole started out by describing the remarkable victory in the first World War of the Arab Bedouin – assisted by the British, and in particular, T.E. Lawrence (aka Lawrence of Arabia) – at the battle of Aqaba. It was the daring and death-defying decision to attack the Turkish fortifications from the east that made the difference: the town was well protected from every other direction, but to the east lay a vast stretch of desert that was essentially uncrossable. Few had ever survived the trek.

Cole writes, "The Ottomans had set their artillery in concrete pylons and pointed them out to the Gulf of Aqaba, from which they feared a naval assault. They therefore could not wheel the big guns around and fire at the attacking Bedouin. They just couldn't imagine that a threat to the garrison and the port would come from inside Ottoman territory." But that's exactly what happened, and a handful of Arabs managed to take this strategic location.

Cole goes on to draw the analogy to the "Global War on Terror" that has been going on since 2002, in which the US has poured trillions of dollars into the military conquest of regions of the Middle East. And while the government's focus has been over there, Cole observes that "a thin strip of RNA was gunning for us and would establish itself to the rear of our military front lines. Had we spent trillions on coronavirus vaccines, on a single-payer health care system and on the network of county health departments across the country, we would not be in our present straits." The SARS epidemic, caused by a coronavirus, hit just about the same time as this war on terror was launched. But no one in the US died of it.

Cole points out that nearly 7,000 US servicemen and women have died in this misguided, never ending war on terror, not to mention the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, Afganis and others. By the bodybag calculus, we're winning and they're losing. But now we're well past 100,000 COVID-19 deaths in the US. More than in any other nation. We've surpassed the number of US deaths in the Viet Nam war and the Korean war. I guess the virus is winning this one.

But it didn't have to be this way. In the wake of the Ebola crisis, the Obama administration made considerable efforts to be ready for a

similar health crisis. But in the past three years, the Trump administration has effectively dismantled much of what had been put in place, and has turned once again to pouring more money into our war machine – with an unaccountable budget that continues to be greater than the next ten largest national military budgets combined.

We sometimes hear that America is a Christian nation. To be sure, there are many Christians in the USA. But when we take a cold hard look at many of our country’s actions, I have to ask: What would Jesus have done? And what are we doing to witness to the love, peace, and justice of God in the social and political life of our country? It’s been said frequently of late that the pandemic has revealed just how shredded our social safety net has become. Jesus was looking at a nearly non-existent social safety net in his own day, and much of his seminal teaching had to do with changing that. The early Christian community got the message loud and clear – especially with the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost – and created a community that did away with private property, holding everything in common, and meeting the needs of all its members. It wasn’t a perfect community, but it was powerful symbol of the Kingdom of God, and it was the reason so many joined its ranks over the coming centuries, even at a time of persecution by the Romans.

It’s not likely that we’ll be establishing a Christian communitarian society any time soon here in the US. But we can witness. We can join with others, both individuals and organizations, in making a public statement about how things should be, according to the way we understand our faith.

It’s an election year. It’s Pentecost. What better time to start? ‘See’ you in church!

Pastor Mark

P.S. For those who might be interested, here’s a link to [Cole’s article](#).



- June 2 - Samantha Collins
- June 5 - Ron Kamb
- June 6 - Margaret Kamb, Ron Stout
- June 8 - Gary Byer
- June 9 - Shirley Neyhouse
- June 14 - Carol Harnois,
Christian Alfonso (Glover)
- June 17 - Jerry Livingston
- June 19 - Scot Murdoch, Scott McFarland
- June 20 - David
Looney, Laurel Thomas (Parker)
- June 21 - Lavonne Taft
- June 23 - Michael McGoon
- June 24 - Bob Patterson, Dewey Freeman,
Carl Steiner
- June 25 - Jack McFarland, Tony Lomelino

ESUMC Financials	
May 2020	
Income	\$82,678.89
Expenses	\$88,685.48
Shortfall	(\$6,006.59)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1:30 PM Motion Class (online)	2 4 PM Faith Exploration (online) 7:15 PM Bible Study (online) 7:30 PM Kairos (online)	3 10 AM Bible Study, (online) 10:00 AM Motion Class (online)	4 10 AM Photo Club, (online)	5 10 AM Motion Class (online)	6
7 10 AM Worship, (online) 12:15 PM Small Group (online)	8 1:30 PM Motion Class (online)	9 4 PM Faith Exploration (online) 7:15 PM Bible Study (online) 7:30 PM Kairos (online)	10 10 AM Bible Study, (online) 10:00 AM Motion Class (online)	11 10 AM Photo Club, (online)	12 10 AM Motion Class (online)	13
14 10 AM Worship, (online) 12:15 PM Small Group (online)	15 1:30 PM Motion Class (online)	16 4 PM Faith Exploration (online) 7:15 PM Bible Study (online) 7:30 PM Kairos (online)	17 10 AM Bible Study (online) 10:00 AM Motion Class (online)	18 10 AM Photo Club, (online)	19 10 AM Motion Class (online)	20
21 10 AM Worship, (online) 12:15 PM Small Group (online)	22 1:30 PM Motion Class (online)	23 4 PM Faith Exploration (online) 7:15 PM Bible Study (online) 7:30 PM Kairos (online)	24 10 AM Bible Study (online) 10:00 AM Motion Class (online)	25 10 AM Photo Club, (online)	26 10 AM Motion Class (online)	27
28 10 AM Worship, (online) 12:15 PM Small Group (online)	29 1:30 PM Motion Class (online)	30 4 PM Faith Exploration (online) 7:15 PM Bible Study (online) 7:30 PM Kairos (online)				

Prayer Concerns

Don James; 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); 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 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 COVID-19.

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



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District Superintendent, Schuyler Rhodes
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Lay Leader, Jacqueline Corl-Seidel
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