



# The Appian Wayfarer

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

September 2020



September 20<sup>th</sup> will be an alternative worship time 10:30 AM to watch the commissioning service of Eileen, more information will be announced

## Want to contact our new pastor?

Email: [pastoremy@esumconline.org](mailto:pastoremy@esumconline.org)

Phone Number: 510-815-9816

Her office hours are varied due to COVID19. She will do her best to get back to you as soon as she is able. You are invited to set up an appointment or drop into her Zoom office hours each Tuesday 1-4pm.

Meeting ID: 961 9433 9082

Password: 399100

Her Sabbath day is on Fridays. All are encouraged to have a day of Sabbath. Rev. Emily practices what she preaches and makes sure to find time to care for her family and herself.

## Online Motion Class

Hope you all had a lovely weekend. It is challenging to find ways to be together/apart. Zoom communities are great and I hope you benefit from them. They can never replace a hug longed for, but our hope is our trust that this will end. We will have a different 'normal' but a better one than this. Moving is good for your muscles and your mood. It raises endorphins! So, let's feel good!

You will need a chair, a block, and a ball (one of the bigger ones if you have it). Of course, all the moves can be done without props, but I find they add an element of challenge and just plain change. See you soon!

Jacqueline Corl is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

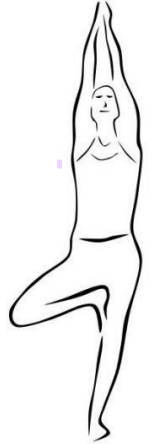
Mon: Balance & Range of Motion - 1:30 PM  
**310 058 896**

Tues: Stretching for Balance & Yoga - 10:00 AM  
**864 405 132**

Wed: Balance & Range of Motion - 10:15 AM  
**971 863 356**

Thurs: Stretching for Balance & Yoga - 1:30 PM  
**846 5530 5608**

Fri: Stretching for Balance & Yoga - 10:00 AM  
**864 405 132**



Need a mask? Call 510.223.0790  
or email at [esumc@esumconline.org](mailto:esumc@esumconline.org)



## Emily's Musings

### Theology Corner Gender of God

You may have noticed that we've introduced options for the beginning of The Lord's Prayer and that might be strange for some of you. I wanted to address why it's important to encompass the many names we call God. Some of you may have discussed it before, but for others it might be a completely foreign subject. Covering these kinds of topics of theology, or the study of God, is an important thing for us to do as a church and people have been doing it for thousands of years! I hope you all know that if you ever have questions, please feel free to contact me. I don't guarantee I will know anything, but I love to have these important conversations.

We offer several words to identify God in the prayer: Father/Mother/Creator, but really here are so many more. We invite everyone to choose which word you want to use based on your comfort level. Some of you may wonder, why does this even matter? Can't we just use the traditional "Our Father" that it says in the Bible? You are welcome to continue to use this phrase, but your pastors don't want to limit where people are on their faith journey. There are a few reasons why more and more churches are choosing to go with various languages for the Lord's Prayer:

Christians live across the globe and speak numerous international languages. Not only that, but even in the same language, we can see variations on what words to use. Some denominations use "debts" instead of "trespasses". We want to make sure that by offering variation, people from all walks of life are welcome to say the Lord's Prayer in whatever way that is meaningful to them.

The identity of God as a Father can be very complicated. Language is limited, and English is even more so. We say every week that the Bible is tricky for us to interpret because it's

based on translation. Like the game of telephone, the Bible is a collection of stories that have been passed on for generations in numerous ancient and modern languages. This is why we have so many versions like the New Revised Standard Version, The King James Bible, etc. Throughout the Bible, God is described as both a mother and a father. English does not have a gender-neutral pronoun, so we can use whatever one feels comfortable to you. Jesus asks us to pray to a loving parent, one that loves us unconditionally. We often use "he" because we don't know of another pronoun to use without it getting confusing. Therefore, we'll often mix it up with "he" "she" "they" or just saying "God" wherever it fits. We have examples of using multiple genders in the church that go back generations.

While some of us have had the privilege of growing up with loving and supportive fathers, this is not the case for everyone. Some people have had abusive or absent fathers and therefore have a negative connotation of saying a prayer to God as a father. Instead of forcing people into language that is more traditional, we invite those who have struggled with their fathers to use another word that they might find more comfortable to describe God.

I in no way want to restrict anyone's beliefs. Nor do I want to disrespect the scripture that we use. By incorporating both of these values, it's important for everyone to say the Lord's Prayer the way they see fit. Ultimately, the gender of God does not matter, but our praise and worship in God's grace does! The next time you say, "The Lord's Prayer", notice about how you feel about the words you are saying. Let's join the chorus of voices that seek God's unending love in this holy mystery.



# Worship

## Worship

### Through the Wilderness


I've noticed over the past few months that people on social media have made the comment: "I miss precedented times." How often do you hear that these are unprecedented times? Of course, like all broad statements of that kind, this is both true and untrue. It is true that most of us haven't lived with a pandemic. The natural disasters and the political and racial unrest all roll together to create a miasma of despair unlike anything we've ever experienced. Except we have. Maybe not exactly this, but we know the experience. We've been here before. We call it wilderness. It is a regular occurrence in the Bible and the lives of followers of Jesus. One might say it is standard operating procedure. But just because it's familiar does not mean it's easy. Over the next few weeks, our worship will look at "Wandering Through the Wilderness". Wandering through the wilderness is a difficult journey at the best of times. Other times, it can seem impossible. Our task in this series is to help us find our way through the wilderness of this time by allowing the first of God-wanderers in the book of Exodus to speak to us. The stories of the people of God, along with the hymns of the faith in the Psalms, become our guides through the wilderness today.

## What comes next?

### Through the Wilderness

- 9/6 *Praises & Swords*: Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 149 & Psalm 148
- 9/13 *Into the Sea*: Exodus 14:19-31; 15:1b-11, 20-21
- 9/20 This week, we will take a break from our series to watch the California Nevada Annual Conference Commissioning and Ordination service. Tune in to see our very own Eileen Johnson become commissioned as a Provisional Deacon of the UMC.
- 9/27 To celebrate Eileen's Commissioning, she will be preaching about some of her favorite pieces of scripture and how she will be continue to do ministry at ESUMC
- 10/4 *What is It?*: Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 & Psalm 78
- 10/11 *Strike the Rock*: Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
- 10/18 Spiritual Gifts Part 1
- 10/25 Spiritual Gifts Part 2





# SEPTEMBER

## Birthdays

- Sept. 1 - Ricki Walters
- Sept. 4 - Marilyn Patterson
- Sept. 9 – Jacob Garcia
- Sept. 10 - Karlyn Rahmgren
- Sept. 13 - Irv Bork
- Sept. 15 - Robert Abrams
- Sept. 17 - Pat Rockeman
- Sept. 18 - Marilyn Lomelino
- Sept. 22 - Emery Phillips, Levi Wieland
- Sept. 23 - Peggy Abrams
- Sept. 27 - Carolyn Weishahn
- Sept. 29 - Aaron Steiner



It is never too early to prepare for an emergency. With the smoke in the air and loved ones evacuating, we are reminded that we should also make sure that we are ready. Don't wait until the last minute. Go to this link: [CLICK HERE](#) to see the steps you should take and the items you should prepare in case of evacuation.

Our church building and offices remain closed, but the church is still at work in the world! We are constantly adapting to make authentic worship and sacred filled experiences. Look out for more information about Bible studies, small groups, and fellowship events! God is at work.

Let us be open to new beginnings! For more information about the protocols, please [click here](#).

### ESUMC Financials

July 2020

Income	\$115,782.09
Expenses	\$121,174.31
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Shortfall	(\$5,392.22)

**We know that these are unusual times. Our church is working harder than ever to support our community. Please consider your gifts and how you are helping. A BIG thank you to all who are keeping up with their pledges! You can always send in a check or donate online at [www.esumconline.org](http://www.esumconline.org).**





**Tuesday @ 7:15 pm**  
 Meeting ID:  
 965 0250 6049  
 Meeting Password:  
 610727

**Wednesday @ 10 am**  
 Meeting ID:  
 948 5108 4509  
 Meeting Password:  
 894099

All are welcome to join in ESUMC's Bible Studies, whether you're a master theologian or have never opened a Bible! Studies will be held every Wednesday and Thursday. For any questions contact Rev. Emily at [pastoremily@esumconline.org](mailto:pastoremily@esumconline.org)



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

## Prayer Concerns

Family of Ray Lussier; Edna Luffey; Paulette Collins; Mort Weishahn; Morie Oberg; The family of Nancy Corl; Lee Hunt; Paddi Just and the 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

September 2020 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, Emily Pickens-Jones  
Director of Music, Eileen M. Johnson  
Lay Leader, Jacqueline Corl-Seidel  
Lay Minister, Charlene Kafer  
Treasurer, Marilyn Lomelino  
Office, Erika Cortez

### Find ESUMC online

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

Facebook, search for "El Sobrante United Methodist Church"