



# The Appian Wayfarer

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

January 2021

## Virtual Smartphone Training by California Phones

Having difficulty hearing or seeing on your smartphone? Attend a FREE online training and make your smartphone work better for you! These are being done virtually through Zoom and they will assist you with Zoom so you can connect. This is a 2-part online training. You will need a device and internet service (WiFi) and an email address. California Phones are currently offering iPhone and Android smartphone trainings. Call 1-866-271-1540 or email [smartphonetraining@ddtp.org](mailto:smartphonetraining@ddtp.org)

In addition, California Phones will be hosting a free virtual/telephone presentation every 1st Thursday of the month from 12:00 PM – 12:40 PM. The presentation will share information for caregivers, seniors, and the general public about FREE telephone equipment and services for Californians with difficulty hearing, speaking, seeing, moving or remembering. If time permits, there will be a Q & A session with the presenter. Please refer to the attached flyer for instructions on how to join the monthly presentation.

## The Work of Christmas

(a poem by Howard Thurman)

*When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:*

*To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart!*



## Worship 2021

Worship should be a celebration; this is the beginning of a new year. We survived 2020, and while there might still be lingering effects of the pandemic and the unrest, it is time to embrace a new possibility, a new hope. The heavens have been torn open. But this isn't a threat; it's a promise of something new, something better. Let us commit ourselves to a closer walk with Christ. Let the waters of baptism renew us and cleanse us for our mission and ministry as followers of Jesus.

## Rev. Emily Musing

In my Christmas letter, I included Howard Thurman's poem that tells us the work of Christmas begins after all the excitement ends. The beginning of 2021 teases us with continued hope following the highs and lows of the holidays. The promise of a vaccine, the good news of God's in-breaking of the darkness with the light of Jesus' birth. Through Advent, we've been dreaming. Dreaming with hope, peace, love, and joy. I know I always feel a little down at the beginning of the year, because it means Christmas is over. Every year we prepare, we wait, we decorate, we hope. When we finally arrive, there is a great celebration. But then what? Sometimes we get bored with waiting. It can be anticlimactic. This year, we've also been waiting with baited breath for the end of 2020. We don't know what this new year will bring, but we know that we are ready for something new and different. What is our role, as Christians, to bring to a new year? Even if things are anticlimactic, we know that we are being renewed by the Spirit who continues to transform us each and every day, year after year. This was the promise of

Christmas and continues to be. What is my New Year's resolution? To become more aware of the in-breaking of God's light in the world. Perhaps become more open to prayer, more faithful in sharing the deep mystery of incarnation we can feel throughout the year, not just at Christmas. We are complicated human beings. What we feel, do, say, and are is complicated. So, what are some ways that you can find light in the world?




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## 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 & Thurs: Balance & Range of Motion - 1:30 PM

**ID: 310 058 896**

**Password: 558140**

Mon, Tues, Wed, & Fri: Stretching for Balance & Yoga - 10:00 AM

**ID: 864 405 132**

**Password: 120140**



## Wesley Covenant



Around New Year's Eve each year, it is a Methodist tradition to look and rededicate ourselves to the Wesley Covenant, a service of renewal and reorientation. John Wesley adapted this prayer from the Puritan tradition that was so important to his parents, Samuel and Suzannah, and life in the Epworth rectory. It informed his theology and preaching. He expected the people called "Methodists" to pray this prayer at the beginning of each new year as a way of remembering and renewing their baptismal covenant. In our church, it has been a tradition to renew our covenant the Sunday following Christmas. I'm told that you would also receive a copy of it to sign and take home with you. Making this covenant, and indeed, signing a paper with it, can be a daunting task. I invite you to read over this covenant and see what stands out to you, what you have questions about, what you feel when you read it. (prayers found on the next page)

Some of you might find some of the language off-putting or overwhelming. It's ok, you're not alone! Maybe you can't quite get behind all of it. I'll let you in on a little

secret...it may not be saying exactly what you think it's saying. After all, we're looking at 18th century English here. Using words like suffering and brought low don't exactly inspire us in our faith. It's amazing how language can transform in such a short time. Rev. Jeremy Smith, a well-known United Methodist Pastor, encourages us to look at this prayer in a 21st century way. In an article, he addresses the question: Can the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer be tweaked to fit today's context and theological sensibilities? He writes: "It is clearly commendable to begin the year with renewed commitment and dedication regardless of what the future may have in store. But the Methodist liturgy goes much further. Taken at face value in traditional form it strongly implies that our misfortunes may arise at the divine behest...Would we suggest that to a friend in distress or to someone entrusted to us for counselling? I hope not. Rather our conviction is that God is our comforter in time of trouble rather than the author of life's woes." I invite us to focus on the bookends of this covenant prayer, "I am no longer my own, but thine." While the traditional words of the prayer seem daunting, it reminds us of one thing. God is always with us in whatever we are doing. God is there in our struggles, our pains, our grief. God is with us. But we also have to accept that God is with us, to fully give up ourselves, to say to God, "I am yours and you are mine." I invite you to read the reimagined version of this covenant prayer, adapted by Rev. Jeremy Smith. What do you think, can you get behind this? I invite you to reflect on these covenants this new year. May you find a way to rededicate yourself as a person of faith and open yourself to a relationship with all that is Holy.

**Traditional Wesley Covenant Prayer**

I am no longer my own, but thine.  
 Put me to what thou wilt,  
 rank me with whom thou wilt.  
 Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
 Let me be employed for thee  
 or laid aside for thee,  
 exalted for thee or brought low for thee.  
 Let me be full, let me be empty.  
 Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
 I freely and heartily yield all things  
 to thy pleasure and disposal.  
 And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
 thou art mine, and I am thine.  
 So be it.  
 And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
 let it be ratified in heaven.  
 Amen.

**Reimagined Prayer**

I am not my own self-made,  
 self-reliant human being.  
 In truth, O God, I am Yours.  
 Make me into what You will.  
 Make me a neighbor with those whom You will.  
 Guide me on the easy path for You.  
 Guide me on the rocky road for You.  
 Whether I am to step up for You  
 or step aside for You;  
 Whether I am to be lifted high for You  
 or brought low for You;  
 Whether I become full or empty,  
 with all things or with nothing;  
 I give all that I have and all that I am for You.  
 So be it.  
 And may I always remember that you, O God,  
 and I belong to each other. Amen.

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# CrEaTiVe CoRnEr

**LaVonne & Brennan Taft**

These haikus were published in The Marketplace, for the haiku contest this year.  
 It was exciting for mother and son to be published together!



# January

## BIRTHDAY'S

# February

- January 1 - Polly Hancock
- January 7 - Pam Hancock
- January 10 - Viola Wessman
- January 11 - Lisa Steiner
- January 12 - Karen Jarrell
- January 17 - Brent Mason
- January 19 - Marialice Romeo
- January 25 - Rebecca Slessinger, Hansen Rahmgren
- January 26 - Charlene Kafer
- January 27 - Greg Webber
- January 30 - Shirley Phillips

- Feb. 1 - Glen Bullock
- Feb. 2 - Drake Collins
- Feb. 5 - Reese Michele Valencia
- Feb. 7 - Joanne Smart, Margrith Byer
- Feb. 9 - Destiny McFarland
- Feb. 15 - Jo Bork
- Feb. 16 - Susan McFarland
- Feb. 17 - Bonnie McFarland
- Feb. 20 - Michele Lomelino Valencia
- Feb. 24 - Susan Hamner
- Feb. 26 - Ken Kille

### ESUMC Financials

November 2020

Income	\$182,885.30
Expenses	\$189,573.47
Shortfall	(\$6,688.17)

**We know that these are unusual times. Our church is working harder than ever to support our community. Remember to send in your pledges. 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). If you would like a copy of the financial report, please contact Marilyn Lomelino.**



**Wednesday @ 10 am**

Meeting ID:  
921 9873 2490  
Meeting Password:  
809696

**Thursday @ 7 pm**

Meeting ID:  
932 1176 7726  
Meeting Password:  
460341

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 [pastoremlily@esumconline.org](mailto:pastoremlily@esumconline.org)

**Need a mask? Call 510.223.0790**

or email at [esumc@esumconline.org](mailto:esumc@esumconline.org)



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

## Prayer Concerns

Mort Weishahn; Jo Rogers (for the death of her son, Dave Rogers); family of Lee Hunt, Flor Sanchez and Stacy Papps, and (Karen Jarrell's colleagues); Patty (a colleague of Karen Jarrell's sister Sharon Dean); Rie and Jim Ott; Joan Landis and the family; Jimmie Harvey (son-in-law of Wendy Allen); Marion Damon (mother of Eileen's step-daughter, Heather); Slessinger family; Family of Ray Lussier; Edna Luffey; Paulette Collins; Morie Oberg; The family of Nancy Corl; Paddi Just and the family; the family of Pauline Webber; Teresa Berenger (Madeleine Trouerbach's daughter); Sherry Banks; Hallie James; Leota Merrithew; Victor Nozzolillo; the Fleming family (Darlene, Steve, Denise Roby, & Michael); Lauren 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**  
January 2021 issue

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



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Resident Bishop, Minerva Carcaño  
District Superintendent, Shinya Goto  
Pastor, Rev. Emily Pickens-Jones  
Director of Music, Rev. 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"