



# The Appian Wayfarer

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

April 2021

## Dear Beloved Community,

This past season of Lent may have felt like a trek through the mud. For a year now, we have wrestled with isolation and rising death rates inflicted on our nation and our world by COVID-19. Now, we find ourselves at the end of our 40 days of intentional time with God, and we are ready to enter into Jerusalem with Jesus, one final time.

The week ahead, Holy Week, may seem like too much to bear as we face yet another story of unnecessary violence and death. However, I encourage you to not look away. Continue to walk side-by-side with Jesus throughout the events of Holy Week. Walk with Jesus to dinner with his closest friends. Stop and break bread and drink of the cup, remember as Jesus asked us to. Then walk with Jesus as he walks towards the cross. In the instance of his crucifixion, the Empire has won. However, the story isn't over there. In fact it is only the beginning. Yet, we must remember that if we wish to walk with Jesus in victory as he leaves the empty tomb, we must also walk with Jesus in the midst of defeat.

Our world is in dire need of a win. A win where life conquers death. A win where love overcomes hate. A win where the vaccine works and we can hug our loved ones again. During this season of Holy Week and Easter, may we remember the true victory we find in the love of God. Again & Again the sun rises, we begin a new day. May we walk forward boldly, love recklessly, and give courageously.





**Wednesday 10-11:30 am**  
**Thursday 7-8:30pm**

All are welcome to join in ESUMC's Bible Studies, whether you're a master theologian or have never opened a Bible!

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We are starting a NEW Bible study today called "Christianity in a Pluralistic World." What does it mean for us, as Christians, to accept other faith traditions? We will be looking at stories where Jesus interacts with people from other faith traditions, then watch episodes of the series "The Story of God"

hosted by Morgan Freeman. Are you interested in learning more about other faith traditions? Maybe learn about how you can accept both your faith and other religions?

This is the study for you!

### [Zoom Information](#)

#### WEDNESDAY

[CLICK HERE for direct link to the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 921 9873 2490

Password: 809696

#### THURSDAY

[CLICK HERE for direct link to the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 932 1176 7726

Password: 460341

### **Shirley A. Kille Memorial Scholarship Fund**

Attention - WCCUSD 2021 graduates \$1500.00 scholarships are available from the Shirley Kille Scholarship Fund at El Sobrante United Methodist Church.

For more information contact the church office at 510-223-0790

or go online at [www.esumconline.org](http://www.esumconline.org) under the "resources" banner.

You can get a copy of the requirements and applications.

Applications are due by May 15th.



### Worship Series "Living the Resurrection"

Of all the high holy days on the calendar of faith, Easter is by far the highest and the holiest. There is no exuberance that is too loud, no expression of joy that is over the top, no exercise of new life that can be shut down. Easter calls for excess. Don't let it slip in silently; it needs brass accompaniment. And not just on one day. Easter is not a day; it is a season. That is why our worship series grabs hold of Easter and runs all the way to Pentecost, breathless and panting for the Spirit to come and breathe new life into our lungs so that we can endure the journey through the long season after Pentecost. The joy of Easter needs to sustain us until the Spirit can launch us into the next phase of experiencing the kingdom of God.

## Rev. Emily Musing

### Covenant to Build Beloved Community

Last month in Bible Study, we made a covenant with one another about respectful behavior in our group setting. We read over this Covenant to Build Beloved Community:

- I will seek relationship because this is how Jesus lived.
- I will respect different forms of expression, understanding that I may not really know what is going on.
- I will examine my own assumptions and perceptions so that I might avoid projecting my cultural values onto others.
- I will assume positive intent as we are all moving onto perfection.
- I will listen for understanding because agreement is optional.
- I will exercise cultural humility, understanding that the world into which I was born is just one model of reality.

Phew, that's some heavy stuff, isn't it? There are some big words and even bigger concepts that might be hard to wrap our heads around. Over the next few editions of the Wayfarer, I will go through each one of these points, what they mean, and why they are important. We had a few questions in Bible Study that we were not able to get to, but they are important for our entire church community to learn about.

For this first month, I want to talk about what "Beloved Community" means. "The Beloved Community" is a term that was first coined in the early days of the 20th Century by the philosopher-theologian Josiah Royce, who founded the Fellowship of Reconciliation. However, it was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,

also a member of the FoR, who popularized the term and invested it with a deeper meaning which has captured the imagination of people of goodwill all over the world. For Dr. King, talking about the Kingdom of Heaven always felt like a lofty utopian goal that didn't seem completely realistic in the here and now, especially in the heart of Jim Crow segregation of the south. We may not be able to get the lion to lay down with the lamb, but we could strive to build Beloved Community. This seemed more achievable and realistic and it could be attained by a critical mass of people committed to and trained in the philosophy and methods of nonviolence. As the King Center writes on their website: "In the Beloved Community, poverty, hunger and homelessness will not be tolerated because international standards of human decency will not allow it. Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood. In the Beloved Community, international disputes will be resolved by peaceful conflict-resolution and reconciliation of adversaries, instead of military power. Love and trust will triumph over fear and hatred. Peace with justice will prevail over war and military conflict."

Dr. King knew the conflict was inevitable, but he also believed that it could be fruitful if all entered into it with the intent of building the Beloved Community. I encourage you to look more into this topic. It is a profound calling for us as Christians to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. Stay tuned for our other topics to see how we can live this out more.

be  ED  
COMMUNITY

## A Note on Holy Week Scriptural References to “The Jews” by Rev. Dr. Mary Luty

As Christians, we live under the burden of a sad and violent history of anti-Semitism, in the sobering shadow of the Shoah (Holocaust), and with the painful awareness of current events in Israel/Palestine. It is important to us to be clear about what our sacred texts mean when they make reference to “the Jews,” especially during Holy Week, when we contemplate Jesus’ death.

When the crucifixion narratives speak of “the chief priests and leaders of the people,” they are referring to officials who collaborated closely with the Roman systems of oppression and were viewed with contempt by much of the Jewish community of their time. They are never to be identified with the Jewish people as a whole, past or present.

It may be helpful to recall the cultural context of our Christian scriptures, emerging as they did from a small, originally Jewish community of believers in Jesus, who for reasons of faith in him as the Messiah, were eventually “put out of the synagogues” (John 9:18-23), their places of worship. In John’s usage especially, “the Jews” functions as a technical term for those among the people who did not accept Jesus as Messiah. It is a term that reflects the growing antagonism and mutual recrimination that developed in the latter part of the first century between church and synagogue. The gospels’ use of the term “the Jews” should never be understood, therefore, as a blanket condemnation of Jews in particular or in general.

It is one of the bitter ironies of history that our sacred texts have been used to justify the persecution of the covenant people who were and are forever God’s first love.

## 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**





April 1 - Cory Tipton  
 April 3 - Valerie Shattock  
 April 9 - Dorothy Philippi  
 April 19 - Miranda McGoon,  
                   Tom Mason  
 April 20 - Melissa Predny  
 April 21 - Paddi Just  
 April 24 - Gary Dwiggins  
 April 26 - Wendy Allen  
 April 30 - Frank Kafer

May 14 - Jim Boyce  
 May 16 - Lisa Dwiggins  
 May 20 - Stephen Cutright  
 May 29 - Nancy Kamb  
 May 30 - Rossi Burke



### ESUMC Financials

February 2021

Income	\$32,960.00
Expenses	\$31,886.65
Surplus	\$1,073.35

**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/giving statement, please contact Marilyn Lomelino.**

**Need a mask?** Call 510.223.0790

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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p><b>April</b> <b>Calendar 2021</b></p>				<p><b>1</b> 10 AM <b>Photo Club, (online)</b> 1:30 PM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 7:00 PM <b>Maundy Thursday Service</b></p>	<p><b>2</b> 10 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 7 PM <b>Good Friday</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> 10 AM <b>Worship Rehearsal (online)</b></p>
<p><b>4</b> 7 AM <b>Sunrise Service (online)</b> 10 AM <b>Easter Worship, (online)</b> 12:15 PM <b>Small Group (online)</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> 1:30 PM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 7 PM <b>Worship Committee (online)</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> 10 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 4 PM <b>Faith Exploration (online)</b> 7:30 PM <b>Kairos (online)</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> 10 AM <b>Bible Study, (online)</b> 10 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 7:30 PM <b>Choir (online)</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> 10 AM <b>Photo Club, (online)</b> 1:30 PM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 7:00 PM <b>Bible Study (online)</b></p>	<p><b>9</b> 10 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b></p>	<p><b>10</b> 10 AM <b>Blessings Closet</b> 5 PM <b>Worship Rehearsal (online)</b></p>
<p><b>11</b> 10 AM <b>Worship, (online)</b> 12:15 PM <b>Small Group (online)</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> 1:30 PM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 7 PM <b>Worship Committee (online)</b></p>	<p><b>13</b> 10 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 4 PM <b>Faith Exploration (online)</b> 7:30 PM <b>Kairos (online)</b></p>	<p><b>14</b> 10 AM <b>Bible Study, (online)</b> 10 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 7:30 PM <b>Choir (online)</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> 10 AM <b>Photo Club, (online)</b> 1:30 PM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 7:00 PM <b>Bible Study (online)</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> 10 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b></p>	<p><b>17</b> 10 AM <b>Worship Rehearsal (online)</b></p>
<p><b>18</b> 10 AM <b>Worship, (online)</b> 12:15 PM <b>Small Group (online)</b></p>	<p><b>19</b> 1:30 PM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 7 PM <b>Worship Committee (online)</b></p>	<p><b>20</b> 10 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 4 PM <b>Faith Exploration (online)</b> 7:30 PM <b>Kairos (online)</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> 10 AM <b>Bible Study, (online)</b> 10 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 7:30 PM <b>Choir (online)</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> 10 AM <b>Photo Club, (online)</b> 1:30 PM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 7:00 PM <b>Bible Study (online)</b></p>	<p><b>23</b> 10 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> 10 PM <b>Worship Rehearsal (online)</b></p>
<p><b>25</b> 10 AM <b>Sunday Worship, (online)</b> 12:15 PM <b>Small Group (online)</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> 1:30 PM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 7 PM <b>Worship Committee (online)</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> 10 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 4 PM <b>Faith Exploration (online)</b> 7:30 PM <b>Kairos (online)</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> 10 AM <b>Bible Study, (online)</b> 10 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 7:30 PM <b>Choir (online)</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> 10 AM <b>Photo Club, (online)</b> 1:30 PM <b>Motion Class (online)</b> 7:00 PM <b>Bible Study (online)</b></p>	<p><b>30</b> 10 AM <b>Motion Class (online)</b></p>	

## Prayer Concerns

The Family of David Hollingshead; Marilyn Patterson; Carolyn and family of 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; 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; Teresa Berenger (Madeleine Trouerbach's daughter); Sherry Banks; Hailie James; Leota Merrithew; 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

April 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"