



The Appian Wayfarer

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

July 2021

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.

Monday & Thursday: Balance Range of Motion – 1:30 PM

ID: 310 058 896
Password: 558140

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday: Stretching for Balance & Yoga - 10:00 AM

ID: 864 405 132
Password: 120140



Bible study cancelled up to July 21st

2021 Shirley Kille Scholarship Update

By Ken Kille

We have fourteen very qualified applicants this year. After much soul searching, the committee got the list down to five candidates to advance to an interview on Zoom. Because we wanted some funds available for next year, we wanted to pick the top two or three. The choice felt impossible for us to make because we felt they were all number one! We had an anonymous donation of \$1,500 last week (which I matched), so we decided to splurge and give all five a \$1,500 scholarship and still have funds for next year! I started this scholarship with \$7,500 in 2017, figuring we could give away \$1,500 per year for five years. With our five awards this year, we have given \$25,500 to deserving students to further their education.

Thanks for all your donations. Keep them coming!

The names of this year's students are:

Andrea Munoz

Uyen Bui

Kylo Mallori

Amand Colman

Alfonso Albarrah

I want to thank the memorial committee for helping in the process: Charlene Kafer, Marilyn Lomelino, Marialyce Romeo, and Carole Strauss.

God bless.

Rev. Emily Musing

My article: ESUMC re-open conversations

We've now moved past June 15th, that magical day where we're all free from our masks and social distancing. Everything returns back to normal? Right? Hmm... Let's think about this for a moment. *It's true that the state mandate on masks has ceased for the sake of the economy.* Businesses and organizations can now make a choice on how they want to proceed, and that includes us. Our United Methodist Church and the leadership of each congregation must make the choice of how to best care for our communities. There are still things we do not know about this virus. There are still many who have not been vaccinated. Some by choice, others because of their age or health condition. Children still cannot be vaccinated. In order to make sure we continue to do no harm, wearing masks is the best way to do this. We will continue to do so until other organizations, like the school district, release their mandate. If you are on the church campus with more than two household pods, you must wear a mask.

What are we doing?

First and foremost we remember John Wesley's 3 simple rules: Do no harm, do good, stay in love with God. Just because the state has allowed us to ease our restrictions does not mean that we should. We are currently waiting for a checklist protocol to go into effect for the overall California-Nevada Conference of the UMC. This will make our process go a lot easier and faster, but we must continue to be patient. We pray for those who have to make these difficult decisions. We took the survey that you all filled out and applied what we'll be doing going forward. What is clear from the responses is that we all want to be back in the church, but we don't want to do it too quickly or at the expense of others.

We are considering what our church will look like on various fronts:

1) How can we keep a high-quality worship experience both online and in person?

Friends, trying to figure out how to have a hybrid worship is very difficult. We have to consider how to have visuals and audio that are clear while also juggling the various aspects of technology. Right now our church is not set up for this kind of equipment, nor do we have those who are able to operate it. We are using consultants to help us

make those decisions. We will have some high costs coming up for this. If you are willing and able to make a special donation for this, please send it to the church office with the note "technology". Please keep in mind that congregational singing will still not be allowed for some time yet. Many of you have expressed the desire to keep online worship and in order to make this a quality experience, we need patience.

2) How will we host in-person group meetings?

We have been contacted by 11 different groups who want to hold in-person meetings. We are trying to determine how to host them safely. We also want to make sure that our small groups (committees, Bible studies, etc.) can take priority.

3) How do we take into account those that may still be susceptible to COVID-19?

We will not be requiring people to show their vaccination cards. This is not a welcoming act to our community. We never want to exclude people from church and therefore must assume that there will be some who are not vaccinated. We will be keeping the mask mandate until further notice.

The team of people who are helping to coordinate our reopening plan have been working very hard to discern what this will look like. We have broken down what this will look like for our church. Each stage is subject to change based on county and church guidelines.

Timeline:

Stage 1 (beginning in July):

- Staff will be returning to the office more regularly but will still primarily be working from home. To set up a time to meet with Rev. Emily, [CLICK HERE](#).
- We will have worship in the sanctuary for worship leaders only. Each person will sign a waiver stating they understand the risk of being in person. If there are worship leaders who still wish to serve from home, they may be accommodated for now.
- Continue to adapt technology based on needs, funds, and capabilities.
- Continue to hold the Blessings Closet every 2nd Saturday fully masked for the duration.

- Hiring new custodial staff member. Our current service has retired. SPRC is determining what we need for this position in light of COVID-19.
- All groups will remain over Zoom, but will create the possibility for meeting in person off campus. Please keep this in mind for some groups like Pub Theology, Crafty Ladies, the Photography Group, and perhaps more.

Stage 2 (date unknown)

- Accepting limited numbers of people into the sanctuary for Sunday worship, including worship leaders.
- Have a few other musicians or singers as a part of the worship leadership.
- Keep hybrid worship and fellowship time following church. This will need some flexibility as we determine what this will look like.
- Allow small groups to meet on campus while masked and socially distant.

Stage 3 (date unknown, long-term)

- Relaxing the mask mandate but inviting everyone to continue to wear them if they prefer.
- Allow full attendance for worship.
- Keep hybrid worship.
- Fellowship time TBA
- Allow for congregational singing TBA.
- Allow all programs to meet without social distancing or masks.

I know we're all frustrated. I know we're all tired of all of this. I know we just want to take our masks off, hug one another, and worship. I know we want to gather together. As I keep repeating, please arrange seeing one another in your own homes. Our church community continues to support one another. We need your support in figuring out the best way to do this. Thank you for your patience, your love, your prayers.

ESUMC Financials

May 2021

Income	\$90,277.17
Expenses	\$87,922.49
Surplus	\$2,354.68

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. 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



INDEPENDENCE DAY



Announcement From Nancy McFarland

Steve McFarland is being moved out of his house rental as the owner is selling. He is in need of new housing, either through a sale or rental. As his business is in Pinole, he would like to stay local. Anyone who has information can contact Nancy McFarland, nancyjmcfarland@gmail.com or 510-222-1253.



Grief comes in all shapes and sizes from the loss of a dream, the loss of a loved one, or the loss of our own abilities as we age. In our lives, we are surrounded by grief. But does grief always have to be a bad thing? Is there such a thing as “Good Grief”? Join El Sobrante United Methodist Church as we discern what good grief is and how we can approach it in our lives. This will include how to prepare for the end of your own life, both practically and spiritually. This group will be led by the interests of the participants and will be a resource for your needs with guest speakers and materials. All are welcome!

For more information, email revemily@esumcoffice.net

When? Thursdays, 1pm:
 July 8, 22, 29

Where? Over Zoom

Meeting ID: 986 3191 7019 Password: 413589

Materials?

You are encouraged to purchase the book “Good Grief” by Granger E. Westberg. If you cannot afford it, please contact Rev. Emily and she will help. No one will be turned away from this church due to lack of resources.

Book Recommendations

Recommendations by Charlene Kafer

Two great nonfictions “must reads”: “*The Elephant Whisperer*” by Lawrence Anthony and the new sequel to it, “*An Elephant in My Kitchen*” by Francoise Malby-Anthony (written by Lawrence’s wife after his untimely death in 2012). These wonderful books about the herd dynamics of elephants and especially their interaction with humans. You will be taken in by the characters, humorous and poignant incidents and new insights about life on the Thula Thula Game Preserve in Africa; everything from a spoiled poodle to rogue elephants with a few rhinos thrown into the mix! I highly recommend for both men and women! Available from Kindle, Amazon and Contra Costa library system.

One of my favorite fiction reads during the pandemic: “*Have You Seen Luis Velez?*” by Catherine Ryan Hyde. The story of an accidental meeting between a young boy and an elderly, blind woman. The lessons learned by both from each other are touching, realistic and life changing. Gives new meaning to caring, compassion and going beyond comfort zones—all without being sickeningly sweet. This book has a somewhat dark episode which is satisfyingly resolved and answers the question in the title. The saddest part was when I finished it—I didn’t want it to end! Don’t miss this one! Reasonably priced on Kindle or in paperback from Amazon. Not in CCC library system.



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



August 2 – Morie Oberg
 August 4 – Ruth Parker
 August 7 – Cheryl Brown
 August 9 – Pastor Mark Zier
 August 12 - Amelia Hancock, Byron Mauk
 August 13 - Gerry Woods
 August 15 - Bernice Cooledge, Jackson Wieland
 August 23 - Carol Strauss
 August 25 - Paulette Collins
 August 26 - Doris Morris
 August 31 - Pam Butler, Isaac Patterson

Braver Angels: Advocating Solutions to Homelessness in El Sobrante

On June 5, 2021, I participated in a Community Forum on Homelessness as a representative of our congregation. The event brought together about fifteen local residents with varying perspectives on homelessness. We spent the day in facilitated discussion, with the goal of developing solutions that we could present to County Supervisor John Gioia at a later meeting. The forum was sponsored by Braver Angels, a national citizens' organization dedicated to bringing liberals, conservatives, and others together for conversation—not to convince or change minds, but to find common ground. Because we were unable to meet on church property due to COVID-19 restrictions, we gathered in the backyard of a private home. (However, our church still demonstrated ESUMC hospitality by lending our coffee urns.) In addition to being a participant, I was also a member of the planning team for the Forum. I regard my work with Braver Angels to be part of my task as a deacon to interpret the church to the world, and the world to the church.

At the start of the Forum, we divided into two groups of (more-or-less) like-minded people, based on our responses to a short survey on homelessness. We were roughly divided between 1) remove the homeless and 2) do not remove the homeless, but our views reflected a continuum rather than a sharp divide; none of the attendees were adamant about completely removing the homeless population. The format of the meeting was a series of exercises designed to help us identify points of agreement between the two groups: shared values, shared concerns, and solutions we agree on. We were guided by two excellent moderators (one of them happens to be the pastor of St. Paul's UMC, Manteca). We spent a great deal of time listening to each other and asking clarifying questions. We had opportunities to have discussion within our groups, as well as one-on-one conversation

with someone from the other group. A key value in Braver Angels events is respectful conversation. To that end, the moderators asked us to refrain from negative body language (such as eye rolling or loud sighs), to speak for ourselves (as opposed to speaking for an outside group), and to stick to the purpose of each activity (for example, if the exercise was *listening* to others, then we don't talk). The very first ground rule framed all our interactions: "We're here to understand others and to explain our views, not to convince anyone to change their mind."

As the day progressed, we began to see how much we had in common. There was general agreement that safety was a real concern—including both danger from wildfires and danger from criminal activity. We wanted to respond with compassion to the needs of the homeless, but we did not want El Sobrante to become a Mecca for homeless people. At the conclusion of the event, I believe all the participants felt they had been heard and their opinions valued. We didn't agree on every point, but we celebrated the power we had as a gathering of concerned citizens trying to improve quality of life for *everyone* in El Sobrante. The Forum reminded me why I had initially joined Braver Angels: to build bridges and help heal wounds caused by caustic divisiveness.

Our next step is a general community meeting on Saturday, August 7 (time to be determined). We plan to have the event at ESUMC (we anticipate being able to use the church property by then). We will gather for about an hour to have further respectful discussion and input on proposed action steps. Supervisor Gioia will join us for the second hour to hear our suggested solutions. Please mark your calendars and join us to see advocacy in action!

--Rev. Eileen Johnson

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

Prayer Concerns

Kinleight Rockeman the granddaughter of Pat Rockeman; Marilyn Mangle and Dorothy Phillipi; Ricki Walters; Clara Saprasa; Pam Webster; The family of Rev. Jane Schlager; Darlene Fleming; 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

July 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

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www.esumconline.org

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