



The Church Bell for April 2020

Susanville United Methodist Church
60 South Lassen St, Susanville, CA 96130
530-257-5893 susanville_umc@frontier.com



Pastor's Ponderings

I've been telling y'all that 2020 was going to be an interesting year. I just didn't think it would be *this* interesting! As much as state-wide policies of self-isolation have been a real pain, I continue to see God's Spirit at work throughout our congregation. So many of you have stepped forward to support each other; thank you!

One of the many silver linings of March has been how quickly our congregation has adapted to communicating online. In only two weeks we went from having *zero* experience hosting worship online to doing it with nearly three dozen people in attendance.

Dennis & Maryel R. are keeping the prayer team active through Zoom meetings as well as working on ways to add music to our Sunday worship services.

Another silver lining is that we now have two additional online gatherings each week: Bible Study on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm and "Coffee with the Pastor" on Thursdays at 6:00 pm. Once again, we're using Zoom for these meetings.

To maintain a steady flow of information to as many people as possible, I've created an online emailing database using the MailChimp platform (which is free for us; I love free). I'm thrilled to report that we already have 80 verified email addresses in there. This is a major step forward in solidifying our digital presence.

For the past few months, I've been working with Mandy & Mark S. who are following God's tuggings in their lives. Mandy is getting involved with several teams and is a fountain of "what if..." ideas. I love it!

Mark is sensing God calling him into new levels of spiritual and leadership growth. He just started the first of four classes in the UMC's Certified Lay Ministry program. This will be a blessing for all of us. To give you a teaser, (and in addition to the Men's Bible Study that he is initiating) Mark and I are already discussing leading our church through several of the "Lay Servant" classes. Stay tuned!

Fortunately, before California and Nevada were both put on lock-down, I was able to visit

This Month's Worship Themes

Thanks to the Covid-19 virus, we now worship online at 10:45 am each Sunday.

This is a new and different experience for all of us! We hope you'll join us each week from your home.



Sunday, April 5 **Palm Sunday Holy Communion!**

Matthew 21:1-11 and Matthew 26:14-56
The Last Supper – Not My Will, But Your Will

Sunday, April 12 **Happy Easter!**

John 20:1-18
Playing Hide-and-Seek with the Divine

Sunday, April 19

John 20:19-31
Peace Be with You

Sunday, April 26 **Native American Ministries Sunday**

1 Peter 1:17-23
What's This "Born Again" Stuff?!?

with a few of our members at home as well as serve communion to our faithful group at Eagle Lake Village. Speaking of which...

Please pray for (and call or write) the residents of Eagle Lake Village Senior Living. They have been asked to stay in their rooms 24 hours a day for the past two weeks. Their meals and anything they need are brought to their rooms. Since many of them are not on the internet and are hard of hearing, they are unable to communicate with each other on a daily basis.

Pray for all the inmates and correctional officers at High Desert State Prison, California Correctional Center, and the city's jail. Life in those environments is already challenging, but with the added strain of enforced social distancing, I imagine emotional tensions are higher than usual.

As always, no matter the headlines, remember that God made you, loves you, and has plans for you! See you online. ☺

~ Pastor Charles

Website Updates

The screenshot shows the website header for Susanville United Methodist Church. The navigation menu includes: HOME, CONNECT (highlighted with a red box and arrow), COMMUNITY / EVENTS, CONTACT US, PRAYER REQUESTS (highlighted with a red box), ABOUT US, STAFF, and PASTOR'S BLOG (highlighted with a red box). A Facebook icon (highlighted with a red box and arrow) is in the top right. The main banner features a photo of the church building with the text "Susanville Methodist". Below the banner, a notice states: "Out of an abundance of concern for our congregation and our guests, ALL of our on-site worship services, programs, and events are postponed until further notice." On the bottom left, a box highlights online Zoom services: "Join us online via Zoom each week for..." followed by a list: "Worship – Sunday morning at 10:45 am", "Bible Study – Tuesdays at 6:00 pm", and "Coffee with the Pastor – Thursdays @ 6:00 pm". On the bottom right, a box highlights contact information: "We'd love for you to join us in worship!" followed by meeting times (8:30 am and 10:45 am), address (60 South Lassen St, Susanville, CA 96130), and phone number (530-257-5893). A red arrow points to the text "Please click here if you would like to be added to our email list."

Check Out the New Features!

Our website continues to evolve as we quickly adapt to connecting online while self-isolating.

In the top left corner, you'll see a "Connect" tab. The first item on the list is "**Contact Us.**" This is where the public can send the office a message.

The second item down is "**Prayer Requests**" which is the perfect place for anyone to submit their prayer concerns. While we are unable to meet in person for Sunday worship, we highly encourage you to utilize this page. Our prayer warriors look forward to receiving your prayers of thanks, praise, and requests.

The third item down is "**About Us**" which has been recently updated to include a brief history of the church. If you have additional information about our church's history and/or photos of the church, please contact Pastor Charles so that he can add that content to this page.

Next down is our "**Staff**" page. Often, people who are considering visiting a church look at the

staff page so they can learn more about the people they are likely to meet if and when they visit.

Finally, we have the "**Pastor's Blog**" page. This is where you can find links to Pastor Charles' sermons which include links to Scripture readings, artwork, handouts, etc.

The "f" in the top right corner of the website takes you directly to our Facebook page.

The bottom left of the screenshot above shows the three primary ways anyone can connect with us online each week.

The bottom right corner above shows how someone can add themselves to our email list.

Many more updates and additions are coming to our website in the next month or two. As those roll out, we'll keep you informed so that you know what's available and where to find it.

When you're talking with your friends, please encourage them to "check out our website" as well as our Facebook page. We're mighty proud of the positive, encouraging content on both platforms!

Staying Connected



SPECIAL EASTER COLLECTION

One of our many annual traditions is to receive a special Easter offering. Your generosity will support the numerous ministries of our church. You can mail a check to our church with “Easter” written in the memo line. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Serving Our Members

If you need help getting to a doctor’s appointment, the grocery store, etc., several of our members are willing to help get you there and back home.

While self-isolation is being practiced, let us know if you need prescriptions picked up or other household necessities.

Please contact our office for more info.



UMCOR Special Offering

Sunday, March 22 was UMCOR Sunday, a time when we normally take a special offering to support this great organization. Founded in 1940, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is the humanitarian relief and development agency of the United Methodist Church. Compelled by Christ, UMCOR responds to natural or human made disasters in the USA and around the world – those interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. 100% of all gifts made to UMCOR go directly to helping the people who most need it. UMCOR does not receive funding through apportionments.

Your gift to UMCOR is an example of extravagant grace. Please give generously, with a check to our church with “UMCOR Sunday” written in the memo line. Thank you!

Learn more about UMCOR at...

www.umcmmission.org/umcor

Church Office Hours

CLOSED until further notice for safety. ☹

530-257-5893 susanville_umc@frontier.com

Visit our website at SusanvilleMethodist.org

Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño
District Superintendent Blake Busick
Pastor Charles White
Choir Director Dennis Roberts
Pianist Karen Sherve
Custodians Janiska Nordstrom, Ed Hafner

Sunday Worship Services

10:45 am via Zoom – See you online!



Like us on Facebook!
*Join the conversation,
and share us with your friends!*
www.facebook.com/umcofsusanville

Worship with Us Online!

ALL of our on-site worship services, programs, and events are postponed until further notice. But we remain connected!

- Worship – Sunday morning at 10:45 am
- Bible Study – Tuesdays at 6:00 pm
- Coffee with the Pastor – Thursdays at 6 pm

We gather using a program called Zoom which creates an online space for people to meet via computer, smartphone app, or a simple phone call.

For complete information about how to join us, visit our website.





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THIS MAIL IS LIKE YOU: FIRST CLASS!



Breaking News: UMC General Conference Moved to 2021

United Methodist Church delegates from around the world meet once every four years to discuss current issues, set official policies, and update the Book of Discipline (our rule book).

Due to Covid-19 related travel restrictions, the UMC has decided to postpone the 2020 meeting for one year. Our leadership is working quickly to select a new date in 2021. They plan to keep the same theme and location: Minneapolis, MN.



Now Accepting Prayers Online

Our prayer warriors meet faithfully online every Monday at 11:00 am via Zoom and offer to God prayer requests that have been received. All are welcome to join our team.



The best way to submit your prayer concerns is through our website. susanvillemethodist.org/prayers.

Prayer requests on our list will be kept for two weeks unless we are updated. Please provide contact info with your prayer requests.

We continue to see God's hand working in the lives of people who need prayer, and there continue to be praises for answered prayers.

For urgent prayer requests, contact the church office at 530-257-5893.

Church Bell articles are due by the 20th each month.

Submissions CharlesWhite@protonmail.com
 Printer Church Office
 Reporters All of You!

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.
"For God so loved the world..."