



The Church Bell for May-June 2020

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



Pastor's Ponderings

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I know I sound like a broken record, but **our congregation is consistently amazing!** This whole virus thing has been a major curveball for our plans for 2020. But all of you have adjusted so quickly and so well that I forget we're not normal. **We are so wonderfully abnormal!** Participation in our online gatherings remains high, we're welcoming new people into our Sunday worship service each week, our finances are strong, and – thanks to your suggestions and enthusiasm – we are starting new programs each month. While many churches are cutting back, we're ramping up. Full steam ahead!

Jerri K. and Mandy S. have created a phone tree and are contacting every member of our congregation at least once each week by phone, text, or email. This is in addition to “the regulars” who meet for Bible Study on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm and “Coffee with the Pastor” on Thursdays at 6:00 pm. If you're not already in one of those two groups, consider this your engraved invitation. Both groups are a riot!

Dennis & Maryel R. have gone above and beyond to provide us with wonderful music every Sunday since we began worshipping online. Heather B. and Jeannie L. have blessed us with instrumentals before the services begin. Our worship team continues to explore ways to improve our online worship experience as well as plan for when and how we will return to worshipping together in person.

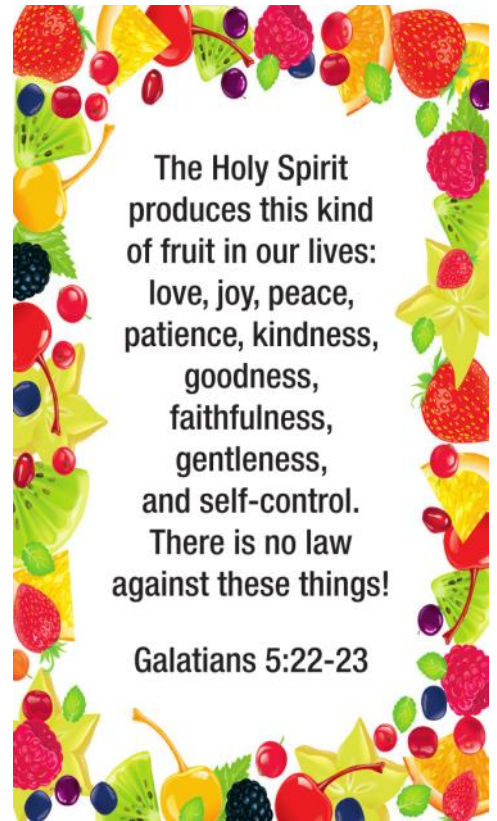
To the right you'll see our fruit and prayer cards. I enlarged them so they're easy to cut out and tape to your refrigerator door. Or maybe tape them to your fruit bowl. Or your bathroom mirror... whatever works for you. Prayer is one of the most powerful spiritual disciplines; prayer really is intended to be a conversation with God, and the best conversations are open and honest. I encourage you to talk with God as though you were talking with a close friend. Try it!

As before, please pray for (and call or write) the residents of Eagle Lake Village Senior Living. They remain in their rooms 24 hours a day for two months now. Their meals and anything they need are brought to their rooms. Truly, do whatever you can to safely connect with them and remind them that we think of them often, miss seeing them, and care for them.

Also continue praying for all the inmates and correctional officers at High Desert State Prison, California Correctional Center, and the city's jail. Despite how we are disconnected more than ever now, Ann W. is helping us connect with inmates at the jail in ways that can only be explained by God opening doors for us. I'll have more on that in a future issue.

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

Charles



This week I will pray for

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

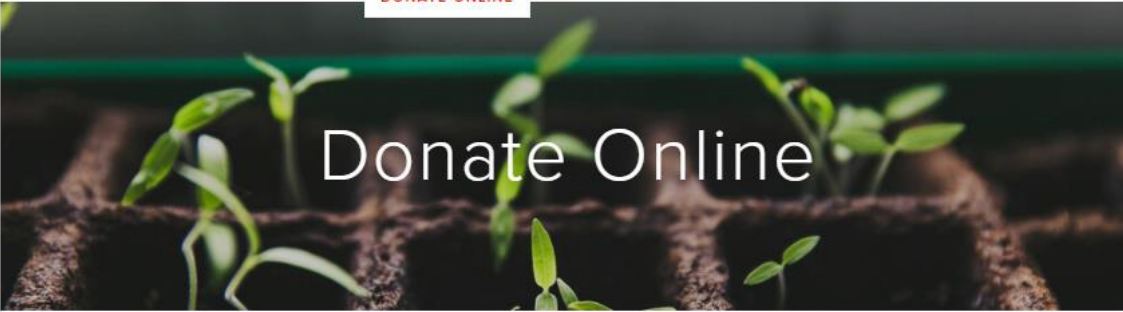
**Lord, thank you for...
Please bless...
Help me/them with...**

Website Updates

SUSANVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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DONATE ONLINE



Donate Online

Your Generosity Changes Lives!


You can financially support the ministries of our faith community in multiple ways.

1 - Make a One-Time Online Donation
[CLICK HERE](#) to make a donation via PayPal (on PayPal's "check out" page, you will need to login with your own PayPal account information).

2 - Schedule a Recurring Monthly Online Donation
Your regularly scheduled gift helps us create accurate budgets which, in turn, enables our leadership to proactively plan how they purchase and distribute resources to our members and to people in our community.
Please [contact us](#) to set up your customized reoccurring donation.

We'd love for you to join us in worship!

We meet on Sunday morning at 8:30 am and 10:45 am. You can find us at 60 South Lassen St, Susanville, CA 96130. 530-257-5893. Please [click here](#) if you would like to be added to our email list.



Check Out the New Features!

Our website is constantly growing and evolving as we quickly adapt to connecting online while self-isolating.

We've added two great pages in the past month.

The first is an online donation page. Anyone who has a free PayPal account can donate through the link on our page. We are working with PayPal to create more donation options.

The second page is a list of resources in our area. Having this info on our website creates a single, convenient place to which our members can refer people.


More updates are in the works. As those roll out, we'll keep you informed so that you know what's available and where to find it.

As always, **when you're talking with your friends, please encourage them to "check out our website"** as well as our Facebook page!

SUSANVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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SERVING OTHERS
WORSHIP
LOCAL RESOURCES
FOOD RESOURCES



Local Resources


Resources in Susanville

Please take advantage of the excellent private and public resources in Susanville. Many of these local agencies and organizations have adjusted their services and hours of operation to accommodate our community's needs and concerns regarding the Covid-19 Virus.

Websites with additional information and resources:
Lassencares.org
Covid19.ca.gov

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Serving Our Community

HOPE Food Pantry Grand Opening Friday, May 29!

After months of discussions, research, and hard work, we are beyond excited to announce the rollout of our "HOPE Food Pantry." Our slogan is "Susanville UMC Serves HOPE" where HOPE stands for Helping Other People Eat.


The new "Food Resources" page on our website is filled with information about our pantry, a contact form as well as info about other food resources in our area, a 90-second video explaining the extent and impact of hunger, and summary data about hunger in Susanville and Lassen county.

Take a moment to read through this page and consider how you can get involved!

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SERVING OTHERS
WORSHIP
LOCAL RESOURCES
FOOD RESOURCES




Food Resources in Susanville

There is no reason to go hungry!


If you need food, contact one or more of the outstanding organizations listed below. Please be aware that, due to concerns about the Covid-19 virus, many organizations are adjusting their hours and methods of operation; call ahead to confirm their availability.

We'd love for you to join us in worship!

We meet on Sunday morning at 8:30 am and 10:45 am. You can find us at 60 South Lassen St, Susanville, CA 96130. 530-257-5893. Please [click here](#) if you would like to be added to our email list.



COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR - THURSDAYS @ 6PM
Grab your favorite beverage and join



HOPE Food Pantry at Susanville United Methodist Church



Mark & Mandy S. and Ed H. transformed our preschool room and storage cubbies into a high-capacity, space efficient pantry capable of serving dozens of people each week.



Donations Needed

Our budget is used to purchase food, but as you know, people need additional items to be healthy. We always need...

- Body soap
- Feminine hygiene products
- Socks (new)
- Toilet paper
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste

Use the contact form on the website to coordinate when you can drop off your donations.

Congratulations Pastor Charles!

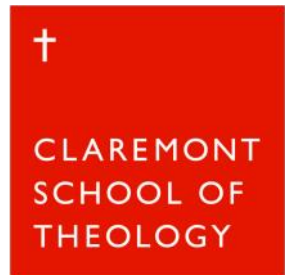
The month of May has included two major milestones for Pastor Charles, both of which are blessings for our congregation.

On Monday, May 11, our congregation held a Special Charge Conference during which we voted to move Pastor Charles from half-time to full-time effective June 01, 2020. This change was originally submitted to Bishop Carcaño and the Cabinet for their approval. (The Cabinet is comprised of the Bishop and all five of the District Superintendents for our Annual Conference.) As Margie M. put it, “He’s already been putting in full-time hours. Now we’ll actually be paying him for it!” This change will most likely result in Pastor Charles remaining in Susanville for many years.

Just a week later, on May 19, Pastor Charles officially graduated from the Claremont School of Theology with his Master of Divinity degree. His graduating class is the largest in decades, is the only class to have an online-only commencement service, and will be the *last* graduating class of CST before it closes its doors in Southern California and becomes a school within Willamette University (OR).

Charles is anxiously awaiting receiving his diploma in the mail.

We look forward to Charles sharing what he’s learned with us during the coming years.



“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.”

Leadership is a fascinating topic and one of the hottest marketing words of the past 20 or more years. The quote above comes from Psalm 32:8 and is one of several verses that speak to the interactive nature of Christian leadership. I believe God plants the seeds of leadership by calling and equipping *everyone* to lead with a servant’s heart, always seeking God’s wisdom and direction.

With Isaiah as one of our models, it is our job to respond to God’s call by saying, “Here am I; send me!” (Isaiah 6:8). Lord, send us into the world to be salt and light where those are desperately needed (Matthew 5:13-16). Send us to places and in ways that are beyond our imaginations and expectations so that we *must* rely on God’s wisdom, direction, and provision if we

are to fully live into the visions God shares with us (Philippians 4:13 and 1 Thessalonians 5:24).

Well that all sounds great, but inspiring words ring hollow and fall flat if they are not supported by steady commitment, discipline, *and* training – all of which lead to multiple forms of growth.

During our Special Charge Conference on May 11, we also voted to task our Church Council with exploring how our church can move from our current structure of numerous committees to a “Single Board Governance” structure. We anticipate the Church Council will be able to provide their recommendation(s) before our next Charge Conference in November. The huge benefit we expect is fewer committee meetings and more effective use of our time and resources.

I would neglect my role as your pastor if I did not do everything in my power to equip our Church Council with the best resources I can find and do all I can to help them determine what is best for our congregation and our community.

With that in mind, in the coming weeks and months, I plan to create a **Leadership Development Group** which is open to *everyone*. To facilitate this, an anonymous donor has given us \$1,000 to launch a new **Leadership Development Fund**.

These are exciting times for our church. I will share dates, times, and materials with you as quickly as I can. Stay tuned, and get ready!

~ Pastor Charles

Understanding Our Faith and Traditions

Church Colors – Why White?

What a time we have had since our last installment! For ten Sundays, we lived with the color purple, which symbolized the suffering that our Lord was to expect, then lived through. Even though he told his disciples several times what to expect, they just could not wrap their minds around Jesus being killed for (to them) no reason (the Pharisees thought it was pretty obvious).

However, Jesus lived out what he had told his disciples, was crucified as a political example to those who would follow *him* and not *Rome*, and was buried amid much sorrow by his followers.

Sometime between being placed in the tomb and Sunday morning, Jesus was raised. How? No one knows. And what does the how matter anyway? He was raised. Hallelujah!

We celebrate that resurrection with the color **White**. Again, white speaks of purity. Jesus was

pure. His life was lived without any wavering to the opinions of others. So Jesus was raised. So what? What about us? 1 Corinthians 15:42 says: *So it is with the resurrection of the dead. The [human] body that is sown is perishable and mortal, it is raised imperishable and immortal. (Amplified Bible)*

And in John 14:3: *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and I will take you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also. (Amp)*

There it is; the color white can remind us that we also, one day, will be where Jesus is. Hallelujah!

Even though no one is at the church building, the colors have changed to white. For the next six weeks, let the color white be with you and remind you of this promise. Clouds are white, flowers are white, snow is white. Creation revels in this good news. Amen!
~ Dennis R.

Wear Red (or White) for Pentecost!

On Pentecost Sunday (May 31), we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3,000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is often called the birthday of the Christian church.

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost (called *Shavuot*, meaning “weeks” in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus.

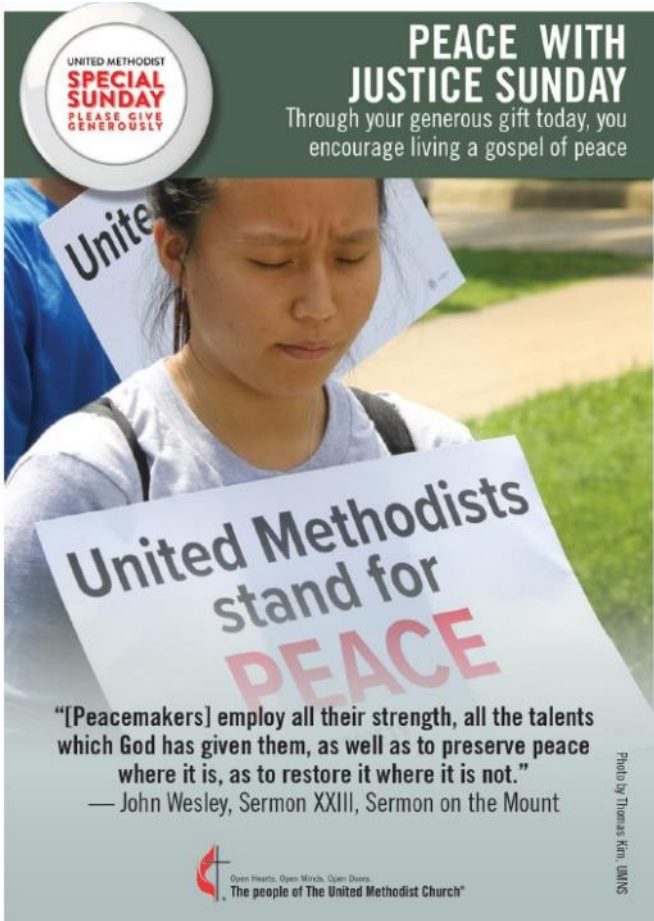
Pentecost for Christians celebrates the work of the church begun on Easter Day. In early Christianity, Easter Day was the primary day for baptisms. The newly baptized were then trained in basic Christian doctrine, including the meaning of the sacraments they had now experienced, as they prepared to take up their ministries in the life of the church. On Pentecost, Christians celebrate the commissioning of new members into ministry.



(Mosaic at Evangelische Kirchengemeinde in Trier Germany; photo by Holger Schué.)

Two colors are historically associated with Pentecost. Red is a visual reminder of the “tongues of fire” that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). **White is also used because Pentecost was the major day for baptisms in the early church.** Those being baptized were given new white robes to wear as a sign they had taken off the world, died to sin, and were raised with the risen Christ to new life. This is why Pentecost is referred to as “Whitsunday” or “White Sunday” in England and Europe.

Peace with Justice Sunday – June 7, 2020



Peace with Justice Sunday is traditionally celebrated on Trinity Sunday (the first Sunday after Pentecost), which this year is June 7. One of The United Methodist Church's six special Sunday offerings, Peace with Justice Sunday (PWJS) supports annual conference ministries as well as global denominational work.

Of your offering for PWJS, half of the money is used in our annual conference and half supports the ministries of the General Board of Church and Society. PWJS funds are used through United Methodist channels to:

- relate the gospel of Jesus Christ to the church, communities & the world in which members live;
- bring the whole of human life into conformity with God's will; and
- show that reconciliation involves personal, social and civic righteousness.

PWJS is an opportunity for United Methodists around the world to remind ourselves of our Social Creed and our Social Principles that are an integral part of our Wesleyan heritage. Your generous donations are greatly appreciated and will impact lives both near and far.

The UMC's Social Creed

As found in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016* ¶ 166

We believe in God, Creator of the world; and in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of creation. We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom we acknowledge God's gifts, and we repent of our sin in misusing these gifts to idolatrous ends.

We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind.

We joyfully receive for ourselves and others the blessings of community, sexuality, marriage, and the family.

We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disabilities; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.

We believe in the right and duty of persons to work for the glory of God and the good of themselves and others and in the protection of their welfare in so doing; in the rights to property as a trust from God, collective bargaining, and responsible consumption; and in the elimination of economic and social distress.

We dedicate ourselves to peace throughout the world, to the rule of justice and law among nations, and to individual freedom for all people of the world.

We believe in the present and final triumph of God's Word in human affairs and gladly accept our commission to manifest the life of the gospel in the world. Amen!

Staying Connected

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 and they will forward your information and request to members of our Evangelism team.



Weekly Webinars? Wowzers!

Join Pastor Charles online **every Wednesday at 4:00pm** for a weekly seminar hosted by our Annual Conference. The **free** webinars cover a potpourri of topics and are designed to bring folks across the conference together to learn new skills that will help us adapt to life in this time of pandemic and improve the vitality, effectiveness and impact of our churches going forward.

Each of the live webinars is recorded and posted on the conference site along with any downloadable resources presented during the live session. Upcoming sessions include...

- 5/27/20 - Connecting Neighbors
- 6/03/20 - Engaging Children, Youth and Young Adults in Your Church
- 6/10/20 - Leveraging Social Media

You can see the entire slate of past seminars as well as sign up for future seminars at...

www.cnumc.org/webinars



Because of your faithful generosity, we are thriving and growing during this difficult time. We are close to 100% of pledged tithes, which is terrific! Several people are also taking advantage of our new online giving option.

Thank you so much for your continued support as we continue to serve Susanville!

www.SusanvilleMethodist.org/donate

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!

At the urging of our Bishop and with the safety of our members as our primary concern, 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

Zoom meetings keep us connected via computer, smartphone app, or a simple phone call. This is a great time to invite a friend to join you on Sunday morning from the comfort of their own home. For complete info about how to join us, visit our website at...



SusanvilleMethodist.org/online




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 Phone: 530-257-5893
SusanvilleMethodist.org



THIS MAIL IS LIKE YOU: FIRST CLASS!

Tell a friend! Volunteer to help us!

Our church will host a weekly food pantry out of our Social Hall on Cottage Street. We'll be open Fridays from 3-6 pm. Anyone who needs food is welcome and no ID is required. Get more info at... SusanvilleMethodist.org/food

The Cross & Flame
 The UMC logo connects us to God through Jesus (the cross) and the Holy Spirit (the flames). The flames are a reminder of Pentecost when witnesses were unified by the power of the Holy Spirit and saw “tongues, as of fire” (Acts 2:3). The two tongues of fire can also represent The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren which united in 1968 to form the UMC.

Church Bell articles are due by the 20th each month.
 Submissions CharlesWhite@protonmail.com
 Printer Church Office
 Reporters All of You!

**Powerful Portal Portends
 Persuasive Prayers**

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. Go to... 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, please contact our main office at 530-257-5893.

~ Jerri K., Prayer Team Coordinator

**Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.
 “For God so loved the world...”**