



# THE CHURCH BELL



Susanville United Methodist Church • [SusanvilleMethodist.org](http://SusanvilleMethodist.org)

## Pastor's Ponderings

**We're open again!** That is, by far, the biggest headline of the month and perhaps the year. And what a year it's been. Nearly overnight we transitioned from being an "analog" church to becoming a digital church. In doing so, we have connected with new people and reconnected with former members. As we plan for our future, I was thrilled to hear our Church Council say that they see great value in our church maintaining an active online presence as we go forward.

**Our Next Decade** – How Christians "do church" in the 21st century will be dramatically different than how we "did church" in the 20th century. This decade will be one filled with a never-ending cycle of experimenting, learning, adjusting, and experimenting again. Anytime we try something and learn, we win. The only time we ever lose is when we stop trying, when we give up. Susanville UMC has survived 140 years because its members never gave up. I am honored to serve alongside all of you as we continue that legacy, now in digital realms.



**Mid-Week Gatherings** – Part of the Christian journey is sharing our faith, experiences, questions, and celebrations with each other. In addition to Sunday worship, we can also grow together during the week with Tuesday's Bible Study, Wednesday's Faith in Conversation, Thursday's Coffee with the Pastor, and Friday's food pantry. Speaking of which...

**HOPE Food Pantry** – We continue to see new and returning clients each week. To serve our growing base of clients, we need additional volunteers on Fridays. Everyone can help in some way. Please contact Cathy N. or myself to discuss how you can get involved with this exciting ministry.

**Fireworks** – Our Fabulous Fireworks Task Force is already at work getting our permits and shipment in order for this summer. We'll need volunteers throughout the week. You can help for one or multiple shifts. As ambassadors of our faith (2 Corinthians 5:20), this is a great way to make connections with people in our community while helping us raise funds to support our ministries.

~ Pastor Charles



### This week I will pray for

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

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



Please email articles for the Church Bell to  
Pastor Charles at: [CharlesWhite@protonmail.com](mailto:CharlesWhite@protonmail.com).

# FINANCE UPDATE

## Finance Committee

As we start May, we have two major projects the church is working on. The first is the removal of the trees on Lassen St. They are old, rotting on the inside, and are losing branches (thank goodness none have fallen on any cars). Their roots are breaking up the sidewalk; this has become a serious liability issue for our church. The cost to remove the trees is \$4,600. We do not have an estimate on removing the roots and redoing the sidewalks yet.

The second project is to upgrade our video equipment so we can continue to Zoom the 10:30am Sunday service from the sanctuary. The estimated cost of the video equipment is \$9,000. Fortunately, we were proactive and had a fundraiser several years ago to raise money for audio visual equipment, and we still have \$10,000 in that account.

The Finance Committee would like to thank everyone for their continued support during Covid. God continues to bless us in many ways.

As part of our Conference's Equitable Compensation Church Initiative, we continue to receive a grant in the amount of \$1,250 from our Conference to help pay for our full-time pastor. We have also been able to make our monthly tithe to the Conference.



## Keep Those Prayers Coming!

Our prayer warriors continue meeting faithfully online every Monday at 11:00 am via Zoom and offer to God prayer requests that have been received. The best way to submit your prayer concerns is through our website: [SusanvilleMethodist.org/prayers](https://SusanvilleMethodist.org/prayers)

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.

## Stewardship Sundays

The fourth Sunday of each month is Stewardship Sunday. Our Church Council has adopted a year-long project for our stewardship campaign rather than a single campaign in the fall. A big thank you to Heather B. for starting off our campaign with her reasons for giving.

If you would like to be part of this program and let our congregation know why you support our church, please contact Margie M. or Heather B.

(If you're not sure how to put into words why you financially support our church, we'd be happy to help you with that!)

## Why I Give

Hello, I'm Heather B. I want to share why I financially support our church.

One of the special things to me about our church is our ability to worship God through music. We do this within our church services and out in the community; one example is the handbell choir playing at the annual Hospice program and for the HOPE food pantry, as well as music in our prison ministry. There are so many blessings we receive while worshipping through music - music can lift us up, comfort us, and energize us! I believe that through music, we can help open someone's heart to the love of God.

To make all these spiritual blessings possible, there are practical earthly things that must happen behind the scenes. Think about things like lighting in our buildings, heating, cooling, sound systems, an organist, a choir director, sheet music! So, music is just one reason I choose to give monthly to our church's General Fund in support of all these things and wherever the need is greatest. I have also given to special designated funds such as organ maintenance.

I encourage you to consider why you come to Susanville UMC and how you can help support those missions you benefit from or that are important to you.

## Peacemaking, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding

The gospel is a message of redemption but also of peace and freedom. As Christians, we are called to spread peace, do good and stand for justice.

Take a look at the scriptures:

*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”*  
(Matthew 5:9)

*“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”*  
(Romans 12:21)

*“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”* (Micah 6:8)

Not much has changed when it comes to peace and justice from the culture and context of those Scriptures to today. We still need to work to encourage peace and seek justice. As United Methodists, Peace with Justice Sunday is one way we are working together to seek justice.

While we recognize that no nation or culture is absolutely just, we believe that we are called to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as peacemakers. It is necessary to work together to resolve conflict peacefully because it is in that resolution where work such as eliminating poverty, caring for orphans, and kickstarting health initiatives can be successful.

So what does being a peacemaker, peacekeeper or peacebuilder look like?

**Peacemaking** is defined as the process of creating a settlement between differing parties. If you have children, we are sure that you have played the role of peacemaker many, many times. Even if you don't have children, perhaps this is a role that has been played by you or a friend to help settle a dispute.

**Peacekeeping** is keeping people from attacking one another by creating a buffer of neutrality between them. On a global scale,

we've seen the UN or neutral nations act as peacekeepers. At a local level, this could mean involving a mediator to help.

**Peacebuilding** is a process that establishes peace through resolution, institution building or at the political level with the goal of preventing recurring violence.

Like any good lesson, it is never enough just to learn it. We must now act on what we know.

Peace with Justice Sunday is based on these ideas that the way to stand for justice is to simultaneously create pathways for peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. It is a day to take action by funding peace with justice programs in our communities.

Peace with Justice Sunday is the fourth of our six annual Special Sundays. You can help fund dedicated UMC peace programs with a special donation on Sunday, May 30.



### Graduation Day for Rebecca M.

John and I are proud to announce the graduation of Rebecca M. You may remember her as she participated in our church choir, attended services, and was an active part of our church family.

Rebecca joined our immediate family and church family in 2005. She has been working her way through college and has achieved her goal of a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Now it's time to celebrate! Her commencement will take place on Friday, May 7 in the Baxter Arena. It begins at 10am PST, and you may view the virtual streaming of the ceremony at <http://awww.unomaha.edu/special-event/commencement>.

You have all contributed to her success and we are all grateful for your love and care. If you would like to contact Rebecca directly, we would be happy to provide you with her details. – John & Deborah A.



# WELCOME BACK!

Join us this Sunday to celebrate Mother's Day and our first day worshipping back in the sanctuary at 10:30 am.

(Masks optional)



Join us for Coffee Hour afterwards.



**Susanville United Methodist Church**  
60 South Lassen St.  
Susanville, CA 96130  
Phone: 530-257-5893  
[SusanvilleMethodist.org](http://SusanvilleMethodist.org)

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## Staying Connected

Our office is CLOSED until further notice for safety. Phone messages and emails are checked daily.

**Phone:** 530-257-5893

**Email:** [susanville\\_umc@frontier.com](mailto:susanville_umc@frontier.com)

**Visit our website at** [SusanvilleMethodist.org](http://SusanvilleMethodist.org)

Bishop . . . . . Rev. Minerva G. Carcaño  
District Superintendent . . Rev. Blake Busick  
Pastor . . . . . Rev. Charles White  
Choir Director . . . . . Dennis Roberts  
Pianist . . . . . Karen Sherve  
Custodian . . . . . Janiska Nordstrom



## Join Us In-Person AND Online!

Everyone is invited to our worship services, programs, and events throughout the week.

**Sunday Worship** – 9 am on Zoom  
10:30 am In-Person and on Zoom

**Bible Study** – Tuesdays at 6 pm on Zoom

**Faith in Conversation** – Wednesdays at 6 pm on Zoom

**Coffee with the Pastor** – Thursdays at 6 pm on Zoom

For all the login info you need to join us, visit our website at [SusanvilleMethodist.org/online](http://SusanvilleMethodist.org/online)