



Sharing the good news of our congregation & community

Office hours: Monday-Thursday 8am-12pm & 1pm-5pm Friday 8am-12p m

April 2020



<u> Think on These Things – April 2020</u>

Our faith in Jesus Christ should lead us to be people of hope. As the Lenten season leads us to Jerusalem we examine Jesus' passion and death on the cross. We are people who should understand the nature of suffering. Jesus is recognized as the "Suffering Servant" of Isaiah 53. "He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom we men hide our faces, he was despised and we esteemed him not" (Isaiah 53:3). Jesus is "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29). Jesus' suffering is the way "we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ

once and for all" Hebrews 10:10. As God's people we know the effects of suffering and sacrificial commitment out of love. Romans 5:8 reminds us, "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us; that proves his love for us."

In our uncertain days of disease and disappointment, despair and distancing, PEOPLE OF GOD KNOW THIS TRUTH: NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS (Romans 8:38-39). God's words matter all the time. But in difficult days they are magnified because of the circumstances. The season of suffering we face may become a time when we look back and see how our trust in Jesus was expanding. We remember the work of the Church was not to show up on Sunday morning for an hour of fellowship and passive worship. Our calling to be the Church is a call to love our neighbors, care for others in practical ways, and offer words of hope and encouragement for the downhearted. Our calling to be the Church is through private worship of reading our Bibles, prayers, and other spiritual disciplines. Our calling to be the Church is being Light in the darkness because we have the hope of the resurrection! This is Good News in days of distress and disillusionment.

We are not defeated by the Coronavirus. Yes, its effect is a setback and we are reeling from it. We are losing jobs. Our children have lost time in school. Seniors will not experience their end of year graduations and celebrations. Businesses are closing and may not reopen. Sickness and death are nearby even if in our thoughts. Our society and world has been changed in a very short time. FAITH MATTERS IN DAYS LIKE THESE! Perhaps your trust in God will rub off on others during this time. Witness your belief in Jesus by how you live in these days. Now, more than ever, WE ARE PEOPLE OF HOPE. God loves you and that should matter the most. It's not a shield from any bad things happening to you and yours. It's the strength and solid ground you stand on when the world around us is collapsing. I am proud to be the shepherd of our flock during these days. We are facing challenges where nothing prepared us. Please trust that we are doing our best within the leadership of the Church to guide us in these times. Pray for us and for FUMCL!



Hello Church Family,

As we all get adjusted to our new normal I've been working on ways to accommodate the increased demand for church from a distance.

Over the course of the next week I hope to have a more accessible stream for our worship, especially for those without Facebook, as well as an online attendance so we can keep track of you all. Those will both be accessed from the front page of our website: <u>fumclvks.org</u>. Hopefully I'll be able to build you a one-stop-shop for all your Sunday morning needs.



I'm also helping our Sunday school classes and small groups meet via Zoom if they haven't already found a way to stay connected. If you want assistance feel free to email me and I can help you get set up. It's quite intuitive to use, and I'm preparing written instructions for those who prefer to interface with technology that way.

I am available to give technical assistance via email: <u>sshade@fumclvks.org</u> if you need help. There's a great opportunity in these circumstances for us to rise to the occasion and come out the other side a stronger and more resilient community, and I don't take the opportunity lightly.

Steven Shade, Virtual Ministries Lead

Join us Sundays for worship at 10:00am on our webpage <u>fumclvks.org</u> or our Facebook page: <u>https://www.facebook.com/LeavenworthFirstUMC/</u>

Page 3	APRIL	This Month's Birthdays	ite
1st	Grant Zschoche	17th Kari Anderson	
2nd	Jim Gebhardt	Kelsi Briggs	
	Sarah Yenney	Thomas Hastings	
3rd	Virginia Hardaway	Ashley Whelpley	
4th	Lauren Hooser	21st Caroline Hedrick	
	Mark Lauber	Bob Landzettel	
	Betty Nakata	Richard Sheumaker	
5th	Bernie Roller	Brendale Taylor	
6th	Daryl Brandt	22nd Emily Ruble	
7th	Rachel Serena 🛛 🔬	23rd Keith Frashier	
8th	Corbin Holyfield	24th Lyla Sanford	
	Steve Shepard	25th Ann Andrews	
11th	Lee Perry Happy	Kristen Ramer	
	Laurie Rust Birthday	26th Jon Bishop	
13th	Teresa Hicks	Colvin Hooser	4 : 5
	Joni Hopkins	Eliza Resch	to -
15th	Deb Baeuchle	27th Arlen Briggs	
	Bobbi Burkett	28th Jan Glick	
	McKenna Scanlon	Richard Gray	
16th	Pam Bay	29th Linda Martin	
	Patsy Hessenflow	30th Kelley Perry	
		Lisa Plants	

Did we miss **your** birthday or anniversary? Did we get it wrong? Please call the office to confirm that we have your correct information in our computer! We can't include it if we don't know it. (913) 682-5374

	9th	Mark & Amy Baehr	15 yr
Sepril-	10th	Tim & Bea Yenney	27 yr
anniversaries	20th	Mike & Marti Crow	52 yr
	21st	Harold & Connie Poe	41 yr



Join us for

SUNDAY SERVICES:

ONLINE ONLY AT 10:00am

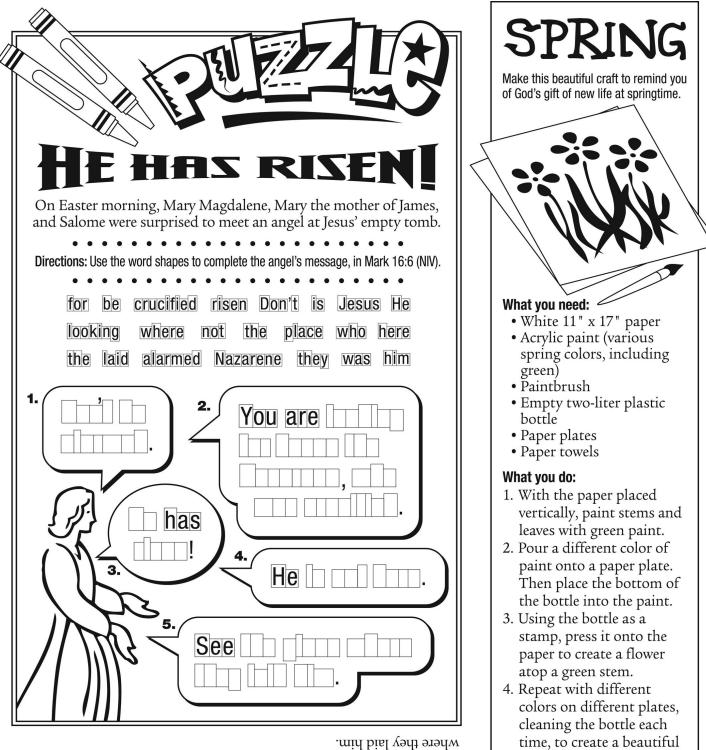
www.fumclvks.org

Not Cancelled: "I Love You" "I'm thinking of you" Encouragement Kindness

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	ar is subject to cha check our online www.fumclvks.org up-to-date info		1	2	3	4 11a Samaritans' Buffet CANCELLED 2p Music Academy Recital ONLINE ONLY
5 Donline 10:00am	6	7	8	9 PROVIDENTIAL Online 7:00 pm	10 Inline 7:00 pm	11
12 EASTER Online 10:00 am		fe to gather a	again. Meanv	¹⁶ d until the Hea vhile, continue s. Stay safe a	to check on	
19 Worship online 10:00 am	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Worship online 10:00 am	27	28	29	30		



spring bouquet.



Answer: 1. Don't be alarmed. 2. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. 3. He has risen! 4. He is not here. 5. See the place Page 6

Transforming Lives around the world!



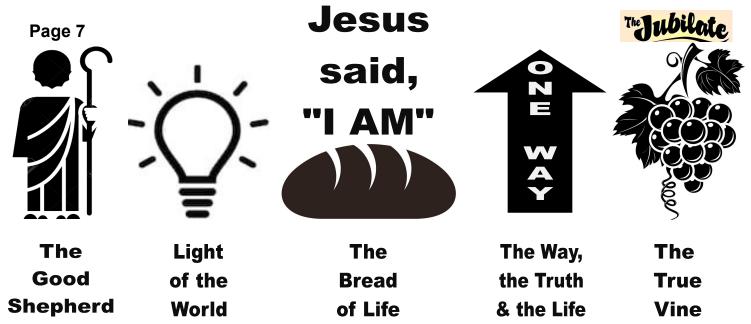
In February eight of our Itch'n To Stitch Ladies answered a call from the Wollongong Modern Quilt Guild of New South Wales, Australia for quilt blocks of trees. This Australian Guild is going to make quilts for all those who have lost their homes in the fires.

To date they have received nearly 5,000 blocks along with some already completed quilt tops. Our group was honored to provide them with 16 quilted and embroidered blocks and to be a part of this special project.









In Kid's First Worship we have been studying who Jesus is from the book of John. Our main scripture is the same one that the parents are hearing from Pastor Dave each week. That way you can discuss the scriptures together as a family. Even though we can't meet together on Sundays we will still have a video lesson emailed to parents each week. If you haven't received the weekly email and would like to, please contact Swood@fumclvks.org.



These are times that try our faith. We've all had moments of worry and doubt, but as a parent be aware that the way you express your faith in God during this trial will have lasting effects upon your children. Now is a great time to pray together and read the Bible as a family. Talk about how your faith in Jesus gives you hope and peace. Hard times more than good times develop a strong trust in God. God was faithful in the past, He will be faithful today.



Before the quarantine the Fusion 56 kids had a fun time learning about Esther and celebrating the Jewish holiday that honors her, Purim.



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SILVER LININGS FROM THE CORONAVIRUS

With news of loss and failure all around us it is easy to get anxious about everything in our life. Awareness of God means seeing God in all circumstances. How can we be thankful in all times? Look for the silver linings! What are blessings disguised as challenges? How might these days change us for the better? Here are some thoughts to consider how God might be working through this crisis to affect us:

- o Emphasis on hand washing, hygiene, and cleanliness!
- Use of digital media for educational purposes. There are lots of great places and people to use as resources when we look.
- Are we wasting time and energy with unnecessary meetings?
- More time to read especially your Bible.
- We are breaking the cycle of busyness in our personal lives.
- Increased care and concern for the elderly and other "most vulnerable" people.
- ◊ Less reliance on possessions.
- More attention on people.
- Prayer life is increased. We can pray anytime, anywhere and anyone can do it.
- Telecommuting is being seen as a legitimate way of working.
- Learning resilience and how to do without if even for a short time.
- More time with families we are remembering how to live together and not be running around in one hundred different ways.
- Sabbath rest taking more time to sleep, take walks, call friends, and play together.
- More neighborliness even while keeping our social distance.
- Churches are working together in order to address the needs of community.
- Increased empathy for service workers like nurses, teachers, doctors, and EMT.
- Increased respect for truck drivers, farmers, delivery drivers, store clerks, and warehouse workers.
- Learning to shut off social media when it gets overwhelming.
- Introverts are loving social distancing. They have practiced it for years.
- Extroverts are remembering how much they love being around people.
- Church is practicing "Fresh Expressions" of worship like watch parties for online worship, breakfast clubs, and small groups meeting in houses.
- There is nothing new about any of these "Fresh Expressions." They are just new to us.
- Virtual field trips are neat technology is allowing us to see things around the world that could never have been experienced before.
- Dogs love having people around all the time. Cats not so much!
- We are breaking the dominance in American society of sports. Yes, some are having withdrawal symptoms but perhaps that is a sign of our addiction.
- More prayers for social workers.
- Less emphasis on Sunday morning worship. More consideration of BEING THE CHURCH!

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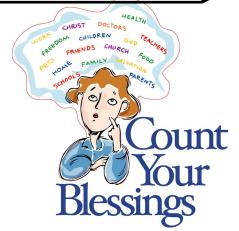


Nurture & Care Work Group:

Tony and I consider ourselves very fortunate to be a part of the FUMC Leavenworth family. We really appreciated the books sent to us periodically on "Journeying Through Grief". They were not only helpful for us, but I passed them on to someone I felt would benefit from them! So again, we thank you for sharing your Christian hearts.

Gratefully, Tony & Nina McNeill

Dear Nurture and Care, Pastors and Church Family, My appreciation goes out to you for all of the caring, loving prayers, and kindness you've shown me these past months. God bless you all. My prayers are with you. Love, Leta (Loleta Hartley)



The Jubilate



To the members of Itch'n To Stitch, Martha Circle and those that made personal donations: Thank you all so very much for the amazing hygiene bags, book bags and monetary donations given to the Alliance Against Family Violence. You all are so kind and greatly appreciated!

God Bless, Amanda Schelert





RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

422 Chestnut Leavenworth, KS 66048

Phone: 913-682-5374 Educational Bldg.: 913-675-7495

We're on the web! fumclvks.org

www.facebook.com/LeavenworthFirstUMC

Communing with God

Here are some options to help connect prayer into your life:

- Breath prayer. Choose a short phrase to say on the inhale & exhale such as Come, Lord Jesus.
- Pick a place to pray for the United Methodist at this time of uncertainty
- Translate Music: Underscoring your words to God from hymns and songs about the church.
- Name the people in your neighborhood and pray for them specifically.
- Ponder past and future. Life up the history of the United Methodist Church and what lies ahead.
 Have other ideas? Share them with us and we'll pass them on!

= OUR MISSION=

"We are a Church of the Ages, Serving the Present Age by making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and world"

= OUR VISION =

Transform lives through sharing Christ's love and being a thriving, spirit-filled church

=CONGREGATIONAL VALUES=

Primacy of Scripture, Devotion to Divine Trinity, Wesleyan Heritage, and Hospitality for All.