



THE APPLESEED

JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER

MINISTRIES AND LEADERSHIP – LEARNING TOGETHER, SERVING TOGETHER

FROM MEMBERSHIP TO DISCIPLESHIP... TO CARING... TO SHARING

“This hope does not put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” – Romans 5:5

Welcome to June 2020. *Open the eyes of our hearts, Lord, so that we may see your extraordinary presence among us in our ordinary worship in our own homes.* As we move through the Christian year, from the season of Easter into the season of Pentecost, all of us are stuck in this seemingly endless “season” of the Coronavirus pandemic. I am always humbled to serve in our congregation, especially now as I watch you find ways of keeping worship and fellowship strong and positive while we navigate the new normal of our church journey. It has been a wild journey over these past months because of the changing pandemic regulations and recommendations, yet our church continues to be very hope-filled that as we endure together we will succeed together, as a meaningful community of faith.

The Epistle to the Romans quoted above affirms that the grace of God now rules. God shows his ongoing love to us through Jesus, and now the Spirit of Truth takes over from within us. We become faithful believers who are humbled by the love of God, expressing this love to our neighbors in ways known to people of faith. I see that our members are stepping up in this unprecedented time, with the gifts given to each of us by God, to collaborate with one another. We experience together the benefits of giving to others in the church and in the community at large. We share the benefits of being Easter People, refined by the newness of resurrected love and passion for others. We are taking the love and the message of God to our wider community, to their backyard, so to speak; “beyond Judea to Samaria” might be challenging, as well as to other places beyond our comfort zones.

I sincerely hope that this Easter brought you a feeling of success in strengthening your relationship with God, and the benefits of that grace which has been given to us even before we are aware of it. God’s grace blesses us to love unconditionally – even to love our enemies, and to love those whom you may not respect or understand. God will take over and remove what is unnecessary in our lives and fill us with peace and dignity. We can use worship as a tool to comfort and console, to inspire and encourage others and to remind them that a better life is yet to come. It means to reflect Jesus in the ways we act and think, to renew our courage to confront negative powers. Our hope is to build a beloved community in the best way possible.

As we move into the season of Pentecost with the Holy Spirit manifest in us all, we are resolved to invest everything we have in Him as well. The good news remains clear – that Jesus does not give up on us, even though we may frequently give up on Him. We shall continue to be a people of faith at the intersection of soul, community, and service. Here is an excerpt from a blessing of hope and freedom by Emilie Towers: “... all who hope in Christ have accepted a gift that will always challenge and always change us...”

Stay prayerful, in partnership with the everlasting grace of our Advocate and the Spirit of Truth.

Shalom!

– Pastor Iunisi Tovo

**WE SALUTE YOU, SUMC FATHERS !!
HAPPY FATHERS' DAY
ON JUNE 21ST !!**

· ALL SERVICES AND MEETINGS ON CHURCH GROUNDS ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ·

CHURCH FINANCES DURING THE COVID-19 SHUTDOWN

Many of you have expressed concern about the financial condition of our church in light of the inability to hold Sunday services during this phase of the fight to prevent spread of the Coronavirus and Covid-19. I am pleased to report that, due to your overwhelming support of the church during this difficult time, Sebastopol United Methodist Church will come out of this crisis on sound financial footing, ready to move back to normal services when allowed.

Total income to date is 85% of that budgeted. Notwithstanding the lack of in-person Sunday services, members of the congregation have taken the initiative to mail their monthly pledges to the church office. Through April, we have received 92% of faith money pledged to date. Revenue from facility use fees, as would be expected, is down, but not excessively so. At the beginning of the shutdown the Admin Council decided to support its staff by keeping all employees on the payroll. As a result our expenses are right on budget. Taken together with our drop in income, our deficit is larger than we had projected during our budget discussions last fall, but our cash reserves are adequate to cover the loss.

With your continued support, we look forward to the time when we can all once again greet each other in person and pass the peace of Christ.

—John W. Williams, Finance Committee Chair

THURSDAY AFTERNOON ZOOM FELLOWSHIP TIME

OPEN TO ALL

On Thursday afternoons at 2:00 pm we continue to “gather” via Zoom for an ongoing time of fellowship. Wherever you are, you can join us! We’ve been joined by Marlene Felsenfeld from Hawaii and Candace Saxman from Murrieta, California. One of our members says, “I hate missing as it is so fun and so nice to see everyone....”

If you’re interested in attending, please send an email message to carolwegner@yahoo.com and Carol will send you a Zoom invitation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Kaci and Moses will be contacting the parents of all children and youth to schedule a Zoom meet-up during the first week of June, to check in with our children and youth.

MISSION TEAM HAS A BOLD PLAN FOR THE CHILI LUNCHEON !!

Hello everyone! I am so missing my church family. Our Administrative Council recently held a Zoom meeting where many subjects were discussed, including how our church is continuing during these difficult times.

The Mission Team wasn’t able to hold our annual Chili Luncheon in March because of the Coronavirus, but Barbara Stranzl has a clever idea for a way for us to still hold our fundraiser – we are asking folks to share a recipe that could be part of a chili lunch, including recipes for chilis, salads, breads, desserts, or whatever else you fancy. Send your recipe by email to the church office (sebumc@sonic.net) or by mail, and we will print them in the July Appleseed. Members of the congregation can send a donation to the church, just as they would if they attended the lunch in person (the same way we are sending in our pledges).

Your donations will help to fund our Saturday Table, to continue providing lunches purchased in Sebastopol and available for pick-up outside Epworthian Hall on the fourth Saturday of each month.

— Vicki Amtower, Mission Chair

*Some wonderful ways to "do church"
while not in church... from Vicky Ness:*

SEND IN A MEDITATION

Is there a particular scripture passage that speaks to you? Write down your thoughts in a short essay – sort of like our Upper Room readings – and forward to Pastor Lunisi by email (tovoiunisi@gmail.com) or mail. She will select several for our next Appleseed. And if you have a photo that seems to speak to your chosen writing, send it along, too!

JOIN OUR THURSDAY ZOOM FELLOWSHIP (see info at the bottom of the Daily Lectionary page)

MAKE FACE MASKS

We will all be wearing masks for a long time to come, so it's never too late to make masks. There are many free online mask-making tutorials, if you'd like to do this. We can help distribute finished masks, or you can give them to your postal worker, trash collector, newspaper delivery person, or perhaps to your grocery or bank clerk.

This link is for those who don't want to get out the sewing machine (a no-sew mask-making video):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r51YroAFPds>

START A MINI FOOD DRIVE

Contact people on one of your email or social media list of people who live near you, and ask if they would like to donate to the food bank. They can either donate shelf-stable food, or a check made out to a food bank or pantry (Redwood Empire Food Bank or the Inter-Church Food Pantry). They can then leave it on their porch so that you can pick it up and make sure it gets to the food bank.

SUPPORT SOMEONE'S GROCERY NEEDS WITH SCRIP

If you know someone who could use a little help buying groceries, why not purchase SCRIP for them? You would be helping a local business, your church, and your neighbor – it's a win-win-win situation! Contact Pat Schoch for your SCRIP at patschoch@juno.com – she'll deliver it right to your door!

PARTICIPATE IN OUR VIRTUAL CHILI LUNCH RECIPE COLLECTION

(see Vicki Amtower's article about this on page***)

How are you "doing church" these days?

NEW! TUESDAY FAITH TALKS ZOOM DISCUSSION GROUP

All are welcome to attend

When: first meeting is Tuesday, June 2 at 2:00 PM

Where: via Zoom

How: Send an email to carolwegner@yahoo.com and she will send an invitation to you to join in the discussion on Tuesday afternoon. If you need help with Zoom, call Carol at 829-8267 and she can help you get started.

Weekly discussions will center on the **Faith Talks** podcasts that are available via the following link:

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks>

Faith Talks are conversations with United Methodist Women exploring themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope, and love into action.

This will be a drop-in group – there is no commitment to attend every week. We will listen to the podcasts on our own, then discuss them together on Tuesday afternoons in our Zoom meetings. The relevant **Faith Talks** link will be included in each week's Zoom meeting invitation; we will begin by listening to the Faith Talk called *Cornonavirus, Faithfulness and Online Worship – Part 1* prior to our June 2 meeting.

This discussion group will be flexible and will change with the group members' needs.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES !!

*We send our very best wishes
for your continued success!!*

SARA DAVIDSON

Analy High School

PAULO DE CARVALHO

Petaluma High School

ROB WEGNER

SRJC – AA in Jazz Music

FROM THE HOSPITALITY TEAM!

We sure miss bringing food, fun, and fellowship to our Church family. I bet many of you are missing the special treats prepared by the great cooks in our congregation – I sure do! Unfortunately, we can't do Carry-Out!

We were able to coordinate a joyous celebration for Jennie Cheshier's 90th birthday in early Spring, including cards and flowers. If you have a special event during this Shelter in Place time, let me know and we'll figure out a fun way to celebrate with the Church family.

Big thanks to the Golden Rule group who contributed \$659 to the Kitchen Fund. The Kitchen Fund is for our project to spruce up the Epworthian Hall kitchen. So far, funds have been used to purchase a new refrigerator, fix the big ceiling crack between the Hall and the kitchen, and purchase the great new LED lights in the kitchen with volunteer installation by Charlie and Chip Fisher. Next steps will be painting the walls and ceiling and renewing the cabinets. We're also hoping to replace the floor. All of these new elements give us something to look forward to when we are back together in the Hall.

Stay safe and be well, and know that we miss you.

– Hospitality Chair Susan Kinder with Vicki Amtower and Jennie Cheshier

EQUAL EXCHANGE

Did you know that you can order your favorite Equal Exchange products even though church is not open? *YES, you can!*

Please contact Patrick Munsch with your order and he will see that you get what you need.

email: apesmunsch@juno.com

A FATHER'S LOVE MATTERS!

Luke 15:20-24

· HAPPY FATHERS' DAY ·

THANKS TO OUR GOOD NEIGHBOR WAYNE!

Thank you for taking great care of our church grounds

STAFFING UPDATES

Changes with COVID-19: Since the closure of the church because of the COVID-19 crisis, the SebUMC SPRC has been working to support our staff members while keeping essential functions in place. Most church staff have been working reduced hours, some working from home when possible and working in the office one at a time for essential functions only.

In order to help staff avoid financial instability during this difficult time, SPRC decided to continue to pay all church employees their usual amount; staff who work as independent contractors are being paid just for the hours they actually work. Our employees are Pastor Iunisi Tovo, Music Director Jim Johnson, office Administrator Ann Rosenfeld, and Sunday School teachers Kaci Wegner and Moses Ost. Our independent contractors are our Bookkeeper Juliana Carlson and our Janitor Jim Johnson (he wears two hats here!).

There was a pause in cleaning services of the church buildings in March and April due to County restrictions. With the relaxing of County restrictions, cleaning services to the church buildings resumed in May, with an emphasis on semi-annual tasks.

Ann Carlson retires as Bookkeeper: Our excellent bookkeeper of many years, Ann Carlson, decided to retire in March. Her daughter Juliana Carlson is our new Bookkeeper. Juliana runs her own yoga studio in Sebastopol and is taking over all of her mother's bookkeeping clients. We are very grateful for a smooth transition from Ann C. to Juliana. We welcome Juliana and wish Ann C. all the best!

Questions? Please email me at blstranzl@gmail.com

– Barbara Stranzl, SPRC Chair

DAILY READINGS JUNE 2020

Monday, June 1, 2020: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Joel 2:18-29; Romans 8:18-24

Tuesday, June 2, 2020: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Ezekiel 39:7-8, 21-29; Romans 8:26-27

Wednesday, June 3, 2020: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Numbers 11:24-30; John 7:37-39

Thursday, June 4, 2020: Psalm 8; Job 38:1-11; 2 Timothy 1:8-12a

Friday, June 5, 2020: Psalm 8; Job 38:12-21; 2 Timothy 1:12b-14

Saturday, June 6, 2020: Psalm 8; Job 38:22-38; John 14:15-17

Sunday, June 7, 2020: Trinity Sunday

Monday, June 8, 2020: Psalm 29; Job 38:39-39:12; 1 Corinthians 12:1-3

Tuesday, June 9, 2020: Psalm 29; Job 39:13-25; 1 Corinthians 12:4-13

Wednesday, June 10, 2020: Psalm 29; Job 39:26-40:5; John 14:25-26

Note: For the readings after Pentecost: the first reading pairs with the semi-continuous strand of texts; the second, with the complementary.

Thursday, June 11, 2020: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Genesis 21:1-7; Hebrews 3:1-6 OR Psalm 100; Exodus 4:18-23; Hebrews 3:1-6

Friday, June 12, 2020: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Genesis 24:1-9; Acts 7:35-43 OR Psalm 100; Exodus 4:27-31; Acts 7:35-43

Saturday, June 13, 2020: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Genesis 24:10-52; Mark 7:1-13 OR Psalm 100; Exodus 6:28-7:13; Mark 7:1-13

Sunday, June 14, 2020: Proper 6 (11)

Monday, June 15, 2020: Psalm 126; Genesis 23:1-19; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5 OR Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Joshua 1:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Tuesday, June 16, 2020: Psalm 126; Genesis 25:7-11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5 OR Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; 1 Samuel 3:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5

Wednesday, June 17, 2020: Psalm 126; Nehemiah 9:1-8; Luke 6:12-19 OR Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Proverbs 4:10-27; Luke 6:12-19

Thursday, June 18, 2020: Psalm 86:1-10; Exodus 12:43-49; Hebrews 2:5-9 OR Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18; Jeremiah 18:12-17; Hebrews 2:5-9

Friday, June 19, 2020: Psalm 86:1-10; Genesis 35:1-4; Acts 5:17-26 OR Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18; Jeremiah 18:18-23; Acts 5:17-26

Saturday, June 20, 2020: Psalm 86:1-10; Ezekiel 29:3-7; Luke 11:53-12:3 OR Psalm 69:7-10, 16-18; Jeremiah 20:1-6; Luke 11:53-12:3

Sunday, June 21, 2020: Proper 7 (12)

Monday, June 22, 2020: Psalm 86:11-17; Genesis 16:1-15; Revelation 2:1-7 OR Psalm 6; Micah 7:1-7; Revelation 2:1-7

Tuesday, June 23, 2020: Psalm 86:11-17; Genesis 25:12-18; Revelation 2:8-11 OR Psalm 6; Jeremiah 26:1-12; Revelation 2:8-11

Wednesday, June 24, 2020: Psalm 86:11-17; Jeremiah 42:18-22; Matthew 10:5-23 OR Psalm 6; Jeremiah 38:1-13; Matthew 10:5-23

Thursday, June 25, 2020: Psalm 13; Micah 7:18-20; Galatians 5:2-6 OR Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Jeremiah 25:1-7; Galatians 5:2-6

Friday, June 26, 2020: Psalm 13; 2 Chronicles 20:5-12; Galatians 5:7-12 OR Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Jeremiah 25:8-14; Luke 17:1-4

Saturday, June 27, 2020: Psalm 13; Genesis 26:23-25; Luke 17:1-4 OR Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Jeremiah 28:1-4; Luke 17:1-4

Sunday, June 28, 2020: Proper 8 (13)

Monday, June 29, 2020: Psalm 47; Genesis 22:15-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 OR Psalm 119:161-168; 1 Kings 21:1-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Tuesday, June 30, 2020: Psalm 47; 1 Kings 18:36-39; 1 John 4:1-6 OR Psalm 119:161-168; 1 Kings 21:17-29; 1 John 4:1-6

Wednesday, July 1, 2020: Psalm 47; Isaiah 51:1-3; Matthew 11:20-24 OR Psalm 119:161-168; Jeremiah 18:1-11; Matthew 11:20-24

Thursday, July 2, 2020: Psalm 45:10-17; Genesis 25:19-27; Romans 7:1-6 OR Psalm 145:8-14; Zechariah 1:1-6; Romans 7:1-6

Friday, July 3, 2020: Psalm 45:10-17; Genesis 27:1-17; Romans 7:7-20 OR Psalm 145:8-14; Zechariah 2:6-13; Romans 7:7-20

Saturday, July 4, 2020: Psalm 45:10-17; Genesis 27:18-29; Luke 10:21-24 OR Psalm 145:8-14; Zechariah 4:1-7; Luke 10:21-24

Sunday, July 5, 2020: Proper 9 (14)



JUNE 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Zoom Faith Talks Meeting 2pm	3	4 Zoom Fellowship 2pm	5	6
7 Worship online COMMUNION TRINITY SUNDAY PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY	8	9 Zoom Faith Talks Meeting 2pm	10	11 Zoom Fellowship 2pm	12	13
14 Worship online	15	16 Zoom Faith Talks Meeting 2pm	17	18 Zoom Fellowship 2pm	19	20
21 Worship online FATHERS' DAY	22	23 Zoom Faith Talks 2pm	24	25 Zoom Fellowship 2pm	26	27
28 Worship online JOHN WESLEY'S BIRTHDAY (1703)	29	30 Zoom Faith Talks Meeting 2pm	<p>"Sebastopol UMC" is our YouTube channel</p>			

· PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS FOR THE JULY APPLESEED THIS WEEK!! THANK YOU ·

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Need SCRIP? Pat Schoch can take your order by phone and deliver it to you!

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