



SEBASTOPOL  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

# THE APPLESEED

MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

## MINISTRIES AND LEADERSHIP – LEARNING TOGETHER, SERVING TOGETHER

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

To all Mothers in our church, may you all have a wonderful and glorious Mother's Day, full of joy and grace.

*"When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home." – John 19:26-27*

Welcome to May 2020. Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. It is always a privilege to serve in God's mission. How magnificent of the people of God to live humbly and lovingly in the presence of our omnipotent God, our Refuge and Comforter, our Provider and Redeemer. On the second Sunday of this month we celebrate our mothers. We salute them for being anchors and caretakers in our families. In the book of Proverbs, mothers are exalted as being "... far more precious than jewels." While we are sheltering in place by government mandate, parents – very often mothers – are taking on the huge task of homeschooling their children, on top of everything else they are doing to keep family life "normal" during this time. Far more precious than jewels, indeed.

On the day of the Crucifixion, soldiers were busy casting lots to see who would get Jesus's clothing. The Three Marys – Jesus's mother, Mary Magdalene, and Cleopas's wife – were watching the soldiers. John the disciple was with them as well. Then Jesus gave his mother something she could not refuse: he gave her a son. He gave her a family. He offered his words, "Woman, here is your son," then turned to the disciple and said, "Here is your mother." Scholars have various interpretations of Jesus's words, but we can clearly see the offering of a family. The story continues, "... then John took in Mary and cared for her." It was a kind of adoption – Jesus created a new version of his family, bonded with love.

A family starts with love and its core value is love. Why did Jesus use the title "woman" instead of saying his mother's name? Some people suggest there is a symbolic meaning. Mary is seen as the church, the mother to all Christians. The Church "adopts" everyone – believers and non-believers alike – with abundant love. There is loving care within the church. Church welcomes all with open doors, open hearts, and open minds. Love and hope in the family, and in a church, reflects God, for *God is love*. Mothers (church) bring love (God) with a passion to nurture all members. Love is never lost. Love never fades, especially in hard times. God was, and is, and always will be.

Mother's Day celebrations this year will surely differ from those of previous years, but we will find new ways to honor and celebrate Mom despite the limits on physically gathering – perhaps without lavish gift-giving, and certainly without going out to a restaurant for a special meal. Yet, as a mother's love for her family doesn't change despite difficulties, our love for our mothers shines brightly even in this challenging time. Her light does not go out at night. She remains faithfully wise. Her family will "... rise up and call her blessed."

Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers of Sebastopol UMC. On behalf of the families of the church, we salute you. Our church is very blessed by your commitment and dedication in Jesus Christ, by your faith and integrity. I am sending you prayers and love during this sheltering in place. Please stay healthy, wash your hands well, use sanitizer, wear masks when leaving home, and pray without ceasing. I love you all!

*Shalom, Namaste,*  
– Pastor Iunisi Tovo

# SUMC LIFE – CORONA-STYLE

*While our church doors are currently closed, the life of the church carries on.*

As you know, our “Corona-style” Sunday Services are recorded in Pastor’s Office on Saturdays, and are posted online for your YouTube viewing on Sunday mornings; we send out the Order of Worship by email so those who wish to can read along while Pastor leads worship. We also post links to the Orders and the videos on our website ([sebumc.wordpress.com/worship](http://sebumc.wordpress.com/worship)), so anyone can worship with us, anytime, wherever they may be. Want to hear a sermon from a previous week again? We will leave all the links up, so you can do that.

Anyone who doesn’t have internet/email service and who would like a printed Order of Worship can request a printout and it will be mailed to them. Just call the office, leave a message on the machine (saying your name clearly so we know who you are), and we will mail the Order of Worship to you each week during this time.

We continue to participate in Saturday Table, with lunches being available for pick-up rather than being cooked and served. A table is set up outside Epworthian Hall with a one-way distribution line for our guests. The lunches have been graciously provided by Chris Beaty during March and April. Arthur George and Pastor Iunisi manned the distribution table, and Beth Wakelee provided extra support in April. The lunches are purchased downtown (thanks to Chris for keeping it local!), and have been very well received.

The Lenten Study Group was completed successfully after moving online, and the ladies enjoyed getting together on Zoom so much that the Thursday 2:00 pm meeting is continuing – now it is an informal Fellowship time -- join us if you would like. Need help with Zoom? Carol Wegner and Barbara Stranzl are both well-versed in the application, which has versions for desktop and laptop computers as well as for smaller devices.

Michael Ost and India Wade recorded their Easter music selections and shared the video link with us – not quite the same as being in our sanctuary with its wonderful acoustics, sharing the experience together – but it was beautiful, and a welcome addition to our virtual worship.

Susan Kinder and Barbara Stranzl started a phone and email outreach project in March, which has helped members keep in touch with each other while we have to stay physically apart. If you want to receive calls or messages, or want to make them, let Barbara or Susan know.

We mailed out copies of the Upper Room devotional booklets for May/June. The Upper Room is also providing a PDF edition during this time; if you would like it, contact Ann in the office for the link.

Renee Taylor, owner of Taylor Preschool, is continuing to provide a snack food service to her students during this season of school shutdown. She delivers the snacks to students’ homes, and Sissy, her longtime teacher, delivers food from the Redwood Empire Food Bank where she also volunteers. Renee’s students and their families are greatly impacted by the economic effects of this pandemic, so these food deliveries really help these families.

The renovation of classrooms for the new preschool is on hold right now.

These are just a few of the activities going on right now in our “Corona-style” SUMC. If you would like to share how you are continuing to “do church” in these times, please contact Ann or Pastor via the office email ([sebumc@sonic.net](mailto:sebumc@sonic.net)) or phone (707-823-7971) or me ([fisherfarm@comcast.net](mailto:fisherfarm@comcast.net)).

Thank you for your continued financial support of the church with your offerings!

Stay safe, stay healthy and stay home – for now!!

– Charlotte Fisher

# DAILY READINGS MAY 2020

Friday, May 1, 2020: Psalm 23; Exodus 3:16-22, 4:18-20; 1 Peter 2:13-17

Saturday, May 2, 2020: Psalm 23; Ezekiel 34:1-16; Luke 15:1-7

Sunday, May 3, 2020: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Monday, May 4, 2020: Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:17-23; 1 Peter 5:1-5

Tuesday, May 5, 2020: Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:23-31; Hebrews 13:20-21

Wednesday, May 6, 2020: Psalm 100; Jeremiah 23:1-8; Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday, May 7, 2020: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Genesis 12:1-3; Acts 6:8-15

Friday, May 8, 2020: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Exodus 3:1-12; Acts 7:1-16

Saturday, May 9, 2020: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; Jeremiah 26:20-24; John 8:48-59

Sunday, May 10, 2020: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Monday, May 11, 2020: Psalm 102:1-17; Exodus 13:17-22; Acts 7:17-40

Tuesday, May 12, 2020: Psalm 102:1-17; Proverbs 3:5-12; Acts 7:44-56

Wednesday, May 13, 2020: Psalm 102:1-17; Proverbs 3:13-18; John 8:31-38

Thursday, May 14, 2020: Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 6:5-22; Acts 27:1-12

Friday, May 15, 2020: Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 7:1-24; Acts 27:13-38

Saturday, May 16, 2020: Psalm 66:8-20; Genesis 8:13-19; John 14:27-29

Sunday, May 17, 2020: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Monday, May 18, 2020: Psalm 93; Genesis 9:8-17; Acts 27:39-44

Tuesday, May 19, 2020: Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 5:22-33; 1 Peter 3:8-12

Wednesday, May 20, 2020: Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 31:1-13; John 16:16-24

Thursday, May 21, 2020: Ascension of the Lord

Friday, May 22, 2020: Psalm 93; 2 Kings 2:1-12; Ephesians 2:1-7

Saturday, May 23, 2020: Psalm 93; 2 Kings 2:13-15; John 8:21-30

Sunday, May 24, 2020: Seventh Sunday of Easter

Monday, May 25, 2020: Psalm 99; Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24; 1 Peter 4:1-6

Tuesday, May 26, 2020: Psalm 99; Numbers 16:41-50; 1 Peter 4:7-11

Wednesday, May 27, 2020: Psalm 99; 1 Kings 8:54-65; John 3:31-36

Thursday, May 28, 2020: Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 19:1-9a; Acts 2:1-11

Friday, May 29, 2020: Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 19:16-25; Romans 8:14-17

Saturday, May 30, 2020: Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 20:1-21; Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, May 31, 2020: Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth

Sunday, May 31, 2020: Day of Pentecost

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

SCRIP IS AVAILABLE – PAT WILL DELIVER

Need SCRIP? Pat Schoch can take your order by phone and deliver it to you! 707-823-3889

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

## ZOOM FELLOWSHIP!

Please join our *Fellowship Time on Zoom* at 2:00 pm every Thursday – to get started, send email to [carolwegner@yahoo.com](mailto:carolwegner@yahoo.com) and Carol will send you an invitation. If you need help setting up a Zoom account, she can walk you through it. It's free!

WHEREVER YOU ARE, YOU CAN JOIN IN.

