



A time of
REFLECTION

ONENESS IN CHRIST STATEMENT

We affirm that all persons are precious to God and of sacred worth. God pours out amazing love and grace to everyone. We seek to be an inclusive church. We warmly invite into our life and mission all people without regard to race, nationality, sexual orientation, ability, age, gender identity, financial circumstances, or marital status. We are a large and diverse community of faith. We certainly do not always agree on theology or public issues. Our desire, however, is to build bridges of understanding and mutual respect. Above all, we seek to love one another as Christ has loved us. We are learning that the words of our founder, John Wesley, are true: "We do not have to think alike to love alike."

REACH UP, REACH OUT!

We the people of the First United Methodist Church of Santa Rosa commit ourselves to the mission of growing loving communities of faith centered on Jesus that express themselves through both personal spirituality and social responsibility; reaching up to God and reaching out to all people in God's love.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2150 Giffen Avenue phone 707-545-3863
Santa Rosa, CA 95407

fax 707-545-5375

1551 Montgomery Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

www.FumcSantaRosa.org



A Message from Pastor Lori

SEEDS OF A SOWER

This year the season of Lent found us encountering a stark new reality. Lent is traditionally a season to abstain from that which is familiar and comfortable in order to devote time to contemplate God's presence among us. Given COVID-19, as we "stay at home" in isolation, we find our regular routines disrupted, our favorite activities cancelled, companionship kept at a distance, and a cloud of uncertainty looming overhead. We are stripped of so much activity. This is unsettling, for we have become more "human doings" than "human beings." We are not accustomed to being still, to resting, to slowing our pace. One of the gifts of this unexpected season is time to reflect, time to listen to God and to one another, time to be fully present to the moment, time to BE.

As followers of Jesus Christ, Jesus calls us to be in solidarity with other human beings, especially those who are vulnerable. As our county, state, and much of the nation comes to a stop, we open our hearts to those who are ill, to marginalized persons who are susceptible to disease, to those who have lost employment or have reduced work hours. We are grateful to and concerned for health care workers who are stretched to their limits as they care for others. We are called to BE the compassionate presence of Christ.

I'm aware that people are experiencing a multitude of losses through this corporate experience. Let us be gentle with one another, for not a single person is without anxiety, fear, sadness, and grief in these days.

The season of Lent yields to the season of Easter, which holds the hope of new life after loss, of resurrection after death. We trust in the resurrecting power of God, who turns dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. May your faith in the life-renewing power of our loving Creator be an anchor for you and all whom you love.

Be the Hope,

Pastor Lori

WORSHIP SERVICES ONLINE

We invite you to join us for online worship experiences at www.fumcsantarosa.org. Check the Worship Tab, Services to find our weekly worship service. For Holy Week, watch for an additional service marking Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

In-person worship services are on hiatus at the Montgomery and Stony Point campuses until groups of 50 or more are allowed to gather again. We miss one another, but are finding other ways to be the community of faith. **Prayer with the Pastors is held Sunday at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. Watch your "What's Happening" emails for the link.**

SUNDAY 8:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE DISCONTINUED AS OF APRIL 1, 2020

You may have heard that, again this year, the church has adopted a budget with a deficit of \$35,000. We ended 2019 with a deficit of \$10,000. The Church Council utilized some of its Foundation grant to assist in funding the 2020 budget. After this year, there will be little or nothing left in the checking account to sustain deficit spending. Thus, the congregation is faced with making some structural changes.

One change is that as of April, the 8:00 worship service will be discontinued. The 8:00 service will continue through the month of March. Beginning on April 5, Palm Sunday, we will offer 9:30 worship as the only English language service at the Montgomery campus. The 11:00 Stony Point service will continue, as will the 12:00 Fijian Language Service and the 5:30 Tuesday Spirit Café worship and meal.

Here is some background to this decision. In early 2018, the church had the equivalent of 5 Full-Time and 4 Part-Time staff members and pastors. Currently we have the equivalent of 4 Full-Time and 3 Part-Time staff members and pastors. **In the past two years, the church staff and pastoral team has been reduced by the equivalent of 1.5 persons. As**

of July 1, we will face another reduction: from a half-time associate pastor to either a quarter-time associate pastor or no associate pastor. The 2020 budget request was for a full-time associate pastor; funds were made available for a quarter-time associate pastor. Thus, the lead pastor will be the primary worship leader at all Sunday English language services and once a month at the Fijian language service.

The current staff members, pastors, and some amazing lay members have absorbed many responsibilities formerly done by staff members. However, with diminished people and financial resources, **we need to be strategic about how we deploy our people resources as well as our financial resources.** Since the 8:00 and 9:30 worship services are essentially duplications, this is one way in which we can **consolidate our efforts and conserve our precious resources for a range of ministries.** Additional structural changes will likely be necessitated by the decrease in pastoral time and finances.

The 8:00 worship service has had very faithful attendees. Given their loyalty to the 8:00 time and service, it was a difficult decision to make. We hope that they will attend one of our three other English language services.

We hope that regular attendees at all our services will warmly welcome the 8:00 attendees as well as all guests. Please wear your nametags at every worship service. It says to others, "I want you to know who I am."

Pastor Lori



YOUTH MINISTRY IMPACTED BY VIRUS RESTRICTIONS

Wow! This will be the third revision of information for the April Roseleaf! The situation has changed rapidly in Sonoma County, but that does NOT mean that we will not have a FUMC/CCUM youth ministry! There are some events that have been changed:

- The March 29th SSP/Lodestar Campership Fundraiser Breakfast and Bake Sale was cancelled **(we have scholarship monies for youth going to SSP and Lodestar - don't change your plans!)**
- Due to orders from the Governor regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus), students will be learning from home, not attending classes at their schools. They will engage in "distance learning" perhaps for the remainder of the school year.

There are some things that have NOT changed. We have an active group of youth at FUMC/CCUM. We will communicate through a myriad of electronic devices. (There will be an exchange of roles--youth teaching advisors)--and we will continue to build our youth ministry.

We appreciate the hard work and commitment of our Advisors: Lisa Brazie-Barker, Lynne Calvert, Carolyn Derr, and Mark Sawdon.

Watch emails for updates. Wash your hands. Practice "social distancing." Abide by the "stay-at-home" order. Share your love through texts and emails...not hugs!

Stay well!

Su Cox
UMY Temporary Director



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) "CHRISTMAS IN JULY"

Imagine a world where Christmas really was celebrated every day of the year! We are not talking about the decorating and parties or even the gift giving that happens in abundance throughout the month of December, but rather the true celebrating of the most important gift we have all been given-- the gift of God's son.

During the week of **June 29-July 2 (Monday-Thursday)** our originally-written VBS program will explore the circumstances that surrounded the birth of Jesus, drawing relevant similarities between then and now. Without all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, each day we will become part of the story and soak in its importance. We will find out what it is like to

- be on the move, counted, and then find your self without shelter;
- be in the midst of confusion and uncertainty, and blessed with the greatest gift;
- be bestowed with amazing news and commanded to share it;
- be on the journey, like the Wise Men from the East, to find the Son of God.

Leaders and behind-the-scene helpers are being sought to be a part of this amazing week. See Elizabeth Walton to volunteer or for questions, and if you have a fantastic idea to make this week even more impactful! Claim your volunteer spot today! Young people ages 3-11 years will flock to the Stony Point campus eager to learn how they too fit into the story begun thousands of years ago.

As the angels told the shepherds, "Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy which is for all people." Let's share the Good News with the children of our community!

Elizabeth Walton

PASTA DINNER & SILENT AUCTION -- THANK YOU!



Thanks to all of you who participated in our Pasta Dinner & Silent Auction – whether you brought donations for the auction and/or bought items; whether you just came for the meal and fellowship; whether you spent months as a Board member preparing for the event; whether you helped set up and/or helped clean up. It could not have happened without you!

Our Pasta Dinner & Silent Auction provides the opportunity for our church members to come together with our Preschool families to show support for our program. It is such a pleasure for all of us to watch the little ones with their friends; they are really at home in our church!

We served dinner to about 200 people. The “Bruno’s on Fourth” restaurant prepared the food for us, and they did not let us down. Some of you might have gotten some of the spicy tortellini made by our Preschool Dad, Joe Castro, who is the new owner of “The Bird” (formerly Willie Bird) restaurant. It was another gift of love among so many at this event.

The event raised \$7,500 for the Preschool. We are hoping that these funds will continue to keep our program viable and stable in these uncertain times. And please see our long list of Sponsors. Thank you all, so much!

Diane Wikse
Preschool Director

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS

6th Street Playhouse	East West Restaurant	Linda Ziemer
Acre Coffee	Ehlers Estate	Lindsay Wildlife Experience
Aubrie Hunt	Elizabeth Dale	Lisa Brazie
Bennett Valley Golf Course	Fairytale Town	Lucinda Brashares
Cathie & Norm Bryan	Fine Arts Museums of SF	Luther Burbank Center for the Arts
Cathy Wieschendorff	Fireside Stationary	Mark S. Frey, DDS
Charles M. Schulz Museum	FlacaKnits	Marsha Vas Dupre
Cheryl Bonacorso	FUMC Preschool Board	Marty & Dave Wait
Chris Heintzelman	Gargoyle Studios	Mary Grandgeorge
Cinnabar Theater	Gay Meyer	Mary's Pizza Shack
City Garden	Gwen & Jim Neary	Nancy Messinger
Cold Stone Creamery	Habitot Children's Museum	Northern Lights Antiques
Cookie Cutters Haircuts for Kids	Hank's Creekside	Otis & Jane Hollar
Cookie...take a bite!	In-N-Out Burger	PartyLite
David Slorpe	James & Vanessa Hart	Piece Makers
Dian Jorgensen	Jana Ulmer	Prickett's Nursery
Diane Gebhart	Janet Tonkin	Regal Wine Company
Dierk's Parkside Café	Jason Farnham Music	Rialto Cinemas
Doris Evans	Kathy Young	Rohnert Park Gymnastics
Double Decker Lanes	Kinder Kickz Soccer	Ruth Norman
Dow Vineyard	Kirin Restaurant	Sacramento Zoo
East-West Natural Medicine	Korbel Champagne Cellars	Sally Gearhart

SPONSORS (CONTINUED)

San Francisco Zoo
Santa Rosa Symphony
Scandia
Scott Crask
Scribbles & Giggles
Sequoia Floral International
Snoopy's Home Ice
Sonoma County Fair
Sonoma County Regional Parks
Sonoma Raceway
Sonoma Traintown
Spaulding McCullough & Tansil LLP
Steve & Jaqui Zwick
Tangles
The Bike Peddler
Toad Hollow Vineyards
Trader Joe's
Suzi Esterhaus
Vertex Climbing Center
Western Farm Center

WORSHIP COMMISSION PLANS A RUMMAGE SALE

The Worship Commission is planning a rummage sale that was **originally scheduled for June 13, but has been postponed to a later date**. All proceeds from the sale will go towards youth camperships. As we are all "staying at home," this is a wonderful opportunity to clear out unwanted items in your house and support the youth of the church--all at the same time!

Since the church buildings are temporarily closed, we cannot yet store your items. We request that you store your items at home, and we will announce when collections can begin. We are asking for small items (no furniture please) and clothing. Watch for a revised date! For questions, please call Linda Dunbar, 495-2011.

THANK YOU, FUMC!

The Living Room thanks FUMC for our donation of \$2,388.00. Our gift provides immediate relief and comfort for women attempting to recover from trauma and homelessness. It enables the 1200+ women and children who annually go to The Living Room to access assistance with dignity in the knowledge that they are not alone.

Catholic Charities Executive Director, Len Marabella, thanks us for our donations totaling \$2,507 in 2019. Because of our generous support and that from so many other partners, Catholic Charities was able to:

- Serve over 22,000 neighbors in Sonoma, Napa, Lake, and Mendocino Counties.
- Provide over 100,000 pounds of food to those who struggle with hunger and poverty, while providing nutrition education to over 7,000 clients.
- Help over 650 people experiencing homelessness to move into permanent homes.
- Serve over 1,200 households of wildfire survivors on the road to recovery. We have also begun the important work of disaster preparedness outreach.
- Provide immigration education and outreach to over 3,900 immigrants on the path to citizenship.
- Made over 1,500 Home Alone calls to homebound seniors and vulnerable adults.
- Launched a Child Resource program for parents of children living in our shelter.

These are just a few highlights of the incredible difference in people's lives that you made possible. Thank you for caring, and for acting.

Janis Brewster
Office Operations Manager

DISCERNMENT TEAM REPORT

On Sunday, March 8, after the three English-language worship services, the Leaders of the Discernment Team presented the results of the work thus far. We shared responses to the questions, Who are we? and Who is our Neighbor?

Based upon input from the congregation and the Discernment Team, we presented a draft version of the Core Values of the congregation, which correspond to the Membership Vows upheld by United Methodists: Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness. These statements were to be presented to the Church Council on March 13, but the presentation had to be cancelled due to church closure.

Draft FUMC Core Values reflect UMC membership vows:

- Prayer is essential to our worship experience. Our private prayers connect us to God, and our shared prayers connect us to one another.
- We offer our presence to all, no matter their circumstances. We share God's loving grace through our compassionate action.
- We value generosity and recognize that it is sometimes sacrificial. We give of ourselves to bring God's love to those around us.
- Our church's service is evident by our care for each other, especially in times of need, and through help for those at the margins in the community.
- We are the hands and feet of Christ, and we witness through our welcome, inclusivity, and works of justice and compassion.

Pastor Lori



VIM IS GOING TO PARADISE! SAVE THE DATES: SEPTEMBER 13-25

Our Volunteers in Mission (VIM) trip this year will to Paradise, California, to help rebuild homes after the Camp Fire where most of the town was destroyed. We have chosen **two consecutive weeks: September 13-25. You can choose to join the team for one or both weeks.**

We will again be working with HCRN/Hope City. Local volunteer organizations in Paradise are calling the effort "VROC" or Volunteers Rebuilding our Community. Many details remain to be worked out, so watch for more information to come. We will get together in May with more information and signup materials. Call Diane Jackson 539-9311 for more information.

Diane Jackson

CHURCH EMAILS

Our weekly Thursday "What's Happening" email is being sent more frequently. If you are not receiving it but have an email address, please email elizabeth.walton@fumcsantarosa.org. We're sorry if we've missed adding you to the list.

FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES “FAMILY VISION FUND”

The Scottish-themed shindig held in February by the United Methodist Foundation of Santa Rosa was a big success according to the 104 guests who attended. “It was fun...it was tasty...it was a bonny event,” said attendees, “and very plaid!” The event was created to celebrate the gifts of all Foundation donors, while calling particular attention to donations made through the Foundation’s endowment.

Since the Foundation was founded 35 years ago, the principal of its endowment has grown from \$25,000 to \$1.5 million. In the year 2019, the Foundation distributed \$60,000 for scholarships, building and maintenance projects, the Church Council, the Trustees, and the Preschool.

The event also unveiled the “Family Vision Fund” program, enabling donors to create separate endowed funds within our Foundation in their families’ names. Within certain guidelines, this will provide members with the ability to determine where future distributions

might go, based on their dreams: a church with young families; toward a religion that helps heal our divided country; a belief in the world’s bestselling and best loved book, the Holy Bible; or any church-related program a donor can imagine, and if the dream program doesn’t yet exist, the Foundation has the experience to help the donor create one.

One key advantage to a Family Vision Fund is that in today’s volatile world it, it will remain stable and strong. Conservatively invested as part of our Foundation’s general endowment, the Family Vision Fund will produce the same annual distribution rate no matter in what direction the economy may turn.

FUMC members having any questions about Family Vision Funds are encouraged to call a friend on the Foundation board, or contact Michael Welch at (415) 518-5793 or michaelwelch95407@gmail.com.

Michael Welch

GRADUATION SUNDAY -- JUNE 7

Do you have a high school or college student in your family who will be graduating? FUMC will be celebrating the scholastic accomplishments of our graduates on Sunday, June 7. We would like to list our graduates in our bulletin that Sunday. **Please send the following information to Su Cox at youth@fumcsantarosa.org no later than May 10th:**

- Name of Graduate
- Family of Graduate
- School or College
- Next Steps/Degree

United Methodist Foundation scholarships will also be awarded on June 7.

ATTENTION: 2020/2021 COLLEGE STUDENTS SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED BY FOUNDATION

The United Methodist Foundation of Santa Rosa has funds set aside each year for college scholarships for young people active in the church. These are for four-year colleges, community colleges, and vocational trade schools.

Until the church office reopens, obtain a scholarship application and/or information from Foundation Director Joyce Milks (joycemilks@aol.com) or Charlene Simons (charchem@aol.com). **Applications must be submitted in writing no later than May 4 to be considered for the 2020/2021 school year. Don’t miss out!**

CANCELLED OR POSTPONED

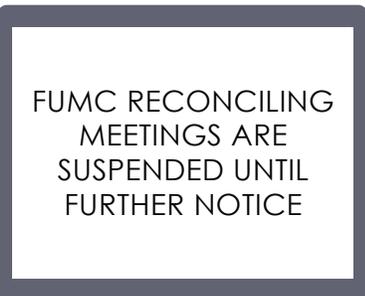
SEVERAL EVENTS WILL BE RESCHEDULED FOR A LATER DATE.

Easter Egg Hunt
Outreach Easter Offering for Missionary
Taizé services
FISH Closed temporarily
Youth SSP/Camp Fundraising Breakfast
UMW Spring Fling
Worship Commission Rummage Sale
UMCOR Offering

RECONCILING COMMUNITY OF FAITH GATHERING



FUMC RECONCILING MEETINGS ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



PFLAG

FUMC PFLAG MEETINGS ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



F.I.S.H. CLOSURE!

At the March meeting of the F.I.S.H. Board, with heavy hearts it was decided to immediately close its doors for the foreseeable future. So many of our volunteers are in the high-risk category for the coronavirus, and they cannot chance the exposure of these people to customers who are sometimes careless with their health habits.

All remaining fresh and frozen food was sent to the Sam Jones facility.

Thank you again, dear congregation, for the 300 lbs. of groceries that went to F.I.S.H. in early March, helping many needy families. Your generosity was greatly appreciated.

Dian Jorgensen
F.I.S.H. Board Member

TAIZÉ SERVICE

Thank you all for supporting the Taizé services. If you wish to continue the services (after our temporary building closing), you may want to coordinate with each other. Contact the church office to advertise any future service information, as well as Doris Evans for the *Roseleaf* newsletter.

Anne Sekara

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council meeting that was scheduled for Saturday, March 14, was CANCELLED due to the necessary closing of the FUMC facility.

FINANCE NEEDS DURING AN “UNUSUAL” PERIOD OF TIME!

Obviously, all community institutions have been impacted by the coronavirus during the past several weeks. Beyond the health concerns, the impacts are financial as well. This includes our church's financial wellbeing.

Our weeks of “online” instead of “in person” worshipping means that there have been no in-person offerings or “loose-plate” giving. So, despite the fact that we have some reserve funds, we are concerned about this situation.

At this writing we do not know what the community situation will be by the time you read this, but we are asking for your consideration of giving options:

- Give online through our website at www.fumcsantarosa.org – “Give” tab; click either “Give Online Now” or “Pay My Pledge.” Funds are transmitted through “Donorbox.”
- Gifts can also be made by automatic withdrawal from your bank checking account. Janis Brewster, our Operations Manager (phone 545-3863, #204) can help you set up payments through the website or bank checking account.
- Of course, gifts can always be made by mailing your contribution to First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa CA 95405. (The mail is being held at the Post Office, but is picked up once or twice a week. Bank deposits continue to be made and bills paid on a weekly basis.)

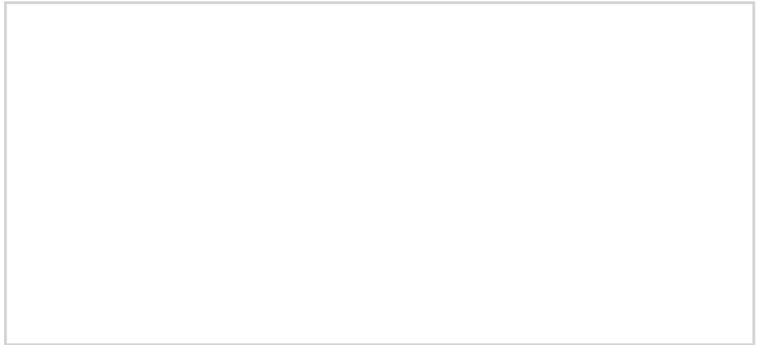
No matter what form your pledge payments and donations take, your support of our ministries is particularly appreciated during these “unusual” times! Thank you!

Sam Cox

Chair, Finance Committee



First United Methodist Church of Santa Rosa
 1551 Montgomery Drive
 Santa Rosa, CA 95405



STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

707-545-3863

Lori Sawdon, Lead Pastor: lori.sawdon@fumcsantarosa.org; ext 202
 Lindsey Bell-Kerr, Associate Pastor: lindsey.bell-kerr@fumcsantarosa.org; ext 207
 Jan Lappin, Director of Music: jan.lappin@fumcsantarosa.org
 Elizabeth Walton, Children's Ministries: elizabeth.walton@fumcsantarosa.org; ext 206
 Diane Wikse, FUMC Preschool Director: preschool@fumcsantarosa.org; 546-7012
 Janis Brewster, Church Operations Manager: janis.brewster@fumcsantarosa.org, ext. 204
 Emma Rea, Stony Point Worship Band Director: emma.rea@fumcsantarosa.org
 Laura Blum, Bookkeeper: laura.blum@fumcsantarosa.org

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

MONTGOMERY CAMPUS		STONY POINT CAMPUS	
Sunday Morning Worship	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.
Fijian Language Ministry	12:00 p.m.	Sunday School	11:00 a.m.
Adult Classes	9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.	Nursery	10:00 a.m. - noon
Nursery	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.		

United Methodist Youth Fellowship -- See Dates & Times inside – Blue Room, Montgomery Campus

Spirit Café Tuesday evening at Montgomery, 5:30 - 6:50 p.m.; light supper and informal worship

Roseleaf Guidelines



Please email articles of no more than 300 words to communications@fumcsantarosa.org by the 10th of the month for inclusion in the following month's Roseleaf. All submissions are subject to editing. Be sure to include your name and contact information with each article.

