

The Emmanuel Epistle

Learn, Love, Serve

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	Sunday Worship Service 10 am o	on Zoom

Making Life Joyful

I'm not sure if it's getting easier to follow the physical distancing orders, or I've just resigned myself to the new normal. We continue to worship, do morning prayer, hold Bible study and do church business on Facebook and Zoom. 75 days in, not seeing your faces in person, not worshiping in the sanctuary, not sharing communion with you all, it makes my heart sigh with sadness.

There is a positive side, because there are two choices, the glass is half-empty or the glass is half-full. Like our Senior Warden, Ted Jones, I fall into the glass is half-full category. I spent half my life wallowing in the bottom of a half-empty glass and eventually decided it took too much work and too much energy. The upside: we are resilient. We can do hard things. We are adaptable. We can change our behavior for the good of humankind. Billions of people across the earth can, at a moment's notice. If we can change everything about our lives to save each other from getting sick, perhaps even dying, what, collectively, could we do to make our world a more livable planet for everyone? Whatever it is, whatever changes we have to make, we now have this experience, of doing this huge thing together for the good of the many. Stories of compassionate connection between people are flooding the internet. Stories of feeding the hungry, shopping for those physically vulnerable sheltering in place, evening celebrations in neighborhoods for their neighbor who comes home from their job as a healthcare provider, making masks, artists sharing their gifts for free with the world, healthcare workers risking their lives and more. This is what matters. This is love and compassion in action. This is Jesus. In our own community, people have gifted money for people who needed a little extra support. Others have been taking their time and energy to help feed people experiencing homelessness. And our garden has been attended to by folks who have been willing to get their hands grimy making dirt and their limbs sore from pulling weeds. Most importantly, we have the incredible gift of time. Time to stare at a vase full of yellow roses. Time to

scratch the cat's belly. Time walk through the park and take pictures of the landscape of water, flowers and grass. Time to notice how loud the birds are singing, how many people are walking outside, and how fresh the air is. Time to notice the small miracles of life. Those things make that life sing, make life vibrate, and make life joyful.

In Christ's love, Rev. Holly



An Important Message from Your Treasurer

As many of you know, our Preschool had to close around the middle of March. In order to meet the month-end payroll for the Preschool staff, the church transferred \$6,400 to the Preschool. This did not include the funds necessary to cover the Preschool payroll taxes that were due on April 15th. So for March, the church Operating Fund ended with a deficit of \$2,413 instead of being about \$4,000 in the black.

We decided to try to keep paying the Preschool staff while we applied for a loan/grant from the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) under the CARES Act. We applied for a loan of just over \$61,000 through the CARES Act very early in April but did not receive it during the first round of funding. However, we did receive a loan of just over \$53,000 on May 4th from the 2nd round of funding.

The church continued to transfer funds to the Preschool to cover the payroll costs during April. As of the end of April, the church had transferred a total of just under \$26,000 to the Preschool.

According to the rules of the Payroll Protection Program, the funds we received can only be used for payroll and related expenses (plus utilities) for 60 days going forward from the date we received the funds. This means that we cannot use the funds to cover the \$26,000 we had already transferred to the Preschool. However, we can use the PPP funds to cover payroll costs, including retirement and health benefits for Rev. Holly and our bookkeeper, as well as the church's water, gas, and electric bills for 60 days. Doing that will offset most, but not all, of the \$26,000 we gave to the Preschool through May 1st. Hopefully the Preschool will be at least partially reopened when the PPP funds run out on July 4th.

Including the money that was transferred to the Preschool in April (\$19,542), our Operating Fund had a deficit of \$15,293 for April. So overall for April we did very well financially. If it were not for the \$26,000 we've used to support the Preschool, we would only have a year-to-date deficit of less than \$3,000. That's almost \$10,000 better off than we were financially at this same point last year.

Your Treasurer still has the kneepads on standby. Even though we did well financially in April, our financial situation will continue to be challenging in the coming months. I encourage those of you who donate to Emmanuel to please continue to donate by sending checks to my attention at the church, or by using our eGiving portal which you can access through the Donate button on the homepage of our website - https://www.emmanuelfullerton.org/. When you reach the eGiving site if you're on your phone or other mobile device please click the <u>View Mobile Site</u> link to be redirected to the mobile friendly version. If you have any questions, please reach out to me and I'll be happy to help.

With much gratitude for your prayers and support! Dave Dunlap, Treasurer davidrdunlap@gmail.com Cell: 949-861-0694

The Growing Connection

It feels good to have things getting back to normal. I know all of you do not feel things are normal and you are right they are not. In fact, they are crazy. But for me I am walking better every day. I am climbing stairs and I get steadier daily. Of course, I have some bad days but there are more good days than bad. I am spending a couple of hours most days in my home garden but not much time at the Garden. Gordon planted some onions, leeks, and shallots at the Garden, so we stop by occasionally to check on them. (And to let me out of the house.) He is also keeping an eye on the vineyard. So far things are looking incredibly good.

Thanks to Lynette and crew for looking after the Garden. They are all doing a wonderful job and I appreciate that so many have stepped forward to help. It is wonderful to have Tim working with the compost. He makes magic. We have also welcomed a new gardener, Alex. She lives in the neighborhood and called to request a plot.

Gordon has planted a few vegetables here at home – 2 tomatoes, 4 peppers, broccoli, cabbage, cucumber, and the left-over leeks from the Garden. So far, the cucumber is in the lead, although there are 4 tomatoes on the Early Girl.

A while back we took out the grass in our back yard, added 2 more mounds to the one we had and made paths through them. (Thank you, Jesus Pineda, for helping with this project.) The idea was that we would have an herb/kitchen garden. When we began to plant the area, we put in a few things that we knew were not meant to be permanent,

just filling in the bare spots. These things now need to come out to make room for the herbs we want. The first to go is going to be an iris. It is a beautiful plant, but it has grown so well in two years that it is taking more than its allotted space. We put in 3 tubers and have taken out about 1/3 of the plant and I think we probably have 20 tubers. The flower is purple and if you would like one or more send me an email. I think it would make a lovely hedge. In a house I once had it would have been perfect along the garage wall. It is just what I was looking for at the time.

The herb garden is looking particularly good. The oregano is sprawling under one of the palms. The thyme is spelling down the side of a mound. The marjoram has turned into a wonderful carpet. The sage bloomed beautiful spikes of blue flowers in early-early spring. We cut the rosemary back to keep it within bounds and it is recovering nicely.

We also cut back the lemon grass. This has been a thrilling plant. I had never seen it growing; just read about in the herb books. One day when I was wondering through a nursery (I can't wait to be able to do this again.) I found a lemon grass plant. It was in a 4" pot and looked like an ordinary grass. It liked its new home because it grew to be absolutely beautiful with billowing soft grass like leaves 6'+ with flower stalks reaching 8'+. The flowers were a little disappointing and hopefully we cut them before they went to seed. About a month ago we cut it back almost to the ground, divided it, and it is already pushing 4'.

We planted cilantro (that is already trying to go to seed, so more coriander later in the year), basil that something tried to eat, parsley, and stevia. I have tried to grow stevia for a good number of years without success – we have lost this one too.

We also have a couple of Swiss chard growing in there. These were seedlings that came up in the path at the Garden, Gordon put them in pots and brought them home. In and around the herbs, alyssum and nasturtiums grow at will and come out at their whim. I think alyssum seeds may have been in the soil that we brought in for the mounds as it came up everywhere. I planted nasturtiums many years ago and they just keep coming up here and there.

I almost forgot the celery. About 9-10 years ago I bought some celery plants and planted them here at home. They grew wonderfully and I let them go to seed. (I had done this once before but that is a story for another time.) We have had celery plants every year since, just coming up as they please. I pulled one this morning out of a container succulent pot. They are a beautiful plant and very tasty. Not the best for eating stuffed with peanut butter or cream cheese but so perfect for soups and chopping fine for salads. It's also perfect for stirring a bloody Mary. We also use the leaves in salads and sandwiches like lettuce.

I am delighted that the Garden is being so well cared for and look forward to spending more time there. My surgery doctor said it would take a year to heal. My rheumatologist

said 2 years; it has been 9 months, so I need to practice patience. Covid-19 has slowed my progress. I had been in physical therapy for a couple of months and had just started with a personal trainer (2 weeks when they closed everything down).

I think the garden is a safe place to be at this time. There is plenty of space to keep the 6' rule. And there is fresh air, sunshine, flowers, vegetables, and it is outside of the house. Take the time to slow down in the Garden and feel the calm.

Blessings and Happy Growing, Lorra and Gordon

Emmanuel Episcopal Preschool

Dear Emmanuel Family,

On March 16, we closed Emmanuel Episcopal Preschool as a safety precaution related to the spread of COVID-19. At that time, based on recommendations from the Diocese and the health department, we anticipated being closed for two months. Our new target date to re-open is this month. I am optimistic about re-opening the preschool soon to help facilitate the return to work that has occurred in the last couple of weeks.

During our closure, we still had monthly bills and expenses to pay, and more importantly, we needed to pay our preschool teachers and staff. This was made possible with the assistance of the church. We are incredibly grateful to have such a supportive pastor and parishioners. Thankfully, we did not have layoffs and plan to keep our employees whole for as long as possible. We thank God that this virus does not seem to affect children below the age of 14 as severely, although we still have to be vigilant because they may be carriers of the virus.

Our teachers stay connected with the children through Zoom meetings at least twice each week. As the director, I too have participated in Zoom meetings with the teachers, partaken in webinars to keep abreast with new regulations, and posted weekly correspondence with the parents via the Bright Wheel app.

Finally, I have submitted a re-opening proposal to Reverend Holly. We are planning to reopen with a half day program and even smaller class sizes. We are still accepting applications for students interested in enrolling for the summer and fall. So please tell your family and friends that we will be re-opening our doors to serve the community soon. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support of Emmanuel Episcopal Preschool and all our events!

Sincerely, Lisa Seggelke We now have services online on Zoom every Sunday at 10 am. We have restarted Bible study online and Taizé on Zoom, but all in-person events at Emmanuel have been cancelled. The calendar reflects these changes. The Editor

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	2 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	3	4	5	6 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom
7 10:00 AM Online ServiceZoom and Facebook	8 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	9 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	10	11 6:30 PM Early Birds Cocktail Hour on Zoom	12	13 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom
14 10:00 AM Online ServiceZoom and Facebook	15 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom		17 6:00 PM Finance 6:30 PM Vestry on Zoom	18	19	20 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom
21 10:00 AM Online ServiceZoom and Facebook	22 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	23 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	24	25	26 6:30 PM Movie night	27 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom
28 10:00 AM Online ServiceZoom and Facebook	29 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	30 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom				

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

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All in-person events have been cancelled until further notice.