



The Emmanuel Epistle

Learn, Love, Serve

Volume 27, Issue 5

May 2021

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Sunday Worship Service 10 am

Abide in Him

The beloved disciple, John, writes in his first letter, “We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, ‘I know him,’ but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.” (1 John 2:3-6, NIV)

I want to know Jesus, more and more deeply every day. I want to lead our beloved community in living out His will for our lives and the life of the church any way we can. We know Christ if we are keeping His commands, living in Him and making space within that He may dwell in us. The last verse of this passage from the NRSV translation reads, “By this we may be sure that we are in him: whoever says, ‘I abide in him,’ ought to walk just as he walked.” Walking the way of Jesus is big, really big. It takes courage, strength, resilience, and sacrifice, all of which I don’t have on my own. I need the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, to enter into every cell of my being to make what Christ wants from me possible. Without that grace, it would be impossible to love my enemy and to give away what I think I can’t live without to ensure the well-being of another whether that is shelter, food, clothing, or money. He commands us to feed the hungry, house those without shelter, visit the prisoner, and care for the poor. This is what the church is called to do. Not only does Jesus command us to wash each other’s feet and love one another, but this we must do for our neighbor as well. I know Emmanuel is overflowing with love. May that love overflow to all those in our surrounding communities who need it most.

Blessings, Rev. Holly+

Senior Warden's Corner

Loren Maxwell

Last month I celebrated my 25th anniversary of coming to Emmanuel. I have been reflecting on all the ways that Emmanuel has reached out as a community to those less fortunate over the years. Some of the programs which we have supported include: Million Meals, Project Dignity, Pathways of Hope (formerly Fullerton Interfaith Emergency Services – FIES), Corazon, Kairos, Kairos Outside, Laundry Love and more recently partnering with Faith Lutheran Church in downtown Fullerton. I have forgotten some that have come and gone over the years. These ministries are in addition to what individuals have done to minister to those in our community. Million Meals was the brainchild of Lew Lardie, a longtime member of Emmanuel. His enthusiasm was infectious as he explained how you could feed a person for 10 cents a meal due to donations and low-cost purchases from local food distributors. Project Dignity was the result of a passion that Dave and Linda Dunlap had for ministering to motel children.

Currently, there is a resurgence of our efforts to provide food to those who struggle to get enough food for themselves and their families. We have partnered with Faith Lutheran in their recent food drive. We are dedicating plots in the Community Garden to provide fresh produce to the HUB, the food distribution center for Pathways of Hope. Many of our members also donate to this effort from the abundance of their home gardens. If you feel the nudge of the Holy Spirit to become involved in this ministry, there are various areas in which to help. We need people to help care for the HUB plots. Tim Parks could always use some help with the composting. If you have excess produce from your home garden and want to donate it, please contact Anne Snyder (absmts@hotmail.com) or myself (papabear47@aol.com) and we will instruct you where you can leave it at the church. Either Anne or I make a weekly trip to the HUB with the produce every Wednesday at around 10:30am.



An Important Message from Your Treasurer

Operating income for February was \$19,635.91 while expenses were \$25,074.86. This means we had a net operating fund loss of \$5,438.95 for the month. We paid our quarterly Property and Liability Insurance bill which was \$5,622.75.

Our financial situation will continue to be challenging in the coming months as we head into the summer, when giving normally goes down. We will also have some extra costs

with hiring teachers and getting the new Discovery Gardens Environmental Early Learning Center up and running by August 16, Opening Day. Any support you can give to the school will be much appreciated! You can 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 [View Mobile Site](#) link to be redirected to the mobile friendly version.

Blessings!

Dave Dunlap, Treasurer
davidrdunlap@gmail.com
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Why Emmanuel?

Lyla Merrell has been an active member of the Emmanuel congregation since the 1980s. Even through the years when her Sundays were devoted to golfing with her husband, Ken, she enthusiastically took part in every weekday and evening program offered. Lyla says that her journey in faith has been deepened and enriched through her experiences in Stephen's Ministry, the Daughters of the King, and Healing Touch, and she remains devoted to learning and outreach. But Lyla had a deeply-held secret, and she gives Father Paul the credit for recognizing the truth and for saving her life.

To an outside observer, Lyla's life seemed ideal. She had a lovely home and a devoted husband; they belonged to a golf club and she had an active social life. But Lyla's husband, a talented aeronautical engineer, led a stress-filled life. His skills were often needed far from home, and he spent much of his time traveling. This was hard on both of them, and especially after the children were grown, Lyla became ever more lonely and depressed.

In the 1950's and 60's, alcohol was a necessary part of every social occasion, and "alcoholism" was rarely mentioned. It was easy to soothe life's inevitable pain with a few drinks. If someone drank too much or too often, they were teased, but rarely condemned. The side effects of alcohol addiction are an increase in anxiety as well as deepening depression, and soon Lyla found herself becoming agoraphobic, leaving the house only to rush to and from an unavoidable appointment or errand.

Ken, too, had a serious drinking problem, and his health was becoming a concern. In 1982, Lyla had a vision that Ken would die. She placed a call to AA the next day. There is a long and difficult journey between recognizing you need help and reaching the point where you are willing to take responsibility and give your life over to God. Although Lyla

attended meetings regularly, she couldn't relinquish the control required to complete the 4th and 5th steps of the program. It was Ken who had the problem; she was just the victim. But God must have intervened, because two former members of our church, Susan Hall and Sherry Donaldson, came into her life, brought her to Emmanuel and introduced her to Father Paul.

Father Paul was a family therapist as well as a spiritual leader and had the ability to look into a person's soul as they confided their problems and discern the missing piece separating them from God's love. After Lyla recounted her story, he took her hand and asked, "What's your part?" That searching question, and the love behind it, led to everything that followed. Lyla has become one of our most respected members and has remained a strong and devoted member of the blessed community, as Bishop Curry calls it. We are grateful to God for the many gifts she brings to Emmanuel.

Social Enterprise Project Update

Discovery Gardens: Emmanuel Environmental Early Learning Center

The Good Shepherd Building, where our renovated classrooms for Discovery Gardens are located, has now been freshly painted. New dual-pane windows and new natural wood blinds have been installed to save on the cost of heating and air conditioning. The excellent quality wood preschool furniture we used in Edwards Hall is in the process of being cleaned and, in some cases, refinished and repaired. We have everything we need except for about 10 wooden children's chairs. A new fence will be installed around the playground.

We are in the final stages of hiring our new Director. The Director will begin immediately to recruit students and teachers. Students, parents, and teachers, along with the Emmanuel community, will participate in the decision making on the design of both the Children's Garden and the playground. We are blessed that Robert and Marian Corral have painted the benches and table in the Children's Garden, and Linda and Mike Ward (Linda is our Discovery Gardens bookkeeper) will be working on the signs in the garden. Mike has also rebuilt and renewed some of our furniture and Linda has spent hours on the other furniture – removing stickers and staples and sanding and cleaning it. On May 1, Mike will give a lesson on refinishing furniture and those in attendance will refinish the rest of the tables for the Discovery Gardens classrooms.

The classrooms in the Good Shepherd building have been named after trees native to Orange County – the Ash Room (formerly the Atrium), the Oak Room (formerly the Shack Room), and the Pine Room (formerly the Nursery). We will have new wood signs for the doors of these classrooms, thanks to Mike Ward.

We have already received donations that will cover some of this work – our heartfelt appreciation to those who have donated! If you would like to donate, please get in touch with Rev. Holly (rector@emmanuelfullerton.org) or our treasurer, Dave Dunlap (bookkeeper@emmanuelfullerton.org).

The Growing Connection

News from the Vineyard

You will remember from our article in the April Epistle that we now know the costs of vines and materials to replant the vineyard. Lorra and I have been meeting with Greg Pennyroyal, Vineyard Manager, and Pedro (Greg's right-hand man) at Wilson Creek Winery in Temecula. We have calculated that 91 vines are needed to replant the vineyard. As I explained in my April article, we are going to plant at 6 ft centers, meaning we will have fewer vines but better production.

In our last meeting with Greg, he estimated the cost of the materials including new vines would be about \$2,000, and the provisional date for replanting is set for April 24.

A few weeks ago, the members of the Small Winegrowers' Association of Temecula, (an association we have joined) were asked to prune the vines on the Pechanga Indian Reservation. By participating we could take as much cutting materials as we wanted.

Lorra and I took this opportunity because part of this pruning activity was a lesson from the experts at Wilson Creek Winery on how to prune grape vines. Wow, did we learn a lot, and we brought home enough cutting material to plant 80 cuttings. To my amazement over 50% of these cuttings have already rooted and are beginning to grow leaves. I am certain many more will follow suit as we can see the buds fattening up. So next year, be aware that these Zinfandel vines will be available to you at our Plant Sales held under the Pergola on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Sincerely,
Gordon and Lorra

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom
2 9:00 AM EKKO Church 10:00 AM Sunday Service in Sanctuary and on Zoom and Facebook Live	3 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	4 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	5 7:00 PM Taizé Service	6 National Day of Prayer 7:00 AM EKKO Church	7	8 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom
9 Mother's Day 9:00 AM EKKO Church 10:00 AM Sunday Service in Sanctuary and on Zoom & Facebook Live	10 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	11 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	12	13 7:00 AM EKKO Church 6:30 PM Early Birds	14	15 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom 9:00 AM Plant Sale and Garden Work Day
16 9:00 AM EKKO Church 10:00 AM Sunday Service in Sanctuary and on Zoom & Facebook Live	17 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	18 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	19 6:30 PM Vestry	20 7:00 AM EKKO Church	21	22 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom
23 9:00 AM EKKO Church 9:00 AM Pentecost Service in Sanctuary and on Zoom & Facebook Live	24 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom	25 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study on Zoom	26	27 7:00 AM EKKO Church	28 6:30 PM Movie night	29 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study on Zoom
30 Trinity Sunday 9:00 AM EKKO Church 9:00 AM Sunday Service in Sanctuary and on Zoom and Facebook Live	31 Memorial Day Holiday 7:00 PM Evening Bible Study on Zoom					

This Month's Happenings

We return to services in the Sanctuary at 10am on April 18, changing to 9am on Pentecost.

Mondays at 7 p.m.
Tuesdays at 10 a.m.
Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Evening Bible Study on Zoom
Women's Bible Study on Zoom
Men's Bible Study on Zoom

Sunday, May 23, 9am
Wednesday, May 5, 7pm
Thursday, May 13, 6:30 pm
Saturday, May 15, 9-12
Friday, May 28, 6:30 pm

Pentecost Service—Time Change to 9am
Taizé on Zoom
Early Birds
Plant Sale and Garden Work Day
Movie Night

Please help us out!

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