

Special Ministerial Message using the U. S. Postal Service - April 16, 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

We miss you!

If we can't see your name during our 11:00 AM Sunday Service or your face during our 7:00 PM Tuesday Vesper Service, we are missing you even more deeply! If you don't have access to our www.uuss.org website, or don't have email or haven't been receiving our twice-weekly Ministerial Message emails, you might have missed some of the news. We are using the U.S. Mail to send copies of a some of our recent email messages and the Easter Sunday homily so you can be in the loop.



If you have been struggling to get online or on the phone by Zoom, please call us! Please also feel free to call either of us--just to check in or to let us know how you are doing, to ask a question, to request pastoral care or to ask for help. We have a lot of willing volunteers who would love to run an errand for you.

Our Staff Members have been working remotely and at select times coming by to process mail and email, receive donations and bills, make repairs and do special cleaning, and make sure the place is okay. Hence, if you call (or email a staff member, it may take more than a day to get a reply. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you again!

Love,

Rev. Roger & Rev. Lucy

Brief News about our Congregation

- **In Loving Memory**--We extend our condolences to our member Mary Goldberg on the loss of her husband, Dr. Harvey Goldberg, at age 91. He died peacefully at home with family present on March 29. We extend our condolences to our member Nancy Oprsal on the loss of her teaching colleague and friend Sally Weinland on Feb. 18, at age 91. She and Nancy were the co-founders of Sacramento Family Promise.
- Our Board of Trustees and Program Council have been meeting via Zoom, as have many other groups. The Program Council decided to schedule the **Activity Fair** for a Sunday in the fall, rather than in the spring. Likely date: September 13, which coincides with the Family Ministry Team's Welcome Back BBQ.
- The **Congregational Meeting** will take place virtually on May 17, 2020. We hold the meeting after the 11:00 Zoom service and Coffee Time. All are welcome, and we still need a quorum of voting Members to conduct business. Those who don't have a computer can receive a paper agenda and paper ballot in the mail. The Zoom telephone number and Meeting ID # for worship services will be the same one for this meeting.
- **Music Director Keith Atwater** is not retiring! Given the inability for choir members and the whole congregation to be together, Keith has told us he will defer his departure from UUSS. We're very grateful for that. We also appreciate the music which he and pianist Irina Tchantceva and several of our singers and instrumentalists have been offering for our virtual services. It has been lovely and gratifying. Thanks!
- The **All-ages Camp** has been cancelled for this summer. However, our camp leaders have already booked us the same weekend for next year: June 11-13, 2020, at Camp Norge. Michele, our Bookkeeper, is working hard to process refunds as well as all her other tasks, so if you are awaiting a refund, we appreciate your patience. Some folks may opt instead to turn your payment of this year's camp fee into a tax-deductible donation to UUSS; if so, please let Michele know: (916) 483-9283 ext. 205.
- Our **Service Auction** events, parties, group outings and meals which had been scheduled for the spring must be postponed. We appreciate the generosity and flexibility of our auction-item hosts to find new dates so all the lucky bidders can enjoy some long-awaited opportunities to get together. If you are a winning bidder, we hope you are able to wait for a new date. However, if you are having a financial hardship and need to request a refund, please contact Michele: (916) 483-9283. Many thanks to our auction team for a great event on March 7.

- The permanent **patio cover** structure is in progress! The contractors obtained County approval to do the work (which is outside) and they have begun holes in the patio and erecting posts. County guidance has caused another delay, but we hope it's not too long.
- As you can read in the enclosed Ministerial Messages, the **Stewardship Campaign** continues, and pledges are coming in for the 2020-21 budget year. If you need a pledge form and a stewardship brochure to be mailed to your home, please call the office and Michele can mail it to you. (916) 483-9283 ext. 205.



Getting in Touch and Tuning In

- **Attending services by Zoom on the phone.** If you have only phone access, this is how you can listen in to our services. Dial (996) 900-6833. Then, when the automated announcement asks for your "meeting ID," enter 916 483 9283 and then press #. It may ask you for a second ID code but you can ignore it. You may have to enter # one more time. If you hear an error message, just enter the meeting ID one more time. For your first time, you may want to be early in case there are glitches. But if you don't hear anything right away, we may be a little delayed in starting. We thank everyone for the gifts of patience and humor!
- **Attending by Zoom without a camera.** If you have a computer without a camera, you can still watch the services, even though others can't see you during Coffee Time. You can even type comments in the chat box on Zoom! But if you decide you'd like to order a camera to attach to your computer, we recommend email Dirk or another IT consultant for guidance and recommendations. Maybe it's even time to get an inexpensive laptop!
- **Facebook Live.** We provide our live services by Zoom but also try to stream them using Facebook Live, which reaches all users who have "liked" our UUSS Facebook page. However, Zoom is a more interactive platform.
- **Technical assistance.** If you've tried the above or you've tried logging in by your computer, tablet or smart phone and are still having trouble, be in touch with Rev. Lucy or with our IT wizard, Dirk Tuell.
- **Directory.** If you are a Member or pledging Friend without a computer and your UUSS Directory is out of date or you can't find it, please call the office and Krystal can mail one to you: (916) 483-9283 ext. 202.

Outside at UUSS!

- The **succulent garden** behind the sanctuary building has grown, in more ways than one. It's got more gravel and plants taking up more space, and some of them have been shooting to the sky--or to the ceiling above.
- Bulldozers and workers with shovels have covered over the **drainage creek** (or ditch) and hill sloping down from the fence in RE building area, so it's not a steep drop and there's not a ditch to fall into. The ditch has been relocated to the other side of the Labyrinth, along the fence. John McMillan has been working on this project. Thanks to John, Krystal Gollaher, and our Administrative and Property Management Committee.
- Our **Grasshoppers** received approval to keep on keeping our grounds trimmed and tidy, provided they keep a safe distance from one another and wash their hands. (Of course, anyone who feels it would be wiser to refrain is encouraged to stay home.) Also, a number of people have been pulling weeds on campus. They are all beloved volunteers, and we thank them.
- Many **neighbors** have been strolling their kids or walking their dogs on campus. Also, individual gardeners or families have come to tend their Community Garden plots and harvest them. If you come to campus for a stroll, please be safe. Take your walk in the daylight, and walk or work as an individual or with members of your household, not as a group activity. Stay safe and be well! **Blessed be!**

