

THE LYNNWOOD LINES

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR LYNNWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor's Letter

Greetings in the name of the risen Christ! I trust you are well and safe. We are facing an unprecedented time due to the coronavirus. As of April 20th, nearly 2.5 million people have been infected and the virus has caused over 170,000 deaths throughout the world. In the U.S. alone, nearly 800,000 cases and over 42,000 deaths have been reported. I am afraid the number will rise, and I don't know when it will come to an end. We are facing something never experienced before, and the local and federal governments are imposing very strong measures to fight this pandemic. We as good citizens are following the shelter in place order faithfully. It is the best way to slow down this epidemic and return to our normal lives.

Recently, we have offered online worship services and meetings on Zoom. It has been a new experience for many people including myself in exploring different ways to do church. In a short period of time, we have established a very good online conferencing platform to worship, study, and meet. When I see all the faces of people joining in for service, I feel so glad and excited to be part of our church community. Each time we meet, we discover new ways to improve the meeting. Several leaders of our church have spent many hours figuring out better ways to execute and improve our gatherings. I truly wish to thank Emmie S., Doug H., Robert W., Kiran N., and Joe F. as the primary leaders to make our online gatherings possible. In this extraordinary time, these leaders have stepped up and made amazing efforts to help us to function as a church. We all owe them a huge thanks.

I would also like to thank all the staff members for taking on important tasks to keep our ministry alive and well. Although most of us are working remotely, we meet weekly to review, plan, and pray together. We are blessed to have a great team of staff to keep our church functioning. Special thanks should go to Raelene, our new office manager. Due to many tasks that require being in the office, she has been coming to work in person more often than any other staff member.

Our membership care is currently being faithfully led by Linda V.P. and Mary Ellen H. They are visiting people regularly on the phone and by email, and occasionally visiting in person to provide much needed help and support. Many of you are also sending cards and making calls to one another to help each other feel connected even in this time of physical distancing.

How long will this last? No one knows, but we have learned to find innovative ways to worship and connect. During Lent and Easter, we have experienced Christ being present in our lives and giving us the peace we need in these extraordinary circumstances. Christ who overcame his death and rose to the new life of resurrection empowers and keeps us hopeful. Let us keep praying for the world, especially those who are suffering from the illness and mourning from the loss of their loved ones. Let us also pray for the health and safety of all our church family. May the powerful spirit of God surround all of us and keep us in peace.

Blessings,

Pastor Henry

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As a reconciling congregation that **dares to question, love, and serve**, we offer wide welcome to all people regardless of age, sex, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, family status, physical or mental ability, or economic or immigration status.

Community, Prayers, Bible Study, and Stephen Ministry

LYNNEWOOD FAREWELL PARTIES

Many have suggested that the sheltering in place has become boring and lacking in ideas for what to do with this newfound luxury of time. Others have become quite creative with making masks, sewing, painting, reading, writing journals, calling and caring for others.

While your creative juices are flowing, Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) are seeking folks to assist with the parties to recognize Pastor Henry, Diana, and Donna as they prepare to move or retire. Photos, notes, cards, and volunteers to assist with the event are appreciated.

We will host parties to recognize the talents and service these three fine individuals have shared with the Lynnewood church family. The dates will be announced as the reopening of our lives beyond the home are actualized.

Please contact Emmie S., SPRC Chair, Mary Ellen H., or the church office.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

This bible study group is on hiatus during the shelter-in-place order. Please call or email questions to the church office (office@lynnewood.org).

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10:00 a.m. Online using Zoom

During this time of "shelter in place", I would like to offer a chance to study scripture via Zoom. Please Zoom with devices that have speakers, microphones and cameras will allow us to see, speak and hear each other. Please join me on Wednesdays at 10 am to study together. Details about how to use Zoom can be found in the weekly emails. If you have any questions, please email me (henry@lynnewood.org) and I will be happy to answer your questions.

-Pastor Henry

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Encourage One Another

In 1 Thessalonians 5, Paul writes, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up...Encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone." God has called us all to build up and encourage one another. For those who are experiencing a really difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can provide the special encouragement, care and support they need until they are past the crisis. If you would like more information on our Stephen Ministry, please call the church office at (925) 846-0221.

In Need of Prayer

Lynnewood Family

- For Pam, Carol and Glenn R.'s daughter, who had a massive seizure and who has been struggling with ongoing mild seizures for quite some time now.
- For Jim K. and his family. Recent tests show that the new medication he was taking for his tumors was not successful. He is now in hospice care, but is still able to be somewhat active for the time being.

National and World Needs

- The healthcare workers dealing with Covid-19 directly.
- Those considered high-risk for Covid-19 infection.
- The nation and world as we struggle with sheltering in place.

Prayer Ministry:

Please email your prayer requests to the church office (office@lynnewood.org).

Stephen Ministry:

If you or a friend would like to meet with a Stephen Minister, call the church office.

Music Notes



Greetings to you all during this time of shelter-in-place. I pray this finds you all safe and well. If this were a normal month, this Lines article would have included a thank you to the special musicians during Lent and Easter. It would also include a list of anthems to look forward to in May.

But this is anything but a normal month. How weird it feels to have no choir rehearsals, no handbell rehearsals, no music to plan... This is not the way I envisioned my last months as your director of music. I am reminded of the Serenity Prayer:

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can
and wisdom to know the difference.

I cannot change the fact that chancel choir cannot be together to rehearse and worship. But I can keep in touch with them and work to stay connected with them and them with each other. I cannot change the fact that there is no live special music. But I can be grateful for those like Debbie R., Don K. and all the others who have sent in their videos for us to use. I am also thankful for the gifts my family has shared: Steve's solo on Good Friday and Suzy's trumpet on the hymns on Easter. I am definitely grateful for Amelia's beautiful music each week. I cannot change the fact that the pews are empty on a Sunday morning, but I can be thankful for Henry, the tech crew (Emmie S., Robert W., Doug H., Joe F., Kiran N. (...I hope I remembered all of you) for the work they have done to bring worship to the congregation through the miracle of Zoom, a technology that gives me the ability to see the faces of those who tune in. I cannot meet in person for study, but I can be thankful that there are still opportunities to join together through Zoom like at Diana's Nourish @ Noon and Henry's Wednesday study. I cannot change the fact that I need to stay home, but I can be thankful for the beauty of these days, the opportunity to take walks, and to enjoy the antics of the birds at my backyard feeders.

I am learning to strive for a balance in these days. It is natural and necessary to grieve the loss of what might have been. The balance is in remembering that there are still blessings from God for which I can be grateful and there are still prayers I can offer for all those less fortunate than I who are in need of shelter, finances, healing.

May you find your place of balance in this unsettling time and may you find a song in your heart, whether lament or praise for I do believe that God sings with us and through us.

Warmly,

Donna

Donna, director of music
(e-mail: music@lynnewood.org)

General Announcements and Small Group Ministries

Nourish at Noon

Join Diana at noon on **Monday, May 4th** for a time of sharing and prayer. Come and nourish at noon through Zoom.

Meeting ID: 878 9419 5191 #

Participant ID: Just press #

Password: 983978 #

Mobile: Call (669) 900-6833. Enter the meeting ID and then the password when prompted.

To MUTE or UNMUTE, please press *6

The reading for our consideration is a portion of Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Leaving Church*.

We will meet again on May 18th. Details are forthcoming, so please keep an eye on the weekly email!



PRAYERS & SQUARES

Please remember whenever we have a quilt, it is not finished until you participate by tying a knot or laying your hands on a knot and saying a prayer. If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact the church office.

DREAM GROUP

This group, led by Lisa R., meets the third Thursday of the month at 11:00 a.m. During the shelter-in-place order, this group will be meeting by Zoom.

KNITTING GROUP

The knitting group is on hiatus at the moment as they await more volunteers. If you know how to knit and would like to join this group, please contact Yvonne G. or the church office.

MEN'S MEET-UP

SECOND SATURDAY of the month - 8 a.m. via Zoom

We may not get to meet for breakfast due to the shelter-in-place order, but we can still meet up! All men are invited to meet at 8:00 a.m. online through Zoom (details forthcoming; check the weekly email). Come and join in for a time of fellowship!

We will meet again **Saturday, May 9** through Zoom. Start the day off right with good fellowship!

Please call Brian F. or the church office with any questions.

Seasoned Citizens

We will not be scheduling future Seasoned Citizens luncheons until our "Shelter in Place" order has been lifted. As we face this new way of living due to COVID-19, please stay connected to your friends and family by telephone, email or video. It is important to maintain our mental and emotional health until we meet again. Please stay safe and healthy.

Lucy C. and Carol R.

Lynnewood Outreach

HOW IS LYNNEWOOD FILLING THE MOST URGENT NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH OUTREACH DURING THE COVID-19 VIRUS?

It became very clear to the Outreach Committee early on in this "shelter in place", that the needs of our community and beyond were growing at an overwhelming pace. Not just the needs of the marginalized community, but also many of our seniors and compromised individuals. We therefore, with the encouragement of the Finance Committee, decided to distribute 35% of our yearly budget (\$14,200) immediately to those organizations attempting to meet the most urgent needs; food, shelter, physical/mental health and isolation. The following is a list of the organizations and amount distributed:

Tri Valley Haven Food Pantry	\$1500.00	Open Heart Kitchen	\$3000.00
Meals on Wheels (Spectrum)	\$ 800.00	Alameda County Food Bank	\$1000.00
CityServe of Tri Valley	\$ 500.00	Senior Support Services	\$1000.00
Holt International	\$ 400.00	UMCOR	\$1000.00
Pleasanton Counseling Center	\$1000.00	Tri Valley Haven	\$1500.00
Livermore Homeless Refuge	\$1500.00	Katherine Parker (missionary)	\$1000.00

We were informed of the lack of USDA food products received by Alameda County Community Food Bank, therefore affecting the local food banks and their ability to provide the basic foods, i.e. milk, eggs, produce, fruit, dried beans, etc. The Tri Valley Haven Food Pantry, located in Livermore, supplies eight mobile food pantries in Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore. The mobile pantries, usually only open once a month, are now providing weekly access. However, with the lack of food deliveries from the Alameda County Food Bank as well as normal donations by large grocery chains, Tri Valley Haven Food Pantry has been forced to place large orders with two grocery chains. This expenditure has never been necessary before.

Open Heart Kitchen increased their meals for children distributed to four schools from one meal a day to either two or three depending on the school, and OHK is continuing to provide meals for pickup for seniors in three locations in the Tri Valley Area. That quantity has grown due to the "shelter in place" directive. Lynnewood also received a plea from Katherine Parker, our long time missionary in Nepal, for help to outfit their hospitals as they began to handle covid-19 cases. Kidango, an organization that provides low cost child care and education to low income families, has many families now without jobs and unable to put food on the table. Even with the help of the Alameda County Food Bank, they do not receive the basic USDA required foods.

Therefore, in April, Outreach decided to redirect the \$5000 anonymous donation given to us in 2019 to the following: Open Heart Kitchen \$1000, Meals on Wheels \$500, CityServe of the Tri Valley \$500, Tri Valley Haven Food Pantry \$3000, Board of Global Ministries, Katherine Parker \$1000.

And with the continued generosity of several Lynnewood families, food and toiletries were collected, Safeway gift cards donated and all were picked up by the Kidango organization. Our own Village Ministries donated the toiletries. We are still receiving donations of Safeway gift cards from some LUMC families, and they are being distributed to families in dire need. We hope that will continue, as it is another way that LUMC can make a difference in the lives of so many.

WE CANNOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!

In gratitude,
The Outreach Committee

Lynnewood Outreach

Outreach Offering - Peace with Justice Sunday - May 17, 2020

In Arizona border towns, communities facing social challenges are dramatically divided. In Liberian villages, citizens' human rights are being violated. In local U.S. communities, women and girls are being bought and sold against their will.

Moved by Christ's love to pursue reconciliation and peace, The United Methodist Church is unwilling to turn a blind eye to injustice. Because of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the people of The United Methodist Church are able to make a difference together by sowing seeds of peace.

When you give on Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift makes possible our critical kingdom work in the world.

Because you give:

- Methodists spearhead a peace ministry uniting Arizona border communities
- United Methodists in Liberia are being equipped to implement the denomination's Social Principles to address social-justice issue
- Pennsylvania students are educating their community about sex-trafficking at home and abroad

Please mail in your contribution by check to the church and designate May Outreach offering on the memo line. Thank you!

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

Bundles of Joy

Bundles of Joy is an on-going joint project with Axis Community Health and several other churches in the Tri-Valley. It is only made possible by the donations we receive each month. We provide 14 bags per month to Axis to be given out to low-income pregnant women. Please help us to continue to reach out to families in need and show them what a caring community we are. Donations from the list below can be given to Kristin S. Contact Kristin or the church office with any questions.

Items Needed for the Bundles of Joy Project:

- Diapers (Newborn - Size 1)
- Pacifiers
- Cloth Toys or Stuffed Animals
- Bibs (We usually include 2.)
- Wipes
- Blankets
- Rattles
- Hats (We usually include 2.)
- Baby Wash, Lotion, Powder or Ointment (We include 1 item per bag.)
- Newborn Outfits - Size 0-6 months (We usually include 1 per bag.)
- Pajamas, Size 0-6 months (We usually include 1 per bag.)
- Onesies, Size 0-6 months (We usually include 1-2 per bag.)
- Baby Booties or Socks (We usually include 2-3 pairs.)
- Cash or Gift Cards (Target, etc.)

How Can We Help Open Heart Kitchen?

Due to the shelter-in-place mandate, Open Heart Kitchen is not operating out of Lynnewood on Sundays. We can still help them though as they work to make sure people are fed despite the current pandemic. If you would like to help, Please send in a donation check to Lynnewood and note "Open Heart Kitchen" in the memo line. Thank you.

EGG CARTONS—Ongoing Project

Many people see egg cartons in the narthex and wonder why empty egg cartons are brought to church. The Tri-Valley Haven Food Bank receives eggs from local grocery stores with good eggs and some broken and mushy eggs. Before Tri-Valley staff distributes the good eggs to their clients, they seek cleaner egg cartons. Over the years the Lynnewood church family has been the source for the egg cartons. Thank you for your continued support of this outreach opportunity. **NOTE: Linda V.P. is taking the egg cartons during this time, so please contact her or the church office if you would like to contribute!**

Children, Sunday School, and Youth News

No Room? Let's ZOOM!

Join us at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons for youth "No Room? Let's Zoom!" led by Pastor Diana. Please send Diana your email address and cell number.

[CLICK HERE](#) to join Diana.

Password: 773788

If you choose to dial in, the meeting ID is 833 265 636.

LWood College Crew

LWood College Crew zoom— Join us at 7:00 p.m. on Sundays for a college student hangout through Zoom! [CLICK HERE](#) to join!

Password: 483900

If you choose to dial in, the meeting ID is 956 2559 7865

Finance Update and June Lines Deadline

MARCH FINANCE UPDATE									
		Amount	% difference from budget						
Operating Budget									
Donations (Year To Date)		\$101,650	-26.8%						
Expenses (Year To date)		\$183,394	-9.2%						

We collected \$1,775 as part of the 30 hour famine and \$400 for UMCOR

Donations do not include rent income from Quarry Lane.

If you would like to better understand where our church stands financially or the financial goals of our church, please see any member of the finance committee. We would be happy to discuss our finances with you!

Deadline for June Lines

Please submit your articles for next month's Lynnewood Lines to **LUMC OFFICE** by **May 20th**. Send to office@lynnewood.org. Please include "LINES Article" in the subject line. Email is preferred, but for those of you who don't have email, you may drop off an article in the church office.

Did you get a "Got It" reply? Sometimes the email systems lose the article or the reply. If you did not get a reply, please send your article again.