

UMCOR Sunday March 22, 2020

Formerly known as One Great Hour of Sharing, is an offering requested by the general church (the United Methodist Churches in the United States) during Lent and provides major support for immediate assistance in the wake of natural and human caused disasters worldwide and helps support ongoing ministries of food, shelter, health and peace.

Your gifts allow 100 percent of designated gifts to be used for the specified disaster response or other ministry. Your generosity ensures that UMCOR is prepared for a rapid response in time of crisis by supporting the small but impactful UMCOR staff who are specialists in disaster response and recovery. Funds also ensure adequate training for emergency response coordinators, construction volunteers, and case managers who assist victims of disasters, chain saw gangs and sheetrock installers. Your donation will be greatly appreciated. NOW MORE THAN EVER!

Stay Home SD A Delivery Service for Seniors

Vigilant church members discovered this service trying to fill the gap. From their website:

"The threat of COVID-19 has thrown our world into a panic, leaving the elderly especially vulnerable to going without groceries or supplies while they maintain social isolation.

As healthy, able-bodied individuals, we feel it is our responsibility to use our pooled resources to close the gap and provide aid to the elderly. We are using donations to purchase basic food and supplies, which are then delivered to the homes of elderly individuals throughout San Diego."

If you need assistance or know someone who does, call their helpline: 619-800-3252.

Several St. Mark's members stand at the ready to help. Feel free to call

- Tim Higgins 619-549-3805
- Norma Robinson 310-770-8138
- Ghadir AL Abdallah 417-413-8258

Local UMCOR COVID-19 Needs

How appropriate that the UMCOR Sunday offering is happening in the middle of the COVID-19 crisis. The letter below was received from UMCOR and the District office requesting assistance:

YOU CAN HELP! The Cal-Pac Disaster Response Team is working in San Diego. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is partnering with local agencies including Feeding San Diego to help those in need of food during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Volunteers are needed in the San Diego County area for two tasks 1) Communication; and 2) Delivery.

If you are able to pick up food and deliver to shut in individuals and families, you can volunteer your time and vehicle to do so. If you want to help, but feel you must stay at home, you can help administratively by being a phone volunteer acting as the communication link between food providers, households in need, and the delivery team. Both of these roles fall within our understanding of the California requirement to "stay home" except for "essential work and groceries."

Disaster Task Force leaders Pam McMasters and Karl Ports will coordinate this effort here in San Diego. To volunteer contact Karl Ports at: kports95@gmail.com.

Be the difference!

St. Mark's Youth Activities Move On-Line

Did you know our new Director of Young People Ministries is a technological wiz kid? Amanda has created a page on the St. Mark's website with a schedule of on-line activities for St. Mark's youth. Learn how to draw, play games and get zen with yoga! Go to the St. Mark's homepage and click the button relevant to St. Mark's Youth.

Thanks, Amanda!

CCSA Daily Updates

Brad Cannon, CCSA President, has been sending out almost daily updates on the status of their important work. If you are interested in receiving the updates by email, please email the church office so Michelle can forward them to you: office@stmarksumcsd.org

Here is the update from March 20:

Dear CCSA Supporters,

At CCSA we did close our doors about two hours early on Thursday, March 19, due to the fatigue of our staff. They, with the help of a small number of volunteers, have been doing an absolutely incredible job! Even with the shorter hours, on Thursday we served 65 families at Clairemont and almost 40 individuals in PB.

Today, Friday, March 20, both Centers are open during their regularly scheduled times. As of 1 PM we have served 54 families in Clairemont and over 60 people in PB.

Donations from the grocery stores have been, understandably, down this week. On Friday afternoon, we are almost totally out of produce, and have distributed all of the commodities on hand. We have urgent calls in to the Food Banks for produce, pasta, oatmeal, and dried beans. We are hopeful that we will obtain some items on Monday, and are due a further commodity delivery on Wednesday. Until those supplies are received, we may have to reduce the amount of food that we give out to each family.

P.B. is well stocked for distribution to the homeless. We have plenty of ponchos, blankets, and the food that we normally distribute including canned tuna, chicken and Vienna sausage. We are low on salads and wraps that the homeless have come to enjoy, but at least they will not be hungry.

I anticipate that next week we will need to start buying food for distribution. This is a concern particularly as the proceeds of the annual

campaign were less than hoped for. We will need to address the shortfall at some point, but for now I am focusing on feeding hungry people.

All of those who have contributed to CCSA over the years should be proud that CCSA has stood up tall to the task of feeding God's children this week. We have served more hungry people this week than during any other week in our history.

Please pray for CCSA and those we serve.
Brad

Baby Shower for Birthline We Asked, You Gave! Keep It Up! But Keep It at HOME for Now :)

Please keep your items for Birthline at home for now. Keep an eye on the Messenger for updates on this Sunday School service project. The items will help an infant in our community begin life with a few essentials.

Birthline receives a grant for diapers so they do not need those items. However, there are many other items on the list.

New items are appreciated: small developmental toys, clothing/outfits sizes Newborn and 3-6 Months (i.e. zip-up sleepers, onesies), baby blankets, socks, bibs, small baby wash cloths, wipes, diaper rash ointment, or thermometers.



St. Mark's Messenger

3502 CLAIREMONT DRIVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92117

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Keeping In Touch

Hi Friends,

It's Sunday afternoon, and the sun is shining, although clouds are beginning to form. The weather report says we will get more rain. This seems to be a pattern right now, *rain, sun, rain, sun*. But having come through droughts we know how important the rain is for our earth, and for our survival as people of the earth. I give thanks for the rain that heals creation.

Many of you may be feeling a bit anxious about staying indoors during this pandemic, and I don't blame you. This is not what we are accustomed to. We are creatures of habit, people who like our freedom. But I know the pandemic, like the drought, will end and we will have the freedom to go about our routines once again. And we will give thanks when this season has ended.

But what if we gave thanks now? What if we looked at the abundance of what is around us now? Maybe it's hard to imagine abundance as we stroll aisles of stores with bare shelves, but now we have time to do those things we postponed by saying, "If I only had time, I'd do (fill in the blank)." For me it might be cleaning my home office, or binge watch Amazon Prime Movies. There is probably an abundance of projects you've deferred, like me. It is easy to say, "If I only had time" but when time arrives, sometimes we are too tired to do anything. If you choose to do nothing, that is good too. We can all use some rest. I give thanks to God for Sabbath time.

This coming Sunday I will be preaching at Pacific Beach UMC on Gratitude and Abundance based on the book, *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*, by Diane Butler Bass. Again, I would like to thank Rev. Bob Rhodes for his offer to Rev. Lydia and me to come and share their technology so we can worship in this new way. Such generous hospitality.

In anticipation of this sermon I invite you to think of what gratitude is to you. Also, what is abundance. The text I will be preaching from is Luke 7:36-50 where the sinful woman anoints Jesus.

In the meantime, if you need anything, please let the church know. We will do our best to find what you need. You can reach the church at office@stmarksumcsd.org or 858-273-1480. Although the office is closed, we are all checking our email and voicemail and will get in touch with you.

I give thanks for you and pray God's abundant blessings upon you.
Jeri



Rev. Jeri Newell-Davis
Associate Minister

Sunday, March 29, 2020
9:00 a.m. via Livestream
www.pbumc.org/live



St. Mark's Digital
Friendship
Pad Check-ins:
33 and counting!

Combined attendance:
93



Technology Saves the Day During COVID-19 Crisis Let's Help Everyone Use It! By Michelle Herman

The St. Mark's church, like the rest of the world, is celebrating the gift of technology these days. It is not JUST church services that are on-line. Staff meetings here at St. Mark's are using video conferencing; grandparents who can't visit with their grandchildren are embracing FaceTime and other video chat services. Ms. Anita, the preschool director is teaching crafts and reading bedtime stories on Facebook and preschool classrooms have set up their own Facebook groups to stay connected. The AA meetings that use the church are now using Zoom video conferencing. Rev. Jeri is posting daily videos on Facebook, too.

When I started as the Church Administrator about a year and a half ago, I was saddened that so much of the membership resisted and even feared technology. Now is the time to change this. No one that built this congregation should miss out on the Livestreams or recordings of the Sunday worship services.

If you are willing to help call church members for the sole purpose of finding out if anyone needs help with their technology, please leave me a message or send me an email. I am happy to help by phone. I am happy to help in person, but of course, there are good reasons to think long and hard before going down this road.

The clergy have been calling everyone as their lives permit and updating information with me daily. Other church folk have also emailed me with changes they have learned of. I can see from our email service provider that more people than ever are opening and clicking their emails. This is great news!

Pastor's Sunday School

In Pastor's Sunday School we study the lectionary texts which follow the church calendar. Even though the group is not meeting, here are the readings for Sunday, March 29:

- Ezekiel 37:1-14
- Psalm 130
- Romans 8:6-11
- John 11:1-45

Rev. Jeri will be preaching on Luke 7:36-50 at the 9 a.m. Pacific Beach UMC Livestream.

Reports from Michelle's Phone Line

Not the least bit reluctant to reach out for an ear, I received a call from **Rose Marie Pierce** on Saturday. As the year anniversary of Charles' death approaches, she is very aware of how this time is very different than last year. Having been plagued by computer problems, she did not know church was being Livestreamed. I was able to text her the link to the service as well as links to the videos that Revs. Lydia and Jeri had recorded that week. The phone is Rose Marie's friend. Please let it be yours, too.

I live a hop and skip away from **Carol McElroy** so I called her to see if she needed anything as my family was going to be walking by her house. She was well stocked and content to have time in her garden. We ran into her the next day at Cadman park where we all got some air and sun.

In Our Prayers

Please keep all those in prayer who are experiencing grief, chronic illness, addiction, loss of direction and disenfranchisement. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Our military personnel:

- ♡ Brook Bossen, Coast Guard
- ♡ Kris Brendal, Army
- ♡ Robert S. Chisholm, Navy
- ♡ Craig Clemans, Marines
- ♡ Paul Clemans, Air Force
- ♡ Blake Cross, Navy
- ♡ Nathan Streeter, Navy
- ♡ Lenny Hezelett, Navy
- ♡ Henry Hoadley, Navy
- ♡ Michael Hunter, Navy
- ♡ Milo Riegle, Marines
- ♡ Robert Tarango, Navy
- ♡ Dylan Weitzman, Army



You are invited to participate in the St. Mark's prayer chain via email. Prayer requests will be sent to you via an email account you provide; you will not be asked to do anything other than offer your private prayers for requests you receive. To participate, please email Donna Newby at dnewby@san.rr.com.

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