



The Messenger

Eureka First United Methodist Church

February 2021



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Rev. Dr. Rebecca Irelan, Pastor

Pastor's Cell (415) 505-6237

From Pastor Rebecca,



The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17th, and I have a confession to make. I am NOT in the mood this year. Normally, Lent is my favorite season of the year. I find it strangely

invigorating to get in touch with my mortality because acknowledging that I will die eventually gives me the focus I need to live more fully right now. But thanks to the pandemic, I already got my fill and I want to be DONE with death this year. To paraphrase the old song from the Broadway show, *Mame!*: I need a little Easter, right this very minute, spring around the corner, with resurrection in it, yes I need a little Easter, right this very minute. I need a little Easter now!



So, we are not going to take the journey down the Via Dolorosa (the "way of

suffering") as traditional Lenten devotionals do for the seven weeks before Easter because we have already been on that road all year. Instead, our daily Lenten devotions are going to celebrate the love of God that has gotten us this far and will certainly lead us home. So, just as we did for each day during Advent, I am asking you again to share some of your personal journey with your church family. When and where did you first encounter the love of God? You may have

heard about it in Sunday School as a child, but when did you first experience it for yourself? And how did that change your life?

It is my belief that you have already experienced one or several resurrections in your life and that your faith in the regenerative power of the Holy Spirit is what is getting you through this pandemic. But some of your sisters and brothers in Christ may not be so sure, so it is important that you share your faith with them. The Lenten season is long—40 days plus the Sundays—and so I welcome you to send me one or more stories so that I can send out a celebration of love and hope for new life every single day, starting on Ash Wednesday. (email me at rjirelan@gmail.com) And may God bless you for your hope-giving and life-sharing witness.

Pastor Rebecca



February 17th

Drive-

Thru/Walk-Thru Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday, from 11 am to 1 pm and 4 pm to 6 pm (rain or shine), Pastor Rebecca will be ready to distribute ashes to anyone who wants to drive through the parking lot and receive them in their car. A walk-thru is fine, too. Gloved and masked, she will also hand out an Ash Wednesday prayer service for you to use at home and say a prayer with you. Call or text to tell her that you are coming: 415-505-6237. Or just come!

Prayer Walk for Lent



Along the lines of the Advent prayer walk we had in the

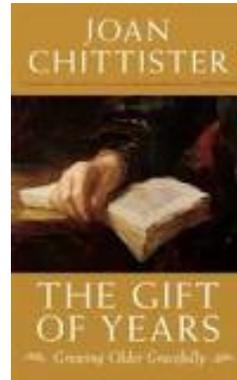
sanctuary, Pastor Rebecca is working on ideas to create a safe way for you to spend some time at church, inside or outside, renewing and strengthening your faith in the season of Lent. Using the "I am" statements in John's Gospel, she hopes to install water-proof prayer stations around the perimeter of the campus to allow neighbors as well as church members to make use of the prompts for reflection. (She could use some Trustees help with signs and stakes.) She will also be calling on folks to assist in setting up more elaborate stations in the fellowship hall for those who would prefer to pray indoors with the opportunity to rest between stations if needed. If you would be willing to help create this individualized worship experience, please contact Rebecca. Watch upcoming emails for more information about when the indoor and outdoor stations will be ready for walking.



In 2020, EFUMC ended the year in the black only because it received over \$26,000 from the Small Business Administration in the form of a forgivable loan, as well as a sizeable infusion from the Endowment and was able to tap into reserve funds. All this money helped us make up for the lack of building use income and changing demographics, and we managed to hold on to all of our staff during a pandemic. Praise God! But we are facing a serious financial challenge this year. We expect the SBA loan to be forgiven, but building use income will not return to previous levels any time soon, and our reserves are decreasing at a rapid rate. In light of these realities, I have decided that the church needs my stimulus check from the U.S. Treasury more than I do, and I will be donating my check to the church's

General Fund. Not everyone is in a position to do so, but I hope you will consider whether or not you can pass on some stimulus and help us through these next several months until we can fully reopen once again. Thank you.

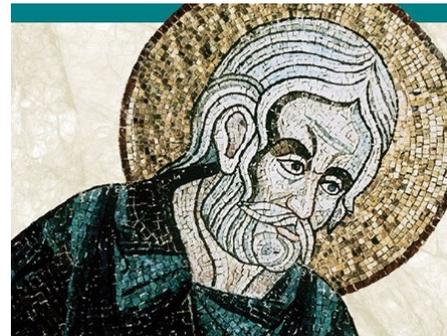
--Pastor Rebecca



Thursday Group discusses *The Gift of Years*

Our Thursday afternoon spiritual growth group has chosen a new book to read together. Since none of us are getting any younger, we thought that we could benefit from Joan

Chittister's *Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully*. Get yourself a copy and join us on Zoom at 4 pm on Thursdays.



Gospel of John Bible Study on Tuesday evenings during Lent

Our study of the Gospel of John has been going through a chapter each week, and we anticipate continuing right up to Easter. We are now getting to the chapters that deal with the events of Holy Week, so you are invited to jump right in and join us for Lent. We meet at 7 pm on Zoom every Tuesday.

REOPENING THE CHURCH

Re-opening Volunteers Needed

As we enter the New Year, the possibility of gathering for in-person Worship is hopefully near. Your re-launch committee (Rev. Dr. Rebecca Irelan, Mr. Dan Dionne, Mr. Wayne Palmrose, Mr. Ralph Davis, and Mr. Gary Quintrell) has been working on a plan to provide a safe and comfortable way to worship together. While we wait until we can safely resume in-person worship, we want to go ahead and train the volunteers we will need to assist with ushering and to see that we follow the needed protocols and guidelines while we are at the Church. We have the resources to provide hygiene & safety training to the Staff & Volunteers prior to re-opening our doors. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please contact the office or Pastor Rebecca to let us know you are willing to help. You will be notified of upcoming training dates.



Thank you to Tim Lindow for installing the new fellowship hall door

Thank you to Bill and Barb O'Brien for doing some painting repair on the sanctuary building

Thank you to Chad Rechuullul, Jamie, Angela and Isaac Cameron, Bill and Barb O'Brien, Pat Reimonenq and Sally and Brian Hansen for helping take down and put away all the Christmas things. Sally put out the call and minutes later, a crew showed up!



Church Family News

Joys:

Marie Granshaw recovering from her stem cell treatment

The birth of Winter Rose, born on January 5th, to Teal Granshaw and Scott Rosinski.

Dan Dionne, who has started the Trained Lay Minister course

Our spiritual redwoods: Lyn Howell who turned 100, Irene Hedgecock who turned 97, and Pat Patterson who turned 92 last month. Rev. Gerhard Drumm turns 92 this month.

Concerns:

Connie Wilson

Tim Lindow's mother, Virginia

Linda Dionne's mother, Kay

Lee Dionne and family

Covid patients

Health care workers

Marie Granshaw

Heidi Quintrell's sisters

Mark McKinney and his brother

Jeremiah Forman

Marty and Jonathan O'Keefe

Stephanie Klingel

It is with sadness that we report the passing of John Lundstrom on January 30, 2021. Let us hold the Lundstrom family in the light and lift them in prayer as they grieve, filled by God's grace.



February Birthdays

2 Gerhard Drumm	13 Nia Davies-Hughes
3 Janice La Flesh	14 Anisha Mae Rechelluul
6 Katie Peacock	14 Valerie Samelson
6 Casey Taylor	15 Claire Olmstead
8 Cheryl Sanford	18 Wayne Palmrose
11 Chad Rechelluul	19 Gary Quintrell
	22 Sedona Bowser

and anniversaries.....

29 Bob & Lori Green

Congratulations! -- If we missed your special day or have the incorrect date please call the church office so we can get it right next year.

Finance News

December 2020

General Fund Revenue: \$18,479.92

General Fund Expense: \$16,942.71

YTD 2020(as of December 31, 2020)

2020 General Fund Revenue: *\$216,372.98

2020 General Fund Expense: \$201,239.27

Total *\$15,133.71

(*)This amount reflects a transfer from the Endowment Fund into the General Fund Cash Reserves of \$8,500

Thank you for your generous giving to God through the church.

2020 in Review

Beginning in March of 2020, the year was filled with financial uncertainty and amazing generosity. We had a reduction of building income for the year of just under \$10,000. This amount could have been higher except for the support of some of our facility partners who continued to send in their donations even though they were unable to meet. At present, none of our facility partners are sending

in funds. We incurred a savings in Lay Personnel payroll of almost \$7000.00 due to the reduction in hours needed to operate. We were also able to support our payroll by a Payroll Protection Plan loan from the Small Business Administration of \$26,900. This loan is hopefully going to be converted into a grant and will not need to be paid back. However, the biggest blessing has come from you, our Church Family. Your generous support and extra giving has helped us weather the Pandemic to this point. We also saw special donations from folks related to our facility partners who sent in very generous donations.

It will be by your continued support that we can maintain the health of Eureka First UMC. We hope to resume in-person worship as soon as we are able to do so safely. Thank for all you have done and will continue to do!

Worship Attendance – January

Attendance is live stream plus views

January	3	TOTAL – 118
January	10	TOTAL – 104
January	17	TOTAL – 88
January	24	TOTAL – 87
January	31	TOTAL – 69

MISSIONS

Birthday and Anniversary Pennies



The mission committee has selected Waterfront Recovery Services here in Eureka for its next mission donation. Even though we are not meeting in person, remember those birthday and anniversary pennies to support this valuable cause!

Food for People

Dear Dr. Irelan and the fabulous folks at Eureka 1st United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for your very generous donation! Wow!! Your support of Food For People means so much to us (especially as we navigate the fallout from the pandemic and the loss of our 14th St. building!) and it ensures that our staff and volunteers can continue to provide much needed services. We couldn't do this work w/o folks like you!

Thanks again,
Martha Spencer
Board President

As a recipient of our Advent Tea donations, we sent them a check for \$1,310.00

Next Food Donations to Be Weighed Sunday, February 7th. January Total was 123 lbs.



Thank you for those who have left food donations at the church office. We will weigh them during our live stream worship on Sunday, February 7th. If you have donations of non-perishable food items for our food closet and Little Free Pantry, please arrange to deliver them to the church office during this week by calling the office (442-

3015).

From the Drumms (Excerpted from the Many Hands newsletter)

Life here in our country continues much as in the rest of the world. We are still under "community quarantine" with restrictions on travel and gatherings which mean we stay in our apartment most of the time and do what we can via internet and cell phone. Fabiola has taken to propagating mint plants, which she either gives to friends or

barbers for items we

may need. Tobias has a jumping spider collection, to which he recently added separate containers with a couple of common house geckos. Nikolas loves to make origami Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations, and is nurturing a tomato plant. I (Paul) continue to shepherd our translators as they work from home. One team just finished their final revisions in the story of Joseph this past week, praise God! At night I often find myself thinking about our present situation here and elsewhere. I don't think I have experienced anything as toxic in my lifetime as the present rush towards tribal identities and away from the things which hold us together. We pray that you safeguard your heart from basing your identity on who is superficially most like you instead of on being part of God's family. We all sometimes face the temptation to play the part of the pharisee, who couldn't see his own sin because he was so focused on his supposed superiority to others. The teaching of Jesus is clear. We are to be wise as serpents, not avoiding the truth of what is, but as innocent as doves, not participating in the schemes of those who hold God, and therefore grace, in contempt. Each of us has to find the balance. Let's determine to help each other do that. —Paul Drumm



Remember to go the church website at <https://firstumceureka.org/> for news and links to the worship service videos!

Submissions to the Messenger

Send submissions

directly to your friendly editor, Dan Dionne, at editor@firstumceureka.org.

February 2021 *Online Meetings

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 *7:00pm Bible Study Gospel of John	3	4 *4:00 pm The Gift of Years	5	6
7 Weigh Food	8	9 *7:00pm Bible Study Gospel of John	10	11 *4:00 pm The Gift of Years	12	13
14 Transfiguration Sunday Valentine's Day	15 Presidents' Day	16 *7:00pm Bible Study Gospel of John	17 Ash Wednesday Drive/Walk thru Ashes 11-1 & 4-6	18 *4:00 pm The Gift of Years	19	20 11 a.m. Board of Trustees Mtg
21	22 Prayer Walk Outdoors (open to public)	23 *7:00pm Bible Study Gospel of John	24	25 *4:00 pm The Gift of Years	26 Newsletter Deadline	27
28 -----	Prayer Walk Indoors, Fellowship Hall by Appointment					