



Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

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Office Hours: Mon-Tue 10am-2pm, Wed-Thu 10am-3pm

April 2020 Newsletter

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Jesus Christ began to hint at his suffering. In the beginning, his disciples would not understand what Jesus was getting at.

Peter did not understand when Jesus said: **“Where I am going, you cannot follow me now.”** Peter may have thought Jesus was going to set out on a long, difficult journey on earth.

In showing his love for Jesus, Peter asked to follow him **“I will lay down my life for you.”**

Jesus said to Peter: **“You will have denied me three times!”**

However, Jesus already knew Peter would follow him afterwards.

*Like the disciples, we are weak sometimes, not understanding God’s plan and will although God has hint at his plan for us. God’s plans are all miraculous plans and in accordance with his will.

With little faith, the disciples seemed to be following Jesus with reservations and apprehension. Indeed, Jesus had to assure them of God’s promise:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?”

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April Devotion

By: Rev. Ase Nguyen

Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’

Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus answered, “Where I am going, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow afterward.”

Peter said to him, “Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.”

Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times.”

John 13:33 & 36-38

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And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going. John 14:1-4

Jesus' words sound so comforting and are full of encouragement. He assured the disciples of a grand reunion following the upcoming separation. ***“Do not let your hearts be troubled.”***

Nevertheless, Jesus also implied a betrayal by one of his disciples and the denial of him by his disciples.

*Let us reflect on God's words through Peter's story and give thanks to God for teaching us how to trust him. When the Holy Spirit descended

upon Peter, he became the true follower of the Christian faith.

With the power of the Holy Spirit, we also can show our love for our God by decidedly following his steps without reservations and apprehension. Let us be encouraged by what Jesus said, ***“Believe in God, believe also in me.”***

Trusting in God and in his promise to take us with him is the remedy to our doubts and anxieties. Let us place our trust in his love and his grace for us!

Our Heavenly Father's house is for all of his children. Heaven is where Jesus talked he was going when he said to his disciples back then and to us nowadays, ***“I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.”*** Amen.

Announcements

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

4th - Lana Miller
22nd - Abbygail Villanueva
—
6th - Bill & Lin Somsak

Please let the church office know if we're missing on any important dates.



Upcoming Events

Maundy Thursday Service - Zoom
Thursday, April 9th
12:00 p.m.

Good Shepherd Lunch Bunch - Zoom
Monday, April 20th
12:00 p.m.

Worship Services
1st Service - Live-streamed on YouTube
8:30 a.m. on Sunday

2nd Service - Zoom
10:30 a.m. on Sunday

Bible Study - Zoom
10:00 a.m. on Thursday

Maundy Thursday Service



MAUNDY *Thursday*

The Maundy Thursday service is going to be held on Zoom on Thursday, April 9th at noon. We will start with all eating lunch through Zoom and then Pastor Khuong will lead us in a special service that includes Communion. You can pick up your Communion elements from the office on Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you don't know how to add Zoom to your computer, please call Pastor Khuong at 714-902-4468 and he will help you. He is willing to come to your house and set it up if you can't do it. Maundy is a word that is derived from Latin and means commandment. In John 13:34-35 while Jesus was washing the Disciples' feet he said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Since this was during the Last Supper in the Upper Room, we also celebrate Communion on Maundy Thursday.

Good Shepherd Lunch Bunch



Since Pastor Khuong has done such a good job of setting up Zoom accounts so we can all see each other and talk together, we are going to take advantage of our Zoom accounts and have the Lunch Bunch meet on Zoom at noon on Monday, April 20th. So grab your sandwich or whatever you like and be prepared to eat lunch together and catch up on how everyone is coping with the stay at home order. Call Pastor Khuong if you don't have Zoom. Everyone is welcome, Zoom accommodates a lot of people. You just can't talk at once. But that's O.K., your Mama told to not talk with your mouth full. See you on the 20th!

FOR GOD
has not given us
a Spirit of fear
but of
POWER
LOVE
& self-discipline.
2 Timothy 1:7

Westminster, April 1, 2020

Dear Congregation at Good Shepherd,

For the past two weeks, the COVID-19 pandemic has continually been a threat to the public health and safety not only in our areas but all over the world as well. I sincerely share in our deeply felt concerns and great sorrow as a consequence of our church having had to temporarily discontinue our face-to-face worship services. Nevertheless, I encourage all congregants to maintain our social and spiritual ties with each other through all possible means of communication.

In accordance with recent urgent orders and advices from various governmental agencies, the Church Leadership at Good Shepherd is determined to take deliberate actions in order to slow the virus' spread during this time. The Church Leadership will make sure essential church activities and congregant fellowship will be continued through the following initiatives:

1. Congregants are encouraged to remain in touch with each other during the week; if any elderly member needs assistance with obtaining groceries and essential supplies, please do not hesitate to contact the Church Office at **(714) 897-0100**; our youths and young adults can readily provide such assistance.
2. Sunday worship services for the first service will continue to be live-streamed on YouTube. Here is the link to join the service: <https://www.youtube.com/c/vngoodshepherdumc>.
3. Sunday worship services for the second service will continue to meet via Zoom every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. Please contact Pastor Khuong or the Church Office if you need technical assistance.
4. Donations can be sent to **8152 McFadden Ave., Westminster, CA 92683** by USPS (for donation checks, please write “**GSUMC**” next to Pay to the Order of).
5. Weekly Bible Reading trivia/materials for the first service will continue to be sent directly to all congregants either by post or via email. Please return your answers to the Church Office by post.
6. Bible study every Thursday morning for the second service will continue to meet via Zoom.
7. Bible study every Sunday morning for the first service will continue to meet online. For an additional information regarding this meeting, please contact Ms. Kim Hue at (714) 721-3940. For youth members, please contact Linh Vu Nguyen at (714) 757-2552.

As Christians, we put our trust in God, our Lord, and firmly believe that He will empower us and enable our country and the world to get through the pandemic. All of our prayers are essential to lift up our spirit and reduce our anxieties as we reflect and prepare before the celebrations of Easter during this Lent season. May God have mercy on us and the Holy Spirit comfort our hearts and souls. In the precious name of Jesus Christ that we pray. Amen.

** I encourage all congregants to meditate and reflect on Colossians 3:12-17 in this time!*

Senior Pastor,
Ase Nguyen

APRIL 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 7pm Living Hope Church	2 10am Bible Study 7pm New Beginning Church	3 7pm Living Hope Church	4 12:30pm Sabbath Study Group
5 8:30am 1 st Service 10:30am 2 nd Service 1pm New Beginning Church 7pm Youth Meeting	6	7 7pm New Beginning Church	8 7pm Living Hope Church	9 10am Bible Study 12pm Maundy Thursday Service 7pm New Beginning Church	10 7pm Living Hope Church	11 12:30pm Sabbath Study Group
12 8:30am 1 st Service 10:30am 2 nd Service 1pm New Beginning Church 7pm Youth Meeting	13	14 7pm New Beginning Church	15 7pm Living Hope Church	16 10am Bible Study 7pm New Beginning Church	17 7pm Living Hope Church	18 12:30pm Sabbath Study Group
19 8:30am 1 st Service 10:30am 2 nd Service 1pm New Beginning Church 7pm Youth Meeting	20 12pm Good Shepherd Lunch Bunch	21 7pm New Beginning Church	22 7pm Living Hope Church	23 10am Bible Study 7pm New Beginning Church	24 7pm Living Hope Church	25 12:30pm Sabbath Study Group 7pm New Beginning Church
26 8:30am 1 st Service 10:30am 2 nd Service 1pm New Beginning Church 7pm Youth Meeting	27	28 7pm New Beginning Church	29 7pm Living Hope Church	30 10am Bible Study 7pm New Beginning Church		