

cornerstone news

praises announcements news updates information prayers

Worship the Lord with Us

Sunday Mornings

10:00am Adult Sunday School
11:30am Worship Service
12:30pm Lunch Fellowship

Tuesdays

10:00am Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays

10:00am New Life Fellowship - Seniors
1st Wednesday of the month
7:30pm BASIC Fellowship for Young Adults
1st & 3rd Thursday of the month

Friday Night Fellowship

7:30pm AMPM Youth Fellowship
for Middle – High Schoolers
7:30pm EXTRA College/Career Group
7:45pm TGIF Adult Bible Journaling Class

Contact church office for meeting locations.
Days and times are subject to change.

Cornerstone UMC

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Missions

Stacey Loy Wong



In preparation for Easter, the Missions Committee planned to create 50 Easter baskets for the Friendly Center's Easter Basket distribution program. We were ready to collect Easter basket supplies, and our Cornerstone congregation would meet at the end of March for basket assembly. The committee purchased many supplies early on, such as multi-colored baskets, Easter grass, coloring books/crayons, chocolate bunnies, jelly beans, paddle balls, stuffed animals, and toothbrushes/toothpaste. Then, the quarantine/stay-at-home orders were put in place by the State of California, and non-essential businesses were closed. The Friendly Center's Easter Basket program for low-income families was cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak. However, since enough basket supplies were already on hand, a Missions Committee member assembled 43 baskets and gave them away to HIS House and other community members as a message of hope and encouragement during the pandemic. As for the mission offering for March, we collected a total of \$540, which was sent to UMCOR to assist the disaster response and recovery after tornadoes devastated central Tennessee.

The April mission offering supported a joint missions project with Placentia UMC. At the start of the year, we decided to partner with our sister congregation to help furnish the 50 apartments at the Placentia Veterans Village that is currently under construction. PUMC's missions committee served as the point of contact with the City of Placentia. It was later decided that our two congregations would collaborate to provide a "scrub bucket" for each apartment at the Placentia Veterans Village, which is scheduled to open in early June. Each bucket would contain sponges, kitchen and bath cleaner, dish soap, pot scrubbers, reusable wipes, dish towels, and a small dust pan and broom. Just the supplies needed to tidy a new apartment and make it feel like a home! The supplies for this project will be purchased in May, and the buckets will likely be assembled with social distancing practices and personal protective gear. †

Blessing Bags

Pam Fitch



In February, New Lifers planned to assemble 40 blessing bags for Pathways of Hope during our April meeting. Then, the COVID-19 crisis came upon us, changing our lifestyles and, unfortunately, many plans were cancelled or postponed. Since some of the items had already been purchased, we decided to continue with the plan, just not with the whole Wednesday group. Richard and I spent the morning at church putting the bags together. Thanks go to Betty Loh-Chen for buying half of the items for the blessing bags, and Richard was a big help in organizing and assembling the bags. We spent a total of \$306 for Pathways of Hope, and delivered the blessing bags on Monday, April 20. These blessing bags will certainly be appreciated even more during these difficult times. Until we meet again, hugs and blessings, Pam Fitch †

Making and Needing Masks

As we transition from “stay at home” to the gradual easing of restrictions, each person should have at least two masks - one to wear, while the other one is being washed and dried. This looks likely to be our “reality” for a while.

1. To those who sew:

If you’re like me, you’ve made masks for all your friends and relatives, and you have a few left, or you have supplies to make a few more. So, I thought it would be appropriate to give masks to our church family members who don’t sew and need them. If you can help in this endeavor, please email me; then I can tell you who to mail or drop them off to.

2. To those who don’t sew and need masks:

Please email me, telling me how many you need and whether you’d like the fabric in feminine or neutral fabric.

We miss seeing everyone in person, but are thankful for connection with you through our group Zoom meetings and our “Worship Online” Sunday services.

Blessings,
Lydia Chu



Message from Pastor John Wang

May 2020

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”

- Romans 10:13-15 (NIV)

Dear beloved Church,

Happy May! It has been such a long time since we have been able to fellowship in person, but I thank God for online gatherings. I am glad we continue following the instructions of the health and science community to stay safe by staying home. I continue to pray daily for our healthcare heroes; essential business workers, police, and firemen who risk their lives keeping us healthy and safe. As they contribute to meet our needs, we can also follow in their footsteps by continuing in our mission efforts as a church.

Thanks to Celeste Wong for organizing our Coronavirus Shoppers (CVS), volunteers from our church who help purchase groceries for those of us at higher risk of susceptibility to COVID-19. Through these efforts, we are able to help our immediate community, so if you or anyone you might know is in need of grocery shopping, please contact our church to get added to our delivery list. This is a wonderful way for us to put our faith into action through generous hospitality to help our larger community in Orange County. If you would like to become a volunteer for grocery delivery, we would love to have your assistance, too!

Another way our church has come together to fight COVID-19 is by making fabric face masks. We are grateful to have Lydia Chu, Betty Loh-Chen, and Pam Fitch leading the effort of making masks for our congregation, friends in need, and healthcare workers. These masks are lovingly made and available in limited quantities – if you or anyone you know would like to receive a face mask, please contact our church. It is a blessing to have their gifts and talents as seamstresses used to glorify God by helping those in need.

Finally, I must highlight the amazing work of our Tuesday Women’s Bible Study group, who gathered to assemble Mother’s Day care bags for HIS House, a local non-profit homeless intervention shelter, to honor those mothers in need. Their gift bags were packed with essential toiletry items including Kleenex, lotions, lip balm, emery boards, and face masks. They even added personalized cards to bless the mothers and encourage them! Their thoughtful missions work is an awesome way to share the gospel with actions of love, a spirit of generosity, and a sacrifice for the glory of God.

Do you have additional ideas to share the good news during this time of COVID-19? If so, please contact me at pastorjohn@cornerstonesocal.org. May God continue to use us as we find unique ways to care for one another in the midst of this difficult health season. †

Grace and Peace,
Pastor John

Reflections of Blessings During Crisis

Cheryl Hasagawa



Living through this pandemic, our church community feels stronger than ever. We continue to meet and pray together with our small groups virtually through Zoom, Facebook, or Discord. Volunteers shop and run errands for our sheltering members. We celebrate Sunday services, communion, birthdays, and are blessed with music led by our praise song leaders, especially Cheryl C. and Amy. Jon and Cheryl helped us go "live" with "Worship Online" Sunday services, and their expertise has been a lifesaver. Pastor John's sermons are so grounding and reassuring. They provide a calm, spiritual focus when we may feel scattered or when the news of the world sounds too distressing.

This morning (May 3), Pastor John highlighted Romans 12:9-21, which he likened to Paul's "Godly shopping list" as Christians learned how to live and how to grow. What resonated for me was Romans 12:13 "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." I've been very touched by the generosity of our church family, devoting this time to streaming our church services, using their Zoom accounts to connect our groups, going out to shop for others, or sewing much-needed fabric masks.

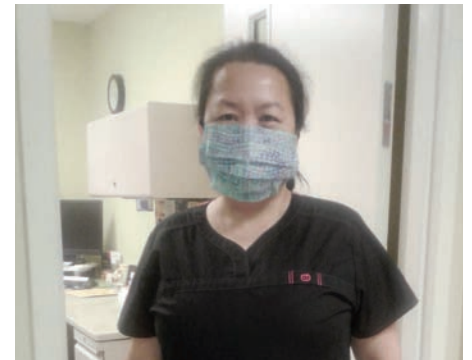
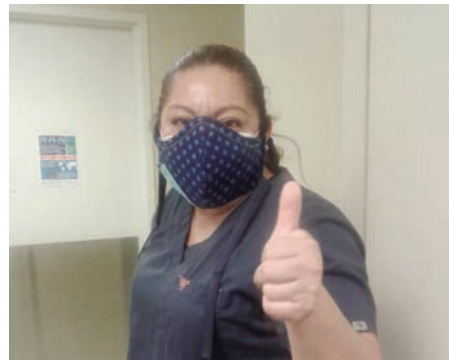
When my friend, Midori, reached out for masks, friends responded. Midori works on the front lines as a nurse, in addition to being out in the community supporting her elderly parents and her family. My sister, Kerry, Betty Loh-Chen, and Lydia Chu have made over 180 masks combined. Midori shared the masks with colleagues at the hospital, and I was able to give some masks to patients and staff at the dialysis center I work at. Staff were so touched by the generosity of receiving handmade items; the colorful fabrics, the craftsmanship and care. I was able to say that "my friends at church made these for you." They could not believe it was a gift.

Lydia said her spiritual gifts may not be in speaking or writing, but instead in her gift of sewing. With her sewing skills, she is able to express her love and caring in the same way. She sees sewing masks as an opportunity to use her time and resources to connect with family, friends, and the church family in meaningful ways.

One of my 83-year-old patients had missed three dialysis treatments in a row because he had trouble wearing the required surgical masks, which all patients are now required to wear. He finally agreed to try on one of the adjustable fabric masks my sister made (Star Wars pattern), and realized he would be okay. He dialyzed that same day with it on and wore it every day thereafter in the clinic. Another patient lives in cramped quarters with about 14 other roommates. He is young and from Saipan and cannot drive due to vision loss. I gave him a pleated mask with Hawaiian guitars print on it that Betty made (he plays guitar). Having the fabric mask made him feel more comfortable getting out of the house to walk and lifted his spirits. The masks are not only functional, but they are like works of art, which is a wonderful gift for the heart.

Betty said she wanted to do more, wanted to be out shopping for the church family and neighbors, or distributing food at the Honda Center, but she accepted the order to stay at home. Making masks was a way she could continue to serve, from home. She and Lydia had beautiful fabric from their quilting ministry with Nell. The small scraps were perfect for masks, and they were willing to work hard to perfect their mask designs after some practice.

In Romans 12:21, Paul warns, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." I value the strength in our church family and their hearts for service. There are many others within our community and outside who are working hard for God's people. During this crisis, we can overcome by doing good. †



New Life Zoom Meetings

At the March 4th New Life meeting, a documentary, *Carved in Silence*, was shown in the fellowship hall (remember that place?) that explored the racism experienced by the Chinese who attempted to emigrate at the Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco Bay. Their harsh treatment was largely due to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 which was enforced through 1943. We were all touched by the ordeal experienced by the Chinese, but also by their determination to settle in America.

Two weeks later, we were all "sheltering at home." New Lifers have been staying connected through Zoom meetings every Wednesday morning at 10:00am. The first couple of meetings were spent helping everyone get acquainted with the Zoom app and sharing how we've been occupying our time at home. Thereafter, Pastor John has prepared a devotional each week which has encouraged discussions and deeper sharing. Also, at the end of April, the New Lifers celebrated Pastor John's birthday by displaying colorful birthday signs and singing 'Happy Birthday' to him.

New Lifers have been diligent about checking in with one another. Those who haven't been joining the Zoom meetings, either due to schedule conflicts or lack of technology, are being called to see if they need anything. Lydia Chu, Betty Loh-Chen, and others have been busy making masks for our church members, members' extended families, and co-workers. It is a blessing for both the giver and receiver of the masks. †



HUGS Zooming Fridays

4/10/20 - HUGS Good Friday "Hangout"



4/10/20 - HUGS doing the Brady Bunch pose



4/17/20 - TGIF Bible Buffet



4/25/20 - TGIF Bible Buffet (Happy Birthday to Rebecca)



5/1/20 - TGIF Bible Buffet (Happy Birthday to Pastor John)

