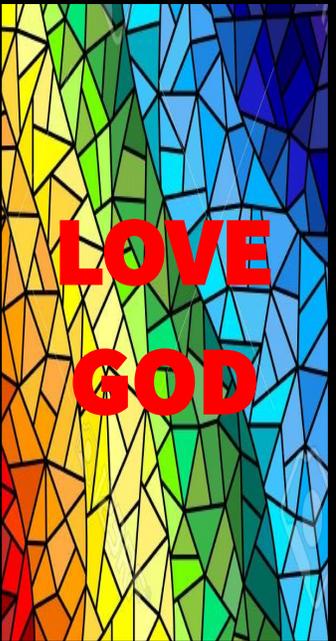




**DO NO
HARM**



**DO
GOOD**



**LOVE
GOD**

MEANWHILE...

March 20, 2020 UPDATE

Dear Friends and Members of UMC GV,

There is good news and not so good news. First, the not so good news. COVID-19 is going to be with us for quite a while. Most recently, our Annual Conference office directed pastors and church leaders to wait until April 6, 2020 to assess resuming in-person activities. As the Coronavirus continues to ravage our nation, it seems clear that even April 6, 2020 may be too soon to reassess in-person events. It also seems clear that we, at UMC GV, will need to re-think Palm Sunday and Easter services, and possibly our Sunday services that follow those celebrations. This is the not so good news.

But here is the good news!

Your Church Staff has been hard at work, even though the church has been closed. **This past week, Rev. Ken Bensen, Bill Voorhees and Chad Eggen have been working to find a way to hold worship services on-line. Linda Truesdell and I have been creating and rehearsing how to lead this new service. Yesterday, we all met to record our first on-line service that will be published on our website (www.umcgv.org) on Saturday, March 21, 2020.** It is a first venture, but it is a start. We are all very excited that we now have the capability to produce this kind of service. Our next step will be to upload the services to Facebook and to begin producing DVD's that can be taken to those who do not have access to on-line services or are unable to attend worship once we resume regular services.

We will continue to broadcast our Sunday services at 8:00 AM, Sunday mornings, on radio station KGVY, 1080 AM and 101.5 FM.

This past week we also took the necessary steps to move toward "Live-streaming," something we have talked about for years, but now, out of necessity, are finally going to implement. It will take us a couple of weeks to learn how to live-stream effectively – however, the Media Team, Church Staff and I are committed to developing this new form of ministry.

Thanks to the hard work of **Sue Wilson, our Administrative Assistant, we now have the capability of holding conference calls with up to 200 people on the call.** We are working on ways to utilize this new tool for staying in touch with the congregation and doing ministry together.

As you have already heard, we now have created a new resource called "**Thursday Prayers,**" with a devotional prepared by **Rev. Jerry Haas** that will provide us the opportunity each week to be in prayer with each other. "**Thursday Prayers**" will be emailed each week – another reason to make sure we have your correct email address. We are so grateful to Rev. Haas, whose work at the Upper Room Publishing House, will now be a wonderful gift to all of us for Spiritual Care and Formation during these challenging times.

One more piece of good news -- we now have a name for our monthly newsletter: ***The Methodist Messenger.*** The winning entry was submitted by **Les Brisbois.**

The good news is this: we may not be meeting in-person, but ministry is still happening at UMC GV. A blessing coming out of the current health crisis: we are now motivated to seek new ways to do ministry and reach people we never thought we would reach. Necessity, they say, is the mother of invention.

Attached to this email is a pastoral letter from church leaders across Protestant denominations. It is filled with hope and possibility. I send it to you so that you can read how church leaders across Christendom are coming together to find ways to support and care for all God's faithful people. It gives me comfort and inspires my faith, that our God is doing something new, even in the midst of tremendous challenge and change. I hope it will do the same for you.

So, dear friends, continue to watch your emails and the website; as soon as I have more news, I will share it. In the meantime, be safe, be well, and stay hopeful. Our God is with us, and every day is a new day.

Blessings,

Deanna
Pastor Deanna

