



# ***The Vine***

## ***April 2020***

United Methodist Church  
1031 Iowa Ave. Los Banos, CA 93635

E-MAIL Address: [umclb@att.net](mailto:umclb@att.net)

YouTube: Link available on our website weekly

Website: [umclb.net](http://umclb.net)

Phone (209) 826-4181

*Address Service Requested*

### **Worship Service: On YouTube**

**Church Office Hours:** Office closed but secretary can be reached by leaving a Message on church phone. It will be checked daily.

**Pastor: Rev. Jim Garrison**

**Church Secretary: Cassie Wolf-Miyamoto**

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!**

8 <sup>th</sup>	Jolanda Phillips	12 <sup>th</sup>	George Foxworthy
18 <sup>th</sup>	Helen Brubaker	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Kimery Knight
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Jean Willis	24 <sup>th</sup>	Dan Martin
27 <sup>th</sup>	June Sloan	27 <sup>th</sup>	Lorrie Dybas
27 <sup>th</sup>	Harley Zack	28 <sup>th</sup>	Diego Patrick

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO YOU!**

26<sup>th</sup> Kris & Rozanne Hew

March contributions total: \$ 4,111.00 (last two Sundays not in count)

Attendance for March 1<sup>st</sup> (64) 8<sup>th</sup> (42) 15<sup>th</sup> (31) 22<sup>nd</sup> (00) 29<sup>th</sup> (00)



### **From the Pastor,**

As one person commented, "I didn't really plan on giving up this much for Lent," and it isn't certain that we will be back to normal by Easter. I felt strange not going to church on Sunday morning. I hope it felt strange to you also, and you are eager for the opportunity to gather together again for worship. In the meantime, I hope you have been able to join our YouTube worship service. You can easily find it by going to our church website < umclb.net > and clicking on the link for the worship video. We are grateful to Beth Miyamoto and Beth's friend, Migz, for the technical help in recording and uploading the video, and to Bud Ramsey for putting it on the website. I hope we can post some things for kids there as well.

We hope to be gathering by phone for some scripture, sharing, and prayer. By the time you read this we may have started already. We also plan to keep in touch with folks through email. If you want to be included in these communications, and aren't sure that the church office has your email, please email it to [umclb@att.net](mailto:umclb@att.net) .

Giving to the church can be done by mailing checks or using the GivePlus app described elsewhere in the newsletter.

All of our meetings, services, and gatherings at the church have been suspended until further notice. We want to cooperate with our health officials and be leaders for our community in making sacrifices for the good health of us all. We will continue distributing meals at Manna on Sunday evenings, but the meal will be served strictly "to go."

Remember, the church never closes, because the church is not a building or a program. The church is YOU and all the other followers of Jesus. Our congregation is YOU and the others with whom we are connected and with whom we gather for worship, usually in person. My prayer is that during this time of physical separation we may individually grow closer to God, and closer to one another.

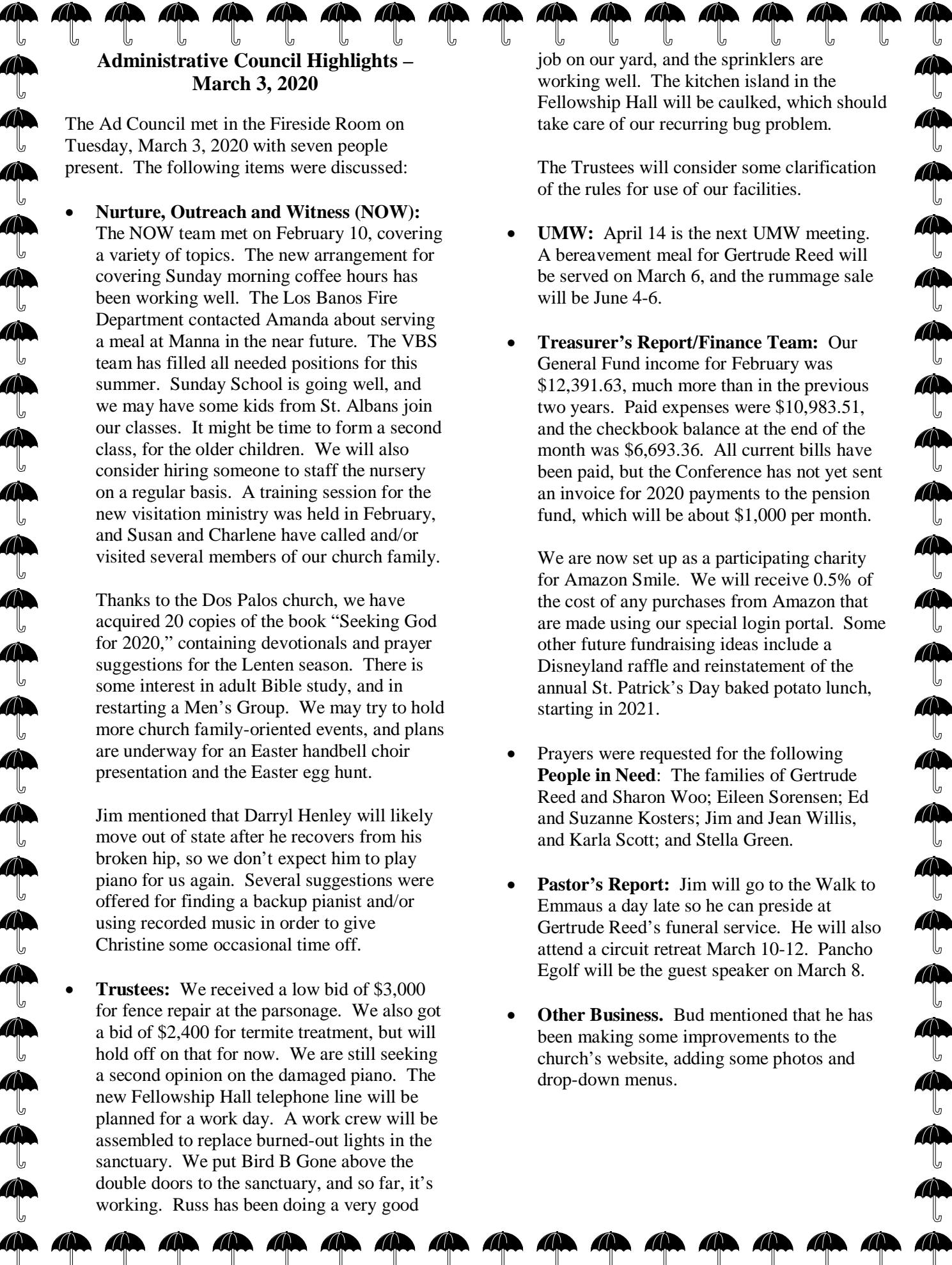
Yours in Jesus,  
Pastor Jim

### **SCRIP TIP OF THE MONTH**

Even though we are temporarily not meeting on Sunday mornings, the scrip program is definitely not out of business! The Great Lakes Scrip Company plans to stay open, due to "its essential role as a supplier to the financial services industry." This means that as it now stands, we can order gift cards and have them delivered here in Los Banos. So – you can continue to support our church by participating in the scrip program, as we all try to work together to get through these very challenging times.

We presently have roughly \$3,000 worth of scrip on hand, including gift cards for **Save Mart, Wal-Mart and Target, Chili's and Denny's**, most fast food and pizza restaurants in Los Banos, and several gas stations. Currently, we can also order almost any items that are listed on their web site, [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com). Please take a look at the full list of the hundreds of participating vendors in the scrip program, and then contact Gregg or Juli Rice at (209) 826-1027 or (209) 761-2737, or by e-mail at [grice@inreach.com](mailto:grice@inreach.com) to see what we can do for you.





## Administrative Council Highlights – March 3, 2020

The Ad Council met in the Fireside Room on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 with seven people present. The following items were discussed:

- **Nurture, Outreach and Witness (NOW):** The NOW team met on February 10, covering a variety of topics. The new arrangement for covering Sunday morning coffee hours has been working well. The Los Banos Fire Department contacted Amanda about serving a meal at Manna in the near future. The VBS team has filled all needed positions for this summer. Sunday School is going well, and we may have some kids from St. Albans join our classes. It might be time to form a second class, for the older children. We will also consider hiring someone to staff the nursery on a regular basis. A training session for the new visitation ministry was held in February, and Susan and Charlene have called and/or visited several members of our church family.

Thanks to the Dos Palos church, we have acquired 20 copies of the book “Seeking God for 2020,” containing devotionals and prayer suggestions for the Lenten season. There is some interest in adult Bible study, and in restarting a Men’s Group. We may try to hold more church family-oriented events, and plans are underway for an Easter handbell choir presentation and the Easter egg hunt.

Jim mentioned that Darryl Henley will likely move out of state after he recovers from his broken hip, so we don’t expect him to play piano for us again. Several suggestions were offered for finding a backup pianist and/or using recorded music in order to give Christine some occasional time off.

- **Trustees:** We received a low bid of \$3,000 for fence repair at the parsonage. We also got a bid of \$2,400 for termite treatment, but will hold off on that for now. We are still seeking a second opinion on the damaged piano. The new Fellowship Hall telephone line will be planned for a work day. A work crew will be assembled to replace burned-out lights in the sanctuary. We put Bird B Gone above the double doors to the sanctuary, and so far, it’s working. Russ has been doing a very good

job on our yard, and the sprinklers are working well. The kitchen island in the Fellowship Hall will be caulked, which should take care of our recurring bug problem.

The Trustees will consider some clarification of the rules for use of our facilities.

- **UMW:** April 14 is the next UMW meeting. A bereavement meal for Gertrude Reed will be served on March 6, and the rummage sale will be June 4-6.
- **Treasurer’s Report/Finance Team:** Our General Fund income for February was \$12,391.63, much more than in the previous two years. Paid expenses were \$10,983.51, and the checkbook balance at the end of the month was \$6,693.36. All current bills have been paid, but the Conference has not yet sent an invoice for 2020 payments to the pension fund, which will be about \$1,000 per month.

We are now set up as a participating charity for Amazon Smile. We will receive 0.5% of the cost of any purchases from Amazon that are made using our special login portal. Some other future fundraising ideas include a Disneyland raffle and reinstatement of the annual St. Patrick’s Day baked potato lunch, starting in 2021.

- Prayers were requested for the following **People in Need:** The families of Gertrude Reed and Sharon Woo; Eileen Sorensen; Ed and Suzanne Kosters; Jim and Jean Willis, and Karla Scott; and Stella Green.
- **Pastor’s Report:** Jim will go to the Walk to Emmaus a day late so he can preside at Gertrude Reed’s funeral service. He will also attend a circuit retreat March 10-12. Pancho Egolf will be the guest speaker on March 8.
- **Other Business.** Bud mentioned that he has been making some improvements to the church’s website, adding some photos and drop-down menus.



## Vine Monthly Events

All meetings and events are suspended or are being done on phone conferencing until further notice. A weekly Bible study by phone is in the works and will be implemented by April. Also, our service is available on YouTube. Link is posted weekly on our website: umclb.net and will be sent to your email.

**April 5<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday! - canceled in person will send link to all emails.**

April 9<sup>th</sup> - **Maundy Thursday** Soup supper and Service - canceled

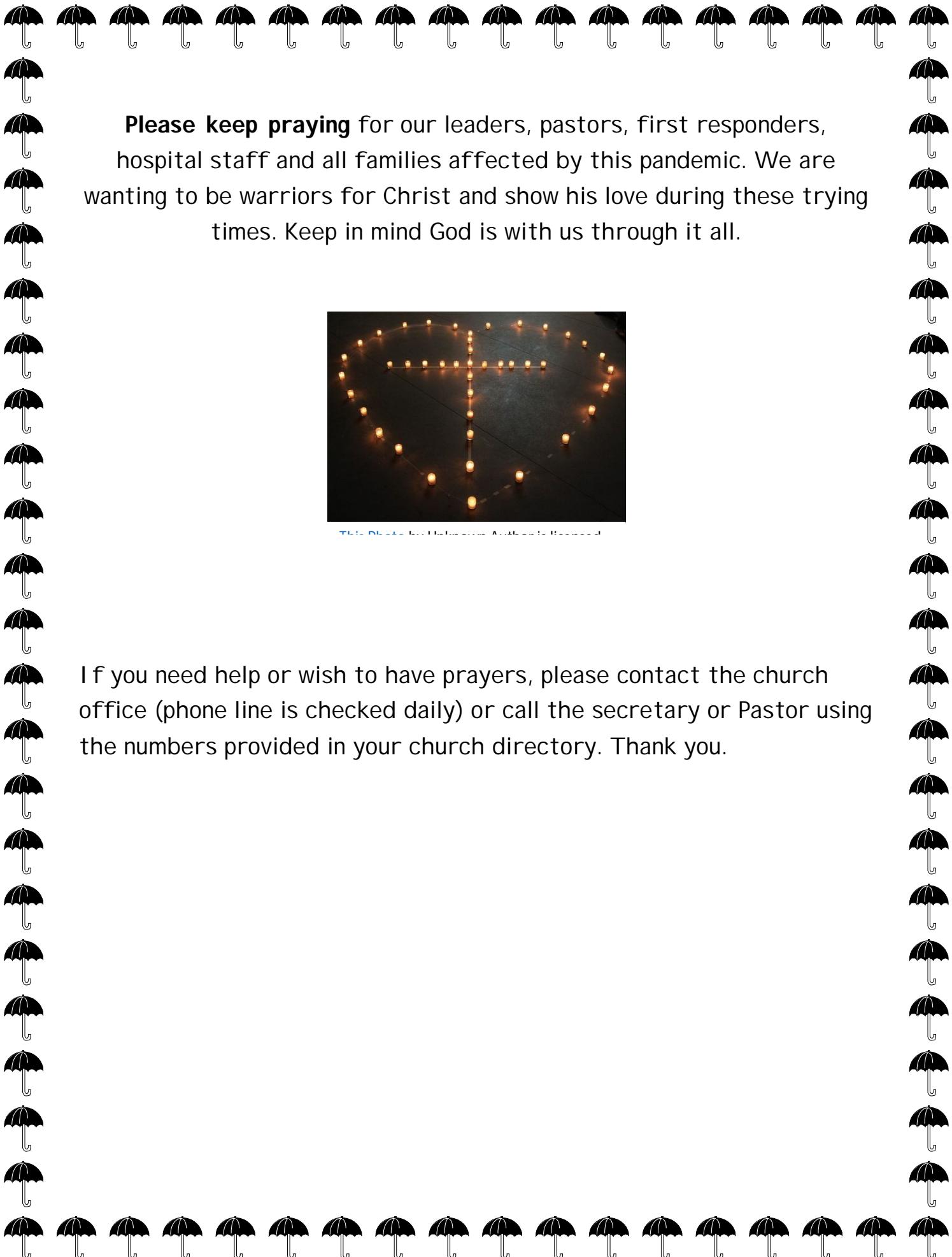
April 10<sup>th</sup> - **Good Friday**

April 12<sup>th</sup> - **Easter Sunday Service** - Maybe- pending CDC guidelines.

**Scout News**- Several events are moved to later dates. For example, Road to First Class will move to May, Love McConnell projects are moved to June 6<sup>th</sup> and the Spring Camporee will move to October. Thank you, Mackenzie Ferreira

**UMW News** – Rummage sale items being brought to the church is on hold since the office is closed. But rummage sale is still on if possible.

**E-Giving** – Now is a great time to go to your google play store and down load the Giveplus app. This can keep our church going during these trying times. You go to this app and find your church name (UMCLB) select your church tap give now. Choose the fund to give to and the amount you wish to give. Select move forward to the payment information. Scan your card or enter your bank information. Review your donation summary then select complete donation. That way your tithe is all taken care of. If you have questions, please see Gregg Rice or Cassie. Thank you!



**Please keep praying** for our leaders, pastors, first responders, hospital staff and all families affected by this pandemic. We are wanting to be warriors for Christ and show his love during these trying times. Keep in mind God is with us through it all.



If you need help or wish to have prayers, please contact the church office (phone line is checked daily) or call the secretary or Pastor using the numbers provided in your church directory. Thank you.