



Drive Thru Ice Cream Social  
 Saturday, September 5th  
 From 4pm—6 pm  
 At UM Chapel of the Valley  
 To benefit  
 Volunteers in Medicine

United Methodist Chapel of the Valley  
 1465 E. Madison Ave.  
 El Cajon CA 92019-1002

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Dated Material



Www.umchapelvalley.org

September 2020



UM CHAPEL OF THE VALLEY

# Chapel Challenge

## From Julie's Journal

In the recent days, I have attended several zoom webinars on grief and fear, changing times, changing the way we worship, how to be in community during a pandemic, systemic racism and becoming anti-racist (those are just a few of the topics). It has been busy, challenging, enlightening and frustrating all at the same time.... not to mention seeing what is going on in our community, country and world, keeping the church functioning, writing, recording, editing the worship services...all things I have learned on the fly as they say. None of these themes are light themes. The one on grief and fear was led by Rev. Adam Hamilton, Dr. Elaine Heath and Rev. Magry Devega. It was talking about how we as a church and a country are living daily in grief and fear and how we plan for the advent season in the midst of this all. They talked about how we are grieving the death of many in the midst of the pandemic and we are also grieving the loss of jobs and even our "normal" way of life. We grieve for what is lost, including our ability to go where we want and when we want or visiting whomever we want. The fear is real...the fear of getting sick, the fear of losing jobs or income or family and friends. How do we address that grief and fear yet not get pulled down to hopelessness and

despair? We look at the words so frequently used in the birth narratives in the gospels, "Do not fear," to find the hope in the gospels. It was a very interesting seminar and one that I will be using as we move forward.

Another seminar was about how to be in community in the midst of, at least for many of us, living with shelter-in-place. That was a bit more frustrating as there were not many answers but quite a few questions. Zoom meetings and Bible studies and support groups were big suggestions but it was brought up what to do with congregation members who do not use zoom or want to deal with the technology. We talked about ways we can teach people (I am willing to teach zoom if you are willing!) We also talked about other ways to have community. I am looking into initiating some of these ideas in the near future...so keep watching and listening.

A third seminar was on systemic racism. This is a very difficult subject to talk about and one that is necessary. Though most claim they are not racist...we need to understand what systemic racism is and what it looks like and how it works. Like I said it is a hard subject and even upsetting, but one that must be started. I am not sure how to move

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Through September we will still be having our worship experiences on the web and through the devotion guides. Each week we will be having a Zoom “Coffee Time” at 10:00 am. Look for the zoom address on the email or letter that comes with your weekly devotion guide. See you on the web! In September we are doing a new series with the theme “Who is Our Neighbor?” Pastor Julie will be interviewing four special neighbors so that we may learn their stories. We can grow and have a new understanding of various different communities who have been marginalized and often targeted by meeting these neighbors. Pastor Julie was inspired by Mr. Rogers and his compassion, kindness and openness to all people. The Scripture is Luke 10: 25-37 for the whole month.

- Sept. 6 Rev. Gary Williams  
South Los Angeles –  
CLUE and BLM
- Sept. 13 Katy Elkins  
Millennial LGBTQ
- Sept. 20 Deaconess Sharon  
McCart Disability Ministries
- Sept. 27 Dr. Rev. John Fanestil  
Border Ministries Via International
- October 4 *A New World*  
World Communion Sunday



**(Julie’s Journal continued)**

forward.

One way I am combining some of these themes from the seminars and my learnings is through the September worship series. I was again reminded of how Mr. Rogers, through simple acts of kindness and compassion and talking with friends and neighbors, helped children (and adults) learn and grow. So I thought about talking with some of my friends who have lived through issues of racism or being marginalized for who they are or who they work with. Rev. Gary Williams is a minister and social activist who has a story to tell. Katy is a part of the LGBTQ community and her story is interesting and her goal to help those in her community is interesting. Deaconess Sharon McCart is the chairperson of our conference disability taskforce and is working tirelessly on justice for people with disabilities. Finally, we will be having Dr. John Fanestil who works with the border ministries and has much to share with us. I hope you view our worship weekly by going to our webpage [www.umchapelvalley.org](http://www.umchapelvalley.org). or on Facebook.

You are always in my thoughts and prayers!

Together on the Journey!  
Pastor Julie



**Pastor’s Day of Prayer**

This month the Pastor’s Day of Prayer is scheduled for September 17th. If you have prayer concerns to be included in her prayer time, please let the office know by September 16th.

COTV Staff	
Pastor:	The Rev. Julie Elkins
Organist:	Mary Ellett
Choir Director:	Elaine Harvey
Lay Leader:	Edna Munro
Treasurer :	Phyllis Lyle

Henry Brown  
Robert and Ellen Draper  
Patsy McKinney  
Becca McLachlan  
Vi Moore  
Steve Mohr  
Donna & Jim Seaton  
Renee Calsmer  
Agustin Valdez  
Lee Carrick  
Betty Rudolph



Kay Roberts  
All Healthcare workers  
1st Responders and all others  
having to work in different  
ways  
Aranico Family  
  
*Friends and family dealing  
with illness, treatment, and  
transitions*

If you have a prayer concern, please call the church office, or Pastor Julie, or Candy Schauer and we will start the prayer chain (both email and phone).

**Meeting Scheduled for September 14**

The Church Administrative Board will be having our monthly meeting on September 14 at 7:00 pm. on a zoom meeting. You will be receiving a link to the meeting or the phone number to call by email. If you have not received it by the day of the meeting, please call Pastor Julie and she will help you.



**How Can We Help**— We still would like to know how the church can help with community support as we still need to social distance. Would a zoom Bible study be helpful and desired? What about a small support group through zoom ? A phone call chain group? Classes on how to do zoom or Facebook? If you have any other ideas or if any of these look good and would be helpful, please let Pastor Julie know. You can call the office M-Th from 9:30 to 11:30 am or email her at [revjelkins@aol.com](mailto:revjelkins@aol.com).



We continue to be so grateful for your faithfulness. As always, we are continuing to monitor our finances and keeping you updated. We still continue to do our best to cut down on expenses. The preschool continues to do its part during this extended downturn as do the 12 step groups that are beginning to come back and are meeting (outdoors right now) We want to thank you for those who have kept up your pledges sending us your gifts and offerings. As far as our pledged giving and donations, we want to remind you that we are able to accept online donations. You can go to our webpage at [www.umchapelvalley.org](http://www.umchapelvalley.org) to our giving/donations page and it tells you how to do that. Because of all of this, we continue to be able to pay our bills and ministry support. Again, thank you for your faithfulness and please continue to keep up the wonderful support. We gratefully accept all your prayers, presence (virtually), gifts, service and witness!

**WE WILL BE  
CLOSED  
LABOR DAY**

**Birthdays**

Arnie Aranico	9/17
Andrea Aranico	9/24
Janelle Matzdorf	9/27
Randy Schauer	9/28