

# THE NESTOR BELL

Volume No. 36 Issue No. 5~ May 2020

(619) 423-2068

E-mail: church@nestorumc.com

Pastor Luis A. Garcia

Website: www.nestorumc.com

**"A nurturing center for ALL people, Making Disciples for Christ"**

## What Would be the New Normal?

As many people do in the morning, I get ready to work... shower, clean clothes, breakfast and so on... and these last 6 weeks I kept doing the same routine. I need to confess that like many people, I have been waiting for the time when we will go back to our normal life. But what will be our new normal life?

What is normal life anyway? Of course, it includes our daily duties, job, school, family, friends... etc. But at least for a few more weeks (I hope just a few) we will not return to our normal life, whatever that is, and eventually we are going to have a "new normal". This virus, the smallest of the living organisms, is teaching us big lessons. Thinking about this and reflecting on what I have learned, there are a few things that have been evident during this time of pandemic.

**"Then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground."** Gen. 2:7 - We have been (and will continue to be) divided as a human race by borders, race, color, language, etc. It is ironic that such a small thing as a virus has shown us that we are not only all physiologically similar but equally unequipped to deal with it.

**"Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness..."** Gen:1:26 - We are all the same in the eyes of God and it is certainly for everyone that "God loved the world (creation and humanity) in such a way that he gave his only begotten son". I believe this pandemic has shown us that we are more similar than we would like to admit. Regardless of race or origin, geography or language, we have learned that this virus that kills (like many other sicknesses) does not discriminate based on our man-made divisions. But God's love and kindness don't discriminate either. Love and kindness can be spread "contagiously" if we choose to do that! Is it worth it to continue to distance ourselves based on race, language, and such? Or can we create a new and real universal family of God?

**"The laborer deserves to be paid."** 1 Tim 5:18 - We have seen during these days the value of doctors, nurses, and first responders. But we have also seen the value of teachers, people working in the service area such as grocery stores and restaurants, and there is that "invisible" work force that has kept working through all of this, raising and harvesting the food from the fields. As part of the Interfaith Committee for Workers Justice, we have been pushing for years for a "living wage" for service workers. Now we can see why!

On the global level, wouldn't it be great for both the producers of raw materials and providers of hand labor to receive a "living wage"?

**"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth..."** Matt. 6:19 - This situation has uncovered a reality that humanity has lived with throughout history, regardless of the political or economic system. We as societies are still "storing treasures on earth." It is evident that we depend on a system that needs production and spending of money. This pandemic has shown how dependent we are on money and has also shown the inequalities of the system. While from an economic perspective it seems to be normal to have inequality, from God's perspective we are still storing treasures where they will be destroyed.

**"For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good..."** Matt. 5:45 - I think this a great opportunity to rewrite economic relationships. We have a great opportunity to rewrite the way our Christian faith takes into consideration those things that this pandemic has shown to be important, such as a more just, equal, kind and loving society. How can we as Christians provide or show the way to that kind of society?

As soon as we go back to "normal life" (whatever that is), once the new season of our favorite sport starts once again, or once we go back to our normal routines, I'm afraid that we are going to forget that we had a chance to rewrite personal relationship at all levels.

I know political and economic systems won't change for a while and yet, isn't this a great opportunity to think about a "new normal" where we can come closer to God's view of the human race as He created us in His image and likeness? What do you think? How can we address the future so that we can become better people and better Christians after this pandemic? Think about a "new normal" that embraces love, care, forgiveness and life!

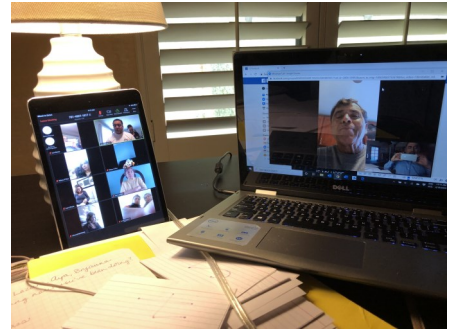
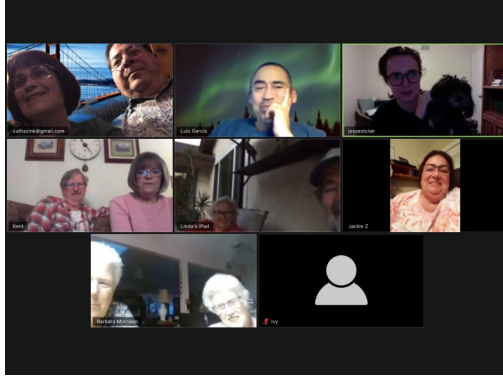
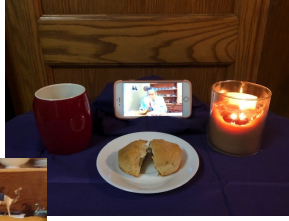
Please let me know your thoughts.

*"In the rush to return to normal, use this time to consider which parts of normal are worth rushing back to"*  
– David Hollis

See you this Sunday... in video worship,

Pastor Luis

Throughout all of this self-isolation and social distancing. We are still connecting with each other. Pastor has made video services for Sundays, and all the traditional Holy Week activities. During Maundy Thursday we were invited to set a table for communion in our homes.



We have new weekly zoom meetings with the Pastor. Email Pastor at [PastorLAGD@icloud.com](mailto:PastorLAGD@icloud.com) For a zoom invite.

**GOOD NEIGHBOR CENTERS  
TO RE-OPEN AND YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!**

Help is needed at both locations: Nestor UMC & Christ Ministry Center, with unloading pallets on delivery day, pre-bagging food on bagging day, and distributing food on distribution day. Both centers were closed for the month of April and are ready to re-open in May, but need volunteers at.....

**\*\*GNC, SOUTHEAST SAN DIEGO\*\***

Good Neighbor Center at  
Christ Ministry Center, 3295 Meade Ave., S.D. 92116

\*Thursday, April 30th at 9:00 Delivery Day,

\*Monday, May 4th, at 9:00, Bagging Day,

\*Wednesday, May 6th at 10:00, No Contact Distribution Day!!!

**\*\*GNC, SOUTHBAY SAN DIEGO\*\***

Good Neighbor Center at  
Nestor UMC, 1120 Nestor Way, S.D., 92154

\*Thursday, May 7th, at 8:00 Delivery Day,

\*Saturday, May 9th at 9:00, Bagging Day,

\*Tuesday, May 12th, at 9:00, No Contact Distribution Day!!!

If you and a friend can come and help at either location on any or all dates just \*Call Debby at (619) 339-3719. What an opportunity to get out of the house, have a little exercise, and enjoy (at a safe distance) some fellowship! I look forward to hearing from you!!

**~PRAYER REQUESTS~**

**Strength, Comfort & Healing:**

Esther Bolger, Quinlynn "Q" Farmer, Amparo Escandon, Kaleo Hizon Villamen, Tom and Maryola Chaudoin, David Hankins, Rosalie Pamintuan, Maggie Hunnicut, Daniel and Karen Abbotts, Susan Zabel, Vannesa Querouil, Francine Maigne, Vicki Hankins, Barb Morrison, The Roach Family, The Brann Family, Drake Walker and Family, Carimilita Palsco, Joi and Curt Bayse, Janice Dahl, Lorraine Hanley, Monica Wong, Bill Shipley

**Nestor UMC Children and Youth:**

Madison and D.J. Pepper; Arya, Sophia and Aden Narciso; Graham, Finn, Ethan and Noah Wahamaki; Fantasia Rivera, Yhazzi and Rhianne Ramos; Julia and Jayda Jeter; Makayla Soria; Raymond Barrar-Wells; Jahniya McClellam; Emzey and Ryder Sheppard; Aracely, Yazleen, Enrique and Miguel Arauz; Neveah Frayre; Bree and B.J. Gorospe; Caleigh and Declan Villagran; Diana and Julian Kuenzi; Jordan, Trinity and Jewell Bendorf, Alex, Aulani, Aubri and Averi Williams; Porter and Sedona Sayers; Mia, Marissa, and Sabrina Howard; Naliyah Cabal; DJ and Nicky Camden, Brook, Erika and Nikole Jamieson, Tristen Campbell; Jared Williams; Gavin and Nyla Wraight; David Berrien; Jaxon and Ethan Schaffer, Kaila Otto and Karl Otto Jr., Ezekiel Zachary Crann, Luc and Momo Cota, Saedy McCoy

**Active Duty Military:**

Jacob Spradlin, Charyn McCurdy, Keenan Flores, Spencer Brandt, Henry & Lucy Steele, Josh Peterson, Rafael Navarrete, Josh Glover, Joy Zanghi, Dajeur Bruce-Malone, Sara Fernandez, Dairon Frazier, Michael Waters, Joe McGuffie, Chris Duran, Arturo Mota, Ron Ramos

**Stay Connected**

We are committing to staying in contact, someone is in the office 2 days a week, Monday and Thursday. We are checking emails and messages daily.

Facebook has become a huge resource as well. Please take a minute to like our Facebook page. We post daily, positive scriptures, and quick interactive posts. We would love to see more of our friends there.

Nestor United Methodist Church at Facebook.

Our Sunday video services are now available on the NestorUMC.com website. Under the Nestor Worships Together tab.