

THE NESTOR BELL

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(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"

The Church is... Where it Should Be!

Since the beginning of the stay-at-home orders and as soon the government started to talk about reopening, I have seen pictures and articles of congregations demanding that their churches open their doors. One of the arguments (at least the one that matters for this article) is the belief that churches should be open because they are essential places...in the same way that stores, restaurants and other places of regular gatherings in society, churches are essential.

Although I don't disagree that churches are essential for our growth and spiritual life, I also support our church authorities as they have not allowed in-person worship because one of our "Methodist rules" is – *Do no harm*. While our desire is to come back to our worship and church activities, it is more important to provide a safe and healthy place. Unfortunately, the conditions for opening are not there yet.

The church is essential for our growth and spiritual life... and while our buildings are closed, the church is alive well in the community. When people talk about the church being closed, I respond, "*The church building is closed but the church is everywhere.*" Maybe some of us are in isolation and being careful, but I know some of our members are still working in their regular jobs and/or serving in ministries of mercy, justice, and compassion. And I hope all of you are praying... (and watching the video worship services).

Having said that, we are about to have our first outdoor worship in person in the labyrinth (there are some instructions in this newsletter). I hope I can see many of you there and I hope you understand that there are rules for us to follow in order to keep everybody safe and – *do no harm* – but to share love within the Christian family that meets at Nestor UMC.

We pray and hope that even with limited attendance, we can soon start in-person worship in the sanctuary. In the meantime, we need to be the church in our community, bringing hope, mercy, compassion and justice to a world in need. Can I have an amen?!

Stay safe and see you Sunday in church (or video).

Pastor Luis

Guidelines for Outdoor Worship on page 2.

~PRAYER REQUESTS~

Strength, Comfort & Healing:

Connor Snow and The Snow Family
Don Susral, Querouil Family, Virginia
Littleton, Linda Walden, Al Dildine,
Joanne West, Juan Garcia,
Denise Sanchez, Cyndy Barnes,
Bob Gibson, Lorraine Hanley
Amparo Escandon,

Kaleo Hizon Villamen,
Tom and Maryola Chaudoin,
Rosalie Pamintuan, Vannesa Querouil,
David and Vicki Hankins,
Barb Morrison, The Roach Family,
Janice Dahl, Monica Wong,
Crickett Clowery, Bill Shipley,

Special Prayers

Prayers for Peace and Justice in our cities,
in our countries and in our World.
Prayers for those affected by the wildfires.
Prayers for the front line workers.

Nestor UMC Children and Youth:

Raymond Barrera-Wells; Mia Felizardo;
Julia and Jayda Jeter; Saedy McCoy;
Christopher, Madison and D.J. Pepper;
Arya, Sophia and Aden Narciso;
Graham, Finn, Ethan and Noah
Wahamaki; Jahniya McClellam; Yhazzie
and Rhiane Ramos; Colleen Abbott;
Jaxon and Ethan Schaffer;

Naliyah Cabal; Jared Williams;
Bree and B.J. Gorospe; Makayla Soria;
Emzey and Ryder Sheppard; Aracely,
Yazleen, Enrique and Miguel Arauz;
Caleigh and Declan Villagran;
Diana and Julian Kuenzi; Jordan,
Trinity and Jewell Bendorf; Tristen
Campbell; Porter and Sedona Sayers;

Neveah Frayre; Fantasia Rivera;
Alex, Aulani, Aubri and Averi Williams;
Mia, Marissa, and Sabrina Howard;
DJ and Nicky Camden, Brook, Erika
and Nikole Jamieson; Gavin and Nyla
Wraight; Kaila Otto and Karl Otto Jr.;
Ezekiel Zachary Crann;
E.J., Lucas, Sal and Lorenzo Cota

Active Duty Military:

Taylor Cuellar Davis, Joseph Guerrero,
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

Outdoor Worship Service with Communion

Sunday October 4th @ 9 AM

World Communion Sunday

This Sunday we will have an outdoor worship service. We requested authorization from the Bishop, and it has been granted. Although we will meet outside, we will still need to follow instructions which we have committed to follow in order for the permit to be granted, so we ask for your cooperation.

We want to provide a safe and healthy place for worship. Please read these instructions carefully.

Attendance:

By attending worship, you agree to follow these instructions and ushers' instructions.
Send us an email or call us and leave a message if you will be attending the service.
Let us know how many people are coming with you.
You can bring your own chair. A designated place will be assigned for your family.
You can remain in your car or in a chair beside your car.
Ushers will help you to park in designated areas.
There is limited space in the shade, so we recommend that you bring a hat and water.

Worship:

We will have communion in prepackaged meal sets. Communion will be distributed to you at your seat.
We will send you the lyrics for the hymns and songs and you need to print them.
No nursery or children's activities will be provided but we will send an activity sheet via email.

Other Logistics:

As required in order to obtain the authorization for outdoor worship, we committed to using masks at all times during worship and maintaining 6 feet of safe distance between people or family groups.
Bathrooms will be open, and ushers will control traffic to the bathrooms. (This was also a requirement in order to get the authorization for worship.)
Please follow the sanitary instructions posted in the bathrooms.
At all times you need to follow the instruction of the ushers.
We also commit to no gathering before or after worship in groups.
Overall, we ask you to follow common sense, be safe and provide safety to your fellow members and enjoy worship.

Other Ways to Watch:

The service will be Livestreamed on Facebook beginning at 9 am.
The service will also be recorded and uploaded to the website Monday morning.

Special Announcement from SPRC

This is an update regarding one of our staff members.
We have received the letter of resignation from Jesse St. Clair, our Youth Ministries Coordinator. She has resigned for personal reasons. Although we are sad, we know God will put a new ministry path in front of her. She has expressed her gratitude to the congregation and "looks forward to settling into a new role as congregant and volunteer." We will hold Jesse and Matt in prayer. For now, thank you Jesse for the great job you have done in your Spirit-filled ministry at Nestor UMC.

Prayer Quilt Update

At the beginning of September we prayed over a prayer quilt for a little boy, named Connor Snow and his father Wade Snow.



On Tuesday they had their surgeries, Wade donated a kidney to his son.

The surgery went great.
Now all that is left is keeping a dad and son calm and still while they heal.

Blessings, and prayers for swift healing and a great future for Connor.

GOOD NEIGHBOR CENTERS ARE STILL SERVING OUR COMMUNITY AND YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!

Help is needed at both locations:
Nestor UMC & Christ Ministry Center.

Nestor GNC help is needed with unloading pallets on delivery day on October, 8 at 7 am.

Pre-bagging food on bagging day, October, 10 and no contact food distribution day, October, 13 at 8 am.

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!

Youth Meetings Via ZOOM

We have started our youth meetings up again. The meetings are open to all families with middle school and high school teens. The meeting is at 7:30 pm through Zoom.

We will send out a reminder with the zoom information every Thursday through email.

