

# The Burro Bulletin

August, 2020

[www.morenovalleyumc.com](http://www.morenovalleyumc.com)

## Upcoming Events:

Please join us for worship on Facebook @ fb.me/MoValUMC or on YouTube at Box Springs Cooperative Parish - UMC

**Sunday, August 2, 2020:** Join us from Moreno Valley @ 10 am with Pastor Finau as we take Holy Communion together

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**Sunday, August 9, 2020:** Join us from Grace @ 10 am with Pastor Finau

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**Sunday, August 16, 2020:** Join us from Highgrove @ 10 am with Len Johnson

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**Sunday, August 23, 2020:** Join us from Moreno Valley @ 10 am with Pastor Xavier

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**Sunday, August 30, 2020:** Join us from Grace @ 10 am with Pastor Finau and our young adults

**Moreno Valley United Methodist Church**  
10271 Heacock Street  
Moreno Valley, CA 92557-2200  
Phone: 951-924-6990



July 29, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings and Peace be with you!

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

May the blessings of our Lord sustain and surround you and your loved ones during this summer season.

The month of July marks the beginning of our new Conference year. As we reflect over the year, we rejoice and give thanks to our God for blessing our ministry. Over the past year we are amazed with God's faithfulness, and we expect fruits of joy and hope for another productive and successful year of our ministry.

During the Cal-Pac Annual Conference in June, Bishop Grant Hagiya appointed me back to serve at the Box Springs Cooperative Parish for 2020-21. My family and I are delighted, excited, and honored to return and serve together with you in God's ministry.

Our Parish is also truly blessed with the return of Pastor Can Doan & Ly Le and Pastor Xavier Torres & ChrisAnn. Both of their loving families have blessed us tremendously and are eager to serve and grow with you in ministry.

With a heavy heart and deepest condolences, our ministry will sincerely miss the enthusiastic, God-fearing, and soul-winning presence of Ralph Hogan. The Pastoral Team and the ministry of the Parish are forever grateful for his spiritual guidance, devotion, outstanding leadership, and many other irreplaceable gifts. Though we will miss him greatly, we rejoice in Ralph's triumphant return to his Heavenly Father.

The mission of the Parish is truly blessed by the vibrancy and level of commitment of all our faithful members. It is through your commitment, prayers, and presence within the ministries of Grace UMC, Highgrove UMC and Moreno Valley UMC that we are moving forward in His service. Your passion about loving God and loving our community continues to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our world.

As your Lead Pastor and spiritual mentor, I want to say that I truly miss the opportunity to fellowship and worship with you during this pandemic. It is my prayer that God's abiding grace remains and safeguards you all until we meet again. Do know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers as I look forward to seeing you at church soon.

May the Lord bless you and be gracious unto you,

Pastor Martin Niponi Finau



# Happy 90th Birthday Dottie!

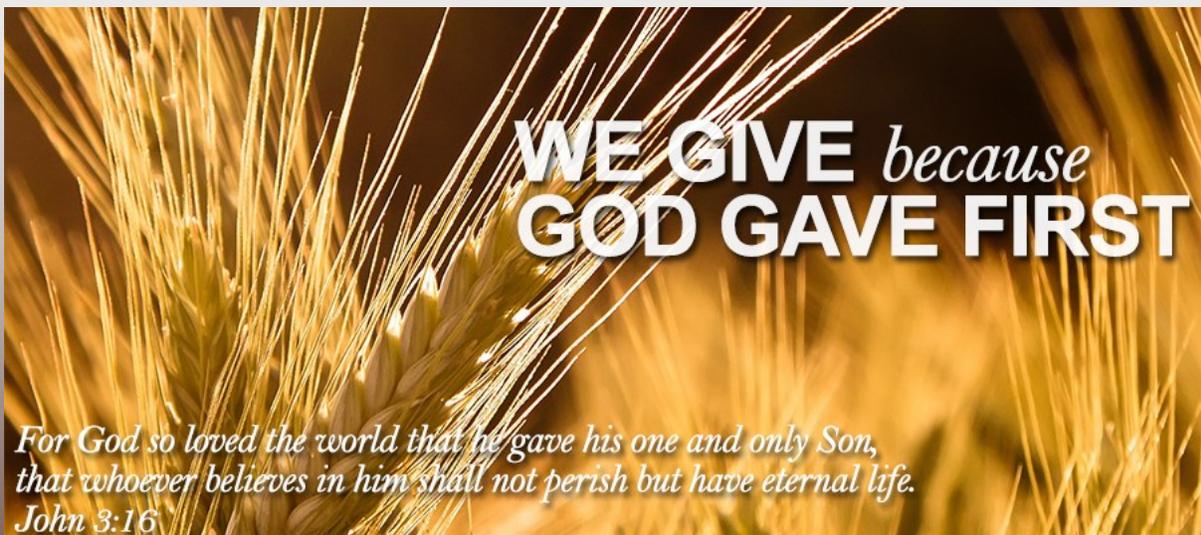


# Treasurer's Report

As the pandemic continues, we all know, it creates more and more financial stress, both for our church families and for the church itself. It has been almost five months since the state issued its first “shut down” orders in mid-March. By the grace of God, we have been relatively untouched by the disease itself. How are we doing financially?

As I explained last month, we are able to take advantage of some special provisions to reduce our expenses during this crisis. We have two building loans; for each loan, we are able to pay interest only. This reduces our expenses at present, but it also extends the life of our loans. In more normal times, we will have to resume payments on principal. Also, we are able to defer our portions of social security charges (our employer match) – though not the match for Medicare. That isn't a lot, but it helps; that option will end in December. Altogether, that saves us about \$4,000 a month.

In June our total income, including all of our giving but also rents, was about \$25,000. That strong support allowed us to add about \$2,000 to our church account at the end of the month. In other words, \$23,000 is our current “break even point,” and we were able to do a bit better than that. For July, our total income was not quite \$22,000. That was a bit below what we need month to month, but the difference is not great.



## Bishop Hagiya's Briefing (July 27, 2020)

For the summer months I will try to do a briefing every other week, as I am hoping many of you will take some time for vacation and renewal. These past months have been filled with adapting to new worship formats and trying out new ways to reach and care for your congregations, and undoubtedly, "crisis fatigue" has settled in. On paper it appears we have more time without in-person worships, meetings and visitations, but in actuality we are spending more time adapting and learning new ways of doing ministry. All of you need some time to recharge, renew and refresh, as we may be facing a Fall without in-person gatherings. Please take the time to rest and relax as we finish the summer!

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I am teaching United Methodist Polity this summer, and as I go through the material, I can't help but to filter our Book of Discipline and secondary resources on polity through the lens of COVID-19. There is nothing in our historical polity that would prepare us for this pandemic, and yet the historical resources are inspiring in an aspiration sense of what the church can be.

For example, the local church is a relatively new phenomenon. Methodists were at our height in the early days of our nation when Circuit Riders were assigned to geographic areas and the denomination spread through field preaching, Class and Band meetings, and Quarterly Conferences. It was only around 1920 that the local church emerged and, with clergy becoming more educated and having families, centered into localized areas. In the next 25 years the local church became the established norm, and the Circuits disappeared.

Prior to the global pandemic, local church attendance had been dropping for decades, and some new form of ministry had to emerge if we had any hope for the future. As devastating as the Coronavirus is, it has forced us to move out of the local church paradigm and seek alternative ways to do church. Because of this new way of thinking, we should not go back to the way it was. I know we don't know of any other reality, and we must find ways to preserve the relationship building and disciple-sharing at the local level, but a new paradigm must emerge out of this crisis.



This is the "Kairos Moment" for us to experiment, innovate and create the new paradigm that will take the church into the future. What new shape it will take, no one yet knows, but this is our time to create the church of the future. We need to take all that we cherish at the local church level (relationships, disciple-making, preaching and worship, community building, fellowship, etc.) and to vision a new way this will take place outside of the four walls of our buildings. If every one of us works at this new vision and experiment with new ways to bring it about, something wonderful will break forth.

All of us need to work together, share what we are learning, and plan something dynamic as we work our way out of the pandemic. Now is the time for us to do something bold and exciting. I want each of you to share your thoughts, publicize your plans and report on both successes and failures. We will find a way to dedicate a communication channel for this purpose, but for now, please send me your reflections **here!**

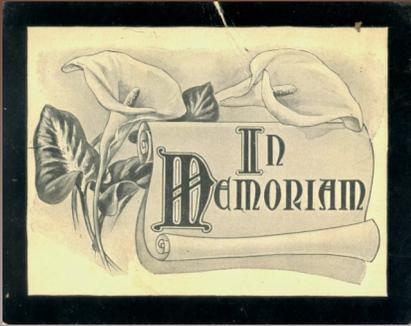
**For inspiration this week, Joshua 1:9 says:**

***This is my command: Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord you God is with you wherever you go.***

*Be the Hope,*

*Bishop Grant J. Hagiya,*

*Los Angeles Area Resident Bishop*



*We were truly blessed having you here on this earth, God gave us a gift on the day of your birth. The memories we made will always be treasured, we hold them dear in our hearts and are forever remembered.*

*Now called by the Father and lifted up into heaven, as you followed our dear Lord and said yes as He beckoned.*



## **Harold Case**

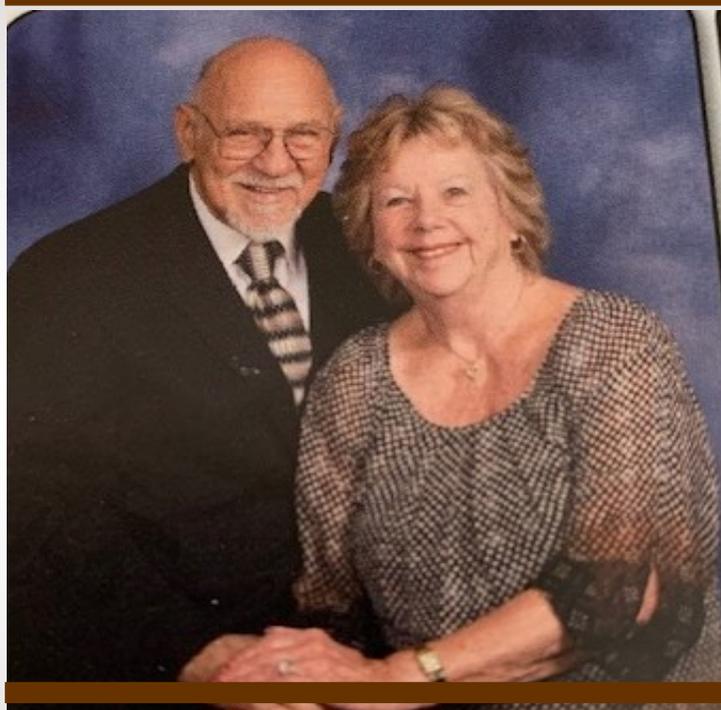
*September 7, 1925 ~ July 25, 2020*

*Harold was the loving father of Vera Rodríguez, loving husband, grandfather and great-grandfather. He served in World War II, in Germany as a Army Veteran. He met the love of his life, Louise (Skorik) Case in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany and married on May 20, 1946. Harold worked for 30 years as a mechanic for the Amtrak Railroad and retired in 1991. He was a member of Sexton Christian Church for over 70 years. Harold loved gardening, woodworking and Do-it-Yourself Projects.*



*We were truly blessed having you here on this earth, God gave us a gift on the day of your birth. The memories we made will always be treasured, we hold them dear in our hearts and are forever remembered.*

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**Mike Avooske**

*Went Home to our Heavenly Father ~ July 28, 2020*

*We will miss Mike who was a true identity of a sincere servant and a faithful follower 'til the end. Many of you may remember him helping out at Grace with the College Feeding and Feed My Lambs program. Mike kept his faith to the end of this life. He died peacefully while holding on to a Cross in his hands. We must rejoice that Mike has met his Lord and testified with the Psalms 130:5, "I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope."*

**~PRAY WITHOUT CEASING~**



**FOR COMFORT ~**

Family of **Mike Avooske**, Family of **Harold Case** (father of Vera (Andy) Rodriguez), Family of **Ralph Hogan** (husband of Pat Hogan), Family of **Millie Phillips** (mother-in-law of Chuck and mom of Jeanne Gahagan), Family of **Alleen Porter** (cousin of Ruth Pemble), Family of **Bill Gant**, Family of **Charlie Clark** (husband of Zeny Clark)

**FOR GOOD HEALTH ~**

**Mickie Pecoraro** (friend of the Wagners), **Lucas Cameron** (friend of Debbie Abry), **Vincent Siale Po'oi** (Siosaia & Eneio's nephew), **Makatapu Paea** (father of Salesi), **Sam Walker**, **Kinsley Hunt** (friend of Debbie Abry), **Sue Jones** (sister of Debbie Abry), **Anne Gichanga**, **Ron Meeter** (friend of Debbie Abry), **Perry Wahe** (father of Amy Fish), **Dago Garcia**, **Mike Williamson** (grandfather of Charlie Williamson), **Ron Stewart** (son of Earl & Lucy Stewart), **Madelyn Tuckerman** (granddaughter of Sandy Young), **Carlos Melendez**, **Aley Wallace** (friend of Alissa Abry), **Mildred** (mother of Kathy Brewer), **Manuel Mendoza** (son of Alma Mendoza), **Jack Dandurand**, **Michelle Quillen** (friend of Debbie Abry), **Marcia Carpenter**, **Charity Njopera**, **Bruce Crabtree**, **Sharon Richards** (sister-in-law of John Richards), **Deborah Blake**, **Brad Avooske**, **Amelia Ellis**, **Wilbur Mallett**, **Billy Lytle** (friend of Christina Williamson), **Barbara Tippery** (grandmother of Christina Williamson), **Deanna Fifita**, **Gabriel Mora** (friend of Claudia Garcia), **Marlene Wells** (Net Allen's mother), **Ivon** (friend of Amy Fish), **Jeff Fields** (friend of Vic DeLeeuw), **Doug Peterson** (nephew of Karin Richards), **Bob Sparks** (grandfather of Christina & Charles Williamson), **Jessica Bourgoin** (daughter of Jan Hill), **Sara Santacruz** (sister of Alma Mendoza), **Dorothy Whittington**, **Karin Richards**, **Isabel Harper** (Sandy Young's daughter-in-law's mom), **Janet Shoff** (mother in law of Alma Mendoza's daughter), **Virginia** (Mother of Zeny Clark), **Estella Cox**, **Andy Young** (Sandy's husband), **Noah Barberina** (friend of Al and Mindy Wagner), **Andrew Stephano** (requested by John Vaiaku), **William Jones**, **Nolan Niebla**, **Robine Smith** (friend of Eneio Vaiaku), **Edith Jones** (sister of Martha Bayne), **Grace Galam** (friend of Alisa Castro), **George Lisalda** (husband of Dana Lisalda), **Patti** (sister of Sandy Young), **Wendy Baltazar**, **Dr. Ellen Smith** (friend of Debbie Abry), **Doug**, **Alycia Davis & Sydney**, **Mila Maefau**, **Lindsey Brown** (friend of Martha Bayne), **Pat Gates** (sister of Martha Bayne), **Gloria Keeney** (sister of Karin Richards), **Jacqueline Williams** (boss of Eneio Vaiaku), **Marge Johnson** (mother of Lenny Johnson), **Mike & Georgia Brown**, **James Mateaki**, **Jonathan Garcia**, **Zaveth Cortez** (sister of Elizabeth Garcia), **Allison Sager**, **Lawson Hill** (brother of Alicia Lowe), **Net Allen**, **Makatapu Paea** (oldest son of Tangikina & Salesi Paea), **Robert Wosczyk** (husband of Jackie Wosczyk), **Carmen Gill** (grandma of Desiree Wagner), **Henry** (oldest brother of Ruth Van Hala), **Sally Wilhite** (wife of Bill Wilhite), **Sharon** (wife of Tim Lawler's friend, Todd), **Sophia** (niece of Marcus Van Hala), **Gary** (brother-in-law of John Bender), **Jan** (mother of Gary), **Yesenia Newman**

**FOR STRENGTH & DIRECTION ~**

**Pastor Finau**, **Avery & Merlin Villareal** (friends of Elizabeth Garcia), **Rafael Cortez Jr.** (brother of Elizabeth Garcia), **Victor Leyva** (friend of Vera), **Christina Williamson**, **Dr. Ellen Smith & Leigh** (friends of Debbie Abry), **Alofa Paea**, **Cindi Hunter's family** (friends of Debbie Abry), **Astrid Cervantes** (granddaughter of the Van Halas), **Mary Aultfather** (sister of Ruth Van Hala), **Shoff family**, **Alma Mendoza**, **Jennifer Martini** (friend of Amy Fish), **Scherf Family**, **Wallace Family**, **Gloria Keeney** (sister of Karin Richards)

**FOR OUR SERVICEMEN AND SERVICEWOMEN ~**

**Matthew Muller**, **Anthony Muller**, **Scott Snodgrass**, **David Olson**, **Sgt. John Vuki**, **Luke Hamann**, **Edna Folau**, **Justin Grimm**, **Adam Bleau**, **Sgt. Jeremiah Scott Villareal**

# Moreno Valley UMC Prayer Chain

We now, once again, have a prayer chain that receives your requested prayers. Please direct your calls to Shirley Morgan at (951) 247-2808, after 9 am and no later than 9 pm, and she will then send your prayer call to the next person on our new list. The prayer requests will also be sent to Vera Rodriguez, as Chair of the Church's Membership Care Committee, and to Jackie, our church secretary. This will ensure all bases are covered.



If you have any questions, please contact me at [whitebug1@msn.com](mailto:whitebug1@msn.com)

Thank you,

Mindy Wagner

## Thank You



Ninna Shoff, Alma's granddaughter, sent this thank you to Vera Rodriguez:

"I just wanted to send you a message to thank you and the congregation. I am sorry that I took so long to send a thank you, I went out of town and once I got back, I've been so busy with everything for college. But I want to thank you guys so much for going out of your way to make my graduation just that much more special. Even though I don't go anymore, it meant so much that you guys would still send something my way. All of your kind words were deeply appreciated and I will cherish them as I go forward in my new life as a college student. Thank you again, so much, love you guys and I will hopefully see you soon." Ninna will be attending Sacramento State University.

## August Birthdays & Anniversaries

8/1	Alice Ogbogu
8/4	Vera Rodriguez
8/5	Hotisa Mateaki
8/9	Steefeni Johnson
8/13	Christiana Kalawa
8/14	Mike Pemble
8/17	Milika Finau
8/17	Denise Tomlinson
8/18	Angela Ogbogu
8/19	Ruth Pemble
8/29	Debbie Abry
8/2	Charles & Sophia Blankson
8/2	Scott & Michele Mitchell
8/8	Shingi & Charity Njopera
8/10	Tim & Aki Caszatt
8/18	Russell & Sissy Slater
8/26	Nelson & Triza Samuel

