

Letter #12 - April 15, 2020

# Love is Patience

Thank you to all who were able to tune into the online worship Easter experience. Thank you to Melody, Liam, DeeDee, Keiko, Kelli, Jon, the youth and children for making it a memorable experience!

We will continue with the online worship experience with 20-minute videos. The link will be available on that Sunday's "Letter #" and will be on the website, [aumcpa.org](http://aumcpa.org). If you search for the link via youtube, you will need to look for "aumcpa04192020". The digits will be the date.

Our worship video is being "hidden" on youtube and I am titling the video in a non-descript way because our video has pics and video clips from our church family members. Keeping the video access a bit obscure helps to minimize the possibility of abuse from unscrupulous youtube users.

(note: Youtube allows videos to be "public", "hidden" or "private". Hidden videos can be accessed by the public but limit the descriptive nature and sharing of the video. Private would require the owner of the video to give permission to view the video to each specific person. I'm learning so much.)

I would like to share a few submissions by church members after last Sunday's Easter online experience:

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"When my mother passed away, I went through family photos for the memorial service; I couldn't find a wedding photo of my parents. While I was making visits to see my dad when he was in hospice care, he said they didn't have a photo taken; they couldn't afford one. At least you have a wedding photo. My parents had an easy date to remember, May 5th. Our family had a zoom meeting for Easter – no cooking, no leftovers, and no clean-up." – Church member

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PHOTO AT RIGHT:  
From Peggy, Sue Nakamura's caregiver



The photo below is the family member of a friend of a church member. It was taken during the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic:



Thank you all for the submissions.

Today's reflection is on patience as we enter our 5th week of Shelter in Place.

Take care, be safe and be kind everyone!

Roger

### **Our Weekly Prayers List:**

Haruye Ng, Paul Osaki, Sue Nakamura, Tak Nishiura, Sam Nieda, Kiyo Shizuru, Lea Haratani, Hitoshi Tachibana, Chloe Gong, Ginger Powell, Kamila Young, Jieun Lee, David Nelson, Patricia Orr, Jamie Campbell, Mel Imai, Harry Hatasaka, Amy

Shao, Patricia Orr, Ray Narimatsu, Rev. Mariellen Sawada Yoshino, and Sue Lemba.

Prayers for Mayumi Takeda who is Sachiyo Yamasaki's younger sister in Japan. In her care facility, she is deteriorating and unable to eat. The family is not able to visit her due to the SIP.

### **Today's Reflection – "Love is Patience"**

"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude." – 1 Corinthians 13:4

Just last week, the word was we were entering into the worst 2-week period of the crises. This week, we have shifted to talking and debating when we should "re-open" for the sake of the economy. This past week is like every week in the midst of this coronavirus – ever-changing and shifting on a daily if not hourly basis.

As we begin to talk about re-opening (whatever that means or looks like...), I can feel a different kind of anxiety rise up to my throat level. It is partly fear of whether it will be safe or not, but it has an added flavor of impatience. The funny thing about anticipating the end of a long drawn out process, the closer we get, the longer and slower it seems to take.

The light at the end of the tunnel makes those last lengths of the tunnel seem to move so slowly. Our impatience begins to rise.

We all want to get back to “normal” or at least the “new normal” as soon as possible, but as I reflected on this situation, my thoughts flashed me back to a moment while I was still in seminary.

I had visited the Sage Granada Park UMC where Rev. Wes Yamaka was the pastor. I appreciated his style and approach to ministry and spirituality, so I attended his church in Southern California. In this flashback, we were standing outside after church talking. I don't remember any context of the conversation, but I remember him saying to me, “Love is Patience.”

It was so weird because everything about that experience is a blur but Wes speaking those words to me are crystal clear. I think he told me those words just for TODAY!

As we continue to move through this pandemic and all the questions that are raised, remember to reflect on those words of the Apostle Paul, “Love is patient”.

It is our patience that we keep us safe and sane. It is our patience that will save lives. It is our patience that will keep us from tripping over ourselves as we race towards that light at the end of the tunnel.

Love is patience so be kind as we begin to look toward normalcy.

Peace,

Roger

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