



# English-Speaking United Methodist Church of Vienna

## March-April 2021 Newsletter



### Welcome Back to Worship at ESUMC!

Dearest friends in Christ,

Greetings and peace to you all, and happy Spring! Although the official start of the season is still weeks away, we are blessed in these days by a warm sun, fresh breezes, and a sense that a new season is upon us. We give thanks to God for the gift of new creation!

We are also grateful, as we continue in this time of pandemic, for the increased testing, the arrival of vaccines, and gradual reopening of society that brings hope and light to what has been a dark winter. And, it is a special blessing to be able to again open the doors of our sanctuary for worship! It was a great pleasure to welcome about 25 members and friends of ESUMC to in-person worship on the first Sunday of March. We pray that our doors may remain open, and that as the pandemic eases, we soon shall fill the sanctuary with songs of praise and shouts of joy!

As we return to in-person worship during this time of partial lockdown, please be reminded of the **following guidelines for Sunday worship:**

- All persons must write their name and contact details upon arrival. (This information shall be destroyed after 14 days.)
- A distance of 2 meters from persons from other households must be maintained.
- FFP-2 masks must be worn at all times. (Worship leaders who remove their masks to speak or sing will have been tested within 48 hours prior to the start of worship; tests are being made available before worship.)
- The congregation shall not sing.
- Children's Time shall be offered, but children will not be invited to the front of the sanctuary.
- The offering plates shall not be passed; members shall be encouraged to leave their Loose Plate Offerings in a box in the rear of the sanctuary.
- There shall be no Sunday School or organized fellowship; informal conversation should be kept to a minimum.

Lastly, please let us take responsibility for one another's health and well being. If you have a fever, feel sick, or show any symptoms of illness, please do not come to the sanctuary for worship.

Every Sunday, our Covid Prevention representatives will be on hand to assist the congregation to follow the requirements associated with in-person worship. If you have any questions or concerns, please be in touch with the Worship Committee or me.

Of course, we make these hopeful plans with the understanding that the situation may change again in the coming weeks, and thus we shall adapt our plans as needed. I thank your prayerful support, understanding, and patience.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor John



*The doors of the church are open.  
Join us for worship!*



## **Worship During Lent and Holy Week**

As we continue in this season of Lent, we remember the call to repentance and renewal that was proclaimed in our service of Ash Wednesday on 17 February.

In the month of March, our Lenten journey continues, as we travel with our Lord Jesus towards the cross and the tomb. Please join us for the following special worship services during Holy Week, culminating in the celebration of the resurrection on Easter morning.

Sunday 28 March	11:15	Palm Sunday	ESUMC sanctuary and Zoom
Thursday 1 April	18:00	Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion	ESUMC sanctuary and Zoom
Friday 2 April	12:30	Good Friday Ecumenical Service	Zoom only (details to be shared)
Friday 2 April	17:00	Good Friday	ESUMC sanctuary and Zoom
Sunday 4 April	11:15	Easter Sunday with Holy Communion	ESUMC sanctuary and Zoom

The details for ESUMC worship services via Zoom are the same each week:

Connect by computer or smartphone, click:

<https://zoom.us/j/91289841537?pwd=OEIzVjIuOW5WVIZpZzhURWxCVWVPZz09>

or connect by telephone, dial +43 12 535 501 or +43 670 309 0165

Meeting ID: 912 8984 1537

Password: 816778

## **ESUMC Charge Conference To Be Held on Sunday 25 April**

The Charge Conference is the annual meeting of the lay leadership of the ESUMC congregation. During the conference, Church Council members and other elected leaders will share their perspectives on the ministry of our congregation; offer a vision for our shared ministry for the coming years; and vote on the annual budget, nominations to committee memberships, and other matters that come before the body.

The Charge Conference shall be led by our District Superintendent, the Rev. Pastor Stefan Schröckenfuchs, and shall be held on Sunday 25 April in the sanctuary immediately following the in-person worship service. If pandemic

restrictions are reintroduced, and we are not able to gather in person, lay leaders shall be informed of any alternative arrangements to be made.

Please be in prayer for Pastor Stefan and the elected ESUMC lay leadership as we prepare for our Charge Conference.

In Christ, Pastor John



## Weekly Fellowship and Bible Study

Members of ESUMC are invited to join Pastor John for a time of open **conversation and fellowship**, every Tuesday morning from 10:00 to 11:00.

Please also join us for our weekly **Bible study** of the Gospel of Mark, which meets every Thursday at 19:00. Pastor John leads our group discussion each Thursday evening. Each week, about ten to twelve people gather for the study, and all are welcome!

Both events are hosted via Zoom, and available by following the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89198841751?pwd=ejVHcEVYS2xKaC8xNkFpRVo4TmRUUT09>  
Meeting ID: 891 9884 1751  
Password: 023015

## Wärmestube Ministry Continues through March 23

*An update on the Wärmestube Ministry from Christa Murtinger:*

As of Tuesday 9 March, the Wärmestube has been in operation every Tuesday for the last fifteen weeks. Now in our eighth season, the Wärmestube offers a warm meal and fellowship to the needy of our community. Unfortunately, this year, due to ongoing Coronavirus regulations, we are not able to welcome our guests into the warm rooms of our church building. Instead, every Tuesday, from about 11:30 to 14:15, we serve hot takeaway meals, tea, coffee, fruit, sweets, tissues, and canned food for later use. In December, an average of about 70 guests visited the Wärmestube. More recently, we are serving between 80 and 100 meals each Tuesday. Most of our guests are men, and about one-third are homeless or with a place in an emergency shelter. More commonly, our guests have a place to live, but they can't afford daily living. Many of our guests are well-known and loved, as they have been coming since the opening of the Wärmestube eight years ago.



We have a great team of volunteers; about 10-12 people serve every Tuesday. Our volunteers come from all generations and represent many community groups: the Fünfhaus congregation, ESUMC, the nearby Old Catholic Parish Heilandskirche, Caritas, and other friends from the community. We are also grateful for the financial support from ESUMC, and the faithful contributions of ESUMC members Martin Schulzer, Maria Tobler-Kudaya, and Kit Leung-Rogner.

*Wärmestube photos courtesy of Elisabeth Papauschek and Stefan Schröckenfuchs*

## Calling All Young Adults!

*A greeting from Natalie Scherer:*

Hi, my name is Natalie and I am the Young Adults coordinator in our church. I am looking for Young Adults (ages 18-25) that would like to attend regular meetings! If you are interested please fill out this form: (<https://forms.gle/1PsxUu6HMEvMm5Je8>). Or, please contact me directly via email anytime at [natalieziyi \(at\) icloud.com](mailto:natalieziyi@icloud.com). Thank you!

*“Jesus died for us so that..we will live together with him.  
So continue encouraging each other and building each other up, just like you are doing already.”  
1 Thessalonians 5:10-11*



## Thank You for Your Financial Support of Our Ministry!

We are grateful for the financial gifts that you share in support of the ministry of ESUMC, through your weekly in-person Loose Plate Offerings or regular electronic transfers.

Donations can be made by bank transfer at any time using the following details:

IBAN: AT23 1200 0006 2016 1208

BIC: BKAUATWW

You may also give using the new secure QR code to the right:

Additionally, secure online credit card donations may be made via The Advance, the giving platform of the UMC Global Ministries. All donations made via The Advance are eligible for US federal income tax deduction. Visit [ESUMC's Advance page](#) on the website for more details and to give. Thank you for your support!



## Kofi, We Are Grateful for Your Service!

Every Sunday, and also for our special services, ESUMC member Kofi Amartey-Mensah comes in early to the sanctuary to set up the microphones, arrange the lighting and camera position, and prepare for the transmission of the service via Zoom. During the service, Kofi ensures the video and audio quality for our congregational members worshipping at home.

Kofi, we are thankful for the many hours you volunteer each week, making it possible for ESUMC members to gather virtually for worship. May God bless you for your dedication to our ministry!



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**For more information** about the ministry of ESUMC,  
please contact Pastor John Calhoun at [john.calhoun@emk.at](mailto:john.calhoun@emk.at) or 0664-419-3200.



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