

Spire

January 2020

from Pastor Jenn

2020 is quickly approaching. I have already seen churches, synagogues and businesses hanging out their banners, "New Vision 2020, Clarity 2020, I Can See Clearly Now, Can You?" We are a people forever questing for a vision and a plan to effectively navigate the future. Because we are always searching for the next clear plan, it is almost impossible to resist "2020 metaphors." The irony, I think, is that we often already possess the wisdom that we need; we just forget. So my spiritual practice for 2020 will be "sankofa."

Sankofa is a **Twi** word from Ghana that means, "Go back and get it." The word is associated with a proverb that translates, "It is not wrong to go back for that which you have forgotten." I believe the best way forward as children of God and the Body of Christ is to reclaim what we already know to be true and apply it in new and vital ways.

As individuals, take the first weeks of 2020 to spend time with God in prayer. Look deeply within and ask yourself when you have felt most alive and whole. If you are doing it now, celebrate! If it was a part of your past that you no longer practice, begin again in a new way.

As a church, let's remember the great inheritance of our faith. We are called to be a community centered in the grace of Jesus and reaching out to include the world. We really do know how to do this! With a spirit of joy and love, we..

Invite and Welcome new people. Make a commitment to invite someone to church this year. And when you are here, talk to someone new. I know it is comfortable to talk with friends and we often want to catch up on important issues with them, but reach out to someone new first!

Worship in a variety of ways. Worship in community really matters, but so does daily private moment of prayer and praise. Sing a hymn or praise song in the shower to start your day - only God is listening! Say thank you to God when you see something beautiful. Make praise and thanksgiving a part of your everyday life.

Get Connected. Worship is wonderful and important, but it doesn't allow us to truly know one another or apply faith to our own lives. Join a small group or ministry and invite others to do the same.

Serve. We are called to change the world and participate in God's kin-dom. We serve in a variety of ways already. But, this year let's make inviting new people to join in service our number #1 priority.

Sankofa 2020! You won't find that hanging on a banner anywhere, but it's a great way to start the year. Let's reach back to claim what matters most and apply it in new ways..

May God's blessings of peace, hope, joy and love be with you always,

Pastor Jenn

Happy New Year



JANUARY / FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERIES at LGUMC

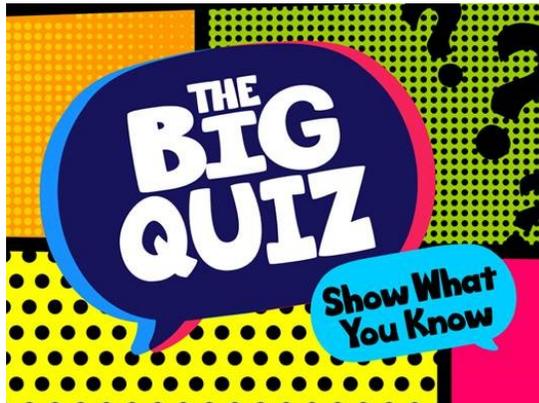
WHO ARE YOU?

The beginning of a new year is a good time to reassess direction and ask questions about who we are and where we are going in life. We make resolutions (again). We sign up for the gym (again). We vow to be better people (again). This year we will take a deeper look into the question, "Who are you?" We will discover that "who we are" is inextricably bound to "whose we are." What amazing things might happen in 2020 if we lived into our best, most passionate and loving selves? Let's find out together.

- January 5 **Follow Your Star** (Matthew 2: 1-12)
10 AM One Worship Service
First Sunday Fellowship Brunch to follow
- January 12 **Connect with Your Belovedness** (Matthew 3: 13-17)
9:15 and 11 Worship
- January 19 **Know Your Name** (John 1: 29-42)
Holy Communion at 9:15 and 11 Worship
Interfaith Service Project at Sacred Heart 1:30-3:30 PM
- January 26 **Claim Your Purpose** (Matthew 4: 12-23)
9:15 and 11 Worship
- February 2 **Embody Beatitude Living** (Matthew 5: 1-12)
Holy Communion at 9:15 and 11 Worship
First Sunday Fellowship Brunch between services
- February 9 **Live With Integrity** (Matthew 5: 13-20)
9:15 and 11 Worship
- February 16 **Create Lasting Relationships** (Matthew 5: 21-26)
9:15 and 11 Worship
- February 23 **Proclaim Wholeness** (Matthew 17: 1-9)
9:15 and 11 Worship

children's ministry

Kids are learning about **GOD VIEW** this month.



GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE KNOWLEDGE AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

God is the author of knowledge. Everything we know to be true about the world is because of God. Knowing God is the most important Person to know, and while we may never know all there is to know about God, God gives us lots of ways we can know Him. We can know Him best through Jesus, who showed us how much God loves us. We can pursue knowing more about God through Jesus, who showed why knowledge is so important. The more we know God, the better we can live His way each day.



Messy Church

A new kind of non-traditional church for everyone! You (all ages) are invited to our next Messy Church, scheduled for **January 26, 11AM - 1PM @ Student Center. Bring your friends!** Please RSVP @ kids@lgumc.org

Sunday School Assistant Teachers are Needed!

We are looking for a few more teachers to assist once a month during 11AM Service. Please contact Shelley at kids@lgumc.org for further information.



Director of Children's Ministry
Shelley Ahn-Wong
kids@lgumc.org
408.354.4730

PRIME TIME

Prime Time is taking the month off because the last two years we had to cancel January activities due to weather.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN FEBRUARY!

Contact Adrienne Zimmerman, dancers2@aol.com, 408.356.5334
 Ursula Young, ursulayoung@gmail.com, 408.354.7739
 Anne-Marie Wiggers, mom@thewiggers.com, 408.255.9739

Kindred Spirits

Happy New Year! Please join us in the New Year when we meet in the Art Gallery at 7:30PM on January 8. As noted in the December *Spire*, our first meeting of 2020 is a make-up discussion of our 2019 mystery selection, *The Dry*, by Jane Harper. We also plan to decide on our reading selection for the year which will be published in the February *Spire*. All are welcome to attend our meetings.



Movie Group **The Movie Group returns to the Fireside Room for its January 14 meeting at 3PM.**



For ratings & reviews:
<http://www.jrholman.com/>

From an excellent list of new releases, our selections for this month's discussion are: *Uncut*, *Gems*, *Cats*, *Little Women*, *1917*, *Just Mercy*.

The mystery *Knives Out* and *Marriage Story* (streaming on Netflix) are highly recommended by TMG.

See one of the above or your choice(s), then join us for a lively discussion and refreshments. All are welcome.

APRIL 1, 2020: NATIONAL CENSUS DAY! HELP WANTED . . .

This is no joke! Everyone will be counted as of April 1, 2020, as mandated by our Constitution. This will not only determine how many representatives California will send to Congress, but how much Federal funding we will receive for education, health care, affordable housing, highway maintenance, public safety, and many other social services.

Volunteers will be needed to help people in libraries and community centers to go online, or on the phone to answer the ten questions sent out on postcards by the Census Bureau. Workers will be hired to follow up on households and homeless people who did not respond to the postcards. Office clerks, enumerators, recruiters, and supervisors will be paid from \$24 to \$33 an hour to gather data. The hours are flexible, which is ideal for students. Minimum age is 18.
 To apply today: 2020census.gov/jobs

belong

grow

serve

Outreach

100 CHILDREN RECEIVE GIFTS FROM CHILDREN'S GIFT TREE

Forty-eight beautifully wrapped Christmas gifts were delivered to McKinley Elementary School students before they left school for their holiday break, and fifty-one gifts were delivered to Head Start programs and to a state pre-school in East San Jose. One additional gift was purchased for a child being assessed for special services. The parent liaison at the Head Start classes gifted us with hot Vietnamese egg rolls and a box of cookies in appreciation for caring for the children.

A special thank you goes to the Outreach Committee, and to the numerous members of the congregation who provided gifts for a child, donated funds, managed clip board sign-ups, transported gifts to storage or the sorting location, solved problems, sorted the gifts and loaded into vehicles, and delivered them to their respective sites.

Carol Crow
2019 Children's Gift Tree Coordinator
LGUMC Outreach Committee

February Reminder!

In February, the "brief" month, the Outreach Committee is again collecting diapers, new briefs and new socks for the Family Shelter. There will be a bin in the narthex for your donations.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

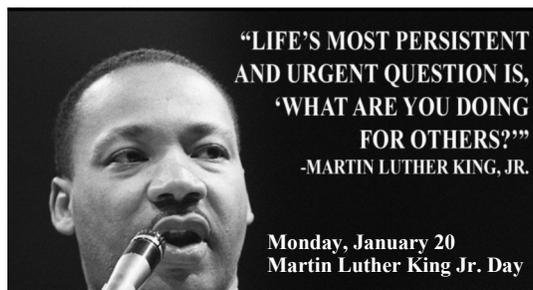
IS YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION UP-TO-DATE?

California's primary election will be on March 3 this year, rather than in June. Voter-registration forms are in the narthex for people who have not registered or have moved, or wish to change their party affiliation.

Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters this year, and they can be mailed back postage-free or dropped off at most city offices or at voting places. To register online, go to: www.voterparticipation.org/RegisterOnline.

GREAT DECISIONS SAVE THE DATES!

Social Justice and League of Women voters will again offer a Great Decisions class. It's an ideal way to learn about and discuss contemporary issues and concerns. As you make plans for the new year, save the first and third Wednesdays of February, March, and April.



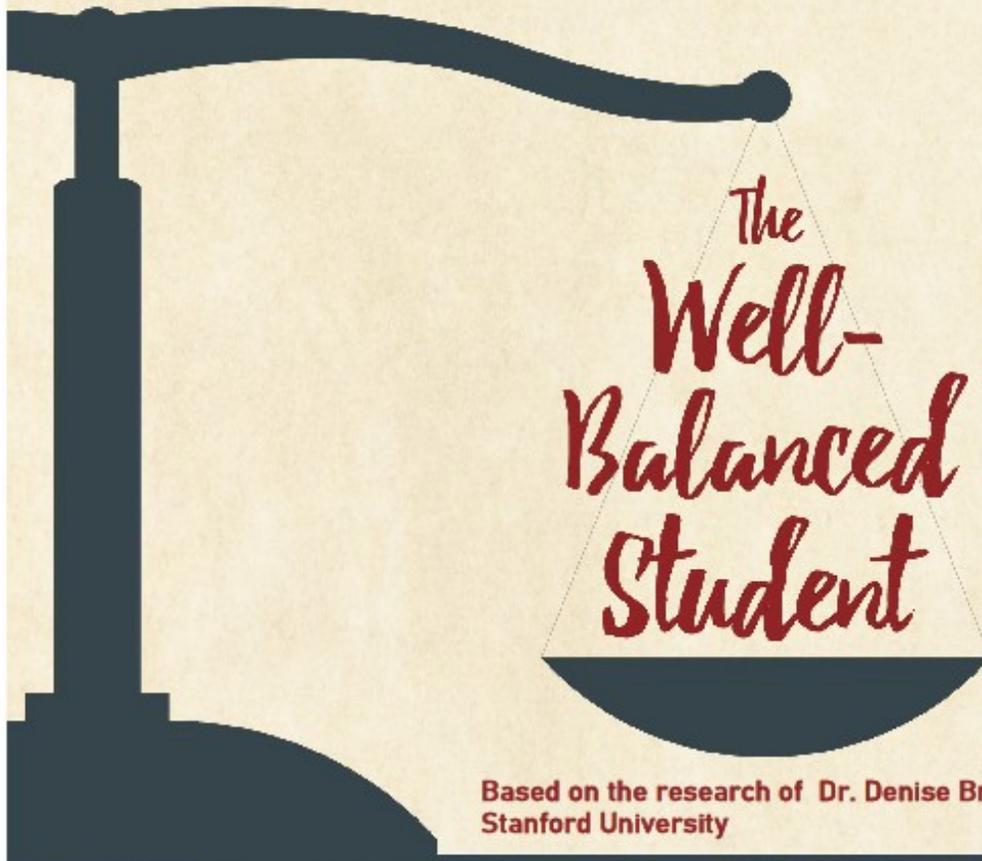
belong

grow

serve



CHALLENGE
SUCCESS presents



Based on the research of Dr. Denise Brown at Stanford University

FEBRUARY 2, 2019
2:00 - 3:30 PM

LOS GATOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
111 CHURCH STREET, LOS GATOS, CA

RSVP REQUIRED
<https://forms.gle/KZis71FoDmnWiPBk8>
Questions? Email seminars@lgumc.org

LEARN RESEARCH-BASED STRATEGIES FOR RAISING HEALTHY TEENAGERS IN TODAY'S FAST-PACED WORLD.

When we are too focused on grades and performance, we deny our teens the time and energy they need to tackle the demanding work of growing up. In this presentation, you'll learn how you can establish a healthier home environment, reduce academic stress without sacrificing achievement, and increase your teenager's resilience, creativity, and well-being.

Stanford EDUCATION



Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 9AM-3PM

Friday - Closed

Church Council Members

- Chair of the Church Board
Jennifer Stagnaro, jennifer@stagnaro.com
- Chair of the Board of Trustees
Larry Kroh, lkroh1@aol.com
- Chair of Staff Parish Relations
Penny Herman, nt.advisor@comcast.net
- Chair of Finance Committee
Doug Evans, eldoug1@msn.com
- Chair of Health Ministries
Jo Ann Disbrow, disbrowjo@yahoo.com
- Chair of Grace Preschool Board
Rita Matthews, fourwinn156@hotmail.com
Ann Reynolds, reynolds_reese@yahoo.com
- Chair of LOSNSC Board
Trudy Burling, trudyburling@hotmail.com
- Team Rep. of Social Justice Team
Jean Mundell, jmundell@earthlink.net
- Lay Member of Annual Conference
Judy Petrokas, quiltqueen@ix.netcom.com
Gail Hybarger, ca-unicorn@pacbell.net
- Chair of Endowment
Matthew Geisick, mattgeisick@gmail.com
- Chair Outreach Team
Ursula Young, ursulayoung@gmail.com
- Chair Congregational Care Ministry
Lois & Elwin Stocking,
l.e.stocking@comcast.net
- Chair United Methodist Women
Christina Capps, kl_capps@yahoo.com
Ruth Oveland, roveland@sbcglobal.net

Our Ministry & Office Staff

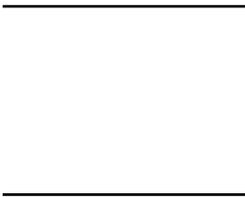
- Pastor Jennifer Murdock
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- Joyce Rhodes, Organist
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- Mary Lou Abrahamson, Communications
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- Cindy Cook, Financial Secretary (A/R)
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- Shannon Albert, Accountant (A/P)
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- Kristy Currie, Director, Grace Preschool
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- Kathy Mlinarich, Director, Live Oak Senior Nutrition
408.354.0707, kathy.mlinarich@lgumc.org
- Richard Garcia, Facilities Engineer
408.627.3345

In observance of the holiday, the Church Office
will be closed Monday, January 20.

The Spire

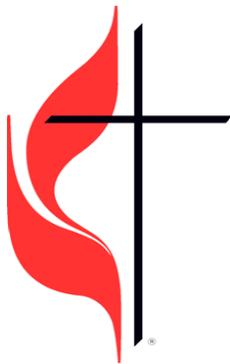
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**If you no longer wish to receive this mailing,
please mail or email to the address shown at left.
Thank You.**



Our Mission

Growing as followers of Jesus Christ
who live God's love in the world.



Find out more about our Ministries!
Go to www.LGUMC.org



"Serving Christ in this Community since 1866"

Pastor

Pastor Jennifer Murdock

Sunday Worship

9:15AM Traditional Worship Service
11AM Open House Contemporary Worship Service

Children's Ministry

9:15AM & 11:15AM
(Preschool—Grade 5)

Childcare

9:15AM and 11:15AM
Newborn—3 years

Youth Groups

Sr. & Jr. High

All Welcome!

We are a Reconciling Congregation

No one will be excluded from participating in the body of the church because of age, race, ethnicity, culture, religious origins, sexual orientation or challenging conditions.