

Spire

July 2020



from Pastor Kate



Dear Members and Friends of Los Gatos UMC,

A year ago, I was in my final weeks with my beloved congregation in Albany, Oregon, and in my final weeks as a local church pastor (or so I thought). ☺ After starting as a seminary intern at a church in Chicago at the age of 21, I was retiring 44 years later. Never in a million years could I have predicted that, a year later, I would leave my home in the beautiful Willamette Valley of Oregon, in the midst of a pandemic no less, to come to Los Gatos for a year as an interim pastor. After praying for several days about Bishop Carcaño's request, much to my great surprise, the answer that gave me the most peace was the one that seemed the most daunting - to say "yes."

That "yes" was the right answer, has already been confirmed for me. As I write this, you all are just days away from Pastor Jenn's last Sunday. I have been so blessed by her messages that I have been live streaming since April. I know she will be deeply missed! When I asked Pastor Jenn what words she would use to describe the congregation, this was her response: *welcoming, inclusion, acceptance, non-judgmental, unconditional love, service*. These words ring true to my experience of the Los Gatos folk I have already "met!"

So, I come to be among you. I come to collaborate, to listen, to learn, to pay attention to the nudgings of the Holy Spirit for LGUMC. I also come with the rock-solid belief that God will continue to use the congregation in powerful ways to transform lives - within the congregation, the community, and the world.

In ministry with you,

Kate

Worship

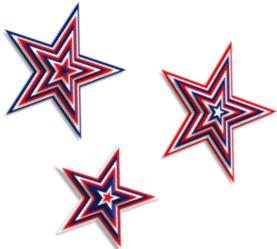
July Worship

July 5 Welcoming Pastor Kate!

We will be spending the summer in the book of Philippians. It is a letter the Apostle Paul wrote from prison to the church he started in Philippi. Paul's love for this congregation is evident, as is his joy in what he sees as their partnership in ministry with him. What stands out is his unwavering commitment to living a life rooted in Christ.

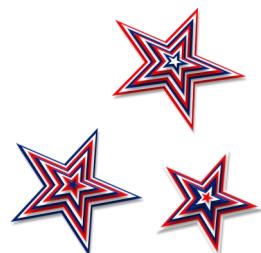
I believe it has much to say to us, both individually and as a congregation. May I suggest reading it through for yourself – once in a single sitting and then more meditatively, and in much smaller portions, looking for what captures your attention.

July 5
“Partnership in the Gospel”
Philippians 1:1-18a



July 12
“The Path from Present to Future”
Philippians 1:3-11

July 19
“A Worthy Life”
Philippians 1:21-30



July 26
“United We Stand”
Philippians 2:1-13

belong

grow

serve



2020 Mission update

I have some good news to share with you all!

Just in case you've been wondering there's important progress on the casita and water tower build for the selected needy Colonet family.

I have received these pictures from our friend Ivan in Colonet. He and his crew were locked down to limit / prevent the spread of coronavirus just as we were, so they only just have made some progress on construction.

You'll see the casita recipient family (selected by Pastor Antonio Dueñas) in these pictures. Others in the pictures are Ivan's hired builders. The reason that we've been able to move ahead with this casita and tower construction, even in our mission team's absence, is your generosity as well as the generosity of other donors.

Ivan will let me know more as he and his crew move ahead with the construction.

I want to say "thank you" to each of you for your energy, your prayers, and your generosity in bringing about this wonderful donation of a safe and sound home to a family in Colonet that truly needs it.

Hasta la proxima vez,
Pete Taylor





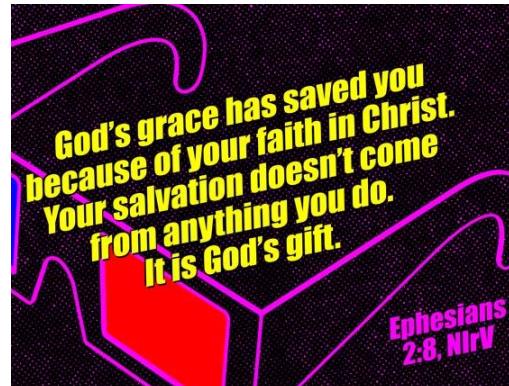
Children's Ministry

We are bringing Children's Worship to your home while we are all sheltered in.

Until further notice, weekly Sunday School videos, which are fun, safe and biblically grounded, along with worksheets, are emailed out so that kids can have worship experience at home.

We love you and miss you.

If you have any questions, please contact Shelley at kids@lgumc.org.

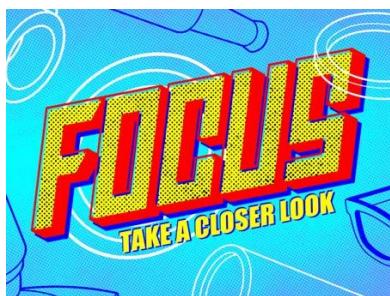


During the month of July:

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

God has always been involved in the world He created. We see His handiwork on display in creation. We see God's love on display through Jesus, who came to rescue us. We respond to God in faith, believing in what we can't see because of what we can see. When we focus on what we know to be true about God and the world God created, we can have faith in what we can't see or fully understand.

We can't see God with our eyes. But we can grow in our faith when we focus on who He is and what He's done. When we take a closer look, we learn to trust in what we CAN'T see because of what we CAN see.



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

belong

grow

serve



Extending our sad good-byes to Jill and Larry Kroh who are moving to Whidbey Island, Washington, this month. We thank them for their contributions to the services and ministries of LGUMC which have been numerous over the years.

In addition to the many years Larry has served on the Board of Trustees, he has been Chair of Trustees for the past four years, and has orchestrated the many projects that have been accomplished in that time. One of the most visible would be our Biblical Garden which was lovingly designed and cared for by Larry.

Jill has been a weekly addition to our office volunteers for many years and proof reader for the "Spire" (try not to notice all the errors in upcoming editions!). Jill has lent her artistic talents to Divine Design, and has also been very active in Children's Ministries, helping out with Sunday School and VBS.

The Kroh's will be sorely missed, and we lovingly wish them all of God's blessings and the very best in their new adventure.

Kindred Spirits

Kindred Spirits will be meeting on July 8, 5PM, via Zoom. This is our "summer reading bonanza" month. This year most of us will not be going to the beach nor doing any air travel but traditionally we reserve this month for some light summer reading. If you cannot join the Zoom meeting, please consider emailing Sharon Armstrong *before* the meeting with a brief synopsis of one or two books which you have enjoyed reading and would like to share with the group. For those who can meet, please be ready to talk about one or two books you have read and would recommend.



"The More that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn the more places you'll go."

Dr. Seuss, "I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!"

Congratulations 2020 Graduates!

More Graduates!

Kelly Evans graduated from Leigh High School and plans to major in Business Analytics at Boise State University.

Matthew Pearson, from Penn State with a degree in Human & Labor Relations, minor in Business. Will start a job in NYC this October.



This is a behind-the-scenes look of how the Zoom service was held on Pastor Jennifer's last Sunday.

Greg Cook is doing sound, Pam Parisi on video, Gail Hybarger with her script, Pastor Jenn getting ready for her final sermon, Kevin McCullough and Ren Geisick getting ready to sing.

Thank you to all who are involved in providing us with Sunday service!

belong

grow

serve

LGUMC “Social Justice Small Group” will focus on “Racial Equality and Justice” for a portion of this year and next. Because of shelter-in-place safety measures many of you were understandably reticent to participate in our Los Gatos “Black Lives Matter” march. Some of you have asked about things you can personally do from home to show your support of “racial equality” in our community and the country at large. Here are some suggestions from several web sites of actions you can take from your sheltering in place.

Know our American history. Watch **Roots**, **12 Years a Slave**, and **Selma**, to name a few.

Watch on YouTube: **4 Black Lives Matter Myths Debunked | Decoded | MTV News**

Read **The New Jim Crow** by Michelle Alexander.

Write to your city or town government representative to replace **Columbus Day** with **Indigenous People’s Day**. Read the short article on the racial brutality of Christopher Columbus at:

<https://www.click2houston.com/features/2020/06/12/why-the-brutal-history-of-christopher-columbus-has-become-a-focal-point-of-racial-tensions-in-the-us-today/>

Join your local Showing up for Racial Justice (**SURJ**) group. There is a lot of awesome work going on locally — Get involved in the projects that speak to you.

Donate to anti-white supremacy work such as your local Black Lives Matter Chapter, the **National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls**, the **NAACP**, **Southern Poverty Law Center**, **United Negro College Fund**, **Black Youth Project 100**, **Color of Change**, **The Sentencing Project**, **Families against Mandatory Minimums**, **A New Way of Life**, **Equal Justice Initiative**, and **Dream Defenders**. Join some of these list-serves and take action as their emails dictate.

Support black businesses. Find them on **WeBuyBlack**, **The Black Wallet**, and **Official Black Wall Street**.

Call your local school district and find out how slavery, the Civil War, and the Jim Crow era are being taught in your local schools.

You can also write and phone your members of Congress to support legislation to limit the use of deadly force to a last resort over a first option, or tweet at the Department of Justice, @TheJusticeDept,

Changing your behaviors and actions starts with changing your thoughts. Challenge yourself to identify your own deeply embedded stereotypes or bigoted thoughts.

“Google” to find whether your local police department currently outfits all on-duty police officers with a body-worn camera and requires that the body-worn camera be turned on immediately when officers respond to a police call. “Google” whether your city or town currently employs evidence-based police de-escalation trainings. If they don’t, write to your city or town government representative and police chief to advocate for it.

Try to find out ways to seek out a more “diverse group of friends.”

belong

grow

serve

Opportunity To Send Prayers to The Prayer Ministry Team

Since we no longer are able to use the Connection Cards, we now have two other ways to place your prayers on the Joys and Concerns list to be sent to The Prayer Ministry Team:

1. Put them in the comment section during the Facebook Sunday Morning Worship Service.
2. If you are more comfortable, email your prayers to Lois & Elwin Stocking, l.e.stocking@comcast.net, by Monday, and we will send them to The Prayer Ministry Team each week.

Blessings,
Lois & Elwin Stocking, Congregational Care Ministries Co-Chairs

COFFEE, TEA, OR CHOCOLATE?

Outreach Committee has not sold Equal Exchange/UMCOR coffee, tea, or chocolate, or chocolate bars for quite a while. We still have some on hand, though, and if you would like to purchase any of these products that are organically-grown on small farms that use no child- or indentured/trafficked-labor, call Jean Mundell at 408.666.6250.

~ Please keep the following persons and their families in your prayers for continued recovery, care and support ~

Aki Okuno, Celia Palm, Charley Ann Cobb,
Kern Hamilton, Doug McNeil,
Carl & Kay Thoresen, Harriet Armann,
Linda Waldrop, Eleanor Blumenthal,
Peggy Rose, Debbie Kroh,
Ed & Shelley Ahn-Wong,
The Homeless,
Prayers of Peace for all people
and all countries



In observance of the holiday, the Church Office will be closed on Monday, July 6.



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

- Reverend Kate Conolly
X215, kate.conolly@lgumc.org
- Robbie Frederiksen, Youth Director
503.816.1055, youth@lgumc.org
- Shelley Ahn-Wong, Children's Ministry Director
650.492.1657, kids@lgumc.org
- Marcelle Dougan, Director of Visitation
908.347.4687, marcelle.dougan@lgumc.org
- Mason Neipp, Director of Chancel Choir
choir@lgumc.org
- Kevin McCullough, Contemporary Music Director
kevin.mccullough@lgumc.org
- Joyce Rhodes, Organist
joyce.rhodes@lgumc.org
- Mary Lou Abrahamson, Communications
408.507.7140, marylou.abrahamson@lgumc.org
- Cindy Cook, Financial Secretary (A/R)
X211, cindy.cook@lgumc.org
- Shannon Albert, Accountant (A/P)
X212, shannon.albert@lgumc.org
- Kristy Currie, Director, Grace Preschool
X226, 408.354.7163, kristy.currie@lgumc.org
- Kathy Mlinarich, Director, Live Oak Senior Nutrition
408.354.0707, kathy.mlinarich@lgumc.org
- Richard Garcia, Facilities Engineer
408.627.3345

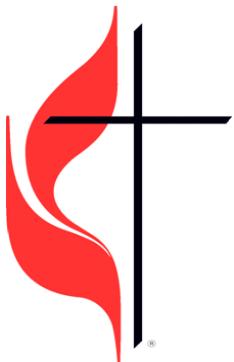
The Spire

Los Gatos United Methodist Church
111 Church Street
Los Gatos, CA 95030
408.354.4730 - www.lgumc.org
to be removed from mail or email list:
marylou.abrahamson@lgumc.org
Editor: Mary Lou Abrahamson

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.