



# *The Spire*

*September 2020*

## *Coming Home to Los Gatos UMC September 13, 11AM-12:30PM*

Dear Friends,

In a “normal” time, September 13 would be what has traditionally been called “Rally Sunday.” It would be a celebratory time where Sunday school resumes, the choir returns, and we gather back together after a summer of travel and lighter programming. Needless to say, this is not a normal time. However, I wanted to have something celebratory on this day, nonetheless.

On September 13 from 11AM--12:30PM, we will have an opportunity for you, from the safety of your cars, to receive communion (prepackaged), have a chance to tell me in a sentence or two what you would most want me to know about you and share a hope/dream for the congregation; be greeted by some of your fellow church members, Robbie, our Youth Director, and Marcelle, our Director of Visitation; be a part of Messy Church if you have children or grandchildren (see Shelley’s article); light a candle at a prayer station – and come “home” to the church campus. We are inviting you to come in intervals of 15 minutes, based on where your name is in the alphabet: 11AM – A-B; 11:15AM – C-E; 11:30AM – F-H; 11:45AM – I-M; 12PM – N-R; 12:15PM – S-Z. If these times do not work for you – no worries. Come when works best. We are hoping the staggered times will at least mitigate any congestion a bit.

In addition, as a way of embodying Jesus’ parable of caring for those who are most vulnerable where he said, “I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you have done it for me,” we will be taking a collection for the San Jose Family Shelter. Through our offering, we will be supporting the vital services of the shelter that is the only shelter in Santa Clara County for homeless families. In addition to providing emergency shelter and food, they help the families work on a plan to become self-sufficient. If you cannot come on September 13, you can always go directly to the website to donate:

<https://familysupportivehousing.org>.

I am looking forward to an opportunity to welcome you “home” to church on September 13. I continue to pray for you and to thank God for the opportunity to walk with you this year!

Grace and peace,

*Kate*

# September Worship

*Living God's love in the world.  
All Welcome!*

Our sermon series for September and October is inspired by the 2016 book titled *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*. It is about the meeting in 2015 of the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu on the occasion of the Dalai Lama's eightieth birthday. As the dust jacket says, "they looked back on their long lives to answer a single burning question: How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering?" As I prayed about what to focus on for the fall, it felt like this might be helpful in these extraordinary times. So many of you are dealing with challenges right now, that by themselves, would be so very heavy. Adding COVID on top of them has made them feel crushing.

In September and October, we will look at what the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu have identified as the eight pillars of joy. The four for September are qualities of the mind. The four in October will be qualities of the heart.



September 6

*Perspective*

"There are Many Different Angles"

Corinthians 4:13 - 5:1

September 13

*Humility*

"I Tried to Look Humble and Modest"

Romans 12:1-8

September 20

*Humor*

"Laughing, Joking is Much Better"

Genesis 18:1-15

September 27

*Acceptance*

"The Only Place Where Change Can Begin"

2 Corinthians 12:2-10



## **Online Worship**

Sundays 10AM

LGUMC Facebook page

See worship page at [LGUMC.org](http://LGUMC.org) for  
online worship live stream information.

# *A Book Study Facilitated by Pastor Kate*

I would like to invite you to explore Robin DiAngelo's book *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism* with me. **This eight-week class will start on Saturday, September 12, 10 – 11AM on Zoom, and go for the subsequent seven Saturdays.**

DiAngelo, who is white, has been a consultant and trainer on issues of racial and societal justice for over twenty years. The book discusses the “fragility” of white people around conversations of race, where they can be easily triggered into defensive reactions. Some of the chapter titles are: the challenges of talking to white people about racism, racism and white supremacy, racial triggers for white people, white fragility in action, and where do we go from here?

Obviously, this is not an easy subject. I know that I am personally feeling the need to confront my own racism that has come from growing up as a white person in the United States. And to confront my own “fragility” because I defensively think such things as “I am a good person who is morally outraged by white supremacists and their violent actions. I am not like them in any way.”

So, if this subject is of interest to you, you are willing to read the 153-page book, and be part of a group where we will need to be able to engage respectfully and compassionately with one another – then please let me know! If you would like me to order you a book, which you can either pick up at the office or have me deliver to you, socially distanced, also let me know!



# In Loving Memory



~ In Loving Memory ~

**Linda Waldrop**

**Virtual Memorial Service**

**October 18, 11AM**

(more details to follow)

The Waldrop family wish to express deep appreciation for the vast amounts of love and support Linda and our family have received during her battle with ALS. The food, visits, sharing times, cards and letters, and many good wishes over the last two-plus years were so very helpful. Linda knew she was loved, and so did we all. Thank you.

Memorial Donations may be given to:

ALS Association

<http://www.alsa.org/donate/giving/gifts-in-tribute.html>

Second Harvest of Silicon Valley

<https://www.shfb.org/give-help/donate-funds/>

*In our Sunday, August 23 tribute to Linda Waldrop, this poem was read by Mark Eastland.*

## **WORTH THE WAIT** by Mark Allen Eastland

Time cramps our freedom  
We trip running up the stairs  
Shoulders carry heavy loads  
Legs press on but buckle beneath the weight  
Yet we no longer wear their mask  
We have shed their layers

It was worth the wait

The road prepares to turn and bend  
There are three who wait at the corner  
Letting go is their final gift

It was worth the wait

A blue moon rises from a formless horizon  
Light cascades like water flowing over icy rocks  
Smooth and gentle  
Soft and soothing

It was worth the wait

Air fills up the infinite  
And inspires the flight of folded wings  
Inviting us to join with the limitless

It was worth the wait

The lion moans in the heavy grass  
His mate is gone  
He hunts alone

It is worth the wait

To find the sun rose again today  
Praise the coming of the day  
Illuminate the night with your light  
Smile into my mind  
So I know you have landed  
Where gentle souls find rest

It is worth the wait

The trees grow tall and straight  
Near a stream that flows to a garden  
Your beauty lingers in each blossom  
Your essence alive in this space  
Where it all began

It is all worth the wait

*Belong thru Worship*

*Grow in Christ*

*Serve with Love*

# Outreach

The **Outreach Committee** is thinking about **Joan Nunn**, as we usually have a workday in her honor with Habitat for Humanity in the fall. Kevin Hayashi, our liaison with Habitat, suggested, that we write a short note to illustrate what we remember about working with Joan and highlight the impact she had on our lives.

From Jean Mundell: Joan didn't like to waste time at meetings, so she often knitted caps for the homeless during Outreach meetings, keeping us on the agenda with practical remarks while helping to keep someone warm. Her work with Habitat, the Homeless Breakfast, and We Build Together, wore me out.

From Carol Crow: Joan was a hard worker, and she expected others to provide the same enthusiasm, diligent attention, and actual labor in serving others that she liked to do. At the same time, she was humble. However, if she thought something was stupid, she did not hesitate to say so, then moved on to whether we could do anything about it and, if so, what. She also had a wry sense of humor.

Our daughter, Kimberly, and I had the privilege of working with Joan at a Habitat for Humanity house when Kim was a teenager. She taught us how to caulk, then put us to work painting a bedroom. She said she liked doing the caulking and painting herself, but "the powers that be" decided she should just "boss people around" for a while, and another "very important job" that she did was walk around at the end of the day and pick up all the nails and sort them by size before putting them away. I suspected no one had actually assigned her that task. I think Joan saw a job that needed doing and just did it. That was Joan.



*September 23*

*First Day of Autumn*



## Children's Ministry



### Messy Church

You are invited to the next Messy Church, scheduled for **September 13 , 11:00 – 12:15 in the courtyard.**

It is a new kind of non-traditional church for families.

We miss all of our kids and are so excited to have Messy Church in person!

Of course, we will be a safe distance from each other, and all participants are required to wear a face covering at all times.

We will have some pre-packaged snacks for all kiddos.

Please RSVP @ [kids@lgumc.org](mailto:kids@lgumc.org)

### Monthly Packet

*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.

If you would like your kids to be added to the list to receive a monthly packet of activities, please contact Shelley, [kids@lgumc.org](mailto:kids@lgumc.org), and include your physical address.

We love you and miss you.

Let us know how we can support you by contacting contact Shelley at [kids@lgumc.org](mailto:kids@lgumc.org).



During the month of **September:**

It's a real celebration when everyone's invited to the party! With God's help, we can show friendship by using our words and actions to show others we care.



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

Jesus showed us the greatest example of love when He laid down His life for His friends. With His words and actions, He showed friendship to everyone He met. We can reflect Jesus' love best when we treat one another with friendship.

**Director of Children's Ministry**  
**Shelley Ahn-Wong**  
**[kids@lgumc.org](mailto:kids@lgumc.org)**  
**408.354.4730**

## KEEP SHOWERING AND CARRY ON!

Our small but mighty team of LGUMC volunteers, with help from St. Luke's and St. Vincent DePaul, continues to serve our homeless neighbors every Thursday afternoon.

This time of shelter-in-place has been particularly challenging for these unhoused men and women, and they greatly appreciate the weekly showers and meals-to-go. We are serving usually 6-8 folks a week (down from our regular 12 or so - we haven't quite figured out why the decrease).

We have had a few folks offer to help...and if that is you...here's what we would appreciate:

- 1) Good quality, full sized bath towels or beach towels. We are currently not able to wash towels, so towels are not being washed and re-used. We will take gently used or new if you would like to donate.
- 2) Subway gift cards in the amount of \$10. These can be purchased on Amazon in packs or at [Subway gift cards](#).

Contact Marna Taylor, [marnalee59@gmail.com](mailto:marnalee59@gmail.com), if you can donate either of these. Unfortunately at this time we can't take any other donations of clothes, blankets, etc., so please don't plan to donate these. Happy Dragon in Los Gatos is open and taking donations, and our clients use that resource.

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## Kindred Spirits

Kindred Spirits continues to hold monthly meetings via Zoom. We hope you can join us for our next meeting which will be September 9, 5PM. Sharon Armstrong will send the invitation the day before the meeting. Our discussion will be *Unsheltered*, by Barbara Kingsolver. This timely book is the story of two families in two different centuries as they live through the social turmoil of their times. Though the future may be uncertain, the book explores the resiliency of the human spirit and the capacity for compassion in a changing world.



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## Men's Group on Saturday Morning

We meet from 8AM to 9:30AM on Saturdays, every two weeks. Currently, Eric Carlson has us set up to ZOOM. We have breakfast snacks (or NOT during this pandemic), chat about what we are doing and have in the past, taken walks in the woods or studied a book. It is a very informal group.

If you are interested contact:

Elwin Stocking, 408.867.0901 or [l.e.stocking@comcast.net](mailto:l.e.stocking@comcast.net)



## Elections 2020

November will be here before you know it and as US citizens we have a very important job to do. You guessed it. VOTE! As a citizen, you need information so you can make informed decisions for upcoming 2020 ballot propositions and measures before you mark your ballot.

The League of Woman Voters is pleased to announce that it will be presenting the Pros and Cons for our state ballot propositions and local measures in a webinar scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 7PM. In the past, the League of Women Voters has worked closely with Los Gatos UMC and it's Social Justice Committee in order to present this information live. Due to the Corona Virus, but thanks to technology and dedicated people, the tradition will continue. Please look for links to the webinar in the church blast.



## **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](mailto: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



Long time member, Art Okuno, will be celebrating his 99th birthday on September 15. Wife of 66 years, Aki, will also be celebrating her 94th birthday on September 17.

Best wishes to you both for a joyous birthday and a happy, healthy year!

*Years in themselves mean nothing. How we live them means everything.* ~ Elisabeth Marbury

(Cards for Art and Aki, can be sent to: Aki Okuno, 14500 Fruitvale Ave., #2207, Saratoga, CA 95070)

Check out our new series called **Catch Up Wednesdays** where one of the ministry teams will catch everybody up on what's been happening behind the scenes over the past several months.

Our ministries have continued God's work even when the world and our country shut down!

Be on the lookout for more Catch Up Wednesdays in the future. These videos can be viewed on our YouTube channel and Facebook page as they are posted on Wednesday.

*~ 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,  
Eleanor Blumenthal, Becky Schmitt,  
Peggy Rose, Debbie Kroh,  
Ed & Shelley Ahn-Wong, Ian Webb,  
Bill Burr, The Waldrop Family,  
The Homeless,  
Prayers of Peace for all people  
and all countries

## **Congregational Care - Eyes in the Pews**

We care about the people in our congregation. We are missing seeing everyone. Since our seniors are the most vulnerable to this virus and losing social time, 56 people from our congregation are calling or being called every week. Our purpose is to bring joy, comfort, and connection to some of our isolated congregants. We hope that this will brighten their day, and they will feel God's love.



# Creator's Corner

There are many of you creating things that the rest of the congregation and community would like to see. With most of our ministries on 'hold' until we are released from this pandemic, it was suggested that we ask our congregation to submit something that they have created while under the "stay-at-home" order, and what inspired you to create. Your inspired creations can be anything such as poems, paintings, baked items, song lyrics, scribbles, photos, flower arrangements, quilts, gardening, etc. that you would like to share.

Please take a photo and write a few lines as to what inspired your creation, and submit to [marylou.abrahamson@lgumc.org](mailto:marylou.abrahamson@lgumc.org).

Now, for our next creation...



by Ed Burling

A creation I have work on, is the baking of bread. I find it very therapeutic. After experimenting with three different sourdough starters and five different recipes, I have finally achieved a decent loaf of French bread with chewy crust and big holes. The trick is to use only starter, flour, water and salt (no oil or sugar). I keep the dough moist, and do not knead it much or add a bunch of flour. Tossing three ice cubes onto the floor of the oven when you put in the bread gives the bread a firm crust. Next time I will try a loaf pan to see if I can make bread for sandwiches.

I used to bake bread all the time, when the kids were young. My grandfather used to bake bread and his father was a baker.

At the beginning of the pandemic, our next door neighbor baked a loaf of bread for us, and that inspired me to give it a try once again.



## 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  
Glenn Stansbury, glennsemail@yahoo.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

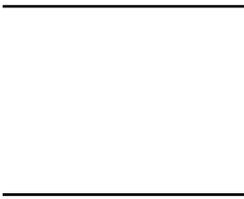
- Reverend Kate Conolly  
X215, kate.conolly@lgumc.org
- Robbie Frederiksen, Youth Director  
503.816.1055, youth@lgumc.org
- Shelley Ahn-Wong, Children's Ministry Director  
650.492.1657, kids@lgumc.org
- Marcelle Dougan, Director of Visitation  
908.347.4687, marcelle.dougan@lgumc.org
- Mason Neipp, Director of Chancel Choir  
choir@lgumc.org
- Kevin McCullough, Contemporary Music Director  
mckevin27@yahoo.com
- Joyce Rhodes, Organist  
joyce.rhodes@lgumc.org
- Mary Lou Abrahamson, Communications  
408.507.7140, marylou.abrahamson@lgumc.org
- Cindy Cook, Financial Secretary (A/R)  
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- Shannon Albert, Accountant (A/P)  
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- 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

In observance of the holiday, the church office will be closed on Monday, September 7.

# The Spire

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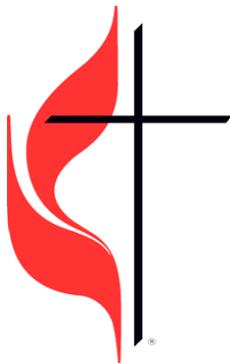
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## Our Mission

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

*“Serving Christ in this Community  
since 1866”*



**Sr. Pastor**  
Pastor Katherine Conolly

Until further notice,  
please follow us on  
[lgumc.org](http://lgumc.org)  
and join us for  
Sunday Worship  
10AM  
lgumc, Facebook or YouTube



Find out more about our Ministries!  
Go to [www.LGUMC.org](http://www.LGUMC.org)



*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.