



Dear Friends,

We are entering my favorite season of the church year. By the way, Happy New Year! The new church year officially begins on November 29, the first Sunday of Advent. When I was a young pastor, I was a real stickler for not singing Christmas carols during Advent. After all, we were in the season of *preparation* for Jesus' birth, so it would be liturgically inappropriate to be singing about his birth. I gave that up long ago – thank you, Jesus! So, we will be singing carols during Advent!

One of my spiritual mentors and heroes is Henri Nouwen, a Catholic priest, professor and prolific author. The first book I read of his was "The Wounded Healer" my first semester in seminary in the fall of 1975. It was most comforting to read that it is our very wounds that can enable us to be a healing presence for others.

I share his Advent prayer with you.

Lord Jesus,  
Master of both the light and the darkness,  
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.  
We who have so much to do  
seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.  
We who are anxious over many things  
look forward to your coming among us.  
We who are blessed in so many ways long for  
the complete joy of your kingdom.  
We whose hearts are heavy  
seek the joy of your presence.  
We are your people,  
walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.  
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"  
Amen.

~ Henri J.M. Nouwen

Waiting and walking with you,

Kate

# December Worship

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

In December, we will be continuing our Advent worship that started the last Sunday in November with "The Journey of Hope." If ever there was a need to spend time with hope, peace, joy and love – this would seem like the year!

December 6  
"The Journey of Peace"  
John 14:23-29

December 13  
"The Journey of Joy"  
Isaiah 9:1-4

December 20  
"The Journey of Love"  
I John 4:18-21

December 24  
A Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols  
(pre-recorded and can be watched anytime on  
Christmas Eve day)

December 27  
"The Gifts We Give"  
Matthew 2:1-12  
(pre-recorded)



# *Peace on Earth*

# Christmas

## CHILDREN'S GIFT TREE

The Children's Gift Tree will be providing gifts for 44 Head Start and State Pre-School children from low-income families. Cash donations for the purchase of gifts are encouraged this year. Make your check out to LGUMC, with "Children's Gift Tree" noted on the check. Those wanting to provide a gift on their own, please contact Michael or Carol Crow, [crowck@yahoo.com](mailto:crowck@yahoo.com), 408.371.7252, for specific details for this year's needs.

**All donations should be received by the church by November 30.**

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

For those who wish to honor or remember a loved one at Christmas and would like to help beautify the sanctuary in the process, poinsettias are available. Dedications will appear in the Christmas Eve Bulletin. The deadline for orders is December 9.

**The cost is \$15 each.**

**Please send the following information to:** [marylou.abrahamson@lgumc.org](mailto:marylou.abrahamson@lgumc.org) or call 408.507.7140.

Name(s) In Honor of  
Name(s) In Memory of  
Number of plants  
Your name

**Please send payment to:**

LGUMC, 111 Church St., Los Gatos, CA 95030

Please add "poinsettias" to the memo line of your check.

**THE DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS DECEMBER 9.**

## CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIRE GOES VIRTUAL!

Our annual gift faire will be a virtual event this year. We will offer online donations to various nonprofit groups -- in some cases we will provide a link so that donations can be made directly to the organization, and in other cases, you can fill out an order blank (on page 8), with a check and send it to the church office. You may print your gift cards and program descriptions at home, or come to the office to pick them up. The Virtual Faire will continue through December 14. For more information and directions, please go to [lgumc.org](http://lgumc.org).

# Children's Ministry



## **Messy Church – Christmas Celebration**

A new kind of non-traditional church for families  
We miss all kids. We are so excited to have Messy Church in person.  
Of course, we will be in safe distance from each other.  
All participants and volunteers are required to wear a face covering at all times.  
We will have some pre-packaged snacks for all kiddos.  
You are invited to our next Messy Church,  
scheduled for **December 13, 11:00 – 12:15 in the Social Hall.**

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



## **Weekly Worship**

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

## **During the month of December:**

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

Christmas can be filled with all sorts of emotions. Some people easily experience the joy of the season. Some rest in the hope that God is making all things new. But others struggle to find peace due to life's circumstances. With all that's going on this time of year, we thought it would be great to go back to the basics and simply celebrate Christmas. The truth is, Jesus is the best gift God ever gave. Jesus was proof that God loves us and we can trust God no matter what. Because of Jesus, it's possible for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever. As we remember the Christmas story, we take time to celebrate the greatest gift the world has ever known and rediscover, joy and hope and peace as we rest in the unconditional love of God.

## **Memory Verse**

Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the LORD.  
Luke 2:11

**Director of Children's Ministry  
Shelley Ahn-Wong  
[kids@lgumc.org](mailto:kids@lgumc.org)  
650.492.1657**

## Kindred Spirits

Merry Christmas! Kindred Spirits does not meet during the month of December. We hope you will join us in the New Year. Newcomers are always welcome. The following is a list of the books we have chosen for 2021:

*High Country*, by Nevada Barr

*American Dirt*, by Jeanine Cummins

*This Tender Land*, by William Kent Krueger

*The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, by Kim Michele Richardson

*News of the World*, by Jeanette Jiles

*Between the World and Me*, by Ta-Nehisi Coates

*Hero of the Empire: The Boer War, a Daring Escape, and the Making of Winston Churchill*, by Candice Millard

*A Woman of No Importance, The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II*, by Sonia Purnell



## 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

*belong*

*grow*

*serve*



**Online Worship**

Sundays 10AM

LGUMC Facebook page

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

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

Kern Hamilton, Doug McNeil, Art & Aki Okuno,  
Celia Palm, Charley Ann Cobb,  
Kay Thoresen, Pat Salem, Anne-Marie Wiggers,  
Eleanor Blumenthal, Becky Schmitt,  
Peggy Rose, Debbie Kroh,  
Ed & Shelley Ahn-Wong, Ian Webb,  
The Waldrop Family,  
The Thoresen Family, The Armann Family,  
The Burr Family, The Homeless,  
Our First Responders,  
Prayers of Peace for all people  
and all countries

**From the Church Office**

Because of Covid-19 restrictions, the Church Office will be on flex hours. If you need to visit the office, please call in advance to insure it will be open.

*~ In Memoriam ~*

**Bill Burr**



Winter Solstice  
December 22  
December 22  
Winter Solstice



# 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 creations...

I decorated the frame with hats using real flower petals for some. It was done in a craft class recently here at the Saratoga Retirement Center. Since I am known as "the hat lady" it seemed logical that I use hats as a theme. It was easily done with glue, glitter, marking pens and the frame.

by Louise Webb



Have been working on this crib blanket awaiting the birth of our 4th great granddaughter. She is due November 28, but her mother is ready for her to come NOW!!

by Ruth Oveland

Later Ruth wrote:  
Baby Kaitlin Erin Rose arrived safe and healthy on Friday, November 20, 2020. Mother and baby both doing well.

*Congratulations to the Oveland family!*

**LOS GATOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIRE 2020**  
*An Alternative to Christmas Gifting, and a VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE*

Please make your donation selections on this order blank. Donations are 100% tax deductible.  
 (\$10 per share; Children under 12 may purchase up to 5 shares @\$1.00)

**NOTE: There are several ways to donate and pay:**

- 1) Fill out your order, and come to the office with your check to pick up your gift cards.
- 2) Go online, fill in your order, mail in your check with Gift Faire on the memo line. You may either print out your gift card and program description which will be sent to you electronically, or come to the office to pick them up.
- 3) Some groups have provided an electronic link. If you wish to donate directly to them, please do so. They will email you a receipt. You may also come to the office to pick up gift cards.
- 4) Office hours: 9-4, Monday-Thursday; address: 111 Church St., Los Gatos, CA 95030

<b><u>No. of Shares @\$10</u></b>	<b><u>Organization</u></b>
-----------------------------------	----------------------------

**INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL**

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| _____ | 1 SEEDS Homeless Youth Outreach   |
| _____ | 2 Children's Tumor Foundation   |
| _____ | 3 Volunteers in Mission (VIM)   |
| _____ | 4 Lighting for Literacy   |
| _____ | 5 Doris Dillon School - Cambodia<br><dorisdillonschoolincambodia.org>   |
| _____ | 6 Youth Service Projects  |
| _____ | 7 Habitat for Humanity <give.habitatebsv.org> (Write LGUMC in Tribute box)  |
| _____ | 8 UMCOR: Domestic and/or International Disaster Relief<br><UMCmission.org/advance-project/999895/>  |
| _____ | 9 Heifer Project International < <a href="https://fundraise.heifer.org/LGUMC">https://fundraise.heifer.org/LGUMC</a> ><br>(Choose a project from the Heifer/LGUMC site) |

**RECONCILING MINISTRIES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| _____ | 10 Reconciling Ministries Network, MFSA, LGUMC Social Justice Ministry |
|-------|--|

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY AND LOS GATOS**

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| _____ | 11 San Jose Family Shelter Meals                           |
| _____ | 12 Messy Church - Support for New LGUMC Children's Program |
| _____ | 13 Live Oak Adult Day Services                             |
| _____ | 14 LGUMC Shower Ministry                                   |
| _____ | 15 LGUMC Health and Visitation Ministries                  |
| _____ | 16 Live Oak Senior Nutrition Center                        |

---

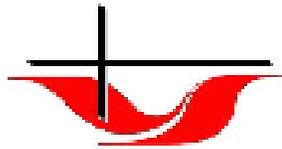
_____ ** \$1.00/shares for children under 12	**\$ _____
_____ <b>TOTAL NUMBER OF SHARES @ \$10.00 =</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

**Make checks out to LGUMC (Do not include amount that you donated directly)**  
**Please print your name \_\_\_\_\_**

**THANK YOU \*\*\*\*\*BLESSINGS, PEACE, AND JOY\*\*\*\*\*MERRY CHRISTMAS**

PLEASE FILL  
OUT AND  
RETURN  
ATTACHED  
PLEDGE CARD  
IF YOU HAVE  
NOT ALREADY  
DONE SO.

THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED  
SUPPORT OF  
LGUMC.



**LOS GATOS UMC  
ESTIMATE OF GIVING  
JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021**

With gratitude to God for the wonder of life and the vision of this church,  
I/we will give a portion of my/our income to Los Gatos UMC:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ every  week  month  quarter  year

to the general fund. I would like to continue / increase my  
e-giving (circle one).

**YOUR GIVING  
MATTERS!**

**Name**



## Office Hours:

**Monday - Thursday**  
**Contact Office, 408.354.4730**

**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

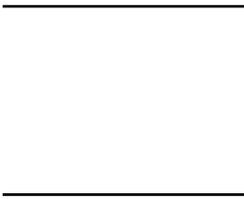
- Reverend Kate Conolly  
X215, 541.971.9130, kate.conolly@lgumc.org
- Robbie Frederiksen, Youth Director  
503.816.1055, youth@lgumc.org
- Shelley Ahn-Wong, Children's Ministry Director  
650.492.1657, kids@lgumc.org
- Marcelle Dougan, Director of Visitation  
908.347.4687, marcelle.dougan@lgumc.org
- Kevin McCullough, Contemporary Music Director  
mckevin27@yahoo.com
- Joyce Rhodes, Organist  
joyce.rhodes@lgumc.org
- Mary Lou Abrahamson, Admin. Ass't. / 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

In observance of the holiday, the Church Office will be closed on December 24 & 25.

# The Spire

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

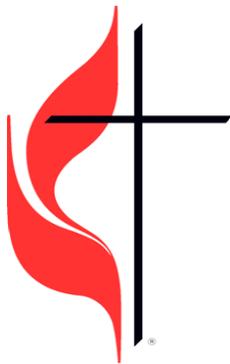
**If you no longer wish to receive this mailing,  
please mail or email to the address shown at left.  
Thank You.**



## Our Mission

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

*"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](http://lgumc.org), 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.