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
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)
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, 408.371.7252, for specific details for this year’s needs.

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

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 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.

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.
**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.

**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
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, by Monday, and we will send them to The Prayer Ministry Team each week.

Blessings,
Lois & Elwin Stocking, Congregational Care Ministries Co-Chairs
~ In Memoriam ~
Bill Burr

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


Online Worship
Sundays 10AM
LGUMC Facebook page
See worship page at LGUMC.org for online worship live stream information.

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
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.

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

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<th>No. of Shares @ $10</th>
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<td>INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>SEEDS Homeless Youth Outreach</td>
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<td>Children’s Tumor Foundation</td>
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<td>Volunteers in Mission (VIM)</td>
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<td>Lighting for Literacy</td>
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<td>Doris Dillon School - Cambodia</td>
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<td>&lt;dorisdillonschoolincambodia.org&gt;</td>
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<td>Youth Service Projects</td>
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<td>Habitat for Humanity &lt;give.habitatebsv.org&gt; (Write LGUMC in Tribute box)</td>
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<td>UMCOR: Domestic and/or International Disaster Relief &lt;UMCmission.org/advance-project/999895/&gt;</td>
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<td>Heifer Project International <a href="https://fundraise.heifer.org/LGUMC">https://fundraise.heifer.org/LGUMC</a></td>
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<td>(Choose a project from the Heifer/LGUMC site)</td>
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<td>RECONCILING MINISTRIES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE</td>
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<td>Reconciling Ministries Network, MFSA, LGUMC Social Justice Ministry</td>
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<td>SANTA CLARA COUNTY AND LOS GATOS</td>
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<td>San Jose Family Shelter Meals</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Messy Church - Support for New LGUMC Children’s Program</td>
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<td>Live Oak Adult Day Services</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>LGUMC Shower Ministry</td>
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<td>LGUMC Health and Visitation Ministries</td>
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<td>Live Oak Senior Nutrition Center</td>
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<td>** $1.00/shares for children under 12 **$_______</td>
<td>TOTAL NUMBER OF SHARES @ $10.00 = $_______</td>
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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.
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
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Shelley Ahn-Wong, Children’s Ministry Director
650.492.1657, kids@lgumc.org
Marcelle Dougan, Director of Visitation
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Kevin McCullough, Contemporary Music Director
mckev27@yahoo.com
Joyce Rhodes, Organist
joyce.rhodes@lgumc.org
Mary Lou Abrahamson, Admin. Ass’t. / 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
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.
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 and join us for Sunday Worship 10AM lgumc, Facebook or YouTube

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.