



Quilt by Joy Palmer—See page 8

Spire

February 2021

Dear Friends,

Well – an uneventful January 2021 has flown by. An insurrection. An inauguration. An inoculation. (Praise God that some of you are starting to get the vaccine!) What might February bring?

It has been interesting to “turn the page” on 2020 – and yet, in some ways, it still feels like “Groundhog Day.” (If you have never watched or have not re-watched the movie recently, I would highly recommend doing so. Perhaps as a February 2 “fun” activity.) We are still waiting for things to get back to “normal” as we approach the one-year mark of the initial lockdown. I will admit that there are days when it feels like climbing a mountain where you think you are seeing the top, only to climb a bit higher and see that there is yet another ridge – and another and another.

I want to make an observation about what I am seeing about the “heart” (it *is* the month of Valentine’s Day, after all!) of the congregation in the face of all we have and are going through. I have witnessed an overall spirit of compassion, kindness, generosity, and service. Yes, there is a weariness and some fraying around the edges. And for some of you who have suffered great loss or who are dealing with major health issues, either your own or a beloved family member’s, there has been extra stress, of course. However, through all of this – I see great resilience. This bodes well for the future of our congregation. The pandemic has certainly put a stress on LGUMC – both financially and missionally. And yet – here we are, continuing to gather in worship and small groups, praying for one another, reaching out with a helping hand and listening ear to one another and actively ministering to the youngest and the oldest in the community through Grace Pre-school and Live Oak Nutrition Center.

I thank God regularly, with deep gratitude, for the opportunity to be walking with you all this appointment year. May each of you feel the love of Christ surrounding you, and the voice of God whispering to you that you are God’s beloved child.

In ministry with you,

Kate

February Worship

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

We will be ending our series on the book of Ruth and then entering the season of Lent with a new series on prayer. It will be based on one of the best books I have ever read on prayer – *Prayer: Does it Make Any Difference?* by Phillip Yancey.

Every Sunday in Lent, there will be a Zoom opportunity from 11:15-Noon to gather with your friends to reflect on the message about prayer for the day. I will have some questions for you to think about ahead of time – however, there will be no needed preparation and each session will be stand alone.



February 7
“Redemption”
Ruth 4:1-12

February 14
“Great-Grandmothers”
Ruth 4:13-22

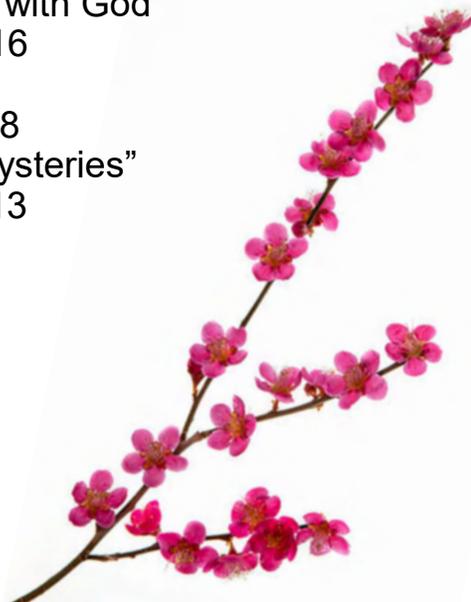
February 21
“Keeping Company with God”
Luke 5:12-16

February 28
“Unraveling the Mysteries”
Luke 11:1-13



February 17

Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins





Children's Ministry

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 February

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

Kindness is showing other they are valuable by how you treat them.

God was kind to us even when we didn't deserve it. Because of His love for us, we can be kind to everyone. Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit. And when you show kindness to others, you give them a glimpse into the heart of God, and how much God loves them. Kindness should be a characteristic of people who follow Jesus. Not only did Jesus model kindness, but He also commanded it. He taught us to treat others the way we want to be treated.

Memory Verse

"You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient." Colossians 3:12 NIRV

**Director of Children's Ministry
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Social Justice Update

Like many other groups at Los Gatos United Methodist Church, Social Justice has been limited to meeting on Zoom. We greatly miss our Sticky Buns live discussions where we spent much of 2019 discussing LGBTQ equality, especially within our own Methodist faith.

Due to the current limitations on in-person gathering, Social Justice formed a Zoom book group as an offshoot of our involvement with social justice issues and our books have centered on racial equality. We have read and discussed *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo and *Biased* by Jennifer Eberhardt. The next book on our list is *So You Want to Talk about Race* by Ijeoma Oluo. Reading these books has given us a better perspective of the systemic racism in our society and an understanding of the inequality experienced by Black minorities in America. As a result of these readings, Social Justice members have become more aware and more involved. Some are working with local organizations such as SURJ (showing up for racial justice). Others have been active in getting out the black vote in Georgia by writing hundreds of postcards urging Georgians to vote.

As we have witnessed at the start of 2021, there is much division in American society: opposing political views, different social values and philosophies of life. Strongly held beliefs have resulted in hatred, violence, and splits within families and social friendships. These are very trying times, but we encourage everyone to remember these words of Nelson Mandela: "Where people of goodwill get together and transcend their differences to work for the common good, peaceful and just solutions can be found, even for those problems which seemed the most intractable."

Peace and love for you and your family in 2021.



UNITED METHODISTS STAND AGAINST RACISM



UMC.org/EndRacism

Thanks to Louise Webb, on January 16, 35 people were privileged to hear artist and writer, Dorothy Atkins, speak about her life as a woman of color. Dorothy grew up in Vallejo with friends who were white. She stated that her new mantra is, “I am a brown mama with a brown family.” Her own parents were wise and encouraging. Her mother told her, “Don’t let a wall stand in your way. Go around it.”

Dorothy has gone around many a wall, as evidenced by her experiences of racism. But she is a strong woman who is not bitter and sees the commonalities in all of us. She stated that she didn’t allow hate to infiltrate her life. After an apartment-hunting experience in San Francisco involving overt racism, she decided she could pick and choose what she was going to be bothered by.

Some of her statements on racism: “Racism is about color. All whites are not racist and all blacks are not bad. How do I navigate in a world that doesn’t love me? Racism is a health issue.”

Asked what we can do, Dorothy advised, “Become an ally. Call out racism when you see it.”

Following the George Floyd murder, Dorothy channeled her anger into painting. She has done a series of paintings titled “One Love” and will have a one-woman show in March. For details, visit www.dorothyatkinsartist.com.

Those who attended Dorothy’s talk had to be impressed by this ever-evolving, generous, and wise woman of color.

belong

grow

serve

Kindred Spirits

Plan to join us on February 10, 4PM, on Zoom as we discuss our historical fiction selection *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Michele Richardson. This book was inspired by the true blue-skinned people of Kentucky and the Kentucky Pack Horse Library of the 1930s. The story centers on a young girl of 19, one of the last of the blue people, who takes a job with the government's new book program. While riding her mule over treacherous terrain to deliver books to the isolated mountain people, she is met with intolerance and racism as old as the Appalachians. How she confronts these dangers is a story of courage, strength, and the belief in the redemptive power of books.



Men's Spirituality Group will begin discussing *A Pilgrimage to Eternity: From Canterbury to Rome: in Search of a Faith* by Timothy Egan.

For more information: Glenn Stansbury, glenn.stansbury@lgumc.org

Thank you to Shower Ministry Supporters

The Shower Ministry Team (or Shower Heads as Jean Mundell has aptly named us!) want to extend our gratitude for the \$1,290 that was donated through the Christmas Gift Fair. Our unhoused clients will be thrilled with the warm, clean showers, gift cards, socks and underwear that these funds will bring in 2021.

Live Oak Senior Nutrition and Service Center (LOSNSC) and Kathy Mlinarich, Executive Director, were recognized and honored by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the Kiwanis Club of Los Gatos. In December, LOSNSC was awarded the President's Medal for Exemplary Service by Mike Wasserman, Supervisor District One, for providing extraordinary services during the COVID-19 pandemic

More recently, the Kiwanis Club of Los Gatos awarded Kathy Mlinarich with the first "Community Hero Award." Along with three other recipients, Kathy will be honored with a scholarship presented in her name to a local high school student.

With help and support from Los Gatos United Methodist Church and the community under the direction of Kathy Mlinarich, the lunch program for seniors has remained open serving an ever increasing number of people during this difficult time. Our doors never closed and no one was turned away. The hot lunch program remained a point of stability in the lives of the most vulnerable and isolated members of our community.

A mighty thank you to all who have contributed time, cookies, gifts, money, meals and support. For information about this program, call 408.354.0707.

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HUNTER/FRYE/UMW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for the Hunter/Frye/UMW Scholarship are now available. The funds are from the endowments of Ruth Dick Hunter and Florence Frye, two women who were interested in the education of our students, and from the United Methodist Women. The deadline for turning in the complete packet is Thursday, May 13, 2021.



Applications are available online by requesting a copy from Jean Mundell, jmundell@earthlink.net, or call the church office, 408.354.4730, or Jean Mundell, 408.666.6250 for a copy to be mailed to you.

Virtual Christmas Gift Faire

Thanks to the high-tech skills of Pam Parisi and Mary Lou Abrahamson, we were able to have a Virtual Christmas Gift Faire this year, in spite of the pandemic. We are not sure how much was actually donated because some of it went directly to a number of participating groups that were electronically linked to our on-line order form. We collected \$6,040 from those who mailed or brought contributions to the office, and 100% of that was distributed to the designated organizations. It was a successful blending of 20th and 21st Century skills. The Outreach Committee thanks all who took part in this annual event.

from Mary Lou & Pam:

The **real** "thank you" goes to Jean Mundell for her dedication and hard work for many years. Well done again, Jean!

February

Black History Month

February 2 Ground Hog Day

February 3 "The Day the Music Died"

February 12 Lincoln's Birthday
Chinese New Year

February 14 Happy Valentine's Day!

February 15 President's Day
Washington's Birthday

February 16 Fat Tuesday

February 17 Ash Wednesday
Beginning of Lent

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

Kern Hamilton, Doug McNeil, 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,
The Homeless, Our First Responders,
Prayers of Peace for all people
and all countries



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.

Now, for our next creations...



By Joy Palmer
Submitted by John Palmer

The heart quilt was made by Joy Palmer for a challenge run by the Cherrywood Company which makes hand-dyed fabric. Every year they have a challenge with a theme (recent ones have been "Lion King," "Bob Ross," a painter on PBS, "Prince," the singer). For the challenge you are required to use fabric from a kit they sell. For the Prince theme all the fabric was dark purple. This year's theme was Princess Diana and all the fabric was pink. The surface of the quilt has hot fix crystals and flowers individually created and then attached after the surface was quilted. Joy's thought on the theme was: her heart reflects the love that her sons and the people of the world had for her.

The heart quilt was made by Joy Palmer for a challenge run by the Cherrywood Company



Judy says she has been busy with handcrafts since the lockdown started.

"I decided to give a COVID to my grandchildren."

Judy Petrokas



Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 9AM-3PM

Friday - Closed

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- Chair of the Church Board (Co-chairs)
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- Chair of Finance Committee
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- Chair of Health Ministries
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- Richard Garcia, Facilities Engineer
408.627.3345

In observance of the holiday, the Church Office will be closed on Monday, February 15.

The Spire

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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”***

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.