



Spire

January 2021

“Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”

Matthew 2:2 NRSV

Dear Friends,

I suspect all of us are happy to see 2020 in the rearview mirror! Having said this, I hope and pray that each of you has something that happened in 2020 that feels like a blessing. I know I will be spending some time as we start this new year reflecting on what I am grateful for from 2020. I can tell you what the number one item on that list will be – something that I absolutely did *not* see coming – being here as your pastor! What a blessing!

As we enter this new year, I know many of us have thought or said, “I can’t wait until everything is back to normal.” Perhaps even when we are thinking it or saying it, there is a part of us that knows that we are entering into a “new normal” that we cannot yet see. This can certainly feel scary and unsettling at times, both personally and as a congregation.

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What I love is that God knows that lots of things scare us and is constantly seeking to reassure us. May Jesus' words from our "Peace" Sunday on the second Sunday of Advent be a comfort to us: ***I leave my peace with you. I give my peace to you. I do not give it to you as the world does. Do not let your hearts be troubled. And do not be afraid. John 14:27.***

I also see this as an opportunity for LGUMC to keep our eyes focused forward. It is way too easy to get caught up in the "good old days." To wish things were the way they used to be. As long as we keep looking longingly back – we will not be able to see what God is calling us to now. Way back in July, I started my time here with a sermon series on Philippians. We read Philippians 3:13-14 where the Apostle Paul tells us, ***"Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."*** I want us to spend some time as we start this new year reflecting on "How do we move ***FORWARD?***" To that end, we will be spending time in the book of Ruth.

My prayers are with each of you as we end 2020 and enter 2021. May you indeed feel the presence and peace of Christ with you!

On the journey forward with you,
Kate

December Worship

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

First of all – you will not want to miss Pastor Dave giving the message for our first Sunday of 2021!

We will then start our six-week sermon series that will take us to Lent. We will be examining the book of Ruth and God's call to move forward from Past to Future.

Questions for reflection:
What lies behind in your past/the congregation's past that is trying to hold you/the congregation back? Where do you/the congregation need to hear the voice of God inviting you/us into a good future, a future of hope?

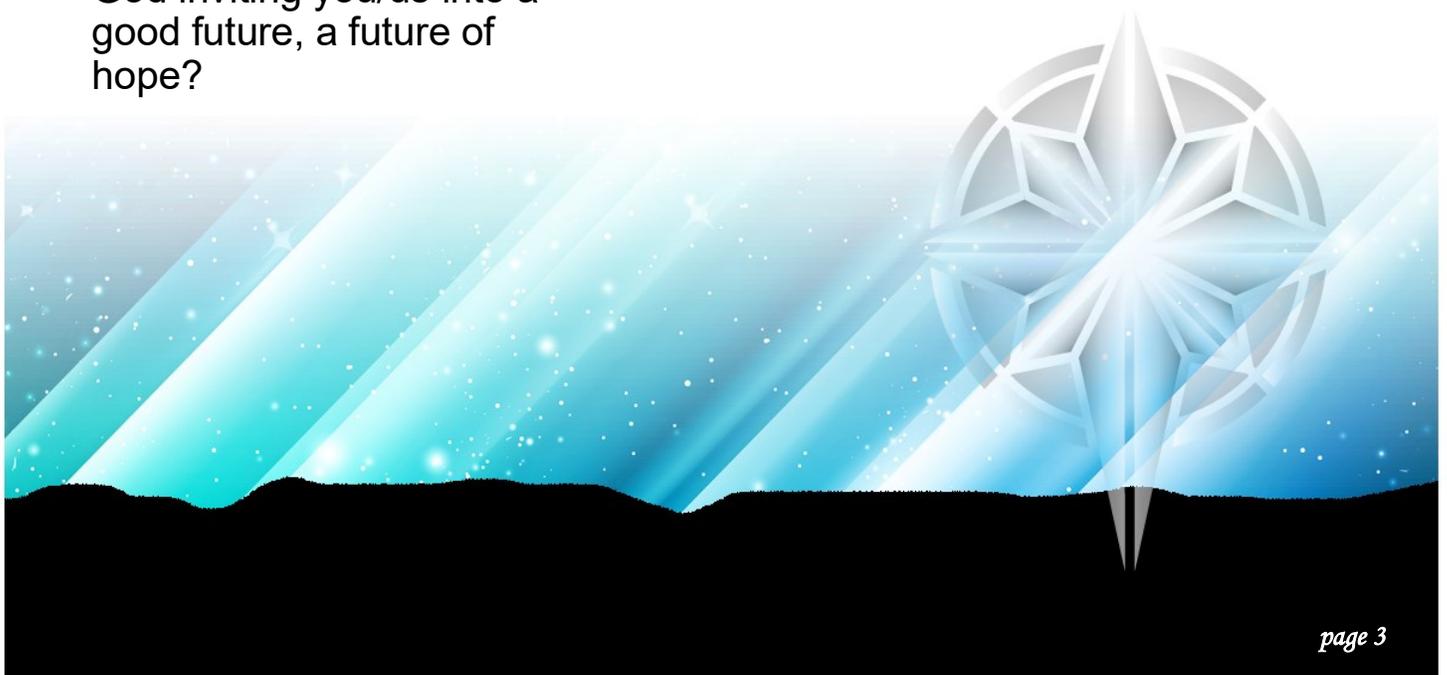
January 3
VERY SPECIAL GUEST PREACHER
The Rev. Dave Wolf,
Pastor Emeritus, LGUMC

January 10
"No Turning Back"
Ruth 1:8-9; 16-17

January 17
"From Little, God Can Make Much"
Ruth 2:1-16

January 24
"Glimpses of Future Hope"
Ruth 2:17-23

January 31
"Risky Business"
Ruth 3:1-13





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 January:

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

Responsibility is showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.

The psalmist wrote, The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, (NIRV). God is the author of creation, and God has entrusted us to care for and cultivate it. We do that by taking responsibility. From the work we need to accomplish to people we meet to the words we use; life is filled with moments where we can decide to reflect God's character, take responsibility, and use what we have wisely. When we follow through and do what needs to be done, we can point others to Jesus, the One who took the ultimate responsibility for us and made it possible for us to be with God forever.

Memory Verse

Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large. Luke 16:10

**Director of Children's Ministry
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Youth Ministry



Virtual Winter Retreat for youth

Join us for Zoom events all
weekend long!

22nd-24th Jan

Contact Robbie Frederiksen at robbie@cumcstockton.org

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belong

grow

serve



COMMIT TO YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION!

with

Life Coach
Shelley Ahn-Wong

Sunday, January 10 , 2021
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
via Zoom

- What do you want to achieve?
- How do you achieve your goals?
- Who do you want to become?

Presented by the Health & Visitation Ministry
Los Gatos United Methodist Church
Email seminars@lgumc.org to register



Kindred Spirits

Happy New Year! We hope you can join us on January 13 at 4PM, when Kindred Spirits will meet via Zoom to discuss *High Country*, by Nevada Barr – our mystery book selection for the year. National Park Ranger, Anna Pigeon, is working undercover as a waitress in Yosemite's Ahwahnee Hotel. Her assignment is to find four young park employees who disappeared following a fierce storm. Her search for answers takes her to the high country trails where she encounters life-threatening danger.



"A good mystery keeps you up on Saturday night, a bad mystery puts you to sleep on Sunday afternoon. Either way, you come out ahead."

Elizabeth Jane Howard

Children's Gift Tree

Gifts for the annual Children's Gift Tree were delivered to Rouleau Headstart and Pre-school on Monday, December 8. Due to Covid restrictions, gift bags could not be delivered to the classrooms so the Family Advocate, Emily Khong, will schedule direct pickup by the recipient's parents.

Each small bag contained age appropriate school supplies, story and activity books, socks, a toy, and a Target gift certificate per the recommendations of the school and Outreach Committee.



My personal heartfelt thanks go out to all donors for your continued awesome, generous support. Because donations exceeded the total expenses and current needs, cash donations will be made to Second Harvest Food Bank and the San Jose Family Shelter, specifically for children's support.

The Big Elf