

from Pastor Jeffrey

In the opening chapter, “The Singing Tree,” of his book, *The Sound of Life’s Unspeakable Beauty*, master luthier and author, Martin Schleske, writes: “A violinmaker does not accidentally happen upon marvelous tone-wood. Our search for treasured timber became a metaphor for the pursuit of something deeper and more meaningful. If the sound of a good violin requires traveling such difficult paths and putting in such arduous effort, how could the sounds of our lives demand less?”

Here, we could also ask: How could the sounds of our *congregational life* demand less?

“Authentic life,” he continues, “is not a path through the lowlands where things grow quickly and are easy to find. No, life’s trail leads through the rocky places, through adversities and impasses.”

Here, again, what if we were to say: Authentic *congregational life* is not an easy path. The road will be rough at times, with real difficulties and dead ends.

As you know, LGUMC is an amazing congregation who continues to do Jesus-like ministry in the community and world. However, if we are being honest, like many United Methodist Churches and Mainline Protestant Churches in general, we have experienced decline for many, many years. The reasons for this decline, this “problem,” as many see it, are numerous and complex. The answers or solutions, while also numerous, often lack an appreciation for the complexity part of the problem. The internet, books, social media, the so-called “experts” all shouting their lazy advice.

A good number of people in the congregation have already approached me, in sincerity of heart and great love for their church, with the hope, if not expectation, that I have “the answer” to whatever real or perceived problems may exist regarding church decline and that I will somehow grow the church, restoring it to a version of its former glory and/or launch something completely new and visionary.

Of course, I don’t have the answer. Deep down, we all know this. As I sit here at my writing desk in my home, I don’t yet know what the future holds for LGUMC specifically. Or even if there is a “problem” in the first place. But I do know a few things:

- I do know what we are searching for will not be found in the lowlands where things grow quickly and are easy to find.
- I do know our task is to keep searching through adversities and impasses.
- I do know our search is for something deeper and more meaningful than a plan, program, system, or strategy and will require arduous effort and likely take us to wind-ravaged mountainous regions of our faith, where harsh climate and meager soil produce the sound of unspeakable beauty.

from Pastor Jeffrey

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I believe we can find this sound together! I believe LGUMC has a beautiful and vital future for many years to come. There are, to be sure, still many unanswered questions as it relates to short-term and long-term plans. The pandemic continues to stall or thwart efforts to live into a new 'normal' in the life of the church. I know it can be frustrating to not be doing more. I know this is a difficult time for all of us eager and hopeful for the future of LGUMC. But I also want to say even during this prolonged pandemic, and extended season of uncertainty, we are doing some very good things. The shower ministry, Live Oak, Grace Preschool continue to serve our community. Small groups such as Social Justice, UMW, Kindred Spirits are meeting either online or safely in-person when possible. Our Tech Team makes it possible for people all over the world to be part of LGUMC's Sunday Morning worship service and other events. And a bunch of other beautiful things this church is doing I don't even know about. I know I've only been here a couple months now, but I'm proud of the way this church continues to faithfully follow Jesus amid such unprecedented times. If all these good and lovely things are happening now, think of what unspeakable beauty lies ahead.

Grace and Peace,
Jeffrey



These are the protocols:

A mask is not required when you are outside on the church campus.

A mask is **required** inside regardless of your vaccination status.

Reservations and vaccinations are no longer required for in-person worship.

The sanctuary will be fully open since we believe there will be room to socially distance based on everyone's comfort level.

Protocols that will remain in place: (to be reviewed in a month)

No passing of the peace at the beginning of worship.

No passing of a microphone for joys and concerns.

No congregational singing.

No collection of the offering.

(For the sharing of joys and concerns, connection cards will be in the pews. The ushers will collect the cards during the first song/hymn and deliver them to the pastor. The pastor will only read the joys and concerns during worship that are requested to be publicly shared.)

September Worship

LGUMC is a reconciling church, which welcomes all persons as Christ did regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, cultural background, physical or mental health, family status, or financial circumstances. We welcome all persons into full participation into the life of the congregation.

Sunday, September 5, 10AM

Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion
Joyce Rhodes, Organ

Scriptures

James 2:1-17, Mark 7:24-37

Sermon

“Astounded Beyond Measure”
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching

Sunday, September 12, 10AM

Contemporary Worship Service
Open House Praise Band

Scriptures

Psalm 19, Mark 8:27-38

Sermon

“The Paradox of Gain and Loss”
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching

Sunday, September 19, 10AM

Traditional Worship Service
Joyce Rhodes, Organ

Scriptures

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8; Mark 9:30-37

Sermon

“Whoever Welcomes One Such Child”
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching

Sunday, September 26, 10AM

Contemporary Worship Service
Open House Praise Band

Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Dave Wolf, Preaching



Weekly Worship

We will continue to send weekly Sunday School videos, which are fun, safe and biblically grounded, along with worksheets that are emailed out so kids can have worship experience at home.

Sunday school:

Until further notice, weekly Sunday School videos, which are fun, safe and biblically grounded, along with worksheets, are emailed and mailed 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

Monthly Packet

Kids receive a packet of activities. If you would like your kids or know of any kids to be added to the list, please let Shelley know with your physical address @ kids@lgumc.org

During the Month of September

Kids are learning about INITIATIVE this month of September. Initiative is seeing what needs to be done and doing it.

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

God took the initiative by sending Jesus to show us how much He loves us and fix the relationship between us. When we see a need and choose to do something about it, we reflect God's image in us. Through our initiative, others can see the reality of God's love for them.

Memory Verse

"Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord."
Colossians 3:23

Save the dates for Messy Church

A new kind of non-traditional church for everyone
You (all ages) are invited to kick-off Messy Church,
scheduled for **October 10, 10AM @ Social Hall.**
We will let you know more details in upcoming months.



Upcoming Messy Church: November 14, December 12

**Director of Children's Ministry
Shelley Ahn-Wong
kids@lgumc.org
650.492.1657**

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRIES

Youth Group

Youth from across the conference gather at 7pm on Sunday nights to talk about faith and the intersections of their daily lives.

Young Adult Group

Monday nights @ 8pm our young adults will meet online with young adults from across the conference to support one another in the pursuit of higher education and developing faith.

Parent Support

Parents of infants, toddlers, children, teens, and college students gather at 8pm on Tuesday nights to discuss the joys and pains of parenthood.

Bible Study

Youth gather on Wednesday night to study scripture together. Each week the group reads one chapter together and unpacks what's happening in the text. This Fall our youth will be reading through the book of John.

Fall Young People's Ministries

As schools reopen and students return to the classrooms full-time, we continue to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak and plan youth events and activities accordingly. For the time being, regular programming will continue to be conducted online with the exception of one in-person gathering a month.

Fall In-Person Events/Activities

- 1) **September 19th:** Youth will gather for an in-person weenie and marshmallow roast outdoors at Los Gatos at 5:30pm.
- 2) **October 16th:** Details are still being worked out but we are currently planning a Middler day retreat to a local outdoor challenge course.
- 3) **October 23rd:** Details are still being worked out but we are currently planning a High School day retreat to a local outdoor challenge course.
- 4) **November 20th/21st:** Young people at Los Gatos UMC will be invited to sort food at a local food bank the weekend before Thanksgiving.
- 5) **December 19th:** The Sunday before Christmas youth will gather to celebrate Christmas together with a small party and gift exchange.



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SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Social Justice Committee met on the 16th of August to get “recharged” and to once again focus on its mission. We discussed causes and activities we have sponsored in the past and agreed that informing and educating others in the church about social issues was one of our primary responsibilities. We thought back to our Sticky Buns interactions with the congregation and are hopeful to re-engage with these thoughtful discussions when possible in the future.

After talking about several social justice issues: homelessness, affordable housing, racial justice, LGBTQ rights, and the critical topic of climate change, the committee decided that climate change will be its next area of focus. We consistently hear the narrative that climate change impacts us all. And while that’s true, the issue is disproportionately impacting people of color, especially Black, Latino, and Native Americans. Environmental justice is directly connected to social equality. The decision for our focus to be on the global climate crisis is also due to its effect on our local community, the state and the world at large. We will be sharing ideas on how we can personally lessen the impact on climate and how we can advocate for the critical changes needed to reverse this destructive path we are on.

We invite members of the congregation to join us in planning activities for the year. Our next Social Justice meeting will be held outside at Dan and Wendy Hendry’s home in Los Gatos on Monday, September 13, 6:30-8PM. If you are interested in joining us, please call 408.892.0348. We would love to have you join us.



First Day of Autumn

September 22

Kindred Spirits

Please join us on September 8, 7:30PM in the Art Gallery for our discussion of *Books for Living*, by Will Schwalbe. In this unique book, the author writes about 26 of his favorite books and how each helped him to make sense of the world around him. It is a celebration of reading, and a recommendation of specific books that can help guide us through our daily lives. Throughout, Schwalbe tells stories from his own life to demonstrate the ways a particular book helped shape how he leads his life, and the ways in which it might help to shape ours.



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

Doug McNeil, Aki Okuno,
Celia Palm, Charley Ann Cobb,
Pat Salem, Anne-Marie Wiggers,
Eleanor Blumenthal, Becky Schmitt,
Peggy Rose, Kay Thoresen,
Ed & Shelley Ahn-Wong, Donna Swanson,
Norm Zimmerman, Charley Oveland,
Joy Palmer, Eric Muller, The Rice Family,
The Homeless, Our First Responders,
Prayers of Peace for all people
and all countries

~ In Memoriam ~

Diane Holmes
(mother of Kasey Rice)
Service LGUMC
Friday, September 10, 5PM



Donna Swanson, our previous organist for many years, has been transferred from critical care to end of life care. Please keep Donna in your prayers.

Donna Swanson
863 Plum Ridge Dr.
Ashland, OR 97520



Observed the first Monday in September, Labor Day is an annual celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers. The holiday is rooted in the late nineteenth century, when labor activists pushed for a federal holiday to recognize the many contributions workers have made to America's strength, prosperity, and well-being.

Before it was a federal holiday, Labor Day was recognized by labor activists and individual states. After municipal ordinances were passed in 1885 and 1886, a movement developed to secure state legislation. New York was the first state to introduce a bill, but Oregon was the first to pass a law recognizing Labor Day, on February 21, 1887. During 1887, four more states – Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York – passed laws creating a Labor Day holiday. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 more states had adopted the holiday, and on June 28, 1894, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday.

Wishing you and yours a happy, safe Labor Day weekend!

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FINANCE

Description	Week of 8/22/2021	Week of 8/23/2020	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	Remaining to Receive	Budget
Electronic Pledges	60.00	110.00	71,838.00	67,526.00	32,228.00	104,064.00
Pledges	1,540.00	1,400.00	146,285.00	163,164.00	59,456.00	205,741.00
General Fund Non-Pledges	700.00	125.00	31,255.00	28,779.00	24,745.00	56,000.00
Plate Offering	20.00	-	500.00	968.00	500.00	1,000.00
Pre-paid for 2021			36,429.00	32,160.00	-	36,429.00
Prior Year 2020 Pledges & Catch-up			1,570.00		(1,110.00)	460.00
Received in 2020 but will deposit in 2021			5,100.00		-	5,100.00
Easter Offering			200.00			
Thanksgiving Offering			200.00		(50.00)	150.00
Christmas Eve & Day After					10,000.00	10,000.00
Gift to Close the Gap			57,882.00		(32,882.00)	25,000.00
Grand Total	\$ 2,320.00	\$ 1,635.00	\$351,257.00	\$ 292,597.00	\$ 92,887.00	\$ 443,944.00

ATTENDANCE

Average attendance taken from 06/06/21—08/22/21

In person Worship, 62pp

Facebook Reached, 192pp
(Viewed on Facebook)

Facebook Engaged, 135pp
(Responded in some way)

Please note: The above on-line numbers do not include Utube or LGUMC Webpage viewers. These are Facebook live and viewed later numbers.



Office Hours:

Please call office to check on hours.

Friday - Closed

Church Council Members

Chair of the Church Board (Co-chairs)
Jennifer Stagnaro, jennifer@stagnaro.com
Ray Owen, ray.owen@comcast.net

Chair of the Board of Trustees
Glenn Stansbury, glenn.stansbury@lgumc.org

Chair of Staff Parish Relations
Tom Waldrop, twaldrop@sbcglobal.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
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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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mckevin27@yahoo.com

Joyce Rhodes, Organist
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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 6.

The Spire

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408.354.4730 - www.lgumc.org
to be removed from mail or email list:
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.



Find out more about our Ministries!
Go to www.LGUMC.org



*“Serving Christ in this Community
since 1866”*

Sr. Pastor
Pastor Jeffrey Hall

Until further notice,
please follow us on
lgumc.org
and join us for
Sunday Worship
10AM

[lgumc](http://lgumc.org), 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.