



Spire

December 2021

from Pastor Jeffrey...

“People are hungry, and *one good word* is bread for a thousand.” Advent is the season for one good word. Along with many churches all over the world, each of the four weeks of Advent we will light a candle and welcome one good word – Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love – in anticipation of the coming of Christ. Surely, these are good words and can illumine even the darkest night.

Throughout this Advent season, I invite us to receive each Advent word as a gift, welcome each word as we would a guest, return to each word when we feel lost or depressed or anxious or overwhelmed or angry, and offer each word as a prayer or blessing for ourselves and others.

This kind of prayer is less about talking to God and more about allowing each word to set a gentle intention of the heart, to give our lives direction, to open our lives to the fullness of God’s presence, who is closer to us than our breath, closer than our thoughts. This kind of prayer begins to take us beyond talking **to God** and into communion **with God**. May we be generous in our prayer and share one good word with a world that hungers for the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that Christ brings.

Advent Blessings,

Jeffrey

Advent at LGUMC: One Good Word

Loaves and Fishes

This is not
the age of information.

This is *not*
the age of information.

Forget the news,
and the radio,
and the blurred screen.

This is the time
of loaves
and fishes.

People are hungry,
and one good word is bread
for a thousand.

~ by David Whyte

December 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, December 5, 10AM
Contemporary Worship Service
Second Sunday of Advent
Open House Praise Band

Scriptures
Micah 6:6-8, Matthew 25:31-45

Sermon
I'm Stuffed! Are You?
Tom Carson, Preaching

Sunday, December 12, 10AM
Traditional Worship Service
Third Sunday of Advent
Joyce Rhodes, Organ

Scriptures
Isaiah 12:2-6; Luke 3:7-18

Sermon
Good News to the People
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching

Sunday, December 19, 10AM
Contemporary Worship Service
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Open House Praise Band

Scriptures
Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:39-55

Sermon
Blessing the Song Within
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching

Friday, December 24, 4PM
Open House Praise Band

In-Person Children's Time
Shelley Ahn-Wong

Devotional Thought
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall

Candlelight Celebration

Friday, December 24, 6PM
Joyce Rhodes, Organ

Scriptures
Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-7

Christmas Eve Reflection
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching

Candlelight Celebration

Sunday, December 26, 10AM
Traditional Worship Service
First Sunday after Christmas
Joyce Rhodes, Organ

Scriptures
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Sermon
Searching for Jesus
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



CHILDREN'S GIFT TREE

Donations for the Children's Gift Tree will continue until Sunday, December 5. Each child at Rouleau Head Start and Rouleau State pre-School will receive a Christmas gift bag that includes items like:

- Children's picture books
 - Underwear for ages 4 - 5
 - Preschool type toys that fit into an 18" bag
 - Educational games and materials
 - Children's toothbrushes / toothpaste
- Cash donations are also welcome.



Please leave your donations in the big basket by the entry door to the sanctuary or deliver to the Church Office.



CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIRE GOES VIRTUAL AGAIN!

Because of the uncertainty regarding COVID-19 surges and the variants, we will again hold our annual gift faire as a virtual event this year. As before, we will have 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 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. Order form on page 6.



HOLIDAY SHOPPING?

Consider adding gift cards for our Shower Ministry clients.

During Advent, we will be collecting Subway and Pizza My Heart gift cards in the amount of \$15 each.

Easy - just purchase online or when you are in town. Either drop them in the Sunday offering plate, or in the church office.

Thank you for thinking of our un-housed neighbors!

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Do Justice. Love Kindness. Walk Humbly.

On a warm Sunday afternoon members of LGUMC joined over 2000 community members to march in response to recent acts of hatred and violence in the town of Los Gatos. In the words of a United Methodist pastor, "That mission could have been one of hatred or vengeance... Instead, the group of business people, students, civic organization members, church and synagogue congregation members, elected officials, and neighbors, had a mission of love."

In their own words:

"Marching with so many in the name of Love inspired me and made me proud to be a part of the Los Gatos community. It was thrilling to see so many people of all ages, walking side by side, united against hatred and discrimination and to claim that there is no place for it in our community. As one child's sign clearly stated.....'BE NICE!' " Wendy Hendry

"A woman walked past me as we hurried to the school and said, 'I like your shirt.' (We were all wearing the LGUMC reconciling shirts.) I was surprised by and appreciated the support from people standing outside their houses along the way." Nancy Rhule

"Loved being immersed in the positive spirit of the diverse and enthusiastic marchers. A great feeling to be doing something ('positive') in support of something, rather than ('negative') protesting against something. What could be more inspiring than joining 2500 other participants and local organizations who also believe in the fundamentals of a society that reflects 'Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.' Hallelujah brothers and sisters!" Dan Hendry

"I was surprised to be approached by people who recognized the United Methodist Symbol on my shirt. One person even asked to take my picture. Happy and glad to have had friends from church with whom to march." Trudy Burling

"I've taken part in many vigils, marches, and protests. This was one of the most spiritual gatherings I've experienced. I felt like we were all living out the scripture from Romans 12:21; 'Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.'" Pastor Mariellen

"It was truly heartwarming to walk alongside so many families with young children and to see and hear the teenagers express their ideas of inclusion, acceptance and love." Maggie Harris



SPECIAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

District Superintendent, Rev. Samuel Hong, has authorized a **Special Charge Conference** to be held in person **Sunday, December 12 at 11:30AM** for the purpose of voting on the settlement agreement prepared by the mediation team which includes the United Methodist Church ad hoc committee regarding the Boy Scouts of America Bankruptcy Plan.

The membership of the charge conference shall be members of the church council, together with retired ordained ministers and retired diaconal ministers who elect to hold their membership at Los Gatos UMC as their Charge Conference. Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall will preside.

Kindred Spirits



Merry Christmas! Kindred Spirits does not meet in December. If you enjoy reading books and discussing them with friends, we hope you will join us in the New Year. We have chosen the following books for 2022:

Anxious People, by Frederick Backman
The Premonition: A Pandemic Story, by Michael Lewis
The Dictionary of Lost Words, by Pip Williams
Commonwealth, by Ann Patchett
Island of Sea Women, by Lisa See
Death at La Fenice, by Donna Leon
The Beantown Girls, by Jane Healey



Ready to resume in-person meetings?
Reserve your rooms now!

Contact marylou.abrahamson@lgumc to reserve rooms, or on-line at our website, lgumc.org.

Merry Christmas



COFFEE IS BEING SERVED!

Join fellow worshippers for coffee, tea, hot cocoa, and fellowship after church. We are easing into fellowship hour by serving hot beverages, but are not yet providing cookies or other edibles until it is really safe to do so, since COVID surges are still happening in some areas. Masks are still required while people are at the serving table.

belong

grow

serve

LOS GATOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIRE 2021

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: 9-3, Monday-Thursday; address: 111 Church St., Los Gatos, CA 95030

DESCRIPTIONS OF ALL THE ORGANIZATIONS can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#):

No. of Shares @\$10

Organization

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 < https://dorisdillonschoolincambodia.org > |
| _____ | 6 Youth Service Projects |
| _____ | 7 Habitat for Humanity < https://give.habitatetsv.org > (Write LGUMC in Tribute box) |
| _____ | 8 UMCOR: Domestic and/or International Disaster Relief < https://UMCmission.org/advance-project/999895/ > |
| _____ | 9 Heifer Project International < https://fundraise.heifer.org/LGUMC > (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 **\$ _____
 _____ **TOTAL NUMBER OF SHARES @ \$10.00 = \$ _____**

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**

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. The cost is \$15 each.

THE DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS DECEMBER 12TH.

*Print the name(s) as you wish them to appear in the Christmas Bulletin. Please **print legibly**.*

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

YOUR NAME: _____

NUMBER OF PLANTS: _____ Amount enclosed _____ (Make checks payable to LGUMC). You may place this form in the offering plate or mail to the church office, 111 Church St., Los Gatos, CA 95030.



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living FAITH Seeking JUSTICE Pursuing PEACE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Church and Society Announces 2021 Winter Webinar Series

Climate & Community: A Faithful Action for Climate Justice

Held on Zoom December 6-9, 2021



Register for each session below!

December 6, 2021, 2 PM (ET) [Climate Justice as a Global Movement](#)

December 7, 2021, 2 PM (ET) [Theological Reflection on Climate Justice](#)

December 8, 2021, 10 AM (ET) [Climate Change and Front-Line Communities](#)

December 8, 2021, 2 PM (ET) [Indigenous Climate and Water Justice](#)

December 9, 2021, 10 AM (ET) [En-Roads Climate Workshop – Simulating Global Solutions](#) (*This is an interactive workshop. Please come prepared to engage with the facilitator and fellow participants. This workshop will not be recorded.*)

December 9, 2021, 2 PM (ET) [Envisioning a Just Green Transition – Panel Discussion](#)



As a special offering, we invite you to gather with your family, friends, and fellow church members and watch a screening of "This Changes Everything," a documentary film based on Naomi Klein's book, "This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate." The documentary is available for three days (December 9-11, 2021), but requires a special viewing link, which is limited in numbers.

Official Trailer: ["This Changes Everything"](#)

Please register to receive the special link and discussion guide on December 6, 2021.

Registration: [Dec 9-11 Screening of "This Changes Everything"](#)

Closed captioning will be provided.



Office Hours:

10AM—3PM

Friday - Closed

Church Council Members

- Chair of the Church Board
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
TBD
- 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
TBD
- 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 Jeffrey Hall, Sr. Pastor
X102, (direct) 408.354.7803
revjeffumc@mac.com
- Robbie Frederiksen, Youth Director
503.816.1055, rfederiksen@gmail.com
- Shelley Ahn-Wong, Children's Ministry Director
650.492.1657, kids@lgumc.org
- Marcelle Dougan, Director of Health & Wellness Edu.
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, Ad. Min. / Communications
408.507.7140, marylou.abrahamson@lgumc.org
- Cindy Cook, Financial Secretary (A/R)
X101, cindy.cook@lgumc.org
- Shannon Albert, Accountant (A/P)
X104, shannon.albert@lgumc.org
- Kristy Currie, Director, Grace Preschool
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 from Friday, December 24-Monday, January 3, 2022.

Merry Christmas!

The Spire

Los Gatos United Methodist Church
111 Church Street
Los Gatos, CA 95030
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.

*"Serving Christ in this Community
since 1866."*



Sr. Pastor
Pastor Jeffrey D. Hall

Please join us for in-person
Sunday Worship
10AM
or online at
lgumc.org, Facebook or YouTube



Find out more about our Ministries!
Go to 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.