



Spire

February 2022

from Pastor Jeffrey

Dear Friends,

Recently, I preached a sermon in which I spoke of the Holy Ground of Kinship. I reminded us we are created from the dust of the earth in God's image. Let justice, as the Prophet Amos said, roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. But, let us remember these waters of justice, these rivers of righteousness and peace spring from the Holy Ground of Kinship. No kinship, no justice. No kinship, no peace.

After preaching that sermon, I was directed to a reflection offered by Franciscan Priest, Richard Rohr. I commend it to you.

Buddhist monk and teacher Thich Nhat Hanh describes our inherent connection to the Earth and how that understanding can shift our behavior:

At this very moment, the Earth is above you, below you, all around you, and even inside you. The Earth is everywhere. You may be used to thinking of the Earth as only the ground beneath your feet. But the water, the sea, the sky, and everything around us comes from the Earth. Everything outside us and everything inside us comes from the Earth. We often forget that the planet we are living on has given us all the elements that make up our bodies. The water in our flesh, our bones, and all the microscopic cells inside our bodies all come from the Earth and are part of the Earth. The Earth is not just the environment we live in. We are the Earth, and we are always carrying her within us.

Realizing this, we can see that the Earth is truly alive. We are a living, breathing manifestation of this beautiful and generous planet. Knowing this, we can begin to transform our relationship to the Earth. We can begin to walk differently and to care for her differently. We will fall completely in love with the Earth. When we are in love with someone or something, there is no separation between ourselves and the person or thing we love. We do whatever we can for them and this brings us great joy and nourishment. That is the relationship each of us can have with the Earth. That is the relationship each of us must have with the Earth if the Earth is to survive, and if we are to survive as well. If we think about the Earth as just the environment around us, we experience ourselves and the Earth as separate entities. We may see the planet only in terms of what it can do for us. We need to recognize that the planet and the people on it are ultimately one and the same.

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from Pastor Jeffrey

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Hanh recognizes that our false notion of separateness from the Earth not only creates physical harm but emotional harm as well:

A lot of our fear, hatred, anger, and feelings of separation and alienation come from the idea that we are separate from the planet. We see ourselves as the center of the universe and are concerned primarily with our own personal survival. If we care about the health and well-being of the planet, we do so for our own sake. We want the air to be clean enough for us to breathe. We want the water to be clear enough so that we have something to drink. But we need to do more than use recycled products or donate money to environmental groups. We have to change our whole relationship with the Earth. May the Lord bless us and keep us as we continue to walk together upon this earth, upon this Holy Ground of Kinship, with each step praying: "Thy Kin'dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Amen.

Grace and Peace,
Jeffrey

IN OUR PRAYERS

*~ 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, Joy Palmer,
Ed & Shelley Ahn-Wong, Norm & Adrienne Zimmerman,
Charley Oveland, Eric Muller, Marcia Block,
The Homeless, Our First Responders,
Prayers of Peace for all people and all countries.

February 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.



United Methodist 7 great ways to share God's love this Valentine's Day

<http://www.umcom.org/learn/7-great-ways-to-share-gods-love-this-valentines-day>

Join Us for Sunday School

After children are dismissed from service, parents are invited to accompany their children to Sunday School, sign them in, and return to the sanctuary for worship. After the worship service, parents are asked to return to the classroom and sign their children out.

Sunday School Coordinator: Jonnye Cartmill,
jonnye.cartmill@gmail.com

In-person Service
10AM, every Sunday
or on-line at lgumc.org, LGUMC Facebook page, or Los Gatos UMC YouTube

Sunday, February 6, 10AM

Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Joyce Rhodes, Organ

Scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11

Sermon

Deep Waters

Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



Sunday, February 13, 10AM

Contemporary Worship Service
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
Open House Praise Band

Scriptures

Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 6:17-26

Sermon

A Sermon for Us on the Plain

Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



Sunday, February 20, 10AM

Traditional Worship Service
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany
Joyce Rhodes, Organ

Rev. Dave Wolf, Preaching
Pastor Emeritus



Sunday, February 27, 10AM

Contemporary Worship Service
Transfiguration Sunday
Open House Praise Band

Tom Waldrop, Preaching



SOCIAL JUSTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE – UNDER THE SAME SKY

Drinkable water, breathable air, healthy food to eat!

We often take for granted these essential needs for a survivable future. Idyllic Los Gatos rarely needs to worry about air, water, and food. Yet there are too many communities where that is not the case.

The US is the biggest carbon polluter in history. We dispose of pollution by-products by disposing of them in what is termed “sacrifice zones.” Just one hour up the peninsula is the city of Richmond which is home to five major refineries, three chemical companies, and eight superfund sites. This “zone” has 13 times as many air quality violations as the Bay Area average. Richmond children are hospitalized with asthma at twice the rate of neighboring areas. There are high rates of heart disease and cancer.

And the group of people harmed most is disproportionately marginalized poor and people of color.

This was not an accident. Heather McGee, in her book *The Sum of Us*, gives us some history. During WWII Richmond was a center of American manufacturing. Workers were needed so 24,000 units of low rent public housing were set up...separate areas for Whites and some for Blacks. Black workers were forced to live in unincorporated North Richmond where no government services were provided...and where the pollution was the greatest.

More affluent White folks were generally okay. The winds blew the contaminated air toward North Richmond...away from White neighborhoods. No problems for them!

But on August 6, 2012, the emergency siren sounded for residents to shelter in place. There was a huge fire at the Chevron refinery causing massive pollution. And as fate would have it, the wind shifted. The pollution drifted into the elite White community. This caused a huge shift in White priorities. The coalitions formed by Black activists were now joined by their White neighbors. Chevron's earlier attempts to divide community groups against one another were now less successful.

The fight to keep Richmond's community safe is ongoing. We should all recognize that we all live under the same sky. We all need to be in this fight to keep the environment in a state that works for all of us.

Here are a few things we can do:

1. Support clean air legislation
2. Fly less/ drive less / walk more
3. Build walkable/bikeable and transit supportive communities
4. Eat locally grown organic foods / eat less meat and dairy
5. Read up on composting (kitchen waste) guidelines
6. Donate to clean air programs.

Celebrate Black History Month

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Colonet – Lighting for Literacy Volunteers in Mission Travels in April!

We have an energetic group of missionaries ready to travel to Colonet to do construction and Lighting for Literacy work this April.

Our travels to Mexico to visit our friends there are contingent on what happens with coronavirus over the next several weeks. We are preparing to travel, but we're also realistic that a renewed COVID-19 surge in early spring could seriously impact our mission team's travel plans.

We are planning to construct a small "casita" for a needy Colonet family this April during Holy Week. And we'll be returning to Los Gatos to celebrate Easter with everybody at LGUMC!

Please expect to see some fundraising appeals over the next several weeks as we work to pay for the mission projects that we'll be undertaking in Mexico. We will all appreciate your generous support.

We ask for prayers for good health and safe travels for our April 2022 Colonet – L4L mission team.

Thank you!
Pete Taylor

Outreach

BRIEFS

It's February again, a brief month, and the Outreach Committee will again collect new briefs, underwear, socks for children and adults, and diapers for infants and toddlers to be delivered to the San Jose family shelter. Please put your donations in the basket in the narthex during the month of February. Financial donations can be given to the church with the note indicating the Family Shelter as recipient (or donate directly to San Jose Family Shelter).



COFFEE, TEA, OR CHOCOLATE?

The Outreach Committee is no longer selling Equal Exchange products, but if you are interested in purchasing any, a price list and information on how to make purchases are available at the fellowship coffee table. We have served and sold French Roast and Decafe coffee, but over a dozen coffee and tea flavors are listed as well as ten types of chocolate bars. We have supported Equal Exchange for many years because all items are organic and fair-traded, and no child- or debt-labor is used.



Kindred Spirits

Join us when we meet on February 9, 7pm, in the Social Hall to discuss *The Premonition – A Pandemic Story*, by Michael Lewis. At the beginning of his term in office, George W. Bush happened to read a book about the 1918 flu pandemic. The story so alarmed him that he decided the nation was in need of a pandemic planning team in order to be prepared for the next pandemic. He requested funds from Congress, and was granted those funds. We are now almost two years into the Covid19 pandemic, and the question is, "What Went Wrong?" This book is the story of how a small group of dedicated and conscientious doctors and scientists worked to create and implement a plan, and how the CDC used an abundance of caution in their decisions to face down this public health crisis.



1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.



Please review our 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.)

belong grow serve

THANK
You

Thank you for the more than 40 gift cards donated to the Shower Ministry during Advent. Our clients often find it difficult to get food, so are thrilled to be receiving them!

We will also continue to collect gift cards throughout the year.

THANK
You



THANK
You

A big **THANK YOU** to the Albanese family, and Joseph J Albanese Inc. for volunteering their time, and equipment in the removal of our old play structure.

This was a huge project, and we are very appreciative.

~Grace Preschool School Board

February

Black History Month



February 2 Groundhog Day

February 12 Lincoln's Birthday

February 14 Valentine's Day

February 21 President's Day

February 22 Washington's Birthday



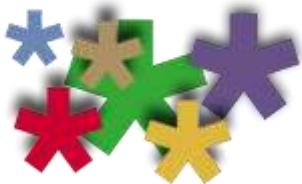
Ready to resume in-person meetings?
Reserve your rooms now!

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

Belong thru Worship

Grow in Christ

Serve with Love



During this uncertain time, some of our ministries are not yet meeting on campus.

If you have an interest in any of our ministries mentioned here, please contact the person responsible for that group.

Faith, Reason & Community

Carole Mateer, 408-353-2357, gcmateer@aol.com

Men's Spirituality Group

Ed Burling, edburling@gmail.com

Glen Stansbury, glennsmail@yahoo.com

Pathways Los Gatos Bereavement Group

Martha Weiner, 408-772-5544

Saturday Morning Men's Group

Elwin Stocking, l.e.stocking@comcast.net

Great Decisions Discussion Group

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Kindred Spirits Book Group

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Prime Time

Ursula Young, ursulayoung@gmail.com

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United Methodist Women

(UMW)

Contact Christina Capps,

kl_capps@yahoo.com

“The Church may have a building, but that is not its place. The building may be the church’s location, but its space is in the shared humanity of its persons.”

~ Andrew Root

“Small groups are the purest expression of the church.”

~ Pastor Rick Warren



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

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Chair of Health Ministries

TBD

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Chair of Endowment

TBD

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In observance of the holiday, the Church Office will be closed on Monday, February 21.

The Spire

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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."**



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



Sr. Pastor
Pastor Jeffrey D. Hall

Please join us for in-person
Sunday Worship
10AM
or online at
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.