



# Spire

March 2022

from Pastor Jeffrey

***God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore, we will not fear...The Lord of hosts is with us...  
Be still, and know that I am God. (Psalm 46)***

Lent is traditionally a season when we give ourselves to spiritual practices we may have neglected. This year, it begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. It's a season of preparation; characterized by silence, solitude, prayer, fasting, and acts of mercy. It's a season to "quiet our minds and open our hearts," to borrow a phrase from Buddhist teacher Jack Kornfield. Many of us think of prayer as primarily *talking* to God. Some of you have learned prayer as *listening* to God. Still fewer have experienced prayer as *being with* God and God *being with* us.

Of course, if our image of God is a vengeful God, we will more than likely find it hard to be with God because we can't trust a God whose right hand is ready to smite us at any moment. Similarly, if our image of the Holy One is a Judge, gavel in hand and ready to level an eternal life-sentence, we may also find it difficult to be with God because we cannot rest in God while awaiting our "sentence," so to speak, which sadly many people fear is outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. If the Almighty is something of a Cosmic Vending Machine where we drop some silver, push a button and purchase what we want, this is not being with God either because we cannot be with God in the deepest way if our experience of the Everlasting One is little more than a transaction. Franciscan Priest, Richard Rohr, writes: "A lot of us pray as if prayer is really twisting the arm of God or convincing God to do something. We think by saying more words we'll talk God into it. We think, "If I say it one more time, God will agree with me." That very attitude is an alienating attitude. It keeps us in the role of doing it "right" or often enough to convince an unready or unwilling God."

In short, our experience of being with God is compromised if there is always something to protect, to merit, to fear, or to pay for. However, if God-with-us is a Loving Presence, as close and dear to us as our own breath, and as necessary, then we can learn to trust, to surrender, to be still...to love. Then we can learn to quiet our minds and open our hearts and welcome the wonder of being with the God who is forever with us.

Grace and Peace,  
*Jeffrey*

# March 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.

**Ash Wednesday, March 2, 7PM**  
Traditional Worship Service  
Joyce Rhodes, Organ

Scriptures  
Psalm 51:1-17; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Ash Wednesday Reflection  
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



**Sunday, March 6, 10AM**  
Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion  
First Sunday of Lent  
Joyce Rhodes, Organ

Scriptures  
Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Luke 4:1-13

Sermon  
*Into the Wilderness*  
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



**Sunday, March 13, 10AM**  
Contemporary Worship Service  
Second Sunday of Lent  
Open House Praise Band

Scriptures  
Psalm 27, Luke 13:31-35

Sermon  
*In the Land of the Living*  
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching

**Sunday, March 20, 10AM**  
Traditional Worship Service  
Third Sunday of Lent  
Joyce Rhodes, Organ

Scriptures  
Isaiah 55:1-9, Luke 13:1-9

Sermon  
*The Grace of One More Year*  
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



**Sunday, March 27, 10AM**  
Contemporary Worship Service  
Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Open House Praise Band

Scriptures  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sermon  
*Please Come Home*  
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching

## 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

*belong*

*grow*

*serve*

## Kindred Spirits

Our next meeting will be held on March 9, 7PM, in the Social Hall. Join us as we discuss the book *The Dictionary of Lost Words*, by Pip Williams. The story centers on young Esme, a motherless child who spends her childhood under the table of her father's garden shed, where he and his team are compiling words for the first Oxford English Dictionary. From her spot under the sorting table, she collects the slips of paper containing words the men have discarded. In time, Esme finds use for these words in her own dictionary of "lost words" as she considers the possibility words take on different meanings for men and women.



Students seeking financial assistance for college expenses are invited to apply for the Hunter/Frye/UMW scholarship. The fund is from endowments for Ruth Dick Hunter and Florence Frye, two women who were interested in youth education and who were active in the life of our church. Additional money is also donated by our United Methodist Women. The fund was established to acknowledge the academic achievement of applicants as well as active participation and service to our church, their school, or community.

Application forms are in the narthex. If you would like an application emailed, call or email the office: 408.354.4730. The deadline for turning in applications and other documents is Thursday, May 19, 3PM. If you have questions, call Jean Mundell, 408.358.2069.

## Live Oak Senior Nutrition & Service Center

**News from the front!** Live Oak Senior Nutrition and Service Center has served meals to Seniors throughout the pandemic. This ministry of LGUMC was begun in 1974. The daily attendance has more than doubled during these troubling times demonstrating ever more clearly the need for a hot, nutritious lunch and the chance to say hello to a friendly face. The program is now operating as a dine-in or take-out program, the hybrid model. Funding for the meals served above the contract limit is being supplied by FEMA through the County of Santa Clara. The County also recently provided a new refrigerator for the use of Live Oak, LGUMC and Grace Pre-school.

The Board of Directors is currently seeking for fill the position of Treasurer. The ideal candidate would have an interest in the well-being of seniors and some accounting or financial background. The books are kept in Power Church. If you are interested, please contact Trudy Burling at [trudyburling@hotmail.com](mailto:trudyburling@hotmail.com) or call Kathy Mlinarich at 408.354.0707. While you are calling, make a reservation to join the St. Patrick's Day celebration!

## ROV Going Green

Can you go paperless? By the end of 2022, the Registrar of Voters' (ROV) office wants to reach a goal of having at least 100,000 voters opt to receive their County Voter Information Guide (CVIG) electronically. The CVIG is the informational booklet sent to each registered voter before each election.

Currently, more than 51,000 voters have proactively elected to go paperless, saving about 204 trees. If the ROV reaches its 100,000 goal, more than 24 tons of paper - 408 trees - will be saved each election! Not to mention that going paperless will also help reduce the carbon emissions associated with transport of CVIGs.

As a Santa Clara County resident, you can HELP the ROV achieve this goal:

1. Go to <https://sccvote.sccgov.org/county-voter-information-guide-delivery-options> to sign up to receive your CVIG electronically.
2. Tell your family, friends, and colleagues to sign-up to go paperless.
3. Check out the media kit for content to share: Go Green Campaign Follow ROV @SCCVOTE on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, or YouTube and repost their Go Green campaign through your social media platforms and newsletters.

Article taken from Mike Wasserman's newsletter



## HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

**Protocol Update:** Congregational Singing with masks will be allowed. Those wishing to sing will be seated on the right and center aisles (facing chancel); the left side (facing chancel) designated for those who are not singing. The Chancel Choir will return with a limited number of singers.

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 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*



### **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

**Ash Wednesday, March 2, 7PM**

Traditional Worship Service  
Joyce Rhodes, Organ

Scriptures

Psalm 51:1-17;

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Ash Wednesday Reflection  
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching

Join us on-line or in person.

### *An Irish Blessing*

*May the road rise up  
to meet you.*

*May the wind be*

*Always at your back.*

*May the sun shine warm*

*Upon your face,*

*And rains fall soft*

*upon your fields.*

*And until we meet again,*

*May God hold you in the  
Palm of His hand.*



### ***IN OUR PRAYERS***

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

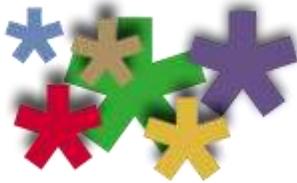
Doug McNeil, Aki Okuno, Celia Palm, Charley Ann Cobb,  
Pat Salem, Anne-Marie Wiggers, Eleanor Blumenthal,  
Becky Schmitt, Peggy Rose, Kay Thoresen, Joy Palmer,  
Ed & Shelley Ahn-Wong, Norm & Adrienne Zimmerman,  
Charley Oveland, Eric Muller, Marcia Block,  
The Homeless, Our First Responders,  
Prayers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

*~ In Memoriam ~*  
Marie Burr

*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, glensmail@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***

Terry Zacccone, tzacccone@pacbell.com  
Eleanor Yick, egyick@icloud.com

***Gift Stitchers***

Christina Capps, 408-531-9193, kl\_capps@yahoo.com  
Judy Petrokas, 408-930-2162

***Circle of Support***

Christina Capps, 408-531-9193,  
kl\_capps@yahoo.com

***Movie Group***

Mike Crow, ekimworc@yahoo.com  
Ruth Oveland, roveland@sbcglobal.net

***Kindred Spirits Book Group***

Sharon Armstrong, 408-857-7669,  
ssarmstrong@gmail.com

***Prime Time***

Ursula Young, ursulayoung@gmail.com  
Adrienne Zimmerman, dancers2@aol.com

***United Methodist Women (UMW)***

Contact Christina Capps,  
kl\_capps@yahoo.com

"Living in an angry world causes a Christian to go back to the basics."

~ Valerie Bell

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

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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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to be removed from mail or email list:  
[marylou.abrahamson@lgumc.org](mailto: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](http://lgumc.org), Facebook or YouTube



Find out more about our Ministries!  
Go to [www.LGUMC.org](http://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.