



# Spire

May 2022

from Pastor Jeffrey

Dear Friends,

Jim Wallis tells the story about how in South Africa 1987 Nelson Mandela was still in prison, and the world thought for good. School children were being killed daily by government police, and the struggle seemed to be at a standstill. He said: "I met a 14-year-old boy who was, like many there, organizing in elementary and high schools. I asked him if he was optimistic for the future and he said, "Yes." I asked him if he thought there would be a new, free South Africa someday, and he stated to me matter-of-factly, "I shall see to it personally...There is simply no other alternative than for each person to see to it personally."

As I think about the future – the future of our planet, the future our nation; the future of our denomination; the future of our beloved church, Los Gatos UMC – I am inspired and challenged by this response: "Yes, I shall see to it personally." I am inspired because that 14-year-old boy reminds me I must be willing to do *my* part to bring about the transformation I hope to see. I am challenged because I know how easily I can be tempted to let other people "see to it" while I'm sitting on the sidelines, so to speak.

As *you* think about the future, what difference does the statement, "Yes, I will see to it personally," make in your own life as you consider the following prompts (to list a few):

- Climate Change
- Stop Human Trafficking
- Peace between Russia and Ukraine
- Peace in the Middle East
- Stop Gun Violence
- Health Care Reform
- Immigration Reform
- Education
- Denominational Challenges
- Local Church Needs/Challenges



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# from Pastor Jeffrey

Continued from page 1

I believe those words spoken by the 14-year-old boy provide a hope-filled response to the needs and challenges we face as we consider the future of LGUMC. As we consider Congregational Care – phone calls, cards, visitation, etc.; Stewardship & Giving; Children & Youth Ministry; Social Justice Ministry; Prayer Team Ministry; Sunday Morning – Choir, Musicians & Vocalists, Ushers, Tech Booth, Divine Design, Flowers, Liturgists, Refreshments; Shower Ministry; Grace Preschool and Live Oak; Colonel Mission Team; Administrative Committees; and all the other ministries at LGUMC, I pray each one of us would be inspired to do our part to strengthen and grow Los Gatos UMC.

Call someone you haven't seen for a while in church  
Write a card  
Make a visit  
Volunteer for a ministry  
Serve on a committee  
Pray for LGUMC faithfully  
Give generously

\_\_\_\_\_ (You fill in the blank)

Invite someone to church  
Invite someone to church  
Invite someone to church

My prayer is when people ask us: "Are you optimistic about the future of LGUMC, and do you think the church will grow?"

My prayer is each of us would respond: "Yes, I shall see to it personally."

May God bless you and keep you.

*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,  
Norm & Adrienne Zimmerman, Eric Muller, Marcia Block, The Oveland Family,  
Lois Stocking, The Homeless, Our First Responders,  
Prayers of Peace for all people and all countries.

*~ In Memoriam ~*

Charley Oveland  
Memorial Service, June 11, 2PM

# May 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, May 1, 10AM**  
Traditional Worship Service  
with Holy Communion  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Joyce Rhodes, Organ

Scriptures  
Psalm 30, John 21:1-19

Sermon  
*Breakfast With Jesus*  
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



**Sunday, May 8, 10AM**  
Contemporary Worship Service  
Colonet / L4L Mission Team Presentation  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Open House Praise Band

Scriptures  
Psalm 23, John 10:22-30

Sermon  
*Our Shepherd's Voice*  
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



**Sunday, May 15, 10AM**  
Traditional Worship Service  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Joyce Rhodes, Organ

Scriptures  
Acts 11:1-18, John 13:31-35

Sermon  
*By This Everyone Will Know*  
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching

**Sunday, May 22, 10AM**  
Contemporary Worship Service  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Open House Praise Band

Scriptures  
Acts 16:9-15; John 5:1-9

Sermon  
*Healing Waters*  
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



**Sunday, May 29, 10AM**  
Traditional Worship Service  
Ascension of the Lord Sunday  
Joyce Rhodes, Organ

Scriptures  
Acts 1:1-11, Luke 24:33-53

Sermon  
*Goodbye, For Now*  
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



# Children & Youth



## 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](mailto:jonnye.cartmill@gmail.com)

# Confirmation

Confirmation is traditionally the time in the life of our youth when they look closely at what it means to be a Christian, in general; to be a United Methodist, in particular, and to be a member of Los Gatos UMC specially. It is a great time to explore their faith, grapple with some of the tough questions facing them and their generation (and facing all people of faith), and to get to know themselves and their church a bit better. The word "confirmation" is used because for students who were baptized as infants or children, this class invites them to decide whether to "confirm" the vows made on their behalf at their baptism.

Students do not have to decide about church membership prior to joining the confirmation class. In fact, we would prefer that they come with an open mind - ready to explore the issues and learn more, but waiting to make their final decision about membership until they have taken part in the class.

Confirmation classes will be held on Sunday evenings, May 1, 8, 15, 22 from 6:00-7:30PM. We will have a snack supper and fellowship during this time. After these classes, students are invited, but not pressured, to make their personal decisions about membership. The Confirmation Service is on Pentecost Sunday, June 5, 2022.

Pastor Jeffery Hall and Jonnye Cartmill will be leading these classes. They are open to all middle-high school students.

Contact [Jonnye.cartmill@gmail.com](mailto:Jonnye.cartmill@gmail.com)



LGUMC  
Easter  
Egg Hunt



*belong*

*grow*

*serve*

## Kindred Spirits

Our next meeting will be held May 11, 7PM, in the Art Gallery. Join us for a lively discussion of *Commonwealth*, by Ann Patchett. An unexpected romantic encounter forever changes the lives of two families, setting in motion the dissolution of two marriages as the people involved become a blended family of four parents and six children. Spanning a period of 50 years, the story explores how this chance encounter continues to reverberate through their lives. It is a tale of the ties of love and responsibility that binds us together. One reviewer called this book "A great novel about small moments."



Thank you to Jonnye Cartmill for beautifying our courtyard!

### **Shower Ministry – Spring for Gift Cards!**

During March and April, 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*





## Colonet – Lighting for Literacy 2022 Springtime Mission Trip

### Passing the Torch by Pete Taylor

We actually did it! Our team of ten Colonet – L4L missionaries found ways to deal with COVID and with other COVID-related inconveniences so that LGUMC could once again have its Volunteers in Mission (VIM) team actually build a new casita for a needy family as well as personally install Lighting for Literacy solar lighting systems in several homes there.

And in the process, we witnessed some initial steps toward “passing of the torch” in some of the supportive groups that have made our “short-term” Colonet mission trips possible each spring for over 20 years.

Our 2022 missionaries included three folks from LGUMC (Pete, Ken, and Erik), one from Scotland (Christine Finlayson), two from Los Gatos Morning Rotary (Tom and Jim), one youth and two adults from the Kinsella family (MaryClare, Kevin, and Elizabeth), and a new missionary (Steve Gladfelter) who traveled from Reno, Nevada to be a part of this dynamic VIM team!

Our mission story this year can best be told with some images that you see here and with our Mothers’ Day presentation during worship at LGUMC on May 8. Our mission team built a casita with its attached water tower and its own L4L solar lighting system, and we gave that safe, new home to Ana Ruiz and her husband, Amadeo Landeta. But the mission’s story isn’t just about building a casita. It never is. We hope that you can attend the May 8 worship service to learn more.

We recognize and thank those who provided the great help that our VIM travelers had from people / organizations who donated building materials, funds, and / or their expertise as well as prayerful support of this mission team. In particular, Larry and Cindy Loper were very strong supporters from their home in the California foothills. In addition, the Los Gatos Morning Rotary Charitable Foundation provided substantial financial support again this year. And Dave Wolf, Marna Taylor, Tom and Nancy Carson, our team of LGUMC “prayer buddies,” Pastors Jeffrey, Jennifer, and Kate, Elvi Braun, Todd Pearson, Dr. Marcelle Dougan, and The Perfect Plank walked every step with this team by providing their own vital forms of support. Furthermore, our missionaries received great help from the administrative folks in the LGUMC office (Cindy, Shannon, & Mary Lou) plus assistance from personnel from the North Central, the Southeastern, and the Western Jurisdictions and the Cal-Nev Annual Conference UMVIM offices. Yes, we needed and received a tremendous amount of support!

Now let’s get to the passing of the torch:

There are several pivotal pieces to our Colonet-L4L mission work that make this enduring mission the powerful experience that it has been for LGUMC and for so many missionaries for over two decades. Two of those central supporters in Colonet itself are our contractor, friend, and build liaison, Ivan Rubio Ortega, and our Lighting for Literacy liaison and needs-assessment person, Pastor Antonio Dueñas. Our work in Colonet certainly could not be nearly as effective as it has been without the very substantial contributions of these two great men and their families. It’s impossible to overstate their importance to this mission work.

This April, Pastor Antonio had a conflict that arose with the dates of our mission trip. So he provided all of his wonderful foundational help to us in advance of our arrival in Colonet, and then he turned over the reins of the actual Lighting for Literacy solar lighting system deployments to his 16 year old son, Isaiah. This is a great realization of one of the many potential benefits of L4L in the sense that youths can be trained to do almost every aspect of this work independently ... from creation of the individual systems (STEAM education) to deployment. It’s a fabulous development!

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This April, too, Ivan had to step aside while we were there when he became ill during our visit. And, true to his enduring commitment to our mission work in his small community, he still found ways to make his incredible contributions to support us. He first sent his younger adult son, Gabriel, and a helper, José, to work on the build site in his place. Yep, it absolutely takes two men to do Ivan's work! And when Gabriel was not available, Ivan then sent his older son, Jesus, and a friend to the building site to perform important construction tasks. And Ivan's wife, Adriana, continued to prepare and serve a very warm welcome and incredibly delicious "cenas" (dinners) to our group in their own home every evening despite the added strain of Ivan's sudden illness. These were remarkable acts on the parts of all of the members of the large Rubio Ortega family in Colonet.

And there's more. We're seeing changes at the helm of Lighting for Literacy, too. Many people are aware of Doug McNeil and Jesse Salem's creation of L4L a decade ago. But with Jesse's passing and Doug's very serious illness with ALS, Lighting for Literacy has sought new leadership. So, shortly before our Colonet mission team's April departure southbound this year, Lighting for Literacy chose co-presidents to gradually take over the reins from Doug. Doug's daughter, Jessica McNeil Eastland, and her co-president, Christina Enneking, will now begin to direct L4L's efforts going forward. And L4L will continue to look toward the future as it now searches for a CEO, as well, to take that vital responsibility from Doug.

In summary, we've been generously blessed. Our VIM work in Colonet this year came about with greater effort than was necessary in prior years due to the ongoing COVID pandemic as well as to pivotal changes that became necessary due to some foreseen and to some unforeseen challenges. And that's the very nature of mission work. Successfully meeting the various challenges of doing mission work is part of what makes mission work itself so rewarding.

I slept and dreamt that life was joy.  
I awoke and saw that life was service.  
I acted and behold, service was joy!

~ Rabindrinath Tagore



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*belong*

*grow*

*serve*



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 for the Hunter/Frye/UMW Scholarship are available in the narthex and in the church office. The deadline for all documents is Thursday, May 19, 2022, by 3PM. Students may also call the office, 408.354.4730, for an emailed form. Questions? Call Jean Mundell, 408.358.2069.



**The Chancel Choir is back and there is a place for you!**  
Rehearsals are Thursdays, 1:30PM in the Sanctuary.  
Come and raise your voice to the glory of God!

*belong*

*grow*

*serve*

Dear Church Family and Friends,

We want to thank each and everyone of you for your thoughts and prayers of support by calls, cards, emails and texts. They have meant a lot to us. We continue to move forward taking one day at a time.

With love and hugs,  
Ruth Oveland and Family



### **CHANCEL FLOOR REFINISHING**

We are planning to refinish the chancel floor this summer. A bid has been accepted from a flooring contractor and work will be scheduled soon. If you would like to donate to this project, then please write a check with the "Building Fund-Chancel Floor" in the memo line. If you have any questions contact Glenn Stansbury.



### **Do you have a Graduate?**

If you have a graduate this June, high school/ college, please let us know and we will recognize them in the June *Spire* and will include their ongoing education or career path.

Contact: [marylou.abrahamson@lgumc.org](mailto:marylou.abrahamson@lgumc.org)

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

Contact  
[marylou.abrahamson@lgumc.org](mailto:marylou.abrahamson@lgumc.org)  
to reserve rooms, or on-line at our website, [lgumc.org](http://lgumc.org).

*belong*

*grow*

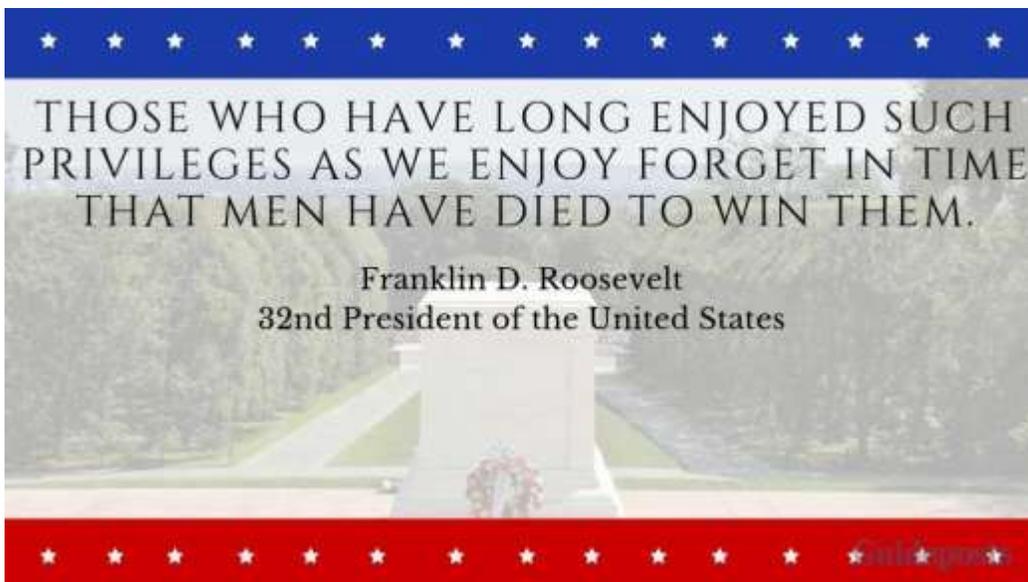
*serve*



Our Easter Cross decorated by our attendees with flowers from their gardens.

Our beautifully decorated Sanctuary by Divine Design.

Thank you, Jean Mundell, for the photos.



Memorial Day  
Monday, May 30



## Office Hours:

**Monday—Thursday 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  
408.930.2162  
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
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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

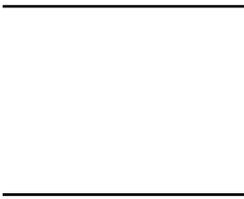
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In observance of the holiday, the Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 30.

# The Spire

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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.