

Spire

September 2022



from Pastor Jeffrey

Dear Friends,

I have been carrying Brian Doyle's essay, "God Again," from his book, *One Long River of Song*, with me for several weeks, so I thought I would share it with you.

"Had a brief chat with God the other day. This was at the United States Post Office. God was manning the counter from one to five, as he does every blessed day. He actually says every blessed day and he means it. You never saw a more patient being. He never loses his cool and believe me he could. I would. I have been in line behind crazies at his window and heard vituperative abuse and vulgar character assassination and scurrilous insinuation and never once did I witness any flash of temper in response to this on his part. I have asked him how he could maintain his cool and he says things like I try to put myself in their position and *witnessing vented emotion is part of the job* and *All storms blow over* and *It's only frustration* and *There are so many much more serious things* and *We are all neighbors in the end*. I am impressed by these sentiments, in large part because I share them consistently in theory but inconsistently in practice. "God, however, does not waver nor does he fluctuate in his equanimity. He stands there quietly as people bang their fists on his counter and offer rude remarks and stomp away muttering darkly. He does not smile when someone gets upset. He says he has learned that some people get more upset if you smile when they are upset. He listens to what they say and often, I notice, he makes a note on a pad as they leave. *I make a note if I think they have a good point we should discuss with management*, he says. *Often what is couched as a complaint is actually a good point about how we could be of better service*. He remembers pretty much every regular who comes to his window and he greets them politely by name.

Continued on page 2

from Pastor Jeffrey

Continued from page 1

Sometimes he will inquire after children and animals. Dogs adore God and will sometimes rear up on his counter to see him better. He greets them politely by name surprisingly often. I would guess I know a hundred dogs by name, he says. Hardly any cats. People don't take their cats with them when they go to the Post Office. I make a joke about how cats are the children of Lucifer and he does not smile and I realize later that probably Lucifer is still a deeply sad and touchy subject for him. How would you feel if one of your best friends, one of your most trusted companions, tried to steal everything you had and were and did, and for this breathtaking betrayal he was cast shrieking into the darkness, no longer the Shining One, the Morning Star, but the very essence of squirming withered despair, until the end of time? Wouldn't you be haunted and sad about that ever after? I would. I felt bad and told God I was sorry about making a stupid joke. I said I made stupid jokes all the time even though I was now an older citizen and ought to have learned by now to not be so flippant. And God said, *No worries, and Better a poor joke than something worse, and Do you want to use the book rate for your package, which will save you about five bucks?* And I said yes, sir, and thank you, and walked out of the Post Office thinking that if we cannot see God in the vessels into which the electricity of astonishing life is poured by a profligate creation, vessels like this wonderfully and eternally gracious gentleman at the Post Office, then we are very bad at the religion we claim to practice, which says forthrightly that God is everywhere available, if only we remove the beam from our eyes, and bow in humility and gratitude for the miraculous, which falleth even as the light from the sun, which touches all beings, and is withheld from none. So it is that I have seen God at the United States Post Office, and spoken to him, and been edified and elevated by his grace, which slakes all those who thirst; which is each of us, which is all of us."

May you and I continue to see that God is everywhere available.

Grace and Peace,
Jeffrey



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 4, 10AM

Traditional Worship Service with Holy
Communion
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Joyce Rhodes, Organ
Scriptures
Jeremiah 31:27-34; Luke 14:25-33
Sermon
Written On Our Hearts
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



Sunday, September 18, 10AM

Traditional Worship Service
15th Sunday after Pentecost
Joyce Rhodes, Organ
Scriptures
1 Timothy 2:1-7; Isaiah 40:21-31
Sermon
To Walk and Not Faint
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



Sunday, September 11, 10AM

Contemporary Worship Service
14th Sunday after Pentecost
Open House Praise Band
Scriptures
Psalm 51:1-10; Luke 15:1-10
Sermon
Lost and Found
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching

Sunday, September 25, 10AM

Contemporary Worship Service
16th Sunday after Pentecost
Open House Praise Band
Scriptures
Psalm 145; Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Sermon
When God Changed His Mind
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



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



children's ministry

Welcome back! Sunday School Fall 2022

Celebrate Wonder All Ages is a curriculum that honors the spiritual life of children. *Celebrate Wonder All Ages* will engage children in open-ended exploration and inquiry of the Bible. Through experiential activities, spiritual practices, and reflection, *Celebrate Wonder All Ages* serves as a biblical guide to help children make meaning for their lives. This curriculum seeks to deepen children's faith formation and to create a safe space for children to ask big questions and claim their spiritual identity as children of God.

September Unit 1: Call

October Unit 2: Seeking

November Unit 3: Voice

I'm very happy to be leading Sunday school again, I enjoy and appreciate each of your children.

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.

Contact Information

Jonnye Cartmill
Sunday School Coordinator
jonnye.cartmill@gmail.com
408.656.9817

belong

grow

serve

Kindred Spirits

Plan to join us on September 14, 7PM, in the Art Gallery where we will be reviewing *The Beantown Girls*, by Jane Healey. Set in 1944, the story follows three friends from Boston who leave their home town to volunteer as Red Cross Clubmobile girls. Each woman has her own reason for volunteering, and helping to raise the morale of the fighting men by providing coffee and doughnuts, which seems easy enough. However, the trio is unprepared for the daunting challenges of war. This is a novel of love, courage, and the unsung heroism of the women in World War II.



How best to honor those we've lost? By not being afraid to live life and take risks, by daring to open your heart to possibility..."

~ Jane Healey

Help Make a Difference ...
Jackets & Jack-o-Lanterns
Coat Drive



Help Someone that Needs A Warm Jacket or Sweater ...
... Now Through 10/31/22

The graphic features a yellow background on the left with a jack-o-lantern and a pink and green jacket. On the right, there is a photograph of children playing on a playground. The bottom section has an orange background with white text.

LGUMC and Grace Preschool are collecting warm outer wear for Rouleau Head Start Preschool in San Jose. We will accept **jackets, sizes 3T to 7/8** as the need for warm clothing is great in the South Bay Area this fall. Simply bring in your clean, gently used clothing during the month of September/October and put it in the box in the narthex.

belong *grow* *serve*



The Ushering Team at LGUMC needs YOU!

Any responsible member is welcome. (Ladies too!)

The most basic responsibilities include:

1. Arrive early by 9:30AM- opening doors, open bathrooms
2. Position the offering basket on its stand in the Narthex
3. Assemble the bulletins for distribution -- handout & welcome parishioners
4. Fill out the headcount card
5. Collect the prayer requests during the service for Pastor Jeffrey
6. Gather the offering after the service, place in zip bag with headcount card.

Contact Kenneth Kasper, keescornell@yahoo.com



Los Gatos Community Concert Association Presents

Yakushev & Mesa
Dynamic Classical Duo
piano & cello

Los Gatos United Methodist Church
Sunday, September 25, 2:30PM
Doors open at 2PM

Two world-class soloists combine for a powerhouse duo with international flair. Ilya Yakushev is known for his musical pyrotechnics on the piano, and Thomas Mesa is heralded as one of the most charismatic and engaging cellists of his generation.

For more information: lgcca.org



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IN OUR PRAYERS

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

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, Ada Sutton,
Eric Muller, Lois Stocking, Dee Heckman,
The McNeil Family, The Johnson Family,
The Homeless, Our First Responders,
Prayers of Peace for all people and all countries.

~ In Memoriam ~

Doug McNeil

Cathy Johnson



**Doug McNeil
Save the Date**

On Saturday, October 8, at Coyote Point Recreation Area, Team Maverick will be walking at the Silicon Valley Walk to Defeat ALS. A Celebration of Life will take place after the walk events.

More information to follow.

HELP FEED OUR NEIGHBORS

Due to problems created by inflation and other economic problems in Silicon Valley, there has been an increase in requests for help at food banks and other support groups. But the food bank stopped collecting non-perishable foods from churches and other organizations with onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Hunger Challenge bags were also discontinued because of concerns regarding the spread of infection, but we are again collecting and the bags will be next to the collection plate in the narthex on the **first Sunday of each month**. The money will be sent to Silicon Valley Food Bank.



Belong thru Worship

Grow in Christ

Serve with Love

Join a Small Group

Our Small Group Ministry is designed to help us grow as followers of Jesus Christ and support each other along the way.

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

Social Justice

Dan & Wendy Hendry,
wenhendry@comcast.net

Saturday Morning Men's Group

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

Great Decisions Discussion Group

Dan & Wendy Hendry,
wenhendry@comcast.net

Circle of Support

Christina Capps, 408.531.9193,
kl_capps@yahoo.com

Kindred Spirits Book Group

Sharon Armstrong, 408.857.7669,
ssarmstrong@gmail.com

United Women in Faith (formerly UMW)

Contact Christina Capps,
kl_capps@yahoo.com

Gift Stitchers

Christina Capps, 408.531.9193,
kl_capps@yahoo.com
Judy Petrokas, 408.930.2162

Outreach

Ursula Young, 408.354.7739,
ursulayoung@gmail.com,



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



Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday 10AM—2PM

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 Women in Faith (formerly UMW)

Christina Capps, kl_capps@yahoo.com

Ruth Oveland, roveland@sbcglobal.net

Our Ministry & Office Staff

Reverend Jeffrey D. 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, Children / Youth

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

In observance of the holiday, the Church Office
will be closed on Monday, September 5.

The Spire

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to be removed from mail or email list:
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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, 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.