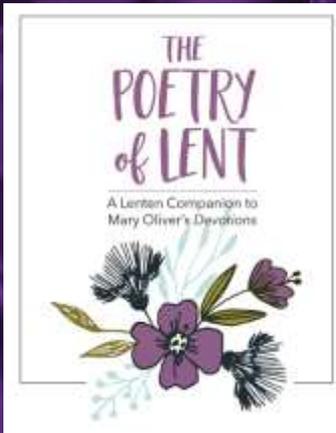


Spire

February 2023



Instructions for living a life:

Pay attention.
Be astonished.
Tell about it.

Mary Oliver
"Sometimes," Devotions, p. 104

from Pastor Jeffrey

The word "Lent" comes from an old English word for "lengthen," and refers to the lengthening of those long-anticipated days of spring. With both the cross and the empty tomb approaching, the church prepares itself with forty days of fasting and reflection, all for the sake of more fully celebrating Easter's song of the spring when it comes.

And, so, if Lent is about lengthening light, it's also about broadening our hearts and preparing the way, making room for careful attention to what matters most. As the poet Mary Oliver puts it, living well involves attention, astonishment, and testimony – the poetry itself can be a great help along the way. The best poems can help us notice the world, attune our eyes and ears to wonders we might otherwise overlook, and inspire us to share what we find. (Adapted from "The Poetry of Lent")

This Lent, the words of Scripture and the poetry of Mary Oliver will be our companions on our Lenten journey. Beginning Sunday, February 5, "The Poetry of Lent" Booklets can be found in the Narthex, Church Office, or on the LGUMC website: <https://lgumc.org/worship-information/>.

For those of you interested in sharing about your Poetry of Lent Journey this year with others, you may want to participate in a small group ZOOM meeting on Thursdays, beginning February 23 at 7pm. Feel free to drop in when it's convenient for your schedule.
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83045362161?pwd=bEtpa0xmbkQ0R2tpdnN3UEtkL1hUT09>.

So, have your favorite Bible in hand and a copy of *Devotions: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver* (you can also find the poems online). Week by week, we are invited to travel this Lenten Journey together toward Easter – and thereby do our part to help bring the lengthening light and welcome the joy of God's spring.

Lenten Blessings,
Jeffrey



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.

Sunday, February 5, 10AM

Traditional Worship Service
with Holy Communion
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Scriptures

I Corinthians 2:1-9; Matthew 5:13-20

Sermon

The Untamed Grace of God
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



Sunday, February 12, 10AM

Contemporary Worship Service
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Scriptures

1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

Sermon

First Be Reconciled
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



Sunday, February 19, 10AM

Traditional Worship Service
Transfiguration Sunday

Scriptures

Exodus 24:12-18; Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon

The Mountain Before You
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



Ash Wednesday, February 22, 7PM

Traditional Worship Service

Scriptures

Psalms 51:1-17; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Ash Wednesday Reflection
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching



Sunday, February 26, 10AM

Contemporary Worship Service
First Sunday of Lent

Scriptures

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon

Angels in the Wilderness
Rev. Jeffrey D. Hall, Preaching

Welcome, David!



Hello everyone!

I'm David Herberg, your new Music Director at Los Gatos United Methodist Church. I just started at the first of the year and I'm so excited to be here with you. Together with the wonderful people I've met here, I hope to enrich the worship experience at LGUMC.

I'm a former engineer and engineering manager (from Tandem and Hewlett Packard) who has always had a passion for music. I probably hold the flimsiest engineering degree Stanford has ever granted, because I substituted the maximum amount of music study they would allow. I have conducted many community theater musicals, even sometimes appearing on stage. Pre-pandemic, I was the choir director at a local church for nearly ten years, where I created ecumenical opportunities for local church choirs and the local community in general to join together in song. I currently sing and sometimes solo in the Santa Clara Chorale and play contra-bass in the Peninsula Symphony Orchestra. I've also played bass and guitar with my church Worship Team and sung in church choirs for over 30 years. As I often tell my wife, Elisa, "I can't tonight, dear, I have rehearsal!"

I'm looking forward to working with the talented people here at LGUMC. Already the faithful Chancel Choir has made me feel warmly welcomed. We've just started our journey together and I can't wait to see where the Lord leads us. With the current members as a core, we're hoping to gather other singers to join us to make spectacular, worshipful music. I'm looking forward to a variety of styles; the old favorites and classics, to newer choral arrangements such as from John Rutter to Mark Hayes. There is some truly wonderful music already in our library only waiting for the forces to tackle it. We'd love to have you join us! Right now we meet on Thursdays from 1:30-3PM. Talk to me, or come on down to check us out!

The Worship Team has already inspired me with their worship leadership and ability to convey Jesus' love for us through song. Each member of the Worship Team is a gifted musician and I can see their love of Christ and for each other in their actions. We'll continue to worship through the songs you know and love, and we also look forward to expanding our repertoire to other inspirational songs. If you have a gift and interest that would enhance the Worship Team, I would love to hear from you and incorporate you into the Team.

Throughout the year, we will celebrate in many musical ways. If you have any musical inclination at all, come talk to me! We can probably work together on something that doesn't require the whole commitment of the Choir or the Worship Team. Let's get to work and make some great music together!



David Herberg, our new Music Director, with his wife Elisa at our welcoming reception on January 8. David and Elisa's three children, Jason, Wesley, and Lauren, are Los Gatos High School graduates. With Lauren, the family is mourning the loss of Lauren's husband, Simon English. On a joyful note, Jason and his wife Yen Nguyen recently became the parents of David and Elisa's first grandchild, Logan. David invites anyone with any musical inclination to come and talk to him about how you can participate in your own way.

Welcome, Carmen!



Carmen Palacios-Garcia Joins Us as Financial Secretary

We are delighted to announce that Carmen Palacios-Garcia has accepted the role of Financial Secretary at LGUMC, filling the position left open with Cindy Cook's resignation and most recently filled on a temporary volunteer basis by Denise Coward.

Carmen brings over 22 years of experience in office administration services for the City of San Jose and the San Jose Employment Development Department this position of trust. Her responsibilities related to finances included account payable processing, account receivable processing, purchase order management, agreement contract management, and revenue collection. She received a certificate of appreciation from the director of the City of San Jose Transportation Department when she retired. Carmen was recommended for the role of Financial Secretary by our LGUMC staff members Mary Lou Abrahamson and Shannon Albert, who have known Carmen for years and were aware of her qualifications.

Many of you may also have had the opportunity to know Carmen over the years. She is a frequent visitor to the LGUMC campus when she comes in with her husband, Richard Garcia, who has served as our Facilities Director for over 30 years. In her role as Financial Secretary, Carmen will now be in the office from 8AM-1PM on Wednesdays and Fridays should you wish to stop in and welcome her.

Thank you to Denise Coward for filling in as Financial Secretary and for your help in training Carmen. Denise is well-known for the many years she served as Financial Secretary as well as her volunteer work in the office and as a member of the Chancel Choir.

Please note change in Church Office hours:

Monday—Closed
Tuesday—9AM-2PM
Wednesday—8AM-1PM
Thursday—9AM-2PM

Welcome Back, Jonnye!

We're Honored to Have Jonnye Cartmill Leading Children's Ministry



"I wish everyday was Sunday!" a Sunday School attendee was recently heard to say. That's the joy that the children are finding in our LGUMC Sunday School classes, rejuvenated with the leadership of Jonnye Cartmill and her dedicated team that includes Toni Kent, Penny Herman, Ursula Young and another half dozen volunteers who have agreed to help.

In addition to Sunday School, we had eight youthful confirmands last Spring due to the efforts of Jonnye, along with Pastor Jeffrey and Jennifer Hall, Toni Kent and Tamara Herendeen, and Adam and Kim Dallas. Jonnye also leads the Children's Chapel for Grace Preschool once a month.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is pleased to announce that Jonnye has accepted the role of Director of Children's Ministry as a part-time, paid member of our LGUMC staff and she will continue to support the youth ministry. "I do it because I love the kids," she says. Jonnye has been tireless in her service to this church community since 1988 when she and Bill moved to the area. Their children, Michael, Taylor, and grandson Rohan were baptized and raised in the church. Taylor and her husband Mike live in North Hollywood, Michael and his wife Julia live in Campbell and just welcomed a son, Desmond.

Jonnye spent 35 years in the semiconductor industry before her first stint as Director of Children's Ministry here at LGUMC from 2004-2011; she then left to be a nanny. We're delighted to have her back at the helm of children's ministry and she also felt called to join the Trustees Committee this year.

Help us celebrate Jonnye and the gifts she shares at our reception on Sunday, February 12 in the Social Hall after the service. Ask her about the many plans she has for our children and youth this year and let her know if you feel called to support some of them.

Dixie Fisher, SPRC Chair

Contact Information
Jonnye Cartmill
Children & Youth Ministry
jonnye.cartmill@gmail.com



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.

Sunday, February 5, 10AM

Unit 3: Kingdom

Jesus and the Children

Scripture

Mark 10: 13-16

Jesus said that the kingdom of heaven belongs to people like the children. The kingdom of heaven can be a difficult concept for children (and adults) to understand. Some people refer to the coming kingdom of heaven, alluding to a time in the future when Jesus will return. However, during his ministry, Jesus taught the kingdom of heaven is a present reality. The Spirit of God is within us and among us.

Sunday, February 12, 10AM

The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin

Scripture

Luke 15: 3-10

These two parables are short and share many similarities in format. Jesus told these parables to teach the lesson that each one of us is valuable to God. In the story of the lost sheep, Jesus tells of a shepherd who leaves his flock to search for the one who is lost. Even though the shepherd still had 99 sheep, he didn't accept even the loss of one.

In the story of the lost coin, the coin would have been worth about a days wages. While this is a significant amount of money, it is not a very large sum of money. The point of the story would have been lost if a great sum of money were involved. Rather, the woman has lost a single coin, a loss that some people would have just accepted. The woman, however, searches her entire house, cleaning every corner, until the coin is discovered.

Sunday, February 19, 10AM

The Forgiving Father

Scripture

Luke 15: 11-32

Jesus used the parable of the forgiving father/mother to teach people that every person is important to God. There are things to learn from each person in the story when we cannot put ourselves in the shoes of others, we can be reminded that God's unfailing love and forgiveness is offered to everyone. This Bible story reminds us that no one is perfect, but we can always run into God's loving arms. When we can know we are forgiven, we better understand God's unconditional love. This week, rest in the knowledge that you are a beloved child of God.

Continued on page 7

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Continued from page 6

Sunday, February 26, 10AM

The Widows Coins

Scripture

Luke 21: 1-4

In this story, Jesus is addressing the attitude of giving. When the widow gave all that she had to live on, the widow demonstrated her trust in God. Giving can be hard, especially if you feel you do not have much to give. Jesus draws attention to this widow in the temple not because she gave so much, but because she gave all that she had.

God's kingdom belongs to people like these children. (Mark 10:14b)

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

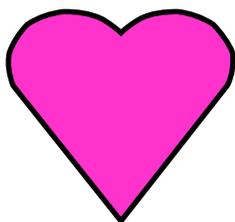
Youth Ministry:

Confirmation is traditionally the time in the life of a 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, specifically. 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" and these classes, are used for students who are baptized as infants or children, 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 6PM-7:30PM at a date to be determined.

We already have several students interested, please let me know if your youth are interested, jonnye.cartmill@gmail.com.



belong

grow

serve

Outreach



February is a brief month so we are collecting new briefs, underwear, and socks for men, women and children to be delivered to the Family Shelter in San Jose. There is also a need for baby diapers (all sizes).

Please put your new items in the barrel marked "Briefs" in the narthex.

Thanks in advance,
Your Outreach Team

JOIN THE EXCLUSIVE CADRE OF COFFEE VOLUNTEERS!

Make and serve coffee and cookies only six times a year in rotation with other team members so that everyone may enjoy coffee, snacks, and fellowship after Sunday Service. Contact Jean Mundell, jmundell@earthlink.net, or 408.666.6250.



Kindred Spirits

*New meeting time for Kindred Spirits!
Pachinko, like all gambling, is rigged. The house always wins.
It's a central metaphor of life. It's rigged, but you keep playing.
~ Min Jin Lee*



Kindred Spirits will meet on Wednesday, February 15, at 1PM in the Art Gallery to discuss "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee. "Richly told and profoundly moving, "Pachinko" is a story of love, sacrifice, ambition, and loyalty. From bustling street markets to the halls of Japan's finest universities to the pachinko parlors of the criminal underworld, Lee's complex and passionate characters — strong, stubborn women, devoted sisters and sons, fathers shaken by moral crisis — survive and thrive against the indifferent arc of history." All welcome!

Upcoming books:

March 15, "The Paris Library" by Janet Skeslien Charles

April 19, "Books of Longings" by Sue Monk Kidd

May 17, "The War Librarian" by Addison Armstrong

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Applications are available in the church narthex and in the office for the Hunter/Frey/UWF Scholarship. Funds for the grant are from memorial endowments for Ruth Dick Hunter and Florence Frey, who were active in the life of the church and in the United Methodist Women, and donations from the United Women in Faith (formerly known as UMW).

The deadline for submitting all necessary documents as listed in the application is May 19, 2023. Online applications are available for those calling the church office.



VIM Colonet

The spirit of giving our time & talents for mission work is alive and well at LGUMC! We have now received enough commitments from Colonet - L4L missionaries for our April 2023 trip that our mission traveling team is now full. Thank you to everyone for keeping this mission work active & vital.

Stand-by for upcoming fundraisers!

With the help of Live Oak Nutrition and Service Center...

Girl Scout Troop 60018 assembled 130 Christmas goody bags for our seniors. They filled them with homemade cookies and hand made cards. They delivered over 30 bags to our senior shut-ins. It was a surprise visit that created so much joy!



Please check the church calendar to make sure your room reservations are accurate. We reserve only one year in advance, so your reservation may have expired at the end of last year.

Contact Mary Lou,
marylou.abrahamson@lgumc, to reserve, or fill out reservation form on website, lgumc.org.

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Thanks for the prayers and support LGUMC!

My family and I felt so supported by your kind words, calls, cards, and ongoing prayers in these last months as we prepared to lose and then mourned our parents. Thanks to all of you who reached out; many of you, including Pastor Jeffrey, reached out multiple times to offer comfort. We're also thankful for all the **years** of prayers you offered as they aged in place. Whenever I told Mom that she and/or Dad were on the prayer list, she'd always smile and express appreciation. It's a blessing to be part of the LGUMC church family.

Dixie Fisher & Family

Thank you to my LGUMC church family for your cards, calls, prayers, and expressions of sympathy. Our family was warmed by your love and support during our most difficult time.

Peg Lang & Family

February

Black History Month



February 2 Groundhog Day

February 14 Valentine's Day

February 20 President's Day

February 22 Ash Wednesday

90th Birthday!

Shirley Will turns 90 on February 25. To send birthday wishes to Shirley, her address is:

2095 South Winchester
Blvd.
#201
Campbell, CA 95070



*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

belong

grow

serve

PART TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Position Summary: The Technical Team Lead will lead the Technical Team during Sunday Worship Services (and other special events), which involves integrating systems for sound mixing, live-streaming and projection coordinator, as well as the execution of all internal and external communications for LGUMC. This individual will be experienced with sound mixing and working with choirs and musicians, live-streaming, Media Shout, strategic thinking, executing, problem-solving, a hands-on leader and administrator. The Technical Team Leader will be responsible for recruiting, training & supervising new technical team members/volunteers, updating & maintaining equipment, solving problems on the fly, setting monthly technical team schedules, attending monthly worship meetings, and working with various staff members to bring together worship services and special events. Pay negotiable, commensurate with experience and skill level. If interested please reach out to marylou.abrahamson@lgumc.org.

Other tech positions also available—paid, or as community service credits.

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

Aki Okuno, Celia Palm, Pat Salem,
Anne-Marie Wiggers, Eleanor Blumenthal,
Becky Schmitt, Peggy Rose, Kay Thoresen, Joy Palmer,
Norm & Adrienne Zimmerman, Ada Sutton,
Eric Muller, Ruth Marie Wolf,
The Wolf Family, The Cobb Family,
The Homeless, Our First Responders,
Prayers of Peace for all people and all countries.

~ In Memoriam ~

Eric Wolf
Son of Pastor Dave and Ruth Marie Wolf
Memorial Service
Sunday, March 5, 1PM

Charley Ann Cobb
Memorial Service
Thursday, April 6, 1PM
(Please note date change)

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

Chancel Choir

Linda Juhl
lkjuhl2@gmail.com

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)

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

Chancel Choir

Linda Juhl
lkjuhl2@gmail.com

Divine Design

Lani Ballard
lanib@att.net

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



Office Hours:

Monday—Closed

Tuesday & Thursday—9AM-2PM

Wednesday & Friday—8AM-1PM

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

Dixie Fisher, dixiejfisher@gmail.com

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

Jonnye Cartmill, Children / Youth

jonnye.cartmill@gmail.com

David Herberg, Music Director

david.herberg@lgumc.org

Joyce Rhodes, Organist

joyce.rhodes@lgumc.org

Mary Lou Abrahamson, Ad. Min. / Communications

408.507.7140, marylou.abrahamson@lgumc.org

Shannon Albert, Accountant (A/P)

X104, shannon.albert@lgumc.org

Carmen Garcia, Financial Secretary (A/R)

X101, carmen.garcia@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

Stock donations

are a great way to support your church.

If you are interested in making such a contribution, please contact

Shannon Albert,

408.354.4730 X104 or

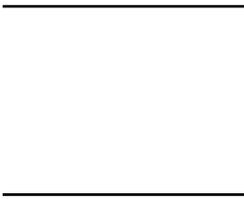
shannon.albert@lgumc.org.

for information.

The Spire

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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.