



Spire

October 2023

Pastor's Pen

Last Sunday I used the illustration of my stepping away from the politics of our own denomination after the 2012 General Conference in my sermon. I didn't take the time to explain that decision beyond what was needed to illustrate my point in the sermon. However, I am going to explain that a bit more completely here.

In 2012, I was the treasurer for the Board of Directors of Reconciling Ministries Network. I had been in the position a few years at that point. It was an interesting time and place of service. Part of my service included spending time at the General Conference 2012 in Tampa, Florida. One year before this, I'd had my heart attack. I was still in cardiac rehab, so would walk the mile and a half each way as my cardio exercise while I was there. It gave me a fair bit of time to think and pray each morning and evening. In my daily Scripture readings during that period, 1 Corinthians was the assigned text. First Corinthians 2:2 stuck with me all through the General Conference: *For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*

I served until the end of 2012 at which time I stepped down from the RMN board and out of United Methodist denominational politics. I made that choice because of what I witnessed at the General Conference. I saw and heard people vilified, othered, and treated without dignity. I'm not going to tell stories or name names. This isn't the time or place for that. This is the place to share with you how that impacted me.

I found myself walking to the convention center each morning with hope and anticipation for the day ahead. The conversations and time spent building relationships with new and old friends alike. Each evening, I found myself walking back to the hotel (a Howard Johnson's no less!) wondering in prayer, "Why are we as we are to each other, O Lord?" There was kindness and generosity of spirit. There was a great amount of the worst of humanity, too. Perhaps I am too much of an idealist, but I don't want to participate in such grossly political gatherings no matter how heavily wrapped in hymns and scripture. My calling to ministry is clear to me, and it doesn't include such things as those. *For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*

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Pastor's Pen

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Stepping out of denominational politics for me is first and foremost about deciding not to judge the people I have known and loved as friends for near 40 years. We don't see eye-to-eye now. I'm ok with our not agreeing. I'm not ok with them not being my friend. Politics must be put aside. They are first and foremost my sibling in Christ. I refuse to let the broken politics of our denomination get in the way of that primary relationship – our siblinghood in Christ Jesus. I am an outlier among progressive and conservative United Methodists. Yet, I think I stand at the heart of our Wesleyan tradition. John Wesley and George Whitfield, an early Methodist preacher and a Calvinist, were at loggerheads theologically. It is reported the one said to the other, "I know your heart is with Christ, so let us join our hands and walk together," or some version thereof. *For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*

You might call it a conversation experience. I name that experience as one which clarified my call to ministry further. It was part of the refiner's fire, to take an image from Isaiah. We are all called in some way. Our call may be to ministry, it may be to parenthood, it may be to our various professions. God calls us and continues to call us throughout our lives. For me, God used the General Conference of 2012 to clarify and refine my understanding of my calling to ministry. *For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.* God is calling each of us in large and small ways. How is God inviting you to live today for the future God is preparing for you tomorrow?

Peace,
Pastor Daniel

Connecting with Pastor Daniel

I'd encourage you to follow me on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/daniel.diss.1>. It will be a way to get to know me. I try to post reflections there a few times a week. My personal blog is being updated. Once that is ready to share, I'll make that available. The blog is associated with my other Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/thecuriouspastor>; I use the name "The Curious Pastor" as my online presence. My personal blog which is being updated is of the same name.



Pastoral Contact and Availability

Pastor's Office Hours:

Mon.	10AM—Noon
Tues./Wed.	8AM—Noon
Thurs.	10AM—Noon

Email: daniel.diss@lgumc.org

Cell: 224.240.3630 (Please send a text in an emergency for fastest response.)

Office: 408.354.4730 x102

October 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, October 1
10AM

Traditional Worship Service
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
Holy Communion
Scriptures

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Matthew 21:23-32
Sermon

What Will It Take?
Daniel F. Diss, Preaching



Sunday, October 8
10AM

Contemporary Worship Service
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Scriptures

Exodus 17:1-7; Matthew 21:33-46
Sermon

Recognizing Holiness
Daniel F. Diss, Preaching



Sunday, October 22
10AM

Contemporary Worship Service
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
Scriptures

Exodus 33:12-23; Matthew 22:15-22
Sermon

Belonging to Whom
Daniel F. Diss, Preaching



Sunday, October 29
10AM

Traditional Worship Service
Scriptures

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46
Sermon

Examined Hearts
Daniel F. Diss, Preaching

Online Worship

Sundays, 10AM

LGUMC Facebook page

See Worship page at LGUMC.org for online
Worship live stream information.



Celebrate Wonder

Faith Word of the Month: FAITH

Abraham and Sarah - Genesis 12:1-9

God made many promises in the Bible. The story of Abraham and Sarah is one of many stories about God's promise and people's faith in those promises. For the next few weeks, we will journey with Abraham and Sarah. Their journey will take them far away from home and bring many surprises.

God's Promise to Abraham - Genesis 12:1-9

God promised to be with Abraham as he journeyed to a new land. Abraham had faith in God, so he did as God asked. God told him to not be afraid, and that God would be his protector and his provider.

Abraham's Visitors - Genesis 18:1-14

Many years passed between the time Abraham and Sarah moved from their home in Haran until they arrived in the new land. During those years, they must have wondered how God was going to make a great nation out of them when they still didn't have any children.

Isaac Is Born - Genesis 21:1-7

It has been a long journey for Abraham and Sarah. After all Abraham and Sarah had been through, they finally received the promise God made to Abraham. The story, narrated by Sarah, finally makes both Abraham and Sarah parents and father and mother of the Hebrew people. They are very old. Sarah is 90 and Abraham is 100. These are hardly the ages one would expect to be parents. Sarah still in disbelief, finds this miracle to be humorous.

Jacob and Esau - Genesis 25:19-28

We have heard the Bible stories of Abraham and Sarah for the last few weeks, including the story of the birth of their long-awaited son, Isaac. The Bible story today starts when Isaac was an older man and married to Rebekah. They had been married many years but had no children. Rebekah finally became pregnant with twins. It was a difficult pregnancy, with the twins fighting even in the womb. The twins "pushed against each other and made the pregnancy hard for Rebekah." She asked God why she was suffering.

Contact Information

Jonnye Cartmill
Children & Youth Ministry
kids@lgumc.org



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



**HELP SOMEONE THAT NEEDS A WARM JACKET OR SWEATER ...
... NOW THROUGH 10/31/23**

LGUMC and Grace Preschool are collecting warm outer wear for the San Jose Family Shelter. We will accept jackets sizes 3T to 7/8 as the need for warm clothing is great in the South Bay area this fall. Also needed are diapers size 6 only, pillows, and family size shampoo, conditioner and body wash. Simply bring in your clean, gently used clothing during the month of September/October and put it in the box in the Narthex.

Support for Eimie as she fights childhood leukemia

A FUNDRAISER DINNER on Friday, November 3, LGUMC's Social Hall

Ivan and Adriana Ortega, LGUMC's very good, long-time friends in Colonet, Mexico, have aske

CENTRAL PLAZA DEDICATION

Sunday, November 5, 11am



Dedication of LGUMC's New Central Plaza

Dear Friends,

Please join us at 11AM (after worship service) on Sunday, November 5, for the dedication of our new Central Plaza.

The Plaza is now home to a beautiful 22 year old Southern Live Oak tree that replaces the beloved Live Oak that had to be removed several years ago. The tree is surrounded by a new seating wall which replaces the old wooden benches. Now there is ample space for people to sit down and talk after service or other events on campus.

We are hoping for an appearance by the Mayor of Los Gatos to speak at the dedication. So come and help us celebrate with a cup of coffee or punch.

belong

grow

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Outreach

The Outreach Committee is looking for volunteers to help us plan Fall and Christmas activities. We need a person or team to coordinate the Children's Gift Tree and we also need a team to set up and coordinate the Christmas Alternative Gift Faire. Please contact Ursula Young, ursulayoung@gmail.com or 408.335.9979, for details.



Kindred Spirits

Kindred Spirits book selection for October is *Dinners with Ruth: A Memoir on the Power of Friendships* by Nina Totenberg.

"Dinner with Ruth is a heartwarming and inspiring memoir about the friendship between Nina Totenberg and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Totenberg, a legal affairs correspondent for NPR, tells the story of their nearly fifty-year friendship, from their first meeting in 1972 to Ginsburg's death in 2020.



The book is a testament to the power of friendship and the strength of the human spirit. Totenberg and Ginsburg were both strong, independent women who dedicated their lives to making the world a more just place. Their friendship was based on shared values and a deep commitment to social justice.

Dinner with Ruth is a must-read for anyone who admires Ruth Bader Ginsburg or is interested in the women's rights movement. It is a beautifully written and inspiring book that will stay with you long after you have finished reading it."

Please join us on October 18, 1PM, in the Art Gallery when we discuss this book. All are welcome!



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Congregations across the nation are recognizing Minister Appreciation Month in October and Pastor Appreciation Day on October 8. In this video, <https://www.cnumc.org/minister-appreciation-month>, Rev. Samuel Hong, Superintendent for the El Camino Real District, suggests that praying for our pastors and their enduring joy as they serve us is one of the most powerful gifts of appreciation we can offer. If you are so moved, you can also fill out a Pastor Appreciation form and your comments will be posted on the California-Nevada UMC website.

And best of all, join Pastor Daniel in the Social Hall after church -- or any of the many other touch points he offers to us -- to tell him directly what you appreciate.

PASTOR'S CLASS 6PM, Every 4th Wednesday

We will start with the book *Kingdom, Grace, Judgment* by Robert Farrar Capon. Fr. Capon, an Episcopal priest, wrote many books in his lifetime. His trilogy on the parables of Jesus, *Kingdom, Grace, Judgment*, Capon is both readable and challenging. He gives fresh perspective on what are often familiar stories and by extension on Jesus himself. Capon opens the "Jesus story" in a whole new way through his reading of the parables. The book is available on Amazon both in print and in electronic format and can also be found in used book shops. Next class will be Wednesday, October 25.

Join us in-person or Zoom—information to follow in eblast.

Planning & Visioning Conversations

Join Pastor Daniel on the fourth Saturday, October 28, from 9-11AM in the Fire-side Room & Grace Chapel for the continuing conversations for planning and visioning our future together as a congregation. Everyone is invited to participate in these conversations.



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LIVE OAK SENIOR NUTRITION & SERVICE CENTER

Good News: On her most recent visit, Sandra Brown, dietician and supervisor of Live Oak for the County of Santa Clara County shared that "LIVE OAK SENIOR NUTRITION AND SERVICE CENTER is now recognized as one of the fastest growing senior lunch programs in County." Live Oak is also one of the few senior lunch programs that remained open during entire pandemic. Seniors, especially in Los Gatos, were left with few resources and very limited contacts. Kathy Mlinarich and her staff provided a much need opportunity for seniors to engage with others as they picked up their meal. According to one client, "I was picking up meals daily for my parents... I was so nurtured and supported at one of the most difficult times in my life with my parent's decline. Blessings on you, Kathy, and the way you drive the LOS-NSC mission for a needy and often unrecognized population."

After the closure and recognizing the importance of social interaction as well as nutritious meals, Kathy, the staff, and the many volunteers now provide Tai Chi, chair yoga, and bingo along with Second Harvest food on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Call 408 354 0707 for more information or 408 335 9797 for a lunch reservation.

LIVE OAK ADULT DAY SERVICES

Join us for a spooktacular evening of Halloween fun. Including dinner, a raffle, a silent auction, and dancing with DJ SeevSupreme.

Event Date: October 28, 2023

Event Time: 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Location: 1147 Minnesota Ave. San Jose, CA 95125

Entry Cost: \$50 per person

RSVP

[Live Oak's Annual Halloween Party & Fundraiser \(google.com\)](#)



Raffle

For more information and to participate in the raffle, please call (408) 971-9363 to purchase tickets.

Other Highlights

- Taco Truck and spooky desserts!
- Complimentary horchata, soda, and water
- Bar drinks-\$5 ticket
- Costume contest

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to enjoy Live Oak's Annual Halloween Party and Fundraiser with friends and family. We can't wait to celebrate Halloween with you!

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Join the Choir!



The Chancel Choir have resumed rehearsals on Wednesdays, 7PM, in the church.

If you sing along with the hymns in church, you may have what it takes to join in the fun of singing together in the choir loft. Our talented director, David Herberg, will guide us in choir rehearsals and Sunday mornings for traditional worship service.

Give Chancel Choir a try! We would love to sing with you!

Contact David Herberg, music@lgumc.org
or Linda Juhl, lkjuhl2@gmail.com.

Become a Member

Interested in Becoming a Member of LGUMC?

We will be receiving new members at a date to be determined. If you are interested in deepening your connection with LGUMC and becoming a member, email Pastor Daniel, daniel.diss@lgumc.org.

TECHNICIANS STILL NEEDED!

We are in need of people willing to learn and join our team of Sunday technicians. We will train you! (Community hours also available.)

Contact Leon Johnson, tech@lgumc.org

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, Ada Sutton,
Kay Thoresen, Joy Palmer, Carol Baker,
Eric Muller, Ruth Marie Wolf, Mary Maier,
The Breein Family
The Unhoused, Our First Responders,
Prayers of Peace for all people and all countries.



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
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408.354.0707
- Richard Garcia, Facilities Engineer
408.627.3345

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

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

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."*



Sr. Pastor
Pastor Daniel F. Diss

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.