



Pastor's Pen

The war in Israel between Israel and Hamas, and the tragic human suffering we are seeing on our televisions and reading about in our newspapers, is just weeks old. Yet, it has captured our attention. The war in Ukraine is well into its second year in most of our news cycles. We have forgotten that for the Ukrainians, this war began in 2014 with the Russian occupation of Crimea. It is almost beyond description the pain and grief many are experiencing in relationship to both events. A BBC news report to which I listened reported on a Palestinian journalist who gave birth to a daughter during the bombardment one night early in the war. As I write this, I am recalling the children which appear to have been spirited into Russia from Crimea as part of the occupation of that war.

This past week over 100 prestigious medical journals, including the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, JAMA, and the *British Medical Journal*, published the same editorial. The editorial, from October 25, was entitled, "Time to Treat the Climate and Nature Crisis as One Indivisible Global Health Emergency." In the editorial, the medical community was called to urgently see the climate and nature crisis as a global public health crisis. The authors, in part, argued that the loss of biodiversity and green space, along with climate change, present a great risk to human health at a planetary scale. The growing crisis around the world for fresh, clean water is one example. It is hard to read the editorial and not feel a sense of urgency.

War, climate crisis, and crisis in our natural world are not signs of God's reign. They aren't indicators of hope. Our spiritual lives are not lived in a vacuum. We can't help but turn to God in prayer when we pray with these types of concerns on our heart and mind along with concerns for friends and family, and the circumstances we encounter in our day-to-day living. I bring with me stories I've heard in a podcast, read in a newspaper, and seen in a news video. I bring with me the compassion which perhaps led me to shed a tear because a little girl will know nothing but war from the day she was born. I bring with me the frustration that more isn't being done to be faithful stewards of our natural world. When I come before God, I come with all the same parts of myself with which I live each day – even the parts of myself I don't like. I come with the joys, frustrations, pains, anxieties, hopes, dreams, and prejudices.

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Pastor's Pen

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I look at the great problems of the world, and I ask, "Where is God in this?" Every time I want to blame God, I walk to the mirror in the bathroom and ask the same question looking at myself. Prayer has taught me that God sees me for who I am; nothing is hidden from God. No matter how many times I tell God how unlovable I am, or unworthy I am, or anything else which says, "I'm not enough for God," God crashes my pity party. God isn't asking me to end wars, fix global warming, end the crisis in our natural world, or establish world peace. God is simply loving me and is going to love me regardless of what I want or don't want. This is how God is renewing us by loving us so that we might love in return.

We face many issues at many different scales – globally, nationally, regionally, and locally. We face our own issues in our homes and private lives, some which may be known only to us and God, to us and a few others, or only to God. God loves all of it and redeems all of it. That's the Good News: God redeems. The extremely ugly like war, the ravages of the climate crisis, and the destruction of our natural world, are redeemed by God, too. We may not see it or understand it, but God redeems all of us, not just the parts of our individual lives we want to share with God. God redeems the entire human condition, too, including the parts we mess up. There is plenty of ugly in this world. The Good News is there is more than enough redemption for all of it, with ample left over, in the work Jesus did on the Cross.

Peace,
Daniel Diss

Pastor's Class Has New Schedule

Starting on Tuesday, November 7, 7PM, the Pastor's Class studying the book *Kingdom, Judgment, Grace* by Robert Farrar Capon, will start meeting every Tuesday except for the 2nd Tuesday of the month. We'll pick up with chapter seven in the first section, "Parables of Kingdom" on November 7. We will meet in either the Fireside Room or the Art Gallery.

Stewardship: Financial Discipleship

Starting in November, Pastor Daniel will be preaching a three-week series on stewardship as part of our yearly finance campaign, or as some have called them "financial discipleship campaigns." You'll be receiving a letter and pledge card in the next several weeks. Please begin praying asking God, "What are you calling me to give in 2024, O God?"

Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Join us on Thursday, November 16, 7PM, at the Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos (Shannon Road) for the annual Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. We'll be taking a collection to help support a joint effort with the school district and others to provide books for schools in Guatemala. There will be a joint choir performing this year. Please see our Director of Music, David Herberg, for information about rehearsals. This year the preacher for the service will be our pastor, Rev. Daniel Diss. The service will have participation from other faith communities including several Christian congregations, the local Jewish congregation, and the local Muslim community.

November 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, November 5
10AM

Contemporary Worship Service
Joshua 3:1-17
Matthew 23:1-13
Sermon
Stewardship of a Great Gift
Daniel F. Diss, Preaching



Sunday, November 12
10AM

Traditional Worship Service
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Matthew 2:1-13
Sermon
Midnight Oil
Daniel F. Diss, Preaching



Sunday, November 19
10AM

Contemporary Worship Service
Ephesians 1:13-15
Matthew 25:31-46
Sermon
Others First
Daniel F. Diss, Preaching

Sunday, November 26
10AM

Traditional Worship Service
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 1:1-8
Sermon
My Lost Children
Daniel F. Diss, Preaching



**Los Gatos Interfaith
Thanksgiving Service
Thursday, November 16
7PM
Presbyterian Church of
Los Gatos**

Online Worship

Sundays, 10AM
LGUMC Facebook page
See Worship page at LGUMC.org for online
Worship live stream information.



Celebrate Wonder

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.

Unit 3: Faith To Believe in God's presence and to hope.

November 5, Birthright Genesis 25:29-34

Although Jacob and Esau were twins, they were very different. They looked different, and they liked different things. Esau liked the outdoors and being with wild animals. Jacob preferred to be around tame animals and enjoyed cooking. Jacob was Rebecca's favorite son, possibly, because she believed him to be chosen by God.

This month we will be exploring how God blesses each of us. Praying is one way we can connect with God and ask for blessings in our lives.

November 12, The Blessing - Genesis 27:1-45

Blessing: All the things God provides.

Jacob now has his brother's birthright, but to receive the inheritance he must also receive the full blessing from his father Isaac. If Isaac gave the blessing to Jacob, Jacob would inherit everything. We often think Rebecca and Jacob were being sneaky, and they were. Maybe, however, they knew something the rest of us didn't. When Rebecca was pregnant with the twins, "the boys pushed against each other inside her" (Genesis 25:22).

November 19, Jacob's Ladder Genesis 28:10-22

Jacob finally got the birthright and the blessing that rightfully belonged to Esau. However, because of Esau's anger, Jacob had to flee his home and family. As Jacob was leaving his home and traveling to Harangue, he grew tired. He found a stone, placed it near his head, lay down to sleep, and had a very vivid dream. He dreamed that there was a large staircase that started on the ground and reached into the sky. God appeared in Jacobs dream and promised to be with Jacob, and to bless him and all of his descendants— promises that God had made to Abraham and Isaac.

Genesis 28:15 I am with you now, I will protect you everywhere you go.

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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY continued

God sometimes shows up in our lives, in very unexpected ways. We might not have a vivid dream of angels and staircases. However, there might be times when we least expect it, that God leads us and shows us a new way. This can happen through prayer meditation, a walk outside, or even through a conversation. There are no limits to where God might show up. If we will pay attention, we can find God everywhere.

November 26, A Peaceable Kingdom Isaiah 11:6-9

Today we will hear from the prophet Isaiah. 700 years before Jesus was born, the prophet, Isaiah, foretold of a time of unprecedented peace. Isaiah described a world where animals that are usually enemies would live peacefully together, where there was no violence or pain, and where children could live in safety and free from fear. There is hope in these verses— hope that God's peaceable kingdom will one day arrive.

Isaiah's description of peaceful times ahead, brought hope to a weary world and people living in difficult times. We still long today for the peace Isaiah spoke of. We are still looking for hope. But each of us can participate in this dream—even children. We can join in God's vision by being dreamers. When we read the scripture, we can begin to wonder what kind of world God desires. We answer this call by offering compassion, kindness, and goodness to our hurting world. Imagine God's Kingdom being here on earth, and everyone being a part of it. What a blessing.

Isaiah's prophecy May be new to many children. Help your children connect Isaiah's description of peace to the message of peace. Jesus taught throughout his life. This time of year is exciting for children. With Christmas around the corner, they may have more trouble than usual sitting still. Balance play time with quiet time. Remind them that it is important to have quiet time with God as well.

Note: We will make Advent Calendars

All wishing our friend,
Richard Garcia,
a speedy recovery!



Contact Information

Jonnye Cartmill
Children & Youth Ministry
kids@lgumc.org



Staff Appreciation Sunday



Thanks to all LGUMC members who shared their appreciation with our staff and extended staff and joined the festivities on Staff Appreciation Sunday on October 15. If you weren't able to join, know that an email or word of appreciation to our dedicated staff is **always** welcome.

Staff Parish Relations Committee



CENTRAL PLAZA DEDICATION

Sunday, November 5, 11 am



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.



Daylight Savings Time ends
Sunday, November 5.

Kindred Spirits

Our next meeting will be held November 15, 11:30AM, in the Mandarin Gourmet Restaurant, 5560 Santa Teresa Blvd, San Jose (across from Target in Oakridge Mall). We hope you can join us there for our annual holiday luncheon and book exchange. Please remember to bring a wrapped book for the exchange. It doesn't have to be a new book, and can be either hardcover or paperback. Please RSVP to Sharon Armstrong, ssarmstrong@gmail.com, 408.857.7669, who is also available to answer any questions.



Shower Ministry Receives Commendation from Town

The Shower Ministry recently received a commendation from the Town of Los Gatos for our work serving the unhoused in our town. Heather Newberry and Adam Dallas were there to accept on behalf of LGUMC. Also recognized were our wonderful partners at St. Luke's Episcopal Church and St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Mary's Catholic Church. We love the work that we do, and the clients we serve. If you are interested being a part of this ministry, contact Marna Taylor, marnalee59@gmail.com, 408.439.4614.



belong

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Support for Eimie as she fights childhood leukemia

A FUNDRAISER DINNER on Friday, November 3, 5:45PM, LGUMC's Social Hall

Ivan, Adriana, and other family members plan to come here to cook and to serve the meal for this November 3 fundraising event.

Come to the November 3 event to offer the Ortegas your words of support, your love, and your thanks for the many ways in which the Ortegas have helped LGUMC. And please plan to make a generous financial donation, too, to help Eimie in her long leukemia battle. *Please let Pete Taylor know ahead of time that you'll be there on November 3.*

Contact Pete:

* Cell 408-439-1008 (OK to text)

* ColonetLGUMC@gmail.com

Thanks to each one of you!

Happy Herd Homeschool Enrichment Program

The Details:

Ages 7-13 (flexible, minimum 5 years)

Every Tuesday from 10:30-12:00

From Nov 7- Dec 12 (6 classes)

Cost: \$450

Students will meet weekly (rain or shine) for 1.5 hours to learn all about the world of horses from an experienced equestrian and credentialed teacher, Liz Weissman-Young, liz@lizwyong.com.

Harp Concert

Saturday, November 11, 2-3PM

Join us for a mesmerizing **Harp Concert** at **Los Gatos United Methodist Church**! Prepare to be enchanted by the enchanting melodies and soothing sounds of the harp. Immerse yourself in the captivating tunes and let the harmonious strings of the harp transport you to a world of tranquility and serenity. Don't miss this opportunity to experience the magic of the harp in person. Mark your calendars and get ready for an evening of musical bliss!

SANTA CRUZ WARRIORS BASKETBALL NIGHT!!

Mark your calendars now for **Friday, December 1!** We'll meet at the church and carpool over to Santa Cruz for a FUN TIME!! Let Toni Kent know if you want a ticket! \$25 each, sliding scale/scholarships available! toni@losgatosfarms.com, 408.771.6077.

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"OUR FAMILY TO YOURS" GIFT TREE

Our Gift Tree will be in the narthex **beginning November 19** this year. You will find wish list ornaments on the tree requesting much needed items for three local families. We are so grateful to be part of a Church Family who shows the true meaning of Christmas...spreading the Christ Love to help make every family's Christmas a bit more magical! Requested items need to be wrapped and labeled and returned to the church by December 17. Contact Toni Kent if you have questions, toni@losgatosfarms.com, 408.771.6077.



LOS GATOS HOLIDAY PARADE

The church and preschool are once again going to be in the Los Gatos Christmas parade. We are in need of a truck and driver that can pull a small float. If you have such a truck and can volunteer, please contact Allison Shaw, ashaw@mac.com, or Ann Reynolds, annjarret-treynolds@juno.com.

Thank you.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIRE

A slimmed-down version of the **Christmas Gift Faire** will be offered on Sunday, December 3 and 10, after worship service. We will have a few displays, and you will be able to "purchase" gifts of goodwill donations to worthy programs in honor of family and friends. We will also have gift cards and descriptions of the programs that you support. Bring your checkbook or cash (no credit cards), and your shopping list, and plan to browse through the social hall. We will also serve coffee, tea, and cookies to munch on. (See list on page 12.)

Outreach

The Outreach Committee is looking for volunteers to help us plan Fall and Christmas activities.

Please contact Ursula Young, ursulayoung@gmail.com or 408.335.9979, for details.

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From Trustees: LGUMC friends, if you want to use the church facilities or meeting for anything besides support of Church Ministries, starting January 1, there will be a charge for such usage. Church members will receive a discount on the standard fees. Contact Mary Lou for a copy of the fee schedule which lists the costs and clean-up fees for each room.

**Save the Date
Church Conference
Sunday, December 3
All invited.**



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

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.

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.

LOS GATOS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIRE

December 3 & 10, 2023

An Alternative to Christmas Gifting

Please make your donation selections on this order blank. Donations are 100% tax deductible.
(\$10 per share; Children under 12 may purchase up to 5 shares @\$1.00)

DESCRIPTIONS OF ALL THE ORGANIZATIONS are available in the Social Hall
(Purchases can also be made by mail: LGUMC, 111 Church St., Los Gatos 95030)

No. of Shares @\$10 Organization

INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL

- _____ 1 SEEDS Homeless Youth Outreach
- _____ 2 Children's Tumor Foundation
- _____ 3 Volunteers in Mission/Colonet (VIM)
- _____ 4 Lighting for Literacy
- _____ 5 Doris Dillon School - Cambodia
- _____ 6 Habitat for Humanity
- _____ 7 UMCOR: Domestic Relief
- _____ 8 UMCOR: International Relief
- _____ 9 Heifer Project

RECONCILING MINISTRIES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

- _____ 10 Reconciling Ministries Network, MFSA, LGUMC Social Justice Ministry

SANTA CLARA COUNTY AND LOS GATOS

- _____ 11 San Jose Family Shelter
- _____ 12 Live Oak Adult Day Services
- _____ 13 LGUMC Shower Ministry
- _____ 14 LGUMC Health and Visitation Ministries
- _____ 15 Live Oak Senior Nutrition Center
- _____ 16 "Bill Wilson Center" (adolescent counseling center, education and advocacy to support homeless youth in Santa Clara County)
- _____ 17 Grace Preschool Scholarship Fund
- _____ 18 Easter Seals Northern California for Cerebral Palsy care
- _____ 19 HIV Care Issues / PACE Clinic at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center
- _____ **TOTAL NUMBER OF SHARES @ \$10.00 = \$_____ Make checks out to LGUMC**

Please print your name _____

THANK YOU ***BLESSINGS, PEACE, AND JOY*****MERRY CHRISTMAS**



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 Daniel F. Diss, Sr. Pastor
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kids@lgumc.org
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408.348.1736
- Joyce Rhodes, Organist
joyce.rhodes@lgumc.org
- Mary Lou Abrahamson, Ad. Min. / Communications
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- Carmen Garcia, Financial Secretary (A/R)
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408.354.4730 X101
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408.354.7163,
- Kathy Mlinarich, Director, Live Oak Senior Nutrition
kathy.mlinarich@lgumc.org
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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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 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.