



## *Pastor's Pen*

It seems sudden. Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 14<sup>th</sup>, will be upon us in just a few days. Lent begins. Lent is intended to be a time of spiritual growth for all of us. In the ancient church, Lent began as a time to prepare new initiates for baptism at the vigil on the night before Easter. It was a mentored time of intense preparation for new Christians in the new and emerging Christian community. It became a community event. Everyone in the community was included in this work: those being prepared; those preparing them; and the community surrounding them in prayer through the forty days of intense preparation. The whole community joined in prayer, fasting, service, alms giving, and other physical marks of their spiritual journey in that time. Over time, the period was begun by the physical mark of ashes upon the forehead at the start of the period.

Alongside what I've just described, another matter arose in the early church: How to re-fellowship those who had broken faith with the fellowship of the church? Lent's preparation of those to be baptized also became a time of repentance for those seeking to rejoin the fellowship of the church. Lent went from a time of baptismal preparation to a time of repentance for specific acts, such as offering incense upon the altar to the Roman emperor, to a time when the entire community reflected upon their lives and embodied the place of a penitent before God. All these strains remain in the chorus of spiritual practice we call Lent today.

This Lent I am focusing on the second of our values statements related to our congregational mission statement. Our congregational mission statement is: Growing s followers of Jesus Christ who live God's love in the world. Our three values statements are: Belong – You were formed for community. Grow – You were created to become like Christ. Serve – You were shaped for serving God and one another. During Lent, I am exploring our second values statement: Grow – You were created to become like Christ. It is very fitting we do this work during Lent. However, I would invite you to come to this journey with curiosity and expectant joy rather than a sense of repentance or brokenness. Lent will remind us of the need of those well enough without our bringing extra to the table. I hope and pray you will be excited for what the Lent offers for your spiritual growth.

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# Pastor's Pen

Continued from page 1

I'll be preaching a series based on our second values statement: Grow – You were created to become like Christ. As part of our Lenten work around this topic, I'll be leading a class on Tuesday evenings during Lent (starts Feb 20) at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room entitled "Three Simple Rules." It's the book by Bishop Ruben Job of the same name, and available in the Church Office for \$5. Large print \$6. We'll read and discuss this together to help us understand how we, the people called Methodist, seek to grow in our Christlikeness. This is an exploration of the General Rules for the People Called Methodist, a guide which can help reinvigorate and renew our spiritual lives as individuals and as a congregation.

I hope to see you all at the Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14, and at our study on Tuesday evenings starting February 20.

Peace,

*Daniel Diss*

## **Nominations & Leadership Development**

Your help is needed. Nominations & Leadership Development needs your assistance with their on-going work. Please find a short interest survey on **page 10**. It is by no means exhaustive or complete. However, this will give us an idea of where folks have an interest in serving.

Included with this is a two-question survey to help the pastor and leadership know your thoughts on topics of future ministry direction. These statements represent ideas kicked around in various conversations. Please don't forget to fill out the information about who is responding so we know whom to contact if you have indicated if there is a place of service about which you are interested. Thank you!

## **Pastor's Class**

The Pastor's Class studying the book *Kingdom, Judgment, Grace* by Robert Farrar Capon, will continue meeting every Tuesday until the middle of May but will pause during Lent for the Lenten Class (see more information on page 6) and return after Easter.

# 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 4**  
**10AM**  
**5th Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**Communion Sunday**  
**Isaiah 40:21-31; Mark 1:29-39**  
**Sermon**  
***Hope Encountered***  
**Daniel F. Diss, Preaching**



**Sunday, February 11**  
**10AM**  
**Transfiguration Sunday**  
**2 Kings 2:1-12; Mark 9:2-9**  
**Sermon**  
***Receive a Double Portion***  
**Daniel F. Diss, Preaching**

**Wednesday, February 14**  
**7PM**  
**Ash Wednesday**  
**Holy Communion**  
**Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51;**  
**Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**  
**Sermon**  
***Outward Hearts***  
**Daniel F. Diss, Preaching**



**Sunday, February 18**  
**10AM**  
**First Sunday in Lent**  
**Genesis 9:8-17; Mark 1:9-15**  
**Sermon**  
***Reminders of Covenant***  
**Daniel F. Diss, Preaching**



**Sunday, February 25**  
**10AM**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**  
**Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Mark 8:31-38**  
**Sermon**  
***Recognizing Promises***  
**Daniel F. Diss, Preaching**

## Online Worship

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



## *children's ministry*



**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**

We've talked about the Sermon on the Mount as a place where Jesus taught his disciples. Jesus gave the disciples a guide on how to pray during his time on the mountain. The Lord's Prayer is that guide, and we continue to use it today as a prayer or a guide to prayer. The Lord's Prayer contains elements Jesus considered important when praying: asking God for guidance in our lives, forgiveness, praise, and thanks.

Faith Word: **GUIDE**

### **February 4**

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:5-15

Jesus was teaching a large crowd on the mountainside.

He said, "When you pray to God, pray like this:

God in Heaven, your name is holy.

Let what happens in your kingdom happen on Earth.

Give us everything we need.

Forgive us;

help us to forgive others.

Help us make good choices, instead of bad ones."

### **February 11**

Jesus Calms the Storm

Mark 4:35-41

In the days of his ministry, Jesus had been teaching the crowds all day long.

Jesus said to his followers, "Let's go to the other side of the lake." Jesus and his followers left the crowd and boarded a boat to cross the lake.

#### **Contact Information**

Jonnye Cartmill  
Children & Youth Ministry  
kids@lgumc.org

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## February 18

Mary and Martha

Luke 10:38-42

Jesus and his followers were traveling, and they needed a place to rest. Jesus' friends, Mary and Martha, invited Jesus to stay with them. When Jesus arrived, Mary sat at his feet to listen to him, and Martha served everyone. Martha was tired. She was doing all of the work, while Mary was just sitting and enjoying Jesus' company. Martha thought this was unfair.

## February 25

Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

A tax collector named Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus walk through his town. He was too short to see over the big crowd, so he ran ahead and climbed a tree. There, he could see Jesus coming down the road.

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### Registration is now open for Summer Camp!

Camp is for kids and youth who will be in **3rd-12th grade** next Fall. All 10th-12th graders are placed in the Leaders in Training program at Camp, where they develop leadership skills.

**Camp Toyon: July 7-13, 2024**  
**Aptos, CA**

**Camp Lodestar: July 14-20, 2024**  
**Wilseyville, CA**

### REGISTER FOR CAMP HERE

- NEW Early Bird pricing! We're opening registration earlier and offering **\$30 off for those who register by February 1st**. Plus, get a reduced deposit rate of \$75 with Early Bird registration.
  - NEW family portal! We've made registration easier, with everything in one place.
- NEW! Our website has moved to the conference website. Find us at [cnumc.org/camp](http://cnumc.org/camp).



Drawings from our Sunday School artists, entitled "Showing Love."



*belong*

*grow*

*serve*



### **Lenten Study Fast Approaching**

Our Lenten Study this year is a book entitled *Three Simple Rules* by Ruben Job.

Ruben Job was elected Bishop of The United Methodist Church in 1984. In this small book, Bishop Job explores the three general rules of the Methodist societies which John Wesley

gave to them. We continue to have them as part of our Book of Discipline to this day. In fact, you'll have heard them in one form during the Wesley Covenant Service Pastor Daniel led on Dec 31, 2023. They are a key part of what it means to be a Methodist.

This year during Lent, we'll gather on Tuesday evenings at 7PM in the Fireside Room to explore these three simple rules ourselves: Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God. You've heard them since Pastor Daniel arrived, now come join him in exploring and understanding them at a deeper level.

The church is ordering 30 copies of the book in regular print. It will be available in the Church Office for \$5 (our cost). We are ordering five large print copies. They will be available in the Church Office for \$6, again at our cost. This class will begin on Tuesday, February 20.

### **Kindred Spirits**

Kindred Spirits will meet on February 21, 1PM, in the Art Gallery to discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an *average* woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results. Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, *Lessons in Chemistry* is as original and vibrant as its protagonist. All are welcome.

(On religion) "I think it lets us off the hook. I think it teaches us that nothing is really our fault; that something or someone else is pulling the strings; the ultimately, we're not to blame for the way things are; that to improve things, we should pray. But the truth is, we are very much responsible for the badness in the world. And we have the power to fix it."  
~ Bonnie Garmus, *Lessons in Chemistry*



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## Colonet / L4L Family VIM Trip April 2024

We're excited to be getting prepared now for our springtime 2024 Colonet mission work in rural Mexico. Our team of missionaries will be performing work to aid needy folks in and around Colonet from April 7 – April 12.

Our first important step is to actually settle on the composition of our team of 2024 missionaries. We have a very solid core of experienced leaders who are already committed to this April's work, and we're expecting to welcome several new missionaries as well. We'll hold our 2024 mission's **"commitment" meeting on Sunday, February 4 at LGUMC**. After that meeting our mission team will be firmly set.

*So please contact Pete Taylor right away if you have a strong interest in joining this spring's Colonet team.*

Our various leaders this year are mission volunteers who have quite a long and remarkable record of charitable work in Colonet.

- \* Christine Finlayson will come from Scotland again this year to help lead the construction efforts.
- \* Fred Loofburrow will drive from South Dakota once again pulling his trailer full of seemingly magical construction tools and equipment. He and Christine together will head up the construction.
- \* Kevin Kinsella will head up Lighting for Literacy (L4L) on this trip. Kevin has done this incredible work for many years, and he is a phenomenal person to continue to head it up.
- \* Erik Eastland is stepping up to mission team leadership.
- \* Maggie Harris is also stepping up to mission team leadership.

We'll be doing fundraising to help pay for the construction materials. Please stay tuned. We've tentatively set our annual **Colonet VIM Brunch Fundraiser for Sunday, March 17**, in the LGUMC Social Hall. Please mark your calendars so that you can plan to attend this festive event and contribute to our Colonet charitable efforts. Thanks very much for your generous support!

We can always benefit from prayers for our mission team as well as for the residents of Colonet. Thank you so much for your prayers!

Blessings.

*Pete Taylor*

*belong*

*grow*

*serve*

# Outreach



## February is Brief Month

During the month of February we will have a bin in the Narthex to collect new underwear and new socks of all sizes.



## HUNTER/FRYE/UWF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for the Hunter/Frye/UWF scholarship are in the narthex and in the church office. The funds are from the endowments of Ruth Dick Hunter and Florence Frye, two women who had been active in the life of our church and who were interested in the education of young people in our church. Additional funds are from United Women in Faith, which is involved in mission work to help women and children.

The deadline for turning completed applications and the related documents as listed in the application is Friday, May 17.

## 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](mailto:tech@lgumc.org)



GO  
NINERS!!

## 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](mailto:daniel.diss@lgumc.org).



*belong*

*grow*

*serve*



***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,  
Ruth Marie Wolf, Pat Patterson,  
The Unhoused, Our First Responders,  
Prayers of Peace for all people and all countries.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please indicate where you would have an interest in serving in the congregational leadership.  
Thank you!*

**Part 1: Places of Service**

**Congregational Administrative Ministry Teams**

- Church Council
- Board of Trustees
- Finance & Stewardship
- Staff Parish Relations
- Nominations & Leadership Development

**Congregational Program Ministry Teams**

- Outreach
- Social Justice
- Congregational Care
- Visitation/Health Ministry

**Volunteer Opportunities**

*I want to know more about ...*

- Chancel Choir
- Praise Band/Vocals
- Divine Design (setting the space for worship; textile & visuals arts)
- Volunteer to be an usher
- Volunteer to be an A-V tech
- Volunteer to help lead worship (i.e.: read Scripture, offer prayer, etc.)
- Volunteer to help with Sunday morning Coffee Hour
- Volunteer to help with Sunday School / Children’s Church

**Part 2: Help Pastor and the Leadership Know Your Thoughts**

There has been limited interest in returning to the two service schedule. Please choose the **two responses** which best fit you:

- Yes. A return to the pre-pandemic Sunday schedule would be welcome no matter the cost to the congregation. Yes, if it doesn’t hurt the momentum we are gaining now.
- Maybe. I like the one service at 10 a.m. with the alternating styles. I’m open to the idea.
- No. I like the one service at 10 a.m. with the alternating styles.
- I would be open to a schedule which continues a traditional service on Sunday morning with a contemporary service every week at an alternative time such as Saturday evening or Sunday late afternoon/early evening. This may impact a significant income source (e.g.: SJYS).

The pandemic revealed significant struggles for our congregation and many other congregations. We have many options, perhaps too many options, which could be a pathway forward for us. The statements below represent potential ideas which have been suggested. We can’t pursue them all. The categories are intentionally broad. Please choose the **two responses** which best fit you:

- Pursue a ministry in partnership with an organization which will help respond to the need for affordable housing or other similar pressing social needs.
- Pursue further ministry partnerships which use our facility for arts education and performances (e.g.: music, dance, drama, and fine arts).
- Pursue a ministry which focuses on youth leadership development.
- Expand our use and presence on social media and use of alternative communications media.
- Develop a wide-ranging and robust program of spiritual formation activities and events (i.e.: meditation, yoga, contemplative prayer, Taizé worship, labyrinth, etc.)
- Expand small group ministries while renewing present small group ministry work.



**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  
Wes Toy, westoy4@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  
daniel.diss@lgumc.org  
408.354.4730 X102  
224.240.3630 (cell)
- Jonnye Cartmill, Director of Children's Ministry  
kids@lgumc.org
- David Herberg, Music Director  
music@lgumc.org  
408.348.1736
- Joyce Rhodes, Organist  
joyce.rhodes@lgumc.org
- Mary Lou Abrahamson, Ad. Min. / Communications  
marylou.abrahamson@lgumc.org  
408.507.7140 (cell)
- Shannon Albert, Accountant (A/P)  
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408.354.4730 X104
- Carmen Garcia, Financial Secretary (A/R)  
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408.354.4730 X101
- Leon Johnson, Technical Director  
tech@lgumc.org
- Kristy Currie, Director, Grace Preschool  
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- Kathy Mlinarich, Director, Live Oak Senior Nutrition  
kathy.mlinarich@lgumc.org  
408.354.0707
- Richard Garcia, Facilities Engineer  
408.627.3345

# 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 Daniel F. Diss

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.