

Spire

April 2024

Pastor's Pen

I don't know why I do this. I always begin these notes for the newsletter with some high-minded theological drivel. It's good theology, if I were teaching in a seminary or lecturing at a university. Now that I have that out of my system and have deleted what I just spent three hours laboring over only to realize it was for naught, I've come to how to write this note. In a few weeks, our General Conference will meet in Charlotte, NC. I ask you to pray for this gathering. I could go on (and did) about how and why this gathering is so important to our "Methodist connexion" (using the old British spelling which Wesley used with the "X"). I tried to craft a clear and careful statement of our theological underpinnings for why we do business the way we do. In the end, what is important is that we be a people at prayer for our denomination, The United Methodist Church.

I don't know your individual thoughts on our tradition and it's position on various topics. However, as a Reconciling Congregation, that is a clear statement about the congregation's position on the inclusion of LGBTQIA+ folks in the life and ministry of the congregation. I am grateful for that understanding and welcome. I also recognize there is more to do. The "more to do" begins with prayer. This is the simple truth I know as a pastor: All our endeavors require prayer before, during, and after. If we are welcoming people, that begins in prayer. If we are looking for new ways to open our doors to those who experience exclusion, that begins in prayer. If we are looking for new ways to serve the community in which we live, that begins in prayer. If we are looking for the health and well-being of our large community of sister congregations called "United Methodists," it begins with prayer.

When I was on the Board of Directors of the Reconciling Ministries Network, I posited, "What happens when we achieve our goals? What happens to RMN then?" It was as if no one had contemplated achieving our goals. I had been praying for our General Conference and what was coming. I had been praying for our movement and it's goals. I had been praying not hoping, but knowing that God would continue to work through RMN and others to achieve a fully inclusive denomination. I still pray for those things. I believe we can achieve more. The work of opening our hearts and doors doesn't end with inclusion.

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The thing for which I know people yearn is not just inclusion, but belonging. They want the sense of being valued for who they are, as they are. God's grace does just that. Grace is given to us before we know it is given to us! God's grace is the signal that we are valued for who we are and as we are. As I invite you to pray for this sense of grace to infuse our General Conference this Spring, I also invite you to invite that same sense of grace to infuse our congregation.

We have much to understand and consider in the coming months. As a denomination, this upcoming General Conference will chart our way forward on LGBTQIA+ issues as well as many others. It will begin redefining the relationship between various parts of the globe from a colonial perspective to one of partnership and mutuality. There is much before our General Conference. As a congregation, we have some significant challenges ahead. The leadership is developing options for conversation and consideration. You'll hear from Ray Owen about these matters, soon. We need to pray. That is the invitation I make to you this Easter. Pray for our denomination that it will continue to find pathways of welcome for all people. Pray for our congregation that we will continue to find pathways of welcome for all and be of service to our community.

May the blessings of Easter be upon you and your household this Easter season.

Peace,

Daniel



Pastor's Class After Easter: *Opening Ourselves to Grace* – Two Opportunities

Pastor's Class returns after Easter starting on Sunday, April 14 at 11:30AM and Tuesday, April 16 at 7PM. This class will be available on Zoom each week as well. (The Zoom link will be included in the reminded email about the class.)

Opening Ourselves to Grace is a resource developed by Discipleship Resources, a part of our General Board of Discipleship. It was developed in 2006 in response to a request from Bishop Sharon Brown Christopher asking for a resource and tool to help teach a Wesleyan understanding among the people of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. It is a great resource which helps all of us understand how God works and moves in our lives. There are two parts to the Pastor's Class this time.

The emphasis of our Easter study is on the means of grace and their role in Christian life and formation. John Wesley described three categories of the "means of grace:" General, Instituted, and Prudential. We'll explore and discuss Wesley's understanding and how we apply these understanding to our lives today. *Opening Ourselves to Grace: Sunday Morning* begins on Sunday, April 14 at 11:30AM. This will be a six-week Bible study exploring the topic. *Opening Ourselves to Grace: Tuesday Nights* starts on April 16 at 7PM and runs for four weeks. This class explores this topic using a video series to help spur the conversation. You can do either class or both days. They are different studies but come to discuss the same topic with different methods. It promises to be an enriching conversation for all no matter how you decide to participate. There is no book to purchase. A handout will be provided.

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.

April Worship

Sunday, April 7
10AM
Communion Sunday
1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31
Sermon
Complete Joy: Joyful, Faithful
Living in Broken World
Daniel F. Diss, Preaching



Sunday, April 14
10AM
1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48
Sermon
Being Called Names
Daniel F. Diss, Preaching

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

Sunday, April 21
10AM
1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18
Sermon
A Shepherd's Life: What does
It Take to be a Good Shepherd
Daniel F. Diss, Preaching



Sunday, April 28
10AM
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8
Sermon
Deep Connections, Part 1
Daniel F. Diss, Preaching





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.

Faith Word: **SHARE**

April 7

The Great Commission – Matthew 28:16-20
Mary Magdalene and Mary shared the good news that Jesus was alive with his friends, the disciples. Jesus' friends left to wait for Jesus in Galilee, as he requested.



April 14

Peter and John – Acts 3:1-10
Peter and John went to the temple to pray. At the temple gate, they saw a man who could not walk. The man was there every day asking people for money because he could not walk and could not work.



April 21

Believers Share – Acts 4:32-37
The believers of Jesus formed a community. They wanted to be together and support one another. They shared everything. No one said, "This is mine."



April 28

Choosing the Seven – Acts 6:1-7
As the believers of Jesus grew, many languages were spoken in the communities. Because of the lack of understanding, some people were not getting their share of food.



Contact Information

Jonnye Cartmill
Children & Youth Ministry
kids@lgumc.org

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY!**

General Conference in Charlotte, NC

April 23-May 3 of this year our General Conference will gather in Charlotte, NC. You may have read or heard some news reports about the denomination “splitting.” That’s not really accurate but it makes for a better headline. I invite you to be at prayer for our General Conference. I also invite you to join me on two different occasions to learn how General Conference works and what is before them this time. Pastor Daniel, who was elected a reserve delegate to General Conference both as a lay person and as a clergy person, will lead the conversations. The first opportunity will be on Tuesday, April 9 at 11AM for those who find evening gatherings difficult. The second opportunity will be Thursday, April 18 at 7PM.

You can find out more about our General Conference if you go to resourceumc.org. At the very bottom of the page in the menu section is an entry which reads “General Conference 2020.” If you click on that item, you will be directed to the website for General Conference. The 2020 General Conference didn’t happen because of the pandemic. All the legislation from that General Conference and all the legislation which has since been submitted is before the body. You can find a link to the materials there. There are three volumes this time. You’ll also be able to find the guide to prayer for General Conference there too.

Pastor hopes to see you at either or both sessions about our coming General Conference.

Open Invitation to Kyrgyzstan Mission Trip Presentation by Debbie Ow

Our El Camino District United Women in Faith President, Debbie Ow, has recently returned from a mission trip to Kyrgyzstan in central Asia sponsored by the United Methodist Church Board of Global Missions. She will share her experience with us, and everyone is invited. Please join us!

When: Wednesday, April 10 at 2PM
 Where: LGUMC Fireside Room
 Host: LGUMC United Women in Faith
 RSVP: Helpful for room set-up (but not required)
 Christina Capps kl_capps@yahoo.com
 Phone: 408.531.9193, Text: 408.221.5961

Kindred Spirits

Kindred Spirits will read S.A. Cosby’s crime thriller, *All the Sinners Bleed*, for their April book selection. Cosby shows great insight into the time, place, and human nature as the main character, a black sheriff of a rural Southern town, finds a web of corruption and secrets in his investigations. Someone who hides in plain sight, a Confederate pride parade, black children, and a church all figure into this story.

Join us at 1PM on Wednesday, April 17 in the Art Gallery next to the Social Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Kathy Mlinarich has invited us to eat lunch at the Nutrition Center in the Social Hall. Call her at 408.354.0707 to let her know you’ll be coming to lunch. (\$3.00 donation).



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Shower Ministry

Los Gatos Town Council Approves \$60,000 for Unhoused Services

I am very excited to share that the Town Council will be including \$60,000 in next year's budget to serve the unhoused. These funds will be used to:

- *Fully fund the professional cleaning of our showers each week
- *Support food purchasing for St Luke's Episcopal Church Food Pantry
- *House unhoused clients in local hotels during severe weather events.

The inclusion of these programs in the yearly Town budget is a Big Deal! In the past, funds for supporting the Shower Ministry and Food Pantry have been secured through a very competitive Town grant process. While we have been successful in securing funds in the past, it is always challenging knowing these limited funds might not be awarded to us. During the past year, we have worked closely with our partners - St Luke's, St. Vincent de Paul/St Mary's Church, Laurel Prevetti and Katy Nomura from the Town, Council member Rob Moore and previous Mayor Maria Ristow - to develop a plan to provide a predictable, ongoing funding source for these essential services for our unhoused residents. This has now come to fruition, and we couldn't be more grateful.

A shout-out to The Best Western, Los Gatos Lodge, and Garden Inn who are amazing partners in our hotel program. They each took a big leap of faith to agree to be part of this program, and each one has been faithfully and diligently working to successfully implement the program this past winter.

I'm sure you are now asking yourself: "How can I become a member of the fun and fabulous team that serves our unhoused each Thursday afternoon at the Shower Ministry?" Drop by on a Thursday between 2 and 3:30PM to see us in action, or contact Marna Taylor 408.439.4614 or marnalee59@gmail.com. We love new volunteers!

Need Request

Even with spring bursting out all around us, nights are still chilly. If you are living in an unhoused circumstance, finding a way to stay warm or even make a hot meal is not easy. One of the ways you can help is by donating the one pound liquid propane camping fuel bottles to the Shower Ministry. A donor gave us three cases at the start of winter. We have distributed them all, yet our clients still need to stay warm and make a warm meal. If you are able to help, please drop off the one pound LP bottles outside the Worship Center on Sunday mornings. The LP bottles are widely available for camping and picnics in many stores this time of year and throughout the summer.



Colonet Family Mission / Lighting for Literacy in early April

LGUMC and the wider Los Gatos community have done it! With generous financial support plus great logistical and administrative help from many, many individuals in the USA and in Mexico, we've reached our planning goals and we've met our preparation deadlines.

It's especially nice to have had such an enjoyable and successful Sunday brunch fundraiser on Sunday, March 17 in the LGUMC Social Hall. Cindy and Larry Loper worked their magic in the kitchen once again as they coordinated the brunch with Maggie Harris. Thanks to these three folks for their good work! And our thanks to all of the generous donors who attended this brunch.

We're now ready for our VIM Colonet / L for L work to actually begin in Colonet on Sunday, April 7.

Our VIM Colonet / L for L team will be driving (or flying!) southbound toward Colonet on Saturday April 6. Christine Finlayson (from Scotland) and Pastor Kate Conolly (from Oregon) will arrive by plane, and Fred Loofbourow will drive in from South Dakota. We'll all assemble in La Jolla at Regents Pizza thanks to Tom and Nancy Carson's generosity. This initial full-team gathering each spring is a joyous reunion for many of us as we assemble at Regents for the first time as our actual VIM team.

On Sunday, April 7, we'll drive the 4 - 5 hours south from the US border zone and into Colonet to begin our work on the new casita for Jacinto (dad), Mónica (mom) and Abril. And the following Thursday evening we'll hand the keys to them in our "keys ceremony." It's a whirlwind that many of us welcome enthusiastically despite the exhaustion that accompanies this work.

We all appreciate your prayers for us ... for good health, for safety on the roads, for safety on the work site, and for vibrant relationships within our VIM team and with our Colonet friends ... as we embark on our April journey.

I'll leave you with one of my favorite quotes (this is from Rabindrath Tagore, and it's courtesy of Rev. Tammy Kuntz, Ph.D, of the North Central Jurisdiction – United Methodist VIM in Ohio):

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy.
I awoke and saw that life was service.
I acted and behold, service was joy!"

Blessings,

Pete Taylor



our nonagenarian

by Nancy Rühle

On April 17, 1924, **Jean Mundell** was born on the island of Kaua'i. Her father, Tetsuji Uemura, had come from Japan at the age of two. Her mother, Matsuyo Koga, also of Japanese ancestry, was born in Hawai'i when it was a kingdom. Jean had three older sisters and two older brothers. Her father, who owned a filling station and a car repair shop, taught the family to be proud of their heritage. He stressed the importance of education and insisted that they all speak English.

Therefore, all the children excelled at school. Jean loved to read, to the point that her second-grade teacher took her to the library and told the librarian that Jean should be allowed to come in anytime and borrow books.

After Pearl Harbor her father was considered an enemy alien and could not keep his business; he was interned briefly at the county jail. A US Army base needed a laundry facility, and the Uemura family filled the void, setting it up at the house. They bought extra washing machines and hired local women to do the ironing. After the base decreased in size, the laundry business ceased. The family then moved to Honolulu where Jean's dad became manager of a Chevrolet repair shop.

Jean passed a test to enroll in the English Standard School System. In high school she had to take three buses to get there. She was the editor of the school paper and on the school counsel. For fun she took ballet lessons and enjoyed swimming. She was active in a Congregational church where there were lots of young people.

Graduating in 1952, Jean enrolled in the University of Hawai'i where she majored in education. At the end of her sophomore year she married Vernon Mills, whom she had first met in high school. He was in the naval Air Force and was transferred to Moffett Field. Following his service he moved the family to his home state of Kansas for a while, then back to California. At one point prejudice reared its ugly head. Vernon found an apartment where the owner said it was okay to bring their cat, but upon learning that Jean was Asian, the owner refused to rent to them.

Meanwhile Jean worked a variety of jobs ranging from office work at the Wichita Refuse Department to being registrar in the office of the Boy Scouts of America. Working nights and attending San Jose State during the day, she graduated with her teaching credential in 1961. Her first teaching job was in Palo Alto teaching English and Social Studies. She remained there for the rest of her career, ending up as Department Supervisor in Social Studies.

Jean and Vernon had three boys: Richard (Rick) born in 1958; Michael (Mike) born in 1959; Kenneth (Kenny) born in 1963. The family moved to Los Gatos in 1959. The freeway had been built but was not yet officially open, so they had the fun of using it before there was traffic. Because Vernon was Methodist, they joined LGUMC in 1959.

In 1975, Jean and Vernon amicably divorced. Jean had known Charlie Mundell, a long-time friend of Vern's, and they were married in 1980. Charlie had two sons, Howard and David, so now Jean had five boys in the house. Years later both Jean and Charlie lost a son: Howard and Michael. Jean has four grandchildren: David (in Texas) has a daughter and son; Kenny has two daughters. In 2010, the day after Christmas, Charlie died suddenly.

One of the longest-time members of LGUMC, Jean has been very active in Outreach and Social Justice. For ages she has been in charge of the coffee hour. As one who crochets, she is a member of the Gift Stitchers, and she also takes part in Divine Design. She remains an avid reader. As a cat lover, Jean has always had cats. At one point she had seven, but is now down to one.

Asked what advice she would give to young people, Jean said, "Keep your ears open and your mouth shut." She would also quote her favorite Bible verse, Micah 6:8, "...and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

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HUNTER/FRYE/UWF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications for the Hunter/Frye/UWF scholarship can be picked up in the narthex and in the church office. Online applications can be obtained by contacting the office at 408.354.4730 during office hours.

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

Outreach

The Outreach Committee would like to thank all of you for your donations of socks and underwear. We did not collect a big load this year so the donations went to our own shower ministry and were greatly appreciated. Thanks again.



SAVE THE DATE!!
Grace Preschool's 2nd
Annual End of Year
Rodeo
Friday, May 31st
4-7PM

Games ~ Pony Rides ~
Cake Walk ~ Jump Houses
Face Painting ~ Food Truck ~ Live Music
If you would like to volunteer at this event, please contact Ann Reynolds or email Kristy Currie @ Kristy.currie@lgumc.org
We look forward to another great event with our Grace/LGUMC Community

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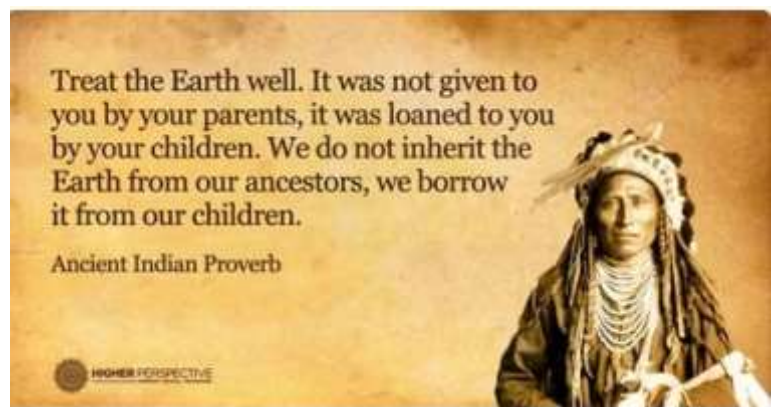
Estimates of Giving/Pledge Cards

If you have not yet completed an “estimate of giving/pledge card” for 2024, please do so. They are in the narthex and the church office. This helps the Committee on Finance and Stewardship plan a budget and manage our resources better if they have an idea of what you hope you are able to contribute. Of course, Finance & Stewardship understand that economic situations change for folks, even during a year: layoffs happen; job assignments change; medical issues arise; and a host of other possibilities face each of us. Be assured that if at any time during the year you would need to adjust your estimate, you can do that to either increase or decrease the amount. Please see this as a way to help rather than an obligation. Completing and giving Finance & Stewardship your best idea of what you can contribute is a big help so they are able to make their best recommendations to the Church Council. All this information is kept confidential. If you have already completed an estimate of giving, thank you. It is greatly appreciated. An estimate of giving goes a long way to help us plan carefully, responsibly, faithfully, and responsively to your needs.

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, Ada Sutton, Peg Lang,
Ruth Marie Wolf, Mary Brown,
Carol Baker, Larry Gonzales,
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
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- Chair of Health Ministries
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- Chair Outreach Team
Ursula Young, ursulayoung@gmail.com
- Chair Congregational Care Ministry
Lois & Elwin Stocking,
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- Chair United Women in Faith (formerly UMW)
Christina Capps, kl_capps@yahoo.com
Ruth Oveland, roveland@sbcglobal.net

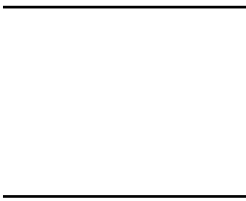
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The Spire

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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.