

Spire



Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends:

As you now know, hopefully, I will be returning to Illinois to serve. As of the writing of this note, I do not yet know where I will be serving, although I have an idea of the general area which is presently intended. I know this is more transition for the congregation; it's more for Andrew and me, too. I think it important to pause for a moment in order to consider transitions in pastoral leadership and our United Methodist (Wesleyan) way of doing things. We're called "Methodists" because there is a method to our ministry and mission.

An important clue about American Methodism is our history, and in particular the history of our congregation. As I understand it the "Circuit Riders" (Methodist ministers in the early days) gathered here on our grounds 150 years ago when congregations were being established across the nation. Those Circuit Riders were assigned a "circuit" – a group of congregations through which the Circuit Rider would travel through the course of three months, a quarter of the year. The Circuit Rider traveled from place to place pastoring the congregations and training their leadership. This is one of the key features which teaches us about transition in our tradition.

In the early days, an appointment only lasted one year. After that year, a Circuit Rider would be assigned to another circuit. Year in and year out, pastoral leaders changed in our tradition.

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The primary reason was the fact that we didn't have enough pastors. Congregations shared a pastor who was able to be with them for about a week at a time once a quarter. This is the root of our old tradition of "quarterly communion" and "quarterly conference." We did that work when the Circuit Rider arrived each quarter. The Circuit Rider traveled from station to station (congregation) doing this work. The other job of the Circuit Rider was to train the lay leadership who would shepherd the congregation while the Circuit Rider was in another location do the work of ministry there. Pastoral transitions were expected each Summer. It was the ministry of the laity which built and bound our congregations together supported by the work of the Circuit Rider, district, and conference structures. In other words, lay ministry has always been a key feature of Methodism in the American experience.

The truth all United Methodist clergy must face is that we go where we are appointed when we are appointed. It's one of the promises we make at our ordination – we promise to be fully itinerate serving where and when appointed by the bishop (of a respective area, like California-Nevada). As I wait to hear where I am to serve starting on July 1, the ministry here continues. Lay leadership is key to that work. Pastor Jae will bring gifts and graces for ministry here, just as I did. They will differ from mine. I'm sure he'll be an excellent pastor among you. He can't do the work he needs to do without active and engage lay leadership. This is the strength of our tradition. Pastors have important work to do; pastors rely on active and engaged lay leadership in order to help sustain and grow a congregation.

I hope you are all praying for Pastor Jae, his wife, and their children as we all prepare for this transition. I hope you are praying for the congregational leadership as they prepare to welcome a new pastoral leader. Most of all, I hope you will encourage and support the local lay leadership here as they support and enable a smooth transition in the coming months. At the moment, I am planning that my last Sunday among you will be on Sunday, June 1. I'll use the balance of June as vacation and to move. I'll have a fuller schedule once I know to where I'll be appointed. In the meantime, please support Pastor Jae and the local lay leadership as they guide this time of transition.

Peace, Pastor Daniel



MARCH WORSHIP

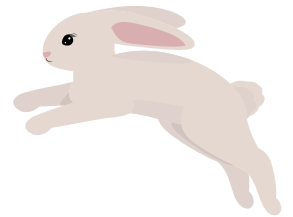
SPECIAL LENTEN SERVICES

Join in marking special days of holy observance as part of your coming Lenten devotion. Our brothers and sister from other local United Methodist congregations are invited and welcome to attend. I have had one local colleague ask if their congregation may join with us for these services. I have, of course, agreed. Our services are scheduled for the following dates, times, and places.

Ash Wednesday Wednesday, March 5 7 p.m. Grace Chapel

Holy Thursday Thursday, April 17 7 p.m. Grace Chapel

Good Friday Friday, April 18 7 p.m. Sanctuary



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.





MARCH WORSHIP

Sunday, February 2
Transfiguration Sunday
Exod 34:29-35
Ps 99 (UMH 819)
2 Cor 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Sunday, February 9
1st Sunday in Lent
Deut 26:1-11
Ps 91:1-2, 9-16 (UMH 810)
Rom 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

Sunday, February 16
2nd Sunday in Lent
Gen 15:1-12, 17-18
Ps 27 (UMH 758)
Phil 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

Sunday, February 23
3rd Sunday in Lent
Isa 55:1-9
Ps 63:1-8 (UMH 788)
1 Cor 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, February 30
4th Sunday in Lent
Josh 5:9-12
Ps 32 (UMH 766)
2 Cor 5:6-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Online Worship
Sundays, 10AM
LGUMC YouTube

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.

Faith Word: **Lent**

March 2

Ten Men with Skin Disease - Luke 17:11-19

Ten men with skin diseases met Jesus and asked him to heal them. Jesus told them to go to the priests. During Jesus' time, priests were the ones who could admit people back into their communities. By sending them to see the priests, Jesus was saying they could go back home because they were healed.

March 9

A Blind Man Is Healed - Luke 18:35-43

A man who was blind called out to Jesus and asked Jesus to heal him. He wanted to see. Jesus spoke and the man could see!

March 16

The Last Supper - Matthew 26:17-35

Jesus and his friends travelled to the city of Jerusalem to celebrate the Festival of Passover. They shared this special meal together. Jesus blessed and broke a loaf of bread and gave it to his friends saying, "Remember me." When we gather for Communion, we remember Jesus and his words from this story.

March 23

In the Garden - Matthew 26:36-46

After the Passover meal, Jesus and his friends went to the garden of Gethsemane, a special place for Jesus. Jesus said prayers to God in the garden and shared his sadness with God.

March 30

Peter's Denial - Matthew 26:69-75

Jesus was arrested and was accused of doing bad things even though he hadn't. Peter was in the courtyard waiting to see what would happen to Jesus. Some people asked him if he was friends with Jesus.



Contact Information

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Easter Egg Hunt

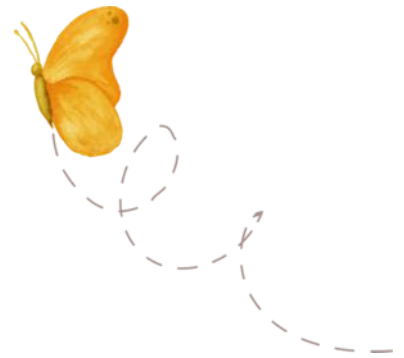
Saturday, April 19

10AM Sharp!

Rain or shine

LENTEN BOOK STUDY: WHITE POVERTY

Join Pastor Daniel on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. for our Adult Sunday School class in the Fireside Room. Pastor Daniel is leading a study of the book *White Poverty* by William Barber, Jr. This will be a lively conversation about poverty and race in our nation, two very important topics. Remember, the Adult Sunday School class hosts a “Politics & Faith” forum on the first Sunday of each month where we discuss how the political climate impacts our faith, and how our faith can inform our political lives. The Adult Sunday School class will take a break after Easter. Pastor Jae will bring the class back together after his arrival.



KINDRED SPIRITS

Plan to join us on **March 19th at 1pm in the Art Gallery** when we will discuss ***An Unfinished Love Story* by Doris Kearns Goodwin**. Ms. Goodwin is well-known as a presidential historian and is the author of several books. This book is based on the voluminous memoirs of her husband Richard Goodwin, who was a speechwriter and inner circle advisor for Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. Her book is a reflection on the 1960s era in American politics – a time marked by struggles for racial and economic justice.

“The end of our country has loomed many times before.
America is not as fragile as it seems.”

Doris Kearns Goodwin, *An Unfinished Love Story*



COLONET / LFL MISSION



Support our Colonet/LFL Mission! We are closing in on a month before our team is "Wheels up" to Colonet Mexico! There are a couple very important dates to mark on your calendars if you want to support our mission team here in the US.

1. Our **Annual Colonet Brunch Fundraiser** is happening on **March 16th** after morning service in the Social Hall. Please join our LGUMC Missioners for our traditional breakfast. Money donated will go towards building a home for a needy family and providing Lighting for Literacy for several more. Come and join us, meet the missioners, talk about the projects and let us serve you a tasty breakfast. This is a fundraiser for the Mission, everyone is welcome. Invite your friends and family and come and show your support!

2. We are hosting an **LFL workshop** to prep lighting kits on **March 23rd at 11:30 am** in rooms 15 and 16. We need a handful of volunteers for the task, so if you are interested in lending a hand, please stop by and we may have a job for you!

3. **"Prayer Partners"** needed: Our Colonet/L4L missioners enjoy the prayerful support of individual LGUMC "prayer partners" each spring. Prayer partners and their Colonet/L4L missioners communicate with one another ... or not ... as they choose. Please sign up now to provide your prayerful support in April to an individual Colonet/L4L missioner.

Please send any questions to Colonetlgumc@gmail.com

This trip is not possible without the continued support from our church family, so any and all help is greatly appreciated! ¡Muchas Gracias!

-- Erik Eastland and Maggie Harris

To the congregation from Nancy Ruhle:

An explanation is in order regarding the Nonagenarian articles. Twenty years ago, when turning 90 was less common than now, I interviewed Betty Johnson. Somehow that single interview multiplied over the years. I've lost count of the number of people whom I've interviewed as they became nonagenarians. I told myself that I would end this project when I, too, turned ninety.

The time has come.

I am so grateful to all those who allowed me to listen and write about them. Every life is interesting.

I have LOVED doing this twenty-year project.
Thank you all so much.

- Nancy





EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to purchase Easter Flowers in honor or memory of a loved one:

Deadline for payment is Sunday April 6

Cost is \$20 each

(Note: we will not be including lilies as many are allergic.)

Please reach out to Patty Kasper with any questions.

Patty Kasper: 408-623-2372



HUNTER / FRYE / UWF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications are available in the church office and in the narthex for the Ruth Dick Hunter and Florence Frye Memorials and the United Women in Faith Scholarship Fund.

The Hunter/Frye/UWF grant is for students who plan to attend a college, university, or other post-secondary institution. The two women and UWF are united in their belief of acknowledging the academic achievements of our students, and their service to the church, school, and/or community.

The deadline for turning in all documents is 1 pm, Friday, May 16.



**Los Gatos UMC
ESTIMATE OF GIVING
January 1 to December 31, 2025**

With gratitude to God for the wonder of life and the vision of this church, I/we will give a portion of my/our income to LGUMC general fund.

\$ _____ every week month quarter year

I would like to continue or add e-giving this year.



Print Name

Signature

Date

Church 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
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Chair of Staff Parish Relations
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Chair of Finance Committee
Doug Evans, eldoug1@msn.com

Chair of Health Ministries
TBD

Chair of Grace Preschool Board
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Ann Reynolds, reynolds_reese@yahoo.com

Chair of LOSNSC Board
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Team Rep. of Social Justice Team
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Chair of Endowment
TBD

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Chair Congregational Care Ministry
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Chair United Women in Faith (formerly UMW)
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The Spire

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contact socialmedia@lgumc.org
Editor: Amelia Brain

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.