

Windows

the monthly newsletter of

LOS ALTOS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY,
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.



March 2020

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Staff

Rev. Stanley D. Smith
Supply Pastor

David Joseph
Director of Music

Sumer Lesser
Youth Director

Cindy Dufford
Office Manager

Roxy Menendez
Director of Discovery Preschool

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Sarah Allen

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Bill Berry

Fellowship Chair
Tonie Palermo

Finance Chair
Steve DeLaney

Outreach Chair
Roberta Boyd

Worship Chair
Judy Ekmalian

KEEPING IN TOUCH...

*"...Make me to know your ways, O God;
teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth, and teach me
for you are the God of my Salvation;
for you I wait all the day long." Ps 25*



I was only 12 years old. I stood there next to my bike and wondered what I would do. As I looked down my street it looked bleak and lonely. And I wasn't sure of anything. I had been left at home while the rest of the family went to the memorial service for my grandfather. I was too young, my mother said. At least they thought I was too young. All I remember now is the ache. It was as if there had been two deaths. The death of the grandfather I loved, and the death of my assurance of never being left alone. I was only 12.

It is remarkable how our lives are shaped by experiences, whether joyful or painful. To this day I still fear being left alone. Oh, it's not anything terribly irrational, but it is real. And it could easily loom larger than life itself.

What has helped? I honestly believe that it is the knowledge and assurance that I am a child of God, and that because of this my fears are assuaged. More importantly, that knowledge and assurance is evident in all those who trustfully never run away, no matter how difficult the situation. And if others can be present for me, certainly I can be present for others. That is how the inheritance of God's gift of grace is enjoyed.

I invite you in this Lenten season to be led by God. The theme is *Whistling in the Dark*. Allow yourself to experience the gentle (or vigorous) conversations with God, often times experienced in conversations with those around you. Allow yourself to come to the table of God's grace with your whole heart. Allow yourself to be vulnerable once again, and trust in God's paths.

See you in Lenten Worship,

Stan Smith
Supply Pastor

MODERATOR

By Valerie Berry

Morning LAUCC Friends and Family,

We as a congregation have passed the newly revised bylaws, budget, and board nominees.

Those taking new posts are figuring out their new duties. I had an officers' training meeting the Saturday following the Annual Meeting. Most were able to attend; some had work, others were not feeling so great. We held the training in the community room of Lori and Steve DeLaney's condo complex. It is a lovely space where you can light the fireplace, cook some food, and enjoy the people around you...which we did. We ate, Lori Presented about the use of NVC- Non-Violent Communication; Stephen Boyd talked about the use of Pastoral Coaches in the UCC and how beneficial it is to be able to download the burdens as you come to your own solutions. I am totally looking forward to working with the process and my coach.

The Executive Board LAUCC is now 4 board members and 2 members at large from the congregation. Other committees/ministry team heads will report at least quarterly to the Exec Committee regarding their Ministry Team.

Steve DeLaney has new training happening with our new partner Keith Clark Hoyos, who's company will be working with the finance committee. Hopefully, he will tell you more in an article or you can ask him.

We've had a surprise with an emergency sewer repair, and oh, how timely that the street sewer is being worked on immediately following our incident. Heaters working/not working.

RHF Annual Meeting Service happened at the Congregational Church of Los Alamitos. Many of the choir members sang in the joint choir with RHF members. Rev. Libby Tigner did the sermon. It was fun to see and hear her preach again.

Mark Allen did a weed clean up for us in the alley and out front. Mark and Bill Kersey also

did a recycling run. Thank you so much gentlemen for all of your efforts.

Lent is here and Pastor Stan Smith has a theme of "Whistling in the Dark" to take us through those 40 days. Ash Wednesday was celebrated in a joint service between Congregational Church of Los Alamitos and Los Altos UCC.

Thank you all for everything you do for the church.

Peace and Grace.



By Sumer Lesser,
Youth Coordinator
sumerlesser@yahoo.com

As usual time seems to be moving so fast. I can't believe that it is already March.

On February 7th the youth had an amazing joint activity with Fellowship where we all got together and watched the movie "Abominable". If you haven't watched it yet, I highly recommend you do. It is so cute!! We had popcorn, nachos, candy, drinks, and pretzels. It was like we were really at the theater. The kids really enjoyed themselves and loved hanging out with church members that they normally don't hang out with.

I'm looking for some great new activities to do with our FROGS and TIGERS so if anyone has any suggestions, please send them my way. Here is a list of upcoming activities:

March

- 1st. Worship Service Participants
- 15th. Game day/ Lunch. 11-2


Worship Committee

By Judy Ekmalian

Hi all,

It's been an exciting time for me as I learn my new position as Worship chair. Thanks to all of you who have signed up to be liturgists and ushers. It's great to see so many of our congregation taking part in the Sunday service.

The banners are up for Lent season and they look beautiful against our newly painted sanctuary. Stan has a great program in mind for us and I hope to see you all in church.

Peace and blessings.

Save the Date

Vacation Bible School

June 29 - July 3



By Roberta Boyd

*Be the change you wish
to see in the world.*

Fisher House

April 27..We will be taking dinner again to our neighbors at the Long Beach Fisher House residence for VA families and patients. Let me know if you would like to come along to socialize...especially if you have not been before.

CSULB Beach Pantry

February and March we are focusing on granola/protein bars. For **April and May** we are asking for donations of toiletry items.. toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper, lotion, feminine hygiene items and razors. I will also leave a list of items on the bulletin board. Your support continues to be appreciated!

Franklin Middle School

Many of you know I was an 8th grade US History teacher at Franklin and currently spend a lot of time as a substitute teacher there. This school is located off of 7th between Orange and Cerritos and like many schools has a high population of students whose families who could use a bit of help. My friend, Ruth Lisha, actually was a student and college aide at Franklin before she became a teacher. She spends countless hours as advisor of the Eco Club and has a good pulse on the struggles these kids deal with. She and other teachers have recently set up "Wildcat Den"... a large closet on campus where students can come to get some of the things they may need to be more successful. She recently asked if our church could help supply a few uniform shirts and hoodies...always in high demand! She is going to let me know if there are other ways we might be helpful. I have tremendous respect for the Franklin staff and the concern they put into caring for their students.



The Heart of Fellowship: A Time for All



By Tonie Palermo, Fellowship Chair

Wow, time is flying by! I first want to say thank you for all of your prayers, well wishes and help with fellowship! It is greatly appreciated more than you know. Thank you! Denise and I are humbled and grateful for all of your support . 🙏

I am excited to report that Fellowship is running at 100% since the beginning of the year with no signs of slowing down. We had a successful game night in January and a fun and cozy movie night in February. We were excited to join forces with youth and had an amazing concession stand full of goodies and tissue for the adults as we teared up while watching the touching and heart warming “Abominable”.

The LAUCC congregation also showed our love and appreciation to David Joseph on February 16th as we celebrated the Music Man’s 30 years of service sharing his beautiful notes with us.



We also welcomed Dr. Reverend Stan Smith In the beginning of February. Excited to have him share some time with us as we search for our settled Pastor.

The Lenten season is also upon us. I decided to start my Lenten Fast a little early this year by unplugging from social media and look forward to the next 40 days of reflection, service, enlightenment, sharing and abstinence. For those of you who also embark on this journey, I hope that you find things that bring meaning into your life, your family & friends lives and for those lives you have an impact on. It is not only for abstaining and fasting from the things we love. Enjoy your journey and the Lenten Word Search I have included for this month.

Upcoming events

Friday March 6th - Game Night & PotLuck - Patterson Hall/6:30pm
Bring your favorite dish and game. See you there!

April (Date TBD) - All church potluck brunch following service
A sign up sheet will be posted.

May 1st- Game Night
Potluck/ Patterson Hall/6:30 pm
Bring your favorite dish and game. See you there!

FINANCE COMMITTEE

by Steve DeLaney



As your Finance Chair I am happy to report things are off to a good start. I enjoy working with the leadership team, and learning about the ins and outs of LAUCC finance. We are now underway with our finance system upgrade project under the guidance of Church Training Center, helping us make a good thing even better in support of the myriad of missions at LAUCC.

The Amazing Power of Empathy

Sign up for The Amazing Power of Empathy workshop! Mary Mackenzie, MA, Author, Mediator & Certified Nonviolent Communication Trainer is leading a workshop on empathy at LA UCC! What if you could reduce internal messages that tell you you're not good enough, lovable, or deserving? Learn: to expand your ability to choose how to respond to things that trigger you, how changing your perspective changes everything, how focusing on ourselves can improve all our relationships, and how to increase our internal peace. We will meet 6 Monday nights starting in April. It costs \$240 for the series. Call Lori DeLaney to register, 714-458-4511.

FOUNDER'S DAY

featuring Rev. Dr. William Barber II



Rev. William Barber is an internationally known activist and preacher whose work focuses on the Poor People's Campaign, a broad based grassroots movement confronting social injustice, racism, poverty, and environmental devastation. Barber is the guest speaker at Chapman's Founders Day on March 14th.

Lenten Journey

N	O	I	T	C	E	L	F	E	R	M	M	N	L	JESUS
C	E	R	A	N	O	I	T	A	T	P	M	E	T	ASHES
O	F	R	U	S	J	E	D	R	N	E	O	E	R	EASTER
M	O	T	U	F	O	R	E	H	E	A	D	E	S	FORTY DAYS
P	R	A	D	R	U	T	E	R	E	D	T	O	T	REFLECTION
A	T	P	E	E	R	A	L	P	O	S	H	A	U	TEMPTATION
S	Y	D	V	E	N	S	L	R	A	P	E	A	R	DESERT
S	D	E	J	A	E	H	O	E	E	R	V	T	N	SERVE
I	A	S	N	E	Y	E	V	E	E	O	R	D	S	REPENT
O	Y	E	P	S	S	S	E	P	E	E	E	S	C	JOURNEY
N	S	R	S	H	M	U	E	T	S	O	S	O	S	PREPERSTION
H	T	T	R	U	N	N	S	R	S	V	T	N	I	LOVE
D	E	N	O	I	T	S	R	E	P	E	R	P	O	FOREHEAD
R	F	A	A	E	S	T	N	S	U	N	E	R	N	COMPASSION



We are very excited to host our annual Open House on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. During this event we will introduce new families to our preschool and staff; currently enrolled families will get to visit with their teachers and see all the beautiful work the children have done. We sent out an Evite and created a Facebook event to invite families to our special evening. We have received much interest and expect to have many prospective families join us. Open House will be the first day we open up registration to the public, so we hope to enroll some children to start in the fall for the new school year. We would love you to stop by and come see what a great preschool we have! We will also be selling pizza as a fundraiser for our school so you can join us for dinner and check our preschool community.

Best,

Roxy Menendez
Director



Save the Date!!!

Pilgrim Pines Summer Camp

“This is Our Prayer”

Week 3: July 19th-25th

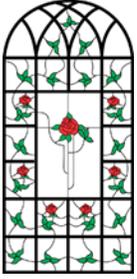
Watch the upcoming newsletters for more information.



March 1	Cathie Woodward	March 23	Jonathan Joseph
March 4	Jethro Lucero	March 30	Arlene Kersey
March 6	Demitri Lopez	March 30	Emery Sams
March 8	Taylor Joseph	March 30	Ethan Sams
March 9	Linus Dimabayao		

March 2018

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 10am Worship 11:30am Christian Education Meeting	2	3	4 6:30pm Choir Practice	5	6 6:30pm All-Church Game Night in Patterson Hall	7
8 10am Worship	9	10	11 6:30pm Choir Practice	12	13	14 37th Annual Founders Day at Chapman University
15 10am Worship 12:15 pm Leadership Council Mtg.	16 7-8:30 Boy Scout Court of Honor in sanctuary	17	18 6:30pm Choir Practice	19	20	21 Beach Streets University (Atherton Street closed in front of church from 7:30am - 6:30pm)
22 10am Worship	23	24	25 6:30pm Choir Practice	26	27	28
29 10am Worship	30	31				



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