

Los Altos

United Church of Christ

Windows

the monthly newsletter of Los Altos United Church of Christ

August 2020

KEEPING IN TOUCH...

Dear Beloved...

This Friday Email/Newsletter contains reports from the many people working on behalf of LAUCC, even in the midst of a pandemic. I hope you will take the time to read them, and express your gratitude for all the hard work, creativity, and ministry that happens often times behind the scenes!

My thanks to Stephen Boyd who filled in as guest preacher last week while I was on vacation. I spent 5 days in the mountains of AZ, enjoying some reading, resting, walking, napping, and rejuvenation time. I even met a cute little TARANTULA that crept right up to my foot while I was eating dinner on the deck. We had a nice, although short, conversation! Altogether it was a nice respite from So. California! And it's nice to be back. I hope to see you in worship on Sunday, sharing together in communion!

Blessings,

Stan

A SUMMER SERMON SERIES Beginning July 12, 2020

8 People We Admire: eg. Dorothy Day; Jackie Robinson; the Dalai Lama...

There is so much going on in the world right now, and we all need some guidance as to how to respond and cope, maybe even thrive. So I will take a break from the Lectionary, and focus on a number of persons who might shed Light upon what it means to be followers of the Jesus.

People are points of light when they, by example, point us to the teachings of Jesus. By looking at the lives of others, our hope is that we will be inspired to examine ourselves, our belief in God, and the choices we make out of those beliefs.

THIS SUNDAY!

UNCOMFORTABLE CONVERSATIONS WITH A BLACK MAN

Sundays, Aug 2, 9, 16 and 23 - following Fellowship time.

Sponsored by the LAUCC RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM

At approximately 11:15 am, join us for a short video and then discussion.

As a primarily caucasian Congregation, we are trying to deepen our understanding of anti-racism and white privilege.

The ZOOM address is the same as for worship.

LAUCC ZOOM CONNECTIONS:

SUNDAY WORSHIP

LOS ALTOS UCC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: LAUCC SUNDAY WORSHIP each week

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98322638577>

Meeting ID: 983 2263 8577

Sunday Morning Worship will also LIVESTREAM ON FACEBOOK

at <https://www.facebook.com/losaltosucc>

[CLICK HERE FOR AUGUST 2 ORDER OF WORSHIP.](#)

JOYS

For the Blessings in our lives...

Gratitude for **Jake K's** coming through surgery well. Prayers for his healing at home.

Gratitude for **the helpers and first responders, food suppliers and servers; doctors and nurses; custodians and delivery people...**

Gratitude for all the **military chaplains**

CONCERNS

And now those people and places that weigh heavy on our hearts...

Prayers for **Pam K.'s brother Randy** who continues to battle amyloidosis.

Prayers for **Cathie our Preschool Aide** who will be having knee surgery in August.

Prayers for the **family of Ellie Taylor**, upon her recent death.

Lori's mom, who has suffered a stroke...

Continued Prayers for **Brenda K's mom Darlene** who has Covid-19 but is now home.

Prayers for **Mark A's brother Terry**.

Prayers for **Val's friend Kathy, who's husband Brian** has Cancer.

Prayers for **Tom T**, Update is my **Mom Barbara** moved to an Assisted Living/Memory unit

Prayers for **Hazel's grandson Spencer**

Prayers for all of those struggling with **Black Lives Matter, white privilege, and other social justice issues...**

Jennifer D.'s brother, Oliver S. who suffered a stroke.

And unfortunately his wife **Aurea's mother** (in the Philippines) passed away last Wednesday due to heart issues. Prayers for her as she is going through so much at this time, and for the rest of her family in the Philippines.

Mia, Maddie's sister who is struggling with life issues. And **Maddie** traveling home to CA.

Brian I. friend of Kyle E..

Judi M.'s continued recovery at home, and for **Michael**.

Carol B. - continued prayers for mental health.

Continue to pray for our homebound members: **Clark P., Vi D., Darryl S.**

CLOISTER CAFE is taking a break...

so join us at 7 pm on Tuesdays for the Great Courses - Jesus to Constantine.

See below for more info...

THURSDAY GATHERING and Happy Hour

Stan Smith is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: LAUCC GATHERING

Time: Apr 30, 2020 05:30 PM

Every week on Thursday

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87659445904>

Meeting ID: 876 5944 5904

MODERATOR

Hi Y'all,

- Just wanted to let everyone know that one of the Leadership Council members may be calling you if you aren't seen "in church". We are just trying to reach out and make sure everyone is OK.
- I'm continuing to hold LC meetings via Zoom once, sometimes twice a month.
- We should have all filled in and returned our Search Committee surveys. That's where we are in Search. Pastor Stan has assured us that he will be here for us as long as we need him.
- We had a drive past Memorial for Dick Schall. For those who were unable to attend I believe photos are posted on the church Facebook page.
- Please continue to give generously to the church. Your gifts are helping to fund repairs and endeavors such as bee removal.
- Don't forget there is a study group on Tues night you can join via zoom
- The racial Justice team will meet Friday evening this week via zoom. If you interested please contact me.

Thank you and I miss you all,

Valerie, Ms. Moderator

VICE MODERATOR

At the January, 2020, Annual Meeting I was selected to be the LAUCC Vice Moderator. According to our bylaws "the duties of the Vice Moderator shall be participation at Leadership Council and Congregational meetings in preparation to serve as Moderator." What an honor, what a challenge. Fortunately there was going to be a year to prepare for that step. However, little did any of us know what lay ahead in 2020. In March, COVID 19 took over our lives. All Sunday morning worship services became virtual. ZOOM became a significant part of our lives as all church meetings and activities were either cancelled or carried out on ZOOM.

As Vice Moderator I serve on the Leadership Council, currently acting as Clerk, taking the minutes of each meeting. Your church leaders have been faced with extraordinary decisions and responsibilities. They have risen to the challenge and I am grateful to be serving the church with this dedicated group of people. On a weekly basis I sign outgoing checks and help prepare the church deposit.

One thing I know for sure is that WE are the church. It is not the building. It is the People of God. That's us! We need to care for and support each other in every way possible. Join me in prayer as we ask God to be with us and to guide us on this journey. I would like to share this prayer with you as we continue on our mission together.

Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your Peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon,
Where there is doubt, faith.
Where there is despair, hope.
Where there is darkness, light, and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not seek to be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Ginger Joseph

WORSHIP

Hi everyone,

It's been a crazy few months for worship. Zoom meetings and Facebook live. Who would have ever thought we would have gone this long without all being together in our sanctuary? It's so great that we can at least be together online and "see" each other. What a blessing to have David and Michelle sharing their beautiful talents with us. David you really add joy to our service with your music.

And thank you God for Stan and his willingness to explore new technologies and lead us all through this crazy time. A big shout out to everyone who has served as a liturgist. As a reminder, please let me know if you would like to sign up as a liturgist. It's a great way to be a part of worship.

Blessings to you all. Take care and stay safe!

Judy Ekmalian
Worship Chair

FINANCE

I hope this message finds you and yours well and safe. The Finance Committee has been busy working during the spring and summer months, completing our financial systems migration, while of course at the same time continuing to manage the impacts of the COVID-19 shutdown.

Our leadership team has been very supportive all the way around during this process as we've streamlined our activities and cash flow, doing the best possible job managing our resources. While we are planning for the day when we can begin to resume our traditional activities, circumstances have led us to a new normal, with an on-line presence that will continue into the future, enhancing our services with a safe and wider reach across social media. This serves us in new ways to adapt, engage, maintain connection, and contribute to our missions. In closing, I would just like to take a moment to express my thanks. Now more than ever, each and every member of our congregation is a vital part of the LAUCC community, and I am deeply appreciative of your support.

Steve DeLaney

OUTREACH

The food pantry at CSULB is still feeding over 150 students each Saturday..LAUCC continues to make monthly donations. If you would like to add funds to this important ministry, please send a check to the church marked CSULB Beach pantry. If you like to shop...they are always in need of non-perishable items such as canned goods, granola bars, and pasta. I will be glad to pick items up to deliver to the campus. They also can add small toiletries to the bags.



Mark Allen is willing to take recyclables to EDCO, so if you are still saving cans and bottles, bag them up and drop them near the Atherton gate at church. Thank you Mark!

Roberta Boyd

FACILITIES

As most of you have probably heard we had a break in at church during our extended hiatus. Fortunately, not much of value was taken, damages were higher than the value of what was taken. We did clean up and board up of broken windows until they could be replaced. We added some deadbolts to make things more secure. We have replaced the stolen Ring doorbell and added another, also we installed 6 exterior cameras to add to our safety and security. We have also installed an alarm system as an extra deterrent. One of the alley gates was damaged and broken/pulled loose, which was repaired with help from Mark Allen who also deserves a big thank you for weeding and sprinkler repairs.

Mark Allen is still turning in recycling so if you have any, just contact him or me and we can pick it up from you, or if you securely bag the recycling you may throw it over the fence at church and we will take care of it.

Bill Berry

THE HEART OF FELLOWSHIP - a place for everyone...

Summertime fun

S	T	F	A	R	C	D	N	A	S	T	R	A	S	ICECREAM
S	E	H	C	A	E	B	R	V	F	U	N	S	T	LAUGHTER
S	M	B	S	K	L	A	W	G	G	C	M	L	N	ARTS AND CRAFTS
M	N	A	G	A	R	S	A	A	I	O	S	E	E	GARDENING
E	E	H	N	E	A	W	U	I	R	L	C	M	V	SWIMMING
R	I	T	I	C	L	I	A	E	I	U	M	I	E	FAMILY TIME
I	P	E	N	G	A	M	S	R	K	S	A	T	L	SMORES
F	K	N	E	U	N	M	A	I	R	N	E	Y	A	BEACHES
P	E	D	D	S	W	I	F	T	N	S	R	L	U	WALKS
M	G	R	R	O	I	N	L	E	L	M	C	I	T	CYCLING
A	N	E	A	Y	F	G	S	C	M	S	E	M	R	VIRTUAL EVENTS
C	F	R	G	U	T	M	E	W	Y	E	C	A	I	CAMPFIRE
A	R	E	T	H	G	U	A	L	R	C	I	F	V	RV FUN
L	M	A	S	A	V	S	R	R	I	S	S	F	W	

Tonie Palermo

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The results of the recent Search survey will shape important parts of our Church Profile. The Profile is used by Ministers to determine if they are interested in becoming the next Settled Pastor at LAUCC. We want to have as many interested Ministers as possible.

Your Search Committee,

Tom Provencher, Chairperson

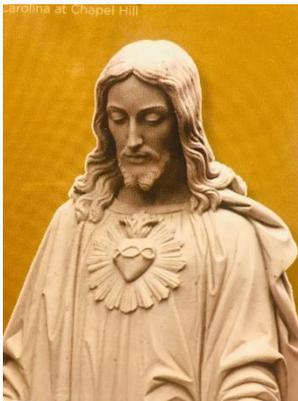
Pam Keller, Michelle Joseph, Mark Liscio, Linda Allen, Tonie Palermo

TICHENOR CLINIC FOR CHILDREN

Thank you so much to the members of LAUCC who have been helping the families at Tichenor Clinic for Children. All of the families have children who are differently abled due to delays or injuries. The parents do not have access to physical, occupational, or speech therapy services for their children. Often it is due to the fact that there are no therapy providers in Long Beach that accept Medi-Cal insurance. The earlier children receive therapy, the better the outcome so Tichenor Clinic fills the gap and is the provider of last resort.

LAUCC has provided support for the families at the holidays and during COVID when they are facing food insecurity. Donations of groceries have been a lifeline for about 20 families as they have been looking for work when they lost jobs due to COVID. Thank you to Ginger for helping us package donated food for individual families to pick up. Thank you to Kate for her contribution of face masks - even in kid sizes! Thanks to Tonie for the donations of stuffed animals for the children to snuggle. Thanks to those who have made generous donations that help us meet the needs of the families. You have all made a difference in the lives of the children at Tichenor Clinic (www.tichenorclinic.org)! The families are appreciative of the caring and support.

Lori DeLaney



STUDY OPPORTUNITY Tuesdays, beginning July 7 at 7 pm

Many of you have been asking about study opportunities for our congregation. We are glad to say that Bill Berry and Stan Smith will offer a course from The Great Courses titled ***From Jesus to Constantine***. Early Christians moved from being a persecuted minority to having “most favored status” among the religions of the empire, leading to massive conversions and, eventually, to Christianity’s status as the official religion of the state. These developments had enormous consequences for the history of Western civilization, as the Christian church was then positioned to become the dominant religious, political, social, cultural, and economic institution of Europe and the New World.

Sign up to participate in this series, on **TUESDAYS at 7:00 PM beginning July 7**. This will be a ZOOM participation with a half-hour video by noted theologian Bart Ehrman, Professor, Department of Religious Studies The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Contact the church office to sign up!

GIVING

Thank you for your giving, which supports our ministries, including our online worship. We certainly encourage you to give generously as you are able, using the good old-fashioned USPS. You can also go to our church website www.losaltosucc.org, click on the tab DONATE, and use your credit or debit card with a one-time or recurring gift.



- 7 Ginger J.
- 10 Denise P.
- 12 Marilou S.
- 19 Kaitlyn W.
- 21 Tonie P.
- 22 Kathe L.
- 23 Bill K.
- 25 Genaro A.



- 03 Stephen and Roberta B.
- 06 David and Michelle J.
- 11 Mark and Linda A.
- 26 Darryl and Alice S.
- 31 Laverne and Ginger J.



Thank you for all of the beautiful cards and caring thoughts that brought comfort for me and all of my family. Also, the drive-by was so special. We are so grateful for all of you.

With love and God's blessings,



Jean Schall and all of my family

Keep up with the latest OFFICIAL SOURCES for news on the current Coronavirus pandemic:

Official California Covid-19 Response Site: <https://covid19.ca.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/>
