

Los Altos

United Church of Christ

Windows

the monthly newsletter of Los Altos United Church of Christ

July 2020

KEEPING IN TOUCH...

I hope this finds you well and safe and connected to your church family. If you, or someone you know, are having trouble with connecting on Sunday morning for our worship experiences (either on ZOOM or Facebook Live) then contact the church office and we will do our best to help you with technology.

This is such a challenging time for us. We struggle with two pandemics... the COVID-19 virus, and the virus of racism. I am pleased that our Leadership Board has appointed a TEAM to look at how we can be more pro-reconciling and anti-racist as a church. If you feel the passion of this moment, consider joining the TEAM. Call Val Berry. Let us not slip back into comfortable ways, ignoring the possibility of doing something to make things better. As for the pandemic - just wear a mask. And ask others to wear a mask. And combat the conspiracy theories that are floating out there. Instead of ignoring people on social media, challenge them. You may not change their mind, but you might cause them to think. And you will encourage people who see you speaking out!

Lastly, I ache for our not being together. There is nothing more disheartening for a pastor than to not be able to be with the flock. Sure, we can ZOOM, but that still leaves something, actually a lot, to be desired. But I am willing to wait until everyone is safe. I can't fathom the horror of someone getting infected at worship in the sanctuary because we rush back too soon. I hope you

can understand. We have a very capable COVID-19 TEAM that is researching the options, and will bring to the Leadership Council a good recommendation in good time!

If you just need to talk, or want to send me a text or email, please do. And I hope I see you for Sunday Worship!

May you be well, responsible, and safe!
Stan Smith

JOYS

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

Gratitude for all the military chaplains...

John T., Ginger's brother did not have to have surgery...

Joaquin - grandson of Bill and Val, home from the hospital...

Gratitude for the Supreme Court decisions to protect the LGBTQ+ community and DACA...

CONCERNS

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

Prayers for **Tom T, his mom Barbara, her husband Tom and Tom T's sister Kara**. His mother's husband and caregiver passed away in his sleep. Kara will now be moving/caring for their mother.

Prayers for Linda A's son **Mike** - job search

Prayers for Hazel's grandson **Spencer**

Prayers for all of those struggling with **Black Lives Matter**...

Jennifer D.'s brother, Oliver S. who suffered a stroke. He is still in ICU right now. AND for Felipe's uncle **Glenn** passed away.

Jean S. and family. A private family graveside service for Dick was held on Friday. A full memorial celebration of Dick's life will be held in the Sanctuary when we return to physical church.

Brenda K's mom Darlene who has Covid-19 and is still in the hospital.

Brenda has also tested positive, and is quarantined at home.

Pam K's family in New Jersey, Mcoury's... brother-in-law who suffered a heart attack; grand niece who suffered a head injury; great niece and nephew bicycle accidents...

Mia, Maddie's sister who is struggling with life issues.

Brian I. friend of Kyle E..

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

Jake K. waiting for results from his latest MRI.

Dylan K. (Jake's twin) recovering from surgery.

Sienna (Judy E's daughter) recovery from surgery.

Carol B. - continued prayers for mental health.

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

Here are the weekly links:

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Stan Smith is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: LAUCC WORSHIP

June 28, 2020 at 10:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 376 910 814

Sunday Morning Worship will also LIVESTREAM ON FACEBOOK

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

CLOISTER CAFE

Stan Smith is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: CLOISTER CAFE

Tuesday

6:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88616917891>

Meeting ID: 886 1691 7891

THURSDAY GATHERING

Stan Smith is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: LAUCC GATHERING

Time: 5:30 PM

Every week on Thursday

Join Zoom Meeting

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

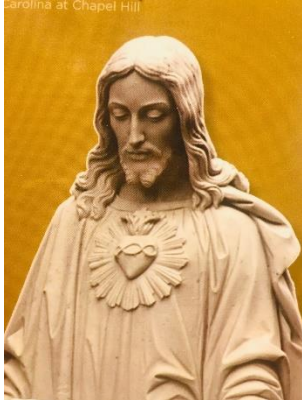
Meeting ID: 876 5944 5904

July Birthdays

- 1 Jean S.
 - 6 Nika M.
 - 8 Kate C.
 - 9 Lavinia D.
 - 10 Bill Y.
 - 11 Mark A.
 - 12 Stephen B.
 - 14 Pam K.
 - 14 Cheryl C.
 - 17 Matt A.
 - 22 Steven H.
 - 30 Ian C.
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LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

There will be a short meeting after worship this Sunday to consider the recommendations of the Safety Committee in light of our most recent break-in and theft. June 28 at 11:30 am. Valerie will send a ZOOM invitation.



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

Please note that there is a button on the front page of our Website, www.losaltosucc.com, that says DONATE, and you can use your debit or credit card!

PRO-RECONCILIATION/ANTI-RACISM TEAM approved by Leadership Council

In light of the current crisis in our country, and because we are a largely white, privileged congregation, it might be helpful for us to develop some teaching/action learning for our people. While we are largely progressive theologically and socially, there is still much that we can learn/do. The Leadership Council in it's June 14, 2020 meeting approved establishing a TEAM to help us move forward in our witness to the Gospel message of Jesus, especially in the area of racial and ethnic disparity.

If you would like to be part of a team to develop a multi-faceted plan for LAUCC to become a Pro-Reconciling and Anti-Racist congregation, please send your contact information to Valerie Berry.

News on the Poor People's Campaign



The voices of our movement rang out loud and clear this weekend at the Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington!

More than two and a half million of you from all across the country and around the world viewed the program on Facebook alone, more than 42,000 of you uploaded selfies and stories on our website, and you sent nearly 300,000 letters to our elected officials insisting they implement the policy agenda of the Poor People's Campaign. We were covered in the New York Times, CNN, NPR, the Washington Post, the Religious News Service and many more!

Momentum is growing. We released the summary of the Poor People's Moral Justice Jubilee Policy Platform, which offers an agenda that can heal the nation and restore our democracy. We've also got open house zoom calls hosted by state campaigns coming up later in July where you can learn about the organizing in your state and how to get involved, so stay tuned.

Now is the time, this is the place, and we are the people.

Let's get to it.

Forward together, not one step back!

Rev. Dr. William Barber and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis
Co-Chairs, Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

CSULB Beach Pantry

We have been supporting the pantry with food donations for a while. The campus is closed, but the Pantry is still open. Food bags are being passed out weekly to help students still on campus and in the community. They have been very appreciative of our help in the past, but now cash donations seem like the best option. I have already made a donation with Outreach funds. If you would like to add to that make a check to LAUCC with BEACH PANTRY in the memo.

Roberta



Hello Folks,

We hope you are all well and taking care. Discovery Preschool at LAUCC is preparing to reopen in September. We have updated our policies to provide a safe environment for our staff, students and families. At this time, we can only plan and stay hopeful that this pandemic will not cancel this progress. We will continue to stay informed and keep up with any COVID-19 updates.

I have been meeting with parents for a few weeks now and they are all looking forward to returning. We are grateful that so many of our families have been able to work from home and have adapted to safer at home conditions. All our staff members are doing well and are officially on summer break. They will return to work at the end of August. I will still be working mostly from home and will continue to be in and out of the office. If you need any information regarding the preschool please email me.

Stay well and stay positive,

Roxy Menendez
Director