

Los Altos

United Church of Christ

Windows

the monthly newsletter of Los Altos United Church of Christ

September 2020

KEEPING IN TOUCH...

Dear Beloved:

It's hard to not be overwhelmed with the disasters that are befalling our state, nation and world. The fires in California, the killings and BLM protests, hurricanes, a horrific pandemic, and the isolation we all feel! It certainly can cause one to be depressed. But there are some hopeful signs that we can share as well.

At the end of worship this Sunday you will hear from Roxy Menendez, the Director of our Discovery Preschool, which is opening its doors on Monday. Following all the State, County and LAUCC guidelines per the COVID-19 protocols, we are glad that we are able to offer this ministry to the Preschool parents. Rest assured, it is very controlled. And this is a celebration for us.

Another bright spot is that we have been able to manage our technology so well. In addition to worship, both on ZOOM and on Facebook Live, we have been able to offer education, fellowship and social justice classes to our members. I am so grateful for our staff and members who have worked hard to keep our community of faith connected.

In regards to the Pastoral Search Team, they continue to meet regularly, and while the process is certainly different, it moves forward. Our COVID-19 Team is constantly looking at the statistics and data to determine when we might be able to have "in-person" worship. It still looks a ways off, but we are hopeful that when the time comes, we will do it with care and health and safety. Thank you for your patience.

Lastly, I am grateful for all of your positive responses to the "Points of Light" series in worship. This Sunday it will conclude with a look at the Dali Lama as a person of God and a beacon of light in this dreary world.

So have faith, and be well, and be safe.

Blessings,
Stan

Looking for Lay Readers!

Would you like to be a part of a Sunday online service? We're looking for individuals, couples, and families to serve as liturgists. If you would like to participate in Sunday Worship, please contact Judy Ekmalian, jlekmalian@gmail.com, and let her know.

LET'S TALK ABOUT GIVING... check out this meditation!

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm#inbox/FMfcqwxwJXLkRdzLzxsFvJrKxPwXsdgbX>

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.

THIS SUNDAY! UNCOMFORTABLE CONVERSATIONS WITH A BLACK MAN CONTINUES... Sundays, 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 advantage.
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 30 ORDER OF WORSHIP.](#)

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: Sept. 3, 2020 05:30 PM

Every week on Thursday

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 876 5944 5904

FACILITIES

A big thank you to all those who volunteered this week, Caran Siegfried, Roberta Boyd, Valerie Berry and Mark Allen. They all helped in weeding for preparation of Discovery Preschool opening. Mark Allen also cleared pine needles from the East play area. A beautification fence was installed to hide our storage shed and area. Mark Allen also rototilled the playground surface for the start of school. Our internet improvement project is going forward, we installed a backboard for the new equipment to be mounted on and Frontier has approved its installation and is scheduling our service install.

Bill Berry

Facilities

SEARCH UPDATE

First of all, the Search Team is very thankful for the time and effort of the respondents to our survey. Without your input, only a small amount of members would be determining the Needs, Wants, and Future of our church.

We had no expectations with the survey, but we got a very healthy response (statistically speaking). Once we had the completed surveys, our task is to ensure we got the most meaningful thoughts and emotions into the Church Profile. We have been analyzing the survey responses for about 3 weeks. We believe we have a reasonable approach for the quantitative section of the survey responses we received, only needing one more Zoom meeting to sort any issues and a vote to accept it. The "Thoughts" section was analyzed by Pamela Keller, who has experience in this process. Pamela used a word cloud generator that brought clarity from word soup. So, we are progressing and will start seeding the draft Church Profile with our findings.

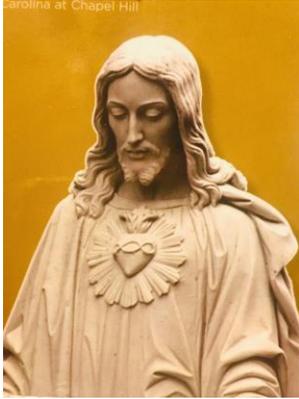
Another thought: Pandemic Time is life on a different speed - like playing an LP record on a .45 (anybody get that?). I have no timeline for the completion of the Church Profile, as nothing in this process has been progressing as I foresaw in January.

We are all gratefully on God's Time and in God's Hands, and still seeking God's Will.

Shalom,

Tom Provencher, Chairperson

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



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!

ZOOM (NOTE: the ZOOM address is the same every week.

Los Altos UCC is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: **JESUS TO CONSTANTINE**

Time: Jul 7, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Tuesday

Weekly: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98448742203>

Meeting ID: 984 4874 2203

JOYS

For the Blessings in our lives...

Birthdays – 9/4 - Michelle J., 9/6 Ken S., Jr.

Anniversaries - 8/31 Laverne and Ginger J.

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 and others who help to keep our world safe.

Brian I. friend of Kyle E., who is back to work and got married last Thursday!

Gratitude for all those who worked on the Building and Grounds this past week, especially **Bill Berry**.

Gratitude for **Discovery Preschool**

CONCERNS

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

Prayers for those struggling with **Black Lives Matter, White Advantage**, and other social justice issues...

Prayers for **our nation** as we enter into this season of elections...

Kenny and Marilou Please add our son **Alan and grandson Jake (and all firefighters)** to the prayer list.

Prayers for **those affected by the wildfires, as well as the firefighters themselves...**

Jerry K. asks for prayers for **Michael F.** facing brain surgery.

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

Denise's Grandmother Rosie P. and the family of her deceased brother.

Prayers for **Judy E's mother Diana**, who has fallen a few times...

Prayers for **Cathie our Preschool Aide** who is recovering from knee surgery.

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

Continued Prayers for **Brenda K's mom Darlene** recovering from Covid-19.

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

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

Prayers for **Hazel's grandson Spencer**

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

Jennifer reports that her brother is home now, and continuing to recover.

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

Judi M.'s continued recovery at home, and for Michael who looks after her.

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



4 Michelle J.
6 Ken S., Jr.
10 Wendy P.
13 Paul M.
25 Parker S.



10 Tom & Elaine T.

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/>

RESOURCES for ANTI-RACISM

<https://www.scncucc.org/responding-to-racism>

<https://www.pbs.org/weta/reconstruction/>