



# Los Altos

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## United Church of Christ

### *Windows*

*the monthly newsletter of Los Altos United Church of Christ*

**October 2020**

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#### **New In this issue...**

**Voting and Census**

**Information from the SCNCUCC CONFERENCE**

#### **KEEPING IN TOUCH...**

Dear Friends:

Now that we are being bombarded with political ads from candidates and ballot measures, the issues become even more confusing. This is mostly due to the subtle (and not so subtle) manipulations of information and perspectives. Most of the time I follow the money, especially behind the ballot issues. Candidates can be a little more obvious, although their ads are not always fully transparent.

One of the sources I have relied upon for decades is the California Council of Churches, and each year they publish their take on the issues. They don't endorse candidates, but they offer a main-line church perspective which I find informative. So in the public interest, I have included here the link to their issue of IMPACT which addresses the ballot measures for California. Good luck. But be sure and vote!

Blessings, Stan

**CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IMPACT**

<http://www.churchimpact.org/impact-blog/november-2020-ballot-recommendations-from-impact>

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### **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](mailto:jlekmalian@gmail.com), and let her know.

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### **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 THE SEPTEMBER 27th ORDER OF WORSHIP](#)

#### **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.

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#### **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...

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#### **THURSDAY GATHERING and Happy Hour**

Stan Smith is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: LAUCC GATHERING

Time: Sept. 29, 2020 05:30 PM

Every week on Thursday

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 876 5944 5904

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**Please make plans for completing the 2020 Census and for voting in the November election.**

Then ask family and friends to do the same.

**The VOTE:**



Did you know that only about 60% of eligible voters actually cast a vote during a typical President Election? We are just weeks away from Election Day on November 3rd in the US and it's time to get your voting plan ready. Because of the pandemic, millions of Americans will likely vote by mail this year. But in-person voting could look a lot different too. We have gathered some resources to help you make your voting plan.

First and foremost, make sure you are registered to Vote. If you live in California, our state is mailing everyone a vote-by-mail ballot. They have already sent out a mailer to confirm everyone's address. Did you get yours? If not, then be sure to check your registration and make sure everything is current.

NBC News has created a great resource on how to plan for mail-in and in-person voting in every state which includes:

- The deadline to register to vote
- ID requirements
- The deadline to request and mail a mail-in ballot
- Whether you can track your mail-in ballot

When you can vote early in person, if possible

Here are some important dates to help you plan California:

Oct. 5: Vote-by-mail ballots available.

Oct. 19: Last day to Register To Vote

Oct. 20 - Nov. 3: Conditional Voter Registration Period

Oct. 31 - Nov. 2: Polls Open Specific address information may not be available yet.

Nov. 3: Election day

You can find all the California voter information right here ► <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/>

Encourage your friends and family to go out and vote on November 3rd! We hope everyone will make their voice heard this year and vote!!

## The Census:

**Fair representation in government and appropriate, equitable funding for our communities are determined by the national Census taken every 10 years.**

**Your Census is due September 30.** Your Census data is safe and very important for your future! The 2020 Census affects everyone – for the next 10 years! Please be sure to respond now by clicking on this link: **[my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov)**.

You do not have to be a citizen to be counted. Your census information cannot be shared with ICE, law enforcement, or other government agencies, even if you are undocumented. *No matter what, your information will not be shared.*

How much money our communities get for everything – schools, hospitals, roads, fire protection, pre-school and Head Start, food, social services, health services – **everything** depends on the Census. Be counted to ensure proper community funding.

You have three ways to respond:

Phone: 1-844-330-2020

Online: **<https://my2020census.gov>**

Complete the form mailed to your home. Watch this video to help you fill out your form.



### **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.

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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: Oct. 1, 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

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## JOYS

**For the Blessings in our lives...**

**Birthdays – 9/25 - Parker S.; 10/1 - Emma T.; 10/2 - Jeff L.; 10/3 - Brenda K.**

**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.

**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...

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

**Kenny & Marilou's son Alan & grandson Jake** (who are firefighters)

**Prayers** for **Jackie P upon the death of her mother Mary** on Saturday.

**Please pray** for **Sally L.**, who is recovering from successful surgery on Sept. 9.

**Prayers** for **Pam K.'s brother-in-law Jerry** who had open heart surgery on Sept. 8. And her brother **Randy** who continues to battle amyloidosis.

**Prayers** for **Maddie's friend Christophe**, struggling with Covid-19, school, and the death of his father.

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

**Denise's Grandmother Rosie P.** and the family of **Tonie's cousin..**

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

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

**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 is home now, and continuing to recover.

**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.**

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|---|------------|----|------------|
| 1 | Emma T.    | 8  | Roberta B. |
| 2 | Jeff L.    | 9  | Libby T.   |
| 3 | Brenda K.  | 15 | Bob K.     |
| 8 | Nicolas A. | 29 | Lori D.    |



### **FACILITIES**

Hello All! Just a reminder we are still on COVID-19 lockdown. Our Discovery Preschool and our tenet Montessori have permission to open following strict guidelines, their spaces are single use only. The janitors and sanitation are scheduled for their use only. Any use of our property by third parties are to be conducted outside only. If any indoor use happens this is not approved without prior permission, if they are used it is required you do your own janitorial and sanitizing at the end of your use of facilities. And you must follow the current safe space guidelines. Contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
*Bill Berry*  
Facility Team Leader

### **NOMINATING TASK FORCE**

It is that time of the year for us to start forecasting and preparing to select our 2021 Leadership Council Members. This year our Nominating Task Force is chaired by Ginger Joseph and includes the members of our current Leadership Council. The 2021 slate of nominees will appear in the November newsletter to be voted on at our 2020 Annual Meeting in January.

Proposed slate of officers and Leadership Council members to be elected at the Annual Meeting will include: Moderator, Vice Moderator, Past Moderator, Treasurer, Clerk, and 3 At-Large members.

Please consider if you would like to serve as a Member-At-Large or have someone you would like to nominate. Be sure any name you contribute would be willing to serve. Please send your nominees to Ginger Joseph or a member of Leadership Council by November 1.

Thank you,

*Ginger Joseph*



## **The Heart of Fellowship: A Place for All**

**By ToniLynn Palermo**

Where has the time gone? It is already October!

The world has changed considerably over the last 6 months. Perhaps our reactions and perspectives on life have changed as well? We have been forced to stop and face the challenges that currently exist. Ask yourself, have your views and priorities on what is important changed? This time out in many ways has been a breath of fresh air by allowing us to focus on what really may be important. Or maybe what we think is important. Either way, it is our reality which is what counts and that then becomes our reality.

As we begin to emerge from our homes and re-enter into a new phase, things seem so different. Our world is divided, our views are different. We have changed. Our world has changed. What is normal? What is our new normal?

Much sadness has happened in our world due to the pandemic, over 200,000 people have died, unemployment at record highs and more poverty has resulted. Sometimes it does seem hopeless in the search for an answer. But there is hope around the corner.

The fall leaves and Autumn do bring a fresh sense of change. Autumn/Fall spiritually represents transformation on a personal level and for Mother Nature. A time of year the growing cycle is complete/mature, with an abundant harvest and prosperity. The fall equinox also brings a balance to our lives. The days become longer allowing for equal time of day to night for our bodies to rest. This beautiful season also leads us into the end of the year preparing us for what lies ahead and thankful for all that we have. We just need to listen to what message Mother Nature and our spirit is sending us. Just as nature is changing, so are we as individuals and as a society. Stop and listen to life and the events that surround us. If we embrace and adjust as we have always done as a species and just as nature does we will have the ability to at some point, hopefully, sustain much needed balance.

So as it evolves and as nature sheds its dead leaves, let us forgive, let the ego and pride step aside, and ease the stress of life and all that we have endured over the last 6 months. Release it and walk into our new future with kindness, new hope, a new outlook, a renewed self, compassion and let LOVE be the final word.

Peace Out!

## Autumn Time

F	S	S	B	A	A	S	E	L	U	P	F	F	E	ACORN
L	S	F	E	H	L	E	A	V	E	S	A	Y	L	HARVEST
L	E	V	N	N	G	S	Y	L	T	P	M	L	A	HOLLOWEEN
S	N	T	A	H	O	S	N	I	L	L	I	L	O	FAMILY
A	L	F	P	T	A	C	C	I	V	V	L	I	I	APPLES
C	U	O	P	F	E	R	E	O	K	L	Y	H	E	CHILLY
O	F	O	L	O	E	P	V	N	R	P	E	C	N	PINE CONES
R	K	T	E	L	H	L	E	E	I	E	M	N	G	PUMPKINS
N	N	B	S	I	C	L	T	A	S	P	D	U	F	CIDER
A	A	A	C	A	N	D	Y	L	A	T	R	I	P	FOOTBALL
L	H	L	M	G	M	V	W	A	L	P	P	E	C	LEAVES
O	T	L	S	E	C	L	P	P	K	A	P	L	M	CANDY
F	V	L	H	O	L	L	O	W	E	E	N	T	A	THANKFULNES
Y	B	E	F	L	S	Y	H	P	I	U	S	C	A	FOLIAGE



Good news from your Search Team. We completed the analysis of the search survey and were able to identify what is very important to a significant portion of the congregation. Another product was a list of things that are not important. The free form section, "Thoughts", allowed us to identify 12 significant words and concepts that are we will apply to the Church Profile.

Speaking of the Profile, we started reviewing the Pastoral Relations Committee draft version of the Church Profile, stopping when we ran into questions that really needed congregational input. We've decided to go back to the beginning to ensure we integrate your words and wishes whenever appropriate, for consistency and accuracy. We are targeting completion of the document on 10/9/20, and presenting it to the Leadership Council on 10/11/20. Once Leadership approves the Profile, I'll engage with the Conference Minister for the posting of the profile on a UCC internet "job" board for qualified Ministers.

I'll talk about the next phase of this journey and how we'll be preparing tools to ensure equitable evaluation of interested Ministers and elevating the practice of discernment next month.

*Linda Allen*

*Mark Liscio*

*Michelle Joseph*

*Tonie Palermo*

*Pamela Keller*

*Tom Provencher*



Welcome to our 2020-2021 school year! Discovery Preschool is open again for on-site classes. We started this year with only the Blue and Yellow Room open, which means we have limited staff this year. We have Ms Sumer and Ms Laura as our teachers; Ms Breanna is our assistant who supports the teachers throughout the day. We have a total of 24 students enrolled at this time and they are excited to be at school; many are returning students or siblings! All of our students have transitioned well and are wearing masks. They are doing fantastic! We are very excited about all the fun and learning we will do this year! October brings many fall weather, safety themes and Halloween decorations. Instead of our annual Halloween program and parade we will adapt to safer way of celebrating. Happy fall y'all!

Kindly,  
Roxy Menendez  
Preschool Director

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**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/>

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