



Los Altos

United Church of Christ

Windows

the monthly newsletter of Los Altos United Church

Christ

November 2021

Highlighted In this issue...

KEEPING IN TOUCH...

In-Person Worship

Memorial Service

Stewardship Campaign: "Rooted In Love"

Reports

ZOOM UPDATES

Cindy is on vacation starting today through November 5th. Messages left on the office voicemail will be picked up periodically.

This week the service can be viewed through **LIVESTREAM** at <https://www.facebook.com/losaltosucc>
You do not have to be a Facebook subscriber!

KEEPING IN TOUCH...



I hope to see you in worship this Sunday, dressed in your Halloween costume. The children will parade down the aisle. It should be fun.

Traditionally, Halloween, or All Hallows' Eve (October 31) is the day of Reformation. We remember the good work of those who sought a more faithful church. All Saints' Day (November 1) celebrates those who have received their heavenly reward. All Souls' Day (November 2) remembers those who are still in process, once described in terms of the purgatorial journey. All three are joined together this Sunday which we simply call All Saints. It is an important day.

This Sunday we will celebrate the Saints in our lives. I ask you: *Who has been that person in your life? Whose words and actions have shaped your faith? Is it a parent, a friend, a towering historical figure? Is it a person unrecorded in history books due to their unlikely status?* If you would please email, text, or call me TODAY with your names and stories. If not, you can bring them with you to worship. We will take time in worship to name the saints in our lives, and I hope we have a long list of living, unlikely, and faithful people to help us better understand God's call to love this world.

Blessings,
Stan Smith, Supply Pastor

LAUCC SUNDAY IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAM:

**Join us October 31, 2021
for our
HALLOWEEN and ALL SAINTS DAY**

SUNDAY WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

In Person and on FB Livestream!

Fellowship time will follow Worship in Patterson Hall and in the Courtyard!

Sunday Morning Worship will also **LIVESTREAM ON FACEBOOK** at <https://www.facebook.com/losaltosucc>

[CLICK HERE FOR THE OCTOBER 31st ORDER OF WORSHIP](#)

We politely ask that all congregants and visitors to the church campus respect the safety and comfort levels of others - this means wearing a mask, maintaining social distance and limiting contact if asked to do so by another. After a stressful 18 months of living with Covid in our communities, people may be weary of physical contact or still prefer to remain masked for their own peace of mind.



Face-Covering Policy Reinstated

Effective August 1st all attendees to Sunday Worship will again be required to wear a cloth face-covering indoors regardless of their Covid-19 vaccination status. This is a policy that was reinstated, in line with current CDC recommendations for public indoor spaces. Masks will be available in the Narthex for those who need one. Thank you for your understanding.

MEMORIAL SERVICE for Rose (Rosie) Parker, grandmother of Denise Palermo.

Saturday, October 30 at 11:00 am

Gutierrez Mortuary, 3800 E. Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90022

SUPPORT LAUCC through Amazon Smile!



Unique AmazonSmile link

Always share your unique link in your email, social media and on your website. When customers sign up for AmazonSmile, they're asked to select one of over a million charities to support. When customers click on your unique link, they skip this charity selection process. Instead, they're taken to smile.amazon.com and are automatically asked if they want to support Los Altos United Church of Christ.

The unique LAUCC charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-6004382>



RECYCLING

A reminder that we are still recycling clear plastic and aluminum cans. Bag them up and leave them by the gate at church or give Mark Allen a call . Unfortunately we cannot accept glass.

How can you help?

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Each Sunday we have some fellowship time in the Courtyard following worship. If you would like to help by providing some treats and goodies for a Sunday in the future, please

sign up in the hallway outside Patterson, or email the church office
- office@losaltosucc.org

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.



GIVING...

Thank you for your giving, which supports our ministries, including both our in-person and online worship. THERE IS AN OFFERING PLATE at the back of the Sanctuary. We certainly encourage you to give generously as you are able, by leaving in the back, by mail, or you can go to our church website losaltosucc.org click on the tab DONATE, and use your credit or debit card with a one-time or recurring gift. Take now a moment and reflect upon ways in which you can offer gifts and be filled with gratitude.

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Now that Los Angeles County has lifted all COVID-19 restrictions, it is acceptable to have staff return to offices.. In light of this we are bringing back LAUCC office hours with Cindy on Monday through Friday, 9:00 - 2:00. **WE DO ASK THAT YOU WEAR A MASK INDOORS!** Stan will be in the office on Mondays and Thursdays, and by appointment. Please contact us at any time at drstanleydsmith@gmail.com or office@losaltosucc.com

New Zoom Update Policy Begins November 1, 2021

“Beginning November 1, 2021, customers will be required to update their Zoom software to ensure it is no more than nine months behind the current version, at any given time. From that point on, users will be prompted to update their software when using the platform should their version fall behind this nine-month window.”

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Did you know LAUCC has a Facebook page? Please check it out and Like us on Facebook. It is a great way to keep up with what is going on in the life of the church. <https://www.facebook.com/losaltosucc>



Stewardship

The 2021 Stewardship Campaign is here! Our theme this year is "Rooted in Love" and our symbol is a tree. The roots of the tree are the love and nurture of children. The trunk of the tree is the love for and support of our church. The branches represent the love and service provided to the community through our outreach ministries.

Please join us as speakers address this year's Stewardship theme and challenge us to commit our Time, Talent, and Money to support the mission and ministries of LAUCC.

OCTOBER 31: Stewardship Moment: "Rooted in Love and Nurture of Children" Speaker: Ginger Joseph

NOVEMBER 7: Stewardship Moment: "Rooted in Love and Support" Speaker: Pamela Keller

NOVEMBER 14: Stewardship Moment: "Rooted in Love and Service" Speaker: Roberta Boyd

2021 Stewardship Committee: *Ginger Joseph, Jackie Provencher, Valerie Berry*

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

Happy November Everyone!

The Sanctuary, Campus Improvement and Finance Committees this month want to share additional before and after pictures. This month the photos reflect the change in the Sanctuary!

We as a congregation have made these improvements possible. Thank you for your support!

As for the day to day work, each of the committee members has made continuous efforts to revitalize our beautiful church and hope that each of you are enjoying the improvements.

BEFORE...



AFTER BILLIE GRACE'S CHAIRS ARRIVED!!



AFTER THE BEAUTIFUL FLOORS AND BASEBOARDS WERE INSTALLED!!



Peace + Grace,
Pamela Keller

Congregational Care

TonieLynn Palermo

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.”

Colossians 3:1

Autumn has most defiantly arrived, brining all it has to offer. The season that slowly bridges summer to winter with beauty and grace. I look forward to the balance of the Autumnal Equinox and all that it represents. I love the change, sustaining properties and the idea of letting go in nature and within ourselves.

The beautiful changing of the leaves / foliage. The rich vibrant natural tones that only Mother Nature can provide dropped in the beautiful background of nature, as she slowly descends only to replenish again. The days become longer and eventual provide a delicate balance of day to night; as well as, balance with in ourselves. The harvests become abundant and flourish with plenty of bounty from local farmers. Nature's creatures sustain themselves for their seasonal hibernation. We dine on comfort foods that nourish our souls making us feel warm and safe.

While the Autumn season represents death - it is a beautiful death for everything must expire/change before it can move on into rebirth. This is not only true in nature but also of ourselves. As we enter this time of year allow yourself to take a deep breath and settle into a calm and warm time of the year. This year has been challenging and uncertain for some and chaotic for others. Some people have had overwhelming work schedules, continued numerous zoom meetings, children are back in school and participating in their perspective after school and weekend activities, maybe hard decisions are having to be made or just returning back to our busy daily lives. Where ever you may find yourself now is the season for us to embrace our efforts and labor by reflecting, celebrating or simply moving on; putting it all to rest.

Looking forward into the season we can give thanks and blessings as we wait with anticipation of the new year to come with a renewed mind, body and spirit. I ask you to join me taking in all that Autumn has to offer. Reflect on the moments of this year, relax the mind & soul, take in and enjoy family, friends the holidays, and nature at her finest. Stay in the moment and enjoy, take a deep breath and embrace the wonders of not only this season but all 4 seasons as they all have much to offer

"Everyone must take time to sit and watch the leaves turn." – Elizabeth Lawrence

Peace Out!

OUTREACH

Roberta Boyd

Since we are back in church in person, and the CSULB food pantry is up and

running again.. it seems like a good time to start up the collections ...

So... November will be granola bar Sundays... Kind, Lara, Clif or any other meal bars are greatly appreciated by hungry students. I have spoken to the director of the pantry, and needs are significant. You can bring items to church any time during November.

We will be taking the UCC Christmas Fund offering in December and plans are also in works for helping families for Christmas.

ADVENT STUDY SERIES...

The Heart That Grew Three Sizes *Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch*

How the Grinch Stole Christmas! has remained an iconic story for several generations because of its seasonal theme, happy ending universal ambiguity, and moral conclusion. author and pastor, Matt Rawle, examines this modern-day classic Christmas story , challenging Christians to discover the Advent season in new and unexpected ways.

On the 4 Sundays in Advent, following worship and fellowship time, we will offer Matt Rawle's guide to Advent via video and open discussion of his presentation. We will be using our new audio equipment and monitors in the sanctuary. Join us:

- November 29: "When Everything is Wrong"
- December 6: "When Christmas Isn't Christmas"
- December 13: "When Light Shines"
- December 20: "When Joy Is Our Song"

This is going to be a fun Advent Time together! if you haven't read *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, take time to find a copy and red it. If you have a copy bring it with you.

Ginger Joseph

Calling all Children and Youth for our Advent Event



When: November 28th

Time: Right after church, 11-1

We will start the Advent season off with advent activities, play some games, have some snacks, and much more.

We will be outside, socially distanced, and wearing masks at all times for this event.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out to me at sumerlesser@yahoo.com.



We are now entering our third month of preschool and are much more settled in after new schedule trials and enrollment changes. We are still following Covid-19 policies, individual schedules and offering smaller class cohorts to keep our students safe and healthy. We have a total of 43 students enrolled at this time and hope to fill a few more spots after the holidays. All our students are doing a fantastic job and our parents seem to be very happy!

For the month of November, we will be discussing the importance of community, gratitude and giving back. Our students will get to share about their families, what they are thankful for and participate in a community project. Discovery Preschool is thankful for our wonderful staff, families and community, which includes you! We will be off for the week of Thanksgiving to follow the Long Beach Unified School District calendar. Once we return, we will be in full Christmas mode. Happy a lovely and safe Thanksgiving!

With gratitude,

Roxy Menendez

Director

discoverylaucc.com

When we play, we learn.



CELEBRATIONS

For the Blessings in our lives...

(If you have a birthday or an anniversary that we haven't celebrated, please email the office with your dates.)

Gratitude for all those helping with the refurbishing of our facilities.

Gratitude for all those first responders, and front line workers during this time of pandemic.

CONCERNS

And now those people and places that weigh heavy on our hearts... I invite you to say a name or place that is important to you, and know in saying it we hold it in our hearts...

Prayers for the tragedies due to climate change.

Prayers for Haiti and Afghanistan and all refugees.

Prayers for Kate and Jackie's friend, Donovan who is still struggling with a hopeful good outcome from his stem cell transplant.

Prayers for Kate and Jackie's friend, Melanie who has bladder cancer and will be needing surgery and chemo.

Prayers for Tonie on the death of her friend Tim R.

Prayers for the family of Kathy S. who lost her battle with breast cancer and for Carol M. who also passed. (Denise and Tonie's friends)

Prayers for Denise's Mom Gloria who is recovering from a TIA and Heart Attack.

Prayers for Denise and Tonie on the death of Denise's grandmother Rosie P.

A memorial service is scheduled for October 30 at 11:00 am

Prayer for Kristen W., diagnosed with colon and liver cancer, undergoing chemo treatments.

Prayers for Brenda K. who has been diagnosed with cancer in the brain.

Prayers for the Parden family as George's mother who underwent successful heart surgery, now recovering.

Prayers for the Gossage family on the loss of their oldest son Aiden.

Prayers for Maria S., our past Preschool Director, healing from surgery.

Prayers for Judy's mother Diane who fell and is in rehab.

Prayers for Roxy's cousin Greg who is battling cancer.

Jackie P.'s friend Dave asks for prayers for his wife, **Rosie** suffering from dementia.

Prayers for Tom T.

Prayers for Hazel's grandson Spencer.

Judi'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.**



13 Dave Lampert

13 Caran Siegfried

28 Paolo Dimabayao

(If you have a birthday or an anniversary that we haven't announced, please email the office with your dates.)

LINKS TO RESOURCES

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE UCC

<https://www.scncucc.org/>

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/>
