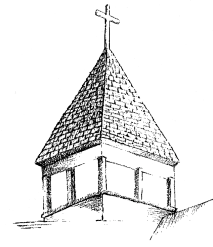


LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

March 29, 2009

SEEDS OF A SOWER

From Winter to Spring - A Psalm of Lament

A prayerful reflection on the news the week of March 19-25, 2009

The bleakness of winter refuses to leave this year;
springtime is slow in coming; the ground is hardened,
tamping down new life before it can emerge.

Six years of war continue to wound –
thousands mourn lives lost to death;
thousands more live, but lives are diminished by nightmares and disabilities;
nation building fraught with politics, infighting, violence.

The fall continues to spiral downward –
claiming jobs, retirement funds, revenue, houses, health, food, families, lives;
the well-paid rewarded with bonuses; the underpaid slapped with pink slips;
evicting the homeless from tents – how low will we go?
The American dream twisted into a traumatizing nightmare.

Anger, pain, fear, rage erupt –
traffic stop explodes into mass murder, four protectors left dead;
raids tear apart immigrant families, deporting parents from American-born children;
teens abusing teens; children abused by caretaker.
When will we ever learn - violence only breeds violence?

The song promises, “In the cold and snow of winter, there’s a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.”*

God, we need a springtime, a spring of hope,
a season of renewal, a time of peace.

Out of darkened corners, in tiny gestures, in vigils of solidarity, spring begins to emerge -
defeated basketball team raises funds to send victors to championship;
a gesture of generosity in the face of financial hardship;
perhaps we can learn to love our enemies and channel our energy to good.

Candles lit in the darkness, communities keeping vigil, honoring the slain,
praying for peace, expressing solidarity, raising voices on behalf of the voiceless.

Springtime is slow in coming this year, yet a song of hope emerges from deep within,
reawakening trust, calling us to prayer and action.

*From *Hymn of Promise*, by Natalie Sleeth, 1986, from *United Methodist Hymnal*, #707.

Pastor Lori

Lent 2009: A Prayer-Full Life

Sunday, April 5 **Palm Sunday** *A Lamp in the Darkness*
Matthew 27:45-47; Luke 23:34-35, 46; John 19:28-30

Thursday, April 9 **Holy Thursday**
7:30 Worship with communion and Taize music

Friday, April 10 **Good Friday**
12-2 p.m. Sanctuary open for prayer

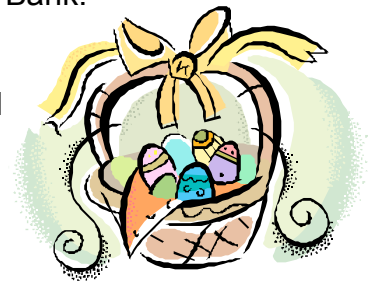
Sunday, April 12 **Easter** *The Blessing of God*
Numbers 6:22-26; Luke 24:1-12, 36-53
Worship at 8:30 and 10:30; Easter Brunch at 9:30; Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00

News of our Congregation: We sorrow, but not as those without hope, upon the death of **Selma Johnson** on March 26 after a brief illness. A memorial service at LUMC will be announced after April 5.

UMW MEETING Thursday, April 2 – 11:00 a.m.

EASTER BASKETS - Once again the United Methodist Women are planning to create Easter Baskets for needy children. Last year, with the help of the entire congregation, we were able to supply baskets for over 100 children. We hope to do the same this year. We would like baskets, small toys and books, toiletries, and school supplies to fill the baskets. There are two ways to take part: purchase items for the baskets and bring them to Church or fill a basket or two with your family and bring the completed basket to Church on or before our April meeting day - April 2. The baskets will be distributed by the Food Bank.

Join us for the fun of packing baskets on Thursday, April 2 in the Fireside Room at 11:00 a.m. Bring a sandwich; drinks and dessert will be provided. If you have any questions, call Nancy Flood at 283-3409. Thank you.





ALL CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY

Come join us for Spring Clean Up Day at the church on April 11th from 9 am to 12 noon. Let's spruce things up. We can use everyone's help. Youth who need community service hours are welcome; we will write a note. Bring gloves, rakes, and garden tools. Refreshments and snacks will be served. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Henry Kim at 283-5730.

AROUND AND ABOUT LUMC:

Congratulations to **Harrison Kim**, a member of the Acalanes High School Academic Decathlon Team. They were the over all team winner of the 2009 Contra Costa County Academic Decathlon. Two of our church youth, **Kathleen Emerson** and **Morgan Davis**, were recognized for completing 10 years as a Girl Scout. Your church family celebrates your accomplishments. Keep up the good work!

Congratulations to **Patty Renno**, who has been accepted into the Educational Psychology Doctoral program at UCLA. Her concentration will be on autism.

Great news from the California-Nevada Methodist Federation of Social Action. Annually they present the Bishop Leontine T.C. Kelly Peace and Justice Award. They have unanimously voted to award it this year to **Dean and Chris Coons**! The award will be presented at a dinner at the Annual Conference Session on Thursday, June 18 at 5:30 p.m. At 4:00 p.m. that afternoon there will be a Conference Memorial Service including remembrance of Rev. **Dick Black**. Let the church office know if you plan to attend these events; folks can carpool. Dinner reservations are due by early June.

Families, send us your news to include in Tower Notes. We'd love to hear of recognitions received, roles in local theater events, etc.

THANK YOU

Wendell Pleis designed and made two new tables for the sanctuary for floral arrangements, especially for memorial services and other times when we have additional needs. Thanks for sharing your skill!

Carol Slatten and **Celeste Graham** bought and planted new roses for the parsonage rose garden. Trustees **Brian Chuck** and **Mason Walters**, and Trustee-spouse **Dave Roberts** are spending Saturdays at the parsonage doing electrical upgrades and installing water for the ice-maker in the refrigerator! We appreciate your care for the parsonage and the generous sharing of expertise!

LUMC'S ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

FRIDAY, April 18 and SATURDAY April 19 – 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

PREVIEW PARTY for our church family Thursday evening

April 17 – 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Here's how you can be a part: Indicate below as many ways as you would like to be involved. Set-up times will be from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Come for the amount of time that fits your schedule.) We plan to be set up by noon Thursday, so bring your items in as soon as possible during the week.

_____ will DONATE items

_____ can PICK UP items

_____ can HELP with SET-UP _____ Mon. _____ Tues. _____ Wed.
_____ Thurs.; _____ morning, _____ afternoon

_____ can PROVIDE LUNCH for the all day workers _____ Mon.
_____ Tues. _____ Wed. _____ Thurs.

_____ can PROVIDE APPETIZERS for Thursday's Preview Party

_____ can make punch/coffee – supervise refreshment table
Thursday evening

_____ will plan to ATTEND THURSDAY PREVIEW PARTY
(\$5 per person – workers receive Comp ticket)

_____ can HELP WITH SALE _____ Fri. _____ Sat. _____ morning _____ afternoon

(This year we also plan to have the SALE during Friendship Time Sunday morning for church families.)

Please fill out this form and drop it in the offering plate, turn it in to the church office, or hand to Ginny Leavitt.)

NAME: _____ Phone: _____

MANY THANKS TO ANY AND ALL WHO CAN BE A PART OF THIS FUND-RAISING PROJECT FOR OUR CHURCH'S MISSION. If you have any questions, call Ginny Leavitt at 284-7857.

MONTE TOYON, ALL CHURCH RETREAT

APRIL 25-26, 2009

Former member of LUMC, SUE KING will be the inspirational leader.

Sue has three years of pastoral experience, a Master of Divinity degree from Fuller Theological Seminary and 18 years of corporate experience as a computer programmer. She and her husband, Warren, lived in the Middle East for more than two years where they enjoyed unique opportunities for cross cultural experiences and faith formation. They founded and operate the non-profit organization, Faith Exploration, which provides the public with additional opportunities for Christian Education. From 1984 until their move overseas in 1996 and Sue's pastoral experiences beginning in 2001 they were active members of the Lafayette United Methodist Church.

THEME: "RENEWAL OF THE HEART: More Than Illusion"

When renewing our hearts we often depend on light-hearted devices to demonstrate the serious side of life, the mechanical to illustrate our emotions, and the visual to reveal the unseen. The three sessions of "Renewal of the Heart" will investigate God's truths about the formation of our hearts through the fun, slight of hand, and demonstration of magic tricks.

A heart renewed under the guidance of God's graciousness is full of peace and is well prepared for all situations in life. Such a heart responds to life with goodness and is capable of bringing remarkable harmony to all pursuits and daily activities. The retreat sessions will explore the interaction of our endeavors with the unseen action of God. Together these influence and shape the depths of our being and impact all who cross our path.

Saturday Afternoon Session: "Addressing Our Wills"

Saturday Evening Session: "Addressing Our Needs"

Sunday Morning Worship: "Addressing God"

Registration form and fee schedule:

"RENEWAL OF THE HEART"
ALL CHURCH RETREAT
TO MONTE TOYON, APRIL 25-26
Starting MARCH 8.....YOUR PAYMENT is your reservation.
Bargains before MARCH 29!!

~~~~~Registration Form~~~~~

FEES:  
Adults \$80 Child(5-11 yrs) \$50 Youth(12-18 yrs) \$60 Child(0-4 yrs) FREE  
Before March 29: Family of 3 \$195 (after 3/29 \$210)  
Before March 29: Family of 4 \$220 (after 3/29 \$240); each additional  
child \$40, additional youth \$50

FINAL PAYMENT DEADLINE: FRIDAY, APRIL 10  
(No refunds after April 19).

Payment attached: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Make check payable to **Lafayette United Methodist Church** (or LUMC). VERY  
IMPORTANT: write RETREAT in memo space.  
Please give full name of all attending and AGES of children/youth for groupings.

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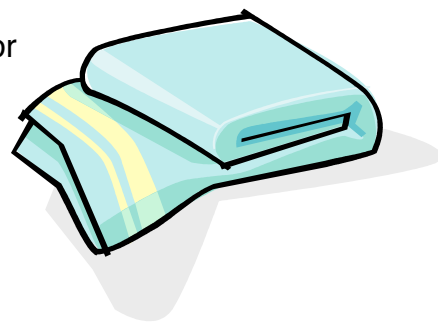
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**LINENS WANTED:** The Winter Nights Program needs new or gently used pillow cases, blankets and twin sheets. Perhaps you are doing your spring cleaning and discover that you have more of these items than you need! If so, please bring them to the church office by April 12, 2009.



## **METHODIST**

**Church is now my destination  
Bible study fascination  
Never ending learning now  
Makes me close to God somehow.**

**There are good friends I have made  
Now for nearly two decades.  
They are helpful, tried and true;  
Without them, I would be so blue.**

**We help the needy, that=s for sure  
But not as much as our UMCOR.  
We try to help those on our list  
I=m proud to be a Methodist.**

**By Catherine Sinnott**

**YOUTH NEWS:** Easter is coming up, and what better way to show some love - than chocolate? LUMC Youth will be selling Easter chocolate in the next few weeks, leading up to Easter Sunday. The profits from the fundraiser will be going directly to the SSP trip, for gas and the renting of vans. There is a limited supply of chocolate, but more can be ordered. Kathleen Emerson and Zoe Inglis will be selling them in the Fellowship Hall after church for the next few Sundays, so please help donate to the cause!



**LOOKING FOR SUMMER FUN, SERVICE  
and SPIRITUAL GROWTH!**

Check out these opportunities!

Vacation Bible School July 13-17 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Church Camps offered by the California-Nevada United Methodist Conference

Varied Dates – Great Locations – All Ages and families

Check out the website [www.cnumc.org/camping](http://www.cnumc.org/camping)

Volunteers in Mission needed in California, the U.S., and around the world

Check out the website [www.cnumc.org](http://www.cnumc.org) and click the link to UM Volunteers in Mission