

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

May 31, 2009

SEEDS OF A SOWER

On May 19, Church Council, in consultation with the Worship Committee, decided to discontinue the 8:30 worship service as of June 1, due to rapidly declining worship attendance. Beginning in June we will offer one worship service at 10:30 a.m. Our average attendance at 8:30 has gradually declined over the past two years from 25 to 12, including two staff members. It is difficult to offer passionate worship and inspiring music with so few singers! We are concerned about the impression such a small group makes upon first time visitors who may not know that this is indeed a vital, dynamic congregation!!

The 8:30 service was originally started several years ago as a contemporary worship service to offer an alternative style to the traditional service. It has not been a contemporary style for at least nine years, more an informal, shortened version of the 10:30 service.

Although the ending of the 8:30 service feels like a loss, every end brings the opportunity for new beginnings. We are surveying the congregation (one enclosed) to evaluate our Sunday morning schedule and determine the best time for one worship service. One service will allow us to more easily schedule Adult Education and Spiritual Growth Opportunities on Sunday morning.

There has been discussion in the past five years about offering a truly alternative style of worship. This will require an investment of musical talent, staff guidance, and volunteers to assist with a variety of ministries: multimedia technology, music, drama, etc. It is an idea to prayerfully consider as we are called by our denomination to "Rethink Church" with regard to how we can be in ministry with young adults 18-34 years of age.

As people of faith, we trust that God is making all things new. Let us await with hope for the new life God is bringing to birth among us.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

Experiencing Christ's Love Through Worship Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.

In June Pastor Lori will be offering a series of messages called, "Rethinking Clichés." With the best intentions to offer comfort or make sense of a tragedy, people often say things that imply outrageous things about God. We'll be looking at some of the popular clichés of folk theology, considering what they really say, and offering alternative suggestions that more clearly communicate what we believe about God.

June 7 Rethinking Clichés: God Only Takes the Best

Matthew 18:11-14; Mark 5:35-43

June 14 Rethinking Clichés: Everything Happens for a Reason

Romans 8:18-30; Luke 10:25-37

June 21 Rethinking Clichés: God Only Gives As Much As You Can Handle

II Corinthians 12:7b-10; I Corinthians 4:1-5

June 28 Rethinking Clichés: If Jesus is Your Choice, You can Buy a Rolls Royce

2 Corinthians 8:1-9; John 10:10



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Classes (preschool-5th grades) will continue through the end of June with our regular teachers planning different activities to learn about the Word of God and how it applies to everyday life.



Wedding Anniversary Celebration

*Everyone is invited to share lunch with us after church on Sunday, June 14th, to help celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary. The lunch is being catered by Ed and Esther Soon, and chef Thian Boon Leong, of Kopitiam in Lafayette. Please stay after church and celebrate with us.
Vic and Fran Smith.*

FATHER'S DAY ALL-CHURCH BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, JUNE 21 - 9 AM



Sponsored by
LUMC YOUTH GROUP



2009 Graduates



- Christopher Chow**, grandson of Cheen Chow, is graduating from Miramonte High School and will attend Yale.
- Chris Chuck** is graduating from Campolindo High School and will be swimming for UC Santa Barbara.
- Nate Cox** is graduating from Campolindo High School and will be attending UC Santa Barbara, the College of Creative Studies.
- Spencer Davis** is graduating from Acalanes High School and will be attending Diablo Valley College.
- Ryan Heptig** is graduating from Acalanes High School and will be attending Diablo Valley College.
- Aaron Makinson** is graduating from Campolindo High School and will be attending San Diego State University majoring in Engineering.
- Sean Noah** is graduating from Miramonte High School and will attend UC Berkeley.
- Jacob Partlow** is graduating from Campolindo High School and will attend UC Davis' College of Biological Sciences and hopes to play club volleyball.
- Annie Shearer** is graduating from Acalanes High School and will attend Boston College.
- Hilary Smith** is graduating from Acalanes High School and will be attending Chapman University majoring in Film Studies.
- Evonne Soon** is graduating from Miramonte High School and will attend U.C. Davis majoring in Veterinary Medicine.
- Kathryn Walenter** graduated one year early (June 2008) and has complete her first year at Cabrillo College in Santa Cruz.
- Megan Berti** is graduating from CSU Long Beach with a B.M. in Vocal Performance with an emphasis in Opera, with honors. She has been chosen to carry the banner for the entire music dept.
- Keaton Chia** is graduating from UC Berkeley with a BS in Mechanical Engineering.
- Kimberly Chow**, granddaughter of Cheen Chow, is graduating from Yale with a BA in Journalism.
- Jeanette Shearer** is finishing grad school at St. Mary's with a teaching credential.
- Joshua Smith**, grandson of Fran and Vic Smith, is graduating from California State University, Stanislaus with a BS in Geology. He has a job working with Full Metal Mining Company in Alaska.

LUMC SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE SURVEY

Mark your preferences for our Sunday Morning Schedule – **September-June**.
Please rank them in number order, 1 first preference, 2 second choice....

_____ Option One: Stay with current schedule

9:15 Adult Education/Youth Confirmation

9:45 Choir Rehearsal

10:30 Worship

_____ Option Two: 9:30 worship; 11:00 classes

8:45 Choir Rehearsal

9:30 Worship

11:00 Adult Education/Youth Confirmation

_____ Option Three: 9:30 worship; 8:15 classes

8:15 Adult Education/Youth Confirmation

8:45 Choir Rehearsal

9:30 Worship

_____ Option Four: 10:00 worship; 8:45 classes

8:45 Adult Education/Youth Confirmation

9:15 Choir Rehearsal

10:00 Worship

SUMMER Worship Time Preferences (July and August)

Please rank in number order, 1, 2, 3, 4 – or write “No” if you won’t come at that time!

_____ 9:00 a.m. Worship _____ 9:30 a.m. Worship

_____ 10:00 a.m. Worship _____ 10:30 a.m. Worship

If there is a solid consensus to have summer worship services at an earlier hour, shall we change **this summer for July and August 2009**?

_____ Yes _____ No

Name: _____

Please use your name. We seek as much participation as possible. It will also help us understand the needs and preferences of various constituencies, i.e., Sunday school staff, etc.

Thank you! Please bring or mail to the church office: Lafayette United Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Road, Lafayette, CA 94549



WANTED: A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN!!

One of the Volunteer in Mission teams Joe Darrell will be joining in Costa Rica in February, 2010 has a few spots open. Joe will be available in the Fireside Room on Sunday morning, June 28, at 9:30 a.m. to describe the opportunity and answer questions about logistics, dates, and the scope of volunteer work. Please consider joining Joe and Pastor Lori for a brief no-obligation, informative discussion.

Around About LUMC

Congratulations to **Matt Keeble**, who is one of the stars of the Campolindo track and field teams. He won individual champion in the 110 Hurdles and 300 Hurdles.



Thank You

I wish to thank the Lafayette United Methodist Church congregation and members for the consolation, sympathy, wishes and guidance offerings upon the passing of my wife. As many of you know my wife very seldom attended church due to her stroke and inability to walk. I was pleasantly surprised at the number of cards and notes especially as she was not active.

You are a caring and thoughtful group.

*Thank you,
Wes Thomas*



A Guide to LUMC Recycling Containers!

On our church campus, here's a guide to what to place in which containers!!

Note: we only receive money for aluminum cans and plastic & glass containers with the CRV label!
You need not bring your paper products to the church; you may recycle them at home!

[Note to Tom & Mary: perhaps you want to put boxes around these things to help highlight them. I don't know how to do that – but I suspect you do! If not, that's okay, too]

Gray containers in Fellowship Hall Entrance	Aluminum cans, Plastic & glass containers with CRV label for cash!!! (These produce income for our budget)
Blue recycling containers for materials used on church campus	Paper products (Sunday program, etc.) Used paper coffee cups without coating Plastics which do not bring cash...coffee cup lids, clean food containers Pizza boxes empty of food scraps
Trash cans	Food waste, restroom waste, plastic bags...

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

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

Check out the website www.cnumc.org and click the link to UM Volunteers in Mission



LIBRARY

Tremendous THANKS to David Inglis for setting up the computer and Brenda Cooke for putting together a "Windows" program that we can use without a degree in computer technology!!! Ask me during Friendship time for a demonstration of "how to" in the Library.



The Way of Prayer Makes a Difference

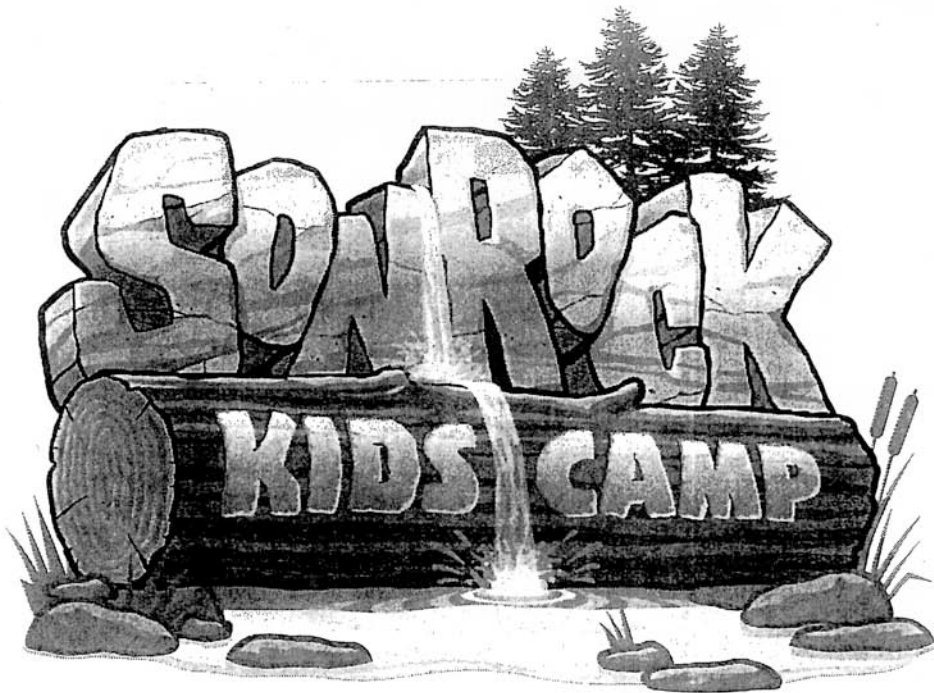
“I love being with this group and Judy Stillman has been a terrific leader. My prayer life has become more focused and daily observance more relaxed and meaningful.”

“I’ve been reminded of the many ways we can and do pray. I find each lesson uplifting and empowering. The visualizations were so powerful and the [praying with] music extremely uplifting.”

“Participating in *The Way of Prayer* experience has deepened and expanded my prayer life. In particular, I’ve come to appreciate the mystery of God – feeling him in the beauty and power of nature and the universe, as well as in the deepest parts of my heart.”

“The discussions were at least as valuable as the material in the book. The chapter of Praying with Music really struck a chord with me and I find myself listening to popular music in a new way.”

“This has given me many, many new ways to pray. The one I most liked was praying by actions – that is, any thing we do can be prayer.”



Vacation Bible Day Camp

July 13 - 17, 9 - 12 noon
At Lafayette United Methodist Church
955 Moraga Road, Lafayette
(Across from the Lafayette Library)
Ages 3 - 15, \$50 each
284-4765

Crafts, music, games, stories and snacks!
Everyone is welcome. Bring your friends!

Don't miss the fun at SonRock Kid's camp!

This camp ROCKS!

WHERE KIDS BUILD THEIR LIVES ON THE ROCK: JESUS!

Everyone is welcome. Bring your friends!

Don't miss the fun at SonRock Kid's camp!

This camp ROCKS!

WHERE KIDS BUILD THEIR LIVES ON THE ROCK: JESUS!

FALL FUNDRAISER FOR THE MISSION OF OUR CHURCH!



As summer rapidly approaches, keep our SILENT AUCTION scheduled for October in mind! Think about what you could contribute, and watch for summer sales! All types of baskets could be made up – a “Day at the Beach” Basket, Bath and Body Basket, Sports Basket, Family Fun Night Basket, Time for Tea Basket, Reader’s Delight Basket, Chocolate Lovers Basket, Scrapbooking Basket, the ideas are limitless. Just let your creative juices flow! Also, if you have a business that you frequent – how about asking for a donation for our church?? Just keep LUMC’s SILENT AUCTION in mind as you go about your daily activities! Any questions, please contact Ginny Leavitt – 284-7857



Volunteers Needed for Project Homeless Connect Wednesday, June 17 9:00-3:30

The Contra Costa County Health Services Homeless Program is seeking persons who can help with Project Homeless Connect 4, a one-day, one-stop shop to offer a variety of services to people experiencing homelessness. The event connects them with benefits, medical care, substance abuse and mental health counseling, social services, housing and shelter. Volunteers will be working with a variety of nonprofits, corporations, government agencies and faith-based organizations which will be onsite. You can help with completing applications for medical and dental care, greeting and routing people, providing translation, serving food, giving legal assistance, giving massage, foot care and pet care, giving counseling services and the like. If you can help, contact 925-313-6124 or ProjectHomelessConnect@hsd.cccounty.us.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....The Reverend Lori Sawdon
Pastor e-mail.....Sawdon2@pacbell.net
Director of Music Ministry.....Bunny Gruhn
Organist & Keyboard/Pianist.....Ken Mansfield
Office administrator.....Lorri Sullivan
Joyful Beginnings Preschool Director.....Dot Feist
Custodian.....Jason Cano

TOWER NOTES

Editor.....Ginny Cowden
Computer Formatting.....Tom & Mary Henderson
Mailing.....Fran Smith and Evelyn Clark

TOWER NOTES DEADLINE

2nd & 4th Thursday by Noon – Next Deadline **Thursday, June 11, 2009**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

Telephone....925-284-4765
Fax.....925-284-5170
E_Mail.....lumc@pacbell.net
Web Site.....www.thelumc.org