

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Since 1855

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

November 15, 2009

Our New worship schedule of 10:00 a.m. continues all year long.

Seeds of a Sower

As we move toward the season of gratitude in our nation, my heart is filled with gratitude for the faithfulness of this congregation. In a multitude of ways, I see you living out your calling as disciples of Jesus Christ, including:

- Youth reaching out to support one another and enjoy one another's presence;
- Parents making parenting a priority;
- Members faithfully visiting those who are homebound or ill;
- Meals taken to families experiencing a death, illness, or the birth of a baby;
- A warm embrace offered to newcomers;
- Students of Jesus reconsidering their actions and how they might live more faith-fully;
- Perseverance through difficult seasons in life;
- Family members persistently advocating for the best possible health care for loved ones;
- Many readily saying "YES" to service and leadership through the church;
- Generous sharing of professional skills as stewardship of time and talent to the ministry of Christ;
- Sunday school teachers delighted at the opportunity to shape the faith of young lives;
- Men joyfully lending their voices to the choral anthem one Sunday (hopefully more!) a year;
- Children enthusiastically sharing their smiles and reflections about life;
- Generous sharing of financial resources to support local and global ministries;
- Genuine heartfelt concern for one another's well-being.

Thank you for enriching my life through our mutual ministry in Jesus' name.

Blessings,

Pastor Lori

TOWER NOTES HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

DUE DATES FOR TOWER NOTES ARTICLES

December 3

January 7

We will be changing the dates for the Tower Notes for November, December and January. This will be the only issue during November. December will only have one issue. The first January issue will be the first Thursday. We will go back to our normal schedule starting with the 4th Thursday in January.



Men's Breakfast



Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 21st 8 o'clock. This Men's Breakfast could be really good. Our own Greg Horner took a pilgrimage to Chimayo. Find out why he made it and what he found. And find out if it gives the cures that Our Lady of Lourdes offers. See you at breakfast!



INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Our Annual INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE will take place on Wednesday, November 25 at 7:30 PM at Orinda Community Church at 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. The service is sponsored by the Lamorinda Interfaith Ministerial Association (LIMA).



Tape Available for Hanging Posters or Flyers

We have special tape in the office for hanging posters or flyers on the windows around campus. If you would like to post something see Lorri Sullivan in the church office and she will give you the tape.

Stitch-in-Time



Stitch-in-Time will meet Thursday, November 19 at 1 pm and Friday, December 4th at 10 am. Both meetings are in the Fireside Room. At the November 19th meeting, we will be making table runners and at the December 4th meeting we will be setting up for the December 6th boutique. Please join us if you can. Everyone is welcome. If you cannot attend our meetings, but would like to donate some homemade items to the boutique on December 6th, please contact Ginny Horner (925-284-9585 or vhorner@earthlink.net).



Souper Holiday Sunday

Souper Holiday Sunday is December 6 after the church service. This event is a fundraiser with the proceeds going to the rebuilding of the courtyard. Some very good cooks are preparing homemade soup and pie for you to consume. You can also buy pints of soup to take home. Some creative people will be teaching traditional holiday crafts to children of all ages. There will be a boutique with homemade products including jams, pie fillings, barbecue sauces, cards, Christmas ornaments, cloth shopping bags, purses, crocheted dish cloths, sachet, neck/foot warmers, eye bags, jewelry, jewelry bags, cloth lunch bags, tote bags, knitted items and more! It will be a great place to do some Christmas shopping. So, save the date, plan on having a good hearty meal, bring the whole family and invite your friends. If you would like to help with any part of this event, contact Ginny Horner (925-284-9585 or vhorner@earthlink.net).



Round About LUMC

We sorrow, but not as those without hope, upon the death of **David Berti's** father on November 1. David, Linda, and Megan attended a memorial service in Pennsylvania.

We celebrate the birth of **Grant Alexander** to parents, **Alex and Gretchen Placzek**, and sister, **Addie**. Grant arrived on November 9, weighing in at 6 pounds, 12 ounces.



The Hopes and Fears of All the Years



Advent/Christmas 2009

Nov. 29 First Sunday of Advent “Preparing the Way”

10:00 Intergenerational Worship for all ages

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

“Class Project,” an Advent Drama presented by high school youth

Celebration of Judy Stillman’s ministry with our youth



Dec. 6 Second Sunday of Advent

10:00 Worship “The Hope for Approval...The Fear of Failure” Luke 3:1-6

Holy Communion

11:00-2:00 Souper Holiday Sunday – Boutique with homemade items from Stitch-in-Time; homemade soup (\$5) and pie (\$2); fundraiser for church courtyard

Dec. 13 Third Sunday of Advent

9:45 Carol Sing before worship

10:00 Worship “The Hope for Safety...The Fear of Vulnerability” Luke 3:7-14

5:00 All-Church Soup Supper

5:45 *The Nativity Story* movie on the big screen in Fellowship Hall

Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:45 Carol Sing before worship

10:00 Worship “The Hope for Love...The Fear of Loss” Luke 1:39-45

6:00 All-Church Christmas Caroling to homebound members

Monday, Dec. 21 Longest Night Worship Service

7:00 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

For many, the holiday season is a difficult time. The pain of loss and loneliness are greater. We gather to remember loved ones who have passed and to lift other pain to God for healing.

Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve

“The Hopes and Fears...are Met in Christ Tonight” Luke 2:1-20

5:00 Family Worship Service

11:00 Candlelight Worship with Chancel Choir and Special Music



Dec. 27 Christmas Sunday

10:00 Intergeneration Worship for all ages

Jan. 3 Epiphany Sunday

10:00 “The Hope of New Beginnings” Matthew 2:1-12

Holy Communion

LIBRARY

New books can be found on the BOOK CART!!



"If God loves me, why did my child die? If life is supposed to be so wonderful, why do I feel so bad? If God hears my prayers, why am I still single? If God is in control of the world, why is life so hard?"

Sheila Walsh hears questions like these wherever she goes. In her own life journey, she has struggled with difficult questions....and has found some answers. Not easy, pat answers, but real-life, lived-out-in-the-flesh answers that can help you find meaning and purpose in spite of pain and suffering. "Life Is Tough But God Is Faithful" offers encouraging insight into God's presence in the midst of our questions and struggles.....highlights positive choices you can make, no matter what your circumstances may be.

Sheila Walsh looks at thirteen crucial turning points that can help you rediscover God's love and forgiveness. Showing how the choices you make affect your life, she offers insights from the book of JOB, from her own life, and from the lives of people whose simple but determined faith helped them become shining lights in a dark world.



Calling For Children's Christmas Chorus



On December 20, Christmas Sunday, the adult choir will be singing "Climb to the Highest Mountain" with a children's chorus. If you are in first grade through high school, you will want to be a part of this beautiful anthem. Rehearsals (15 minutes while parents enjoy coffee in Fellowship Hall) will be by the piano in the church sanctuary right after Sunday services. We will begin on Sunday, November 22, so that you will know your music well by Christmas. You can give



Thank you

As the Thanksgiving Holiday approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You to all of those who have helped with the memorial receptions this year and in the past. Your generous donations of food, help with set up, clean up, and tablecloth washing are greatly appreciated.

Nancy Flood

 DECEMBER
Happy Birthday

2	<i>Coralee Dailey</i>	13	<i>Wendell Pleis</i>	19	<i>Anna Davis</i>
5	<i>Jim Curtis</i>	14	<i>Rayma Jeanne Price</i>		<i>David Grayson</i>
7	<i>Shelby Davis</i>	15	<i>Jason Gendron</i>		<i>Micheline Reeder</i>
8	<i>Kaitlin Bove</i>	16	<i>Kate Kintner</i>	21	<i>Gus Keeble</i>
	<i>Carole Linson</i>		<i>Peter Kintner</i>	22	<i>Caralyn Woodruff</i>
9	<i>Jacob Welcomer</i>		<i>Dana Nakamura</i>	25	<i>Dominique Eyl</i>
10	<i>Mildred Cox</i>		<i>Mason Walters</i>	26	<i>Kooshan Ghaziani</i>
	<i>Gloria Duffy</i>	17	<i>Madison Calhoun</i>		<i>Hugo Jegoux</i>
	<i>Mary Henderson</i>	18	<i>Barbara Peters</i>	28	<i>Pat Falcone</i>
11	<i>Jean Follmer</i>			30	<i>Michael Falcone</i>
	<i>Ruth Wilcox</i>			31	<i>Bruce Gerrinaer</i>

Wedding Anniversaries

22	<i>Hannelore and Raymond Heizer</i>
27	<i>Daisy and Paul Persons</i>
28	<i>Lindy and Idris Evans</i>
29	<i>Sue and Paul Renno</i>



CHILI RECIPE BY REQUEST

GINNY LEAVITT'S CHILI
Serves 4-5

BASIC RECIPE

Brown 1 # ground beef with onion and garlic
Add 1 – (15 oz) can of beans (kidney)
Add 1 (15 oz) can of tomatoes (diced, stewed)
Chili powder to taste

Bring to a boil; simmer 30 minutes

VARIATIONS – add some whole kernel corn (canned or frozen); add diced green pepper (last 10 minutes for crunchier) or replace can of kidney beans with can of Mexican beans (spiced pinto beans)

ENJOY!



You may add to the beauty of our worship this year by donating toward our flowers. The flowers will be placed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 6, through Christmas Eve. All gifts will be noted in the bulletin on Sunday, December 20, 2008.

Suggested amount - \$10

Donated by: _____

Phone: _____

(In memory of)

(In honor of)

Enclosed is my check made payable to Lafayette United Methodist Church for \$_____ for Christmas worship flowers.

If you wish to donate your flowers, please check here _____



The suggested food items for
December are
Canned fruits and pasta.
Food baskets can be found at both
Entrances to the church sanctuary.

LUMC CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

October 20, 2009

Present: Dean Coons, Jack Cotteral, Doug Cowden, Ginny Cowden, Tom Henderson, Pat Hershey, David Inglis, Ginny Leavitt, Pat Porter, Robyn Roberts, Pastor Lori Sawdon, Carol Slatten

Pat Hershey, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Joys and concerns were shared and Ginny Leavitt announced that almost \$3500 had been raised by the silent auction. She thanked all who contributed. After leading the group in prayer, Pat declared the September minutes approved as circulated by email.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance -- Ginny announced that the conversion from Toni to Jill Shibuya went smoothly. Toni will continue to be the bookkeeper for Joyful Beginnings and submit the payroll taxes for both Joyful and LUMC. The Financial Summary for September was distributed. Pledged income continues to be under expectations and research by Lorri Sullivan shows that \$1100 will not be received due to the deaths of the pledgers. The remaining \$5700 will probably be received. Use of church continues to be above expectations. Expenses are under expended. The financial picture continues to be positive and much as expected. It's time for eScript to be renewed by all.

Trustees -- In the absence of Randall Husch, Pastor Lori announced that the Fire Marshall's list of must-fixes is almost complete and that the fire suppression system has been installed in the kitchen. LUMC is now waiting for the Fire Marshall's final inspection.

SPRC -- Pat Porter reported that the Staff-Parish Relations Committee was proposing a 2% Merit Increase for Pastor Lori Sawdon. After some discussion, Carol Slatten seconded the proposal and the vote in favor was unanimous. The Pastor's salary must be set in advance of the general church budget and must now be voted on at the Church Conference November 15th. Pat reported that the Youth Team structure is in place and a St. Mary's student has indicated a desire to intern with the group. A job description is being worked on. There will be a celebration of Judy Stillman's youth ministry on November 29th.

Nominations and Leadership Development -- Pastor Lori and her committee are actively recruiting volunteers with mixed results. The change in the name of the committee was noted.

OLD BUSINESS -- none

NEW BUSINESS -- Pastor Lori was contacted by a local company with a Sacred Space columbarium proposal - the Council ordered that the information be forwarded to the trustees with no recommendation. The Lafayette Farmer's Market has asked for parking from May 2010 though September 2010. Doug Cowden moved and David Ingles seconded that their request be approved for another year. Carried unanimously. Dean Coons moved and Doug Cowden seconded that the Contra Costa Interfaith Housing covenant be renewed. Carried unanimously. Pat Hershey distributed the new Endowment Policy for approval. The only material change from the 1994 version

involves the case of undesignated gifts. Upon receipt of an undesignated gift the "Church Council may direct that the Endowment Fund receive and hold for investment all or any portion thereof." The 1994 version stipulated that all undesignated funds go to the Endowment Fund. Ginny Leavitt moved and Robyn Roberts seconded that the new policy be approved. Carried unanimously. This policy will be presented to the Church Conference and will require a 3/4 positive vote for implementation.

COMMUNICATIONS – An invitation from the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa was received. The program will take place from 7-9 p.m. on November 15, 2009.

The Council was adjourned at 9 p.m. The next Church Council meeting will be November 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Slatten, Secretary pro tem



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

Thursday by Noon – Next Deadline **Thursday, December 3, 2009**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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