

LAFAYETTE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TOWER NOTES



Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

February 14, 2010

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

Seeds of a Sower

The season of Lent began as a time of preparation of converts to Christianity for baptism at Easter. In the late fifth century, infant baptism replaced adult baptism, extinguishing the need for the season of preparation and learning. At this point, Lent took on an extreme penitential focus, with an emphasis on “making up” for one’s sins. However, in Eastern traditions, penance is more about healing what has been hurt. The journey to Easter is more about learning to “live the Easter life,” living as if death has no hold on us.

Our United Methodist Church is renewing the emphasis on **our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.** A disciple is a learner or apprentice. Discipleship is a lifelong process of growth; we don’t graduate from this apprenticeship. We are called to be lifelong learners sitting at the feet of the Master Teacher Jesus.

In the 21st century, the season of Lent seems an appropriate time ripe for disciples of Jesus Christ to renew their role as apprentices of Jesus. We are offering several opportunities for you to experience the presence of Christ anew. Prayerfully consider your participation in worship and a small group. Read through the Gospel of John as we reflect on its powerful stories in worship. As the blossoms of spring bloom around us, listen quietly to the new birth that may be emerging in your spiritual life. Make an appointment with God each day just to be still and delight in the presence of our loving God.

May this season of Lent be a time of abundant blessings and growth!

Always learning,

Pastor Lori

Encounters with Jesus Lent 2010

From biblical days people have had life-changing experiences as they have encountered Jesus in their daily lives. God's transforming power continues to be available to us today through the presence of the risen Christ.

This Lenten season, we will encounter Jesus anew through worship, scripture, small group sharing, and devotional reading. May your spirit be attentive to the Spirit of God.

February 17 Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

John 2:43-51 Jesus Calls Philip & Nathanael

February 21 Heifer International Sunday Guest Speaker, Pedro Barrera

February Rev. Pam Abbey, Guest Preacher

John 3:1-17, Gen. 12:1-4a "It's the Journey That Counts"

March 7 Communion John 4:5-26 The Samaritan Woman at the Well meets Jesus

March 14 John 9:1-41 The Man Born Blind Receives Sight from Jesus

March 21 John 11:1-6, 17-44 Mary and Martha share their grief with Jesus

March 28 Palm/Passion Sunday – Communion

John 18:5-27; 21:15-19 Peter the Imperfect denies Jesus

April 1 Holy Thursday 7:30 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

John 19:25-27 The Beloved Disciple is commissioned by Jesus

April 2 Good Friday 12:00-2:00 p.m. and 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Journey to the Cross Jesus invites you to Journey to the Cross with him. Interactive centers based on the traditional Stations of the Cross will be set up in the Fellowship Hall. Pilgrims on the journey will be given prayer guides to lead them through an activity at each station. Plan on spending at least an hour moving through the Stations of the Cross in solidarity with Jesus on this holy day.

April 4 Easter Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. (note time change for this day only!)

9:30 Easter Brunch

10:00 Easter Egg Hunt for children

John 20:1-18 Mary Magdalene meets the Risen Christ

April 10 John 20:19-29 Thomas believes in Jesus

Gracias, LUMC!

LUMC friends & members donated	\$2,045!
Team members donated	\$4,200!
Outreach VIM Fund donated	\$375!
Outreach Endowment Grant of	\$250!
Total donations	\$6,870!

Plus tools, VBS craft materials, and the love and labor of our UMVIM Team! We head to Costa Rica to serve the EL CENTRO RURAL METHODISTA on February 19 and return February 28. Joe Darrell has been there since January 29.



LENT DEVOTIONAL BOOK

Several LUMC members and friends have contributed inspiring reflections on their experiences of Christ's love. Pick up your copy in the Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary, or Church Office.



Lent Small Groups for Spiritual Formation

Using the book *Gospel'd Lives*, two groups will explore additional experiences of Jesus and biblical characters. The groups will meet in the Church Library/Room 9 as follows:

Tuesdays, 12:30-2:00 p.m. beginning February 16 – led by Judy Stillman
Sundays, 8:45-9:45 a.m. beginning February 21 – led by Pat Hershey



TOWER NOTES NOTICE

Julia White will be typing and formatting the Tower Notes for the month of March. Continue to email your articles to Ginny Cowden.

PIZZA/BOARD GAME NIGHT
ALL CHURCH ACTIVITY
Fireside Room
Friday, February 19 -- 6 p.m.
Come, enjoy a pizza supper, and
play some old/new games



SUNDAY BUZZ GROUPS
(Preschool-5th graders)



A special ICE CREAM PARTY is being planned for Sunday, February 28,
in room 7 after classes. Bring a friend with you!



YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sixth through eighth graders are invited to participate in the Youth Confirmation Class this spring. Janet Thompson and Pastor Lori will be leading the class. It begins on Sunday, March 7, meeting on Sundays from 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. after worship, with some additional special events. Confirmation Sunday will be May 23. Let Pastor Lori know if you are interested.



MARCH FOOD BASKET

The suggested food items for
February are

beans and pasta

Food baskets can be found at both
Entrances to the church sanctuary.

The Northern California Welsh Community
invites you to join us at our

St. David's Day Gymanfa Ganu

a musical celebration of traditional hymn singing

When: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., Sunday, February 28, 2010

Where: Lafayette United Methodist Church
955 Moraga Road, Lafayette (www.thelumc.org)

Conductor: Bay Area musician, Eryl Aynsley, will lead the congregational singing in both Welsh and English. A native Welsh speaker, she coordinates music for the Welsh American Society of Northern California, has sung with choirs in Wales and the Bay Area, is presently Executive Director of Schola Cantorum and sings with Sine Nomine.

Organist: Donna Llewellyn Swanson, organist and hand-bell choir director at Los Gatos Methodist Church, will be the accompanist. Donna's early musical training was in Detroit with Gordon Young, the well known organist and composer.

Te Bach: A *Te Bach* (little tea) will follow in the church social hall. Coffee and tea will be provided. Donations of Welsh cakes and finger food would be appreciated.

For further information, contact
Idris Evans at (925) 283-0912
or by email at loriteassociates@comcast.net



From San Francisco (24 Eastbound)

Take Oak Hill Road Exit
Turn Right
Turn Left on Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Turn Right on Moraga Road
Church will be on right side
955 Moraga Road

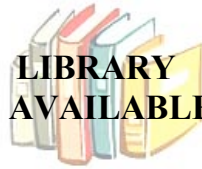
From Sacramento (24 Westbound)

Take Central Lafayette Exit
Stay to the Right on the offramp
Follow ramp to the Right onto 1st St
Turn Left on Moraga Road
Church will be on right side
955 Moraga Road

**On St. David's Day, March 1,
Welsh people around the
world wear daffodils or
leeks to honor St. David,
Patron Saint of Wales.**



WASNC
WELSH AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
www.wasnc.org



NEW DONATIONS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE BOOK CART!

Counselor, parent and author, Ruth Peters knows what works with kids. She's raised two of her own and counseled thousands more through her private practice. In **Laying Down the Law**, you'll learn her 25 best laws of parenting that work with kids of all ages, from preschool to high school. Firm, but fair. Tough, but compassionate. Dr. Peters' innovative approach to parenting will help you teach your children the values and discipline they need to succeed and give them the love they need to thrive. Her straight-talking advice is easy to follow---and works fast to improve your child's behavior!

#1 TEACH YOUR KIDS WHAT REALLY MATTERS

#6 TURN WHINING INTO ACTION

#7 STOP THEIR BAD HABITS

#12 TURN RUDENESS INTO POLITENESS

#16 GET YOUR KIDS TO TALK OPENLY

#24 TEACH THE WORK ETHIC

The Price of Privilege, How Parental Pressure and Material Advantage Are Creating a Generation of Disconnected and Unhappy Kids

by Madeline Levine, PH.D. In this controversial look at privileged families, Levine offers thoughtful, practical advice as she explodes one child-rearing myth after another. With empathy and candor, she identifies parenting practices that are toxic to healthy self-development and that have contributed to epidemic levels of depression, anxiety, and substance abuse in the most unlikely place - the affluent family



FOOD DONATION BASKETS

Times are tough for many of our neighbors and friends here in Contra Costa County. In order to help alleviate hunger here at home, one of the easiest and most effective things we can do as a congregation is to make sure our food donation baskets are filled every week with non-perishable food items (canned fruits & vegetables, soup, boxed pasta, etc.) so that we might help The Contra Costa Food Bank keep their stocks up. Most of us here at LUMC have plenty of food and for that we should be thankful. We should also be thankful that we have this opportunity to help those in need. Please find the food donation baskets (one is located in the west entrance to church and the other has been moved to Fellowship Hall) and help us to fill them up!

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 meeting day, March 4. The baskets will be distributed by the Food Bank.

Join us for the fun of packing baskets on Thursday, March 4. We will meet 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.

There will also be an opportunity to join with Church Women United on Friday, March 5 for the World Day of Prayer. They will gather at LOPC with the program beginning at 10:00 a.m. Doors will be open at 9:15 a.m.



MARCH

Happy Birthday

5	Blake Tollen	15	Lorri Sullivan	25	David Hill
6	Maddy Beeman		Wesley Thomas	26	Stefan Miller
8	Chadwick Follmer	16	Nicholas Purington		Caroline Welch Volk
9	Steve Breashears	17	Rafael Marcus	27	Lindy Evans
	Spencer Davis	18	Eric Schroter	28	Hanna Carter
	Hannelore Heizer		Gabrielle Unzicker		April Logan
11	Chris Coons	19	Bill Cooke		Mary Teichmann
	Jenna Curtis	21	Jane Smith	29	Morgan Faries
13	Matthew Ward	24	Elizabeth Falcone		Jax Gendron
			Michael Sanders		Charlie Heizer
					Greg Newcomb

Happy Anniversary

26	Jeanette and Alistair Shearer
30	Missy and Al Kozacik
31	Kurt and Mary Teichmann

A NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY FOR LUMC IN 2010

The New Year has arrived and so has the time to create a new pictorial directory of our church family. This directory, to be done by Olan Mills, will help us connect names with faces. We haven't had a new pictorial directory since 2005. Please mark your calendars. The photography dates will be May 5, May 6, May 7 and May 8. Signups will begin on Sunday, March 7, following the morning worship service. I'll announce additional details in the February issues of Tower Notes.

In the meanwhile, please check your listing in the most current LUMC non-pictorial directory to be sure all your information is correct. I'll have copies of the listings and will be taking changes during friendship time on February 21 and February 28.

Additionally, I'll need volunteers to help with signups, reminder phone calls and to assist me on the days of photography. I would also like good-quality photographs of church activities taken during the past 1-2 years. See me after morning worship or call me at (925) 254-9146.

I've very excited about coordinating a new pictorial directory for LUMC and I hope all of you will participate. Our new directory won't be complete without you.

Laurel Anne Hill



ALL CHURCH RETREAT APRIL 24-25



Come join the church family again this year at beautiful Monte Toyon Retreat Center near Santa Cruz in the redwoods. This is the perfect get away for singles, couples or the family for spiritual renewal and Christian fellowship. The meals are great and accommodations comfortable. Fees will be posted in the next Tower Notes. The Retreat Committee is working on plans to include all generations.



Around About LUMC

Congratulations to **Paul Welcomer** and the San Francisco Symphony for winning three Grammy Awards for their recording of Mahler's Symphony No. 8 and *Adagio* from Symphony No. 10! Best Classical Album, Best Choral Performance, and Best Engineered Classical Album!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On January 31 we welcomed six persons into the membership of LUMC.

Troy and Victoria Tollen, parents of Blake, age 4, and Brooke, age 2. Troy owns Pacific AirFinance and Victoria is a homemaker. Victoria hails from Texas, having grown up in a Methodist Church.

Mark & Teri Logan are the parents of April & Lindsey. They transferred their membership from Westwood UMC, New Jersey. Teri is homemaker; Mark is a partner in *The Counter* restaurant, with one location in Walnut Creek.

Marilyn Finn was confirmed as a youth LUMC in 1964. She is still in contact with fellow members of her MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship Group). Having experienced hearing loss since age 14, she has long been active with the Hearing Loss Association of America, both on staff and as a volunteer. When working with the chapters, I used an old mission statement and added my own ending. "HLAA changes the way that people think about hearing loss, while changing the way that people with hearing loss think about themselves."

Esther Tan is a native of Singapore, where she was a member of Christ Methodist Church. She is married to Edward Soon; their daughter, Evonne, is a freshman at UC Davis. Esther is Administrative Assistant for the CEO/President of Merchant Bank.



2010 Summer Camps Announced

United Methodist Camps for our California-Nevada United Methodist Churches have been announced for children, junior high and senior high youth. More information is available at www.cnumc.org/camping. Church camp is often a life-changing experience.



St. Mark's United Methodist Church Celebrates 50th Anniversary

A celebration will be held Sunday, March 7, beginning with worship at 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Dr. Jim Current preaching. A Gala Reception will follow. All community members, including "alumni and alumnae" of the Nursery School are invited to attend. Please RSVP to the church office at 925-254-5965 or stmarksorinda@sbcglobal.net.

MORE APPRECIATION EXPRESSED FOR THANKSGIVING and CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Thank you for your generous support of the Mt. Diablo Peace & Justice Center (\$157). Without the support of individual donors like you, our work would not be possible.

From Kenya Partner Ministries – we sent \$230 from gummy worm sales in October:

On behalf of the children in Kenya that we have the privilege of serving, let me tell you what they would say if they could meet you directly – asante sana or “thank you, very much.”

The “buy a worm – save a child” project grew out of a trip in February of 2009 when we had the unbelievable experience of deworming over 7,500 children in the Maua area. This project was in partnership with the Maua Methodist Hospital and their community outreach program. Each \$1.00 purchase of worms will treat 7 children for 6 months.

Kenya Partners is a grass roots network of over 40 churches spanning the U.S. plus a number of individuals – all of which have been affected with the “Kenya bug.” We do feeding programs, provide scholarships, have medical programs, alternative rite of passage programs for young ladies, deworming projects, clean water initiatives and birthing kits. The opportunities in Kenya are endless for putting faith into action. We are very fortunate to partner with the Methodist Church of Kenya and most all projects that we do are done under their watchful eye.

A DVD from Kenya Partners is available in the church office.



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, February 25, 2010**

LUMC CONTACT INFORMATION

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