

Get Connected

Our offering tonight supports our **Advent Generosity** tradition. One way we as a church are showing love to our neighbors this year—both in our community and around the world—is by giving our entire Christmas Eve offering to these three projects:

- ◆ **Hope's Corner, Inc.**, to expand its feeding and shower programs
- ◆ **Compassion Week 2018**, an annual opportunity to do hands-on service and volunteer projects in our community
- ◆ **Response to 2017 Natural Disasters**, a fund to support scholarships and supplies for mission trips to, for example, Mexico, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, Texas, and California

More information about these projects and our tradition of Advent Generosity is available in the church entry or online at www.laumc.org/adventgenerosity2017.

BATON ROUGE FLOOD RECOVERY TRIP

January 28 – February 3

To help Baton Rouge recover from the effects of the recent floods in Louisiana, a team organized by LAUMC will go on a flood recovery trip next month. This trip is open to the general community; prior experience is welcome but not required. Registration is \$235, plus airfare and some meals. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/BRouge> for details and to register **by January 3**. An orientation meeting will be held at LAUMC on Sunday, January 7, 3:00–5:00pm. Contact trip leader Leslie Carmichael (carm-lee@pacbell.net or 650-468-7890) with questions.

MEXICO HOUSE-BUILDING TRIP

April 7–14, 2018

Come on one of LAUMC's annual Mexico trips and put your faith into action! We build simple two-room houses for working people in Tecate. No power tools are used and no prior experience is necessary, so this trip is great for the whole family. Find more details and registration forms at www.laumc.org/mexico. Completed forms and deposits are due **by January 3**, with later registrations accepted if space is available. For more information, including scholarships, contact Leslie Carmichael (carm-lee@pacbell.net).

For a calendar of events, please visit our website: www.laumc.org

SMALL GROUPS AND STUDIES AVAILABLE

Are you looking for a small group to meet new people or a Bible study class to extend your knowledge? Make it your New Year's resolution to join one! LAUMC has current groups open and new groups and classes forming. Visit www.laumc.org/grouplife and click on the "Find a Group" button to browse opportunities.

WORSHIP SERIES PREVIEW: POWER RISING: MAKE US A PEOPLE READY

In 2018, there is an urgency for us to be a people equipped and empowered to be the Church, God's powerful, breathed-into presence in the world. How does that happen? To start off the new year, our next sermon series, "Power Rising," will explore this topic. We hope you will find that worshipping with us on Sundays equips you for your week.

January 7: *Ready to See*

January 14: *Ready to Fail*

We will be honoring the Rev. Dr. Mark Bollwinkel as our newest pastor emeritus.

January 21: *Ready to Forgive*

January 28 (*Africa Sunday*): *Ready to Take a Stand*

We will have special music from a guest African choir.

February 4: *Ready to Risk*

February 11: *Ready to Give Ourselves*

Worship Times Changing

Beginning on December 31 and continuing into the new year, we will worship at two times on Sunday mornings: 8:30 & 10:00am. Coffee fellowship will be at 9:30. Our evening service continues at 5:00pm. We look forward to seeing you again!

Senior Pastor: Kathi McShane

Minister of Music and Worship Arts: Dirk Damonte

Associate Pastor: Sam Lewis

Associate Pastor: Jon Visitacion

Director of Congregational Care: Patricia Parfett

Director of Ministry and Music for Youth: Carol Damonte

Director of Children's Ministries: Michelle Caudle

Children's Center Codirectors: Heidi Bliss and Dee Gray

Pastor Emeritus: John L. Dodson

655 Magdalena Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94024-5297

650-948-1083 FAX: 650-949-5372

After-Hours Urgent Care Line: 650-823-4562

www.laumc.org



Welcome to Los Altos
United Methodist Church!

We believe all persons are children
of God, and we welcome ALL, regardless
of age, cultural background, disabilities,
ethnicity, financial circumstances, gender
identity, marital status, religious tradition,
or sexual orientation.

Los Altos United Methodist Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 24, 2017

PASSIONATE *Worship*



Thoughts/Notes

- ◆ Visitors, please come by the Connection Point to receive a gift.
- ◆ Hearing assist devices are available: see an usher.
- ◆ Please turn off all cell phones and pager alarms.
- ◆ Those able are invited to stand when indicated with the † symbol.
- ◆ FWS: *The Faith We Sing* | UMH: *United Methodist Hymnal*

Gathering Music - Carol Arrangement
Stephen Boniface, organ

Introit
9:00 - *The Night That Christ Was Born* Franklin/Kingsmore
Morning Glory, Bill Golden, Director
11:00 - *Carol of the Angels* Rutter
Chancel Choir, Dr. Shulamit Hoffmann, Director

† **Christmas Carol** - *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, vs. 1, 3, 6
UMH 234

Welcome & Greeting Prayer

† **Christmas Carol** - *Joy to the World*, vs. 1, 2, 4
UMH 246

Scripture Luke 2:1-7

Music
9:00 - *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Brooks/Forrest
Babette McKay, oboe
11:00 - *Annunciation Carol* Cock

Scripture Luke 2:8-14

Christmas Eve Prayer
Choral Preparation
Pastoral Prayer

Christmas Carol - *The First Noel*, vs. 1-3 UMH 245

Scripture Matthew 2:1-2, 5-6, 9-12

Music
9:00 - *Some Children See Him* Hutson/Burt/Rouse
Sharlyn Heron, cello
11:00 - *Celtic Advent Carol* Angerman/Barrett
Jan Grady, flute

Message Rev. Kathi McShane

Christmas Eve Offering
In addition to the offering plate, donations may be made online (<https://laumc.onlinegiving.org/>) or by texting a gift amount to 650-229-5200. Tonight, you may also give with your credit card in the back of the Sanctuary. Info cards are in the pew pockets.

Offering Music - *I Wonder As I Wander* Hebble

Lighting the Christ Candle

† **Christmas Carol** - *Silent Night, Holy Night* UMH 239
We will light candles as we sing.

Going Forth to Christmas

Postlude

The Sanctuary and media images of the blue doors are from the collage piece "Crossing the Threshold" © Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com

The Worship Arts Committee thanks Mary Ellen Snodgrass for loaning her collection of angels, which decorate the Tree of Angels in the Narthex.

*God's promise was not to exempt the faithful from pain;
God's promise was to come into our darkness.
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
Into this silent night as we make our weary way
we know not where,
just when the night becomes its darkest,
and we cannot see our path,
just then is when the angels rush in,
their hands full of stars.
(Ann Weems, *Searching for Shalom*)*

*Thank you,
scandalous God,
for giving yourself to the world
not in the powerful and extraordinary,
but in weakness and the familiar:
in a baby: in bread and wine.
Thank you
for offering, at journey's end, a new beginning;
for setting, in the poverty of a stable,
the richest jewel of your love;
for revealing, in a particular place,
your light for all nations.
Thank you
for bringing us to Bethlehem, House of Bread,
where the empty are filled,
and the filled are emptied;
where the poor find riches,
and the rich recognize their poverty;
where all who kneel and hold out their hands
are unstintingly fed.
(Kate Compston, *Bread for Tomorrow*)*