

# Prayer Concerns

**IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD:** Please pray for those who are hungry, displaced, sick, or in poverty because of natural and human-made disasters, and for the workers who minister to them.

**SYMPATHY:** Our condolences go out to Kristie Olah and her family for the recent loss of Kristie's mother, Marjorie Shannon. Please pray with them as they go through this time of transition.

Our condolences go out to Betsy Sowder and her family for the recent loss of Betsy's mother, Valda Tormey. Please pray with them as they go through this time of transition.

**PRAYERS:** Jim Giulie, Herb Peterson, Mike Beamer, Milt Wehrman, Lori Draper

## **MEN & WOMEN IN UNIFORM AROUND THE WORLD:**

Rachel Z. E. Sheridan (USAF), James Dobson (USAF), Devin Kenny-Hernandez (USA), Phillip Lyman (USA), JP Springsteel, Jared Vallner (USA)

### **Today's Guest Preacher: Rev. Claudine Leary**

Claudine Leary serves the General Board of Discipleship Ministries as the Director of Fund Development, tasked to raise much needed funds to advance the work of Discipleship Ministries. An elder in the West Ohio Conference and a proud graduate of Africa University, Claudine served as Director of Development for the Methodist Theological School in Ohio before joining the Discipleship Ministries.

Claudine is also the co-founder of Watoto Read, a nonprofit organization that resources and advocates for primary education of refugee children in refugee camps in Sub Saharan Africa. Watoto Read currently has projects in Chad and Malawi refugee camps.

Claudine Leary was born and reared in Rwanda, East Central Africa. She moved to Zimbabwe in 1997 to attend Africa University. After her graduation in 2001, having earned her Bachelor of Science degree in business studies, she moved to the United States in 2003 and enrolled at Fairmont State University in West Virginia. She earned her MBA from Fairmont in 2009. Claudine earned her Master of Divinity degree from Methodist Theological School in Ohio in 2014, and she is currently a PhD candidate in Leadership and Change program at Antioch University.

Rev. Leary is married to Allan Leary, an American Navy Veteran. They have three children.



## The Proof

## Rev. Claudine Leary

We are a Changemaker church, committed to following Jesus' example of having compassion for all people, and celebrating God's gift of diversity. We strive to create a church home where people of every gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, immigration and socioeconomic status can unite in the mission of God's love.

All are welcome here!

**Sunday, December 8, 2024**

8:30 am

**Los Altos United Methodist Church**  
655 Magdalena Ave, Los Altos CA 94024  
[www.laumc.org](http://www.laumc.org)

# Morning Worship

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<b>Prelude</b> - <i>Amazing Grace</i>	arr. Sue Alleluia Ringers, ernie Sapigao, director
<b>Welcome</b>	Pastor Dave Samelson
<b>Introit</b> - <i>Let It Shine</i>	D. Damonte Carol Damonte, Dirk Damonte, Casie Walker
<b>Lighting the Advent Candle</b>	
<b>Hymn</b> - <i>Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus</i>	UMH 196
<b>Pastoral Prayer &amp; Lord's Prayer</b>	Pastor Jeong Park
<b>Bible Reading</b>	Matthew 11:1-7 Siteri Maravou
<b>Anthem</b> - <i>What Can It Possibly Mean?</i>	Carol Damonte, Dirk Damonte, Casie Walker
<b>Message</b> - <i>The Proof</i>	Rev. Claudine Leary
<b>Advent Song</b> - <i>The Way</i>	D. Damonte
<b>Advent Generosity</b>	Ashish Farmer
<b>Offering</b>	Timothy Loewen-Elofson
<b>Offertory</b> - <i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	arr. Sue Alleluia Ringers, Ernie Sapigao, director
<b>Announcements</b>	Pastor Dave Samelson
<b>Sending Forth</b>	Pastor Dave Samelson
<b>Song of Blessing</b> - <i>Star-Child</i>	FWS 2095
<b>Postlude</b> - <i>Good Christian Folk, Rejoice</i>	arr. Sue Alleluia Ringers, Ernie Sapigao, director

# Get Connected

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## **SALEABRATON 2024 - SAVE THE DATE: February 2, 2025**

Enjoy shopping for baked goodies and gifts for Superbowl and Valentine's. All proceeds fund scholarships for African Women at Africa University. Questions? Lisa Sherard (408) 334-8244

## **ANGEL TREE 2024 (GIFTS & GIFT WRAPPING): December 8 & 15**

We have been assigned 47 kids this year! Our Christmas tree will be in the narthex Dec. 8. Those who want to participate in creating joy for these kids can select Gift Tags from the tree. All gifts must be returned to the narthex by Dec. 15 where they will be wrapped by volunteers. [LAUMC.org/Angel-Tree-2024](http://LAUMC.org/Angel-Tree-2024)

## **CHANGEMAKER ADVENT DEVOTIONAL: December 1 to 25**

Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus, the ultimate Changmaker. We invite you to receive a daily email devotional written by Changemakers from LAUMC and across the country. Sign up at [thechangemakerinitiative.org](http://thechangemakerinitiative.org)

## **JUSTFAITH CLASS: DISRUPTING DARKNESS: Classes - Sundays, Dec. 1 to 22**

Discover the real meaning of Christmas and discern how the Christmas Story might be calling you to live differently. [yvonne@thechangemakerinitiative.org](mailto:yvonne@thechangemakerinitiative.org)

## **MUSIC OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS, WITH PASTOR DIRK: Thursdays, thru Dec. 19**

Join Pastor Dirk and celebrate the wonderful music of Advent and Christmas with dinner & a class! Learn about the history of some of our favorite carols and songs, learn new ones, and immerse in the joy and wonder of this beautiful season through its music through the ages. [LAUMC.org/Advent-Christmas-Music](http://LAUMC.org/Advent-Christmas-Music)

## **CHRISTMAS AT THE PARSONAGE: Friday, December 13, 6:30 - 7:45 pm**

Families with young children are invited for games, Christmas carols, hot cocoa, and to hear the Christmas story read by Mrs. Santa. Feel free to wear cozy pajamas or festive holiday attire. Register at [LAUMC.org/children](http://LAUMC.org/children)

## **LAUMC NEW MEMBERS & BAPTISM CLASS: Saturday, Dec. 14, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm**

This retreat is for persons who are considering church membership and/or baptism. It is held at the Senior Pastor Parsonage. [LAUMC.org/new-member-class](http://LAUMC.org/new-member-class)

## **STORY HOUR WITH MS. SHARON: Saturday, December 14 at 9:30 am**

Join us for stories, music, and movement all about Winter Tales!

## **A FESTIVAL OF CAROLS & LIGHTS: Saturday, December 14 at 7:00 pm**

The Festival of Carols & Lights will feature a final performance of Dirk Damonte's Magnificat. If you have ever sung this with us or would like to, we hope you'll join us!

## **LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE: Monday, December 16 at 7:00 pm**

A reflective, contemplative service full of music and candlelight, especially for those to whom this season brings sadness or loss. Find solace, safety, and warmth if you are suffering in your heart during this season or feeling overwhelmed.

## **GEN2GEN CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON: Tuesday, December 17 at 11:30 am**

Come sing along with Santa in the Youth Room. For those unable to attend in person, you may join by Zoom during our caroling time. 'Tis the season to be jolly and count our blessings! Questions? [morrisont2002@aol.com](mailto:morrisont2002@aol.com) or [LAUMC.org/gen2gen](http://LAUMC.org/gen2gen)

## **WEHOPE CHRISTMAS DINNER-CALLING ALL BAKERS: December 18 or 19**

We are in need of 20 individuals to bake homemade Christmas Cookies (2 dozen each) to be delivered to the LAUMC kitchen on Dec.18 or the morning of Dec. 19th. Contribute to this wonderful meal by contacting Julie McPherson at [juliemcp623@gmail.com](mailto:juliemcp623@gmail.com) or [LAUMC.org/Bakers](http://LAUMC.org/Bakers)