



## **Little Brown Church of Sunol**

United Church of Christ – Congregational

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### **February 2018**

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#### **February-March Calendar**

Sunday, Feb. 4 ... Souper Bowl of Caring

Wednesday, Feb. 14 ... 7:30 p.m., Ash Wednesday, Niles Discovery Church

Sunday, February 25 ... Annual congregational meeting

Saturday, March 10 ... SRT refreshments

Sunday, March 11 ... Daylight Saving Time begins (spring forward)

Sunday, March 25 ... Palm Sunday

Friday, March 30 ... Good Friday (joint service)

Sunday, April 1 ... Easter Sunday

#### **Lent and Easter Schedule**

The **Ash Wednesday** service will be at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 14, at Niles Discovery Church, 36600 Niles Blvd., Fremont. This is a joint service with five UCC congregations.

**Palm Sunday**, March 25, will be celebrated at Little Brown Church.

Another joint service will be held on **Good Friday**, March 30. Details TBA.

On **Easter Sunday**, April 1, please bring flowers to Little Brown Church to decorate our sanctuary.

#### **Souper Bowl of Caring, Feb. 4**

Every year, Little Brown Church joins with scores of churches nationwide on Super Bowl Sunday to collect money to feed the hungry. The idea is to contribute a small sum roughly equal to the value of the snacks you'll eat while watching the game. All of the money goes directly to

local charities which serve the poor. Over the years, \$100 million has been collected in this way. And you don't even have to be a football fan! Your newsletter editor doesn't even know for sure who's playing, but she will participate by emptying her coin purse into the collection plate this Sunday.

### **Sunol Repertory Theater**

Little Brown Church will provide refreshments at the SRT performance on Saturday, March 10. Barbara Egbert will be asking people to provide cookies, cupcakes, brownies and other finger food; strawberries; beverages; and coffee. This is a good opportunity to meet the community and make a little money from donations. As usual, several LBC members are involved in this year's SRT production, which is shaping up to be a very entertaining comedy.

### **Agenda for Feb. 25 congregational meeting**

From Council Chairman Allen Cook:

For this month's newsletter, I want to provide everyone with a preview of the agenda for this year's annual congregational membership meeting, scheduled later than usual on February 25, 2018, due in part to my absence in January and most of February. The agenda is subject to last minute changes, but should give everyone an idea of what we plan to cover in our annual meeting.

#### Meeting Agenda

- \* Chair/Moderator calls meeting to order
- \* Invocation (Mary)
- \* Council member reports
- \* Pastor's Report (Mary)
- \* Council Chair Report (Allen), including Buildings & Grounds (Allen for Kevin)
- \* Member at Large (Helene)
- \* Member at Large (Susan)
- \* Treasury's 2018 Budget review & vote on its approval (Landy)
- \* Council positions up for election
- \* Any other matters to come before the congregation
- \* Chair/moderator adjourns the meeting

Thank you all,  
Allen Cook

### **Spring shelter dinners**

Thanks to everyone who helped provide dinner to the residents of Fremont's Sunrise Village homeless shelter on Monday, Jan. 29. The residents loved the chicken pot pies – there were no leftovers!

We have two more dates lined up so far in 2018 to provide the evening meal at Sunrise Village. Please let Robin Spindler know if you can help. Cooks and servers should be at the shelter at 588 Brown Road between 4 and 5 p.m. Menu ideas are always welcome.

So far, we have committed to cooking on these dates:

- Tuesday, April 17, 2018
- Tuesday, June 19, 2018

## **Lent Madness 2018**

### ***The Sainly Smackdown is Back!***

By now you've heard that Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day coincide this year. The real Lenten *love*, however, kicks off the next day on Feb. 15. Why? Because for the ninth year running, people of faith are gearing up for Lent Madness, the beloved "sainly smackdown!" With its unique blend of competition, learning, and humor, Lent Madness allows participants to be inspired by the ways in which God has worked through the lives of saintly souls across generations and cultures. Throughout Lent, 32 saints will do battle to win the coveted Golden Halo. Based loosely on the NCAA basketball tournament of a similar name, this online devotion pits saints against one another in a bracket as voters choose their favorites throughout this penitential season.

Here's how to participate: on the weekdays of Lent, information is posted at <http://www.lentmadness.org> about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next round. Sixteen saints make it to the Round of the Sainly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo.

The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch.

This year Lent Madness features an intriguing slate of saints ancient and modern, Biblical and ecclesiastical. 2018 heavyweights include John the Evangelist, Margaret of Scotland, Richard Hooker, Katharina von Bora, and the apostles Peter and Paul.

The full bracket is online at the Lent Madness website <http://www.lentmadness.org> and, while not necessary to participate, you can order *The Sainly Scorecard: The Definitive Guide to Lent Madness 2018* at <http://www.forwardmovement.org>. This companion guide includes biographies of all 32 saints, a full-color bracket, information about how to fully participate, and a series of Pocket Lent trading cards.

Lent Madness began in 2010 as the brainchild of the Rev. Tim Schenck, an Episcopal priest and rector of St. John's Church in Hingham, Mass. In seeking a fun, engaging way for people to learn about the men and women who make up the church's calendar of saints, Schenck devised this devotion. Combining his love of sports with his passion for the lives of the saints, Lent Madness was born.

Starting in 2012, Schenck partnered with Forward Movement (the same folks that publish *Forward Day by Day*) executive director Scott Gunn, to bring Lent Madness to the masses. Schenck and Gunn form the self-appointed Supreme Executive Committee, a more-or-less benevolent dictatorship that runs the entire operation.

The formula has worked as this online devotional has been featured in media outlets all over the country including national television, the Washington Post, NPR, USAToday, and even Sports Illustrated (seriously). More importantly thousands of people have been inspired by the saintly stories of those who have come before us in the faith.

Eleven “celebrity bloggers” from across the country have been tapped to write for the project: the Rev. Amber Belldene of San Francisco, CA; the Rev. Laurie Brock of Lexington, KY; the Rev. Megan Castellon of Kansas City, MO; Anna Fitch Courie of Honolulu, HI; Dr. David Creech of Moorhead, MN; Neva Rae Fox of Somerville, NJ; the Rev. David Hansen of Woodlands, TX; Emily Miller of Chicago, IL; Carol Howard Merritt of Chattanooga, TN; The Rev. Marcus Halley of Minneapolis, MN; and the Rev. David Sibley of Manhasset, NY. Information about each of the celebrity bloggers and the rest of the team is available on the Lent Madness website.

If you’re looking for a Lenten discipline that is fun, educational, occasionally goofy, and always joyful, join the Lent Madness journey. Lent needn’t be all doom and gloom. After all, what could be more joyful than a season specifically set aside to get closer to Jesus Christ?

[Tim Schenck](#) | January 17, 2018

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**LITTLE BROWN CHURCH OF SUNOL**

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