



## **Little Brown Church of Sunol**

United Church of Christ – Congregational

P. O. Box 124

141 Kilkare Rd

Sunol, CA 94586

Phone: 925-862-2004

[www.thelittlebrownchurchofsunol.org](http://www.thelittlebrownchurchofsunol.org)

Tax ID Number 93-1211708

## **May 2020**

### **Update:**

**Worship services at LBC continue to be suspended during the coronavirus pandemic. We are worshipping together in spirit and looking forward to being able to gather in community again.**

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### **May-June Calendar**

**Please look for ways to observe these events while maintaining social distancing.**

Sunday, May 10 ... Mother's Day

Monday, May 25 ... Memorial Day

Saturday, May 30 ... Online special conference, NCNC UCC

Sunday, May 31 ... Pentecost

Sunday, June 21 ... Father's Day

### **Looking Out for Each Other**

Do you know of somebody who is struggling financially with the consequences of the pandemic? Let us know if somebody could use extra help with food or anything else.

While many Americans have received stimulus checks or will soon be signed up for unemployment benefits, others are falling through the cracks and may need temporary help. You can respond to this newsletter or get in touch directly with Pastor Mary.

### **A Message from Pastor Mary**

Every couple of days I go inside the church to check up on the building. Usually I enter through the Babbitt Hall door to check that the refrigerator is still humming along and there are no leaks or broken windows. I swing through the restrooms to make sure the toilets are not running and then I exit through the sanctuary door.

My last time in the building, as I was exiting through the narthex, I had this wild urge to grab the rope and ring the bell. I needed to hear the bell. I needed to feel the familiar weight of tugging the rope down and then letting it ride back up seven times. The town needed to hear the bell peal out over the neighborhood signaling that Little Brown Church is still here, and God has not forgotten all of us in this pandemic.

The bell ringing impulse passed. A cooler head prevailed as it dawned on me that folks might become concerned if the bell rang out at an odd time during the middle of the week.

This time of corona virus sheltering in place, social distancing, excessive anxiety, and worry about ourselves, neighbor, country, and world will not last forever. The church and its people have survived pandemics before. We will persevere and come out changed and stronger on the other side. And when we do, the bell will still be up in the steeple, and that rope hanging in the narthex will be waiting to be pulled. AMEN

### **A Message from Church Council Chair Allen Cook**

Greetings everyone,

We are entering the second month or more of shelter-in-place policies and quarantine against the worldwide coronavirus. These are unprecedented times not seen since the 1918 Spanish influenza pandemic. I'm sure all of you miss being able to attend our weekly Sunday 10:30 a.m. services at Little Brown Church. I know Margie and I both do. We are most grateful for Barbara Egbert's weekly email posting of a virtual Sunday service, along with Pastor Mary Conant's sermon which everyone may seek inspiration from.

As this pandemic slowly ebbs away and more businesses are allowed to open, we will again be able to meet at Little Brown Church each Sunday. Until then, please be safe and stay healthy.

Blessings to all,  
Allen Cook

### **Special Conference meeting notice** **NCNC UCC**

In light of the continued California statewide shelter-in-place order, as well as Sonoma State University cancelling all campus reservations and activities in June, the Conference Council of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ has called a **Special Conference Meeting** to be held **online on Saturday, May 30, 2020 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon Pacific Time.**

