



## **Little Brown Church of Sunol**

United Church of Christ – Congregational

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**Worship services at LBC continue to be suspended during the coronavirus pandemic. Current Alameda County rules allow only activity, travel, and business functions tied to the most essential needs. We are worshipping together in spirit and looking forward to being able to gather in community again.**

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### **June-July Calendar**

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

Sunday, June 21 ... Father's Day

Saturday, July 4 ... Independence Day

### **A Fond Farewell**

Kevin Matlock – longtime LBC member, church councilman, usher-in-residence, and all-around helpful guy – is moving to Hillsboro, Oregon, to be nearer his daughter. We will miss him very much and wish him the best in his new home. He is excited about the move but also very sad to be leaving LBC. (Please email Pastor Mary or respond to this newsletter if you need his contact information so you can keep in touch.)

### **Our High School Graduate**

At LBC, we recognize high school graduates as they move onto the next stage in life. This year, Hunter Hathcox has that honor. He is graduating from Castro Valley High School with a rope for bi-literacy and with honors. He also received the Teacher's Award in Physics at the Senior Awards Ceremony. Hunter is raising two pigs as a 4-H project and plans to sell them on July 12 at the County Fair Auction, which will most likely be a virtual auction. He is president of Sunol 4-H this year. Hunter will study civil engineering at the University of Iowa.



Hunter Hathcock



The Hathcock Clan

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

Greetings everyone,

As we enter the third month of COVID-19 quarantine, state officials on May 25 issued new guidelines for reopening churches. Below is a reprint of those guidelines. Little Brown Church council will meet in the near future to determine how and when to reopen our beloved church in a **safe and sane** way.

General guidelines:

1. California health officials say places of worship must limit attendance to 25 percent of building capacity or a maximum of 100 attendees, whichever is lower.
2. The state says these places of worship should implement physical distancing of at least 6 feet between congregants and staff with visible markings or possibly limiting seating to alternate rows.
3. Family members who live within the same household are allowed to sit next to one another. Health officials say children should remain with their families for the entirety of the service.
4. Staff members and congregants should be screened for symptoms and have their temperatures checked before entering the building. People are strongly recommended to wear face masks.
5. The state says places of worship should implement physical distancing of at least 6 feet between congregants and the staff with visible markings or possibly limiting seating to alternate rows.

Finally, with most of our congregation's age being in that vulnerable range of over 50, 60, and even 70+, we must use extra caution to finally, once again, open our doors. Until then, stay safe and we will eventually see each other in the future.

Blessings to all,

Allen Cook

## **News from Sunrise Village Emergency Shelter**

Many LBC members have helped cook and serve meals at Sunrise Village Emergency Shelter in Fremont. Here is some news from Jean Morgan, community outreach director for Abode Services, whom many of us have worked with. Jean is extra busy these days as she coordinates new kinds of volunteer and donor services.

The shelter residents include 16 single men, 14 single women, and ten families. Those families include 19 children, from infants (2 to 4 months) to a teenager (18). Most are age 3 to 5. The few older children have laptops provided by the school district and are being home-schooled by their parents. Jean says the shelter is even noisier than ever with all those kids home all day!

Monica Quintana, kitchen coordinator, is doing all the cooking herself. She does get some help from Chef Luis from the City of Fremont Senior Center, who comes in and helps to prep the food once or twice a week. Otherwise, for safety reasons, only the staff and residents who live at Sunrise Village Shelter are allowed in the building. But that doesn't mean there's nothing for volunteers to do. Some of the meal groups are delivering the food to be cooked for their meal dates and have also arranged for local restaurants to contribute food to the shelter. Others are buying food from local shops (Subway, for example) and having the sandwiches and

other meals delivered to the shelter by DoorDash, thus helping feed the residents and supporting local businesses at the same time.

And there's a new outlet for volunteers: sewing masks. Community members are sewing masks for staffers and residents, and making small ones for the children as well.

The shelter is very much focused on keeping staff and residents healthy, with hand-washing stations, staggered hours at the dining hall, a clear plastic "sneeze guard" at the front desk, and signs and markers everywhere about cleanliness and social distancing. Every resident has been provided with a personal PPE (personal protective equipment) kit including masks, gloves, and hand sanitizers. And while residents still wash the dishes and help with housekeeping, Sunrise Village has hired a cleaning service to provide a daily thorough cleaning and sanitize the building. Also, temperatures are taken daily.

Some residents are still working outside the facility at "essential jobs" and others have been furloughed. Families can still visit nearby parks and otherwise go for walks with the children, but – as with the rest of us – some cabin fever is inevitable.

Jean said she misses interacting directly with volunteers and donors but is grateful for the new ways people are finding to help.

### **Fire Season Alerts**

Two LBC members – Robin Spindler and Barbara Egbert – are part of the Sunol Good to Go leadership team in charge of informing residents on how to prepare for possible wildfire evacuations. For those of you who live in Sunol, watch for information in the coming weeks on how to plan for evacuations. For everybody, sign up with AC Alerts at <https://acgov.org/emergencysite/> if you haven't already so you will receive county-wide emergency information.

In a nutshell:

- During windy weather, especially when it's hot and dry, take responsibility for deciding whether, when, and how to evacuate.
- Have a Go Bag ready for every member of the household, including pets. Be prepared to spend days away from home. (Many online sites suggest Go Bag contents.)
- Ahead of time, store crucial but private personal information (like birth certificates and insurance documents) in the cloud so you can retrieve them remotely if necessary.
- Make a list of last-minute things to take and chores to do and tape it to the door.

Much more information will be available as the Good to Go team continues working.

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### **LITTLE BROWN CHURCH OF SUNOL**

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