



## **Little Brown Church of Sunol**

United Church of Christ – Congregational  
P. O. Box 124  
141 Kilkare Rd  
Sunol, CA 94586

[www.thelittlebrownchurchofsunol.org](http://www.thelittlebrownchurchofsunol.org)  
Tax ID Number 93-1211708

### **February 2022 Newsletter**

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

Sunday, Feb. 13 ... Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday

Wednesday, March 2 ... Ash Wednesday

Sunday, March 13 ... Daylight Saving Time begins

#### **Annual Meeting Report**

After a long hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Little Brown Church held its annual meeting following services on Sunday, Jan. 23. Council Chair Allen Cook noted that LBC resumed in-person worship on June 20 after a 16-month closure during which community was maintained via email. Pastor Mary noted that our virtual congregation has grown (although our in-person numbers have dwindled) and the emailed Sunday services (which Barbara Egbert continues to distribute) fill a real need.

Allen recognized Helene Villarreal's continued care for the church grounds and noted that we had to replace the heating system in the parsonage, largely due to rodent damage, at a cost of about \$11,000. (Rental of the parsonage and the Kirk house contribute the majority of LBC's budget.) Allen said more maintenance projects need to be completed: Babbitt Hall is sinking at the northwest corner and needs to be lifted with specialty house-lifting jacks; the hall's linoleum floor needs to be replaced once the hall itself is level; paint on the sanctuary and parsonage need touching up; and railroad ties should be installed in the parking area where there used to be a bridge across Sinbad Creek.

Treasurer Landy White presented detailed financial information and laid out a 2022 budget that includes a \$10,000 deficit. He noted that membership offerings are way down and of course we weren't able to rent out the church for AA meetings, weddings, or any other activities during the lockdown. Also, our fire insurance company canceled our policy due to Sunol's fire-prone

location and we had to go with the state's insurer of last resort, the California FAIR Plan Association, at significantly higher cost.

The congregation voted to stop paying for a phone for the church (which hasn't worked for a couple years anyway, with no help from AT&T); to accept a deficit budget for now; and to direct the council to arrange for strategic planning, to include membership meetings and outreach to our UCC conference and possibly other groups to explore new sources of income.

(Electronic copies of Landy's financial report can be obtained by responding to this email.)

### **Souper Bowl of Caring**

The Super Bowl will be held on Feb. 13, which means the Really Big Event of the month falls on that same day: the Souper Bowl of Caring.

For 30 years, churches have been collecting money on the same day as the Super Bowl to help local charities and food banks deliver a bowl of soup (thus the name) and other nutrition to needy people.

The Little Brown Church has been participating for about 10 years.

The idea is to figure out about how much you spend on snacks for the game and then donate that much at church specifically to help the hungry. Typically, youth groups collect the small change from worshippers and decide where best to donate the money.

This year, we urge everyone to donate at church on Sunday morning or send a check to the church (P.O. Box 124, Sunol, 94586) specifically for this cause. OR, if you are living outside of the Sunol area, feel free to donate to a food bank in your own community. One thing we ask: let us know how much you donated. (You can just reply to this email.) The national organization that tracks giving on this day keeps a total of all contributions that are inspired by the Souper Bowl of Caring and we report the donations made by LBC's friends and members.

### **Pandemic restrictions**

Current rules from Alameda County public health officials require masks for everyone, regardless of vaccination status, in all indoor public settings. We will also observe social distancing and continue suspending the sacrament of Holy Communion.

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

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