



Little Brown Church of Sunol

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

www.thelittlebrownchurchofsunol.org
Tax ID Number 93-1211708

July 2022 Newsletter

In this issue:

- July calendar
- Update fund-raising effort
- Memorial service

July Calendar

Monday, July 4 ... Independence Day

Fund-raising effort

We encourage you to be generous in your response to the current fund-raising effort for LBC. A special one-time donation will help keep LBC physically and financially secure. You can mail checks to Little Brown Church, P. O. Box 124, Sunol, CA 94586. Questions? Please respond to this email; or get in touch with Pastor Mary at 510-866-3167, mpconant@comcast.net; or email Council Chair Allen Cook at Allen6028@aol.com.

Doris's Memorial Service

Many Sunolians and LBC members attended the July 26 memorial service for Doris Miller. Doris was a long-time member of LBC, a published author, and a well-known character around town. Below is the biography written by Barbara Egbert. Photos are by Allen Cook. Attached to this newsletter are Pastor Mary's eulogy and LBC member Mary Chambers' reflection. Special thanks to Helene Villarreal for taking charge of the reception and to Mary Chambers for formatting the program.



Doris Miller

December 9, 1927 – May 31, 2022

Doris Miller was a remarkable woman. Born December 9, 1927, she grew up on a chicken farm in Massachusetts. She learned to whistle as a child to calm the hens as she collected their eggs and as an adult became an accomplished whistler, entertaining at events such as the 2012 performances by Sunol Repertory Theater.

Doris eloped with Charlie Rogers (over her mother’s objections) while finishing her college degree. Along with their newborn daughter, Ann, Doris and Charlie moved to Manila as part of an American contingent helping the Philippines recover from the ravages of WWII. Her experiences there as a young wife and mother formed the basis for her recently published



book, *Welcome to Luzon*. One of the highlights for Doris last year was a book-signing event here at the church that attracted several of Doris’s old friends.

Doris and Charlie had two more children, David and Bruce. They lived in many California communities, plus Illinois, before moving to Sunol. Doris later moved to Oregon and finally settled down in Sunol in 2003 to stay. Her sons remember living in Marin County, Castro Valley, Davis, Tustin, Modesto, and Chicago Heights.

Doris was an active member of the Little Brown Church of Sunol, attending worship services however she could get here, whether walking, driving, or getting a lift from friends. Even after a broken hip put her in a wheelchair, she

continued attending as long as she could. We always waited for Bruce to bring Doris to church before we rang the bell to open the service. Afterwards, Bruce waited to hear the closing bell ring, and then he knew it was time to pick her up.

Doris’s garden was well-known around Sunol. She brought many beautiful flower arrangements to church. She often urged a church member to take the bouquet home afterwards, always remembering to return the vase – she and Bruce seemed to have an endless supply of unique vases.

Doris also loved birds and butterflies. She was famous for her butterfly-themed clothing and jewelry and she always dressed up special for holidays.

Doris’s survivors include daughter Ann Rankine of Worland, Wyoming, and sons David Rogers and Bruce Rogers, both of Sunol; two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. We extend our sincere sympathy to all of them.

Doris will be much missed by all of us who remember her enthusiasm for life, her sense of humor, and her deep friendships.

{ } { } { } { } { } { } { } { }

LITTLE BROWN CHURCH OF SUNOL

Pastor: The Rev. Mary P. Conant, phone 510-866-3167, email mpconant@comcast.net