



## **Little Brown Church of Sunol**

United Church of Christ – Congregational  
P. O. Box 124  
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### **September 2022 Newsletter**

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- September-October calendar
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#### **September-October Calendar**

Monday, September 5 ... Labor Day  
Thursday, September 22 ... First Day of Autumn  
Monday, October 10 ... Indigenous Peoples Day  
Monday, October 31 ... Halloween

#### **How to Join the Little Brown Church**

How does one become a member of Little Brown Church of Sunol? It really is quite simple. It can happen three ways; Baptism and Confirmation; Reaffirmation of Faith; and Letter of Transfer from a different congregation. How can that be? The reasons go back about 400, even though LBC is only 137 years old.

The Little Brown Church is a member of the United Church of Christ. But unlike many Christian churches, the basic unit of the life and organization of the UCC is the local church. The local church functions completely autonomously from the larger church, organized in a very democratic fashion, ordering itself by membership and voting. Each local church manages its own affairs, from methods of worship, to what to call itself, to paying its bills. For example, the Little Brown Church used to be called the Sunol Glen Congregational Church and was painted white. In 1954, the members changed its name and painted it brown. They voted on the change and had to ask no one's permission to act.

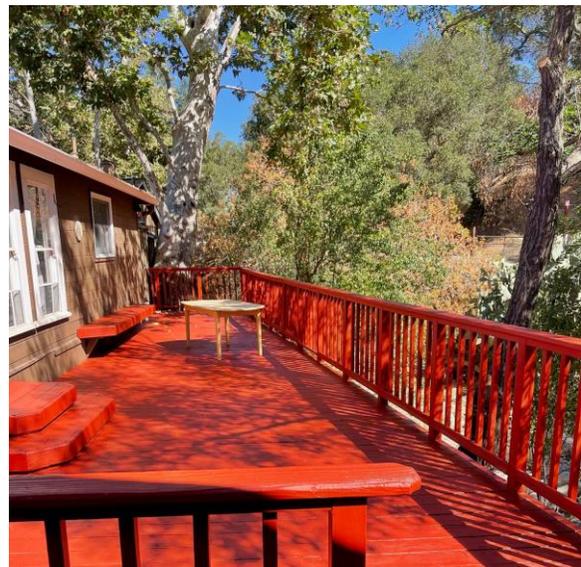
Why? Because the United Church of Christ comes from the non-doctrinal tradition. Our Purpose Statement (from the Gospel of Matthew) is: "To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves." And our mission statement is just as simple: "United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all." There is no test to ferret out what you may or may not believe. The church does not stand between you and

your relationship with God, and freedom of conscience is held in high regard. There is also no restriction that says you can belong only to the UCC and not retain connection to any other Christian church.

At this time, we would welcome friends of the church to join in membership with us. Joining in membership allows those who care about the church to help be responsible in all its decision making. And that is at the heart of our democratic process. If anyone would like to join, please be in contact with Mary.

**A New Look at the Parsonage**

The parsonage's front and rear wood decks received some needed maintenance during August and now look great after power washing and painting. Photos: Allen Cook



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**LITTLE BROWN CHURCH OF SUNOL**

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