



## **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

### **June 2023 Newsletter**

#### **In this issue:**

- June-July calendar
- Thank you note
- Editor's comments

#### **June-July Calendar**

Sunday, June 18 ... Father's Day

Tuesday, July 4 ... Independence Day

#### **Sand removed!**

A big vote of thanks goes to Sunolian Benjamin Harrison and local business DRT Grading and Paving for removing the sand pile from in front of the church. The Alameda County Public Works Department put the sand there during last winter's floods so that residents could fill sandbags. We were OK with that due to the emergency (although we were not asked ahead of time) but needed the sand removed since it takes up several of our few parking spaces. Public Works was aware of the situation but wouldn't commit to any action. Luckily, Mr. Harrison went ahead and volunteered when this came up during the May meeting of the Sunol Advisory Council (of which Pastor Mary is a member). We will store the remaining sandbags at the church in preparation for the next round of atmospheric rivers.

#### **A Note from the Editor**

An article from the United Church of Christ national news page describes threats by far-right groups against two UCC congregations. One church is a member of our own Northern California Nevada Conference: Loomis Basin Congregational UCC in the community of Loomis, between Sacramento and Auburn. The other, Community Church of Chesterland, Ohio, is near Cleveland. Both churches have been receiving death threats and hate messages, and the Ohio church was attacked with Molotov cocktails. Both are Open and Affirming churches – just like the Little Brown Church.

Loomis Basin and Community Church have been actively supporting the LGBTQ+ community for several years and both have sponsored drag shows in the past. But they have been caught up in the current wave of attacks against people with gay, trans, and non-binary identities. The national UCC is standing in solidarity with them and promising to use its resources to keep them safe.

For more information, go to these sites:

<https://www.ucc.org/churches-in-ohio-california-attacked-for-sponsoring-drag-shows/>

<https://www.loomisucc.org/press-release>

Here in California, we sometimes feel distant from the targeting of marginalized communities by hate groups in other states. Our own governor started handing out same-sex marriage licenses 20 years ago, right? How bad can it be when a nearby private university's annual Drag Fest featured appearances by the provost, the vice provost, and the dean of students, all of them nationally known academicians? Sadly, any complacency is clearly premature.

Pastor Casey Tinnin at Loomis Basin, who has been personally targeted by hate groups, knows that standing up for what's right comes with risks. In a Loomis Basin UCC news release, he said: "In the midst of a national political attack on the LGBTQ+ community, we are committed to walking in the way of Jesus. This means that we stand with the most marginalized communities including LGBTQ+ individuals, and we stand against religious extremism that would cast these beloved people out. In this moment in history we must not be silent to injustice. We understand that the arc of justice is long, and we are committed to building a safer, kinder, and more welcoming Placer County for all of God's people."

— Barbara Egbert

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

**LITTLE BROWN CHURCH OF SUNOL**

**Pastor: The Rev. Mary P. Conant, phone 510-866-3167, email [mpconant@comcast.net](mailto:mpconant@comcast.net)**