



Little Brown Church of Sunol

United Church of Christ – Congregational
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October 2023 Newsletter

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October-November Calendar

Sunday, October 29 ... Reformation Sunday
Tuesday, October 31 ... Halloween
Sunday, November 5 ... Daylight Saving Time ends
Saturday, November 11 ... Veterans Day
Sunday, November 19 ... Thanksgiving dinner at LBC
Thursday, November 23 ... Thanksgiving Day

Reminder – Holy Communion

We have resumed celebrating the Lord's Supper on the first and third Sunday of each month. Congregants will remain in their pews instead of standing in the aisle. Communion will be served with a tray of individual cups – both wine and grape juice – and bread already cut into pieces. Let Pastor Mary know if you would like to help with preparation or clean-up.

LBC Thanksgiving Dinner

We will follow our tradition this year of holding our own Thanksgiving dinner on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. We'll distribute a sign-up sheet in November.

Recent Events in Sunol

Sunol Glen School has long been the heart of the community. It's much more than a school – it's where the Sunol Advisory Council and other groups meet, it's where Sunol Repertory Theater rehearses and performs, and back in the day when we had many children in the congregation, it's where we held our Easter egg hunts. The school weathered the COVID-19 pandemic, and when major flooding damaged the school in January, the entire community came together to clean up the mess and help pay for repairs. When Kilkare Road residents were

evacuated during a wildfire, the school stayed open to provide pizza, cold water, and bathroom facilities.

So when controversies broke out at recent school board meetings, the entire community was affected. Two of the three members of the new school board appear eager to introduce culture war issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community into what has always been a welcoming and open-minded institution. This began with discussion of two bills in the Legislature, one involving school library book bans and the other requiring school staff and teachers to inform parents when students ask to use a different gender identity or pronoun. At the September meeting, things came to a head on a discussion about the rainbow pride flag (or, to be precise, the inclusiveness or progress pride flag). The school habitually displayed the flag on the fence during Pride month in June. This year, somebody tore down the flag, so to keep it safe, the superintendent put it on the flagpole along with the American and California state flags. The school board president introduced a resolution banning that from happening, and the community turned out in force at the board meeting, mostly opposed to the resolution. The meeting became so contentious that sheriff's deputies were called in to clear the room before the board voted 2-1 in favor of the resolution. The next week, an "emergency" meeting was called with 24 hours' notice, which many people believed was an attempt to fire the superintendent while the dissenting board member was out of town. The community again showed up in large numbers, the Alameda County superintendent of schools questioned whether the meeting was legal, and in the end the board took no action.

These developments have come as a shock to long-time residents and to parents of Sunol Glen students, most of whom live out of town and make a deliberate choice to attend our little school. We are pleased to say that the community on the whole is backing inclusiveness and tolerance, from the Little Brown Church to the Sunol Business Guild, which placed "All Are Welcome Here" banners along Main Street. We hope and pray that our community will continue to stand up for the values we try to model here at LBC.

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LITTLE BROWN CHURCH OF SUNOL

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