



Little Brown Church of Sunol

United Church of Christ – Congregational

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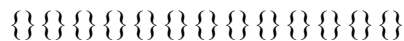
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Newsletter, November 2011

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CALENDAR

- Nov. 6, Sunday – Each One/Bring One Friend to Church; also, Daylight Saving Time ends
- Nov. 15, Tuesday – Deadline to finish Faithfully Walking Challenge
- Nov. 17, Thursday – *Animal Planet* Movie Premiere of *Hercules Saves Christmas* (see below)
- Nov. 18, Friday – Required training for UCC ministers
- Nov. 20, Sunday – Stewardship Sunday/Thanksgiving Sunday/Holiday potluck
- Nov. 21, Monday – Council meeting, 6:30 p.m., parsonage – Note day and time
- Nov. 27, Sunday -- 1st Sunday in Advent
- Dec. 2, Friday – Television premier of *Hercules Saves Christmas* (see below)
- Dec. 4, Sunday -- 2nd Sunday in Advent/Decorate the Church
- Dec. 24, Saturday -- Christmas Eve Service, 6 p.m. (Note time is earlier than usual)
- Dec. 25, Sunday -- NO SUNDAY WORSHIP AT LBC (10 a.m. worship at Niles)
- Jan. 1, Sunday -- First Day celebration after First Night

PASTOR’S PAGE

When I called my father last week to wish him a happy 94th birthday, it became clear during the course of the conversation that he was stunned to have lived such a long life. He said no one else in the family had attained anywhere near that kind of longevity except for one great-uncle whom he had known quite well and who had reached a venerable 98. As we chatted about current family news that spanned another three generations beyond him, as well as his childhood memories, it was my turn to be awed to realize that he held within him personal family stories that went back into the 1800s.

A whole lot has happened in this world since the middle of the 1800s: diseases have been cured, wars fought, governments risen and fallen, and technology has advanced beyond his wildest imagination. His life experiences range from knowing old uncles who fought in the Civil War to parents who struggled through the Great Depression to the children he reared in the turmoil of the 1960s. He even has a great-grandchild who explained to him what an Ipod is.

But through all the changes in his life, he has maintained an incredible sense of gratitude. With the passing of each season and each year, whether in a time of sorrow or joy, he has paused each Thanksgiving to thank God for the blessings of his life. He has set an incredible example for his children and grandchildren to follow and a lesson in enduring faithfulness.

During the month of November there are three events in the life of the church that evoke a sense of gratitude and a recognition of blessings. On the first Sunday, we will celebrate All Saints Day, recognizing the cloud of faithful witnesses who have come before us and on whose shoulders we stand. On the third Sunday of November we will celebrate the blessings of the harvest and the bounty in our lives with our traditional Thanksgiving potluck immediately after church. And the last Sunday of the month will also be the first Sunday of Advent, when we begin our journey together as a community of faith to prepare with hope for the birth of the Christ child.

For some of us in our community this past year has been one of struggle, pain and mourning. For others there has been much to celebrate and be joyful about. No matter what our experience has been, God has been with us through it all. So this November let us also find and take the time to express our gratitude to God for the blessings in our lives. I for one am grateful to have a father who still teaches me lessons about life and living, faithfulness and God. May each one of you find a place in your heart to see the blessings in your life.

Faithfully,
Mary

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Because Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, we need to make an early start on the Adopt-a-Family program so that everything can be finished by Friday, Dec. 16. That way, families can pick up their gifts the weekend of Dec. 17-18, rather than wait until the following weekend, which is Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Kathy Morris will do the food shopping. Pastor Mary will line up the families. Barbara Egbert will create the lists of recipients and their requests. Traditionally, individual members and families of LBC provide one practical gift and one fun gift for each of the children on our list (who remain anonymous) and the adults in each family are provided with the food for a Christmas Day feast. People buying gifts are highly encouraged to wrap them before turning them in. Just make sure the tag for the recipient is firmly tied to each gift. (Unwrapped gifts will be wrapped by volunteers, so don't let that one detail stop you from helping!)

If you want to participate in buying gifts for the children, please let Barbara know at nelliebly04@comcast.net. (She will circulate the gift list as usual, but our shortened schedule means we need to get a running start; an early list of gift-purchasers would help.) Cash gifts for food can be given to Treasurer Landy White. Write "Adopt-a-Family" on the memo line of checks.

Volunteers will also be needed to wrap presents, assemble food boxes and help with pick-up or distribution.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

1. A collection is being taken to pay for replacing three windows in the restroom area of the church. Total cost should be around \$700 to clean out the dry rot and install new windows. Robin Spindler is leading the fund-raising for this project.
2. The Church Council will develop the budget for 2012 during the month of November. Stewardship moments during worship will serve to prepare members to make their pledges to support the church next year. Pledges will be collected on Thanksgiving Sunday. Anyone with questions about the pledging process should talk to Landy White, Mike Brown or Mary Conant.

HERCULES SAVES CHRISTMAS

The latest news on the *Animal Planet* movie called *Hercules Saves Christmas* (filmed partly at Little Brown Church and other Sunol sites) is that the movie premiere will be held on Thursday, Nov. 17, at the Orinda Theater. Red carpet is at 6:30 p.m. and showtime is 7 p.m. The television premier is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 2. Web site is:

http://www.wonderphil.biz/trailers/hercules_saves_xmas/index.html#.

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LITTLE BROWN CHURCH OF SUNOL

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Articles for newsletter are due on the 4th Sunday of each month. Send articles by email as plain text to editor. NO ATTACHMENTS