



## **Little Brown Church of Sunol**

United Church of Christ – Congregational  
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### **January 2021**

We wish all of you a happy and healthy new year. While we miss meeting in person, we will continue to provide our worship services online while waiting until it is safe to reopen.

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- January-February calendar
- A thank-you note from Pastor Mary
- Adopt-a-Family summary

#### **January-February Calendar**

Friday, Jan. 1 ... New Year's Day  
Monday, Jan. 18 ... Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
Wednesday, Feb. 17 ... Ash Wednesday

#### **A Thank-you Note from Pastor Mary**

As 2020 comes to a close, I want to send out some heartfelt thank you's. The generosity of this congregation is absolutely overwhelming. When we began to discuss what to do about Adopt-a-Family this unusual year with Sunol Glen School on distance learning, my initial thought was that along with many other traditions, Adopt-a-Family was going to have to be put on hold. But a special way forward was found to support one Sunol family which was in desperate need. With a few emails back and forth to members and friends, the donations began to pour in, distance-shopping elves volunteered, gift-wrappers and package-storers volunteered. And then the money just kept showing up in the mailbox, allowing us to do more. When I delivered a paid PG&E bill, Safeway gift cards that would help feed the family for a month, and a car-full of presents, the mom was overwhelmed with surprise and gratitude. We made that family's holiday so much brighter with our gift of love.

In addition, I want to thank individual members of our congregation: to Landy for keeping track of our finances and paying bills that still occur even if we are not meeting in person; to Mary Chambers for volunteering to film, edit, and produce our YouTube Christmas Eve service.

But most importantly, my gratitude for our musician, Barbara Egbert, who pivoted right with me when we went to distance worship. On each Monday morning, I send her the sacred text and a very vague idea of what I am thinking about for the sermon and service. Six days later, you receive in your email boxes a complete product, with our introduction to the service, music selections, blogs, and quotes, all in tidy order – and, since all of you now read the sermons instead of listening to them, a professionally edited full manuscript sermon. I am grateful for her particular set of skills as well as her loving reminders for me to stay on task in a timely fashion.

Each member and friend of Little Brown Church is a gift and has gifts to offer the world. As 2021 approaches, thank you in advance for all that you do because of your faith. And thank you for offering your gifts to strangers and family alike. Have a safe and healthy New Year.

Until we meet again in person,

Mary

### **Adopt-a-Family**

Many thanks for everyone who helped with this year's program. Total cash donations came to \$1,425, and additional gifts were purchased directly by church members and delivered to the family the Monday before Christmas.

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### **LITTLE BROWN CHURCH OF SUNOL**

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