

# FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**NEW!**  
**Saturday Evening Worship!**

Monthly worship services  
starting in November.

**New!**

## Saturday Evening Worship

**A casual, contemporary  
service for all ages.**

**See page 3 for more details.**

## OCTOBER 2017

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See more at [LOPC.org](http://LOPC.org)



## Here We Go!

by Jaime Polson, Pastor-Family Ministries



Psalm 27:1

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

We live in the midst of a world that bombards us with so much information that it is easy to get overwhelmed, feel lost and experience deep fears about the future. We have information coming at us from every which way – from phones, computers, T.V.'s, blogs, websites, podcasts and so many other sources. It's easy to take it all in and

let the burdens of the world overtake us. It's easy to get off center and out of touch with God in this highly connective world. It's easy to move away from being part of a community and instead isolate ourselves as we tune into different gadgets.

God doesn't ask us to step away from the hurt and pain of the world. Instead, God calls us to be in the midst of it. This Psalm reminds of us, as people of faith, who our center is – God. In the midst of the trials and challenges of the world, God promises to be our strength and our foundation. How do we actually do this when we feel burdened and overwhelmed whether with too much information or the realities of our world? My answer is usually through the spiritual practices and time in community. We are given so many spiritual practices within the Christian faith that help us connect with God. We may connect with God through prayer, Bible study, worship, retreats, walks in nature, and serving others. There are so many ways to connect with God and if you need some guidance, reach out and see what practices help you connect with God in meaningful ways. One of the ways I connect with God is through fellowship with others.

This summer, I had the absolute delight to travel with our middle school youth to Austin, Texas for the mission trip. During that week, we served those in deepest need, we did hard manual labor and I watched the youth visibly grow in their faith. It was an absolute gift to my faith. I was reminded of how important it is to simply spend time together in a faith community whether we are serving, talking on the patio on a Sunday morning or connecting through like activities in the community. I believe we need each other to see God at work and to feel supported and encouraged in our faith.

As we continue to live in the midst of the world with all it brings (both joy and chaos), may we find a peaceful center and resting place in God, our strength and our redeemer, and our brothers and sisters in our faith community.



**Please join us in the LOPC Sanctuary November 4 at 5 p.m. for a new worship opportunity. All ages are welcome in this casual, contemporary service. In addition to music and communion, our time of teaching this month will focus on Gratitude: letting others know you see how they've helped you.**

**Children are always welcome in the Sanctuary and will have the option to leave mid-service to participate in a special children's message in the Chapel. They will rejoin worship in the Sanctuary after the sermon. Childcare will be available in the CLC for children 4 years old and younger.**

**Future service schedule:**

**December 2nd, January 6th, February 3rd, March 3rd, May 5th, June 2nd**

# MY PLEDGE

## pray·discern·pledge

October is here and that means it is time to think about all of the gifts and blessings that we have in our lives. This year our Stewardship emphasis is My Pledge. The act of pledging is an important one and it provides us with an opportunity to thoughtfully reflect on what God has given us. As you consider the gift you would like to make for the coming year, here are some things to consider:

**REFLECT** on the gifts God has entrusted you with, and for which you are grateful. This is a powerful exercise to do with a spouse or family!

**IDENTIFY** the charitable causes that you plan on supporting this coming year, and rank them according to how important they are to you and your family.

**ESTIMATE** family income for the coming year and then write down the percentage of that amount you want to deploy to the church and other charities.

**REFLECT AND PRAY** over it, asking, “God, is this what you want me (us) to give this coming year?”

**COMPLETE** the enclosed pledge card and know how much your gift is appreciated, and will be put to good use through LOPC!

Pledge packets will be mailed the week of October 15, and you will also be able to access these materials online that same week at <http://www.lopc.org/give-back/pledge>

**Giving Sunday is November 5th** and on this day we encourage members and friends to bring their pledge cards to worship. If you can’t come to church that day, you can always mail your card or drop it by the church office.

Questions? Contact [elizabeth@LOPC.org](mailto:elizabeth@LOPC.org)



What comes to mind when you think of fall? Perhaps you are thinking of Halloween candy and costumes filling the stores, fantasy football ramping up, or the falling leaves and natural beauty we're surrounded by. One idea that certainly comes to mind for the Seedlings teachers and students is "back-to-school," and all of the

exciting events that bring our community together during the beginning of the school year.

In its 24th year, Wheel Day is the biggest annual social event at Seedlings and it always has been. It's the most fun and memorable way to start our school year!

Wheel Day will take place on Saturday, October 21st, from 10am-12pm, and will be open to the entire local community. Rain or shine, the Seedlings parking lot will become a gathering place for guests to enjoy food, friends, and a variety of vehicles. This year, there will be a fire truck, a school bus, police cars, a moving truck, construction equipment, motorcycles, a mobile dentist van, and much more. Not only will the children experience the joy of seeing their favorite "wheels," but they will also be able to climb, honk, steer, and explore inside of them. The Encore gymnastics truck will invite children inside to flip, swing, and bounce, and the ride-on toy cars will give them the opportunity to drive around some mini-wheels of their own. Children are inherently eager and observant, and they soak in everything around them. For this reason, we love that they can contribute to the community outreach component of Wheel Day, too. With the help of many volunteers and donations, Wheel Day will host a bake sale. The kids love that when they buy a cookie, they are making a small contribution to a great cause. This year, the proceeds from the sale will go to the charity Grateful Gatherings. When a family transitions from homelessness or crisis into a new home in the Bay Area, Grateful Gatherings helps them furnish it.

Wheel Day offers hands-on fun and learning for our children in a very unique way, so plan to bring your kids, grandkids, friends, and neighbors. Admission is free. We hope to see you on October 21st!

Vehicles include:

Garbage Truck  
Motorcycles  
School Bus  
Moving Truck

Fire Truck  
Police Vehicles  
Construction Vehicles  
Mobile Dentist

## Wheel Day 2017

by Bridgette Thomas, Seedlings Communications Board Member



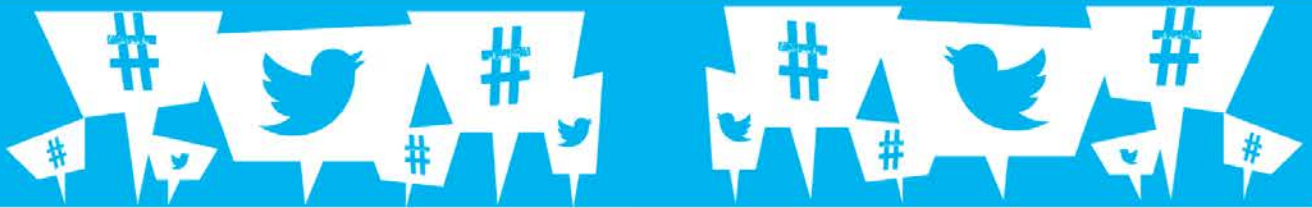
## ***LOOKING AHEAD TO 2018!***

Sunday, October 29  
Between services in the Oak Room



Please join Pastor Peter Whitelock and Finance Elder, Jim Nagle, as they share the latest news on the direction of our church, future programs, where we are with the current budget, and more!

Questions? Contact [elizabeth@LOPC.org](mailto:elizabeth@LOPC.org).



# #TweetableJesus

Jesus gives us words to live by. In this sermon series, we will take a deeper look into inspirational words of Jesus that he gives to us in 140 characters or less.

**Sunday Worship Hours:**  
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

## 10/1/17 – One Foundation Church

*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (John 10:11)*

## 10/8/17 – Caught in the Act

*Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her. (John 8:7)*

## 10/15/17 – Breaking the Cycle for Good

*Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,  
bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.  
(Luke 6:27–28)*

## 10/22/17 – This Changes Everything

*Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find;  
knock, and the door will be opened for you. (Luke 11:9)*

## 10/29/17 – The Perils of Prosperity

*It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than  
for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.  
(Matthew 19:24)*

## 11/5/17 – Proof Positive

*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,  
if you have love for one another. (John 13:35)*

## 11/12/17 – Peace on Earth?

*Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth;  
I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.  
(Matthew 10:34)*

## 11/19/17 – When Weakness Means Strength

*My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness. (2 Corinthians 12:9)*

## 11/26/17 – No More Fear

*Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever.  
(Revelation 1:17–18)*

# What Is The Bible? Rob Bell

***New York Times Bestselling Author of Love Wins***

We approach the Bible with many assumptions based on what we were told about the Bible when we were young, or new to faith. But what does it take to be a good reader of the Bible? How important is cultural context? Do we really know what the Bible means?

Rob Bell addresses these types of questions in his latest book *What is the Bible?*

Bell tackles common misunderstanding and questions, and he is honest, illuminating and helps readers get the most out of the Bible!

Join Pastor Lauren Gully in a four-week book group to be a better reader of the Bible!

Email [ashlee@LOPC.org](mailto:ashlee@LOPC.org) for more details and registration.

Session 1	10/26	7:00 p.m. ( Fireside Room)
Session 2	11/2	7:00 p.m. (Oak Room)
Session 3	11/9	7:00 p.m. (Oak Room)
Session 4	11/16	7:00 p.m. (Oak Room)

## Spiritual Direction

### Spiritual Direction at LOPC



Spiritual Direction is part of the ministry of Formation at LOPC. It is a reflective process in which a trained spiritual companion walks with you to help you pay attention to God's work in your life and your most important questions. It is the art of discovering that everyday events are often the means by

which God comes to meet us. In Spiritual Direction you are invited to explore your experiences, seek awareness of God and discover your authentic questions and desires. You are accompanied on this journey by a trained and grace-filled companion, your personal Spiritual Director.

To find out more about Spiritual Direction, contact Diane Grant, LOPC Spiritual Direction Coordinator, (925) 825-8225. NOTE: All sessions are confidential. There is a modest fee on a sliding scale.

## Parent-Daughter Workshops with Girls Leadership

Beginning October 2, 2017



Girls Leadership offers a series of courses for girls and their parents to build emotional intelligence. In the upcoming workshops, parent-daughter pairs will learn about identifying healthy relationships, finding their voices, and communicating more effectively. Girls also develop resilient responses to conflict, challenges and mistakes. The program is interactive, fun and enlightening, and it's also a great opportunity to gain insight and spend time with your daughter in a new and different way.

Register online at [girlsleadership.org](http://girlsleadership.org).  
Questions? Please email [jaime@LOPC.org](mailto:jaime@LOPC.org).

## Quilts for Children



The LOPCided Quilters group was founded in 2001 and has been making quilts for children ever since. The group started out small, donating about 25 quilts per year. We have grown now to 30 dedicated members who made and donated 192 quilts last year 2016.

The quilts are donated to three local projects: Warm Winter Nights, where every child and teen who is a guest of LOPC gets to choose a quilt; STAND for Families Free of Violence where children entering their program get to choose a quilt; Layette Project, which provides clothes and blankets to the neediest babies in Contra Costa County. The Layette Project is in conjunction with Hillcrest Congregational Church in Pleasant Hill.

Prior to being delivered some of the quilts will be blessed during the Children's Message on Sunday October 22. Each child will get to "wrap up" in a quilt during the message. It's wonderful to see this and imagine how the quilts will impact the children who actually receive them. The LOPCided Quilters meet every Thursday, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. in CLC Room 205 for fellowship, sewing and sharing. Anyone with basic sewing skills is welcome to join the group. Questions? Contact Louise Tanno, [louisetanno@gmail.com](mailto:louisetanno@gmail.com).

## New Members Class - 10/20 – 10/22



The LOPC Membership Class is an opportunity to meet the pastoral staff, have your questions answered, learn about the programs and ministries of the church, and make new friends. The class also serves to clarify what LOPC believes God has called this church to be, so

visitors can make an informed decision about formalizing their commitment to this faith community. Ask questions and find out more about LOPC. All are welcome! The next LOPC Membership Class takes place the weekend of October 20-22. Childcare available by reservation. Questions? Contact [chris@LOPC.org](mailto:chris@LOPC.org).

# WHAT MAKES LIFE WORTH LIVING IN THE FACE OF DEATH?

The Congregational Care team is pleased to present Dr. Lucy Kalanithi as our special speaker for our Journey Through Grief series.

Dr. Lucy Kalanithi, MD, FACP, is the widow of the late Dr. Paul Kalanithi, author of the #1 New York Times bestselling memoir, *When Breath Becomes Air*, for which she wrote the epilogue. An internal medicine physician and faculty member at the Stanford School of Medicine in Palo Alto, CA, she completed her medical degree at Yale.

Dr. Kalanithi will speak on her personal experience alongside her husband during his life, diagnosis, treatment and death. She will share how they found strength and joy even as they faced his prognosis.

**OCTOBER 29, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

Register at [LOPC.org](http://LOPC.org). Suggested \$10 donation.

Questions? Email [Ashlee@LOPC.org](mailto:Ashlee@LOPC.org).

Childcare available. Email [Susan@lopc.org](mailto:Susan@lopc.org) to reserve childcare.  
Deadline to reserve is 10/15.

**LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
49 Knox Drive • Lafayette, CA 94549  
(925) 283-8722 • [LOPC.org](http://LOPC.org)



Olivia Toth

Although Olivia Toth was raised in the church at LOPC, she says when she went on her first mission trip to New Mexico was when her faith journey began. "It really opened my eyes to faith and to understand how it felt to serve people in the name of God.

"While in New Mexico, we did a foot washing ceremony,

washing each other's feet and giving a group prayer over each individual. I thought it would be disgusting, washing each other feet after a week in New Mexico dust but I went along with it and soon realized how powerful the experience was. I felt connected to those around me in a way I had never felt before. Looking back, my little sixth grade self felt a pure connection with God", Olivia recalls. "The foot washing has come full circle because in India this past summer we did the same exercise, but with the Children of Faith Orphanage kids. Washing one little girl's foot I saw a huge scar on her ankle and felt a connection for her with sadness mixed with a type of love that was extremely deep. That connection to her and those girls was powerful. I believe that God was so present with each of us in those moments."

Olivia was born in Lafayette. Her parents are Lisa and Fred and Melanie is her sister. Baptized at LOPC she grew up going to LOGOS (which is now Kids Rock). Looking back, she feels she didn't exactly question anything, but learned a lot about who Jesus is and the elements of Christianity. She is thankful that LOPC has given her many opportunities to have God moments, like the foot washing, attending the high school group BTW (By the Way), singing in the choir, going to Mt. Hermon, working in child care and, of course, mission trips.

She feels lucky because one of her best friends, Riana Buchman, attends her school and is very active in church. "We can connect on many levels including a spiritual one so I'm comfortable discussing my faith with her. She reminds me of my faith and to be a good Christian, even when it can be difficult. It is special to have a Christian friend with whom to share.

"Being a good Christian can stretch you," Olivia says. "When I heard about the India mission trip I was excited but nervous. What diseases were there? Only drinking bottle water? Bucket showers? Nothing sounded comfortable but I wanted to go and prayed I

## Journey of Faith

by Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member

"I believe that God was so present with each of us in those moments."

could rid my fears and focus on serving the children in the orphanage. I believe Jesus wanted me to go because the minute I stepped on the plane to go, all I felt was excitement. "There were many moments when I knew why I came. The foot washing, home visits, teaching in their school, Vacation Bible School with the kids, and daily interactions with them. It all felt like I was doing God's work in helping others.

Adding to what mission experiences have meant to her, Olivia says that they allow her to escape the "Lamorinda bubble." Those trips definitely enhanced my faith journey because of the connections I have made, not only with the people we served, but also my peers at LOPC "I can forget the stress that comes with school and sports so I can be completely with God through this service. Also, BTW, which I attend each Sunday night, is a great way for me to keep up my faith as I'm with others in the same boat as me. I like having it right before the week starts as it clears my head before going into the week. Another significant activity is the house boat trip our high school group goes on as a kick off for the fall. Those trips give me a chance to set habits for my faith for the school year."

Looking ahead, Olivia says she loves math and science and has always wanted to be an engineer. "But, as I pursued my faith journey, I knew I wanted to serve people in a direct fashion. After going to India and hearing about the new school they are planning to build, the sewage in the streets and the unsafe dirt roads I knew I wanted to work as an engineer on the international level to help improve conditions in underdeveloped countries, like India. I believe this will give me the opportunity to use my math skills while also serving God."

Olivia chose three passages from scripture as meaningful to her, Matthew 22: 37-39, "Jesus replied, Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it, Love your neighbor as yourself." "This helps me understand one of the roots of the Christian faith which is unconditional love. If I focus on those verses I believe I can grow in my faith and character a lot. Her other two are 1st Corinthians, 13:2-8 and Jeremiah, 29:11."

## Youth on a Mission

by Virginia Ross

"Heading halfway across the world with some of your best friends is obviously going to be a memorable experience, but I don't think any of us were prepared for this trip to be as fulfilling as it was." This statement by Will Shain, who will be studying at United World College in New Mexico this fall, sums up the High School summer mission trip. 48 high school youth, along with advisors, from LOPC traveled to Visakhapatnam, India to serve at Children of Faith for two weeks. Despite the long trip, hot, humid weather and occasional rain, it was a fantastic trip. The high school youth worked in the classrooms of the "Home School" at Children of Faith under the supervision of teacher Carrie Wiseman. The youth taught phonics and reading, hosted a science day, math day and an arts & crafts day for the 130 children in the Home. They read books aloud, taught the children to blow bubbles with bubble gum and much more! Caroline Kim who will be a sophomore at Head Royce said, "Teaching the kids was one of my favorite parts of

the trip because I knew I was giving the kids a skill they would use the rest of their lives, and the joy on their faces when I would tell them that they spelled something correct, or when we walked into the classroom was priceless." LOPC youth painted the inside and much of the outside of the 3rd floor addition to the boys' dormitory. This addition to the existing Boys' dormitory was financed by a portion of the funds raised by the LOPC Sanctuary renewal project. It was wonderful to have LOPC's own youth put the finishing touches on this gift from LOPC. The youth also cleaned and reorganized the COF library, a project started by the LOPC High School trip three years ago. They worked on a new chicken coop and garden improvements, and installed a "shade sail" over part of a new pavement area. They painted lines on the paved play area for volley ball, basketball and tennis. Every day they lead a terrific Vacation Bible School program that included bible stories, songs and crafts.



The LOPC youth had a chance to try Indian food, shop for traditional Indian clothing, learn a little Telegu from the COF kids and visit land that has been purchased to build a school, Hope Academy, nearby that will serve Children of Faith as well as other needy children in the area. The COF children taught our youth to do their laundry by hand and shared the craft of henna. On one of the hottest days everyone enjoyed a water balloon fight!

Highlights for the High School students were worshipping with the COF children at their local church, play time each day with the children, a trip to the beach with all 130 COF children and a final celebration with dancing, music and skits. Sophie Smith who will be a senior at Acalanes this fall said "The children have so much love and gave it unconditionally to everyone on the trip. It was a life

changing experience and I gained 130 new brothers and sisters." Everyone who went on the trip agrees, they learned so much more from the children at Children of Faith than they taught them. Olivia Toth, who will be a Senior at Acalanes this fall said, "I had a great time getting to know the kids at Children of Faith and understanding how they see God after everything they've experienced. I was amazed by their joy and excitement just to see us average high school students. All of the kids that I got to know are really into education and have dreams of being police officers, engineers, doctors, and teachers, so I want to do something to help them achieve those goals!" The children and staff of COF were wonderful hosts! The High School youth group and India Mission team are grateful to everyone for their prayers and support to make this trip possible.



## Children's Ministry: It Takes a Village

by Lori Robinson

"It takes a village to raise a child" is an Igbo and Yoruba proverb that exists in many different African languages. It reflects the emphasis African cultures place on family and community. This proverb is so widely used in Africa that there are equivalent statements in most African languages, including "One knee does not bring up a child" in Sukuma and "One hand does not nurse a child" in Swahili.



LOPC is our village, our community, our family of faith. And as a community, we are responsible for raising our children in the Christian faith. It takes all of us – the whole village – to bring up our children to be followers of Christ. Everyone has a role – be it large or small – because a few cannot do such important work alone. Our children's ministry programs at LOPC are designed to educate, support and nurture children's faith development. Our programs – which represent how this community values the children in its midst – happen because of the many volunteers who participate in them. While we have a

great group of volunteers in children's ministry, we're always in need of more volunteers. This is good news because we have so many children participating in our programs!

Although parents are often the first asked to volunteer their time and talent, we're also looking for volunteers who don't have children in our programs; whose children are grown; who may be recently retired; who have time to give in service to children. Are you that person? Do you have a little time and a lot of love to share? Could you be the person who shows a child the love of God by your presence? If you feel a nudge, an urge, an awareness that you might be called to this ministry, please contact me and let's talk about it over tea!

"But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children." Deuteronomy 4:9-10

For more information or to volunteer in the children's ministry programs at LOPC, please contact Lori Robinson, Associate Director of Children's Ministry, #925/283-8722 x. 251 or [lori@LOPC.org](mailto:lori@LOPC.org).



## Presbyterian Women's Christmas Tea



Please save the date for the 2017  
Presbyterian Women's Christmas Tea.

More details to follow. Questions? Contact Catherine  
Gallinger at [catherinegallinger@comcast.net](mailto:catherinegallinger@comcast.net).

## Growing the Impact of Children of Faith

Please join Rosie Thandu on Sunday, October 15th at 10:15am in the Davies room for "Growing the Impact of Children of Faith" Rosie is the co-founder, along with her husband Anand, of Children of Faith Missions in Visakhapatnam India. She will be providing an update on their work in India, talking about the accomplishments of our youth on their visit to the children's home last summer and plans for the future. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to learn more about God's work in India.



Questions? Contact Virginia Ross at [vlfross@aol.com](mailto:vlfross@aol.com).

## Interfaith Habitat for Humanity – 10/1



Volunteers from our three Neighbor to Neighbor congregations (LOPC, Temple Isaiah and the San Ramon Islamic Center) are joining efforts for an Interfaith Habitat Day to help continue the

construction of homes for deserving families at the Muir Ridge Project in Martinez. This will be a wonderful way to bring members of our different faiths together in support of East Bay Habitat. Do you have an interest in being one of those volunteers? If so, since the size of the work crew will be limited, please let us know ASAP. Contact Terry Clark at [terence.clark08@gmail.com](mailto:terence.clark08@gmail.com) for more information.

## Volunteer Opportunity: Capernaum Young Life

Capernaum, a Young Life ministry partnering with LOPC, leads a weekly youth program for adolescents and young adults with special needs. Capernaum meets at LOPC every Monday evening from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., beginning their Fall program on September 11 and ending at the end of May. Would you be interested in volunteering to help with this exciting program as a teen or adult youth advisor? If so, please contact Jaime at [jaime@LOPC.org](mailto:jaime@LOPC.org)

## 2017 LOPC Directory Update!

For those of you who participated in the 2017 LOPC Directory project by having your photo taken, you may pick up your copy of the directory in the Ministry Center Office during normal business hours. Need an extra copy? Didn't have your photo taken? We also have a limited number of directories available for a \$10 donation.

*LifeTouch*

## Journeying Through Grief

by Gerald Chinen



Stephen Ministry books sent to individuals to assist them through the grieving process

People often receive plenty of nurturing care soon after a loved one dies, but within a few weeks friends and relatives will return home, food deliveries decrease, as do cards, letters, and the phone calls. When the reality of the loss begins to sink in grieving people often find themselves on their own and sometimes feel forgotten.

*Journeying Through Grief* books provide a simple and meaningful way to reach out to a grieving person four crucial times during the difficult first year. These books provide valuable and timely information to help a person understand what they are going through. The multiple contacts help them feel valued, cared for, and remembered all year.

Each of the four books focuses on the feelings and issues the person is likely to be experiencing at that point in their grief.

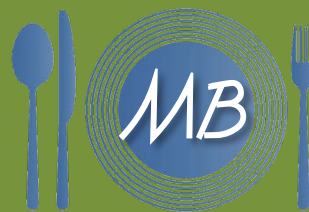
- *A Time to Grieve* is sent about three weeks after the loss;
- *Experiencing Grief* is sent three months after the loss;
- *Finding Hope and Healing*, six months after the loss;
- *Rebuilding and Remembering*, is sent eleven months after so it arrives a few weeks before the one-year anniversary of the loss.

Sending the *Journey Through Grief* books is an important part of Stephen Ministry at LOPC. The books are sent after consultation with pastors and staff. We have reached out to scores of members and relatives and receive very positive feedback about how this resource has helped cope with grief during this time.

If you would like more information about Stephen Ministry and the caregiving provided, please contact Pastor Gerald Chinen.

## Men's Breakfast

Where women are always welcome



October 25



Chris Gruener

Publisher Cameron & Co.

Topic:

21st Century Book  
Publishing/Print Is (NOT) Dead

The great aerial photography of Robert Cameron  
Above- San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego,  
Yosemite, Acatraz, London,  
Paris and more!

Bring friends & family

7:00 a.m. | Davies Room  
\$5 donation at the door for breakfast  
R.S.V.P. to [janet@LOPC.org](mailto:janet@LOPC.org) or  
call (925) 283-8722 x223 before noon on the  
Tuesday before breakfast

## Science & Religion – 10/16

7:15 p.m. in the Oak Room



### Homo Deus or Imago Dei?

When do we creatures become gods? Can the human race use technology

to elevate us from creatures into gods? "Having raised humanity above the beastly level of survival struggles, we will now aim to upgrade humans into gods, and turn Homo sapiens into Homo deus."

Yuval Noah Harari, among others, thinks deification is just around the technological corner. So also do transhumanists in the worldwide movement known as Humanity + or H+. Transhumanists are trying to craft together AI (Artificial Intelligence), IA (Intelligence Amplification), bio-nano-tech, robotics, and radical life-extension to create a post-human species, the equivalent of the gods. Just what do such ambitious visions and plans suggest for the Christian understanding of human nature and the divine promise?

Ted Peters is a Lutheran pastor, theology professor, and co-editor of the journal, *Theology and Science*, published by the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. He is author of a new book which tells the same story Yuval Harari tells in *Sapiens*, but Ted tells it differently: *God in Cosmic History: Where Science and History Meet Religion*. Yuval Noah Harari, *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow* (New York: Harper, 2017) 21.[2] Yuval Noah Harari, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* (New York: Harper, 2015). Ted Peters, *God in Cosmic History: Where Science and History Meet Religion* (Winona MN: Anselm Academic, 2017). All are invited!

## November Quilt Display



This year is rolling right along, and it's time to think once again about the display of your quilts in the sanctuary during the month of November. More information is in the front office of the Ministry

Center, or you can call Ann Loar at (925) 284-1164 or email her at [annloar@icloud.com](mailto:annloar@icloud.com). If you have a quilt you would be willing to loan for display, we'd love to hear from you!

## thursdayFellowship

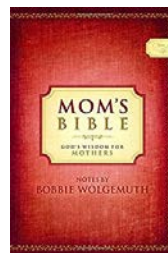


Thursday Fellowship started the 2017-2018 year with a Kick Off Luncheon attended by their dedicated volunteers. We enjoyed a talk on the history of THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP by our very own Ginny Murphy who along with Leslie Lynch and Gillian have served in this ministry since it began in 1979! Gerald led us in several hymns and a grace sung in a round. What a joy it is to continue to nurture and grow one of the oldest and most vibrant ministries at LOPC.

Our September programs included Fun Fall crafts, Exercises for the Wise with Keris, and Laughter Yoga. We also had music programs galore with Songs of the Cowboys, featuring Jim Pierson, Myrna Bowman and Gillian Roebuck, a musical sing along with Mike Kistner, plus a special tribute to Glen Campbell. Mary Artist Holden also presented a delightful travelogue on Australia.

You are neither too young or too old to participate in THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP! We invite you to come and see for yourself!

## Moms Study



A group of moms with young children meet monthly, on the first Wednesday of each month from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., with a Bible and book study and discussion led by Pastor Jaime Polson. Beginning on September 6, a new study will start. Past studies have included the books, *The Blessings of a Skinned*

*Knee* by Wendy Mogel and *The Gifts of Imperfection* by Brenne Brown.

All of our studies focus on incorporating faith in our daily lives, including how we parent. We invite all moms with young children to join us. Childcare is provided by RSVP. Questions, or RSVP to [dave@LOPC.org](mailto:dave@LOPC.org).

# Mom's Retreat

**January 19, 2018**

**Save the Date!**

**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Questions? Contact [Dave@LOPC.org](mailto:Dave@LOPC.org)**

## Warm Winter Nights November 6-20, 2017



Warm days will soon give way to cool fall nights and even colder winter nights. Every year in the fall, LOPC opens its campus to Warm Winter Nights, a rotating shelter in Contra Costa County which provides homeless families with shelter at night and support programming during the day. Participants either go to work or receive daytime services at the Oasis Center in Pittsburg while their children attend school.

The Winter Nights Rotating Family Shelter is a project of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County and runs from October to May annually with over 40 churches and synagogues participating. This shelter meets key needs as families struggle to transition back into permanent housing. LOPC will host "Warm Winter

Nights" this fall for two weeks from Nov. 6-20th under the leadership of Jim Reiter and Rick Silvani.

There are opportunities for LOPC members to help in a variety of ways with meal preparation, tutoring, entertaining or playing games with the children while their parents do laundry or simply take a moment for themselves. Small groups, voyager ships, bible study groups and families are all encouraged to serve a meal together. There are opportunities to help serve dinner Monday – Sunday or a hot breakfast or lunch on Saturday or Sunday. Additionally, tutors are needed Mon- Thurs. and entertainment including crafts, games, therapy pets and sports activities are always welcome.

Warm Winter Nights defies the stereotypical portrait of the homeless. Many of the individuals in the program have minimum wage jobs and have stumbled upon difficult times due to illness, job loss or divorce at no fault of their own. It is a reminder to all of us that homelessness is a paycheck away for many middle-class families.

Please join LOPC in welcoming our WWN guests this fall. To register to help, go to [www.LOPC.org](http://www.LOPC.org). Contact [robin@LOPC.org](mailto:robin@LOPC.org) for more information.

## New faces for the Foundation

by Lynn Trowbridge, Foundation Trustee



Lynn Trowbridge

The Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church Foundation will soon be welcoming two new faces to become members of its governing Board of Trustees. Jim Beckemeyer and Gerald (Jerry) Ducey have been elected to fill vacancies created by the departures at year end of Alan Kizor and Lynn Trowbridge, who are completing four-year terms.



The Board is relatively small – only seven members – and each plays many different roles and fulfills a wide variety of tasks. Consequently, choosing trustees with broadly diversified qualifications is critical. The Foundation worked closely with the Church Office Nominating Committee to that end.

Trustees need deep knowledge and familiarity of LOPC's operations, history and vision. They need to have a history of financial contribution to LOPC and a willingness to make financial provision, at whatever level, for the Foundation in a will, trust,

IRA, or other legacy means as soon as feasible after election, if not arranged previously. Finally, they need to be able to work co-operatively in a team setting and serve multiple leadership roles.

Jim and Jerry bring all these qualities -- and more -- to the LOPC Foundation. Each has served as an Elder and also as a Deacon in Presbyterian Churches. Jim has been a member of LOPC since 2009 and Jerry since 1980. Jerry has experience in sales, marketing and fund raising. Jim has experience in Health Care Strategic Planning and in numerous leadership roles. The LOPC Foundation looks forward to 2018 with the addition of these two able and dedicated leaders. If you would like to become a Friend of the LOPC Foundation contact any Trustee: Dick James, president; Lynn Trowbridge, vice president; Phil Placier, treasurer; Alan Kizor; Staci Johnston; Krisiti Haigh; Dara Youngdale.



Jim Beckemeyer



Gerald (Jerry) Ducey

August's meeting was a tale of the past, present and the future.

The finance team reviewed the status of the capital campaign. This look back on the 10-year renewal of our campus reminded us of the remarkable achievement as we come to a close of this chapter. Session was glad to hear that we are within sight of paying off the remaining balance.

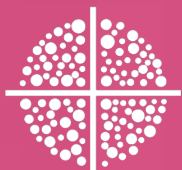
The present was framed by conversation regarding the challenges of our current social struggles. What should our response as a church be to the attacks on vulnerable groups within our country? To try to address this we will be organizing a series of opportunities to appreciate and better understand the diversities within our country.

## Session Highlights - August 2017

by Bill DeWolf, Clerk of Session

Stay tuned for more information.

The future was represented by a presentation by Peter Whitelock on the trends that are impacting churches throughout the country. These include changing patterns of giving (less!), less interest in organized religion and more channeling of response to social concerns to secular institutions. We believe that our recently approved goal statement will provide direction to address these challenges. Our teams will be using this new statement in preparing their goals for the next year.



LOPC

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

49 Knox Drive  
Lafayette, CA 94549

OCTOBER 2017

**IMPORTANT:**  
Dated Material  
PLEASE DELIVER  
Before 10/1/17  
Thank you!

Return Service Requested

#### PASTORAL STAFF

Peter Whitelock - Pastor / Head of Staff  
Gerald Chinen - Pastor, Congregational Care  
Lauren Gully - Pastor, Mission & Spiritual Formation  
Jaime Polson - Pastor, Family Ministry

#### WORSHIP & MUSIC

Brett Strader, Director  
Stewart Scharch, Organist

#### TREASURER

Char Casella

#### MINISTRY DIRECTORS

Chris Baldwin, Community Engagement  
Keris Dahlkamp, Youth  
Chuck Fry, Operations  
Coleen Moulton, Seedlings Preschool  
Ryan Timpfe, Children

#### FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Ashley Jackson, Communications Director  
Jennifer Shaul, Digital & Print Admin  
Chuck Fry / Dick James

Thank you to all who contribute to each  
issue, and to proofreaders Bev Fellows and  
Janet Jourgensen.

#### Monthly FOCUS Newsletter Deadline:

**SEPTEMBER 1** for the **OCTOBER** issue.  
Email items to [communications@LOPC.org](mailto:communications@LOPC.org).

#### Weekly CONNECTIONS Deadline:

**Monday by 5:00 p.m.**  
Email [communications@LOPC.org](mailto:communications@LOPC.org).

**SAVE THE DATE**

# Gloria!

**Christmas Concert**  
December 9, 4 p.m. • December 10, 2 p.m. & 5 p.m.  
**LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON.**

Sunday Worship Services

9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Invite Friends & Family

## Connect with us online!



[Livestream.Com/LOPC](http://Livestream.Com/LOPC)



[Facebook.com/lopchurch](https://Facebook.com/lopchurch)



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[Vimeo.com/lopchurch](http://Vimeo.com/lopchurch)



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