

FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Alive!
In Christ... in the World



March 2020

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PRAYERS for UNITY

By Peter Whitelock - Pastor, Head of Staff

The church has known internal tension since its inception almost 2,000 years ago. There are just so many ways for us to disagree, it seems! Rather than wishing the church could somehow be free of conflict, I find more comfort in the fact that the Spirit can move among us, bringing peace and unity even through our diverse opinions and convictions. When that happens, it is miraculous, indeed.

I'm reminded of a prayer written down in the 3rd century by Dionysius of Alexandria. The church in Alexandria was a place of significant turmoil at times, and so we can well imagine a community seeking God's help with these words of petition:

God, good beyond all that is good, fair beyond all that is fair, in you is calmness, peace, and concord. Heal the dissensions that divide us from one another and bring us back to the unity of love bearing some likeness to your divine nature. Through the embrace of love and the bonds of godly affection, make us one in the Spirit by your peace which makes all things peaceful. We ask this through the grace, mercy, and tenderness of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

What moves my heart towards this prayer is not concern over any tension within the church these days, but rather the state of conflict we are witnessing in our life together as a nation. I find myself wondering how the skills and abilities we obtain by the Spirit as we work through conflict and tension as a Christian community can also show us a better way to relate to our fellow citizens, too. And perhaps, as always, it starts with prayer.



Lent at LOPC

Questioning Jesus

Sermon Series
Beginning Sunday, March 1



In the Gospel of Luke, the evangelist gives us a rich and lengthy account of Jesus and his disciples making their way to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration, during which Jesus will be arrested and crucified. One of the recurring themes of this so-called “travel narrative” (Luke 9:51-19:28) is Jesus responding to questions that are put to him by various figures in the story: his disciples, members of the crowd who were often gathered around him, and even his dear friends.

Lenten Study Groups 2020

March 1 – April 4

Lent is a time when we get a boost in our spiritual lives. This year during Lent we will explore the questions people put to Jesus while he was on the way to Jerusalem in Luke 9:51-19:28. Small groups will focus on these texts in a way that encourages participants to reflect deeply and personally on them, and even to wrestle with them. The goal is to engage the text each week in a way that shapes and nurtures our own faith in the safe, welcoming context of a small group.

Study guides will be available online and in the Ministry Center during the week. Pick up a list of groups with dates, times, and locations on the Plaza or visit the website.

Register online at lopc.org/lent.

**We hope you will take this journey
with us this Lenten season!**

Choose from one of the groups below:

1. Men with Young Families - Chris Baldwin
Mondays, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., MC Conference Room
2. Pastor Lauren Gully & Laura Lowell (open to all)
Mondays, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Davies Room
3. Darlene James (open to 5)
Thursdays, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m., MC Library
4. Sue Nagle (open to 10, women only)
Thursdays, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
5. Jody Black & Chad Runyon (open to 12)
Thursdays, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., off-site
6. Sharon Bartlett, Jeff & Laura Patton (open to all)
Sundays, 9:30 – 10:45 a.m., Oak Room (no 10:10 during lent)
7. Korean Speaking Small Group
Fridays, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., Fireside Room
8. Judy Clark (currently full)
Wednesdays, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m., off-Site

**Are you in
an existing
group that
is interested
in doing the
Lenten study
together?**

Let us know!

youth

YOW Spring Service-Learning Project

March 4

Join us during YOW for a time of service as we make Easter baskets for children living at Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH). CCIH's mission is to provide permanent, affordable housing and vital support services to homeless and at-risk families and individuals in Contra Costa County.

Contact Allison@LOPC.org with questions.

YOW 4th Grade Preview Night

March 11

Fourth graders preview what's in store for them at YOW as they enter LOPC's Middle School Ministry in the fall! Parents and youth are invited to a get-to-know-you dinner at 5:30 p.m. Then, Children's Ministry Directors, Ryan and Lori, will accompany youth to the YOW program from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to Ryan@lopc.org

YOW Messy Games Night

March 25

The final YOW of each program year is our traditional messy games night! Join in on the fun as we wrap up the year with a great evening of laughs and fellowship. Wear clothes you don't mind getting wet and messy, and bring a towel, too. We will also congratulate our 2020 class of 8th grade grads and wish them well as they head into high school!

BTW 8th Grade Preview

March 1, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., CLC 201

Current 8th graders can join BTW in and see what they can expect as 9th graders! They will have a special small group meeting with Keris and Allison at the end of the evening to debrief.

Please RSVP to keris@lopc.org

BTW Senior Night

March 22, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., CLC 201

BTW will complete the program year with Senior Night! Seniors will be able to share their memories from the last four years with the whole youth group.

April 19 is Confirmation Sunday

Join us as we honor the 2020 youth confirmands at both morning worship services in the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Save the Date

Youth Summer Service-Learning Opportunities

Registration is OPEN! To register, go to lopc.org/ministry/youth/summer-mission

5th & 6th Grade Service Squad: June 1-5

Youth who complete grades 5 or 6 in May 2020 will serve for a couple of hours each day with a local mission partner in the East Bay and return to debrief and reflect on their experience. Youth will become acquainted with the many ways in which we can share God's love within our own community! Our dream is that this experience will inspire youth for a life of serving and loving others.

Questions? Contact Allison Kunz at allison@lopc.org.



7th & 8th Grade San Francisco Trip: July 12-17

Youth who complete grades 7 or 8 in May 2020, will spend a week in San Francisco and the surrounding area serving with City Service Mission. Through this experience, youth will be introduced to the many ways we can serve people in our own Bay Area community.

Questions? Contact Allison Kunz at allison@lopc.org.



High School Yakima Trip: June 20-27

Youth who complete 9th-12th grade in May 2020 will travel to Yakima, Washington, to partner with an indigenous-led organization: S.L.A.M. (Students Learning About Missions). S.L.A.M. is based within the Yakima Nation and focuses on teaching outside groups how they follow 'The Jesus Way' through their native traditions. Youth service teams will witness various ceremonies, learn about the history and culture of the Yakima people, and provide basic housework service in tribe elders' homes.

Questions? Contact Keris Dahlkamp at keris@lopc.org.



seedlings



What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?

Q&A with Seedlings Preschool Students

By Tina Clendenin, Seedlings Communications Board Member

It's never too early to start planning for the future, and students at Seedlings Preschool already have some big plans. When asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?", the

children were quick to share. Find out some of the students' dreams for the future!

"I want to be a police officer so I can catch robbers!" – Cooper, 4 years old

"When I grow up, I want to be a veterinarian so I can help animals who are sick." – Natalie, 5 years old

"I want to be a ballerina!" – Emilia, 3 years old

"I want to be a police officer because I like to play policemen with Lucca. And I could get bad guys." – Greyson, 4 years old

"When I grow up, I want to be a mama because I love my mama. And I like babies." – Emmy, 4 years old

"I want to be a paint artist who gives my paintings to people." – Grant, 5 years old

"I want to be a policeman because you get to put bad people in jail." – Thomas, 4 years old

"I want to be Matt Bradley (Cal basketball player) because he is a leaper and wins the game. And he gets to be interviewed!" – Johnny, 3 years old

children

The Garden: Mission Sunday

March 15, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. services

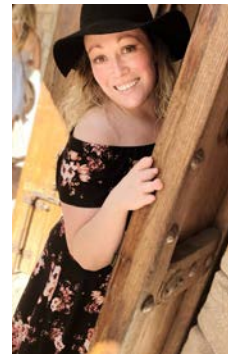
Children attending Mission Sunday will learn about the important work of LOPC's ministry partner, Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH), which provides housing to low income families, and they will create colorful cards to accompany Easter baskets for CCIH children.

Questions? Contact Kristin Malvadkar at kristinmartin@gmail.com.

staff announcements

Please welcome Ciara Bird as the new LOPC Receptionist!

Ciara has been involved with LOPC for many years, working for both Seedlings Preschool and as Kids Rock support staff. Ciara's original connection with LOPC began when her husband, Chris Bird, served as LOPC campus custodian in 2006.



Ciara and Chris have two children in high school, a freshman and junior, and enjoy spending time together outside adventuring in the Bay Area. In her free time, Ciara loves baking specialty cakes for her family and taking on organizational challenges.

Ciara is excited to begin her new role as LOPC Receptionist! Please come by the Ministry Center front desk to say hello and introduce yourself!

Lexi Morrissey, former receptionist, will be transitioning to a new role supporting clergy with various ministry programs.

mission

Adult Mission Trip Meeting

March 1, 10:15 a.m., Davies Room.

Spring, the LOPC Adult Mission trip will be to Chico, California. We will build new houses for those who lost their homes in the Camp Fire which destroyed 14,000 homes. The trip will be May 4 - 9. Anyone interested in participating or learning more is welcome to attend this informational meeting.

Please contact Rich Lewis at 925-788-3497 or rklewis26@comcast.net with any questions.

love does Family

Thursday, March 26, 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Please join us for an after-school love does family service project to benefit Contra Costa Interfaith Housing (CCIH) and Monument Crisis Center (MCC), two of LOPC's longstanding mission partners. This is an afternoon of service that we know your preschool through middle school-aged child(ren) will enjoy! We will assemble Easter baskets and make cards for CCIH, create toiletry kits for MCC, and share an afternoon snack. Invite your friends and come join us for fellowship and fun while we all work together to make an impact on the lives of others in our greater community!

Please register at lopc.org via the Event Registration tab. Though drop-ins are welcome, we appreciate advance sign-ups for headcount purposes. Contact Kristin Malvadkar at kristinmartin@gmail.com for more information.

Meals on Wheels

For over 20 years, LOPC has provided volunteers to drive meals to housebound seniors. Several drivers have participated for 10-15 years and are ready to retire. They drive every Tuesday in the Moraga and Orinda areas from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Contact Caroline Giers at 925-254-4667 if you are interested in finding out more or joining their team of volunteer drivers.

Congo Team Sets Goals for 2020

At its recent monthly meeting, the LOPC Democratic Republic of the Congo Mission Team established its goals for 2020. They are noted below and in parentheses are some of the team's actions:

- Support and continuously evaluate the Presbyterian Church's projects in education (Build Congo Schools, Girl's IT/English training) and trauma healing (Healing Hearts). The Healing Hearts project will be receiving part of the Easter special Mission offering.
- Continue advocacy efforts in line with LOPC's Advocacy process. The team is actively working on passage of a Congo Mission Network's overture for the General Assembly. Violence continues unabated in eastern Congo so they will continue their efforts to encourage action to address this situation.
- Continue educating the congregation and team about the Congo, as well as strengthening relations with the Congolese community. As in the past, they will work to organize visits by Mission co-workers and/or Congolese. Also, PC(USA) is discussing a trip to the Congo this year; the Congo Team may participate. A "pen pal" project with LOPC youth has started.
- Expand Congo Team membership. The team continually seeks new members, whether from LOPC or the community. They meet the first Sunday of the month in the LOPC Library at 10:15 a.m.

Please keep the people of the DRC in your prayers. While they have a new government, many of the expected advances to help the people have not yet happened. Violence and disease are present, especially in the eastern part of the country. This situation continues to be a humanitarian crisis.

Contact Herb Long at herblong7@gmail.com if you have questions about the Congo Team.

community

thursday Fellowship

A program of Senior Care Ministries

Every Thursday from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
in Fellowship Hall

February was fantastic! We heard NASA ambassador, Margaret Race, speak about NASA missions, and we learned about what goes into raising puppies for Guide Dogs for the Blind from Jeanne Baker and Brooks Robinson. The Rossmoor Revue tap dancers in their colorful costumes set our toes tapping, and we had our monthly sing-along with Mike Kistner. We exercised with Keris Dahlkamp, director of Youth Ministry, and got our creative juices flowing making Valentine crafts and cards. We enjoyed Frank Grannis and Ron Goodyear on piano during our morning activity and lunch. We celebrated 14 birthdays with special cupcakes and a short introduction of each honored birthday guest! The programming, birthdays, shared activities, and wonderful lunch all blended together and made every Thursday as special day! The happiness and warmth of our caring community make Thursday Fellowship an event not to miss!

“March Madness” is upon us and we look forward to another month of activities and programs made even better when shared with our community of guests and volunteers. We look forward to celebrating St. Patrick’s Day and the coming of spring and, of course, more birthdays. We welcome you to join us!

- **March 6:** Jim Pearson on piano and Gillian Roebuck leading us in song, enjoy learning the history of each song we sing.
- **March 12:** What-4? Barbershop Quartet is back by popular demand with a varied repertoire to include Irish songs.
- **March 19:** Mike Kistner plays guitar and sings our favorite songs.
- **March 26:** Amethyst Trio, a string trio, will entertain us by playing from a wide variety of music from Beethoven to Coldplay.

Contact Julie Peterson, julie@lopc.org or Clarita Wooldridge, clarita@lopc.org for more information.

A World View from the U.S. State Department: Reagan to Bush

March 6, 1:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Dan McGovern, this month’s speaker, served in three presidential administrations in positions as diverse as the U.S. State Department during Reagan’s second term to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during George H. W. Bush’s presidency. In this talk, he will focus mainly on his service in the State Department at the height of the Cold War.



“Some of the incidents,” he says, “about which I’ll talk concluded in farce and another very nearly concluded with the end of the world!” He testified as an administration witness before Congress more than a dozen times.

After comments on the State Department, he’ll move on to thoughts about the EPA, where he supervised 800 employees. That work, he says, provided him his greatest career satisfactions. He also will comment on how those agencies are currently being run.

McGovern says he enjoyed his governmental work, developing skills and talents along the way that he can use in his current work now that he is retired from that life. He is president of the Eugene O’Neill Foundation in Danville and co-founder of the Eugene O’Neill International Festival of Theatre in New Ross, Ireland. Eugene O’Neill’s father emigrated from New Ross.

“Eugene O’Neill, the only American dramatist to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, wrote his greatest plays while living in Danville,” McGovern says. “So, we of this area can claim him as one of our own.”

The lecture is free, and refreshments are served at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For further information, call the Ministry Center office at 925-283-8722.

community



March 1 and March 29, 10:00 a.m.

Parents with children (ages infant - 4th grade) will meet on the back playground and let the kids play while adults enjoy fellowship. Breakfast treats and coffee will be provided. Come out and connect with other families like yours! We meet on the last Sunday of the month between worship services at 10:00 a.m. from September-May.

Grief Support Group

For widows/widowers

March 17 – May 19, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m., LOPC

Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a spouse recently or within the last few years? Sharing our experiences during this 10-week class is extremely helpful to our healing process. Find hope, support, and successful ways to process this significant life event. The course is open to all widows and widowers.

Pre-registration is required The workbook is \$15. If you want to register or have more information, contact Bev Fellows, 925-949-7628 or beverlyfellows@comcast.net.

LOPC Breakfast

March 18, 7:00 a.m., Davies Room

Join us to hear Bob Hansen talk about his 40-year career in the State and National Park system. The program will describe the extent of the National Park system and the operation of the National Park service and how the parks enhance the quality of life for Americans and visitors from abroad. There will be additional time to engage the audience in discussion of their experiences in the parks and dialogue about issues, questions, or concerns regarding specific parks.

Please RSVP to Lexi Morrissey at lexi@lopc.org.



Raising Resilient Girls

Girls Leadership Workshop

March 19, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Are you eager to learn about the pressures that are unique to being a girl today, and how you can help girls navigate these challenges with confidence?

We invite adults to join Girls Leadership's Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Simone Marean, for her acclaimed parent education talk, "Raising Resilient Girls." As written up in *Parent Magazine*, Simone's talk focuses on practical, actionable advice that you can use at home to help support the young girl, or girls, in your life. Her presentation covers the development of girl dynamics from pre-school through high school.

Since 1999, the national non-profit organization, Girls Leadership, has awakened thousands of girls to a new, bold definition of leadership. Co-founded by bestselling author, Rachel Simmons, Girls Leadership believes that leadership is a way of life, which begins in girlhood. We define leadership as a girl's ability to know how she feels, say what she needs, and respond courageously to her mistakes. Girls graduate from our programs more emotionally intelligent, resilient, and confident.

The workshop is free, but an RSVP is required. Please visit girlsleadership.org/lopcrrg to register. For questions, please contact Maria Temporal, CA Outreach Manager, at maria@girlsleadership.org.

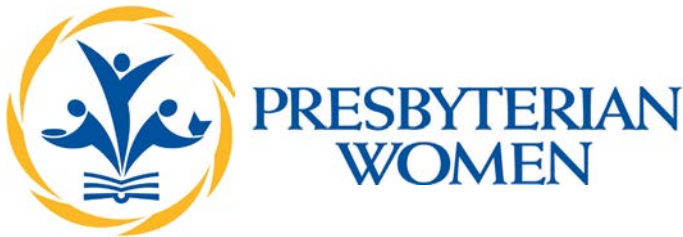


Resurrection Art Show 2020

This special show will open Easter Morning, Sunday, April 12, and run through the following Sunday in the Chapel.

Specifics: The size for a painting or photograph should be from 20x20 to 48x48. A quilt, sculpture, or floral display would be wonderful also. Please submit your artwork for approval no later than March 13. After approval by Brett Strader or Lassie Colebourn, the work should be delivered on Thursday, April 9, between 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. We will hang the art that afternoon.

If you have art you would like to include—either art you have done or that you could create—that represents Resurrection, please contact Lassie Colebourn at lassiecolebourn@yahoo.com.



Who needs PW?

Who needs PW? You do! What is PW? PW is Presbyterian Women, small groups or circles of ladies who meet monthly for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. We pray for each other, we are concerned about each other, we check on each other. In other words, we become friends—circles of friends who care.

At LOPC there are three circles, two that meet during the day and one that meets in the evening. All three are open to new members. If you are interested in visiting or joining a circle, please leave your name and contact information in the church office.

Gender identity: An Overview

A followup to January's discussion.

This past January, we had the pleasure of hearing from Valerie Hodgskiss, LMFT and LOPC member, during our Gender Identity workshop. Valerie has a private practice in Walnut Creek and also works for the Special Needs/Chronic Conditions Department at Kaiser in Martinez. Among her specialties are the many issues surrounding gender dysphoria, young people who identify as transgender, and parental grief over the identities of their children.

Valerie explained at her January talk that being transgender is a hard-wired mismatch between identity and body, and that gender expression can be a first attempt at figuring out one's identity. She introduced us to common LGBTQ definitions and terms, how to introduce ourselves to make others feel at ease, and how to be gender-affirming. Valerie also discussed extensive studies which revealed that 41% of transgender youth attempt suicide, and/or become clinically depressed, and/or engage in self-harm, like anorexia or cutting; that there are many more whose parents are not supportive; and that too many of these youth end up on the street, dead, on drugs, or engaged in prostitution.

Valerie grounded her talk on Galatians 3:28-29 which states, "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise." Thus, reminding us that we are all one in Christ. The audience, approximately 60 attendees, included both Stephen Ministers (from LOPC and other churches) as well as members of LOPC. Active Stephen Ministers will meet with Valerie in February for an in-depth, follow-up session as part of their continuing education.

spiritual formation

Paul's Amazing Letter to the Philippians:

Finding joy

When Life is Hard.



April 16, 23, 30 & May 7
7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Oak Room

Join Pastor Peter Whitelock for a four-week journey through the four chapters of Philippians (one per week) that have much to say about how we can weather the challenging seasons of life. This class will be practical, interactive, and, most importantly, applicable to your life.

To RSVP, contact Michelle at michelle@lopc.org or 925-283-8722 x248.

Science & Religion
March 16, 7:15 p.m., Oak Room



This month, the Science and Religion discussion group will focus on the subject of climate change and why we should care about it.

They will show a video by the scientist, Fritjof Capra, who suggests a plan of action. It is a systemic approach based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) adopted by the United Nations.

Global Warming is considered by many to be the direst existential threat that is facing humanity now. Some think we may not be able to avert its consequences unless societies undertake immediate, major changes.

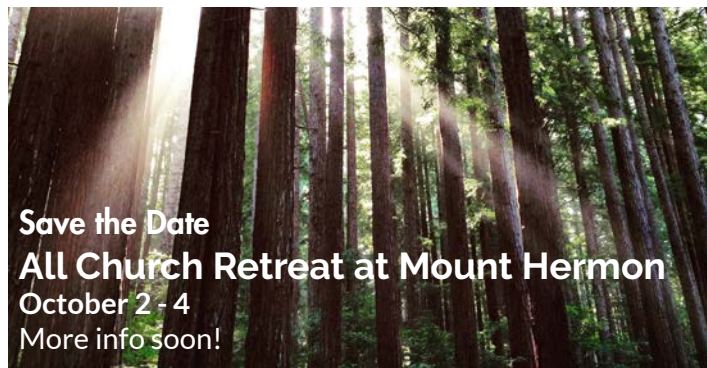
After the video we will open discussion as to what can be done at the local level, how nations can cooperate on a plan of action, if the U.N. is the appropriate agency, how science and faith-based religions or nationalities can reach compromises, and other ways to change the world. All are welcome to join us!

10:10

grow empowered to live in faith

No 10:10 sessions in March.

We invite you to join us for our Lenten studies! For more information, please visit lopc.org/Lent.



Save the Date
All Church Retreat at Mount Hermon
October 2 - 4
More info soon!



By Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC member

“God has called us to use our talents in whatever way we can to His glory,” says Lassie Colebourn. She does this in multiple ways, but especially in her art, and specifically in arranging flowers for the Sanctuary worship service. “I find great pleasure in creating floral arrangements with our excellent team of flower arrangers,” she says. “I had my own floral design business at one time. I got into it when I needed a job after our business failed and, fortuitously, was asked to arrange flowers for a wedding. Thus, my new career began.

“I have a strong belief in prayer, and it seems, in my life, when one door closes, God opens another, which leads to something better, like changing from the retail business to working with flowers. God certainly has been there for us in very hard times. My husband, Don, has faced multiple health issues, and it was especially difficult when both he and his mother had brain tumors. Our son, Chris, quit his job and came home to take care of his grandmother. She died several months later, and it was such a blessing to have Chris with us. Don has survived so much; I’m sure God had a hand in it.

“Another way I express my faith is through painting. Recently our music director, Brett Strader, asked me to participate and organize an art show on the theme of the Resurrection. The art show will be held in the Chapel, April 9–19. I think it’s inspiring to see the art of our members who create works that demonstrate their Christian faith.

Lassie grew up in Oakland, going to Sunday school with her twin sister, Cassie. “My mother was very influential in my life as she lived in a positive way, even with many health issues. She read the Bible every day and was a role model for me. I also remember my grandparents went to St. Stephens in Oakland and my grandmother did flower arranging.”

However, during high school, college, and many years of married life, Lassie didn’t attend church. The big change came at age 50. A friend asked her husband, Don, to be a godfather for his son. “We went to church for the service and were totally attracted to the message. I thought, ‘Where have we been all this time?’ At the same time, a friend asked me to attend a Presbyterian retreat, and I went. Don and I were on the same page: we needed to get to church. We made a commitment to God, and soon after, joined Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church. With two friends pointing us in the right direction, we heeded ‘the call.’

Six years ago, the Colebourns moved their membership to LOPC. “I had been a Stephen Minister for 12 years, so I joined that group at LOPC and became acquainted with others involved with that calling. That same week I found out I had cancer, and they were so supportive and caring, even though I had just arrived at this church.”

Another group Lassie says has helped her on her faith journey is the Women’s Spiritual Journey program. “Along with the lessons we study, I especially like having a new prayer partner each month. It’s a good way to become better acquainted, and sharing our joys and concerns is a bonding experience—we truly care for one another.”

This year, Lassie has become a deacon and is excited to serve in this ministry, helping with memorial services and communion.

A special Bible verse for Lassie is Galatians 2:20. “I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and delivered Himself up for us.”

finance

Financial Summary

by Jim Nagle and the Finance Team

LOPC is truly blessed with the strength of its 2019 financial results. This is thanks to everyone giving their time and treasure to the church. Over the years, we have been very fortunate to enjoy a solid financial position, and we saw this again in 2019. LOPC closed the year extremely strong, which sets a great tone for the coming year. Last year had a very tight budget in both expenses and income. We are happy to report that we both met and exceeded these challenges with the help of the staff and congregation. LOPC ended 2019 with a surplus of \$165,226. This resulted from the staff working hard to stay within a tight budget, coupled with healthy giving. Non-pledge income and loose offerings were robust, accompanied by stable pledge income. Between now and May, we will be looking at how best to utilize this amazing surplus.

January to December 2019		
	Actual	Budget
Congregational Giving:		
Pledge Income	\$ 2,251,993	\$ 2,250,000
Non-Pledge, Loose Offerings, & Other Giving	451,809	282,000
Mission & Other Special Gifts	212,418	188,028
Faith Component	166,519	200,000
Total Congregational Giving	3,082,739	2,920,028
Other Sources		
Foundation Support	268,643	269,033
Seedlings Offset to Shared Costs	110,000	107,000
User Fees	10,193	14,000
Total Income	3,471,575	3,310,061
Expenses	(3,306,349)	(3,310,061)
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 165,226	\$ -

session highlights

January 2020

By Paul Koenig, Clerk of Session



Paul Koenig

Several significant reports were received. Jim Nagle, Finance elder, said 2019 results were very positive and encouraging going forward for 2020. Jim's report reflected significant support in 2019 for LOPC and its ministries through pledges, non-pledge offerings, Foundation support, and additional gifts. It also reflected effective management of expenses. Based on pledges and expectations for 2020, next year's budget is expected to be balanced. Finance will update Session periodically.

Pastor Gerald Chinen reported on work by the Diversity Task Force, updating its information and recommendations. In addition, he provided information about a staff retreat with Dr. Sandhya Jha, the winter 2020 sermon series on barriers of exclusion, classes on reconciliation, an upcoming Lenten study series, which will include a Bible study for Korean-speaking individuals, the LOPC leadership retreat in January with Pastor Jake Medcalf of Hayward Presbyterian Church, the inclusion of diversity in liturgical services, enriched by the Jerusalem Youth Chorus performance, and a number of other steps to promote diversity. The topic of diversity continues as an important effort for LOPC.

Session also approved a special offering to benefit Shelter Inc. to be taken February 16 and 23.

Finally, Session thanked Lois Boyd for her dedicated and faithful service as Clerk of Session during the past year.

lopc foundation

What Does “Foundation” Mean to You?

By Mike Ross, LOPC Foundation Trustee



Mike Ross

My *Random House Webster’s Unabridged Dictionary* (that gets little use in the Internet era) offers several definitions for the word “foundation”: the basis or groundwork for anything; the beginning of something; and for cosmetics, the base for makeup.

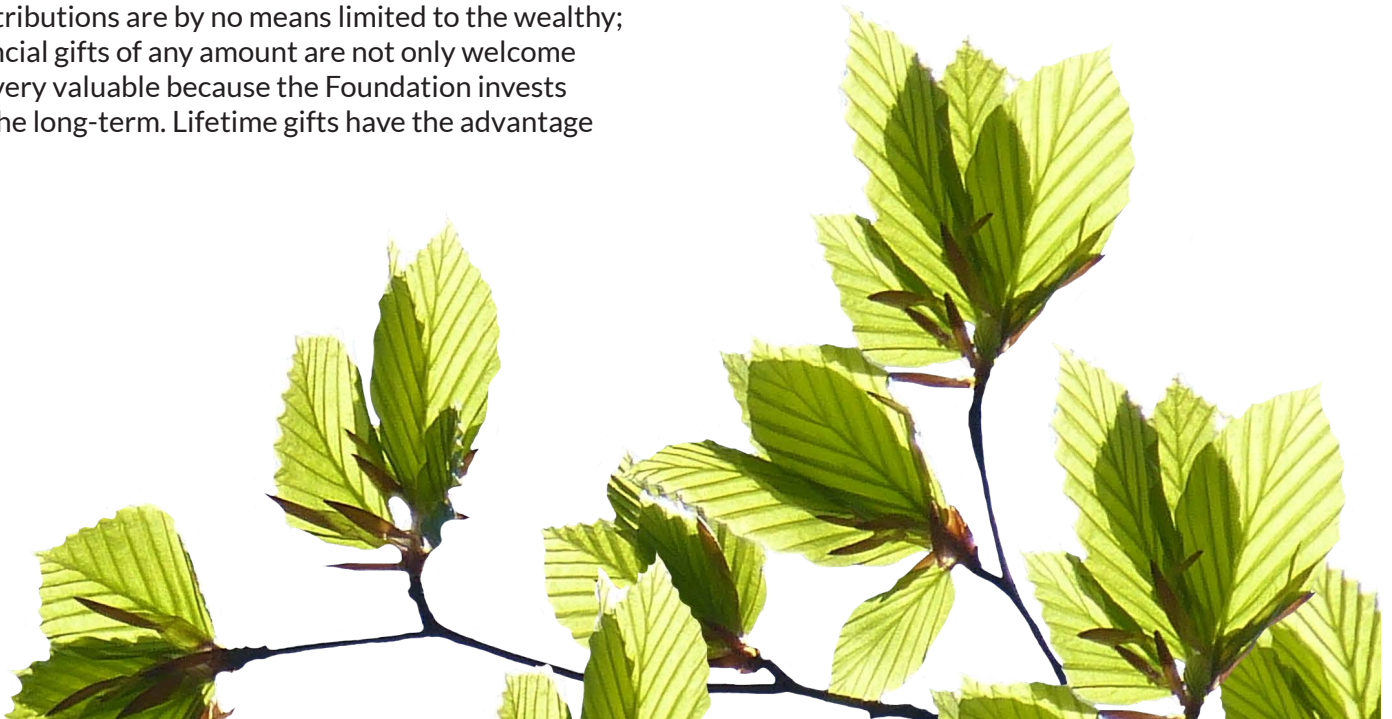
The relevant meaning for this article is an institution financed by donations and/or legacy gifts to support stated purposes. When used in this context, we often think of very large institutions and endowments, such as the Ford or Gates Foundations, or foundations established by the very wealthy.

The LOPC Foundation is small by comparison to many foundations, but it is very meaningful for the church. Its vision is to be a permanent, reliable source of significant funding for all of LOPC’s ministries. To enable it to do so, it invites members of the congregation and friends to make lifetime or estate plan financial gifts that are invested to generate income for annual distributions to the church to support its operations and maintenance of its facilities. Contributions are by no means limited to the wealthy; financial gifts of any amount are not only welcome but very valuable because the Foundation invests for the long-term. Lifetime gifts have the advantage

of presently increasing the amount available for the Foundation to invest. Estate-plan gifts offer the advantage of allowing donors to retain funds for their lifetime needs while arranging for contributions from their estate.

The trustees are endeavoring to increase awareness of the benefits that the Foundation provides for the church’s ministries. They encourage members to become Friends of the Foundation by making contributions and/or indicating their intention to provide for the Foundation in their estate plans. Doing so reflects a desire to ensure LOPC’s financial security for the future. Although the Foundation did not provide a beginning or groundwork at the formation of the church, it now serves as a foundation upon which the church may rely.

For information about the Foundation, please contact a trustee: Jim Beckemeyer, Lois Boyd, Jen Crocker, Jerry Ducey, Kristi Haigh, Staci Johnston, Phil Placier, Mike Ross, Dara Youngdale.





Seeking New Church Leaders! Officer Nominations Needed by April 26.

One of the cornerstones of our Presbyterian heritage is election by the congregation of church officers to provide leadership for the church as well as loving support for those in the church community. Each year we elect officers to serve for the following year, drawn from nominations from the congregation.

We are now in the process of selecting new officers and leaders for terms beginning January 2021. It is a privilege and responsibility to nominate members to serve as elected lay leaders. It is also necessary for us to participate in the essential process that will influence our church in the near future.

The primary qualifications for nominees are:

- Strong commitment to Jesus Christ and the church's Mission Statement.
- Active participation in worship and in other ministries at LOPC.
- Stewardship commitment of time, talent, and financial resources.
- Leadership ability and organizational skills.
- Compassion in human relationships.
- An open-minded approach to ideas and problems.
- Spiritual depth and maturity.
- Ability to equip people for ministry and work in a team-based leadership role.

Elders, together with the pastors, lead and direct the ministry of the church. They are persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Elders serve on Session, the governing body of the church. They also chair various church teams through which all ministries are conducted. Eight elders are ordained annually to serve three-year terms.

Deacons, as set forth in Scripture, are leaders who serve as the caring, compassionate arm of the church. They provide loving support to all those in need within the church community. The primary area of Deacon service is care of members. Ten deacons are ordained annually to serve a three-year term and two deacons of high-school age to serve a one-year term.

The Congregation Nominating Committee (CNC) members receive and renew nominations for church officers. They select candidates to present to the congregation. They are elected for a one-year term.

Foundation Trustees serve on the LOPC Foundation. This nine-member foundation receives gifts in various forms and designations, manages investments, and provides funding for LOPC needs that cannot be accommodated in the church's annual operating budget. Trustees serve an initial term of four years and are eligible to be re-elected for one three-year term. Members who have served in the past can be nominated for a two-year term.

Nomination forms will be available until May 5 in the Ministry Center and Sanctuary pew racks, or you may email nominations to cnc@lopc.org. We need your nominations, so please fill out and submit at least one nomination form.

For more information, contact a CNC member: David MacKenzie (Chair), Paul Koenig (Clerk of Session), Jeff Patton, Ann Loar, Richard Courtney, Marsha McDonagh, Linda Kinrade (Deacon Representative), Peter Whitelock, and Gerald Chinen. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

We are looking forward to hearing from each of you.

easter

\$20

Easter Azaleas

Please make checks payable to LOPC.
Please fill out and return this form to the
Ministry Center Office at LOPC by April 6.

I / We would like to donate a white azalea to adorn the sanctuary on Easter Sunday

In Memory of: _____

Or

In Honor of: _____

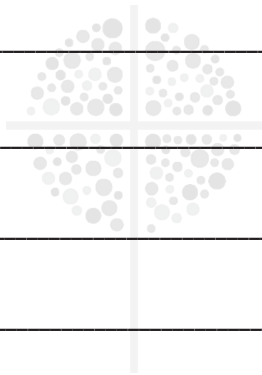
Given By: _____

Phone: _____ Amount: _____

I intend to collect my
plant after Easter
Services.

I would like to have my
plant donated.

Please Circle
Cash Check



This Easter, we will continue our well-loved tradition of adorning the sanctuary with beautiful white azaleas. You can return this form with your payment to the Ministry Center in person or by mail to 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549 by Monday, April 6. A list of flower dedications will be published in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Those who have donated azaleas may take them home following the 11:00 a.m. service, or they may be picked up in the Chapel narthex April 13 - 15.

Contact Lexi at lexi@lopc.org for more information.

April 5 • 12:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Palm Sunday Potluck Brunch & Egg Hunt





MARCH 2020

49 Knox Drive
Lafayette, CA 94549

IMPORTANT

Return Service Requested

Dated Material
PLEASE DELIVER
BEFORE 3/1/20

Thank you!

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAFAYETTE, CA
PERMIT NO. 12

PASTORAL STAFF

Peter Whitelock, Head of Staff
Gerald Chinen, Congregational Care
Lauren Gully, Mission & Spiritual Formation
Jaime Polson, Families & Executive Leadership

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Brett Strader, Director
Stewart Scharch, Organist

TREASURER

Char Casella

MINISTRY DIRECTORS

Chris Baldwin, Community Engagement
Keris Dahlkamp & Allison Kunz, Youth
Coleen Moulton, Seedlings Preschool
Ryan Timpte, Children

FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Jon Corry, Communications

Editors: Dick James, Lexi Morrissey,
& Renée Wigginton

Thank you to all who contribute to each issue!

Monthly FOCUS Newsletter Deadline:

March 1 for the April issue.

Email items to communications@lopc.org.

Weekly CONNECTIONS Deadline:

Every Monday by 5 p.m. for the following
Sunday's issue.

Submit items at:

lopc.org/submission-for-connections

Dates to Remember

- March 8 • Daylight Saving Time Begins
- April 5 • Palm Sunday
- April 9 • Maundy Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
- April 10 • Good Friday, 7:00 p.m.
- April 12 • Easter, 6:30 a.m. Sunrise
8:00 a.m. • 9:30 a.m. • 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Services
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Invite Friends & Family!

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to the number 77977
to download it today.

and at lopc.org