

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2022

# FOCUS

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



A welcoming and loving community of faith  
that learns, grows, and serves together.

[LOPC.ORG](https://LOPC.ORG)





# RESURRECTION

By Peter Whitelock - Pastor, Head of Staff

“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.”  
- 1 Corinthians 15:20

In this month of April, our thoughts turn towards the promise of Easter and new life. We hear good news about resurrection, which is no simple resuscitation or reanimation but rather a transformation of one's being. And as the above verse reminds us, as Jesus rose from the grave in resurrected form so will we experience this same transformation through faith in him one day. His experience becomes what we anticipate.



One of the things that resurrection points us towards is the powerful truth that God works with what we know in order to bring into being things that are beyond our knowing. I am inspired by this thought as our lives begin to return to some normalcy in the lifting of the pandemic. We see new life breaking out all over, and hopefully it will continue apace, but we are not simply returning to life before the pandemic. Things have changed and we are experiencing a new reality.

Looking for resurrection, whether in our personal lives or as a community of faith, leads us to give thanks for a return to life that is more familiar, but also welcome new opportunities and possibilities available to us because God is doing a new thing in us so that we can thrive in a changed world. That's why we're not simply reanimating a pre-pandemic ministry at LOPC these days, but we are rethinking ministry to better fit the world in which we now live and serve. Perhaps you can find a parallel in your own experience these days. In the resurrection we find hope, always, for new life to meet the challenges of a new day!

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Jon Corry - Communications  
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### Submissions & Deadlines

Please send requests for submissions to:  
[communications@lopc.org](mailto:communications@lopc.org)  
no later than May 1 for the June/July issue.

Thank you to all who contribute each month to *Focus*!

# EASTER Special Offering

# HOPE SOLUTIONS

**Donations accepted April 10 - May 1**

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**Hope Solutions heals the effects of poverty and homelessness by providing permanent housing solutions and vital support services to highly vulnerable families and individuals.**

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Hope Solutions was founded in 1991, when the Homeless Task Force of LOPC alerted its neighboring faith-based communities to the growing crisis of homelessness in Contra Costa County, particularly for families with special needs. Fifteen congregations responded by forming Contra Costa Interfaith Transitional Housing (CCIH). In its 20-plus years, the agency has grown and changed its name to better reflect the mission to provide permanent housing and services. Hope Solutions now serves more than 2,000 people a year of the most fragile population in our county, including seniors, survivors of domestic abuse, youth aging out of the foster system, people reentering society following incarceration, individuals living with HIV/AIDs, and families with mental or physical disabilities. In the past year, 98% of Hope Solutions households

remained permanently housed. As part of the five-year strategic plan, Hope Solutions has committed to build 50 new housing units, some of which will be cottages (sometimes called tiny or micro-homes). The first of these projects is planned in partnership with Grace Presbyterian Church in Walnut Creek and Firm Foundation Community Housing. The development, to be located in an unused church parking area, would include six 225-square-foot homes, each with a toilet, shower, fridge, stove-top, and kitchen sink. The new community, Hope Village, would also house an office and laundry room, as well as an outdoor communal gathering spot. This project represents a new growth direction for Hope Solutions towards creative, efficient, and cost-effective housing development. Such cottage communities can be built

in three-to-six months at a cost of only a third of traditional affordable housing complexes. This summer, Hope Solutions is launching a capital campaign to fund more cottage communities. This Easter, please consider an early gift as a “show of faith” in Hope Solutions and their vision of a world in which everyone has a place to call home to live with dignity and reach their full potential.

## Ways to Give

- **Visit [lopc.org/specialoffering](https://lopc.org/specialoffering). Be sure to select “Give one time” and then “Hope Solutions” in the dropdown menu.**
- **Write a check to LOPC with “Hope Solutions” in the memo and place in collection box in the Narthex or the black mailbox in front of the Ministry Center.**



**Don't miss the Hope Solutions Annual Gala, Ruby Slippers – There's No Place Like Home, on its new date, Saturday, April 30. Go to [hopesolutions.org](https://hopesolutions.org) for more information.**

# holy week



## Palm Sunday April 10

All Ages Intergenerational Worship  
Service - 10:00 a.m. in-person and  
on Livestream

If your child is younger than one year  
old, please contact Susan Wentworth  
at [susan@lopc.org](mailto:susan@lopc.org) one week prior to  
attending on a Sunday for arrangements.

P A L M S U N D A Y

## Egg Hunt

April 10, Following 10:00 a.m. Worship

Come enjoy breakfast/dessert bites, live  
music from local artist Remi Moulder, a  
Balloon Animal Artist, Games, Sidewalk  
Chalk, Crafts/Coloring Sheets, Photo area,  
and fun!

Egg Hunt #1:

**Ages 1 - 3** under the  
Fellowship Hall sail  
shade

Egg Hunt #2:

**Ages 4 - 10** on the  
back playground



## Maundy Thursday



April 14  
7:00 p.m.  
In-Person & on  
Livestream

## Good Friday



April 15  
7:00 p.m.  
In-Person & on  
Livestream



## Easter Azaleas

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

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Or

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\$20

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

☐

Cash

☐

Check

Please make checks payable to LOPC.

Please fill out and return this form to the Ministry Center Office at LOPC by April 11.

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 11**, or purchase after the service on the Plaza March 27, April 3 and 10. A list of flower dedications will be published in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Those who have donated azaleas may take them home following the 10:30 a.m. service, or they may be picked up in the Sanctuary narthex April 18 - 20.

Questions? Contact Lexi Morrissey at [lexi@lopc.org](mailto:lexi@lopc.org)

*Sunday, April 17*

# EASTER

**6:30 A.M.**

In-Person Early Morning Service

**9:00 A.M.**

In-Person + Livestream

**10:30 A.M.**

In-Person

**Ages 1-3 Childcare**

**PreK- 4th grade Easter Program in CLC**

**Ages 10+ Worship in the Sanctuary**

If your child is younger than one year old, please contact Susan Wentworth at [susan@lopc.org](mailto:susan@lopc.org) one week prior to attending on a Sunday to make special arrangements.



## children



## vacation bible camp June 6-10

**L**OPC's Vacation Bible Camp this summer will explore God's goodness and celebrate how God helps all of us to be peacemakers through songs, stories, games, activities, and more. Camp is where kids experience the love of God, grow their talents of kindness, mercy, and justice, and learn to change the world by being the hands, feet, and heart of God.

We would love to open camp to as many families as possible, but its size depends on the number of volunteers.

Not only are volunteers essential, but the relationships built with the campers will last a lifetime. Daycare will be available for volunteers' children under age 4. Please consider volunteering at this year's Vacation Bible Camp!

Registration for all will open on April 1. This is a parent-participation program and capacity will be determined by how many volunteers participate. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Preference is given to families who sign up with an adult volunteer for all five days of camp.

**Who:** Kids 4 years old by June 1 who have completed 4th grade (June 2022).

**Dates:** Monday, June 6 – Friday, June 10, 2022.

**Time:** Monday/Tuesday & Thursday/Friday 2:00-5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday 2:00-4:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$85 per child (April 1 - May 1); \$100 per child (after May 1s).

**Register campers and volunteers starting April 1 at:**

**[lopc.org/vbcamp2022](http://lopc.org/vbcamp2022)**

## youth



### Salinas Service-Learning Trip April 2

A small group of youth will travel to Salinas for a day of service and fun with some of our longstanding mission partners in and around Salinas. This is an excellent way for our youth to see firsthand how all of us are connected to the Central Valley and to help those who live there..

**We will be sharing a summary of the Salinas trip in the May issue of Focus, so stay tuned!**

### Lighthouse April 23

Lighthouse is designed to connect LOPC's 7th – 12th graders and children from Hope Solutions - Lakeside Apartments in a way that deepens relationships and faith. Activities will include a shared lunch, crafts, and games. The event on April 23 will be the second visit for our youth this year; the first was in March.

## mission

# Esperanza Place



## A New Community from Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity has a new project to meet the continued need for housing in our area. Soaring home prices continue to push people further out from city centers in search of sustainable housing costs. Contra Costa County has seen a tremendous population increase, and, as a result, the need for more affordable housing has grown. Typical home buyers making \$158K will use 35% of their income to purchase a median-priced home of \$791,800, while home buyers making \$74,000 annually would need to use 74% percent of their income to purchase the same home. This disparity makes it virtually impossible for the majority of low-to-moderate-income earners to buy a home. Organizations like Habitat for Humanity can help more people receive the benefits of stable housing; and developments like Esperanza Place bring homeownership within reach of households who are rarely afforded the chance. The new development, located at 1250 Las Juntas Way in Walnut Creek, is working to achieve just that.

Esperanza Place is a new Habitat development featuring 42 affordable townhomes. It is a high density, transit oriented, sustainable community located next to the Pleasant Hill BART station, the Contra Costa Centre Transit Village, and Iron Horse Trail. The project was designed to house more families with minimal land use.

Additionally, it was built as a zero-net-energy community, meaning it contributes more energy than it consumes, through use of solar panels, drought-tolerant landscaping, alternative building materials, efficient appliances, and electric-car chargers.

The development will include one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom units and will surround a community space for neighbors to gather and children to play. Esperanza means “hope” in Spanish, and the design is intended to inspire just that; a community filled with hope for a bright future. All residents will be required to put in “sweat equity,” which equates to hundreds of hours of work on the homes. Along with that,, thousands of volunteer hours will be needed to make this community a reality.

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church has a history of addressing homelessness as one of its core mission goals, and felt called to participate in the work. As a recipient of a large, designated gift in 2021, LOPC has donated \$25,000 to this project, and looks forward to sending many LOPC teams to volunteer their time and talents.

**Please join in praying for this project, and for those who will soon call Esperanza Place home! Opportunities to volunteer will be coming soon!**

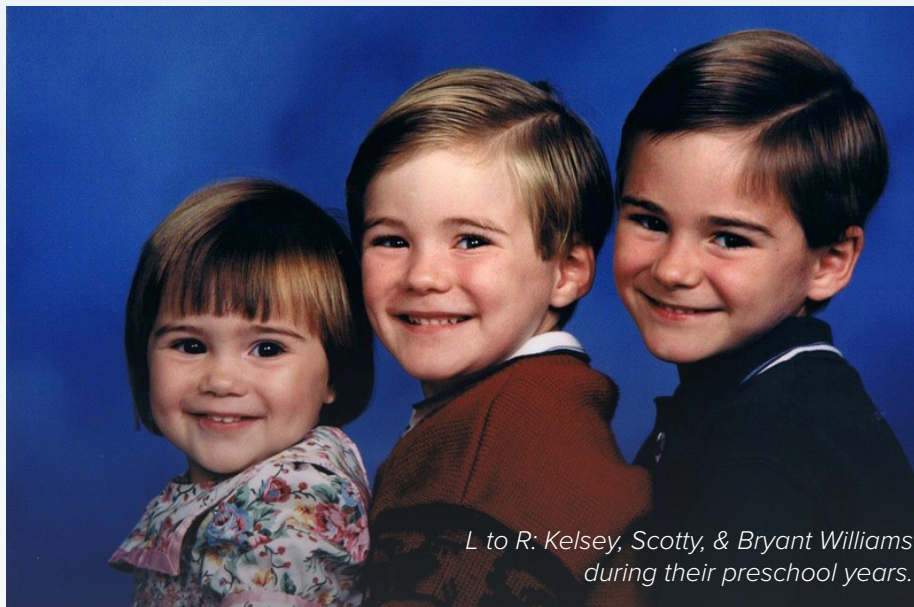


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# Where Are They NOW?



*L to R: Kelsey, Scotty, & Bryant Williams  
during their preschool years.*

## The Williams Family

*By Sarah Bennett, Seedlings Communications*

**L**ongtime Orinda residents Sherri and Jim Williams enrolled their three children in what is now called Seedlings Preschool more than three decades ago, and their children (Bryant, Scotty, and Kelsey) attended a total of eight years.

Bryant (now 34) and his wife, Lauren, live in Hillsborough and have three children: Livvy (4), Jack (2), and Ella (6 months). Bryant is a Partner at DBO Partners, an investment-banking firm, and Lauren is working in HR at Atlassian.

Scotty (31) and his wife Kathryn live in Larkspur and have two children: Luke (2) and Rosie (11 months), and a third child is due March 5. Scotty is an executive for FTC Solar, and Kathryn is a pediatric nurse practitioner.

*continues next page →*



Kelsey (29) and her husband, Keenan Simon, live in Scottsdale, Arizona, and she works in HR for Carvana, and Keenan is as an executive at Simon Med.

“When my eldest child, Bryant, started at Seedlings in 1989, it was called Mother’s Day Out,” says Sherri. “It was originally designed by the elders at LOPC as a drop-in program to help mothers get some respite. As the demand grew, the school became more and more structured, more days and classrooms were added, and eventually it was accredited as a full preschool. “For many years, the parents had to line up outside on one day to sign up for the following year. I remember getting in line at the crack of dawn, in the cold, to secure a spot! In January 1993, the school changed its name to Seedlings.”

In recent interviews with Sherri and her children, most of their Seedlings memories involved the teachers. “I remember the teachers being the best part of Seedlings because they were very nurturing and patient. When I would go back to visit, the teachers would always remember me,” says Kelsey.

Sherri recalls, “One day I ran into Jan, who taught the infants class for decades. She asked about my kids who were in college then. She remembered all of their birthdays without hesitation! It was remarkable!”

“The teachers were fantastic. It was much more than a day care; it was a place to learn to mature and develop, socialize with others, make friends, and be excited to attend because you knew everyone and felt comfortable,” says Bryant.

“Seedlings was an incredible experience, and I met a lot of friends there who I stayed in touch with throughout high school and college. LOPC was our family’s foundation for

community and faith, and Seedlings was the start of it all,” says Scotty.

“Seedlings certainly was, and continues to be, an exceptional preschool in so many ways. (My kids) loved all of the teachers and the directors, and, of course, learned everything they needed to succeed at kindergarten. Beyond that—it was a life changing experience for me!” Sherri says. “Seedlings not only proved to be critical to my children’s development, but also to my education

and happiness as a mother. I had just completed my doctoral degree as a child psychologist at UCSF when I had my first child. We moved to Orinda in 1986, the same year that I lost my mother. I had no family or friends in the area, and I was quite lonely. I was still working and had little time to find new friends. One of the mothers at Seedlings asked me to speak to a group of moms about a developmental issue, and that started my path to becoming very involved with the school and LOPC.”



*The Williams family all together in 2021  
Back row (left to right): Scotty & Kathryn Williams,  
Kelsey & Keenan Simon, Lauren & Bryant Williams.  
Front Row (left to right): Jim Williams holding Jack & Luke;  
Sherri Williams holding Rosie & Livvy.*

“God truly loves me and will be there for me, no matter what, until the end of the world.”

## journey of Faith

By Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member

“I enjoy helping people, so I feel that service is a calling from Jesus to me – my purpose in life,” says Kaila Johnson, a recent graduate of the Confirmands’ class. “So, whether it’s at the Food Bank, Trinity Center, White Pony, or Monument Crisis Center, literally any organization that serves others, I will always lend a hand because I know so many people who need assistance look to these organizations.”

Working in the preschool ministry is another way Kaila answers this calling. “I was never around little children before, but since I’ve been at the preschool, my heart has grown to love these little ones so much. They are so curious, and they ask questions to which I hope I can give simple, but good answers.”

“LOPC has given me the confidence to do this. I started in the Kids Rock youth group, then YOW, and now BTW. Being around other Christians and sharing experiences with them really opened my eyes to new perspectives because each person sees or feels God differently. Everyone has their own special relationship with God and with their faith in God. I feel the devotionals at youth group have really benefitted me because they brought a light to how special God is and how everyone can have a relationship with God if one tries.”

Kaila says she feels LOPC is a judgment free zone where curiosity is not only allowed but invited. “I think when there are so many seemingly different interpretations and contradictions and possible questions about the Bible, it’s helpful. Everyone has questions, and at LOPC that’s okay. Just putting thoughts out there, and hearing from others, allows people to understand their own faith better.”

Kaila’s parents, Heidi and Chris, are long time members of LOPC. She has a sister, Samya, and a brother, Levi. Her grandmother, Linda Stoehr, attends church with them.

Kaila has attended Lafayette schools and currently is a ninth-grader at Acalanes High School. “A lot of my friends have moved away or become distant, which is something I’ve needed help from God with. But recently I have found a nice group of friends I really like at Acalanes.”

The family likes traveling, and Kaila feels very fortunate that she’s seen different parts of the world including France, Spain, Italy, Canada, Japan, Thailand, and all over the United States. A trip to Greece is in the offing this June.

“I am very grateful I’ve been able to do this with my family. It teaches you so



Kaila Johnson

much about others and the different cultures and religions. They have distinct traditions and work/school ethos, celebrate different holidays, and have unique ways of doing things in everyday life. Yes, different, but all the same in God’s eyes, and He loves every one of us.”

Being alone in nature is special to Kaila. She relates, “I was in Tahoe on a walk by myself. It was morning and had just snowed. It was white everywhere and so beautiful. It was overall super peaceful, and a time I felt close to Jesus and God. I have always sensed God in nature, and a peaceful moment like this was heavenly to me.”

A Bible verse Kaila says has helped her is Matthew 28:20: “You can be sure that I will be with you always. I will continue with you until the end of the world.”

“This resonates with me because not only is it a reminder that God is always with me, that God is always looking out for me, but it’s uplifting to me that God is in me! God loves me! He has boundless love, and He chooses to give it to me. This verse is always in the back of my mind because it’s a reminder of how much God truly loves me and will be there for me, no matter what, until the end of the world.”



## foundation

### Evolution of a Partnership

By Kristi Haigh, LOPC Foundation Trustee



Kristi Haigh

**“S**tay flexible.” These are words I heard at a recent LOPC leadership event about the post-pandemic church. These are vital words to live by in

these times. As I write what will most likely be my last Focus article after almost seven years as a Foundation trustee, I am astounded at how “flexible” the LOPC Foundation has been, how it has evolved over the years as its ability to become a more effective partner with LOPC has grown.

When I started on the board, the Foundation had been busy behind the scenes, streamlining its way of managing the portfolio, giving thanks for a large, unexpected legacy gift which allows the Foundation to contribute significantly to maintaining facilities, and reconnecting with the Friends of the Foundation after a time when the church had been focused on significant capital campaigns. We called this a time of “rekindling” of the Foundation.

As the portfolio grew, the Foundation evolved from funding programs in their infancy and newly adopted mission projects, to working more and more closely with the church’s finance team to provide support wherever session deemed it was most needed. The Foundation offers an annual orientation to church leaders about how we can best assist them: at the end of each

fiscal year, we determine how much can prudently be withdrawn from the Foundation portfolios that year to be given to the church. LOPC’s elders decide how it should be allocated. Over the years, the partnership has matured and worked more smoothly than ever.

During the past couple of years, the pandemic has caused huge disruptions and challenges for all of us. The church has changed in many ways, but LOPC has been resilient and found new ways to “share the good news of the gospel... provide ministry onsite, offsite, and online... breaking down barriers to being an inclusive community” (all parts of the church’s vision statement). All along the way, the Foundation has sought to be a supportive partner in this work. We have met on Zoom throughout the pandemic, attended session meetings, responded to staff requests, and looked for ways to work with a variety of ministries in our church family.

I have no doubt the Foundation will continue to “stay flexible” in assisting LOPC in its mission.

**If you would like to know how you can add to the Foundation’s ability to assist LOPC by becoming a Friend of the Foundation, contact any one of the nine Foundation trustees: Jim Beckemeyer, Doug Bontemps, Lois Boyd, Jen Crocker, Linda Fodrini-Johnson, Kristi Haigh, Staci Johnston, Mike Ross, and Dara Youngdale.**

### Giving at LOPC

**O**ne of the most practical ways you can help during times like these is to continue to support LOPC financially.

To give, visit [lopc.org](http://lopc.org) and select **GIVE BACK** and the Online Giving Tab, or scan the QR code on your mobile device.




## finance

### the GENEROSITY corner

Sharing our Time, Talents, and Treasure

### Thinking About Treasure

 By Nancy Henderson,  
Generosity Team Member

**A** church member once confessed she couldn’t physically participate in a key program and asked if it was okay to give money instead? The pastor assured her that non-profit organizations are typically delighted with financial gifts as a form of participation.

As we know, LOPC includes a physical side that encompasses programs, staff, buildings, supplies, technology, commitments to mission partners, and more. All of that, of course, requires money – namely our Treasure. As we highlighted in past months, Time and Talent gifts are highly valued. Fortunately, a very talented team of financial folks manage the budget to assure that our treasure is used wisely to fund many wonderful programs.

God welcomes all our gifts of time and talent and treasure, in whatever form and whatever size. The Bible has much to say about money. Treasure is a complicated matter. So, looking to the Bible for guidance, remember 2 Corinthians 9:6-7:

*“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

Thank you for the many ways everyone gives of their time, talent, and treasure to share Christ’s love.

## session

### February Session Report

By Jeanette Shearer, Clerk of Session

At a time when it seems the world is struggling with war, illness, climate issues, and divisions among – and within – countries, God reminds us that he is in control and always in charge. In John 14:27, Jesus tells us, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” These are words to live by in the days of uncertainty and times of change.

We are blessed at LOPC for myriad reasons – we have staff who know us by name, present beautiful music and sermons, and care for us on a weekly basis. We took time at the February meeting to be to be thankful for those who have served us so well, but because we live in a world constantly changing, are moving on to brighter things.

At the February session meeting, we learned that after nine wonderful and uplifting years, Brett Strader, director of music and worship, will be taking on an exciting new executive position with a local bay area organization, Music in Place. The congregation will celebrate Brett on his last day on Sunday, April 24. LOPC is praying that those who fill the various positions currently open at LOPC will bring their gifts and talents to be used for God’s work on Earth.

As is done every year in February, session reviewed and approved the LOPC session policies for 2022. These policies cover a variety of areas that session oversees such as facilities use, clergy benefits, social justice advocacy, and more.

## community

### The Nature of Reality - A Discussion

1:00-2:30 p.m., Friday, April 22, in the Oak Room

The Science and Religion Study Group has made new plans for its first meeting in nearly a year. The event will be held in person on Friday, April 22, at 1 p.m. in the Oak Room. This event was originally planned for earlier this year but canceled by Covid restrictions.

The afternoon’s discussion will be entitled “The Nature of Reality!” It will be led by LOPC community member Tom Weaver. His research as a physicist has focused on astrophysics (mostly stellar evolution, supernovae, and the creation of the chemical elements in stars), nuclear physics (including advanced nuclear reactors), and laser physics.

“Scientists and spiritual seekers have tried for thousands of years to come to a deeper understanding of the nature of reality through both experiments and spiritual practice and insights,” Tom says. “Though no consensus yet exists on what reality actually is, some intriguing possibilities and commonalities have emerged. Whatever reality is, it seems likely to be very different from what we superficially think we see when we look out at our everyday world.”

If you have some thoughts on this topic or an interest in what others think, please come. All are welcome, so invite a friend if you think they, too, might be interested. Tom will be drawing on insights from his research as well as using several articles as the basis for the discussion. This will be an in-person gathering, so please be fully vaccinated.

Tom holds a Ph.D. in physics from UC Berkeley, and worked for many years



as a physicist at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab while also helping to select and mentor graduate-student Fellows for the Hertz Foundation, before nominally

“retiring” in 2019. His research interests have expanded over the years to include theoretical biology, the nature of complex systems, and mind/brain operation and the associated phenomena of consciousness.

The following articles will serve as the basis for a more general discussion that can be read beforehand by searching online:

- “Quantum Reality: What does Quantum Mechanics Suggest About the Nature of Reality?” (Wall Street Journal’s Review (May 29, 2021, of Helgoland: Making Sense of the Quantum Revolution.)
- “Science Should Not Try to Absorb Religion and Other Ways of Knowing” (Scientific American, 6/25/21).
- “Mystical Experience: What the Psychological Research Has to Say.” Friends Journal, 6/1/14.

Science and Religion was formed in 1997 by a nucleus of interested members led by the late Rev. John Turpin to explore the intersection of two of the world’s most important disciplines. It met monthly in person and then via Zoom until early 2021, hearing presentations by scientists, theologians, philosophers, teachers, and LOPC members.



# community

## Respite Night

For parents who have children and youth with special needs, ages 2-22.

April 1, May 6, and June 3 - 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Drop off your kiddos for an outdoor evening of fun while our trained, background-checked, and fully vaccinated staff will care for them. Advanced registration is required.

Please email Michelle Browning at [michelle@lopc.org](mailto:michelle@lopc.org) to register.

## Volunteers Needed:

Join our amazing team at the front desk!

We're looking to add to our roster of amazing volunteers who cover the front desk when needed. Typical duties include answering phones and greeting visitors.

Interested? Contact Ciara Bird at [ciara@lopc.org](mailto:ciara@lopc.org) for more info.



## FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

### Astronomy: The 5% We Know and the 95% We Don't Know

April 1, 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

“In the past 60 years there has been no scientific field that has undergone a more drastic increase in what we know about the universe than astronomy,” says Prof. Larry Toy, the First Friday Forum speaker for the April program. His talk is entitled “Astronomy: The 5% We Know and the 95% We Don't Know.” It will be held on Zoom, Friday, April 1, at 10 a.m.



Dr. Larry Toy

“This is not what we typically expect from science,” he says, “always learning more and more, reducing the amount we don't know. When I was in college and grad school studying astronomy, we thought we knew pretty much everything about the universe in great detail, and at a minimum, at least a broad outline. Fast forward to today, and astronomers now believe we know about five percent of the universe. In my lecture we'll talk about that five percent, particularly the parts that affect our daily lives, and the big

questions about the unknown, including why we think only five percent is known and the rest unknown.”

Prof. Toy has been interested in astronomy since childhood. He graduated from Harvard, majoring in astronomy, and then went to UC Berkeley for M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in astronomy.

He spent 30 years as a professor of astronomy at Chabot College, and was chosen to receive one of the first four Outstanding Faculty Awards for the California Community Colleges, from among 15,000 faculty statewide. Subsequently, he spent 10 years as founding president and CEO of the Foundation for California Community Colleges.

A recipient of two resolutions from the California Assembly, Toy also was awarded the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Harvard Club of San Francisco. He was president

of both the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges and the Californians for Community Colleges. He also is president of Lamorinda Village.

An interesting sidelight, relates Prof. Toy: “My grandfather was a laundry man who brought his children from China to the United States. My father was 12, and at this time, no one in my family had even graduated from high school. My father ended up getting his high school diploma and then attended Joliet Junior College. He was there in the 1930s, later transferring to the University of Illinois, achieving a Ph.D. degree in chemistry. There, my dad was son of a laundry man who went to a community college, who went on to earn a doctorate degree, and his son, me, graduates from Harvard. It was a big change, and an example of what community colleges can do, and why I champion them.”

**Prof. Toy's lecture will be a webinar presentation. Registration is required at [lopc.org/first-friday-forum](https://lopc.org/first-friday-forum)**

# community

## thursday Fellowship

*caring • sharing • loving*

*A program of Senior Care Ministries*

By Julie Peterson, Coordinator

On March 17, we celebrated! Guests and volunteers alike were thrilled to be able to meet in person for a St. Patrick's Day party. We started the day making a craft led by Penny Meyerhoff and Renee Lee, who have recently joined our volunteer team. We had a wonderful lunch and celebrated the March birthdays. We were entertained by the barbershop quartet What-4?. They had been scheduled to perform before the pandemic, and we were excited to welcome them back. Their performance was geared toward St. Patrick's Day, and everyone's toes were tapping. There was a "wearin' of the green" and the spirit in the room was festive. It was a great day.



We are excited to announce that Thursday Fellowship will meet twice this month, April 7 and April 21. The volunteers are working hard to provide more wonderful programs, lunches, and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you in person.

On April 7, we will welcome back Gillian and Joe, the Roebuck Duo, for a performance of "Broadway Remembered" in song with piano accompaniment.

On April 21, professional musicians Lara Garner and Lewis Patzner will provide beautiful, light classical music on cello and piano. Their performance will also feature a sprinkling of jazz standards from the likes of Jerome Kern, Sammy Cahn, George Gershwin, and Cole Porter.

**Our typical program-day schedule: 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

- **11:00 a.m. - Meet-and-Greet with snacks and beverages.**
- **11:15 a.m. - Crafts or light exercise.**
- **Noon - Lunch including salad, dessert, and beverages; guests may bring a sandwich.**
- **12:45-1:30 p.m. - Entertainment.**

Look for further information in the weekly email and in Connections. Any questions, contact Julie Peterson at [julie@lopc.org](mailto:julie@lopc.org) or call 925-283-8722 x281.

## care

### Care and Senior Ministry Opportunities

#### Keep Moving!

Keris Dahlkamp, Youth Co-Director, returns on Zoom to lead his excellent "Stretch and Strength" chair-exercise classes on Tuesdays, starting April 12 from 9:15-9:55 a.m. Register on the LOPC website or the weekly events email.

#### Authors Forum Event

LOPC member Tom Scovel will visit with two published authors, Joanie Keim and Francie Low, on Friday, April 29, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m., to discuss their process of writing and their books. Register on the LOPC website or weekly email blast, which will instruct about whether this event is to be held in person on the LOPC campus or on Zoom.

#### Birthday and Encouragement Cards Needed!

Help is needed writing cards of encouragement and birthday wishes for folks at Trinity Center. Trinity is excited that LOPC has volunteered for this mission task, advising that their friends will greatly appreciate birthday greetings and words of encouragement. Please leave your written cards undated, and sign only your first name. Contact us for blank cards as needed or to arrange for your cards to be delivered to LOPC for forwarding to Trinity Center.

**For more information, contact Catherine Coleman at [awaitingword@gmail.com](mailto:awaitingword@gmail.com) or 510.928.9714.**

## hold in PRAYER

**Prayers of comfort and peace go out to the families and friends of:**

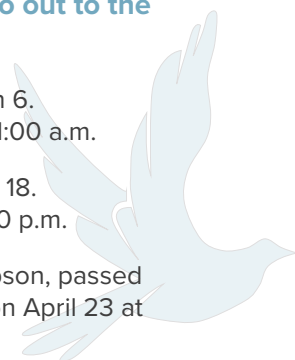
**Laurie Morrison**, who passed March 6.  
A service will be held on April 4 at 11:00 a.m.

**Nancy Placier**, who passed January 18.  
A service will be held April 23 at 1:00 p.m.

**Bev Thompson**, wife of Dick Thompson, passed February 16. A service will be held on April 23 at 4:30 p.m.

**Don Merson**, who passed February 17, and  
**Diane Merson**, who passed February 20.

**Adella Kellejian**, who passed December 16.







## Seeking New Church Leaders for terms beginning January 1, 2023!

Nominations can be submitted April 1 – May 31.

One of the cornerstones of our Presbyterian heritage is the annual election by the congregation of church officers to provide leadership for the church. 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:

**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. The following teams will need an elder assigned in 2023: Care, Finance, Mission, Operations, Personnel,

Senior Adults, Spiritual Formation, and Worship.

**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.

**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.

### The Congregation Nominating Committee (CNC) members are

elected for a one-year term. Their duties include receiving and reviewing nominations for church officers and selecting candidates to present to the congregation.

Nominations can be submitted by filling out the form below and mailing it to the church or going to: [lopc.org/2022cnc](http://lopc.org/2022cnc)

For more information, contact a CNC member: Jeff Patton (Chair), Jeanette Shearer (Clerk of Session), Steve Crocker, Heidi Johnson, Marsha McDonagh, Linda Rosenthal, Andrea Hilsabeck (Deacon Representative), Peter Whitelock, and Gerald Chinen. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

**We are looking forward to hearing from each of you.**



### Officer Nomination Form - For terms beginning January 1, 2023.

*Please give as many details as possible. If you feel God has called you to service, please nominate yourself.*

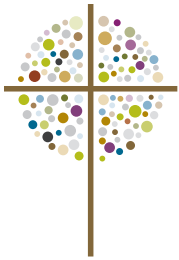
First & Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated for (please circle): Elder Deacon CNC Foundation

Please tell us why you are nominating this person and be as specific as possible:

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



**LAFAYETTE-ORINDA  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
49 Knox Drive  
Lafayette, CA 94549



IMPORTANT

Dated Material  
PLEASE DELIVER  
BEFORE 4/1/22  
Thank you!

Return Service Requested

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

**THERE IS STILL TIME TO SUBMIT YOUR 2022 PLEDGE!**



## **YOUR GIVING KEEPS LOPC MOVING FORWARD IN SERVICE TO MANY.**

So far, our community has pledged \$2,116,797 for 2022. Our goal is \$2,400,000. Your pledge will help LOPC plan and meet our 2022 budget.

**Scan to make your pledge online:  
or visit [lopc.org/pledge](https://lopc.org/pledge)**



**QUESTIONS ABOUT PLEDGING?**

Contact Farah Mohammadzai at (925) 283-8722 x229 • [farah@lopc.org](mailto:farah@lopc.org)