

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 2022

FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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

LOPC.ORG



EASTERTIDE

By Jaime Polson - Pastor, Families & Executive Leadership

Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' John 8:12



We are joyfully in the midst of Eastertide. Eastertide is the liturgical season beginning Easter Sunday and ends on Pentecost Sunday, the celebration of the birth of the church. This is a time of celebration and joy! A time when we are reminded that we have been through the shadows of the valley of death from Ash Wednesday, through Lent, to the Holy Week journey of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. And finally, joyfully, we have arrived at Eastertide to experience that the tombstone has been removed and Jesus followed through on his promises. He has overcome evil and sin through his death, and Jesus has been resurrected. The darkness has been overcome by the light of Christ.

As Christians, Jesus reminds us to be the light in the world just as he is the light of the world. As people of faith, we do not hide from the realities of the world – the poverty, evil, and suffering. But also we do not lose hope. We believe that through our relationship with Jesus, we can be a part of the hope and healing in the world, and that the way we live in the world can be a source of light and goodness. During Eastertide, let's seek out together the places that need more light, more hope, and more love. Let's recommit to be the hands and feet of Christ in our church, homes, schools, workplaces, communities, and world. Let's go to the people who are suffering and hurting, seeking to be neighbors who overflow with blessings of kindness and love.

We have been in a period of long darkness and struggle during the pandemic, and we are beginning to see the sun and light again in new ways. Let us be the Easter people, together, who seek to bring the light of Christ to the world!

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Jaime Polson - Families & Executive Leadership
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Submissions & Deadlines

Please send requests for submissions to:
communications@lopc.org
no later than July 1 for the August issue.

Thank you to all who contribute each month to Focus!



Glenora Salacuse

My name is Glenora Salacuse and I live with my husband, Bill, and our 16-year-old son, Miles. We have lived in Pleasant Hill for 16 years. I currently volunteer as a club soccer team manager and on a school auction committee. I enjoy cooking, swimming, and traveling. What attracted me to LOPC was on our first visit, we were welcomed with open arms and a genuine warmth I've never felt before. I'm excited to join the LOPC community!



Stacy Lehrer

I am a mom of four kiddos 12-15 years old. Born and raised in the Midwest, I moved here about 10 years ago. I am a graphic designer by profession. In my spare time, I enjoy anything creative and have taken pottery, basket weaving, and glass blowing classes. Some of my favorites are chai latte tea, dark chocolate, Mendocino, and listening to autobiographies on Audible.

WELCOME new members



Chris & Ciara Bird

Hi! We're the Bird Family! We've been attending LOPC for 15 years. Ciara is the LOPC receptionist and Chris used to work on campus. We have two children - Eli (19) and Claire (17). We enjoy movies, good food, road trips, and laughing! We are so excited to finally become members!



Kay Young Choi

Hi! I'm Kay! I have lived in Moraga 47 years and was previously a member at St. Marks UMC. I am a retired psychiatric social worker and enjoy golfing and traveling. While I was searching for a new church in Lamorinda, I visited LOPC and fell in love with the church's beautiful natural surroundings, the beautiful sanctuary, the first sermon I heard from Peter Whitelock, the different age groups outside of the sanctuary, and the community-oriented programs. I became acquainted with Lynne Terril and Tom Scovel during my visits and enjoyed sharing good conversations with them. I'm excited to join LOPC as a member!

youth



God's Justice in Salinas

By Keris Dahlkamp, Directory of Youth Ministry

What a wonderful spirit-filled day the middle school and high school youth had in Salinas on April 2! They started the day by working on a land-restoration site alongside visionary migrant farmworkers and other local community leaders who live in and around Salinas. The project will eventually become a large park and open space for all to enjoy. It is being championed through an inspiring partnership among the Center for Community Advocacy, the Big Sur Land Trust, and Return to the Natives.

The youth then headed over to the First United Methodist Church to help with their clothes closet, which is set up as a resource for people experiencing homelessness. Despite significant push back from the local community, the Methodist Church in Salinas provides help to get people who are homeless back on their feet— primarily through spiritual formation, mentoring, and job placements. Youth also delivered art supplies for students at our longtime partner, Sherwood Elementary School.

The day ended by going to Cesar Chavez Park for a time of games and snacks. We are so proud of the youth at LOPC!



Service Squad

**Service & Learning Day Camp,
Registration closes May 5!**

**June 6-10: Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, & Friday at 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
and Wednesday at 2:00 - 4 :00 p.m.**

For current 5th & 6th grade youth.
Youth will serve & learn alongside local organizations including Monument Crisis Center, Trinity Center, Hope Solutions, ARTogether, & Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano. Cost: \$275 with scholarships available.

Visit lopc.org/youth. Contact Allison Kunz at allison@lopc.org with questions.



**Scandia Fun Days
May 29 and August 7**

Youth and their friends can join us for an exciting afternoon of mini golf, arcade games, laser tag, bumper boats, and racing cars.

**Youth and Family Service Days
July 24 and August 14**

Youth and their families are encouraged and welcome to participate in a service-learning project with one of our local mission partners. More information to come.

**Youth Sunday
August 28**

Join us in the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. for a worship service led by the youth as they share about their faith and the recent summer service-learning experiences.

Details will be emailed at the start of each month to families, or contact Allison at allison@lopc.org or Keris at keris@lopc.org with questions.

seedlings

Seedlings Picture Days 2022

By Sarah Bennett, Seedlings Communications

Does it get any cuter than this?! On two beautiful, sunny days in March, Seedlings Picture Days returned to “normal” and the unmasked smiles were contagious.

Seedlings board members, Gina Zahedi and Molly Pollet, worked with the preschool directors Coleen Moulton and Kathy LaPlante and Sandbox Photographers to organize this year’s Picture Days, and they were all thrilled with the results.

In March 2020, just days before the first shelter-in-place began, Seedlings held indoor Picture Days during the school week, with both individual and group-class photos. Last school year, Seedlings had to hold a scaled-down Picture Day on a non-school day and follow all the previous COVID guidelines and only offer individual photos. This year, following all the current pandemic guidelines, which have loosened slightly since

the beginning, Seedlings still held outdoor-only Picture Days, but they were able to once again capture both individual and class photos during the regular school days.

“It felt so normal and exciting to have Picture Day back in full swing with both student and group pictures during school hours,” says Zahedi. “Everything went really well, and the kids are just so adorable!”

“The photo company we used does a great job of using outdoor natural light and capturing authentic smiles. They make the entire process, from booking to ordering, easy and seamless,” says Pollet. “Our preschool families are so busy and have always appreciated how Seedlings has provided the perk of organizing professional photographs during school hours. So, we were happy to once again carry on this tradition.”



journey of Faith

By Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member

LOPC member Sue Handy recently shared this testimony with Focus on her journey to faith:

“Coming to LOPC in 2016 in a time of great sorrow and feeling alone and lost was crucial to learning to believe my life still mattered to God. I was totally anonymous, but it was quickly evident that every sermon was clearly directed right at me. Through my tears, I felt an unexpected peace and comfort. LOPC became a haven for me, and I was allowed to just ‘be there’ until I was ready to reach out.”

But her life didn’t begin as a Christian. “I was first introduced to Jesus by my future husband when I was 20 and we were students at Sacramento State. I’d never been in a church before, but he had been raised in the church and was a college group leader with Campus Life Ministries. He said later that ‘I was a hard nut to crack’ but I was actually amazed at the possibility that God knew me, cared about me, and could save me from the brokenness I had felt growing up.

“We went on to serve in multiple roles in churches, even pastored a small church in Martinez for a time. We raised our children in an evangelical church but grew disillusioned by the rigidity and exclusionary practices. So, we backed away from church and filled our lives with volunteer work. But God did not back away from me, and through all of life’s joys and difficulties, or the multiple times His grace saved me from calamity, I felt His love and miraculous power. Through heartache and fear, critical illness, and the crushing grief of losing my husband, I knew God was

present even when I was absent from a deeper relationship with Him. He used the love and prayers of family and friends to care for and speak to me.”

Sue remembers she slowly started to push herself to engage, attending class and gatherings even though she went alone. Jane McKenzie’s class on “A Life Worth Living” was a turning point. “The message came through and I realized I had something of value to share. I took risks, attending the Mt. Herman Church Retreat by myself and meeting women who made me feel so welcome. I now have dear friends at LOPC. Joining the new member’s class in 2018 with Chris Baldwin’s enthusiastic encouragement I was finally ready to be ‘at home.’”

Sue says she is glad that LOPC is a caring and thinking community that is willing to face the important issues and needs of the day. Being introduced to many of the great thinkers of the world such as Ibram X. Kendi, Richard Rohr, and the Dalai Lama has deeply enriched her heart, soul and mind.

“The pandemic was a real catalyst for spiritual growth for me,” Sue says. “The Community Life Group Studies and all the pastors’ classes helped so much to soften the blow of isolation, loneliness, and fear. Also, the classes on anti-racism helped fortify my convictions. Joining the Women’s Spiritual Journey group has been so uplifting—meeting amazing role models for this season of my life and reminding me that my prayers matter.”



Sue Handy

Sue was heavily involved in early childhood education, but as she moved toward retirement, she knew she wanted to be open to a new calling to community service, social justice, and just being truly available for whatever tasks needed doing. “I started with love does, then Winter Nights Shelter, gave to mission needs, and helped with the Fall Fest. When I was asked to be a Deacon I said ‘yes’ without hesitation. I think I have been much more attuned to following God’s call now because I’ve stopped letting my fears and worries lead the way. I say ‘yes,’ knowing that God will carry me and cover me, even when I’m unsure of myself, away from aloneness to confidence that connecting and serving with others is crucial and will be a mutual blessing.

“For the 49 years of my evolving faith two scriptures have been close to my heart. The words of Ephesians 6:13-17: ‘Therefore take on the whole armor of God, girding your loins with truth, having shod your feet with the gospel of peace, taking the shield of faith and the helmet of salvation’ have been a visual image that has given me strength and courage. Philippians 4:7, describing the amazing gift of ‘the peace of God that passes all understanding’ has been crucial to my walk, with faith, on my journey.”

mission

love does

love protects, love hopes, love never fails

LOPC Habitat for Humanity Build Day Is Coming

Saturday, May 21, 2022, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Join other LOPC friends and members at the site of Esperanza Place, a mixed-income development of affordable townhomes located next to the Pleasant Hill BART station. The project recently broke ground and needs many volunteers to help make this dream a reality.

No experience necessary! A group of dedicated Habitat staff, amazing AmeriCorps Crew Leaders, and fellow Habitat volunteers will teach you all you need to know. Whether you have never picked up a hammer, or are an experienced tradesperson, sign up to volunteer, have fun, and support affordable housing!

Wear work clothes and sturdy, close-toed shoes. Bring a lunch and a refillable water bottle. Necessary tools, safety equipment, and training will be provided.

- **Esperanza Place: 1250 Las Juntas Way, Walnut Creek**
- **16 years and older welcome to volunteer**
- **Group size: 25 volunteers**

For information and to register, go to lopc.org/lovedoes.



Congo Necklace Sale

May 1, after the 10:00 a.m. service on the Plaza

Just in time for Mother's Day! Pick out a special gift for her from the Congo Necklace Team on Sunday, May 1. A large assortment of necklaces, scarves, and eye-glass holders will be available. Not only will the gift make a lovely present, but also your purchase will help the Build Congo Schools effort, where the need is great for permanent schools. Be sure to stop by the patio display after the worship service.



Hope Solutions

A Leap of Faith: Strategic Partnerships to Build Tiny-Home Communities on Faith Institution Land

May 12, 5:30 p.m., Oak Room

LOPC welcomes Hope Solutions in partnership with Firm Foundation Community Housing, HomeAid Northern California, and Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition to introduce a new and innovative housing solution to the affordable-housing crisis in our county.

Contra Costa County faces an enormous housing gap where production is not keeping pace with demand. Despite their best efforts, local and state governments have fallen short in providing a solution. The number of individuals, families, and children who live without permanent, stable housing is increasing, and the ability to provide adequate housing options is falling far behind this growing demand. Furthermore, the time homeless people spend on the streets has grown longer as a result of the pandemic.

Please join us as Hope Solutions shares their vision of building 50 new housing units, some of which will be cottages (called tiny or micro-homes) on Faith Institution land. 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 in an unused parking area of the church, will include six 225-square-foot homes with toilet, shower, fridge, stovetop, and kitchen sink. The new community, Hope Village, will 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, cost-effective housing development. A tiny home will be on display on the LOPC campus for people to see after the presentation.

To register, please visit lopc.org/registrations. For questions, please contact Pastor Lauren Gully at lauren@lopc.org or Jasmine Tarkoff at jtarkoff@hopesolutions.org.



Harare Children's Hospital Update

By Beth Hunter, LOPC Member

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the over 600 hygiene kits collected in March for Harare Children's Hospital in Zimbabwe. These will be shipped along with a variety of other medical supplies for JF Kapnek Trust's programs in Zimbabwe. Many in the U.S. can't even find Zimbabwe on a map, yet LOPC has been working with the Kapnek Trust to improve the health of children and young families for almost 15 years. How did this rich and rewarding relationship develop? Who and What is the JF Kapnek Trust?

In the early 2000s, AIDS/HIV was still ravaging lives around the globe. Dr. Robert Scott, a member of Oakland's Allen Temple Baptist Church, with whom LOPC had a relationship, attended an international AIDS/HIV conference in Zimbabwe, where he met the leadership of Mother of Peace (MOP), an orphanage in eastern Zimbabwe. Thereafter, Dr. Scott and a group from Allen Temple initiated regular visits to MOP to help treat HIV positive children and adults. LOPC members soon joined the Allen Temple group on the AIDS/HIV service mission trips.

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Meanwhile, local pediatrician, Dr. Dan Robbins, in addition to maintaining an active practice here, also was directing his late great-uncle's Trust, the JF Kapnek Trust, in Zimbabwe, which worked to reduce mother-to-child HIV transmission. So, in 2010, when LOPC pastor John Weems led a group of 68 youth, parents, and advisors on a mission trip to Zimbabwe, they worked with the children at Mother of Peace and on refurbishing three local Kapnek Trust pre-schools. Additionally, Dr. Robbins and Kapnek staff were extremely helpful in coordinating LOPC logistics and support in Zimbabwe during that trip. Since then, Mother of Peace has reduced its services since leaders Momma Jean and Momma Stella have moved into retirement. Meanwhile, the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS remains a center stone of the Kapnek Trust as it expands its services and work in Zimbabwe.

To reduce mother-to-child HIV transmission, the Kapnek Trust trained birthing center and hospital personnel to provide testing, counseling, and treatment to prevent the spread of HIV from mother to child. This method of prevention was highly successful, reducing the infection rate from 60,000 new cases in 2000 to less than 3,000 in 2018. During the recent COVID crisis, Kapnek modified its delivery of services to add COVID-

prevention programming, and referred over 50,000 HIV-positive people into treatment. Most of this work was funded by USAID, EU and UN grants.

To assure children receive necessary nutrition to build healthy bodies the Kapnek Trust sourced a vitamin-rich corn soy porridge, which is served daily at the more than 160 Kapnek-sponsored preschools. As reported in previous articles, Kapnek now feeds 18,000 children daily at a cost of three cents a serving. LOPC has contributed funds to Kapnek's Pre-School's-Child Health's nutrition program over the past several years.

Recognizing the deteriorating condition of many preschools, Kapnek recruited volunteer community members to partner with Kapnek construction teams that oversaw the renovation of classrooms and playgrounds.

The preschools also are used as child health centers where Kapnek coordinates quarterly health checks. Kapnek brings nurses to rural clinics to assess children's health, give immunizations, and use an innovative UN award-winning early-childhood program taught by trained teachers.

Despite best efforts, there continue to be many children with cerebral palsy and other disabilities in Zimbabwe. Kapnek provides these children and their families a program where

parents learn how to care for their disabled children and connect with other parents to create a community of support. On the most recent adult service trip in October 2018, a variety of blankets made by LOPC members were distributed to each child at a disability-workshop program.

Refurbished wheelchairs and other assistive devices for these children also are donated from around the world, including the Bay Area. These and other medical equipment and supplies are periodically shipped to Zimbabwe along with other contributions like the hygiene kits from LOPC.

Kapnek's chief medical officer, Dr. Greg Powell, led an effort to refurbish the only children's hospital in Zimbabwe. Although closed in 2001, Dr. Greg Powell, spearheaded fundraising for repairing/refurbishing the 250-bed hospital, which has now re-opened. It is there where the hygiene kits assembled in March will be distributed.

Despite the health and massive economic challenges the country faces, Zimbabwe citizens are consistently earnest, grateful, and joyful. Please know LOPC's generosity to them is much appreciated. Kapnek Trust strives to be an excellent steward of our many gifts, from homemade blankets to hygiene kits, to ongoing financial support. They say thank you!

care

Stephen Ministry Training

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide confidential, one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

LOPC's Stephen Leaders, together with those from neighboring churches, will be conducting the required 50-hours of training for Stephen Minister candidates, from September 2022 through January 2023. Classes will be held Tuesday evenings via Zoom and in-person on a few Saturdays, with long holiday breaks



For those wishing to participate, an interview will be required during the summer. To register, or for additional information, please call Jean Lee at (925) 943-2237 or Pastor Gerald Chinen at (925) 283-8722, ext. 227. Your prayerful consideration on joining this ministry is appreciated.

Home Communion

Deacons will offer in-person home communion for those unable to attend Sunday morning worship. A pair of deacons will come at the arranged day and time and hold a brief service, whether inside or outside. All deacons are fully vaccinated. If you know someone who may want home communion served, let us know.

Please call the deacon line at 925-283-8722 x274 for arrangements.



Inez Wright and Visitors

touch of LOVE

Congregational and Senior Care prepared another Touch of Love bag to go to about 75 seniors with the help of enthusiastic deacons and eight excited families. Colorful bags decorated by the children with stickers and filled with teal N95 masks, Easter chocolates, and personalized notes were delivered during a visit. All had a good time, remembering our precious older members who also received "Easter Around the World," an Easter word search, service opportunities for them to do at home, and a reminder of the many ways LOPC stands ready to support them with meals, home communion, and Barnabas visits.

hold in PRAYER

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

Nancy Placier, who passed January 18.

The service previously scheduled on April 23 has been postponed until further notice.

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

Bill Mueser, who passed April 5.

A service will be held on April 30 at 2:00 p.m.

Judy Clark, who passed April 7.

A service will be held on May 14 at 10:00 a.m.



foundation

A Full Parking Lot

By Dara Youngdale, Foundation Trustee



Dara Youngdale

In 2000, when I arrived on the scene at LOPC to do architectural master-planning work, I was surprised by how full the parking lot was. And I am not

talking about Sundays. This was every day of the week, morning, afternoons, and evenings. I was perplexed because there were so many more cars than employees, and it was during campus-planning interviews that I heard the cars belonged to a wide range of LOPC volunteers.

Over the years, that has not changed. I have found volunteers meeting to initiate new programs, onsite to support children and youth, run senior ministry programs, plan mission trips, load supplies into freight containers bound for Zimbabwe and food boxes onto vans headed to the Monument Crisis Center. On occasions, such as One Sunday/love does events or when we open our hearts and campus to host Winter Nights Shelter, it has been difficult to find a parking space. A full parking lot is a good problem to have.

When I visited the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington D.C. last fall, their display, entitled “Why We Give”, resonated with me and brought LOPC to mind. In part, the message read:

“Giving in America:

Giving has taken many forms throughout American history and has become firmly woven into the American experience. Every year millions of Americans contribute money, time, talent, and resources

to causes across the country and throughout the world. Philanthropy is not unique the United States, but Americans’ ideals of participation, equality, resourcefulness, and shared responsibility have shaped a distinctive form of giving in America.

“Who Gives?

Americans have always participated in giving... Today most Americans practice some form of giving.

“What Do we Give?

From helping a neighbor to donating entire fortunes for a cause, what Americans give is as diverse as America itself. While gifts of money often receive the most attention, donations of talent, labor and creativity are equally significant.”

Monetary gifts may receive the most attention, and large gifts the largest shout-out, but we foundation trustees are humbled and grateful for every gift given to the Foundation, large and small. It is because of your commitment to a planned legacy gift that the Foundation will remain a reliable, permanent source of funding for LOPC, and LOPC will remain a church community well-equipped to serve into the future.

I remain most impressed by the level of time and talent freely given at LOPC. LOPC volunteers managed to find ways to “fill the parking lot” virtually during the pandemic. As we emerge from this challenging time, let’s join together in significant ways and get the parking lot full again as we continue to give our time, talents, and creativity in support of one another, our local and global communities.

session

March Session Report

By Jeanette Shearer, Clerk of Session

A detailed slide presentation with the title of “A New Wineskin” was the topic for most of March’s session meeting. Coupled with the continuing theme of the post-pandemic church, Pastor Peter Whitelock laid out a modified ministry model that was born of staff transition changes at LOPC; the changing ideas of what church means to the community; and the desires of those coming out of the pandemic to serve in meaningful, concrete ways.

Looking at 12 bullet points that included prioritizing relationships, connection to the community, relevant programming, not being defined by space, and making a great volunteer experience, he emphasized that cross-collaboration was the approach LOPC could take to change and dynamically serve the needs of the congregants.

In other words, pastors, team members, and staff would be able to utilize their passions, cross team lines, and work together in many overlapping areas to better serve worship, formation, care, mission, and fellowship functions. With this streamlining process of bringing together all talents, LOPC has a chance to flexibly reach those who want a church home. A focus on creativity, care, and collaboration for all connected to LOPC is a priority and areas to be further developed include care of remote participants, fresh programs, and a focus on diversity.

“It’s expansive thinking,” he said. “But I think our new model is a response that will revitalize LOPC’s ministry and meet today’s challenges.”

To learn more about how to become a Friend of the LOPC Foundation and make a planned legacy gift or to have a confidential discussion about opportunities to give, visit lopc.org/foundation.



the GENEROSITY corner

Sharing our Time, Talents, and Treasure

Floral Design Embodies the Gifts of Time, Talent, Treasure, and Love!

By Nancy Henderson, Generosity Team Member



LOPC is blessed with many Ministries of Creativity, one of which operates as our Floral Design Team. For over 40 years, Sherril Barber, as part of the flower team, led the effort to celebrate life each week by bringing color and nature into our sanctuary and later into the church office. Now Jane Ebe leads a team of 14 designers and helpers to create floral masterpieces. Most of the sanctuary arrangements memorialize a loved one. Some honor an important milestone or person(s). All call our attention to the beauty of a piece of our lives.

Gift of Talent

Each week a floral designer leads the flower-arranging process with the assistance of a floral helper. Every designer and most of the helpers have professional experience or have studied with floral experts, such as those at Filoli Gardens and Washington D.C.'s National Cathedral. All speak the spiritual and artistic language of color and flowers to create floral art that complements our worship, memorials, weddings, and other significant events.

Gift of Treasure

Congregation members and friends are invited to sponsor the flowers for a particular Sunday. What individuals

or events might you want to honor or memorialize? You can sign up on LOPC's Flower Calendar in the church office or online at lopc.org/flowers.

Gift of Time and Prayer

The designer reviews the donor's dedication information and often connects with others, especially those who want to add flowers and greens from their gardens. The weekly floral team chooses just the right flowers to honor the request and spends another few hours creating the flower collage to offer viewers visual inspiration. Building these floral sculptures is a prayerful team effort with the Holy Spirit leading the way. And the following week they break down the big arrangement to create smaller arrangements for the church office, and optionally the donor's family.

This joyful team also has fun over periodic lunches to schedule upcoming weekly flower teams. If you are interested in flowers, please contact Lexi Morrissey at lexi@lopc.org. If you have experience, great! If not, the team offers wonderful on-the-job training.



community

Respite Night

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

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 to register.

Chicks With Sticks

Donation Drive

May 15 on the Plaza following the 10:00 a.m. service.

Items most needed: onesies Sleep & Plays, One-and-two-piece outfits, sleep sacks, sizes 0-18 months. You may also place items in the bassinet in the Ministry Center during May.

Email Dianne Schneider at dianneschneider@hotmail.com with questions.

Giving at LOPC

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

To give, visit lopc.org and select GIVE BACK and the Online Giving Tab, or scan the QR code on your mobile device.



FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

Armies of Enablers: Survivor Stories of Complicity and Betrayal in Sexual Assaults

May 6, 10:00 a.m.

This lecture is based on Dr. Guiora's personal interviews with numerous survivors of sexual assault from USA Gymnastics, Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Ohio State University, and the Catholic Church, as well as thousands of pages of grand jury indictments, civil lawsuits, criminal prosecutions, and media accounts. In his recent book, with the same title as his talk, he focuses not on what the sexual predators did, but on how institutions and individuals have allowed it to happen.

Professor Guiora will discuss the criminalization of enablers and bystanders which reflects recognition that failure to aggressively prosecute those who acted, by not acting, ensures perpetrators will continue to act with impunity and immunity. "The broader issue cuts to the heart of what society is," he says, "and to whom it owes a duty. In advocating criminalization of enablers and bystanders we owe a duty to the person in peril. In an institutional setting, the hesitation to criminalize enablers and bystanders who choose to protect an institution reflects prioritizing the needs of the institution over the needs of the individual."

A law professor at the University of Utah, he is a Distinguished Fellow and Counselor at the International Center for Conflict Resolution, Chair of the Gymnastics Canada Task Force on



Dr. Amos Guiora

Assault, and a member of the board of advisors for Stop Educator Sexual Abuses Misconduct and Exploitation, the leading national voice for the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment of students by teachers and other school staff.

Holding an A.B. degree in history from Kenyon College, a J.D. degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law, and a doctorate from Leiden University, Prof. Guiora has published extensively on issues related to human rights, national security, limits of interrogation, religion and terrorism, the limits of power, and multiculturalism. He is actively involved in legislative efforts to criminalize bystanders and enablers in the U.S. and internationally.

Prof. Tom Scovel, a member of the First Friday Forum team, says Amos's father, Prof. Alexander Guiora, was an important mentor when Tom was pursuing his doctorate at the University of Michigan. Tom and Amos have kept in communication, especially concerning their common interest in sports and their strong beliefs that those who perpetrate sexual violence against college athletes should be brought to justice. "While this is an issue we might shy away from, it is a subject which deserves our attention. Please plan to attend FFF," Tom says.

To register for this May 6 event, go to lopc.org/first-friday-forum.



thursday Fellowship

caring • sharing • loving

A program of Senior Care Ministries

By Julie Peterson, Coordinator

April showered blessings upon Thursday Fellowship, and we were able to gather two times for regular programming. The greeters were welcoming, the tables were beautiful, and the salads and desserts delicious.

On April 7, we enjoyed connecting with one another while making an Easter craft. Gillian and Joe Roebuck -- "The Roebuck Duo" -- entertained us with their "Broadway Remembered" performance, bringing back many happy musical memories.

On April 21, we welcomed Keris Dahlkamp to lead us in gentle chair exercises before lunch and in the afternoon, we enjoyed professional musicians Lara Garner and Louis Plantz. They entertained us with a wide variety of light classical music, sprinkled with jazz on cello and piano.

Our May schedule will be just as exciting. We will meet on May 5 and May 19.

On May 5, guitarist and singer Mike Kistner will entertain us with many of our favorite songs, and we will have the opportunity to sing along. Mike has entertained us at Thursday Fellowship for many years and is crowd favorite!

On May 19, Virginia Tichenor, ragtime piano player extraordinaire, will have us smiling and toe-tapping with her amazing skill on the keyboard! Virginia grew up immersed in ragtime, as her dad was the late Trebor Tichenor, a noted ragtime scholar. She's played piano regularly at San Francisco's Pier 23 Café and has served as Festival Director for the West Coast Ragtime Society.

We look forward to seeing you in May!

Our typical program schedule:

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

Look for further information in the LOPC Monday email and Connections. Contact Julie Peterson with any questions at julie@lopc.org or call 925-283-8722 ext. 281.



Thursday Fellowship honors Frank and Mary Grannis' 75th wedding anniversary !

Franks and Mary are long time members of LOPC and have been attending Thursday Fellowship for the last eight years. Frank and Mary met at CAL in their Senior year. After graduation while Frank was stationed in Hawaii for two years with the Navy they corresponded faithfully with one another. After Frank returned they became engaged and were married April 19, 1947. They raised four children in several western states including five years in Hawaii. Frank is a volunteer pianist during lunch for Thursday Fellowship and we enjoy listening to him play. He knows and plays over 500 songs by ear. On April 7 he played the Hawaiian wedding song for us, but especially for Mary. It was a poignant moment we all witnessed and enjoyed. They have truly lived happily ever after! We feted them with flowers, a cake and a card signed by the Thursday Fellowship Team. What a joy it was to celebrate them!

CNC

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

Nominations may be submitted through 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

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 (Pastors).

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: _____



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Volunteer today!

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to PEACE**

June 6-10

Register today to volunteer: lopc.org/vbcamp2022

Camp capacity is determined by the number of volunteers who sign up.
Nursery care is provided for volunteers' children under the age of 4.

Vacation Bible Camp is just around the corner, and we are so excited to welcome our kids to camp. We want to open camp to as many families as possible, and you can help by being a volunteer. Not only are volunteers essential to our program, but also the relationships built with campers during this week can last a lifetime!

Fun and exciting volunteer opportunities include:

- Rotation Leader
- Crew Leader
- Snack Team
- Worship Team
- Camp Nurse
- Setup & Takedown