

# FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

LOPC is here to support you  
on your journey of faith.

a new opportunity for  
spiritual formation

# 10:10

A place to grow empowered  
to live in faith.

**Every Sunday**  
**10:10 – 10:50 a.m.**

October 14 – 28  
**International Justice Mission  
and Spiritual Practices**

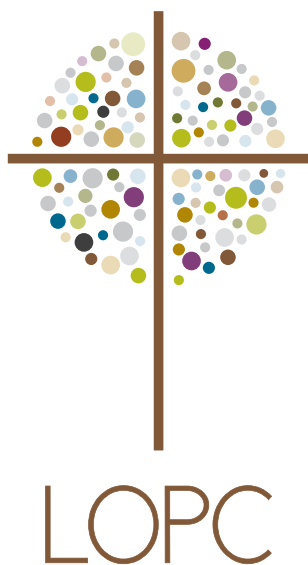
November 4 – 18  
**The Spirituality of Inclusion**

See page 10.

## OCTOBER 2018

### Contents

Stewardship.....	3
Youth.....	4
Seedlings .....	5
Parents .....	6
Special Needs.....	7
Mission.....	8
Care .....	9
Spiritual Formation.....	10
Community .....	11
LOPC Foundation.....	15
Session .....	15



## The Good Steward

by Peter Whitelock, Pastor – Head of Staff



*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.*

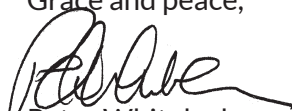
1 Peter 4:10

It's really a shame that the term "stewardship" in the church has become so closely connected with finance. Perhaps it is due to the annual pledge campaign at LOPC where we lift up principles of good stewardship, inviting members and friends to consider a gift to build up and support our ministry in the coming year. While that is an important part of our ministry planning, we can come to view stewardship as having solely to do with how we use and deploy our finances when the truth of the matter is that it encompasses all of life.

Embracing stewardship as an identity involves first acknowledging that all we have, and all we are, comes as a gift from God. It means we don't view our possessions or even our own lives, as belonging to us, but they are gifts given for our temporary use in this earthly sojourn. It brings an understanding that we are accountable to God, the creator of all good things, for how we use and shepherd all the gifts entrusted to our care.

In the passage above, we are encouraged to do careful inventory and consider the gifts each of us has received. We can be so busy at times admiring the gifts of others, that we quite miss the extent of gifts that God has entrusted to us individually! On a daily basis through our LOPC ministry, I see people deploying gifts of care, hospitality, teaching, encouragement and so many more. Taking steps to intentionally deploy a portion of all our gifts in service to others is a wonderful undertaking, and one that truly connects us to "the manifold grace of God."

Grace and peace,



Peter Whitelock



# Overflow

2019 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

**Overflow in a wealth of generosity.  
2 Corinthians 8:1**

**"Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking."  
2 Corinthians 8:7**

Your giving keeps this church moving forward in service to many, and an annual pledge that honors God from your substance allows us to plan and direct our ministry to the greatest and most efficient good.

## **Giving Sunday is November 4.**

**On this day we encourage members and friends to bring their pledge cards to worship. If you can't come to worship that day, you can always mail your card or drop it by the church office.**

Pledge packets will be mailed mid-October. You'll also be able to access these materials online at the same time at:  
[www.lopc.org/give-back/pledge](http://www.lopc.org/give-back/pledge).

If you'd like more information, contact Stewardship Chair Conrad Breece at [conbreece1@gmail.com](mailto:conbreece1@gmail.com).



# youth

## Sunday Mornings



### Youth Alive

5th-8th Grade Youth

Sundays during 9 a.m.  
worship services.

Engage in a weekly Bible story with activities that help reveal how the story is relevant to our modern lives. Get to know your peers and leaders as we grow in faith together! Youth who attend the 11 a.m. worship service are encouraged to enjoy the worship service with family and friends.



### TBH (To be Honest)

9th-12th Grade Youth

Sundays during 11 a.m. worship,  
through November 4  
(excluding October 7)

We'll choose a faith-based book, then read a chapter together each week (no take-home reading, it's not school) and discuss the themes. Grow deeper in faith as we learn from one another! Youth who attend the 9 a.m. worship service are encouraged to enjoy the worship service with family and friends.



BTW

9th – 12th Grade

## Photo Hunt

October 14, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Come join us at BTW for our annual youth photo hunt! Teams search like detectives for mystery spots across Lamorinda. It's a great night to have fun and fellowship together while meeting new people. Invite your friends! Volunteer parent drivers needed.

## Harvest Party

October 28, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Come in costume for a night of BTW with special harvest-themed activities and a costume contest with awards for funniest, most original, best group, and most DIY costumes! Friends are welcome.



Youth on  
Wednesdays  
5th – 8th Grade

## Small Group Fun Night

October 10, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Bond with your small group at a variety of competitive and creative activity stations. One small group will be crowned our 2018 champion!

## Harvest Party

October 31, 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Come in costume for a night of YOW with trick-or-treat activities and our annual showing of "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown"! Bring your friends! Parent volunteer helpers needed.

# seedlings

## Wheel Day 2018

By Tina Clendenin, Seedlings Communications Board Member

October 20, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Admission is free!



Honk, honk! Beep! Screech!  
Wheel Day 2018 is rolling on in!

It's that time of year for Seedlings' biggest annual social event: Wheel Day. Children young and old look forward to this yearly gathering as a way to get reacquainted with school friends, enjoy the outdoors, eat

some snacks, and, of course, play and explore all things "wheels!"

Wheel Day will take place on Saturday, October 20, and will be open to the entire local community. Rain or shine, the LOPC parking lot will become a gathering place for guests to enjoy food, friends, and a variety of vehicles. In prior years, this event has featured a fire truck, a school bus, police cars, a moving truck, construction equipment, motorcycles, a mobile dentist van, and much more. Not only will the children experience the joy of seeing their favorite vehicles, but they will also be able to climb, honk, steer, and explore inside of them. The Encore mobile gymnastics truck will also be there to invite children inside to flip, swing, and bounce, and the ride-on toy cars will give kids the opportunity to drive around some mini-wheels of their own. In addition, Wheel Day will host a bake sale and a used book sale. This year, the proceeds from these sales will go towards the LOPC Mission Trip to Zimbabwe. A group from LOPC will go with the JF Kapnek Trust Foundation to renovate preschools for children in need in Harare, Zimbabwe. The kids love that when they buy a treat, they are making a small contribution to a great cause.

Wheel Day offers hands-on fun and learning for the whole family. Bring your kids, grandkids, friends, and neighbors!

We hope to see you on October 20th!





# parents

## Parent-Daughter Workshop

With Girls Leadership  
Starting in October



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

### K - Grade 1:

*Tools for Sunny & Cloudy Days with Friends*

Thursdays: 10/18, 10/25, 11/1, 11/8  
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

### Grades 2 & 3:

*Nine Tools for True Friendship*

Thursdays: 10/18, 10/25, 11/1, 11/8  
5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

### Grades 4 & 5:

*Four Steps For Getting What You Need*

Mondays: 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5  
5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

### Grades 6, 7 & 8:

*Be Who You Are, Say What You Mean*

Mondays: 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5  
5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Register online at [girlsleadership.org](http://girlsleadership.org).

Scholarships are available.

Visit [girlsleadership.org/scholarships](http://girlsleadership.org/scholarships) for more details.

Questions? Contact Michelle at [michelle@lopc.org](mailto:michelle@lopc.org).

## Mom's Bible Study

First Wednesday of the month  
10 – 11:30 a.m.



Please join us for a monthly Bible and book study and discussion led by Pastor Jaime Polson. We will meet for studies centered on inspirational women, such as Maya Angelou, Julian of Norwich, and women from the Bible, and how they have been called to live a faith-filled life. All mothers are welcome.

For additional information, please contact Michelle at [michelle@lopc.org](mailto:michelle@lopc.org).



# special needs

## Sunday School Buddy Program



LOPC's Sunday School Buddy Program is for children and youth with special needs on Sunday mornings.

Our Sunday School Buddies are trained to work with children and youth with all types of special needs.

Most of our Sunday School Buddies have been in the special education field for more than 15 years. The role of the Buddy is to be in Sunday School with children or youth with special needs and provide a safe and loving partnership, giving them the opportunity to grow in faith alongside their peers. If a child needs to take a break from the classroom setting, play outside or use particular sensory toys – this is what the Buddy will do.

To arrange a Buddy for your child or youth on any Sunday, please email [susan@lopc.org](mailto:susan@lopc.org). We provide Buddies by assignment in order to make sure your child is paired with the Buddy that fits best with their needs.

Please fill out an intake form ahead of your child's first visit. We invite families who are dropping off their children for the 9 a.m. Sunday School programs to check in at the kiosk on the plaza (in front of the Sanctuary). Our greeters will direct you to the check-in location where your child or youth will meet their Buddy for Sunday School. Our staff and volunteers will read the intake form and ask you any questions they may have before your arrival for Sunday School. We appreciate anything you can share to help us prepare to welcome your child or youth in the best and most loving way possible.

*Our Sunday School Buddies are trained to work with children and youth with all types of special needs.*

After your child visits, we encourage you to reach out to Jaime Polson, Pastor for Family Ministry, or Susan Wentworth, Preschool Ministry Director and Special Needs Coordinator, and let us know how the morning went with our ministry team.

### Questions?

Please contact Michelle at [michelle@lopc.org](mailto:michelle@lopc.org).

**FAITH**

**SERMON SERIES**  
SEPTEMBER 9 – NOVEMBER 18  
QUESTIONS WE ASK AS PEOPLE OF FAITH

**MEETS LIFE**

**OCTOBER 7: WORSHIP CHANGES EVERYTHING**  
WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT WORSHIP?

**OCTOBER 14: GETTING OVER OURSELVES**  
HOW CAN I BE A SERVANT WITHOUT OTHERS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ME?

**OCTOBER 21: FORGIVE AND FORGET**  
ARE WE REALLY EXPECTED TO FORGIVE EVERYBODY?

**OCTOBER 21: FORGIVE AND FORGET**  
ARE WE REALLY EXPECTED TO FORGIVE EVERYBODY?

# mission

## Warm Winter Nights

November 5 – 19

Every fall LOPC commits to hosting Warm Winter Nights, a traveling homeless shelter which runs from October to May annually, sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County and 17 faith congregations. This program is vital to our community, as homelessness increases and affordable housing becomes scarcer in the Bay Area.

The shelter serves homeless families with dependent children. Homelessness is defined as having no access to traditional or permanent housing or finding temporary or occasional shelter in cars, on the street, in places not meant for human habitation, or even staying on a rotating basis with friends or relatives.

The shelter provides homeless families with a clean, safe and warm place to sleep at night and support programming during the day. Participants either go to work or receive resource services at the Oasis Center in Pittsburg while their children attend school. All participants must be clean and sober, comply to behavioral standards and work toward self-sufficiency and permanent housing. This shelter meets key needs as families struggle to transition back into permanent housing.

LOPC will host Warm Winter Nights this fall for two weeks from November 5 – 19 under the leadership of Jim Reiter and Rick Silvani. There are opportunities for LOPC members to help in a variety of ways with meal preparation, tutoring, entertaining or playing games with the children while their parents do laundry or simply take a moment for themselves. Small groups, Voyager Ships, Bible study groups, and families are all encouraged to serve a meal together. There are opportunities to help serve dinner Monday – Sunday or a hot breakfast or lunch on Saturday or Sunday. Additionally, tutors are needed Monday – Thursday and entertainment including crafts, games, therapy pets and sports activities are always welcome.

**Please join LOPC in welcoming our WWN guests this fall. Share your talents and sign up to help at least one time during our guests' two week stay November 5 – 19.**

**Register at [LOPC.org](http://LOPC.org).**

**Contact [robin@lopc.org](mailto:robin@lopc.org) for more information.**



*Volunteer opportunities include helping with meal preparation, tutoring, and playing with children.*





# Celebrate the Congo

November 4  
12 – 2 p.m.



Join the LOPC Congo Mission team as we celebrate with Congolese food, music, dance, and fashion.

**Speakers:**

**The Rev. Isaac Kalonji**, Presbyterian Church in the DRC  
**Byb Chanel Bibene**, Dance Instructor & Choreographer  
**Esther Nkunku**, Fashion Designer

**\$7 donation for lunch.**

**Tickets available on the plaza in October  
or you can contact Jim Fulford at 925-254-5419.**

Presbyterian work on education and trauma healing for children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a principal mission focus for LOPC.

**Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church  
49 Knox Dr., Lafayette – Fellowship Hall**



care

## Season of Care



## Coping with Family Estrangement

With Dr. Joshua Coleman

Saturday, October 27, 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m., Oak Room

It happens in more families than we imagine. Parents estranged from their adult children, siblings estranged from other siblings. Dr. Joshua Coleman, a psychologist in private practice in the San Francisco Bay Area, author and sought-after speaker, will share insights and strategies in dealing with family estrangement. Dr. Coleman has been featured on PBS, 20/20, and Good Morning America, and has also been featured on Sesame Street. He is the author of several books, including *When Parents Hurt: Compassionate Strategies When You and Your Grown Child Don't Get Along*. He is the co-editor, along with historian Stephanie Coontz of seven online volumes of *Unconventional Wisdom: News You Can Use*, a compendium of noteworthy research on the contemporary family, gender, sexuality, poverty, and work/family issues.

Register online at [lopc.org](http://lopc.org) (look for Season of Care) or contact Ashlee Rountree at [ashlee@lopc.org](mailto:ashlee@lopc.org). A donation of \$15 is suggested. Refreshments and a light lunch will be served.

# spiritual formation

# 10:10

grow empowered to live in faith

**Every Sunday starting October 14, 10:10 – 10:50 a.m**

The 10:10 is a new program that will provide a place to grow empowered to live in faith. Drop in whenever you can make it part of your Sunday routine to learn, experience, and discuss. Childcare is provided.

**Contact Lauren at [lauren@lopc.org](mailto:lauren@lopc.org) for more information.**

**Upcoming topics:**

## **International Justice Mission and Spiritual Practices October 14 – 28**

Human slavery is more prevalent now than ever before. One of our Mission Partners, IJM, fights to end slavery in our modern world using the spiritual practices of prayer, advocacy, and giving. Come and hear their commitment to these practices in their work and their partnerships with people all over the world. Due to the nature of the content, age 14 and over only please.

## **The Spirituality of Inclusion November 4 – 18, 10:10 – 10:50 a.m**

More information to come!

## **Welcome Kathy Timpte, Scholar in Residence**



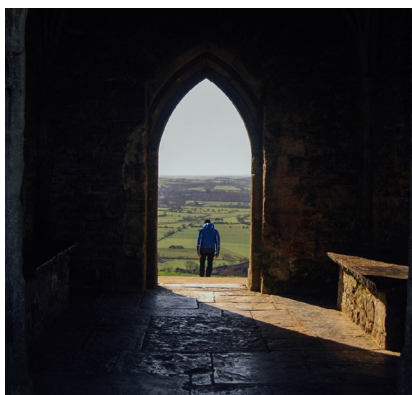
Kathy Timpte is stepping into a one-year, part-time “Scholar in Residence” position at LOPC. Kathy will be working with Pastor Lauren Gully to spearhead the 10:10 project, a weekly Sunday morning class that will run between services. The 10:10 will emphasize “growing empowered to live

in faith” and cover topics such as inclusion, advocacy, and prayer. Kathy will be teaching regularly during the 10:10, as well as encouraging and empowering lay teachers to share their gifts through regular workshops. Kathy will also help write a devotional series for the Advent season.

Kathy taught a four-week Advent series at LOPC that focused on the introductions of each of the four Gospels and highlighted the unique themes of each Gospel author. She also taught regularly at Sunday School for middle schoolers and has volunteered extensively in almost every department at LOPC. Kathy has a passion for teaching and creating spaces where diverse people can express their equally diverse opinions and be met with respect.

Kathy Timpte holds a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from Princeton Theological Seminary. She works as a part-time faculty member at St. Mary’s College of California. Kathy lives in Martinez with her husband Ryan, and is the happy and harried mother of Beckett.

## **Spiritual Direction at LOPC**



Spiritual Direction is part of the ministry of Formation at LOPC. It is a reflective process in which a trained spiritual companion walks with you to help you pay attention to God’s work in your life and your most important questions. It is the art of discovering that everyday events are often the means by which God comes to meet us. In Spiritual Direction you are invited to explore your experiences, seek awareness of God and discover your authentic questions and desires. You are accompanied on this journey by a trained and grace-filled companion, your personal Spiritual Director.

**To find out more about Spiritual Direction, contact Diane Grant,  
LOPC Spiritual Direction Coordinator at 925-825-8225.**

*NOTE: All sessions are confidential. There is a modest fee on a sliding scale.*



# community

## New Members Class

October 19 – 21



Are you looking to take the next step in your faith journey by committing to LOPC as a member? Are you curious about what it means to be Presbyterian or want to find out what LOPC is passionate about locally and globally? Want to explore what membership at a church is? All are welcome!

You can register online by visiting [lopc.org](http://lopc.org) or emailing Chris Baldwin at [chris@lopc.org](mailto:chris@lopc.org).

## Evolution from Creation to New Creation

October 15, 7:15 p.m.  
Oak Room



The title of this program is also the title of a book by Ted Peters, a recent speaker at LOPC, and his friend Martinez Hewlett, a biologist and emeritus professor at

the University of Arizona. Many of the topics central to the Science and Religion discussion are connected with creation (What has God done?) and evolution (What has God been doing? What is God doing now?).

Consideration of these questions is part of creating a theology of nature, including Divine Action and the issue of God's relationship to Nature.

Following the authors of *Evolution from Creation to New Creation*, we will consider the programs put forward by several scientists and theologians on the subject of Theistic Evolution. Included in that discussion is consideration of the position and role of humanity in the ongoing process of creation and the development of the natural world. In particular, we will consider the ideas of theologian Phillip Hefner, who writes of how we are "Created Co-Creators," in respect to God and the natural world.

## Disciple Bible Study

Fireside Room, Sundays, 6:30 – 8 p.m.  
September 30 – June 2019

Remember Who You Are. Part 1, Letters of Paul



### BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

We invite you to join us for a 34-week study of Scripture led by Jeff Patton and Sharon Bartlett. This study gives the Old and New Testaments equal time and emphasizes the wholeness of the Bible as a revelation of God. It draws upon the work of scholars, the personal Bible reading and study of the participant, and dynamic group discussion to aid understanding of the Bible. We will use the Bible and the study manual to complete daily reading assignments—generally about 30 minutes of reading per day—and meet weekly for discussion, video, and prayers. This study will meet weekly on Sunday evenings from 6:30 – 8 p.m. through June 2019.

There is a \$15 fee for the study manual.

If you have any questions or would like to register, please contact Michelle at [michelle@lopc.org](mailto:michelle@lopc.org).

## Fourth Monday Book Group

Every fourth Monday, 2 – 3:30 p.m.  
Fireside Room



Every week, one person volunteers to facilitate discussion about the selected book. Selections include both fiction and nonfiction. We start the meeting with light refreshments and a bit of poetry. Visitors and new members are welcome!

In October, we're reading *Soul of An Octopus* by Sy Montgomery.

For more information, contact Bob Hoots at 925-944-0575.

## Journey of Faith

by Bobbie Dodson



After losing her husband, her home and becoming an empty nester, all within a year, Ibis Schlesinger was confronted with this question: how does one create the life one wants when your world has fallen apart?

"I had come to Lafayette because I had fallen in love with

a wonderful man, John James. Now he was gone," she says. "My life became like the book of Job. He, too, had lost everything he loved. Yet, his faith remained strong. Mine did too. I was determined to create a new canvas with my life. With faith in God and determination, I believed things would turn for the good. But they became more challenging. It wasn't only me -- the world was going crazy. I had to make sense of what didn't make sense. I had to ask questions about God and faith and why bad things happen to good people.

"It wasn't right and I didn't know how to fix it. I went for hikes. My soul found joy when contemplating the ever-changing facets of the Lafayette Reservoir, Tahoe, mountains and lakes and oceans in distant places. When my heart cried from the harmony and beauty, I knew God was real and only the artist in God could create such magnificence. It brought me peace.

"Thankfully," Ibis says, "LOPC has become like my second home. Our people are people of mission and action; our pastors are not only bright but also compassionate, and each one brings a uniqueness to fill our souls with human faith."

Born in Guatemala, Ibis went to an experimental American School. "As I look back, it was probably where my education in diversity and faith began. My schoolmates were Christians, Jews, evangelicals, atheists, Catholics. Our student body had students from Germany, South and North America, Europe and, of course, Guatemala. In our classes we were encouraged to debate difficult topics, participate in music, sports, languages and mission projects. But I didn't realize our school was different. We never discussed tolerance; we learned it. I am thankful for this interfaith experience. Currently, I am a member of the LOPC interfaith group. Its work and understanding of faith and tolerance are crucial for community and world peace."

"Because of the mission emphasis at LOPC and the work it did in Guatemala I started a non-profit called Ties To The World. Our mission is to help orphanages become self-sustaining. Having to support myself, I started a women-owned business, GG2U and Associates. We sell safety supplies to utilities and corporations. This year I was given a scholarship at the Stanford Graduate Business School Latino Entrepreneurship. The mission is to help Latino businesses and prove they can grow and make the USA economy stronger.

"I believe what Peter Whitelock says, 'Love is action.' So I want to follow where my faith leads me, showing me how to put it into action. I am still working on creating the life I want. I try to live in the here and now. It is all we have. The past is gone and the future is always a mystery filled with hope."

## LOPC Breakfast Group



**Joe Terry**  
CEO  
CVI Power Foundation  
October 24, 7 a.m.

### Where the Bible and Ironman Intersect

Joe is a former NFL linebacker turned CEO and Ironman triathlete. By concentrating on human performance, Joe builds, leads, and grows world-class, tech-enabled business services, technology and SaaS.

CVI Power Foundation supports employee and company donations to various charitable organizations all over the world.

**\$5 donation for breakfast at the door.**

**RSVP by noon on September 18 to Janet at [janet@lopc.org](mailto:janet@lopc.org) or 925-283-8722 x223.**



# QUILTS



## November Quilt Display

This year is rolling right along, and it's time to think once again about the display of your quilts in the Sanctuary during the month of November. If you have a quilt you would be willing to loan for display, we'd love to hear from you!

For more information, contact Ann Loar at 925-284-1164 or [annloar@icloud.com](mailto:annloar@icloud.com).

## Thank you, Ann! New Coordinator Needed

Ann Loar took on leadership of the Quilt Display in 2009. Every November since, she has filled the Sanctuary walls with quilts. Some are very old and treasured family heirloom quilts. The displays have featured a huge range of techniques, and Ann was always sure to get the story about each one.

"It's been an incredibly gratifying experience in so very many ways," she says. "Time to let someone else have the fun! And I'll definitely be around to help in any way that I can."

If you think this Quilt Display ministry might be for you, contact Ann Loar at 925-284-1164 or [annloar@icloud.com](mailto:annloar@icloud.com).



## Join Quilts for Children

Every Thursday, 1 – 4 p.m., CLC Room 205

The LOPCided Quilters group was founded in 2001 and has been making quilts for children ever since. The group started out small, but we now have over 20 dedicated members who meet once a week for fellowship, sewing and sharing.

The quilts are donated to local groups and provide comfort to babies and children. Last year we donated 213 quilts.

This year we are supporting three projects:

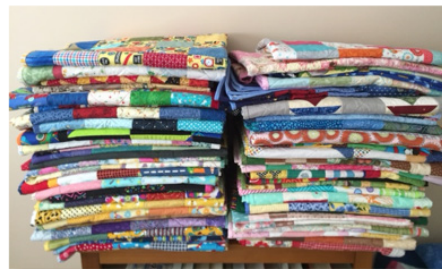
**Warm Winter Nights**, where every child and teen who is a guest of LOPC gets to choose a quilt.

**Love A Child Mission** in Bay Point, which provides shelter for homeless children and their mothers.

**Layette Project**, which provides clothes and blankets to the neediest babies in Contra Costa County. The Layette Project is in conjunction with Hillcrest Congregational Church in Pleasant Hill.

Anyone with basic sewing skills is welcome to join the group. Fabric, sewing machines and supplies are all provided.

For more information, contact Louise Tanno at [louisetanno@gmail.com](mailto:louisetanno@gmail.com).



56 Quilts made  
by LOPCided  
Quilters in 2016

PHOTOS: LOPCided Quilters 20

## thursday Fellowship

Every Thursday, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall

Thursday Fellowship is celebrating its 39th year providing seniors with lunch and entertainment, and welcoming them into a very special caring community. Join us as a volunteer, guest, or visitor.

Come join us and experience our exciting activities and caring community. You are never too old or too young to participate!

### Typical Thursday Schedule:

**11 a.m.:** “Meet and Greet” with snacks and beverages.

**11:15 a.m.:** Craft activities and/or light exercise.

**Noon:** Lunch. Please bring a half sandwich and we will provide the salad, beverage, and dessert.

**12:45 p.m.:** Entertainment.

### October Calendar:

**October 4:**

Sing-a-long with Jim Pearson and Gillian Roebuck.

**October 11:**

Rossmoor Square dancers with Seedlings children joining us!

**October 18:**

Michael Kistner, vocalist and guitar player.

**October 25:**

Berto Wooldridge presents on motorcycles.

### Volunteer opportunities include:

- Providing a salad or baked cookies.
- Providing a ride for a senior who no longer drives. This is an ongoing need and can be a weekly or a monthly commitment. Substitute drivers are needed, as well.

Questions? Contact coordinators:

Julie Peterson  
julie@lopc.com

Clarita Wooldridge  
clarita@lopc.com

Both Julie and Clarita can be reached at  
925-283-8722 x281.

## Men with Young Families & Professionals Group

Mondays, November 5 – December 10  
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Men, ages 20 to 50, this is your group! This year we've organized hang outs (on and off-site), opportunities to pray and study (relevant books and the Bible), along with service opportunities to give back to the community. This is a come-as-you-are group, which means come for what makes sense for your schedule. Attend one or all of the sessions—whatever works for you. We're a place for you to belong.

**Group Leaders:** Chris Baldwin & Eric Houssels.

If you have questions or inquiries, contact Chris Baldwin for more information at [chris@lopc.org](mailto:chris@lopc.org).

### Session II:

November 5 – December 10

### Session III:

January 28 – February 11

### Session IV:

March 11 – April 8

### Session V:

April 29 – May 20



Save the Date!

## Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Presbyterian Women's  
Christmas Tea

December 7 • 1 to 3 p.m.



# lopc foundation

## When The Time Is Right....

By Kristi Haigh, Foundation Trustee



Timing is everything. The time is right. Perfect timing. So many common phrases describe how important timing is in our lives, and so it is also with the LOPC Foundation. The time is approaching when the Foundation determines how much financial support it will be able

to commit to the church next year to supplement the operating budget and planned maintenance.

While we usually think of spring as the season of renewal, for many of us fall is really the beginning of the new annual cycle: vacations end, school terms begin, new program activities start. Likewise, the LOPC Foundation's new fiscal year begins October 1.

The first foundation trustees wisely structured the foundation to have a different fiscal year from that of the church. By closing its books on September 30, the Foundation knows what the investment returns were for the prior year and what amount it can make available to help LOPC support its ministries and maintain its physical plant for the new church fiscal year starting January 1.

Timing is everything! Of course, positive investment results help, too. The Trustees have a fiduciary and legal responsibility to withdraw from the Foundation funds only an amount that leaves the balance to grow and sustain the church for years to come.

And let's remember the timing for each of us on life's journey. We on the Foundation board hope you are aware of how important the Foundation is to the future of LOPC. When the time is right and you are considering the legacy of your lifetime, we hope you will think of including the LOPC Foundation in your financial plans. Gifts to the Foundation are a way of supporting, maintaining, and expanding the work of LOPC in coming years. A gift to the Foundation is a donor's statement about what is important to him or her, a testament to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Gifts are welcomed in all sizes; by acting as a community of faith, the goal of insuring the future strength of LOPC is achieved.

**When the time is right for you to learn more about making a legacy gift, please contact any of the Foundation trustees:**

Dick James  
Kristi Haigh  
Phil Placier  
Dara Youngdale  
Staci Johnston  
Jim Beckemeyer  
Jerry Ducey  
Jen Crocker  
Mike Ross

## session

### Highlights from August Session

By Jody Black, Clerk of Session

After the July break, Session met in August to continue its review of the LOPC Activity Plan to help set LOPC priorities for the new program year. Jaime Polson shared the plan highlighting our strategy, the activities and programs to support the strategy, the ministry and individuals responsible for the program, and our measures for success. The detailed 12-page document provides clear accountability and direction. We are blessed to have Jaime's strong leadership experience providing such clarity to LOPC's mission and priorities.

Session also approved a proposed slate of elders, deacons, and congregational nominating committee members to serve in 2019.

Finally, Session got a preliminary review of the Stewardship campaign literature to be shared with the congregation later this year. We are excited with the approach and the message from the Stewardship Team in the fall.



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Gerald Chinen, Congregational Care  
Lauren Gully, Mission & Spiritual Formation  
Jaime Polson, Families & Executive Leadership

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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 Timpote, Children

#### FOCUS NEWSLETTER

Sara Warfield, Communications  
Dick James, Editing  
Janet Jourgensen, Proofreading

Thank you to all who contribute to each issue.

#### Monthly FOCUS Newsletter Deadline:

October 1 for the November issue.  
Email items to [communications@lopchurch.org](mailto:communications@lopchurch.org).

#### Weekly CONNECTIONS Deadline:

Every Monday by 5 p.m. for the  
following Sunday's issue.  
Submit items at:  
[www.lopchurch.org/submission-for-connections](http://www.lopchurch.org/submission-for-connections)



## Connect with us!

### Sunday Worship Services

9 a.m.

11 a.m.

Invite Friends & Family



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