

# FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Alive!  
In Christ... in the World



# November 2019

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### Let All Things...

By Peter Whitelock, Head of Staff

**N**ovember is a month for thanksgiving, and in a time filled with so much anxiety and division, that is a very good thing! Thanksgiving is not a human tendency to somehow deny the hardships of life, but it is rather a divinely inspired perspective on the truth of things that builds hope and courage.

The text of one of our favorite hymns, written by Katherine Davis, illustrates this point so well:

*“Let all things now living  
 a song of thanksgiving  
 to God the Creator triumphantly raise,  
 who fashioned and made us,  
 protected and stayed us,  
 who guides us and leads to the end of our days.*

*God’s banners fly o’er us;  
 God’s light goes before us,  
 a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
 till shadows have vanished  
 and darkness is banished,  
 as forward we travel from light into light.”*

The buoyant spirit of the text is magnified by the accompanying tune (Ash Grove), and it brings a smile to my heart every time we sing it. We are not alone, and cast upon our own resources solely, but rather sustained in love to the end of our days. God’s light is never extinguished, however dim it may appear at times, and the triumph of light is a thing we can trust. Life is travel, work, movement, struggle and, in God’s economy, progress towards something wonderful. For these things, the composer avers, we can truly be thankful!

Pastors: Peter Whitelock, Head of Staff | Gerald Chinen, Care | Lauren Gully, Mission & Formation | Jaime Polson, Families



## Giving Sunday is November 3

*“On either side of the river is the tree of life with its 12 kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”*

*Revelation 22:2*

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.

On this day, we encourage members and friends to bring their pledge cards to worship. If you can't attend worship that day, you can always mail your card or drop it by the church office. Pledge materials have been mailed. If you didn't receive the packet, please stop by the church office to pick one up. You can also access pledge materials online at:

[lopc.org/give-back/pledge](http://lopc.org/give-back/pledge)

Questions about processing your pledge?  
Contact Lidia Jesonek at 925-283-8722 x229 or [lidia@lopc.org](mailto:lidia@lopc.org).

# youth

## BTW Serves at Warm Winter Nights

On November 3, BTW will be geared around serving the Warm Winter Nights Shelter here on campus! BTW will run from 5-7 p.m. that night. Potential service activities include: dinner prep and service, playing with children, fellowship with families during dinner, and clean-up. If you are interested, please let Keris know! Details will also be released at youth group.



## BTW Homegroups

The weekend of November 24 is reserved for BTW Homegroups! Homegroups are a great opportunity for fellowship and to connect together with members of your small group in a fun and casual setting.

*Youth and parents:* Please connect with your small group advisors about the time and location! Details will also be sent to parents via email the week before.

## YOW Service Night

Come to YOW on Nov 20 for a special night of service!

Our fall YOW service-learning project will benefit foster teens through Youth Homes, Inc. in Pleasant Hill. Youth will seek out hygiene items hidden around campus to fill welcome baskets for foster teens. Incoming teens often don't bring many necessities with them, and these kits will include all the toiletries they will need at their foster homes and a note of welcome. This is a fun way for YOW youth to connect with a local need and give some time and energy to brighten the day of youth not much older than themselves. See you there!



## Save the Date

### Youth Summer Service-Learning Opportunities

Online registrations open in January 2020!

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

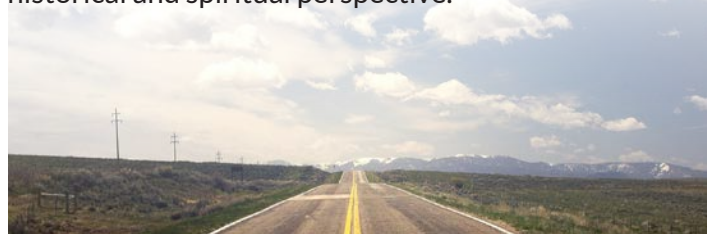
Youth who complete 5th or 6th grade in May 2020 will serve for a couple of hours each day with a local mission partner in the East Bay, and return to debrief and reflect on their experience. Youth will become acquainted with the many ways in which we can share God's love within our own community! Our dream is that this experience will inspire youth for a life of serving and loving others. Service may include food sorting and packing, yardwork, visiting the elderly and home-bound, running programs for children living in a shelter, and more!

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

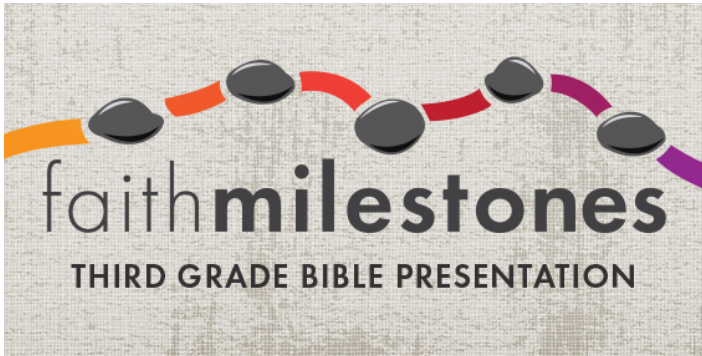
Youth who complete 7th or 8th grade in May 2020, will spend a week in San Francisco and the surrounding area serving with City Service Mission. Through this experience, youth will be introduced to the many ways we can serve people in our own Bay Area community. We'll discover a new side of this familiar city through immersive activities—serving with a variety of ministry partners, and a daily debriefing of our experiences.

### High School Yakima Trip: June 20-27

Youth who complete 9th-12th grade in May 2020 will travel to Yakima, Washington to partner with an indigenous led organization: S.L.A.M. (Students Learning About Missions). S.L.A.M. is based within the Yakima Nation and focuses on teaching outside groups how they follow 'The Jesus Way' through their native traditions. Youth service teams will witness various ceremonies, learn about the history and culture of the Yakima people, and provide basic housework service in tribe elders' homes. The trip will be mainly relational—aiming to deepen our understanding and connections to the larger body of Christ from a different cultural, historical and spiritual perspective.



# children



**Bible Class: November 3**

**Bible Presentation: November 10**

At certain points during a person's spiritual journey, the community of faith comes together to celebrate a particularly meaningful rite of passage. At LOPC, we call these moments Faith Milestones. It is our hope to walk with our children throughout the journey and to be particularly present as a community during these events.

When a child reaches third grade, we celebrate the gift of Scripture to the body of Christ by asking families to participate in our Third Grade Bible Presentation, this year scheduled for Sunday, November 10. During either the 9:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service, our third graders will be presented with a special Bible from LOPC as the congregation commits to walking through the Scriptures with these children and their families.

Prior to that, all third graders and their parents should attend the Third Grade Bible Class on Sunday, November 3, from 10:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. During this time, the children will learn the fundamentals of the Bible, and parents will learn how to read the Bible as a family. Participation in this class is a prerequisite to being a part of the presentation. Please contact Ryan Timpote to sign up for the class via email at [ryan@lopc.org](mailto:ryan@lopc.org).

We invite everyone in the LOPC congregation to join us in worship on November 10 to celebrate this Faith Milestone with our third graders and their families!

# seedlings



## Wheel Day 2019!

By Tina Clendenin, Seedlings Communications Board

On Saturday, October 19, Seedlings had its biggest annual social event: Wheel Day. Children young and old came 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!"

The LOPC parking lot was transformed into a gathering place for guests to enjoy food, friends, and a variety of vehicles. This event featured a fire truck, a school bus, police cars, a moving truck, construction equipment, motorcycles, a mobile dentist van, and much more. Not only did the children experience the joy of seeing their favorite vehicles, but they were also able to climb, honk, steer, and explore them inside. In addition, Wheel Day hosted a bake sale and a used-book sale.

This year, the proceeds from these sales and the event are going towards Grateful Gatherings. Grateful Gatherings is a program that helps Bay Area families who are transitioning from homelessness or crisis to furnish a new home. The kids love that when they buy a treat, they are making a small contribution to a great cause.

Thank you to those who attended, and if you missed it this year, make sure you check it out next October! Admission is free!



# spiritual formation

# 10:10

grow empowered to live in faith

## November 3: OAK ROOM



**Time:** Tips to Keep Your Most Valuable Asset (time) Under Control and Create Impactful and Compassionate Change!

Join us for the conclusion of our three-part stewardship series on this Giving Sunday!

## November 10: OAK ROOM

### How to Make Prayer a Regular Practice

Learn practical ways to incorporate prayer as a daily practice in your life with Pastor Gerald Chinen and members of the LOPC Prayer Team.

## November 17:

### OAK ROOM

#### The Role of the Christian Church in the Congo

The Rev. Jean Serge Lumu Shabani of the Democratic Republic of the Congo will share about his work with humanitarian and social affairs for children and families.

### CHAPEL

#### How Do I Pray for Others?

Learn how you can minister to others by praying for them. Led by Pastor Gerald Chinen and members of the Prayer Team.

## November 24: OAK ROOM

### Spiritual Journaling

Bob Finertie will guide us through the spiritual practice of journaling and its importance for expression.

Please Note: 10:10 will not be meeting on Sunday, December 1 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Classes resume on Sunday, December 8.



**Story Telling and Music Theory**  
**November 18, 7:15 p.m. in the Oak Room**  
 Composer, conductor, and LOPC Director of Worship & Music Brett Strader will discuss his process of writing new music. Examples will include his and Pastor Lauren Gully's collaboration, "Passion," from Good Friday, along with other recent works. Please join us!



**Moms RETREAT**  
*Save the Date*  
**January 17, 2020**  
**9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
 For additional information and to register, please email Michelle at [michelle@lopc.org](mailto:michelle@lopc.org).

# lopc foundation

## Foundation Elects New President

Personnel changes are afoot at the LOPC Foundation. They include a newly elected president and the addition at year-end of a new trustee.

The new president, who took office October 1, is Staci Johnston, the former Foundation assistant treasurer, who has served on the Foundation board for four years.



Staci Johnston

Staci and her husband, Ian, have been LOPC members for 16 years, and they have two sons.

She assumes the presidency from Dick James, who will retire at yearend from seven years on the Board, four years as president. "The solid leadership Dick has provided will continue with Staci's experience as elder, former clerk of session, and career experience as a CPA," said Phil Placier, Foundation treasurer, who with Dick's retirement, becomes the longest currently serving board member.

The new Foundation trustee is Lois Boyd, current clerk of session, who was elected trustee at the recent congregational meeting. She and her husband, Jim, have been LOPC members since 1979. Her church service includes the church business manager, Personnel Team, senior high advisor, family ministries, pastor nominating committee, handbell choir, and choir. Now retired, she was previously employed as the Chief Operating Officer of a large law firm.

Among other personnel changes, Jim Beckemeyer was elected assistant treasurer. The remaining officers continue in their former positions for a new term of one year: Kristi Haigh, vice president; Dara Youngdale, secretary; and Phil Placier, treasurer.



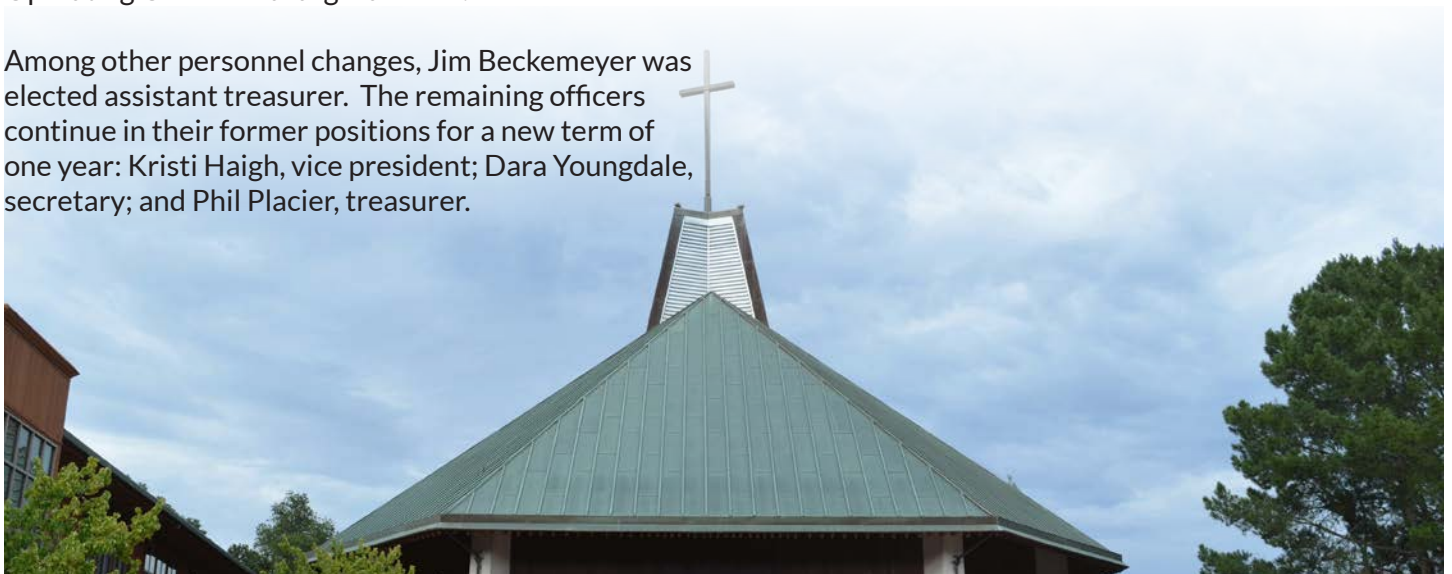
### Foundation Vision

The LOPC Foundation strives to be a permanent, reliable source of significant funding for LOPC's ministries.

As it begins a new fiscal year, the Foundation thanks all the members and friends of LOPC who have donated to the Foundation, or made provision in their wills or estate plans to do so in the future.

### Board of Trustees:

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



# mission

## We need you!

### Housing Crisis in Contra Costa County

November 10 in the Library at 10:15 a.m.

Recently, reports about or reference to “affordable housing in the Bay Area” often describe the issue as: a crisis, complex, or feeling of “NIMBY” (Not In My Back Yard). NIMBY implies people want to help lower-income families find homes but don’t want low-income housing in their neighborhoods. The San Francisco Presbytery is offering \$1 million total in grants to churches to help address the housing crisis in Contra Costa County.

On November 10th LOPC will hold a meeting to hear some ideas we have generated but other ideas are welcome.

Would you be willing to:

- Help find ways to build smaller manufactured homes in Contra Costa County?
- Help reach out to better identify families at risk to become homeless?
- Seek out private and philanthropic funds to rehabilitate vacant or underused properties for housing?
- Find and support homeownership counseling agencies to support people to incrementally save for a down payment?
- Seek local programs to educate current homeowners to build small homes in their backyards?
- Seek local programs to connect workers who need affordable housing with housing owners looking for increased returns?

At the meeting we will discuss applying for a grant to implement one of these ideas or others that might be brought forward. The funds could be used to help expand an existing program or partner addressing this issue. Here is a chance to get involved to help formulate an action plan that helps others. Join us to share your ideas and suggestions to help fight the affordable-housing issue in Contra Costa County.

**If you have questions, contact Phil Hunter at [hunter.p@mac.com](mailto:hunter.p@mac.com) or Lauren Gully at [lauren@lopc.org](mailto:lauren@lopc.org).**

## Turning the Tide on the AIDS Epidemic and Improving Child Health in Zimbabwe.

December 5, 7:00 p.m., Oak Room

By Phil Hunter, LOPC Member

Pamela Magande, MD, MPH, program manager for our FACE (Families and Communities for the Elimination) of HIV Program of the Kapnek Trust, will provide a progress report on AIDS prevention and treatment in Zimbabwe. She will discuss the program’s significant health and social impact on Zimbabwe culture as a result of the diminishing incidence of HIV and AIDS in Zimbabwe and Southern Africa. Dr. Magande and other Kapnek Trust staff will report about their exciting and lifesaving work.

LOPC made a decision over eight years ago to help in the fight against AIDS by supporting the J.F. Kapnek Trust in Zimbabwe. The Trust has been on the front lines of the battle to reduce the impact of the pandemic with their effort to reduce the mother-to-child transmission of AIDS.

In her talk, Dr. Magande will address policies and practices contributing to the success of reducing the incidence of HIV in children by over 90% as well as the challenges remaining. She will also provide an update on Kapnek’s strategies to improve child health through their Preschool Program and their work to assist children and their families with disabilities. And, yes, with our help the Kapnek Trust still feeds more than 17,000 preschool Zimbabwe children daily.

AIDS has killed over 32 million people worldwide as of 2018. But through years of international efforts the death rate has dropped to 800,000 from a high of 1.7 million deaths per year. An additional 37 million are living with AIDS. The disease is not the death sentence it once was. New HIV infections have been reduced by 40% since the peak in 1997.



## Fifth Annual Interfaith Picnic 2019

by Larry Rose, LOPC Member

On Saturday, September 14, over 60 members of the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish communities gathered together at the Lafayette Reservoir to share stories, music, prayers, food, and joyful conversation. This was a continuum of the Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) program which was initiated to bring together diverse faith journeys in order to deepen our understanding, support, and love for the other. For many of us it has become an important and sustaining element of our daily lives. Our theme this year was “A Healthy Planet: God’s Creation, Our Responsibility.”

The day consisted of a short service facilitated by all three faiths, including diverse musical elements followed by a shared vegetarian potluck meal with compostable eating supplies and wonderful stories. Upon arrival, everyone was invited to indicate the origin of their ancestors on a large world map. Getting to know those who may be different than ourselves is essential to the ideal of world peace, and the safety of our planet. The N2N program has not only fostered new understanding, but also many lifelong, loving relationships we may otherwise have never known. Shalom, As-Salaam-Alaikum, peace be upon you.

## Congolese Pastor/Humanitarian to visit LOPC

November 17, 10:10 a.m., Oak Room



The Rev. Lumu Shabani Jean Serge of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is head pastor at Zion Mountain Presbyterian Church in Kinshasa. The topic is “The Role of the Christian Church in the Congo.” For eight years he was also a Faith and Development Manager for World Vision in the DRC. He was responsible for the spiritual nurture of the staff, strengthening the World Vision Christian identity, building church partnerships, and promoting the well-being of children. He also conducted trainings in other areas such as water, sanitation, and HIV prevention. Rev. Lumu has been hired recently as a provincial chief of Humanitarian and Social Affairs for Children and Families.



## mission



The holidays are a time to celebrate with family and friends. For most of us it is a chance to spend time together and enjoy home-cooked meals, good conversation, and relax. But for those struggling with making ends meet, the holidays are a time of increased stress. It is difficult to think of buying gifts while struggling to pay rent, fill a car with gas, and put food on the table. As a community, LOPC has always been generous during this time of year. This year there will be three opportunities to give.

### 11/17 – 12/8 MCC Food Box Collection

What was once an Adopt-A-Child program has transformed into a food program due to the ever-increasing demand. The food boxes allow families in the Monument Corridor to celebrate the holidays. During the week, pick up a food list and a box in the Ministry Center Office. On Sundays (11/17, 11/24, 12/1) pick up a box on the plaza.

*NOTE: All Boxes **must** be returned on Sunday, December 8. Please deliver your items directly to the truck parked in front of the Oak Room.*

The food list is at [lopc.org](http://lopc.org)>The Latest.

### 11/17 – 12/8 Harbor House Toy Collection

This program supports low-income children who reside in the San Antonio district of Oakland. The toy-collection program provides Harbor House with gifts for their on-site store which provides parents the joy of choosing a gift for their own children during the holidays. The drive begins on Monday, November 18. All unwrapped gifts should be returned to the Ministry Center office no later than Sunday, December 8. The toy list is at [lopc.org](http://lopc.org)>The Latest.

### 12/8 One World Trade Fair

Beautiful handcrafted gifts (jewelry, art, textiles, accessories, and clothing) from around the globe including Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and United States will be on display in the Chapel Narthex. These items make meaningful holiday gifts as well as improve the livelihood of disadvantaged artisans and help them sustain the daily needs of food, education, healthcare and housing for themselves and their families.

**Contact [robin@lopc.org](mailto:robin@lopc.org) with questions.**

# session

## Session Highlights September 2019

By Lois Boyd, Clerk of Session

Peter Whitelock reported that the Volunteer Task Force is close to completing its work and will share its findings and recommendations with Session at the October meeting. The Task Force provided copies of *The New Breed: Understanding and Equipping the 21st Century Volunteer* as one of the best sources they discovered in the course of their deliberations.

Chris Baldwin presented information that has been collected regarding the composition of the church's membership to identify trends and potential areas of focus. LOPC is fairly unique in that it enjoys a healthy distribution of age groups in its membership. We are working on how to involve our members in the life of the church in ways that are meaningful to them and to support them in the development of their relationship with God.

In anticipation of the start of the annual budget planning process, Char Casella provided an overview of the overall process, the Foundation's role in supporting the church's finances, and the Finance Team's approach to long-range planning.

Gerald Chinen provided an update on the Diversity Task Force initiatives that have begun and will continue to expand including training of the staff, leadership and congregation. The Task Force will share its recommendations that were formed by considerable discussion and discernment within and beyond the Task Force members.

Jaime Polson reported that she is leading a detailed safety review with a member of Homeland Security and local officials to ensure we are taking appropriate measures to provide ongoing safety of our campus.

New Deacons, Elders, and Foundation members were elected unanimously at the September 15 Congregational meeting. The Leadership retreat for all new and outgoing church leaders will be held January 24-25 at LOPC with Jake Metcalf, pastor at Hayward Presbyterian Church, sharing his experience and insights in redeveloping Hayward Pres.

Dave MacKenzie shared that his wife Jane's ordination service at LOPC was a very special occasion not only for him and Jane, but also for those who attended to support Jane. Craig Barnes, President of Princeton Theological Seminary, officiated and brought together those in attendance who have church relationships and those who do not which made for a very moving service.

We continued our spiritual formation series where Session members shared their faith journeys, and Tom Scovel related how God has shaped his extraordinary life's journey. A very powerful story.



# community

## Respite Night

Friday, November 15

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

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

Presented by Special Needs Ministry

Dinner, games, therapy dogs, crafts, activities, and a movie! Children and youth will be divided by age, with age-appropriate movies. Sensory and quiet rooms are provided. Several professionals who work with children and youth with special needs will be on-site the entire evening. We will provide a staffing ratio to match your child's needs.

Please register by Monday, November 4 by emailing Michelle at michelle@lopc.org.

Space is limited. We welcome you to connect with us before the Respite Night.

### LOPC Breakfast

November 20 - 7:00 a.m. in the Davies Room



Joe Whitehouse: *Travels with Joe through Poland, Belarus and Ukraine.*

\$5 donation for breakfast at the door.

Contact Joan Grimes at joan@lawofficeofjoangrimes.com for more information. RSVP to Lexi at lexi@lopc.org.

### Fourth Monday Book Group

We will meet next on Monday, December 2, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on-campus in the Fireside Room. We will discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owen. The group reads both fiction as well as non-fiction books. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

For more information, contact Jean Fiske - jdfiske@gmail.com or Bob Hoots at bob2tam@gmail.com.



November 24 at 10:00 a.m.

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

NOTE: We will not be gathering in December due to the busy holiday season.

*It's holiday time,  
So come and dine,  
On cookies fine,  
With tea sublime!*



**Save December 6 for**  
**Christmas Dreams**  
the annual Presbyterian Women's Christmas Tea!

# thursdayFellowship

*A program of Senior Care Ministries*

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

November is here and with its arrival we start the count-down to the beginning of the holiday season and the end of 2019. This month we are especially thankful for so many reasons. First, we have a thriving program and an extraordinary group of more than 30 volunteers that give of themselves on a weekly basis from September through mid-June. Our volunteer base has grown this fall, and we are so thankful!

Second, our activities and programs have increased in scope and variety. We are thankful for the volunteer program directors who go above and beyond to make our magical programs a successful happening. Lastly, our kitchen and hospitality volunteers provide us with tasty snacks, beverages, and a lovely salad and dessert served on beautifully appointed tables. All of this is done with care and love for our wonderful guests who complete the circle. They love to come to Thursday Fellowship, and we are thankful for the friendships and caring community filled with love that has been created. We are truly blessed.

- **November 7:** Sing-a-long with Jim Pearson and Gillian Roebuck.
- **November 14:** Tory and Jim Rath will speak about their 6 month experience volunteering on the hospital ship, *Mercy*.
- **November 21:** Michael Kistner, vocalist and guitarist.
- **November 28:** Thanksgiving -no meeting.

**Come and experience our exciting and varied activities and programs and be a part of our very special caring community!**



**Julie Peterson**  
julie@lopc.org



**Clarita Wooldridge**  
clarita@lopc.org

**925-283-8722 x281**

**We welcome guests, volunteers, and visitors!**

## Quilts for Children

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

Approximately 200 quilts per year are donated to local groups which provide comfort to babies and children.

During Warm Winter Nights, every child and teen who is a guest of LOPC gets to choose a quilt. Quilts are also given to the Layette Project which provides clothes and blankets to the neediest babies in Contra Costa County. The Layette Project is done in conjunction with Hillcrest Congregational Church in Pleasant Hill. Other Donations are made as needed, such as to victims of the Camp Fire in Paradise this past November.

The LOPCided Quilters meet every Thursday, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. in CLC Room 205. Anyone with basic sewing skills is welcome to join the group. Fabric, sewing machines, and supplies are all provided.

**Questions? Contact Louise Tanno at [louisetanno@gmail.com](mailto:louisetanno@gmail.com).**



# community

## Sea Kayak and Camp in the Bahamas!

January 21-28, 2020; 6 days/5 nights on the water

Sea kayaking and camping in the Bahamas on pristine beaches is an unforgettable experience! Escape winter and kayak to small islands where our tents will be the only structures there, and we the only inhabitants. Once we land, we'll set up camp and then snorkel, learn kayaking skills, or just read and lay out in the sun – all with a supportive and fun group.

The cost is \$1,000 (airfare and pre/post-trip lodging extra). The experience is for novices and is only moderately strenuous. This trip is led by The Rev. Dr. Steve Harrington, former pastor at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church and Livermore Presbyterian Church, who is an ACA certified Sea Kayak Instructor. Steve has guided for many years around the world as an instructor for both NOLS and Outward Bound. Participation numbers are limited.

Contact Steve Harrington for information at [bebravebewise@gmail.com](mailto:bebravebewise@gmail.com) or 408-835-0601.

# journey of faith

by Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member



Katie Weaver

Katie Weaver says Jesus has always seemed the most real to her when she is helping others. “I feel like when I am doing this, I am connecting to Him better and am carrying out His mission,” she says. “I also have this same feeling when I see others showing their compassion for others by lending a helping hand.”

It wasn't always easy though. “When I first started volunteering in sixth grade, it seemed scary to meet all these people whom I didn't know. My Girl Scout troop served at Warm Winter Nights and I was worried about what the people would be like and what they'd think of me. But when I started giving them food and playing with the kids, I felt so good about it and all my fears melted away. I have worked in Vacation Bible Camp during the summer, too. I hope to continue serving in whatever way I can, not only on special occasions like Warm Winter Nights, but just by doing little things in my daily life.”

In reflecting on her faith journey Katie explains, “I think my faith journey began when my family joined LOPC when I was five. Before then I hadn't really grasped the concepts and didn't have an understanding of what

being a Christian meant. Being at LOPC really helped with that. I found leaders who were so nice and always helpful. They didn't only teach me, they got to know me as a person. They are truly great role models. The lessons, then and now, are always hands-on, which helps me as a visual learner understand better. It seems to me that this is such a warm congregation as the people I've met have been so kind and helpful.

“I have been active in YOW and Youth Alive. Allison and Keris (Youth Ministry Directors) have been really great leaders and friends. Also, Sue Nagle, my group leader at YOW, has been very kind and has gotten to know me better.”

It is impressive to learn about Katie's involvement thus far as she is now only a 7th grader at Stanley School. She has three siblings, John (13), Sarah (10), and Andy (6), and says her family is active in sports, youth groups and other events. They are thankful LOPC offers such fine programs for our children.

In keeping with her goal of helping others, Katie chooses as her Bible verse Mark 12:31: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

**LIGHT FROM ON HIGH  
COME ILLUMINE US**

# Christmas Concert

*Featuring* **Lux: the Dawn from On High by Dan Forrest**  
& other works for choir, orchestra, and soloists

**Saturday  
December 7**

**4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday**

**December 8**

**2:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.**

**New! Tickets should be reserved online at [lopc.org](http://lopc.org) on the Event Registration page beginning November 6 at 10:00 a.m. through December 2.**

**Reserved tickets can be picked up in the Ministry Center  
November 18 – December 2. Maximum six tickets per family.**

**Childcare will be available for the 2 p.m. concert on Sunday, December 8 only.**

For children six months to ten years old. Childcare is by reservation only.

Reserve childcare before November 21 by emailing Susan Wentworth at [susan@lopc.org](mailto:susan@lopc.org).

*A free will offering will be taken. Suggested donation is \$20.*



49 Knox Drive  
Lafayette, CA 94549

NOVEMBER 2019

IMPORTANT

Dated Material  
PLEASE DELIVER  
BEFORE 11/1/19

Thank you!

Return Service Requested

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

**PASTORAL STAFF**

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

**WORSHIP & MUSIC**

Brett Strader, Director  
Stewart Scharch, Organist

**TREASURER**

Char Casella

**MINISTRY DIRECTORS**

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

**FOCUS NEWSLETTER**

Jon Corry, Communications  
Dick James & Lexi Morrissey, Editing

Thank you to all who contribute to each issue.

**Monthly FOCUS Newsletter Deadline:**

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

**Weekly CONNECTIONS Deadline:**

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

*On either side of the river is the tree of life with its 12 kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.*

*Revelation 22:2*



Giving Sunday is  
**November 3**

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

Invite Friends & Family!

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