

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

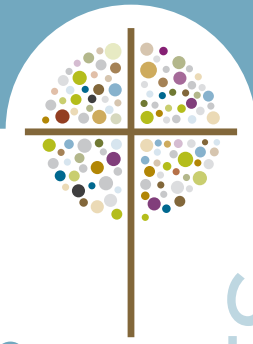
AUGUST 2022

FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

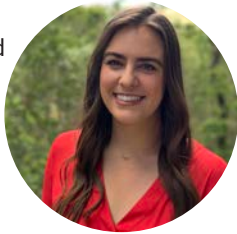
LOPC.ORG



FAITH can make a difference

By Lauren Gully - Pastor, Mission & Spiritual Formation

Hasn't the world felt a little crazy lately? I've been feeling it, too, and I believe faith can make a difference. Faith can make a difference for us as individuals as we continue to survive another day or week without losing our minds and can ground us in the present moment and sustain our sense of eternal hope. But faith can also make a difference in the broader community. That is why, despite anything that might be going on in the world, I continue to hope the church can contribute a moral voice and can offer a community where people can discuss critical issues.



For the past few months I have been studying Church History as part of my doctoral work. I've re-encountered historical moments and figures and have been impressed by the difference people of faith have made throughout church history. The early church questioned Roman thinking about the poor and built some of the first hospitals. Theologian Reinhold Niebuhr sought to influence politics based on his understanding of faithful social reforms. Martin Luther King Jr. had an impact of biblical proportions as he challenged the status quo through non-violence and urged people to participate in kingdom-inspired justice and equality. People of faith, throughout history have been essential moral leaders in their communities and throughout the world.

As Christians, our values of peace, righteousness, love, forgiveness, and justice, just to name a few, influence not only our own families, friends, and work environments, but also can influence the world on a larger scale. In order to fully embody and live into these values, churches must be sharing with their members and friends the teachings of Jesus, faithfulness of God in the epic stories of the Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures, and the wisdom of our tradition to continue the encouraging work on the church that is not only relevant to our own faith journey but also relevant to how we as Christians engage the world.

As LOPC kicks off a new program year, I encourage you to engage your faith, and to explore the many options to get involved: join in worship, watch LOPC's devotional videos on social media, join a group study, or serve the needs of our community with us!

Be part of how faith can make a difference!

CONTENTS

August 2022

- Community 2
- Staff 3
- Youth 4
- Mission 8
- Session 10
- Sermon Series 10
- Journey of Faith..... 11
- Care.....12
- Hold in Prayer13
- Finance.....14

Pastoral Staff

- Peter Whitelock - Head of Staff
- Gerald Chinen - Congregational Care
- Lauren Gully - Mission & Spiritual Formation
- Jaime Polson - Families & Executive Leadership
- Chris Baldwin - Community Life

Ministry Directors

- Keris Dahlkamp & Allison Kunz - Youth
- Coleen Moulton - Seedlings Preschool

Treasurer

- Staci Johnston

Focus Newsletter

- Jon Corry - Communications
- Dick James & Lexi Morrissey - Editors

Submissions & Deadlines

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

Thank you to all who contribute each month to Focus!

community



By Cathy Gallinger, LOPC Member

A bench is just a bench. But, are some benches more special than others? Indeed some benches are, and one of these sits right outside our main sanctuary doors at LOPC. This bench was given as a memorial to Janet Jones, who was responsible for bringing Presbyterian Women as a program to LOPC in 1954.

The Board of our local Presbyterian Women decided that this bench would be a memorial to other members of the group who have been outstanding in their dedication to working for justice and peace, and building an inclusive community of women who strengthen the Presbyterian Church and who witness to the promise of God's Kingdom.

Our second honoree was Janine Scovel, and in addition, we are now honoring two new individuals: Vickie Hipkiss and Diane Steuber.

Vickie Hipkiss

Vickie was a member of Presbyterian Women for many years. She served as Circle Leader of the Agape Circle, and also was the creator of posters, flyers, and ticket designs for all Presbyterian Women special events. She was a warm friendly person and is greatly missed.

Diane Steuber

Diane came to Presbyterian Women as our elder delegate when she served on session. She became involved as a circle member, a circle leader and eventually as moderator of Presbyterian Women. Diane was a loving encouraging person and we miss her not only for her skills but, most of all, for her thoughtfulness and her loving and encouraging spirit.

So, please take time to sit on our Prebyterian Women bench some Sunday— lovingly given for all to enjoy.

Fourth Monday Book Group

August 22, 2:00 p.m. on Zoom

Join us to choose books for the fall and to discuss *Travels in Alaska* by John Muir.

Contact Jean Fiske at jdfiske@gmail.com to be added to the group.

Fourth Friday Book Group

September 23, 4:00 p.m. on Zoom

Join us to discuss *Endurance* by Alfred Lansing.

Email Catherine Coleman at awaitingword@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Attention Quilters:

The annual Quilt Display is scheduled this Fall for Sunday, October 30, through Sunday, November 20.

This display is always warmly welcomed by the Congregation.

Please bring your quilt and its story to the LOPC Ministry Center no later than Sunday, October 23.

For questions contact Nancy Henderson at nghenderson@comcast.net or Carol King at caking53@pacbell.net.

Pastor Gerald's Retirement Love Gift

In preparation of Pastor Gerald's retirement celebrations this September, we are now collecting contributions for his retirement "love gift." Contributions to this fund may be sent to the church office through September 10 and can be paid by a check (please note "Gerald" in the memo) or online.

If you are able, help us send Gerald into retirement with a generous gift!

community

thursday Fellowship

caring • sharing • loving

A program of Senior Care Ministries



By Julie Peterson, Coordinator

Thursday Fellowship recently concluded its spring program year with a wonderful Hawaiian-themed gathering. Beautiful tables, a delicious catered luncheon, and a wonderful

craft set the stage for our afternoon entertainment. Pastor Gerald Chinen performed favorite Hawaiian melodies, wrapping up with the hymn “How Great Thou Art,” singing in both English and Hawaiian. It was a fitting and moving

ending for a wonderful day. Though Thursday Fellowship is now on summer break, we will start up again this fall. Our first meeting will be Thursday, September 8, and we can’t wait to gather again!

Please contact coordinator Julie Peterson at julie@lopc.org with questions.

staff

Children’s Ministry Staffing Transition:

A special message from Pastor Jaime Polson

Dear LOPC Community,

LOPC’s Director of Children’s Ministry, Lori Robinson, has accepted a new role at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Oakland. We are very happy for Lori and wish her all the best as she steps into this new and exciting role. Lori’s last day at LOPC was Sunday, July 10.

Lori has been a gift to the LOPC community over the past six years. Her dedication to a ministry rooted in justice, mercy, and kindness has blessed the entire LOPC congregation. Her focus on encouraging and helping children grow deeper in their faith is a legacy that will bless generations to come in our church community. We look forward to continuing a ministry partnership with Lori as she develops into her new role and responsibilities at St. John’s.

It has been a short transition from Lori’s role as Director of Children’s Ministry to what is next in a new season in Children’s Ministry. A special thank you to Susan Wentworth, Director of Preschool Ministry/Special Needs; Cheryl Garlick, Interim Associate

Director of CM; Peter Shumaker, elder; and to Lori Robinson for putting together a strong interim plan for Children’s Ministry for the upcoming fall. We will continue our regular programming including Sunday School and Kids Rock. I will be supporting this team and teaching our children as well. I taught Sunday school for children for eight years and look forward to spending more time in Children’s Ministry.

A search committee has been brought together and work has begun to fill the Children’s Ministry Director position. The committee includes me, Susan Wentworth (Director of Preschool Ministry/Special Needs), Peter Shumaker (elder for Children’s Ministry), and several other CM volunteers and parents.

Please email me, Pastor of Family Ministries and Executive Ministry Leadership, at jaime@lopc.org for more information about the day-to-day details of Children’s Ministry moving forward.



A Message from Lori:

Dear LOPC Families & Congregation,

It has been such a joy to serve the children of LOPC for the past six years. I treasure my time with your kids, learning and growing together in God’s love. I will miss the LOPC community and am excited to see what unfolds as LOPC continues to live into being God’s beloved community in Lamorinda. You are all in my prayers as I move on to my next call to ministry with children and youth.

With love and deep gratitude,
-Lori Robinson



SERVICE SQUAD

By Allison Kunz, Director of Youth Ministry

This past June, our squad of 24 youth, ages 11 to 13, took part in one incredible week of serving and learning in Contra Costa County. We discovered God already at work in the community and had the privilege of joining in that work as we helped meet needs and connected with individuals.

On Monday, we learned about our call to be stewards of the earth and lived it out by planting twenty-four pollinator plants at the one-acre garden of Wagner Ranch Nature Area.

Our focus turned to food insecurity on Tuesday. We discovered one out of six Contra Costa County residents relies on supplemental food. The Food Bank of Contra Costa feeds 280,000 residents each month! We supported their effort by packing 1,500 pounds of potatoes and donating 2.5 barrels of pantry food.

On Wednesday, we joined with six representatives of LOPC's Thursday

Fellowship. Together, we stepped on the gas and put together 81 hygiene kits for clients at Monument Crisis Center, which currently supports 350 families a week, that's 200% higher than pre-pandemic numbers. After learning about the work ARTogether does to serve local immigrant and refugee communities with art and social programs, we tapped into our creative sides and decorated 68 greeting cards to serve as thank you notes for ARTogether's volunteers and donors.

The final days of camp focused on the current housing crisis. On Thursday, we hosted and participated in a rousing game of BINGO for 16 members of Trinity Center, a day shelter for people experiencing homelessness in Walnut Creek. We learned there are 6,955 unoused individuals in Contra Costa County, including 517 households with children. On Friday,

we threw a summer kickoff party for 14 children living at Hope Solutions. Hope Solutions works to end the cycle of poverty and homelessness by providing permanent housing, tutoring, and support programs. Their new innovative effort to combat the housing crisis focuses on funding and building micro homes throughout the county.

The 2022 Service Squad donated 420 hours of our time to community service while learning about how we are called by God to be peacemakers in the world, discovering some of the difficulties faced by members of our community, and supporting the work of local service and social justice organizations. It is our hope that this week of service inspired youth to pursue a life of compassion and service. We thank the LOPC community for supporting this program and our youth through volunteered time, financial donations, and prayer.



wapato 2022

YOUTH SERVICE LEARNING

A Trip Report

By Keris Dahlkamp, Director of Youth Ministry

This past June, LOPC youth traveled to Wapato, Washington, to partner with an indigenous-led organization: SLAM (Students Learning About Missions). It's a program within the not-for-profit organization Mending Wings, based within the Yakama Reservation and focuses on teaching outside groups about their Native traditions and faith.

continues next page →



← continued from previous:

Our amazing youth service team witnessed ceremonies, and learned about the history and culture of the tribe. They also did a great deal of yardwork for Levina, a respected elder in the community. Even though they did a large amount of work, the trip was mainly focused on relationships; aiming to deepen understandings and connections to our siblings in faith from a different cultural, historical, and spiritual perspective.

One of the most impactful days was spent touring the reservation. The team visited a longhouse and heard from the caretaker. She shared about the Yakama culture and the various funerals, communal meals, and other important Yakama ceremonies. Then the group visited two former boarding schools. Such schools -- sites of atrocities across the country into the 1970s -- were started by the U.S. Government and later run by churches. Native children were taken against their parents will, forbidden to speak their language, or practice their cultural, and harshly punished if they did. Many of the young girls were raped, and others tortured and even murdered. The SLAM staff described the boarding schools as the last killing of the Yakama People.

One boarding school visited was originally a soldier's fort, used as a launching ground for battles against

the Yakama. When we arrived, Corey Greaves, founder of Mending Wings and SLAM, shared how specific buildings had been used, including the site where children were punished after it became a boarding school.

The wars against the Yakamas began two weeks after signing a peace treaty with the government, when White miners arrived and raped Yakama women. The Yakama retaliated by killing the miners, then were blamed for breaking the treaty, and eventually hanged at Fort Simcoe. SLAM delivered talks about the need for conciliation with White people. The word reconciliation is avoided, since it implies the existence of good relationships at one time. We hope our trip was a step in that direction.

Our youth witnessed and participated in various ceremonies, such as traditional dances, as well as a Native worship service to end the week. In the worship service, each participant spoke about their experiences and shared what they had learned. The staff at SLAM was incredibly gracious, sharing and giving at each opportunity. Overall, the trip was eye-opening and paradigm-shifting. It was an undeserved honor to be invited to Wapato to stay with the Yakama People, partner in ceremony, and visit sacred sites. We are grateful and look forward to returning in the future!



youth

Youth and Family Bag Lunch Project and Lunch Social

Sunday, August 14, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Help pack bag lunches for Trinity Center members experiencing homelessness while learning more about some of the difficulties faced by members of our community through interactive activities. Then, relax with a pizza and ice-cream lunch social for youth and parents on the back patio, with casual games available. Vegan, dairy free, and gluten free options are available. This event is for anyone having just completed 5th-12th grades along with their family members. Siblings outside of this age range are welcome. If parents are unavailable, we will partner individual youth together in interactive activities.

Register by August 10.
Questions? Email Allison Kunz at allison@lopc.org.

Youth Sunday Sunday, August 28

We hope to see you and your loved ones at the 10:00 a.m. service on August 28, when the children and youth will lead us in all aspects of the worship service! Youth will deliver sermons on their experiences at Vacation Bible Camp, Service Squad and the Wapato Service-Learning Trip. There will be a time of games and refreshments until 12:00 p.m. on the patio outside Fellowship Hall after the service for youth and families.



High School Fall Retreat at Westminster Woods

For all high school youth in the 2022/23 school year

Friday, September 9 from 3:30 p.m to Sunday, September 11, at 12:00 p.m.

This year, LOPC youth will be at Westminster Woods for our high school fall retreat! We'll meet at LOPC and then carpool to the Westminster Woods Christian retreat center in Occidental for a fabulous weekend of relaxation and friendship. Youth will get to connect with old & new BTW friends while swimming, hiking,

playing tabletop & field games, and even working together to complete a challenge course (optional). All dietary needs will be provided for.

Cost: \$279.

Use discount code **YOUTHAREGREAT** for 50% off. Please register by 8/28 by visiting lopc.org/youth.

mission



Children of Faith Missions Update

Children of Faith Missions (COF) is a home and school, serving 120 school-age children, preparing them for a better future by promoting their physical, emotional, social and intellectual development. Founded in Visakhapatnam, India, in 2004, Children of Faith Missions has partnered with LOPC for over 10 years. Many of the children experience either limited family support or have been entirely orphaned. The children live at the home and attend school on the grounds under the supervision of the founders and their staff. The school provides instruction for first through 10th grade; beyond that, children attend junior college in the nearby community for 11th and 12th grades. After that, they go on to college or technical school with support from COF.

The past two years of the pandemic, with schools and children's homes closed, most children were back in communities with limited to no resources to care for them. COF founders Rosie and Anand Thandu were able to keep in touch and share food with the children's families to help them through difficult times. The children and staff have stayed healthy, and the older children now receive vaccines. Poverty has increased around India, and COF has reached out to the community around the home to provide food to those in need.

The children returned to finish this school year and catch up with the

studies. Tenth graders who took a crucial placement exam in May all performed well and will have good options for junior college. Children who have grown up at COF are having great success in college and beyond, studying nursing, engineering, and business, opening their own businesses.

Rosie and Anand are grateful for the support and visits they've received over the years from LOPC. In 2017, more than 100 LOPC youth and advisors have had the opportunity to visit COF. This was a remarkable experience for LOPC's youth and a tremendous advantage for COF children to receive individual attention and practice their English with native speakers. In addition, LOPC mission funds have helped fund many improvements on the campus, including finishing a second dormitory, repairing a roof damaged by a cyclone, purchasing land to build a new larger kitchen and dining hall, and investing in a new school project near COF. This support, along with child sponsorships by LOPC members, as well as ongoing prayer and encouragement for their work, has enabled Rosie and Anand to continue improving the lives of more than 100 children in India.

For more information, please visit childrenoffaithmissions.org. There you'll find ways to get involved, sponsor a child, and read about the latest news at Children of Faith Missions.



JF Kapnek Fun Run/Walk

August 28, 9:00 a.m., at Moraga Commons Park

LOPC's Mission partner, JF Kapnek Trust, will again be holding a Fun Run/Walk and Carnival on Sunday, August 28, after a two-year hiatus due to Covid restrictions. The Fun Run/Walk will begin at 9:00 a.m. at Moraga Commons Park. Participants receive a t-shirt and brunch while also being entertained with Zimbabwean music.

Festivities will include carnival games, a rock wall to climb, an obstacle course and a bouncy house. Proceeds go directly towards improving the health, wellness, and education of the underserved children of Zimbabwe. LOPC has supported the JK Kapnek Trust for over 10 years with both youth and adult members of our congregation traveling to Zimbabwe to assist in the work of the Trust. Please consider supporting the Trust by bringing your family to this fun-filled event.



To register to go:
kapnektrustusafunrun.eventbrite.com



Love Your Neighbor as Yourself:

A Recap of June's Refugee and Immigrant Transition Meeting

By Beth Hunter, LOPC Member

How often after a tough day or a long trip, or while dealing with an illness, have you retreated to your own bed, appreciating the familiarity and comforting sense of security? You savor the overwhelming peace that washes over you and allows you to surrender to a needed rest. On the other hand, can you imagine being forced to leave your home in order to simply stay alive? Hardly a day goes by without of people fleeing war, famine, violence, crime, and more – compelling countless families to pack only bare essentials and flee their homes. Memories of that familiar bed bring only tears and heartache. Their prayers to their God and all mankind, are simple: “Help us. Please help us.”

Forty people gathered at LOPC in early May to hear Dr. Jane Pak, co-director of Refugees and Immigrant Transitions (RIT) located in San Francisco, speak on how RIT is helping refugees, asylees, immigrants, and other displaced persons in the U.S. navigate their new communities and become self-sufficient. Dr. Pak provided a wealth of information, beginning

with understanding the differences in what services are available and to whom, depending on their individual status. If their status is “refugee,” they are fortunate and receive 90 days of assistance from one of nine national non-governmental agencies. However, after 90 days, this assistance typically ends. This is where RIT - and perhaps other non-profits - step in. It does not matter to RIT whether one is a refugee, asylee, immigrant, or what their documented status. RIT helps people from over 50 countries with services such as language and school tutors, employment referral, home visits, and other needs so clients can thrive with dignity and respect. Galvanized to work with organizations like RIT, a follow-up meeting at LOPC was held in June.

Imagine being cast adrift in a county without the basics of language, transportation health care, needing direction to find work and other critical survival tools. Where would you start? The fact that Contra Costa County doesn't have a resettlement agency like RIT was a concern. While our

county provides numerous services, there doesn't seem to be one place a person, regardless of status, can go for help.

At the meeting, attendees volunteered to investigate the various services and service providers available in the county. Inquiries will include the three resettlement agencies working with those fortunate to receive the Refugee Status in the Bay Area: International Rescue Committee (IRC), Jewish and Family & Communities - East Bay (JFCS) and The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (Catholic Charities) to learn what happens to their clients after 90 days. Do these agencies know of other community based organizations like RIT in CCC? Additional contacts will be made with the Presbytery to learn if other churches are working with refugees. In addition, LOPC will be working with its partner, Monument Crisis Center, to fully understand their services and contacts; as well as other state, local and federal officials to learn what services exist that we may be unaware of.

During worship services at LOPC, we often ask God to open our hearts to help us better serve him by praying, “Come Holy Spirit Come.” Does anyone argue, ‘why or how did people risk their lives to enter the U.S.’? The good Samaritan didn't chastise the beaten man on the side of the road for traveling unsafely. Matthew 22:37 directs us to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.” We do ask what might this look like in Contra Costa County?

Others are welcome to join future meetings to discuss our findings and discern a course of action. Look to *Connections* and the Monday church email to learn more. Meetings will be offered both in person and electronically so all can participate. For further information, questions, or comments, please contact Phil Hunter: hunter.p@mac.com.

session

Session Highlights

May & June 2022

By Elizabeth Ball, Administrative Manager

During May and June's session meetings elders approved several important motions, some of which addressed the following: a) approval of Bettie Graves' nomination to fill the vacant Worship elder position; b) approval of several designated gifts for Hope Solutions, Peace and Justice work, and Children's Ministry Programs; c) approval of several routine operational expenses.

Pastor Peter Whitelock provided an update on recent staffing transitions and shared that while there can

be challenges during times of transition there can also be feelings of excitement for new opportunities, growth, and development. LOPC welcomed Lawrence Bryant, Technical Manager, in June. Lawrence will provide oversight of all audio visual systems, with a primary focus on worship services.

The LOPC Foundation gave their annual presentation to session, and Trustee Dara Youngdale shared an informative PowerPoint presentation highlighting the Foundation's

vision and mission, with additional information on giving and growth. Dara emphasized that the Foundation is a Faith Operation that acts in trust, serves in faith, and builds relationships.

Jeff Patton, chair of the Church Nominating Committee (CNC), provided updates during both the May and June session meetings on the current nomination process focused on filling church leadership positions for elder, deacon, CNC, and Foundation terms beginning January 1, 2023.



FAITH AT THE MOVIES

10th Annual Summer Sermon Series

Continuing through September 4

- 7/31 • **Marvelous and the Black Hole**
- 8/7 • **Encanto**
- 8/14 • **The Godfather**
- 8/21 • **Still Alice**
- 9/4 • **The Straight Story**

journey of Faith

By Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member

A Never-ending Spiritual Journey -- According to Francie Low

My faith journey began in a Catholic family of seven kids, me being fifth in line. We went to church every Sunday, Wednesday Chatechesis, and bowed our heads while my dad recited the traditional Catholic meal prayer before slicing into the roast beef. Our spirituality was woven into our lives much like brushing our teeth or changing our socks. We just did it and didn't really talk about it.

By college, church wasn't top of mind. One semester, I was studying for finals at my parents' home, holed up in my old room, books open, papers strewn all over my bed, when mom wandered in asking if I was getting ready for church.

"I have to study. Finals." I replied.

"You might need that little extra," she said in her singsong, ts-k-ts-k voice, her summer housecoat swishing behind her as she sauntered out.

I went. And I've been going pretty regularly because, as my mom said, I might need that little extra. I always felt better anyway, like taking a spiritual "vitamin."

When I met my husband, Tony, a person with no religious background, I knew jumping into Catholicism was going to be like going from zero to a hundred on the religious racetrack.

We had friends attending Calvary Presbyterian in San Francisco, and that seemed the easiest and most welcoming path to follow for a newbie. We made a ton of friends there and

found a fellowship I had never known growing up.

Switching religious teams felt a little funny at first, like I was sinning or something. In the Presbyterian church, there were fewer rituals. The sermons



Francie Low

made sense, maybe because I was older. The hymns went on forever I noticed; Catholics don't sing all the verses. Eventually, I grew to love being Presbyterian even if it was a little harder to spell than Catholic.

Tony and I were married in the Presbyterian church, and baptized and confirmed our boys in the Presbyterian church. I knew from my own upbringing, I wanted to at least instill the seeds of faith from the beginning with our own kids (My mom was right. Gasp!) Then, after confirmation, they could choose their own path and

at least have a foundation to make educated decisions. LOPC made it easy and fun to fulfill my spiritual ideals for my boys through Godly play and a confirmation program that ended with a trip to Disneyland.

The women's Bible Study at LOPC helped me form friendships at church and gave me a better understanding of my faith. Most of the women grew up studying the Bible and were used to discussing what it meant; this was new to me. I appreciated their insights and their openness to me, a novice.

When my husband was in a terrible cycling accident, my spirituality grew even stronger. I learned to keep my eyes open to heaven-sent messages from earthly angels, such as the paramedic who rescued my husband, as well as a neighbor and friend. Even finding my lawn freshly mowed, by a mystery angel, God was taking care of business, swooping in to answer a prayer before it was a prayer. Both my husband and I look back at that time in awe— how did we think things were not that bad?

Because of my husband's ordeal, I am hyper-aware now of vibes or opportunities crossing our paths. I get Spidey-feels if something is right. That's how I explain it. And just like my mom, when my twenty-something boys call, needing that little extra because things aren't going right, I slip in a singsong, godly nudge: "Say your prayers. You may not get what you want, but you'll feel better." My faith is still going and growing.

care

soul shop

Faith-based suicide prevention workshops:

Presented by The Presbytery of San Francisco

Soul Shop™ for Leaders

A one-day workshop designed for clergy, staff, lay pastors, and faith-based clinicians to develop soul-safe communities by equipping members to minister to those impacted by suicide and be a source of hope and healing. **Cost: \$50**

Soul Shop™ for Communities

A 1½ to 2-hour community-oriented program designed to increase awareness of the dangers of suicide and discuss steps that can be taken to reduce risks. Open to parents, teachers, public servants and anyone interested in learning about the prevalence of suicide in the community, and become more engaged with how to be part of the solution. **Free to attend.**

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church

49 Knox Dr. Lafayette, CA 925-283-8722

Soul Shop for Communities

Thursday, October 20, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Register at: lopc.org/registrations

Soul Shop for Leaders

Friday, October 21, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Register at: lopc.org/registrations

burlpres (Burlingame Presbyterian Church)

1500 Easton Dr. Burlingame, CA 650-342-0875

Soul Shop for Communities

Wednesday, October 19, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Register at:

burlpres.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1350745

Soul Shop for Leaders

Thursday, October 20, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Register at:

burlpres.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1350773

Questions?

LOPC: Pastor Jaime Poslon • jaime@lopc.org  burlpres: Pastor Jane MacKenzie • jmackenzie@burlpres.org

soulshopmovement.org

care



Christ caring for people through people

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry Training Coming This September:

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide confidential, one-on-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.

"Serving as a Stephen Minister has changed my life into something huge and wonderful and full of self-discovery. I've met a side of myself which I never would have known otherwise. I have seen the power and grace of God reveal itself to both my care-receiver and me – a constant reminder that it is the Christ within who does the work." – Donna McLaughlin-Endress

"I am very grateful for the Stephen Ministry training which I received. It gave me the tools to work effectively with those who were grieving loss, enduring major health challenges, or experiencing their end-of-life journey, and such. Prayer was a centerpiece with the relationships, assuring each that Christ is always with them." – William F. Sautter

"Stephen Ministry has strengthened my faith by witnessing God at work in people's lives. It is a privilege to join others as they make their way to renewed health and deepened faith during significant transitions. God clearly is the Cure Giver! This ministry also has helped me be a better parent of adult children, prompting me to listen more fully without offering unsolicited advice." – Leslie Finertie

LOPC's Stephen Leaders, together with those from neighboring churches, will be conducting the requisite 50 hours of training for Stephen Minister candidates from September 2022 through January 2023. Classes will be held Tuesday evenings via zoom and inperson 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 would be appreciated.



Martha Huey, who passed December 17, 2021.

Gordon Gravelyn, who passed May 8.

Sara Brown, who passed June 1. A memorial scheduled for August has been postponed.

Luman Hughes, (husband of Marilyn Hughes) who passed June 7.

Amy Sautter-Sterling, (daughter of Bill Sautter) who passed June 14.

Sierra Olson, (daughter of Darci and Dylan Olson, sister of Annika and Eli Olson). A service was held July 16.

Betty Lou Erikson, who passed June 26.

John Peterson, (husband of Julie Peterson) who passed June 30. A celebration of life will be held August 20 at 10:00 a.m.

Wayne Hilty, who passed July 8.

Pat Eitzel, who passed July 15.

finance

Financial Update

May 31, 2022,
Year-to-Date Results

By Jim Nagle, Elder for Finance

LOPC continues in a solid position financially, consistent with our 2022 budget.

Year-to-date congregational giving exceeded budget by \$169,000, primarily due to \$203,000 in unbudgeted mission-gift income, offset by slightly lower non-pledge giving of approximately \$29,000. May 2022 year-to-date income of \$1,415,000 exceeded budget due to a \$39,000 contribution from the Session Emerging Needs fund for a one-time cost-of-living staff bonus and higher income from outside-user fees.

Year-to-date expense of \$1,614,000 exceeded budget, due to the higher mission-related spending, offset by lower spending by most ministry teams. The staff is doing a great job managing expenses as we navigate the 2022 year.

LOPC closed the period ending May 31, 2022, with a shortfall of (\$199,000), \$25,000 improved from a budgeted shortfall of (\$224,000).

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/giving, or scan the QR code on your mobile device.



“...God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, in our likeness...’
-Genesis 1:26”

the GENEROSITY corner

Greeters and Ushers:

Answering God’s Call for Radical Hospitality

by Nancy Henderson, Generosity Team Member

Greeters and ushers “offer meaning, belonging and an extension of God’s radical hospitality,” Pastor Chris Baldwin tells us. This sacred “ministry of presence” celebrates God’s image in each of us and reminds us we are beloved of God and welcome in the LOPC community, no matter where we’ve been, what we’ve done, or what we bring with us.



These nurturing volunteers represent the fellowship of the congregation. They are skilled at seeing, being seen, knowing, being known – at loving one another. They are the face of the church, the front lines of ministry, the first impression of LOPC for visitors. The greeters and ushers acknowledge our presence to help prepare us for our worship experience and to hear the message of the sermon. They also watch for folks who may need extra help getting into the sanctuary or the Welcome Center or family room. They offer kids crayons, coloring pages, and more.

So, what’s in it for the usher/greeter? To start, being an usher or greeter is the best way in a large church to meet people, call folks by name, and become friends. One usher found the experience gave him purpose he never knew he had and offered him a way to explore his faith. He began to meet and recognize the “God-ness” of all people, to get to know folks in the LOPC congregation, to hear their stories, and to become an integral part of the faith community.

The poet Maya Angelou reminds us “that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

Please join us by serving in this sacred ministry of showing people how loved they are. If you feel called to serve or want more information, please contact Carol King at caking53@pacbell.net for the Sanctuary greeters and ushers, or Chris Baldwin at chris@lopc.org for the Welcome Center and patio greeters.



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



IMPORTANT

Dated Material
PLEASE DELIVER
BEFORE 8/1/22

Thank you!

Return Service Requested

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

SAVE THE DATE

Gerald's
RETIREMENT LUAU

catered lunch | live music | celebration

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
FOLLOWING WORSHIP
FELLOWSHIP HALL & PATIO

Ticket sales open on August 1

lopc.org/aloha

\$20 suggested donation. Due to space
capacity, ticket sales will be limited to 200.