

Connections



January 26, 2025



LOPC Congregational Survey

Today is the last day to complete this survey to let us know how LOPC is doing to support you and our community. Surveys will be used by our church leadership to plan for our future. Hard copies are available in the Ministry Center office and completed surveys may be dropped off in the collection box at the front desk. Please use the QR code here to complete the survey online.

Questions? Please email elizabeth@lopc.org.

Special Relief Offering: LOPC Responds to LA Fires

Multiple wildfires have caused widespread damage across Los Angeles, displacing nearly 180,000 people and decimating communities. In response, LOPC is partnering with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), which focuses on long-term recovery and coordinates with organizations like the Red Cross, FEMA, and others. For more information about LOPC's efforts and PDA, visit lopc.org/relief.

To donate, go to lopc.org/giving and choose "LA Fires" from the dropdown menu. To give today, use the envelopes in the pews and write "Fires" on the outside. There is a matching gift opportunity up to \$5,000.

LOPC & Joybound People & Pets (formerly ARF): Helping LA

TODAY following Worship in front of Oak Room

One of the ways our community can respond to the devastating fires in Los Angeles is by helping local shelters make room for displaced animals. Currently, LA shelters are housing about 1,000 adoptable dogs and cats, and every transfer into Joybound creates space for a fire-displaced pet to be sheltered closer to its family. Stop by their cheerful vehicle to meet their animals - your support can make a meaningful difference by volunteering as a short-term foster or by adopting.

For more information, visit joybound.org.

Annual Meeting

February 2 at 11:00 a.m.
in the Sanctuary

We will review the past year, vote on pastors' salaries, and approve CNC nominations. All are welcome but only LOPC members may vote.

The 2024 Annual Report
is available at
lopc.org/publications.

CNC nominee information
is available at
lopc.org/leadership.

Adult Service Trip to Los Angeles

We're in the early stages of planning an adult service trip to Los Angeles later this year to support communities impacted by the recent devastating fires.

If you're interested and would like to receive updates as plans develop, please email Michelle Browning at michelle@lopc.org to be added to the list.

Pastors

Peter Whitelock, Head of Staff • Jaime Polson, Care & Executive Leadership
Lauren Gully, Mission & Outreach • Chris Baldwin, Community & Formation
Jane Doty MacKenzie, Pastor

children & youth

Youth Ministry

Youth Alive, our Sunday morning youth Bible study for 5th – 8th graders, at 10:00 a.m. in CLC Room 201.

This week at By the Way (BTW) and Youth on Wednesdays (YOW):

This week we're talking about our identity. How you choose to answer the question, "Who am I?" makes all the difference. When we really understand who God has created us to be, it changes everything.

By The Way (BTW) For high school youth. Sundays from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Optional pizza dinner at 5:45 p.m. in the Davies Room is \$5.

Youth on Wednesdays (YOW)

For middle school youth. Wednesdays from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Optional pizza dinner at 5:30 p.m. is \$5.

Questions? Contact Cynthia Purvis at cynthia@lopc.org. To sign up for the youth newsletter, contact Cathy Scheve and cathy@lopc.org.

Lighthouse Service-Learning Program

February 8, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Throughout the year, middle and high school students have the opportunity to connect with local youth at the Hope Solutions community center in Concord. Activities include fun games, arts and crafts, and lunch. Additional dates are March 15 and May 3.

Advance registration is requested at lopc.org/registrations. For more information contact Michelle Browning at michelle@lopc.org.

VBC Volunteers Needed!

Vacation Bible Camp volunteers are essential for providing leadership for our Camp. Some of the roles are crew leaders, rotation leaders, hospitality and more. It is not necessary to volunteer every day — job sharing is welcome. We also have opportunities to support VB Camp the week before in set up and other preparatory measures.

If you have any availability, please reach out to Susan Wentworth at susan@lopc.org to receive more information.

Sunday Morning Infant Care

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

Children's Ministry

The Garden

Sundays during Worship

- Children 6 months–toddlers in CLC Nursery* & Toddler Rooms
- Pre-K–1st in CLC Room 204
- 2nd–4th in CLC Room 205

Kid-friendly time for growing friendship with Jesus and with one another.

* limited space

mission

love does Save the Date!
love protects, love hopes, love never fails February 23 is **love does day!**

love does is LOPC's annual opportunity to serve alongside each other in work that is meaningful to the greater community. Activities for all ages will be available both on-campus and at our local mission partners.

For more information and registration, visit lopc.org/lovedoes.

Seedlings Diaper Drive for Monument Crisis Center

Many families who are struggling financially are overwhelmed by the expense of diapers and sometimes have to make the choice between buying food or buying diapers. Diapers of all sizes are needed. Full and partial packages of diapers are gladly accepted.

Donations will be accepted February 1 – 22. Look for the box in the CLC lobby labeled "Seedlings Diaper Drive for MCC" or drop off in the Ministry Center.

Youth Homes Clothing Drive

Cleaning out your closet and want to donate your clothing to a worthwhile cause? Youth Homes supports foster youth by repurposing clothing, home goods, and jewelry. All donations must be stain-free, laundered, and in good condition. A Youth Homes trailer will be on campus at the end of January and will accept donations for several weeks.

Gather your items now and stay tuned for exact dates and times for drop-off.

The Congo Team Meeting

February 2 at 11:11 a.m. in the Fireside Room

This meeting features a special presentation on Congo Projects supported by the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. All are invited to attend.

If you have any questions please contact Herb Long at herblong7@gmail.com.

community

First Friday Forum

February 7 at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and online

Unlocking the Science of Sensitive Kids with Dr. W. Thomas Boyce, pediatrician and Professor Emeritus at UCSF. Join Dr. Boyce as he unravels why siblings can thrive so differently under the same roof, and discover insights into resilience, stress, and the delicate balance that shapes a child's future. He discusses this in his popular book, *The Orchid and the Dandelion*, and will address these topics for parents, grandparents, teachers, and all those who engage with children at any level.

For more information, visit lopc.org/first-friday-forum.

Thursday Fellowship

A Senior Ministry Program

January 30, 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Join us for a Chinese New Year celebration!

If you have questions, please contact Julie Peterson at julie@lopc.org.

Young Families Connect

February 2 after Worship on the back playground

Join other families with children ages infant through 4th grade for a morning of play, laughter, and community. It's a fantastic way to make new friends and build meaningful relationships.

All are welcome.

care

Workshop for those with new Diagnosis of MCI

Beginning February 18 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

This is a three-week class for those with a new diagnosis of Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) or Early Dementia with Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MFT, CMC. The class is open to the individual with the diagnosis and their primary care partner. Each class will consist of time for questions and support with the goal to reduce anxiety and replace it with the peace that knowledge can bring. Participants will have a short interview with our presenter to see if the class is appropriate for them at this time. Committing to all three classes is highly recommended. Space is limited.

To register, contact Cathy Scheve at cathy@lopc.org.

Memory Matters:

When to Worry and What to Do

February 9 at 11:11 a.m.

Learn about memory loss and how to recognize when it may be a cause for concern. Discover what you can do to retain memory and how, even with a diagnosis of MCI, you can make behavioral changes that could change the trajectory of a progressive issue. We will discuss diagnosis, treatment, and support systems. Presented by Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, who has 40 years' experience working with families when someone is challenged by memory.

All are welcome.

worship

Choir Retreat & Workshop

February 8, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Experience a fun, dynamic rehearsal with the LOPC Chancel Choir with internationally renowned choral conductor and organist, Robert McCormick.

Register at lopc.org/registrations.

Do You Love to Sing?

The Chancel Choir is looking for passionate volunteer singers to join our ranks! We have created a friendly, supportive community united by a shared love of singing — there is nothing more powerful than lending your voice to the choir on Sunday. People of all backgrounds and any/no religious affiliation are welcome and encouraged to join.

Contact Bryan Dunnewald at bryan@lopc.org for more information.

Living Questions

Winter Sermon Series

2/2: *If mortals die, will they live again?*

2/9: *How can young people keep their way pure?*

2/16: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

2/23: *Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.*

3/2: *Am I In the Place of God?*



LOPC Vacation Bible Camp

Registration is now open!

This year our theme is True North: trusting Jesus in a wild world and we will be “heading to Alaska” for games, learning, and fellowship with new friends.

Cost: \$150 (scholarships available)

Ages: PreK (4+ by Sept. 1) through completed 4th grade

Dates: June 9 – 13, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Come heed the call of the wild and sign up at lopc.org/vbcamp. Questions? Contact Emily Austin at emily@lopc.org.

staff announcements

We are happy to announce that **Robin Freeberg**, who has been on staff the past 17 years, has stepped into a new role which was recently developed as Program Coordinator for Youth and Senior Ministry. Robin has provided invaluable ministry program support and thoughtful care to the various ministry areas that she has supported in the past, most recently with Mission. We want to recognize Robin’s demonstrated passion for mission work and love of service, which she will continue to provide with the younger generation at LOPC. We are grateful that Robin will be sharing her gifts with our community with Youth Ministry. She will also work closely with Julie Peterson, Thursday Fellowship Coordinator, to provide program coordination support for senior programs.

In more good news, **Michelle Browning** has accepted the position of Program Manager, Mission. In this role, she will serve as the primary liaison between LOPC and our mission partners, oversee church-wide mission and service-learning opportunities, and develop programs to strengthen community involvement and member engagement. With nearly seven years at LOPC, Michelle’s previous role involved providing program support across various ministries, most recently working with Pastor Chris Baldwin. Throughout her time here, she has consistently demonstrated a deep passion for and commitment to Mission and Service.

giving

2025 Pledge Campaign

LOPC is blessed to have a congregation filled with so many people giving generously of their time, talents, and treasure. Your gifts make our ministry thrive and we really do make a difference in this world. We ask that you take this time to prayerfully consider your gifts for the coming year.

Visit lopc.org/pledge to learn more about how to pledge and why. For questions, please contact LOPC treasurer, Suzanne Ferraro at suzanne@lopc.org.

Finances

To read the most recent finance report, visit lopc.org.finance-december24/ or call the Ministry Center offices for a copy.



Hold in Prayer

Our prayers of comfort and peace go out to the family and friends of:

Larry Rose, who passed November 1. A service will be held on March 1 at 1:00 p.m.

Ben Hemphill, who passed on November 6. A service will be held on March 29 at 1:00 p.m.

Karen Broderick, daughter of Verna Broderick, who passed on December 18.



lopc.org



Staying Connected: Sign up for our weekly email to stay up-to-date on all things LOPC! Visit: lopc.org/email.