

Connections



July 13, 2025



NEW Sunday Worship Times!

Join us in September as we expand to two Sunday morning worship services at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

For more details on Sunday programming for children and youth, please see page 2.

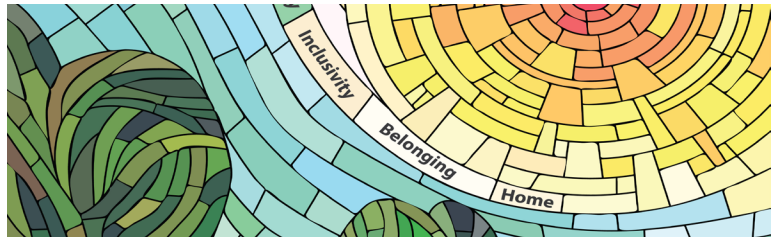
We invite you to Come, Grow with Us!

Love Does: Backpacks of Hope

July 20

Join us after worship on July 20 to help pack backpacks for children supported by Hope Solutions. After packing, volunteers will have the opportunity to distribute the backpacks to the families on a different day. Suggested donation: \$20 per person (to offset the costs of this project.)

Space is limited. Sign up by July 18 at lopc.org/registrations. Questions? Contact Michelle Browning at michelle@lopc.org.



New Member Class

TODAY, 11:10 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
in the Oak Room

Join Pastors Peter Whitelock and Chris Baldwin to learn more about LOPC, the vision of the church, get plugged in with the Next Steps program, and meet other new folks like yourself! Whether you've been attending for a while and want to learn more or are interested in becoming a member, this is the class for you.

All are welcome. For more information, contact Chris Baldwin at chris@lopc.org.

Thursday Fellowship

A Senior Ministry Program

July 17, 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Talented and delightful vocalist Cris Hussey will perform. Guests bring their own lunch. Snack, beverage, and dessert will be provided.

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



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

Sundays during Worship

The Summer Garden

- 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.

*space is limited

Beginning September 7 for children Pre-K - 4th grade

Bloom and Belong at 9:00 a.m.

Join this new program that will include crafts, games, and self-directed activities in a warm, supervised environment where kids will focus on the virtue of the month.

The Garden at 10:30 a.m.

This familiar program will follow a curriculum to explore our faith, including a Bible story, small groups, and resources for conversation beyond the Sunday School setting. Kids will engage in song, learning, and fellowship.

For questions and more information, contact Children's Ministry co-directors, Emily Austin at emily@lopc.org or Susan Wentworth at susan@lopc.org.

PLAY! on Wednesdays Returns this Fall

POW is our mid-week program for children in Kindergarten thru 4th grade. We use this time to foster friendship, creativity, and to explore Bible stories with a maker-space and performance lens. Registration will open August 1, and our fall session will run from September 17 through November 12. Save the dates as you make your plans for the school year.

Visit lopc.org/playon for more information.

care

Dementia Caregivers Support Group

August 6 and 20 at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom

Join this one-hour support group for those caring for someone with dementia. The group meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Please note the group will not meet in July and will resume in August.

To join, contact Linda Fodrini-Johnson at LindaFJ620@outlook.com.

Sunday 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.

Special Event for 5th-12th grades!

Broomball at Tri Valley Ice Dublin

August 9, 10:15 p.m. - 11:45 p.m.

Get ready to compete against your friends in this hilarious version of floor hockey on ice without skates. Invite your friends for a fun Sunday of Broomball before the school year starts again!

Cost: \$25. Pick up and dropoff in Dublin. Registration and waiver required at lopc.org/registrations.

Splash Leadership for 10th-12th grade students

SPLASH Leaders partner with the youth director to make decisions, implement plans, and lead the youth ministry. They meet one Sunday a month to share ideas and receive leadership training. SPLASH leaders may lead at BTW, YOW, service-learning projects, special events, and "big church" services. They also serve as role models to other youth.

If you'd like to serve on our student leadership team, pick up an application from the church office or email Cynthia Purvis at cynthia@lopc.org for an electronic version. Fill out your information and return the form to Cynthia by August 3.

Youth Programming

Youth Alive returns August 3 at 10:00 a.m. and will move to 10:30 a.m. beginning September 7.

BTW returns August 17.

YOW returns August 20.

SAVE THE DATE:

Youth Sunday is August 24.

Hold in Prayer

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

Helen Dygert, who passed on May 2. A service will be held on July 19 at 1:00 p.m.

George Jedenoff, who passed on May 11. A service was held on July 12.

Paul Peterson, who passed on May 24. A service will be held on August 16 at 1:00 p.m.

Bob Hoots, who passed on May 26.

community

Young Adult Community

Pool Party!

TODAY at 12:00 p.m. at Alex Aruliya's home

Relax by the pool, play some games, and connect with friends. Meet up at LOPC after worship if you'd like to carpool to Alex's House.

Questions? Email Cynthia Purvis at cynthia@lopc.org or Libby Lowell at libby@lopc.org.

mission

Serve at the Food Bank!

Two dates! August 2 and August 30, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at their Concord Warehouse

Join us for a love does service opportunity at the Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano! We're looking for up to 20 volunteers to help sort, box, and bag food for families in need. This is a great way to live out love, make a difference, and connect with others at LOPC. Ages 11+ welcome.

Space is limited. Sign up today at lopc.org/registrations. Questions? Contact Michelle Browning at michelle@lopc.org.

Food Donation List for Monument Crisis Center

- **July** – Peanut Butter
- **August** – Canned Fruit
- **September** – Pasta
- **October** – Cereal

Requested food donations can be dropped off anytime in the MCC barrel outside the Ministry Center and Oak Room.

service trips

Southern Justice Trip to Atlanta/Alabama

February 5 - 8, 2026

This is a unique opportunity to travel with LOPC members to the sites of the Civil Rights Movement as we seek a deeper understanding of the movement and provide participants with the tools and inspiration to take the next step beyond social action: social activism. Pastors Jaime Polson and Jane Doty MacKenzie will accompany members on this trip.

For more information, contact Linda Rosenthal at heyindarosenthal@gmail.com.

Book Groups

Fourth Monday Book Group

July 28 at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom

Featuring *I Cheerfully Refuse* by Leif Enger.

Fourth Friday Book Group

July 25 at 4:00 p.m. on Zoom

The group will discuss *The Year of Wonder* by Geraldine Brooks.

To join either group, contact Leslie Finertie at leslie-finertie@comcast.net for Monday or Catherine Coleman at awaitingword@gmail.com for Friday.

Over \$32,000 raised - Thank you, LOPC!

We are so grateful for the way our community stepped up during our June special offering, Fund the Gap. Because of your generosity, we raised over \$32,000 to support STAND!, the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, and the Kapnek USA. Thank you for being a church that shows up, gives generously, and puts faith into action.

Get Connected to Mission!

Stay informed, get involved, and make a difference. Join our **Mission Email List** to receive updates on mission partners, opportunities to serve, including adult service trips, and ways to advocate for justice. Together, we can put our faith into action and make an impact in our community and beyond.

Please email Michelle Browning at michelle@lopc.org to be added to the list.

Adult Service Trip to L.A.

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

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.

worship



Summer Sermon Series: Travel Adventures from the Bible

As we head into the summer months, it's often the case that we find ourselves travelling to one place or the other for rest, recreation and sometimes, even business. Our travels can be rather unremarkable, but most of us have had travel experiences that transformed and changed us in some way. Can you think of a trip like that? In our summer sermon series this year, we'll be looking at some Bible stories involving both travel and transformation.

TODAY - Genesis 37:12-28. Joseph had a problem with his brothers, and their resentment led them to betray him and arrange for him to be sold into slavery in Egypt. As it turns out, their betrayal was the beginning of a marvelous story illustrating God's faithfulness even in the darkest of times. Sometimes a terrible, awful, hurtful trip can yield an amazing blessing.

Next week - Acts 8:26-40. On his way home after a trip to Jerusalem to worship at the temple, an Ethiopian eunuch is mystified by what he reads in the Hebrew Scriptures. A disciple by the name of Philip is sent by God to teach this man, and consequently his life is changed forever. Sometimes a trip that seems to be ending in confusion can unexpectedly yield great insight and meaning.

July 27 - Genesis 12:1-9

Worship Hospitality

The team is looking for new members to usher/greet on a monthly basis throughout the year. Duties include passing out bulletins, taking collections, and directing Communion.

For information, contact Carol King at caking53@pacbell.net.

NEW! Need a Boost?

Two-inch cushions are now available for folks who would benefit from a little extra height and/or comfort for their back in their pew seats. You can pick them up in the rear of the sanctuary on the left when you enter. Feel free to leave them on the pew after the service. We currently have four cushions available and will more order based on demand.



NEW! Interactive FOCUS Magazine is Online

We have added some exciting new features to our online version of FOCUS, including videos and slideshows of LOPC's summer activities. There's even extra content that you won't read about in the print magazine. We hope you enjoy!

View it at lopc.org/publications.

Want to receive an emailed copy of FOCUS rather than a hard copy in the mail? To join the FOCUS email list, contact Lexi Morrissey at lexi@lopc.org.

Giving at LOPC

One of the most practical ways you can help is through your financial support so

LOPC can share God's love through our ministries.



To give visit lopc.org/giving, or scan the code above on your mobile device.



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