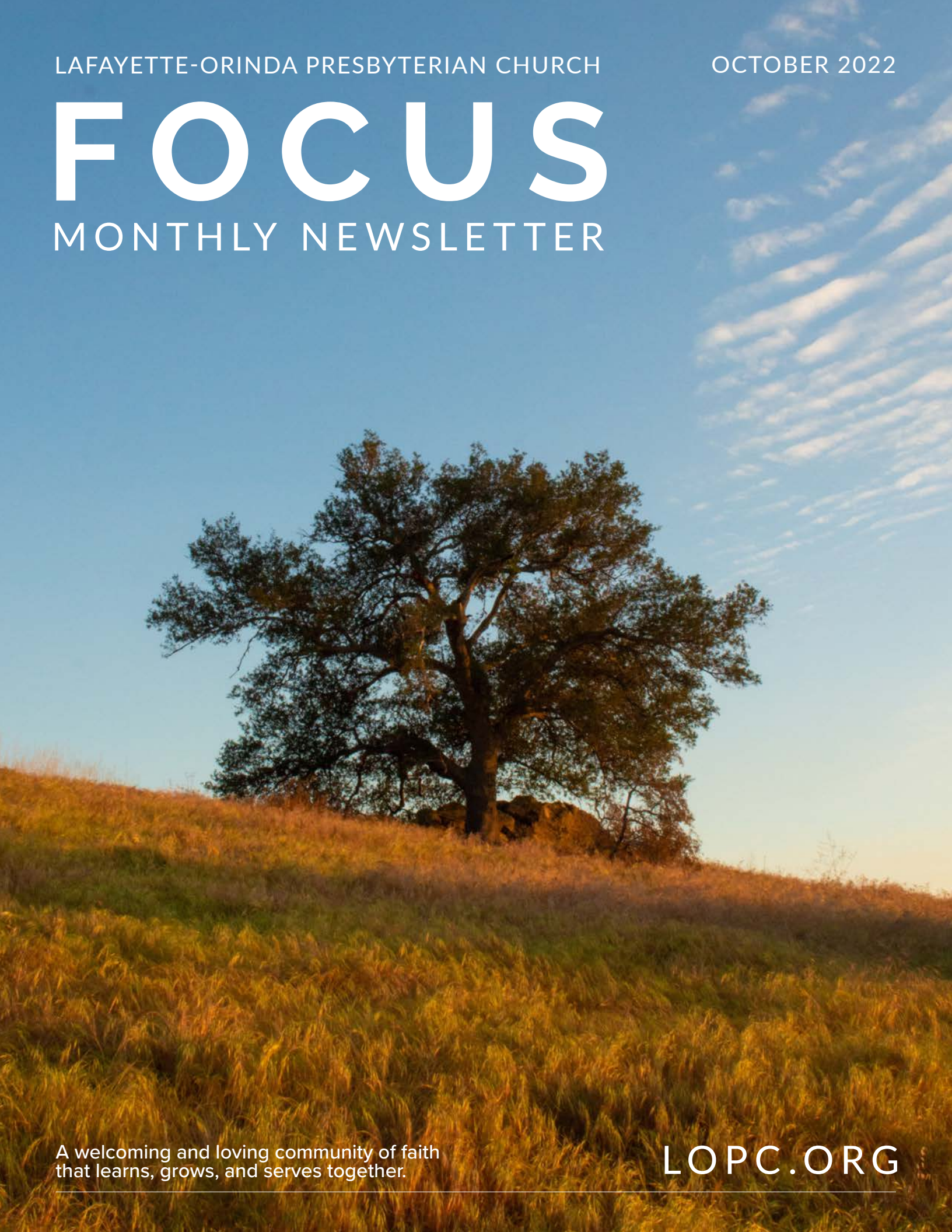


LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2022

FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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

LOPC.ORG



Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Resist evil, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your sisters and brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. - 1 Peter 5: 6-7,9-11

God Cares for All People



By Jaime Polson - Pastor,
Families & Executive Leadership

We have been living in the midst of a pandemic that has changed our lives and world. Most of us have experienced suffering and hardships as well as things that fill us with gratitude.

So many things have changed, making our world still feel a little bit turned upside down. We've seen massive changes in the workforce, changes in how we meet, gather and learn (in-person or on Zoom), and so many other new realities that are with us for the foreseeable future. There are new things to navigate that take a great amount of emotional energy and focus.

The book of 1 Peter is a reminder of how God cares for us and how we can respond to God in the midst of change, chaos, and suffering. We are called to be humble. By humbling ourselves, we acknowledge our dependence upon God. Period. We depend upon God to guide us and help us recognize that we do not have the power to control all the outcomes in our lives and world. That seems obvious and yet so many of us, myself included, spend a great deal of time trying to make this happen, allowing little room for God's spirit to move us and help us navigate new realities.

Scripture tells us that God cares about us when we suffer – God cares about all people who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. God cares about people who are hungry and have to work three jobs to make ends meet, God cares about people who suffer from addiction, God cares about broken relationships and the hurt they cause each one of us, God cares about discrimination and the deep injustices it inflicts on people. God loves each and every person.

1 Peter invites us to find our purpose in God. To love those God loves and to recognize that no matter how flawed or short we have fallen of what God calls us to do, God loves us and redeems us. God calls us into new life through Jesus Christ, every day. As we move into a new season of life, let's remember God's call to find our purpose in him. To prioritize and focus on helping others and caring for those around us. Let's be love in our families, our church, our community, and the world. And when we fail to do so, may we depend upon God to help us get back up and try again. Relying on God's grace, let us be committed to faithfully serving God and the world.

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Pastoral Staff

Peter Whitelock - Head of Staff
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 October 1 for the November issue.

Thank you to all who contribute each month to Focus!



LOPC
FALL•Fest
October 16 • 11:00 a.m.
Crafts, food, games, & more!

There will be live music by Chris Ahlman, arts, crafts, games, cornhole, bounce house, prizes, and free food courtesy of the LOPC Foundation from Abel's Taco Truck and much more. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors.

Email Michelle Browning at michelle@lopc.org with questions.





WINTER NIGHTS

Family Shelter

Volunteers Needed • November 7 - 21 at LOPC

“We weave a delicate balance of compassion and discipline to provide an environment that is supportive, purposeful, engaging, and efficient.”

- Winter Nights Staff

Winter Nights Family Shelter is a traveling shelter for families experiencing hardship whether it be from loss of a job, death in the family, domestic violence, or other unfortunate circumstances. Unlike most shelters, Winter Nights Family Shelter allows families to stay together. Many families who are homeless find themselves couch-surfing or living in their cars for fear of being split apart. When they discover they can stay together at Winter Nights Family Shelter there is a sense of relief and hope.

Hope doesn't end with providing a safe place to sleep but continues

with the many services Winter Nights provides the families under their care. Adults and children are taken to work daily with the use of the shelter's van. Adults and children who do not go to work or school are taken to the Oasis Day Shelter where they have access to multiple services including resume writing, computers, counseling, legal help, and daycare. At the end of the day all the clients are reunited back at the church where they are staying.

Winter Nights Family Shelter depends on multiple faith communities throughout Contra Costa County to house families for two-week

commitments. This year, LOPC will host the shelter on-campus from November 7 - 21. As host, LOPC makes sure guests are provided healthy, hot meals and a comfortable, clean environment in Fellowship Hall to call home during their stay. Many volunteers are needed to make this a reality. Opportunities include preparing meals, tutoring, and creating fun activities for guests to participate in. Past activities have included movie nights, outdoor games, crafts, music, and even sharing a family pet with the guests.

To volunteer individually or with a fellowship group go to lopc.org/lovedoes.

mission



Primera Iglesia Update

By Mary Kay Atherton, LOPC Member

Members of Primera Iglesia, LOPC's sister church in Oakland, have a favorite saying, "In a car, the reason a rearview mirror is so small, and the wind shield is so big, is because where you're headed is more important than where you've been." That metaphor sums up the positive attitude of Primera!

In January 2022, visitors and members were enthusiastic about Primera programs for so many reasons: the children were back in school, congregants were employed with many making the \$15.00 minimum wage, and the Food Bridge, founded by LOPC members and now sponsored by the Alameda Food Bank, was seeing less demand. They had survived almost two years of the pandemic and Primera's Session, using the windshield metaphor, began repairs to their 90-year-old sanctuary. Session began to review the building for repairs, and one item identified as a priority were the front doors of the Sanctuary, also 90 years old, and badly damaged by weather, age, and vandalism. It became clear the doors needed to be

entirely replaced, not simply repaired. A design was presented to the elders and was accepted. It was agreed that the doors would be hand-crafted, made from donated wood, and would feature the gifted artistry of Miguel, a Primera member and master wood carver. Volunteers created the 9-foot high, 400 pound doors you see in the accompanying photo.



Despite this bright start to the year, recovery for the Primera community has faltered as lingering effects of the pandemic continue to be felt alongside other economic struggles. Food insecurity continues to be a major problem. Over the past few months, Saturday food distribution has doubled,

and on some occasions tripled. Many are telling Primera that they just can't make ends meet without help. Several in the line will tell you they are there for the first time. To all those standing in line, Primera volunteers offer a friendly greeting to make them feel welcome and, when asked, Primera members will also pray with them.

LOPC's goal is to work alongside Primera ministering to the neighborhood with their own local programs and ministries. LOPC continues to sponsor ESL classes at Primera. Now that the restrictions of the pandemic have passed, the waiting list for these classes is at 109! Beginning in September, two sessions of ESL classes are scheduled with 25 students each. ESL teachers are needed, Monday and/or Wednesday and no experience is necessary!

Over the course of several years, LOPC has continued to work closely with Primera, and has contributed to a wide variety of projects. Last year LOPC was asked to help establish a library. LOPC held a successful book drive and sent almost 600 books! Next Spring, LOPC will host another book drive, concentrating on collecting books for 4th to 6th graders.

How can I help? Email program liaisons, LOPC members Don and Mary Kay Atherton, at athertonco@comcast.net. They would love to hear from you!

Family Food Sort

October 1, 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.,
4000 Nelson Avenue, Concord

A long-time LOPC partner, the Food Bank of Contra Costa/Solano is offering a special opportunity for families with children ages five and up to serve together.

Visit lopc.org/lovedoes for more information and to register.

Trinity Center Warm Clothing Drive

Curbside drop-off October 15, 8:30-10:30 a.m. in front of the Oak Room

LOPC is collecting warm coats, sweaters, jackets, shoes, and sweatshirts for both homeless men and women. The clothing donated will fill the Trinity Center clothing closet and be distributed this winter to those living on the streets. Clothing should be gently used and free of stains.

STAND!

30th Anniversary Fundraiser

October 22, 4:00 p.m., Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive in Walnut Creek.

The keynote speaker will be Stephanie Land, creator of the Netflix hit *Maid*, based on her personal experience as a survivor of domestic violence

To register visit lopc.org/lovedoes.

mission

STAND!

For Families Free of Violence.

Mission Partner Update

By Steve Crocker, LOPC Member

LOPC mission partner STAND! is taking bold steps and doing innovative work to end the cycle of violence in our community, as well as provide confidential shelter and counseling for victims of abuse. The pandemic has added significant stress to most of our lives, which unfortunately has led to an increase in abuse in all forms, particularly to those living with limited resources. A unique challenge for STAND! during the pandemic has been that their traditional place-based and in-person approaches of support for victims of abuse had to change due to social distancing requirements to protect both the victims of abuse as well as program staff. In addition to meeting the stringent business requirements

set by CalOSHA for all business offices, STAND! also adheres to shelter ordinances that include shared spaces such as kitchens, play areas, and computer labs. This has limited the ability to serve in the same capacity as before. STAND! Has dramatically increased its fundraising efforts to add emergency hotels complete with mobile care packages and parking-lot based services.

Their 24/7 Crisis & Support Line and emergency shelter services have continued uninterrupted, welcoming those at highest risk for domestic violence or homicide. Their children's therapy program, transitional housing program, support groups, and other support services remain readily available via video, phone, or in-person appointments. While their Emergency Shelter is back to 40% capacity, STAND! continues to be forced by continual virus surges to continue to

keep 60% of their shelter shuttered. As a result, over half of the clients continue to be housed in secure hotel locations at a cost of \$200 per day for a family of 3 for an average of 8 – 12 weeks. In addition, each family living in emergency lodging uses an average of \$250 per week in groceries. Despite ongoing challenges, STAND! will never stop serving survivors, their children, and the community. Your continued support of STAND! and it's programming are critical at this time of need.

Thank you for your continued generosity towards those in our community and in the world who are the most vulnerable and in the greatest need. To learn more about STAND! and to hear stories of survival, please visit their website at standffov.org.

session

August Session Report

By Jeanette Shearer, Clerk of Session

August's session meeting was led by Pastor Gerald Chinen, Moderator pro tem, since Pastor Peter Whitelock was absent. This was Gerald's last session appearance at LOPC before his retirement in September. Among the top issues of the evening was the announcement of a Congregational Meeting, to be held immediately after church on September 25. Members will vote on the Church Nominating Committee's (CNC) slate of elders, deacons, cnc members, and foundation officers. Those selected and approved will begin their terms in January 2023. The committee was led by Jeff Patton and a very dedicated team.

Aloha to our dear Gerald! The session heard of plans of a farewell event, slated for September 18 in Fellowship Hall. We have an incredible group of church members who have volunteered to make this event memorable for all. We thank Gerald for his ministry, his love and his dedication to Jesus Christ and wish him our very best in his retirement!

Staffing updates were another point of discussion with Directors of both Music and Children's Ministry at the forefront. Session and staff are looking forward to filling both positions soon.

The vacancy in Children's Ministry is in the capable hands of Pastor Jaime Polson, who is currently conducting

interviews. Please pray that our decisions are the right ones for our church and that positions are filled with pastoral, loving, and faithful staff. It was also noted that church member Emily Austin has joined the staff at LOPC as Children's Ministry/Campus Operations Coordinator. Emily is full time and working Monday-Friday. She is an amazing fit!

Finally, a special presentation about reproductive rights is scheduled after church on September 25. Pastors Peter, Lauren, and Jaime will serve as moderators and will note perspectives from the Presbytery/PC(USA), various medical perspectives, and what the Bible has to say.



Seedlings School Year Begins!

Kaylin Deutscher, Seedlings Board, Communications

After a wonderful summer, Seedlings students, teachers, and staff are back for the new school year! It has been so great to welcome new families and welcome back continuing families.

Now in its 39th year, Seedlings Preschool has continued to evolve – offering a unique infant, toddler, preschool, and pre-kindergarten program for children six months to six years of age. This year, the school has expanded to nine classrooms, serving more than 100 families. In addition, Seedlings has also welcomed some fantastic new teachers joining our beloved teaching staff this year.

“It has been more than two years since we have had all of our classrooms in session,” said Coleen Moulton, Director of Seedlings Preschool. “Not only did we welcome our infant class back this year, but we have also added an additional toddler room. We have welcomed over 30 new families to our program this year. We are thrilled to be at capacity, feeling the normal bustle of children and staff!”

As with every school year, Seedlings provides a quality learning environment that nurtures the emotional,

intellectual, physical, and spiritual needs of young children.

Among Seedlings core values are:

- A high degree of excellence in staffing and planning
- A developmentally appropriate and safe learning environment for each child’s exploration and discovery of their world
- Support for parents and families



Of course, Seedlings is also known by its students for the fun times and play they are able to engage in! This year is already off to a great start with the children getting to know each other, exploring their classrooms, and building new connections.

We are all excited for the fun and growth that this school year will bring!

children

My Own Bible

For third graders and older!

It is our tradition at LOPC to gift our children their own Bible as they become fluent readers. God's word is a wonderful treasure we love to share with our children. We would like to invite all third graders and any older children who would like to receive a Bible to join us.

Children and their parents will meet from 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 noon on Sunday, October 2 for a brief preparation class in the Oak Room. If you need help with childcare for siblings, please let us know and we will seek to arrange caregivers to be with them on the playground. Children will receive Bibles in worship on Sunday, October 16 (also our Fall Fest Sunday).

For questions or to sign up, email cheryl@lopc.org.



community

Young Families Connect

October 2, following Worship on the Patio

Are you a family with young kids (infant-4th grade) looking to hang out with other families? Join us on the back playground where kids can play on the playground and parents can hang out with each other enjoying breakfast bites and coffee. YFC meets on the first Sunday of each month at 11:00 a.m.

For more info, email Michelle Browning at michelle@lopc.org.

Fall Craft Workshop:

Macrame Rainbow Wall Hanging

October 8, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Join Brianne Riley to create a macrame rainbow wall hanging using yarn in a variety of vibrant fall colors. There are 10 project slots available, with each being best for one adult/teen OR for an adult and younger child to make one rainbow together. All materials are provided, but there is a suggested donation of \$5/project slot.

For questions or to reserve a spot, contact Brianne Riley at riley.brianne@gmail.com.

Floral Design Workshop

October 11, 18, and 25, 10:00 a.m.

Lassie Colebourn is offering a class on floral design in her home garden. Open to 6-8 people.

Contact Lassie Colebourn lassiecolebourn@yahoo.com for more information and to join.

Fourth Monday Book Group

2:00 p.m. on Zoom October 24

Join us to discuss The Great Mistake by Jonathan Lee.

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

Fourth Friday Book Group

October 28, 4:00 p.m. on Zoom

Join us to discuss Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles.

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

Voyager Ships (65+)

There are seven ships that generally meet the third Saturday of each month. Planned events cover a wide range of activities, including museum visits, dinners out or in homes, trips to the theater, outdoor activities, service opportunities, and much more. Voyagers also serve coffee on the LOPC Worship Plaza each Sunday.

Contact Bev Fellows at beverlyfellows@comcast.net for more information.

Attention Quilters:

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

thursday Fellowship

caring • sharing • loving

A program of Senior Care Ministries

October 6 & 20, 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Thursday Fellowship's fall program started on September 8, and guests and volunteers alike were thrilled to gather to kick off the program year. Guests created collages using postcards, which presented the opportunity to share travel memories with one another. This activity encouraged the camaraderie that is a hallmark of Thursday Fellowship. The tables were set with bright multicolored plates, cloths, and napkins which set the mood of the day. The musical entertainment featured Ben Glasgow, who played Caribbean music



on his steel drum and explained the history and construction. Ice cream and popsicles for dessert were a special treat and helped combat the sweltering temperature.

On September 22, we started our day with gentle exercise and stretching led by Keris Dahlkamp, which is always a favorite activity. We then enjoyed the musical prowess of ragtime pianist, Virginia Tichenor. What a treat to listen to such a talented musician playing such a wide variety of music!

October 6

Mike Kistner will sing and play guitar, and we will have a chance to sing along.

October 20

Bob Simon's presentation "A Time for Everyone" will cover the concept and history of time through the ages, from early clocks from the 1300's used for starting morning prayers to the super accurate atomic clocks of today. To quote Albert Einstein, "the reason why man-kind invented time, was so that everything did not happen all at once."

Our typical program day schedule: 11:00 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

- 11:00 a.m. Meet-and-Greet with snacks and beverages.
- 11:15 a.m. Crafts or light exercise
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch includes salad, dessert, and beverage. Guests may bring a sandwich.
- 12:45-1:30 p.m. Entertainment

Look for further information in the weekly Staying Connected email and in Connections. We look forward to seeing you in person again this month!



Questions? Contact Julie Peterson at julie@lopc.org or call 925-283-8722 ext. 281.

foundation

Caring for Aging Parents

Love and Listening on Life's Journey

By Dara Youngdale, Foundation Trustee

One of the greatest gifts we can give to our families is the comfort that, as our parents age, they will be loved, supported, well cared-for, and respected. The need to address this important topic has been raised by many in the church and the greater community as many of us are seeking tools and resources to help us along this journey.



Dara Youngdale

recently released her book *The Empowered Caregiver*, and Maggie Harmon, Esq., Presbyterian Foundation Ministry Relations Officer who consults with churches on living our faith throughout life's journeys.

Linda and Maggie will share information, tools for engaging in meaningful discussions, and allow time for questions

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, November 13, at 11:11 a.m. We will offer the program live in the Oak Room and also online via Zoom. The program will be recorded to be available on LOPC's website. All ages are welcome to attend what we believe will be an insightful and valuable program.

LOPC Foundation is pleased to sponsor, "Caring for Aging Parents – Love and Listening on Life's Journey", to be presented at the hour-long 11:11 gathering following the worship service on Sunday, November 13. We are fortunate to be able to feature two speakers who have significant expertise: LOPC member Linda Fodrini-Johnson MA, MFT, CMC, who

Possible questions include:

- Are you worried about aging parents? How you address each person's concerns can make all the difference in successfully developing a shared strategy to provide the support they need.
- We all should have a plan for the "what ifs" of a longer life. What are the key issues that you and your parents need to address?
- How can we celebrate parents' stories and values – and those of generations that preceded us – in a loving way that continues to honor them?
- How can we respect our family members' values in our conversations that might encourage honest discussions about health, concerns, and hopes?

care

Electronic Device Tutoring for Seniors

October 2 & November 6, 11:15 a.m. in the Oak Room

A senior Athenian computer science expert will lead us to proficiency. Bring your tablet on October 2, and November 6 will cover computers. Please RSVP with your questions so the expert can tailor his instructions to your needs. Come even if you don't have questions. Refreshments will be served.

Visit lopc.org/registrations to sign up and to submit your questions.

Fall Fest

October 16

The Care Team will host up to three activities during Fall Fest. We look forward to having our senior community host activities with our children, so come join us for the fun! We plan to have a card-writing table, arts & crafts, story time, or other simple activities. We look forward to seeing you at Fall Fest!



Prayers of comfort and peace go out to the families and friends of:

Edward Presten, who passed August 18. A memorial is being scheduled.

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 1 ½ to 2-hour community-oriented program designed to increase suicide awareness 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 Polson • jaime@lopc.org  burlpres: Pastor Jane MacKenzie • jmackenzie@burlpres.org

soulshopmovement.org



Youth on Wednesdays (YOW) - Small Group Fun
October 5

Join us for a great time of games and laughter as small groups play interactive games together! We'll have games geared for different learning types and skills sets, so everyone can contribute. This is a wonderful evening to meet new people and invite friends. We hope to see you there.



By The Way (BTW) Photo Hunt
October 9

This is an annual event that does not disappoint. Youth will be sent out in small group teams to solve riddles, find clues, and work together to score the highest number of points, all for fabulous prizes. The hunt will be on location in a local area and youth will run around on foot, along with their adult advisors.

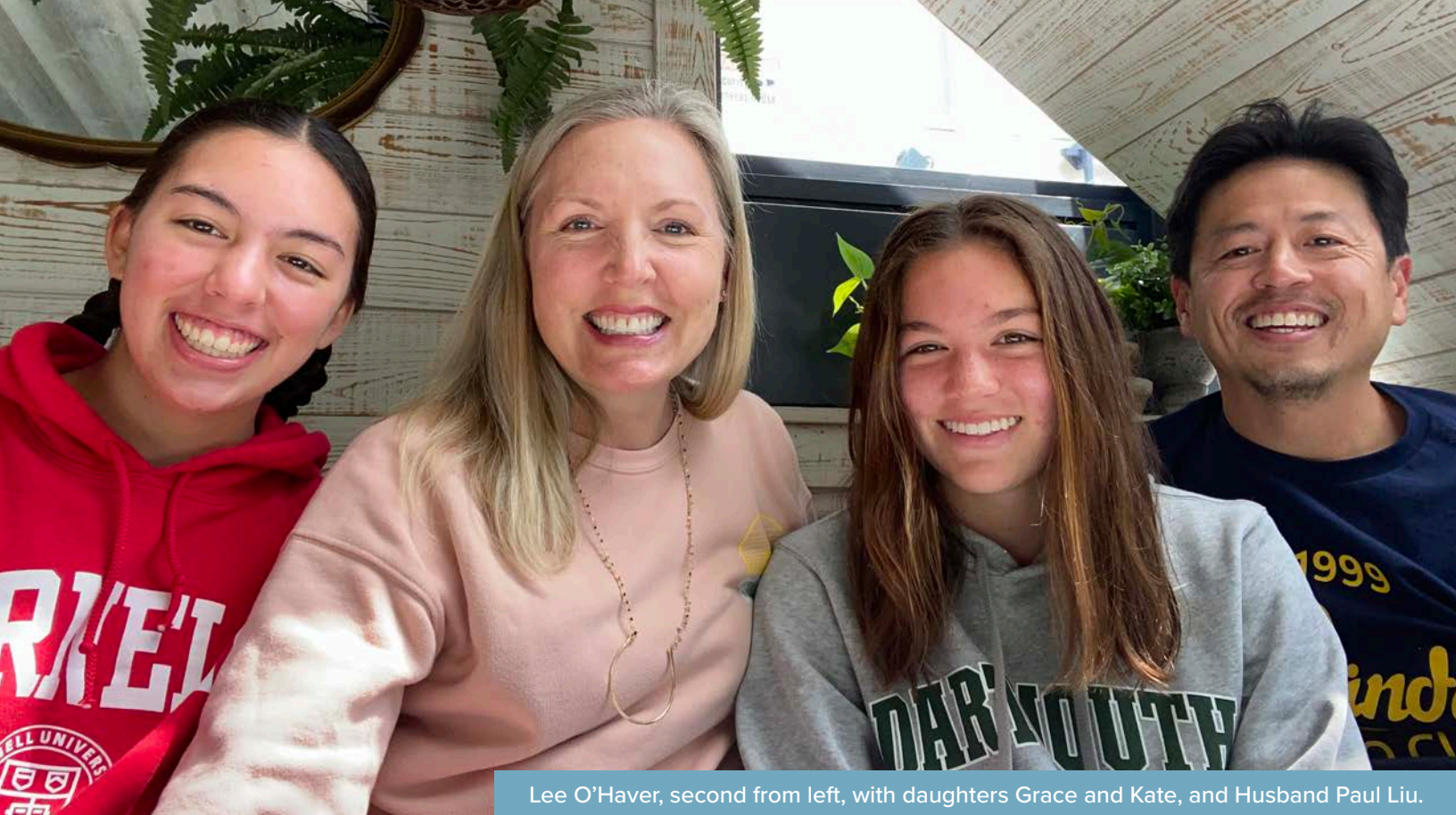
High School Leadership Team (SALT) Reflection Forms Due
October 23

Our high school leadership team is starting up again this year! In our monthly meetings held just before BTW youth group, student leaders will be given the chance to share their input, design programming and lead various activities at youth group.

Students interested in serving on this team can contact Allison at allison@lopc.org.

YOW & BTW Harvest Parties
October 26 & 30

Join us as we have a festive time celebrating the start of the holiday season with our harvest parties at YOW & BTW! Fun games, prizes, food! More details to come.



Lee O'Haver, second from left, with daughters Grace and Kate, and Husband Paul Liu.

journey of Faith

By Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member

Lee O'Haver feels fortunate to have a legacy of faithful Christians who have influenced and shaped her faith journey—most importantly, her parents. As she grew up living abroad, she remembers her parents belonged to Tokyo Union Church, an interdenominational English-speaking congregation, and her mother was involved in children's ministry.

When they lived in Sydney, Australia, Lee's parents were very active in St. John's Uniting Church which did Bible studies, social events, weekend trips, and retreats. Her own family reconnected with the same friends at St. John's when they moved to Sydney in 2011. This group of Christian friends that her parents had kept in touch with over the years were welcoming and a help when Lee moved overseas.

Other important people who influenced

Lee's faith journey are her paternal grandmother, Granny Ruth, and great-grandmother, Huckie. Granny Ruth was a founding member of the First Evangelical Church in Memphis, Tennessee. She was the first in the family to become a Christian and has influenced the personal faith of many who have come after her. Lee has some of their Bibles that contain their underlines, highlights, and notes in the margins. They were women of strong faith.

Lee has happy memories of middle school, high school, and Young Life groups. She says this is probably why she enjoys being an advisor to such groups at LOPC. She finds value in being a listener and a supporter of our teens as they navigate their turbulent adolescent years. Lee is also involved in Sowers, a service-learning group for families.

Sharing God's love through service is something Lee is passionate about - serving those around you in even the smallest ways. A recent book she enjoyed is *The Ministry of Ordinary Places* by Shannan Martin which is all about knowing and loving your neighbors and paying attention to those around you.

Locally, Lee attended Miramonte High School, and then Cornell University. She and her husband, Paul Liu, have two daughters, Grace and Kate. The couple moved to Orinda in 2014.

A verse her father shared when she left home to attend college, Proverbs 3:6, remains a lasting favorite:

"In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths."

finance

GENEROSITY TEAM Fall Preview

As we step into the fall season, LOPC's Generosity Team is busy finalizing materials for the upcoming pledge campaign. This is a time to read about and appreciate all the wonderful things LOPC has accomplished this past year in addition to learning about new and exciting plans for 2023. This October, there will be two opportunities to interact with ministry leadership about the present and future direction of our church. Please mark your calendars for these events. No registration required.

Building a Post-Pandemic Church
October 9, at 11:00 a.m. (after worship) in Fellowship Hall. Presented by Peter Whitelock, Head of Staff.

Looking around at the church these days, it's evident that much has changed as we return to in-person ministry and programs. What are the long-term trends we are tracking and how is the church responding? Come and hear a brief presentation by Peter Whitelock with plenty of time for Q&A.

Building a Faithful Budget
October 23, at 11:00 a.m. (after worship) in Fellowship Hall. Presented by Jim Nagle, Finance Elder and Jaime Polson, Pastor of Executive Leadership/Families.

Budgeting is all about getting the right resources to the right places at the right time. LOPC has a history of careful planning and deployment of the gifts that you give, but what challenges and changes are we seeing with the budget these days? How has giving held up through the pandemic? Join Finance Elder Jim Nagle, along with Executive Ministry Lead Jaime Polson, for the presentation followed by Q&A.

Financial Update

We closed the period ending July 31, 2022, in a good position relative to budget. Year-to-date congregational giving was lower than budgeted levels by approximately \$142,000. 2022 Pledge giving trails budgeted levels by \$103,000. Historically, pledge giving commitments are met by year end. Non-pledge giving was lower than plan, offset by stronger non-member giving. Mission Special Gifts and Offerings were higher than planned levels by \$204,426. Session approved a \$39,000 cost-of-living bonus for staff, using the Session Emerging Needs Fund.

Ministry teams continue to spend lower than budgeted levels. Personnel has experienced many unplanned staff transitions and open positions relative to budget. Year-to-date expenses include \$204,426 of unbudgeted Mission spending, with over \$110,000 to Ukraine and \$50,000 to Hope Solutions.

LOPC closed the period ending July 31, 2022, with a shortfall of \$46,767 which is slightly higher than the budgeted shortfall of \$13,684. We look forward to increased participation in fall programming with the start of the new ministry year.

Statement of Income & Expense January 1 - July 31, 2022

Congregational Giving	2022 YTD Actual	2022 YTD Budget	fav (unfav)
Pledge Income	\$ 1,313,933	\$ 1,416,800	\$ (102,867)
Non-pledge, loose, & other	123,358	162,809	(39,451)
Faith Component	7,300	7,300	-
Total Congregational Giving	1,735,399	1,673,291	62,108
Session Emerging Needs Fund	39,000	-	39,000
Seedlings	130,000	130,000	-
User Fees	4,031	2,917	1,114
Foundation	230,845	230,845	-
Total Income	2,139,275	2,037,053	102,222
Expense	2,186,042	2,050,737	135,305
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (46,767)	\$ (13,684)	\$ (33,083)

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.





We Gather
TOGETHER
2023 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

**YOUR SHARING KEEPS THIS CHURCH
MOVING FORWARD IN SERVICE TO MANY!**

Stewardship information and brochure
materials can be found online at:

LOPC.ORG/PLEDGE

GIVING SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 6

QUESTIONS ABOUT PLEDGING?

CONTACT FARAH AT FARAH@LOPC.ORG



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



IMPORTANT

Dated Material
PLEASE DELIVER
BEFORE 10/1/22

Thank you!

Return Service Requested

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

love does

love protects, love hopes, love never fails

Habitat for Humanity **BUILD DAY**

at **Esperanza Place**
1250 Las Juntas Way • Walnut Creek, CA

October 15, 2022
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

AGE: 16 years and older welcome
No Experience Necessary!

Register at: lopc.org/lovedoes

