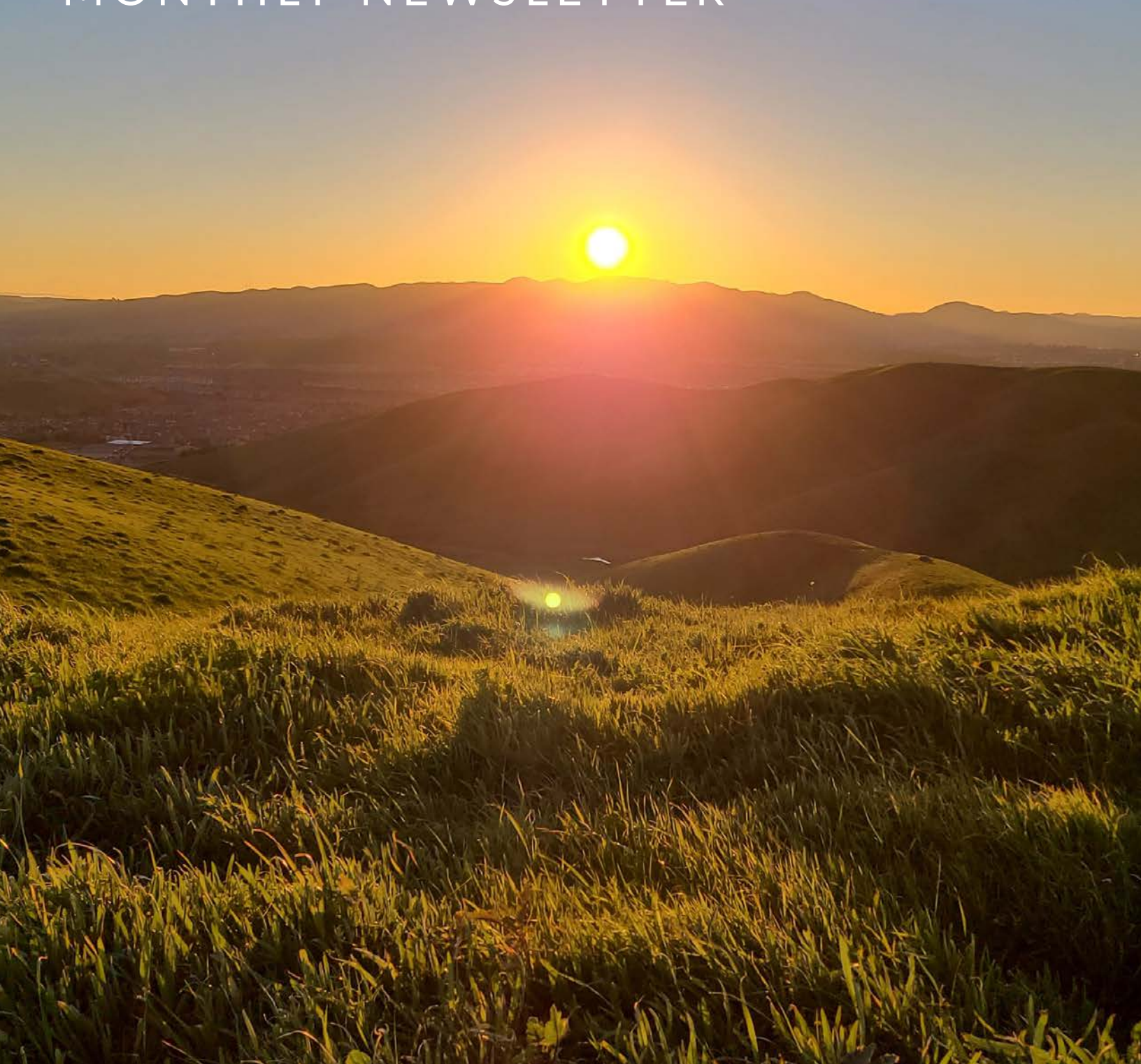


LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 2023

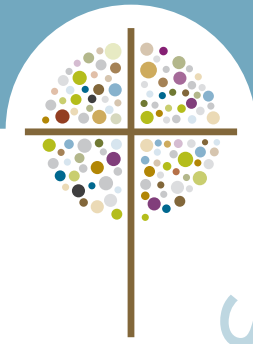
FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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

LOPC.ORG



starting OVER

By Chris Baldwin - Associate Pastor



As we journey on through the season of Lent, we're finally getting glimpses of the excitement of spring and with it Easter, when we remember the resurrection of our Lord,

Jesus Christ. For Christians, spring is a reminder that God is in the business of making all things new. In fact, we're reminded that God will make all things new one day (Revelation 21:5). Change, transformation, healing, forgiveness, peace, and care... these are all the workings of God's involvement in the world. What are the glimpses you have of God making all things new in Lamorinda, at LOPC, in your home, in your workplace, and in your relationships?

For me, springtime feels like a season of starting over. I like that feeling because it reminds me that God is still up to something important, good, and transformative – making things new still! Spring brings with it warmth, especially welcome after a particularly cold and wet winter. We see Tahoe's snow melting away, baseball season's spring training (Go Angels!), and gardens in-bloom with new life. It feels like a starting over, but in the best ways possible.

May the month of March be filled with opportunities for you to prepare and live into the ways God is making all things new – in our lives, our church, our community, and our homes.

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Pastoral Staff

Peter Whitelock - Head of Staff
Lauren Gully - Associate Pastor
Jaime Polson - Associate Pastor
Chris Baldwin - Associate Pastor

Ministry Directors

Keris Dahlkamp & Allison Kunz - Youth
Coleen Moulton - Seedlings Preschool
Bryan Dunnewald - Music

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 March 1 for the April 2023 issue.

Thank you to all who contribute each month to Focus!

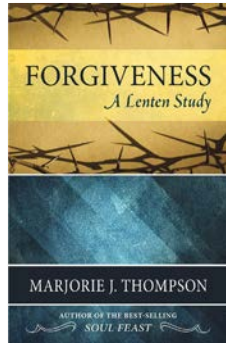
Need to reach us?

info@lopc.org • 925-283-8722

lent, holy week, & easter

FORGIVENESS *Lenten Small-group study*

LOPC welcomes all into a Lenten small group this Holy Season as we join as a church in studying *Forgiveness, A Lenten Study* by Marjorie J. Thompson. This is a 6-week study offering a great way to go deeper with your faith and also community here at the church. The pastors' sermons throughout Lent will be tied to this study and participation in a small group will help you go deeper with the sermons and the book.



Please visit lopc.org/lent for more information and to sign up today!

Palm Sunday Egg Hunt Sunday, April 2 following Worship

There will be age-appropriate egg hunts, breakfast/dessert bites, live music, arts and crafts, games, and a lot of fun! This is a free event to the community, and all are welcome!



Mark Your Calendar:

Palm Sunday • April 2

Worship service at 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday • April 6

Worship service at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday • April 7

Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday • April 9

Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m.,

Worship services at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.



Easter Azaleas



This Easter, we will continue our well-loved tradition of adorning the sanctuary with beautiful white azaleas. Please return this form with your payment to the Ministry Center in person or by mail to 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549 by Monday, April 3, or purchase after the Sunday service on the Plaza on March 19, March 26, and April 2. A list of flower dedications will be published in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Those who have donated azaleas may take them home following the 10:30 a.m. service, or they may be picked up in the Sanctuary narthex April 10 - 12.

Questions? Contact Lexi Morrissey at lexi@lopc.org

I / We would like to donate a white azalea to adorn the sanctuary on Easter.

Given By: _____

In Memory of: _____

or

In Honor of: _____

Email: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Azaleas are \$20 each. Please make checks payable to LOPC.
Please fill out and return this form to the Ministry Center Office at LOPC by April 11.

Contact Lexi Morrissey at lexi@lopc.org with questions.

Please Circle
Cash Check

mission

J.F. Kapnek Director to Visit LOPC

March 12, in the Oak Room immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service

Lamorinda pediatrician and Executive Director of the Kapnek Trust USA, Dr. Dan Robbins, looks forward to thanking the LOPC community



Dr. Dan Robbins

in person for the generosity demonstrated in last fall's special offering. The offering raised over \$20,000 to help feed pre-school children in Zimbabwe, and over 600 hygiene kits were created by LOPC

members and distributed at the only children's hospital in Zimbabwe.

Dr. Robbins will also provide a review of the LOPC - Kapnek Trust partnership, now in its 10th year, update us on recent developments in women and children's health concerns in Zimbabwe, and answer questions.

If time allows, Dr. Robbins will also discuss how international support, such as that from LOPC, is becoming a model for other non-governmental organizations in Zimbabwe. Like other non-profits, Kapnek Trust benefits from grants from large international agencies such as USAID. But such grants do not cover all expenses.

Support from groups like LOPC make a significant difference in filling the financial gaps for organizations like Kapnek Trust. The Kapnek Trust - LOPC partnership is unique and deeply valued by Kapnek Trust.

This is the perfect opportunity to learn more about this amazing organization and its efforts in Zimbabwe. Initially focused on the AIDS/HIV crisis and reducing the transmission from mother to child, Kapnek has since expanded its programs to include helping vulnerable children, children with disabilities, reducing violence against women and girls with disabilities, and women's health issues.

Trinity Center's New Van to Serve the Unhoused

Recently, Trinity Center took possession of a new van, partially funded by LOPC, which will be instrumental in transporting clients to medical and dental appointments, as well as other essential service appointments with the DMV, Social Security, Public Records, Legal Aid, and others. During the winter months the van will be used to transport 20-30 individuals nightly to the Walnut Creek

Armory, which provides much needed shelter during inclement seasonal weather. As a requirement from the City of Walnut Creek, clients can only access the Armory through Trinity Center, thus making the purchase of the van all the more urgent. It is projected that the van will allow the Trinity Center to provide approximately 10,000 rides per year—crucial to its mission to serve the unhoused in the community.



People of Faith Respond: The Supreme Court and Us

March 5, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom - Sponsored by Neighbor 2 Neighbor

Join us for this timely discussion covering the historic 2022 Supreme Court decisions related to abortion and prayer in public school. The discussion's overall focus will consider the impact of these decisions on our religious freedom and the doctrine of separation of church and state, through the lens of the three Abrahamic faiths—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Panelists will be LOPC's Pastor Peter

Whitelock, Jill Perlman, Senior Rabbi at Temple Isaiah, and Sheik Hassan Maseehullah, Imam at the San Ramon Valley Islamic Center. Each panelist will review scriptural passages on which each tradition bases their beliefs, and how that relates to the Supreme Court's recent decisions. Lawyer and LOPC Elder Terry Clark will facilitate the discussion while also unpacking these key cases, how the Court arrived

at its decisions, and growing trends in these areas.

Audience questions will be welcomed at the conclusion of the discussion. Participants are encouraged to attend in person, but a Zoom link will be available to attend online. Registration for Zoom is required and can be found at lopc.org/registrations. Questions? Contact Terry Clark at terence.clark08@gmail.com.

CHILDREN OF FAITH MISSIONS

An Update

By Ginny Ross, LOPC Member

Ministering to 120 children, program Founders Anand and Rosie Thanadu say it's always a busy time at Children of Faith Missions in Visakhapatnam, India. On a recent visit, Rosie Thanadu was able to meet with supporters in the LOPC community and provide an update on the program's recent successes. The children have been working hard in school with help from their dedicated teachers, making up for learning time lost during the

pandemic. As a result, children have been scoring among the highest in the region on recent government tests. She also shared stories of children who are now in college, studying advanced fields such as engineering, education, and nursing. While visiting, Rosie also had a chance to meet with LOPC youth and tell them about life at the Children's Home— helping with chores, playing games like cricket and ping pong, and making friendships that will last a

lifetime. Finally, supporters expressed concern and asked Rosie about current state of health for children in their care. Rosie revealed that not only had they been spared COVID outbreaks, a recent medical camp proved the children are also healthy, growing, and thriving.

To learn more about the amazing work being done by Children of Faith Ministries, please visit childrenoffaithmissions.org.



Founder, Rosie Thanadu (center) with students

YOUTH

2023 Summer Service-Learning

Registration is open!

Short-term mission experiences can have a big impact for the youth at LOPC. Fifth through 12th graders who choose to spend a week of their summer vacation dedicated to service will:

- Discover where God is already at work in communities in need.
- Act as the hands and feet of Christ to share God's love.
- Learn that those who seem different are not very different at all.
- Practice putting others' needs above their own desires.
- Lean on God to realize their ability to overcome new challenges.

June 5 – 9: Service Squad

A local day camp for youth completing 5th-6th grades in spring 2023.
Questions? Contact Keris Dahlkamp keris@lopc.org.

June 12 – 16: Salinas Middle School Service-Learning Trip

For youth completing 7th-8th grades in spring 2023.
Questions? Contact Keris Dahlkamp keris@lopc.org.

June 18 – 24: Guatemala High School Service-Learning Trip

For youth completing 9th-12th grades in spring 2023.
Questions? Contact Keris Dahlkamp keris@lopc.org.



Allison Kunz's Farewell

March 12, 11:30 a.m. -
12:30 p.m., location TBD

Friends of Allison are welcome to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to share fond memories and say goodbye to Allison as she prepares to move to Florida with her family. Brunch will be served.

Please RSVP to Pastor Jaime at jaime@lopc.org.



YOW Messy Games Night

March 8

Our final YOW of each program year is our traditional messy games night! Come be in on the fun as we wrap up the year with a great evening of laughs and fellowship. Wear clothes you don't mind getting wet and messy, and bring a towel too! We will also congratulate our 2023 8th grade grads and wish them well as they head into high school.

BTW Senior Night

March 12

BTW will complete the program year with Senior Night! Seniors can share their memories and wisdom from the last four years with the whole youth group! Don't miss it!

children

Vacation Bible Camp • 2023

Kids will explore the sunbaked Southwestern desert as they dig into examples of God's great love! Each day campers sing songs, play team-building games, devour yummy treats, perform experiments, and create themed crafts, all while developing connections with peers and group leaders. This year, children will participate in hands-on service activities focused on the non-profit organization, and long-time LOPC mission partner, FotoKids. Camp attendees will then travel to Guatemala later this summer with LOPC's Youth mission trip. Each day at camp concludes with a Canyon Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned, preparing them to be the hands, feet, and heart of God in



their community.

Staff would love to open camp to as many families as possible, but are dependent on volunteer capacity. Relationships built with children during this week can last a lifetime, and volunteers provide an essential component to our program. Daycare will be available for the children of volunteers (under age 4).

Priority registration opens March 15 for

families who are volunteering for three days or more. General registration begins April 1. Capacity is determined by how many volunteers participate and will be enrolled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

- **Who: Kids 4 years old (by September 1, 2023) to children who have completed 4th Grade by June 2023.**
- **Dates: Monday, June 5 – Friday, June 9, 2023.**
- **Times: 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.**
- **Cost: \$125 per child.**

For questions and to volunteer, contact Susan Wentworth at susan@lopc.org.

Generosity Corner: Children's Ministry Volunteers Needed – A Gift of your Time and Talent!

By Alan Coe, LOPC Member

Editor's Note: Each month the Generosity Corner will feature LOPC members who give generously of their time, talent, and treasure.

"All of your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children." - Isaiah 54:13

Have you noticed the growth of the number of children that are engaged in our Sunday morning programs? It hit me as I observed the long parade of children and our youth that join us in the sanctuary for a blessing on Communion Sunday.

The morning starts with quiet rituals: putting art supplies around small tables, marking the page for the current Bible passage, placing a few resources on the community carpet. Friendly faces enter Room 205 in ones and twos, some familiar and others just finding their way for the first time. After five minutes, the room hums with energy and the stacking cup towers surpass the height of the

kids. The Garden is packed, and God's love is being abundantly passed from person to person. None of this works, however, without volunteers.

"Coming out of the pandemic, I believe many people are seeking to be part of an authentic, real, and meaningful faith community – for themselves and their children," says Pastor Jaime Polson. "It's been a blessing to see so many new families find a welcoming community at LOPC and see our existing families returning."

One myth that needs to be dispelled is the need to be a parent to volunteer with youth. As volunteer Conrad Breece says, "nothing could be further from the truth." Conrad has been joined by his wife Joan in actively volunteering with youth programs for over 20 years at LOPC. "The children have enjoyed being with us because we are different from their parents – we are more like grandparents who delight in being able to give and

receive ideas, thoughts, and wisdom."

"From participation in Christmas Eve services and the Garden, the relaunching of Children's Choir, and the anticipation of Vacation Bible Camp this summer, there are so many ways for LOPC kids to find their space to shine," says Emily Austin, Children's Ministry/Campus Operations Coordinator. "We just need to make sure we have those helping hands in place so we are ready to reach out and make each child feel like they are loved and are just where they belong."

Here are just a few ways to share your time and talents with children:

The Garden (Sunday School pre - K - 4th grade): Classroom volunteers 9:45 - 11:15 a.m. once or twice per month.

Vacation Bible Camp (June 5 - 9): We need at least 60 volunteers to help out!

To volunteer, contact Susan Wentworth at susan@lopc.org.

thursday Fellowship

caring • sharing • loving

A program of Senior Care Ministries

March 2 & 16 at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall



Guests Frank & Mary Grannis

March 2

Join us for a wonderful flute program performed by Meriel Ennik.

March 16

Thursday Fellowship welcomes champion bagpiper Fred Payne, who will set the mood for a Saint Patrick's Day celebration.

Our Thursday Fellowship gatherings in February were beyond our imagination. On February 2, we enjoyed an informative lecture and slideshow about Madagascar. We are grateful to Rich and Mary Holden for their enthusiastic and educational presentation. Guests also enjoyed hearing vocalist Leslie O'Brien, accompanied by bass player Terry Miller, accordionist Andy Fraga, and Paul Henning on drums. Their musical selections and performance was such a gift and it touched us all.

On February 16, we had a belated Valentine's Day celebration. We started our morning with gentle stretching with Keris Dahlkamp, and after a wonderful lunch we enjoyed being entertained by Michael Kistner. We were able to sing along and it was a festive day.

Join us in March for some truly amazing programming and exciting guest entertainment for all to enjoy.

If you are looking for a new activity in 2023, we invite you to come as a guest or a volunteer and bring a friend. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Julie Peterson at julie@lopc.org. We hope to see you soon!



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

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

journey of Faith

By Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member

Colleen Fawley shares her journey:

I was raised in a family that went to church at least once each week at the First Presbyterian Church of Salt Lake City, Utah. My father was a college professor and also taught adult Sunday School. From my earliest memories, we were at church for at least two hours every Sunday. I was baptized at six months old, got my first bible in third grade, and joined the church when I was about thirteen. I remember accepting Jesus in my life at that time.

When I started college, I lived in the dorms and did not have a ride to church. My attendance fell by the wayside. I did continue to read the Bible and study the footnotes. Later, I moved to California and attended a small church in Oakland. They did not have many activities that interested me, so I joined a dance club and started staying up late on Saturday nights. Again, I quit attending church on a regular basis.

In 1997, I was told I had ovarian cancer. I prayed to God and with his help got through the surgery, chemotherapy, CAT scans, and blood tests. At this time I felt very close to God, for each



Colleen Fawley

night when I went to sleep I felt I was sleeping on God's hand and that all would be well. Praise God that the cancer has not returned in 25 years. This experience did not get me back to church, but I was praying more. I also read the Bible from cover to cover with a commentary.

I started to sporadically attend Sunday services at LOPC, usually when I was dealing with an issue that was causing me some trouble. Very often, the sermon that day had the answer I was looking for. I also observed how

the members were supportive of each other in a kind and loving way. During these years, my parents passed away. I remembered the loving community in which I was raised and wanted to be part of one again. I had never stopped believing in God, and now it was time to belong to a Christian community again – and I have never looked back.

Being a member of LOPC has given me an opportunity to financially help people having hard times around the world. As a child, I wanted to be an usher, and now I am one. Recently I have started helping at The Garden on Sundays and appreciate being around children. I enjoy the Bible studies the church offers which are interesting and thought provoking. These are just some of the many great ways to grow in the Christian faith at LOPC.

My favorite Bible verse is John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." This was the one I memorized in third grade when I got my first bible and is still my favorite. I believe that love always wins in the end.

community



FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

Healing a House Divided

with Professor Emeritus Steve Wolpert

March 3 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom

By Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen, LOPC Member

Professor Emeritus Steve Wolpert will engage the audience in an exploration on the rise of negative partisanship, the erosion of democratic norms, and the increasing support for political violence in the United States. He explains, "America's democratic institutions do not operate in a vacuum. They are nourished by deeply rooted democratic beliefs and practices. Recently, however, significant numbers of Americans have come to endorse values that jeopardize our democratic republic. Deepening partisan animosity has made it easier for Americans to demonize and stereotype one another and harder for them to share resources and power. In a recent survey of



Steve Wolpert

registered voters, 87% of respondents worried that U.S. is 'becoming less of a democracy.' In this talk I will explore not only how we got here, but more importantly what we can do together to improve the health of our democracy."

He also will discuss his plans to launch The Center for Engaged Democracy at Saint Mary's College in Moraga. The Center will be dedicated to strengthening the foundational principles of American democracy by fostering respectful, authentic dialogue across partisan differences, promoting nonpartisan civic habits and competencies, building on a record of excellence in student voting at Saint Mary's College, and making common cause with outside

organizations that contribute to the health of American democracy.

Steve Wolpert grew up in Washington D.C. and studied history at Grinnell College in Iowa. After having received his PhD in political science from Stanford University in 1975, he embarked on a 47-year career of college teaching, specializing in the Courts, the U.S. Constitution, and environmental politics. During that time, Wolpert was named Saint Mary's College Professor of the Year and served for 12 years as the Dean of Liberal Arts. He has published numerous articles in academic journals, and he provides political commentary for Bay Area print and broadcast media. Last year he was named a distinguished alumnus of the Sidwell Friends School in Washington D.C.

friendship Circle

March 16, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

For youth with special needs who are freshmen in high school through young adult transition programs.

This is an evening of fellowship with art and crafts projects, games and other social activities. We have special needs buddies that are from local high schools and colleges joining us for the evening.

We would love to have high school and college-age youth volunteer to be friendship buddies with our youth in the community that have special needs. This event will qualify for school volunteer hour requirements.

For volunteer registration and questions, contact Susan Wentworth at susan@lopc.org. Registration required: Visit lopc.org/registrations.



Fourth Monday Book Group

March 27, 2:00 p.m. on Zoom

Join us to discuss *The Lost Pianos of Siberia* by Sophy Roberts

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

Fourth Friday Book Group

March 24, 2:00 p.m. on Zoom

Join us to discuss *A Woman of No Importance*, by Sonia Parnell.

Contact Catherine Coleman at awaitingword@gmail.com to be added to the group.



Young Families Connect

March 5 following Worship

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.

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

LOPC Membership Class

March 12, 11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. in the Davies Room.

Join us for an exciting 90-minute class experience getting to know the pastors and programming at LOPC.

To register visit lopc.org/registrations.

Devotionals

Want to start your day with devotional messages from our pastors and program staff? Devotionals are posted twice weekly.

Catch our videos on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, or at lopc.org/devotionals.

care

Dementia Support Group

March 1 & 15, 10:30 a.m. on Zoom

Join our ongoing support group to give you ideas for self-care and other-care.

Email Linda Fodrini-Johnson at LindaFJ620@outlook.com to register.

Prayer Requests

To submit a prayer request online, visit lopc.org/prayer-requests.

The Prayer Team meets every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. and lifts your prayer requests as well as your joys.

You can also call the LOPC office at 925-283-8722 and leave a message, or send an email to info@lopc.org.

Helping Hands

This team of deacons have a variety of ready-to-heat, nutritious meals that can either be picked up or delivered when needed. Special diets can be accommodated.

Call the Deacon line at 925-283-8722, ext. 274.

Stephen Ministry

Trained Stephen Ministers are waiting to be assigned to safely walk beside you. on Zoom, or over the phone. You don't need to go it alone. Conversations are confidential. Stephen Ministers are ready to meet with you weekly for as long as you need.

To learn more, please call Pastor Jaime Polson at (925) 283-8722, ext. 226 or Shirley Moore at (925) 324-6466.

Home Communion

Deacons will offer in-person home communion for those unable to attend Sunday worship. A pair of deacons will come at the arranged day and time and hold a brief service. Deacons are fully vaccinated. If you know someone who may want home communion served, let us know.

Please call the Deacon line at 925-283-8722 x274 for arrangements.



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

Sherri Nissen, who passed January 8. A memorial will be held April 22 at 11:00 a.m.

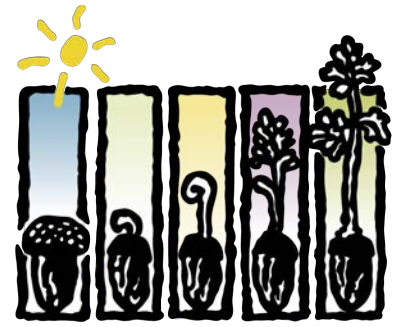
Gary Hargrove, who passed December 1, 2022. A memorial will be held May 13 at 2:00 p.m.

seedlings preschool

Classroom Happenings: Petunias & Marigolds

By Kaylin Deutscher, Communications, Seedlings Board

With the school year more than halfway through, our Seedlings students have been making great progress in their classrooms. They are learning and growing while having a fun time with each other along the way! Here's a look at what the children have been up to in a couple of our classrooms:



Petunias

2 to 3-year-olds, taught by Miss Kim and Mr. Max

In the Petunias class, we have been busy sharing our favorite books! With the help of our awesome room parents who created a sign-up list, children have been taking turns each week bringing in a favorite story to share with friends. The Petunias get very excited to collect their books from their backpacks, announce the title or theme of the book, and pose for a picture holding their book. One friend even brought in a bag of books checked out from the library! We often hear, "I have that book at my house!" from a fellow classmate which has been a fun way to build community in the class. Children love to share about themselves and learn about their friends' favorite things. Our *All About Me* book filled with pictures of each child in our classroom and a list of everything from their favorite place to their favorite song, is the most well-read book in our classroom library. Sharing a loved story from home is just another special opportunity for children to share a piece of themselves with their friends.

Marigolds

3 to 4-year-olds, taught by Miss Cayte and Miss Jules

One of our goals for the Marigolds has been to incorporate more science experiments and experiences in our classroom. We've been implementing Science Fridays and it has been a hit! We've enjoyed building our students' curiosity, talking about cause and effect, and supporting them in making their own discoveries. It's been a great opportunity to introduce them to some new topics, as well as provide opportunities for turn-taking and collaboration. For our food curriculum, we recently did an experiment to find out if a variety of fruits and vegetables would sink or float. The Marigolds loved voting beforehand for team sink or team float, and then putting the veggies and fruits in the water tub to find out if their hypothesis held up. They also took turns recording their results on our classroom chart! We then decided to use those vegetables for art the next day and make our own veggie garden.

Name Of Object	Float	Sink
Celery	+	-
Pot	+	-
X	+	-
+	+	-

finance



We Gather TOGETHER

For Good • For Giving • For God's Glory

There's still time to pledge for 2023!

At the time of publication, the community has pledged \$2,099,380.

Your pledge will help LOPC plan and budget for the following:

- Growing Mission Ministry
- Working for a better, just world
- Programs for children and families
- Providing support to Seniors in our community.
- Developing new spiritual formation opportunities

Thank you to members and friends who have made a pledge for 2023. Visit lopc.org/pledge to pledge or contact LOPC Accountant Farah Mohammadzai for assistance, farah@lopc.org, 283.8722 x229.



Per Capita

Per Capita is an annual fee that LOPC pays to higher levels of the Presbyterian Church based upon the number of active members. **For 2023, the Per Capita amount is \$39.00 per person.** We encourage members to make an extra contribution to help defray this expense, in addition to their other gifts. To facilitate this, you can give a check to the church with "Per Capita" noted on the memo line or give online through the website Giving link. LOPC budgeted \$67,509 this year for our Per Capita obligation. We are hopeful the congregation remembers to donate to Per Capita, as we make the shift from using Pledge envelopes. Wouldn't it be wonderful if a significant portion of this could be covered by your extra contribution, enabling us to add additional support to LOPC?

Financial Report

January 31, 2023

By Jim Nagle, Elder of Finance

LOPC was blessed to end the 2022 year strong with contributions exceeding spending by \$64,584 which has been placed into the Session Emerging Needs Fund for future ministry.

The church closed the first month of 2023 with Pledge Income trailing budget by \$112,202, with \$336,798 of contributions being received in January. Historically, January is a stronger month for Pledge giving. We will be watching the first quarter giving carefully. Non-Pledge and Loose Offering Giving were less than plan by \$9,136. Total Giving for the month was \$374,400.

Ministry Team spending of \$193,466 was less than budget by \$16,191.

January 2023 closed the month with actual net contributions exceeding ministry spending by \$180,934. Budgeted results were \$280,370, resulting in an actual shortfall relative to budget of \$105,436..

Thank you to all that have pledged so far. We encourage anyone who has not pledged to consider making a pledge so that we can continue our great ministry.

Thank you for the many ways you give to LOPC!



LOPC
FOUNDATION

The Foundation is a **Faith Operation**. We act in **Trust**, we serve in **Faith**, we thrive in **Relationship**.

To Learn more about legacy giving, please reach out to a Foundation Trustee or visit lopc.org/foundation.

session

January Session Highlights

By Terry Clark, Clerk of Session

Our January 17 session meeting was hybrid and began with an enriching Spiritual Formation sharing by Elder Peter Shumaker, and the relating of recent “Joys and Concerns” by elders and clergy. Moving into the Consent Agenda, the Clerk presented matters such as plans for upcoming events and meetings, the requested annual review of LOPC policies, and the required attendance at Presbytery meetings by session members.

An overview on our Annual Leadership Retreat (see more details below) was given by Pastor Peter Whitelock, and more than 50 participants were set to attend. Peter then made the exciting announcement that Bryan Dunnewald will become our part-time Director of Music on February 1, thus enabling the Choir to return to its regular scheduling in March. Peter highlighted other staff changes including Kevin Miller’s starting as Technical Operations Manager, and, very regrettably, Allison Kunz’s resignation in March as Co-Director of Youth Ministries.

Elder Jim Nagle presented a positive update in his Financial Report regarding the continuing receipt of pledges and Faith Component contributions, the reduction of expenses, and progress toward our budget goal. Elder Mark Weaver lent a further expectation-perspective from the Generosity Team’s involvement, reflecting on both current and past giving patterns.

In executive session, Pastor Jaime Polson gave a detailed presentation regarding the thorough process undertaken to review and consider salary and benefit increases for clergy and staff based upon all they have done and continue to do despite the challenges of this past year. After discussion, session approved motions adopting the recommended 2023 budget and the proposed salary and benefit increases. The ordained clergy increases were scheduled to be voted upon at the February 5 annual meeting.

At the on-campus Leadership Retreat on Saturday January 28, Peter made a very informative presentation covering the demographics of the LOPC congregation and surrounding counties. We viewed and discussed data in many key areas, such as age groups, race and ethnicity, employment, household income and children, social media preferences, and (perhaps most importantly) peoples’ lists of major concerns and what they are looking for in a church. Pastors Jaime, Lauren Gully and Chris Baldwin gave their reflections into the impact on their respective ministries and ways in which they are responding. Leaders then broke out into small groups that had very insightful discussions and reported back on what else they have noticed on these issues and how we can better connect and meet the needs of our church community going forward.

elders, deacons, & foundation trustees

Contact information for elders, deacons, and foundation trustees may be found in the LOPC directory. Please contact info@lopc.org if you need assistance.

Elders

Julie Atkinson
Worship

Jeff Budke
Operations

Terry Clark
Clerk of Session

Jim Davis
Communications

Jeff Eyet
Spiritual Formation

Leslie Finertie
Care

Nancy Grabow
Youth

Bettie Graves
Worship

Chris Johnson
Mission

Cheryl Miller
Fellowship

Patrick Morrissey
Membership

Jim Nagle
Finance

Lee O'Haver
Youth

Brian O'Shea
Personnel

Jeff Patton
Church Nominating
Committee

Brianne Riley
Fellowship

Sally Roberts
Senior Adult

Ginny Ross
Mission

Peter Shumaker
Children

Pat Stevens
Spiritual Formation

Liz Voelker
Seedlings

Diane Vollering
Care

Mark Weaver
Generosity

Deacons

Jane Balg

Sandy Barnett

Carolyn Bealmear

Heather Breen

Bonnie Doughty

Barbara Duff

Stephanie Eukel

Michele Fixel

Sue Fernstrom

Margaret Ann Fowler

Muriel Franz

Linda Groobin

Sue Handy

Andrea Hilsabeck

Jake Jacobsmeyer

Esther Kim

Stephen Kiyoi

Randi Long

Laurie Miles

John Minney

Marilyn Mulhollan

Elizabeth O'Shea

Kay Poulos

Eddie Reiter

Jeanette Shearer

Yuji Shibuya

Linda Snyder

Claire Van Rooyen

Mary Welte

Youth Deacons

Paige Carpenter

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Staci Johnston

Linda Rosenthal

Mike Ross

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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 that inspires each other to grow musically and personally. Our rehearsals are music-focused, efficient, and refreshing. There is nothing more powerful than lending your voice to the choir on Sunday. Come join us in friendship and song and bring your friends too!



Email Director of Music Bryan Dunnewald at bryan@lopc.org.