

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

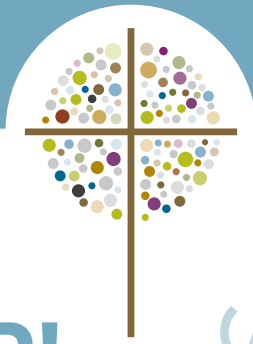
JUNE/JULY 2023

# FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

[LOPC.ORG](http://LOPC.ORG)



# celebrate... IT'S SUMMER!

By Chris Baldwin - Pastor, Community & Formation

School's out for summer! Congratulations to all graduates, students, teachers, and administrators on another year completed. Oh, and let's not forget... congrats to all of the moms, dads, grandparents, siblings, and everyone who support students of all ages on all trajectories. You ALL did it! Well done!



Isn't it true that it takes a village to arrive at the finish line of major life projects? I've always found that, even when I think I've done something on my own, I've looked back and noticed a trail of supporters and cheerleaders behind me, encouraging me, and celebrating accomplishments even when I thought I was alone in my pursuits. We are all so interconnected beyond what we know and comprehend in community.

If you're anything like me, I know that it can be easy to jump from one completed project to the next and forget to stop, reflect, and enjoy the hard work that has been accomplished. Did you know that resting is not just vital to good health, but it's also a practice of faithfulness? If you take a journey to Genesis and read the Creation story, God created all things and then on the seventh and final day, God rested (Genesis 2:3). By resting, God set an example for us and invites us to consider the importance of stopping and enjoying this life that we have. Yes, we are called to care for the creation and love God and others well... and that requires hard, good work. But we're also invited to rest, be cared for, enjoy the good creation and the fruits from the labors of our love. In your accomplishments, don't forget to celebrate with your community and carve out time to rest!

This summer, may you carve out space for leisure, travel, and time with loved ones, and may your time be filled with celebrating accomplishments and remembering God's goodness and faithfulness to you. Celebrate...it's summer!

## CONTENTS

### June/July 2023

Faith at the Movies .....	2
Mission .....	3
Generosity Corner .....	6
Care .....	6
Seedlings .....	7
Children .....	7
Youth .....	8
Finance .....	9
Session .....	9
Thursday Fellowship ..	10
Community .....	11
Foundation .....	12
Staff Updates .....	12
New Members .....	13

#### Pastoral Staff

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

#### Ministry Directors

Keris Dahlkamp - 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](mailto:communications@lopc.org)  
no later than July 1 for the August issue.

Thank you to all who contribute each month to *Focus!*

### Need to reach us?

[info@lopc.org](mailto:info@lopc.org) • 925-283-8722

# FAITH

## AT THE MOVIES

June 2 through August 20, Join us for LOPC's popular summer sermon series as we connect compelling scenes from our favorite movies to meaningful bible passages.

**7/2**

***East of Salinas***

2016

**7/9**

***Cast Away***

2000

**7/16**

***Lightyear***

2022

**7/23**

***Remember the Titans***

2000

**7/30**

***A Man Called Otto***

2022

**8/6**

***A Wrinkle in Time***

2018

**8/13**

***Are You There God?  
It's Me Margaret***

2023

**8/20**

***Top Gun: Maverick***

2022



mission

# SUMMER

of  love  does

Summer is a great time to travel, relax, and hang out with friends and family. For some of our LOPC mission partners, summer can also be a time of increased need for volunteers. Two years ago, LOPC began the “Summer of *love does*,” aiming to provide various service opportunities for people to participate in throughout the summer. The hope is that you may be inspired to serve for at least one of our Summer of *love does* service opportunities or discover other organizations that need help in our community.

For questions contact Robin Freeberg at [robin@lopc.org](mailto:robin@lopc.org).

▶ Visit [lopc.org/lovedoes](http://lopc.org/lovedoes) for more information or to register.



### Trinity Center Summer Clothing Drive

Drop off: June 10 Only, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. in the Oak Room

Trinity Center provides resources to those experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa County. Current needs include: gently used men’s and women’s shoes, shorts, jeans, casual dresses, and jackets.



### Habitat for Humanity Workday

June 16, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Work alongside others from LOPC at Habitat for Humanity’s newest project, Esperanza Place: located adjacent to the Pleasant Hill BART station in Walnut Creek. The project aims to build 42 affordable homes with the help of many volunteers and donors. Join others in service and make a gift of your time and talent to this new community.



### Contra Costa Food Bank Opportunity

July 22 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano depends on volunteers to get food to ready for distribution. Join others from LOPC to sort and pack food that will be provided to those struggling with food insecurity in the community.



### Monument Crisis Center Backpack Drive

Drop off your completed backpack at LOPC by July 23

Monument Crisis Center annually provides backpacks filled with supplies to children of low-income families throughout Contra Costa County. You can help by providing a student with a new backpack to start out the school year prepared with all the necessary tools to learn.

# Two World Hunger Organizations Receive Funds from LOPC

By Virginia Ross, LOPC Member

As a result of a recently received designated gift towards global hunger relief efforts, LOPC's Mission team presented information about ways to combat hunger at a talk in fall 2022. This discussion touched on common causes of food insecurity including war and conflict, poverty, climate change, as well as race and gender inequality. The team saw this as an opportunity to expand its reach beyond the work LOPC is currently engaged in. Interested LOPC members researched and prayerfully considered how LOPC might best distribute funds to address hunger outside the United States. Two organizations, World Central Kitchen and Vijana Africa Malawi stood out as ways LOPC could impact global hunger.

**Thank you to the LOPC members who have worked towards this effort. To learn more about the organizations LOPC supported with this designated gift, please visit their web sites: [wck.org](http://wck.org) and [vijanaafrica.org](http://vijanaafrica.org).**

## World Central Kitchen

To meet an immediate need for food, a donation was sent to World Central Kitchen in the amount of \$9,470.75 following the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria in February. The organization served over 1 million meals in the first week alone, and over 10 million meals in total. World Central Kitchen continues supporting survivors and first responders in hard hit areas by setting up shelters and providing meals.



## Vijana Africa Malawi

This organization empowers women who struggle against poverty and hunger through rabbit farming. Vijana Africa has empowered 81 widows to economic self-reliance. Most of the beneficiaries are widows, single mothers, and women living with disabilities. LOPC's donation of \$3,600 will help to build enclosures for rabbits within the refugee camp for enterprising women, creating an ongoing opportunity to provide food and income that help with school fees and other necessities.





# CHILDREN OF FAITH MISSIONS

*By Haley Lewis, COF Board Member*

In March, for a fourth time, I had the chance to visit LOPC mission partner Children of Faith, a safe home and educational program in Visakhapatnam, India. My first trip was over nine years ago with LOPC's high school youth group. Since then, each trip to COF leaves an imprint on my heart, and each child at COF shines such a light. You can't help but be uplifted by their pure spirits, their smiles, and their resilience. For two weeks, I spent time with the children, reconnecting with the older ones, and getting to know the new kids. We laughed, talked, ate, played, and worshiped together.

As a newly appointed member of the COF Board, I took over 6,000 photos (some by me, some by the children) for COF's website, marketing materials, and social media channels. Rosie Thandu, COF co-founder, and the teachers helped me to get questionnaire responses from each child, with hope to bring more attention to children's personalities into our efforts. Witnessing Rosie and Anand at work in India, it's inspiring to see them dedicate their lives to raising these 120 children. They work 24/7 to create a better future for the children in their care and in the community.

“Children of Faith has filled the void and sadness of my mother's abandonment. Now I know happiness.

*-Suguna Raju, age 14*

I was also able to see some of the children I met on my first trip back in 2014, now grown up! Jeebon was 13 when I first visited COF, and he is now studying civil engineering at one of the best colleges in the area. Anjali is happily married with a one-year-old daughter. David and Amos are COF staff now, caring for small children just as they once were. It is great to see the children from COF flourish and lead happy, productive lives. My only regret is not staying longer to spend more time with them, but I know that no matter the trip length, it never seems to be long enough!

**For more information about COF, or if you are interested in sponsoring a child, please visit [childrenoffaithmissions.org](http://childrenoffaithmissions.org).**

# the GENEROSITY corner

*“Come, let us walk in  
the light of the Lord!”*

*-Isaiah 2:5*

## Caregiving and Care Receiving at LOPC

*By Nancy Henderson, Generosity Team*

Caregivers and care-receivers come in all shapes and sizes, in many forms and functions, and in any age group. Life’s journeys lead us in and out of strong times, when we can offer a helping hand, and times when we need that helping hand. LOPC has many groups that offer loving care to those who happen to need it in one season of life or another. This article highlights three important groups of LOPC Caregivers, called as Christians to specific types of caregiving: Stephen Ministers, Thursday Fellowship, and Deacons.

**Stephen Ministers** walk with those in need of care through one of life’s valleys – a loss, a transition, a health challenge, and more. In such seasons, one can benefit from a loving

and caring listener who accepts us as we are and where we are and accompanies us without giving advice or trying to “fix” us. They offer prayer through a difficult time of life. Stephen Ministers are drawn to this ministry because they know the value of being listened to and know how the Holy Spirit can work in the hearts of those in need.

Twice a month during the program year, **Thursday Fellowship** offers a caring social network for seniors. Volunteers provide a morning craft, prepare and serve a lunch of salad, dessert, and beverages, and provide entertainment for a wonderful afternoon program. Meetings create such joy as both volunteers and guests share God’s love.

Believing in the church and the community, **LOPC Deacons** ask, “How can we pitch in?” and respond to God’s call to love and serve by supporting others. Teams and individuals offer loving hands and hearts in so many ways, including leading memorial receptions, communion preparation, home visits, meals after hospitalizations, one-time urgent financial support, and more.

In so many ways, the caregivers and ministries mentioned above follow the Holy Spirit’s call to serve the church and community in love and collaboration. If you feel called to serve, or if you are in need of care from any of the ministries mentioned above, call LOPC at (925) 283-8722.

---

## care

### hold in PRAYER

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



**Gary Hargrove,**  
who passed December 1, 2022.  
A memorial will be held June 3  
at 1:00 p.m.

**Carlos Ontiveros,**  
who passed February 25. A  
memorial will be held August 5 at  
11:00 a.m.

**Jim Stalker,**  
who passed March 2. A memorial will  
be held July 15 at 2:00 p.m.

**Brenda Nirenstein,**  
who passed March 3. A memorial will  
be held July 22 at 11:00 a.m.

**David Dodge,**  
who passed away April 3. A memorial  
will be held September 9 at 1:00 p.m.

**Phil Placier**  
who passed away April 9. A memorial  
will be held October 7, time TBD.

**Rowell Potts,**  
who passed away April 13.

**Fredrika Thorne,**  
who passed April 28.

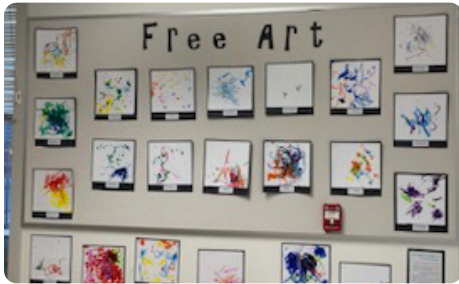
**Jo Ann McKee,**  
who passed April 22. A memorial will  
be held July 13 at 4:00 p.m.

# seedlings

## Spring Happenings at Seedlings

By Kaylin Deutscher, Seedlings Board, Communications

As the Seedlings school year winds down and we get ready for summer, there are two big events that we look forward to all year: the Spring Showcase and Teacher Appreciation Week.



### Spring Showcase ▲

On Monday, April 24, we held our annual family event, the Seedlings' Spring Showcase. This event gives families the opportunity to come into the classrooms and learn more about what their kids have been doing and creating at Seedlings. In the weeks leading up to the event, students and teachers were hard at work making artwork and displays to show off at the showcase. It was incredible to see the

results! Each classroom was filled with pictures, paintings, and crafts galore.

Some classrooms went with a theme, like the Snapdragons, who's magic-themed classroom included a huge cardboard castle complete with a drawbridge, dragon, and an enchanted forest display. Other classrooms showed off artwork from throughout the whole school year, showing the great progress and new skills the students gained over the course of the year. The kids were very proud and excited to show off their work, and the parents loved seeing it!

After families visited the classrooms, everyone gathered on the labyrinth for a fun dinner catered by Abel's Taco Truck. It was a great time for families to spend time with each other and celebrate Spring.

### Teacher Appreciation Week ►

On May 2 – 5, Seedlings celebrated it's incredible teachers with a western-themed week of fun. To start off the week, the school was decorated with special sheriff badges that included

quotes from the students about why they think each of their teachers are so awesome. There were some very funny and cute reasons provided by the kids! To keep the fun rolling and to say "hats off" to our amazing teachers, each day included a special meal and goodies provided by the teacher appreciation fund. Treats included a Cinco de Mayo lunch one day and a breakfast bar another. The children got involved too, dressing up in western theme one day and bringing individual flowers from their gardens to build bouquets another.

**It was a great week celebrating our teachers, who really are the best in the west!**



# children



## Vacation Bible Camp

**June 5-9**  
**2:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

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.

- **Who:** Kids 4 years old (by September 1, 2023) to children who have completed 4th Grade by June 2023.
- **Cost:** \$125 per child.

For questions and to volunteer, contact Susan Wentworth at [susan@lopc.org](mailto:susan@lopc.org).

**Visit [lopc.org/vbcamp](http://lopc.org/vbcamp) for more information and to register.**





# YOUTH



Follow along with youth summer service activities each day on Instagram @lopc\_youth or by visiting [lopc.org/youth](http://lopc.org/youth).



## 2023 Summer Service-Learning

### SERVICE SQUAD

**JUNE 5 – 9:**

A local day camp for youth completing 5th-6th grades in spring 2023.

▶ **T-Shirt Pickup on the Plaza**

June 4, outside the Chapel following the fundraiser

### SALINAS

**JUNE 12 – 16:**

For Middle School youth completing 7th-8th grades in spring 2023.

▶ **Salinas Team Meeting**

June 4, 9:00 – 9:50 a.m. in CLC Room 201

### GUATEMALA

**JUNE 18 – 24:**

For high-school youth completing 9th-12th grades in spring.

▶ **Guatemala Team Meeting**

June 4, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in CLC Room 201

### Youth Mission Commissioning

June 4, following Worship, For all Service Squad, Salinas, and Guatemala participants

Join us as we commission the LOPC Youth as they begin their summer of service-learning projects locally and abroad.

### Youth Missions Fundraiser

June 4 following Worship in the Chapel

Join us for a fundraising event for the whole congregation to support the Youth Mission Scholarship Fund, which provides financial support for youth who would otherwise not be able to participate in summer service-learning experiences. These trips are vital to expanding the student's vision of the world and allow them an opportunity to demonstrate Christ's love through service. All are welcome to stop by and enjoy refreshments, meet the students participating, view and bid on Fotokids artwork, as well as make a general donation.

**Youth, their family and friends, as well as advisors participating are encouraged to attend, show support, and share their hopes and prayers.**

### Youth Sunday

August 27

Mark your calendar for 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 27, when children and youth will lead LOPC in all aspects of the worship service. They will deliver sermons on their experiences at Vacation Bible Camp, Service Squad, as well as the Salinas and Guatemala Service-Learning Trips!

Please pray for youth, advisors, and the partners we will be serving with.

▶ **Questions? Contact Keris Dahlkamp [keris@lopc.org](mailto:keris@lopc.org).**

# finance

## Financial Update

By Jim Nagle, Finance Elder

LOPC is in a good financial position for the first four months of 2023. We are truly blessed to have a supportive congregation and staff that make this possible. Year-to-date, April total contributions totaled \$1,204,411, slightly ahead of budgeted levels of \$1,191,992. Something to note, pledge giving is below budget by \$168,801, but we are optimistic. Historical annual pledge giving trends, which are usually higher than annual pledged levels, provides some insight that this trend will self-correct as of year-end.

In 2023, LOPC was blessed with two unbudgeted gifts. In April, a member gave a gift of thanks and praise of \$70,800, which is reflected in non-pledge member gifts. In March,

LOPC received \$67,500 from an estate bequest. The bequest also left a legacy gift to the LOPC Foundation. The two gifts nearly offset the year-to-date shortfall in pledge giving. Mission and special gifts of exceeded budget by \$35,793, contributing favorably to year-to-date results.

Most ministry teams are at or below budgeted spending. Year-to-date expenses of \$1,022,490, are below budget by \$23,101, excluding spending for mission and special gifts. Personnel spending is lower than plan due in part to the open positions in Youth & Children's Ministry.

LOPC ended the four-month period with \$95,057 of net contributions, close to budget. Please consider

pledging if you haven't yet done. We appreciate all those who have heeded our requests to make timely pledge gifts, to help us align more closely with budget. Thank you to those who have pledged and made contributions in 2023

## 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](http://lopc.org/giving), or scan the QR code on your mobile device.

# session

## April Session Highlights

By Terry Clark, Clerk of Session

Pastor Peter Whitelock opened our April meeting with a personal story of how he was inspired by a serendipitous reading of scripture (Psalm 37:4) to awaken to a new life and respond to God's call into the ministry. That led us to share a number of joys and concerns, including heartfelt gratitude from Temple Isaiah for LOPC's support in solidarity and the energy of new life continuing to emanate from all of LOPC's enriching Holy Week services.

Discussions and reports covered issues regarding upcoming activities including transitioning from hybrid to more in-person meetings. Our June meeting will be preceded by a meal coordinated by Elder Lee O'Haver at LOPC and our September meeting with a meal to be hosted by Lee at

her home. As usual, session will not meet in July; and the August meeting is expected to retain 50% hybrid participation.

Following a confidential vote in March, it was announced that Elder Mark Weaver has been elected as the next Clerk of Session, to begin serving in January 2024. Peter also paid a wonderful tribute to Phil Placier, who passed recently and had been a long-standing and dedicated leader for LOPC in many capacities.

Session accepted the report of the Personnel Committee approving Pastor Chris Baldwin's sabbatical to start in June. Chris then gratefully provided a great synopsis of his plans: some family resting, date nights with wife Carly, local travel, study with colleagues, and

a terrific travel itinerary in Greece and Italy. At this point, Executive Session was called, where Chris gave a moving presentation regarding his call to a ministry of serving and equipping. Session discussed and then adopted a motion to call a Congregation Meeting on May 7 to vote for approval of Chris' status from a Designated Associate Pastor to permanent Associate Pastor.

Elder Jeff Patton reported that the work of the Church Nominating Committee is underway, and requests are being made for needed 2024 Elder, Deacon, and Foundation positions.

**Please submit your nominations by May 31, 2023. Nomination forms may be found in the sanctuary pews, Ministry Center front desk, or online at [lopc.org/cnc](http://lopc.org/cnc).**

# thursday Fellowship

*caring • sharing • loving*

*A program of Senior Care Ministries*



By Julie Peterson, Coordinator

Thursday Fellowship has celebrated its 44th year by continuing to provide a variety of enriching, entertaining, and interesting programs and activities for guests and volunteers at LOPC and the community. We have met twice each month in 2023, with June 1 being our last meeting until fall. Together, we have celebrated birthdays, anniversaries, and more all while creating a caring community full of camaraderie for volunteers and guests alike.

On May 4, we started the day with a creative art project making collages from the unique paper napkins we have used this year at Thursday fellowship. The results were stunning, and everyone enjoyed sharing their creations. After a wonderful lunch we enjoyed being entertained by Mike Kistner who performs songs on guitar that we enjoy hearing and singing along with.

On May 18, we again got our creative juices flowing with an activity and in the afternoon and enjoyed pianist Sharon Lee Kim and violinist Jiwon Evelyn Kwark from Ensemble Ari a professional chamber music ensemble. Their music was so beautiful, and they really wowed us with their program.

June 1 is our last meeting before our summer hiatus. Join us for an annual Hawaiian themed party complete with decor, a visit from the Rossmoor Ukulele band, hula dancers, and a catered lunch with Hawaiian fare. It promises to be a festive event to end our program year.

Thursday Fellowship is already busy planning for the fall. The next program will be on **Thursday, September 14**. Look for further announcements in the August edition of *Focus* and in *Connections* for updated information.

*Join us:*

*June 1*

Join us for our year end Hawaiian Aloha Luau featuring the Rossmoor Ukulele Band and Hula Dancers!

**Thursday Fellowship takes a brief hiatus for the summer, but is scheduled to resume September 14 at the usual time and place.**

Check back in future issues of *Focus* for more details on guests and activities to come!

**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](mailto:julie@lopc.org) or call 925-283-8722 ext. 281.*

# community



## FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

### National Geographic Expedition Through the Northwest Passage

June 2 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom

Long-time member of LOPC, Dr. Joseph Whitehouse, retired dentist, world traveler, and photographer, will speak on “A National Geographic Expedition Through the Northwest Passage: Nome to Greenland.”



Joe Whitehouse

For centuries the famous Northwest Passage has had an almost mystical reputation as one of the harshest nautical endeavors: to find a direct western route from Europe to Asia. Between the end of 15th and the 20th centuries, the European colonial powers dispatched explorers in an attempt to discover a commercial sea route to Asia traveling north and west around North America.

Joe will share his experiences on a voyage with the National Geographic ship *Endurance* where he visited Canadian and Alaskan Inuit villages, observed polar bears crossing the Arctic Ocean, explored majestic fjords, and learned about historic failed voyages from centuries past. “A National Geographic expedition has no fixed schedule or route, only a finish date and destination,” Joe says. “This initial voyage of the *Endurance* and the recent commercial ship traffic through

the Northwest Passage are only possible due to climate change and the associated melting of sea ice.”

Joe has served as an LOPC deacon and has given many well-received travel presentations at LOPC, sharing with guests a selection of his excellent photography. He earned his Masters in marriage and family counseling, which he applied in his practice to help patients with their fears around treatment.

**For more information and to register for the Zoom webinar, visit [lopc.org/forum](http://lopc.org/forum)**

Joe caught the travel bug 50 years ago while in the Air Force stationed in Okinawa. Since then, he has traveled to every continent and 157 countries, along with his wife, Arnette. He is driven to travel by his curiosity and rewarded by the connection he feels toward the people he meets and the realization that we all have challenges to overcome. Last month Joe returned from travels in Iraq, Kurdistan, Lebanon, and Cyprus.

Joe has traveled to Antarctica, the Subantarctic Islands, and the Arctic within 600 miles of the North Pole. He worked in Greenland for two summers in the 1960s, so he is very familiar with Arctic conditions and geography.



# community

## Companions for the Journey

This unique contemplative offering at LOPC provides an opportunity for all to listen deeply to scripture, to God, and to one another. A slow-paced time for meditation invites participants to consider how a short scripture text may intersect with something real and present in their everyday lives. In facilitated small groups, members share their musings with the safety and freedom that results from the sacred commitment to honor each person in confidence. The programs is a safe place, free of judgement, advice, or questioning. Many participants have found the experience has opened a new and profoundly meaningful relationship with Jesus/God.

**Companions meets monthly from October through May. Participants can choose to meet on a Monday evening or a Thursday morning. Please contact Carl Grant at [clgrantsd@gmail.com](mailto:clgrantsd@gmail.com) or Robyn Dean at [r2dean@sonic.net](mailto:r2dean@sonic.net) for further information.**

## Fourth Friday Book Group

4:00 p.m. on Zoom

- **June 23:** Join us to discuss *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.
- **July 28:** Join us to discuss *Doc* by Mary Doria Russell.

Email Catherine Coleman at [awaitingword@gmail.com](mailto:awaitingword@gmail.com) to join the group.

# foundation

## In Gratitude

By Lois Boyd, Foundation Trustee

Recently, a neighbor couple stopped by the home of Jim and Carson Beckemeyer to deliver a flowering plant plus a gift basket loaded



Lois Boyd

with goodies. The neighbors had been dealing with a serious health issue for months and were grateful for the moral support Jim and Carson had provided during what was a most difficult time. As it turns out, the Beckemeyers were just one of multiple stops the neighbors made that weekend – a great many families in the neighborhood received the same visit. The neighbors here are known for expressing their gratitude for any acts of kindness and caring, no matter how small. In most cases, it seems they end

up giving back much more than they receive.

In thinking about how people express thanks, we recognize those who have either already contributed to the LOPC Foundation or are Friends of the Foundation – having made a commitment to do so in the future. In each case, they are expressing their gratitude for the role that LOPC has played in their lives. Such expressions of gratitude are a blessing to the LOPC community and have significantly strengthened LOPC’s ability to offer wonderful programming for children, families, and seniors; extend worship and fellowship opportunities; create a variety care ministries; and partner with a number of community and worldwide mission partners. In 2023, the Foundation will make available nearly \$582,000 in financial funding for LOPC.

# staff update

## Staff Announcement

We are overjoyed to announce that our wonderful staff accountant, Farah, is expecting the birth of her second child early July. In anticipation of Farah’s time on maternity leave, we want to let you know that Staci Johnston, LOPC treasurer, will be managing the day-to-day accounting responsibilities from mid-summer through mid-fall. We are also blessed to have our previous accountant, Lidia Jesionek, stepping in to provide additional support to Staci.



**Please send all finance-related inquiries to Staci at [staci@lopc.org](mailto:staci@lopc.org), 925-283-8722 ext 253.**

The Foundation strives to be a permanent, reliable source of significant funding for LOPC’s ongoing and new ministries, expand mission outreach, and contribute to the maintenance of LOPC facilities. We are enormously grateful to those who have contributed to fulfilling the ongoing mission of LOPC through the support of the Foundation that will last into the future.

We welcome any inquiries about the Foundation, including ways that the Foundation supports LOPC, and would be interested in learning what matters most to you for the future of LOPC. Please feel free to reach out to any of the Foundation Trustees: Jim Beckemeyer, Lois Boyd, Jen Crocker, Linda Fodrini-Johnson, Andy Gill, Staci Johnston, Linda Rosenthal, Mike Ross, Dara Youngdale.

# new members

## LOPC warmly receives the following individuals into membership:



**Roger Allen**

Roger recently concluded his 40+ year career in residential construction but continues his craft as a builder with an interest in design and new methodologies of construction. His other interests include reading books on cosmology and following the San Francisco Giants. His outdoor pursuits include mountain biking, hiking, and camping. He is a lifetime resident of the Bay Area and enjoys spending time in Danville with his grandchildren.



**Nancy Baum**

Nancy is joining LOPC by Letter of Transfer from her long-time interdenominational Christian church in Saratoga. She recently moved to the East Bay after a 30-year career as a higher education student services program director, a K-8 teacher, and a district administrator in public education. Since retiring, Nancy most enjoys time spent with her family, including three adult children and their families. Her passions include gardening, reading, hiking, ministry support roles, music, and sports spectating/cheerleading. Nancy's desire for LOPC membership derives from her deep appreciation of inspirational worship experiences and the many opportunities at LOPC to serve alongside robust ministries to children, life-long spiritual formation, and programs that support refugees and immigrants.



**Paige Carpenter**

Paige has been involved in LOPC her whole life, going through each of the Children's Ministry programs and currently participating in By The Way (BTW). She is a junior at Carondelet High School where she is involved with on-campus ministry and the indoor and sand volleyball teams. Paige also serves as a youth deacon at LOPC and is active on the youth leadership team. In her free time, she enjoys coaching club volleyball, spending time with friends, and walking her dog, Cody, and looks forward to participating in the Youth service trip to Guatemala this summer.



**Norman Fitzsimmons**

Norman lives in Lafayette, whilst building an ADU in Orinda. Following the loss of his wife, Marion, in 2020, Norman relocated from Holywood, County Down, Northern Ireland, in April 2022 to live close to his son, Graeme, daughter-in-law, Monica, and grandchildren, Joaquin (15) and Gigi (14). Norman has been retired for some 20 plus years, devoting his time to extensive travel and charity work. He has a passion for rugby and cricket, but primarily supports his grandchildren in all their school and sports activities. Norman was baptized in the Presbyterian Church in Northern Ireland and was delighted to find such a vibrant local Presbyterian Church in his new home.



### Don & Sally O'Neal

Don and Sally live in Lafayette and have been married for 10 years. The couple was married at LOPC before ever visiting or becoming members. Don has three adult children, Lauren, Christina, and Nolan. Sally grew up mostly in Colorado and is an avid skier, golfer, and tennis player. She currently serves on several not-for-profit boards and enjoys spending time with her four nephews and one niece. Don is a partner at the Capital Group, a large investment firm. He loves all sports and tries unsuccessfully to keep up with Sally on the slopes. Don currently serves on the board of Hope Solutions, a long-time mission partner of LOPC which works on permanent housing for the homeless. Prior to coming to LOPC, Don and Sally previously attended City Church in San Francisco and look forward to building more local Christian community at LOPC.



### Jeff Sicotte & Emily Wright

Jeff and Emily live in Walnut Creek and will be married at LOPC this autumn. Jeff works at UCSF in the Department of Palliative Medicine as a hospital administrator and Emily is a community health nurse. They enjoy hiking in the copious open spaces of the Bay Area and supporting local restaurants in a quest to rarely eat at the same place twice. They are so happy to be stepping into membership at LOPC, and hope to help sustain its grounded, faithful good works.

### Rob & Barbara Weikert



Barbara and Rob are thrilled about joining the LOPC community. Barb grew up in Orinda, and the family has lived in three different houses as their family has grown over the past 36 years. They are blessed with four adult children. Their eldest daughter, Kendall, and her husband, Garrett Ley, live in Austin, Texas; son Kyle lives in New York City; and daughter Laurel lives locally. Rob and Barb met as undergrads at Cal and will be celebrating their 40th Anniversary this June. Rob graduated from Santa Clara University Law school in 1985, has been practicing law ever since, and is a partner with Nixon Peabody LLP in San Francisco. Barb's professional background is in retail management and human resources, but being a stay-at-home mother will always be her greatest reward. Rob and Barb share similar hobbies: running, biking, gardening, traveling, and they have recently started taking golf lessons. Both are active volunteers in the greater Lamorinda area, share many friends in the LOPC community, and are looking forward to growing their faith by getting involved in ministries.



### Tom Whitelock

Tom lives in Concord with his wife, Erin, and dog, Otto (2). Tom works in Walnut Creek at JLL as a commercial real estate broker. For fun, he loves exploring new cities and venues, cheering on the 49ers, and golfing. Tom grew up at LOPC and recently joined the church, eager to grow and be active in the congregation. His passions include mission work and local community projects, helping children and youth, and small groups. Tom is the son of Anne and Pastor Peter Whitelock.



**LAFAYETTE-ORINDA  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

49 Knox Drive  
Lafayette, CA 94549



info@lopc.org  
925-283-8722

IMPORTANT

Dated Material  
PLEASE DELIVER  
BEFORE 6/1/23

Thank you!

Return Service Requested

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

Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church

OUTDOOR  
MOVIE  
NIGHT

July

14

6:30 P.M.