

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2023

FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

LOPC.ORG



Giving Thanks

By Chris Baldwin — Pastor, Community Life

What are you the most grateful for these days?

Whenever November rolls around on my calendar, I'm immediately transported to one of my favorite holidays – Thanksgiving! I LOVE Thanksgiving Day – a feast with family and loved ones centered on the practice of gratitude. In my family, we generally have a potluck meal to which everyone contributes so that not just one person or family is overwhelmed with the hosting responsibilities. We cook, drink, laugh, sometimes walk/run a Turkey Trot 5K, but usually we just tune into the Macy's Day Parade, watch some football, and even sometimes share what we're grateful for. It's simple...maybe that's what I appreciate about the holiday.



I like Thanksgiving because for me it's a reminder of our Christian practices of being a people who rejoice and give thanks regardless of our circumstances – which can actually be a pretty challenging practice when life is just downright dark and we've been through a tremendous amount of pain. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18:

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Acknowledging that many of us have entered November in various places in our walks of faith with Jesus, I wonder, how do you practice gratitude in all circumstances? A radical gratitude, no matter what life throws at you.

I want to invite you into a prayer practice of gratitude that you can do any time of day. This practice is a breathing prayer and here's how to play with it: take a deep breath in, counting to four and then breathe out, counting to seven. On each breath in, breathe in gratitude, "Thank you, God." Then on each breath out, breathe out gratitude, "Thank you, God." Maybe a specific person, activity, project, or blessing will come to mind as you do this...or maybe not. Regardless, it's an opportunity to give thanks for another gift of breath, a grace of life that we freely take in and blow out.

Friends, what are you most grateful for these days? May we bask our lives in gratitude, giving thanks in all circumstances because that is God's will for each of us in Christ Jesus. Happy November!

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Lauren Gully - Pastor, Mission & Outreach
Jaime Polson - Pastor, Care & Executive Leadership
Chris Baldwin - Pastor, Community & Formation

Ministry Directors

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Junha Kim - Youth
Coleen Moulton - Seedlings Preschool
Bryan Dunnewald - Music
Susan Wentworth - Children's Ministry
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Treasurer

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Dick James & Lexi Morrissey - Editors

Submissions & Deadlines

Please send requests for submissions to:
communications@lopc.org
no later than November 1 for the December issue.



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

Need to reach us?

info@lopc.org • 925-283-8722



LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

presents

A Musical Remembrance

November 5, 2023

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Sung by the LOPC Chamber Singers, featuring C. Hubert Parry's *Songs of Farewell*, readings, and memorials to those gone before us in the community.

The names of those loved ones lost will be read during the Remembrance; if you would like to submit the name(s) of a family member or loved one who has passed in the last 18 months, please email brianna@lopc.org with the name and pronunciation.





Quilters

By Louise Tanno

The LOPCided Quilters are a dedicated group who combine mission and passion. We love to make quilts, and even more we love giving them to children in our community who are in need. We provide approximately 200 quilts a year.

Our primary focus is to produce baby quilts for the Layette Project at Hillcrest Congregational Church in Pleasant Hill. They provide new mothers with a bag of clothing and other items including quilts. These are distributed by the County Public Health Nurses.

We also provide quilts to each child who is a guest at LOPC during Winter Nights Family Shelter. Children can choose the quilt they want from our collection.

The LOPCiders also enjoy sharing our quilts with each other before they are donated. We enjoy the fellowship and creativity that our group provides.

We welcome all quilters to our meetings on Monday afternoons. Please contact Louise Tanno at louisetanno@gmail.com for further information.



mission

love does *Christmas* OPPORTUNITIES

Monument CrisisCenter

Holiday Food Boxes

Help those who are food insecure this Christmas by filling a box with nutritious holiday food. Start by picking-up a flyer listing the items required and a box on the plaza before or after worship on Sundays or in the Ministry Center during the week from November 19 through December 10. You can also view the list online at lopc.org/lovedoes. All boxes should be returned on December 10 to the U-Haul truck parked in front of the Oak room.

Contact Robin Freeberg at robin@lopc.org with questions.

Shopping List:

Please note: No glass allowed.

- ☐ [1] cereal (12–16 oz. box)
- ☐ [3] pasta items (one pound each)
- ☐ [1] peanut butter (12–16 oz. plastic jar)
- ☐ [2] baking items (cake mix, corn bread mix, muffin mix, etc.)
- ☐ [2] mac and cheese (7–10 oz.)
- ☐ [2] beef ravioli or chili (14–16 oz. cans)
- ☐ [3] vegetables (14–16 oz. cans)
- ☐ [2] pounds of ground coffee
- ☐ [2] tuna (5 oz. cans)
- ☐ [2] soups (8–16 oz. cans)
- ☐ [2] applesauce (14–16 oz. plastic jars or cans)
- ☐ [1] instant mashed potatoes
- ☐ [1] stuffing mix
- ☐ [1] cranberry sauce (10–16 oz. can)
- ☐ [1] gravy mix packet
- ☐ [1] vegetable oil (12–16 oz.) plastic

Smile Upon LOPC's Mission Partners this Season

As you begin shopping this Christmas season, please consider supporting LOPC's mission partners. Several mission partners are now certified with AmazonSmile – a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. By choosing one of LOPC's mission partners as your designated Amazon Smile charity, you can help them while doing your Christmas shopping all at the same time! As an Amazon partner, the organization of your choice will receive 0.5 % of eligible purchases.

Participating partners: Children of Faith Missions • Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano • Fotokids Inc. • Hope Solutions • J.F. Kapnek Charitable Trust • Monument Crisis Center • STAND! for Families Free from Violence.

How does it work?

1. Go to Smile.Amazon.com and sign in with your Amazon account. **Note: if you do not have an account you will need to create one.**
2. Click "Get Started" and search for the charity you wish to donate to.
3. Click "Select" on the charity of your choice.
4. Please note that for the organization to receive a benefit from your purchases you must always start at Smile.Amazon.com for every purchase.
5. Start shopping and help the organization of your choice!



Giving Tree Opportunity

The mission of White Pony Express is to help eliminate hunger and poverty by delivering food to all those in need—with love. This Christmas they are also helping to fulfill holiday wishes. Look for the Giving Trees located in front of Seedlings during pick-up and drop-off beginning November 13. There will also be a tree located in the Ministry Center. Pull an ornament of your choice, purchase the item listed, and return the unwrapped gift to the collection barrels located in front of the CLC by December 8.

Questions? Contact Robin Freeberg at robin@lopc.org.

Learn more at whiteponyexpress.org.

finance

Financial Update

By Jim Nagle, Finance Elder

L OPC is thankful for a generous congregation! Consequently the church is in a solid financial position after the first nine months of 2023.

Contributions totaled \$2,681,527, ahead of the \$2,522,215 budget. Many components factored into that. While pledge giving was lower by \$63,348, we are optimistic for the full year. LOPC was blessed by a total of \$138,328, from a member's gift of thanks and praise and an estate bequest.

These gifts eliminated the need to draw \$93,210 from the session's reserve fund. Non-pledge and loose offerings, and other income, were \$31,142 ahead of plan. Mission and special gifts exceeded budget by \$105,743, contributing favorably to year-to-date congregational giving. We raised and deployed more than \$27,000 for Maui relief. Seedlings closed the 2022-2023 school year with an additional contribution to the church of \$23,541, resulting from higher summer tuition rates. LOPC had a \$11,985 reduction in user fees and memorials, offset by \$29,101 in investment income, which wasn't budgeted.

Most ministry teams operated at or below budget. Excluding spending for mission and special gifts, year-to-date expenses totaled \$2,431,256, which was \$64,602 below budget. Much of this improvement stems from reduced spending for personnel, children's ministry, and worship teams, offset by higher spending for utilities and repairs to the heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems.

Overall, we ended the nine months with contributions exceeding expenses, resulting in a surplus of \$65,497, instead of the expected \$52,714 shortfall. LOPC is truly blessed to have strong support from the congregation

Statement of Income & Expense

September 30, 2023

Congregational Giving	2023 YTD Actual	2023 YTD Budget	fav (unfav)
Pledge Income	\$ 1,539,652	\$ 1,603,000	\$ (63,348)
Non-pledge, Loose, & Other	213,808	182,666	(31,142)
Bequests & Gift of Praise	138,328	—	138,328
Faith Component	7,720	7,720	—
Congregational Giving w/o Special Gifts	1,899,508	1,793,386	106,122
Giving: Mission & Special Gifts & Offerings	184,814	79,071	105,743
Total Congregational Giving	2,084,322	1,872,457	211,865
Session Emerging Needs Fund	—	93,210	(93,210)
Seedlings	157,641	134,100	23,541
User Fees & Memorial & Investment Income	34,116	17,000	17,116
Foundation	405,448	405,448	—
Total Giving	2,681,527	2,522,215	159,312
Expense: Ministry Teams Spending	2,431,256	2,495,858	(64,602)
Mission & Special Gifts & Offerings Spending	184,814	79,071	105,743
Total Expense	2,616,070	2,574,929	41,141
Expense in Excess of Contributions	\$ 65,457	\$ (52,714)	\$ 118,171

and staff. All who have heeded requests to make timely pledge gifts are appreciated, helping the church align giving more closely with budget. Thank you!

December Finance Giving Deadline for Tax Purposes

If you plan to make a year-end gift, LOPC must receive your mailed donation (postmarked 12/30/2023) or in-person by 5:00 p.m. on December 31, 2022. There can be no exceptions.

If you are making a stock gift, please notify our accountant, Farah Mohammadzai, (x229) with the type of stock it is, and how the gift should be applied. It must be in LOPC's brokerage account by December 30, 2023.

Please do not file your 2023 tax return until you receive your year-end LOPC statements, with written acknowledgment of your gifts to LOPC, which will be mailed in January 2024. Thank you for your generous giving to LOPC!

Double Your Blessings

There are many ways to give of your time, talent, and treasure to LOPC. In the past few years, some of LOPC's seniors have found that federal income tax law changes provide an even more tax-efficient pathway for giving arising from Investment Retirement Accounts - IRAs.

Seniors may benefit more directly from federal tax law changes because qualified contribution deductions directly reduce adjusted gross income. This has allowed some seniors to increase their giving to LOPC because of new income tax benefits:

- Higher standard deductions available to all taxpayers increased concurrently with limitations on certain itemized deductions.
- New qualified contribution deductions are available to taxpayers who are required to take age-related distributions from their IRAs.

If you are a senior and interested in learning more, please confer with your tax advisor to learn if it is advantageous to fund your LOPC giving out of your required IRA distributions. Thank you for remembering LOPC in your end-of-year giving.

the **GENEROUS HEART**



2024 Pledge Campaign

**Your generous giving keeps this church
moving forward in so many ways.**

Please join us for
GIVING SUNDAY
on November 5.

More information can be found online at lopc.org/pledge.

Questions?

Contact Staci Johnston, LOPC Treasurer, at staci@lopc.org
or call the church office at 925-283-8722.

SEEDLINGS SPOTLIGHT: MISS KIM

By Kaylin Deutscher, Seedlings Board

Kim Brooks is one of the amazing teachers at Seedlings. Students and families know her as the kind, friendly, and fun teacher of the Petunias class. This month we interviewed her so you can get to know her as well.

Q: How long have you been at Seedlings? What was your background before joining?

Kim: This is my eighth year at Seedlings. My background is in interior design, working in design for 15 years. I took a pause to stay home with my girls (now 13 and 16) for five years. When it was time to go back, I just wasn't excited about returning to my design career. I had fallen in love with preschool, with both of my girls going to two different preschools in two different states. When my little one was ready to go on to elementary school, I wasn't ready to leave preschool, so I decided not to.

I went back to school myself and got my early childhood-education credits. I was thinking that I would start by substituting at first, but going to church at LOPC, I saw in the bulletin that Seedlings was looking for another preschool teacher. I went in and interviewed and got the job. I went from intending to sub and learn more about teaching, but ended up with a full-time job right out of the gate. Looking back, it was the perfect timing and the perfect place. I found a home at Seedlings, and it has been fantastic ever since.

Q: Tell us more about the Petunias class!

Kim: Most teachers at Seedlings have taught in a variety of classrooms, but

I've been with the Petunias the whole time! Petunias are two-to-three years olds, and I just love the age. They grow so much in the course of this year. A lot are new to preschool. We work on the most simple things, like the routine of the day, lining up together, opening our own lunch boxes, etc. We start out with basic skills, but by the end of the year they are so capable. They'll be cleaning up the room in two minutes, helping each other tie shoes, and getting their backpacks together. It makes it hard to let them go!

What I love about the Petunias is just how curious and inventive they are. They ask "why" all the time, and they are excited to learn new things and do things for themselves. Plus, at this age, children don't get embarrassed yet. They are free to be silly and dance and have the most fun!

Q: What are your typical days like at Seedlings?

Kim: On Mondays we collaborate with teaching teams. We've already established the curriculum for the month, but sometimes the kids express what they want to do, and we incorporate that. We try to be flexible.

For the Petunias, it's all about free play. We give them opportunities to get involved in whatever project they want to do, whether it's building, dramatic play, or art. We do a lot of free art, where we give them materials and let them create. Lots of paint ends up on their hands and faces, and that's okay too! They love being read to. At this age, books really calm and excite children at the same time. We have outside time as well. The Petunias

are learning in all of their play: how to share space, share materials, and share attention. We start to hear things like "excuse me" and "can I use that when you're done?" These are all good lessons.

Q: What do you like best about Seedlings? What makes it special?

Kim: The people! Our administrators, Coleen and Kathy, are fantastic - so supportive and encouraging. That trickles down to the staff, who are all so professional and creative. They each make you want to be a better teacher. And also the community that we serve. The parents are awesome, and we feel very appreciated and supported by them.

Q: Favorite Seedlings memory?

Kim: My family are backyard beekeepers. One day during insect week at Summer at Seedlings, my family came in and did a presentation on beekeeping. My husband came in his beekeeper suit, and my daughters came, and we did a skit. We worked on it as a family and memorized it and presented it to all of the students. The preschoolers were so enthralled listening to my girls, it was so fun to see. We turned all the kids into honeybees, putting tape on their pants and shorts to make pollen pockets and hid paper balls of pollen around the playground for them to collect and trade in for a spoonful of honey when they were done. It was such a special day because it was my two worlds coming together: my family and my school.



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

YOUTH

► **Questions? Email**
Keris Dahlkamp:
keris@lopc.org
or Junha Kim:
junha@lopc.org

Winter Nights Family Shelter with YOW & BTW

YOW *Youth on Wednesday*
 November 1

We will have a special party with and in honor of the children and youth from Winter Nights Family Shelter.

No YOW on November 22 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday

BTW *By the Way*
 Sunday, November 5

Join us for this special night of service and fellowship as we prepare dinner for the guests in Fellowship Hall. We will play with the children and connect with the parents throughout our time together. We will end the evening by sharing the meal together as a whole group.



CHILDREN

Kid's Rock

Select Wednesdays, 3:30–5:00 p.m.
 Winter Session begins January 10

Kids from Kindergarten – 4th grade are invited to join us on Wednesdays for Kids Rock – a time of friendship and fun as we explore the deeper meaning of Kindness, Justice, and Mercy through fellowship and service. There is still room available to participate.

For more information and registration, please visit lopc.org/kidsrock.

Children's Choir

Sundays, 11:10 – 11:50 a.m.

Singers elementary through age 12 meet in room 205 and practice foundations of choral singing with Jessica Whitlatch while learning holiday repertoire. These songs will be shared during the Christmas Eve family services. There is still time to join!

Visit lopc.org/registrations for information and to sign up.

Email Emily Austin: ◀
emily@lopc.org or
 Susan Wentworth:
susan@lopc.org.

September Session Highlights

By Terry Clark, Clerk of Session

Session gathered for its September meeting in the welcoming home of Elder Lee O'Haver, who not only served a wonderful dinner, but also fittingly opened our meeting with Spiritual Formation based upon a "Blessing" poem for a season of change as a new beginning.

Under the Consent Agenda, Session approved motions to revise the LOPC By-Laws for the election of Deacons to include no less than 20 and no more than 30 active members, including two youth active members; and to approve the slate of CNC nominees for elder, deacon and CNC terms starting January 1, 2024, to be presented to the Congregation for election on Sunday, September 24. Elder Jeff Patton, chair of the CNC, thanked the members of the CNC team for all their efforts in solidifying this great group of potential new officers.

The Clerk's report included plans for all future Session meetings to

be in person, and consensus was also reached that we would gather early at 6:45 pm with snacks and the opportunity for some "catch up" and "getting to know you better" time together. Installation/Ordination of nominees elected on September 24 will be held during worship on November 12; and the new elders will be invited to the November and December session meetings so they can meet and get to know members of session.

As explained by Pastor Peter Whitelock, the reconfiguration of Session will involve new elders for digital outreach to connect a broader audience with LOPC's programs and ministries, and for representation of the Racial Equity and Engagement Team on Session. Peter also announced that review of the Communications position has determined that the digital design/graphic work formally done by the departed Jon Corry will be outsourced and the print-related responsibilities

are being taken over by Lexi Morrissey.

Elder Jim Nagle, on behalf of the Finance Committee, provided a positive report on LOPC's financial position as we look forward to year-end giving and outlined the working dates for processing next year's budget prior to its submission to Session in December.

Trustee Andy Gill, in an update on Foundation deliberations, noted that their By-Laws provide for between 7 to 9 members, but with all but 2 having served on Session. They are working on a proposal to build some more flexibility into membership criteria while still requiring a majority of the Trustees to have Session experience, and they hope to present a final proposal to Session for approval in October.

Pastor Peter Whitelock closed the meeting in prayer.

LOPC FALL-Fest

THANK YOU

to everyone who helped make the Fall Fest on October 8 such a success! We had a beautiful day filled with great entertainment and lots of fun activities for families. Special thanks go to the LOPC Foundation for providing the delicious food!



thursday Fellowship

caring • sharing • loving



A program for Senior Care Ministries

Every Thursday
11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Ben Franklin advised, “Don’t put off until tomorrow something you could do today,” and yet, how often do we do just that? Recently, a new guest stated that for several years, she had been reading about Thursday Fellowship in *Focus* and *Connections*, and this fall, she and her husband joined for the first time. They so enjoyed the luncheon, entertainment, and fellowship that they wished they hadn’t “put off” investigating the program sooner! Now, they attend weekly and are active participants, making new friends and enjoying every part of what Thursday Fellowship has to offer.

In October, we offered a variety of programs and activities. We expressed ourselves creatively and participated in gentle chair exercises. We enjoyed a presentation on “A Bird’s Rainbow” by Golden Gate Audubon photographer, Bob Lewis, as well as two outstanding musical programs. We ended the month with “Cosmo the Magician” and invited the Seedlings children to join us for this special Halloween event – it was MAGICAL!

We are thrilled to be able to continue to offer our Thursday Fellowship program each week in November. Come and join the fun!

November’s Schedule:

- **November 2:** Mary McCosker, President of the Lafayette Historical Society and co-author of *Building the Caldecott Tunnel* will speak about the feat of building the tunnel under the Berkeley Hills.
- **November 9:** Joe and Gillian Roebuck’s musical backgrounds go back to childhood with Joe playing piano and Gillian singing. The talented duo have performed in musical theatre, and both currently sing in the choir at LOPC. We look forward to their program, “Music from the Movies.”
- **November 16:** Michael Kistner will sing and perform on his guitar.
- **November 23: Thanksgiving/ No Thursday Fellowship**

- **November 30:** Classical harpist and pianist, Lara Garner, and cellist, Lewis Patzner, will perform. Their musical performances are described as “sublime and enchanting.”

Our typical daily schedule is as follows:

- 11:00 a.m. “Meet and Greet” with snacks and beverages.
- 11:15 a.m. Creative arts and crafts, activity, or light exercise program.
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch: Bring a sandwich and we will provide salad, beverages, and dessert.
- 12:45 p.m. Entertainment.
- 1:30 p.m. Program ends.

We invite you to join us, and look forward to welcoming you!

Contact Julie Peterson at julie@lopc.org for more information.



community

Sanctuary Flower Sponsorships

2024 Calendar Opens November 15!

Each week, LOPC's talented and creative flower team design the large Sanctuary chancel arrangement to enhance the worship experience. Sponsoring the flowers for a Sunday worship service is a beautiful way to celebrate or honor your loved ones. For a \$150 suggested donation to our Flower Fund, your personal dedication will be published in the worship bulletin on the Sunday of your sponsorship, and the flower team will do their best to accommodate any special requests for the arrangement.

Sign up beginning November 15 at lopc.org/flowers to confirm your Sunday of choice for 2024.



Do you sew?

Volunteers are needed to create fabric dormitory bags for the 120 students who live at Children of Faith. The bags hang at the end of each student's bed and contain their toiletry items needed daily. A great project to do at home.

Contact Marilyn Richison if you are interested or for more information at mlcrich2@yahoo.com.

Book Groups

Please note date changes due to end-of-month holidays in November and December.

Fourth Monday Book Group

October 23 at 2:00 p.m. on Zoom

The group will discuss *The Great Escape* by Richard Saket Soni. The astonishing story of immigrants lured post-Katrina to the United States from India and trapped in forced labor—told by the visionary labor leader who engineered their escape and set them on a path to citizenship.

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

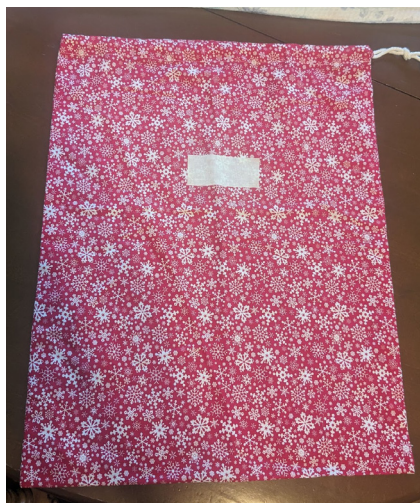
Fourth Friday Book Group

December 1, 4:00 p.m. on Zoom

The group will be discussing *Rules for Commuters* by Claire Poole.

All are welcome!

If you are interested in being added to the group, please contact Catherine Coleman at awaitingword@gmail.com.



Young Families Connect

First Sunday of the month 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.

Email Michelle Browning at michelle@lopc.org for additional information.



spotlight

Thursday Work Crew

Preserving LOPC by focusing on projects big and small.

You only have to set foot on campus to be blown away by the majestic beauty of the grounds and buildings of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. The towering sanctuary with its stained-glass windows, the lively Christian Learning Center, and the peaceful Kurth Memorial Garden with its seasonal flora and soothing fountain all blend to make the church a living testament to faith, community, and history. Maintaining an array of buildings and grounds requires dedicated effort, and a group of passionate volunteers have risen to the occasion: the Thursday Work Crew. Their call to action is rooted in a deep love for their church and the desire to ensure its prosperity. They meet each Thursday with lists of tasks in hand and set about their business improving the campus.

The volunteers who make up the Thursday Work Crew come from varied backgrounds, but they share a common passion for sustaining LOPC. Some are skilled craftsmen with experience in carpentry, painting, electricity, or plumbing, while others are simply enthusiastic individuals with a willingness to learn and help. The crew currently consists of seven core members under the leadership of longtime church member, Rich Lewis. With Susie Able, Don Couch, Kathy Bradshaw, Bruce Kronmiller, Terry Gleason, and Jeff Spires on the case, a multitude of tasks is achieved in quick time.

The projects undertaken by this dedicated group are as diverse as the skills they bring to the table. From keeping rain gutters free of debris to refurbishing gates and fences and even building new lids to accommodate the organic waste



requirement for the bins on the plaza, their work spans a wide range of tasks. Fixing leaky faucets and repairing exterior lamps in the parking lot are tackled while simultaneously trees are trimmed and old remnants are demolished.

One of the most significant projects taken on by the Thursday Work Crew was the creation of the Howard Robbins Room. While many church-

goers may never visit this space, the room, which sits on the back left side of the sanctuary, provides much needed storage for less-often used items for the chancel and narthex of the sanctuary such as pedestals, ladders, and flower-arranging supplies. It is used each week by the facilities crew and improves the flow of supplies, making changeovers smooth and seamless.

foundation

Seeing

By Dara Youngdale, Foundation Trustee

I have been contemplating Pastor Lauren's recent poetic message about **Seeing**: seeing God, seeing the Kingdom of God here and now, and seeing the Good. I wonder if the Foundation's original trustees saw what she described: glimpses of God in others' actions, the Kingdom of God peeking through at LOPC, and kindness and generosity being played out so many ways by members of this community.

I think it is likely, because, as current trustees of the Foundation, 30 years later, we are **Seeing** the same. A community of seekers, believers, and doers, we see so many of you engaged in the work of God in expansive ways. Whether through participation in music and worship, being active in children, youth, and senior programs, teaming with our mission partners, being on the facilities team to replace a roof, or joining in with five generations on the plaza for fun and tacos, we see you, and in doing so, know that we are blessed by seeing God.

The Foundation and its many donors have also seen the need. Due to past contributions, the Foundation supports much of the goodness that is happening at LOPC, from senior programs to dedicated staff, mission and music, and keeping our facilities warm and dry. We strive to be a permanent, reliable source of significant funding for LOPC's ongoing and new ministries, expansion of mission outreach, and maintenance of 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.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Foundation and legacy giving, please feel free to reach out to any of the Foundation trustees: Jim Beckemeyer, Lois Boyd, Jen Crocker, Andy Gill, Linda Fodrini-Johnson, Staci Johnston, Linda Rosenthal, Mike Ross, Dara Youngdale.

hold in PRAYER

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

Howard Nelson, who passed on September 19. A service for Howard and Dorothy Ann will be held November 11 at 1:00 p.m.

Alexander Low, who passed September 25. A memorial will be held on November 1 at 11:30 a.m.

care



DEACON SUPPORT

The Deacon Ministry consists of LOPC members that have been elected by the Congregation to serve as beacons of care. Deacons offer support in the following ways:

HOME VISITS

Deacons arrange and participate in visits to members who are homebound, hospitalized, or in various types of care facilities.

HOME COMMUNION

Upon request, home communion kits are available to members not able to attend worship services in person.

MEAL DELIVERY

Deacons order and deliver food to persons recuperating from illness, those recently discharged from the hospital, new moms, grieving families, or anyone who might need a meal in a time of crisis.

To request any of these services, please leave a message on the Deacon Line at (925) 283-8722, ext. 274. Messages are responded to in a timely manner daily. A great project to do at home.

Giving at LOPC

One of the most practical ways you can help during times like these is through your financial support.



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

LOPC Responds to Needs of New Refugees

Extended Family Program (EFP), a joint partnership between Walnut Creek United Methodist Church and Lafayette Christian Church, has extended its thanks to LOPC for helping turn empty apartments into homes for refugees, as well as previously homeless families from Shelter, Inc. and Winter Nights Family Shelter, two of LOPC's mission partners.

Since August, numerous LOPC members have been generous in their donations of tables and chairs, small -to-medium-sized dressers, and sofas for small apartments. These items are generally accepted immediately because of the need to furnish apartments quickly.

However, acceptance of furniture also depends on current inventory since storage space for furniture is so limited. It can depend on an item's size as the apartments being furnished are small and can't usually accommodate large pieces. If you have furniture to donate, please send photos and dimensions to Randi Long at hrlong13@sbcglobal.net. If it's approved, EFP will arrange for pick up.

Besides furniture, EFP also thanks LOPC members who have given smaller household items that turn these apartments into homes, such as: towels, bedding, lamps, kitchenware, clock radios, ironing boards, hair dryers, children's books and toys, new stuffed animals, and similar items.

Donations can be dropped off Tuesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church at 1543 Sunnyvale Ave. (near the Treat Blvd. exit). Please park in the lower parking lot, descend the stairs, enter a large room, and proceed to its rear left corner to the donation storeroom. Donated items must be in very good condition with no damage. Please note EFP **can't** accept clothing, mattresses, bed frames, cribs, tall bar stools, motor-operated recliners, or glass-top tables.

Thank you to all that have donated!



SAVE THE DATES

A Storybook Christmas

A COZY CONCERT WITH THE
LOPC CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA.

HOT COCOA RECEPTION FOLLOWING.

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 9
1:00 - 2:00 P.M.

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 9
4:00 - 5:00 P.M.

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 10
4:00 - 5:00 P.M.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 1 AT LOPC.ORG



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



info@lopc.org
925-283-8722

IMPORTANT

Dated Material
PLEASE DELIVER
BEFORE 11/1/23

Thank you!

Return Service Requested

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



Kurth Memorial Garden

Please note, there will be a price increase for niches and plaque wall space in Kurth Memorial Garden effective January 1, 2024. If you are interested in making future plans at today's prices, one of the four volunteers on the Kurth Memorial Garden Board would be glad to meet with you and show you where space is available.

For additional information, please visit lopc.org/kurth or email KMG chair, Lynn Trowbridge at lynntr@comcast.net.