

Connections



December 29, 2024

christmas special offering



This Christmas Special Offering we are highlighting two partners that focus on Children's education — one in India and the other in Guatemala. Each of these longtime LOPC partners truly change the trajectory of children's futures. Through education, children with Fotokids and Children of Faith can secure better futures for themselves and begin to break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their families.

Fotokids

Fotokids was created as a means of using photography, graphic design, and media technology as tools for self-expression and ultimately a way to rise up out of poverty. Fotokids works with families to offer creative and vocational training that gives kids the skills and hope they need to overcome obstacles and aim for a brighter future.



Children of Faith

Children of Faith Missions (COF) provides a secure home and valuable education to 120 vulnerable school-age children in Visakhapatnam, India. Shelter, nutrition, healthcare, and education are the primary services of COF, all of which are offered in a loving Christian environment.



LOPC's goal this Christmas season is to raise \$20,000 to support these two organizations. Thank you so much in advance for your generosity!

To read more about these organizations, visit lopc.org/specialoffering. To give today, please use the envelopes in the pews and write "Christmas Offering." Donations will be accepted through January 6.

First Friday Forum

January 3 at 1:30 p.m.
in the Sanctuary and online

Join us for the start of the First Friday Form speaker series, which provides lectures of importance and interest to help inform the entire community about this ever-changing world. In January, Jon Haveman, economist, consultant, author, and media commentator, will present on "The Economics of Migration." Haveman will shed light on several aspects of immigration that tend to overwhelm the narrative such as crime, government support programs, and jobs and will raise other issues that ought to be contemplated when developing appropriate immigration policy.

For the full 2025 speaker lineup and to watch online, visit lopc.org/first-friday-forum.



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!

LOPC's Year End Giving Opportunity (Faith Component)

Every year we budget for something called the Faith Component to draw in support from people who like to give at the end of the year to help us balance this year's budget. Our goal is \$175,000. If you find that you are in a position to give to this need, thank you in advance! The light that we share with the world continues to shine, but with generous giving we can keep it bright!

Faith Component letters have been mailed. Please use the return envelope to send in your check with "Faith" in the memo line. Envelopes are also available in the sanctuary pews and in the Ministry Center, or you can give online at lopc.org/giving. Choose "Faith Component" in the dropdown menu. Donations must be received by December 31, 2024. Thank you for your support!

Pastors

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

children & youth

Youth Ministry

Youth Alive, our Sunday morning youth Bible study for 5th – 8th graders, at 10:00 a.m. in CLC Room 201.

By The Way (BTW) For high school youth. Sundays from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Program resumes January 12.

Youth on Wednesdays (YOW)

For 5th – 8th graders.
Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Optional dinner at 5:00 p.m.
Program resumes January 15.

Questions? Contact Cynthia Purvis at cynthia@lopc.org. To sign up for the youth newsletter, contact Cathy Scheve and cathy@lopc.org.

Children's Ministry

The Garden

Sundays during Worship

- Children 6 months–toddlers in CLC Nursery* & Toddler Rooms
- Pre-K–1st in CLC Room 204
- 2nd–4th in CLC Room 205

Kid-friendly time for growing friendship with Jesus and with one another.

* limited space

Please note, on December 29, the Garden, Toddler and Nursery rooms will be closed. Please come worship with us as a family in the Sanctuary. Coloring sheets and crayons can be found with the ushers upon request.

Sunday Morning Infant Care

If your child is younger than one year old, please contact Susan Wentworth at susan@lopc.org prior to attending on a Sunday to make special arrangements.

LOPC Vacation Bible Camp

June 9 – 13, 2025

Vacation Bible Camp will open its registration on January 15! This year our theme is True North: trusting Jesus in a wild world, and we will be “heading to Alaska” for games, learning, and fellowship with new friends. Come heed the call of the wild and sign up now!

Cost: \$150 (scholarships available)

Ages: PreK (4+ by September 1) through completed 4th grade

Dates: June 9 – 13, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

care

Dementia Caregivers Support Group

January 8 and 22 at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom

Join this one-hour support group for those caring for someone with dementia. The group normally meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month. January dates were adjusted due to the holiday.

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

Spiritual Direction and Stephen Ministry

January 19 at 11:11 in the Oak Room

Have you ever wondered if meeting with a Spiritual Director or a Stephen Minister might be helpful to you? Pastor Jane MacKenzie will facilitate a discussion with a panel of representatives from these ministries about how you might benefit from their gifts. Both groups have completed specialized training programs. One provides assistance in exploring how God is at work in your life and the other is Christ-centered crisis care.

All are welcome. Contact Pastor Jane MacKenzie at jane@lopc.org to connect with a Stephen Minister.

worship

Sponsor the Sanctuary Flowers in 2025

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 the 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 now at lopc.org/flowers.

mission

Hearing from Global Faith Leaders

January 12 at 11:15 a.m. in the Chapel

Berkeley Presbyterian Mission Homes is an international community for religious leaders who are working on their degrees. Come and hear a few of their residents and their areas of study and what they plan to take back to their countries of origin.

All are welcome.

REET Racial Equity and Engagement Team

Update on Antiracism Work from the Presbytery of San Francisco

In 2022, the Presbytery of San Francisco established a commission to conduct an internal Race Equity Audit. The goal of this work is to identify how systemic racism is embedded in presbytery structures and culture. They are inviting folks to read their draft report and then attend a Conversation Circle to share your reactions. They want to bring the voices, experiences, and thoughts of people within our presbytery into their Final Report. There are two upcoming Conversation Circles scheduled:

- Tuesday, 1/7/25, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. via Zoom, hosted by Rochelle Shaw, and co-facilitated by Rev Kamal Hassan and Noah Kruis (Crossroads)
- Saturday, 1/11/25, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in-person at Presbyterian Church in Chinatown, San Francisco. This session is part of the West Region Antiracist Group's meeting.

To register, use the link for "Conversation Circle Registration" at presbyteryofsf.org/antiracism-training. After you register, you will receive a link to access the Draft Report and a Zoom link for the on-line meetings. The final report will be presented at the February 11, 2025, presbytery meeting.

community

Book Groups

Fourth Friday Book Group

January 24, 4:00 p.m. on Zoom

The group will discuss *Little Bee* by Chris Cleave.

Fourth Monday Book Group

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

Join in to discuss *An Unfinished Love Story* by Doris Kearns Goodwin.

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

Thursday Fellowship

A Senior Ministry Program

Thursday Fellowship is **on holiday break until January 9**. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you in January!

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



We are excited to connect with you!

Get in touch here and let us know how you might like to get involved!

finance

December Giving Tax Deadline

If you plan to make a year-end gift, LOPC must receive your mailed donation postmarked 12/31/2024 or in-person by 5:00 p.m. on 12/31/2024. There can be no exceptions.

If you are making a stock gift, please notify our accountant, Farah Mohammadzai at farah@lopc.org with the type of stock and how the gift should be applied. The stock must be received in LOPC's brokerage account by 12/31/2024.

Please do not file your 2024 tax return until you receive your year-end LOPC statements, with written acknowledgment of your gifts to LOPC, which will be made in January 2025. Thank you for your generous giving to LOPC!



2025 Pledge Campaign

LOPC is blessed to have a congregation filled with so many people giving generously of their time, talents, and treasure. Your gifts make our ministry thrive and we really do make a difference in this world. Please join us as we begin our annual pledge season. We ask that you take this time now to prayerfully consider your gifts for the coming year.

Visit lopc.org/pledge to learn more about how to pledge and why. For questions, please contact LOPC treasurer, Suzanne Ferraro at suzanne@lopc.org.



GRADES K-4

PLAY!

on Wednesdays

Epic Bible stories transformed by YOU!

Learn
Improvisation, puppetry & puppet making, prop & costume design, stop motion animation, soundscape, & more!

WINTER session!
January 15 - March 19
Wednesdays
3:15 - 5:00 p.m.
Fee: \$175 per child
Scholarships available

Register Now!

For more information, call 925-283-8722 x260 or visit lopc.org/playon.



Ministry Showcase

January 12, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the Oak Room

Join us for the Ministry Showcase to learn about the different ministries in our church and discover how you can get involved! Each ministry will give a brief 2–4 minute pitch about their work, current goals, and opportunities to serve.

Come explore how you can find your place in our community! RSVPs are encouraged but not required to attend at lopc.org/registrations.

Register Now!

There is still time to register for the Winter/Spring sessions of **PLAY on Wednesday**. Come join the fun next session as we invent, create, perform, and explore Bible stories together. Our first session will be **Wednesday January 15**. Children Kindergarten through 4th grade are welcome.

Visit lopc.org/playon for details on dates and curriculum.

Giving at LOPC

One of the most practical ways you can help is through your financial support so LOPC can share God's love through our ministries.



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



LOPC

MOVIE NIGHT!

It's showtime!

FRIDAY JANUARY 24

FELLOWSHIP HALL 6:30 PM

FREE event

ALL ARE welcome

JOIN US FOR A FAMILY FRIENDLY MOVIE: DESPICABLE me 4

REGISTER AT WWW.LOPC.ORG/REGISTRATIONS

Hold in Prayer

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

Trudy Ausfahl

who passed on July 4.
A service will be held on January 4 at 1:00 p.m.

Ben Hemphill,

who passed on November 6.
A service will be held on January 18 at 1:00 p.m.



lopc.org



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