


Connections



February 9, 2025



This February, the Racial Equity and Engagement Team is working with worship in celebrating Black History Month. Throughout the month we will have music, prayers, and readings from African American contributors. Stay tuned in worship and Connections for other ways that we are celebrating Black History Month as a congregation!

Featured Artwork

This week, as part of our ongoing celebration of Black History month, we are featuring artwork in the sanctuary narthex by LOPC member, Julie Atkinson. Please take a moment to admire her work as you leave worship this morning.

Artist Statement: Julie's work centers the emotional experience of Black women by creating images in oil paint that explore the nuances of finding self-esteem, healing and peace. Her paintings often feature textured hair, embracing it as a source of pride, and affirming the beauty in its volume and shape. She plays with levels of abstraction in both the body and the background to create dream-like images. She is interested in how Black women can shut out the gaze of others and find a sense of peace and rest within themselves.

2026 Southern Justice Trip to Alabama

If you want to learn more about the Southern Justice trip to Alabama in early 2026, please contact Linda Rosenthal, Racial Equity & Engagement Team, at heyindarosenthal@gmail.com for future meetings.

love does

love protects, love hopes, love never fails

Register Now!

February 23 is *love does* day!

love does is LOPC's annual opportunity to serve alongside each other in work that is meaningful to the greater community. Activities for all ages will be available both on-campus and at our local mission partners. Space is limited so we encourage you to sign up soon!

Highlighted Opportunities of the Week:

MCC Diaper Sort – Join others or get a group of friends together to package diapers in Fellowship Hall to be distributed to MCC clients.

Loaves and Fishes – Join others at their Martinez location to deep clean their kitchen, which serves a warm meal every day of the week.

For more information and registration, visit lopc.org/lovedoes.

Coming Soon!

NEW! We're growing our worship, and you are invited to join us for an uplifting service in the Chapel on **Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. starting March 9**. This service will energize your soul and set the tone for the days ahead, and we will gather around table for Communion each week. Chapel services will be a blended worship style like our sanctuary services, and the sermon will be the same at both the 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Services.

Childcare will not be available at 8:30 a.m.



CHAPEL WORSHIP

Renew Refresh
Revive

**8:30 A.M.
BEGINNING MARCH 9**

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 – 8:00 p.m. Optional pizza dinner at 5:45 p.m. in the Davies Room is \$5. This week is super-sized game night!

Youth on Wednesdays (YOW)

For middle school youth. Wednesdays from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Optional pizza dinner at 5:30 p.m. is \$5.

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

Youth Confirmation Class

March 1 and 8, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Come explore what Christians believe and how Christians relate to others in the world while asking questions in a judgment free zone. This class is designed to strengthen and encourage you, no matter where you are in your faith journey. At the end of our two half-day retreats, youth will choose whether they feel ready to be confirmed at this time.

Visit lopc.org/youth for information and to register.

LOPC Vacation Bible Camp

Registration has begun!

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.

Cost: \$150 (scholarships available)

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

Dates: June 9 – 13, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Come heed the call of the wild and sign up at lopc.org/vbcamp. Questions? Contact Emily Austin at emily@lopc.org.

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.

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

LOPC Children's Choir

LOPC's Children's Choir will resume rehearsals on Sunday, March 2. Practice is from 11:10 – 11:50 a.m. in CLC room 205. New and returning singers are welcome (pre-K – 8th grade).

For information, contact Susan Wentworth at susan@lopc.org. The choir will be participating in worship services during the season of Lent.

staff announcements

LOPC has been incredibly blessed that LOPC member, **Staci Johnston**, served as church treasurer the past four and a half years. Staci retired late January and our new treasurer, **Suzanne Ferraro**, who started last October, has fully stepped into this role.

If you'd like to reach Suzanne she can be reached suzanne@lopc.org or ext 241.

Job Opening

Administrative Assistant for Pastor Chris Baldwin (Community/Spiritual Formation)

Go to lopc.org/jobs to view job post. For questions or to submit your resume for consideration, email elizabeth@lopc.org.

New Member Class

March 2, 11:10 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Join Pastor Peter Whitelock and Pastor Chris Baldwin to learn more about LOPC, the vision of the church, get plugged in with the Next Steps program, and meet other new folks like yourself! If you've been attending for a while and want to learn more about the church or are interested in becoming a member, this is your class!

Register at lopc.org/registrations. Questions? Contact Chris Baldwin at chris@lopc.org.

care

Workshop for those with new Diagnosis of MCI

Beginning February 18 from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

This is a three-week class for those with a new diagnosis of Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) or Early Dementia with Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MFT, CMC. The class is open to the individual with the diagnosis and their primary care partner. Each class will consist of time for questions and support with the goal to reduce anxiety and replace it with the peace that knowledge can bring. Participants will have a short interview with our presenter to see if the class is appropriate for them at this time. Committing to all three classes is highly recommended. Space is limited.

To register, contact Cathy Scheve at cathy@lopc.org.

End-of-Life Doulas — Their and Our Caregiving

March 16 at 11:30 a.m. in the Oak Room

The Rev. Dr. Kim Risedorph, former pastor of San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church, will be the featured speaker for a presentation on end-of-life doulas – how they complement other forms of care, exploring our own early teachings/beliefs around death, and how best to speak and interact with those who are dying. LOPC's Stephen Ministry will host a light lunch. All are welcome.

Register at lopc.org/registrations. Questions? Contact Cathy Scheve at 925-283-8722, ext. 240.



Memory Matters: When to Worry and What to Do

TODAY at 11:11 a.m.

Learn about memory loss and how to recognize when it may be a cause for concern. Discover what you can do to retain memory and how, even with a diagnosis of MCI, you can make behavioral changes that could change the trajectory of a progressive issue. We will discuss diagnosis, treatment, and support systems. Presented by Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, who has 40 years' experience working with families when someone is challenged by memory.

All are welcome.

community

First Friday Forum:

Robert Todd Explains Artificial Intelligence and Its Implications

March 7 at 1:30 p.m. In the Sanctuary and online

Is Artificial Intelligence hype or will it have a profound impact on our culture? Robert Todd, innovator, tech executive, and lecturer, will answer this and more in his talk "The Dawn of the Artificial Intelligence Age".

All are welcome.

For more information, visit lopc.org/first-friday-forum.

Moms Bible Study

Beginning February 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Are you a mom looking to grow in your faith while connecting with other supportive women? Pastor Jaime will be guiding us through an insightful study of the book of Galatians. This is a wonderful opportunity to dive deeper into God's word, share experiences, and build meaningful relationships in a welcoming and encouraging environment.

The group will meet every other Thursday in the Ministry Center Library. To join, contact Cathy Scheve at cathy@lopc.org

Thursday Fellowship

A Senior Ministry Program

February 13, 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Join our Valentine's Day celebration with a performance by vocalist Cris Hussey.

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!

mission

Special Relief Offering: LOPC Responds to LA Fires

Multiple wildfires have caused widespread damage across Los Angeles, displacing nearly 180,000 people and decimating communities. In response, LOPC is partnering with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), which focuses on long-term recovery and coordinates with organizations like the Red Cross, FEMA, and others. For more information about LOPC's efforts and PDA, visit lopc.org/relief.

To donate, go to lopc.org/giving and choose "LA Fires" from the dropdown menu. To give today, use the envelopes in the pews and write "Fires" on the outside. There is a matching gift opportunity up to \$5,000.

Adult Service Trip to Los Angeles

We're in the early stages of planning an adult service trip to Los Angeles later this year to support communities impacted by the recent devastating fires.

If you're interested and would like to receive updates as plans develop, please email Michelle Browning at michelle@lopc.org to be added to the list.

Seedlings Diaper Drive for Monument Crisis Center

Many families who are struggling financially are overwhelmed by the expense of diapers and sometimes have to make the choice between buying food or buying diapers. Diapers of all sizes are needed. Full and partial packages of diapers are gladly accepted.

Donations will be accepted February 1 – 22. Look for the box in the CLC lobby labeled "Seedlings Diaper Drive for MCC" or drop off in the Ministry Center.

giving

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.

2025 Pledge Campaign

Your gifts make our ministry thrive, and we really do make a difference in this world. We ask that you take this time 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.

Finances

To read the most recent finance report, visit lopc.org/finance-december24/ or call the Ministry Center offices for a copy.

Hold in Prayer

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

Larry Rose, who passed November 1. A service will be held on March 1 at 1:00 p.m.

Ben Hemphill, who passed on November 6. A service will be held on March 29 at 1:00 p.m.

Karen Broderick, daughter of Verna Broderick, who passed on December 18.

Rudy Reich, who passed on January 30. A service will be held on March 8 at 1:00 p.m.

Youth Homes Clothing Drive

Youth Homes supports foster youth by repurposing clothing, home goods, and jewelry. All donations must be stain-free, laundered, and in good condition.

Visit lopc.org/lovedoes for their list of needs. Donations will be accepted through *love does day* on February 23 and can be made at the Youth Homes trailer in the parking lot or in the Ministry Center offices.



2025 Pledge Campaign



So far, our community has pledged **\$1,999,900*** for 2025. Our goal is **\$2,500,000.**

*as of 2/3/24



lopc.org



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