

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

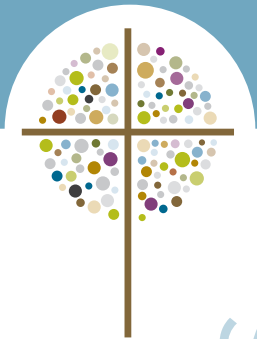
MARCH/APRIL 2025

FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

LOPC.ORG



Bimonthly FOCUS

By Peter Whitelock – Head of Staff

“Bimonthly” is one of those interesting words that can mean two very different things. It can denote something that happens twice per month or something that occurs once every two months. With this edition of *FOCUS* we’re moving to a bimonthly publication schedule, meaning every other month, which is a big step for us!



We know that Focus is beloved by our congregation with its wonderful articles and updates on what’s happening at LOPC. It has been a key part of our communication strategy for many years. I’m amazed at the current work being done by Lexi Morrissey, *FOCUS* editor, and so grateful for all of you who work diligently to get articles in on time and well edited!

Why are we taking this step? Over the past several years, we’ve found that more and more people are favoring digital communication, such as our weekly e-mail blasts, social media postings, and LOPC YouTube videos. We know that many still prefer to receive printed material, but many have opted out of it. By moving *FOCUS* production to every other month, we believe we can “get the word out” just as effectively, and it will reduce our impact on the environment, too! Oh, and there are significant cost savings which we will be able to redirect to help people and serve our community.

So, keep your eye out for *FOCUS*, as always, but just every other month! And if you haven’t signed up for our weekly e-mail blast, please do so at lopc.org/newsletter-signup.

Grace and peace,

Peter Whitelock

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Pastoral Staff

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Lauren Gully - Pastor, Mission & Outreach
Jaime Polson - Pastor, Care & Executive Leadership
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Jane Doty MacKenzie - Pastor

Ministry Directors

Emily Austin - Children’s Ministry
Bryan Dunnewald - Music
Coleen Moulton - Seedlings Preschool
Cynthia Purvis - Youth
Susan Wentworth - Children’s Ministry

Finance

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Focus Newsletter

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Lexi Morrissey - Editor

Submissions & Deadlines

Please send requests for submissions to:
communications@lopc.org
no later than April 1 for the May/June 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





The Season of Lent

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW A SECRET?

THE MYSTERIOUS PARABLES OF JESUS FROM LUKE'S GOSPEL

Lenten Sermon Series

In Luke 8:9-10, we read that after Jesus offered the parable about the Sower, "Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that 'looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand.'" But what sense does it make for Jesus to teach using parables for the purpose of concealing his message about the Kingdom of God? Perhaps Jesus was simply pointing out an obvious truth that some people heard his marvelous parables and received them, while others heard them and either couldn't or wouldn't let the deeper truth (mystery) penetrate. In this series we look at a few of the great parables of Jesus from Luke's gospel and ask two questions:

How can someone hear this parable in a way that allows them to miss what Jesus is trying to reveal about the Kingdom of God? How can another person understand this parable so that it reveals what Jesus is trying to teach about the Kingdom of God?

Ash Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. service

March 5: The Friend at Midnight

March 9: The Two Lost Sons

March 16: The Good Samaritan

March 23: The Rich Fool

March 30: The Great Banquet

April 6: The Fox, Funeral, Farewell and Furrow

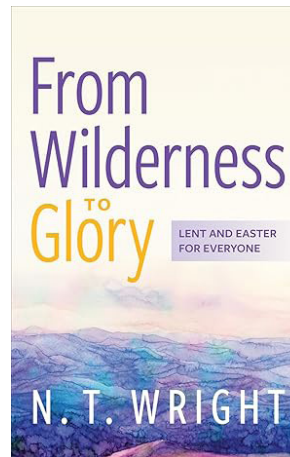
Holy Week & EASTER

Palm Sunday, April 13
Worship Service at 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 17
Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 18
Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 20
Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m.
Worship Services at 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.



Lenten Book Study & Discussion Groups

From Wilderness to Glory: Lent and Easter for Everyone
by N.T. Wright

March 6 – April 20

The church has always known that the best way for us to be shaped into the people God wants us to be—the people

whose difference from the world around is vital to our witness—is to think and pray slowly and carefully through the stories of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. In *From Wilderness to Glory*, best-selling and beloved author N. T. Wright encourages readers to do just that throughout the seasons of Lent and Easter. Join us for a season of study and reflection by reading these daily devotions in a small group or on your own.

2025 Lenten Study Groups

1. **Jeff Eyet:** Open to All
Sundays, 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., limit: 8 – 12 people
2. **Cliff Smith:** Open to All
Sundays, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., limit: 8 – 12 people
3. **Chris Baldwin & Jonathan Nolen:** Men's Group
Mondays, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., No limit
4. **Heather Logan:** Open to All
Mondays, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., limit: 8 – 12 people
5. **Jane MacKenzie:** Open to All
Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., limit: 10 people
6. **Sharon Bartlett:** Women's Group on Zoom
Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., limit: 8 – 12 women
7. **Sue Nagle:** Women's Group
Thursdays, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m., limit: 5 new women to an existing group.

Contact Pastor Chris Baldwin for more information
at chris@lopc.org. Register at lopc.org/registrations.

community

Young Families Connect

March 2 and April 6, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Directly following worship, families with children (infant – 4th grade) are invited to the back playground on the first Sunday of the month for breakfast bites/coffee and kids can play on the playground. Come hang out and get to know other families like yourself and have some fun!

Contact Meehae Kwon for more information at meehae.ing@gmail.com.

New Member Class

March 2, 11:10 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

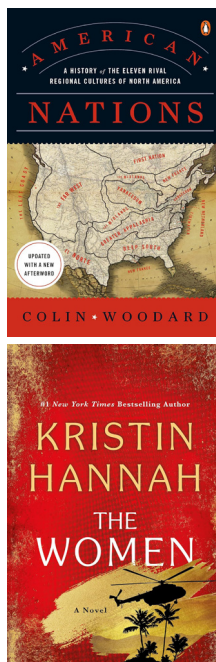
Join Pastor Peter Whitelock and Pastor Chris Baldwin to learn more about LOPC, the vision of the church, get plugged in with the Next Steps program, and meet other new folks like yourself! If you've been attending for a while and want to learn more about the church or are interested in becoming a member,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

Contact Chris Baldwin for more information at chris@lopc.org. Register at lopc.org/registrations.



We are excited to connect with you!

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



Book Groups

Join one of LOPC's book groups! Looking ahead, here are the upcoming selections for each group:

Fourth Friday Book Group

March 28 – *American Nations* by Colin Woodard

April 25 – *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett

This group meets on Zoom at 4:00 p.m.

To join the Friday book club, please contact Catherine Coleman at awaitingword@gmail.com.

Fourth Monday Book Group

March 24 – *The Women* by Kristin Hannah

April 28 – *Crossing to Safety* by Wallace Stegner

This group meets on Zoom at 2:00 p.m.

To join the Monday book club, please contact Leslie Finertie at leslie-finertie@comcast.net.

Men's Friday Fellowship

March 21 and April 18, 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. in the Oak Room

Calling all guys! Join us on the 3rd Friday of the month through the program year (Aug-May), for Men's Friday Fellowship, where featured speakers will share about their faith and how it impacts their career, relationships, failures/successes, and more. It's an opportunity to grow in community with other guys.

For more information, contact Jeff Eyet at jeff.eyet@gmail.com. Register at lopc.org/registrations.



LOPCided Quilters

The LOPCided quilters are a dedicated group who combine mission with passion. They provide nearly 200 quilts per year to new mothers at Hillcrest Congregational Church in Pleasant Hill and to young guests of Winter Nights Shelter.

All quilters are welcome to join their Monday afternoon meetings at LOPC, where they enjoy fellowship and creativity with one another.

For more information, please contact Louise Tanno at louisetanno@gmail.com.

easter special offering

Addressing At-Risk Youth

Every Easter, LOPC has a tradition of raising funds for one or more mission partners. This year's Easter Special Offering is focused on supporting at-risk youth both locally and internationally.



Supporting Monument Crisis Center's Youth Programs

For over two decades, Monument Crisis Center (MCC) has been a lifeline for local children and families, providing essential services and resources to those most in need. MCC's Youth Programs offer a wide range of services aimed at supporting academic achievement, personal development, and emotional well-being for at-risk youth in our community.

Here's what your gift can do:

- \$25 covers a week's worth of milk for a family of 6; or a gas card to help parents transport students to MCC Summer Camp.
- \$50 provides healthy snacks for the After School Café for one week.
- \$75 buys a week's worth of food for a family of 4 (MCC helps feed an average of 320 families three days a week).
- \$150 helps purchase workbooks and supplies for adult English Language Learners.



Supporting Vulnerable Children in the Congo

In 2021, the Congo Presbyterian Church (CPC) shifted its ministry to focus on "vulnerable children" — those who have lost contact with their families and ended up on the streets. The church switched to a comprehensive congregation-based approach, placing vulnerable children in Presbyterian

foster homes where they attend school, while at the same time, congregational child protection committees work to reunite children with their families and promote their rights.

We need \$12,000 – \$20,000 to fund the remaining synod's transportation, training materials, food, and trainer fees. Here's an idea of what your gift can do!

Contribution amounts towards one synod-wide training include:

- \$5 for printed materials for one participant.
- \$20 for transportation or meals for one participant.
- \$55 for training one foster family.
- \$220 to train a 4-member child protection committee.
- \$500 for trainer fees for child protection volunteers or host families.
- \$1,000 for transportation of the training team.

How to Give:

Our goal for this Easter Special Offering is to raise \$20,000 for both organizations. To contribute, simply write "Easter Offering" on your envelope or check memo line. To give online or learn more, visit lopc.org/specialoffering. Thank you for your generosity!



mission

love does

love protects, love hopes, love never fails

Thank You for a Successful *love does* Congregational Day of Service!

We want to take a moment to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in this year's *love does*! It was great to see so many people of all ages coming together to serve, both on-campus and off-site. Your energy and hard work made the day a success, and it's clear that, together, we were able to make a real difference in the lives of those we served. Here's a recap of some of the impactful work done during this year's event:

On-Campus Projects:

- Thousands of diapers were sorted and bagged for distribution to low-income mothers in need.
- 60 shopping carts were assembled for Monument Crisis Center, providing much-needed support for clients without vehicles or seniors who can no longer drive.
- Over 60 fleece blankets were made to offer comfort to children at Calico, an organization helping children who've experienced abuse.
- Boxes of donated clothes and household items were sorted for Youth Homes, in support of their thrift store.
- Hundreds of breakfast bags and toiletry kits were assembled for our unhoused neighbors through Trinity Center.

Off-Campus Projects:

- We worked at STAND! and Loaves and Fishes to deep clean and organize their kitchens.
- We volunteered at White Pony Express to sort and repackage donated food for redistribution.
- We partnered with Habitat for Humanity to work on the Esperanza Place development.

These are just a few highlights from the many incredible efforts that were made possible by your generosity. We couldn't have done it without you!

Remember, *love does* isn't just about one day of service — it's a commitment to giving back all year long. Look for more opportunities to serve throughout the year by visiting lopc.org/lovedoes.



Extended Family Program

Kitchen Pots, Pans, and Utensils Needed!

Just a reminder that as you do your spring cleaning, the Extended Family Program (EFP) would appreciate your donation of household goods in very good condition. There is a particular need right now for kitchen items, especially pots, pans, and utensils. Lamps, both table and floor, would also be helpful as EFP furnishes small apartments for previously unhoused people, including refugees from Afghanistan.

Small household donations can be dropped off on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Walnut Creek United

Methodist Church, 1543 Sunnyvale Avenue in Walnut Creek. Park in the lower parking lot and proceed down a few steps to their Fellowship Hall. There is limited storage space for furniture, so please email Randi Long at hrlong13@sbcglobal.net if you have furniture to donate (i.e. dining tables, chairs, sofas, chairs, small chests of drawers, bedside tables.) Beds and glass furniture cannot be accepted. Your donations are so appreciated.

session

January/February Session Highlights

Session met on January 21 and February 17, 2025.

Notable motions that were approved at these meetings included:

- Approving the 2025 annual budget of \$3,811,027 to be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on February 2.
- Scheduling 2025 special offerings to benefit LOPC mission partners presented by MIS.
- Receiving designated gifts for mission and youth ministry.
- Approving a second worship service on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. in the chapel beginning March 9.
- Allowing communion to be served every Sunday at the new 8:30 a.m. chapel service beginning March 9.

2025 clerk of session, Chris Johnson, provided information regarding session's annual calendar of events (session meetings, congregational meetings,) annual session policy review, and presbytery meeting commitments.

The Rev. Peter Whitelock provided a report on the annual LOPC leadership retreat on February 1. Elders, deacons, Foundation trustees, and clergy attended this event during which the results from the congregational survey in January were reviewed and led to engaging discussion for future strategic planning. Increased worship attendance was discussed and plans for the new early morning chapel service were shared with elders.

Lynn Trowbridge, from the Kurth Memorial Garden board, shared information on KMG statistics, number of niches and plaques remaining/sold, account information, and details on the successful KMG expansion. Elders expressed gratitude to Lynn and the rest of the KMG board for their exceptional management of the garden.

finance

Submitted by Jim Nagle

We are truly fortunate and thankful for everyone who gave their time, talent, and treasure to LOPC in 2024. Total Giving of \$4,229,854 exceeded the budgeted giving by \$484,778. Year end giving came in especially strong with the Faith Component of \$218,145 exceeding the budgeted goal of \$175,000. The total giving number also includes a special gift of \$175,000 that was designated for the Kurth Memorial Garden expansion.

Expenses in 2024 included \$3,544,581 for Ministry Operations and \$304,237 for Mission & Special Gifts. The expenses for 2024 also included a special disbursement of \$300,000 for investment in Pastor Housing. This investment is included as an asset on LOPC's balance sheet.

The Mission and Special Gifts were \$130,182 more than budgeted, and the funds were deployed for global and local organizations. The larger gifts went to Atfaluna School for Deaf, Congo Education, Zimbabwe, Ahli Arab Hospital, Habitat for Humanity, Monument Crisis Center, and Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

Statement of Giving & Expense

December 31, 2024

	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	Fav (Unfav)
Congregational Giving:			
Pledge Income	\$ 2,340,747	\$ 2,203,000	\$ 137,747
Non Pledge, Loose Offerings, Other	688,029	432,000	256,029
Bequests	4,172	–	4,172
Faith Component	218,147	175,000	43,147
Congregational Giving w/o Special Gifts	3,251,095	2,810,000	441,095
Giving: Mission & Special Gifts & Offerings	304,237	174,055	130,182
Total Congregational Giving:	3,555,332	2,984,055	571,277
Session Emerging Needs Fund	–	160,161	(160,161)
Seedlings	162,997	144,100	18,897
Investment & Other Income	86,860	35,500	51,360
Foundation Support	424,665	421,260	3,405
Total Giving:	4,229,854	3,745,076	484,778
Expense: Ministry Teams Spending	3,544,581	3,571,021	(26,440)
Mission & Special Gifts	304,237	174,055	130,182
Investment in Pastor Housing	300,000	–	300,000
Total Expense:	4,148,818	3,745,076	403,742
Contributions in excess of Expenses:	\$ 81,036	\$ –	\$ 81,036

seedlings

A Full-Circle Journey: From Preschool Student to Devoted Parent

By Sheila Saadieh

One of the most beautiful aspects of our preschool is the sense of community that continues to grow year after year. We are fortunate to have families that stay connected long after their children graduate, and some even return as parents, bringing the next generation into the fold.

This year, we want to highlight a special member of our community who has experienced our school from both sides—first as a bright-eyed preschooler and now as a dedicated parent. Meg first walked through our doors as a youngster, experiencing the learning and friendships that Seedlings fosters. Those early years left such a lasting impression that when it came time to choose a preschool for her own daughter, there was no hesitation in returning to the place she once called home. As a parent, Meg has been an invaluable part of our community, actively participating in events, sharing her memories of being a student many years ago, and even serves on the board of Seedlings. Her deep connection to our school is a testament to the lasting impact we have on children and families alike.

Having a former student return as a parent is a beautiful reminder of the strength of our preschool family. It is proof that we are more than just a school, we are a community built on love, tradition, and a shared commitment to nurturing young minds. We are honored to be part of this



full-circle journey and grateful for the families who continue to choose our preschool as a place to learn, grow, and create lasting memories. It's a reminder of the lasting impact Seedlings has on the lives of our students and their families. Here's to many more generations within our walls!



Palm Sunday Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 13, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Our annual all-church Palm Sunday Event & Egg Hunt is April 13 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. There will be three age-appropriate egg hunts (children ages infant–4th grade). Join us for live music, breakfast bites, games, arts & crafts, and a ton of fun! Bring your egg hunting baskets. All are welcome, so please invite your family, friends, and neighbors!

Register at lop.org/registrations.

foundation

Thank You, Dara Youngdale



The Board of Trustees of the LOPC Foundation would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our retiring trustee, **Dara Youngdale**. Dara has generously offered her time and talent to the board for the past eight years.

Dara has been an extraordinary contributor. Especially noteworthy is her ability to structure and navigate complex changes, the energy for a heavy workload, and the ability to partner with and inspire colleagues. She is also an experienced mentor, providing a smooth transition for us as we move forward.

Jim Beckemeyer, president of the Board of Trustees, adds, “We are so fortunate to have benefited from Dara’s many talents. Dara brought a vision for expanding the Foundation’s reach within our congregation and helped us turn that vision into a reality. She never hesitated to meet for coffee or make that phone call to someone to facilitate community. Dara’s friendship and loving presence have enhanced all our lives, and for that we are truly grateful.”

We are not losing Dara completely. As a retired architect and project leader of the major building projects at LOPC, she is assisting the congregation’s operations team in an advisory capacity. She has also traveled twice to the Children of Faith Missions in India where she has found meaningful ways to participate in mission and to serve the youth there.

We will always remember Dara for her strong Christian faith and her extraordinary commitment to create a secure future for LOPC by growing the Foundation. Dara, we are so grateful, and we wish you, your husband Steve, and your daughters’ families many wonderful experiences together going forward.

Welcome New Trustee Mark Weaver



The LOPC Foundation is very pleased to welcome **Mark Weaver** to the Board of Trustees. He began his 3-year term with us in January.

Mark is well known to our church family for the numerous roles he has played, most recently as clerk of session and chair of the Generosity

Team. He and his wife, Christine, have been LOPC members since 2012. They have a full house with four children: John (19), Katie (18), Sarah (15), and Andrew (12). Christine is also an attorney, formerly working with the Office of Homeland Security.

Mark grew up in Walnut Creek and is the son of scientists. His father is a retired physicist at Livermore Lab who worked on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Mark completed both undergraduate and law school at USC, with a stint in-between as a radio play by play announcer calling Minor League Baseball, as well as college football and basketball. Mark has over 20 years’ experience as an estate planning attorney, and is currently a partner at Farella Braun + Martel in San Francisco. He also served as the past chair of the Family Wealth Group.

Mark enjoys spending time with extended family in the Bay Area. Although he enjoyed the days of coaching his kid’s sports teams, they can more recently be found enjoying the reality TV show “Traitors U.S.” or watching movies together.

We are fortunate to add Mark’s experience and willingness to serve to the LOPC Foundation.

staff announcement

Campus Operations Staff Transitions

LOPC has been blessed to have **Dave Engelbrektson**, serve as part of our campus operations team for the past 11 years. Over the years, Dave’s attention to detail and thoughtful approach to campus operations has contributed to the LOPC campus being a safe, well-maintained, and welcoming place for all those who find themselves at LOPC. We wish Dave all the best as he steps into this new, and well deserved, chapter to enjoy his retirement with his wife, children, and grandchildren.

We are happy to announce that we have our new Operations team fully staffed following Dave’s retirement.

Tom Galbraith, who has been with LOPC almost a year and has demonstrated excellence in the work he does, will increase his time from 25 hours to 40 hours per week and will handle the majority of day-to-day campus operations with increased responsibilities.



LOPC member, **Jim Davis**, has been hired to serve in a part time senior-level operations role and will oversee some day-to-day operations as well as larger scale projects. Jim knows LOPC well, previously serving on session as elder for Communications and Digital Outreach, and as a deacon and spiritual formation group leader. Jim comes to us with an impressive professional background, most recently working as a strategy and operations consultant at Deloitte. Jim will be an excellent fit for the operations team and staff at LOPC and we look forward to the many gifts he will be sharing with us.

*thursday*Fellowship

caring • sharing • loving

A program for Senior Care Ministries

Every Thursday

11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

By Julie Peterson, Coordinator

On February 6, the Rossmore square dancers performed, and we had the opportunity to join in and learn some dances. It was fun, and people dressed the part! We also had several opportunities to celebrate Valentines' Day and had a command performance by vocalist extraordinaire Cris Hussey.

We also had birthdays galore, including Vi Egli-Jenkins who turned 97 and Alice Schofield who turned 100. Vi has been a Thursday Fellowship volunteer for many years and continues to come as a beloved guest. She received a teaching credential in her 50's and taught for a number of years before she earned a Masters in family counseling and had her own practice. Lastly, she earned her pilots license in her 70's and flew well into her 80's. She always faces life's challenges with grace and humor and is an inspiration to us all.

Alice Schofield has been a treasured guest at Thursday Fellowship for a number of years. She has a quiet, welcoming demeanor and a warm smile. Alice has lived in Walnut Creek for many years, graduated from Stanford in bacteriology, and worked at a research lab there. She is one of three guests in our centenarian club, and we feel privileged to know her.



Celebrating the 100th birthday of Alice Schofield (L) and the 97th birthday of Vi Egli-Jenkins (R).

We finished February on a high note and enjoyed being entertained by Mike Kistner and his brother John, and Ann Schulenberger shared her work and life as a ceramic artist.

March and April promise to be equally engaging and fun - more birthdays plus St. Patrick's Day and Earth Day to celebrate. We will have a variety of arts and crafts as well as a gentle exercise program.

To check out the weekly happenings for each Thursday:

- **Read the Connections newsletter on Sunday.**
- **Read the Staying Connected email on Mondays.**
- **Visit the LOPC website at lopc.org/thursday-fellowship.**

Over the past few months, we have been reminded of the value and importance of Thursday Fellowship to our guests and volunteers. The program offers all of us the opportunity to be part of a caring, interesting, and happy group of people

who share a meal and enjoy creative and enriching programs and activities together. Meaningful friendships are developed and nurtured which enrich our lives and bring us joy. We are so grateful to have Thursday Fellowship in our lives. We invite you to come as a guest or a volunteer and bring a friend.

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.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Julie Peterson at julie@lopc.org.



care



Widow/Widower's Grief Support

Wednesdays, March 26 – May 28,
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Have you or someone you know experienced the death of a spouse recently or within the last few years? Sharing our experiences during this 10-week class is extremely helpful to our healing process. Course is open to all widows and widowers. Pre-registration required. The workbook is \$20.

To register or for more information, 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 cathy@lopc.org.

hold in PRAYER

Prayers of
comfort and
peace go out
to the families
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.

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

Bob Finertie,
who passed on February 7.
A service will be held on
April 26 at 11:00 a.m.

Dementia Caregivers Support Group

March 5 and 19, April 2 and 16

Join this one-hour support group for those caring for someone with dementia. The group meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom.

To register, please contact Linda Fodrini-Johnson at
lindafj620@outlook.com.



Deacon Support

The Deacon Ministry consists of LOPC members who 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.

Rossmoor Residents: SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, May 18, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Plans are underway for a Meet and Greet at the Stanley Dollar Clubhouse. More details to come.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are trained to provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficulty. They are waiting to be assigned to walk beside you safely in-person, on Zoom, or over the phone. Conversations are confidential. Stephen Ministers will meet with you weekly for as long as you need.

To connect with a Stephen Minister, contact Pastor Jaime Polson at jaime@lopc.org.

YOUTH & CHILDREN



Middle School Summer Service-Learning

Save the Dates! 5th – 7th Grade: Service Squad

Dates: June 9 – 13 Time: 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Cost: \$260

Each day, youth will serve with a different East Bay partner organization. Activities may include packing food boxes, sorting donated clothing, visiting a center for racial justice, assembling hygiene kits, planting, cleaning, serving at a resource center for people experiencing homelessness, visiting with senior citizens, or playing games with local children. Youth may earn up to 15 service hours.

For more information and to register, visit lopc.org/youth. Financial assistance is available, and we are happy to help. Contact cynthia@lopc.org.

YOW Youth on Wednesday

Youth in 5th – 8th grades gather on Wednesdays from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. for fun games, worship music, a Bible-based devotional lesson, and small group discussions. There is an optional pizza & salad dinner for \$5 (cash or check) at 5:30 p.m. Together, we discuss topics such as discovering God at work in the world, growing in faith, friendship, school, family and more!

YOW Upcoming Calendar

YOW Lesson Focus: Who is Jesus?

March 12: 4th grade preview day. Fourth graders are invited to check out YOW.

No group on April 2 for Spring Break. Last YOW of the school year on April 30.

BTW By the Way

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.

BTW Upcoming Calendar

BTW Lesson Focus: Who is Jesus?

March 9: 8th grade preview day at BTW.

No group on March 30 for Spring Break

No group on April 20 for Easter.

April 27: Senior Night for the last BTW of the school year.

**Youth: Contact Cynthia Purvis at cynthia@lopc.org. To sign up for the youth newsletter, contact Robin Freeberg at robin@lopc.org.
@lopc_youth**

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

Youth Alive

Youth Alive is our Sunday morning youth Bible study for 5th – 8th graders. If you haven't yet had a chance to check out Youth Alive, join us in CLC Room 201. 5th – 8th graders are welcome to participate in this hour-long program each Sunday during the 10:00 a.m. worship service (unless otherwise noted) throughout the school year.

Youth Alive! Upcoming Calendar

March lesson Focus: Love God, Neighbor, Enemy.

April lesson focus: Prayer.

No Youth Alive on Easter Sunday, April 20. Students are encouraged to worship together with their families.

Confirmation Dates

Confirmation Retreats:

Saturdays, March 1 and March 8, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Confirmation Dessert: Thursday, April 10

Confirmation in worship: Sunday, April 27

Come explore what Christians believe and how Christians relate to others in the world while asking questions in a judgment free zone. For some students, faith in Jesus Christ comes easy. For others, questions bubble to the surface, and you just aren't so sure. 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 more information and to register!



Lighthouse Service-Learning Program

Lighthouse Service-Learning Program

Saturdays, March 15 and May 3
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Join us for Lighthouse, a youth service program in support of Hope Solutions! Throughout

the year, middle and high school students will have the opportunity to connect with local youth at the Hope Solutions community center in Concord. Activities include fun games, arts and crafts, and lunch.

Advance registration is requested at lopc.org/registrations. Contact Michelle Browning at michelle@lopc.org for more information.

PLAY on Wednesday Showcase!

March 19 from 4:15 – 5:00 p.m.



PLAY on Wednesday participants invite friends, family, and the LOPC community to be their audience as they share their creations from the winter program.

Please join in the Oak Room to be entertained and delighted by these young artists!

High School Summer Service-Learning Trip

Asheville or Raleigh Trip

Summer 2025 for completed 8th – 12th graders through Youth Mission Co., organizing justice-centered and biblically based mission and education opportunities for students.

Stay tuned for details coming soon!

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.



Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible Camp • June 9-13

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

M-F 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
For kids ages 4 – completed 4th grade!

\$150 fee per child
Scholarships available.



Register Here!





FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

First Friday Forum Programs for March and April

These programs begin at 1:30 p.m. on the first Friday of the month and are open to the community. They are held in the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church sanctuary and are simultaneously available online. To attend online, click Watch on the webpage at lopc.org/first-friday-forum. Registration is not required.



March 7: Joe Whitehouse Presents Stunning Photographs of Japan

On March 7, Dr. Joe Whitehouse, world traveler and photographer, will speak on “Japan – An Unmatched Wonder.” Dr. Whitehouse’s travel presentations are beautifully done and very popular at First Friday Forum. He will share photographs from his multiple visits to Japan, his favorite country of the 158 he has visited. Whether you’re drawn to its rich cultural heritage, stunning natural landscapes, or cutting-edge technology, Japan has something of interest for everyone.

One of the most compelling aspects of Japan is its rich history and culture. From ancient temples and shrines to traditional tea ceremonies and samurai heritage, or World War II history, Japan offers a glimpse into a fascinating past. Kyoto, the former imperial capital, is home to stunning temples like Kinkaku-ji (the Golden Pavilion) and the Fushimi Inari Shrine with its famous red torii gates. Meanwhile, photos of Tokyo showcase a modern twist on Japanese culture, blending historic sites with neon-lit skyscrapers and futuristic technology.

Another highlight of Japan is its breathtaking natural beauty. Whitehouse’s pictures will include cherry blossoms in the spring, the hot springs, and Japan’s diverse landscapes. He will speak of the 88 Shinto shrines on Shikoku Island and its famous 720-mile pilgrimage.

The presentation will also feature Okinawa, Japan’s southernmost prefecture, which offers a distinct cultural heritage shaped by its historical role as the independent Ryukyu Kingdom. Here, he will explore a subtropical paradise where ancient customs persist among coral reefs and castle ruins.



April 4: Betty Ann Hagenau Reveals the Tragedy Human Trafficking

Betty Ann Hagenau, director and founder of Freedom Insight will speak on “The Story of Human Trafficking in the Bay Area.” She will discuss the suffering, challenges, and successes in addressing this important local issue.

Hagenau has been a prominent leader and speaker in community-based strategies to fight human trafficking for over 18 years. Starting her career as a director at International Justice Mission after earning a Master’s degree from Stanford University in International Policy Studies/Conflict, she spent 18 months interviewing former human traffickers in San Quentin Prison to better understand their lucrative business practices and to inform the development of Freedom Insight’s current strategies and programs.

Freedom Insight, formerly known as the Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition, was founded in 2011. It focuses on equipping frontline industries, such as airports, apartments, and hotels, with the knowledge and tools they need to intervene where victims are most vulnerable—in the places where they are forced to work, move, and sleep. Ivar Satero, SFO Airport Director, says, “Freedom Insight’s Airport Initiative helped us equip over 1,000 employees to recognize and report signs of potential trafficking. We’re sending a message to traffickers that SFO will not be complicit in their illegal business.”

For more information, to watch online, and to view recordings of the previous speakers, please visit lopc.org/first-friday-forum.



CHAPEL WORSHIP

*Renew Refresh
Revive*

8:30 A.M.
BEGINNING MARCH 9

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.

Easter AZALEAS

This Easter, LOPC will continue its well-loved tradition of adorning the sanctuary with white azaleas. You can sign up on the plaza after worship on March 30, April 6, and 13 or you can mail or drop this form to the Ministry Center offices. All mailed requests must be received by April 13. A list of azalea dedications will be published in the Easter bulletins. Those who have donated azaleas may take their plant (s) home with them after the 10:30 a.m. Easter service or they can be picked up from the Sanctuary narthex April 21 – 23.

Easter Azaleas

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

OR

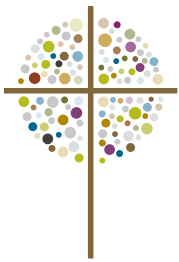
In Honor of: _____

Email: _____ Amount: _____

Paid by (circle)

Cash Check

Azalea donations are \$20 each. Please make checks payable to LOPC.
Please fill out this form and return to the Ministry Center Office by April 13.



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



info@lopc.org
925-283-8722

IMPORTANT
Dated Material
**PLEASE DELIVER
BEFORE 3/1/25**
Thank you!

Return Service Requested

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SAVE THE DATE!

Join LOPC for an incredible evening of your favorite jazz and swing tunes with a full big band orchestra!

Featuring Grammy-winning singer
Jamie Davis & his orchestra
with special guest Michelle Jordan!

All net proceeds benefit
Monument Crisis Center

Tickets at lopc.org/tickets

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, CA