

# Connections



March 16, 2025



## Virtual Coffee Hour

With Pastor Lauren Gully

March 23 following Worship

We will gather together for informal fellowship and to get to know the virtual community! We hope to see you there!

All you need to attend is to visit [lopc.org/virtualcoffeeshour](http://lopc.org/virtualcoffeeshour) to get the Zoom link. No preregistration needed.



## PCUSA Update on Gaza/Israel: General Assembly and Office of Public Witness

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

Join us to hear from two key individuals in PCUSA working on issues that relate to Gaza and Israel. Luciano Kovacs is the area coordinator for Middle East and Europe. He will discuss the 2024 General Assembly overtures related to Israel/Gaza/Christian Nationalism and our denominational responses to the crisis. Catherine Gordon is the representative for international issues in the PCUSA Office of Public Witness. She will share our denomination's advocacy efforts and inform us on how we can become advocates for peace and social justice.



## Save the Date! Palm Sunday Egg Hunt

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

Join us for LOPC's annual all-church Palm Sunday Event & Egg Hunt! There will be three age-appropriate egg hunts for children ages infant–4th grade. There will be 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!

Registration is highly encouraged for planning purposes at [lopc.org/registrations](http://lopc.org/registrations).



## LOPC Vacation Bible Camp

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](http://lopc.org/vbcamp). Questions? Contact Emily Austin at [emily@lopc.org](mailto:emily@lopc.org).

Register Here!



## Calling all Camp Volunteers!

We love the compliments about our recent skit, and we love your SIGN UPS even more! Vacation Bible Camp volunteers are essential for providing leadership for our campers. Some of the needed roles for VB Camp are crew leaders, rotation leaders, hospitality helpers, and more. **If you have any availability June 9-13, please sign up at [lopc.org/vbcamp](http://lopc.org/vbcamp) to register for a role. It is not necessary to volunteer everyday. Job sharing is welcome. Questions? Contact Susan Wentworth at [susan@lopc.org](mailto:susan@lopc.org).**

## 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.

**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](mailto:cynthia@lopc.org). To sign up for the youth newsletter, contact Cathy Scheve and [cathy@lopc.org](mailto:cathy@lopc.org).**

## Summer Service Squad

June 9 - 13, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. for 5th-7th graders

Each day, youth will serve with a different East Bay mission partner.

**For more information about activities and to register, visit [lopc.org/service-learning](http://lopc.org/service-learning). Cost is \$260. Financial assistance is available. Questions? Email Cynthia Purvis at [cynthia@lopc.org](mailto:cynthia@lopc.org).**

## High School Summer Service-Learning Trip

July 6 - 11 in Raleigh, NC for 8th-12th graders

LOPC youth will join Youth Mission Co., a justice-centered and biblically based mission that provides opportunities to explore the hidden needs and struggles of those who are living on the margins.

**For more information and to register, visit [lopc.org/service-learning](http://lopc.org/service-learning). Cost is \$900. Financial assistance is available. Questions? Email Cynthia Purvis at [cynthia@lopc.org](mailto:cynthia@lopc.org).**

## Sunday Morning Infant Care

If your child is younger than one year old, please contact Susan Wentworth at [susan@lopc.org](mailto: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

## PLAY on Wednesday Showcase

March 19 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the Oak Room

You are sure to be delighted with the reimagined tales of Noah's Ark and the Good Samaritan. Admission is free and light snacks will be served!

# care

## End-of-Life Doulas: Their and Our Caregiving

TODAY at 11:30 a.m. in the Oak Room

The Rev. Dr. Kim Risedorff, 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.

## 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.

**For questions or to register, contact Cathy Scheve at [cathy@lopc.org](mailto:cathy@lopc.org).**

## Hold in Prayer

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

**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 was 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.

**Sally Thorpe**, who passed on February 26.

# community

## Thursday Fellowship

### A Senior Ministry Program

March 20, 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Guitarist Mike Kistner will play our favorite songs as we sing along.

If you have questions, please contact Julie Peterson at [julie@lopc.org](mailto:julie@lopc.org).

## New Member Class

April 27, 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](http://lopc.org/registrations). Questions? Contact Chris Baldwin at [chris@lopc.org](mailto:chris@lopc.org).

# mission

## Volunteer with Us

March 29 at the Food Bank

We're inviting you to join us at the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano! Working together (up to 20 of us), we'll sort, box, and bag food to provide for those in our community facing hunger. This is an opportunity to serve those in need while building connections at LOPC. Why it matters: The Food Bank serves over 390,000 people each month, and our volunteer support is critical to this mission. Your time and effort directly help those in Contra Costa and Solano counties who are struggling to put food on the table.

Ready to make a difference? Sign up now at [lopc.org/registrations](http://lopc.org/registrations) and help us fight hunger! Questions? Contact Michelle Browning at [michelle@lopc.org](mailto:michelle@lopc.org).

## 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](mailto:michelle@lopc.org) to be added to the list.

## Men's Friday Fellowship

March 21, 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Calling all guys! Featured speakers will share about their faith and how it impacts their career, relationships, failures/successes, and more. This month, Andy Amstutz joins us as the guest speaker. Men's Friday Fellowship meets on the 3rd Friday of each month through the program year (Aug-May).

Register at [lopc.org/registrations](http://lopc.org/registrations). Questions? Contact Jeff Eyet at [jeff.eyet@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.eyet@gmail.com).

## First Friday Forum

April 4 at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and online

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.

For more information on the April 4 presentation and to view videos of the previous First Friday Forum speakers, visit [lopc.org/first-friday-forum](http://lopc.org/first-friday-forum).

## Bikes Needed

For the Extended Family Program (EFP)

LOPC members have donated furniture and household goods for the past two years to EFP. EFP serves previously unhoused people referred by Shelter Inc., Winter Nights, the VA, and Church World Services. They are now in need of adult and children's used bikes with little to no repairs necessary.

Bikes can be dropped off on Tuesdays only from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Walnut Creek Methodist Church at 1543 Sunnyvale Ave. Park in lower parking lot, descend a few steps to their Social Hall and you will find the volunteers to help you.

## Food Donation List

### For Monument Crisis Center

- March – Pasta
- May – Canned Fruit
- April – Canned Vegetables
- June – Cereal

Requested food donations can be dropped off anytime in the MCC barrel outside the Ministry Center and Oak Room.

# worship



## The Season of Lent

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW A SECRET?

THE MYSTERIOUS PARABLES OF JESUS FROM LUKE'S GOSPEL

### Lenten Sermon Series

**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.

**NEW!**

**CHAPEL WORSHIP**

*Renew Refresh Revive*

**SUNDAYS AT 8:30 A.M.  
THROUGH PALM SUNDAY**

### Sponsor the Sanctuary Flowers

Sponsoring the flowers for a Sunday worship service is a beautiful way to celebrate or honor your loved ones.

Sign up for your Sunday of choice at [lopc.org/flowers](http://lopc.org/flowers).



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

# facilities

**Please Note:** LOPC will be resealing and restriping our parking lot between April 1 and April 4. One entrance and half of the parking lot will be available each day as the other half is being worked on. Please use extra caution when entering and exiting the parking lot during this time. Our apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.



[lopc.org](http://lopc.org)



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