

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY/JUNE 2025

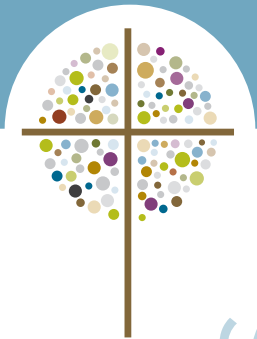
# FOCUS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

[LOPC.ORG](http://LOPC.ORG)





# Bear One Another's Burdens

By Jane Doty MacKenzie – Pastor

As friends and family gathered for a memorial service I recently officiated, I was compelled to express my deep gratitude. This was gratitude not only for the individual whose life we were celebrating, but also for those who were seated in the sanctuary. You see, every time, and I mean every time, I crossed over the threshold of this person's home in the final months of this person's life, someone from LOPC or a family member was already present.



**Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."** The "law of Christ" is love. I see Christ's love expressed through so many of you as you carry each other's burdens; encourage or pray for one another; share a word of kindness, a meal, or an angel food cake; or simply sit in silence with those who are grieving or in the hospital.

In our recent congregational survey, we asked what our ministry focus areas should be over the next five years. Mental health is one of the priorities. There are many reasons for the rise in mental health issues, and loneliness is one of them. One antidote to loneliness is being in community with others who "see" us, are willing to listen to us, and love us no matter who we are. That is the promise of true Christian community.

I often ask people, "Who is your 3:00 a.m. friend?" In other words, do you have someone you can call in a crisis or can reach out to if you are going through a hard time? If you have someone like that, consider them to be protection against the despair of loneliness. If not, I encourage you, in what may feel like a leap of faith, to join one of the many groups here at LOPC or to reach out to one of our pastors.

May we all grow together in God's grace and love.

## CONTENTS

### May/June 2025

Announcements .....	2
Community .....	3
Spring Concert .....	4
Mission .....	5
Session .....	7
Seedlings .....	8
Thursday Fellowship .....	9
Egg Hunt .....	10
Youth .....	11
Children .....	11
First Friday Forum .....	13
CNC .....	14

#### Pastoral Staff

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

Suzanne Ferraro

#### Focus Newsletter

Pamela Moidel - Design  
Lexi Morrissey - Editor

### Submissions & Deadlines

Please send requests for submissions to:  
[communications@lopc.org](mailto:communications@lopc.org)  
no later than June 1 for the July/August issue.



**Staying Connected:** Sign up for our weekly email to stay up-to-date on all things LOPC! Visit: [lopc.org/email](mailto:lopc.org/email).

### Need to reach us?

[info@lopc.org](mailto:info@lopc.org) • 925-283-8722



Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church celebrates

## Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

The first weekend in May we will be celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage (AAPI). During the worship service we will have prayers and readings from AAPI contributors and lay leaders from our own congregation. Stay tuned in worship and in Connections for other what that we are celebrating AAPI Heritage as a congregation!

### LOPC welcomes Dr. Ki Joo (KC) Choi May 3 and 4

LOPC is honored to welcome Dr. Choi, Kyung-Chik Han Professor of Asian American Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary and Co-editor for the Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics.



Please join us for three very  
special events on May 3 and 4.  
All are welcome!

**Saturday, May 3**  
**6:00 - 8:30 p.m.**  
*Registration required*

*Potluck & Presentation*  
Fellowship Hall  
Can Art be Prophetic in a  
Polarized Society?

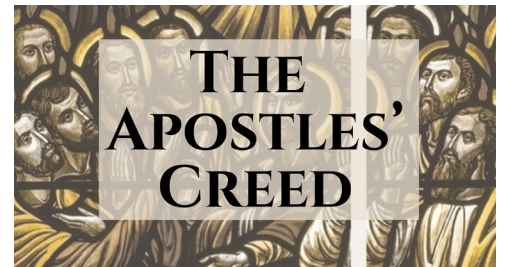
**Sunday, May 4**  
**10:00 a.m.**

*Sunday Worship*  
Sanctuary  
Dr. Choi will deliver Sunday's  
message.

**11:11 a.m.**

**11:11**  
Fellowship Hall  
What if God were Asian?  
Why Asian American Theology  
Matters

For Saturday's Potluck,  
register at [lopc.org/registrations](http://lopc.org/registrations).



## Eastertide Sermon Series

Often in faith it can be helpful to go back to basics. For the Christian tradition we are guided by creeds and confessions that have shaped faith in the church for generations. One creed that summarizes the essentials of our faith is the *Apostles' Creed*. Whether you are new to faith or if you are inspired to go back to basics, please join us for our Eastertide sermon series on this essential statement of faith.

We invite you to follow along with the sermons using this book: *The Apostles' Creed: A Guide to the Ancient Catechism (Christian Essentials)* by Ben Myers; or this youth friendly version for your family: *The Apostles' Creed: For All God's Children* by Ben Myers (Author), Natasha Kennedy (Illustrator).

- April 27:** I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
- May 11:** And in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
- May 18:** The third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
- May 25:** I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins.
- June 1:** The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## community

**Book Groups**

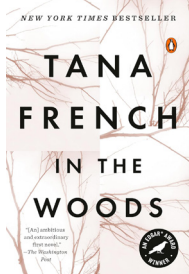
Join the fellowship of one of LOPC's book groups!

**Fourth Monday Book Group**

**May 26** – *The Flower Sisters* by Michelle Collins Anderson

**June 23** – *The Message* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

This group meets on Zoom at 2:00 p.m. Contact Leslie Finertie at [leslie-finertie@comcast.net](mailto:leslie-finertie@comcast.net).

**Fourth Friday Book Group**

**May 23** – *In the Woods* by Tana French

**June 27** – The selection is not yet chosen.

This group meets on Zoom at 4:00 p.m. Contact Catherine Coleman at [awaitingword@gmail.com](mailto:awaitingword@gmail.com).

Upcoming LOPC Events	
<b>JUNE 22</b>	<b>BACKYARD BASH</b> 
<b>JULY</b>	<b>SUMMER MOVIE NIGHTS</b> 
<b>AUG 24</b>	<b>YOUTH SUNDAY/ MINISTRY FAIR</b> 
<b>OCT 26</b>	<b>FALL FESTIVAL</b> 
<b>DEC 7</b>	<b>JINGLE BELL JAMBOREE</b> 

**Wildfire Preparedness – Take Action Now!**

**May 18 at 11:11 a.m. in the Oak Room**

**Speakers:**

Stephanie Bontemps, *Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commissioner*  
John McCormick, *Lafayette City Councilmember*

Please join us for a discussion of wildfire risk in our area and how we can each take simple steps to be prepared. Learn about the proactive and comprehensive steps Lafayette and other cities around us have taken to address this risk and help citizens be prepared. Topics will include: signing up for alerts, preparing to evacuate, hardening your home, landscaping considerations, and benefits of being in a Firewise neighborhood. **All are welcome.**

## staff announcement

In March we welcomed two new part-time administrative support staff to our team. **Gina Hageboeck** is providing support to Pastor Chris Baldwin and his Community Life and Spiritual Formation ministry teams. **Amy Campbell** is providing support to Elizabeth Ball, Administrative Manager. We are blessed to have both Gina and Amy as part of the LOPC staff.

**Amy Campbell • Administrative Coordinator**

Amy has been a member of LOPC since 2008 when her youngest son enrolled in the Sprouts program at Seedlings. She is thrilled to join LOPC as part of the administrative staff supporting the Administrative Manager, Elizabeth Ball with anything and everything that is needed to

help LOPC run smoothly. She has also spent the last nine years as the office administrator for LOPC's mission partner Kapnek Trust USA which supports underserved women and children in Zimbabwe. In her spare time, she loves to play tennis, Mah Jong, read and spend time with her husband and two sons.

**Gina Hageboeck • Administrative Coordinator**

Gina's connection with LOPC began in 2007, when she served on the Seedlings Preschool board and volunteered as a room parent during the eight years her two daughters were students. For more than 15+ years, she has dedicated countless hours to building community through leadership roles in Lafayette schools, youth and teen sports programs, Girl Scouts, National Charity League, and various philanthropic organizations.

She is honored to support Pastor Chris Baldwin and feels truly blessed to be reunited with LOPC's vibrant and welcoming community. With a background in marketing and event planning, Gina looks forward to contributing to the church's community and formation programs.

Gina lives in Lafayette and remains actively involved in the lives of her two daughters. In her free time, she enjoys bringing people together for fun and celebrations, cheering on her daughters' volleyball and lacrosse teams and adventuring outdoors.



# BIG BAND at LOPC

playing

*Jazz & Swing  
Favorites*

## MAY 9 7:00 p.m.

Featuring Grammy-winning  
singer Jamie Davis &  
his orchestra with  
special guests!

All net proceeds  
benefit the  
Monument Crisis Center

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church  
49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, CA  
[lopc.org/tickets](http://lopc.org/tickets)

Incredible talent!



Reserve  
tickets  
here!



**Jamie Davis**



**Laurence Hobgood**



**Michelle Jordan**



**Sarah Reich**





## mission

# International Partner Update

At LOPC, our commitment to mission and service extends beyond our local community to international partnerships that impact lives across the globe. We work with a number of international mission partners who are making a real impact in communities around the world. The involvement of our members in these organizations is essential to the success of our efforts, and we are grateful for the dedication and generosity of those who actively serve all of our partners. Below is an overview of the international organizations we partner with and the work they do. For more information, visit [lopc.org/serveglobal](http://lopc.org/serveglobal).



### Congo

The Congo Mission team leads LOPC's support of the Presbyterian Church (USA) mission efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Collaborating with Congolese Presbyterian partners and the Congo Mission Network in the U.S., the team works to identify and address the critical needs of the community.

The Congo Mission's focus is on education and trauma healing, particularly for children who have experienced violence in their communities. Many schools in the DRC are run by faith-based organizations, and the team is committed to supporting the prioritized educational initiatives.

Taking a holistic approach, the team not only provides financial assistance but also organizes a weekly prayer call for the DRC, advocates with the U.S. government and the UN on key issues and supports the people of the DRC through persistent advocacy efforts. Recently, the team led a campaign for the congregation to contact our government to release funding for new malaria vaccines for Africa. In education, the team has helped build 10 schools through the Build Congo Schools initiative and continues to support teacher training, provide computers, and assist with transportation for educational personnel.

Through ongoing support and advocacy, LOPC's Congo Mission team is making a lasting difference in the lives of the people in the DRC.



### Fotokids

Fotokids extends its heartfelt gratitude to LOPC for over 33 years of generous support and commitment, with special thanks for the more than \$30,000 raised during this Christmas season. These funds will be shared with Children of Faith Missions, furthering the impact of LOPC's dedication to global partnerships.

Fotokids empowers children from vulnerable communities in Guatemala City and Santiago Atitlán by teaching them photography, graphic design, and media technology. Through these creative arts, the program helps unlock the potential and imagination of each child, offering them new opportunities for the future.

Nancy McGirr, the founder of Fotokids, commented that they are extremely grateful for LOPC's contribution, especially as they have welcomed 85 new students this year, each one ready to unlock their potential and creativity.

Sony recently hosted workshops on portraiture, food product photography, and lighting – and the staff couldn't be more excited. A professional photographer is scheduled to visit before Easter week to teach a new technique, and in November, a group of five photographers will be leading additional workshops. Fotokids is staying busy with fresh additions to the curriculum, continuing to inspire and nurture the creativity of its students.

Thanks to LOPC's continued support, Fotokids is changing lives, capturing dreams, and empowering young people.





## Children of Faith Missions

Founded in 2004 by Rosie and Anand Thandu in Visakhapatnam, India, Children of Faith (COF) provides life-changing care and education to 120 at-risk school-age children. Their curriculum, which includes both academics and the arts, prepares students for junior college and university studies, offering them the tools to build brighter futures.

LOPC has been a dedicated partner of COF for over 11 years, with several LOPC members serving on the COF US Board and many others directly supporting the mission through child sponsorships. In 2024, 15 volunteers from LOPC traveled to COF to teach subjects like writing, reading, sewing, and carpentry, and to lead daily devotional sessions with the children. This hands-on involvement strengthens the connection between LOPC and COF, bringing valuable skills and inspiration to the students. This past Christmas, LOPC held a special offering that raised funds to continue the transformative educational work at Children of Faith, ensuring that these children have the opportunities they need to succeed and thrive.

Through this long standing partnership, LOPC has made a significant impact in numerous ways, including funding the construction of a new dormitory, providing relief after a cyclone, purchasing land for future growth, and sending both youth and adult volunteers to support COF's programs.

## Kapnek Trust USA

Founded in 1983 and currently headquartered in Lafayette, CA, the Kapnek Trust USA has been dedicated to serving Zimbabwe and transforming the lives of children and families in need. The Trust's mission is to change the trajectory of a child's future by improving family health, reducing child mortality, and addressing the transmission of HIV from mother to child.

Over the past three decades, LOPC members have had the opportunity to visit Zimbabwe, teaching in local schools and clinics, and fostering relationships with the community. Through these partnerships, the Kapnek Trust has been able to work alongside Zimbabwe's governing bodies to directly minister to families in need.

LOPC recently played a key role in launching a new initiative in partnership with the Kapnek Trust—distributing health kits to district nurses serving rural communities. These kits are a game-changer, allowing nurses to test, treat, and medicate patients directly in the field, significantly improving access to healthcare in rural areas. In addition to advancing health services, Kapnek continues its educational outreach, sponsoring fortified porridge to 22,000 children—ensuring they receive at least one nutritious meal daily. Please note the importance of LOPC's helping to launch the health kits and the increase in the number of children receiving the porridge daily. LOPC funds about 6,000, but Kapnek feed 22,000 daily. Obviously, the difference is funded by other sources.

LOPC's contributions have been vital in supporting these efforts, helping to provide food and health resources that make a significant impact on the lives of children and families in Zimbabwe.



## Atfaluna

Founded in 1992 in Gaza, Atfaluna began as a school and clinic dedicated to serving the deaf community, providing both educational and vocational services. Over the years, Atfaluna's reputation for innovation and care attracted students from all religions, including both Jewish and Palestinian children and their families.

LOPC first became involved with Atfaluna by supplying hearing aid batteries, and over time, our support grew. LOPC sponsored a room in the educational wing of the school, and many of our members have sponsored individual children, helping to ensure their access to education and vital services.

Sadly, the school has been destroyed by the Israeli military, and some leaders of Atfaluna have lost their lives. We pray for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, the immediate delivery of humanitarian aid, and for lasting peace and freedom for all who live in Palestine and Israel.



## mission

### Additional Mission Gifts:

#### What is better than four grandparents?

by Phil Hunter

If you attended LOPC's annual meeting on February 2, you heard that LOPC finished 2024 in solid financial shape. With that understanding, session authorized \$40,000 from the Session Emerging Needs Fund to augment Mission in Society's (MIS) giving for 2025. After much consideration, MIS recommended donating \$20,000 to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties; \$2,500 to each of the four Bay Area pantries in impoverished neighborhoods - all sponsored by Presbyterian Churches; and \$5,000 to PC(USA)'s Disaster Relief Fund to help victims of last year's Hurricane Helene.

Although LOPC's congregation has already donated over \$45,000 for general help to LA Fire victims, the remaining \$5,000 went to Monte Vista Grove (MVG) in Pasadena to help house families who lost their homes in the fires. MVG is a retirement community primarily for Presbyterian pastors. At the time of the fires there were a few vacant homes, and MVG residents spearheaded the decision to offer these vacant residences to fire victims who lost everything. The \$5,000 paid for necessities from beds and bedding to kitchen utensils and furniture. One of the new residents is a family with young children. Not only does this reduce the average age of the community, but the children are now surrounded by 100 adoptive grandparents!

## session

### Session Report - March and April

Session met on March 18 and April 15, 2025. Notable motions that were approved included:

- Approve the purchase of a new refrigerator in LOPC's commercial kitchen, funded by Foundation grants.
- Approve capital project to replace CLC windows, funded by Foundation grants.
- Approve revisions to session policy #4 - Spiritual Direction.
- Approve net proceeds of ticket sales for the May 9 Big Band concert be directed to Monument Crisis Center.

2025 Clerk of Session, Chris Johnson, provided information regarding session's annual calendar of events (session meetings, congregational meetings) and presbytery meeting commitments. The vote for 2026 Clerk of Session occurred and Linus Eukel accepted this important role.

Rev. Peter Whitelock provided an update on the new Sunday morning service in the Chapel which will run through early June. Discussion about adding a second service in the fall will occur at the May and June session meetings. Peter shared that the strategic planning team reviewed the results from the recent congregational surveys and work accomplished at the leadership retreat in February. A few task forces will be put together to further review and plan in the areas of a) community outreach to address mental health and loneliness, b) relational groups to provide community and connection, and c) programs for parent and family support. Peter reminded session that the CNC will begin their nomination season soon, and session approved two elder team changes. One of the two Care Ministry elder positions will become a Family Ministry elder role, and the Digital Outreach elder role will transition to an Interfaith Ministry elder position. Session was reminded that Pastor Lauren Gully will be on sabbatical from May 19 – July 23.

Lauren Gully provided a report on LOPC's Racial Equity and Engagement Team. She shared information on who serves on the team, how the team has been developing programming, and recent program offerings.

Jaime Polson provided a report on LOPC's Care Ministry, primarily focusing on the important work of the Deacons. Deacons meet monthly and provide loving care and support to our community by making home visits, serving communion, providing meals to people experiencing hardship, and planning and serving at memorial receptions.

## hold in PRAYER

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

**Bill Hobbs,**  
who passed on March 11. He was  
predeceased by his wife, Joan, in 2012.

**Roger Freet,**  
who passed on March 18. A service will  
be held on May 3 at 11:00 a.m.

**Jim Hiatt,**  
who passed on March 28. A service  
will be held on May 31 at 1:00 p.m.

**Beverly Thompson,**  
who passed on April 9.

**Dick James,**  
who passed on April 10.

**Ruth Lyle,**  
who passed on April 11.





## A Year of Wonder: Celebrating Milestones and Saying Goodbye

As the school year draws to a close, we're taking a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've shared.

### **A Kaleidoscope of Creativity: Our Spring Art Showcase**

Get ready to be amazed! Our annual Spring Art Showcase was a dazzling display of creativity, showcasing the unique talents of our young artists. From vibrant paintings to imaginative sculptures, the children's artwork filled our school's halls with color and joy. A big thank you to all the families who joined us for this special event.

### **Picture Day Memories**

Picture Day was a huge success! We witnessed a sea of bright eyes and happy smiles as our students posed for their portraits. It was wonderful to see the excitement and anticipation in their faces. If you have a student at Seedlings, don't forget to order your child's school pictures to capture these precious memories forever!

### **Teacher Appreciation Week: A Heartfelt Thank You**

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our dedicated teachers, whose unwavering love and support have nurtured the growth of every child. We especially want to acknowledge Miss Cayte, who is saying goodbye after six wonderful years with us. Miss Cayte's warm smile, gentle guidance, and creative spirit have touched the lives of countless children. We will miss her dearly and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

As we prepare for summer break, we cherish the memories created this year. We are so grateful for the trust and support of our families. We wish you all a summer filled with sunshine and unforgettable adventures.

*-The Seedlings Team*



# thursdayFellowship

*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

This May, Thursday Fellowship will celebrate 46 years of service to seniors in the Lamorinda community. We are excited to celebrate this milestone with a party and a catered lunch on May 8. Save the date!

Thursday Fellowship began in 1979 as a follow-up to the LOPC Deacon's program, "Friendly Callers." Many volunteers had been shopping for and visiting Senior "shut ins" in the community. A special tea party at LOPC was held for this group in May 1979. It was so appreciated and well-attended that the volunteers decided to invite the seniors for tea on a more regular basis. The "Drop-in Center" started, and they met in the old Oak Room every other Thursday. It was an instant success, and volunteers helped with coffee, crafts, exercises, lunch and entertainment. The program grew into a weekly offering and moved to Fellowship Hall to accommodate the growing numbers. Crafts were made and sold at a Christmas bazaar to raise money for the program until funding became more secure. The volunteers began meeting for prayer and planning each Thursday morning, and this gathering grew into an important time of spiritual formation for the volunteers. The volunteers grew close as a group, and their faith journey became an important part of the program as they ministered to others. This



tradition continues as an important part of a volunteer's day. Years ago, an article about Thursday Fellowship in the Contra Costa Times called it the "best kept secret" in the area! It's not such a secret anymore, and the program continues to grow, supporting 60–70 participants weekly.

March and April had many highlights, featuring a wide variety of entertainment from classical and flamenco guitar to a variety vocalists performing classical, country and our favorite oldies. We also had speakers from the Rossmoor Irish Club, the Contra Costa Sanitary District, and the John Muir Land Trust. We were enlightened, entertained, and educated!

**May and June promise to be equally enjoyable and engaging as we celebrate the anniversary of our program. Plan to join us!**

- **May 1:** Trio Sol de Mexico, Mariachi Band
- **May 8:** Gillian and Joe Roebuck perform
- **May 15:** Mike Kistner vocalist and guitarist performs songs while we sing along
- **May 22:** BINGO
- **May 29:** Benjamin Glasgow performs on steel drum
- **June 5:** Year-end Hawaiian Lū'au with Hula Dancers and Rossmoor Ukelele Band

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.

**Questions?  
Contact Julie  
Peterson at  
[julie@lopc.org](mailto:julie@lopc.org) for  
more information.**







## LOPC Palm Sunday Egg-stravaganza!

Our annual Palm Sunday Egg Hunt was an egg-cellent success, bringing together over 300 friends and family members to celebrate the Easter season. Fellowship Hall was hopping with fun beneath a canopy of spring lanterns and life-sized balloons.

The egg-citement was real with more than 2,000 hidden eggs! Our tiniest hunters, ages 1–3, collected with adorable determination. Children ages 4–7 scrambled through the Seedlings Playground, while 8–10-year olds grabbed flashlights to hunt in the dark throughout the Sanctuary.

The game zone was alive with nine activities—ring toss, ping pong bounces, hoop shots, and more—plus a prize wheel! Kids enjoyed Easter crafts and created props for Vacation Bible Camp (June 9–13).

Face painting by Karen Bellesi and assistant Lauren added color to joyful faces. Families snapped photos peeking through a giant Easter basket and posing with the Easter Bunny (Harper Eyet) and our VBCamp mascot (Damon DiPrisco).

Guests enjoyed a lovely dessert buffet, breakfast bites, drinks, and a coffee bar hosted by Mari Gerry.

We appreciate all who joined us, making the day egg-tra special! A heartfelt thank you to Chris Baldwin, Cathy Eberhardt, Jonathan Nolen, and Gina Hageboeck for organizing such a joyful and memorable morning—and to the incredible volunteers from the LOPC Deacons, Children's Ministry Co-Directors, Fellowship Ministry Team, Operations Team/Gus' Janitor Team, and many dedicated church members who helped make Easter magic for our community.





# YOUTH

► **Contact Cynthia Purvis at [cynthia@lopc.org](mailto:cynthia@lopc.org)**

 **@lopc\_youth**



## Lighthouse Service-Learning Program

**Saturday 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 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.

Parents and caregivers are welcome to participate (though not required), and we also need volunteers to help with carpooling.

**Advance registration is requested at [lopc.org/registrations](http://lopc.org/registrations). Contact Michelle Browning at [michelle@lopc.org](mailto:michelle@lopc.org) for more information.**

## **YOW** Youth on Wednesday & **BTW** By the Way

YOW and BTW are on summer break until school returns. To stay connected, check out our special events throughout the summer.

## Youth Alive!

**Youth Alive, our Sunday morning youth Bible study for 5th – 8th graders, at 10:00 a.m. in CLC Room 201. Our last Youth Alive of the school year will be on May 25.**

**May Lesson Focus: Do Justice.** The biblical command to “do justice” in Micah 6:8 (see also Hosea 12:6; Proverbs 21:15; Amos 5:24; Isaiah 30:18–19; and throughout Scripture) reminds us that righteousness in the world is never completed but always in progress and incumbent on us to pursue, create, and establish. It requires that we see injustice in our midst and in our own behaviors. It necessitates that we check our prejudice to understand victims of injustice. It requires that we speak up: to power, to our own communities, and to ourselves. And it demands that we actually do the work, changing systems and practices that prop up injustice. Through these four aspects, the pursuit of justice demands we keep moving forward as we embrace this work as a lifelong facet of our identity as Christians.



## Summer Service-Learning Trip

**Youth Mission Co. in Raleigh, North Carolina  
8th – 12th Grade • Dates: July 6 – 11 • Cost: \$900**

For those signed up to serve, don't forget to complete your participant reflection by June 22. Join us for worship on June 22 for our team commissioning in worship at 10:00 a.m. Then join us for a mandatory meeting for both participants and parents, 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Mark your calendars for Youth Sunday and our service team reunion on August 24.**

## Special Event

**June 8, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Broomball at TriValley Ice Dublin  
(7212 San Ramon Rd, Dublin, CA 94568)**

**Cost: \$25**

Meet us at the ice rink at 1:30 p.m. or carpool from church for lunch before hitting the ice rink. We'll leave from church after morning worship at 11:30 a.m.

**If you plan to attend, register on [lopc.org/registrations](http://lopc.org/registrations). For more information contact Cynthia.**



## Summer Service Learning

**5th – 7th Grade:  
Service Squad**

**Dates: June 9 – 13**

**Time: 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Cost: \$260**

For those signed up to serve, don't forget to complete your participant reflection by June 8. Show up for worship on June 8 for our team commissioning in worship at 10:00 a.m. Then pick up your shirt on the plaza after worship.

**Here's our schedule for the week:**

**Monday:** Hope Solutions

**Tuesday:** Trinity Center

**Wednesday:** Regenerative Farming with John Muir Land Trust

**Thursday:** Harvey Ranch with John Muir Land Trust

**Friday:** Peninsula Precious Plastics

**Join us for the closing program and celebration on Friday, June 13, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

## Save the Date! Senior Send Off

**Senior Blessing in worship on May 18.**



# CHILDREN



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

For questions and  
to volunteer, contact  
Susan Wentworth at  
[susan@lopc.org](mailto: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!



## GARDEN Volunteers wanted for the 2025-26 school year!

Children's Ministry is seeking some friendly faces to share God's love with our elementary school aged children this summer and beyond. Our Garden Sunday School program consists of prepared lessons and easy to follow enrichment activities, crafts, stories, games, and more. Teaching experience is not necessary, and simple training will be provided. We would love to welcome some new faces and are asking for a one-Sunday per month minimum commitment.

Please see Susan Wentworth or email with any questions at [susan@lopc.org](mailto:susan@lopc.org).

Email Emily Austin:  
[emily@lopc.org](mailto:emily@lopc.org) or  
Susan Wentworth:  
[susan@lopc.org](mailto:susan@lopc.org)

Thanks to all the participants, families, and volunteers who made PLAY! on Wednesday such a joy this spring.





# FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

## Programs for May and June

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](http://lopc.org/first-friday-forum). Registration is not required.



### May 2: Craig Clements Explains the Science of Wildfires

All of us in California are concerned about the growing threat of wildfires. The danger was clear in 1991 when the Oakland firestorm, a devastating urban-wildland fire, caused an estimated \$1.5 billion in damage and destroyed over 3,300 homes. Again, last year we experienced the Pacific Palisades-Altaadena fires which damaged over 12,000 homes and may cost over \$30B. Even if our homes are not touched, many homeowners have seen huge increases in fire insurance premiums, if they can get insurance at all. We have also experienced days of wildfire smoke which has become the main source of air pollution and fine particles that can get into our lungs and enter the bloodstream.

Dr. Craig Clements will speak on “Improving Prediction of Extreme Wildfires and their Behavior” at the First Friday Forum June program. He will explain how wildfire science informs our understanding and prediction of wildfires. He will discuss how the frequency and intensity of fires involve a complex interplay of climate, topography, and vegetation, and will describe how his research findings on the structure of a wildfire come from using weather sensors inside and external to fires. His insights on the structure of a wildfire explain how wildfires become so powerful that they create their own weather. He will also talk about how technology such as sensor networks and aerial imaging play an increasing role in detecting, predicting the spread, and deploying resources to combat wildfires.

Dr. Clements is a Professor of Meteorology at San Jose State University and the founder and director of the Fire Weather Research Laboratory. He leads research on fire weather, extreme fire behavior, fire-atmosphere interactions, and conducts wildland fire field experiments. He received his Ph.D. in Geophysics from the University of Houston, his M.S. in Meteorology from the University of Utah, and a B.S. degree in Geography from the University of Nevada, Reno. His research has been featured in *PBS NOVA*, *Rolling Stone*, *The New York Times*, *CNN*, and *Scientific American*.



### June 6: Robert Todd Explains Artificial Intelligence and Its Implications



Is Artificial Intelligence hype or will it have a profound impact on our culture? Will my PC become an AI assistant that helps me to access knowledge and provides tools that improve my life? Robert Todd, Innovator, Tech Executive, and Lecturer, will answer these questions and more in his talk “The Dawn of the Artificial Intelligence Age”.

In his talk Todd will introduce the history, concepts, vocabulary and current breakthroughs in AI. He will help us understand why AI is getting so much attention recently and why some people are concerned about the risks and others are excited about the great benefit to humanity,

Todd is an innovator and tech executive who now writes and teaches about AI and builds products and companies using AI technology. As a pioneer in online education at SFSU and as a digital learning luminary at DigitalThink, McKinsey & Co. consulting services, and LinkedIn, he developed an interest in AI. He splits his time between communicating the societal impact of AI and advising a portfolio of AI-powered edtech startups. Todd taught three classes on AI in 2024 with Berkeley Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and is currently teaching “Hands-On AI: Going Deeper.”

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



# Join our church leadership teams!

Terms beginning January 1, 2026

## WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

### RULING ELDERS (three-year term)

Together with the pastors, ruling elders lead and direct the ministries of the church, and serve on Session, the governing body of the church. Ruling elders should be persons of faith, dedication and good judgment. Ruling elders also chair church teams through which all ministry is conducted.

### DEACONS (three-year term)

Deacons are leaders who serve as the caring, compassionate arm of the church, providing loving support to our community. Deacons primarily serve in ministries of member care and involvement. Two youth, of high school age, will be selected to serve one-year terms.

### Congregation Nominating Committee

The goal of the CNC is to keep a balance of talent and energy in leadership to continue to build on the amazing work being performed. Four members will be elected at-large from the congregation.

**Foundation Trustees** serve on the LOPC Foundation. This nine-member foundation receives gifts in various forms and designations, manages investments, and provides funding for LOPC needs that cannot be accommodated in the church's annual operating budget. Trustees serve an initial term of four years and are eligible to be reelected for one three-year term. Members who have served in the past can be nominated for a two-year term.

## WHAT POSITIONS NEED TO BE FILLED?

- Elders to serve on one of the following teams: Care, Family, Finance, Generosity, Interfaith, Operations, Seniors, Spiritual Formation, Worship
- Ten Deacons
- Four CNC members
- Three Foundation trustees

## WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

### April – May

Nomination forms are submitted to CNC.

### May – July

CNC will email people who submitted a nomination to let them know their nomination was received. CNC will contact people who are being considered to let them know of their nomination and to provide additional information about what expectations are for the position. At that time nominees will let CNC know whether or not they would like to be considered.

Nominees are finalized by the CNC.

## ESSENTIAL QUALITIES

The primary qualifications desired in nominees are:

**STRONG COMMITMENT** to Jesus Christ and the church's Statement of Faith

**ACTIVE PARTICIPATION** in worship

**GENEROSITY** and a commitment of time, talents, and financial resources

**LEADERSHIP** and organizational skills

**COMPASSION** in human relationships

An **OPEN-MINDED** approach to ideas and problems

**SPIRITUAL** depth and maturity

Ability to **EQUIP PEOPLE** for ministry and work in a team-based leadership model

## NOMINATION FORM

Terms beginning January 1, 2026 • Nominations accepted through May 31, 2025

Please use one form for each nominee and give as many details as possible. If you feel God has called you to service, please nominate yourself.

### NOMINEE INFORMATION

Name (first and last): \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated for: ☐ ELDER ☐ FOUNDATION TRUSTEE ☐ DEACON ☐ CNC

Please tell us why you are nominating this person and be as specific as possible:

Your Name (first and last) : \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Submissions can be made by:

- Putting ballots in the ballot box in the church office
- Mailing ballots to: LOPC, attn.: CNC, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549
- Submitting online at [www.lopc.org/cnc](http://www.lopc.org/cnc)

## Church Officer Nominations



### 2025 Congregation Nominating Committee

#### CNC Chair

Carolyn Bauer

#### At-Large Members

Steve Crocker  
Jane Kadash  
Linda Rosenthal  
Lynne Terril

#### 2025 Clerk of Session

Chris Johnson

#### Deacon Representative

Cyndy Jacobsmeyer

#### Staff

Peter Whitelock  
Jaime Polson



**LAFAYETTE-ORINDA  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

49 Knox Drive  
Lafayette, CA 94549



info@lopc.org  
925-283-8722

IMPORTANT

Dated Material  
PLEASE DELIVER  
BEFORE 5/1/25

Thank you!

Return Service Requested

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

**CELEBRATE SUMMER  
WITH LOPC!**

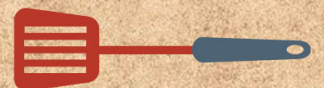
**SUNDAY  
JUNE  
22**

**11:00 AM -  
12:30 PM**

**FOR MORE  
INFO:  
[lopc.org](http://lopc.org)**

**BACK  
YARD  
BASH**

**LIVE MUSIC  
FOOD  
DRINKS  
GAMES  
DUNK TANK  
AND MORE!**



**ALL  
ARE  
WELCOME**