

# MESSENGER

VOLUME 73, NUMBER 3

MARCH 2024

## WHERE WE COME FROM – MAZ: AS I RECALL THE MISSION

By Jerry White

Mission Arizona (MAZ) is a week of service and outreach by the La Crescenta Presbyterian Church's Youth Ministries department, designed primarily to serve the Akimel O'odham (Pima) people in the Gila River Indian Community, just south of Phoenix. MAZ started in 1991 and ran until 2017, then took a pause for a few years,



but is now restarting, once again, in March 2024.

Darren Bottino, the LCPC Junior High Ministries Intern and Fuller Seminary student in the early 1990s designed the first mission trip to Arizona as a part of a research project. He found that Charles H. Cook, a late 19th century Presbyterian missionary to the Pima Indians, was the great-grandfather of our then current pastor, Steven Marsh. Dr. Cook established a theological school with the Pima Indians, the first inhabitants in Tempe, Arizona. In fact, our first three MAZ mission trips worked at the very same school.

Later, MAZ moved to Vah Ki Presbyterian Church on the Gila River Indian Reservation, also known as the Gila River Indian Community. The reservation is situated in the Sonoran Desert, one of the harshest environments in North America. Vah Ki Presbyterian was connected with the churches at Stotonic and Sacaton, AZ, all established as mission



churches under the direction of Dr. Cook. The sanctuaries are adobe structures with very few modern upgrades – there are no lighting systems, no TVs, or wireless mics. The worship is simple and traditional.

Since we moved MAZ to the reservation, our youth teams participate in weekly services on Sundays and generally Wednesday evenings. We've been treated to the small choir sing-

ing hymns in the old language, a language that had all but been stamped out. It is always a beautiful experience hearing worship in their language, seeing the joy of it on the elder's faces, and the glee in the children's eyes as they learn the old ways.

A typical day begins with breakfast prepared by the lead cook and the student team assigned KP

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# P A S T O R ' S   L E T T E R

Dear La Crescenta Presbyterian Church Family & Friends,

On Wednesday, February 14, about 80 people from LCPC and the community gathered in the Sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday service. With the church around the world, we entered together the Season of Lent. Lent is a season of reflection, self-examination, and repentance. It's a season of preparation; preparing ourselves to journey with Christ through His passion, crucifixion, and resurrection. In Mark 1:12-13, we are told that Jesus started His public ministry by a time of reflection, fasting, and communion with God in the wilderness of Judea. "The Spirit immediately drove Him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on Him."

I find it amazing that Jesus "was in the wilderness tempted by Satan," surrounded by the wild beasts, yet He was not forgotten by His Father in Heaven; "the angels waited on Him." This is a great picture of the journey of life. It's true that we are tempted by Satan, surrounded by the wild beasts, but always being ministered

to by God's angels and always guided by the Holy Spirit. This is what Jesus experienced in the dessert of Judea and this is what Moses experienced in the Sinai wilderness.

Deuteronomy 34:7, states that Moses lived a hundred and twenty years. His life is divided into three important chapters, each is 40 years long. Moses spent the first forty years of his life in the land of Egypt, in Pharaoh's Palace; the second forty years in the wilderness, and the last forty years of his life leading the Israelites out of the land of slavery into the Promised Land. What is amazing to know here is that Moses first encountered God in the wilderness, in the burning bush. Moses did not see God while a Prince in the land of Egypt enjoying the comfort life of Pharaoh's Palace, but rather, in the wilderness.

In our own desert experiences, we are not alone. We are accompanied by our loving, faithful, and trustworthy Father in Heaven. In the wilderness, we can experience the fullness of God's presence, His loving kindness, and the assurance of His provision. I love the words of the book of Deuteronomy 32:10&12: "In

a desert land He found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye. The Lord alone led him; no foreign god was with him."

In the desert we get to know ourselves, our strengths and weaknesses, but more importantly, we get to know our divine calling and the awesomeness of our God. Moses, Elijah, John the Baptist, and Jesus were people of the desert. It is in the desert with temptations all around us, God surprises us yet with a monstrosity of power, a revelation of love, an oasis of refreshment, a taste of the harvest, and a moment of grace. Let's journey together through this Lent to meet Jesus in the wilderness, in the Upper Room, at Gethsemane, and at the empty tomb on Easter Sunday. Come, join us!

Yours in Christ's Service,  
Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef  
Senior Pastor & Head of Staff



This month of February has been very busy with the events we've had going on, such as parents' night out, rummage sales, and a parent meeting. We also had a fantastic time going out to the mountains for winter retreats. The students thoroughly enjoyed being out in the snow.

Right now, I have some exciting news to share. We are officially locked in for summer camp.

This year, we are introducing two new camps. The first camp is Wildlife Camp (Junior High), which is a part of Young Life.

Our goal is to introduce junior high students who have never been a part of a youth group to Jesus and Christianity in a way that ignites their desire to be a part of a youth group. We are actively reaching out to the students in Rosemont to gain their involvement and build this youth group.

For high school students, we are going to Christ in Youth. Last year, we faced some challenges with the cost of camp, and we wanted to make camp more affordable and accessible. Christ in Youth Camp is known for its heavy

focus on discipleship, and I believe it's an excellent opportunity for students to deepen their spiritual lives.

## DATES:

**Wildlife:** July 5 - 9

**Christ in Youth:** July 8 - 12

Please be in prayer for next month for MAZ as we want to see God move with each of these students that attend. It will be their first time experiencing this, and I hope that it makes a long-lasting impact on them.

Blessings,  
Izzy



## M E S S E N G E R

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### ART DIRECTOR/EDITOR

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**MESSENGER DEADLINE**  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 18**  
**9:00 AM SHARP**

Messenger articles and corrections should be emailed to shawndraws@gmail.com. **Please put the word "Messenger" in the subject line.** Materials submitted after the deadline may be omitted at the discretion of the editor.

# children's Ministries

BY JESIAH BOZICH

Hello all!

Blessed March to you all! We are entering a very special month. For most of the month, we will continue the season of Lent, a season of repentance and humility, where we prepare our hearts for the triumphant joys of Easter! Then, of course, we finish the month with the very day that we remember that greatest of days when Jesus rose from the dead to bring us into forever life with Him! May we approach this month with intentionality, mourning when it is time to mourn, repenting when it is time to repent, and celebrating when it is time to celebrate!

We had lots of fun last month at our Parents Night Out! We got to hang out, eat yummy food, play some games, and watch a

great movie! Our team has been praying hard that this event would be a blessing to any family who wanted to make use of this event and we are so thankful that we were able to see so many smiling faces join us at the party.

This month, we have another exciting event: our Easter Eggstravaganza. This event, done in partnership with CFC, will be a great way for us to gather and celebrate the wonderful, amazing, true story of when Jesus died on the cross and came back to life again! We will host this party on Saturday morning, March 23, from 10:00 AM-Noon. We will have Easter themed crafts, activities, and even an egg hunt. Don't worry, we will also be spending some important time to remember what Easter is REALLY about. We invite members from our

congregation to come and join this fun party by helping or just attending and hanging out! We hope to see you there.

Otherwise, I ask, as always, for your continued prayers for our ministry to children here at LCPC. These children are very precious to the Lord. As we see new and returning faces, may we hope to see these young lives transformed by the world altering truth of the Gospel! May we be eager in prayer and supplication over these children, wishing for the Holy Spirit to meet them and bring them into relationship with the God who made them, died for them, and loves them so very, very much.

As always, I thank God for what He has done and eagerly await what He will do next!  
Grace and Peace,  
Jesiah



La  
Crescenta  
Presbyterian  
Church  
Deacons  
Present



Featuring  
a Ten-Piece  
Professional  
Band &  
Singers  
Performing  
Pop, Rock,  
Swing, Jazz,  
Gospel, TV &  
Movie Themes

Our 3rd  
Annual  
Fundraising  
Musical  
Variety  
Show  
Benefiting  
The LCPC  
Higher  
Education  
Scholarship  
Fund

**SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2:00 MATINEE**

**SUGGESTED DONATION: ADULTS \$15, TEENS \$10, PRETEENS \$5**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR  
OR FOR ADVANCE TICKETS CALL 818-249-6137**

**SPONSORSHIPS ALSO AVAILABLE:  
Patron \$100 Benefactor \$200 Angel \$500 Archangel \$1,000+**

**BISTRO 50+**

**TUESDAY,  
MARCH 12  
12 NOON IN  
KOOPMANS**

Everyone 50+ years  
old is welcome to  
come and enjoy a  
meal and fellowship  
for just \$5.00.

**CRUISERS**

The Cruisers would like to extend an invitation to all to attend their meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, immediately following the Bistro 50 lunch. The speaker is Ms. Karen Frey who is coming with a very interesting, interactive program entitled "Women of the Civil War". The program starts at 1:00 PM. If you have any questions or would like to join, call Isabel Adams at (818) 424-8373.



March is certainly coming in like a Lion, based on all we have going on around LCPC this month! And it will go out like a Lamb, as Easter falls on the last day of March!

Join us Sunday, March 3, right after the combined worship service down in Koopmans, for the **Annual Meeting of the Congregation**. We'll review 2023 Reports, the 2024 budget, and vote in the new Nominating Committee. Fellowship will be serving a yummy **yogurt bar** with all the toppings along with muffins.

It's our **Home Again LA (HALA)** week, March 3-9. We have the opportunity to support families temporarily being housed at Eagle Rock Covenant Church. Check the sign-up sheet available on the events page at [lcpc.net](http://lcpc.net) to see if there are still slots open to donate food items, a hot meal or share your time. Contact **Cindy Guenther Williams** at: [csguenther50@gmail.com](mailto:csguenther50@gmail.com) for more information.

Our first **Women's Hike** last month was well attended and enjoyed by all. An overhead bird even christened one of our walkers! Join the ladies Saturday, March 9, at **Descanso Gardens** for a beautiful walk through nature. Many people have memberships and can bring a guest for free, so meet at the entrance at 10:00 AM to coordinate.

Have you signed up to donate blood for the **Deacon's Blood Drive** on March 10? Slots are open from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Register by clicking the QR code on our website or weekly email. The Red Cross has declared an **emergency blood shortage** for 2024 due to the lowest number blood donors in the last 20 years. Anyone 17 years or older and in good health can donate every 56 days.

The **Cruisers** are planning an interesting presentation about women in the Civil War at their meeting Tuesday, March 12, at 1:00 PM. Be sure to come at Noon for a tasty lunch beforehand at **Bistro 50+** in Koopmans Hall for just \$5. Everyone is welcome!

The **Mission Arizona (MAZ)** Team under the leadership of **Jerry White** will be leaving March 16 to work on two Presbyterian Church campuses in the Gila River Indian Community. Jr. and Sr. high students will be repairing an outdoor arbor and building a concrete walkway to help those using wheelchairs and walkers. This trip is life changing as they learn the importance of serving while growing closer to God and each other. To register a student for the trip, contact Jerry at: [jjwhit12@pacbell.net](mailto:jjwhit12@pacbell.net).

The team had a successful **Rummage Sale** last month to raise money for the trip



and building supplies. Thank you to everyone who donated items, helped set up and work the sale and to all the shoppers who went home with new treasures!

CFC is offering a **Spring Break Day Camp** March 18-25, for children in 1st -7th grades. If you're working and need a fun option for your kids, look no further. CFC has lots of fun planned for the

week! They're planning a fantastic summer day camp too!

The church family has been loving the potlucks this year – what an incredible variety of delicious dishes we have all gotten to sample! The next one will be Sunday March 17, so wear your favorite green outfit and join us for the **St. Patrick's Potluck** in Koopmans. No sign up is necessary – just bring something to share and enjoy the company!

**PEAK** will be on hiatus for two weeks this month. There's **no PEAK Wednesday March 20** due to Spring Break or **Wednesday March 27** during Holy Week. It will resume on Wednesday, April 3, with two new classes, and a **PEAK potluck**! Since chef **John Arrangio** is unavailable, we're going to see how a Wednesday night potluck goes! **Pastor Mouris** will continue his Bible study moving on to 2 Timothy. The Love and Logic class will be over and we're offering a new class based on the popular streaming series **"The Chosen."** Each week we'll watch an episode from the 1st season, followed by a bible-based discussion.

Children's Ministries has an **Easter Egg-stravaganza** party for LCPC and CFC kids and families Saturday, March 23, from 10:00 AM - Noon in the Courtyard. There will be all sorts of Easter festivities, games and Easter eggs, so hop on over and bring a friend too!

We have a full schedule for **Holy Week!** Thursday, March 28, the **Deacons** will be serving their traditional **sacrificial meal** at 5:30 PM in Koopmans. Come for Vegetable or Vegetable Beef soup, fresh bread and oranges before the **Maundy Thursday Communion service** at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. **Good Friday**, March 29, we'll have a service at 7:00 PM which will culminate in the rolling of the giant **Easter Boulder** in front of the Sanctuary doors. We'll also have our **Campfire Vigil** in front of the church starting right after the service around 8:00 PM.

Saturday, March 30, the **Lift Up Crescenta Valley (LUCV)** team will be hosting a 12-hour prayer event in our Chapel from 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM. Just as the disciples prayed and mediated between Jesus' death and resurrection, so will

we. Be watching for the sign up as their goal is to have at least 3-4 people praying in each 30-minute time slot. This is a community event so invite friends and family!

Finally, **Easter Sunday**, March 31, we'll have a glorious celebration for our Risen Savior! The Contemporary Service with our **Praise Band** will be at 9:00 AM, and the Classic service led by our **Cathedral Choir** accompanied by fabulous brass instrumentalists will be at 11:00 AM. Both services will be in the Sanctuary. Come worship the miracle of Easter with us!

The next night, we have yet another event! **LCPC Man Night** is Monday, April 1, from 6:00-7:30 PM in **Doug Givens'** backyard. All guys, any age are welcome and it's free! They're grilling up brats and hot dogs, they'll be worshipping and celebrating the three men's ministry groups LCPC offers. For more info, contact **Phil Van Horn** at [ballphild@gmail.com](mailto:ballphild@gmail.com).

LCPC is having a baby boom this summer and we couldn't be more overjoyed! **Kyle** and **Mackenzie Roach** couldn't be more excited to be welcoming a baby boy. And now you know why **Grandma Janie** is beaming from ear to ear – her first grandson is on the way! So happy for the whole Roach family! Our praise band vocalist **Lana Arrington** and her husband **Avantae** are thrilled to be having a baby sister for big brother **Asher**, and **Brandon** and **Christy Bauer** will be having a baby brother for big sister **Emery**. We love our LCPC babies!

We have a new friendly face on the Sunday greeting team – **Bill Larson**! He'll start your Sunday off with a big smile. And remember, you're all honorary greeters! We have a lot of new faces around LCPC, so be sure to welcome someone at our greeting time during the service.

Thank you to **Josh Kauffman** for strategically placing sandbags, to help stem the flow of water into Koopmans Hall during the recent rains. We've been having a bit of water creeping in there.

We had a great turn out at **Parents Night Out** last month! 19 kids came for dinner, games and a movie; the proceeds go toward the Mission Arizona trip; and a group of grateful parents had a relaxing evening to themselves. It was a win for everyone!

CFC is looking for **coloring paper** for kids to use in the classrooms. Is your business changing letterhead, or do you get a bunch of junk faxes or blank sheets between reports? They can use any paper, any color, as long as it's clean on one side. Just drop it off to the CFC office.

Happy Easter LCPC Family – **He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!** Talk to you next month.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

# MARCH 2024

<div> <div>10:00 A</div> <div>Combined Worship–Sanctuary</div> </div> <div> <div>11:30 A</div> <div>Annual Meeting–KH</div> </div> <div> <div>12:30 P</div> <div>Deacons–KH</div> </div>	<div> <div>7:00 P</div> <div>Property Team–203</div> </div> <div> <div>7:00 P</div> <div>SM–SC</div> </div>	<div> <div>11:00 A</div> <div>Tuesday Bible Study–KH</div> </div> <div> <div>2:30 P</div> <div>Tasty Tuesday</div> </div> <div> <div>7:00 P</div> <div>Men's Group–203</div> </div> <div> <div>7:00 P</div> <div>W&amp;M Team–KH</div> </div>	<div> <div>6:30 A</div> <div>Men's Ministries–Zoom</div> </div> <div> <div>5:30 P</div> <div>PEAK Dinner–KH</div> </div> <div> <div>6:15 P</div> <div>PEAK Classes</div> </div> <div> <div>7:30 P</div> <div>Choir–Chapel</div> </div> <div> <div>7:30 P</div> <div>Outreach Team–Lib.</div> </div>	<div> <div>7:00 P</div> <div>Mission Team–Lib.</div> </div>	<div>1</div> <div> <div>7:30 A</div> <div>Be Still</div> </div> <div> <div>9:00 A</div> <div>Pickleball–Basketball Court</div> </div> <div> <div>9:30 A</div> <div>Cornerstone Crew</div> </div>
<div> <div>8:00 A</div> <div>Blood Drive–KH</div> </div> <div> <div>10:00 A</div> <div>Classic Worship–Chapel</div> </div> <div> <div>New Song Worship–Sanctuary</div> </div> <div> <div>11:30 A</div> <div>Personnel–Lib.</div> </div>	<div> <div>6:00 P</div> <div>CFC Team–KH</div> </div>	<div> <div>11:00 A</div> <div>Tuesday Bible Study–KH</div> </div> <div> <div>12:00 N</div> <div>Bistro 50+–KH</div> </div> <div> <div>1:00 P</div> <div>Cruisers–KH</div> </div> <div> <div>2:30 P</div> <div>Tasty Tuesday–SC</div> </div> <div> <div>7:00 P</div> <div>Men's Group–203</div> </div> <div> <div>7:00 P</div> <div>Fellowship Team–Zoom</div> </div>	<div> <div>6:30 A</div> <div>Men's Ministries–Zoom</div> </div> <div> <div>5:30 P</div> <div>PEAK Dinner–KH</div> </div> <div> <div>6:15 P</div> <div>PEAK Classes</div> </div> <div> <div>7:30 P</div> <div>Choir–Chapel</div> </div> <div> <div>7:30 P</div> <div>Adult Discipleship–Lib.</div> </div>	<div> <div>15</div> </div>	<div>16</div> <div> <div>Mission Arizona Departs</div> </div> <div> <div>7:30 A</div> <div>Be Still</div> </div> <div> <div>9:00 A</div> <div>Pickleball–Basketball Court</div> </div> <div> <div>9:30 A</div> <div>Cornerstone Crew</div> </div>
<div> <div>ST. PATRICK'S DAY</div> </div> <div> <div>10:00 A</div> <div>Classic Worship–Chapel</div> </div> <div> <div>New Song Worship–Sanctuary</div> </div> <div> <div>11:30 P</div> <div>Sunday Potluck–KH</div> </div>	<div> <div>6:00 P</div> <div>CFC Team–KH</div> </div>	<div> <div>7:00 P</div> <div>Men's Group–203</div> </div> <div> <div>7:00 P</div> <div>Communications Team–Zoom</div> </div>	<div> <div>6:30 A</div> <div>Men's Ministries–Zoom</div> </div> <div> <div>7:30 P</div> <div>Choir–Chapel</div> </div>	<div> <div>7:00 PM</div> <div>Women's Book Club–Zoom</div> </div> <div> <div>7:00 P</div> <div>Children's Ministries Team–Zoom</div> </div>	<div>22</div> <div> <div>Mission Arizona Returns</div> </div> <div> <div>7:30 A</div> <div>Be Still</div> </div> <div> <div>9:00 A</div> <div>Pickleball–Basketball Court</div> </div> <div> <div>9:30 A</div> <div>Cornerstone Crew</div> </div>
<div> <div>Palm Sunday</div> </div> <div> <div>10:00 A</div> <div>Classic Worship–Chapel</div> </div> <div> <div>New Song Worship–Sanctuary</div> </div>	<div> <div>7:00 P</div> <div>Session–KH</div> </div>	<div> <div>2:30 P</div> <div>Tasty Tuesday</div> </div> <div> <div>7:00 P</div> <div>Men's Group–203</div> </div>	<div> <div>6:30 A</div> <div>Men's Ministries–Zoom</div> </div> <div> <div>7:30 P</div> <div>Choir–Chapel</div> </div>	<div> <div>5:30 P</div> <div>Maunday Thursday Sacrificial Meal–KH</div> </div> <div> <div>7:00 P</div> <div>Maundy Thursday Service–Sanctuary</div> </div>	<div>30</div> <div> <div>9:00 A</div> <div>Pickleball–Basketball Court</div> </div> <div> <div>9:30 A</div> <div>Cornerstone Crew</div> </div>
<div> <div>31</div> <div>Easter Sunday</div> </div> <div> <div>9:00 A</div> <div>New Song Service–Sanctuary</div> </div> <div> <div>11:00 A</div> <div>Classic Service–Sanctuary</div> </div>	<div> <div>7:00 P</div> <div>Session–KH</div> </div>	<div> <div>2:30 P</div> <div>Tasty Tuesday</div> </div> <div> <div>7:00 P</div> <div>Men's Group–203</div> </div>	<div> <div>6:30 A</div> <div>Men's Ministries–Zoom</div> </div> <div> <div>7:30 P</div> <div>Choir–Chapel</div> </div>	<div> <div>5:30 P</div> <div>Maunday Thursday Sacrificial Meal–KH</div> </div> <div> <div>7:00 P</div> <div>Maundy Thursday Service–Sanctuary</div> </div>	<div> <div>Good Friday Service</div> </div> <div> <div>7:00 P</div> <div>Camp Fire Vigil</div> </div> <div> <div>8:00 P</div> <div></div> </div>
	<div> <div>CFC</div> </div> <div> <div>CM</div> </div> <div> <div>KH</div> </div> <div> <div>M&amp;O</div> </div> <div> <div>PEAK</div> </div>	<div> <div>Center For Children</div> </div> <div> <div>Children's Ministries Team</div> </div> <div> <div>Koopmans Hall</div> </div> <div> <div>Mission &amp; Outreach Committee</div> </div> <div> <div>Praise &amp; Education for Adults &amp; Kids</div> </div>	<div> <div>SC</div> </div> <div> <div>SM</div> </div> <div> <div>W&amp;M</div> </div> <div> <div>YAMS</div> </div>	<div> <div>Student Center</div> </div> <div> <div>Student Ministries Committee</div> </div> <div> <div>Worship &amp; Music Team</div> </div> <div> <div>Young Adult Ministries</div> </div>	

# SESSION REPORT

At the January 29 Stated Meeting of Session, the following items were approved and/or discussed:

- Welcomed new and returning Elders Steven Andersen, Craig Carlson, Jennifer Clem, Nicole Elmes, Jillian Matson, Bill McClain, Pat Rabe, Aubrie Walker, and Jon Weingarten.
- Elected Sheri Gray as Clerk of Session and Cindy Guenther-Williams as Church Treasurer for the year 2024.
- Approved the 2023 Annual Statistical Report which will be submitted to the General Assembly. Information from the report determines our per capita share and also the number of Presbytery Commissioners (voting members) we are allowed (currently five, not including Pastor Mouris).
- The following Elders were approved by Session to serve as Presbytery Commissioners for the February 27 meeting: Steven Andersen, Bill McClain, and Jerry White. These Elders are in addition to previously approved commissioners Pat Chambers and Randall Wetzel.
- Elected the following Officers of the Corporation: President – Rebecca Lessley, Moderator of Personnel Team; Vice President – Geoffrey Bryan, Moderator of Property Team; Chief Financial Officer, Cindy Guenther-Williams, Church

Treasurer; Secretary - Sheri Gray, Clerk of Session. These names are presented in compliance with the State of California, which requires three officers, and in compliance with our By-Laws which require four. These officers have the authority to sign checks and legal documents for the corporation. In addition to these officers, Cindy Charles, Director of Finance and Human Resources has the authority to sign checks for the corporation.

- Approved summer camps for Student Ministries: Junior High - July 5 to 9, 2024; Senior High July 8 to 12, 2024. Both camps will be held in Flagstaff, Arizona with Young Life Ministries.
- Discussed the preliminary 2024 budget which will be finalized and approved at the February Stated meeting and presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on March 3.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the Session Elders if you have a question, concern, or compliment! Photos of our Session members are available at: [lcpc.net](http://lcpc.net) and contact information is available through Shelby.

Blessings,  
Sheri Gray  
Clerk of Session



The next big Deacons' event coming up is a blood drive on Sunday, March 10. Former Deacon Hilary Norton agreed to continue as chair for this important mission, assisted by current Deacon Alice Hill. Slots are open from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Register by clicking the QR code on our website or weekly email.

The "Happy Hangouts" program is starting up, led by Deacon Armineh Manoukian. A recent New York Times article pointed out that agenda-free hangout time with friends can help improve our well-being. If you are interested in hanging out with LCPC friends and maybe making some new friends, please let Armineh know and she will add you to her growing list.

The start of the Lenten season reminds us to look forward to Easter. The Deacons

are once again planning a sacrificial meal on Maundy Thursday, March 28. We hope to see you there!

Our third annual variety show benefiting student scholarships is scheduled for four weeks after Easter. Deacon Noel Collins is putting together a fabulous show for April 28.

We are happy to report that donations made to the scholarship fund are helping individuals in the LCPC community pursue their studies. In 2022 and 2023 scholarships were awarded to 13 students: Jonathan Aydin, Samantha Bouzikian, Jesiah Bozich, Izzy Cox, Andre Garabedian, Annaliese Guerrero, Audrey Hill, Adrianna Ismael, Sarah Milbrodt, Jen Ning Bozich, Dylan O'Meara, Jake Weingarten and Luke Weingarten. Payments are made directly to the school, which means that some of the funds currently in our scholarship account are earmarked for future payout.

We have room for more Deacons! Please contact our co-moderator Nancy Smith if interested, at her new email address: [nancy@twiningtrees.com](mailto:nancy@twiningtrees.com).

Finally, when we were talking about plan-



The Property Team will be hosting its semi-annual "Day of Service" on April 6. Mark your calendars and we hope you can join us any time from 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM. It's always a nice opportunity to come along-side a friend to visit, catch up, or discover more about someone you don't see often enough while also doing God's work by helping to maintain our church campus and serving with others. A few examples of small work projects will include:

- Koopmans Hall
- Removal of over-abundant remnant tape throughout Koopmans
- Cleaning HVAC ceiling grills
- Re-sealing "fishbowl" store-front type windows
- Replacing damaged cabinet hinges
- Light bulb replacement (lights at ext. corridors along CFC classrooms)
- Campus Landscape
- Parking lot planter weeding and cleaning
- Courtyard planter maintenance
- Campus tree trimming/cleanup
- Sanctuary cleaning and refreshing

There are several other well deserved maintenance spots needing attention that can be accomplished depending on the skills and abilities of those that join and serve. If you have noticed some things that you might like to tackle, please contact Scott Carpenter at: [scottcarpenter7@outlook.com](mailto:scottcarpenter7@outlook.com). Our Property Team is blessed and thankful to those who recognize a need around our LCPC campus and offer to share their gifts of time and talent by way of service.

During the Maundy Thursday event, we realized that not everyone is aware of that the Center for Children ministry is one of the organizations that can benefit from the Ralphs Community Contribution Program. If you shop at Ralphs, please consider taking advantage of this program to assist one of LCPC's important ministries.

Serving Him,  
Deacon Dave





My life in Taiwan is very busy, just like the traffic going in so many directions at 5:00 PM. Did you know my city, Taichung, is ranked number six in the world for bad traffic? And that Taiwan is 245 miles long with over 100 peaks of 10,000 feet down the center of the island? Did you also know that the Taiwanese Church that I serve in has planted over 10 churches over the past 20 years around this beautiful island? My pastor is a visionary and is always training people to be equipped and sent out all over. In fact, I just met with him a couple times in January to see how I could serve more specifically in the Taiwanese Church, and he asked me to mentor three of the pastors' wives in a few of those various church locations. It has been an honor and joy to walk alongside each of them individually. Starting mid-February, we will also meet as a foursome every week for prayer, Bible study, and topics I hope to challenge and encourage

them in.

I am also deeply encouraged to be part of a prayer team that brings hope and healing to the hurting people after each church service. I also participate in an inductive Chinese Bible study that I started here over six years ago, which continues to meet weekly under the leadership of someone I trained. There is much joy, depth of discussion, and understanding gleaned as each person shares their insights.

After my morning service on Sundays, I jump on my motorbike to ride over to the Presbyterian Taiwanese English church. I preach once a month, in addition to helping lead the discussion groups immediately following the sermons each week. We are just starting the Beatitudes, and what a blessing it is (pun intended).

During the week, I work in a counseling center where I have been serving as a volunteer counselor to missionaries all over the island, giving them psychological, emotional, and spiritual support to help them continue their work in the field.

This is an unpaid, full-time position supervising other counselors in the office, while also working with my own clients. This work is like encountering the various traffic lights of green,

red, and sometimes yellow, since life altering breakthroughs with some clients are quick, while other people get stuck at a red light and can't move forward. Thankfully, God is faithful and gets to the crux of the matter and gets the movement of freedom and healing in people's hearts flowing once again. I have volunteered in the counseling center for nine years now as my primary missionary service in Taiwan and have loved it.

Thank you, LCPC, for your ongoing prayer and financial support. At this time, I truly covet your prayers for 1) greater retention of the Chi-

nese language as I study, 2) anointing as I preach each month, 3) wisdom as I mentor the three pastors' wives, 4) breakthroughs for each client in the counseling center and 5) that I am able to cover the increasing cost-of-living (and expected loss of income from a couple of my long-term supporters due to their elderly age), so that I may continue my ministry here. It is only through the support of individual financial partners that I am able to do

this work, helping to grow the Kingdom in this nation, which is less than 5% Christian.

Blessings to you all,  
Terri



## MISSION ARIZONA

*(continued from page 1)*

for the day. The team moves from breakfast to dressed for work when they report to the fellowship area for a devotional lesson lead by the assigned team, some singing, and a period of quiet time where the team spreads out around the church campus. Work assignments are then handed out and begin for the next three hours until lunch is served. Immediately following lunch, work continues for the next 3-4 hours or until a logical break is established for the various teams. A short period of free time is allowed before dinner which is followed by evening devotions, a group activity, and finally free time before bed.

A typical mission trip includes a frybread dinner hosted by the Vah Ki Pres. congregation. Frybread stations are set up in the outdoor cooking area and the women of the congregation teach the students how to make frybread. The frybreads are used as a base for a tortilla-like salad constructed by each person. The dining hall is filled with students, church

members, and folks from the community for a dinner followed by some activity of one kind or another. On two occasions our teams were blessed with the presence of an Eagle Scout and the U.S. Flag adorning the memorial to Ira Hays, the Pima Indian who help raise the flag on Iwo Jima. It was a sobering and well received rite.

Projects over the years include painting nearly every year, general maintenance of one sort or another as the teams see the need, installation and repair of drip systems that water trees, and building concrete walkways to connect the various campus areas to each other to serve the needs of people using walkers and wheelchairs. The MAZ teams have built, rebuilt, and refurbished several arbors used by the congregation and community at large. Concrete walls have been erected to provide windbreaks and slow down the incursion of sand into the outdoor meeting areas. Some of the smaller buildings have been reroofed. During one mission trip, a concrete basketball court was laid and equipped. On another trip, a washed-out adobe wall of a storage area was demolished

and rebuilt along with a new tin roof.

Our next trip is scheduled from Saturday, March 16 through Saturday, March 23, 2024. Projects are just now taking shape and will be challenging; we'll be building several walkways built between the old Stotonic sanctuary and a new mobile home used for fellowship. Additionally, we may also be involved some needed repairs connected to the church at Vah Ki and the large arbor we sleep under, both recently hit by high winds. This will be a challenge to complete over our four and a half to five days of work and your prayers are appreciated.

The LCPC Missions Team has allocated enough funds to provide materials and supplies for the projects. They are an awesome crew! Our fundraising will provide for the expense of travel, food, housing, and fellowship supplies. We are currently selling shares of stock in the mission after Sunday services and will host a shareholder meeting sometime in April.

Our Big Need? Please pray for our youth, volunteers, staff, and stakeholders. And feel free to let me know directly how you want to help.



## Director's Corner

As I talk to parents about their children going into T-K or kindergarten it reminds me how committed I am to the educational philosophy of our program. We believe that early childhood education forms a child's approach to learning and that we want children to investigate, observe and explore the world around them. We believe that it is more important to handle groups of 4: 4 blocks, 4 seashells, 4 buttons, 4 cars and to sing about groups of 5: 5 little monkeys, 5 dinosaurs and to set a table with 6 plates, 6 napkins, 6 forks than to write these numbers on a ditto page numerous times in a row.

We hunt for things that start with a "b" sound in our rooms, like balls, blankets, books rather than flipping through flashcards and naming the letters. We expose children to letters, numbers, size, sequence, patterns and shapes in all the activities that we carefully plan for the classroom. Writing implements and paper are available in classes and games that use counting, matching and thinking.

Written language is shared by reading to children and by having children dictate stories to the teacher. Books and games that have them playing with rhymes helps them identify ending sounds as well as beginning sounds and help them to find patterns in words. As parents it might be more difficult to see the "academic" progress your child is experiencing here without a worksheet as proof, but we ask you to look deeper and see the amazing things your children are doing here.

In February I saw a class asked how many children thought the ground hog would see his shadow. The teacher talked about how 9 out of 15 of us thought he would see his shadow and that that is more than half the class, wow! That is real math in a real world. In another class the children were guessing how many buttons were

in a jar. The guesses were 25, 100, and 1,000. The jar was emptied and there were 33 buttons. That is what 33 looks like. The teacher put the buttons back in and then added a few more. Now how many did the jar hold? They guessed 30. Did she put more in or take some out? Was there more than 30? The guesses continued. Again, more math.

In addition to the academics we are working on problem solving, negotiating, manners, forgiveness, friendship, persistence, kindness, using our words, expressing our feelings, risk taking all of which are valuable assets as they grow. It is kind of amazing how much we do in a single day, and we know you continue this at home.

So next time you get a marble painting at home, don't just think isn't this cute. Think, boy, my child was strengthening his/her eye muscles by tracking the marble and was learning about gravity because if I lower one side of the box the marble moves towards that end. Learning through play and protecting childhood are at the heart of the CFC curriculum. Our T-K class here at CFC gets kids ready for Kindergarten and keeps the spark of learning ignited.

Pat Chambers  
Director

## Julie Says Thank You

Julie wanted to thank you all for getting your registration forms back into her. It makes the job of class assignments and clearing our wait lists much easier. Please don't forget to tell us if your plans change. Also remember there is a \$100 finder's fee credited to your account if you recommend us to a friend or family member and they pay their registration fee.

## Coloring Paper

We love to see kids coloring and trying to write. But they go through a lot of paper. If your company has letterhead that is changing, maybe a partner is being added or a phone number/email change, we would love to have it. Paper that is clean on one side and nothing critical on the other, we want it. We would love to be able to give the kids endless supplies of paper to doodle on! Oh and we love that green stripped computer paper, anybody still using that?

## Vision Screening

The Elks Club will be back to do a vision screening on children ages 3-6 on March 28. This is a free service to our families and in the past has been valuable in catching early some minor vision issues. Your teachers will let you know how to sign up towards the middle of March.

## Spring Break

Please let your friends know about our plans for Spring Break!

**Join the Center for Children on Spring Break!**  
-March 18th-25th-

MONDAY MARCH 18TH	1ST-3RD: "ABOUT ME" SPIDERS 4TH-6TH: BANANA POPS FRUIT ACTIVITY
TUESDAY MARCH 19TH	*1ST-3RD: CHARLOTTE'S WEB PLAY @ CITRUS COLLEGE 10AM DEPARTURE 10:00/ RETURN 2:30 *PLEASE BRING A SACK LUNCH 4TH-6TH: MARCH MADNESS PING PONG
WEDNESDAY MARCH 20TH	1ST-3RD: APPLE DONUTS FRUIT ACTIVITY *4TH-6TH: MINI GOLF @ CASTLE PARK IN SHERMAN OAKS DEPARTURE 9:15/ RETURN 1:30
THURSDAY MARCH 21ST	S.T.E.A.M. EXPERIMENTS WITH PEEPS!
FRIDAY MARCH 22ND	SHANE'S INSPIRATION @ GRIFFITH PARK DEPARTURE 11:00/ RETURN 3:00
MONDAY MARCH 25TH	EGG-CELLENT S.T.E.A.M. EXPERIMENTS!

\*OPEN 7AM-6PM: EACH DAY INCLUDES SCHEDULED OUTDOOR PLAY

WE ALSO PROVIDE CARE FOR AGES 6 WEEKS THROUGH KINDERGARTEN!

SEE DAILY 2 DAY MIN. \*SPRING BREAK ENROLLMENT WILL GIVE NEW FAMILIES A REGISTRATION DISCOUNT FOR SUMMER!

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(818)249-0124 CENTER4CHILDREN.COM

## Class Dojo

I was up visiting my grandson in Nevada in Feb and he noticed I had Class Dojo on my phone. He got excited because his school uses it too. Class Dojo is the most efficient way for our teachers to reach out to you and for you to reach out to them. If you are not getting messages from Class Dojo please talk with your teacher.

## Love & Logic

Love and Logic will meet March 6 and 13 for open discussion and questions. On the 13th we will celebrate the end of the class with ice cream for the whole family at 7:00 PM! I love hearing the stories from parents that are trying to use some of the new skills. "I love you to much to argue" seems to be a favorite.

## Eggstravaganza

You won't want to miss all the fun on Saturday, March 23, at the Eggstravaganza. From 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM we will be having crafts, coloring eggs, singing, hearing stories and at the end hunt for eggs all over the campus, with special areas for our littlest participants. Bring 6-12 hard-boiled eggs and an Easter basket. This event is free and co-sponsored with LCPC. 'Fun for the whole family.



## CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Mouris Yousef	Senior Pastor and Head of Staff mouris@lcpc.net
Izzy Cox	Director of Student Ministries izzy@lcpc.net
Jesiah Bozich	Director of Children's Ministries jesiah@lcpc.net
Gary Woodward Matthew Krell	Choir Director Organist/Pianist
Dan Blessinger	Producer of Contemporary Music
Nancy Thomas	Office Manager nancy@lcpc.net
Pat Murphy Chambers	Director, Center For Children pat@lcpc.net



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## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

CLASSIC WORSHIP IN THE CHAPEL  
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY  
BOTH SERVICES AT 10:00 AM

### MARCH 3 COMMUNION SUNDAY COMBINED SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

"Wise Up!"

Ecclesiastes 8:16-17; James 1:5-8  
Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

**MARCH 10**  
"Who Wins the Race?"  
Ecclesiastes 9:11-12; 2 Timothy 4:6-8  
Izzy Cox

**MARCH 17**  
"Small Things Matter!"  
Ecclesiastes 10:1-4; 2 Galatians 5:7-10  
Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef



**MARCH 24**  
**PALM SUNDAY**  
"A Visit to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday!"  
Zechariah 9:9-12; Luke 19:28-44  
Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

**MARCH 28**  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
**5:30 PM SACRIFICIAL**  
**MEAL IN KOOPMANS**  
**7:00 PM SERVICE**  
"A Place Called Gethsemane!"  
Matthew 26:36-46  
Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

**MARCH 29**  
**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**7:00 PM SERVICE**  
**FOLLOWED BY**  
**A FIRESIDE VIGIL**  
"The Forsaken Christ!"  
Mark 15:33-34  
Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

**MARCH 31**  
*Easter Sunday*

**9:00 AM**  
**CONTEMPORARY**  
**WORSHIP**  
**IN THE SANCTUARY**  
"While It Was Still Dark!"  
John 20:1-10  
Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

**11:00 AM**  
**CLASSIC WORSHIP**  
**IN THE SANCTUARY**  
"When God Seems Silent!"  
Matthew 28:1-10  
Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef