

MESSENGER

VOLUME 74, NUMBER 3

MARCH 2025

Double the impact of your financial gift!

We've never had a disaster on the scale of the Eaton Fire right in our own backyard. Given our news cycles, it's tragically easy for our hearts and minds to move on to the next catastrophe relatively quickly. In light of our close proximity to this disaster, LCPC is committed to being part of the recovery over the long haul... and make no mistake, it's going to take years for the Altadena community to recover.

LCPC's leadership quickly aligned on a plan to raise funds – with the help of a generous matching grant – to support ministries already on the ground addressing the needs of the most economically vulnerable victims of the fire, long after the news crews and FEMA have departed.

Door of Hope (doorofhope.us) is one such ministry, serving homeless families in Pasadena for 40 years. Door of Hope's leader, ordained Presbyterian minister Megan Katerjian, along with her two young children, lost their home in the fire. Having served homeless families as Executive Director and now CEO for over seven years, Megan already had deep knowledge of what it takes to empower unhoused families to transform their lives – spiritually, emotionally, and practically. Losing her own home added a whole new depth to that understanding.

Door of Hope has received hundreds of



applications from low-income families affected by the fire. Many of these families, especially renters, are facing overwhelming challenges with little support. Unlike homeowners, they receive minimal FEMA aid and have often lost both their homes and livelihoods, as work trucks and tools were destroyed. Now, they're stuck in temporary housing with no clear path forward. Many struggle to navigate relief programs, and those who rented from family members now face barriers like missing security deposits or low credit scores. Door of Hope will use the tools they've developed over the past 40 years to help many of these families regain stability to minimize the risk of falling further into poverty and homelessness, all in the name of Christ.

LCPC is already committed to partnering with Door of Hope by walking alongside at least one family as they transition into new housing... perhaps more, as our combined resources permit. It's likely to be several months before we are matched with a family or families. In the meantime, there are other ways for you to join us in extending Christ's love to this community.

Provide Financial Support

Through Easter Sunday 2025, all donations to LCPC's Eaton Fire Recovery Fund will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$75,000, from a matching grant (a third of this matching grant is being contributed by the church). Importantly, there is a "use it or lose it" element to this initiative... the full benefit of the match will only be available if we raise \$75,000 from individual donations by Easter Sunday; if we fail to raise this full amount, the match will be reduced proportionately.

All money contributed to the Fund will be donated to local, Christian-based organizations focused on the most economically vulnerable victims of the fire. In addition to Door of Hope, at least two (and no more than four) mission partners will be selected in the coming months by LCPC's Eaton Fire Recovery Task Force, as the needs and responding programs are more clearly defined.

To donate, click on the button below, or make checks payable to LCPC, with "Eaton Fire" in the memo line. You can also find this fund in the drop down menu on the church website: www.lcpc.net/give.

DONATE

Get Creative with Fundraising During Lent

Consider hosting an event (maybe a wine tasting or dinner party?), where participants donate money to our Recovery Fund as the cost to participate. Or just share this article or our social media posts with your wider network of friends and family outside of LCPC's circles.



Participate in Service Projects

Stay tuned for information on service opportunities over the coming months. Besides walking alongside a Door of Hope family or families, providing housewarming supplies and move-in support, there will be opportunities to assist directly in clean up... in fact, a couple of

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Greetings, La Crescenta Presbyterian Church Family & Friends. By the time you get this Issue of the Messenger, the Season of Lent will be around the corner. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, March 5th, we will be getting together as a congregation for our Annual Ash Wednesday Worship Service in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. So as we begin our journey in the wilderness during this Lenten Season, I want to share with you the importance of this time in our lives as individuals and the life and ministry of our congregation.

The Season of Lent is a time to refresh, reflect, repent, and renew our commitment to follow Jesus. It's a time to seek pardon for our sinfulness and starting a new and clean slate in our relationship with God. It's a time to focus on and not lose sight of the Savior, the deliverer, who delivers us from any form of temptation, Jesus Christ.

The Season of Lent meets us where we are as a society and a community of faith; individually claiming us as a fragile and yet even broken creation, putting into perspective who we are, to whom we belong, what we have been called to do, and the direction we should follow in the name of Jesus.

I love the hymn, "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah." The hymn was written in 1745 by William Williams, an American hymn writer and a Methodist Preacher. In the first stanza, he wrote, "Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, Feed me now and evermore; Bread of heaven, Feed me now and evermore."

This hymn calls us to follow in Jesus' footsteps. As people of "Faith," our faith is put to the test as we journey in life. We are met with difficult decisions, life-changing experiences, unexpected news, temptations, and loneliness along our journey. We as individuals are bound to be tempted. We as a community of faith will be challenged as our actions may unintentionally want to overcome God's will and we may individually feel weak and barren in this troubled land.

God has prepared us for our journey right from the start. God has claimed, gathered, and sent each of us forth into the wilderness equipped with all that we need. A community to serve, care, and uplift each other; prayer to remain close to God as God is actively present in our lives; and faith, trusting that the food on earth is not enough to sustain us without the bread of heaven.

Let us set forth on our journey in the wilderness throughout these forty days knowing that God is with us. Trusting and believing that God is leading our path as we follow our great redeemer to the cross and Easter morning. There, Jesus will extend His arms, endure excruciating pain, sacrifice Himself, and show us how much He loves us. Jesus will remain focused on His call and purpose on earth delivering us from every evil.

The time has come for our redeemer to lead our journey – guide, protect, preserve, provide, and comfort us in the wilderness. Remember

that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Where pain and suffering will be no more as one acknowledges the sinful beings that we are and the loving and compassionate God that forgives us. To God we give all honor and might for as Jesus extends His arms on the cross, we are called to fall into them and be raised with Him into eternal glory.

A blessed Lenten journey to all. Keep focused on the Old Rugged Cross that will lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

FIRE RESPONSE

(continued from page 1)

LCPC members served recently doing just this kind of work through Samaritan's Purse!

Other opportunities to serve will be shared as ministries gear up to provide support to the community over the intermediate to long term.

Join the Task Force

All these efforts are currently being managed by a team of four people. We would love to have a few more people join our team. We are currently meeting weekly on Mondays at 7:00 PM, but we keep these meetings short (less than one hour), and often conduct them via Zoom. We need volunteers who are passionate about this work and ready to raise their hand for various assignments as they come up.

Questions? Contact Cindy Guenther-Williams at csguenther50@gmail.com.

MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ART DIRECTOR/EDITOR

Shawn Kelly
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MESSENGER DEADLINE TUESDAY, 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.



We are thrilled to share that our recent rummage sale was a huge success! Thanks to your generosity and hard work, we not only met but exceeded our expectations in supporting MAZ, our Student Ministries mission trip! Your donations, time, and enthusiasm made a huge difference, and because of your support, more students will have the opportunity to experience this life-changing mission. Thank you to everyone who participated—whether by donating items, volunteering, or shopping. This was truly a community effort, and we are so grateful!

But the excitement doesn't stop there—MAZ is right around the corner! As we gear up for this incredible mission trip, we ask you to keep our students and leaders in prayer. MAZ is more than just a trip—it's an opportunity for stu-

dents to grow in their faith, serve others, and be the hands and feet of Jesus. We can't wait to see how God moves through them! Stay tuned for more details on how you can continue to support and pray for our team.

WE HAVE A BIG NEED!

As we continue to invest in the next generation, we have an urgent need for leaders in our Student Ministries Team. Our youth are looking for strong adults who will walk alongside them, encourage them, and help them grow in their faith. This is not just an opportunity—it is a NEED! If you have a heart for young people and want to make an eternal impact, we encourage you to step up.

If you're interested in learning more, please reach out to me or Jerry. Our students need you!

Thank you again for your incredible support. We are so grateful to be on this journey together and excited for all that's ahead!

Blessings,
Izzy

INTRODUCING DOT KIM!



Hello, LCPC! I think most of you have probably heard by now that I've recently been hired as the Interim Director of Children's Ministries, a role that has truly felt like an invitation from the Lord. If we've not yet crossed paths, here's a bit about me: my name is Dot Kim, I'm married to Daniel, and we have three young children (Haley, 7; Kory, 4; and Aaron, 14 months). I've been a parent in the CFC community for the past six years and a part of LCPC for the past year, and it is the intersection of these communities that I've sensed God inviting me to step into – to serve as a liaison between the two and foster a mutually

life-giving relationship, for the ultimate goal of seeing the Kingdom flourish in our corner of the foothills.

The past few weeks have been a joyful whirlwind of getting the lay of the land of both LCPC and CFC, leading Sunday School and chapel, and discerning how to best serve the children and families in my care. I feel the weight of the responsibility the Lord has given me in this season, and whether I am to be in this role for several months or several decades, I know that His desire is for every child to know they are loved, welcomed, and cherished in His presence. I'm so grateful that this is also the heart and legacy of LCPC, and I have felt so supported in this vision by the Children's Ministry Team, the CFC staff, and this congregation.

If you feel led to pray for me as I settle into my role here, would you please pray that I would be faithful to this call and that I would lead with obedience, joy, and humility? I would appreciate that so much. I am excited to have a front row seat to all that the Lord has in store for the children and families of our community, and I look forward to having more concrete updates for you about the goings-on in Children's Ministries in future newsletters!

Gratefully,
Dot



Welcome to all our new Deacons who were ordained and installed in February. Some of the Class of 2027 Deacons are very familiar to our church family, but others may not be, so we would like take this opportunity to introduce them in this month's *Messenger*.

Susie Robinson faithfully attends the Tuesday Bible Study and the Chapel Service, and likes to dig deep into the scriptures. She is excited to find different ways to serve as a Deacon and be a part of the Emergency Fund Committee.

Yuqin Andersen was encouraged by her husband Steven Andersen, now on Session, to join Deacons. She looks forward to organizing meals and other home essentials for those that need them. Please reach out to Yuqin if you or someone you know in the church would benefit from a meal train.

Bill Larson wants to contribute to the church and serving as a Deacon is a great opportunity to do so. Fun facts about Bill: you will see Bill outside greeting most Sunday mornings and his favorite book is the Bible.

Scott Carpenter enjoys spending time with his wife Leslie and family, camping, and working in his woodshop. He's also a fan of grilled salmon paired with a juicy rib eye steak.

Finally, Kerry Milbrodt has rejoined Deacons because she loves to have regular opportunities to serve our church family. She loves to cook in particular, because feeding her family and friends is one tangible way she shows that she loves them. Kerry has been at LCPC for many years and has served us in a plethora of ways.

In other news, we'll have our next American Red Cross blood drive on March 29. Please register for this lifesaving opportunity to bless those in need.

Mark your calendars and save the date for Strike Up the Band on Sunday, April 27. Proceeds will benefit the Deacons Scholarship Fund that has blessed 21 recipients since its inception.

Also please continue to hold in prayer

SESSION REPORT

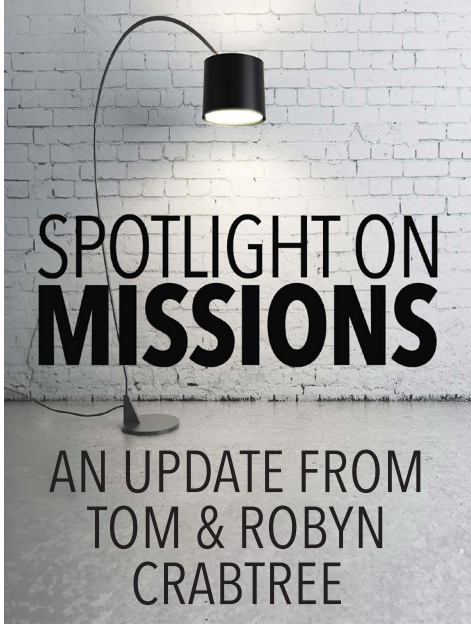
At the February 3rd stated meeting of Session, the following items were discussed and/or approved:

- Welcomed new Elders to Session: Doug Given, Rebecca Lessley, Karen Rice, Kyle Roach (2nd consecutive term), and Randall Wetzel.
- Approved the 2024 Annual Statistical Report. This report has been turned into the Presbytery and the General Assembly. Our per capita assessment is based on these figures.
- Approved the baptism of James Jozsa Roach, son of Kyle and Mackenzie Roach. The baptism took place on February 9, 2025.
- Elected the following to serve as Officers of the Corporation for LCPC 2025:
President: Rebecca Lessley
Vice President: Geoffrey Bryan
Chief Financial Officer: Cindy Guenther-Williams
Secretary: Sheri Gray
- Voted to recommend Terms of Call for Pastor Mouris Yousef. These Terms of Call will be voted on by the congregation at the Annual Meeting on March 2.
- Approved the 2025 Operating Budget. This will be presented at the Annual Meeting.
- Approved a fundraising and volunteer campaign to benefit those affected by the Eaton Fire. More information is available from the Missions Team.

Yours in Christ,
Sheri Gray
Clerk of Session

those who have been impacted by the devastating wildfires in Southern California. If you were impacted or know of others that are in need of financial assistance, please reach out to Mackenzie Roach or Nancy Smith about the Deacons Emergency Fund.

Submitted in Christ,
Dave Eagle



Back in 2010 when we (Tom & Robyn) first arrived in Nigeria, of the 500+ Nigerian languages, there were 25 languages that had full Bibles, 55 with just a New Testament and 244 that needed a translation started. Nearly fifteen years later, those numbers have substantially increased! Thirty-nine now have a full Bible, 77 have a New Testament, and only 39 languages are still waiting for some translation work to be started! We thank God for what He is doing and for the support and encouragement of LCPC - your prayers and giving are bearing fruit for God's Kingdom! Praise the Lord along with us!

Personally, we are in a season of transition, as many of you are aware. Our work has expanded from primarily serving Nigeria to roles which now take us to other parts of Africa. Because of that, we moved out of our apartment in Jos Nigeria in October, and are now based in La Crescenta and working remotely to serve Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Southern Africa and Nigeria. We will be making occasional trips back to Africa for face-to-face meetings and interactions with our teams. Tom's role is in resourcing, both building capacity in people by recruiting and training local nationals as interns in Bible translation roles, and by engaging local churches, local Christians and Christian organizations to give towards the translation and supporting work in their communities and nations. Robyn's role is Area Prayer Coordinator which involves meeting and praying with representatives from our mission branches in Africa, as well as publishing a monthly prayer bulletin and praying for work around the globe.

This year we've been challenged and encouraged by several books. One we're currently reading is called Lead With Prayer by Ryan Skoog, Peter Greer and Cameron Doolittle. The book challenges leaders to prioritize prayer in their own lives, not merely "outsour-



Tom & Robyn with the Nigerian interns during the graduation ceremony for Cohort 1 of the intern program, November 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya.

ing" prayer to others. It encourages leaders to "waste time with God." Using examples from the lives of current and historic leaders, it gives practical and thought-provoking ways to prioritize prayer, grow in our prayer lives and multiply others within our organizations to pray.

Another book which Tom has been reading is *The Dangerous Gentleman* by Victor Marx. This book challenges men to step up and be courageous in a time when the world seems to foster a culture of fear. Marx is a Marine who later served in prison ministry and then deployed to assist widows and orphans of ISIS fighters in Iraq and Syria. His premise is that we should be "dangerous gentlemen" who are willing to fight for the weak and vulnerable. It reads like a war-novel with many exciting adventures and includes lots of practical applications for men today.

One last topic and prayer request involves the startup of a 2nd Cohort of the Anglo-Lusophone Africa Internship program later this month. Twenty-Five new interns have been recruited for this program for service in the Bible translation movement in roles in linguistics, Bible translation, literacy and education, Scripture engagement and language program management. The last cohort was trained for 2 years and graduated 23 interns in November, with only a few dropped due to attrition or not meeting requirements. Tom has been planning and working with the mentors and trainers to prepare for the program to launch on 27 March, and we are travelling to Nairobi, Kenya for the first training workshop. We plan to remain in Kenya for a few weeks of meetings with colleagues (most of Tom's team is located

near Nairobi), and then visit the mission work in South Sudan and Tanzania before returning in mid May.

BISTRO 50+

TUESDAY,
MARCH 11
12 NOON IN
KOOPMANS

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

CRUISERS

At our March meeting the Cruisers are proud to host Victor Picou, current member of the Board and past President of the Pasadena Society of Artists. He has been an exhibiting member since 2004, is a very interesting and creative artist and he will tell us all about how "Art Changes Lives". Come on down and join us!

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1



10:00 A 11:30 A	Combined Worship-Sanctuary Annual Congregational Meeting-KH	7:00 P	Student Ministries Team-SC	11:00 A 7:00 P 7:00 P	Tuesday Bible Study -KH Men's Group-203 W&M Team-KH	6:30 A	Mens' Ministries-Zoom	7:00 P	Missions Team-Lib.	7:30 A 9:30 A 10:00 A	Be Still Pickleball-Basketball Court Officer Training-KH Cornerstone Crew
10:00 A 11:30 A	Classic Worship-Chapel New Song Worship-Personnel Team-Lib. Deacons-KH	6:00 P	CFC Team-KH	11:00 A 12:00 N 1:00 P 7:00 P 7:00 P	Tuesday Bible Study -KH Bistro 50+ -KH Cruisers-KH Men's Group-203 Fellowship Ministry	6:30 A 5:30 P 6:00 P 6:15 P 7:30 P 7:30 P	Mens' Ministries-Zoom PEAK Dinner-KH ABIDE PEAK-SC PEAK Classes Choir-Chapel Adult Discipleship-Lib. Outreach Team-203	7:00 P		7:30 A 9:30 A 10:00 A	Be Still Cornerstone Crew Session Vision Meeting-KH Be Still Cornerstone Crew Women of LCPC-FS
10:00 A 11:30 A	Classic Worship-Chapel New Song Worship-Sanctuary Sunday Potluck-KH	7:00 P 7:00 P	CM Team-Zoom Property Team-203	9:00 A 11:00 A 7:00 P 7:00 P	MESSENGER 18 DEADLINE Tuesday Bible Study Communications Team-Zoom Men's Group-203	6:30 A 5:30 P 6:00 P 6:15 P 7:30 P	Mens' Ministries-Zoom PEAK Dinner-KH ABIDE PEAK-SC PEAK Classes Choir-Chapel	6:00 P	Game Night-KH	7:30 A 9:30 A	Be Still Cornerstone Crew
10:00 A	Classic Worship-Chapel New Song Worship-Sanctuary	7:00 P	Session-KH	11:00 A 7:00 P	Tuesday Morning Bible Study-KH Men's Group-203	6:30 A 7:30 P	Mens' Ministries-Zoom Choir-Chapel	7:00 P	Women's Book Club-Zoom	7:30 A 8:00 A 9:30 A	Be Still Deacons Blood Drive -KH Cornerstone Crew
10:00 A	Classic Worship-Chapel New Song Worship-Sanctuary										

CFC
CM
KH
M&O
PEAK

Center For Children
Children's Ministries Team
Koopmans Hall
Mission & Outreach Committee
Praise & Education for Adults & Kids

SC
SM
W&M
YAMS

Student Center
Student Ministries Committee
Worship & Music Team
Young Adult Ministries

The **Lenten season** is upon us and things are getting pretty busy around here! Hopefully you'll make time to reflect on the meaning of this season, the sacrifice Jesus made for us, and draw closer to Him during this sacred time. We'll have our traditional **Ash Wednesday service** with the imposition of ashes on March 5 in the Sanctuary at 7:00 PM. We won't have our usual PEAK classes or dinner that night.



Don't forget to attend the always important **Annual Meeting of the Congregation**, Sunday, March 2, right after service down in Koopmans. There are budgets, votes, Terms of Call, and all sorts of Presbyterian-like things that are discussed and you'll want to be in the loop. To entice you, Fellowship will be hosting a yogurt and muffin bar, so you won't go hungry!

Daylight Saving Time starts Sunday March 9 (WooHoo!) so for those of you who don't use your smartphone alarm, make sure to spring your clocks forward before you go to bed Saturday night, or you'll miss our fantastic Sunday service!

The **Missions Team** has launched the **Eaton Fire Recovery Response** fundraiser to support our community in the aftermath of the horrible fire in January. Through Easter Sunday, all donations up to \$75,000, will be matched dollar for dollar from a matching grant, thanks to extremely generous donors and funds from LCPC. All money raised will go to local, Christian-based organizations focused on the most economically vulnerable fire victims. You can get all the details on the front page of this *Messenger* and there are multiple ways you can support this crucial cause.

The **Ladies of LCPC** events have started back up under the creativity of **Nicole Elmes**, **Pat Chambers** and a crew of wonderful volunteers! Pat organized a delightful tea party



last month that was a fancy treat for all who attended! On Saturday, March 15, **Nicole** has guest speaker Rev. Sue Fisher coming to inspire us with her wisdom. Join us in the Fireside

Room from 10 AM-Noon for a morning that is sure to fill your soul.

Our next **monthly potluck** lunch will be Sunday, March 16 right after church at 11:30 down in Koopmans. Bring something yummy to share or join us even if you don't have time to make anything. There's always plenty of food and we have a great time together enjoying it!

Nancy Coler had the brilliant plan to host **monthly LCPC game nights** for people to learn new card games, then practice playing them. They'll be held the third Thursday of most months, and the next one will be March 20 from 6-8 PM in Koopmans. All high school-aged and older are invited and feel free to bring a snack.

The **Mission Arizona team (MAZ)** under the leadership of **Jerry White** and **Izzy Cox** will be departing with a group of eager students on March 22, for a week of service, worship, and fun at the **Vah Ki Presbyterian Church** in Bapchule, AZ. Their big project will be rebuilding a new arbor that was damaged, along with some general maintenance tasks.

Jerry has been leading this Mission trip since 1991 (minus a hiatus for a few years) and their many projects have been a huge blessing to the Pima people in the community. Keep the team in your prayers for a great and productive week!

The **MAZ Rummage sale** last month was a huge success and raised almost \$3100 to be used on supplies and expenses for the mission trip. This was one of the biggest sales in MAZ history! Thank you to everyone who donated items, helped Jerry set up and work the sale, shopped and clean up afterwards. And a special thank you to **Teri** and **Mike Harter** who took on the task of distributing the leftover items to the right organizations.

During **Spring Break**, **CFC** will be offering an **elementary school day camp** March 24-31. Tell your friends and neighbors you've got just the thing to keep their kids entertained that week! You can call for pricing at 818-249-8124. Speaking of Spring Break, make a note that there **won't be PEAK** dinner or classes on Wednesday, **March 26**, but PEAK will resume the following week.

If you have a pint of spare blood (and most healthy people do) the **Deacons** would love for you to sign up for their **Spring Blood Drive**, in partnership with the American Red Cross, happening Saturday, March 29 from 8 AM to 2 PM in Koopmans Hall. You can register on the events page at lpc.net or using the link in the weekly email, if you're over age 16, in good health, and haven't donated in the

56 days prior to the drive.

Matthew Krell has organized a fabulous monthly classical music concert series, The Sundays of Sound, with the next one coming up Sunday March 30 at 2 PM in the Sanctuary. Admission is by donation, so bring a friend to enjoy an afternoon of amazing talent.

We're so grateful to have **Dot Kim** currently serving as our Interim Director of Children's Ministries. Dot has many years of experience in this field, as well as being a beloved member of our congregation and a CFC parent. She jumped right in and already helped organize a **Parent's Night Out** last month. The kids had a fun night of games and loved watching the Paddington movie. It's been exciting to see new families visiting LCPC almost every Sunday. Make sure to go out of your way to introduce yourself and give anyone you don't recognize a warm welcome!

If you love babies and toddlers, we could use a few more **nursery volunteers** on Sunday mornings during service. If you'd like to help even just one Sunday a month, contact **Dot Kim** at dot@lpc.net.

We've got two new baby girls joining the LCPC family soon! **Jillian** and **James Matson** are expecting a girl in June, and we know she'll be just as adorable as her big brother **Ethan**. **Chase** and **Aubrie Walker** also have a baby girl due next month, and she'll also be as cute as her big brother **Lake**. It's about time we get some baby girls around here, though we love all our boys! So happy for all these young, growing families.

Hey Bible Readers! How you doing on your **Bible Recap** New Years Resolution? If you're keeping up, you should be well into Numbers right now. You're doing great no matter where you are!

Reminder to all Moderators and event planners – be sure to get your events on the **Shelby Calendar** to reserve your date as soon as possible. First event on the calendar gets priority! You can email **Nancy** at nancy@lpc.net or sign on to Shelby to add an event. Don't have a **Shelby login**? Go to lpc.ca.shelbynextchms.com or go to lpc.net and click on the "Shelby Login" button in the upper right-hand corner, then enter your username and password. If you don't know your username or password, click on "forgot password" and enter the email address LCPC has on file.

CFC is looking for **donations of balls** – basketballs, footballs, nerf balls, tennis, small, large, beach balls – whatever you have around the house that you're no longer bouncing! Just drop them off in the CFC office M-F during before 6 PM. The CFC kids will have a ball with them... That's all I got! Talk to you next month.



CFC Heartbeat



Director's Corner



March is often described as the month that comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. This imagery always makes me think of children. Each day with a child can feel the same way—starting with a roar and ending with gentle calm.

Mornings can be challenging. Children wake up not quite ready to face the day. They may be grumpy, uncooperative, or simply slow to get moving. Add in the usual morning rush for families—getting everyone dressed, fed, and out the door—and it can feel like the lions are running wild.

But then, as the day progresses, something shifts. Routines settle in, making everything seem a bit easier. And on those special evenings, when you get to snuggle, read a book, and tuck a sleepy lamb into bed, all the earlier chaos is forgotten. Of course, there are days that feel more like lions on both ends—bed-time struggles and all—but those moments are part of the journey too.

Our children experience a wide range of emotions throughout the day. At CFC, they are learning to navigate these feelings while managing complex tasks: waiting their turn, sharing, compromising, listening, being patient, following instructions, and showing kindness. These are big asks—even for adults! Sometimes, we hold higher expectations for our children than we do for ourselves.

That's why I love our philosophy here at CFC. We embrace the idea that children need space and support to work through big emotions. Our play-based curriculum gives children the opportunity to practice handling disappointment and frustration. They learn how to

win and lose with grace and show empathy and kindness. Through role-play activities like “house,” children reenact nurturing moments, conflict resolution, and love they’ve observed at home. Books and songs further reinforce emotional themes, helping children identify and label their feelings.

We also act out different ways to manage emotions and guide children through tough moments as they happen. At

home, one simple way to support this learning is to label your child's emotions in the moment, offer them a path forward, and acknowledge your own feelings. For example, saying, “I'm feeling frustrated right now, so I'm going to take a deep breath” can be a powerful model for children.

Mental health starts at infancy. As caregivers and educators, we can create environments that promote mental health, grit, and resilience. Or we can risk ignoring emotions and unintentionally placing shame on them. At CFC, we choose to be a space where emotions are welcomed, understood, and processed.

Jesus said, “Bring the children to me.” He didn't specify which children—those behaving perfectly or those having a hard day. He simply said, bring them. That's the environment we strive to create at CFC: a place where every child is welcomed as they are—whether they come in like a lion or out like a lamb.

Pat



Spring Break

Spring Break is from March 24-31. During this time school age children may come to our full day Spring Break Camp. There is no additional costs on your child's regular days but a full day price will be charged for other days. Your child might enjoy bringing a friend to camp. Full day rates apply, but let your friends know we will be open. We will have the schedule out soon.



Kindness Week

We had a great time during our kindness week. We dressed up, noticed kindness, practiced kindness and read about it in books. We did all the necessary things to be a certified Kindness School again this year!

Registration for 2025-26

We have received your registration forms for next year. If you did not tell us you were not coming back you have been charged a registration fee. Check your Brightwheel account. We are looking forward to a great summer and school year.

New Staff Members

We are pleased to introduce you to some new staff members. Blanca Martinez comes to us with lots of toddler experience and will be a wonderful addition to our toddler classroom. Ana Paula de Olivia will be joining the staff of room 104 later this month. Ana Paula is an experienced preschool teacher and is looking forward to joining our staff. Oleksandra Tsyganova will become part of our school age program. She has worked with school age students before and enjoys crafting. We are thrilled to welcome these new staff members to the CFC family. You may also find some staff members moving around to new classrooms based on needs of the program and these new hires.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Mouris Yousef	Senior Pastor and Head of Staff mouris@lpcp.net
Izzy Cox	Director of Student Ministries izzy@lpcp.net
Pat Murphy Chambers	Director, Center For Children pat@lpcp.net
Dot Kim	Interim Director of Children's Ministries dot@lpcp.net
Nancy Thomas	Office Manager nancy@lpcp.net
Gary Woodward	Choir Director
Matthew Krell	Organist/Pianist
Scott Tibbs & Dave Robbins	Producers of Contemporary Music (interim)
Baldo Murall	Facilities Manager
Paul Hofmann	Director of Social Media
Will Wolfswinkel	Digital Media Coordinator



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE MARCH 5 AT 7:00 P.M.

Please join us on Wednesday, March 5 as we observe the beginning of the Season of Lent. We will be gathering together as a congregation for our Annual Ash Wednesday Worship Service at 7:00 PM. Rev. Dr. Mouris Yousef will be delivering a message titled "Remember You're Dust," based on Joel 2:12-18 and James 4:6-10. Imposition of ashes will be offered. Everyone is welcome.

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

On Sunday, March 23, we begin a 4-week sermon series titled "Wilderness Wandering!" In this series, we will face some of our fears, temptations, struggles, and our sins, but at the same time, we will be looking for the presence of God in unexpected places. Wilderness can be disorienting and feel a little lost, but if we stick together and stay close to God, we will be found in the

wilderness and be carried to the wonder of Easter.

We hope you can join us for worship at La Crescenta Presbyterian Church this Holy Season, the Season of Lent, as Rev. Dr. Mouris Yousef leads us in this New Sermon Series. We will be in the wilderness, but we won't be alone. See you in worship.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2 COMBINED & COMMUNION SERVICE

"Patience!"
Proverbs 15:18 & 1 Thessalonians 5:14
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

"Remember You're Dust!"
Joel 2:12-18; James 4:6-10
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

"Forgive One Another!"
Micah 7:18-19; Colossians 3:12-17
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

"Put on Love!"
Leviticus 19:18 & Colossians 3:12-17
Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mike Harbert

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

"The Presence of God in Unexpected Place!"
Exodus 3:1-15; John 1:43-51
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

"Is the Lord Among Us?"
Exodus 17:1-17; Mark 1:13
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef