

MESSENGER

VOLUME 74, NUMBER 5

MAY 2025

EATON FIRE RECOVERY TASK FORCE UPDATE

FINAL RESULTS OF FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Praise be to God and thank you to everyone who helped us beat our fundraising target! Our final tally was \$ \$179,118, including the benefit of the full \$75,000 matching grant. Now all of our energy can go towards putting this money to work, through the highly effective Christian ministries with which we've chosen to partner: Door of Hope, Habitat for Humanity, and at least one other ministry still to be chosen.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

As communicated from the outset, LCPC has committed to providing long-term support for economically-challenged families impacted by the Eaton Fire, through both our financial gifts and, perhaps even more important, our gifts of time and talent. Now's the time to express your interest in the specific opportunities before us!

As part of the Task Force's decision-making process on resource allocation, we need to assess interest in the various volunteer opportunities presented by our partner ministries. While specific dates of service have not yet been identified – and we understand that no personal commitments can be made until the dates are finalized – we do need to have some sense of the numbers of volunteers we will be able to bring to these efforts. We are also seeking to go beyond LCPC,

especially to other churches in our area, to solicit volunteers who may not have easy access to these opportunities through their own congregations. Please spread the word to those in your circles, to let them know these opportunities are available to them, too.

The following provides an initial idea of the volunteer assignments available over the coming months... we expect this list will be modified and expanded as new needs emerge:

DOOR OF HOPE

- Help transform an empty space into a warm, welcoming home. You could be helping in advance or on the day of move-in. This project could include painting, furniture assembly, transportation of household items, meal prep... whatever it takes to make this family's new house a home!
- Prepare, deliver, and share a meal with families staying in one of Door of Hope's transitional homes. This volunteer opportunity can be split with others – you're not committing to do it all yourself! We're hoping to be able to commit to providing and sharing a meal with families at least once a month... hopefully more, if sufficient volunteer interest is expressed.



For a first-hand look at the work of Door of Hope, please consider joining a small group of us who will be visiting one of their transitional homes on Sunday, May 18th, after church. We will carpool from the LCPC parking lot. RSVPs are required for this event – please contact Cindy at csguenther50@gmail.com if you're interested.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Help build a home in Altadena for a family who lost theirs in the fire:

- Put your advanced building skills or expertise to work. We're looking for individuals with skills in construction, electrical work, plumbing, etc., who are interested in serving just one day or more during the months of building.
- No experience? No problem! We're looking

for individuals willing to commit to ongoing help on the home build. This opportunity is for someone able to commit to at least two full build days (or four



- half days) per month during the build.
- Only able to help occasionally? We need you, too! Express your interest in serving for just one of many build days offered over many months. No experience required!
- Want to help but don't feel equipped to swing a hammer? Sign up to bring water, prepare lunches, coordinate volunteers, or serve in other ways.

YOUTH MENTORSHIP/ TUTORING

There is a great need for adult 1X1 support for middle / high school students struggling academically, emotionally and spiritually following COVID-related school closures and then the devastating fire, just a few years later. Your expression of interest here will help us choose ministry partner(s) to support in this critical area of need for students in the Altadena and Pasadena area.

To express your volunteer interests, please click on the link below. Your input today is critical to the decision-making process of the Task Force.

**EATON FIRE RECOVERY
VOLUNTEER INTEREST FORM**

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

INSIDE

- 2 PASTOR'S LETTER
STUDENT MINISTRIES
SESSION REPORT
- 3 GLOBAL SUMMIT
- 4 MISSIONS
- 5 CALENDAR
- 6 CHURCH MOUSE
- 7 CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
- 8 CFC HEARTBEAT
- 9 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

P A S T O R ' S L E T T E R

Greetings, La Crescenta Presbyterian Church Family & Friends,

Several years ago, when we lived in Southern NJ, we had a neighbor across the street who was an artist. He was quite a good artist in my mind. He had great paintings and photographs as well. When you got to know him, it was obvious that he was always on the lookout for the perfect view for the next painting or photo shoot.

One day during a snowstorm I heard something outside. It was like someone was out there doing something to our house. I headed to the front door just to take a look. It was then that I saw him.

The noise we heard was our neighbor gathering up our trash and recycle cans and putting them away. It was strange. The trash collection had just taken place and there was our neighbor putting away our trash and recycle cans. I thought to do that, but it was freezing outside, and I decided to do it when I go to shovel.

Why would someone go through the trouble of putting away someone else's trash cans? I was not willing to let this question torture me, so I ventured outside in the cold and asked our neighbor, "Why are you putting away our trash and recycle cans?" our neighbor immediate response, "The snow" he said. Then I had to ask, "What do you mean 'the snow?'"

"Well, the trash and recycle cans ruined the view. When I was in my living room by the fireplace, I was watching the beautiful snow fall. As I looked, I couldn't get over how the trash cans were ruining the aesthetic beauty of the snow. Now with them out of my way I can look at your wonderful yard, the bushes and trees and watch the snow fall unfettered" was his answer.

As I think about our life as a congregation as well as our spiritual journey as individuals,

two questions come to my mind. First, do you ever look intentionally for beautiful views? I am sure that often times we all set out to find a beautiful, picturesque site. In the spiritual realm, do you ever look intentionally for beautiful views? Open your eyes. As I think about our Holy Week services and activities, I can say that I have seen a lot of those beautiful views and wonderful moments. As a matter of fact, I get to see them in our Sunday services, during our coffee hour, fellowship time, potlucks, and in many small group settings. Open your eyes.

Second, have you ever moved something that might have been in the way of something truly lovely? What is that one thing that you need to move to enjoy that view? Who or what is it in your life that gets in the way of those beautiful sights? Is it a hidden sin, a person, a philosophy, a burden from the past, or may be just the busyness of life? I hope you will do today what our neighbor in NJ did. Take a moment to put those things aside and enjoy the wonderful things, the wonderful view, those glimpses of grace that Lord is dragging us to. You will enjoy it so much. "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law" Psalm 119:18.

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



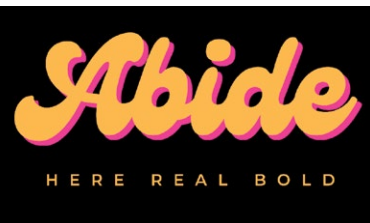
SESSION REPORT

At the March 24, 2025 Stated Meeting of Session, the following items were discussed and/or approved:

- Approved the baptism of Karen Gee McAuley on April 6.
- Approved the Contemporary Worship Leader job description and hiring of Dave Robbins and Scott Tibbs as co-Contemporary Worship Leaders, effective March 31, 2025.
- Approved hiring of Arpy Jahjah as Center for Children Director, effective April 28, 2025.
- Approved the Children's and Family Ministries Job Description, and formation of the search committee for that position.
- Approved the Center for Children 2025-2026 Fiscal Budget and Room Rates.

This was my last meeting as the Clerk of Session. It has been my privilege to serve the Session and LCPC in this capacity for the past 17 years and I look forward to all that God has planned for the church in the future.

Blessings,
Sheri Gray



As we move into the final stretch of the school year, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued prayers and support of our Student Ministries. It's been a meaningful season of growth, connection, and discipleship — and we're so grateful for what God is doing in the lives of our teens.

Believe it or not, summer is right around

the corner! Our official summer schedule is now set, and we're looking forward to all that the coming months will bring. From weekly gatherings to some exciting moments we can't quite share yet (but trust me, they're worth the wait), this summer is shaping up to be something special for our students.

We're praying that this next season is not only fun and full of energy but also deeply formative for our young people — and for the wider church community as we walk with them.

Thank you for being part of what God is building here. We're excited, expectant, and ready for all that's ahead.

In Christ,
Izzy Cox

MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ART DIRECTOR/EDITOR

Shawn Kelly
shawndraws@gmail.com

MESSENGER DEADLINE

**SUNDAY, MAY 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.



THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

AUGUST 7-8, 2025

YOUR ONE-STOP GUIDE TO SHARE THE SUMMIT

OUR GOAL

The goal of the Global Leadership Summit is to equip churches and organizations to engage and transform their communities through leadership development.

WHAT IS THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT?

The Global Leadership Summit is the **world's premier leadership conference**. Broadcast at hundreds of partner host sites in the U.S. and around the world, this two-day event is experienced by more than **250,000 people a year!**

We bring together leaders from both **ministry and marketplace** with world-class speakers like **Craig Groeschel, Juliet Funt and John C. Maxwell**. The Summit is for both **seasoned and aspiring leaders** — including those who don't yet realize the influence they have.

WHY SHOULD PEOPLE ATTEND?

At the Summit, you'll have your courage and passion ignited while also learning practical, boots-on-the-ground tools to improve your leadership.

- You'll build your vision for a better future, professionally and personally.
- You'll gain fresh perspectives from people outside of your field.
- You'll be stretched in areas you want to improve.
- You'll learn to build the health of your culture.
- You'll discover leadership language with your team.

And you'll join a community of growth-minded leaders who are stepping out with vision to transform their world.



I'd love to have you join the LCPC staff at the Global Leadership Summit, taking place August 7-8. Our church is co-hosting with La Canada Presbyterian Church, and it's one of the most inspiring leadership conferences you could attend. I have attended for the past several years, and it has helped me define what kind of leader I want to be. Not one looking for power but one looking to bring out the best in the

people around me, affirming their gifts and understanding that when leadership gets better, we all get better. You can get your ticket at GlobalLeadership.org. Just click on: "Get Tickets," select "Attend a Local Summit," and search for La Canada Presbyterian Church. Use the code 25PARTNER for \$40 off your registration.

Pat Chambers

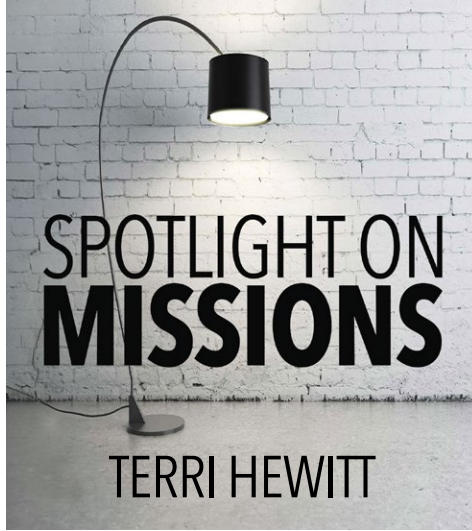
Dodgers

DODGER NIGHT!

Please join us for Dodger Night as the Boys in Blue take on the Chicago White Sox on Tuesday, July 1. Tickets are \$40. Please see Craig Carlson after a service or at PEAK, or contact him at carlsport@aol.com to buy tickets. Tickets must be bought and paid for by May 21 (or until space runs out).

STRIKE UP THE BAND 2025





Greetings LCPC! It's my month to share about my life and ministry in Taiwan. While I have continued the ministries I've written to you about before, there is one exciting new ministry that I've been co-leading since last year's update. Since August of 2024, my friend Jacob and I have been praying weekly about starting a bilingual English/Chinese church

to join us in this endeavor and vision. It meant the world to us that our Chinese pastor, who is the primary leader over the main church as well as assisting 12 other pastors who he sent out to do church planting in other areas of the city over the last 20+ years, made this huge commitment to our vision. He is a visionary himself (and a BUSY man) and yet he caught, grabbed onto and fully embraced our vision as his own! Our pastor put the word out that we were looking for people to assist us in English/Chinese translation, worship team and welcoming committee. We are truly blessed to say that there are now 12 faithful men and women serving alongside us as our teammates. Because our sermons are all translated into Chinese (so the congregation hears the message in both English and Chinese), the greatest need was translators, and God gave us five of them. That means they only need to translate once a month, which really makes the task manageable.

Since the first of February, we have been

do this work through the financial and prayer support of LCPC and my other partners. I am truly grateful for LCPC and all my partners that make this ministry possible.

Finally, a personal note... with deep sadness, I had to leave Taiwan and my various ministries due to my mother's sudden death. She awoke March 12th with half her body paralyzed, went to emergency to find out she had an inoperable brain hemorrhage, and on March 14th, passed away. Because I was scheduled and fully prepared to preach on March 16th, I fulfilled that obligation and returned to the US on March 17th to facilitate a celebration of my mom's life with her closest friends, and to clear out her belongings from her rental house. Though I rejoice greatly that my mom had a deep conversion to following Jesus in the past few years, I covet your prayers in this difficult time of grieving. I plan on staying home for a couple months this summer and hope to deeply rest and recover so I can resume all my ministry back in Taiwan in August.

Yours in Christ,
Terri




service. Our vision is that the gospel message will become common knowledge in our city of Taichung due to a large and growing number of those living the Christian life and participating in sharing the message inside and especially outside of the church. We desire to ground people in the Word of God, and especially to mentor and equip them to share the good news with those around them.

When we were looking for people to join us and be a part of this team, we didn't want to put any added pressure on already overworked church members. We told our head pastor we just wanted to pray for helpers to volunteer. Every Thursday morning since November, from 8:00-8:30 A.M., our head pastor joined us in prayer and the three of us have prayed and sought the Lord for brothers and sisters

working through the book of Ephesians, emphasizing Gospel truths about being adopted and chosen into God's family, being saved by grace through the blood of Jesus, and being created to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do. I preach one time a month and thoroughly love teaching and sharing the truths of God's word, while continuing my main work as a counselor to missionaries and members of their families living in Taiwan at a Christian Counseling center. This counseling work has been my primary ministry for the past ten years, which was expanded to include supervisory responsibilities over the past four years. To keep the cost of these counseling services affordable to the missionary families who desperately need them, all of the counselors serve on a volunteer basis; I am only able to

BISTRO 50+



TUESDAY,
MAY 13
12 NOON IN
KOOPMANS

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

CRUISERS

At their May 13 meeting, the LCPC Cruisers are proud to present a returning speaker, Ms. Karen Frey, who brings us "Women of the Civil War, Part II". (You may remember her Part I presentation last March.)

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

MAY 2025

				1	2	3
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	7:00 P Mission Team-Lib.		7:30 A Be Still-CE Room 9:00 A Cornerstone Crew 10:00 A Vision Update-KH
10:00 A Combined Worship-Sanctuary 11:30 A Deacons-KH	4	5	6	7	9	10
			11:00 A Tuesday Bible Study-KH 7:00 P Men's Group-CE Room 7:00 P W&M Team-KH	6:30 A Men's Ministries-Zoom 5:30 P PEAK Dinner-KH 6:00 P ABIDE PEAK-SC 6:15 P PEAK Classes 7:30 P Choir-Chapel 7:30 P Outreach Team-Lib.	6:00 P KH Kids Hope Party-	7:30 A Be Still-CE Room 9:30 A Cornerstone Crew
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:00 A Classic Worship-Chapel New Song Worship-Sanctuary		11:00 A Tuesday Bible Study-KH 12:00 N Bistro 50+-KH 1:00 P Cruisers-KH 7:00 P Men's Group-203 7:00 P Fellowship Team-KH	6:30 A Men's Ministries-Zoom 5:30 P PEAK Dinner-KH 6:00 P ABIDE PEAK-SC 6:15 P PEAK Classes 7:30 P Choir-Chapel 7:30 P Adult Discipleship-Lib.	6:00 P Game Night-KH 7:00 P Legacy of Love Volunteers-FS		7:30 A Be Still-CE Room 9:00 A Legacy of Love 9:30 A Cornerstone Crew
9:00 A MESSENGER DEADLINE	18	19	20	21	22	24
10:00 A Classic Worship-Chapel New Song Worship-Sanctuary 11:30 A Sunday Potluck-KH		7:00 P Session 7:00 P Property Team -CE Room 7:30 P CM Team-Zoom	7:00 P Men's Group-CE Room 7:00 P Communications Team-Zoom	6:30 A Men's Ministries-Zoom 5:30 P PEAK Dinner-KH 6:00 P ABIDE PEAK-SC 6:10 P PEAK Classes 7:30 P Choir-Chapel		7:30 A Be Still-CE Room 9:30 A Cornerstone Crew
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10:00 A Classic Worship-Chapel New Song Worship-Sanctuary	MEMORIAL DAY CHURCH & CFC OFFICES CLOSED	11:00 A Tuesday Bible Study-KH 7:00 P Men's Group-203	6:30 A Men's Ministries-Zoom 7:30 P Choir-Chapel	7:00 P Women's Book Club-Zoom		7:30 A Be Still 9:30 A Cornerstone Crew

Mother's Day

What a holy and exciting whirlwind it's been around LCPC this past month! Our **Holy Week** and **Easter** services were sacred and beautiful. Thank you to the **Deacons** for feeding the flock on Maundy Thursday with your delicious vegetable beef soup meal before the service. We know it's a lot of work to make and serve that much soup and we appreciate all of you!

On Maundy Thursday, it was so moving taking Communion around a table, just as the disciples did so long ago. Seeing the huge boulder rolled across the doors on Good Friday somberly reminded us of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice. But then the joy on Easter was palpable, worshipping with the Cathedral Choir's triumphant voices, the brass instruments, and our praise band, celebrating our Risen King! Thank you **Pastor Mouris, Gary Woodward, Scott Tibbs, Dave Robbins, Brock Cary, Diana Barseghyan, Cathedral Choir** and all our talented musicians for using your gifts to bring us these meaningful services.

Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry students combined forces on Easter morning to lead the children on an interactive **"Walk through the events of Easter,"** from Jesus' triumphal entry to the empty tomb. (See photos on page 9.) What a powerful way to bring the Easter story alive for our little ones. Thank you **Dot and Izzy!** Children's Ministry also had a fantastic turnout for their **Easter Eggstravaganza!** (pictured below) 65 kids and their families were treated to a morning of crafts, games, treats and an epic Easter egg hunt with 900 eggs! Thank you to all the volunteers who made that event come to life.



Hooray - We did it LCPC! Your generosity raised over \$75,000 for the **Eaton Fire Recovery Fund**, which will be matched to present \$179,000 to Christian organizations such as **Door of Hope** and **Habitat for Humanity**, serving the most vulnerable victims of the fire. These donations will bless so many families in Altadena who lost everything. Thank you to **Cindy Guenther Williams** and the Missions Team for planning this important fundraiser to help our neighbors.

The **Strike Up the Band IV** benefit concert was another great success, raising \$3,733 for the **Deacons Scholarship Fund for Higher Education**. Thank you, **Noel Collins**, for all your hard work in organizing and directing a delightful afternoon of music and song. **Lecia and Phil Van Horn** were the perfect MC duo, and we loved hearing the fantastic voices of **Brock Cary** and **Geoff Bryan** on vocals.

This month, the **Ladies of LCPC** are excited to be offering a day retreat for women of all ages - **Legacy of Love: Honoring Mothers and Mentors**, on Saturday May 17 from 9 AM to 3 PM. The event will take place in the Sanctuary with live worship, inspiring speakers **Jamie Given, Pat Chambers** and **Jan Roberts**, open discussions, lunch and fellowship. Tickets are \$40 and you can register at lcpc.net/events or in the breezeway on Sundays after church. Scholarships are available - contact **Jamie Given** at info@givenguidance.com.

Our **monthly game night** will be Thursday May 15 in Koopmans Hall from 6-8 PM and our **monthly potluck** will be Sunday, May 18 right after services ends, around 11:30. Please join us even if you're not able to bring a dish - we'd love to have you!

For all **staff, elders, and team moderators** - don't forget the important **Vision Update meeting** on Saturday, May 3 in Koopmans from 10-11:30 PM. This is a vital gathering to present the vision for LCPC, where we are on the path to living our vision, and how you can help!

Ever wonder where all those delicious baked goods come from on Sunday mornings? Generous volunteers just like you! If you're not on the email list to sign

up for **Sunday morning baked goods** - email Michele Fernandez at fern7@sbcglobal.net and she'll add you to the list! If baking is not your forte, store-bought items are welcome too!

We are thrilled to have added three new members to the LCPC family last month! **Karen McAuley** has been a faithful attendee for years, but decided it was the right time to become a member. **Cindy** and **Gaspar Porcell** have been attending for just a few months, and made the decision that LCPC is the church family for them. We are so happy to officially welcome all of you!

Thank you to everyone who came out to help at our Spring **All Church Day of Service**. We know your Saturdays are busy and we are grateful for your time and service, to spruce up our church campus.

LCPC Dodger Night will be Tuesday, July 1 at 7:10 PM and it's time to buy your tickets! Our favorite Boys in Blue will take on the Chicago White Sox and tickets are \$40 with our group rate. See **Craig Carlson** after service, at PEAK, or contact him at carlsport@aol.com to buy tickets. Tickets must be bought and paid for by May 21 (or until space runs out).

VBS is just around the corner, July 14-18, from 9 AM-12 PM! This year's theme, **Live It Out**, will take kids on a journey of living out their faith through the spirit of summer camp activities. **VBS** is open to kids aged 3 years up to incoming 6th graders, but this year 6th graders have the option of attending as a student or volunteering as a helper with the preschool kids. Prices are \$60 for 1 child, \$100 for 2 children, and \$140 for 3 or more children in the same immediate family. You can register at lcpc.net/events. For questions, contact Dot Kim at Dot@lcpc.net. Let her know if you can **volunteer** that week too - it takes a village to put on VBS for our community!

Another fantastic summer event that many LCPC adults look forward to is the **Global Leadership Summit**. Our local in-person venue is **La Canada Presbyterian Church** (there's an online option also) August 7-8 from 10 AM to 4:45 PM each day. This conference brings together ministry and marketplace experts to equip and inspire leaders so they can bring about transformation. Use code **25Partners** to get the **Super Early Bird Pricing of \$189 only until May 7**. (regular price is \$249). There's also a special rate of \$129 for active nurses, first responders, teachers/faculty, and military personnel, and a student rate of \$99 for students ages 14-23. Go to globalleadership.org/summit for more information and to register.

Happy Mother's Day to all you moms, grandmothers, aunts, friends who are like moms, and mentors! The world is a much brighter place because of your nurturing and love. Talk to you next month.



CHILDREN'S ministries



Happy May,
friends and families
of LCPC!

April was
one of those
months that felt
like a sprint in the
marathon of min-
istry, from hosting
around 70 children
and their families

for our annual Easter Eggstravaganza to walk-
ing our kids through the major events of Holy
Week during Sunday School. It's been a joy to
help make Jesus' death and resurrection come
alive for our students through skits, games, arts
& crafts, and group discussions. I pray that
the Holy Spirit will fan these little flames into
fire and continue stirring a longing in our kids'
hearts to know and love Jesus above all else.

I'm anticipating our Children's Ministry fall-

ing back into a steadier pace this month, as May
marks the final stretch before the kids wrap up
their school year and families fall into summer
rhythms. I hope to direct a good deal of my en-
ergy and focus into VBS planning this month,
as I know July will be here in a blink. We've
had some great opportunities to connect with
families in the community through the Egg-
stravaganza and Easter Sunday, so I'm hopeful
that the Lord will lead us to other creative and
meaningful ways to continue inviting them to
LCPC - and ultimately, to the hope of Jesus.

We are taking a break from hosting a
children's event in May to allow space for our
leaders to process and lean into all that the
Session will present in the Vision Meeting. I am
looking forward to discerning how this vision
will catalyze our Children's Ministry into greater
fruitfulness, especially in ways
that effectively serve our
particular community.

Thank you all for your
prayers, support, and enthu-
siasm for all that the Lord is
doing in LCPC's Children's
Ministry! Please continue
to pray with us that LCPC
will always and increasingly
be a place our community
feels welcome to, especially
as we quickly approach CFC
summer camp, VBS, and fun
community activities we have
in the pipeline.

Chat again in June!

Blessings, Dot

PLEASE DONATE



LIGHTWEIGHT women's scarves and men's ties

Our gift to the people of Madagascar.

Help support missionaries in
Madagascar by donating gently
used or new ladies' scarves and
men's ties. These simple items,
used in ministry, community out-
reach, and as gifts to encourage
and uplift, make a big impact. Your
donation helps bring dignity and en-
couragement to educators, pastors,
and families in Madagascar. Local
missionaries spent the past year
collecting these items to be distrib-
uted beginning in June, but all were
lost in the Eaton fire. Items may be
placed in the designated bin in the
narthex. Collection will continue
throughout the month of May. Let's
bless others with what we have!

Questions? Contact teriharter@gmail.com.





Director's Corner

This is truly an exciting season at the Center for Children. For 58 years, the CFC has been a living, breathing, evolving ministry of La Crescenta Presbyterian Church. As the needs of our community have changed, so too has the vision and shape of our center.

Today, we joyfully welcome the fifth director of the Center for Children: Arpy Jahjah. The CFC is in wonderful hands. I've had the privilege of following in the footsteps of amazing leaders—Carol Murphy, Anne Broussard, Trudy Lucy—and now, I pass the baton to Arpy with great confidence and hope.

Of course, change can be challenging. As Thomas Fuller once said, "All things are difficult before they are easy." I remember when I was first stepping into this role—I helped lead a teacher workshop in Glendale, and word must have spread because many of the CFC staff came, probably not for my insights, but more to "check me out."

Transitions always bring questions and concerns. When Trudy took over, some wondered if a state-run program background would affect our Christian foundation. When Anne stepped in, there were hesitations because she wasn't from our church.. And when Carol became our first director, it was partly because no one else wanted the job—and she happened to be on the interview committee!

A story I love that was shared with me recently: a group from the church was discussing the next director and someone said, "I don't know who could do this job!" Another person replied, "Well, we didn't think Pat could do it

either." And truthfully? I wasn't so sure myself. Yet, here we are.

Now, we look ahead with anticipation. New leadership brings fresh ideas and new ways of doing things. Arpy has a steep learning curve ahead—over 30 staff members, 80 children, and 60 families to get to know. She'll be learning policies, procedures, and traditions—some written, many not—and making decisions that will shape the future of the Center.

I'm genuinely excited to see how she leads the CFC forward. And I know she'll need the support of the church, our families, and our dedicated staff to help the Center continue to thrive—growing, adapting, and remaining rooted in our mission to serve children and families with love and grace.

One thing I'm absolutely certain of: the Lord has always been with us. He was there in 1965 when the dream of a nursery school was first imagined on this campus. He has been present through every chapter—through the joyful seasons and the challenging ones. He has guided each director who's ever sat in the CFC office, and He will be with Arpy, with LCPC, and with the Center through this new beginning.

So please join me in warmly welcoming Arpy. We can't wait to get to know her.

With gratitude,
Pat Chambers

Parent Meeting

On Monday, May 20, we will be hosting an important parent meeting for all new and returning families. This evening will also serve as our summer day camp orientation and registration night. The meeting will begin at 6:30 PM in Koopmans Hall with Pat and Arpy. At 6:45 PM, parents will transition to their child's assigned classroom based on their summer placement, which begins on June 16. This is a great opportunity to meet your child's teachers, learn about their goals for the upcoming year, and get important information about our summer program. Please note that this is a parents-only evening so we can focus on sharing essential details and answering your questions. We look forward to seeing you there as we prepare for a fun and exciting summer!

Plan Ahead

- May 26** Closed for Memorial Day
- June 3** Celebration of Pat's retirement at our annual BBQ
- June 13** Closed to get ready for our summer program
- June 16** New classes and day camp begin
- June 19** Closed for Juneteenth
- July 14-18** VBS



Teacher Appreciation Week

May 5–9 is National Teacher Appreciation Week, however, because many elementary schools celebrate throughout the week and we know families have a lot to keep track of, we have chosen to celebrate our amazing staff at the end of the year instead. Our Teacher Appreciation Week will take place from June 9–12. Starting May 5 through May 30, we will be collecting donations for end-of-year gifts and a special staff luncheon. This can be in place of individual gifts. A card will be presented to each staff member with all the contributing families listed. Donations can be made directly through your Brightwheel account or by check in the office. In the past, our end-of-year gift has been a gift card that each teacher and staff member can use as they wish. Once all the funds are collected, the total will be evenly distributed among the entire staff. While we appreciate our team all year long, this is a wonderful opportunity to come together and make sure they feel truly valued.

Summer Day Camp

Sign-ups for our Summer Day Camp are now open on our website at www.Center4Children.com. This year, the summer program will be divided into three separate sessions, and families will need to reserve the days they need in three-week segments. During the parent meeting on May 20, you will be able to sign up for the first session, which includes the weeks of June 16, June 23, and June 30. If you are new to our day camp, it is especially important to attend this meeting so you can receive all the necessary information and have any questions answered. We're looking forward to a fun and picture perfect summer together!

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025 COMBINED & COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE

Nicodemus: It's Never Too Late to Start Over!

John 3:1-15

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025 MOTHER'S DAY

"Mary Treasured these Things!"

Luke 2:15-20

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Darren Pollock

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

Joseph of Arimathea: The Courage of a Secret Disciple!

Matthew 27:57-61

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025

Peter's Brokenness and Restoration!

John 21:15-25

Guest Preacher: Izzy Cox



Dear LCPC family,

We are in the midst of a truly beautiful season now, with the renewal of the gorgeous foliage of Spring and the refreshing of our hearts in the glorious risen Lord Jesus. Last month we celebrated Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, the culmination of our Lenten journey to the cross with Jesus. He is Risen, He is Risen indeed!

Last month we also experienced the fun and exciting music at our 4th Annual Strike Up the Band concert on April 27 (below). Wow, we have some talented singers and musicians in our midst and all the monies raised will go to our young people going to college, trade school or graduate school. It is such a privilege to help our youth with a portion of the costs

of higher education and some of the Christian colleges will match our scholarship funds so it is a double-win for our recipients.

This month we will celebrate our mothers and mentors on Mother's Day. I feel so grateful for the opportunity God gave me to be a mother, and before that, I was an aunt, which was such a blessing (and good practice for motherhood). Please give those women in your life an extra helping of love and gratitude for their impact on your life.

As you may know, your Deacons are always at work, often in the background, sharing the love of God with acts of service, care and attention. We are in charge of Communion each month, both of preparation and serving, along with our Elders. I find it an amazing and meaningful aspect of Deaconship and feel the Holy Spirit working in me and those I serve on those Sundays.

We Deacons also love to spend time with anyone in our church family who is experiencing loneliness or isolation. We are available for Happy Hangouts, where we can go for a walk together, have coffee/tea or just sit under a shady tree and chat. Many of us have memberships at Descanso Gardens, which is always a lovely place to stroll. If you would like to "hangout" with one of us Deacons, please email Yuqin Hu, our Happy Hangout coordinator, at:

team.anderson@yahoo.com.

You will find a list of all the current Deacons at the Connection Center in the narthex if there is a particular person you would like to contact.

I pray you will all know the love of God today and every day. He truly loves us and wants a real relationship with us. What a comfort and a joy!

In Christ's service,
Kerry Milbrodt

CHURCH STAFF

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

