

MESSENGER

VOLUME 71, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 2022

SESSION REPORT

UPDATES ON THE CASA DE LOS ANGELES ORPHANAGE

There are some exciting and positive changes happening with the CDLA orphanage project in Rosarito, Mexico. The most visible transition is that the LCPC Session, Mission Ministry, Personnel committee, and the CDLA Board have agreed to make Jim Sedgwick the Civil Association Board President and will invite several more LCPC members to join that Board.

To be consistent with the Presbytery requirements of separation for an outgoing pastor, Pastor Andy is stepping down as President to a non-titled Board role. His expertise and experience are invaluable to continuing momentum on the project. The Civil Association is the Mexican non-profit that controls the land and are the "boots on the ground" moving the project forward; holding meetings with the architect, the city, trades people, and friends in Mexico. Jim was a member

of LCPC for 15 years and served as an LCPC Elder. He has been deeply involved with the project from the beginning. He is currently serving as Director of Communications Ministry at La Jolla Presbyterian Church. Jim will be the primary contact, updating LCPC on the orphanage's progress.



Other exciting updates include:

- A Mexican architect with expertise in designing orphanages has nearly completed a redesign of the building to conform to Mexican building standards. Using everything that has already been built, the architect has reimagined the building to be easier and less expensive to complete and make more efficient use of the space.
- The newly expanded CDLA Board will review the structure of the organization and land paperwork, making any needed corrections, bringing transparency to the process.
- Currently there are efforts underway to combine the 6 six lots with the city of Rosarito and set up preliminary meetings with DIF (Child Protection Services in Mexico) to begin the registration process to establish an orphanage.
- There is talk and hope for a possible mission trip to

Mexico in the Spring to visit and work on the CDLA site. Stay tuned for more details.

If you would like more information or to get more involved you can contact Jim Sedgwick at jims@ljpres.org, or Cindy Guenther (Moderator of Missions Ministry) at csguenther50@gmail.com

Other items Session discussed and/or approved at their last meeting (August 22):

- A Service Security Task Force has been formed to review and make recommendations to Session regarding security issues during worship.
- Approved a Pastor Compensation package for the new Senior Pastor. The PNC has the authority to negotiate salary and benefits within the confines of this package. The congregation has the final approval on salary and Terms of Call at the time of hire.
- Approved a Pastoral Transition fund to assist the new pastor with housing needs. This will also eventually be approved by the Congregation.
- Discussed holding a Session mini-retreat in October.

If you have any questions or concerns about these items, or anything else going on at LCPC, please don't hesitate to contact one of our Session members. A list of Session Elders and contact information is available each week in the bulletin and also on our website, www.lcpc.net.

In humble service,
Sheri Gray
Clerk of Session

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PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear LCPC Family,

I continue to really enjoy my time serving with all of you! Your stories and spirit are inspiring and encouraging! Here are the things I want to highlight as we enter October:

1) I'm so very grateful for your response to the Emotionally Healthy Spirituality course! We have 112 adults involved, digging into the EHS book, workbook, and Day by Day prayer guide. It blesses me to see all of you gathering for our family dinner and our teaching and small group time every Wednesday in Koopmans. I'm praying God uses this process to bring great healing and transformation in all our lives and in the life of LCPC where needed to prepare you for the really good things God has for your future together.

2) Your Nominating Committee is now into their very important task of nominating your new Session Elders and Deacons. Please pray God guides their discernment process so that all those whom God desires to serve will gladly jump in.

3) After our wonderful joint worship service on September 11, your ministry staff and Worship and Music Committee agreed we will begin to hold joint worship services in the Sanctuary every communion Sunday, which

is the first Sunday of every month. This means we will all worship together again in the Sanctuary on Sunday, October 2. Please plan to be with us when the entire family gathers for meaningful worship and sweet fellowship.

4) Your Session will have a Session Retreat on the afternoon of Sunday, October 9. Please pray as your elders gather to discern what God wants for LCPC during this time of transition and new beginnings.

5) Your Pastor Nominating Committee is moving ahead with their search for your new Senior Pastor! They're now conducting what are called "neutral pulpit weekends" with their final candidates. This means they could decide who they believe your new pastor should be by the end of October. Once they do, they'll set up what's called the "Candidating Weekend" when their final candidate will spend a weekend at LCPC meeting all of you, preaching on Sunday, and being voted on after worship to confirm his or her candidacy as your new pastor. Please pray for your PNC as they continue their very



important spiritual work.

6) I will lead a New Members' Class on Sunday, October 23, right after worship. We'll have this interactive class over lunch starting at 11:45 AM in Koopmans Hall. If you'd like to be part of this time of discovering what "membership" is all about, please call the church office.

I'm very encouraged and excited for all God has for LCPC's future as we continue this journey of setting the foundation together!

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Mike



Dear LCPC Family & Friends,

When I look around at our local mountains, I am aware of God's creativity and love for us by giving us such beauty. One of my favorite activities is walking in my neighborhood, soaking up the views, the fresh air and the bird songs. It is especially lovely in the Fall when we finally see some relief from Summer's heat. I am always reminded that God is good!

I am also reminded of Jesus' love for us when I think of you and how we are given to each other as tangible examples of how he sends us his love in the form of a word or touch. We are always in his care, one way or another.

As usual, your Deacons have been busy being the Lord's hands and feet here at LCPC. Our blood drive at the end of September was well attended and we were able to help people all around the country with live-saving blood. What a gift!

Another gift is that our Deacons Higher Education Scholarship Fund was able to award \$1,000

scholarships to seven of our college and graduate school students. Thanks to your donations and our fundraiser Strike Up the Band! held in May, Deacons were so pleased to show how their church family supports these wonderful young people. We plan to hold another fundraiser later this year so stay tuned for the show time announcement.

We now look forward to our annual Thanksgiving meal in November. Be on the lookout for the date for this beloved event where we can share a meal and each other's company. It is one of my favorite events of the year.

Remember, even if you are not an "official" Deacon, God gives you many opportunities to share in his love with your family, friends and congregation. Call someone you haven't seen for a while, send a card or email. Let them know they are thought of, loved and valued.

Blessings to you all,
Kerry Milbrodt

BISTRO 50+

Tuesday,
October 11
12 Noon in
Koopmans

Join us for a delicious lunch and delightful fellowship. Only \$5! Bring a friend.

MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ART DIRECTOR/EDITOR

Shawn Kelly
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**MESSENGER DEADLINE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15
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.



As I was sitting, thinking about the year so far and what I felt like I was being led to write about in this article, the word that kept sticking out in my head was “family.” I look back and remember the many hard goodbyes and “See you later” that

but one of the most significant things that He also offers us is a community family that can be found amongst our peers. Abide Ministry has truly become this kind of bonding family that Jesus desires to gift and is a sort of community that is rare and



one that I know will remain in the memories of anyone who has been impacted by this group.

Just as I looked back, I also look forward to the many new changes that are coming. Even though change is scary, new leadership may be

daunting, and the unknown is something that is uncomfortable, I know that what will stay the same and remain as a solid foundation is this family that has been cultivated here at Abide.

Keep Abide in your prayers as so much newness is up ahead. Also, please do not hesitate to reach out to a student that you have or know who is looking for this sort of community, because this family would love to have them!

For any questions or comments, please reach out to me at austin@lpc.net.

Austin

have been said from previous students, former volunteers, and of course an impactful leader that had led this ministry faithfully for seven years. I’m also pulled to wander into the beautiful memories that I have made with students on trips, on random days in the student center, and on countless coffee/lunch hangouts.

Through all of these experiences, through the vastness of all the emotions that I have felt and have witnessed students feel, the word “family” is the one that sticks out. It seems too, that this year specifically has brought so many students closer



to me, closer to each other, and most importantly closer to Jesus.

Jesus through His sacrifice on the cross and through the perfect life that He lived that we could never, invites us into His broad everlasting family,

A Moment for Mission

Looking for a local mission to get involved in?

Making It Happen, Inc. (makingithappen.org) is a Sunland-based non-profit that provides between 150 and 200 households with generous boxes of food every Saturday. Most people line up in their cars at Heart of the Canyons Church in Lakeview Terrace to receive the food. Deliveries are made to about 20 or so households who for one reason or another cannot get to the church.

That’s where you come in. People are

needed to drive and deliver these boxes to households in Tujunga/Sunland each Saturday. Ideally two people go together, one to drive, and one to left one of these boxes to the door of 7-9 homes. If you’re interested in helping, whether or not you have a partner, contact Judy Trumbo at jktrumbo@gmail.com for more information.

We have about half the teams needed as a pool to take monthly turns making deliveries. It’s a great feeling to help these people in need.



Bring on all the Pumpkin Spice foods, coffees, dog treats and candles because it's October, folks! The Fall season is in full swing here at LCPC since PEAK has started back up. **Pastor Mike** has 112 people participating in the **Emotionally Healthy Spirituality** class each week and people are really enjoying the teachings and the meaningful discussions during the small group time. The class is closed for newcomers at this point, but all kids' classes are open and you are more than welcome to join us for **John Arran-gio's** delicious dinners each week at 5:30 PM. Stay tuned for the next PEAK class that will start at the end of this month.

Saturday, October 1, we have another **Habitat for Humanity Build Day**, if you missed the last one. The group will be working on homes in Pasadena, but space is limited. Contact Cindy Guenther at csguenther50@gmail.com to see if there are any spots left in either of the two shifts.

Sunday, October 2, we will have a **joint service in the Sanctuary**, so no Chapel service that day. In fact, staff and Worship and Music decided that **every Communion Sunday** (usually the first Sunday of every month) should be one big service together in the Sanctuary. The special breakfasts afterwards will only be every other month. Thank you to the **Children's Ministries Team** for the delicious treats we enjoyed a few weeks ago!

You've got a little more time to donate items for the Children's Ministries **Hygiene Pack Drive!** Jesiah and the kids will be assembling the packs on October 16, so check the pink list in the weekly email and get your items in before then. **The Bailey Human Care Center** in Tujunga will distribute these packs to people in need, in our own community.

We have a new opportunity on the horizon to help neighbors in need. **Making It Happen** is a Sunland-based non-profit that provides between 150 and 200 households with weekly boxes of food. People are needed to drive and deliver these boxes to households in Tujunga/Sunland each Saturday. Ideally two people go together to 7-9 homes. If you're interested in helping, contact

Judy Trumbo at jktrumbo@gmail.com for more information.

Be praying for our **Elders** as Session will be participating in a retreat on Sunday October 9, to pray about and discern God's will for LCPC in the coming months of transition. Also keep praying for clarity and wisdom for our **PNC**. They have been working so hard and could have a pastor candidate to present to the congregation by the end of the month. And, be praying for that new pastor coming our way very soon!

Pastor Mike will be offering a **New Members class** Sunday, October 23, in Koopmans at 11:45 AM. Lunch will be served and you'll have the opportunity to learn what church membership is all about and get all your questions answered. If you're interested, call the church office to sign up.

Jesiah is hosting a **Pumpkin Decorating Party** on Friday, October 28, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM in Koopmans. There will be snacks, games and plenty of crafty things for you to use to create your masterpiece of a pumpkin! The whole church is invited, because let's face it – adults have just as much fun carving and painting up pumpkins as kids do! RSVP to jesiah@lpc.net.

Our **Taste of LCPC events** (see photos below) have been a huge success enjoyed by all! There have been delicious meals, fun conversations, and even some swimming! We are so appreciative to all the hosts who opened up their

beautiful homes and entertained new and old friends - **Jon Weingarten, Peggy Bedevian, Bryan and Whitney Lescher, Doug and Diana Given, Mark and Cindy Williams, John and Christine Holmquist, Scott and Leslie Carpenter, Larry and Linda Helscher, Jim and Pat Rabe, Bill and Elaina McClain, Nicole and Chris Elmes, and Dean and Gail Richardson.**

Thank you also to everyone who generously gave a pint of their precious blood at the recent **blood drive** organized by the Deacons. The American Red Cross thanks you too!

The **Given family** has grown once again, adding another adorable little boy to the bunch! **Wyatt and Jamie** welcomed baby **Colin Douglas** on August 30 and he is just as cute as his sisters **Lindsey and Kacie!** **Doug and Diana** will now have one more beautiful grandchild in their pew with them!

If you're not getting the **LCPC Weekly email**, you're missing out on all the great things going on here! Make sure you sign up for it at lpc.net. Scroll down on the home page to where it says *Weekly Email* and click *Subscribe*. Enter your name and email address and you will start receiving the emails every Wednesday, along with a service reminder on Saturday mornings.

Enjoy the beauty of Fall, y'all, and I'll talk to you next month!



Taste of LCPC



children's Ministries

by Jesiah Bozich

Hello friends!

As much as my Washingtonian sentiments might compel me to believe otherwise, we are now in the midst of Fall and what a Fall this is shaping up to be! At the end of August, we kicked off our Fall programming with the return of PEAK! Our kids' groups, including SPARKS (3rd-6th grade), First Fruits (Kindergarten-2nd Grade), and Sprouts (0-4 year olds) are going full force through the true stories of the Life of Jesus as is presented in the Gospels. Focusing all our time on the Gospel narratives about Jesus helps us slow down and spend time with each amazing and transformative thing Jesus does or says. We are learning how to see the ways that Jesus challenges us, surprises us, encourages us, and, perhaps most of all, loves us. It is a blessing to get to walk through all of these narratives with the children. They always have new insights for ME!

That's not to say things aren't happening on Sunday mornings. Every Sunday, we are gathering the children of our community together to look at the books of Samuel. As an exercise in reading Scripture as messianic literature, our kids are exploring these narratives about Samuel, Saul, and David to see how they teach us about the Christ! Seeing their triumphs will help us see who God is calling His special hero to be, while their failures will help reveal the need for a perfect Savior, all fulfilled in the person of Jesus. Join us in praying that God will

use these lessons to teach the kids more and more about the greatest hero of all time, Jesus Christ!

Beyond our weekly kids' groups, we've also had some very exciting programs going on! Throughout September, we have been requesting community members bring in personal hygiene products to be distributed to individuals in need! If you are reading this in the early parts of October, it

will be 16 when families will work together to pack hygiene packs to be donated to the Bailey Human Care Center.

Finally, I want you all to be aware of our Pumpkin Decorating Party in Koopmans Hall on October 28 at 6:00 PM. Join us for snacks, games, and, of course, decorating some pumpkins!



Help Us Provide Hygiene Packs For Those In Need!

- **Toothbrushes with holder**
- **Toothpaste**
- **Bath soap**
- **Washcloths**
- **Shampoo**
- **Conditioner**
- **Hairbrush/comb**
- **Lotion**
- **Hand sanitizer**
- **Kleenex**
- **Wet wipes**

In partnership with
the Bailey Human Care Center
September 11th-October 2nd



The whole church is invited, so please, RSVP and join us for some festive fun!

As we progress through the year 2022 at what feels like a dizzying speed, I invite you all to take moments to slow down. Remember your Creator, the LORD God. Remember, in all the running, all the striving, all the consuming and collecting, that our best life is found in relationship with Him. I invite you to press into His love and guidance this month.

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

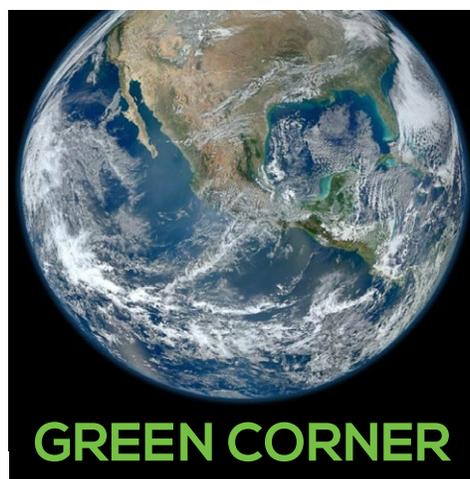
Grace and Peace,
Jesiah

The General Assembly of the PCUSA is our national church's governing body. It held its 225th session this summer, and among many actions took several having to do with creation care.

The GA approved Resolution ENV-09 entitled, "On Actions in Support of An Energy Transition," which among other provisions, calls on PCUSA congregations and members to become carbon neutral, net-zero or even climate positive by 2030; to retrofit our church structures to the fullest extent possible for energy conservation; and, to implore individual members to do the same with their homes and facilities.

The GA approved ENV-10 which puts five energy companies on its divestment/proscription list. The GA's investment arm had engaged with these companies over the past several years, encouraging them to adopt better environmental and human rights policies and practices, but no significant

is not too late for you to help out. Consult the list and bring what you can—knowing that it will be a blessing to those who are in deep need. The absolute final deadline for products is October



improvements were made. The companies are Chevron, ExxonMobil, Marathon Petroleum, Phillips 66, and Valero.

GA Commissioners also approved ENV-04, which creates a carbon offset program dubbed the Presbyterian Tree Fund, and also ENV-02 as amended, titled Investing in a Green Future, A Vision for a Renewed Creation, which came from the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy.

You can read/watch a summary of the GA environmental actions at: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/ga-creation-care-and-you/>

"Oh God, you have energized the whole world, from the beginning of time to now. You give the gift of energy so that our lives may be rich and glorify you. Help us to honor the energy your Holy Spirit blows through creation, and to use energy sustainably, so that your blessings will continue to be felt for generations."

50 Ways to Help Save the Earth, by Rev. Rebecca J. Barnes, PCUSA Hunger Program



Director's Corner

This month I want to talk to you a little bit about our food program. When I went back to work after my first child was a year old, I suddenly became aware of how nice it would be to have the child care program he was attending provide meals. My mornings of trying to make snacks and lunches added to the stress of getting out of the house on time. So there I was at my desk at work and it suddenly hit me... hey, I am in charge of that child care program, so why don't we start to offer breakfast and lunch! So at that child care center in Pasadena we took over an abandoned little kitchen, fixed it up, hired a cook and started to serve breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack. Roberta, our cook was amazing; She worked in a kitchen about the size of a closet and produced great meals. At that center and at the CFC I have worked with the federal school food programs to meet the standards of school meals.

I have now been directing for 35 years and boy have things changed. In the beginning, fruit juice with a cracker was the standard afternoon snack. Now as our understanding of nutrition has increased we are offering juice only once a week at the most. At breakfast we must serve milk, grain and fruit. Lunch must include milk, protein, fruit, vegetable and grain. Afternoon snack must include two of the four food groups. We must serve a whole grain at least once a day. We use water in the afternoon for many of our snacks with fruit, cheese, yogurt, vegetables, and humus. Yogurt didn't used to be allowed but now is considered an approved dairy

We all remember playing "pretend" as children. Whether we took on the role of superhero or royalty or the all-powerful grown-up, these play memories are often among our favorites as adults. Our classroom has an area devoted to dramatic play (also known as dress-up, playing house, or playing pretend). It's an enchanting play situation for young children where they can be whoever, or whatever, they wish. It's also a huge tool for learning and growth in each child's development.

Dramatic play is frequently used by children as a cognitive processing tool. They may play with a common theme like "house", and explore new ideas, experiences, and observations. They play pretend to make sense of something that might be intriguing, confusing, or overwhelming. Children often re-enact new, frightening, or difficult situations as a means to process or feel power in those

food item.

Each time we serve food, we must follow guidelines for amounts and variety. In August we went through a food audit from the State of California Food Program. They reviewed our menus, receipts, observes remotely lunch service and a bunch of paperwork! It was great to get a call and report mid-September saying they found no findings or deficiencies. It is always a balancing act to provide food the children will enjoy and what will meet the nutritional requirements.

Each child brings to the classroom their food experiences from home: what might be an item your child has eaten all their lives, another child may be trying that for the first time, and vice versa. We say children often need to try something 10

times before they get accustomed to it. The first couple of "tries" might be to only smell a new food. We never punish for food choices, we encourage but do not demand trying new items. If you have a family recipe that you think would be good for our classrooms do not hesitate to pass it along this month. We are so lucky to have Suzee creating our menus and following all the regulations and Robert in the kitchen trying new things for us!

Bon appétit,
Pat

School Age Notes

GUSD is closed on October 28 but we will be open all day for school age children.

Don't forget to let us know if your child does not need a pick up or needs a late pick up. Please call before noon for any changes.

Staff Development Day

We will be closed on Friday, October 21, for our annual staff development day at the Center for Children. This year we will be focusing on the facility and improving ways to store items and to spruce up our outdoor areas. Please note there is no after school care on this day and no care on campus all day. Plan in advance for your child care needs on that day.

Halloween at CFC

We do not celebrate Halloween directly at the CFC. We enjoy many of the fall/harvest activities that are traditional with the children but we avoid devils, witches and ghosts. We have fun dressing up in costumes all year round and that will continue in October. We will be having a Halloween Parade here at CFC on October 31 at 4:00 PM. Please bring your child's costume (that is easy to put on) in a bag with your child's name on it so that we can get them dressed after nap. School age children may bring them from School. Be sure to check around the community for lots of family friendly activities for Halloween night. Montrose is a really fun place to go and the festivities start before dark!

Why We Play Dressup

situations. A new sibling, a startling snake, a sick grandparent – these types of experiences all easily edge their way into play themes.

Dramatic play gives children the opportunity to communicate thoughts and experiences that are beyond their verbal levels, and wonder out loud about complex social situations. No one would debate whether or not children are having fun engaging in this type of play, but the learning taking place is effective and important. As children take on a role, thinking and acting not as themselves, but outside of themselves - as someone else would act - it's one of the earliest forms of displaying empathy, an advanced social skill at this age.

In addition to this empathy-building exercise, social skills are enhanced as children work together as "directors" and "script writers," negotiating and cooperating along the way.

As the "script" unfolds with its many players, children explore different twists to their plots and create new possibilities and solutions. This process fosters inquiry, creativity, and cognitive growth as it forces children to think abstractly. Language and literacy skills also get lots of practice in this area as children build their scripts, communicate their ideas, try out newly acquired vocabulary words, and practice developing writing skills.

Playing dress up is a lot of fun, but its powerful benefits are another reason why we play.

(Amanda Morgan, MS Not Just Cute www.notjustcute.com Copyright 2019-2020)

CHURCH STAFF

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

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

OCTOBER 2 COMMUNION SUNDAY COMBINED SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

Message by Pastor Mike Harbert
"Our Great Hope"
For Personal Study: Ephesians 3:14-21

OCTOBER 9

Message by Pastor Mike Harbert
"What We're Made to Be"
For Personal Study: Ephesians 4:1-6

OCTOBER 16

Message by Pastor Mike Harbert
"What Jesus' Church Made to Be"
For Personal Study: Ephesians 4:7-16

OCTOBER 23

Message by Pastor Mike Harbert
"Our New Life in Jesus"
For Personal Study: Ephesians 4:17-5:2

OCTOBER 30

Message by Austin Granier



ALL-CHURCH DAY OF SERVICE OCTOBER 15

Please plan to help spiff up LCPC Saturday, October 15, at our semi-annual All-Church Day of Service! Come and help even for an hour – anytime between 8:00 AM and 1:00 PM. Even brief efforts can make big impacts. One task will be helping the Cornerstone Crew with landscape maintenance. There's also pew polishing, carport

clean out and, as always, Koopmans Klean-up. Check in at the LCPC parking lot for tasks and snacks, coffee, and water. Bring your work gloves if you've got 'em. Contact Judy Trumbo at jktrumbo@gmail.com or Darrell Fernandez at Darrell.g.fernandez@gmail.com with questions. Bring the whole family!