

# MESSSENGER

VOLUME 73, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2024

## MISSION ARIZONA IS ON! MARCH 16-23, 2024

Sign-ups are open. See Izzy or Jerry White.

Fundraising is ongoing:

- **Rummage Sale** on Saturday, February 24, 8:00 AM-2:00 PM in Koopmans Hall. Donations accepted from Thursday, February 22, at Noon until 7:00 PM on Friday, February 23. No large electronics or furniture, please.
- **Stock Sales** are ongoing Sundays after worship during fellowship. This is your chance to invest in Youth Missions. A Stockholder's meeting will be held on a date and time TBD. Questions? Contact Jerry White at: [jjwhit12@pacbell.net](mailto:jjwhit12@pacbell.net)



### TRAINING CHRISTIANS TO USE MISSIONARY SKILLS IN AMERICA

By Rev. Dr. James A. Milley,  
Bridges Founder and Executive Director

I train Christians in America the same skills that I learned as an overseas missionary – to make friends, disciples, and Christ-following groups in their everyday lives, networks, and neighborhoods. I do this through Bridges, which currently provides supportive services for 46 Bridge Leaders, mostly in California but also in five other states. These Bridge Leaders act as domestic “missionaries,” bringing to the underserved necessities such as medicine and food, but most importantly, spiritual support.

**Bruce spent his adult life  
anguishing about the death of  
his beloved older brother:**

**“How could God have let this happen?”**

Bridge Leader Larry lives in the same assisted living home as Bruce. Larry has helped Bruce get unstuck from 50 years of grief. Now Bruce is applying to the Peace Corps domestic VISTA program to work on a Native American reservation and has started going to religious services. Larry continues to serve Bruce and the 12 others in his facility.

Eighteen months prior, Larry, struggling with the accumulated impact of mistakes made during his 82 years, was at a rehab center when I, with six broken ribs from a bicycle accident, was wheeled in. One morning I played the song “The Blessing” on my phone. Larry recognized



the words from Numbers 6:24-26 as the blessing always given by his childhood rabbi – 63 years earlier. The Holy Spirit used the opportunity to create a spiritual breakthrough for Larry.

Larry says, “I can count few times in my life when I have felt the immense joy of being truly connected to God as I am now through the help of Bridges. Now helping others connect with God is a remarkable reward for me.”

When you support Bridges, you empower me to foster Leaders such as Larry as they help others. Lives are being transformed.

### Romona Experiences Freedom from Violent Dreams

Romona (name changed, no photo for privacy) had terrible dreams. She thought they were from Spirits, showing her what happened to her mother at the hands of her father. I sat down with her and showed her from Scripture that “Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father of Lights.” Romona agreed to an experiment. The two of us prayed together for God to allow only dreams that reveal truth

and come from the most-High God who gives good gifts to his children. I helped her to re-affirm her loyalty to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, disavowing any loyalty to any lesser Spirit. And I taught her how to do this by herself. “I have no more terrible dreams,” says Romona. Pray for Romona, because this is only a good first step.

Bridges seeks to add 25 to 50 new Leaders in 2024. Each Leader, including me, disciples on average four new people each year who are outside the culture of existing churches. Over the past 10 years, through Bridges, thousands have come to Christ, 12 new churches have started and over 26 micro nonprofits, all of them changing lives and improving local communities. Thank you for partnering together to transform lives.

For more information on this mission, which LCPC supports through prayer and monthly financial gifts, go to: <https://bridge-sus.org/>

### INSIDE

- 2 PASTOR'S LETTER
- STUDENT MINISTRIES
- 3 CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
- CRUISERS
- 4 CHURCH MOUSE
- 5 CALENDAR
- 6 CFC HEARTBEAT
- 7 WORSHIP SCHEDULE
- DEACONS' BEACON

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

Dear La Crescenta Presbyterian Church Family & Friends,

It's a New Year, and a new beginning! New beginnings can be both exciting and intimidating. They represent a chance to start fresh and make positive changes in our lives, but they also require us to let go of the familiar and step into the unknown.

As Christians, we can find hope and strength in knowing that God is with us in all things, including the new beginnings we face. In Isaiah 43:19, the Lord says, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" God is constantly at work in our lives, creating new opportunities and possibilities for us. As I think about those new opportunities and possibilities God offers LCPC, let me just highlight a few as we embark on this New Year.

**Ecclesiastes Sermon Series:** The Book of Ecclesiastes has so much to say to the 21st century American culture. It has much to say to a culture that has fallen into the slippery slope of materialism and instant gratification;

a culture that is chasing the wind. Ecclesiastes asks some tough questions; questions about the meaning and purpose of life; questions about the point of all our accomplishments; questions about our hope when life is met with failure or even simple toil and boredom. These questions may seem hypothetical or philosophical, but they are real life questions.

Ecclesiastes invites us to wrestle with these questions until we find the true meaning and purpose of life. Meantime, should we feel the brokenness of ourselves and our world, we are to look and submit to the ONE who stands outside creation as immutable, glorious and wise. I am excited to share the wisdom of God's Word in Ecclesiastes in our New Sermon Series during the months of January, February, and March.

**PEAK:** Our PEAK Spring Semester starts on Wednesday, January 17. This is a family mid-week gathering where there will be something for everyone. This Spring, I will be leading a Bible Study Class on First Timothy. This Bible Study is titled, "Faithfulness, Discipleship,

and Leadership: Lessons from 1 & 2 Timothy!" Writing to the Christian community in the city of Ephesus, Paul charged the followers of Christ

to stand firm and to be faithful in the face of opposition. The apostle Paul charged the believers to be committed to their calling, deepen their discipleship, and make new disciples. Another great alternative will be "Parenting with Love and Logic Class" led by Pat Chambers.

**Tuesday Bible Study:** This is a NEW Bible Study opportunity that I am offering to LCPC Family and the community at large. Every Tuesday from 11:00 AM to 12:00 noon, I will be leading a Bible Study Class in the book of Nehemiah. The Class is titled, "Nehemiah: The Wise Builder!" The class focuses on the challenges and blessings of engaging in kingdom business and participating in God's redemptive activities in the world. It's a great way to develop a kingdom-oriented life. Our first class will be on Tuesday, January 16, and we will wrap up the end of May. Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex and in the Chapel. Spread the word. Everyone is welcome.

The Lord is up to great things right here in our midst at La Crescenta Presbyterian Church. Be a participant. Get your feet wet. Be hope-filled because "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever," Hebrews 13:8. Happy New Year LCPC Family!

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



beacon of love, grace, and faith in our community.

As we embark on these enriching endeavors, I encourage you to engage actively, whether by joining the missions trip, participating in our Wednesday gatherings, or both. Your

presence and involvement are integral to the success of these initiatives.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and I look forward to the blessings and growth that await us on this journey together.

Izzy

Hello!

Firstly, I am thrilled for the Abide Missions trip scheduled for the upcoming spring break. Our destination is Arizona, and we anticipate God's transformative work as we engage with the local community, inspiring our youth to draw closer to Jesus.

Additionally, we will be delving into the Book of Acts during our Wednesday gatherings. This year-round study will provide us with a rich exploration of the early Christian church, its challenges, triumphs, and the lessons we can glean from it today. Together, we will dive into the profound teachings of Acts, fostering a deeper understanding of our faith and how we can live it out in our daily lives.

Moreover, our Wednesday sessions will not only focus on the Book of Acts, but will also provide an opportunity to explore the essence of being a faith community. We will delve into what it truly means to come together, support one another, and live out our shared beliefs. This exploration aims to strengthen our bonds as a church family and empower us to be a

## FROM THE EDITOR

As you have likely heard, the *Messenger* will no longer be printed and mailed out each month, though it will still be emailed out and be available on our website.

Printing and mailing takes time, so I had to produce the *Messenger* file to send to the printer on a strict deadline to ensure it arrived in mailboxes on time. But that deadline is no longer. As a result, I'm pushing the monthly deadline from the 15th to the 18th of each month. I hope this shift makes it a bit easier on all of you lovely contributors. We'll see how it goes!

Cheers,  
Shawn

## M E S S E N G E R

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### ART DIRECTOR/EDITOR

Shawn Kelly  
shawndraws@gmail.com

**MESSENGER DEADLINE  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18  
9:00 AM SHARP**

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



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

BY JESIAH BOZICH

Hello all!

Happy February! 2024 is now in full swing, and we are so excited for all that we have in front of us. We have some great plans for Children's Ministries, so we hope that you will join us, partner with us, and pray for us as we dive into this exciting year of introducing children to the person of Jesus Christ.

If you read this and think, "wow, I would love to be a part of Children's Ministries in some way! I just don't think they'd have room for me," then I strongly encourage you to come talk with me. We have numerous ways to serve the kids at LCPC, be it through the Children's Ministries team or by volunteering on Sundays, Wednesdays, or at events. We always have room for more on our team. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you're feeling God's call to serve in this capacity. We would love to start a conversation with you!

Last month, we were excited to jump into a big new semester of PEAK with our God's Great Story series. In this series, our SPARKS

are diving deep into the full story of the Gospel to learn the wonderful truth of Jesus' rescue for themselves. Our big hope for this series is that kids will be able to reproduce the true story of the Gospel for themselves, understanding what it means for the world and for them. Please be praying that this series will be a foundational blessing for these children as they form their outlook of themselves and the world they live in.

This month, our Sunday mornings will be focused on the Parables of Jesus, where we learn wise teaching from the Word Himself! These lessons will help us see Jesus' wisdom as we make decisions, interact with others, and follow God. Join me in praying that these lessons will make a strong impact on the children who join us on Sunday mornings.

We are also excited to host a "Parents Night Out" this month! This will be on Friday, February 16, from 5:30 - 8:30PM. We invite families from LCPC, CFC, and our community to drop off children (ages 3-12) at the church

for dinner, games, and a movie, so you can enjoy a night to yourselves. This event will have a suggested donation of \$20 per child, which will go towards an upcoming Student Ministries (7th-12th grade) Mission trip to Arizona. Please pre-register with me if you plan to join us! Hope to see your kids there.

As always, I thank God for what He is doing and eagerly await what He will do next!  
Grace and peace,  
Jesiah



## LCPC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CALENDAR 2024

**Every Sunday:**  
Jesus centered  
kids' groups during  
10am worship for  
Preschool thru 6th  
Grade

**SPARKS:**  
6:15-7:15pm during  
our Wednesday  
PEAK programming,  
for Kindergarten  
thru 6th Grade

**Parents Night Out: 5:30-8:30pm Feb 16th**

**Easter Eggstravaganza: 10am-Noon March 23rd**

**LEGO Night: 5:30-7:30pm April 19th**

**Summer Party!: June**

**Vacation Bible School: 9am-Noon July 15th-19th**

**Waterpalooza: 1:00-3:00pm August 24th**

**Pumpkin Decorating Party + Trunk or Treat: October**

**Family Christmas Party: December**

## BISTRO 50+

**TUESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 13  
12 NOON IN  
KOOPMANS**

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

## CRUISERS

The Cruisers had a fabulous program (by Doug Given) at their January meeting. Sorry if you missed it. We would like to invite you to our February 13 meeting immediately following the Bistro 50 lunch. The guest speaker for February will be Detective Andrew Lazaretto from the Fraud Unit of the Glendale Police Department. He will be talking to us about how to protect ourselves from people that want to take advantage of us in any way, whether through your computer or phone calls or whatever. All are invited. For any questions, call Isabel Adams at (818) 424-8373.



It's February, the month of Love! This year, **Valentine's Day** is extra special because it falls on **Ash Wednesday!** Plan your romantic dinners early then bring your sweetie to the Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. How fitting that the day celebrating love begins our **40-day Lenten journey** to reflect on Jesus' ultimate sacrifice of love.



We have a group of amazing ladies who are planning some special events for women this year. First up is a **Women's Hike** in CV Park, Saturday February 10 at 10:00 AM. This is an easy hike, perfect for anyone to join! Meet in the CV Park parking lot next to the skate park and enjoy chatting and hiking in our beautiful community. In the event of rain, the hike will be postponed.

The recent **Happy Church** class got some people thinking about potlucks in 2024. (Get your book out and review Chapter 9!) So, we hope you'll join our monthly **Sunday Potluck Lunches!** On Sunday, February 18, bring a potluck item to share and meet in Koopmans Hall after service for an extended time of Fellowship. You're welcome to store your food in the LCPC fridge in the kitchen, or bring a crock pot to keep it warm. The fellowship team will provide paper goods. The next one will be **Palm Sunday**, March 24. Hope to see you there!

**PEAK** started back up a couple weeks ago but it's not too late to join in! We have two great options for adult classes every Wednesday night 6:15-7:30 PM – **Faithfulness, Discipleship and Leadership – Lessons from 1 & 2 Timothy** with Pastor Mouris in Koopmans and **Pat Chambers' Parenting the Love and Logic Way** class in the Chapel. We have classes for children and youth at the same time, so there's something for everyone!

We've had a great turnout at Pastor Mouris' new **Tuesday morning Bible Study – Nehemiah the Wise Builder**. The class meets 11:00 AM-Noon in Koopmans Hall and will run through the end of May. You're still welcome to join!

Exciting news for those who remember the beloved **Mission Arizona** trip for youth, also known as **MAZ**. It's back for 2024! The team will once again stay at the **Vah Ki Presbyterian Church** in Bapchule, AZ, doing much needed maintenance projects around the campus. There will also be plenty of time for fun and worship! All junior high and high schoolers are invited to this awesome week of service during Spring Break, March 16-23 To sign up, contact **Izzy** or **Jerry White** at jjwhit12@pacbell.net.

You can support the **MAZ** trip at their **Rummage Sale** on Saturday, February 24 in Koopmans Hall from 8:00 AM-2:00 PM. They would also LOVE your donations of gently used clothes, housewares, books, toys etc..(No large appliance or furniture please.) Drop donations off in on Koopmans Thursday, February 22, from Noon – 7:00 PM and Friday,

February 23, from 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM. Jerry will also be selling **MAZ "Stock"** on Sundays during Fellowship time. Buying one of these stocks is your chance to invest in the youth of LCPC! To help with the rummage sale or for questions, contact **Jerry** at the email address above.

We're also excited to be hosting a **"Parents' Night Out"** on Friday, February 16th, from 5:30 PM-8:30 PM. Families from LCPC, CFC, and our community can drop off children (ages 3-12) in Koopmans for dinner, games, and a movie, so parents can enjoy a night to themselves. There's a suggested donation of \$20 per child, which will support the MAZ mission trip. Email Jesiah for more information at [Jesiah@lcpc.net](mailto:Jesiah@lcpc.net)

Speaking of Missions, the team overseeing the **Casa de Los Angeles Home for Children** project is so grateful to all who supported their campaign in December, to fund the crucial 2nd floor walls. They not only exceeded their goal of raising \$7500, but raised \$30,000, AND an extremely generous benefactor doubled that amount, bringing the grand total raised to **\$60,000!** They're already moving forward on construction and thank you for your support and donations!

Thank you to all who supported the **World Vision Giving Tree**, by purchasing a gift for a family in need. We raised more than \$1100!

Beginning in March, **tithes and offerings** will no longer be collected by the ushers during the Contemporary service. A clearly marked collection box will be placed at the center rear doors of the Sanctuary so people can drop their offerings in as they enter or exit the service. Ushers will continue to collect offerings as usual in the Chapel service, and in the monthly combined services.

**Saturday morning Pickleball** is still going on for all you sporty people out there! You can sign up for a slot between 9:00 AM-Noon by scanning the QR code in the weekly email or clicking the link on the [lcpc.net](http://lcpc.net) Events page. All the equipment is at the church and the court is waiting for you!

The **Deacons** would love for you to save the date of Sunday, March 10, for their

## SAVE THE DATE

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held in Koopmans Hall on March 3 at 11:30 AM immediately following worship. A muffins and yogurt bar brunch will be served. All are invited to celebrate the many ministries at LCPC.

next **American Red Cross Blood Drive** in Koopmans Hall. The drive runs from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM and a sign-up link will be in the weekly email later this month. You can also visit [RedCross.org](http://RedCross.org) and search for LCPC's blood drive. There is still an urgent national need for blood donors.

It was a fun surprise to have our former Director of Youth Ministries **Kim Cox** lead worship with our praise band a few weeks ago. Kim has always had a calling and a passion for leading worship and she did a fantastic job with her beautiful voice!



**Kelsey (Chambers)** and **Richard Welch** were thrilled to get the best Christmas gift ever – baby **Landon Blaine** was born December 24 in South Carolina. **Grandma Pat Chambers** and **Great Grandpa George Murphy** (pictured) arrived just hours later and got to spend the rest of the holiday season snuggling this precious new addition to their family!

**CFC** thanks you for all the donations of your old Christmas cards – they even got a box sent from Arizona, from **Jim** and **Sue Christopher**, long time former members of LCPC. CFC is now looking for **donations of blenders** for classrooms so that kids can help make smoothies for breakfast and snacks. If you've got one you're not using, send it their way!

**Registration** for the 2024/2025 school year is now **due for CFC**. They are also looking for **college students** seeking summer work. Applicants can apply now by clicking the link on the home page of [Center4children.com](http://Center4children.com).

Keep spreading the **love of Jesus**, and remember how very loved you are. I'll talk to you next month!







# CFC Heartbeat



## Director's Corner

You might have noticed I was absent for the end of December. My father and I traveled to South Carolina arriving just hours after my fourth grandchild was born, the first child of my daughter Kelsey. It feels like just yesterday that Bob and I welcomed her into this world. So I got to love on Landon Blaine Welch for two weeks. He already looks like his daddy but has the length and weight, oh, and hair of a Chambers baby.

Christmas Eve will never be the same in our family. As I sat up in the middle of the night holding a fussy baby, I had time to think about what I would like to pass down to my

grandchildren. Much is the same as what I hoped would be passed down to my own children. I hope they will try to see the good in people, giving grace to others as often as possible. I pray that their faith will be strong and carry them through hard times. This is because as much as we want to protect them, we know there will be hard times. I dream that family will be important to them and that they will visit their grandmother even when their parents stop telling them to! I wish them success in relationships, job satisfaction, and life.

The job of parenting is not easy. Our kids, as much as we love them, can present challenges we didn't prepare for and never thought we would face. But, the rewards are tremendous. So here is my Valentine wish for you parents: I wish that love in your family continues to grow, no matter the configuration of that family. That you will find time to hold your babies, no matter their age, and marvel at what you have accomplished. That you will give yourself grace, no matter what has taken place in your life, and that you will take time to let those you love know how important they are in your life and let them tell you the same.

Have a great Valentine's Day,  
Pat



## Valentine's Day

We enjoy celebrating Valentine's Day at the Center for Children. On February 14, we are asking the kids to wear Valentine's colors to school; red, pink, purple, blue or you can decide what that means to you! You will see lots of hearts, and red, pink and purple paint as you walk around. We will have a menu filled with love and the color red! Please check with your child's classroom to see how and when they will be celebrating. For most classrooms, it is better to bring Valentines without names on the outside. Remember as parents the best valentines present you can give to your children is to love and respect each other.

## Registration for 24-25

Yes it is that time already for you to let us know your intentions for next year, which for us begins on June 1, 2024. Julie has given you a registration form to fill out that must be returned by February 9 to let us know if you are not coming back for the next year. You will be billed the registration fee of \$100 the next week if we did not hear that you will not be back. Registration is due even is you will only be with us for the summer months. Don't forget we give a \$100 finder's fee when a recommendation you make results in a student enrolling at CFC, so spread the word.

## Spring Break

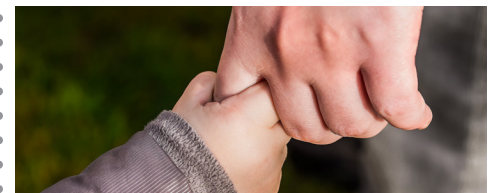
This year GUSD Spring Break is March 18-25. That's a week and a day this year, so plan ahead. We will be open the entire week with a full day camp planned for school age children. Infant/Toddler classes and preschool classes remain the same, Remember tuition is due regardless of attendance.

## Very Important Person Day

Saturday, February 3 from 9:00 – 11:30 is our VIP day. Rooms 104, 105 and 108 will participate in our VIP day. Each preschool child can bring up to two adults with them to enjoy a typical morning in their class. Starting with Chapel and then moving to the classroom for stories, art, snack and free choice you will see what your little one does during the day. Outside will include our two upper yards. This event takes place rain or shine. Let your teacher know if you will be attending.

## Thank You

I wish to thank all of you for your kind thoughts and gestures towards the entire staff this holiday season, Thank you for the gifts, treats, and cards. It was a wonderful holiday season here at CFC.



## Calendar

**February 3:** Preschool VIP day 9:00-11:30AM.

**February 12:** GUSD closed, CFC open.

**February 19:** GUSD and CFC Closed, Presidents' Day.

## Love & Logic

Our Love and Logic parenting PEAK class has been a lot of fun. It's not too late to join in on Wednesday nights. Hope to see you there. Topics will include: Who Owns the Problem, Setting Limits, Consequences vs. Punishments.

## CHURCH STAFF

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



2902 MONTROSE AVENUE  
LA CRESCENTA, CA 91214-3896  
WWW.LCPC.NET  
(818) 249-6137

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
GLENDALE, CA  
PERMIT NO. 1701

DATED  
MATERIAL



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

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

### FEBRUARY 4 COMMUNION SUNDAY COMBINED SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

"Better Together!"

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 1 Peter 4:7-11

Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

### FEBRUARY 11

"When You Come to Worship!"

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7; Hebrews 4:14-16

Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef



### FEBRUARY 14 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE, 7:00 PM

"Two Things to Consider  
on Ash Wednesday!"

Genesis 3:19; John 12:23-26

Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

### FEBRUARY 18

"When the World is Not Enough!"

Ecclesiastes 6:1-9; Mark 8:34-37

Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

### FEBRUARY 25

"Wisdom for Better Living!"

Ecclesiastes 7:1-6; Luke 6:20-26

Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

With the start of a new year, our new class of Deacons has joined the committee. We held our first meeting last month and elected Nancy Smith and Mackenzie Roach as co-moderators.

Mark your calendars! The Deacons and the American Red Cross will be hosting a blood drive LCPC on Sunday, March 10. Blood is urgently needed – please consider donating.

The next round of scholarship applications will start soon, with scholarships of \$1,000 available for undergraduate and graduate students. Contact Hilary Norton for an application.



On Sunday, April 28, at 2:00 PM, the Deacons will host the third annual scholarship fundraiser variety show, "Strike up the Band". Noel Collins is working hard to create a wonderful

show with a 10-piece band plus singers.

The season of Lent is approaching – a 40-day period of preparation for Easter. We will be serving a sacrificial meal at the end of Lent, on Maundy Thursday, March 28, followed by a worship service.

Are you unable to attend church, perhaps confined at home? Pastor Mouris Yousef is available to provide home communion or just visit. Call Nancy Thomas to schedule.

Serving him,  
Deacon Dave Eagle