

**LAKESIDE COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
9908 Channel Road, Lakeside, CA 92040
619-443-1021
lakesidepc.org office@lakesidepc.org
Office Hours: Mon-Fri. 9 AM – 2:00 PM

DIRECTORY
“All members are ministers in Christ's Service”

Rev. Tim Avazian, Pastor
Silvia Serrano, Office Manager
Ron Hilley, Director of Music
Michael McKnight, Outreach Volunteer
Janice Johnson Warren, Treasurer
Suzy Smith, Caretaker
Joanne Laird, Nursery Attendant

LCPC OFFICERS

Clerk of Session: Linda Sunkel
Elders: Sheila King, Glen Bauer,
Lisa Hultman, John Sunkel, Cindy Wheeler,
Garry Smith, Gerie Morrin

Deacons: Nancy Adams, Chris Crawford,
Marilyn Gilbert, Suzy Smith, Jan Warren,
Ruth Boudreau, Sioux Swart,
Mark Vettel, Ski Zenski

Sola Scriptura – Sola Fide – Solo Gratia -

Solo Christo – Soli Deo Gloria

(Scripture Alone - Faith Alone - Grace Alone -
Christ Alone - To the Glory of God Alone)

“A Confessing Presbyterian Church”



LAKESIDE PRESBYTERIAN
CHILDREN'S CENTER
La Teresa Oropeza, Director
619-443-2887

Our Supported Missions:
John & Cynthia Chynoweth
Cru, Florida
Leona Edic & Jennifer Edic Bryant
Literacy & Evangelism Africa/Central America
Dave & Sylvia Riggs
Wycliffe Bible Translators, Mexico
Steve & Debbie Robinson
Mission Aviation Fellowship, Idaho
Dave & Linda Ringenberg
Mission Aviation Fellowship, Indonesia
Sudanese Church
San Diego Military Outreach Ministry
Presbyterian Urban Ministries
Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana
Lakeside Christian Helps Center
Presbyterian Missions (shared)
Sudanese Church of San Diego
Daniel Nunez, Kingdom Builders
When you finish reading this newsletter,
please share it with family and neighbors.

**“And the angel said to them,
“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good
news of great joy that will be for all
the people. For unto you is born this
day in the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord.””**

Luke 2:10-11



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LCPC CONNECTIONS

office@lakesidepc.org
lakesidepc.org
December 2023 Newsletter



A WORD FROM PASTOR TIM

Active Waiting

Waiting is a difficult thing.

As a child, waiting can be especially difficult if what you are waiting for is something that is exciting! Christmas day, a birthday party or a trip to Disneyland can bring sleepless nights of excited anticipation before the big day arrives.

Sometimes as adults, we wait with anticipated excitement for something that we have wanted to do, like going to dinner with friends at a restaurant or going on an upcoming vacation. But getting older does not necessarily mean that waiting is easier. In fact, as we get older, we settle down into a routine and sometimes don't like to wait, especially if it involves something that is new.

In our spiritual lives, waiting is essential. We wait as we anticipate that God is at work, moving in the midst of our lives and in the midst of our world. We believe in a God who is alive.

So as we wait, we do so actively.

Our anticipation that God is at work involves our activity. We engage with God through prayer, through

reading His Word and through worship with His people. Sometimes our activity involves being quiet and silent. We interact with our world, doing God's kingdom work with other believers, with our neighbors and especially with those that are on the margins of our world.

So our waiting is not empty waiting, it is active, alert, and anticipates that our God is on the move.

During this Advent Season, as we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the coming of God incarnate, may we do so actively, engaging with God and engaging with His Word and engaging in His World, anticipating that He will be doing things amongst us.

With much anticipation in Christ's coming!

Isaiah 9:6

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.



*Pastor Tim and the church and school staff wish you all
a blessed Christmas and New Year.*

**We invite you, your family, and neighbors as we
celebrate the greatest gift of all: Jesus the Messiah.**

- ❖ Lakeside Presbyterian Children's Center Christmas Program –
Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 5:30pm
- ❖ Eat & Greet Special Luncheon
Sunday, Dec. 17 at 12:15pm in the Fellowship Hall
- ❖ Carols of Christmas – A Community Cantata
Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3:00pm, in the Sanctuary
- ❖ Lakeside Community Christmas Carol Sing-Along Under the Stars –
Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 5:30pm at Maine Avenue, Lakeside –
Olde Church
- ❖ Christmas Eve Services, Dec. 24 at 9:45am & 4:00pm

CHRISTMAS FROM AROUND THE WORLD ON DECEMBER 17

Again this year, at LCPC, we are going to celebrate Christ's birth by the sharing of different families' crèches with the rest of the church. If you are willing to share one of your family nativity scenes, bring your crèches, now through Dec. 17 to be displayed. Drop crèches off at the church office, and we will find a place for them to be displayed. Crèches may be taken home after worship, Dec. 24. Please write your name on the bottom of your items.

OUTREACH

LAKESIDE CHRISTIAN HELPS CENTER NEWS CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE & SPECIAL NEEDS

The Center is accepting toys for infants and children, and gift cards for teens, now through December 13, for the annual Christmas distribution, which takes place on Saturday, December 16, at Rise City Church. Unwrapped toys may be dropped off in the Narthex/Foyer, and gift cards may be turned in to the church office. Starting November 27 through December 13, Lakeside residents/families with students attending a school/church in Lakeside (babies through high school age only), may sign up on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00am. A Helps Center volunteer will be available at a table on LCPC's front lawn. If you would like to volunteer, please call the church office. Thank you for your assistance and support for this outreach to our community.

➤ Special Need: canned fruit, men's clothes and shoes.

The Lakeside Christian HELPS Center is open Monday-Thursday 10:00AM – 12:00PM, and the fourth Saturday of the month with the same hours. If you know of someone who may need a little extra help, the Center may be reached at

(619) 561-3488.

HOPE 4 THE HOMELESS LAKESIDE (H4HL) & THE THINK DIGNITY SHOWER MOBILE; LADLE FELLOWSHIP

These organizations are in need of men and women's clothes and shoes, hygiene supplies, underwear (new), snacks, bike patch kits, batteries, tents, tarps, backpacks, large trash bags for cleaning up the river area. Donations may be dropped off on Sunday in the foyer, or at the church office during regular hours.



EAST COUNTY TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTER
1527 E. Main St. El Cajon 619-442-0457 www.ectlc.org

The ECTLC is in need of eggs, socks, hygiene products, and toilet paper. Donations may be dropped off at their facility. There is a security guard at the gate: let him know that you are dropping off the items and he will direct you to the area for donations.

Lakeside Community Presbyterian Church livestreams our services and engages in social media platforms as a means to engage and communicate church activities. This means your image may be visible to the public. Participation in worship or other church events shall be considered consent to the use of the photo as described, unless written notification to prohibit is received by the church office. **Contact us at: office@lakesidepc.org, or visit our website at: lakesidepc.org.**

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study is on break.
A new study starts in January.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join us on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, at 7:00pm in the Fireside/Fellowship room.



NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS December 3, 10 and 17

This year, beginning December 3, we will begin a 3-week study on Handel's Messiah using an abridged performance by the Academy of Ancient Music, held at the chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge. Messiah is an English-language oratorio composed in 1741 by George Friedrich Handel, using scriptural text exclusively. Handel composed the Messiah in 24 days and his servants reported he was often in tears as he composed. When King George II attended a royal performance of Messiah, he stood up for the Hallelujah Chorus in honor of the King of kings. When the king stood, everyone in his presence had to stand. So, it became the tradition for the audience to stand up when the Hallelujah Chorus is sung.

Each week we will show about 30 minutes of the performance, followed with a discussion of the Biblical text, which will be provided. Please join us each Sunday at 11:00 as we prepare our hearts this Advent season, reflecting on the Scriptural passages that foretold and proclaim our Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

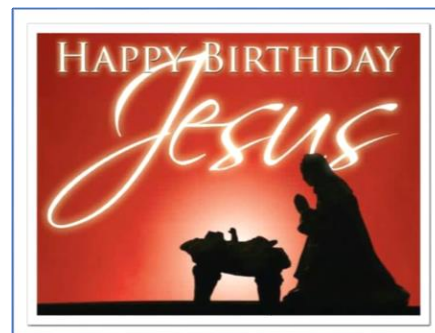
BEST WISHES TO YOU - ENJOY!

DECEMBER

2 - Jamie Zamora
18 - Mike Smith
21 - John Sunkel
25 - Adam Large
27 - Pauline Tagney
30 - Bret Ball
Kevin King

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

1 - Declan & Kristyne Krebs
2 - John & Eileen Neumeister
14 - Bob & Marie Hart
31 - Frank & Gerie Morrin



ADA RESTROOM

For sometime we have been working to get quotes to convert the Narthex restroom into a quiet area and accommodate an ADA restroom, additionally we want to upgrade the existing Fellowship Hall restroom to be ADA compliant. The two areas were selected as they would require the least amount of remodel and accommodate areas that see the greatest number of congregation, guests and preschool activity. Sadly, we had to tell several Eat & Greet guests that we cannot accommodate their wheelchair in any restroom. As a church we are to be inviting and welcoming to all, yet the current state of our building tells a different story when those with disabilities are unable to use a restroom.

Our efforts to rectify the situation have been challenging. We previously contacted several contractors, who no-bid the job. We are currently working with another contractor to provide us a bid and their attention to detail and multiple visits to our campus is encouraging. One of the challenges we face is that our campus was built in an era that did not accommodate people with disabilities and therefore the county may require further upgrades unrelated to a restroom remodel. We have made some updates over the years, but working with a reputable contractor familiar with codes and permit requirements is crucial to a safe environment.

We will continue to keep you informed as we navigate to bring an ADA restroom to our campus.

AN EASY WAY TO HELP OUR PRESCHOOL WITH YOUR GROCERY RECEIPTS



As you shop for your holiday groceries, please remember our preschool. We are collecting your grocery receipts and will scan for eligibility for Box Top\$ for Education. Just drop off your receipts in the small box in the Foyer/Narthex within 14 days of your purchase. If you want your receipt returned to you, just write your name on the back of the receipt and we will return it to you.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, The PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering addresses support that is sometimes needed for Pastoral leadership within the PCUSA. This offering supports leadership development for communities of color and provides support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. Please see the insert for more information. Special envelopes available in the foyer/narthex.

CHILDREN’S CENTER NEWS

Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year. Particularly when we get to celebrate it with our children. The wonder and excitement on their faces is magical.

As 2023 comes to an end, we want to thank you for all your support over the year. We have enjoyed being part of your lives and are looking forward to another great year!

Christmas Program:

Our Christmas program is **Wednesday, December 13th at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary**. It is a fun event that will bring Christmas cheer to all. The classrooms will open for the children at 5:15 (please do not bring your child earlier, the teachers that work until 5 would like some time to freshen up). The sanctuary doors will open soon after that, please enter from the main doors and not the side doors. Please do not bring any food or drinks into the sanctuary. We are so excited to be able to have this event!

May you all enjoy this Christmas season and create memories that last a lifetime.

La Teresa Oropeza

Director





Lakeside Presbyterian Children's Center

Preschool Enrollment

Your kids deserve the best education

Benefit:

- ✓ Certified Staff
- ✓ Kindergarten Prep
- ✓ Curriculum
- ✓ Social Learning
- ✓ Faith Based
- ✓ Family Support

619- 443-2887
Email: preschool@lakesidepc.org
www.lakesidepc.org

- Mon-Fri 7am-5:30PM
- 2-4 yrs
- YMCA & CDA subsidies accepted
- Discounts available



HOSPITAL STAY & PRAYER

If you or someone you know has a stay in the hospital, please contact the church office, so that our prayer partners will be in prayer for you or for them. It is our desire, as a body of Christ, to look to the wellbeing of our church family. We would like to extend prayer and care in whatever way that we can. Unless we are made aware of a hospital stay, we will not know of the need. We would rather get the same notification several times, than none at all.

Visit the LCPC Library! There is a white notebook for checking out and returning, with a basket to place the returned book. You may search the library collection on the internet at: <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/LCPC-Library>.

Young At Heart
A Ministry for Senior Citizens
Lakeside Community Presbyterian Church

Our Young at Heart group will have their annual Christmas Tea & White Elephant Exchange on **Wednesday, December 20, from 2:00 - 4:00pm in Rooms 1 & 2**. Christmas treats will be served, accompanied by beverages including hot cocoa and apple cider. All attending are asked to bring a dessert/treat to share. Following the tea time, they will have a White Elephant Exchange.

A White Elephant is any small, often old, item that you have around the house that you want to gift to someone else. Please bring a gift from each person in your party for the Exchange. Sign up today on the patio during fellowship time. If you have questions, please call Gary MacDonald at 619-561-4235.

POINSETTIA PLANTS

If you would like to order a poinsettia plant in honor or memory of loved ones, or for a special occasion, please fill out the form below and turn it in to the church office. The plants are \$15.00 each. **Last day to order is Dec. 17.**

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Phone #: _____





GIFT CARDS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

Christmas is almost here, and most of us are thinking about Christmas presents. The Scrip gift card program offers gift cards from over 600 different companies (many with a variety of denominations on the cards). Our commission varies by card, but can be as high as 14% for Old Navy, the Gap, and LL Bean, and 15% for Land's End.

Is there someone you want to give a token of appreciation to? Currently, Panera Bread, Starbucks, and Taco Bell offer \$5.00 cards, and Amazon and Walmart offer \$10.00 cards.

If you placed an order for Scrip on Nov. 26, please pick up your cards before or after worship at the Greeter's table, Sunday, Dec. 3. A second order will be placed on Dec. 10, and cards will be delivered Dec. 17. We are pleased to report that LCPC has earned over \$200.00 in commission for projects on our school and church campus. Thank you for your support!

For a list of cards available stop by the tables during patio time, or the office. If you have questions, see Jan Warren, Nancy Adams, or Suzy Smith.

SAN DIEGO MILITARY OUTREACH MINISTRY (SDMOM) CHRISTMAS STORE SIGN UP



LCPC will be hosting the SDMOM Christmas Store (for junior enlisted military families) on the late afternoon and evening of **Tuesday, December 12**. Sign up on the patio to help. Look for the MOM table. Sioux Swart, Jolene Rich, and Joanne Laird are the contacts.

PRISON MINISTRY CHRISTMAS CARDS

We are supporting the ministry of Angel Tree Ministries by sending Christmas Cards to those that are incarcerated in our prison systems. Here is how you can help: 1. Go to the Christmas Card table on the patio and pick-up a card(s); 2. Write a short Christmas Greeting on the card; 3. Sign the Card; 4. Address the envelope (addresses are provided on an information sheet at the table); 5. Pray over the card; 6. Mail the card. This is an easy and impactful way to encourage someone who is imprisoned during the Christmas Season. Thanks for your help.

Special Eat & Greet
Sunday, December 17

Join us for an Exciting Holiday Celebration

12:15 pm
*A Free Ham Meal & all the fixings
*Play Bingo...Winners redeem a prize
*Dessert served in the Fire Side Room
A bag of pantry basics for each family

3:00 pm
"Carols of Christmas-A Community Cantata"
Audience is invited to join in & sing

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A cartoon illustration of Santa Claus in his traditional red suit with white trim and a white beard, waving with both hands.A cartoon illustration of a reindeer with a red nose and antlers, peeking out from behind a green pine branch.

Lakeside Community
Christmas Carol Sing-Along
Under the Stars

Tuesday, December 19
at 5:30 pm

on the
The Olde Community Church Patio
9906 Maine Avenue, Lakeside

Have Fun Singing. . .Enjoy Festive Goodies
Free Event

For more information: 619-443-1021
Lakeside Community Presbyterian Church
www.lakesidepc.org

A cartoon illustration of three people in winter clothing (two women and one man) singing into microphones. A small dog is sitting next to them. There are musical notes floating around them.A cartoon illustration of a silver bell with a red ribbon tied around it, hanging from a green pine branch.

Book Review

By Linda Sunkel

Many, many days and night passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But one night golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feed box.

“I wish I could make a cradle for him,” her husband whispered.

The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and sturdy wood. “This manger is beautiful,” she said.

And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

The Tale of Three Trees, A Traditional Folktale

Retold by Angela Elwell Hunt

This children’s book is not just for the young but for all of us who have dreams of what they want to become. It is a simple book that can be read to a child, but it also has a deeper meaning that speaks to young and old. It speaks to the perfection of God’s will that gives us the desires of our heart in big and unexpected ways.

Three trees chopped down by three different men; each brought to a different place. The first tree, which wanted to be a treasure chest, is made into the manger that holds the baby Jesus. The second, which wanted to be a ship, is made into a humble fishing boat that carries Jesus. The last, which wanted to point to heaven, is made into the cross on which Jesus died.

This book reminds us of how much God loves us. Place your trust in God and God will always give you what is best for you. Stop by the library to check it out. The words and pictures are simple, yet beautiful and profound. This is definitely one that can and should be read as a family during this Advent season.

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

by: Sheila King

Planning - It’s Christmas time which means we often meet the challenge via online shopping and reimagining gifts. The lesson I learned from the pandemic was to give with greater thought and purpose to the gifts I give. Gone are the days of my impulse bulk buys so it would be easier to fill stockings or give the appearance of abundance. This year more than ever I want the gifts I give to bring a smile, joy, and be used.

God’s Gift - Christmas is the time of year that reminds us that God has given us a gift; his Son, Jesus our Emmanuel. God had planned for a very long time to give us the perfect gift and wants us to take; to accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Yet how many will not accept this gift? If we do acknowledge the gift is it for a brief time? Too often we bring out God’s gift like a seasonal decoration and return to storage until next year. God gave us a second gift too, it is the Holy Spirit. God gave us these gifts so that we will take and use the gifts daily, depend and rely on these gifts, and be filled.

After the Wrapping - After Christmas morning when the gifts are unwrapped, I admit that too often I use a gift briefly, then forget, or I become busy and another project occupies my time. This Christmas, I pray that I truly put to use God’s gifts. Let me share His love with grace and kindness, praise joyfully, pray without ceasing, and fill my heart with the Holy Spirit. After all, what good is a gift if it is unused?



**LAKESIDE COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PRESENTS:**

**CAROLS OF CHRISTMAS –
A COMMUNITY CANTATA
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17
at 3:00PM**

Our gifted and talented Director, Ron Hilley, and our LCPC Choir, will present their first concert in a long time. It will consist of favorite carols, and you are invited to join in and sing.

This is a great time for family and neighbors to gather and share the season. This is a free community event.