

**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
Janice Johnson Warren, Treasurer
Suzy Smith, Caretaker
Joanne Laird, Nursery Attendant

2024 LCPC OFFICERS:
Clerk of Session: Linda Sunkel
Elders: Sheila King, Glen Bauer,
Nancy Adams, Lisa Hultman, John Sunkel, ,
Garry Smith, Gerie Morrin, Gary MacDonald
Deacons: Chris Crawford, Suzy Smith,
Ruth Boudreau, Sioux Swart, Mark Vettel,
Ski Zenski, Shirley Wilson, Joy Wray

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 and Cynthia Chynoweth (**Cru, FL.**)
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.

1 John 3:1
“See what great love the Father has
lavished on us, that we should be called
children of God! And that is what we are!
The reason the world does not know us is
that it did not know Him.”



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9908 Channel Road Lakeside, CA 92040 619-443-1021

LCPC CONNECTIONS

office@lakesidepc.org
lakesidepc.org
February 2024 Newsletter



A WORD FROM PASTOR TIM

2024
A Lenten Journey

Each year during spring, the Church remembers the beginning of Lent, the forty-day season of reflection and preparation for the death and resurrection of Jesus. It begins with **Ash Wednesday** (This year on **February 14**) and continues through to Holy Week (**Maundy Thursday, Good Friday**) and **Easter (Resurrection Sunday)**. (Technically, Lent comprises the 40 days before Easter, not counting the Sundays, or 46 days in total.) It is a time when members of the Christian Church, (in a variety of traditions – Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant) take time to reflect upon their lives as one approaches Easter.

In the ancient church, Lent was a time for new converts to be instructed for baptism and for believers caught in sin to focus on repentance. In time, all Christians came to see Lent as a season to be reminded of their need for penitence and to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Easter. Part of this preparation involved the Lenten “fast,” giving up something special during the six weeks of Lent.

Today there are a variety of ways by which a Christ follower can prepare for Easter during the Lenten season. One way can be a “fast,” giving up something as a spiritual discipline.

- It could be anything from a certain food like meat, chocolate or caffeine. It could also be the addition of a spiritual discipline and it can be done individually or as a covenant with someone else or with a group.
- This year, may Lent be a new experience to deepen your walk with Christ to the Cross.
- Don’t forget . . .
- **Wednesday, February 14**
 - **12-3pm** Ash Wednesday Drive-Thru Imposition of Ashes
 - **6pm.** Ash Wednesday Prayer Service and Imposition of Ashes
 - **40 Days of Prayer** for our Neighbors
 - **Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday**
 - **Monday, March 25 – Friday, March 29**
 - Daily Holy Week Communion Services at **Noon**
 - **Thursday, March 28 – Maundy** Thursday Communion Service at **7pm**
 - **Friday, March 29 – Good Friday** Rite of Nails Service at **7pm**
 - **Sunday, March 31 – Resurrection** Sunday Service at **9:45am**

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The following provides highlights and recent actions from Session:

1. An Elder/Deacon retreat was held in classroom 2 on January 20th. Pastor Tim continues to lead the Elders and Deacons in reviewing and monitoring progress on our 90-day, 1-year and 5-year ministry goals. The following questions were discussed:
 - a. Are our goals in line with our mission and vision.
 - b. Are our goals “rooted in discipleship.”
 - c. What are our new priorities for 2024? Session approved at its January 23, 2024 meeting, a team to look at a “small group” ministry.
2. Another Prayer Vigil has been proposed for the Lenten season (TBD). The power of prayer has been evident since our last vigil. A new Prayer ministry has been established under the Discipleship and Missions Committee.
3. Deacons and Elders Installed on January 7th, 2024.
 - Deacons: Shirley Wilson, Joy Wray, and Suzy Smith (2nd term)
 - Elders: Gary MacDonald and Nancy Adams
4. Session approved the 2024 Per Capita for \$32.95 per member.
5. Good news! Attendance has held steady at 65-70 congregants attending each Sunday. We are seeing more visitors on Sundays and our on-line attendance has increased.
6. More good news! Our Children’s Center enrollment has increased in the new year. La Teresa Oropeza has been hard at work to advertise who we are, and we are seeing the result of her experience.
7. Our investment in the new “Fireside” room and an upgraded sound system has resulted in better quality sound during worship, an improved streaming capability, and a great multi-purpose room for fellowship on Sundays, and Bible study/group meetings throughout the week.
8. Stewardship and Property committee has been hard at work to prioritize physical plant improvement goals for the coming year:
 - Roofing is scheduled for March 4, 2023. Shingle color has been approved by Session. New roof should provide energy savings and long life for the next 30/-40 years.
 - Tree trimming has been completed. No issue with removing roots under the sidewalk.
 - Session approved the purchase of additional security cameras and monitoring for Children’s Center in amount of \$3,495. This will give us increased security throughout the church campus.
 - Concrete bid – Only one bid of 4 requested has been received. The bid is for \$37K. This bid has been reviewed by former construction experts; they report the bid is complete and looks reasonable for the amount of work needed to complete. This is a safety issue for the church and remains a top funding priority.
 - Zero Scape project around the Church Sign – collecting estimates for material.
 - Electricity to Gazebo is being investigated. Committee is looking at solar options.

(Continued on page 3)

Best Wishes to you!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Kim Janes
- 3 - Bob Lightcap
Rufi Macagba
- 13 - Bonnie Schirmer
- 17 - Kimberly Riggs
- 21 - Scott Janes
- 22 – Stephanie Breininger
- 26 - Denise Ruvalcaba
- 27 - Carol Vacin

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 22 - Bill & Lisa Hultman
- 24 - Bret & Heidi Ball
- 26 – Adam & Angela Large



LPCC TIMES

Lakeside Presbyterian Children’s Center

February is a great month: it is short, but very busy.

We will be celebrating friendship and love this month; planning Valentine’s parties; and we will also celebrate Dr. Seuss and his wonderful books.

Happy Valentine’s Day!
La Teresa Oropeza



PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Our experienced teachers and engaging curriculum offer children the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe, nurturing faith based environment.

- ✓ Developmentally appropriate curriculum
- ✓ Play-based learning
- ✓ Outdoor play
- ✓ 1 619-443-2887
- ✓ www.lakesidepc.org

ENROLL NOW

Subsidies offered

Mention this ad for 50% off registration! thru Feb 14th

50% OFF

"CABRINI" COMING IN MARCH

LCPC women are planning on a movie outing to see Cabrini. It is based on the true story of Sister Francesca Cabrini, a Roman Catholic missionary who faced multiple challenges and resistance in her charity to establish schools and orphanages during the late 19th century. The film is another movie by Angel Studios. Once the actual release date for San Diego is announced we will have sign ups on the patio to assist with the coordination of carpools from the church to the theater.

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.**

PRAYER QUILT NEWS

The Prayer Quilt group has had a productive couple of months. We have now administered 754 Prayer Quilt dedications. Are you aware that on the back of each of our Prayer Quilts there is a cross? Also, on the back of each quilt there is a personalized label for the recipient which includes their name, date of dedication and an appropriate Bible verse.

We want to extend our thanks to the members of the congregation for their time to say a prayer for each quilt recipient as they tie a square knot. Please do stop to tie a knot and say a prayer for the recipient, even if you do not know that person. All ties must have a square knot before we give the quilt away to prevent the ties from coming out. We have received many expressions of gratitude for the quilts and frequent validation of the power of the prayers tied into the quilt.

The Prayer Quilt group is dedicated to our mission and has become a close-knit group of friends. Our group has now grown to 24 members, with only 3 of us “original” members.

Submitted by: Norma Sibbet, Coordinator

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE (Continued from page 7)

Personnel: The *Personnel Committee* is responsible for personnel management at LCPC and oversight of the Lakeside Presbyterian Children’s Center (LPCC). This committee works closely with the Pastor and the Director of LPCC to fill staff positions in accordance with church policy, to seek opportunities and address issues, or concerns related to church employees and to the operation of the Children’s Center. Volunteer opportunities exist for those with Human Resources expertise or those who have a heart for ministering to the children and staff of the Children’s Center.
Point of Contact: Lisa Hultman (Chair).

Stewardship and Property: The Stewardship and Property provides oversight and coordination of corporate and financial matters and plans and administers a program of stewardship within the congregation, including preparing the annual budget and financial reporting. The committee also is responsible for conducting year-round stewardship education for the congregation.
Property is responsible for the use, care and maintenance of the church buildings, grounds, furnishings, and equipment. Many hands are needed at monthly work parties to support the ongoing maintenance and revitalization of our church plant. Point of Contact: Garry Smith (Chair).

If you are interested in serving on a committee, or volunteering in any of the many service opportunities at our church, please contact one of the Committee Chairs or any one of the Elders for more information.

Jesus prayed for God to protect us so we would be one as He and the Father are one. This oneness is experienced in and through participation in the church; by serving and loving one another well.
Let this year be one of serving in whatever area God is calling you.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY, FEB. 11

In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: “Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”

We at LCPC can help the Lakeside Christian Helps Center, by collecting canned soups and/or a dollar towards this campaign. This is a way to share God’s love for our neighbors in need, by giving generously, now through Souper Bowl Sunday. Please fill the brown bag provided with your contributions. A donation box is located in the foyer/narthex, or you may drop off donations at the church office during regular hours. We will tally your donations and deliver to the Center following Souper Bowl.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS (Continued from page 2)

- 9. Session approved a donation in the amount of \$2000 for Ladle Fellowship in support of their fundraising efforts.
- 10. Current financial report: We finished the year in the red, but the good news is that it is half of where we ended in the previous year. Our ending balance: **--\$22,670.85.**
- 11. A Special Congregational meeting is scheduled for February 25th. Purpose of this meeting is to receive the 2023 Annual Report and to approve the 2024 Nominating Committee.

LAKESIDE COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OUTREACH MINISTRIES

CAN YOU HELP?
PEOPLE WANT TO ATTEND CHURCH, BUT NEED A RIDE.
If you can help, please call the Church Office, 619-443-1021.

LAKESIDE CHRISTIAN HELPS CENTER NEWS
The Center needs canned fruit, pop-top cans of soup/pasta, personal hygiene: toothpaste/brushes, deodorant; blankets, sheets, pillows, towels, and ponchos; and 16oz, or smaller, bottles of water. The Center is open Monday through Thursday, from 10:00am to 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**
Both of these organizations are in need of men and women’s clothes and shoes (special request for shoe size 10 and up), hygiene supplies, underwear (new), snacks, bike patch kits, batteries, tents, tarps, backpacks, and 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.

WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM

By Sheila King

It has been a while since I last reported how LCPC uses social media to reach others, either as a first time introduction to our church, or as a means to view pictures that present insights into our church's activities.

The website, www.lakesidepc.org, is updated weekly so you are ensured of up to date information, sermons, Pastor's Blog, church calendar, various ministries within our church, prayer requests, Preschool, LCPC library, volunteer opportunities, and links to BibleGateway and the The Bible Project. Our website per the WordPress statistics indicate over 345,000 views from around the world within the past year. Google statistics have the views even higher. Yes, our little church is internationally known! Taking advantage of social media is just another way our church can share who Jesus is to the world and His impact in our lives.

Our website includes the Children's Center (preschool) and allows prospective families to submit online contact forms for the purpose of scheduling tours. The online contact form was created less than five months ago and has already generated 21 inquiries with many families selecting our Children's Center for their childcare.

LCPC's Facebook (FB) page continues to grow and now has 542 followers with the majority living in Lakeside, followed by San Diego, El Cajon, Santee, and Bostonia. Knowing this information allows us to reach out and invite our followers to church, participate in our ministries (Bible studies, Prayer Quilt, Eat and Greet to name just a few). Our church sermons are also posted on FB. Having a follower is nice, but you don't have to officially follow our FB page, you can simply view Facebook by clicking on the icon from our website. The more people that visit, the more likely they will visit us and join us as we grow in our walk with the Lord.

Our Instagram (LCPC9) platform has grown to over 100 followers, but again you don't have to follow in order to view our reels and photos. In fact, our Instagram page reached 544 accounts (504 people were non-followers) in the past 30 days. Just like our FB platform, the more people that visit, the more likely they will come and visit us.

Using the free Nextdoor APP, our church invites the community to Eat & Greet and other church outreach events and has been used to advertise the Children's Center including enrollment registration specials.

When you subscribe to Lakeside Community Presbyterian Church on YouTube you will receive automatic notifications of the latest sermons. But if you missed a sermon, not only can you always view it on YouTube, but the sermon is also uploaded weekly to our website under the Sermon page and to LCPC's Facebook page.

A personal invitation to come to church is always preferred, but social media is a valuable tool when used responsibly and provides LCPC an economical method of informing and inviting others to church.

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

HOME REPAIRS VERSUS CHURCH REPAIRS

During the November congregational meeting a safety issue was raised concerning uneven concrete. As a result of the concern the church contacted no less than five (5) licensed concrete contractors to provide a bid for concrete repairs. After repeated follow-ups, only one contractor provided a bid and another contractor committed to provide a bid on Jan. 22nd, the remaining three contractors either did not show or failed to return multiple calls and emails. In the interim, two articles were written to inform the congregation of the actions taken by the Property Committee, the articles informed the congregation on concrete repairs and upgrading two restrooms to accommodate the disabled. Our priority is to make the campus safe and accessible to all.

Prior to requesting bids, LCPC looks up California licensed contractors that have the applicable license for the work being performed. The second step is to review the BBB, and comment(s) on Yelp and Google. The third step is to select a licensed contractor familiar with county regulations and permits, therefore we concentrate on East County contractors. While a homeowner may use an unlicensed person to perform handyman repairs, when it comes to safety and large projects the church uses bonded licenses contractors.

Onsite evaluations by the prospective contractors are scheduled, bids are returned, evaluated, and must be reviewed by the Property committee and Session. Now toss in the holidays and the full schedules of contractors, the project can turn into a lengthy process. Yes, there are some projects that do not require licensed contractors, and can be accomplished within weeks when volunteers are committed to a project timeline such as painting the Office, Pastor's Office, and Fireside Room. Other projects such as a new roof require experts, and take time.

The members of the Property and Session committee are working to ensure the church is a safe and welcoming place for all and will continue to keep you informed as information becomes available.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE

Remember giving, and packing boxes for Operation Christmas Child last November? Well the boxes we packed were delivered to children in the Philippines. Your generosity provided 121 children with gifts packed with love, toys, school supplies, crafts and personal toiletries. Additionally, 121 children received twelve gospel lessons, and the Greatest Journey in their native language. Thank you to all who participated.

READING IS FUN

Last year in LCPC's monthly Connections we began writing book reviews for a variety of Christian books (children to adult). We are looking for volunteers to read and write a book review for the LCPC Connections Newsletter. The suggested book audience is up to you and please consider reviewing one of the many books in LCPC's library. *If you missed a Connections newsletter, visit our website: www.lakesidepc.org where we archive all Connections newsletters.*

If this is something you are interested in, please let a member of the Discipleship committee know what month you want to submit an article. Members are: Cindy Wheeler, Linda Sunkel, Nancy Adams, Joanne Laird, Sheila King, or notify the church office.

Our church has a wonderful library in Rooms 1 and 2 for anyone. A listing of the books is available for review on our church website www.lakesidepc.org. To check out a book, complete the checkout form in the checkout white book located in Room 1. If you cannot find the book in our library, you may want to consider one of the many free methods to either check out a hardcopy book, or utilize a free online book app. Do not have the time to read or the print is too small, consider audio books and listen to the book whenever and wherever you go. There are a variety of ways to listen to audio books, some have a monthly fee but there are also free options.

If you do not see the book in our church library, then visit our local library or sign-up online. The San Diego County Library system allows free book check out and also eBooks and audiobooks are available at no cost. The new Lakeside Library on Woodside makes this process very easy and convenient.

Suggested Websites to download books for free and legally

- 1. Goodreads (provides classic and out of copyright books)
- 2. International Children’s Digital Library (Children's books from all over the world)
- 3. Internet Sacred Text Archive (dedicated to religion, mythology and folklore)
- 4. ManyBooks (30,000 books, many compatibles to Kindles, Nooks, iPads, and other readers)
- 5. World Public Library (not free, but cost is \$10/year for over a million books, including classics, sacred texts including the Bible, children's, and even audio books)

Suggested Websites to download audio books for free and legally

- 1. LoyalBooks (Thousands of audiobooks are available, download the book and listen offline. You can also download their app and listen to free Christian audiobooks on an android)
- 2. Internet Archive (A library of 17,000 audio books)
- 3. Lit2Go (Not only can you download thousands of Christian books, but you have the option of downloading in written form if you prefer to read the book)

Happy reading!

WOMEN’S MINISTRY EVENTS

Submitted by Linda Sunkel

Women’s Retreat:

If you are like me, last year was full of things left undone, with never enough time to do them. Sometimes it is important to take time out of our busy schedules and spend time with Jesus...some time in God’s Word, time in personal reflection, and time with our fellow “Sisters in Christ.”

As in recent years, Pine Valley Bible Conference Center Women’s weekend retreat is offering a one-day (Saturday) conference event on March 2nd. For \$85 dollars, you will get to participate in all three teaching sessions, camp activities and great food, including breakfast lunch and dinner. Note: I am on a “wait list” for a lodge the first weekend in March for three ladies that want to go up for the entire weekend.

The Speaker is Jamie Wood, who some of us have heard before. This year’s theme is *Matters of the Heart*: “Have you taken a moment recently to ponder the condition of your heart? Proverbs 4:23 states that we should guard our hearts above all else, for it is the wellspring of life and affects all we do. The state of our hearts directly impacts our relationship with God, the blessings we receive, and our response to Him.” Jamie will lead us in an exploration of the lives of three biblical characters and how they aligned their hearts (or did not!) with God. There will also be opportunities to “assess our own hearts before God.” As Jamie says: “You do not want to miss this life-changing weekend!” If you are interested or want more information, please see Linda Sunkel or Sheila King. We will be taking reservations on the patio beginning January 21st.

Jamie Wood’s Bio: Jamie is an author and Bible teacher from San Diego, California. She has over 20 years of experience in Women’s Ministry, serving under Anne Graham Lotz in Raleigh, North Carolina, and helping to run the Women’s Ministry program at Shadow Mountain Community Church with Dr. David Jeremiah. She is the Founder and President of Discovering Truth Ministries, which exists to help others know and live out God’s Word. When not working, she can be found chasing around the three men in her life: her two young boys, David and Daniel, and her husband, Jeff.

CURRENT WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY: The Longing in Me by Sheila Walsh. We are meeting at the same time (Mondays, 3:00PM in the Fireside Room).

Psalms 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.



EAT & GREET PANTRY BAGS

In November of 2021 LCPC was awarded \$6000 in grant money to be used for the purchase of a refrigerator for the Fellowship Hall, and to purchase food for complimentary pantry bags to anyone who comes to LCPC's Eat & Greet lunch. At the time resources such as the Lakeside Christian HELPS Center were only open during the week, nothing was available after hours or on the weekend. Because of the limited access to free food, the Eat & Greet ministry saw a need and created pantry bags filled with non-perishable food, until food resources became available on a weekend in Lakeside.

There are no coincidences, the HELPS Center opened one Saturday per month in 2023 just as our grant funds were winding down. In December 2023 LCPC Eat & Greet ended the complimentary pantry bags. Over the two-year period LCPC provided 509 pantry bags to individuals and families along with stocking the office with food so anyone asking for food could be fed. Providing the pantry bags as part of the Eat & Greet Ministry has been a blessing and touched so many lives.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Our Vision: *“We are a loving Church, who seeks to make Jesus Christ known through authentic worship, discipleship, community and service.”*

We are a church that desires to make a difference: through our ministries within the church and our outreach to the community. This requires volunteers and there are many opportunities to serve at LCPC. God created us to serve and equipped us to serve. The church that does not engage people to do so is limiting itself. The upside can be rewarding and far reaching, from the growth and maturity gained, to the building of unity with fellow workers in the faith.

Key words in our vision are “Christ” (serving redirects our focus to Jesus) and “Community,” (serving draws us into authentic community and connection with others). God uses our serving, and those we serve with, to reveal our gifts to us. (1 Peter 4:10). Our fullest joy can come from serving others, and by sharing our gifts with others. Each one of us is a “Christ follower, valuable to Him and to the church.

One of the ways you can volunteer is by serving on a church committee. The following Session committees meet once a month and are a way to bear fruit for Christ’s Kingdom.

Spiritual Life: The “*Spiritual Life*” Committee oversees and is responsible for all Worship services, including communications and use of media/technology to promote what is happening in the life of the church, music programs, and outreach events designed to reach out into the community and beyond. They strive to execute the mission and vision statement of LCPC through evangelism/outreach and plans and programs related to the spiritual nurture of the congregation. There are many outreach opportunities where volunteers are needed, such as “Eat and Greet,” and events where we can be a presence in the community. Point of Contact: Pastor Tim/Glen Bauer (Co-chair).

Discipleship and Missions: The “*Discipleship*” Committee administers and coordinates programs that facilitate sound Biblical teaching; oversee activities, such as small groups and bible studies, that lead to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ; and encourages outreach to the LCPC congregation, the Lakeside community, and the world. There are many opportunities to teach and support the Christian development and growth of children, youth, and adults, realizing that the discipleship process involves the total life and mission of the church.

“*Missions*”: as a part of this committee recognizes the calling for Christians to go out into the world and share the gospel with the “least,” the “last,” and the “lost”. It provides liaison with LCPC supported missionary families and supported mission projects throughout the year.

Point of Contact: Sheila King (Chair).

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