

MESSENGER

VOLUME 69, NUMBER 5

MAY 2020

UPDATE FROM MARIE & DANIEL

We are one month into this in Boston. How has it been – Chaotic? Difficult? It's disorienting to feel my own joys and struggles (plenty of good days and many hard ones) while also grieving for what is happening all over our world.

Daniel and I experienced mild COVID-19 symptoms in March. We talked to our doctors about getting tested. The first week there were not enough tests. When Daniel's symptoms persisted the next week, his doctor approved him to get tested. But when we arrived at the hospital, we were told Daniel would not receive a test to keep tests available for those in worse shape.



Jonathan with a Berklee student who came to faith this year!

There is much to be thankful for – our God who is near, neighbors who delivered groceries while we self-quarantined, our recovering health, and for baby Jonathan who is happy and healthy as can be!

WHEN MUSIC STUDENTS GO HOME EARLY

When COVID-19 hit Boston, every college campus in Boston shut down. With just days of notice, students were sent home to continue their classes online - uniquely challenging for dancers and musicians.

Instead of the 3-day spiritual formation retreat we planned for spring break, students moved out of the dorms and flew home. And yet, even in the upheaval, each student leader set aside the last day of their spring break to be with Jesus.



A glimpse into virtual ministry.

One Berklee freshman realized how lonely, irritable, and pessimistic he felt. At the retreat day he experienced God's love. He told us, "Now that I'm home, it's hard when my mom asks me to do something, but I'm in the middle of my own thing. I obviously want to finish my thing first. **But now I want to love my parents better, and I can do that by putting them first.**" God's way of loving is so good.

Please Pray For:

- Virtual ministry: Bible studies (new students are attending!), training student leaders, and discipleship.
- Praise God for Marie's continued ankle healing. On Saturday she couldn't even walk down the driveway (sprained two weeks ago). People

prayed for it after church and an hour later she went on a 2-mile walk with Daniel and Jonathan

MINISTRY WITH BABY JONATHAN

When I (Marie) began working full-time after maternity leave, I brought Jonathan with me everywhere I went - to campus with students, and to my other meetings with staff.



Time is flying - Jonathan is 6 months old! He sits up on his own and loves to suck on broccoli. He even sleeps through the night – most nights!

I never imagined I would get to experience such a privilege: being with Jonathan while doing ministry I love all day! I even began to see my limitations as a gift - like needing breaks to feed Jonathan. I was flourishing in this new season of life.

The transition to online ministry was tough. Staring at a screen all day tires my eyes and Jonathan is much more antsy when I'm tied to a desk. Some days are stressful and hard, but other days I have had glimpses of the joy I felt before COVID-19 hit.

One proud "parenting in ministry" moment happened in February: Daniel and I taught the big picture story of the Old Testament to 20 music students, four hours long! We passed Jonathan back and forth as the other taught. (Jonathan took a nap sometime in there, too)

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LCPC UPDATE FROM ANDY WILSON

Hello LCPC family! I hope you are experiencing God's deep peace as you abide with Christ in your homes. I miss you – we all miss each other!

But suddenly there's talk nation-wide about how we might unwind the sheltering. Praise God!

SESSION REPORT

The March stated meeting of Session was canceled due to implementation of "Safer at Home" orders by the county and the state. However, several critical items needed to be approved by Session and after much technological preparation and blessings from the General Assembly and Presbytery of San Fernando, the Session held a called meeting on April 2 via Zoom video conferencing.

Items that were approved included the Maundy Thursday service with communion held via Facebook Live, and taping of worship services for Good Friday and Easter Sunday, as well as regular Sunday morning worship until "Safer at Home" orders have been lifted by local and state bodies.

Also discussed was the CARES Act which provides funds for the Payroll Protection Program for loans to small businesses. Because of the current pandemic, the CFC has had to close and Session authorized the Finance and Personnel committees to investigate and apply for one of these loans to assist in continuing to pay CFC personnel and possibly church employees in the event of financial shortfall. These loans are 100% forgiven by the government under certain conditions. The Finance and Personnel committees will work together and monitor the situation as Safer at Home orders continue.

Session will continue to hold regular stated meetings as planned via video conference as long as necessary. Church staff continues to work either at the church office observing social distancing, or at home. The staff, Session, and Board of Deacons are here for you if you should need any assistance. You can contact staff at the church office or you can contact me at: gray.sheri@gmail.com and I'll put you in contact with someone who can help. You can also go to the church website at: www.lcpc.net and click on "CV Together" which was formed to help people in the church family and wider community who are housebound or need special assistance.

In Christ,
Sheri Gray
Clerk of Session

Briefly, here are the most important real-time developments in our church's life:

WORSHIP!

- Your worship team continues to record and post services for viewing starting at 9:00 AM every Sunday.
 - You can click into this site, LCPC.net, or go to the LCPC YouTube account to watch any recent service.
 - The Lord has opened an unprecedented opportunity to extend our outreach and spread his Gospel of hope. *Please share the link to our services and invite people you know to worship with us!*
- Many people joined our live Maundy Thursday Lord's Supper service on the LCPC Facebook page. We're hungry for fellowship with the Lord and each other! So we will schedule another evening communion service within the next two weeks. Watch for details.
- Going forward, we'll be recording readings, prayers and messages from different locations in our community. The band will still be in the Sanctuary (songs were pre-recorded there).

CONNECTING ONLINE!

- As you'll discover from a quick tour of this site and the LCPC Facebook page, there are lots of fun ways to connect throughout the week with Children's Ministries and Student Ministry. (Students: Also check out Abide/Student Ministry at LCPC.)

- Lee Cook continues to offer an enriching study/reflection on the Psalms every weekday morning at 9:00 AM on the LCPC Facebook page.
- I'm posting regularly on my "reflections" blog on this site, on the LCPC Facebook page and on my personal FB page.

OUTREACH!

- CV Together, LCPC's COVID-era outreach, continues to think creatively about ways LCPC can help our neighbors.
 - Click the home page banner to seek help (for you or another), volunteer or donate.
 - So far a limited number of people have reached out for help but we expect that to change as economic conditions worsen.

CAMPS, RETREATS AND MISSION TRIPS!

- Sooner or later, the sheltering will end and "normal" life will resume.
- We are NOT planning a summer shut-down. Unless we're still sheltering in late May, you can assume these beloved events will take place:
 - Dominican Republic Outreach (June 13-22)*
 - Vacation Bible School (grades K-6, July 13-17)*
 - High School camp at Mount Hermon (July 19-25)*
 - Wildlife Tour Sierra Nevada biking trip (July 26-29)*
 - SPARKS summer camp at Forest Home for rising 4th-6th graders (August 2-5)*
 - Junior High camp on Catalina Island with Campus-by-the-Sea (August 6-9)*

CFC FAITH UPDATE

Dear CFC Families,

Life sure seems quiet without the wonderful children of CFC calling "Ash-a-wee" and laughing their belly laughs. I miss them. While this time of quarantine is going on, I will continue posting weekly chapels onto the CFC Facebook page. Also, I would love it if children in 1st-6th grade wanted to join our Tuesday and Thursday Zoom hangouts each week from 4:00 -4:40 PM. We play games, catch up with each other and read a really short devotional. If your child would like to participate, please just email me at: Ashley.g.adamson@gmail.com and I will send you the link to the Zoom hangout.

MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**MESSENGER DEADLINE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 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.



So, here we are in the second month of the **Safer at Home** Mandate and although it hasn't been easy for anyone, our community has done an impressive job at hunkering down at home and slowing the spread of Covid-19.

Within days of the mandate, LCPC had plans in place for online services, virtual committee meetings, Facebook and Instagram Live events for all ages, and the **CV Together** outreach ministry for those in need within our church family and community. So many people spent hours brainstorming, planning, and implementing these ideas and we couldn't be more grateful for their dedication to bringing LCPC into people's homes.

Our three **Easter week services** were phenomenal! The **Deacons** carried on our **Maundy Thursday** tradition and prepared and delivered homemade soup, crackers and oranges to some members of the congregation. **Smith Brothers**

Produce kindly donated two cases of oranges – Thank you! That evening **Andy, Mary,** and **Josh** offered a cozy Facebook Live service from Andy's office and the church was invited to take communion from home. It was a very meaningful experience for all who participated.

The **Good Friday** and **Easter** services posted on the church website and YouTube were fantastic and reached a wide audience! **Dan Blessinger,** the **praise band,** and the **tech team** spent long hours recording a variety of songs for the upcoming services, then Dan spent many more hours editing the final services with the readings and sermons by **Andy, Lee,** and **Josh.** How special to worship at home with the familiar faces of our pastors and praise band. There weren't many dry eyes when a video was shown on Easter with members and their families doing a montage of the bible reading. We all loved seeing the faces of people we miss so much!

Lee is doing an excellent **Bible study** of the Psalms every weekday from 9:00 – 9:30 AM on Facebook Live. If you haven't tuned in, you are missing out! He's got his NIV and Hebrew Bibles to give a full commentary for each Psalm. He's planning to continue the study for as long as we are sheltering at home. If you're not able to catch it live, you can watch the video anytime from the LCPC Facebook page.

Ashley and **Kristy** are doing all sorts of creative activities for the LCPC kids! They have Zoom calls every Tuesday and Thursday at 4:00 PM featuring home scavenger hunts, riddles, Pictionary games and other fun stuff! If you've never done a Zoom call with a bunch of elementary school kids,

it is quite an experience! There are also family devotionals, video story times, skits, and crafts on our website and Facebook. Our kids are so loved!

Josh, Austin, and **Jane** are fully utilizing Instagram's capabilities and hosting game nights on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM and a Talk Show on Thursday nights at 7:30 PM with special guests, at a safe social distance! They're also offering worship, devotions, giveaways like coffee deliveries, and Confirmation class via Zoom. They're working hard to keep our youth connected!

The **CV Together Ministry** has lots of volunteers ready to help pick up groceries, prescriptions, necessities, or offer phone calls for people feeling isolated or needing prayer. They do anticipate people will need financial assistance in the coming months and have a designated fund set up to help with this. If you'd like to make a donation, click on the CV Together link on the website and go to the donate tab. They've received more than \$3,500 so far!

Though we're not meeting in person, don't forget to send in your **tithes and offerings** by mail, or via the website. On the website, click the "Give" tab in the top right corner, then "Church Giving" from the drop-down menu. You can even set up recurring giving.

Be looking for upcoming Fellowship opportunities! Back by popular demand, there will be **Facebook Live Sing-a-longs** with **Lee Cook,** chances to share photos so we can "see" each other, and hopefully some game nights, if we adults can figure out how to use the technology!

Amanda Granier organized a meal delivery
(continued on page 4)

Dear Friends,

I pray that you are all well and staying safe, whether at home, work, or anywhere else. I pray that you are staying in touch with your loved ones and lifting them up in prayer and physically whenever possible. I pray for those who cannot stay home in safety but are out in the world serving others.

This past Easter was so memorable for many reasons. We were blessed to be able to worship together in spirit if not in physical community, with Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter services online. It is so comforting to see the familiar and beloved faces of Andy, Lee, Josh and so many of our music worship team and to sing and pray along with them and to know that you are there too.

Our Deacons had the very great privilege and pleasure to prepare our traditional Maundy Thursday meal and deliver it to many in our con-



gregation with the help of many willing volunteers. One, Evan O'Meara, said he felt so very blessed to see and speak with several of our church members as he delivered the soup, bread, and oranges, to remind them that they are not forgotten, that they are loved by our dear Lord and their community.

We want to thank Bryan Leshner for reaching out to his contacts in the food services to obtain many of the components of the soup. Smith Produce, a local La Crescenta neighbor, donated several bags of oranges for the meal. Lu Lou prepared enough soup for almost 30 servings and many of us Deacons also cooked and delivered with joy and thanksgiving for the opportunity to be of service. Hilary Norton, our Moderator of Deacons, has been faithfully encouraging and leading, with daily

phone calls where we Deacons can stay in touch and pray together.

I have felt blessed to be able to worship online each Sunday. Lee Cook has his regular Bible study during the week. Ashley and Josh are engaging our children regularly. Several small groups are continuing to meet weekly online and your Deacons and Session also meet frequently.

God has given us his creativity in finding ways to remain connected. Praise God!

Remember, this world is not our forever home. That home is with God, in His world. He is in charge. In John 14:1 Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me."

May you feel God's blessing in these times of trouble and share His love with those around you. We will be reunited in person soon.

In Christ,
Kerry Milbrodt



B I D E CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

- 3 Jr High Camp
- 4 Our Home
- 9 Insta
- 11 Tahoe
- 13 Talk Show
- 14 Fav Worship
- 15 Yum!

Down

- 1 Dig Deep
- 2 Games
- 5 Our Coffee Guy
- 6 Camp
- 7 House
- 8 Our Mission
- 10 Summer Kickoff
- 12 Josh at Herm

WORD LIST

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------|--------------|
| ABIDELIVE | CASA | HAYDEN |
| ABIDESTUDENTMIN | CATALINA | HEREREALBOLD |
| AUSTY | CHENNY | JANIE |
| BREAKAWAY | DGROUPS | MOUNTHERMON |

MOUSE (continued from page 3)

for the Verdugo Hills Hospital ICU staff and received donations from about 30 LCPC families. Not only did the staff receive a hot meal from our church, but cases of drinks, bags of snacks, and a handwritten thank you note for these dedicated heroes.

There have been a few loud and festive car parades for people who have been having quarantine birthdays. Since the activity choices are limited for celebrations, why not have a slew of cars drive by with people hanging out windows and sunroofs with a bullhorn, bells and honking? **Ashley Pollock** can tell you all about how thrilling it was!

Bob and **Pat Chambers** and **Jerry** and **Cindy White** became grandparents again last month! **Becca Gene Chambers** arrived on April 7 and **Lauren, Taylor** and big brother **Logan** couldn't be more excited to have this precious little girl join their family. Congratulations to all!

We have a bunch of amazing kids graduating from college this month, and sadly they won't have commencement ceremonies until much later in the year, if at all. Congratulations to **Emma Cary, Allie Fernandez, Brynn Fernandez, Emily Hayhurst, Kenzie Holmquist** (she graduated this past December), **Kathryn Lahr, Nicole Marks, Grace McAuley, Becca Mencia,**

Sarah Milbrodt, Xavier Orozco, Brad Stonebraker, and Matthew Van Citters. We're so proud of all

of you and know you will go on to do great things in this world!



CFC is open for child care for **essential workers**, so if you know anyone who is in need of their services, have them call for information.

As Lee says at the end of every Bible study, be a blessing to someone, keep washing your hands, and tell someone you love them! Talk to you next month!

children's Ministries

by Ashley Pollock

A Messenger MadLib

Let's have a little fun with a goofy MadLib!

One fine Sunday, all the _____ at FISH were ready
PLURAL NOUN
for another morning of worship. They expected there to be
_____ and Bible reading and _____. Imagine
NOUN NOUN
their surprise when Ashley and Kristy _____ in
VERB
with bright _____ hair and a big _____.
COLOR ANIMAL
Immediately, the animal began crying _____ and
EXCLAMATION
_____ around Koopmans Hall. Many of the younger
VERB ENDING IN 'ING'
children felt _____.
ADJECTIVE

"It's okay!" Ashley said. "Today we are going to be learn-
ing about Daniel in the _____'s den, so Kristy
ANIMAL
_____ a special guest!" The kids did not think this
VERB
was a _____ idea, but they still _____ to
ADJECTIVE VERB
the scripture passage and watched the _____ skit.
ADJECTIVE
During the skit, the animal roared _____ times!
NUMBER

That morning, the kids learned that even when Ashley and
Kristy are a little _____, God is always faithful.
ADJECTIVE

Hello everyone! It is hard to say what the world will look like tomorrow, let alone in two months, but I'm hopeful that at least some of our fun Children's Ministries big summer events will happen. For right now, you can check out the calendar below and maybe write down the dates in pencil. What you don't see on the calendar, but what is even more important, is the fact that whether we are meeting in person or virtually, we will continue to discover more about Jesus in His Word. We will celebrate His power, love and grace. We will stay connected and pray for each other. Because the church is not a building we gather in. The church is us – people who recognize the gift of salvation given to us by Jesus and people who are seeking to live out His holy love.

children's Ministries Summer Events

July 13-17 – Vacation Bible School! This year's theme is "Concrete and Cranes" and programming runs from 9:00 AM to noon each day and includes music, crafts, silly skits, Bible teachings and water games. The cost for the week is \$40 per child.

August 2-5 – SPARKS Summer Camp at Forest Home. This is a shortened summer camp experience for incoming 4th-6th graders. The fun includes swimming, rock climbing, worship and more. We will likely leave around noon on August 2 and return home that Sunday between 1:00 and 2:00 PM.

Again, these two big events could possibly be cancelled or rescheduled.

Love in Christ,
Ashley

Kids Say The Darndest Things

5-Year-Old: "When the virus is over, I am going to play Red Light, Green Light but this time, I'm adding Orange Light! ORANGE LIGHT!"





CFC Heartbeat



Director's Corner

What a month! I am writing this on April 20, the first day we are open to serve families of essential workers. Today we have four children with us and four teachers. By the time you read this I hope that we have a few more children in our classrooms. I hope we are helping to meet the needs of those in our community.

At the writing of this we had to furlough all of our assistants, and have had to reduce pay to staff not able to be on campus. This is the sad reality of where we are right now. We hear whispers of reopening the economy and we all hope that can

happen quicker than first projected with all the safety we can have with a virus such as this. I know that everyone has had to make some adjustments to your new reality.

I hope you have been enjoying the contacts, emails, and videos the teachers have been sending your way. Even with a small group on campus, today it brightened my heart to hear kids playing and laughing, teachers singing, and reading books again. Precautions have been taken but we are still a nurturing place for children. Please continue to pray for us as we try to get back to a level of

normalcy.

As you feel ready to have your children rejoin the CFC classrooms please give us a call. If you know of people in the community that need child care do not hesitate give them our information. We want to be of service to the community at large as well.

In the meantime, hug your kids for us, read them a story and let them know they are safe and loved.

Missing you all,
Pat

To Our Moms

We want to wish all of you a very happy Mother's Day. There might not be an adorable gift for you from your child that was made at CFC, but know that you are the greatest gift to your child and your child back to you. I hope that especially on Mother's Day you understand what a great job you are doing, caring for your little ones.

Office Hours

We are now here each day from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM to help you with answer any questions you may have. Helen or Pat will be happy to talk with you during these hours. Other office staff comes in as needed.

To My Mother

"For all the times you gently picked me up,
When I fell down,
For all the times you tied my shoes
And tucked me into bed,
Or needed something
But put me first instead.
For everything we shared,
The dreams, the laughter,
And the tears,
I love you with a 'Special Love'
That deepens every year."
~ Anon.

Church Online

I hope that you have been able to catch LCPC online every Sunday. You can go to the La Crescenta Presbyterian Church YouTube channel or click on the links at LCPC.net for information about services. It has been wonderful to be able to continue to worship even when we are not able to gather. The website also has information about the CV Together project to help those in our community that need assistance with errands or other issues.

Thank You

We want to thank all the families that so generously donated or are continuing to donate to our program. It has allowed us to be as generous as possible to our staff. As a non-profit, our budgets are planned to be balanced with income matching expenses. This means our reserves don't grow very much, if any, in a given year. We appreciate all gifts as they allow us to be as generous as possible to our staff. We also appreciate all the kind words given to us over this time regardless of an ability to donate at this time. These words are precious to us. Please feel all the love right back to you that you have given to us.

Zoom Parent Meeting

Each of our classes for summer and fall will be holding zoom meetings with the teachers your child will have in June and going forward. Each class will have a specific time for that meeting. Look for emails later this month to find out when your meeting is and how to log on.



Summer Day Camp

Candice has been using her time to prepare our Summer Day Camp program. She is designing programs that keep us on campus and a program that allows us to take a few field trips that allow for social distancing. Our day camp program is scheduled to start June 15. We will keep you posted if that date changes either moving forward or moving back. But we hope June 15 is the day. Our creative staff will be ready for a great summer with or without field trips. Please let your friends know.

CHURCH STAFF

Andy Wilson	Pastor andy@lpc.net
Lee Cook	Director of Spiritual Formation lee@lpc.net
Joshua Horton	Director of Student Ministries josh@lpc.net
Ashley Pollock	Director of Children's Ministries ashley@lpc.net
Gary Woodward Elzbieta Nawrocka	Choir Director Organist/Pianist
Dan Blessinger	Producer of Contemporary Music
Nancy Thomas	Office Manager nancy@lpc.net
Pat Murphy Chambers	Director, Center For Children pat@lpc.net
Helen Tuma Teri Reid	Assistant Director Office Administrator



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WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR MAY

SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM



ZOOM JEOPARDY CHALLENGE MAY 4

NEW! Fellowship Ministry invites all players 16+ to "May the 4th Be With You" Zoom Jeopardy Challenge! Why watch Alex Trebek when you can play with us instead?

When: Monday, May 4, at 7 PM There may be additional rounds at 7:30 and 8 PM, depending on how many players we get. Final round at 8 PM will be a playoff between the winners.

How: To sign up, email Michele Fernandez at fern7@sbcglobal.net. Send your name, email address and how many people will be in your "party" (no more than 3 people per party/device). RSVP by Saturday May 2, 12 Noon. Zoom invite will be sent to your email the day of the event.

If you do not have Zoom but would like to play, please email us and we will explain how to get started with a Zoom account. All you need is a smart phone, tablet or computer and an email address.

The winner will get a prize!

After Jesus shares the Last Supper with His disciples, He gives them His final instructions on how to live life after He leaves them. Understandably, they are worried and confused about His insistence that He must leave them. How can it be God's will for Jesus to die? How will they carry on His Kingdom work without Him? How will they face a cold and violent world?

The Greek word translated "abide" occurs 33 times in the Gospel of John. The word describes a deep, intimate connection. It describes how the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus at his baptism. It also describes the relationship the Jesus wants with His followers. Jesus says that if we abide in Him and He abides in us, we'll bear much fruit (John 14:5). In this new sermon series, **Abide**, we'll explore John 14-17 and discover the joy of learning to abide in Jesus.

MAY 3

"Abide: I Am the Vine"

For personal study: John 15:1-17

MAY 24

"Abide: In the World, but not of the World"

For personal study: John 17:1-19

MAY 10

"Abide: Adjust Your Expectations"

For personal study: John 15:18-16:15

MAY 31

"Abide: Make Them One"

For personal study: John 17:20-26

MAY 17

"Abide: Ask and You Will Receive"

For personal study: John 16:16-33

