

MESSENGER

VOLUME 69, NUMBER 8

AUGUST 2020

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*Lineup and topics subject to change

 **THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**
August 6-7, 2020 | GlobalLeadership.org/Summit

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COUNSELING AVAILABLE THROUGH CV TOGETHER

The Covid-19 pandemic has put tremendous stress on individuals, couples, and families. Uncertainty about the coming school year has created challenges for both parents and children. Business shutdowns have brought layoffs, pay cuts, and financial strains. Nursing home residents and others with health conditions are at particular risk. And many of us feel isolated and unsure about how to prepare for a post-Covid-19 life.

CV Together, the community care ministry of LCPC, is offering the following services to our church community:

If you have vocational or financial concerns, we invite you to speak informally and confidentially to a member of the LCPC family. Share your concerns and get help identifying options for posi-

tive change. To access this service, contact Kristy Hicks, CV Together coordinator, at: kristyh412@gmail.com or (818) 454-6284.

Interested in more formal counseling? La Canada Presbyterian Church's excellent Lay Counseling Program is now available to our congregation at no cost. Personal, couple, or family relationships are addressed over 10 to 12 sessions with a well-trained lay counselor. Referrals for professional intervention are also available. To access this service, leave a message at the Lay Counseling Office at (818) 797-6758 ext. 430.

For more information on counseling services or other CV Together outreach ministries, visit lcpc.net.



PASTOR'S LETTER

Hello beloved LCPC family!

In mid-July, Governor Newsom prohibited all forms of worship inside church buildings. In response to this mandate, LCPC has

implemented PLAN C. We moved outdoors!

Every Sunday we gather in the LCPC Courtyard from 6:30-7:20 PM for a joyful time of socially-distanced, al fresco worship! Though we will probably change that plan if the indoor worship ban is lifted, our tentative plan is to offer Evensong Al Fresco Worship through September, 2020.

What can you expect at these new services?

- Interactive, Spirit-filled prayer times
- Contemplative live music performed by extraordinary musicians (still no singing allowed)
- Bible readings and an inspiring message (same as the ones heard online)
- COVID-safe practices including social distancing and mask-wearing
- Fresh baked cookies, ice water, sanitizer, masks, and gloves – all free!

Well-spaced seating is available throughout the Courtyard facing the stage and behind the upper floor railings.

Very few churches in California are offering public worship. Tell your friends who are stir-crazy from sheltering and hungry for Good News!

Remember, too: we still offer a Spirit-filled online worship option. We post a new service every Sunday morning at 9:00 AM. That service can be accessed at lcpc.net or on the LCPC YouTube channel. (Since the services are pre-recorded, you can access any service that has been posted anytime.)

Don't give in to discouragement! Trust in the Lord! Stay connected to his body – his beloved Bride – the Church!

In Christ's love,
Andy Wilson

SESSION REPORT

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues and stay-at-home orders change from day to day, the LCPC Session has been praying and meeting regularly to deal with the situation as modifications in the public health orders are made. Since the beginning of the safer-at-home orders in mid-March, Session has been meeting via Zoom video conferencing an average of twice a month as both Called meetings and Stated meetings. As you read in Andy's article, the most recent change facing Session was the move from indoor worship to outdoor in the Courtyard.

Session and many committees, volunteers, and staff have worked tireless hours to provide meaningful in-person worship in a safe manner, observing ever-changing mandates and guidelines. We also continue to provide online worship services, Bible studies with Lee and Josh, Bible Journaling with Michele Bouse, and a whole host of content from Children's and Student Ministries and hope you have found these activities helpful and meaningful.

At their July Stated Meeting, Session approved the "Gracious Conversations About Race and Reconciliation" programming. The first two talks were held in July, and we look forward to further talks, suggested readings, and community programs in the future. I encourage you to participate in these programs as they are announced.

Session also approved communion via Facebook Live on Sunday, August 9 at 9:00 AM, prior to the release of the online worship service on YouTube. Don't have a Facebook account? A link to the Facebook Live event will be provided on the church website and/or all church email and you can access the service by clicking on that link. No Facebook account is required. The Abide Alpine Adventure Camp in Mammoth Lakes for Jr. and Sr. High students from August 5-9 also received Session approval.

In Christ,
Sheri Gray
Clerk of Session

IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE THERE ARE MANY ZOOM ROOMS

Kids Hope USA is LCPC's mentoring program to at risk children at La Crescenta Elementary School. In the last eight years, LCPC volunteers have formed purposeful friendships with an estimated 80 children who have been blessed with love and encouragement in the midst of circumstances they can't control. With another year of distance learning ahead, our kids and their families need us more than ever. Would you consider giving a half hour of your week to hang out in a Zoom room with a child who could use your friendship and some help with reading or math? You will receive training and support. Kids Hope is one child, one mentor for one year. But most mentors continue for many years because they have been blessed by these kids in

amazing ways. For more information, contact Mary Wilson at: mhw1sbcglobal.net.



MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ART DIRECTOR/EDITOR

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MESSENGER DEADLINE
SATURDAY, AUGUST 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. They can also be placed in the Messenger folder. Materials submitted after the deadline may be omitted at the discretion of the editor.

CFC FAITH UPDATE

During the week of VBS, I filmed morning worship time in my office. One of the best parts of doing this was seeing the children of CFC playing in the courtyard and hearing them sing the VBS songs from their classrooms. I wish I knew exactly when we would be able to gather in the Fireside Room for large group chapels again. But until then, I am thankful for the chance to connect virtually and for each brief, six feet apart, masked conversation with the wonderful children of CFC. They continue to be bring-ers of joy during this trying season.

LEE'S LATEST



There's no doubt that we are in the middle of one the strangest times in recent memory. We are entering the sixth month of coronavirus sheltering, a divisive election season, an uncertain economy, and the prospect of home-schooling our children. . . I still can't remember how to divide fractions. The stress has accumulated to the breaking point, and I can't think of anything else to binge watch. I'm even contemplating watching musicals. Just kidding, it hasn't gotten that bad yet.

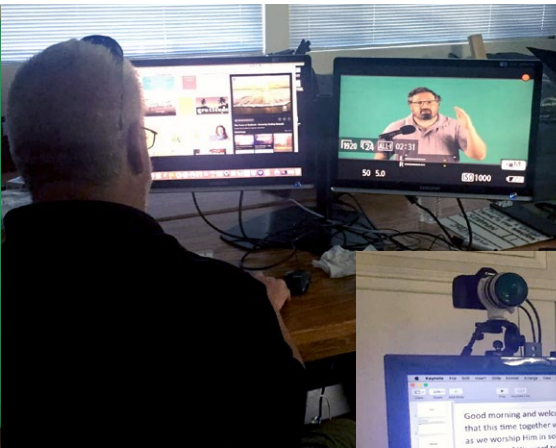
The Church is also experiencing a disruption. As we struggle to understand our mission during this sheltering in place, we are wrestling with the repercussions of generations of injustice. The slow decline in church attendance and engagement has accelerated during the Covid-19 pandemic. Barna research reports that during the pandemic, one in three practicing Christians has not connected with

their church in any form (virtual or in person).

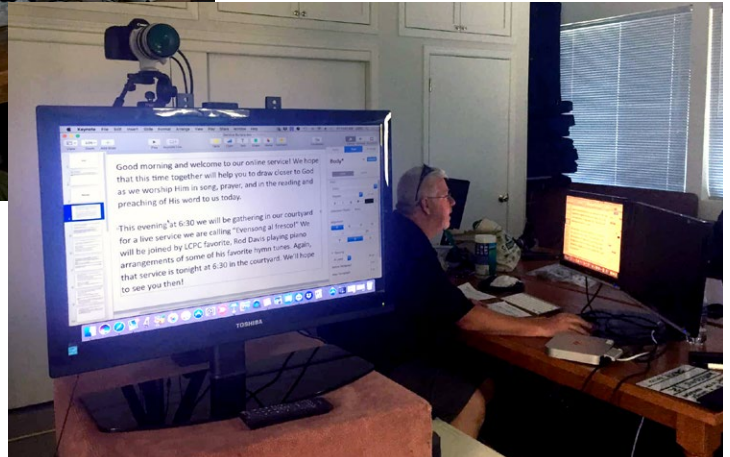
The Church is redefining and rediscovering its purpose, a process marked by prayer, reflection, and pain. I know this sounds like a pessimistic article, but it's during these times of disruption that God gets our attention. This month, we're beginning a new sermon series called "Disruption: Challenging the Status Quo." In this sermon series, we'll be studying the Prophets, primarily Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. God used the Prophets to call His people back to true devotion, to challenge the disobedience and decadence of the day, and to promise hope in the midst of uncertainty. Once again, I believe God is calling us to greater faithfulness, and the prophets offer us a glimpse of what true devotion to God looks like:

Holiness, Justice, Forgiveness, Concern for the poor and marginalized, Worship, and Obedience.

If you're dissatisfied with the consumer-driven, shallow, and partisan faith that is so prevalent in our culture, then the remedy is the message of the Prophets. But be warned: reading the Prophets will disrupt and challenge your status quo.



A peek behind the scenes of our online service production process.



Dear LCPC friends and family,
As I write this, inside worship has been banned again but what a privilege it is to hold al fresco Sunday evening services in our courtyard this summer. Covid-19 has helped us become ever more creative in showing our love for God, you, and others. Hallelujah!

In July, your Deacons shared the "The Fruit of the Spirit and the Bread of Life" with our home-baked banana bread, fresh fruit, and scripture. It was so fun to bake the bread, put together the bags of goodies, and deliver them to you. Many thanks to Emily Manookian and her mom, Armineh, as well as Mary Braswell and Janie Roach, for the wonderful hand-drawn decorations on the bags. (See photos on page 4.)



Our fearless leader/committee chair, Hilary Norton, rallied us in the organization of supplies and in getting together, properly physically distanced of course, to put everything in the bags and then deliver them to our beloved congregation, neighbors and Kids Hope families, both at home

and at Sunday church services on July 12th. We were blessed to deliver almost 200 bags!

I loved being able to see folks at home and catch up with them at each delivery. How we miss being together in person and what a joy to be able to do so with God's love and encouragement that we truly are never alone.

Your Deacons are always here too, ready to serve. If you have a need, please reach out to Nancy Thomas in the church office or to any one of us that you know personally. Stay safe and well, dear LCPC family!

Love & Blessings,
Kerry Milbrodt



2020 is an interesting year indeed. We've learned strange new words, infection control techniques, and different daily routines, but one of the biggest lessons has been flexibility. Things change fast. However, we're a creative and determined bunch and the church will prevail! We enjoyed five weeks of worshipping together again in our beautiful Sanctuary and it was glorious! Now with the recent mandate banning indoor services, **worship has moved outdoors every Sunday evening** through September 2020. We're gathering in the LCPC Courtyard from 6:30-7:20 PM for a joyful time of socially-distanced, al fresco worship. There's live music (without singing), prayer, scripture readings, and an inspiring message. We're also continuing to post our pre-recorded **online service** Sundays at 9:00 am on lcpc.net or our YouTube Channel. If the Stay at Home order is reinstated, we'll be ready for that too!

LCPC's first ever **virtual VBS BOLT!** was a huge hit last month! Ashley and Kristy did a phenomenal job reaching 150 kids in their homes and at CFC with videos of energetic games, Bible Stories, songs with dancing, and crafts. There was hilarious sports commentary on professional indoor origami, by **Ashley** and **Kim Cox** and wonderfully shared Bible stories by **Mary Wilson** and **Kristy**. Kids still enjoyed outdoor water games and other creative games such as a gathering random items on a headband made of tape. It was a fun filled three days of kids, families, familiar LCPC faces, and Jesus!

Our amazing **Deacons** surprised families and



friends of LCPC with deliveries of "**The Fruit of the Spirit and the Bread of Life**" a few weeks ago. Their decorated gift bags included fresh baked banana bread and fruit. Anyone who was in town and had an address on file with the church received one, including 12 **Kids Hope Families** and our Sunday musicians. Thank you, Deacons – you are so dedicated to our flock!

Andy and 24 enthusiastic hikers just got back from a fabulous time exploring the grandeur of the Eastern Sierras on the **Wildlife Tour**. It was a popular option for people feeling cooped up this year and filled up quickly. They stayed in Mammoth Lakes and had multiple hike options each day to various lakes and well-known trails. In the evenings, they relaxed together swimming, picnicking and having fellowship time. Josh is planning a similar trip August 5-9 for our youth, since camp's not an option this year. He and Andy will be taking a group of middle and high school kids to the same area for a 5-day **Alpine Adventure** on many of the same trails, and will end their days with outdoor worship and a speaker. Safety precautions are being followed. Contact Josh to see if there is still space available, as this trip is expected to fill up quickly too.

Pastor Andy recently hosted a very timely two-night Zoom event called "**Gracious Conversations About Race and Reconciliation.**"

He was joined by our own **Lecia** and **Phil Van Horn** both nights, and **Dr. Eric Joseph** and **Dr. Brittany Morey** the second night. They are both experts in gospel-based and secular racial reconciliation and had valuable information to share. These are the first of a new LCPC series of talks, suggested reading and viewing, and community programs centered on

Christian racial reconciliation.

The **Global Leadership Summit** is this month, Thursday-Friday, August 6 and 7. Many LCPC members have attended in the past and have gained valuable leadership insights. Your 2020 Summit ticket gives you access to both the GLS Online option and any in-person gathering. The closest site for us is La Canada Presbyterian Church, who will hopefully be offering an on-site option also. To register, go to: globalleadership.org.

We are continuing to offer online classes to keep you involved in LCPC. **Lee's morning Bible Study** is each Monday, Wednesday and Friday on Facebook LIVE from 9:00-9:30 AM. **Michelle Bouse** is posting a weekly **Bible Journaling** video on Wednesday evenings on our Facebook page at 8:00 PM. You can watch either of these 30-minute videos at any time that works for you, as they remain on our page.

Josh has creative weekly **outdoor events for the youth** to safely stay connected and entertained. The gatherings are at Montrose Park near the baseball fields. Masks are required and gloves are provided as necessary. High School boys meet Tuesdays 9:00 -10:30 PM; High School girls meet Wednesday evenings 6:30 - 8:00 PM; and Jr. High boys and girls meet Thursdays 9:30 – 11:00 AM. Other various co-ed events may be offered for High School boys and girls. They are doing all sorts of engaging activities such as softball games, beginning yoga, Frisbee, crafts and hikes.

CFC is keeping their **Day Campers** happy and cooled off in imaginative ways. They made a giant slip and slide out on the back driveway with tarps, gym mats, soap, and water. Pat posted some videos and boy were those kids thrilled! CFC is also going to be offering a new program called



"**Distance Learning Academy.**" Students will be placed in groups with supervision and support during their remote learning times. You can get all the details at: Center4Children.com or on their Facebook page.

CV Together is still available, as LCPC's community care ministry, offering free, confidential services to anyone in our congregation with vocational or financial concerns. A member of the LCPC family can help you identify options or guide you to formal counseling services available at no cost through La Canada Presbyterian Church's excellent Lay Counseling program. Visit our website to get more information on how to access these services.

Keep praying, washing your hands, wearing your mask, being kind, reaching out to friends and family and we will get through this together. Talk to you next month.



children's Ministries

by Ashley Pollock



Well that's a wrap! The first ever LCPC Virtual VBS has been completed and I am feeling pleasantly surprised and incredibly grateful. The Lord continues to remind me that He is in charge and at work no matter how different life seems these days. I am so glad that families in our church, community, and our wonderful Center for Children were all willing to try something new and I hope it ended up being as fun for them as it was for me.

Approximately 150 children signed up to participate in this three-day program called BOLT!

Each family received a supply kit that included a parent guidebook and the items needed for games, crafts, origami challenges and sensory activities. Then they could tune into daily videos that guided them through activities and presented the scripture lessons. Children learned that we BOLT towards Jesus when we plant His Word in our hearts (Parable of the Sower), stay focused

on Him even in times of trouble (Jesus walks on water), and trust Him as both our Savior and every day leader (Calling of the Disciples).

This VBS certainly looked different, but like all the years that came before, it only worked because people were generous with their time and talents. Thank you to the volunteers who helped Kristy and me deliver supply kits to families in Sunland, Tujunga, Altadena, Burbank, Pasadena, Glendale, La Canada and, of course, La Crescenta. Our wonderful delivery team was made up of **Pam and Hannah Wyroski, Mary Wilson and Carol Hampar**. We also had some on camera help so that viewers did not get too tired of just seeing me and **Kristy** each day.

Thank you to **Mary Wilson, Carol Van Citters and Kim Cox** for recording video segments. Thank you to **Mary**

Braswell, Michele Fernandez and the **Communication Team** for helping get the word out about this new endeavor. A big thank you to **Austin Marks** for taking my rough edits and creating three days of smooth, audible videos! And of course, thank you to **Kristy Hicks** for all her hard work, organization and especially for appearing on camera even though she would rather get a root canal! Please join me in praying that the work of the Spirit done during the three days of VBS continues to shape and grow the faith of the children who participated.

As we move into August and get ready to leave summer vacation behind, I know that families may be struggling with how different going back to school will look this year. I also realize that children will be spending a lot of time in front of screens in order to participate in distance learning. Children's Ministries will continue to offer weekly videos in place of Sunday School and FISH and we will be focusing primarily on the prophets in the Bible. But we also want to encourage families to worship and learn God's Word together through games, art, music and more.

So, to that end, we are creating a sort of at home curriculum called "Fall Faith and Fam!" Families who want to participate will receive a "Fall Faith Box" filled with items you will need for a variety of games, crafts, and science experiments, all of which connect to weekly devotionals that reinforce what we are teaching in the videos. Sign-ups for the "Fall Faith Box" will begin on August 1. If you are not currently on our Children's Ministries email list and would like to sign up for a box, please send me a message at: Ashley.g.adamson@gmail.com.

As we continue to navigate these difficult times, I am praying for our LCPC family and looking forward to when all of our wonderful kids can gather in person again!

In Christ,
Ashley Pollock

Kids Say The Darndest Things

(Charlie received a little care package that included some temporary tattoos. One morning, she had her heart set on tattooing my arm, but no matter what she tried, the tattoo wouldn't stick.)

Charlie's Response: "My tattoo worked! Oh well - maybe it only works on soft skin."



CFC Heartbeat



Director's Corner

When I took my administration class back in 1980, yes I am that old, we didn't cover pandemics. I have found that weekly Zoom meetings with other directors have been helpful as I try to navigate this challenging time. The staff has been amazing in providing wonderful experiences for the children in all of our classes. Every week we see our friends coming back to the CFC but everyone needs to make a decision that works for them. La Crescenta Presbyterian Church has been incredibly supportive during this time, helping us with figuring out our finances so that we can keep as many staff employed as possible and that the long range stability of the CFC is viable. We appreciate your support and loving words towards us.

Please stay in touch with us! Check the website for updated information: www.Center4Children.com

Contracts and Enrollment

You should have returned your contract by now if you plan to be with us starting August 17. If you are not ready to make that commitment, you can be placed on a VIP waiting list for returning students. If you did return your contract but your plans have changed, please remember we need a two-week notice of changes. So if you are not going to return on August 17, you need to let us know by August 3 so we can fill that spot with people on our wait list. I know this is distressing to those that may want to wait and see, or are not back at work yet. However for the health of CFC we need to have commitments and we need to be able to plan. We have tried to be as generous and flexible as possible and hope to be able to do that going forward.

Pat



Staff Day

The Center for Children will be closed on Friday, August 14 so that the staff can prepare for the school year. We will be setting up our Distance learning centers and preparing our preschool classes for new students.

We are pleased to announce the Center for Children's ...



This program will be offered at the Center for Children during the time that GUSD is using remote learning. This program will operate during the hours that GUSD determines to be the school day.

Students will be placed in learning cohorts and given supervision and help to stay focused on their remote learning as well as help with understanding their teacher's expectations. While this will not be a tutoring program, our dedicated staff will do everything in their power to help students have the best educational experience while facing remote learning. We will augment what GUSD is providing by adding outside/PE experiences, art opportunities, and other computer accessible learning opportunities.

Parents will need to work with CFC to communicate assignments and schedules. Parents will need to supply any computer, tablet, etc. that may be needed to access remote learning and a pair of

headphones/ear pieces with microphone for that device. Please contact GUSD if you need help getting equipment.

We will continue to develop details of this program as we respond to GUSD's information. If at any point GUSD goes to partial on campus learning, we will continue to offer this program to work with GUSD updated plans.

Before and After School Care

We will continue to offer Before and After School Care for students outside the GUSD time frame. Here, students will get the social interaction and down time they need after a vigorous online school day. Children will be playing games, having art experiences, being outside and having fun.

You will be able to sign up for one program or both. Prices are yet to be determined as we need to wait to see the hours of the GUSD program.

We intend for the CFC to be back to regular

hours in total (7:00 AM – 6:00 PM) starting the week of August 17.

You will receive sign-up information about these programs soon.

We know that information is coming at you rapidly and that comfort levels differ and change with each news cycle. The Center for Children is trying to respond in a timely manner to new regulations and protocols. We appreciate your support and communication with us.

Infant, Toddler and Preschool

Infant, Toddler and Preschool programs will return back to the 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM schedule starting the week of August 17 as well. We will be offering our exceptional program meeting the academic and social needs of children while following safety protocols and procedures established by the Health Department.

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 AUGUST



AL FRESCO WORSHIP IN THE COURTYARD SUNDAY EVENINGS 6:30 PM

This month, we're beginning a new sermon series called "Disruption: Challenging the Status Quo." We will be studying the message of the Prophets of the Old Testament. If you're dissatisfied with the shallow, consumer-driven, and partisan faith so prevalent in our

culture, the solution is the disruptive grace of God. We'll discover the Prophets' message of Holiness, Justice, Forgiveness, Concern for the poor and marginalized, Worship, and Obedience.

AUGUST 2

Message by Lee Cook
"Disruption: A vision of God"
For personal study: Isaiah 6

AUGUST 9

Message by Lee Cook
"Disruption: Meaningless Idols"
For personal study: Jeremiah 2

AUGUST 16

Message by Lee Cook
"Disruption: More than Religion"
For personal study: Isaiah 58

AUGUST 23

Message by Lee Cook
"Disruption: Righteousness and Justice"
For Personal study: Micah 6

AUGUST 30

Message by Lee Cook
"Disruption: Repentance"
For Personal Study: Isaiah 1

Can't make it in person? Catch our
online services on YouTube at
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCraArZ-38URjqxBUh62mSOg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCraArZ-38URjqxBUh62mSOg)