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NOVEMBER 2020



Abide has been no stranger to the changes that we've all faced during this crazy time, but God's faithfulness and Spirit have been as alive as ever in LCPC's student ministry. Throughout

much of the sheltering time, Abide has continued to meet in person at Montrose Park in small groups with masks and distance. We're grateful that the only thing we've seen spread is a healthy dose of joy!

In our active schedule, jr. high students have the opportunity to gather twice a week and high schoolers as many as four times per week! Over the last several weeks, we've been studying the "desert" themes of the Bible, seeking



to understand why God allows the people He loves to face difficult seasons. It's been a gift to us all (myself included!) to taste the sweet honey that is the words of God.

I've told many people recently that even before Covid, I believe it's more difficult to be a teenager than at any point in recent history. Covid has only reinforced that, and I'm so inspired by how LCPC's students have fought to be faithful and pursue hope amidst such uncertainty and instability. Please pray for them! Pray for their mental, emotional and spiritual health. Pray that God would make Himself so known in their lives. And please pray that He continues to pour out His mercy on abide student ministry as we seek after Him.

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INSIDE

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PASTOR'S LETTER



Dear friends, A lot of good things are happening within our church family relating to racial reconciliation. We've posted a summary of upcoming conversa-

tions and outreach opportunities at lcpc.net. My goal here is to explore the deeper questions that have been stirred up since we started talking about race at LCPC.

- What are our goals?
- Is it possible to bridge the left-right divide?
- How does our allegiance to Jesus affect the way we think about reconciliation and ethnicity?
- How can we make a difference?

Throughout our nation's history we've struggled mightily with issues relating to race. The framers of our Constitution argued bitterly over the issue of slavery. The unholy compromise they forged permitting slavery and protecting the institution through the force of law set the stage for decades of conflict leading to the Civil War. The post-Civil War period extending all the way to the mid-1960s was also marked by brazen injustice and intransigent racism. Though millions sustained the struggle for racial equality, anti-Black sentiments (not to mention anti-Chinese, anti-Native American, anti-Jewish, anti-Japanese, anti-Irish, anti-Italian sentiments) provided the foundation and rationale for overtly racist federal and state laws.

We've made tremendous progress since the dawn of the Civil Rights era. The vast majority of discriminatory laws have been repealed. Even more important, Red Neck bigotry is anathema in most corners of American society. Small, pathetic circles of White Supremacists still exist, but hardly anyone defends or harbors anything but contempt for their cause. Racist behavior is widely condemned.

Most would agree, nevertheless, that big problems remain. The manifestations of racism are less blatant, but America still roils with race-based conflict. Jim Crow is long gone, but millions of people of color still feel the sting of discrimination. They're still treated as though they were inferior... incapable... incorrigible.

The current iteration of America's 'race problem' exploded with the death of George Floyd on May 25. Even now, as I write these words, a mob of 1,000 is looting and setting fires on the streets of Philadelphia. The pandemic and the election form the backdrop for all of this turmoil and outrage, and they've clearly been contributory. They've set our nerves on edge. They've given us new reasons to migrate into pockets of self-righteous infallibility.

And that brings us to one of scariest problems of our time. We no longer seem capable of engaging in reasonable conversation about the key questions: What constitutes racism? Where it is still a problem? Who's to blame? What can we do about it? Instead, we ask: "Why should I argue with fools when I can find out everything I need to know from my feeds from Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter and my partisan cable news indoctrinator of choice — feeds that have been customized just for me?"

We Christians are called to live differently. Our vision of humanity isn't given to us by political pundits and online influencers. It's revealed in the Bible, where we learn that we're all are created in God's image — we're all are equal before God — we're all treasured by God. Our unity isn't found in ideology, party or faction. It's found in Jesus, in whom we're united, one to another, as family.

The Lord wants us to be truth-seekers. He wants us to engage with people who will challenge our ideas and broaden our horizons. When it comes to talking about race, that means going out of your way to hear from smart, well-informed people who have a different take on the issues than you do. It means talking respectfully, with an open mind, about the hard questions. For example:

- To what extent are blacks and Hispanics held back because of their ethnicity?
- Is American society systemically racist?
- Should ethnically monochrome churches set a goal of becoming more diverse?
- Have we said or done anything as a church that has held back or caused harm to people of color? If so, what might we do, in Jesus's name, to make amends?
- Are affirmative action programs rooted in the "racism of low expectations"? Are they helping?
- How have federal and state anti-poverty programs affected the families of people of color?
 What does the evidence show?

- What can we do at LCPC to build friendships and shared ministries with churches that are more ethnically-diverse?
- Are large city police departments infested with bigots and thugs?
- Is looting a legitimate (or understandable) form of protest?
- Does it make sense to respond to protests and riots by defunding police departments?
- Millions of people of color have no other choice except to send their kids to failing public schools. How does that fit into our conversations about race?
- What might we do, as a church, to help people of color who are struggling with financial, educational or health-related problems?
- How might I show solidarity with a person of color who has been the victim of racism?

At its October meeting (last night, as I write this), the LCPC Session decided to establish a Racial Reconciliation Steering Committee. You can read the description of the new committee's purpose and goals on page 4. Please take note: Your leadership team is not on a crusade to radicalize the congregation. The committee members that have been appointed bring a wide variety of perspectives on race issues. They're not going to work behind the scenes to align the church with left or right wing causes. They will promote gracious conversation, deeper understanding, loving outreach and Jesus-centered friendships.

They will encourage us, as the Lord's ambassadors, to share a "message of reconciliation" with the goal of healing relationships among all ethnicities within Christ's body (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

In the hope we have in Jesus, Andy Wilson

MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ART DIRECTOR/EDITOR

Shawn Kelly shawndraws@gmail.com

MESSENGER DEADLINE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 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.





November is a month dedicated to gratitude and thankfulness and this year have more to be thankful for than ever before. We now appreciate things we used to take for granted — hugs, indoor worship services, fully stocked grocery aisles, school, the Party in the Breezeway, toilet paper, good health... and the list goes on. Our **Thanks-giving** gatherings may look a little different this year, but our gratitude can be just as abundant.

When we are able to worship inside our beloved Sanctuary again, our service times will be looking a little different too. The **contemporary service** will start an hour later at **10:00 AM** and our traditional/classic service will become an evening service starting at **5:00 PM**. We'll also continue to post an online service every Sunday morning that can be accessed anytime on YouTube. Check out Andy's letter in the October Messenger for insight about these changes.

Thank you to **Kristy** for organizing the **Pumpkin Carving Contest** this past week. There were so many amusing and creative pumpkin photos submitted and we enjoyed admiring each one. It's amazing what you people can do with a large squash and a knife!

The recent **All-Church Work Day** was a productive day around LCPC, cleaning out planters, pulling weeds, and tidying up the church campus. It was a beautiful day to be outside, working together. The staff and **Cornerstone Crew** appreciate everyone who dedicated their Saturday morning to this essential service.

Creative Bible Journaling with Michelle Bouse is back, but this time it's on Zoom! She dazzled us with a beautiful Fall page last month, and on November 30 and December 28, she will be showing us some fabulous Thanksgiving, winter, Christmas, and New Years' ideas. Watch the weekly email and social media sites for times and Zoom links.

Mary Wilson is now a Zoom master and has **Kids Hope** up and running virtually! Kids and their mentors all meet together on Zoom then break out into individual Zoom rooms to play games, take virtual field trips, have home

LEE'S LATEST

As we continue to read through Deuteronomy, we are confronted with a way of life that runs counter to our modern sensibilities and assumptions about what it means to live well. Deuteronomy insists that true happiness, wholeness, and justice centers on obedience to God and sacrificing ego for the sake of others. Our culture often says, "You do you," but scripture tells us that this mantra is the recipe for unhappiness, brokenness, and injustice.

We generally think of rules as obstacles to our happiness, especially rules written by someone else. But the Scriptures remind us again and again that obedience to God is not a barrier to our happiness but the path to our happiness. Believing that requires trust and trust stems from relationship. Listen how God speaks in Deuteronomy 1:31-33:

"31There you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the

scavenger hunts and enjoy each other's company each week. These computer savvy kids have shown Mary and their mentors a few tricks also!

Lee Cook and Darren Pollock offered their own Zoom show last month called Tough Questions of the Bible. Guests were invited to participate by asking their most challenging scripture questions to two of the smartest Bible scholars around town. It was a very informative evening! Lee plans to have round two sometime in the future, so stay tuned.

ICPC is seeking a new moderator to lead the **Communications Committee**. This crucial committee is responsible for our website, social media platforms, newspaper ads, outdoor banners, mailers, the *Messenger* newsletter, and any other ways we keep the community informed about what exciting things we offer at ICPC. Anyone with interest in this area is encouraged to contact Andy.

You'll have to check out the newly updated **Abide Student Ministries website. Josh** gave it a fresh new look and a very popular interactive video game starring **Austin**, **the skater boy**. Josh and Kristy hope to tackle the church website next, so be on the lookout for that!

Josh is looking for volunteers to lead **youth small groups** which is a fun and rewarding way to connect with our awesome youth. Teens have been more isolated than ever these past eight months, and small groups are an important lifeline in their lives right now. If you have some extra time on your hands and a heart for youth, Josh would love to chat with you!

Last month, **Juan Sarmiento**, the new Executive Presbyter of the **Presbytery of San Fernando**, visited our Al Fresco worship service. He was planning a class for churches on how to conduct outdoor services, so he decided to check out ours! A photo of our service and Andy preach-

way you went until you reached this place. ³²In spite of this, you did not trust in the LORD your God, ³³who went ahead of you on your journey, in fire by night



and in a cloud by day, to search out places for you to camp and to show you the way you should go."

The reason we struggle with obedience is because we don't trust that God has our best interests in mind. But the image of a father carrying his son shows us the care God has not just for Israel but for His plan to redeem the whole world. God cares for us, and He cares about His plan to bring happiness, wholeness, and justice to the world.

Do you trust God's plan? Do you trust Him enough to obey?

ing was featured on their Facebook page. Hope you got a chance to meet him.

Thank you to **Kevin Hull** for scoring four gallons of hand sanitizer for LCPC! The city of Glendale was giving it away, and he knew we would put it to good use between CFC and our services.



There is still time to contribute to the **CFC Harvest Fundraiser** through the end of October. Like many childcare centers, CFC has been heavily impacted by the effects of Covid-19. Their current enrollment is about a third of what it once was and they are running at a deficit. If you are able to help this vital ministry during this difficult season, go to: center4children.com for donation information.

Ashley Pollock was quite touched to receive a large scrapbook containing all the heartfelt letters and photos that children and friends from our congregation submitted, along with other thoughtful and generous gifts of love. She will treasure your kind words and memories forever and was extremely thankful.

In celebration of Thanksgiving, spend a few minutes each day listing three things you are grateful for. Before you know it, you will realize just how blessed you are. Talk to you next month.

children's Ministricks tries

November is my favorite month in Southern California. Fall finally begins to creep in, meaning cooler nights and crisper air so I can finally wear cardigans and enjoy hot drinks. And along with the best weather, November also has one of the best holidays in Thanksgiving. This year's Thanksgiving celebration will likely be different

than other years — it's looking like it will just be my parents and me celebrating together. And while I wish we could be with my brother and sister-in-law and the rest of our extended family, I'm thankful (see what I did there!) to have the technology to communicate so easily, and I'm hopeful for future holidays where we won't take

gathering in person for granted.

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays not only for the food (which I do love) and for the chance to be with family, but because of the reminder to be thankful for the gifts God has given to me. I'm reminded of 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Even in the hardest times, I am thankful for all the gifts I've received from the Giver of all good things.

This month in Children's Ministries, we're going to be finishing up a two-year long series of going through the Old Testament, with a final lesson on Malachi and a review of the biggest stories that set the stage for the birth of Jesus. Then we'll have a lesson on Thanksgiving and what thankfulness means as a Christian, and we'll finish up the month with the beginning of Advent! (Thanksgiving is one of the best holidays, but Advent is my favorite liturgical season, and you can tune in to next month's Messenger to find out why!)

Finally, parents, please save the date for a family photo scavenger hunt that will happen the week before Thanksgiving (11/15-11/21), with a drive-through treat pick-up for every family who finishes happening on Saturday, 11/21. Be on the lookout for more details on how to participate!

I hope everyone reading this has a wonderful November, full of cozy sweaters and maybe some delicious baked goods, but above all I hope Thanksgiving reminds us all to rejoice, pray, and give thanks in all circumstances, because we have all received the best gift possible in Jesus.

In Christ, Kristy

HERE IS THE VISION STATEMENT THAT THE LCPC SESSION ADOPTED IN OCTOBER, 2020 FOR THE NEW RACIAL RECONCILIATION STEERING COMMITTEE

The LCPC Racial Reconciliation Steering committee will provide inspiration and guidance to the church's efforts to promote Christ-centered reconciliation, friendship and unity among various ethnic groups, especially minority groups that have experienced and continue to experience race-based discrimination in the United States.

- The Committee will report to and be under the authority of the LCPC Session.
- Committee members, appointed by Session, will be mature Christians who offer a diversity of perspectives on racial issues.
- The committee will consist of 6-9 people who are active members of the LCPC family, as well as the lead pastor who will serve without vote.
- Racial reconciliation efforts will include opportunities for education and prayer, as well
 as outreach to marginalized people in partnership with ethnic churches in Southern
 California.
- The main purpose of such efforts will not be political advocacy or the promotion of particular organizations or causes.
- We seek to create opportunities, through engagement with our brothers and sisters of
 color, for the Holy Spirit to bring unity and mutual understanding within the fellowship
 of believers, driving positive, biblically-based societal change as we serve Christ within our
 individual spheres of influence.

BISTRO 50+

I am so thankful that we have had so many lunches in the past. Just the thought of them has made me happy over the last eight months. This month we will again not be able to be together in person, but I wanted to wish you a very special Thanksgiving and to let you know how thankful I am for your friendships. Be safe and be kind.

-Pat Chambers



Pictured: A Bistro 50+ gathering in July, 2016.



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Dear Friends.

Well, Fall arrived sometime this past few weeks but we have yet to see it in the weather.

We did see it though in the fun goodie bags your Deacons put together and delivered to many of

our congregants in late September. We see it in the longing for fresh, cold air at night, pumpkins on the front porch, and colored leaves in the grass.

We hope for the break from the long summer heat and the approach of Thanksgiving and

Christmas, both among the most meaningful of our holiday celebrations. Yet the holidays, as wonderful as they are for many, are also some of the hardest and loneliest times for others.

Deacons are here to remind you that you are never alone in God's family. You are always loved and cherished by our Father. You are always welcome at the table of our Savior Jesus. The Holy Spirit wraps you in love and peace. We Deacons stand with you in your good times and bad. We share the love of Christ with you in whatever way you need. We are here to pray with and for you, to bring you a meal, or take you to the doctor or grocery store. We want to grieve with you as well as rejoice.

We actively pray together for each other and each of you. If there is a particular need you have, whether great or small, please reach out to any one of us.

You probably know many of us already. We are myself, Kerry Milbrodt, Talin Emerson, Linda Winfield, Pam Wyroski, Janie Roach, Armineh Manookian, Jennifer Clem, Noel and Elaine Collins, Karen Hayhurst, Lu Lou, Lana Emerson, Isabel Adams, Mary Braswell, Bryan Lescher, Ann Scoggins and Rose Wu. We would love to spend time with you to the best of all our ability in these Covid times. We can talk, text, email, bring food, write a card, and share a laugh or a tear. We are Christ's' hands, feet, and face to our dearly loved community.

I know from my own experience how the Lord shows His love for me by the people he sends me in my time of need.

You are never alone or away from the love of God and he always has the best for you in his heart. Let him show you.

In Christ, Kerry Milbrodt



Bible Journaling is BACK!

Celebrate fall and the holiday season with an exciting new Bible Journaling series led by one of the most creative members of our congregation, Michelle Bouse. For the remainder of 2020, join us on Zoom the last Monday of every month beginning at 7:30 PM to journal and create art with Michelle and

other LCPC friends. Recordings of the classes will be shared on LCPC's YouTube channel and posted on Facebook.

To join the Bible Journaling Zoom Party, send an RSVP email to: michellebouse@me.com to receive the Zoom link and sign-in information.

THANKS

The Center for Children wants to thank everyone who answered the call with items, gift cards and financial donations to help our ministry. All of these have and will make a difference in our program. If you didn't get a chance to give to support the CFC, we are still taking donations of any kind.









CFC Heartbeat



Director's Corne

"Our mission is to provide quality child care that is nurturing, respectful, and educational and which reflects Christ's love to the children and their families."

This has been our mission statement for more than half of the years that the CFC has been operating. It's hard to put into one sentence what we do for more than 3,000 hours a year. We nurture families from their first inquiries about our program, listening to what they are looking for and what type of program will meet their needs. We help children learn from their mistakes and nurture them to make better choices in the future. We listen when they feel they are not being treated well by other children and nurture their feelings helping them know they are wonderful people and that we are here to help. We develop relationships with the families and children so that the children will look forward to coming to school each day and on those rare occasions they don't want to be here we respect them enough to understand those feelings as well.

We respect them by being consistent in our discipline and our affection. We let them know what our expectations are and respect the fact that they can achieve those expectations. Respect is as simple as telling an infant what we are going to do: pick them up, change their diaper, put them down, etc rather than treating as if what we do does not affect them. We respect their backgrounds,

Thanksgiving Celebrations

We are so grateful this season for each of your children. Each classroom will be letting you know how they will be celebrating Thanksgiving in their room with a special meal or cooking project. The teachers will let you know in their emails what each class is doing. We will miss not having you all at our annual Thanksgiving Feast. Be sure to eat around a family table and remember us.

School Closures

November 11: Veterans Day November 26 & 27: Thanksgiving. We will be open full day November 23-25 for school age children.

family, and faith traditions. We learn more andmore each year ways to be supportive of their heritage. We recognize that families come in many different forms and becoming a family has many different routes. The staff works to respect each other, understanding that we all have our styles and ways of doing things and we can see staff working on behalf of children in individual ways.

Our educational program goes beyond concepts such as letter, size, sequence, and numbers, although we have lots of fun exploring these concepts. We are teaching problem solving, direction following, social skills, and how to be a part of a classroom. We teach how to take care of materials and our classroom. We work on cutting, correct pencil holding, pre-writing/reading skills and writing and reading skills. All of this is done through play and responding to a teacher.

Our program reflects Christ's love to the children and their families first and foremost by offering grace to all who are a part of our program. We know we are imperfect people trying to do the best that we can and that forgiveness freely given can be freely accepted. Christ asked for the children to come to Him, not just the typically developing, well behaved children but all the children and He asks us to love them. We want them, through us to know that God loves them and make them all uniquely different.

So it took me four lengthy paragraphs to tell you what our mission statement means to me and the staff and it feels like that this is just the beginning. In this season of Thanksgiving, I am so thankful for the foundation the CFC was built upon, the freedom to continue to shape its mission and the support of the families in our program, staff and the church.

Esther Brown

We want to welcome Esther Brown to our staff. Esther will be the new teacher in our toddler program. While Esther is new to us, she is not new to child care. Esther most recently worked at the child care program at Hollywood Presbyterian Church. That program needed to close their program unfortunately due to Covid-related financial issues. I called up my friend Pam the director there and said: "Do you have someone you would recommend?" She sent Esther our way and we are thrilled. Dolores got to work with her for two weeks before she retired and so we know she is well trained.

Harvest Fundraiser

We want to thank all of you who have donated to our fundraiser this past month. We are feeling grateful in this month of Thanksgiving for the financial and supply support we have received. We also appreciate the kind words so many of you passed along to us. We will be able to purchase items soon as we wrap up the fundraiser. It is not too late to contribute to the fund or to bring in specific items. We may still be climbing a hill, but I know that the top will have a beautiful view.



COVID-19

We are going on seven months of the CFC being open and we have not had any Covid related health issues. Our staff continues to wear masks and we ask the children to do the same. We are keeping up with our cleaning procedures throughout the day and our nightly cleaning crew. We are allowing children to leave more things in their cubby each day so that not as much needs to go back and forth each day. Our daily health checks continue and we ask again that you mark your child's temperature after we take it and if everyone at home is healthy on your family sign in and out

Thank you for being so very careful about your exposures and keeping children home when they are not feeling well. Each of your families and staff hold the key to being able to stay open. As the holidays approach and families gather remember to be careful and safe. Keep your children at home if any direct exposure has happened and please continue to be honest with us.

CHURCH STAFF

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

AL FRESCO WORSHIP IN THE COURTYARD SUNDAY EVENINGS 5:00 PM

We will continue our study of Deuteronomy this month. We'll discover how generosity, liturgy, justice, and trust can teach us to love God more deeply and live life more fully. We also begin the Advent

season on November 29. We hope you will join us virtually on You-Tube and physically on Sunday evenings.

NOVEMBER 1 JOIN US FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER ON FACEBOOK LIVE

Message by Lee Cook "Loving God: Generosity" For Personal Study: Deuteronomy 15

NOVEMBER 8

Message by Lee Cook "Loving God: Rhythms" For Personal Study: Deuteronomy 16

NOVEMBER 15

Message by Lee Cook "Loving God: Justice"

For Personal Study: Deuteronomy 16

NOVEMBER 22

Message by Lee Cook "Loving God: Trust" For Personal Study: Deuteronomy 28

NOVEMBER 29

Message by Lee Cook "Christmas Blessings: Hope" For Personal Study: Luke 2

Can't make it in person? Catch our online services on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UCraArZ-38URjqxBUh62mS0q

