

MESSENGER

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“and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Throughout LCPC’s long history, our congregation has been mission-minded. We offer a wide variety of hands-on service opportunities; some focus on local issues and needs, while others extend our reach far beyond our community. Here are some ideas for how YOU can partner with us to build God’s Kingdom here on earth...

1. LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT AT-RISK KIDS AND FAMILIES

Mentor a child, or become a prayer partner

Kids Hope USA is a national organization that was founded to address the needs of elementary age children who could benefit from a consistent, one-on-one mentoring relationship with a caring adult. This program is based on a model of “one church, one school, one child, one hour a week”. LCPC mentors meet at La Crescenta Elementary School with their assigned students for one hour weekly during



the school year. Each mentor is paired with a prayer partner who covers the student, mentor, and whole program in prayer.

Many of our mentor/mentee relationships continue for the full six years of the student’s elementary education. Research shows that when kids feel loved and valued, they are better able to learn, grow and succeed; our goal is to help kids see that they have a future and a hope, keeping in step with God’s promises in Jeremiah 29:11.

Kids Hope co-directors Armineh Manookian and Janie Roach are always seeking new

mentors, prayer partners, substitute mentors, and hospitality helpers. Walking alongside a child during the most formative years of their life is a powerful way to serve the Lord. To volunteer or learn more, contact: Janie Roach (oakcircle5@aol.com) or Armineh Manookian (amanookian@gmail.com).



Tutor / mentor an economically disadvantaged student. Prepare Thanksgiving meal kits. Or support unhoused pregnant women by providing child care, transportation to appointments, or help with an annual fundraising event

While LCPC has not been coordinating volunteer efforts for the following two ministries, we wanted to highlight them here, as they fit our mission goals very well, and members of LCPC have actively supported them over the years. Harambee Ministries seeks to develop disciples and future leaders among disadvantaged youth (typically ethnic minorities) in Northwest Pasadena, while Elizabeth House empowers pregnant and parenting women in need through shelter and lifelong connection. For information on volunteer opportunities with these high impact ministries, visit their volunteer portals [here](#) (Harambee) and [here](#) (EH).

2. LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY

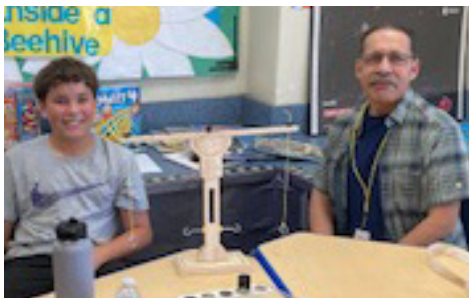
Deliver food to homebound seniors and families

Making It Happen exists to meet the needs of those in our community who are homeless,

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PASTOR'S LETTER

Greetings, La Crescenta Presbyterian Church Family & Friends. Happy New Year!

As we embark on a new year together, I love to have a focus that weaves us together throughout the year. This year, our focus is "To Know Christ and Make Him Known!" My focus Scripture passage is Philippians 3:10-11: "I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead."

Of all the ministry slogans I've heard over the years, my favorite is this one: "To Know Christ and Make Him Known!" The question is, do we really know Christ? And what does it mean to know Jesus? Personally, there's been a fresh hunger and renewed passion in my heart to know Jesus like never before, to fall in love with Him all over again. During this Fall, I re-read the four Gospels, 89 chapters, all so that I can know Christ Jesus more.

Living a life like Jesus must begin with being His student. This is the seed of discipleship. Contemporary Christians have mistakenly, I believe, set up a dichotomy between discipleship and evangelism. The heart of evangelism is about interacting with others like Jesus. He conversed

all the time with those who thought they were close to God and those who deemed themselves lost and without hope. Yet, He invited all to learn from Him – it's that simple. But often, we overcomplicate missional living and sharing the Gospel. Jesus not only told us to make disciples but also modeled how to. I believe most Christians have divorced the teachings of Jesus from the methods, and yet expect the same results.

I believe Christ's methods are just as divine as His teachings. He showed us that the fundamental methodology in making disciples is relationships grounded in truth and love. Our Lord is the greatest disciple-maker and evangelist in history, and His way works.

Paul said to the Colossians, "Him (Christ) we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ" Colossians 1:28. Notice Paul said, "I preach Christ," not "I preach about Christ." We don't just want to share true information about Christ; but present Him in the most compelling way we can so that they come to love Him, praise Him, trust Him and desire to know Him better. Preaching about Christ informs our minds, but preaching Christ brings Him closer to us so that we can grow in relationship

with Him.

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known" is my prayer for LCPC in 2025. We've to learn how to engage people in the everyday moments and simple ways before we can enter the profound, life-giving implications. A friend of mine, who is a missionary in the Middle East, once gave a presentation on how to reach out to non-believers in 60 seconds. I remember him recommending four simple ways in our interactions with non-believers: (1) Be kind. (2) Be present. (3) Be brave. (4) Be like Jesus. As we embark on this journey together in 2025, my prayer is that Jesus will make Himself known first TO us and then THROUGH us.



Yours in Christ's Service,
Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef
Senior Pastor & Head of Staff

MISSIONS

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unemployed, or under-employed by providing food and access to services that provide a pathway to more successful lives. The primary focus of this ministry is their weekly food pantry, which provides about 150 to 200 households with generous boxes of food every Saturday; on Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day, they also provide hot meals and encouragement to our unhoused neighbors at Sunland Park; and they sponsor a Family Christmas Celebration to bring joy to underprivileged children in the community.

Most people served by the weekly pantry do so through a drive-up service, lining up in their cars at Heart of the Canyons Church in Lakeview Terrace. In addition, deliveries are made to several locations with large unhoused populations, as well as to about 15 households who for one reason or another cannot get to the church. That's where LCPC comes in! Members and friends of the church deliver these boxes to households in the area each Saturday.

Two teams of two people typically deliver about eight boxes each, requiring less than an hour and a half of their time from leaving their home to their return. It's an easy task, made

easier by the gratitude of the people we serve. To ensure we can meet this need each Saturday, we need a few more volunteers.

To volunteer for weekly food deliveries, please contact Dean Richardson at ddrichardson104@gmail.com. For other service opportunities with Making It Happen, [visit their volunteer portal](#).

Provide a home-cooked meal to unhoused families

Since opening its doors in 2010 as part of the national Family Promise organization, [Home Again LA \(HALA\)](#) has assisted over 2,000 unhoused families in securing permanent housing. In 2023 alone (the most recent full year of data at time of this writing), HALA served 699 families through its various programs.

A core program for HALA is providing 90-day shelter for situationally homeless families with children. First Presbyterian Church of Burbank provides the shelter, while HALA works with the family to secure a permanent housing solution. The success rate of this program is outstanding – after this 90-day period, nearly all families secure a stable and sustainable housing solution.

Volunteers from LCPC provide dinners (hot and ready to serve, between 6:00 and 6:30 pm) each night for one week during each calendar quarter (4X a year). Besides preparing

a meal and bringing "grab and go" breakfast items, volunteers can stay and enjoy their meal with the families, or even serve as an on-site host. While the program allows for up to 14 people at the shelter, total headcount for dinner is usually fewer than eight, so the task of preparing a meal is very manageable.

Mark your calendars for our 2025 weeks of service, beginning March 2nd, June 1st, Sep 7th, and Nov 30th.

These dates don't work for you? No problem! HALA opens up its online signup sheet

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MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ART DIRECTOR/EDITOR

Shawn Kelly
shawndraws@gmail.com

**MESSENGER DEADLINE
SATURDAY, JANUARY 18
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.

MISSIONS

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months in advance, so individuals can provide a meal any night that suits their schedule. [Sign up here](#). Or contact Cindy Guenther-Williams at csguenther50@gmail.com for more information.

3. MISSION OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND OUR COMMUNITY (BUT STILL WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE!)

Help build a community hub / children's home in Rosarito, Baja Mexico... or minister to children and their families through community fellowship events and other opportunities throughout the year

The vision for [Casa de Los Angeles \(CDLA\)](#) was sparked back in 2008, when church member Lucia Iriks, inspired by the work that LCPC was doing to build houses and churches in Baja, offered to donate a parcel of land that she owned to a mission that would

further God's Kingdom in the area. That general idea blossomed into a formal decision by LCPC in late 2010 to support the building of an orphanage on her land. Over the next few years, other members of her family were inspired by LCPC's vision, and added their adjoining parcels to the mission.

Originally envisioned as an orphanage to house 38 children, the vision for this mission has expanded to meet the changing needs of the surrounding community of Lomas Altas. Completion of the main building is still likely a couple of years off (with fundraising being our primary constraint), but with the support of new, local partners, we are opening up a safe and welcoming space on-site so we can begin offering English classes and other essential services (100% volunteer-driven) to the community this month!

The Casa de Los Angeles site is situated on a breezy hillside with an expansive view of the ocean and Rosarito's famous beaches. It can be reached from LA by car in less than 3 hours. CDLA plans to sponsor several multi-church, short-term mission trips in 2025. Teams stay at a comfortable, secure mission station in a quiet neighborhood in Rosarito operated by missionary couple (and CDLA partners), Ron and Kristy Struska. Watch for details!

For more information, contact either Jim Sedgwick, President of CDLA, at jim.sedgwick@gmail.com, or Cindy Guenther-Williams, Treasurer and member of the CDLA board at csguenther50@gmail.com.



Lead a team of middle / high school students on a short-term mission trip

In 2025, the Student Ministries Team will once again be sponsoring a short-term mission trip to the Gila River Indian community in Arizona. Mission Arizona (MAZ) takes place during the local school district's spring break, from March 22-29. This opportunity is open to Junior High School students and High School students as Student Leaders. Adult volunteers (including young, recent graduates) are needed to oversee construction projects, meal preparation, and time for fellowship / study.

The goals of this mission are to serve a community in need (the Vah Ki Presbyterian Church, Stotonic Presbyterian Church, and surrounding area), and to provide an opportunity for young students to develop their faith through service, worship, fellowship, and learning.

For more information, contact Jerry White at jjwhit12@pacbell.net.



Nothing here sparking your interest? Interested in leading a team of LCPC volunteers in partnership with another established local mission? We are open to new ideas! Contact Cindy Guenther-Williams at csguenther50@gmail.com.



WINTER PEAK STARTS JANUARY 15TH!

Please join us this winter for PEAK featuring two options for adults:

MARRIAGE THROUGH CHRIST: A 9-WEEK JOURNEY (LED BY JAMIE GIVEN)

Strengthen your relationship by building a Christ-centered marriage rooted in faith, prayer, and intentional choices. This course will explore God's design for marriage, the power of praying over your spouse and relationship, aligning expectations, and navigating influences from family, culture, and social media. In this interactive group format, your willingness to

share insights, struggles, and accomplishments is encouraged—whether from a new marriage or a long-lasting one. We believe we can all learn from each other, enriching our relationships with collective wisdom and experience. Join us as we grow together, fostering intentional connections and building a lasting, God-honoring partnership through meaningful interaction.

THE BOOK OF JAMES: A VIDEO BIBLE STUDY FEATURING FRANCIS CHAN

True faith produces fruit. A faith without

action and without life change is ultimately a dead faith. The book of James speaks to the realities of a living faith in Jesus - the kind of roll-up-your-sleeves and get-your-hands-dirty discipleship that is borne out of an authentic relationship with the risen Lord. James writes to believers who know suffering, who've faced trials, and who ultimately desire a deep relationship with God.



Happy New Year!

As we step into 2025, we're reminded of the importance of centering our lives on truth—the truth found in Christ. This year, let's commit to seeking truth in every area of our lives: truth about God, truth about who we are in Him, and truth about His plans for our future. Jesus declared, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), and it is in Him that we find clarity, purpose, and peace.



what it means to live faithfully in anticipation of Christ's return.

PEAK ABIDE

- Wednesdays, 6:00–7:30 PM (Dinner at 5:30 PM)
- We'll continue our study of the second half of Genesis, focusing on God's covenant promises, Joseph's journey, and His unfolding redemptive plan.

REFLECTION: A YEAR OF SEEKING TRUTH IN CHRIST

Truth is not merely an abstract concept—it is a person, and His name is Jesus. In a world filled with confusion and competing voices, we are called to ground ourselves in Him. This year, through our studies in Genesis, John, and Revelation, we'll see how God's truth spans from the beginning of creation to His ultimate victory and redemption.

As we walk through this year together, let us remember: "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." (John 17:17) Our prayer is that every student and family would encounter God's truth and allow it to shape their lives, relationships, and decisions in profound ways.

SOFT LAUNCH: YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

We're thrilled to announce the soft launch of a Young Adults group beginning Friday, January 26th. This group is designed to help young adults connect, build community, and

grow together in Christ. Please keep this ministry in your prayers as it begins:

- Pray for young adults to feel welcomed and encouraged.
- Pray for God to shape this group into a thriving community of faith.
- Pray for wisdom and guidance for the leaders.

LOOKING AHEAD

Mission Arizona (MAZ): During Spring Break, students will have the chance to serve and grow during our mission trip to Arizona. Pray for the hearts of those we will serve and the students preparing for this trip.

Winter Retreat: Mark your calendars for this Fall, as we plan an incredible Winter Retreat filled with worship, fellowship, and fun. Details to come!

A PRAYER REQUEST

As we enter this season, we invite you to join us in prayer:

- For students: That they would encounter Christ as the source of truth and grow in their faith.
- For families: That they would feel supported and connected to our church community.
- For leaders: That we would be filled with wisdom, love, and strength to serve well.
- For our church: That we would shine God's truth and light in our community, reaching those who need hope and healing.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We're looking forward to walking this journey with you in 2025. May this year be filled with the truth, grace, and love of Christ!

With gratitude,
Izzy

SPRING WEEKLY SCHEDULE

We're excited to announce the full resumption of Abide's weekly gatherings starting Sunday, January 12th. Here's what you can look forward to:

ABIDE SUNDAY

- Every Sunday except the 1st Sunday of each month, 10:00–11:00 AM.
- Students will join worship in the sanctuary led by the worship band and then head to the Student Center after being dismissed.
- We'll begin a study on the book of John, diving into the life, teachings, and miracles of Jesus to better understand His truth and how it applies to our lives.

OPEN HOUSE

- Mondays and Tuesdays, 2:00–6:00 PM.
- A relaxed space for students to hang out, do homework, connect with friends, or bring new ones. We're offering rides for Junior High students on these days. Please reach out if you're interested in coordinating transportation

HIGH SCHOOL ABIDE

- Tuesdays, 6:00–8:00 PM.
- Join us for a year-long series on Revelation, exploring God's ultimate victory and

Looking back at the Christmas season we shared as an LCPC family, we are excited for the fresh start of a new year.

We turn the page to new challenges and seasons for our church. We give thanks for the work of the Deacons who ended their service and we heartily welcome the new Deacons coming on to serve!

The Deacons send cards for birthdays, anniversaries and for those suffering loss. This ministry is closely followed by grief booklets. Cards Ministry is led by Elaine Collins, elainemrcollins@verizon.net. Cards are sent right after the loss of a loved one, while grief booklets are sent out quarterly through the year.

For communion, while Isabel Adams has



been the lead for communion, our current deacon Traci Haleen has been involved with preparing the elements and often serving communion (tracihaleen@gmail.com).

The Deacons are starting a new form of outreach in 2025 to the church family who we have not seen for a period of time. If you

know of church members or others attendees who have not been to church for a while, the Deacons would like to know and personally reach out to them. Please reach out to Kerry Milbrodt (kmilbrodt@gmail.com) for more information or if you know of people who would benefit.

Finally, we have two important Deacons events in 2025: The Deacons Blood Drive on Saturday, March 29 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and Noel Collins' Strike up the Band coming up on April 27 at 3:00 PM to raise money for scholarships. Please volunteer for these two great events! Happy 2025!

In Him,
Dave

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

BY JESIAH BOZICH



Happy New Year!

What a wonderful year we've had. There has been plenty of laughter, joy, and growth with Jesus in our kids this year. I'm truly thankful. The Lord often surprises me with His movement and work. When I take the time to pause and consider all the works of His hands this year, I am struck with a deep gratitude for the way that the Spirit has been so obviously been at work in the lives of these children, as well as in the lives of myself and the volunteers.

As we enter 2025, there are many things I can say. I can speak of the continued faith-filled fun of our Sunday morning kids groups,

or of my excitement for a new semester of PEAK on Wednesday nights. I can speak of the various events planned for the coming year, such as Parents' Night Out, Vacation Bible School, and the Big Drop. However, I want to focus on this statement from Psalm 127:1, "Unless the LORD builds a house, its builders labor over it in vain." (CSB)

Join me in praying that the LORD will 'build the house' of faith in these children. We seek to build a program where children can experience being known and loved. We seek to build a program where children can encounter the living God in Spirit and in truth. We seek to build a program where seeds are planted

for the flower of the Gospel to bloom in the deepest heart of these kids. Yet, our work can only do so much. It is the LORD who holds this work. We seek Him to move in LCPC Children's Ministries this year. We ask for His will be done. May His kingdom come.

If you are interested in joining our ministry to children, please reach out to me at: Jesiah@lcpc.net

As always, I thank God for what He has done, and eagerly await what He will do next.

Grace and Peace,
Jesiah

SESSION REPORT

At the December 9, 2024 Stated Meeting of Session, the following items were discussed and/or approved:

- Set the date for Ordination and Installation of Officers for Sunday, February 2, 2025.
- Set and approved the date of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, March 2, 2025, immediately after worship. Fellowship will host their popular yogurt bar.
- Received a report from Ruling Elder and LCPC Presbytery Commissioner Pat Chambers on the November 19 Presbytery Meeting. Several important overtures from the General Assembly were voted on at this meeting. Please contact Pat or any member of Session for details. A Big congratulations to Pat who was elected to serve the Presbytery as Vice-Moderator for 2025. She will become Moderator of Presbytery in 2026!
- Approved revised Deacons Emergency Assistance Guidelines.
- Approved job description for Director of Contemporary Worship.
- Approved Student Ministries 2025 Mission Trip to Vah Ki Presbyterian Church within the Gila River Indian Community. Vah Ki will be the primary service area with potential smaller projects at Stotonic Presbyterian Church and the local community.
- Discussed the 2025 operating budget.

This was the last meeting of 2025 and with that, we bid a fond farewell and huge thanks to those Ruling Elders who have completed their terms and are rotating off Session: Geoff Bryan, Allie Fernandez, Christine Holmquist, Jillian Matson and Evan O'Meara.

BISTRO 50+

TUESDAY,
JANUARY 14
12 NOON IN
KOOPMANS

Everyone 50+ years old is welcome to come and enjoy a meal and fellowship for just \$5.00.

CRUISERS

The Cruisers invite everyone to their meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2025 with guest speaker Doug Given who will bring us an exciting program entitled "DO SCIENCE AND CHRISTIANITY CONFLICT?" It will be held in Koopmans Hall immediately following the Pastor's Bible Study at 11:00 AM and lunch. Come and bring all your friends, because we are all in for a real treat.



Baritone Joel Balzun wowed the audience at the Christmas Concert.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



JANUARY 2025

	1	2	3	4
<p>CFC CM KH M&O PEAK</p> <p>Center For Children Children's Ministries Team Koopmans Hall Mission & Outreach Committee Praise & Education for Adults & Kids</p>	<p>SC SM W&M YAMS</p> <p>Student Center Student Ministries Committee Worship & Music Team Young Adult Ministries</p>	<p>Happy New Year!</p>	<p>Be Still Pickleball-Basketball Court Cornerstone Crew</p>	<p>Be Still Pickleball-Basketball Court Cornerstone Crew</p>
<p>5</p> <p>10:00 A 11:30 A</p> <p>Combined Worship-Sanctuary Deacons-KH</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 P 7:00 P</p> <p>CM Team-Zoom Student Ministries-SC</p>	<p>8</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>12</p> <p>10:00 A 11:30 A</p> <p>Classic Worship-Chapel New Song Worship-Sanctuary Sunday Potluck-KH</p>	<p>13</p> <p>11:00 A 12:00 N 1:00 P 7:00 P 7:00 P</p> <p>Tuesday Bible Study Bistro 50+ -KH Cruisers-KH Men's Group-203 Fellowship Ministry</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 A 7:00 P 7:00 P</p> <p>Mens Ministries-Zoom Adult Discipleship Team-Library Choir-Chapel</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 A 5:30 P 6:00 P 6:15 P 7:30 P</p> <p>Mens Ministries-Zoom PEAK Dinner-KH ABIDE PEAK-SC PEAK Classes Choir-Chapel</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>19</p> <p>10:00 A 11:30 A</p> <p>Classic Worship-Chapel New Song Worship-Sanctuary Personnel Team-Lib.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day CFC & CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED 7:00 P</p> <p>Property Team-203</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 A 5:30 P 6:00 P 6:15 P 7:30 P</p> <p>Mens Ministries-Zoom PEAK Dinner-KH ABIDE PEAK-SC PEAK Classes Choir-Chapel</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30 A 5:30 P 6:00 P 6:15 P 7:30 P</p> <p>Mens Ministries-Zoom PEAK Dinner-KH ABIDE PEAK-SC PEAK Classes Choir-Chapel</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 PM</p> <p>Women's Book Club-Zoom</p>
<p>26</p> <p>8:45 A 10:00 A</p> <p>CM Volunteer Meeting-KH Classic Worship-Chapel New Song Worship-Sanctuary</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00 P</p> <p>Session-KH</p>	<p>28</p> <p>11:00 A 2:00 P 7:00 P</p> <p>Tuesday Morning Bible Study-KH Tasty Tuesday Men's Group-203</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 A 5:30 P 6:15 P 7:30 P</p> <p>Mens Ministries-Zoom PEAK Dinner-KH PEAK Classes Choir-Chapel</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10:00 A</p> <p>Classic Worship-Chapel New Song Worship-Sanctuary</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>
<p>31</p> <p>10:00 A</p> <p>Classic Worship-Chapel New Song Worship-Sanctuary</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>31</p>

9:00 A
MESSENGER DEADLINE

Happy New Year LCPC!

A new year is the perfect time to look back and reflect on the past year, but also to look forward to all the new possibilities and adventures ahead.

Why not start by joining us January 1st for the **Bible Recap Old Testament Challenge**, and read through the entire Old Testament, one day at a time!

Quite a few of you accepted the Bible Recap New Testament challenge last summer and read Matthew through Revelation in 92 days. This one will take a bit longer, but God will show you new insights every step of the way! Email **Pat Rabe** at: patjar@earthlink.net so she can add you to the email updates list. You can find The Bible Recap on the You Version Bible app on your phone or device, under "Plans." Make sure to listen to Tara Leigh Cobble's commentary at the end of each day as she beautifully explains the readings.

Thank you to the many volunteers who stayed after church last month to transform the campus into a Christmas Wonderland - It looked magical! If you're free the morning of Saturday, January 11, from 9:00-11:00 AM, we'd love to have you join us for the **Very Merry Un-Decorating Party**. Many hands make the workload light!

The next day, Sunday, January 12, will be **Dan Blessinger's** last day at LCPC as the Producer of Contemporary Music. He has blessed us all with his talent and leadership for many years. Please join us down in Koopmans right after church as we have a gathering to honor and thank Dan. We're having our first **Sunday Potluck** of the year that day, so bring a favorite dish to share, and you're welcome to bring a card of thanks for Dan. We'll also have a group card to sign and Fellowship will provide a cake. Let's show Dan our love and appreciation!

Speaking of potlucks, just a few reminders: Please bring all food ready to serve - you can store it in the kitchen fridge or plug a crock pot in. If you need to do any prep like toss a salad, or cut fruit, you're welcome to use the kitchen to do that but we don't have enough volunteers to do that for you. If you don't see your food out, check the fridge, because things that aren't labeled sometimes don't get set out. Be sure to label all your containers and lids and take them home with you! We so appreciate all the amazing family recipes you've treated us to over the past year and look forward to another fun year of monthly feasts and fellowship. Going forward, the potlucks will be the 3rd Sunday, most months.

On Tuesday, January 14, **Pastor Mouris' Tuesday Morning Bible Study** will be starting



back up from 11:00 AM - Noon, and continuing to reflect on the Psalms of Ascent. Right after that, stay for the Bistro 50+ lunch with a hot meal for just \$5 per person in Koopmans Hall. The Cruisers will meet afterwards with a fascinating presentation by our resident scientist Doug Given, "Do Science and Christianity Conflict?"

Everyone is invited!

PEAK begins for the winter session the next night, Wednesday January 15. Dinner starts at 5:30 PM for \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids. We're excited to be offering two new classes for adults. **Jamie Given** will be leading a 9-week class, **Marriage Through Christ**, focusing on strengthening your relationship by building a Christ-centered marriage rooted in faith, prayer, and intentional choices. This class is open to all couples - newlyweds through those married for many years. Jamie is a licensed MFT with a thriving practice in our local community.

The second PEAK option is a **video bible study of the book of James**, which speaks to the realities of a living faith in Jesus, and features well known pastor and author Francis Chan. This class will be co-led by **Craig Carlson** and **Jon Weingarten**. Both classes will run from 6:15-7:15 PM and there are classes for kids and youth of all ages at the same time. We'd love to have your whole family join us. And remember - if you need a **ride to PEAK**, contact our **Deacon Rachel Wolflick** at rmwolf@earthlink.net and she will arrange a ride to and from for you!

On Sunday, January 19, we're thrilled to welcome guest preacher and a dear friend and mentor of Pastor Mouris', **Rev. Dr. Hak Joon Lee**. Dr Lee is a Professor of Christian Ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary, a scholar on the ethics and spirituality of Martin Luther King Jr. and is the author of numerous books on the topic. In observance of MLK Day, we will be treated to a sermon by Dr. Lee in both services as well as a time for Q&A during our Coffee Hour down in Koopmans.

The Christmas season was glorious around here as always! Children's Ministries, CFC and Kids Hope had a big crowd at the **Family Christmas Party** and had a wonderful time

caroling, crafting and hearing the Christmas story in the Sanctuary. The kitchen crew, headed by **Geoff Bryan**, served a delicious dinner and **Tim Milbrodt** will be featured in many family photos as the jolly guy in the red suit!

The guests also got to say a big "Thank You" to **Julie Larson from CFC** before she retires in January after many years of service to CFC - first as a parent with kids in the program, then as a teacher, and finally an administrator. She will be very missed by many.



The **Christmas Concert** led by Gary Woodward and the **Choir** was magnificent and we had a wonderful turnout from the community. What a blessing to be able to offer such a high caliber concert to the Crescenta Valley. Many visitors commented that they look forward to this event every year. Thank you to Gary, the choir members, the musicians, the tech crew, the fellowship team, and all who baked goodies!

We also had wonderful **Christmas Eve services**, with many church members, extended family members and visitors from the area celebrating the birth of Jesus with us! Everyone enjoyed the nativity petting zoo, the festive music, the thoughtful sermons, and the worshipful ambiance of our candlelight services.

Santa Claus was extra busy this year, with all the letters he had to answer from our **Santa Mailbox!** Santa handwrote more than 30 letters to LCPC, CFC, and other children in our area and then had to get working on all those requests in his workshop. He's ready for a long winter's nap!

You may have noticed **Noel Collins** did not resemble Santa Claus this year as he has in years past. He shaved his beard and mustache and dressed to look like Beethoven for Karen Hayhurst's Christmas concerts at the local elementary schools - eight concerts in all. What a fun addition to their festivities!

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Director's Corner

It's a new year according to the calendar. I have been working with a school calendar for 45 years so I sometimes forget about January. Do you make New Year's Resolutions? Do you keep them? I have made them before only to have them go by the wayside quickly. I now try to pick out a theme for my year that will help to guide me in the New Year. Then I look at my decisions, activities and how I spend my time and money against that theme. After a full year, it tends to just become a part of me.

This coming year I am going to concentrate on kindness. A simple idea but at the same time one that was easy to forget in an election year, with changes coming to my life, with medical complications, and just life in general. When I decided on this theme I could feel my attitude and actions changing before January 1, by the way, this also means being kind to myself.

What might your family theme be for 2025? Maybe it would be more family fun or time together. It might be working on the way you talk to each other or be more open to charity or service to others. You could have a theme of becoming more actively involved in the spiritual development of your home. How would you include your kids in a theme for the year?

As you are experiencing this new year, please know that all of the CFC staff wish you a very Happy New Year. May it be filled with love, hope and peace

Pat
Director

Supervising Children

We have been noticing children not with their parents at sign in and out times. Please keep all your children with you before you sign in and after you sign out. Children running around unsupervised is not allowed by licensing. Office personnel need to be able to come and go, so there isn't always someone in the office. Children should not be opening gates. This is not a habit we want them to get into. We don't want someone to run into the parking lot without supervision. Also, if you see our side gate open, close it. If you notice it is unlocked, please poke your head in the office and let us know so we can take care of it.

Join us for

SPARKS!

Programming for Preschoolers-6th Graders!

Creative activities, group games, and Bible lessons!

Every Wednesday, beginning January 15th

Dinner 5:30pm-6:15pm
(\$5 per adult, \$3 per child)

Group 6:15pm-7:15pm

Child Care for Marriage Class at PEAK

During PEAK, kids in kindergarten through sixth grade enjoy SPARKS! Younger kids are sorted into SPARKS Blue and older kids into SPARKS Red. During SPARKS, kids play together, learn fun Bible stories, do skits, play games, sing songs, and more! We also have offerings for kids one year old through 4 years old. Jr. and Sr. High Students will join Izzy for activities age appropriate for them.

Wednesday Nights at LCPC

Starting on January 15, the Wednesday night PEAK program will continue. This year Jamie Given will be teaching a class on marriage. Much like the Love and Logic class last year, this is a great opportunity to focus on your marriage relationship. Having been married for 42 years, I know that marriage isn't always easy even when we love our partner. Please see details in the other pages of this newsletter on the class and other offerings from the church.

Calendar

- January 1: CFC Closed – Happy New Year!
- January 2-6: Winter Day Camp Continues
- January 7: GUSD resumes
- January 15: Marriage Class Begins
- January 20: CFC and GUSD Closed for MLK, Jr. Day
- February 3: Preschool Very Important Person Day

Thank You

I wish to thank all of you for your kind thoughts and gestures towards the entire staff this holiday season. Thank you for the gifts, treats, and cards. It was a wonderful holiday season here at CFC. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas as well.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Mouris Yousef	Senior Pastor and Head of Staff mouris@lpcpc.net
Izzy Cox	Director of Student Ministries izzy@lpcpc.net
Jesiah Bozich	Director of Children's Ministries jesiah@lpcpc.net
Pat Murphy Chambers	Director, Center For Children pat@lpcpc.net
Nancy Thomas	Office Manager nancy@lpcpc.net
Gary Woodward	Choir Director
Matthew Krell	Organist/Pianist
Dan Blessinger	Producer of Contemporary Music
Baldo Murall	Facilities Manager
Paul Hofmann	Director of Social Media
Will Wolfswinkel	Digital Media Coordinator

GUEST PREACHER

On Sunday, January 19, 2025, we will welcome the Rev. Dr. Hak Joon Lee, Ph.D., as our guest preacher in both Contemporary and Classic Services. Dr. Lee is the Lewis B. Smedes Professor of Christian Ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena. He is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA). His current research focuses on Trinitarian ethics, covenant, and public theology in the global era.

He has also focused much of his study on the ethics and spirituality of Martin Luther King Jr. and is the author of numerous books including: *We Will Get to the Promised Land: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Communal-Political Spirituality*; *The Great World House: Martin Luther King, Jr. and Global Ethics*; *God and Community Organizing: A Covenantal Approach*; and *Christian Ethics: A New Covenant Model*. Dr. Lee is also Dr. Yousef's



mentor since 2002. After worship, Dr. Lee will be with us during our Coffee Hour in Koopmans for Q&A. Everyone is invited.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

CLASSIC WORSHIP IN THE CHAPEL
NEW SONG WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY
BOTH SERVICES AT 10:00 AM

.....
"A NEW YEAR, A WORTHY PURSUIT!"

JANUARY 5
EPIPHANY SUNDAY
COMBINED SERVICE
IN THE SANCTUARY

"Wise People Still Seek Jesus!"
Isaiah 55:6-13; Matthew 2:1-12
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Rick Lyon

JANUARY 12
"On the Road Without Jesus!"
Deuteronomy 6:10-12; Luke 2:41-52
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

JANUARY 19

"To Save the Soul of America!"
Genesis 2:15-17; Luke 12:15-21
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Hak Joon Lee

JANUARY 26

"The Hidden Treasure!"
Isaiah 45:1-6; Matthew 13:44-46
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

MOUSE

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Thank you to all who generously supported **World Vision** and the **Casa de Los Angeles Community Center**, by choosing and purchasing a gift off the **Giving Tree**. Many families were grateful and blessed by your gifts.

Congratulations to **Pat Chambers** for be-

ing elected to serve as the **Moderator of the San Fernando Presbytery for 2026**. She will serve as vice Moderator for 2025, and we know she'll do a phenomenal job in leadership for our Presbytery, just as she has always done for LCPC!

Wishing you all joy, hope, peace, love and faith in this new year! Talk to you next month.

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**