

THE LYNNEWOOD LINES

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR LYNNEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

Our Season of Lent is quickly coming to an end; Holy Week and Easter are fast approaching. I hope that many of you have participated in this season with the 40 day spiritual practice calendar, daily devotions, and our 2 Lenten Book Study opportunities. Together, we have focused on healing, so that we can claim the joy of New Life and Hope that blesses us each Easter.

For me, Holy Week is the most spiritually important week of the year. It is an epic; filled with drama, love, pain, and redemption. It calls to us with its poignant message of life and death and invites us to participate in a passion so great it changed the world. The week, and its events, are much like a poem. They speak to us of the ongoing process of dying and rising to greater understanding and love. My favorite poet is Mary Oliver and I share her poem, "When Death Comes," as an invitation to participate in the holy journey with Christ. For me, Holy Week is a reminder to cherish each moment, to live deeply and to trust that beyond what looks like death is life beyond our imagining. Let us do more than "visit this world." Let's embrace it with passion and purpose, just as Jesus did. May your lives be filled with wonder and may your Holy Week be blessed...

When death comes
like the hungry bear in autumn
when death comes and takes all the bright coins from his purse
to buy me, and snaps his purse shut;
when death comes
like the measles pox;
when death comes
like an iceberg between the shoulder blades,

I want to step through the door full of curiosity, wondering;
what is it going to be like, that cottage of darkness?

And therefore I look upon everything
as a brotherhood and a sisterhood,
and I look upon time as no more than an idea,
and I consider eternity as another possibility,

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As a reconciling congregation that **dares to question, love, and serve**, we offer wide welcome to all people regardless of age, sex, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, family status, physical or mental ability, or economic or immigration status.

Prayers and Poem, Continued

"When Death Comes," Continued...

and I think of each life as a flower, as common
as a field daisy, and as singular,
and each name a comfortable music in the mouth
tending as all music does, toward silence,
and each body a lion of courage, and something
precious to the earth.

When it's over, I want to say: all my life
I was a bride married to amazement.
I was a bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.

When it's over, I don't want to wonder
if I have made of my life something particular, and
real.
I don't want to find myself sighing and frightened,
Or full of argument.

I don't want to end up simply having visited this
world.

Prayer of Lament

Merciful God, once again we come before you in shock
and confusion.

Once again, we are confronted by our violence and
hatred toward one another. Once again, we are filled
with grief and a sense of helplessness in the face of
terror.

Merciful God, you know the consequences of our hate
and violence so very well. You bore the weight of it all
to stand with us and we lean on you for grace
today. For the families of those who have been killed,
we pray for your compassion and strength.

For those who commit violence against our human
family, Lord, help us to pray for mercy as you did.
For the community of Boulder, Colorado and all
communities that have lost members to violence, we
pray that your grace would hold their anger, sadness
and fear.

For your Body of Christ on earth, we pray for wisdom
and courage, as we seek to live your way and guide
others in the path of nonviolence.

In the face of hatred, may we walk the path of love.

May we love those who are easy to love and those who
ask for love in the most difficult ways.

May we love those who are strangers and those who
are friends.

May we love those with whom we agree and those who
we consider to be our enemies.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive and heal us. Guide
us to a better way.

In the Way of Our All-Loving Christ, we pray, Amen.

Announcements

Jenn's Lent Study Update

Right Here, Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness will conclude on March 28th. Over the last 6 weeks, we have practiced "paying prayerful attention in the present moment to God's abundant life." We've learned a variety of prayer and meditation practices and have explored ways to be more mindful in everyday life. Mindfulness can free us from reactivity and fear, reduce anxiety, center us in love and gratitude and help us become more compassionate. It is a daily practice that awakens us to more...and it never ends. Our Lenten Study has concluded, but stay tuned for summer opportunities to practice online and in Amador Park!

Gathering to Mourn the Victims of Gun Violence Thursday, March 25 7:30 – 8:00 pm

The members of the Livermore-Pleasanton Interfaith Clergy Association decry the enduring plague of gun violence.

People of all faiths are invited to join a community-wide gathering to mourn the victims of this past week's tragic murders in Atlanta and Boulder.

Area clergy will offer words of consolation and solidarity and speak to the moral imperative of this moment.

The public may join the gathering at www.bethemek.org/live.

Anti-Racist Action at Lynnewood

Throughout Lent, a small group has been studying *America's Unholy Ghosts*, an anti-racist book by Joel Goza. While discussing how to respond, the group decided that opposing racist voter suppression laws was a good place to start. Following the guidance of Black Voters Matter, group members wrote to prominent Georgia businesses asking them to oppose the racist laws being proposed. If you would like to join the effort, visit:

<https://blackvotersmatterfund.org/stand-with-georgia/>.

For more info and to be a part of ongoing anti-racist conversations and actions, email Sam at sam@lynnewood.org.

Lynnewood UMC Lent and Easter Season Worship 2021 (All services will be held on ZOOM and Youtube)

March 26/27 - Palm Pick up in the courtyard beginning at 10:30 AM

March 28 Palm/Passion Sunday - 9:30 AM on ZOOM and Youtube. Virtual Orchestra performance and the story of Holy Week begins. Please have a towel and bowl of water to share in a Holy Week ritual.

April 2 Good Friday - 7 PM on ZOOM and Youtube. Remembering the Passion in scripture and song.

April 3 Easter Cross in the Courtyard. Bring a flower from your garden to adorn the Easter Cross and prepare it for Easter worship. Come anytime throughout the day.

April 4 Easter Sunday - 9:30 AM on ZOOM and Youtube. Virtual Choir performance. Join us after worship for Drive Through Communion and blessings in the back parking lot from 11:15-12.

April 11 - Why Christian? A new series focusing on the importance of our faith and how we can share it with more courage, empathy and invitational grace.

April 18 Why Christian? Sermon and *Faith Story from our Lynnewood Family*
Breakout rooms with discussion to follow worship - Led by Lynnewood Healthy Church Initiative Team

April 25 Why Christian? Sermon and *Faith Story from our Lynnewood Family*
Breakout rooms with discussion to follow worship - Led by Lynnewood Healthy Church Initiative Team

Announcements, Continued

United Methodist Church Global News

The Special Session General Conference scheduled for May 8 has been cancelled. The commission cited technological concerns that could not be overcome. Because of time differences across the globe and great variation in access to internet and electricity, it was not possible to ensure inclusive participation and equity. For the full story, see

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/bishops-cancel-may-8-general-conference>.

Special Outreach Offering - April 18, 2021 - Native American Ministries Sunday

We celebrate United Methodist Native American Ministries on Sunday, April 18, 2021. As we share in community for this and other denominational giving opportunities, our offerings connect us in ways that recognize Christ among us.

When you give on Native American Ministries Sunday, you equip seminary students who honor and celebrate Native American culture in their ministries. You empower congregations to find fresh and culturally appropriate ways to minister to their communities with Christ's love.

If you would like to support this month's United Methodist Church special offering, please forward your check to:

Lynnewood United Methodist Church, 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton, CA 94566 and note Native American Ministries Sunday in the memo line.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for this important ministry.

DACA Fundraising Update

During Lent, we've been raising money to help local DACA applicants with the fees associated with applying, which range from \$500-\$2500. As of this last week, we've raised nearly \$11,000—nearly double our original goal of \$6,000! We'll continue taking donations through Easter to see if we can double our original goal! Thank you so much to everyone who has donated to this mission!

To donate, go to lynnewood.org, select "GIVE" and choose "DACA" when donating, or make a check payable to Lynnewood with "DACA" in the memo.

Dealing with Pandemic Stress - A Free Lecture

Pleasanton's Alan Hu Foundation will be hosting a free online lecture entitled, "Moving from Surviving to Thriving in the Context of Chronic Stress", on March 30 at 6:30pm PST. Stanford Professor Dr. Debra Kaysen will share her wisdom and experiences on specific strategies to help mitigate stress associated with COVID-19, and to help build resilience. Register at:

<https://alanhufoundation.org/events/>.

FEBRUARY FINANCE UPDATE

| | Amount | % difference from budget | | | | | |
|--|-----------|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Operating Budget | | | | | | | |
| Donations Building Use & Interest (Year To Date) | \$75,930 | -15.3% | | | | | |
| Expenses (Year To date) | \$143,654 | -16.5% | | | | | |

If you would like to better understand where our church stands financially or the financial goals of our church, please see any member of the finance committee. We would be happy to discuss our finances with you!

Announcements, Continued



presents a

RELIGION CHAT

**Wed., Apr. 14, 2021
5:00 to 6:15 pm* via Zoom**

Online via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81203340837>

**Meeting room opens at 4:45 pm; program begins at 5 pm.*

TOPIC:

**How does your community
provide for those who come
in need of forgiveness?**

SPEAKERS:

Rev. Ellie Kilpatrick
Unitarian Universalist Church, Livermore

Bishop Roger Persson
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

After the presentations, there will be time for questions, followed by optional participation in break-out groups.

Mission Statement: To enrich, inform, and educate ourselves and others about the great diversity of faiths and cultures in our Valley.

Find us on: <http://interfaithinterconnect.weebly.com>
and <https://www.facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect/>

Bible Studies & Small Group Ministries

NOURISH AT NOON

Join Pastor Jenn at noon on **Monday, April 12th** for a time of sharing and prayer. Come and nourish at noon through Zoom.

Meeting ID: 842 1052 9685

Participant ID: Just press #

Password: 4444

Mobile: Call (669) 900-6833. Enter the meeting ID and then the password when prompted.

To MUTE or UNMUTE, please press *6

We will meet again on February 22nd. Details are forthcoming, so please keep an eye on the weekly email!

TUESDAY ZOOM MEN'S RELIGIOUS STUDY

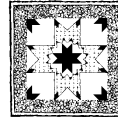
Join for a time of fellowship and study on Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 920 7883 8310

Passcode: 4444

WEDNESDAY CHANCEL CHOIR GET TOGETHER (ZOOM)

Are you in the choir and missing getting to see everyone during rehearsal? Join us for our Zoom get-together during our usual rehearsal time! Zoom meeting opens at 7:30 p.m.



PRAYERS & SQUARES

Please remember whenever we have a quilt, it is not finished until you participate by tying a knot or laying your hands on a knot and saying a prayer. If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact Michele at 447-9141 or micheleohair@gmail.com, or Jane at 846-6412.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Join Raeanne Passantino on Mondays at 7 pm for a time of faith, sharing and prayer. We are currently discussing the book of Revelation using *The Non-Prophet's Guide to the Book of Revelation* by Todd Hampson — We discuss 1 chapter per week.

Zoom Meeting ID: 822 241 9110

Password: 4444

Mobile: Call (669)900-6833. Enter the meeting ID and then the password when prompted.

KNITTING GROUP

The knitting group is on hiatus at the moment as they await more volunteers. If you know how to knit and would like to join this group, please contact Yvonne Greenlee.

DREAM GROUP

This group, led by Lisa Rigge, meets the third Thursday of the month at 11:00 a.m. During the shelter-in-place order, this group will be meeting by Zoom.

Seasoned Citizens



The Seasoned Citizens had another lively discussion on our Non-Lunch Zoom meeting. We are finding that these Zoom meetings really help us get to know each other better.

Our question of the month was **“Where were you born and where did you grow up?”** We had ten active participants and each one shared their birthplace.

If you are a Seasoned Citizens please join us in April. We always schedule our meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. We have a great time catching up and getting to know each other better.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2021 ! Please join us.

Seasoned Citizens - One of our most popular groups is our seniors' monthly luncheon group. Because of the pandemic we are currently meeting via Zoom. If you are retired, you qualify as a “seasoned citizen”! Call the church for the date with a chance to meet new friends.

Music Notes



Hello, Spring! Hello, Lynnewood friends!

JOY is like a sunshine
Raining down upon us
JOY is like a golden crown
Let us come together
Praise the name of Jesus

Well, Spring and sunshine got me singing the above lyrics. If you remember the song, it starts like this:

Let us come together
Praise the name of Jesus
All you people of the Earth
Come and see (hear)

Then it continues:

JOY is like a sunshine
Raining down upon us
JOY is like a golden crown
Let us come together
Praise the name of Jesus

Aleluia, aleluia, aleluia, aleluia
Aleluia, aleluia, aleluia, aleluia

Covid (or as a new acquaintance from New York calls it, "The Coves") has got us not quite worshipping together in the past year. But thanks to technology, we have built our new worship "togetherness" through Zoom and YouTube.

As we look forward to celebrating Holy Week and Easter "together," our Lynnewood Music Ministry Team has two virtual ensemble gifts for you.

The Lynnewood UMC V-Orchestra will bring "Be Still, My Soul" to you on Palm Sunday, March 28, and Good Friday, April 2.

Our Lynnewood UMC Virtual Choir will help us celebrate Easter with a rousing and joyful anthem entitled "Hallelujah! Resurrection Day!"

We have enjoyed our time "together" preparing these musical gifts for you! My hope is that you experience God's peace as we ponder the events of Holy Week and come to grips with what is happening in our world today. Thankfully, we can also rejoice as we look forward to celebrating Easter, the promise of new life, and the resurrection that we have in Christ Jesus!

Joyfully,

Amelia Han Riegert
Organist/Pianist and Worship Music Coordinator
amelia@lynnewood.org

Lynnewood Outreach

Bundles of Joy

Bundles of Joy is an on-going joint project with Axis Community Health and several other churches in the Tri-Valley. It is only made possible by the donations we receive each month. We provide 14 bags per month to Axis to be given out to low-income pregnant women. Please help us to continue to reach out to families in need and show them what a caring community we are. Donations from the list below can be given to Noelle Woodward. Contact Noelle at 925-366-0602 or noelle@wdwrd.net with any questions.

Items Needed for the Bundles of Joy Project:

- Diapers (Newborn – Size 1)
- Pacifiers
- Cloth Toys or Stuffed Animals
- Bibs (We usually include 2.)
- Wipes
- Blankets
- Rattles
- Hats (We usually include 2.)
- Baby Wash, Lotion, Powder or Ointment (We include 1 item per bag.)
- Newborn Outfits – Size 0-6 months (We usually include 1 per bag.)
- Pajamas, Size 0-6 months (We usually include 1 per bag.)
- Onesies, Size 0-6 months (We usually include 1-2 per bag.)
- Baby Booties or Socks (We usually include 2-3 pairs.)
- Cash or Gift Cards (Target, etc.)

How Can We Help Open Heart Kitchen?

Due to the shelter-in-place mandate, Open Heart Kitchen is not operating out of Lynnewood on Sundays. We can still help them though as they work to make sure people are fed despite the current pandemic. If you would like to help, please send in a donation check to Lynnewood and note "Open Heart Kitchen" in the memo line. Thank you.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EGG CARTONS

In addition to providing egg cartons for Tri Valley Haven, we are now expanding our request for paper/plastic bags and individually wrapped plastic eating utensils. The egg cartons and bags will continue to be delivered to the food pantry. But the individually packaged utensils will be delivered to Open Heart Kitchen. If you are able to save these items, but don't want to make a trip to the church, I will be happy to pick them up. Just email, call or text me and I will let you know when I am driving through your neighborhood on my egg carton "route". Thank you for all the ways you reach out to serve the community. Linda Van Pelt, lvanpelt3513@att.net, 510-376-0483.

Children and Youth News

Each month with our kids and teens, we'll be focusing on a theme. During the month of April, we're thinking about...

Prayer

While prayer can be a mysterious and sometimes daunting concept for us, it also comes natural to many of us if we're paying attention. Anne Lamott says most prayers can be boiled down to "Help, Thanks or Wow." Kids often seem to get this better than adults. They're less likely to muddy the waters and wonder, "How exactly does this prayer thing work?" They tend to go with their gut, and if they need help, they ask. If they're excited about something, they say it. So, this month, we'll focus on prayer, not to teach our kids and teens exactly how it works, but to remind ourselves to express our needs, even if we're not sure where they're going or how they get there.

Peace and hope,

Sam

Outdoor Events Coming in April!

Assuming cases continue to fall or hold steady, we will begin monthly outdoor kids' events in April! Keep an eye out for more info.

Kid's Corner

Want to keep up with children's programs at Lynnewood? Make sure to subscribe to Kid's Corner, our weekly email for families. It includes parent resources, announcements, activities for kids and more. Email Sam at sam@lynnewood.org to subscribe.

No Room? Let's ZOOM!

Join us at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons for youth "No Room? Let's Zoom!"
[CLICK HERE](#) to join!
Password: 773788
If you choose to dial in, the meeting ID is 833 265 636.

LWood College Crew

No College Crew from Easter through 4/11!



Birthdays and Anniversaries

March

Happy Birthday...

- 1 Sandra Francis-Chinn
Bryce Shinohara
Gabriel Acosta
- 2 Mary Lou Harper
- 3 Jennie Perri
Sasha Greenlee
Noah Hutchinson
- 5 Karen Bierdeman
Eben Devadason
- 6 John Shurtleff
Brad Light
Mariah Nibert
Omodara Idowu
- 7 Norma Michel
- 8 Mary Baker
Lou Rivara
Mira Greenlee
- 9 Jason Speck
Irene Devadason
- 10 Phil Cooper
Coco Bailey
- 11 Matthew Santoyo
- 13 Kirsten Drews
- 14 Carolyn Baranouskas
- 16 Valerie Esomonu
Kyle Forgues
Tatiana Hutchinson
- 17 Carol Zedlitz

- 18 Nick Piscotty
Alexa Donatucci
Logan Gatehouse
- 19 Amelia Han Riegert
Paige Wright-Henry
Kevin Behrendt
Carter Mackey
- 20 Isabella Wyrough
- 21 Kathy Lukens
- 25 Ken Kasper
Tom Kester
Rebecca Gottfried
Noah Sturm
- 28 Jake Walton
- 29 Kurt Dorch
Timothy Nibert
Rachel Fletcher
Aubrey Stiers
- 31 Tazlina Dentinger

Happy Anniversary

- 3 Mike & Teri Hughes 1990 31 years
- 15 Doug & Mary Ellen Huey 1970 51 years
- 18 Steve & Jennifer Bull 2006 15 years
- 26 David & Jennifer Lutz 1988 33 years
- 30 Bill & Mary Behrendt 1984 37 years



Birthdays and Anniversaries

April

Happy Birthday... 17 Stephen Gatehouse

2 Daniel Beckley
Samuel Gaulin 18 Midge Campbell

Rachel Williams 19 Margrit Honegger

3 Kathy Letourneau 20 Rebecca Hintze
Doug Huey

4 Dot Fournier 21 Christine Fitzsimmons
Emily Santoyo James Young

5 Kate McClellan 23 Silas Henderson

7 Mike Hughes 25 Sofia Chang Cooper

8 Violeta Dentinger 26 McKinley Brunicardi

9 Phil DeLand 28 Maya Maguigad

11 Jim Allen 29 Vance Nelson

12 William Beattie
Bill Berck Carol Shaw
Jeremiah Silva

14 Tabitha Israel
Bob Sanchez

15 Kevin Greenlee

16 Wayne Emery
Mike Faber
Austin Piscotty

Happy Anniversary

5 Fred & Ann Emmanuels 2014 7 years

25 John & Sylvia Hemmerich 1981 40 years

27 Norman & Suzann Kester 1958 63 years

28 Howard & Diana Mendenhall
1963 58 years