

The Lynnewood Lines

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE LYNNEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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.

November 2019

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus!

Most of you know that I recently took a self-guided study trip to Greece to follow the places of the mission of Apostle Paul and to learn the values and impacts of his ministry. I joined with another colleague from Vermont who spent several years in Germany studying music. We arrived in Athens with a basic itinerary, but we still had a lot to figure out very quickly since we chose to plan this trip ourselves to save costs and to gain more freedom and flexibility. Even on the first day, we ran into some glitches when the National Art Museum we tried to visit was moved to a different location. Finally, we got to the Byzantine-Christian Museum, which was a fascinating place devoted to the amazing history of a very important period of Christianity (4th – 15th c. AD).

At the end of the second century, an important milestone came for Christianity when the emperor Constantine the Great legalized the Christian religion in 313 and moved the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to Constantinople in 330. Although the Western Roman Empire fell during the 5th c. AD, the Byzantine Empire continued to exist until it fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453. It became the root of Eastern Orthodox Christianity. It was great to have the chance to see the wonderful collections of icons, sculptures, ceramics, ecclesiastical textiles, paintings, jewelry and architectural elements (such as wall paintings and mosaics).

After this rich experience, we moved to the National Archeological Museum. What an amazing place to visit! I learned that it is the largest museum in Greece with some of the greatest collections of antiquities in the world. We were mesmerized by all the incredible treasures from the Neolithic period through late Antiquity.

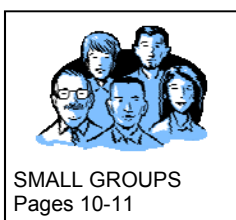
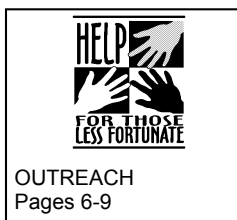
We couldn't pass up some of the important sites of Ancient Greece such as the Acropolis, Parthenon, Agora: Ruins of the Ancient Marketplace, and the Olympieion: Temple of Olympian Zeus. These were all fascinating places to learn more about their rich culture and heritage. This all happened during the first two days, after which we visited Corinth before flying to Crete.

Another highlight of our visit was certainly food. We had some wonderful Greek cuisine everywhere we went, from the tourist stops in Athens to small towns on our way to the next destination. We walked intensively during this trip to see as many places as we could possibly visit. Along the way, we met many wonderful people at the restaurants, hotels, and on the streets, especially when we got lost and had to ask for directions. I will share more of my trip in my next article.

November is a month of gratitude. When we gather with our family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving, we are reminded of how blessed we are. I am grateful to Lynnewood for giving me a chance to travel, spend ten wonderful days to deepen my understanding of early church history, and experience the beauty of God's creation in Greece. So, I thank you, Lynnewood, from the bottom of my heart.

Blessings,

Pastor Henry



In Need of Prayer...



Lynnewood Family

- Those recovering from illness, injury, surgery
- Those in ongoing cancer treatment
- Those seeking employment
- Those grieving

National and World Needs

- Our United Methodist Church
- Those recovering from natural disasters
- Our Muslim neighbors
- For peace in our communities and for an end to gun violence

Prayer Ministry:

Please email your prayer requests to the church office (office@lynnewood.org).

Stephen Minister Coordinator:

If you or a friend would like to meet with a Stephen Minister, call the church office.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



The holiday season should be a time of great joy as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

There are, however, many people who face difficult challenges at this time. Many of us deal with memories of the loss of a loved one, loneliness, unrealized expectations, and separation from family. The increased commercialization and pressures for a “perfect holiday” add additional layers to feelings of disconnection. If you are one of the many facing a “blue” Christmas, consider talking to a Stephen Minister. They are trained to be with you during difficult times at any time of the year with non-judgmental, compassionate and confidential care giving. Call the church office if you feel the need for this ministry.



Save the Date!

Oakland Gay Men's Chorus
Holiday Concert
Saturday, December 14, 2019
Lynnewood UMC

Save the Date: Oakland Gay Mens Chorus To Perform Holiday Concert At Lynnewood On December 14th.

Mark your calendars for an evening of holiday music in our Lynnewood sanctuary on the evening of December 14th.

Doors Open Musical Draws A Crowd Of 80 People On October 20th

It was a wonderful evening in the Lynnewood sanctuary with lots of great energy as the volunteer cast of Mark Teagle's play, "Doors Open" performed for their last time before dispersing to address life transitions. Thanks to all those at Lynnewood who made this event possible, especially Frank and Marsha of Wider Welcome, Craig and Judy, Dave, Mary and Bill, Betty, and all the others who helped in other specific ways!

What a wonderful play. What a great audience!



Lynnewood's Wider Welcome Committee Offers Welcome at the Livermore Pride Rally

Livermore's first Pride event brought more than 1,000 people of all ages to the four-hour celebration at the Shea Plaza in front of the Bankhead Theater.

Lynnewood's Wider Welcome Committee was an original sponsor and hosted a table where the Shower of Stoles was displayed. There was plenty of entertainment, and applause followed performances by the Oakland Gay Men's choir and Cheer San Francisco, an adult LGBTQ cheerleading team, with their high flying catches. The Cheer group also brought people from the audience into their act, adding to the fun. Other entertainment included songstress Trish Pulido, comedian Sampson, and music by the gay band, Old Fashioned. A grand time was had by all.



**Calling All Singers and Instrumentalists!
Christmas Season is *fast* approaching!**

If you're like me, you're thinking "WAIT! I just got through Halloween! I'm not ready to think in terms of Christmas!" No worries. We're all in the same boat. I have found, though, that rehearsing with other like-minded persons of faith helps one prepare for the arrival of the Christ Child.

More details to come in December, but here are a few items to put on your calendar now, before it fills up.

THREE (3!) golden opportunities to participate musically this Christmas time:

(1) Come join the choir just for a season.

Advent starts on Sunday, December 1, so **Now** is the time to start attending choir rehearsals as we begin to rehearse the Advent and Christmas music. If you can "carry a tune in a bucket," we can help you learn your part.

Chancel Choir rehearses in the sanctuary on Wednesdays from 7:35 – 9:00 p.m.
Note: *No* rehearsal on Wednesday November 27.

(2) Carol to the shut-ins.

Sunday, December 15 at 2 p.m. It's a time to have fun singing our favorite carols while we bring a little joy to those who can't get out as well as they used to. You do NOT have to be a member of the choir. Song sheets with the words are provided. So come and make a joyful noise in service to others!

(3) Join in the fifteenth annual Lynnewood Christmas Orchestra.

Whether you "blow" or "bow" your way through music, we need YOU to play carols for the Sunday morning services on **December 15**. Please contact Donna at music@lynnewood.org so that she knows what parts to plan for.

Rehearsal times: The first two Sundays in December:

December 1 and 8 from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

For those who want a sneak preview of the music, it will be in the choir room on Sunday, November 24 (I hope).

Sunday music you won't want to miss:

November 3: Chancel Choir sings a gospel version of "Amazing Grace."

November 10: Chancel Choir sings "The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee."

November 17: Handbells ring "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing."

November 24: Chancel Choir sings the John Rutter anthem "For the Beauty of the Earth."

Peace,
Donna

Donna

(e-mail: music@lynnewood.org)

Wildfire Recovery Mission – Middletown, California, October 2019

The devastation of wildfires is awful. Everything is in ashes. Lives shattered. Lives lost. Whole communities gone. The so-called Valley Fire that roared through Middletown, California in the Fall of 2015 was no exception. 76,000 acres burned in Lake County. 1,500 homes and businesses were destroyed. Thankfully, only four people died.

We were blessed to be one of the many volunteer teams to go help with the recovery. This was a return trip after having worked in Middletown in the Fall of 2018. Our mission was to assist with rebuilding homes.



We were hosted by a local organization, Hope City, to arrange the work. They also provided room and board at the dorm they built. Hope City screens the clients for help and raises the money for materials and supplies. They partner with the local faith communities and other groups to make this happen.

Our team of eleven included participants from Asbury UMC in Livermore, Lynnewood UMC in Pleasanton and San Ramon Valley UMC in Alamo. We worked on two homes, doing rough carpentry, building exterior walls, and starting the floors. While the work was interesting, it was getting to know our

clients that was most rewarding. We listened to their stories. We got to know their challenges. We affirmed their hope.

Among our clients was Ariel. She lost her home. She then had a rental for a while but lost that. She has been house-sitting at other homes with most of her remaining possessions stored in her car. We also worked for Darcy and Bernie. Likewise, they lost everything. They live in a used RV on the property next to where their new house is being built. Bernie is doing some of the construction himself, as time permits. It has now been four years, and they look forward to having a new place to live.



After a full day's work, a meaningful part of the mission experience is to relax and share time together. We always have a short group time in the evening for a devotional moment and to reflect on what we are doing. These reflections bring our purpose in focus.

It is such a privilege to live our faith by serving others with love on these trips. There is something so rewarding about bringing hope to others. We are grateful for the time, the talent and the resources to do so.

Sincerely,

Steve E., Roger E., Steve W., Coleman J., Patti A., Judy G., Bob H., Dick C., Cynthia D., Bob S. and Ron L.



Lynnewood's Outreach, reaching out



Bundles of Joy Update

We enjoyed having a Girl Scout troop from Murray Elementary come to our church to help make bundles in October.

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 left in the narthex or given to Kristin. Contact the church office 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...)



ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS

At Lynnewood, we believe that outreach to our community and the world is important. We live out our faith through the giving of our time, talents, and resources to help others. This is faith in action! With this idea in mind, we are offering you an Alternative Christmas – the practice of giving a donation in someone’s honor rather than a physical gift. A gift to mission makes a difference.

In the catalog, you will find seven ministries that represent local and global opportunities. A description is provided for each organization – what they do and how you can support that work. An order form is also included with the catalog. You decide which ministries you would like to support, complete the order form, total your donations and write one check payable to Lynnewood United Methodist Church. Lynnewood will send your donations to the ministries of your choice. In return, we will provide you with lovely gift cards and envelopes that you may send to those whom you honor with your donations.

This is a meaningful and stress-free giving opportunity. It’s a win-win for everyone. We encourage you to share the catalog with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. This is not a Lynnewood-only project. Please prayerfully consider how you might use this catalog to put your faith in action

Catalogs will be available at the Outreach table and church office starting Sunday, November 24th. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or anyone on the Outreach Committee.

Help needed for Tri-Valley Haven Holiday Food Drives

It is that time of year where Lynnewood helps Tri-Valley Haven with two of their many food distribution events over the year-end holidays. The first event is part of the local Harvest Park school food drive. Volunteers are needed on Friday, November 15 at noon on the Valley side of the schools. We will help load up the large amount of donated food into a TVH truck and possibly a few of our vehicles. This food will then be taken to Asbury for later distribution. Some of us will also be needed to unload the donations there. If you can help on either end of this job please sign up at the Outreach table on a coming Sunday.

A second event will be at Asbury Methodist on Saturday, December 7 at 9:00 a.m. Here we will sort into individual family bags from a large food drive supplied by the Castlewood area. A total of about 500 bags then are available for families in need in our community. This project is typically done by noon. Again sign-ups will be taken at the Outreach information table.

Share Gratitude and Connection across the Miles at Lynnewood during the Month of November

Every November, we give thanks for our many blessings, and our hearts seek connection with all those whom we call family. At Lynnewood, throughout the month of November, we will hear from members of our church family who are away at college. Through brief video clips on Sunday mornings, we will reconnect and remember our Lynnewood family across the miles.

EGG CARTONS—Ongoing Project

Many people see egg cartons in the narthex and wonder why empty egg cartons are brought to church. The Tri-Valley Haven Food Bank receives eggs from local grocery stores with good eggs and some broken and mushy eggs. Before Tri-Valley staff distributes the good eggs to their clients, they seek cleaner egg cartons. Over the years the Lynnewood church family has been the source for the egg cartons. Thank you for your continued support of this outreach opportunity.

November Donation Drive for the Food Bank

Lynnewood will have a DONATION BARREL from The Alameda County Community Food Bank, in the church narthex, for the month of November. Please donate the following items:

Peanut Butter	Canned tuna	Oatmeal	Canned Chicken
Rice	Canned ham	Dry Beans	Spam
Dry Lentils	Canned Chili with Beans		Dry Peas
Canned Soup	Pasta	Crackers	Canned Stew

Thank you for your help!

Special Outreach Offering - Student Sunday - November 3

Across the country, the people of The United Methodist Church are serving the people God loves in Jesus' name. We're doing it at home, but so often we'd like to do more.

- We want to serve those in other places who are suffering.
- We want to offer spiritual words of hope and life.
- We want to be well-equipped to do both!

But the reality for most of us is that our responsibilities—home, family, work—don't allow us to engage with every need we'd like to meet.

Right now, there are UMC young people—who might not have had the resources to attend a school of their choice, or, for some, any school at all—who've been sent by you into the world God loves because of your giving to United Methodist Student Day. When you give generously, you are supporting these students as they prepare for a life that unites faith with knowledge.

What no one person or congregation can do alone, we're doing together. Please look for the special offering envelopes in the bulletins on Sunday, November 3 to share your gift with deserving young people. Checks should be written to LUMC with Student Sunday in the memo line. Thank you!

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL DINNER "PASSING ON THE GIFT"

Where has the year gone? Can you believe it is almost time for our annual HEIFER DINNER? Please join us Sunday, November 10th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds from our

dinner are given to Heifer International. For 62 years, this organization has dedicated itself to ending world hunger. They provide livestock, seedlings and training for families living in poverty. As these families become more self-reliant, they are required to pass on their training and the offspring of their livestock to others in their community who are in need.

We would encourage you to share a wonderful dinner at church with your own family prepared by the Outreach Committee (with some congregational help), and enjoy fellowship with your Lynnewood family. Tickets are on sale now between services on Sundays until November 10th. Ticket prices are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children ages 5-11.

Our gifts will be helping others to "pass on the gift." The results are an improved quality of life and long term productivity one family at a time.

THE ANNUAL LYNNEWOOD GIVING TREE IS COMING TO THE NARTHEX!!!

This year, we have approximately 80 children (and their families) from Marylin Avenue Elementary in Livermore who need our help. Many of the children desperately need clothes, sweaters, jackets, etc., though it is also wonderful if they also have a toy or two to open on Christmas. The need this year is great, and many of the parents/families have requested blankets, kitchen items, gift cards, and/or food.

On Sundays, December 1 & 8, please sign up to take a parents' or a children's' tag from the tree in the narthex. Please provide your contact info to the giving tree coordinator that is nearby and get a numbered bag for the children's' gifts. All gifts should be wrapped, labeled, and returned to the narthex no later than Sunday, December 15!

On the morning of Saturday, December 21, we will be delivering the gifts, along with a holiday meal generously donated by our Mens' Group, to each of the families at their homes. We will need lots of assistance, and this is a VERY rewarding experience that can be shared by your entire family.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to volunteer to deliver gifts, please contact the church office.

Thank you so much for your generous support of this truly worthwhile project!!!

LYNNEWOOD HOSTS OPEN HEART KITCHEN ON SUNDAYS

For those within our church family who are seeking a way to “*dare to serve*,” an opportunity to do so is offered right here on site with Open Heart Kitchen! We are seeking LUMC volunteers to serve at Open Heart Kitchen in our Fellowship Hall from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month. Youth volunteers must be 14, and community service credit will be given.

For those who are active volunteers at Asbury UMC on the fifth Wednesday of the month, we will continue our commitment to Open Heart Kitchen.

Sign-ups for Open Heart Kitchen are being received at the Outreach Table each Sunday, or you may contact Diana Mendenhall who will be coordinating the volunteers to serve at Lynnewood. Phil Cooper will continue to coordinate the volunteers for our 5th Wednesday at Asbury.



Sermon Topics for November 2019

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| November 3 | “To Seek and Save the Lost”
Luke 19:1-10 |
| November 10 | “God of the Living”
Luke 20:27-38 , (1st: 27-33, 2nd: 34-38) |
| November 17 | “Endurance for Your Soul”
Luke 21:5-19 (1st: 5-9, 2nd: 10-19) |
| November 24 | “Remember Me”
Luke 23:33-43 (1st: 33-38, 2nd: 39-43) |

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.
LUMC Library



All are welcome to share in this adult Bible study on Wednesday mornings at the church. It is a “lectionary” based study, looking at the scriptures to be used in worship and preaching the following Sunday. The group meets for 90 minutes.

Small Group Ministries

MEN'S BREAKFAST

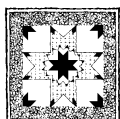
SECOND SATURDAY of the month - 8 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

All men are invited to breakfast at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come and join in a great breakfast and better fellowship. Heart-healthy food to be included.

We will meet again **Saturday, November 9**, in the Fellowship Hall. Start the day off right with good food and good fellowship!

Please call the church office with any questions.



PRAYERS & SQUARES

On October 5th, we enjoyed a work day with six of us gathered at various times to primarily put ties in and bindings on quilts to be given in the future as need arises. We were a small but productive group! A heartfelt thank you to all who participated both at the workday and the many hours spent sewing in your homes! We will probably not hold another workday until after the holiday season.

The recent quilt given with our church communities prayers was delivered by the Volunteers in Mission Team from Lynnewood. The recipient, whose home is being rebuilt following the fire in Middleton, was grateful wrapping the quilt around her surrounded by our prayers. Please remember when ever 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 the church office.

Knitting Group

The Afghanistan knitters are going full strength. If you would like to join in on a Thursday morning, contact the office (925-846-0221 or office@lynnewood.org) for times and locations.

DREAM GROUP

This group, led by Lisa, meets the third Thursday of the month at 11:00 a.m. in the Library.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Still thinking about attending Monday Night Adult Bible Study on Mondays at 7:00 p.m.? On Monday, October 28, we started a new book: Dare to Hope, by Melissa Spoelstra. If you would like to join us, we meet in the Choir Room at the church. Please call or email questions to the church office.

SEASONED CITIZENS

NOVEMBER SEASONED CITIZENS LUNCHEON

The Hop Yard
American Alehouse & Grill
3015 Hopyard Road
Pleasanton
925-426-9600

Date: Tuesday, November 19
Time: 11:30 AM
RSVP
Contact the church office
(925) 846-0221
office@lynnewood.org



One of our most popular groups is our seniors' monthly luncheon group. If you are retired, you qualify as a —seasoned citizen! Or, if you are just free for lunch on Tuesdays you still qualify! Call the church for the date and location, and enjoy a meal at a restaurant or home, with a chance to meet new friends.

Come join us at The Hop Yard this month!

Senior Christmas Luncheon: Save the Date!

On December 7th at noon in the fellowship hall, we'll be having our Christmas Senior Luncheon! Make sure to add this to your calendar! RSVP by December 1st. Contact the church office.

CHILDREN & Sunday School

Children's Offering Project Continues For Africa University Through November

To date, the children's offering basket has yielded \$340 for Africa University, the United Methodist-sponsored university in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe. Children are encouraged to bring their donations each week. All funds collected will go to Africa University through the last Sunday in November. On Sunday, December 1st the children's offering project will change. Beginning in December all funds will be directed to the Methodist Border Mission Network at work on the U.S. Mexico border.

Advent Adventure Is Coming Sunday, December 1st From 5pm Until 7:30

All three year olds through 5th graders are invited to spend the evening at the church, share dinner together, do crafts and games, and then snuggle down to movies in the youth room. Please let Diana know if your child will attend. Details will be forthcoming upon registration.

Children are Invited To pick Up Heifer Collection Boxes on Sunday October 27th Through The Middle Of November

Each year, the children of Lynnewood are encouraged to trick-or-treat for Heifer International, or to save coins on their own or with their family. Diana has collection boxes available upon request. Full boxes may be turned in at the Heifer Dinner on November 10th or anytime later that month. Help us help others, village by village, by supplying animals that produce sustenance for needy families.



YOUTH EVENTS



Getting ready to volunteer for Open Heart Kitchen!

Heifer Dinner is Sunday November 10th and Youth Servers Are Needed

Come have some great potluck food and get your serve on too! Five youth are needed to set tables, fill water Pitchers, and carry food plates as Lynnewood celebrates a meal together on Sunday, November 10th. If you can help from 5:15 until 7pm, we need you! Wear dark slacks or skirt and a white shirt. Let Diana know if you can help.

Youth Group Meets on Sunday November 17th for Lunch and Advent Preparations

Come and get your creativity working as we prepare visuals for worship and explore shadow and light in the world and in our lives. Let Diana know you'll be joining in so that we know how much food to prepare. Youth group will meet from 11:45am until 2pm on Sunday, November 17th.



Bryce enjoying his cookies!

College Student Care Package Response!

"Hello Lynnewood! I received a care package from our awesome church and wanted to send a big thanks to everyone! Always makes my day :) <3 Sherlyn"

SEPTEMBER FINANCE UPDATE

Operating Budget	Amount	% difference from budget
Donations (Year To Date)	\$353,873	5.3%
Expenses (Year To date)	\$474,085	-13.5%

We collected \$4,295 for UMCOR.

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!



**DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS
TIME ENDS
SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER
3RD!**