

THE LYNNWOOD LINES

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR LYNNWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor's Letter

You have heard by now about Pastor Diana's retirement and must be greatly surprised by the announcement. I felt the same when she shared her plan for retirement at the January Staff Parish Relationship Committee (SPRC) meeting. I trusted she has given this great thought and made the right decision for her and her family. I want to first congratulate Pastor Diana for completing her great journey of active ministry and entering into a new journey of life with her retirement. As a pastor, I know how hard it is to remain faithful to God's call to ministry and successfully complete this journey with honor. Pastor Diana has done that and deserves great applause and blessing from us.

On the other hand, we all feel greatly surprised and are disappointed that Pastor Diana is leaving Lynnewood. For 11 years, she has provided an invaluable ministry to our youths and children. Many of your children who grew up under her care and received her amazing love and care as their pastor understand the impact of her deep spiritual and faithful presence in their lives as she helped them to be who they are today as children of God. We were truly blessed by her gift of teaching and preaching. She was also gifted in providing creative ministry opportunities that helped our youths and children to learn and grow to be more loving and compassionate people.

Pastor Diana's passion for justice and reconciliation has affected Lynnewood beyond measure. Under the leadership of Pastor Heather and Diana, they led the process of helping Lynnewood to become a reconciling church. Pastor Diana has kept the spirit of reconciling ministry at Lynnewood even after Pastor Heather's retirement. Her work with the Wider Welcome committee has helped us to make a clear difference in our community how a Christian church can stand up for justice and reconciliation for all people of God without judgment but with deep and embracing love of God. We are indebted to her leadership and passion for helping us to become a church that dares to question, love, and serve.

Since her retirement announcement, SPRC has worked very hard to find the next pastor for youth and children. It has been a difficult process since Pastor Diana's work has been quite broad and extensive. They are working closely with the Bishop and District Superintendent on this search. Pastor Diana will still be with us until August when she officially retires. We still have a few more months to have her with Lynnewood, and we will enjoy the rest of her time to be with us. Please hold Pastor Diana in your prayers in this time of transition. Please also keep SPRC in your prayers in order to find the right person to continue Pastor Diana's work here at Lynnewood.

Blessings,

Pastor Henry

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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.

Sermons, Prayers, Bible Studies, and Stephen Ministry

Sermon Topics for March 2020

March 1	"The First Stop on the Lenten Journey" Matthew 4:1-11
March 8	"The Path to Eternity" John 3:1-17
March 15	"The Journey to the Well " John 4:5-29
March 22	Genesis Sunday
March 29	"The Giver of Life" John 11:1-16 , 32-45



Encourage One Another

In 1 Thessalonians 5, Paul writes, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up...Encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone." God has called us all to build up and encourage one another. For those who are experiencing a really difficult time, our Stephen Ministers can provide the special encouragement, care and support they need until they are past the crisis. If you would like more information on our Stephen Ministry, please call Linda or the church office.

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Still thinking about attending Monday Night Adult Bible Study on Mondays at 7:00 p.m.? 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 at (925) 846-0221 or office@lynnewood.org.

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.

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).

Music Notes



Music to Anticipate as We Enter Lent

Sunday March 1 – When I think of the beginning of Lent, I think of the scripture passage from Psalm 51, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” The Chancel Choir will sing a beautiful setting of this passage.

Sunday March 8 – What else does one think of during Lent? John 3:16 “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whoso believeth in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.” The Chancel Choir will sing a setting by John Carter of this passage.

Sunday March 15 – “Be Thou My Vision” is a hymn that always touches my heart. The setting of this hymn by Mark Hayes is beautifully moving and will be sung by the Chancel Choir.

Sunday March 22 – The Handbell Choir will ring us into worship with a contemplative setting of “Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior.” The beloved Psalm 23 is part of the lectionary for this day and the choir will sing “The Lord Is My Shepherd” by John Rutter, accompanied by Lorna Kruse on the oboe.

Sunday March 29 – There is a Jewish poem from the time of the Holocaust that speaks to all of us during dark times: “I believe in the sun even when it’s not shining. I believe in love even when I can’t feel it. I believe in God even when he is silent.” The Chancel Choir, accompanied by Lorna Kruse on oboe and Amador Valley High School musicians on strings, will sing a new (to us) setting of this poem. Many thanks to Lorna for introducing us to this anthem. But lest you think the mood is a dark one, at 10:30 the children’s choirs will sing “In God’s Hands,” a fun arrangement of “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands.”

Newcomers are always welcome in our choirs. If you are interested, contact Donna Kirch at music@lynnewood.org for more information.

Donna

Donna, director of music
(e-mail: music@lynnewood.org)

Small Group Ministries and Congregation Corner



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 the church office.

DREAM GROUP

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

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 the church office.

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, March 14** in the Fellowship Hall. Start the day off right with good food and good fellowship!

Please call the church office with any questions.

THANK YOU TO MY LYNNEWOOD FAMILY

"Thank You" is inadequate for what you have done and continue to do for me since my back injury.

My recovery would be so different and so much more difficult with your help. I so appreciate all of the phone calls, emails, food, texts and cards in which you offered prayers, kind words and a willingness to help out in any way. My beautiful prayer quilt left me speechless, which most of you know is unusual.

I never felt alone because I knew God was watching over me through you. I came to Lynnewood seventeen years ago this month. I immediately felt at home, and these last couple of months have only reaffirmed that. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Linda

Seasoned Citizens

One of our most popular groups is our seniors' monthly luncheon. If you are retired, you qualify as a seasoned citizen or if you are just free for lunch, this message is for you!! Call the church for future dates and locations, and enjoy a meal at a restaurant or home, with a chance to meet new friends.

This month we are returning to Hunan Chef, a local Chinese restaurant.

Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2020
Time: 11:30 AM
Place: Hunan Chef, 4285 Valley, Pleasanton

Directions: This restaurant is at the corner of Valley and Santa Rita in the Valley Plaza Shopping Center. There is plenty of parking.

Lunch is served with their famous Hot & Sour Soup, Fried Wontons, Choice of Steamed Jasmine Rice or Fried Rice. Lunch Special prices range from \$8.95 to \$10.50. Separate checks!

Call or email the church office to RSVP: (925) 846-0221 or office@lynnewood.org.

If you have any ideas for future restaurants that you would like to try, please contact the church office.



Lynnewood Outreach

Help with Wildfire Recovery in Lake County, California

Lake County has had several major wildfires that last few years, including the Valley Fire which destroyed 1300 homes in the Middletown area. We will be going to assist with the continued rebuilding homes for families that are challenged to do so on their own. We will leave on Sunday, May 3rd and return on Friday, May 8th.

We will be staying at the Hope City team housing in Middletown – twin size bunk beds and showers with meals provided by the Hope City Staff with our help. The cost of the trip is \$225. Registration is now available and due by April 17th.

For more information, questions or to register, contact the church office.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKAGING EVENT ON MARCH 21

On Saturday, March 21 at 9:00 AM, Lynnewood UMC will collaborate with RISE AGAINST HUNGER to package 10,152 meals that will be distributed to those most in need. This event takes only two hours of your day, but can make a difference in the life of a child.

Many volunteers of all ages are needed, including elementary school children accompanied by a parent. You can also earn some community service hours for this event. Register now to be a part of this Lynnewood tradition of hands-on-service driven by a vision of a world without hunger.

Please either go on-line using the link below, or register at the Outreach table after church service. We need a minimum of 60 to make this a success!

<https://rah.secure.force.com/events/homepage?id=7013Z000002z0j6QAA>

ALAMEDA COUNTY FOOD BANK SORTING DAY

Lynnewood will be participating in an Alameda County Community Food Bank Sorting Day on
Saturday, April 4

for the morning shift from 9am-12pm. Please join us! Carpooling is available from the church parking lot. Or you may rather drive yourself. The Food Bank is located at 7900 Edgewater Drive in Oakland. Please be there a few minutes early in order to register. If you want to carpool, please let Linda know.

Special Offering Sunday - March 22, 2020 UMCOR Sunday

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by war, conflict or natural disaster. UMCOR provides humanitarian relief and disaster response to people in more than 80 countries, including the United States.

UMCOR provides survivors not only temporary relief, but also long-term education, training, and support. While UMCOR cooperates with other aid organizations, the most important partners in the work of recovery are those being served. Because we join our church's offerings with those of United Methodist congregations around the world, UMCOR remains strong in its day-to-day operations. When needs are immediate, UMCOR can respond quickly and efficiently with signs of extravagant grace and expert assistance.

**Please look for the special offering envelope on
Sunday, March 22 and consider how you can help
those in need.**

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2 NIV

Lynnewood Outreach

EARLY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING—LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!

Early Response Teams (ERTs) fill a specific need in the early days after a disaster to clean out flood damaged homes, remove debris, place tarps on homes, and otherwise help to prevent further damage. An ERT training and certification class is offered for interested participants. Minimum age is 18 years.

ERT Training:

Date: **Saturday, February 29, 2020, 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m.**

Location: Creekside Center, Los Altos UMC 655 Magdalena Ave., Los Altos, CA 94024

Cost: \$50 plus \$41 for online background check and Safe Sanctuaries training through Safe Gatherings

Instructors: Leslie Carmichael & Bob Lee

For more information and to register click [HERE](#)

Questions? Contact the church office.

Bundles of Joy

Thank you to the youth of Lynnewood for packing 42 bundles in February.

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. 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...)

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 M. who will be coordinating the volunteers to serve at Lynnewood. Phil will continue to coordinate the volunteers for our 5th Wednesday at Asbury.

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.

Children and Sunday School

Children's Offering—THANK YOU!

Thank you to children and families who contributed to our Children's Offering Project! \$200 will be sent to the Border Ministry Network through the United Methodist Church to aid refugees fleeing violence in Central America.

Lenten Children's Offering Project

Beginning the first Sunday in Lent, March 1st, the children's offering project will be collected for the United Methodist Red Bird Mission School in southeastern Kentucky. Founded in 1921, and named after Chief Red Bird of the Cherokee Nation, the Red Bird School serves 200 three year olds through 12th graders living in three of the poorest counties in the country. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and makes a difference in the lives of the children of the Red Bird Valley.

Lenten Journey Calendars for children are available from Diana. Track your path through the 40 days of Lent toward Easter!

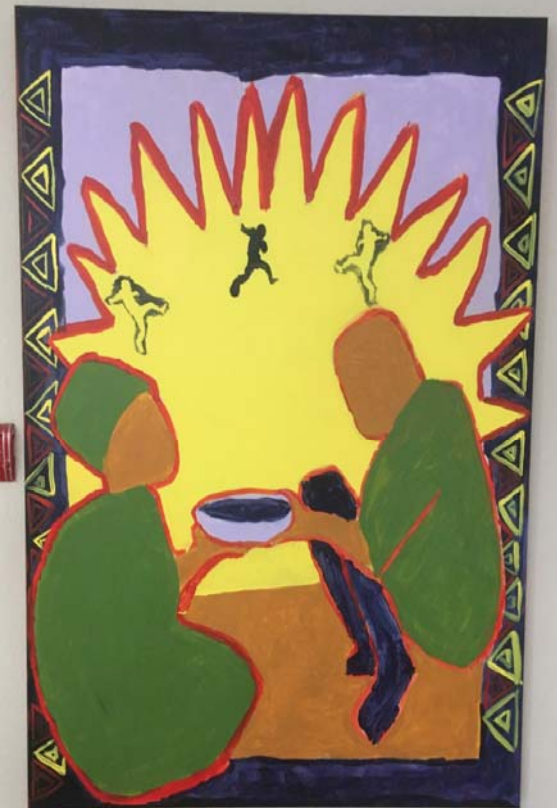


Youth Events

Youth servers are needed on Saturday, March 21st to **Rise Against Hunger** at 9:00 a.m. Pack food for the hungry around the world in an assembly line setting in our Fellowship Hall. Later that day join in the fun at the Mystery Play. Youth are needed to serve dessert and help clean-up. See Diana if you can help.



Thank you to everyone who joined us for **30 hour famine!** We built cardboard shelters, helped transplant tomatoes at Sunflower Hill (pictured top right), played a card game that tested our knowledge of poverty related diseases around the world, and created a painting for the Sanctuary to reflect our experience of going hungry for 30 hours and raising money to feed starving children. The painting is pictured on the bottom right, and making the painting is pictured below. It was an experience that we won't soon forget!



General Announcements and Finance Update

"A Perilous Night at Pirate's Perch"

Mark your calendars for the next murder mystery! Saturday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary Proceeds go directly to Sierra Service Project for 2020. Watch the Lines for more announcements.

Check out our YouTube Channel!

Did you know that we have been uploading videos of the special music performances and the sermons each week? You can check them out by visiting our YouTube channel directly, or you can find the videos on our website under the tab labelled "Sundays"!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH!



Lecture: Guarding Our Hearts and Minds with Rev. Dr. Mary Maaga

Rev. Mary Maaga takes us on a no-barriers exploration of how our contemporary struggles and the Biblical themes of anxiety and fear can be transformed by joy.

Join us on Sunday, March 8 from 5:00-6:15 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Maaga is a United Methodist pastor, spiritual director, and life coach who brings a BA in Political Science and Public Service and a PhD in Religion and Society (with an academic focus on Hearing the Voices of Jonestown) to her perspective on personal transformation and faith.

This lecture is free, so please join us!

	Amount	% difference from budget						
JANUARY FINANCE UPDATE								
Operating Budget								
Donations (Year To Date)	\$41,516	-50.1%						
Expenses (Year To date)	\$77,752	-3.2%						

Donations do not include rent income from Quarry Lane.

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!