

THE LYNNWOOD LINES

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR LYNNWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor's Letter

On Monday morning, ZOOM experienced a global power outage! PUSD teachers scrambled to communicate with parents and students that their ZOOM links would not work. They regrouped, reorganized, and adapted to GOOGLE MEET without skipping a beat. It was a valiant effort by our teachers, but I must admit I felt a hint of disappointment. My first reaction to the news that ZOOM would not work was relief! Rest, renewal, a morning without the screen...yahoo!! My whole body did an inward Hallelujah.

To be clear, I deeply appreciate and depend upon this technology. I am grateful for the relationships it has enabled over the last few months. My Hallelujah was my soul's cry for a little respite and an ease in the relentless pace. If anything could bring the grinding pace of our lives to a halt, it would be pandemic. But, somehow, we have pushed on through, worked harder, and added new expectations to the old. What if we stopped? I'm not talking about forever, but just for a morning or maybe a day. What if we put the expectations and the screens away and just sat with ourselves?

God gave us Sabbath for a reason. The earth and all that is within it needs to cease from its labor and stop producing now and then. Human "beings" need time each week to reflect on who we are and where we are going. We need time to simply "be" and let God and the creation recreate us.

My prayer is that we might take advantage of this time to slow down and contemplate what "is," what could be, and what matters most. We don't have to wait on a global tech failure; we can tap into the ultimate Power Source any time we want. Take just a few minutes each day to be silent, to breathe and pray, to play and create some beauty. It can make a world of difference.

Be well,
Pastor Jenn

How to Reach a Pastor?

Many of you have asked about the best ways to reach Sam and I during this time of physical distancing. Both of us are working a hybrid model that allows us to work from home, community, or office, as appropriate. We have both chosen Friday as a day off from work and the office will be closed on that day, at least for now. However, you can always reach me in case of a pastoral care emergency, 408-402-1232.

In addition, if you would like to schedule an in person, socially distanced outside meeting, we are trying to keep a regular schedule for now. I will be available for in person meetings Monday and Wednesday 11-1 PM and Sam is available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11-1 PM. Have no fear, we are working more than 4 hours a week! These are just scheduled times to be in the office and available for visits and meetings.

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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 Stephen Ministry

In Need of Prayer

Lynnewood Family:

Prayers for Don W., a former Lynnewood member who now lives in Cambria, as he continues to fight a long battle with cancer. Prayers for Don's wife, Joy, too, that God's people will watch over her with love during this time.

Prayers for John and Jennifer's son, Jeremy. Jeremy has lived the last 38 years in a residential facility for people with disabilities. He was moved to a new Facility on September 1. John and Jennifer have not seen this facility or been able to speak with caregivers there. We pray for a smooth transition for Jeremy, for love and care to surround him, and for peace of mind for John and Jennifer during this very difficult transition.

Prayers for Vicki D.'s grandson, Lorenzo, who passed his high school equivalency exam.

Prayers for continued recovery for Alexa D. who had brain surgery last month.

Prayers for friends of Marsha G., Nancy and her daughter Tricia, who lost their home, cat, and many possessions in a fire.

Prayers for Carol R.'s son, Kevin, who fell and suffered a brain bleed. The prognosis is good and he is recovering.

Prayers for Jun P. who recently lost his father to COVID-19.

Prayers for our World:

Prayers for those affected by the many fires raging in our state.

Prayers for those in the path of hurricanes.

Prayers for those seeking justice against racial inequality.

Prayer Ministry:

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



"I'M NOT QUALIFIED TO BE A STEPHEN MINISTER"

Have you ever been asked to be a Stephen Minister? Has someone suggested that you would make a good Stephen Minister? If so, did you answer that you weren't qualified? What qualifications are necessary to be a Stephen Minister?

- 1) You need to be a caring person who is willing to learn, grow, serve, and have faith in God.
- 2) You must be able to maintain confidentiality.
- 3) You would need to make a commitment to training and supervision.

The training for this ministry is thorough and practical. It includes listening, dealing with feelings, assertiveness, confidentiality, maintaining boundaries, and learning how to begin and end caring relationships. You learn how to care for people who are grieving, dying, aging, divorcing, feeling isolated, dealing with losing a job, dealing with anger with God, or experiencing other life's challenges. The goal of training is to prepare you for whatever you might encounter as you spend time with the care receiver.

Through reading, lectures, sharing questions and answers, and practicing skills, you will learn what you need to know to be able to "walk" with your care receiver until they feel God's healing. You are the "care giver." You are not a Counselor, and you are not expected to solve problems. You are asked to walk beside another person as they work through their challenges. A Stephen Minister brings an open and non-judgmental heart, creates a safe and confidential environment, listens with compassion, and remains with the care receiver as needed.

Think about it. Being able to service one-on-one and make a difference in someone's life during a difficult time. What better way to serve God! It will change your life.

Our current Stephen Ministers are Donna G., Susan G., Debbie R., Lou R., Lorna K., Steve K., and Linda V.P. If you are interested (or just curious), please feel free to contact any of us and we will be happy to share with you what this has meant to us in our faith journey.

Bible Study and Small Group Ministries

NOURISH AT NOON

Join Pastor Jenn at noon on **Monday, September 14th** 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 September 21st. Details are forthcoming, so please keep an eye on the weekly email!

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Join Sharon and Don on Monday at 7 pm for a time of faith, sharing and prayer.

Current Book; Fearless: Imagine Your Life Without Fear by Max Lucado—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.



PRAYERS & SQUARES

We are grateful for the many who were able to sew face masks in anticipation of the day when we can all worship in person. Our goal was to have 100 adult masks available so that if someone arrives without their own mask, we can provide one. Many thanks to Sheily L., Corinne L., Cynthia D., Mary R., Linda W., Dorothy S., and a couple of mystery sewers who gave their time and talents to reach our goal!

Blessings,

Jane and Michele, Co-Leaders, Prayers & Squares

DREAM GROUP

This group, led by Lisa R., 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.

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.

Seasoned Citizens

Hello Seasoned Citizens! We had another successful non-lunch Zoom meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2020. Twenty Seasoned Citizens joined in.

Pastor Jenn began our time together with prayer, then each of us shared our favorite and most memorable vacations from over the years. It is clear that we miss our time together, and we will continue to Zoom together each month to help us through this shelter-in-place time.

Our next Zoom gathering will be Tuesday, September 15, at 1 PM. If you are a Seasoned Citizen we hope you will join us. The more the merrier.

Here we are on Zoom!



Music Notes



Dear Lynnewood Family,

It is with a heart full of gratitude that I officially end my career here at Lynnewood. Thank you for a wonderful celebration on June 28 and for all the cards, gifts and well wishes. They reminded me that not only did I build a music ministry here, but I became a part of a supportive, loving family.

During the past two months since my "retirement," I have assisted with the re-opening planning and with the tech plans and sound for Sunday mornings. I continue to be impressed by the dedication and capabilities of the tech crew as well as by the cautious, thoughtful way that the re-opening team is approaching the herculean task of planning for in-person worship.

I do not know what the future brings. Do we ever? What I do know is that the Kirch family will continue to be a part of the Lynnewood family. I started at Lynnewood as a member and after 20 years on staff, I will continue as a member. Travel beckons, as does the opportunity to visit family who all live east of the Mississippi.

At this point words fail, and I'm reminded of the quote "When words fail, music speaks." We have shared much inspirational music over the years, music that has touched our hearts; so, just as I did with my June Lines article, I leave you with one of my favorite passages, Philippians 4:4,6-7 (RSV):

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Stay safe, stay well, and stay in love with God.

Love, in Christ,

Donna

Lynnewood's Reopening Strategy in Progress

We are all anxious to get back to worshipping together, but we also need to make sure we are thorough in our health and safety protocols. Lynnewood has had a re-opening planning committee meet since June to discuss what needs to happen in order for us to reopen. That committee submitted the plan for approval and is now waiting for the current high level of cases to meet government re-opening criteria. The answers for how to re-open are not simple, and they involve more than just our personal careful planning. First, we need to make sure we are following guidelines set up by the government and by the El Camino District/Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Since these guidelines can change, our plan can also change.

The following are some of the guidelines that are currently planned to be in place once we re-open in person:

Safety Rules for entering the Lynnewood building for participating in Live Worship or for Business

- Masks must be worn by persons over 2 years of age for the entire time on the premises. Bring your own masks or a mask will be provided.
- All attendees for in-person worship will be signing cards to be left at the exit to document attendance. All individuals who are entering the building for a business, such as staff and volunteers, must sign in.
- On entering a building every person must test personal temperature and clean hands with sanitizer.

Staff and volunteer sanitation process:

- Employees and working volunteers will be trained in the sanitation process for equipment used
- For occasional visitors or volunteers, expectations will be communicated via emails and committee groups.
- Signs will be posted at the entrance of the building.

In-Person Service:

- For in-person worship service, be sure to arrive at the church at least 15-20 minutes before the service begins in order to keep with physical distancing and be seated by ushers.
- Masks and 6 ft distance must be maintained.
- No congregational singing is allowed, however, we will consider humming when the time comes.
- Must remain seated during entire service, no wandering around the sanctuary
- No shaking hands, hugs, or other physical interaction; virtual hugs only.
- Offering and communion process to be expected
- Offering baskets will be available for donations in the narthex upon entering or exit
- On days when communion will be served, personal communion packets will be placed upon each worshipper's seat prior to arrival for their participation.
- Children are very welcome and wanted in Worship service. There will be Children's Moment. Please bring your own drawing paper or books or use the box the church will have available. Unfortunately, there will be no Sunday School or childcare until the Annual Conference allows us to run those programs again during services.

Ushers/Greeters/other support Volunteers:

We will need volunteers for these positions in order to re-open our worship services. Ushers and greeters must wear masks and gloves. **Safety training will be provided.**

Other Key Safety Actions to be Taken:

- Custodial deep cleans will occur often, but users will need to clean equipment after use.
- All leaders, staff, and volunteers are to be trained in COVID-19 safety protocols and sanitation prior to authorization to work in facilities.
- LUMC staff will review local COVID-19 reports weekly and determine if in-person use of facility is needed and sensibly safe.
- Other Ministry Activities listed will be considered individually.

In the interest of being able to open our doors safely, Lynnewood is being as thorough as possible in developing a re-opening plan. If you have any questions about the planning process, please contact the church office.

Lynnewood Outreach

CONTINUED GENEROSITY FROM OUR CHURCH MEMBERS

During this time of such great need created by COVID-19, once again the Lynnewood congregation has shown their compassion and desire to reach out to the community to help. In doing so, you are serving God in a big way. From May until mid June, the Lynnewood congregation has donated \$9,550.00 for various organizations in the Tri Valley area. \$3,200.00 worth of Safeway gift cards have been donated and distributed from April until mid June. This money is not coming from the Outreach budget, but from your hearts.

Due to SIP protocols, organizations are working with staff only. Volunteers will be added when it is safe. At the present time, none of the organizations we work with can estimate when that will happen. Until then, let us continue to serve however we can. And remember, prayer is always welcome!

Thank you from your Outreach Committee

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 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.)

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.

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. **NOTE: Linda V.P. is taking the egg cartons during the shelter-in-place mandate, so please contact her if you would like to contribute!**

Children and Youth News

Lynnewood Friends,

I want to thank you all for such a warm welcome over the last month. Between the cards, emails, cookies, and zoom greetings, it's so clear that you all are serious about welcoming new folks into the fold!

Someone asked me the other day, "Big picture, what are you aiming for with kids, youth, and families?" It was such a good question, especially when it can feel like we're all just frantically splashing around, trying to keep our heads above water. It's important to zoom out, even while sheltering in place. So, here's what I'm aiming for, not just with kids and youth, but in everything I do.

A Deep Sense of Love. I hope that every child, teen, and family at Lynnewood settles into the truth that they matter and are deeply loved by God and the people around them. The deeper our sense that we are loved, the freer we are to love others.

True Belonging. I *really* want kids, teens, and families to be free to bring their entire selves to church – their hopes, doubts, quirks, senses of humor, pain, joy and everything else that makes them who they are. I never want someone to feel like they need to pretend to be a certain way because they're "at church."

A Big Story. I think God is inviting us into a big, inclusive, unfolding story that pushes us in the direction of love, equality and justice. I hope, no matter how young or old we are, that we're always finding our place in that story and trying to keep up with a God who is always pushing us forward.

For the next few months, we're going to have to find some creative ways to live into these hopes, but I'm excited to be in it with each of you!

With love and hope,

Sam

Carry Out Kid's Church

Starting in September, families can get a monthly church "to go" box. Each box will be based on a theme, starting with Beauty, and will include a story, craft, activities and more. Families will get more info in early September. In the meantime, send questions to Sam at sam@lynnewood.org.

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.

We will not be meeting on Sunday, September 6th!

LWood College Crew

LWood College Crew zoom— Join us at 5:30 p.m. on Sundays for a college student hangout through Zoom! [CLICK HERE](#) to join!
Password: 483900
If you choose to dial in, the meeting ID is 956 2559 7865

No meeting on Sunday, September 6th! Enjoy your Labor Day weekend!

Finance Update

JULY FINANCE UPDATE									
		Amount	% difference from budget						
Operating Budget									
Donations (Year To Date)		\$292,309	-14.8%						
Expenses (Year To date)		\$380,003	-14.2%						

We've collected \$451 for Doctors Without Borders.

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!



Birthdays and Anniversaries

September

Happy Birthday

- 3 Jade Dorrion
- 4 Daniel Bailey
- 5 Colleen Cook
Shelley Shinohara
- 6 Doug Kahl
Todd Shinohara
- 8 Barbara Pifer
- 10 Zareen Kashif
Ron Rigge
- 11 Macy Brunicardi
Emmie Stenstedt
- 12 Kahliel Littlemoon
Mary Reaugh
- 13 Jim Hammer
Timothy Shurtleff
- 14 Arit Idowu
Ron Sandberg
Sharon Veerapal
- 15 Michelle Brown
David Montgomery
- 16 Bob Flock
Jeremy Light
Bob Zedlitz

- 17 Aaron Wong
- 18 Andres Honegger
Julia Roth
- 20 Jan Masuda
- 21 Don Brockman
Clifford Esomonu
- 22 Jennifer Lutz
- 25 Lenie Brown
Brad Oshman
- 26 Don Hladun
- 27 Lynne Shinohara
- 28 Zach Berlogar
- 30 Jacob Wilbur

Happy Anniversary

- 1 Richard Barrett & Devon LaHar
1979 41 years
- 2 John & Jennifer Silva 1973 47 years
- 3 Glen & Carol Ruley 1960 60 years
- 6 Brad & Debbie Oshman 1989 31 years
- 14 Ron & Lisa Rigge 1991 29 years
- 18 Kevin & Yvonne Greenlee 1993 27 years
Ray & Rebecca Hintze 1971 49 years
Jim Wyrough & Colleen Cook
2004 16 years
- 19 Kurt & Rosevie Dorch 1997 23 years
- 20 Doug & Cindy Kahl 1997 23 years
Kyle & Annalyn Sanchez 2015 5 years
- 26 Phil & Elva Cooper 1959 61 years

Upcoming October Anniversaries

- 5 Brian & Alma Acosta 2013 7 years

Upcoming October Birthdays

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Claude Camp 2 Sam Altis 4 P.J. Ruley | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Celeste Hutchinson
David Leslie
Dorothy Stenstedt 6 Terry Baranouskas
Larry Bartelson
Carol Caruso
Jennifer Silva | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Julian Beattie
Alex Faber
Janet Merz |
|--|--|--|

LYNNEWOOD UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Lynnewood Lines is a publication of Lynnewood United Methodist Church
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Our resident partners in ministry to the community:
Pleasanton Community Counseling Center



Deadline for October Lines

Please submit your articles for next month's Lynnewood Lines to our **Communications Coordinator** by **September 20th**. Send to caitlin@lynnewood.org. Please include "LINES Article" in the subject line. Email is preferred, but for those of you who don't have email, you may drop off an article in the church office.

Did you get a "Got It" reply? Sometimes the email systems lose the article or the reply. If you did not get a reply, please send your article again.