

# THE LYNNWOOD LINES

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR LYNNWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Pastor's Letter

Can you believe it is almost November? Normally at this time of year, we are relying on our Halloween candy rush to get us through the onslaught of Thanksgiving and Christmas events that will take all our time and fill us with great joy. But, it's 2020, and its not exactly that kind of November, is it? Some of us may be feeling tired and simply ready for the year to be over. Some of us may be feeling anxious about the upcoming national election and the future we believe hangs in the balance. Some of us may be feeling lonely as we anticipate a holiday season different than any we've ever known. Even so, God is with us, friends, and there are reasons to reflect and be grateful. Sometimes in the midst of all the uncertainty and swirling emotions of our time, silence and gratitude are what we need the most.

One of the saints of my childhood was Mr. Fred Rogers. His words of wisdom resonate with me, even now. In 1997, when he was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Emmys, he gave an unforgettable acceptance speech. First, he made a small bow and then he said, "All of us have special ones who have loved us into being. Would you just take, along with me, ten seconds to think of the people who have helped you become who you are... Ten seconds of silence.' Then he lifted his wrist, and looked at the audience, and looked at his watch, and said softly, 'I'll watch the time.'" At first there was awkward laughter, but eventually there were deep sighs and genuine tears, as one after another these famous adults remembered those most special to them. After 10 seconds, Mr. Rogers looked up from his watch and said simply, "May God bless you."

Fred Rogers was a man thoroughly unafraid to use the disarming power of God's love to change lives. I am grateful for his witness. Following in his Sperry-clad footsteps, I would ask you to begin this season of thanksgiving by taking ten seconds of silence. Remember the special ones who have loved you into being. Remember the special moments that have changed your life, your favorite activities and food, the endless blessings that pour forth from your God. Take 10 seconds each day to soak in gratitude. Let God bless your soul with thanksgiving and then commit yourself to being a special one for someone else. Let's be still. Let's be grateful. Let's be God's people everywhere we go.

May God bless you,

Pastor Jenn

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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.

# Stephen Ministry



When an event shakes up your world, it can be very difficult to manage physically, emotionally, and spiritually. As we navigate these unknown waters, it is important that you know you have a caring church family supporting you. You also have nine Stephen Ministers who are very willing to help you with the fear, isolation, uncertainty, and grief of temporarily losing life as we know it.

If you would like a phone call from a Stephen Minister, who can just listen, offer a prayer, share a scripture and generally keep in touch with you during this virus challenge, please email Linda Van Pelt at [lvanpelt3513@att.net](mailto:lvanpelt3513@att.net). She will have a Stephen Minister reach out to you.

It is also a time for all of us to reach out to loved ones, close friends, church family and acquaintances to let them know they are not alone. "I am thinking of you".

1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up..."

In love and faith,  
Your Stephen Ministers

## "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? Did you answer with the above statement? Or did you just say that to yourself? What qualifications are necessary to be a Stephen Minister? You need to be a caring person who is willing to learn, grow, serve and have faith in God. You must be able to maintain confidentiality. 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 how to begin and end caring relationships. You learn how to care for people who are grieving, dying, aging, divorcing, feeling isolated, lost a job, angry 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 a care receiver.

Through reading, lectures, sharing questions and answers and skill practices, 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" and God is the "cure-giver". You are not a counselor and 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-judgemental heart, creates a safe and confidential environment, listens with compassion and remains with you as long as needed.

Think about it. Being able to serve 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 P. If you are interested or just curious, please feel free to contact any one of us and we will be happy to share with you what this has meant to us in our faith journey.

# Bible Studies & Small Group Ministries

## NOURISH AT NOON

Join Pastor Jenn at noon on **Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>** for a time of sharing and prayer. Come and nourish at noon through Zoom.

Meeting ID: 842 1052 9685

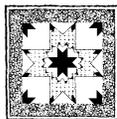
Participant ID: Just press #

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 November 16<sup>th</sup>. Details are forthcoming, so please keep an eye on the weekly email!



## PRAYERS & SQUARES

During this month of Thanksgiving, with praise and gratitude to the many hands who help with the Prayers and Squares ministry we say Thank you! This year as of mid October we have given 12 quilts to those who have been reminded of the tangible love and prayers of the Lynnewood congregation. On average each quilt takes about 30 hours to make, start to finish. Most quilts have about 4-5 people working on different aspects of the quilting process. This process includes cutting the fabric for the chosen pattern, sewing the quilt top, sewing the backing, assembling the 3 layers, placing in the ties, hand sewing the binding and creating and sewing the label. While the congregation has not been able to physically tie the knots during this pandemic, your prayers for the quilt recipients are so meaningful. We pray that the quilts will wrap the recipient in God's love and comfort. In addition to the quilts, volunteers made over 100 face masks for use during this time and for those who might need them once we can gather together again.

Thank you!

If you would like to know more about Prayers and Squares or to become involved, please contact Jane Bishop or Michele O'Hair.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

# Prayers and Service Opportunity

## *In Need of Prayer*

### **Prayers for Our Lynnewood Community**

For Mary and Bill B., who are expecting their first grandchild in late May/ early June!

For Angie and Pearl's special music during last week's service.

From Bob S., who thanks everyone for the cards and condolences after the passing of his sister.

For the Lynnewood Youth who helped renovate their youth room.

For Doug H.'s sister, her two daughters, and their families. They are no longer threatened by the fires, and their homes are safe.

For Bill B.'s brother-in-law, who is having heart surgery.

For Vance N., whose wife passed away four years ago as of last week. Prayers for strength and peace following the anniversary of such a painful time.

For the passing of Danilo R., a friend of David and Digna B. May those who know him find comfort during these times.

For Ken S., who suffered a heart attack.

For Jan M., who had back surgery on Monday.

For Carol R., who is undergoing her second round of chemo.

For Ann E., who is in hospice care.

For Zee B's family after the attack on Zee's granddaughter, and for her other granddaughter who is threatened by the Colorado wildfires.

### **Prayers for Our World and Nation**

For our nation as we prepare for the general election.



We may not be able to pack boxes of food this year with Rise Against Hunger, but we can still do our part to end global food scarcity. Join our virtual 5K November 20-22. Run, walk or ride it from wherever you are!

Get your 5K in any time during the weekend and, optionally, track and share your route with Strava. Stop by Lynnewood at 4444 Black Ave., Pleasanton, on November 20th between 3pm and 5pm or November 21st or 22nd between 12pm and 2pm to grab a water, race snack and some free gear.

Registration is free, but donations are encouraged. If you're not up for running or walking, consider sponsoring a runner/walker. Our goal is to raise \$3500 for RAH. Help us fight global hunger while staying active. Spread the word!

Get more details, register or sponsor a runner/walker at: <https://act.riseagainsthunger.org/event/virtual-5k-lynnewood-umc/e308138>

## Seasoned Citizens

A special “hello” to our Seasoned citizens. On Tuesday, October 20, we had another successful non-lunch Zoom meeting. We were fortunate to have eleven (11) of our members join in.

Our question of the month was, “What is your favorite way to spend the day?” This is certainly different this year due to the limitations because of the pandemic.

We had some very creative ideas. Here are a few: puttering in the yard; reading; being on the water (and we are talking about some serious class ten canoeing). Many have celebrated birthdays practicing our distance and being with family has become even more important.

Jane shared with us quilts she is working on for a newly married family member. She showed them to us and they are beautiful.



Our next Zoom gathering will be Tuesday, November 17, 2020. If you are a “Seasoned Citizen” we hope you will join us. The more the merrier.



# Music Notes



As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, I want to express gratitude for those who have stepped up to participate in the music ministry here at Lynnewood since September. One individual I would like to highlight is Lisa S., who has invested her time and talents in organizing our Lynnewood Virtual Choir. She spent time putting together rehearsal resources, she has directed weekly Zoom rehearsals since the beginning of October, and will edit the composite video for this virtual choir project. I am also grateful for the choir members who are singing in this virtual choir. Be sure to join us in worship on November 15 to hear this special music.

One bright spot during these pandemic times—more workshops and webinars available online, which I would otherwise not have the opportunity to attend. Earlier this month at the virtual Kemp Church Music Symposium, I enjoyed gleaning ideas for creative worship solutions and hearing about best practices from other church musicians around the country. I am currently attending a series of free virtual learning workshops for bell ringers and directors presented by Malmark.

As we move into the season of Advent and Christmas, watch this space for more opportunities to participate in the music ministry of Lynnewood.

Here is a preview of Sunday music to look forward to in November:

Lynnewood Handbell Choir reprise an arrangement of "For All the Saints" on All Saints Sunday

Kathy M. and Tricia W. sing a vocal duet

Lynnewood Virtual Choir sing "Roll Down, Justice!"

Lynnewood Chancel Choir reprise their 2015 performance of John Rutter's "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Vicki D. and Emmie S. sing a vocal duet

Gratefully,

Amelia

Organist/Pianist and Music Coordinator

[music@lynnewood.org](mailto:music@lynnewood.org)

# Lynnewood Outreach

## 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 ANNUAL GIVING TREE IS COMING TO LYNNEWOOD...and virtually, too!!!

While we know things will look different this year, we will once again have the opportunity to bring holiday blessings to approximately 80 children & their families from Marylin Avenue Elementary in Livermore, and from Pleasanton Unified School District. Many of the children will desperately need clothes, sweaters, jackets, etc., though it is also wonderful if they have a toy or two to open on Christmas. As you can imagine, the need this year is especially great!

### 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.

Of course during these unprecedented times, we will need to think "out of the box" as to how we will provide you with an Alternative Giving Catalog and gift cards to send out to those in whose name you have donated. We want to make it easy, contact free and still meaningful. Outreach is working out the details. In the meantime, we wanted you to be aware that some form of the ALTERNATIVE GIVING CATALOG will be available at the beginning of December.

Stay tuned for further information in your weekly email as we get closer to the holiday season.

### SPECIAL OFFERING - UMC STUDENT DAY NOVEMBER 1, 2020

Lynnewood's special offering on Sunday, November 1 is designated for Student Day. As followers of Christ, we want to serve people in other places who are suffering and offer spiritual words of hope and life.

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 on Student Day, you are supporting these students as they prepare for a life that unites faith with knowledge.

Consider the following story about Ricky: the son of two addicted parents, Ricky Blue had grown up without much hope for a future. But when Ricky's church family—Louisiana's Luling UMC—raised \$4000 for Ricky to begin college, hope was born. Then the Gift of Hope Scholarship, made possible only by your generous giving to United Methodist Student Day, allowed Ricky to continue. Today Ricky is a certified candidate for ministry in the Illinois-Great Rivers Annual Conference.

What no one person can do, we're doing together. We invite you to support Student Day on Sunday, November 1st by mailing your check to the church office. Please be sure to indicate Student Day on the memo line. Thank you!

### THE IMPORTANCE OF EGG CARTONS

The Tri Valley Haven Food Pantry is very thankful for the many empty egg cartons that are delivered weekly to their food pantry. They must repackage the eggs they receive from the grocery stores in smaller quantities for their clients. In addition to egg cartons, 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, [lvnpelt3513@att.net](mailto:lvnpelt3513@att.net), 510-376-0483.

# 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 the church office. Contact the 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.)

## Wildfires...A Sad Reality

*Is this the new normal? A seemingly endless wildfire season. We hope not.*

Two days after finishing our wildfire recovery work near Santa Cruz, the Early Response Team of the California Nevada Conference redeployed to Oroville in Butte County. The so called North Complex Fire consumed 320,000 acres and destroyed 1500 homes. Tragically 15 people died.

This is our second United Methodist response to Butte County fires. We served during the devastating Camp Fire in 2018 that destroyed the Town of Paradise and other nearby communities. And now this fire in the Lake Oroville area.

We setup operations in the Local Assistance Center. Over two weeks, we assisted 360 households. We offered hygiene kits and grocery gift cards. We gave away protective clothing and tools to search the ashes of homes. We offered cleaning supplies to the lucky ones that had a smoky/sooty home.

The impacted communities, like Berry Creek and Feather Falls, are relatively low-income areas. Many people had no home insurance, or even insurance for their possessions, if renting. Starting over will be a burden beyond imagination. The Red Cross offered temporary hotel accommodations. Other groups and FEMA provide nominal financial assistance. But this short-term aid runs out quickly. Then what?

The stories are heartbreaking. We helped sift ashes for one lady, Lori. Her husband had died seven years ago. She had survived breast cancer. Now she loses her home that she had just moved into a few months ago, after four years of construction. One deaf lady, who lives by herself, had neighbors come get her as the fire approached. She had not heard the warnings.

Clyde was alerted by his dog jumping on to his bed in the middle of the night. He made it out, but his friend up the road did not. Two married firefighters lost their home while on duty at another fire. One man was now living in his car. Other victims were now "fire nomads" in RV's they drove out. Many people lost their beloved pets. And there was the mother whose daughter had lost her home in the Camp Fire and now her son loses his home in this fire.

We will likely be back in coming years with United Methodist sponsored rebuilding teams. In the meantime, we prepare to deploy to the next fire.

Pray for these traumatized victims. They will need great courage and perseverance to carry on. Pray for the many first responders who save lives. And pray for the volunteers like us. We try our best to provide relief but are helpless to make it all better.



# Children and Youth News

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

## Gratitude

Gratitude isn't easy to come by these days. If you're like me, you find yourself seeing all of the glaring flaws of the present moment. I'm guessing our younger neighbors are picking up on this. While I always want to be authentic with children and teens, I also don't want them to look back on this time and think about how miserable all of the adults were.

Here's what I'm trying to do, both personally and with Lynnewood family ministries - deepen my sense of gratitude. I don't mean trying to muster up a meager list of things I kind of like right now. I mean seeing the world as the gift that it is, even in hard times. Diana Butler Bass, in her book *Grateful*, says it better than I can: "The universe is a gift. Life is a gift. Air, light, water and soil are gifts. Friendship, love, sex and family are gifts. We live on a gifted planet. Everything we need is here, with us. We freely respond to these gifts by choosing a life of mutual care."

I have no idea what November will bring, but I know that we, in our families and communities, can still sink deeper into the truth that we're miraculously situated in an incredible universe, even if it gets messy sometimes.

With deep gratitude,

Sam

### Carry-Out Kid's Church

Each month, families can get a "to go" box for their kids. Boxes are based on a theme (Equality in October), and will include a story, craft, activities and more. Request a box by emailing Sam at [sam@lynnewood.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

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.

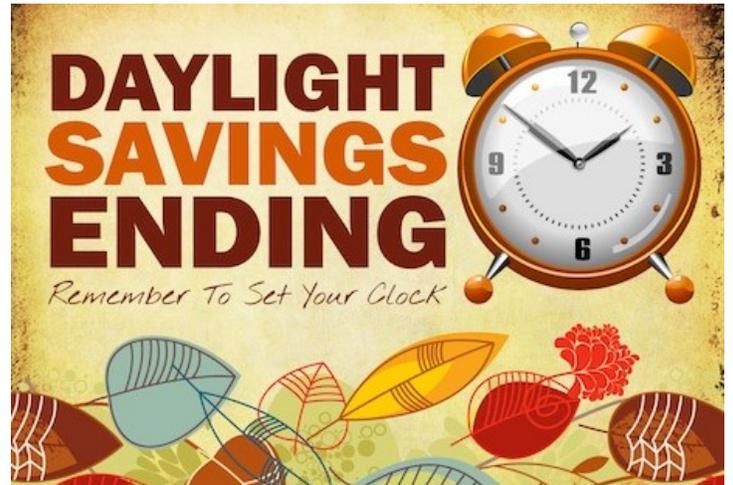
# Finance and Reopening Updates

## Reopening News!

Thank you to all who have participated in our survey regarding Lynnewood's re-opening to in-person worship services. You have given us a very good picture as to where we are as a church. It seems that about one third of the households are in favor of returning soon, and the other two thirds are either not sure or have chosen to be a bit more cautious. These are individual choices and we want to make sure we support all. Lynnewood will be continuing our on-line services, which have proven to be a successful answer to our needs during this time of uncertainty. The re-opening committee is following the numbers in Pleasanton and Alameda to guide us in determining risk levels, and how to reduce that risk for our gatherings. As soon as we complete our review, we will share the results plus a plan to gradually re-open. We hope that all take this season of Thanksgiving as a time to remember that God is always with us, wherever we are.

**Daylight Savings Time Ends  
on Sunday at 2:00 A.M.!**

**REMEMBER TO "FALL BACK"!**



SEPTEMBER FINANCE UPDATE									
		Amount	% difference from budget						
Operating Budget									
Donations (Year To Date)		\$307,296	-16.1%						
Expenses (Year To date)		\$458,937	-17.7%						

Donations do not include rent income from Quarry Lane.

We collected \$2,990 for Fire Relief.

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!