

THE LYNNWOOD LINES

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR LYNNWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

I want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who attended a Cottage Meeting over the last 2 months and to our Lay Leader, Mary Ellen, for her work in organizing them. In total, we held 8 meetings with about 100 members of the congregation. It was a wonderful time for fellowship that allowed us to get acquainted and to share hopes and dreams for Lynnewood's ministry. Of course, it was not the casual in-home gatherings that we might have hoped for, but it was still a delight to begin meeting you.

When asked to share the strengths that you appreciate the most about Lynnewood, "the people" was by far the most important thing to you. Lynnewood is a community that loves one another and values celebrating life and sharing hard times together. You also frequently lifted up your love for our outreach to the community, our music ministry, the diversity and size of our congregation, our progressive and inclusive theology, and Stephen Ministry. I would also add that your commitment to God and each other is a huge asset. This is a community of faith with strong, committed leaders and that is a strength worth celebrating!

Your hopes and dreams extend those values in a multitude of ways. Many of you said that you wanted to see us grow, particularly by reaching out to younger families with children and youth. You also hoped for strengthening our spiritual formation opportunities with more Bible study, short-term educational series, and hopeful messages. Many of you spoke about the negative impact of the pandemic and our cultural divisions. You longed for Lynnewood to be a healing presence and a thought leader, guiding our community beyond this difficult time. Some suggested hosting speakers, webinars, and talks that identified us as a thought leader in our community. And many suggested the need for healing services to help us and the town of Pleasanton grieve and move forward with hope.

I am deeply encouraged and inspired by our conversations. I envision a Lynnewood church that is multicultural and growing; one that highlights the diversity of our thought, spiritual gifts, and service. I want our commitment to the unconditional, inclusive love of Christ to be known throughout Pleasanton, as we share God's love beyond our walls. I hope we will increase the impact of our service and outreach by inviting our town to participate in service along with us. And, I want to see us reach new families with an informal, contemporary worship service, small groups, and service projects that "fit" the many demands of working families. This year, our Vision Team will be working with our Circuit churches and a leadership coach to develop new ideas for growth and to reintroduce our faith community to Pleasanton in bold ways. Please pray that God's wisdom and courageous spirit will be with us in that endeavor. We look forward to sharing our ministry plans with you soon!

Although we are still "apart," the Spirit of Christ's love is alive and well at Lynnewood, binding us together and leading us onward. I look forward to the next steps in God's adventure with 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.

Prayers and Stephen Ministry

In Need of Prayer

Lynnewood Family:

- For Eban's brother, who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- For Corinne and David, who ask for safe travel conditions.
- For Bob's sister, whose health is failing.
- For Amelia's sister, who was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer in July.
- For Raelene's cousin, Brian, whose family was exposed to and caught COVID-19 from an outdoor church service in Pennsylvania.

Prayers for our World:

- Prayers for those affected by the many fires, particularly those affected by the Glass Fire in Napa and Sonoma Counties.
- Prayers for those seeking justice against racial inequality.
- Prayers for our nation as we prepare for the upcoming General Election.
- Prayers for students going back to college in person. May they stay safe and adapt to the continued changes to their learning environments.

Prayer Ministry:

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

If you or a friend would like to meet with a Stephen Minister, call the church office at (925) 886-0221.



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 the church office to 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

Bible Study and Small Group Ministries

NOURISH AT NOON

Join Pastor Jenn at noon on **Monday, October 5th** 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 October 19th. Details are forthcoming, so please keep an eye on the weekly email!



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, Corinne, Cynthia, Mary, Linda W., Dorothy, and a couple of mystery sewers who gave their time and talents to reach our goal!

Blessings,

Jane and Michele, Co-Leaders, Prayers & Squares

UNLEARNING RACISM

Racism is front and center in the US right now, and many of us feel the call to respond. Opposing racism means we need to understand how deep and complex its roots are. Join us as we begin together to identify and unlearn the racism that exists in our country, communities and ourselves.

Starting Sunday, October 4 at 2pm, Lynnewood will host a 4 week anti-racism class and dialogue. Unlearning Racism will help us understand and counter racism. Sessions will be from 2-3pm via Zoom each Sunday in October, and will cover:

10/4 - Session 1: Understanding Race

10/11 - Session 2: Unpacking Bias and Privilege

10/18 - Session 3: Unearthing Systematic Racism

10/25 - Session 4: Undoing Racism through Action

Unlearning Racism is recommended for ages 15+. Lynnewood parents will receive anti-racist resources for kids throughout October.

More info, including a Zoom meeting link, will be sent out after registration. Registration is required through the link below:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/unlearning-racism-a-four-week-workshop-tickets-121412392735?fbclid=IwAR3CPB7K7TzoQ3FCwo28Dxi7_IBQRy5Cqi2uQ3xNKmtN7dM1RxiQKb6Q150

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Join Raeanne 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 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 Yvonne G.

Seasoned Citizens

Hello Seasoned Citizens:

Unfortunately we were not able to meet in September. We are trying via Zoom to make me the host instead of Pastor Jenn. There will be times when Pastor Jenn will not be able to join us. I'm sure this will be worked out before our October Zoom meeting.

It is clear that we miss our time together and to help us through this shelter-in-place time we will continue to Zoom.

Our next non-lunch Zoom gathering will be Tuesday, October 20, 2020. Each month our plan is to meet on the third Tuesday of every month.

If you have a suggestion for a question to start the conversation, please email me. Any idea is welcome.

Future meetings will be scheduled for the third Tuesday:

November 17, 2020

December 15, 2020

See you on Zoom!

Carol

Music Notes



As our Director of Music, Donna, retired at the end of August, I was asked to take over some of her responsibilities, such as scheduling of song leaders and special music. I want to say a BIG thank you to the individuals who have stepped into the role of leading our congregation in song during our worship services over the past month. So far, we have had Jack and Mary R., Emmie S., Vicki D., and Pearl F. leading in September. Lisa S., Kathy M., Tricia W., Steve K., and possibly Donna, too, will be on the schedule in the coming months.

A few of our members have also shared their talents and contributed special music to bless us. Sharolyn B. and Ann M. played piano and violin solos respectively in September. Coming up in October we'll hear Debbie R. on harp, Emmie S. sharing a solo from Handel's Messiah, Matthew S. on clarinet, and Austin N., who is at college in Colorado. Austin has been playing the piano at his current church in Colorado and played a piano/organ duet with the organist there. We will get to enjoy that recording for special music in October. If you are interested in presenting special music, please email me or the church office.

Due to our Shelter in Place order, none of our choirs and ensembles have been holding weekly rehearsals since the middle of March. Our Chancel Choir members, however, have been interacting weekly with each other on our Wednesday night Zoom hangouts. Currently, Vicky D. and I are taking turns to host our weekly meetings. It has been a blessing to be able to still meet up on a regular basis, share our joys and concerns, and pray over them. We will also be working on a virtual choir number that we hope to share with you soon.

Until we meet again in person, let us continue to gather online and keep in touch with our Lynnewood church family, and keep a song in our hearts!

May God's peace be with you and His grace keep you safe.

In Christ's love,

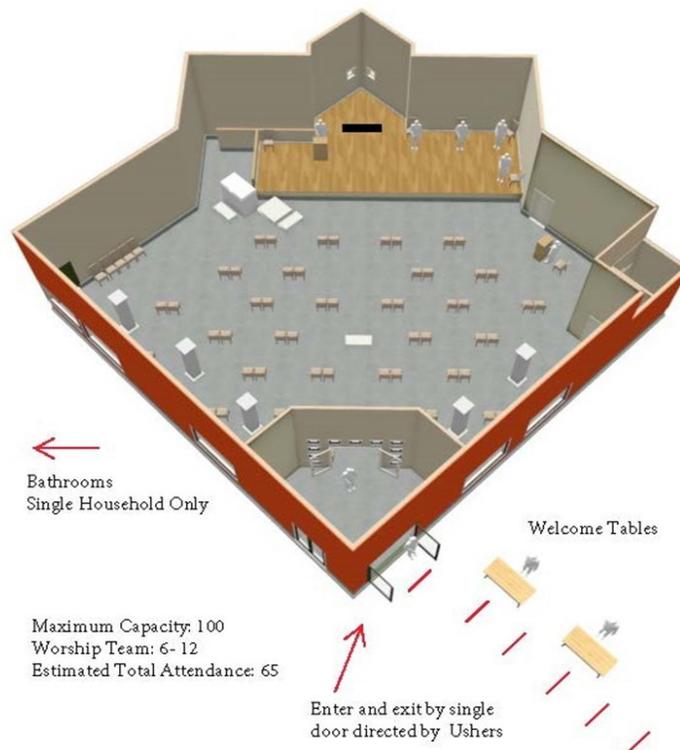
Amelia

Organist / Pianist

Lynnewood's Reopening Strategy Update

In last month's edition of the newsletter, we outlined the Reopening Committee's plans for safely reopening Lynnewood for in-person worship. The committee has continued to meet, and the plan continues to shift. It is unclear at the present moment how many people would be allowed in the sanctuary due to differences in guidelines from the El Camino Real District of the United Methodist Church, Alameda County, and the state of California. An image of the original plan for number of congregants is included below, but this may be altered due to shifting guidelines. At the present moment, the only thing that is certain is our plan for the earliest we could possibly reopen. According to the California Guidelines for safe reopening, "every county in California is assigned to a tier based on its test positivity and adjusted case rate. At a minimum, counties must remain in a tier for at least 3 weeks before moving forward. Data is reviewed weekly and tiers are updated on Tuesdays. To move forward, a county must meet the next tier's criteria for two consecutive weeks. If a county's metrics worsen for two consecutive weeks, it will be assigned a more restrictive tier. Public health officials are constantly monitoring data and can step in if necessary." For more information about safe reopening guidelines, visit <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/#reopening-data>. Our Reopening Committee has decided that we should wait two weeks **after** being moved to a tier that allows in-person worship to ensure the safest possible environment for everyone meeting. We will also continue streaming worship online permanently, though the current format may change once it is safe to reopen in person.

Once Alameda opens Places of Worship to indoor services and COVID-19 cases have decreased, we will be sending out a survey to determine how many of our attendees will actually be attending the in-person services. To make sure we honor the wishes of as many of you here at Lynnewood as possible, please keep your eye on your email inbox and complete the survey.



Above: Original concept of how many people would be allowed in the sanctuary for worship in person. This will likely change due to differing guidelines from Alameda County, the state of California, and the El Camino Real District of the United Methodist Church.

Lynnewood Outreach

WILDFIRES -- THE CAL-NEVADA CONFERENCE RESPONDS

Among the major fires of this unprecedented wildfire season, the CZU Lightning Fire in San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties burned over 86,000 acres and destroyed or damaged over 1,000 homes. The Early Response Team (ERT) of the California-Nevada Conference deployed to this wildfire in early September. Our team was composed of trained church members in the Bay area. Initially, we staffed a table at the Response Recovery Center (RRC) in Santa Cruz comprised of state and county agencies, plus selected non-profits assemble to help fire victims. Our ERT was one of only two non-profits present.

Throughout our time there, we handed out hygiene kits, some gift cards, and Personal Protective Equipment to help with immediate needs. The team's main focus was to offer "fire buckets," cleaning supplies, and tools to residents who lost their home or needed to cleanup smoke damage. Lynnewood donated 25 fire buckets (around \$120 each) which include protective clothing, masks, gloves, goggles, rakes, shovels, and other supplies for going through the ashes of a destroyed home. Additional buckets, supplies, and sifters were provided by the congregations of Asbury, Los Altos, Lynnewood, San Ramon Valley and Santa Cruz, the Conference Disaster Ministry, and grants from UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).

Beyond assisting several hundred victims at the RRC, our ERT personnel helped with "sifting ashes." We looked for valuables or keepsakes that might have survived. It is a sad and depressing process, emotionally challenging for the victims as well as for us! Tears flowed, stories were shared, and sincere appreciation throughout the sifting and RRC work affirmed our call to mission.

Clearly, the process of grief is observed in the lives of those impacted, and only the beginning of the long road to recovery for them and the communities as a whole. The shock is overwhelming, and we all are mindful that our primary role is offering a caring Christian presence through listening across all tasks at the RRC, the dirty work of shifting ashes, and within our team.

With so many fires across our conference, the ERT teams are committed to assisting again in the near future. When we deploy if you have an interest in this mission, please let us know! Kudos to our wonderful and generous Lynnewood family who continue to be a significant part of outreach; it takes a village!

Blessings,

Mary Ellen and Doug

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR OCTOBER 2020 - WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

The first Sunday in October is World Communion Sunday. United Methodist congregations join many Christian churches across the globe for this celebration of unity among churches across denominations.

World Communion Sunday began at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1933. The Rev. Hugh Thompson Kerr and his congregation sought to demonstrate the interconnectedness of Christian churches, regardless of denomination. Rev. Kerr appropriately chose the sacrament of Holy Communion to symbolize this unity.

In 1940, the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, which included all of the predecessor denominations of The United Methodist Church, adopted World-Wide Communion Sunday.

United Methodists believe in an open table, anyone may receive communion. In United Methodist Churches around the world, a special offering is collected on World Communion Sunday to fund scholarships for seminarians. One half of the proceeds is for World Communion Sunday Scholars administered by the General Board of Global Ministries. The remaining one half is for the Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program, which are administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Your gifts are welcomed for World Communion Sunday on October 4, 2020 and throughout the month of October. Please be sure to note 'World Communion Sunday' on the memo line of your check. Thank you.

Lynnewood Outreach

Tri Valley Haven School Supply Drive

Thank you, Lynnewood congregation, for your generous donations to the school supply drive for Tri Valley Haven (TVH) clients. A total of \$1,705 was donated by you! At the request of TVH, the Outreach Committee used your donations to purchase \$20 Target gift cards. The gift cards were given to each child picking up a backpack so that they may purchase additional school supplies. TVH is so grateful for Lynnewood's continued love and generosity. Thank you all!

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. Please 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.)

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 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

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

Equality.

You might feel a little whiplash initially as we move from thinking about beauty in September, to equality in October. One wakes us up to the magic of the universe around us. The other can make us see how broken our world is.

But, when we look a little closer, the connections between beauty and equality are stronger than they first appear. Once beauty opens our eyes to see that, in a quite real sense, everything around us is a miracle (seriously, the odds of this much evolved life existing on earth are beyond slim), then we should ask, "So what?"

So, we act like it! We treat each person and place like the miracle that they are. We do it in our individual lives, and we work to see it happen in our collective lives as well.

While we may look at some hard things (in a kid friendly way) in October, keep thinking about beauty, too. It'll keep us going as we work for a more equal world.

Glad to be working with each of you for a more beautiful and equal world!

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.

Kid's Corner

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

No Room? Let's ZOOM!

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

LWood College Crew

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 Update

AUGUST FINANCE UPDATE								
Operating Budget	Amount	% difference from budget						
Donations (Year To Date)	\$274,737	-16.3%						
Expenses (Year To date)	\$423,253	-15.4%						

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!