

MESSENGER

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Kids Hope USA is a national, non-profit organization that was founded in

1995 for the purpose of addressing the needs of elementary age children who could benefit from a one-on-one mentoring relationship with a caring and consistent adult. Today, Kids Hope USA supports almost 1,000 church-school partnerships across 34 states. One local church partners with one local elementary school and recruits volunteer mentors and prayer partners through an appointed director. Each mentor is paired with a prayer partner who covers the



student, mentor, and whole program in prayer.

When KH Director Mary Wilson asked me (Arminch Manookian) to become a mentor to a first grade student 10 years ago, little did I know the path God had planned for us. Though the road was often bumpy, it always allowed me to meet Him in new ways. While I was focused on “guiding” and “helping,” God was teaching me to abide with my student—to be with her and love her at that very moment, no matter what the moment looked

As a teacher (a.k.a. Mrs. Roach), my favorite moments were working in small groups or having one on one conversations with students. It was an opportunity to “listen” and “learn” together. Kids Hope had been flourishing under Mary Wilson’s guidance for five years when I retired. I could not wait to give mentoring a try. Now eight years later, I don’t regret a single moment. Being a part of Kids Hope, as a mentor or prayer partner, brings joy, fear, laughter, tears, energy, and exhaustion...isn’t that what life is all about?

We all know, “Children are a gift from the Lord. They are a reward from Him.” (Psalm 127:3) Whether it be our own child, grandchild, niece, nephew, neighbor, or a child walking down the street...each is a gift! Jump in, give it a try, get to know one of God’s gifts! You won’t regret it. You will receive much more than you give.

Please pray:

- for new mentors, especially male mentors
- that we will be able to reach each child’s needs
- that the love of Christ will show through us
- that despite the challenges, we will always carry hope in our hearts for our KH kids

In Christ,
Janie and Arminch



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like. I felt, in essence, Jesus was showing me how He loves us. Abiding with someone requires humility, patience, kindness—all the fruits of the Spirit. It’s a messy process of one step forward and ten steps back, but it’s a powerful way to serve our Lord. At La Crescanta Elementary, He is using our mentoring relationships for our spiritual transformation and for His Glory.



P A S T O R ' S L E T T E R

Greetings La Crescenta Presbyterian Church Family & Friends –

I hope and pray you are having a wonderful summer! Mine has been a busy one yet a very fruitful summer as well. One of many tensions in the Christian life has to do with the concept of time. On the one hand, we are required to exhibit urgency. “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil,” says the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 5:16. James portrays life as a vapor, which appears and suddenly vanishes away. In Psalm 39:5, the Psalmist says our lives are a “mere breath.” We must always keep in mind that our time is short. British missionary Charles T. Studd (1860-1931 AD) penned a short poem with this constant refrain: *Only one life, 'twill soon be past ... Only what's done for Christ will last.*

On the other hand, we are responsible to plan for the future, consider the big picture, and do our best to set up the coming generations for spiritual success. We cannot be so absorbed with present issues that we ignore prudent long-term preparation. Yes, Jesus could return today, but He also might tarry another hundred years. We earnestly anticipate the former, and intentionally plan for the latter. As your Senior Pastor & Head of Staff, and having spent a full year serving LCPC, I just started drafting my vision for the next phase of LCPC's ministry and mission. You will hear more about this vision

in the next 4-6 months as it's being finalized. It's on my heart to make sure that LCPC not only survives but thrives; not only go deep but also go wide.

As I start my second year serving LCPC, I'm reminded of this tension in our life as a church. We desperately want to make an impact. We're praying for immediate needs, especially for souls that are dying without Christ, a community that is hurting, and a country that has rejected God's Word. We want to see the Lord exalted here and now! We also plod on, one shoe in front of the other, committed to building on the one and only foundation, Jesus Christ. In truth, it requires effort and deliberation to remain faithful to that foundation, day by day, year by year, decade by decade. We set a biblical mason's line for our children and our grandchildren, doing everything we can do to pave the way forward.

So, we embark on a New Church Year this September with both urgent mission and unhurried resolve. While we look for new opportunities to connect with our ever-changing culture and share the gospel, we plumb the same wells the Church has always drawn from – personal Bible study, individual and corporate prayer, expository preaching, one-another love and care, and intentional discipleship.

This being said, let's make sure we've added a few more bricks to the sure foundation we've

inherited. Here are a couple learning opportunities coming your way this Fall.

(1) PEAK Fall Class: Our PEAK curriculum this Fall, starting on Wednesday, September 11, will be a wonderful book titled *Intercultural Church*, written by a scholar and a friend of mine, Rev. Dr. Safwat Marzouk. The curriculum captures the heart of our congregation's vision to this community. I hope you will be able to join the class and be a part of the growing Kingdom of Christ. More information will be coming your way soon from the Adult Discipleship Team.

(2) Tuesday Bible Study: Another learning opportunity is Tuesday morning Bible Study Class. This is a Bible Study Class that I will be leading at 11:00 AM every Tuesday, starting on Tuesday, September 10, Lord willing. We will be reflecting on the Songs of Ascent (Psalms 120-134). There is so much we can learn today from these pilgrims' songs as we continue our spiritual journey. A sign-up sheet will be available soon. I am excited for the many opportunities the Lord offers us here at LCPC to be blessed and become a blessing to this community.

Yours in Christ's Service,
Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef
Senior Pastor & Head of Staff



As we find ourselves in the tail end of summer, I hope this letter finds you well and refreshed. I am excited to share that we are wrapping up our summer activities with our final event—the highly anticipated beach trip on the 17th. This event has been a wonderful opportunity for our youth to bond, have fun, and experience the beauty of God's creation together.

As we look ahead to the upcoming school year, we do so with fresh vision and renewed energy. Our students will soon be returning to their classrooms, ready to take on new challenges and opportunities. In this time of transition, I kindly ask for your prayers for our students and

their families.

Please pray that our students will be a shining light in their classes, reflecting the love and grace of Jesus in all they do. May their actions and words be a testament to their faith, and may they

inspire those around them to seek a relationship with Christ.

Additionally, let us pray that our students grow deeper in their faith, strengthening their personal relationship with God. We also pray for the formation of meaningful and lasting relationships among our youth, relationships that will support and encourage them in their spiritual journey.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for our youth ministry. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of our students and their peers.

Blessings, Izzy

M E S S E N G E R

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**MESSENGER DEADLINE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 18
9:00 AM SHARP**

Messenger articles and corrections should be emailed to shawndraws@gmail.com. Please put the word "Messenger" in the subject line. Materials submitted after the deadline may be omitted at the discretion of the editor.

VBS 2024!





children's Ministries

BY JESIAH BOZICH

Hi all!
Happy August!!
I'm so happy to give you all a very positive update from Vacation Bible School 2024!

We had an absolute blast on this deep dive into God's love. We laughed, sang, explored, and more as we learned about the kind of friend our God is! Over the course of the five days, children heard stories and experienced object lessons that helped them see that God is a friend who is real, who loves, who we can trust, who is forever, and who is for everyone. A big hearty THANKS to all who participated in Vacation Bible School this year. Whether it was in set up, tear down, or volunteering during the week and at our SCUBA dinner, please know that we couldn't have done it without your help! VBS is a big project, and we are so very thankful for all who helped put it on! I have heard a few stories of some really sweet moments between children and volunteers, especially as children asked about the Gospel, so I am confident that this VBS has made an impact in these kids' lives!

Another thank you to all of you who donated to our Helpful Kelp! Your contributions went a long way to help the kids from VBS be immersed in fun "under the sea" decora-



tions as well as provided children with some important learning materials for the Imagination Station and Sticky Scripture rotations! Last, but not least, I want to thank those who joined us in prayer for the week of Vacation Bible School. More than anything, our goal for Vacation Bible School is to spread the amazing message of Jesus' rescuing love with the children who join us. I believe that, by the Lord's empowering, we were able to plant those seeds of faith in these children. Thanks be to God!

We also raised almost \$900 in support of providing clean drinking water to communities in Honduras! As a reward for their efforts, the kids witnessed the "SCUBA Scum Dunk!" (pictured here) where I had a mixture of mayonnaise, eggs, flour, and lots of green food



dye dumped all over my head. What a fun way to close a fun week!

The summer fun isn't over yet!! Join us for some fun in the sun on Saturday, August 24th at Waterpalooza 2024! Enjoy frozen treats, water games, and a big inflatable water slide at this annual event to kick off the school year. Waterpalooza starts at 1:00 p.m. at the LCPC campus and will end around 3:00 p.m. Bring a friend!

As always, I thank God for what He has done and eagerly await what He will do next!
Grace and Peace,
Jesiah



August always seems so quiet around here after all the fun, noise and excitement of July's **VBS week!** We had an awesome week of SCUBA songs, bible stories, activities, experiments, snacks, and happy energetic children! The kids loved watching **Jesiah** and **Adam Hill** (aka Sidney) in the daily skit and **Jesiah** get drenched in a concoction of eggs, flour, mayonnaise and green food coloring on the last day, as a reward for raising close to \$900 for **World Vision's Clean Water Project** in Honduras! **Jim Christie**, one of our VBS youth helpers, got the honor of pouring it on **Jesiah's** head!



Thank you to **Jesiah, Jen Ning, the Children's Ministries Team**, and all the **volunteers** who worked throughout the week to make this a fun and special event for our CFC, LCPC and community kids! We also had a fantastic turnout for the **VBS Family Dinner**, and met lots of new families! Thank you to **Dennis Fernandez, Scott and Leslie Carpenter**, and their big team of helpers who grilled burgers and hot dogs, fed the flock, mingled with the guests and cleaned up.

We're also grateful to the many donors who raised money through the **Helpful Kelp Tree**, for supplies needed for the week. Because of your generosity, we raised more than \$1000 which went towards decorations, teaching materials, and copies of the Gospel of John to give to our incoming elementary schoolers!

Hey Bible Readers, if you've been participating in the **Bible Recap Challenge**, you are



now 2/3 of the way through the New Testament and have finished reading eight whole books of the Bible! Great Job! We hope you've continued to learn new things about Jesus and the early church and have truly discovered He's where the joy is! You might even consider starting the Old Testament Bible Recap next.

Our **Youth Sunday Service** is coming up August 4 in the Sanctuary, at our monthly combined service. The youth will lead worship alongside our Praise Band and share video presentations and information about the **Abide Youth Group**. Summer Intern **Andre Garabedian** will be giving the message, followed by communion led by **Pastor Mouris**. We hope you can join us for this special service!

The **Global Leadership Summit** is just a few days away, August 8-9, but you can still sign up! You may not think you're a leader, but the inspiring speakers are sure to share insights and teachings that will help you in many areas of your life. La Canada Presbyterian Church is a host site and you can register at globalleadership.org/summit. Find the LCPC West group attending and join them for lunch!

The **Cruisers** will be taking a break in August so there won't be a **Bistro 50+ Luncheon** or Cruisers meeting this month. They'll be back in action the 2nd Tuesday in September. And **PEAK** will be starting back up Wednesday September 11, so mark your calendars!

On Saturday, August 17, the youth

will be enjoying their last event of the summer before school starts back up – a **trip to the beach!** Contact Izzy@lcpc.net for all the details.

We will have our monthly **After Church Potluck** on Sunday August 18 right after service around 11:30 AM in Koopmans. People have been enjoying this time of fellowship and delicious food, so if you haven't attended one yet, stop by this month! And don't forget to take your bowls and lids home with you.

Children's Ministries is hosting **Water-palooza** Saturday August 24 from 1:00-3:00 PM in the LCPC courtyard. There will be frozen treats, water games, an inflatable water slide and tons of fun in the sun! All children ages 6th grade and under are invited to join for a wet and wild (and free) afternoon. This is a perfect event to invite a friend to!

Thank you to **Noel Collins** and the **The Foothill Brass Septet** for the spectacular Americana 2024 July 4th concert! There was a great turn out of friends enjoying the patriotic music and CV Fireworks show. We appreciate you sharing your wonderful musical talent!

The **Men of LCPC** are invited to the **M24 Campout**, September 7-8 on a ranch in the mountains of Tehachapi, CA. This 24-hour getaway is "Just Guys, Just God" with about 1,500 men attending. There will be several different men's groups, including fathers and sons and activities such as fishing, paintball, and more. Register at InfluencersBakersfield.Org. Contact **Phil Van Horn** at Ballphild@gmail.com for more information.

Stay cool, stay hydrated and enjoy these Dog Days of Summer (or Cat Days for you Cat People) Talk to you next month!





Director's Corner

Play is so important here at CFC. We know kids are learning all the time when they are playing. Here is an article that talks about that.

Just as children need to eat more than one type of vegetables to be healthy, they need many types of play as well. Different vegetables offer different nutritional profiles that contribute to good health, and different types of play make unique contributions to healthy development. Sometimes play is loud and big -- chasing, giggling, cries of delight. Play can also be quiet and still -- whispers, snuggling into pillows, and looking at pictures in a book. Sometimes play is child-led. Children show autonomy, decision-making, and inventiveness. Play can also be guided by others -- responsive, scaffolded, and supported to help them practice new skills in a playful way. Sometimes play is creative -- building block structures, painting masterpieces, sculpting playdough. Play

can also be appropriately destructive -- toppling towers, tearing paper, smashing dough. Sometimes play means engaging with lots of other children -- games of tag, playing house, building forts. Play can also be solitary -- carefully examining a new discovery, moving tiny pieces, constructing an imaginary world for one. You'll see play in many different areas and in many different forms in our classroom. They look and sound different, but they are all valuable. We believe in providing your child with a balanced play diet and offering all the benefits that offers. It's why we play. (Amanda Morgan, MS, Not Just Cute, www.notjustcute.com, Copyright 2019-2020)

Have fun playing with your kids this month,

Pat Chambers
Director

Summer Day Camp

What a wonderful summer we have been having. These last few weeks will continue to give your child amazing experiences and memories. Our day camp is officially full for the rest of the summer. Some days have waitlists for people, so please let us know if you are not going to use a day. Our last day of summer day camp is August 16. Only children continuing in the fall may attend after August 16.

Then on August 19 our school year begins. On Monday, August 19 we will be conducting practice van runs starting at 10:00 AM, beginning with the kindergarten class. We will drive the children to the schools and show them where they need to go and where to wait after school. GUSD begins on Aug 21.

(Below, the day camp bunch at Griffith Park.)



End of Summer

If you are leaving us at the end of summer, we want you to know that we have enjoyed having your kid(s) with us. We hope they have had a lot of fun and made new friends. Please keep us in mind for any future child care needs. Come on back next summer for more fun.



After School Care

If you have a child coming to CFC for wrap around care, either before or after school or both, you need to know that we do not take children to school on the first day. We will pick up on that first day, but as a parent you need to take your child to school that day. If you are planning on using the before school care, including van rides to school, you need to remember that children must be able to get themselves from the van drop off to their

waiting area. Van drivers cannot wait with children as they have other schools they need to go to. We will be sending you an email with other details about the school year. Even if you have been here for a long time, please read that email to remind yourself of our policies and procedures. There might just be new information!! School starts August 21. Be sure we have your child's school and schedule correct.

CHURCH STAFF

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

CLASSIC WORSHIP IN THE CHAPEL
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY
BOTH SERVICES AT 10:00 AM

A BIG GOSPEL IN SMALL PLACES

AUGUST 4

YOUTH & COMMUNION SUNDAY COMBINED SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

"When Jesus Passed through Jericho!"

Isaiah 45:22-25; Luke 18:35-43

Preacher: Andre Garabedian

AUGUST 11

"The Temple: A House of Prayers for All Nations!"

Isaiah 66:1-2; Mark 11:15-18

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

AUGUST 18

"A Place Called Gethsemane!"

Psalms 66:8-12; Mark 14:32-42

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

AUGUST 25

"A Place Called Golgotha!"

Psalms 70:1-5; Mark 15:21-26

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef



VBS 2024