

MESSENGER

VOLUME 73, NUMBER 4

APRIL 2024

Dear LCPC Family,
I hope this message finds you well and filled with joy. I'm thrilled to bring you the latest updates from Casa de Los Angeles, our shared beacon of hope in Baja, Mexico. Your unwavering support and heartfelt prayers have propelled us forward in ways that leave me in awe, and I'm deeply grateful for the role our LCPC family has played in this journey.

Reflecting on the past year, December 2023 stands out as a testament to the power of generosity and faith. The families of LCPC came together in an incredible show of support. Each contribution during our year-end fundraising campaign was matched by a generous benefactor; combined, we raised a total of \$60,000, far surpassing our original goal. This overwhelming success is a vivid reminder of



what we can achieve when we unite under a shared vision of love and service.

Remember the dream we harbored for that donated piece of land? We've transformed that vision into tangible progress:

- **First Floor Ceiling:** Our efforts culminated in the successful pouring of the first-floor ceiling—a monumental day marked by laughter, teamwork, and a shared commitment to our cause.
- **A Mission Trip to Remember:** Following the ceiling pour, we embarked on a

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La
Crescenta
Presbyterian
Church
Deacons
Present

Featuring
a Ten-Piece
Professional
Band &
Singers
Performing
Pop, Rock,
Swing, Jazz,
Gospel, TV &
Movie Themes

Our 3rd
Annual
Fundraising
Musical
Variety
Show
Benefiting
The LCPC
Higher
Education
Scholarship
Fund

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2:00 MATINEE

SUGGESTED DONATION: ADULTS \$15, TEENS \$10, PRETEENS \$5

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR
OR FOR ADVANCE TICKETS CALL 818-249-6137**

**SPONSORSHIPS ALSO AVAILABLE:
Patron \$100 Benefactor \$200 Angel \$500 Archangel \$1,000+**

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear La Crescenta Presbyterian Church Family & Friends,

On the last day of March, we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ – the wonderful and world-altering event that matters as much today as it did 2,000 years ago. The resurrection of Christ is a central doctrine of Christianity. The accounts of the resurrection of Jesus are found in the four gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – and various theological expressions of the early church’s universal conviction and consensus that Christ rose from the dead are found throughout the rest of the New Testament.

The apostle Paul, for example, considered the resurrection to be the cornerstone of the Christian faith, if Jesus did not rise from the dead, the whole structure, Christianity, collapses, Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:14-17. The Christian faith and its claim to be truth exist only if Jesus rose from the dead.

The resurrection of Christ is for sure the pivotal movement for Christianity and the importance of this belief cannot be overstated.

The doctrine of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ after his death at Calvary is not an option for Christians. It is not an appendix to the gospel. It lies at the core of Christianity. Without it, Christianity would have been still-born, for a living faith cannot survive a dead Savior. Hence, against certain heretics in the early church who appear to have somehow “spiritualized” the resurrection, Paul insisted that “if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain” (1 Cor. 15:14).

The heart of Christianity is a living Christ! Easter comes to remind us in a way like no other that we believe in a God who is alive, active and present in all the ups and downs of life; a God who works behind the scenes. Easter is about God’s power working behind the scenes. I think one of our frustrations and disappointments as followers of Jesus is that we don’t always perceive the ways of God. We don’t always understand how God works in the world and in our lives to accomplish His purposes.

So when you find yourself between a rock and a hard place, trust God. When facing situ-

ing hearts through their acts of service and commitment.

With MAZ behind us, I am eager to see what God has planned for Abide and our continued ministry together. There is a sense of excitement in the air as we



I’d like to take a moment to share with you the incredible experience I recently had at MAZ alongside our students and leaders. It was truly an excellent time of fellowship, growth, and witnessing God’s work in our community.



After a seven-year hiatus, it was a blessing to see MAZ revived with a fresh wave of new faces. Despite the passage of time, God continues to work wonders, breathing new life into our midst and reaffirming His presence in our community. The energy and enthusiasm among the participants were palpable, reminding us of the power of unity in Christ.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the experience was witnessing the tangible impact of God’s love on the lives of our students. As they worked on the concrete, I couldn’t help but feel encouraged and inspired by their dedication and willingness to serve. It was evident that God was at work, shaping and transform-

await the unfolding of His divine plan, and I am confident that He will lead us into new and fruitful endeavors.

In closing, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside such dedicated individuals and to witness the miraculous ways in which God is working in our midst. May we continue to press forward with faith and expectancy, trusting in His guidance and provision every step of the way.

With warm regards,
Izzy



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MOURIS!

ations where God seems absent and silent, remember that God is working behind the scenes. Charles Spurgeon once said, “When we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart.” We may be puzzled by our circumstances, but God has it all figured out. The disciples thought the story of Jesus is over. But Easter reminds us that there is more to the story. God is still at work.

Friends, times of silence could be scary and requires more faith, but as we celebrate Easter, I hope we learn how to keep our rhythm because God is at work. Therefore, my friends, stand firm in your faith. Rest in a God who is active, alive, and present. Remain confident in the truth that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion. God is all powerful, all knowing and ever present. The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia! Amen.

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

MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ART DIRECTOR/EDITOR

Shawn Kelly
shawndraws@gmail.com

**MESSENGER DEADLINE
THURSDAY, APRIL 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.

SPOTLIGHT

(continued from page 1)

mission trip to remove the forms, blending hard work with the joy of fellowship. It's moments like these that underscore the essence of our community.

- **Rising Walls for the Second Floor:** With every block placed for the second floor, we're building not just walls but a future. The progress we're making is a direct reflection of the faith, love, and teamwork that defines our LCPC family.
- **Big Wins Along the Roadside:** The completion of the retaining wall along the road marks a crucial milestone for

SESSION REPORT

At the February 26 Stated Meeting of Session, the following items were discussed and/or approved:

- The 2024 Budget.
- The 2024 Missions Allocation Budget.
- The Outreach Team's upcoming events: Armenian Cultural Celebration on May 18, Fall Festival Carnival on September 28, and Trunk or Treat and Pumpkin Carving on October 26.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation on March 3 was a great success! More than 100 of you were in attendance! Thank you to the Fellowship Team for a delicious yogurt and muffin bar. The 2024 Nominating Committee was elected, and Pastor Mouris' Terms of Call were approved at this meeting. Thank you to the staff members for providing reports on their areas of ministry.

La Crescenta Presbyterian Church will be hosting the April Presbytery Meeting on Tuesday, April 23. There will be a dinner from 5:00 to 6:00 PM in Koopmans followed by the Presbytery meeting at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend! This is a great opportunity to meet others in our Presbytery and find out what's happening at the other PC(USA) churches in our area. We're also looking for volunteers to help serve in the kitchen and greet attendees. To make a dinner reservation or to volunteer to help, please call Nancy in the church office or you can email me at gray.sheri@gmail.com no later than Thursday, April 18. Dinner is \$10 per person.

Blessings,
Sheri Gray
Clerk of Session

our project's safety and longevity. It's more than a barrier against erosion—it's a promise of stability and security for our cherished Casa de Los Angeles.

As Casa de Los Angeles evolves, so does our mission. Our initial vision of an orphanage has blossomed into a broader commitment to serve as a community resource center. This expanded vision will offer hope and support to families and children in Rosarito, providing educational and spiritual services while still offering a home to those most in need. This transition underscores our flexibility and dedication to meeting the community's most pressing needs.

I extend my deepest thanks to each one of you. Your generosity, prayers, and passion are the backbone of CDLA. Together, we're not just constructing buildings; we're laying the foundation for a brighter future for some of the most at-risk kids in our part of the world.

The journey ahead is filled with promise, and your continued support and prayers are

vital. With the steadfast backing of the LCPC family, there's no limit to what we can achieve for Casa de Los Angeles.

I'm eager to share more updates and stories of progress with you. Let's continue to build this dream together, hand in hand.

With heartfelt thanks and anticipation,
Jim Sedgwick



P.S. If you're feeling the pull for another mission trip or simply want to catch up on our progress, I'm just a conversation away jim.sedgwick@gmail.com. Explore more and join our journey at casadela.org. Let's keep the dialogue alive and the spirit of service burning brightly!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

BY JESIAH BOZICH



Hello friends at LCPC,
Lent is behind us, and now we are in the season of Easter! Indeed, though we have celebrated Easter Sunday, the Easter season actually lasts for 50 days! That means that we are still invited by the church calendar to continue celebrating the sacrificial death and amazing resurrection of Jesus Christ. As for our kids groups, we are excited to spend Sundays in April hearing stories of the risen Jesus and learning that "Jesus Lives!"

We were so happy to celebrate Easter with the Center for Children last month at our "Easter Eggstravaganza!" Check out the photos! This was such a fun time of crafting, laughing, singing, decorating, egg-hunting, and most of all, hearing about Jesus' great big RES-CUE!! Thanks to all who helped out, attended, and prayed for the event. This was a very special time for all who attended, and we pray that all would be touched by the Good News on display during our celebration.

We have more fun planned for this coming month as well! After our short hiatus, PEAK is back for another fun term! In April and May, our SPARKS kids will continue to learn about who Jesus is and how to live with the Holy Spirit. We will have fun, sing songs, play games, eat Oreos, and, most of all, grow in relationships with one another and with God. Pray for the kids who join us this month, that their hearts might be filled with awe, wonder, and love for God!

We will also be hosting our annual LEGO

Night, Friday April 19. from 5:30 - 7:30 PM. Join us for a yummy (and free) dinner, followed by a LEGO building competition, where teams will work together to recreate famous Bible stories in "brick" form! Join us as we learn what it is to "build our lives on Jesus!"

We are hard at work planning and preparing for Vacation Bible School 2024! This year's theme is SCUBA, "Diving Into Friendship With God!" This 5-day program will go from 9:00 AM-Noon, July 15-19. Kids will explore the depths of the Father's love through experi-

ments, games, stories, songs, and more! If you are interested in helping out at this year's VBS, please let me know by emailing me at Jesiah@lcpc.net!

As always I thank God for what He has done and eagerly await what He will do next.

Grace and peace,
Jesiah



BISTRO 50+

TUESDAY,
APRIL 9
12 NOON IN
KOOPMANS

Everyone 50+ years old is welcome to come and enjoy a meal and fellowship for just \$5.00.

Hosanna, Hosanna, We're in the midst of **Holy Week** with **Easter** just around the corner! We loved seeing the children & **Jesiah** enthusiastically waving palm branches **Palm Sunday** and appreciate the Deacons who made and served a delicious **Maundy Thursday** meal before the service.



We hope you'll join us for the **Good Friday** service and **Campfire Vigil**, starting at 7:00 PM. You won't want to miss our famous **Easter Boulder!** There's still time to sign up to pray at the **Lift Up Crescenta Valley Prayer Event** on Holy Saturday in our Chapel. Contact **Al Nunez** at Liftuplacrescenta@gmail.com to sign up. Our **Easter services** will be glorious celebrations of Christ's resurrection! The **Contemporary Service** will be at 9:00 AM with worship led by our **Praise Band**, and the **Traditional Service** will be at 11:00 AM with worship music from our **Choir and brass musicians**. Both services will be in our main Sanctuary. Thank you to **Madeline Schneikart** for donating all the beautiful Easter lilies. Please make sure to take one home after the 11:00 AM service!

Monday April 1, Men's Ministry is hosting **Man Night** – an evening for men to gather for a BBQ in **Doug Given's** backyard, worship together and hear about all the men's ministry groups that LCPC offers. For more info, contact **Phil Van Horn** at ballphild@gmail.com.

After being on hiatus for a couple of weeks, **PEAK** will resume on Wednesday, April 3. Join us for dinner at 5:30 – **Mandy Cary** and the fellowship team will be serving Chicken Tortilla Casserole and salad. We have two new adult class offerings! Pastor Mouris will be continuing his **Bible Study**, moving on to the **2nd book of Timothy**. We're also offering a class based on the popular streaming series **"The Chosen."** Each week we'll watch and discuss an episode from the first season. Children and Youth classes are also meeting, so there is something for the whole family!

On April 6, the Property Team hopes you'll consider giving a few hours of your Saturday to spruce up our LCPC campus, at the **All Church Day of Service**. We have plenty of indoor and outdoor cleaning, repairing, gardening and maintenance projects that need energetic helpers! Gather in the parking lot at 8 AM and we'll be working until 1 PM, but even if you can come for just an hour, it will make a difference!

Calling all kids, families and Lego enthusiasts! Friday April 19 is **Children's Ministries Lego Night** down in Koopmans Hall from

5:30-7:30 PM. There's a free dinner, then our annual Lego building competition. Teams will create a Lego masterpiece based on Bible Stories! It's always amazing to see the finished projects. Invite a friend!

Our **monthly potlucks** are shaping up to be the 3rd Sunday of each month and people are loving them! Thank you to **Janie Roach** for decorating the March St. Patrick's Day potluck with her Luck o' the Irish touches! And we snuck in a birthday celebration for **Pastor Mouris** too!

Our next potluck will be Sunday, April 21. If you forget to label your lid or bowl, or want to let people know your food ingredients, look for the new Potluck supplies basket with sharpies, sticky notes and paper.

Strike Up the Band III is coming to LCPC on Sunday April 28 at 2:00 PM! This will be Director **Noel Collins'** third musical variety show benefitting the **LCPC Deacons Higher Education Scholarship Fund**. The show will feature a 10-piece professional band and singers performing pop, rock, jazz, swing, gospel, TV and movie themed songs. There is a suggested donation of \$15 for adults, \$10 for teens and \$5 for pre-teens, and tickets will be available at the door. Sponsorships are also available – contact Hilarynorton@me.com. You won't want to miss it!

The **Deacons Scholarship applications** are also open for students furthering their educations. They've awarded 18, \$1000 scholarships since 2020! Contact **Hilary** at the email above for the application and requirements.

Tickets are on sale this month for **LCPC Dodger Night!** We'll be cheering on our favorite team Wednesday, June 12 at 7:10 PM as they challenge the Texas Rangers. Tickets are \$37 each and you can purchase them by contacting **Craig Carlson** at Carlsport@aol.com. There are a limited number of seats available so reserve yours now!

Pastor Mouris is offering a **New Members Class** to anyone interested in joining the LCPC family. It's a 3-hour class, 1 hour per week that will explore the foundations of the Christian faith and what it means to be a follower of Jesus. The dates and times of the class are to be determined. If you're interested, please reach out to Mouris@lcpc.net or you can call **Nancy** in the church office.

Spring has officially sprung! The blooming trees and flowers sprouting up around us are just gorgeous! 22 LCPC ladies enjoyed a morning at **Descanso Gardens** last month gazing at the spring tulips, daffodils and camellias, and visiting with one another while strolling

the gardens. We have more fun and engaging **ladies'** events coming up, so stay tuned!

Worship and Music is looking for people who would like to join the new **"Sunday Announcements Team."** They need volunteers to share our weekly announcements live during each service. A script outline of each week's announcements will be provided – all they need from you is your voice, an upbeat attitude, a few minutes beforehand to rehearse and a willingness to share those announcements during the Sunday service. If you're interested, contact **Cindy White** at cynene@pacbell.net.

Our **Mission Arizona Team** had a fantastic and productive week working on two Presbyterian church campuses in the Gila River Indian Community. Our fearless leader **Jerry White** had the help of **Izzy** and his fiancé **Lor-raien**, **Paul Hofmann**, **Josh Kauffman**, **Mandy Cary**, the whole **Elmes family** – **Chris, Nicole, Leland, Brynn** and **Blythe**, and youth **Adam Hill, Dylan Johnson, Jane Luna** and **Sarah Ortiz**. They accomplished lots of maintenance projects and built a 150-foot concrete walkway connecting church buildings, which will greatly assist the older congregants. **Josh's tractor** was not only a huge help, but tons of fun! They also celebrated Adam's 16th birthday, which happens to be the same day as Izzy's! Cheers to this hard working team!

The **Casa De Los Angeles Building Team** is thrilled to report that the much needed retaining wall, which is crucial for preventing erosion and protecting the children's home site, is moving along and now up to street level! As **Jim Sedgwick**, the President of the team put it, "These blocks are not just building walls but also bolstering the foundation for our future work here in Rosarito." You can follow their progress at Casadela.org.

We may have just entered in to the Spring season, but it's not too early to start thinking about Summer! **VBS 2024 – "SCUBA: Diving Into Friendship With God"** is happening the week of July 15-19, from 9am-Noon each day. Start telling friends, family and neighbors to save these dates! We will also need lots of volunteers that week, so let **Jesiah** know if you're interested.

Junior High students have the opportunity to attend **summer Wildlife Camp**, sponsored by **Young Life**, July 5-9 and our High School Students will be heading off to **Christ in Youth Camp**, July 8-12. Both these camps are in beautiful Flagstaff, AZ and are sure to be life changing weeks for our youth. Contact **Izzy** for more details.

Thank you **Jesus, that You are Risen** – You are Risen Indeed! We are so very grateful. Talk to you next month.



Director's Corner

At the beginning of this month I will be off to Pennsylvania to see the total eclipse of the sun. The next total solar eclipse in the United States will be in 2044, only North Dakota and Montana and then in 2045 from California to Florida. I was fortunate to see the last total eclipse in 2017 in South Carolina. It was an experience beyond words, but I will try.

We pulled into our reserved parking place on the campus of Clemson University, right along Lake Hartwell. To say the scene was like a football tailgate would be the best way to describe the atmosphere. Then it started to happen, we could see the sun start to disappear. At first there was a cheer, but then as it got darker and darker the crowd got quieter and a hush happened among the 4000+ people gathered along the shoreline.

If you have been to the south then you know the sound of the cicadas in the trees. It is very loud, in what seemed like an instant there was no more sound from these large insects. No birds singing just utter silence for the just over three minutes the sky was black.

As the sun began to appear, there was still awe from the crowd and when it finally was at full capacity again, another cheer went up, I reached out and hugged my daughter and brother who had traveled cross country to that we could be together for the totality. It was about the most spiritual moment I have ever had outside of a church. There is this feeling that as much as we try to be in control, there is this natural phenomenon that we have no control over.

It is no wonder that for centuries this seemingly unpredictable occurrence, this legend handed down through generations of when the sky went black, brought thoughts of curses or punishment from a god. I knew the sun was coming back in a few minutes, but what terror there must have been when the sun was "removed" from the sky and wondering if it was going to come back!

So how am I going to tie this into Early Childhood Education or your child's development? Think about those times we leave children, especially in a new place or with new people for the first time. Without experience, the young child could wonder, will I ever see my parents again? This doesn't mean that we avoid those situations because again, experience is the best teacher, they will begin to trust that

you will return.

So much of life is now explainable, but children don't always get that explanation before something happens. This is why at around age 2-3, that Christmas seems to have more wonder for them. They don't remember that plugging in a strand of lights makes the whole outside of the house light up. The excitement of fireworks or the terror of them takes time to get used to.

As adults we think of first times with children, but really they can experience the first time of something many times, each time with a new understanding. So enjoy these first times,

even if they happen more than once. Sit, like the crowd I was with in a hushed silence, and burn into your memories, no safety goggles required, the moment of aha. I am going with a group of friends this time and can't wait for them to experience it for the first time!

Pat



New Tuition Rates and Classroom

The CFC board has approved the new tuition rates for the 2024/2025 school year beginning June 10. Look for an email from us with the new rates, school calendar, and information about small changes to our program. If you do not receive this information by April 12, please contact the office to be sure we have the correct email address.

Grandparents Day!

On April 11, we invite grandparents from Rooms 106, 102, 104, 105, 108 to join us for a short morning and lunch. Come visit your grandchild's class starting at 10:30 AM and stay through lunch at noon. Please let your room know how many people will be joining us for this special day.

Summer Day Camp

If you haven't checked out our summer plans for kids going into 1st-7th grades go to our website, www.Center4Children.com and look at the amazing plans we have made. This may just be our best summer yet! Let your friends know about us too!

Attention Parents

We are seeing a lot of children running ahead of their parents at pick up time. Children need to stay near their parents at all ages while on campus after being signed out. There isn't always someone in the office to stop them from running outside. They can also get to the gate pretty quickly. Please make it a habit of having your children wait with you until you are ready to leave and then have them walk with you to your car.

Calendar

April 23: The CFC will close at 5:00 PM due to a large event being hosted by the church. Please plan ahead and make arrangements to have your child picked up by that time.

April 24: GUSD schools will be closed, but we will be open.

May 7: BBQ and Courtyard Art Show.

May 21: Annual Parent Meeting.

SUMMER DAY CAMP
CENTER FOR CHILDREN

GREETINGS TO YOU THE LUCKY FINDER OF THIS SUMMER TICKET!

***FOR CAMPER'S ENTERING 1ST-8TH GRADE**

***10 WEEKS OF FUN**
3 DAY MIN. - PICK & CHOOSE WEEKS

A FEW SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS:

- WK 1: GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY
- WK 2: MARINE MAMMAL CARE CENTER
- WK 3: HIKE EATON CANYON
- WK 4: PARADE & DIY CARNIVAL
- WK 5: KNOTT'S BERRY FARM
- VBSP WK 6: JUMPIN' JAMMIN' / DAVE & BUSTERS
- WK 7: ADVENTURE CITY/ SIX FLAGS
- WK 8: SEASIDE LAGOON
- WK 9: SOAK CITY WATERPARK (TBD)
- WK 10: ROARING FOAM PARTY

PLUS POOLS, PARKS & MORE!

"...MARVELOUS SURPRISES AWAIT YOU!"

SUMMER '24

CENTER4CHILDREN.COM
(818)249-8124

WEBSITE

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Mouris Yousef	Senior Pastor and Head of Staff mouris@lcpc.net
Izzy Cox	Director of Student Ministries izzy@lcpc.net
Jesiah Bozich	Director of Children's Ministries jesiah@lcpc.net
Gary Woodward Matthew Krell	Choir Director Organist/Pianist
Dan Blessinger	Producer of Contemporary Music
Nancy Thomas	Office Manager nancy@lcpc.net
Pat Murphy Chambers	Director, Center For Children pat@lcpc.net



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WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

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

APRIL 7

**COMMUNION SUNDAY
COMBINED SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY**

“No Risk, No Reward!”

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6; Philippians 2:25-30

Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

APRIL 14

“The Conclusion of the Matter!”

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Acts 10:1-8

Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

APRIL 21

“Forty Days of Kingdom Teaching!”

Psalm 137:1-6; Acts 1:1-5

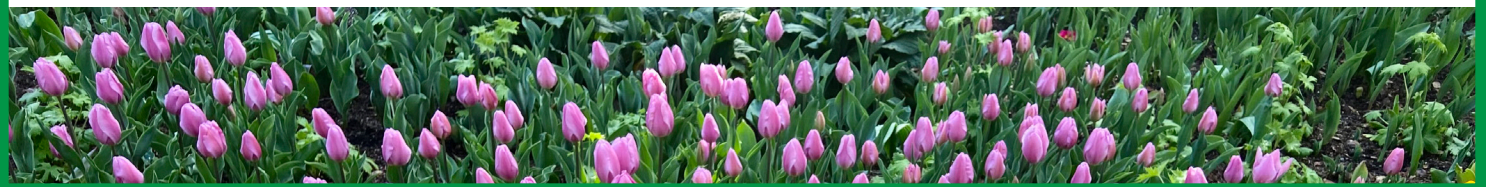
Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

APRIL 28

“Why Ascension Matters?”

Psalm 16; Acts 1:6-11

Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef



Hi Everyone,

The American Red Cross Blood Drive held on March 10 was a huge success with a total of 41 pints donated. Many thanks for the leadership of Hilary Norton and Alice Hill in addition to all the volunteers that made it a successful day. The next drive will be on Saturday, September 14.

Organized by deacon Noel Collins, “Strike up the Band” is scheduled for April 28, to



raise funds for scholarships. Another round of scholarships for higher education will be avail-

able soon. Watch for details in the bulletin.

Are you in need of a ride to church or an appointment? Contact Rachel Wolflick.

Would you like a friendly visit from Happy Hangouts? Deacon Armineh Manookian will match visitors with those who would like to be visited. Contact her at: amanookian@yahoo.com

Easter Blessings,
Dave Eagle