

Holy Week

APRIL 2 MAUNDY THURSDAY

5:30 PM
SACRIFICIAL MEAL
IN KOOPMANS
7:00 PM
WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY
GUEST PREACHER:
REVEREND KRISTIN LEUCHT

APRIL 3 GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 PM
WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

Easter Sunday

9:00 AM
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
IN THE SANCTUARY

11:00 AM
CLASSIC WORSHIP
WITH CHOIR, ORGAN AND
BRASS MUSICIANS
IN THE SANCTUARY

GUEST PREACHER:
REV. DR. JUAN SARMIENTO,
EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER OF THE
SAN FERNANDO PRESBYTERY

WORSHIP SERVICES ON
APRIL 12, 19 & 26
WILL ALSO BE HELD
IN THE SANCTUARY:

9:00 AM
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
IN THE SANCTUARY

11:00 AM
CLASSIC WORSHIP
IN THE SANCTUARY

SPECIAL NOTICE: THE MONTH OF APRIL AND TRANSFORMATION

As Christians, April is a special time for us; we remember the transformation and renewal given to us through the incredible sacrifice and love of our Savior Jesus Christ. Additionally, April will be a time of transformation and renewal for the LCPC campus, as we repave our main, west-side parking lot and make a few temporary adjustments to our service schedule and standard events (see below).

In the short term, we're asking everyone to plan ahead as we prepare to close off the main parking lot the last two weeks of April, tentatively scheduled to begin on April 13.

To help accommodate these logistical issues, we've decided to separate our two services for the month of April – with our Contemporary service at 9:00 AM, and our Traditional service at 11:00 AM. Both services will be held in the Sanctuary and this will include Easter Sunday worship, as well. Our hope is this will help with the lost parking spots and should minimize the additional walking for members.

Of course, carpooling is recommended, but we suggest getting to church early if you can, no matter what the event, to park along Montrose Ave or Ramsdell Ave. If you are able-bodied, please park farther away, to leave the close parking spots on Montrose Avenue in front of the church for our members who have



mobility issues. We thank you for your patience and consideration.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT DATES:

- **April 2:** Maundy Thursday meal (5:30 PM- 6:30 PM) and service (7:00PM- 8:00 PM)
- **April 3:** Good Friday service (7:00 PM -8:00 PM)
- **April 5:** Easter Sunday services (9:00 AM Contemporary; 11:00 AM Traditional)
- **April 8:** Town Hall Meeting, 7:00 PM in Koopmans
- PEAK will be starting on Wednesday **April 15**
- **No potluck on April 19**
- **No Bistro 50+ or Cruisers Meeting on April 14**

TOWN HALL APRIL 8

Session will host a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, April 8, at 7:00 pm in Koopmans Hall. The purpose will be to answer questions regarding the recent challenging changes that have impacted our church body. A light dessert will be served.

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FROM THE PASTOR



Dear LCPC Family,
After significant prayer and reflection, I've decided to dissolve the pastoral call between myself and La Crescenta Presbyterian Church (LCPC), effective April 15, 2026.

Serving LCPC has been a profound privilege. I am truly thankful for the season God granted us together and for the unwavering support the Session, staff, and you all have shown me during my tenure. I will carry many cherished memories of our shared ministry and the ways in which we have seen the Holy Spirit move within this community.

As I have spent time in discernment, it has become clear that the vision of the church—

particularly regarding worship styles—and my own core values are no longer in alignment. I have also come to believe that my leadership approach and pastoral style no longer align with the direction currently emerging within the current leadership team.

As I previously shared with the Session, my final Sunday in the pulpit will be March 29, 2026. I will utilize my remaining paid vacation and sick leave through April 15, 2026, during which time I will focus on my family's transition and attend to my personal health and well-being.

I leave with nothing but the sincerest well-wishes for La Crescenta Presbyterian.

My prayer is that you continue to grow in faith and that the peace of Christ dwells richly among you. Thank you for the opportunity to have walked this part of the journey with you. I entrust this beloved congregation to the grace and care of our Almighty God.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef
Senior Pastor and Head of Staff

LCPC is ending our season of Lent with heavy hearts, as we say goodbye to **Pastor Mouris** and his dear wife **Margaret**. Mouris led LCPC faithfully and enriched us with his leadership, wisdom, teaching and love for the past 3 years. They have made the difficult but prayerful decision that LCPC is no longer where they are called to serve and they'll be moving back to New Jersey. We're so grateful for all Pastor Mouris gave to LCPC during his time with us and we wish him all the best, as we know God will continue to use him in mighty ways to build His kingdom.

Please join us Wednesday, April 8 for a **Town Hall Meeting** at 7 pm to address and discuss questions around Mouris' departure and how we'll move forward as a church. Dessert will be served.

During **Holy Week**, PEAK classes will still be on hiatus. Thursday, April 2, the **Deacons** will serve their delicious **sacrificial soup dinner** from 5:30-6:30 pm in Koopmans, with the **Maundy Thursday** service right after at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. The choir will lead worship, with a message by guest preacher **Kristin Leucht**, then we'll have Communion together as Jesus did on his last night with his disciples. Our **Good Friday Service** will be April 3 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary, with another guest preacher.

We have two different services on **Easter Sunday** – our **Contemporary service** will be at **9 am** led by our **Praise Band**, and our **Traditional service** with the **Choir and brass musicians** will be at **11 am** – both services in the Sanctuary. We hope you will join us for these sacred services to celebrate that He is Risen!

Mid-April, we have a major campus project starting. **Our main parking lot to the west of the church, is going to get demolished and repaved.** There will be no access to the lot during this two-week period, **starting Monday**



April 13. Parking for services and events is going to be challenging, so let's be creative!

Gas prices are painful, so what a great time to **carpool with a friend!** If you're in great shape, how about a stroll to church from somewhere along Ramsdell? Let's do our best to leave the close spots on Montrose Ave for our members that have a harder time walking a distance.

To ease the parking congestion, **the whole month of April, we'll be having our Sunday services at 9 am (Contemporary) and 11 am (Traditional).** Both services will be held in the Sanctuary. We're asking the 9 am attenders to leave soon after service to free up parking spots for the 11 am attenders. It's going to take some brain power to remember these new April service times, but we can do it! Phone alarms and reminders are your friend! **Come May, we will be back to our regular 10 am services,** in the Sanctuary and the Chapel.

Most events have been cancelled for this month, since parking will be limited. **Bistro 50+ and the Cruisers will NOT be meeting** on April 14; we **WON'T** have our **April 19 potluck lunch;** and **NO Game Night** in April. All monthly events will resume in May.

However, **PEAK** dinner and classes will resume on Wednesday, April 15 but classes this night and April 22 will begin at 6 pm due to the parking lot construction. Adult Ministries is still finalizing the adult class that will be offered so stay tuned for more details.

We thank you all in advance for your patience and cooperation during this inconvenience, but our new upgraded parking lot is going to be a fantastic addition to our campus.

Thank you to the **Deacons** for organizing another successful **Red Cross Blood Drive** on Palm Sunday. Every pint of blood donated is

critical to someone in need. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the US needs blood. If you missed this opportunity, the Deacons will host another drive in the Fall.

Another wonderful thing our Deacons organize are **Meal Trains** for members that are sick, have had a new baby, recent hospitalization or surgery. If you would like to prepare a dinner, buy a meal to deliver, or give a restaurant gift card to a church member who needs additional assistance, please email **Yuqin Hu** at team.andersen@yahoo.com and she will add you to the Meal Train distribution list.

If you like to bake goodies, we'd also love to add you to our **Sunday Fellowship Hour list of bakers!** That spread of delicious treats comes from generous volunteers every Sunday. To be added to the Sign Up, please email **Karen McAuley** at Kgeemcauley@att.net.

Wishing you a very blessed Easter season as we honor and celebrate the One who gave his life for us. Please keep LCPC in your prayers. As God promises in Isaiah 43:19, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness." Talk to you next month.

MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ART DIRECTOR/EDITOR

Shawn Kelly

shawndraws@gmail.com

MESSENGER DEADLINE

SATURDAY, 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.

Casa de Los Angeles Update

Growing Community, Building Opportunity

Dear friends at La Crescenta Presbyterian Church,

Greetings from Casa de Los Angeles! We often find ourselves thanking God for you, not just for your generosity, but for the sense of partnership we feel with you. Even across miles, you are part of what is happening in Lomas Altas. The rhythms of daily life, classes, conversations, prayers, and simple gatherings are steadily shaping this place into a center of hope and community. We wanted to share a few glimpses of what your support is helping make possible.

"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

- Galatians 6:9

English Classes Launching a New Session

A new session of English classes is beginning, and we're excited about the opportunity this creates. In Rosarito, where tourism drives much of the local economy, learning English can open the door to better jobs, increased income, and greater stability for families. These classes are stepping stones toward dignity, confidence, and new possibilities. It's inspiring to see students of all ages showing up eager to learn and grow.



Neighbors and families connect during a class at the community center, a growing space for learning and belonging.

Community Center Life in Lomas Altas

Our Lomas Altas Community Center continues to come alive throughout the week. What was once just a building is becoming a gathering place filled with conversation, laughter, and learning. Neighbors are building relationships, children are finding safe spaces to play and grow, and families are experiencing a deeper sense of belonging. Little by little, a true community is taking shape.

Weekly Bible Studies on the Patio



Weekly Bible study and worship take place on the patio, where Scripture, prayer, and community come together in a beautiful setting.

Each week, a group gathers on the patio for Bible study and worship. With a simple pulpit, a handful of chairs, and a beautiful view of the surrounding hills, this space has become something sacred. People are opening Scripture together, sharing life, and encountering God in meaningful ways. These gatherings are laying a spiritual foundation that we trust will continue to grow in the months and years ahead.

Thank You for Your Generosity

We are deeply grateful for your Christmas gift of \$640 designated for sports equipment and school supplies. This will provide opportunities for kids and youth to play, build friendships, and experience joy while also creating natural connections for mentorship and encouragement.

In addition, through your partnership, we are

able to send six students from Lomas Altas to a summer camp missions experience with Youth With A Mission. This week-long camp is designed to give them a glimpse of what it means to be part of a mission team, learning, serving, and growing together in faith. The typical cost is \$500 per student, but YWAM gave us a steep dis-

count, and through your support we were able to scholarship the rest of this life changing opportunity for six local kids. We are excited to see how God will use this experience to shape their lives.

We also want to say thank you for the donation of folding chairs from Abide Student Ministries. Though they had been unused for some time, they will now be used every day, supporting classes, meals, Bible studies, and gatherings of all kinds. It's a beautiful reminder that what may seem small or overlooked can become a daily blessing in the right hands.

Looking Ahead

As these ministries continue to grow, we are also continuing to pray, plan, and dream about the future of the main Casa de Los Angeles building. Our hope is that it will one day serve as a permanent home for both a church and a vibrant community center, expanding the impact of everything that is already beginning to take root. We are trusting God step by step as that vision unfolds.

You're Invited

I also extend a personal invitation to all of our LCPC friends...come visit! Make a day trip or weekend down to San Diego, and I would be honored to take you to Rosarito to experience Casa de Los Angeles firsthand. There's something special about seeing the people, hearing their stories, and witnessing what God is doing in person.

Thank you for walking alongside us in this work. Your prayers, generosity, and encouragement are helping create a place where lives are being changed, practically, relationally, and spiritually.

With gratitude,
Jim Sedgwick
Casa de Los Angeles



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Bible study on borrowed chairs. Thanks to Abide Student Ministries, soon we'll have our own in daily use.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

APRIL 2026

	1	2	3	4
<p>CFC Center For Children</p> <p>CEO Christian Education Office</p> <p>CM Children's Ministries Team</p> <p>FS Fireside Room</p> <p>KH Koopmans Hall</p>	<p>M&O Mission & Outreach Team</p> <p>PEAK Praise & Education for Adults & Kids</p> <p>SC Student Center</p> <p>SM Student Ministries Team</p> <p>W&M Worship & Music Team</p>	<p>MAUNDY THURSDAY</p> <p>Sacrificial Meal-KH</p> <p>Maundy Thursday Service-Sanctuary</p>	<p>Good Friday Service -Sanctuary</p>	<p>Cornerstone Crew</p>
<p>5 <i>Easter Sunday</i></p> <p>9:00 A Contemporary Service-Sanctuary</p> <p>11:00 A Traditional Service-Sanctuary</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 P Men's Group-CEO</p> <p>7:00 P W&M Team-KH</p> <p>7:00 P ABIDE Tuesday Nights-SC</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 P Men's Ministries-Zoom</p> <p>5:30 P PEAK Dinner-KH</p> <p>6:00 P ABIDE PEAK-SC</p> <p>6:15 P PEAK Classes</p> <p>7:30 P Choir-Chapel</p> <p>7:30 P Adult Discipleship-Lib.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 P Personnel Team-FS</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30 A Be Still</p> <p>9:30 A Cornerstone Crew</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:00 A New Song Worship-Sanctuary</p> <p>11:00 A Classic Worship-Sanctuary</p> <p>11:30 P Deacons-KH</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00 P Fellowship Team-Zoom</p> <p>7:00 P Men's Group-203</p> <p>7:00 P ABIDE Tuesday Nights-SC</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30 P Men's Ministries-Zoom</p> <p>5:30 P PEAK Dinner-KH</p> <p>6:00 P ABIDE PEAK-SC</p> <p>6:15 P PEAK Classes</p> <p>7:30 P Choir-Chapel</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>9:00 A MESSENGER DEADLINE</p> <p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:00 A New Song Worship-Sanctuary</p> <p>11:00 A Classic Worship-Sanctuary</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00 P CM Team-KH</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30 A Men's Ministries-Zoom</p> <p>5:30 P PEAK Dinner-KH</p> <p>6:00 P ABIDE PEAK-SC</p> <p>6:15 P PEAK Classes</p> <p>7:30 P Choir-Chapel</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:30 A Be Still</p> <p>9:30 A Cornerstone Crew</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:00 A New Song Worship-Sanctuary</p> <p>11:00 A Classic Worship-Sanctuary</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 P Men's Group-CEO</p> <p>7:00 P ABIDE Tuesday Nights-SC</p> <p>7:00 P Session-KH</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00 P Women's Book Club-Zoom</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30 A Men's Ministries-Zoom</p> <p>5:30 P PEAK Dinner-KH</p> <p>6:00 P ABIDE PEAK-SC</p> <p>6:15 P PEAK Classes</p> <p>7:30 P Choir-Chapel</p>	<p>Be Still</p> <p>Cornerstone Crew</p>



CFC Heartbeat



This month I begin my CFC message with 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” This is a great reminder that we are continually being renewed and made new. During this Easter season, this message becomes more meaningful, we have the opportunity for a fresh start. Easter represents hope, renewal, and new life. I keep this in mind as each day here at CFC we have the opportunity to grow, change, and begin again.

At CFC we see this in our children every day:

- Trying something new
- Learning from mistakes
- Building friendships
- Growing with confidence

Just like the season of spring, the flowers don't just bloom, it takes time to plant them, water them, nurture them. It takes time and patience; however, it reminds us that growth takes time, and beautiful new beginnings are always possible. Just as our children bloom in their own time, our Center for Children is also blooming.

At CFC we are seeing it come to life in so many meaningful ways throughout our community. I want to share something that took place in March. We hosted our very first **Trike-A-Thon** and it was a wonderful success! It was

more than just a fun event, it was a celebration of movement, joy and coming together as a community. Watching excitement and pride reflected the spirit of growth and new beginnings here at CFC.

In addition to our new beginnings, we are thrilled to share the launch of our new Fathers and Others group. From the very start the fathers stepped forward and in such a short time they shared their positive energy and commitment and willingness to support CFC in the growth of our school community. They managed to plan a dinner out together at Joselito's and constructed a really cool trike path for the Trike-a-Thon. They have managed to make meaningful connections in such a short time. This is what we want our school to be, a place to build friendships that will last a lifetime as



the kids grow up together.

As we look forward, we will bring back Pizza Nights at CFC. This is where families gather after CFC hours to share a meal, connect and play. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our church members for their continued support in these efforts. Your encouragement and involvement help make CFC a place where children and families truly feel connected and supported.

As many of you know, our parking lot will be under construction throughout the month of April. During this time, families will enter and exit through the church office which will serve as the safest and most efficient pathway. While this is a temporary adjustment, we look forward to the improvement ahead and we know our CFC children will enjoy their new temporary route through the church office.

This season is a reminder that with change comes growth, and with growth comes new opportunity.

With Love and Gratitude,
Arpy Jahjah
Executive Director-Center For Children





First, we want to take time out to thank all those who participated in the blood drive, both those who donated and volunteered. The Deacons and the American Red Cross appreciate all the support for making the event such a success. We also want to acknowledge and thank Hilary Norton and Alice Hill for organizing the blood drive. This blood drive will help provide life saving blood to those in our community in need. Stay tuned for future Blood Drive events throughout the year.

In other news, Hilary Norton (hilarynorton@me.com) is our main contact for LCPC Scholarship program. These scholarships are intended to cover expenses for those attending college, community college, or trade schools while enhancing their faith.

Applications require some information about the school, and an acceptance letter is needed. Recommendations from a pastor, teacher, job supervisor, counselor, or mentor are encouraged.

Applicants should not be concerned about their GPA as it is not a factor in determining if a scholarship is awarded.

Until next month,
Deacon Dave Eagle

SESSION REPORT

At the March 2026 Annual Meeting, LCPC members:

- Received the Annual Report
- Recognized the outgoing Elders and Deacons
- Elected 2026 Nominating Committee at-large members
- Received reports from the Pastor and Ministry Directors
- Reviewed the Operating Budget for the year 2025
- Received the Budget for 2026
- Read the 2026 Necrology Report

In early March, Session voted on and accepted several proposals, including election of Corporate Officers for 2026, approval of Steven Andersen as moderator of the Nominating Committee, and approval of the proposed allocation of

mission funds.

Session also approved contacting Cyclical Full Circle to apply for a church health assessment and complete Phase 1 through Phase 3 as described in their Cyclical Summary Statement. LCPC will also apply to the San Fernando Presbytery for grant money to help cover the costs associated with this process.

In addition, Session has scheduled a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, April 8 at 7:00 PM in Koopmans Hall. Please make plans to attend this important gathering. We continue to be committed to listening to members and attenders' concerns and hopes during this transition time.

Submitted in Christ,
Steven Andersen

Bistro 50+ and the Cruisers meeting originally scheduled for April 14 has been postponed due to the parking lot project. The scheduled speaker will present his program in June.

Thank you for your patience.

A NOTE FROM PERSONNEL

We will continue our Sunday morning worship with guest pastors providing sermons while we work with the San Fernando Presbytery to select a longer-term interim pastor for LCPC.

As moderator of the personnel team, Nicole Kirkorian Elmes and members of the personnel team will lead the weekly LCPC staff meetings on Tuesdays until an interim Pastor is selected.

CHURCH STAFF

Arpy Jahjah	Executive Director, Center For Children arpy@lpc.net
Will Wolfswinkel	Interim Dir. of Student Ministries will.wolfswinkel@gmail.com
Dennis Fernandez	Moderator of Children's Ministries
Nancy Thomas	Office Manager nancy@lpc.net
Cindy Charles	Finance Manager
Gary Woodward	Choir Director gary@lpc.net
Matthew Krell	Organist/Pianist
Scott Tibbs & Dave Robbins	Producers of Contemporary Music
Paul Hofmann	Head of Digital Support for Worship Interim Digital Media Coordinator paul@lpc.net
Baldo Muralles	Facilities Manager



Abide

HERE REAL BOLD

March was a full and fun month for Abide! Our Tuesday and Wednesday gatherings were filled with energy, laughter, and meaningful time together as students continued to grow in friendship and faith.

One of the highlights of the month was a special visit from former Director Izzy Cox. We shared a meal, played games, and had the chance to hear how the Lord is working in his new season of life in St. Louis. It was a great time of connection and encouragement for our students.

On Wednesday nights, we've also been enjoying partnering with Children's and Family Ministries during PEAK. It has been a fun and

meaningful opportunity for our students to build relationships across age groups and be part of the wider church community.

As always, we are grateful for your continued support. Please continue to pray for our search for a full-time Director of Student Ministries—that God would provide wisdom, clarity, and the right person to lead and shepherd our students well.

We're thankful for all that God is doing in Abide and look forward to what's ahead!

Will Wolfswinkel
Interim Director of Student Ministries