

MESSENGER

VOLUME 75, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2026



BISTRO 50+

**TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 10
12 NOON IN
KOOPMANS**

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

CRUISERS

For their February meeting, the Cruisers are happy to invite everyone to an exciting program put on for us by Montrose Search and Rescue. We will be introduced to all of the fascinating methods and equipment they use to save lives. It will be great fun!

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You're Invited to a

Women's Tea

February 21
10 AM
KOOPMANS HALL
Bring a treat, sweet or savory, to share

**Innovations in Building
God's Kingdom**

Ruth Schmidt

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

For those interested in joining LCPC or who want to explore this opportunity, Pastor Yousef is offering two in-person options:

- February Sessions: Sunday, February 1 and Sunday, February 8 from 11:30 AM to 1 PM.
- March Sessions: Sunday, March 8 and Sunday, March 22 from 11:30AM to 1PM

Those seeking or exploring membership are required to attend both sessions in either the February or March track. Two additional opportunities will be offered in the summer and fall. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Yousef at Mouris@lcpc.net.



Worship Service February 18 at 7:00 PM

Please join us on Wednesday, February 18, as we observe the beginning of the Season of Lent. We will gather together as a congregation for our Annual Ash Wednesday Worship Service at 7:00 PM. Rev. Dr. Mouris Yousef will be delivering a message titled, "Produce Fruit in Keeping with Repentance" based on Matthew 3:1-12. The imposition of ashes will be offered for those who wish to receive them. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend.

PASTOR'S LETTER

"CALLED TO BE REPAIRERS: REBUILDING THE RUINS IN 2026"

Dear LCPC Family & Friends,

As we look out at the landscape of 2026, we see a world that often feels like a collection of ruins—not of stone and mortar, but of fractured relationships, systemic animosity, and hearts hardened by division. Yet, the prophetic urgency of Isaiah 58:12 remains our North Star: *"Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins... you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings."*

To be a "Repairer" today requires more than good intentions; it requires a deep understanding of our theological mandate.

The Theology of the "In-Between"

Theologically, we live in the "already but not yet" of God's Kingdom. While Christ's victory is complete, the "ancient ruins" of sin and hatred still mar our communities. Our role as repairers is an act of Eschatological Anticipation. When we rebuild a bridge between enemies, we are providing a "foretaste" of the New Jerusalem where every tear is wiped away. We do not work for a temporary peace, but for the Shalom of God—a holistic flourishing where all things are made right.

The Biblical Narrative of the "Third Way"

In the New Testament, we see this modeled

in the Ministry of Reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). Paul suggests that because God reconciled us to Himself through Christ, we are now "ambassadors" tasked with the same mission. This is the Theology of the Cross: just as Christ bridged the infinite gap between a holy God and a fallen humanity, we are called to stand in the gap of modern hostilities.

Redemptive love is not a soft sentiment; it is a "Third Way" that rejects both the "fight" of hatred and the "flight" of apathy. It is the posture of Nehemiah, who wept over the ruins before he ever picked up a trowel (Nehemiah 1:4).

The late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. frequently spoke of the "Beloved Community," a vision of society where conflicts are resolved peacefully and without bitterness. He reminded us that: *"Love is creative and redemptive. Love builds up and unites; hate tears down and destroys... only love can create and organize anything permanent."* When we choose to love those who have hurt us, we are not just being kind; we are engaging in a spiritual architecture that withstands the storms of hatred.

How can you personally rebuild today?

1. Prioritize Reconciliatory Listening: In a world of "shouting matches," the most radical act of redemptive love is to

listen to someone with whom you fundamentally disagree. This honors the *Imago Dei* (Image of God) in the other person, even amidst conflict.

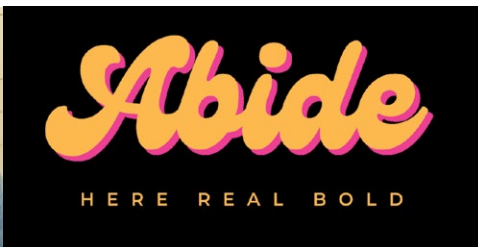
2. Be a Bridge-Builder in Private:

Rebuilding often happens in the quiet places. Reconcile a family feud, offer forgiveness where it isn't earned, and refuse to participate in the "us vs. them" rhetoric of our age.

3. Sacrificial Presence: Restoration costs something. For Christ, it cost His life. For us, it may cost our comfort or our "right" to be angry.

The ruins of our community are not a sign of defeat, but an invitation to participate in God's ongoing creative work. Let us be a people who leave our communities better than we found them, proving that the light of Christ still shines through the cracks of a broken world.

Warmly in Christ,
Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef
Senior Pastor & Head of Staff



January has been an exciting month for Abide as we kicked off a new semester of weekly programming. Our Tuesday nights have been full of games, meaningful fellowship, and opportunities for learning and growth as we continue to build our own Abide community. It's been a joy to see students reconnect, welcome new faces, and dive into another season together.

We're also excited about continued progress on the Student Center renovation. With new

furniture and a photo wall coming together, the space is becoming an even more welcoming place for students to gather, connect, and belong!

There's a lot to look forward to this semester—so stay tuned for some exciting announcements and upcoming events involving Abide in the near future!

Will Wolfswinkel
Interim Director of Student Ministries

• MESSENGER

• LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

• ART DIRECTOR/EDITOR

• Shawn Kelly
• shawndraws@gmail.com

• **MESSENGER DEADLINE**
• **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 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.

FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE

February – **The month of love!** We love Valentines, chocolate, flowers and our



sweethearts. And we love when our favorite team wins the Superbowl. But what better month

to spread the **love of Jesus** to all around us! He's filled us with his supernatural love to pour out to others, so love big this month!

Pastor Mouris is offering a **New Members Class** for those interested in joining LCPC or learning more about membership. There are two required sessions this month: Sundays February 1 and February 8 from 11:30 AM – 1 PM. There will be another opportunity next month on Sundays March 8 and March 22. Contact Pastor Mouris to sign up or for more information at Mouris@lcpc.net. Future classes will be offered again in the summer and fall.

The **Bistro 50+ Luncheon** will be Tuesday,

February 10 at 12 noon. All ages are welcome to this delicious monthly event for just \$5. Afterwards, the **Cruisers** invite you to join for their meeting and a presentation by the **Montrose Search and Rescue Team**. Come learn about all the ways this heroic team saves lives in our area.

Our **monthly potluck** will be Sunday, February 15, right after service down in Koopmans Hall. You can bring a dish to share or join us for lunch even if you don't bring anything. We'd love to have you! Coffee and cookies will be down in Koopmans also, so pop by even for a few minutes.

The season of **Lent** starts this month. Our **Ash Wednesday Worship Service** will be Wednesday, February 18, at 7 PM in the Sanctuary to begin this sacred and reflective 40-day journey. Pastor Mouris will preach a sermon titled "Produce Fruit in Keeping with Repentance" and the imposition of ashes will be offered for those who wish to receive them. Please join us for this special service – there will be **no PEAK classes this night**.

Thursday, February 19, is our monthly **Fellowship and Game Night** in Koopmans Hall from 6-8 PM. Come learn a new game or improve your strategy on one you know. You're welcome to bring your own dinner and dine while you play.

The **Ladies of LCPC** are host-



ing a Tea Party on Saturday, February 21, from 10 AM – Noon in Koopmans Hall. Ladies of all ages are invited! No RSVP is required to attend but guests are invited to bring tea sandwiches, sweet treats, or fruit to share. Guest speaker Pastor **Ruth Schmidt**, involved with **Cyclical LA**, will be speaking about "Innovations in Building God's Kingdom." Hope to see you there and feel free to invite a friend!

It was so great to see **Jonathan Ahrens** (pictured above), our bass player in the Contemporary service, visit a couple of weeks ago. Jonathan was in a serious accident and sustained fractures to both wrists, his jaw and hip. We are so grateful for God's healing and for everyone who sent meals and prayers to his family during this difficult time.

The **Worship and Music Team** is experimenting with shorter **Sunday announcements** to make more time for worship and Pastor Mouris' sermon. Upcoming events will be briefly mentioned but we encourage you to keep your **Sunday bulletin** to refer to and read our **weekly email**, sent out every Wednesday morning around 9 AM. Full details about all we have going on at LCPC can be found there. You can also check our website at lcpc.net and sign up for the weekly email and monthly newsletter at the bottom of the home page.

We're wishing long time LCPC member **Jim Larson** a very Happy 90th Birthday! Jim has celebrated a lot of birthdays with his LCPC family, as he's been a member of our church for 57 years! Hoping this is one of his best birthdays yet!

Congratulations to the **Roach family**, who welcomed another beautiful baby boy last month! **Micah Deacon Roach** was born to **Kyle, Mackenzie**, and big brother **JJ** on January 10, and mom and baby are doing great! **Grandma Janie** is beaming from ear to ear also. We're so happy for this growing family and can't help but wonder if baby Micah Deacon will one day be a Deacon like his amazing mommy? If you'd like to take the family a meal, the **Deacons** have a **Meal Train** set up. Contact team. andersen@yahoo.com for the Meal Train sign up link.

(continued on page 4)



A good time was had by all at last year's tea party.



CHILDREN & FAMILY ministries



Happy February, friends and families of LCPC. I hope you've all had a lovely January and that the Lord has been close to you in all the highs and lows that have already inevitably been part of

2026. Please see below for a few updates on the ongoing of Children & Family Ministry.

I know this update is a bit delayed, but we have a final donation amount from the **Giving Tree** that the Children & Family Ministry organized throughout the month of December. Through your partnership and generosity, the church was able to raise a total of \$4,204. The exact breakdown for the three organizations was \$2,104 for Casa de Los Angeles, \$250 for Door of Hope, and \$1,814 for World Vision. Thank you so much for your generosity in giving to LCPC's mission partners this past holiday season! We pray that the Lord multiplies your donations as they bless people throughout our community and the world.

On Sundays, we're continuing our series on the **Names of Jesus**, in which we're exploring various title ascribed to Jesus throughout the Bible, either by Himself or by others. It has been a joy (and a blessing to my own spirits) to reflect on these names and the promises found within them. I truly pray that the Holy Spirit is depositing deep faith in the hearts of these kids, and that as they grow up and experience more of the pains of life, they would rest in the

Jesus they know by name – Immanuel, Son of God, Light of the World, Prince of Peace, the Lamb of God.

At **PEAK** this session, I have the joy of co-leading a class on the bestselling book, *The Anxious Generation* with Jamie Given. At the time of writing this article, we've only held our first class, but it was such a joy to have so many people from the community come to the class and offer their insight and experience around

such an important topic. We had people of all walks of life join us – different life stages, cultural backgrounds, generations, and even faiths – and we pray that this class will be an avenue through which we can present the gospel in a way that is, to borrow the words of the late Tim Keller, "winsome and wise."

That's it for me this month! Thank you for your prayers over the Children & Family Ministry.

Blessings,
Dot

(continued from page 3)

The search has officially begun for our new **Director of Student Ministries**. If you know someone who would be a great fit for the role and our amazing students, the full job description can be found on our website under the About tab, then Employment. We are so grateful to **Will Wolfswinkel** who has been doing a great job as the interim Director for our youth.

Our **Annual Meeting of the Congregation** is coming up Sunday, March 1 in Koopmans Hall, right after services end. We'll be reviewing the Annual Report, and budget, along with other yearly duties. **The Fellowship Team** will host a **yummy yogurt bar** with all the toppings. Please plan to attend this important meeting about the life of

MOUSE



our church.

May your month be filled with lots of love, especially the abundant, unconditional and selfless love of **Jesus Christ**. Talk to you next month.



This year, the Beacon intends to spotlight a Deacon each month. This month our focus is on **Kerry Milbrodt**, a longtime Deacon who can be reached at kmilbrodt@gmail.com.

Kerry leads the Reachout Outreach ministry as well as our grief ministry. Four different grief booklets are sent

after the loss of a loved one, over the course of a year. If you know of someone in the church family who has lost a loved one, please contact Kerry and share their contact information. Many in the church have received these grief booklets and found them very helpful to process their grief.

The Reachout Outreach ministry is focused on being aware of those who regularly attend service (either the Sanctuary or Chapel service) and to reach out to those who have missed service for a few weeks. The purpose is to get in touch with those members and see if all is well, if they need assistance or would like a visit from Pastor Mouris. We hope that this ministry further builds relationships and communicates that people's absences are noticed and that they are missed. If anyone notices individuals or families who have not been to church in a while,

please contact Kerry so she can reach out to them. Also, if you would like to be involved in this ministry, please contact Kerry or Mackenzie Roach.

Next month, on March 29, LCPC will be hosting another blood drive with the American Red Cross. Please save the date and sign up for this lifesaving opportunity to serve the members of our community who are in need of blood. Supplies are low at the blood banks, so every donation makes a huge impact. Please keep an eye out in the next few weeks for the registration link in the weekly emails or sign-ups after service in the breezeway. Also, if you would like to volunteer to greet donors or offer them snacks and conversation after they donate, please contact Hilary Norton or Alice Hill.

Until next month serving him,
Dave Eagle

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

FEBRUARY 2026

1 10:00 A Combined Worship-Sanctuary 11:30 A Deacons-KH	2 6:30 P SM Team-SC	3 11:00 A Tuesday Bible Study-KH 7:00 P Men's Group-203 7:00 P M & W Team-KH	4 6:30 A Men's Ministries-Zoom 5:30 P PEAK Dinner-KH 6:00 P ABIDE PEAK-SC 6:15 P PEAK Classes 7:30 P Outreach Team-Lib. 7:30 P Choir-Chapel	5 7:00 P Mission Team-Lib.	6 7:30 A Be Still-CE Office 9:30 A Cornerstone Crew	7
8 10:00 A Classic Worship-Chapel Contemporary Worship-Sanctuary 11:30 A New Members Class 11:30 P Deacons-KH	9 11:00 A Tuesday Bible Study-KH 12:00 N Bistro 50+ -KH 1:00 P Cruisers-KH 6:30 P CFC Team-KH 7:00 P Men's Group-CE Ofc. 7:00 P Fellowship Team 7:00 P ABIDE Tues. Nights-SC	10 11:00 A Tuesday Bible Study-KH 12:00 N Bistro 50+ -KH 1:00 P Cruisers-KH 6:30 P CFC Team-KH 7:00 P Men's Group-CE Ofc. 7:00 P Fellowship Team 7:00 P ABIDE Tues. Nights-SC	11 6:30 A Men's Ministries-Zoom 5:30 P PEAK Dinner-KH 6:00 P ABIDE PEAK-SC 6:15 P PEAK Classes 7:30 P Adult Discipleship-Lib. 7:30 P Choir-Chapel	12 6:30 P Personnel Team-FS	13 7:30 A Be Still-CE Office 9:30 A Cornerstone Crew	14
15 10:00 A Classic Worship-Chapel Contemporary Worship-Sanctuary ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK	16 CHURCH & CFC OFFICES CLOSED 7:00 P Property Team-CE Office 7:30 P CM Team-Zoom	17 11:00 A Tuesday Bible Study-KH 7:00 P Communications Team-Zoom 7:00 P Men's Group-CE Office	18 9:00 A MESSENGER DEADLINE ASH WEDNESDAY 6:30 A Men's Ministries-Zoom 7:00 P Ash Wednesday Service-Sanc.	19 6:00 P Game Night-Koopmans	20 7:30 A Be Still-CE Office 9:30 A Cornerstone Crew 10:00 A Ladies of LCPC Tea Party-KH	21
22 10:00 A Classic Worship-Chapel Contemporary Worship-Sanctuary	23 7:00 P Session-KH	24 11:00 A Tuesday Bible Study-KH 7:00 P Men's Group-CE Office	25 6:30 A Men's Ministries-Zoom 5:30 P PEAK Dinner-KH 6:00 P ABIDE PEAK-SC 6:15 P PEAK Classes 7:30 P Choir-Chapel	26 7:00 PM Women's Book Club-Zoom	27	28

CFC
CE
CM
FS
KH

Center For Children
Christian Education
Children's Ministries Team
Fireside Room
Koopmans Hall

M&O
PEAK
SC
SM
W&M

Mission & Outreach Team
Praise & Education for Adults & Kids
Student Center
Student Ministries Team
Worship & Music Team



February is a month that often centers around love. Love for our families, our children, and our community. This month, I wanted to take a moment to share something deeply personal: the role that church and faith have played in shaping who I am, both personally and professionally.

I can't remember a time in my life when I didn't go to church. I started as a baby, bundled up and brought along by my parents. Like many children, there were Sunday mornings when I gave my parents a hard time. I pouted, claimed I was too tired, or insisted I had too much homework. I was your typical child, your typical teenager, but because my parents made God the center of our lives, church wasn't optional; it was a part of our weekly routine. It became part of my foundation.

Growing up, there were times when I felt lonely or disconnected from my school friends. In those moments, I always knew I had my church friends and my church community, a place where I belonged, where I was known, and where I felt supported.

When I left for college and moved out on my own, I was excited about my freedom. No one telling me what to eat, how late to stay

up, or how to spend my free time, and no one walking into my room at 8:30 a.m. on a Sunday saying, "Get up, it's time for church."

I'll never forget that first weekend away from home, I woke up on a Sunday morning feeling something I didn't expect: emptiness. I felt lonely. So, I got dressed and drove myself to a church near my college campus. I didn't know a single person there, yet I felt like I knew everyone. We were all there for one common reason, to praise God and that was enough to make me feel at home.

I have been an early childhood teacher and administrator for 31 years and a parent for 16 years, and we all know this can be a rough world to navigate. My husband Roger and I are raising three children, and before we were married, we had many conversations about what we wanted our life to look like. We both knew we wanted a family, but what truly sealed the deal was our shared desire to raise our children in God's house. We wanted a Christian upbringing for them.

We now have three teenagers, and yes, I get the same pushback I once gave my parents, not all the time, but here and there, we have some convincing we have to do on Sunday mornings,

but for the most part I can tell they feel that same security I once felt as a teenager in church, and deep down I know that when we plant the seed, the roots will grow strong. I trust that they will always be guided by God's light, even when the path feels unclear.

I wanted to share my story because I truly believe that building a strong Christian foundation for our children is just as important, if not more important than all the articles we read about play based learning, STEAM education and academic milestones. My time in childcare and early education and statistics show that confident children with strong social emotional foundation become lifelong learners, and having a strong church family plays a powerful role in raising confident, compassionate, and well-rounded children. I pray for our CFC families every day, I felt compelled to share my experience as an educator of a faith-based school, and as a parent.

Thank you for allowing me to share my heart with you this month. It is a privilege to walk alongside your families and your children.

With gratitude and prayer,
Arpy Jahjah
Executive Director

SESSION NEWS



On January 11, LCPC welcomed our new and returning Session members and Deacons. Returning for a second full term on Session were **Leslie Carpenter**, **Craig Carlson**, and **Jennifer Clem**. In addition, we installed **Sarah Kauffman** (Class of 2028) and **Sidney**

Schreiner (Class of 2026). Dr. Yousef also ordained and installed **Jim Rabe** (Class of 2027).

LCPC also installed five Deacons: **Dave Eagle** (Class of 2026), **Hillary Norton** (Class of 2027), **Mackenzie Roach** (Class of 2028), **Bill Larson** (Class of 2028), and **Nancy Jacobson** (Class of 2028). In addition, we ordained and installed **Karen McAuley** (Class of 2028) and **Tom Crabtree** (Class of 2028). A big thank you to all of you for

your continued service! Special thanks to the leaders rolling off Session, **Greg Cary**, **Carlo Manookian**, and **Jerry White**, for your faithful service.

In December, Session voted on and accepted several proposals, including a complete

repaving of the upper and lower parking lots. We also finalized LCPC's Vision Statement:

*La Crescenta Presbyterian Church
is a community of believers
striving to be an intercultural,
intergenerational congregation
dedicated to making disciples of all nations.*

Session also finalized a high-level Vision rollout plan. In addition, Session accepted a proposal for a part-time Children's Ministry intern be hired for the purpose of working with children during the Winter PEAK Session. Finally, we approved the Student Ministries Director Job Description as approved by the Personnel Team. This has been posted for the search for our new Director.

Submitted in Christ,
Steven Andersen
Clerk of Session

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

A TIME TO REBUILD

"A Time to Rebuild" is our New Sermon Series for the months of January and February 2026. This series of messages will focus on spiritual and communal restoration. It emphasizes the power of God that provides the grace and strength needed to repair what has been broken in our lives, churches, and communities.

"A Time to Rebuild" leads us to the sovereign Master Potter who is able to



reshape us into vessels of hope and purpose through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Entering 2026 is an invitation to move from brokenness to beauty. Just as a potter does not discard flawed clay but remakes it, God uses the challenges of the past year to mold a more resilient future.

"But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand" — Isaiah 64:8.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1 COMBINED & COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE

"A Time to Rebuild: The Grace to Receive!"

Exodus 16:2-3, 11-15

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

"A Time to Rebuild: A Spirit of Gentleness!"

Galatians 6:1-6

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

"A Time to Rebuild: Practice the Pause!"

Matthew 11:28-30

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef



ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 7:00 PM

"Produce Fruit in Keeping with Repentance!"

Matthew 3:1-12

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**"The Wilderness Promise & Risk:
God Will Provide!"**

Luke 4:1-4

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Mouris Yousef	Senior Pastor & Head of Staff mouris@lcp.net	Cindy Charles	Finance Manager
Arpy Jahjah	Executive Director, Center For Children arpy@lcp.net	Gary Woodward	Choir Director gary@lcp.net
Dot Kim	Director of Children's Ministries dot@lcp.net	Matthew Krell	Organist/Pianist
Will Wolfswinkel	Interim Director of Student Ministries will.wolfswinkel@gmail.com	Scott Tibbs & Dave Robbins	Producers of Contemporary Music
Nancy Thomas	Office Manager nancy@lcp.net	Baldo Muralles	Facilities Manager
		Herim Park	Director of Social Media herim@lcp.net