



MESSENGER

VOLUME 73 NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 2024



VISION/STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 17
COMBINED SERVICE 10:00 AM



Dear LCPC,

This fall has been my favorite season ministry in the past decade! Our Greater Boston staff team is eager and overjoyed seeing God really on the move! Personally, it has been a joy

to serve on campus with the new group of Athletes at UMass Lowell, and step in for a staff member on maternity leave at Wellesley. I serve as co-Area Director overseeing InterVarsity's ministry across Greater Boston: 16 staff serving 14 InterVarsity chapters on 12 campuses.

At Wellesley, 24 students signed up for IV at the fair, and half said they are not Christian! Last year just 4 signed up. They shared, "I've never read the Bible but saw my roommate reading her Bible, and I'd like to learn about God," and, "I grew up Christian but I don't know what I think about God. Could this be a group for me?" YES, YES, YES! This is incredible progress from just 1 month ago when only one student remained in InterVarsity at Wellesley!

At Berklee (below), InterVarsity was denied a room reservation (no more rooms available),

so the leaders met in a big lawn near campus for Bible study. The next week they met at the same lawn and the automatic sprinklers went off right at the end of their meeting! Instead of dispersing, they started singing worship songs as they moved to another area to continue discussing and praying. The group finally received a room three weeks ago, and have filled it to capacity. Even more students came than chairs in the room! It feels like ministry is overflowing.

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PASTOR'S LETTER

Greetings La Crescenta Presbyterian Church Family & Friends,

The story of Abraham continues to inspire me and challenge me at the same time. "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you," said the Lord God to Abraham in Genesis 12:2. When you come to a turning point, what do you do? When your life turns over, when people turn against you, when your world turns upside down – where do you turn?

I personally turn to the story of Abraham. When I was a boy growing up in Egypt, I found Abraham to be one of the most alive characters in the Bible. When my faith would falter over life's small challenges, a quick review of what Abraham dealt with encouraged me forward. My wimpy, questioning faith seemed so inadequate compared to this pioneer of faith who carried out a dynamic, complicated, lifelong pilgrimage.

Abraham was my patron saint of journeying into the future. Unlike the tower builders of Babel, who wanted to construct a centralized altar, Abraham was willing to be "kept moving" by God as a blessing to the world. With nothing but God's promises in hand, this man abandoned the familiar world of Haran, a place where he had built a comfortable life. He went at an advanced age into an uncertain future, leaving behind everything familiar for only the embrace of God's promise.

Abraham is still my patron saint of "going." No one else surpasses his willingness to leave home and follow God based on nothing but a promise. The story of Abraham is the story of the divine and the human engaging in so strong a relationship that it leads to a covenant. Abraham didn't go through a process of growing stronger in his beliefs about God. Instead, he grew in a relationship with God. Throughout the book of Genesis, God and Abraham

speak together as you or I would

speak to each other and to our closest friends. God and Abraham watch the stars together, argue together, laugh together, rage together, mourn together. There was no precedent for this in the ancient world. Humans simply didn't have a relationship with a god. In the world of ancient Israel, one lived in fear and terror of the gods.

God enjoyed this relationship with Abraham so immensely, and there such mutual trust between them, that God decided to establish an unprecedented covenant with ninety-year-old Abraham. And this was no small matter.

As God's people right here at La Crescenta Presbyterian Church, we "keep moving" following where the Spirit leads so that we become a blessing to our community. We continue "going" beyond what we have always done trying new things and discerning the movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst. We continue to grow in our "relationship" with God and with our neighbor as we worship together on Sundays, as we wrestle with what it means to be an intercultural church in our PEAK class this Fall, as we gather around God's Word in a Bible Study Class on Tuesdays, as we reach out to children and students in our community, as we do missions and outreach, and serve all in the name of Jesus.

So many great things are happening around LCPC. Be a part of this exciting and dynamic movement of the Spirit. Our Vision/Stewardship Sunday is on Sunday, November 17, 2024. Let's consecrate ourselves anew to the Lord as we bring our 2025 Faith Estimate of Giving as well as our Time and Talent Commitment Cards. Look what God is doing, be part of it. To God be the glory!

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



BISTRO 50+

**TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 12
12 NOON IN
KOOPMANS**

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



Then plan to stay after for the Cruisers' program, "A WALK THROUGH LIFE" with Bob Keiter. He will be sharing his experiences in Korea during the war among other things. We are all looking forward to it.

MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ART DIRECTOR/EDITOR

Shawn Kelly
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**MESSENGER DEADLINE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 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.





children's Ministries

by JESIAH BOZICH

We've had a busy, fun few months here at La Crescenta Presbyterian Church! We ended September with our Fall Carnival,

then just experienced our exciting Trunk-or-Treat/Pumpkin Decorating Party to conclude October! In addition to all these events, we've also been having great times of learning and connection with our Sunday Morning and PEAK kids' groups. If you can't tell, God is doing some really wonderful things in the children's lives here at LCPC. Kids are growing in their relationships with one another while also growing in the depths of their relationship with God! Kids haven't just been learning Bible stories, they've been growing and understanding how these stories help them think about their everyday life at home, in sports, and in school. I am so very thankful to see God bearing fruits in the lives of these kids, and pray that we continue to shepherd these young ones well as they grow as the boys and girls God has made them.

This month, we are hosting our Children's

Hunger Fund Project Food Pak drive! We are asking the congregation, CFC, and other ministries of LCPC to help provide items from the attached list. These items will be going to children in the United States experiencing poverty. The food drive ends on Sunday, November 17th, so be sure to have your donations in before that day! Our kids will work together to pack the boxes with these donations on Wednesday, November 20th, during our SPARKS kids' group. Join us in praying that this drive helps our children, as well as the children who receive the boxes, to know the servant heart of our King Jesus!

Please be praying for our children here at LCPC and CFC. We know that, "Unless the LORD builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted." (Psalm 127:1) We work to guide, bless, serve, and empower these children, but it is the Holy

Spirit who will establish their lives. May we seek the Lord's kingdom come in all of our lives.



Project Food Pak Shopping List

Each box should include

- 1 Package of Spaghetti (16oz)
- 1 Can of Tomato Sauce (15oz)
- 1 Can of Vegetables (15oz)
- 1 Can of Beans - pinto or black(15oz)
- 2 Cans of Tuna (5oz)
- 4 Pouches Gummy Fruit Snacks (.8oz each)
- 2 Fruit/Applesauce Squeeze Pouches (3.2 oz each)
- 4 Cereal/Granola Bars (1.3 oz each)
- 1 (PLASTIC) Peanut Butter Jar (16oz)

NO GLASS JARS- Easy open cans preferred.

We supply the boxes, you supply the food!

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

MISSIONS

(continued from page 1)

SPONSOR A STUDENT - FALL CONFERENCE

We host students at Greater Boston's Fall Conference Nov 1-3. It costs \$200 to bring a student to fall conference. Last year, 68% of our students needed a scholarship to be able

to attend. Would you consider sponsoring one student (or more)?

We are trying something new with scholarships this year, by asking every student receiving a scholarship to invite other students to come along to Fall Conference with them! Students are heartily responding and inviting their friends! We anticipate needing \$10K in scholarships so every student who wants to attend is able. You can set up a scholarship gift online: givetoiv.org/greaterbostonships

FAMILY CORNER

Abigail is now ONE, Caleb is the life of our party, and Jonathan is now confidently riding a pedal bike, leading our crew on Saturday morning runs!

I just completed a big accomplishment at the end of September: hiking New Hampshire's 48 mountains over 4,000 feet for the second time - this time with a twist - I carried one of my children up each mountain!

Thank you for your partnership making this work possible. If you'd like to begin financial



support, or increase your giving, visit givetoiv.org/MarieAdams. If you'd like to receive more of my monthly newsletters, email Marie.Adams@intervarsity.org

With joy,
Marie & Daniel Adams



YOUTH TRIENNIUM 2025

July 28-31



In July 2025, the Presbyterian Church (USA) will welcome thousands of its high school-age youth and their adult youth workers to Louisville, Kentucky, for four days of worship, recreation, Bible study, outreach, and faith formation centered on the theme of “As If We Were Dreaming.”

Most programming and meals will be held at the Kentucky International Convention Center (KICC) with all participants housed at nearby Triennium hotels. There is a group go-

ing from the San Fernando Presbytery. If you or your student (entering HS - graduating HS) is interested they can contact Faith Schierholt at faith@wpcwestlake.org or Richard Poole at rev.richard.poole@gmail.com as they are the adults going with the student delegation from San Fernando Presbytery. Our delegation may stay an extra day or two to perform community service in the area. Faith and Richard will have more information.

I’m excited to share some wonderful things happening as we’ve launched our High School Abide gatherings! It has been a powerful time of connection and growth, especially as we’ve dived into deep discussions around the question of the problem of evil. Seeing our students open up and wrestle with these challenges has been truly inspiring. They are not only asking tough questions but also growing deeper in their faith as they navigate the complexities of the world around them.

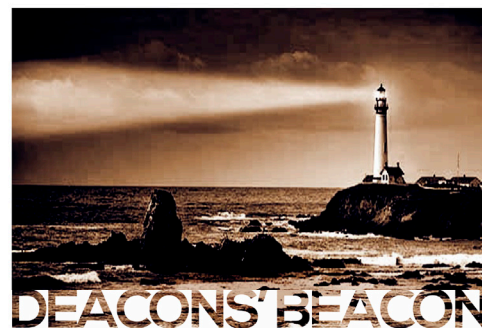
In addition to these meaningful conversations, we also had a blast at our recent Halloween party! The students enjoyed various games and activities, and it was a great opportunity for them to bond with one another in a fun, laid-back environment.



As we now take a turn towards the holiday season, we recognize that this can be a busy time for students and families as they plan out the year ahead. We ask for your prayers as we enter this season, that our students would continue to stay grounded in their faith and that their relationships with the Lord would flourish despite the distractions and busyness that come with the holidays.

Your prayers and support mean so much to us and to them.

Grace and Peace,
Izzy



This month’s Deacon’s spotlight is on the cards that the Deacons send out expressing the concerns and praises for the LCPC family. We celebrate birthdays (60 years and more), anniversaries (25 years and more), graduations, new babies, new members and Christmas, and we also send out Get Well, Thinking of You, Sympathy and Thank you cards. Card donations are appreciated. Please put them in Elaine Ross-Collins’ Deacon folder in the church office. And if you know someone who should be getting a card (including yourself!), please send an email to Elaine at elainemrcollins@verizon.net to let her know. Elaine does a tireless job in keeping track of those in need, and how they are doing. The Deacons are grateful to Elaine for leading this ministry for many years and lift up our prayers for her great effort.

Many of you already know that, in addition to my volunteer work at the church, hiking is an important part of my life. This year my hiking trips included Mt. Shasta and the Sierras. I’ve been once to Kilimanjaro, and three years ago once to Nepal. I hike to get away from civilization and observe God’s matchless creation. I can see God in the creation (Romans 1:19,20). I enjoy it; I did not create it. There are certainly many dangers in the wilderness, and I am reminded in the book of Job, that God shows up in the storm. I wish I had thought about doing this at a younger age, since it is much more difficult to do now.

I also wanted to remind everyone about our annual Harvest Brunch on Sunday, November 17, before the Thanksgiving holiday. We want to give thanks for all that we have had, and that we currently have. Life being very fragile, we never know when our lives can change dramatically. We do not know God’s plan for our lives ahead of time, but in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, we can bring our requests to God (Philippians 4:6).

Let us remember God’s direction this season.

In Christ,
Dave

Saturday

[illegible]

It's November, LCPC family, and you know what that means! The sweet aroma of Pumpkin Dump Cake will soon be filling Koopmans Hall, courtesy of our wonderful Board of Deacons! Their scrumptious **Harvest Brunch** is an annual tradition that fills our stomachs, warms our hearts and reminds us of all we have to be grateful for in this season of thanksgiving. Everyone is invited!

We'll gather for brunch right after our **Vision Sunday** service on Nov. 17, a time of deep reflection and personal commitment to serving the Lord in the coming year. Look around and you'll find new faces at LCPC, a growing sense of community, excitement about the future. Who wouldn't want to be part of it all?!

On a recent Sunday, **Pastor Mouris** inspired us with a reminder of the incredible gift we have been given: "I hope we are moved today by the generosity of God, a God who gave his son for our salvation, a God who put his Spirit in our hearts. And when we are moved by the generosity of God, we will be moved to do great things here."

We hear you, Pastor! We'll be on the lookout for a **Faith Promise Card** coming soon in the mail and available at church, and pray about how we can step up and take part in all that God is doing at LCPC.

In November alone, there are plenty of ways to serve. Why not start by helping meet a pressing need in our own community? Our **Children's Ministry** will again partner with **Children's Hunger Fund** to fill food boxes that provide much-needed meals to local families. Consult the official shopping list to learn what purchases help the most, and drop off your donation by Nov. 17. Jesiah and the kids of LCPC will pack up the boxes and get them ready for delivery, providing a wonderful lesson to us all about how to put faith into action.

Now if your happy place is in the kitchen whipping up dishes both savory and sweet, we love you! And we invite you to put your talents to good use by providing a meal during LCPC's upcoming week serving unhoused families through **Home Again Los Angeles**. This terrific organization provides shelter to families with kids at First Presbyterian Church of Burbank. LCPC volunteers deliver dinners to help nourish these families, and our next week of service is Dec. 1-7. Join us, and we know that you will be blessed. Contact Cindy Williams at



csguenther50@gmail.com to learn more about this important ministry.

No matter what your superpower is — tech skills, a green thumb, a killer singing voice — consider how you can use it at LCPC to grow God's Kingdom!

This entire autumn season we've seen your gifts at work. At the **All-Church Day of Service** in October, volunteers spent hours deep-cleaning the nursery, changing the cabinet hinges in the Koopmans kitchen, sprucing up the landscaping all across the campus and a whole lot more. Props to the **Property Team** and everyone who showed up to lend a hand!

We are grateful, too, to the 40-plus women who came together in Pasadena to spend the day connecting with each other in Christ (pictured). What a powerful message we heard from the **Rev. Dr. Laura Harbert**, who spoke about what it means to be transformed by spiritual



depth and maturity, growing closer to God and to the amazing community of women at LCPC. We're deeply grateful to Laura and to everyone who helped make this retreat possible!

And after last year's smashing **Trunk or Treat** success, we did it all again! Families from across the community descended on the LCPC parking lot to go trick-or-treating at our collection of wild and wacky decorated cars. The kiddos also had a blast carving and painting Jack-O-Lantern masterpieces to take home. Huge thanks to the **Outreach and Children's Ministry** teams for this memorable afternoon full of candy, costumes, laughter and pumpkin guts!

For more than half a century, our **Center for Children** has been there for the families of our community. That will hold true again during Thanksgiving week, when Glendale schools are closed but the CFC will offer a **fun and engaging day camp**, including a scavenger hunt at the Los Angeles Arboretum! Both the CFC and the church office will be closed in honor of Veterans Day on Monday, Nov. 11.

And this fall, congratulations are in order ... to so many LCPC families! Four young people who grew up in the church are engaged to be married! Blessings to you, **Austin Marks** and **Emma Wollenweber**! And to you, **Andrew Granier** and **Emma Bretthauer**! And double blessings to the **Holmquist family**, with daughter **Kenzie** engaged to **Cole Rasco** and son **Riley** engaged to **Stephanie Buschhorn**!

Joyful news in the baby department, too! **Teri and Mike Harter** have a new grandson, **Cameron James**, born in August to **Bryan and Christina**. And young **Lake**, the sweet little son of **Chase and Aubrie Walker**, is expecting the arrival of a baby sister in April!

And we are immensely proud of **Pastor Mouris**, a man of God whose hunger to know Him better has led to his latest book — on the Dutch theologian, philosopher and educator Abraham Kuyper. The Arabic-language book will be released this month in Egypt.

We'll see you all on Sunday! Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour before you go to bed on Saturday, Nov. 2nd — and enjoy that extra hour of sleep!



Thanksgiving Feast

During the week of our Thanksgiving Feast you can smell Thanksgiving in the air. Each classroom prepares one part of our feast and then on Thursday, November 21, we come together in Koopmans Hall for dinner as one big CFC family. The hall will be decorated with your child's artwork and we will be thankful together. We will be asking you to bring in the item assigned to your classroom by Monday, Nov 18, so they can get to cook'n. The charge that night is \$10 per family. Look for information in your child's room and on DoJo. We look forward to seeing you then. This is one of the best nights of the year!

GUSD and CFC Closed

November 1: No student day for GUSD. We will open for all school age children on that day, please have your children in k-6 grade bring a lunch. We will be taking school age kids to the park.

November 11: CFC and GUSD will be closed for Veterans' Day.

November 15: No student day for GUSD. We will open for all school age children on that day, please have your children in K-6 grade bring a lunch.

November 22: GUSD will have a minimum day, we will be picking up students early, bring a lunch.

November 25-27: GUSD elementary schools will be closed. CFC will be here full day for your children Monday-Wednesday of that week, closed Thursday (28) and Friday (29). A day camp will be offered for these three days.

Director's Corner

There are so many things to be grateful for year-round, but it is nice that we concentrate on being grateful during November. Teaching our children to be grateful is an everyday occurrence. They watch and listen to us saying "Thank-You" to the people around us, at the store, at school, and in our homes. Saying out loud how grateful you are for the things you have and the people that are around you is great role modeling. Praying at your dinner table and giving thanks to God is a practice that also instills an attitude of gratitude. Children who are given everything that they want, especially on demand, don't tend to have a spirit of thankfulness. As we begin this holiday season there will be lots of opportunities to give to others. This newsletter has a couple of those opportunities listed through the church. You may also see other chances to give around town. Involve your kids in that giving. Have them pick out a toy for the Toys for Tots program and take it to a fire station, have them

put a dollar in the Salvation Army bucket, or bring food to the LCPC food drive. There are so many ways to participate in making the world easier for others and create a child who is a giver and is grateful.

May the Lord bless you and your family this Thanksgiving and give you hearts of gratitude,
Pat

Looking Ahead

Christmas craft night will be Thursday, December 12. This is a really fun night for the entire family. This year it will also include our celebration of Julie Larson as she prepares for retirement. We will be recognizing her during our time in the sanctuary. Please save this date and join us.

We will be closed December 23-25 for Christmas. We will close at 3:00 on December 31 for New Years Eve and will be back on January 2. GUSD winter break is from December 23 – January 6; we will have a winter day camp during those days.

Pat's Memories

Pictured here is my first contract for working at the Center for Children. Look at that official looking signature! It was the summer before my junior year. The interview took place in my pajamas around the kitchen table as my mom, Carol Murphy, said she needed some help this summer. There were days that summer that we had so few students that the joke was we could take a field trip in the teacher's VW bug! Day camp at that time was mostly going to parks, watching reel to reel movies and lots of water fights. That fall I would walk down from CV High School and help in the after-school program. That was when the program expanded from K-3rd grade to K-6th grade. We had two vans, donated by the McDonald family, and we were the only place offering afterschool care at the time. Not even the schools were offering any afterschool child care. Here is one of the things I

remember: I had this bright yellow skirt that I loved to wear, but every time I wore it to work it seemed like I spilled the juice on myself. In those days afternoon snack was always crackers and juice. Things have changed with now six vans, over 60 kids in our day camp program last year and no more yellow skirt.

Pat Murphy

As per my discussion with the Director, I agree to serve:

Days: Mon - 7:00 - 2:30 (Break 12-1)
Tues - 4:00 - 6:00

Hours: Wed -
Thurs - 8:30 - 2:30 (Break 12-1)
Fri - 7-9

Job Classification: Aide

At a monthly salary of: 35.50
(Hourly Rate 2.00)

Beginning Date: July 7, 1975

Closing Date: Sept 13, 1975

Amendments to Job Description as listed in the Personnel Manual are:

I accept this assignment.

Pat Murphy 7/7/75
SIGNATURE OF EMPLOYEE DATE

CHAIRMAN, PRESCHOOL BOARD

2 copies: Staff Worker
Preschool Office File

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

Gratitude Journaling

Join us for an uplifting women's event focused on Christ-centered gratitude journaling and meaningful discussion. Together, we will explore how to cultivate thankfulness in our everyday lives, grounding our hearts in the love and grace of Jesus. Through reflective journaling and group conversations, we'll connect with one another, share insights, and deepen our faith. Come ready to be inspired, encouraged, and to leave with a renewed spirit of gratitude! We are meeting on Saturday, November 16 at 10:00 AM in the Fireside Room.

SESSION REPORT

At the September 23 Stated Meeting of Session, the following items were discussed and/or approved:

- Approved the Workplace Violence Prevention Plan now required by the State of California Labor Board (SB553). Many thanks to Pat Chambers (CFC), Rebecca Lessley (Personnel), and Geoff Bryan (Property) for their hard work on completing this plan. And many thanks to Pat for implementing the training portion of this required plan.
- Approved and adopted the new job description for Senior Pastor and Head of Staff.
- Approved an allocation from unrestricted Memorial Funds to finance a remodel in the main office to accommodate work space for the Director of Children's Ministries and the Director

of Student Ministries.

Your Session has held several "informal" discussion meetings over the last several weekends to discuss the vision for LCPC over the next 2-3 years, and also to review the 2024 budget year-to-date in preparation for the 2025 budget. Several more "vision" meetings will be held over the next 6-9 months. We would ask that you pray for Session members to faithfully discern God's plan for our church as we discuss looking ahead.

As always, please feel free to contact any of the Elders serving on Session if you have a concern, a suggestion, or simply a compliment! A list of Elders with their contact information is available in the bulletin, at the Connections desk, in the church office, or through me.

Blessings,
Sheri Gray
Clerk of Session



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 COMBINED COMMUNION SERVICE

"Ambassadors for Christ!"

Isaiah 43:10-13; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

"Undivided Heart!"

Psalm 86:11-13; Matthew 6:22-24

Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17 VISION/STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY COMBINED SERVICE

"Choosing Faith over Fear!"

Psalm 27:1-3; Hebrews 11:32-34

Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

"Doxological Living!"

Exodus 33:18-23; Romans 11:33-36

Rev. Dr. Mouris A. Yousef