

MESSENGER

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Ministry Update from Daniel and Marie

Dear Friends,

Before the pandemic, teleportation was my superpower of choice. Not anymore! I appreciate more deeply how God created us with bodies, and the limits our bodies provide. It can feel disembodied to jump from one meeting to the next in seconds. We don't do that in regular life!



Forging new rhythms of work and worship during the pandemic has been exhilarating and exhausting. In the pandemic, students are coming to faith and living out their faith in their homes in ways we've never seen before, including parents coming to our student-led Bible studies!

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I and the five staff I supervise have been running harder than usual. Instead of a typical break at the end of a semester, we have continued ministering to students throughout the summer. I miss the life-giving conversations each summer when I travel to see many of you. I have been meaning to call friends to catch up, but the weeks keep passing without much progress.

Half (three) of the campuses Marie oversees in Boston are going 100% virtual, and the other half chose a hybrid model.

3 Ways to Pray:

1. Financial Support - 19K need

Thank you for your support! Marie needs 19K more in pledged support to reach her ministry budget this year. To give, visit givetoviv.org/MarieAdams

2. Attractive Outreach

This year's outreach efforts will look completely different as we

seek to create pathways to community for students and faculty online. We've designed landing pages, virtual sign-ups, are increasing our Instagram and Facebook presence. These efforts have already begun to connect us with new students in Boston!

3. Healthy rhythms this fall

Pray for us (Daniel and me, the staff I supervise, and the students we serve) to discover healthy rhythms of work and worship this fall semester. It feels like we've settled into okay rhythms, but what else can we shift to thrive in the months ahead?

Our Family During Lockdown

10 months old! Jonathan crawls everywhere with a 2-toothed grin, licking and grasping at anything within reach. We enjoy hide-and-



seek, the three of us laughing as Jonathan finds us. We are loving this stage, delighted to be his parents.

We're living through a pandemic. Our '98 Honda Civic is petering out. Our housing situation is in flux. We're welcoming children in foster care into our home, including 2- and 4-year-old brothers last weekend. In the midst of the instability, Jesus' invitation to store up treasure in heaven where moth and rust do not destroy has been offering us a fresh truth.

Thank you for your prayers and support!





PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,
This is such a hard season. Eight months into the quarantine, we miss each other so much! But I'm feeling somewhat encouraged. I think

the prohibitions relating to worship will be lifted sooner than many people suspect. And when they are, we'll be ready.

In times of extreme disruption we're easily defeated by fear and discouragement. For people of faith, however, disruption can be invigorating. When things are turned upside down we have the chance to consider them from a totally new angle. When what's old and familiar stops working we're inspired to think about new possibilities.

At LCPC we're listening closely to the Spirit. We're thinking deeply about emerging opportunities and what we need to do as a church family to get in line with God's new agenda. Over the next few months you'll be hearing a lot from me and your leadership team about the new vision and new plans that have emerged in this time of pandemic and social and political unrest. For now I want to tell you about a simple, bold decision we made at the September meeting of the Session relating to our Sunday worship schedule.

Starting the first Sunday we're able to return to the Sanctuary, the New Song worship service will happen at 10:00 AM instead of 9:00 AM. And the traditional/classic service will be offered at 5:00 PM instead of 11:00 AM.

The top priority of our Vision 2020 plan, remember, is to grow God's kingdom. We're doing that

by helping believers to grow in their discipleship and by leading others to Christ. We believe this new worship schedule will help us as we pursue those goals. Some key points:

- On balance, the worship hour that works the best for the most people in our region is 10:00 AM. Placing the contemporary service at that hour is likely to result in stronger attendance.
- We've been worshipping in the evening (outdoors in the Courtyard) since mid-July and attendance has been fairly strong. Many of those regularly in attendance were formerly worshipping Sundays at 11:00 AM.
- More and more people find it difficult to get to church on Sunday morning. The 5:00 PM service option we hope will make it possible for some of them to worship.
- Under the old schedule (9:00 AM and 11:00 AM), the only way to join together for a meal was to conduct only one service, usually at 9:00 AM. The 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM schedule allows us to offer a meal (or conduct a meeting) after either service and invite everyone to participate. And we hope to do that frequently — at least every quarter.

What will Sunday services be like? The 10:00 AM contemporary service music will be led by our praise band, The Blessed. Building on skills we've developed during the sheltering, we plan to incorporate more videos at both services that feature interviews and stories of faith. We'll also continue to post pre-recorded services every Sunday that can be accessed at any time on YouTube or through lpc.net.

The 5:00 PM service will retain most of the elements of the traditional/classic service. It will include hymns, meditative prayers and readings, sacred music (both old and new), musical ensembles and of course choral music by our wonderful choir. In an effort to give the service the look and feel of an evensong or candlelight vespers service, we will also introduce changes that will make it more intimate, contemplative and prayerful. The 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM services will include the same Bible readings and message.

A final word about our wonderful choir. We're committed to continuing and even building on our choral tradition at LCPC, and this Sunday schedule change opens some new opportunities. The choir will not be expected to sing at every 5:00 PM service; we will introduce a rotation so they will need to prepare music only about twice a month. We believe the more relaxed rehearsal and 'performance' schedule that will result from these changes will allow more people to join (or rejoin) the choir. (The 'pre-COVID' schedule required choir members to practice twice a week and to sing nearly every Sunday of the school year. That heavy schedule probably contributed to declining participation.)

When the choir isn't singing Sundays at 5:00 PM, we'll schedule soloists and ensembles to offer special music. And we'll use digital media to let people know who will be leading the music each week. The goal at both 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM will be to set the bar high, and to feature music every week that's so deeply moving that even those who don't know the Lord will be drawn in.

I believe the Spirit is preparing our city, nation, and world for revival. May it begin very soon, in churches all over the planet, as we come back together to praise our amazing God.

Love and good cheer,
Andy Wilson



Stream crossing in Green Creeks

MESSANGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ART DIRECTOR/EDITOR

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MESSANGER DEADLINE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15
9:00 AM SHARP!

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



LEE'S LATEST



"Heat waves and Fires and Pandemics, Oh My!" Sort of feels like we're living in the Land of Oz, huh? Hoping the flying monkeys aren't next! We had record heat and wildfires last month that sadly led to the canceling of our outdoor Evensong worship service two weeks in a row.

Fortunately, we have the amazing **Dan Blessinger** and his praise band "**The Blessed**" – **Lana Sanfilippo, Scott Tibbs, Dan Franklin**, and **JP Mourao**, along with the tech crew of **Geoff Bryan** and **Austin Marks** who quickly came up with Plan B for the first cancel. The band set up in the Blessingers' living room and live streamed praise music while Lana was tucked away in Dan's recording studio singing along with the band who spread out in Dan's home. It was a great time of worship, inside our homes away from the sweltering heat! The following week when we had to cancel again due to the smoke from the Bobcat Fire, **Andy** and **Mary** offered a communion service accompanied by **Gary Woodward** playing beautiful flute music. Of course, we still have our online service each week, but these were wonderful additions to that. Thank you to everyone who pivots at a moment's notice to allow us to worship in creative ways. And please continue your prayers for all those affected by the west coast wildfires.

We were excited to have the talented **Talin Emmerson** provide music last month during the Sunday service as she played the keyboard for worship. Talin is a music major at Biola University and everyone enjoyed her melodious playing.

"**Gracious Conversations About Race and Reconciliation**" was back again a few weeks ago, hosted by **Phil** and **Lecia Van Horn**. The discussion this time centered around contemporary and historical views of race and protests, the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and clips from the documentary *Citizen King*. The first night featured young adults from the congregation sharing their thoughts, and the second night their parents were brought on to discuss their views. Thank you to all the speakers – **Carleigh** and **Darrell Fernandez**, **Grace** and **Karen McAuley**, **Whitney** and **Brycen Hicklin** and **Sharon** and **Dave**

What do we mean when we say we "love" God? Is it a feeling we experience during a worship service? Is it fulfilling our commitments to our church? Is it holding fast to our beliefs when we are filled with doubts? This month, we'll begin a new sermon series called "Loving God," and our focus will be on the book of the Bible devoted to the theme of loving God: Deuteronomy.

We often think of Deuteronomy as the "law," but that's not a very good translation of the Hebrew word "torah." The best translation would be "owners manual." Imagine if we had a guide to living a happy, meaningful and purposeful life. We do! This is the book of the Bible Jesus quoted from more

often than almost any other book (the exception is the Psalms), and it forms the theological backbone of the whole Bible.

More than just a great work of theology (which it is), Deuteronomy gives us Biblical practices that teach us how to love God, and it shapes us for service to the world. I hope you'll follow along with our Sunday services and our weekly Facebook live Bible studies to learn how to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

De Paoli for opening up about these sensitive topics.

July 29, 2020 proved to be a very special day for two families in our congregation. **Mark** and **Cindy Williams** and **Lecia** and **Phil Van Horn** all became grandparents to beautiful granddaughters on the same day! Mark and Cindy flew to London to quarantine for a couple of weeks so they could be there when daughter **Sierra** and her husband **Sam** brought **Marlow Casey Moore** into the world! That same day, Phil and Lecia's daughter **Kari** and her husband **JJ** gave birth to **Kaci Corem Deo Steele**. Not only were these precious girls born the same day but Kaci's first name is Marlow's middle name, only spelled differently. We are so happy for both these wonderful, growing families and these lucky girls have some pretty awesome grandparents!

As we are about six weeks into the new school year, we want to give a shout out to all the teachers in our midst who are doing a spectacular job, under unprecedented circumstances, to continue to educate the kids in our communities, as well as in their own homes! **Jon Weingarten, Michelle Blessinger, Jennifer Clem, Jeanette Woodward, Whitney Lescher, Pat Chambers** and all the **CFC teachers**. Thank you for all your hard work, love and patience! And great job to all the parents who are supporting distance learning with tech support and homework help, all while running your busy households!

We have an update on **Men's Ministries** at LCPC! In addition to the Wednesday morn-

ing Zoom meeting at 8:00 AM led by **Phil Van Horn**, there is now a Thursday morning Zoom meeting at 7:00 AM led by **Jim Granier**. This group, Journey with Jesus, is starting a new curriculum, so it's a great time to join them! The third group meets Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM in the Courtyard, distancing with masks. You can contact Phil at ballphild@gmail.com, Jim at granierjim@hotmail.com, or Al Nunez at: anunez001@pacbell.net for Zoom links and information.

Halloween may not look quite the same this year for most kids, but that's not going to stop **Kristy Hicks** from planning some good old-fashioned Halloween fun! Be watching for information on a **pumpkin carving contest**. Entries will most likely be posted on our social media pages so we can all enjoy your spooky, silly and imaginative creations!

CFC is trying to brighten up their food service presentation to add some extra pizzazz for the kids! They would love any **party paper goods** that you have left over such as colorful napkins, plates, or plastic ware. They can be holiday themed, birthday or just plain colorful. The kids will love it and you can get rid of those 2020 New Year's napkins that you don't want to see anymore!

In other exciting CFC news, the back parking lot on the east side of the church was slurried and painted. Nothing like new crisp parking lines! The Property Committee also put in many hours in 104-degree heat to reconstruct a foundation drain which was causing damage to the CE building.

Thank you to **Josh Kauffman**, and **Darrell** and **Duane Fernandez** for their hard work. **Geoff Bryan** and Darrell also installed 13 Wi-Fi access points throughout the church campus to allow CFC students to attend their Zoom classes. When we open back up, that will be very handy for committee meetings too!

Keep being kind; keep praying for our world, country, community and each other; and keep finding things to be grateful for. Talk to you next month!



children's Ministries

by Kristy Hicks

Hi Everyone!

My first *Messenger* article as Interim Director of Children's Ministries! Most of you know me from such hits as "The girl at the check-in table on Sunday mornings," or "The girl reading Scripture for online services," or maybe just "Ashley's assistant," or even "The girl who cares waaaay too much about ShelbyNext" (it's true!). But in case none of those rings any bells, I thought I should use my first Messenger article to (re)-introduce myself, with a mixture of fun and (maybe) useful facts.

- I've been going to LCPC since I was a baby. I also went to CFC from Kindergarten-6th grade. Many of my favorite memories and most of my friends growing up were made in the children's and youth programs at LCPC, or at CFC.

- I went to college at Whitworth University in Spokane, WA. I majored in International Studies (Political Science) and minored in Peace Studies and Theology.
- My favorite kind of cookie is chocolate chip. If we ever have a PEAK bake sale again, you can see why. (Or email me and I'll send you the recipe!)
- I love to read — especially Fantasy novels. If you have any favorite books, or want any recommendations, let me know!
- I also love to travel. In college I studied abroad three times — in Costa Rica, Ireland, and Tanzania. I've also backpacked through Europe and love a good road trip here in the U.S.!

Ashley left incredibly big shoes to fill, even temporarily, but I'm grateful that I've been able

to step in during this time of transition. I hope to make the big changes that are happening a little easier, and to smooth the way for the next Director of Children's Ministries. I'm so thankful for my LCPC family, and I hope I can show some of my gratitude in the next few months as I do this job.

Finally, please email me at: kristyh412@gmail.com if you have any questions about Children's Ministries programming or want to be on the Children's Ministries email list. As of this writing, dates for October events haven't been nailed down, (and we all know that nothing is certain these days!), but be on the lookout for details about a pumpkin carving contest, and possibly a physically-distanced family chalk-art event!

In Christ,
Kristy



Kathy Hill and Carol Van Citters walk along Long Lake



George Buebler atop Burro Pass



James Nutting and his two girls, Tori and Holly.

Saturday

SUBJECT TO CHANGE—MODERATORS WILL DECIDE IF COMMITTEES WILL MEET

5



ALL CHURCH WORK DAY COMING

OCTOBER 24



Please plan to help spiff up LCPC at our All Church Work Day! Come and leave any time between 8:00 AM and 1:00 PM. Even brief efforts can make big impacts. One of several outdoor areas of focus will be helping the Cornerstone Crew with landscape maintenance. Social distancing guidelines will be followed and masks are required. Meet in the LCPC parking lot for some music, socializing (with distance) and serving the Lord! Water will be provided but bring your gloves. Contact Judy Trumbo at jktrumbo@gmail.com or Darrell Fernandez at Darrell.g.fernandez@gmail.com with questions. Bring the whole family!

SESSION REPORT

At the September stated meeting of Session the following items were approved:

- Plans for worship in the Sanctuary when it is legal to do so per the Los Angeles County Health Department. See Andy's letter for details.
- Approved our contemporary praise band, The Blessed, to videotape a new set of music videos, including Christmas music, to be used in the production of the Sunday morning video worship services.
- CFC to conduct a direct donation solicitation to the congregation during the month of October. Donations can be made in the form of cash or in-kind donations such as cleaning supplies, classroom supplies, etc.
- Property Committee has scheduled an all-church work day for October 24. Most of the work will be conducted outdoors.
- Kristy Hicks has been hired as the Interim Director of Children's Ministries.

In Christ,
Sheri Gray
Clerk of Session

Dear Friends,

In these strange times, many of us are reflecting on our lives as to what is important and what we can do to cope or to help. Your Deacons have remained busy praying, worshipping, and coming up with creative ways to stay in touch and share the healing power of Jesus in this hurting world. Birthday cards and grief booklets let those in our congregation know that they are loved and not forgotten. Meals and supplies are provided and rides to the doctor, library, or pharmacy are gladly given. Life goes on in all circumstances and is made lovely and meaningful through the love of our Lord whom we serve. We are so blessed to be able to worship freely in spirit, if not in body.

You hear the phrase, "when things get back to normal" a lot, but what does that mean? I do not want things to go back to the old normal where injustice, fear, and lack of compassion are the primary state of existence for so many. My heart aches for the people who are considered "essential" but who have no health insurance to help them if they get sick from caring for or serving those who have contracted COVID-19 or any other illness.

There is little assistance for those whose jobs have disappeared but their daily expenses have not. There is a dearth of services for those who are experiencing mental health issues large and small. We see there are very few "safety nets" for so many in our country. Those who do not look like or think like us are often considered less than us. This should not be the norm.

I am not advocating for government to take on all those issues. We can help bring change where appropriate by voting for people who will represent everyone fairly. But we, as Christians, are put here to look for and see ways in which we can help. We can contribute time and funds to our own church groups like Deacons and CV Together. We can look out for our neighbors and neighborhoods. We can share the Good News that we are all loved by God and that we have hope for a better future. We can be God's hands and feet in this pain-filled world.

Please continue to pray with me for people to turn to the Father for his will to be done and for Christians to stand together in His Name.

Blessings to you all,
Kerry Milbrodt

DON'T GET SPOOKED BY THE FLU.

Get your flu vaccine before Halloween!





CFC Heartbeat



Director's Corner

Aren't children adaptable! It has been more than six months since the Center for Children took on a new look. Teachers and children are wearing masks, tables are separated by tape marks, and circle time doesn't take place on a rug anymore and sometimes happens outside. Our classes have fewer children in them and teachers are not getting to see parents every day. However, the communication I see going back and forth with emails and Zoom look-ins and calls makes me proud of the adjustments we are making. Watching children happily walk into our building, ready to embrace the day, tell me that the good work of the CFC continues.

Many people have asked me how do the children react without being able to see a teacher's mouth? How do they read facial expressions or feel connected? The good news is I have never heard anyone say the mouth is the window to the soul. We still have eye contact with the children and we have learned to smile with our eyes, tone of

voice, and gestures. From a distance we pull down the mask if we feel a child needs reassurance or comfort before we approach. Much like a child with a vision or hearing impairment, the children adapt to get their needs met while teachers work even harder to establish relationships with each child.

This does not mean that children are feeling no ill effects from this distance and lack of physical contact. We know that children need hugs and touch to thrive. That is where you as parents come in. Just as we become an extension on you during the day, at night you are our extension. While holding your child, talk about their day here at CFC. That feeling of warmth and security will carry them through the next day. Mention our teacher by name and express your happiness that they are at CFC. More than ever the home/school partnership is vital. We count on each other being truthful and transparent. We count on each other for support. I am so gratified of the relationships we have with each of our families.

As always, thank you for trusting us with your children.

Pat

Staff Development Day

The Center for Children will be closed on October 16 for a Staff Development Day. The staff will use this day to reflect on how we are doing and to think about where we are going. Please make arrangements for your child care and distance learning needs on this day.



Halloween

We will be having a Zoom parade on Friday, October 30, to show off the Halloween costumes of our little ones. We will get you the details as we get closer to the event. In addition to that, we will have classroom trick or treating. Much like Valentine's Day, each child in our preschool – school program will decorate a trick or treat bag here at CFC. Your children can bring in a treat to share with their classmates. Maybe some stickers or small toy, prepackaged small treats from the grocery store, handmade notes, or cards. There are only 12 children in each class so no need to bring any more than 12 items. Won't this be entertaining and exciting for the kids that day!

We will also be having a pumpkin carving photo contest. Send us a picture of a pumpkin you carved with the family by October 28 and participating families will receive a fall surprise gift. We

Time to Say Goodbye

Dolores Stevens is leaving the CFC at the end of October. Dolores has been on staff here since May of 2005. She started as an assistant and moved her way up to a teacher in the infant room and then the toddler room. Dolores is a crafter! She loves to decorate the rooms and bulletin boards. Dolores has a quick wit and a great smile. We will miss her. On Thursday, October 22 at 4:00 PM we will have a small drop-in going away party for her upstairs outside the infant room in the yard. We invite you to come say goodbye and thank you. We will be collecting notes and cards for Dolores at that time. Please wear a mask.

After School Program

We are pleased to announce that we have gotten clearance from the LA County Public Health Office to allow children who are attending learning pods at elementary schools or other locations the ability to attend our after school care program. We currently have six spots available for this program. Transportation may be available at an additional cost. Please contact us if you are interested.

GUSD

On October 23, the GUSD will be closed for their Staff Development Day. Our school age program and both our after school care and our distance learning program will be open for full-time care. There is no additional charge unless your student attends more days that week than they are contracted for.

School Pictures

On Wednesday and Thursday, October 14-15, we will be taking photos of the children for composite class photos. This will be fun and creative and we will email you our final project. Regular school pictures will be scheduled in Spring.

will post photos on our Facebook page so be sure to give us your best shot! Pictures can be sent to: kristincfc@gmail.com

Air Purifiers

This last month has once again brought up the idea of having air purifiers added to our classrooms. Not only would it help during fire season, but would also help with airborne illnesses and pollution. With the CFC financial situation still not covering our monthly expenses, this is an expense that would be very difficult for us to afford at this time, so we are starting a fund raising effort specifically for this purpose. We will purchase units as monies become available. If you would like to donate, please send in a check to CFC and in the memo add the words air purifier and your child's classroom number so that we know where to put the monies. It looks like units large enough for each classroom would cost about \$600 each. Thank you in advance for your help.

CHURCH STAFF

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

AL FRESCO WORSHIP IN THE COURTYARD SUNDAY EVENINGS 6:30 PM

This month we begin a new sermon series called "Loving God: A Study of Deuteronomy." Each week we'll explore a biblical practice that can tune our hearts to God's love. You can join us online

each week on our YouTube channel or live at our socially distanced courtyard service.

OCTOBER 4 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Message by Lee Cook
"Loving God: Choosing Life"
For Personal Study: Deuteronomy 30

OCTOBER 11

Message by Lee Cook
"Loving God: Trust and Obey"
For Personal Study: Deuteronomy 6

OCTOBER 18

Message by Lee Cook
"Loving God: Holiness is Happiness"
For Personal Study: Deuteronomy 12

OCTOBER 25

Message by Lee Cook
"Loving God: The Openhanded God"
For Personal Study: Deuteronomy 15

**Can't make it in person? Catch our online services on YouTube at
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCraArZ-38URjqxBUh62mS0g>**

Prayer Opportunities

Our Prayer Ministry team meets right after the Sunday Evensong service at 6:00 PM on the children's playground behind the Fireside Room and again every Thursday evening at 5:15 PM at Dunsmore Park for Prayer in the Park. Bring a chair and or blanket along with your mask and Bible and meet in the grass area next to the play structure.

