Living Lent in a Secular World

Something unusual happens this year. The Lenten/Easter season opens on Valentine’s Day and ends on April Fools’ Day. This year February 14 will include chocolates, roses, ashes, and “Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return.” April 1 will have dyed eggs, “Up from the Grave He Arose,” the Risen Christ, and silly tricks. You must agree it is an interesting mash up. The last time these dates coincided was 1945.

What do we do when the secular world mashes up against the sacred world? We live. That is called living our faith in the midst of life…figuring out how to follow the way of Jesus while being human beings. How can we honor Lent while living life this year? Here are some suggestions:

- Spend the Monday of Holy Week (March 26) in the kitchen with Corlan making dinner for our homeless neighbors who spend their nights at the Pomona Armory.
- Donate to the education of two Nigerian women displaced by violence.
- Sign up to be part of a CONNECT! group for Lent.
- Pray for your enemies.
- Pick up trash as you take a walk.
- Pray for the situations you read about in the news.
- Have dinner at Food Network on February 20 and get to know students from the University of La Verne.
- Have a conversation with a friend about his or her faith.
- Volunteer to clean the solar panels on the church roof.
- Practice a random act of kindness or generosity to a complete stranger.
- Ride your bike to work.
- Call a friend you haven’t talked to for too long.
- Clean out a closet and give your things to a thrift store.
- Write a thank you note.
- Read the book of John.
- Turn the TV off and have a conversation with your family.
- Eat less meat and buy locally.
- Pray for peace.

There are so many ways you can intentionally spend this Lenten season that mashes up against the world around us.

~Pastor Susan

The La Verne Church of the Brethren continues the work of Jesus peacefully, simply, together. We create a Christian community, called by Christ to be inclusive, caring and peace-minded. We affirm that people of any race, ethnic identity, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, age, economic status, faith tradition, or life situation are welcome in our congregation. We believe in compassionate service, stewardship of creation, respect for diversity and nonviolent reconciliation for differences among all people, nations and faith traditions. We claim no creed but the New Testament, as exemplified by the life of Christ. We strive to follow the way of Jesus. Through these efforts, we seek to grow ever closer to the mind and heart of God.
FEBRUARY WORSHIP THEMES .................................................................................................4

CHURCH CALENDAR ..................................................................................................................5

CHURCH FAMILY JOYS & CONCERNS .....................................................................................6-7
   Joys & Concerns ......................................................................................................................6
   Prayer Chain ..........................................................................................................................6
   Remembrances .......................................................................................................................7

CHURCH LIFE ...........................................................................................................................8-12
   CONNECT! ..............................................................................................................................8 & 9
   Men-a-logue .........................................................................................................................10
   Angels’ Share ........................................................................................................................10
   Spiritual Cinema Circle .......................................................................................................10
   Food Network .......................................................................................................................11
   Love Luncheon ....................................................................................................................11
   One Church, One Read .........................................................................................................12
   Food, Faith, and Family .......................................................................................................12

SPOTLIGHT -  Jingles the Cat ..................................................................................................13

SPIRITUAL FORMATION ..........................................................................................................14
   LVCoBKIDS Sunday School .................................................................................................14
   LVCoBKIDS Valentines to Hillcrest ....................................................................................14
   CONNECT! for Youth ............................................................................................................14
   Friendship Class ..................................................................................................................14
The Intercom is provided monthly by the La Verne Church of the Brethren to inform, connect, and share our faith journey with you. If you would like to have information included in the next issue of the Intercom or have suggestions you would like to share, contact the Editor, juilleratstephanie@gmail.com, or the Church Office, (909) 593-1364. We also invite you to visit our website at www.lavernecob.org

| CONTENTS |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| YOUTH            | OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE & SHARE | CHURCH AT LARGE |
| ................................. | ................................. | ................................. |
| Youth Calendar    | IVHP Food of the Month | What’s Up at Hillcrest |
| Winter Camp       | Fair Trade Products | Young Adult Conference |
| NYC Registration  | Shared Ministries | Weekend of Wonder |
| Benton & Doris Rhoades Scholarship | Fellowship Visitors | Agenda for a Prophetic Faith |
| ................................. | Denominational Offering | ................................. |
| ................................. | Camp La Verne Banquet | ................................. |
| ................................. | Armory Meals | ................................. |
| ................................. | Children’s Disaster Services Certification | ................................. |
| ................................. | ................................. | ................................. |
| 15-16             | 17-19             | 20-22            |
| 15                | 17                | 20                |
| 15                | 17                | 20                |
| 15                | 17                | 20                |
| 16                | 18                | 21                |
| 15                | 17                | 21                |
| 15                | 17                | 21                |
| 16                | 18                | 22                |
| 15                | 17                | 22                |
February

February 4

A Secret Not to Keep
Russ Matteson

As we end the season of Epiphany, the awareness of God with us, Jesus’ identity continues to burst forth from the lives of those who he meets. Can we keep secret who God is in our lives?
Isaiah 40:27-31; Mark 1:33-45

February 11

Christopher Bache

Chris Bache, a young adult member of our congregation who grew up in this church will bring the morning message. He will be speaking about how to direct the energy we get from anger to use for good.

February 18

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

I Am the Bread of Life
Dawna Welch

Rather than offering himself on the night he was betrayed, Jesus offers his flesh to eat in the middle of his ministry. Jesus as the bread of life is connected to the living Jesus, not the dying Jesus. What difference does it make to imagine Communion as a marking of Jesus’ life and not a memory of Jesus’ death?
John 6:35-59

February 25

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

I Am the Light of the World
Tom Hostetler

Jesus probably spoke these words during the "Illumination of the Temple." What does he mean? Why was the reaction so hostile? He also said, "You are the light of the world." If this is true, how bright are you?
John 8:12-20
February Calendar

Feb 3  Camp La Verne Banquet, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Feb 6  Commissions Meet
Feb 8  Intercom Deadline (March Issue), 5:30 p.m.
Feb 11 Love Luncheon, After Worship, Fellowship Hall
Feb 13 Personnel Commission, 5:30 p.m., Fireside Room
        Church Board, 7:15 p.m., Fireside Room
Feb 14 Ash Wednesday
        Fellowship Visitors, 9:30 a.m., Library
        LVCoBKIDS Valentines to Hillcrest, 4-6 p.m., Woods Health Services
        WABS (Wednesday Afternoon Book Study), 4 p.m., Library
Feb 17 Winter Camp at Camp La Verne, through Feb 19
Feb 18 First Sunday of Lent
        Lenten CONNECT! Groups Begin
Feb 19 President’s Day Holiday, Office Closed
Feb 20 LVCoB/ULV Food Network Dinner, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Feb 21 Men-a-logue, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room
Feb 25 Second Sunday of Lent
        Envisioning Speaker Discussion, 7:00 p.m.
Feb 26 Prep for Pomona Armory Meal, 1:30 p.m.
Feb 27 Spiritual Cinema Circle, 6:30 p.m., Fireside Room
Feb 28 Shared Ministries Meeting, 2:30 p.m., Fireside Room

The window display in the hallway for February is created by Mar Spencer.

La Verne Church of the Brethren
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Susan Boyer,
Tom Hostetler,
Dawna Welch

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Envisioning chair: Christine Meek, cmmeek@me.com
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Spiritual Life & Nurture co-chairs: Shirley Heckman, Shirleyheckman@gmail.com, Joanne Wagoner, JWWagoner@gmail.com
Stewardship & Finance chair: Linda Saddlemire, Linda.Saddlemire@claconnect.com

December Giving and Attendance

December Giving Report
YTD Giving 2017 $638,342
YTD Giving 2016 $661,174
YTD Expenses 2017 $639,423

December Worship Attendance
December 2017 252
December 2016 262

INTERCOM is the monthly newsletter of the
La Verne Church of the Brethren
Editor: Stephanie Juillerat,
juilleratstephanie@gmail.com
Writers: Staff and Contributors
Production: Kathleen Krecklow
Continued prayers for:
Susan Boyer, Shirlee Bromley, Deb Emrick, Jacki Gingrich, Alberta Harris, Marilyn Lapp, Leola Ott, Opal Wilkinson and all the Chibok girls still held in captivity in Nigeria, and our brothers and sisters in the world who experience war, violence, and injustice.

Pastoral Time Off Update
Pastor Susan Boyer had knee joint replacement on January 15. She will be out of the office recovering for at least six weeks. Prayers are appreciated.

Prayer Chain
Our Prayer Chain keeps us connected as we become aware of each other’s hurts and joys, and also opens our hearts to God’s love for each of us. When you wish to share a concern or joy on the prayer chain, please contact Pastor Dawna or Chaplain Tom at (909) 392-4354.

If your concern is for another, please obtain that person’s permission to share it on the prayer chain.

The number to call in the case of an after hours, pastoral care emergency is (909) 267-5477. During office hours, please continue to call (909) 593-1364.

*Office hours are Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to noon, and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Jeanne Stratford
Jeanne grew up in South Gate, California, one of three children. Her father was pastor of the Community Presbyterian Church in South Gate for 40 years. Her mother was the daughter of a Presbyterian pastor. In 1956, she married John Stratford, and they had two children: Ray and Barbara. Jeanne taught Home Economics at the high school level and Speech therapy at the grade school level. But it is Peace Promotion that was uppermost in her heart and mind from the very beginning. She enjoyed sewing, gardening, serving as a visitor in several nursing homes, and being involved with peace activism with a group called “Women and Men in Black.” “Women and Men in Black” is a group she formed in Oregon to make a witness for peace on a street corner every week. In 2011, after living in Oregon for many years, Jeanne and her husband John moved to Claremont Manor and became members of our congregation. John died in July of 2017. Jeanne died on December 12, 2017. There were no services.

Mary Streit
Mary Streit was born in Pomona, the youngest of six children. Millie Davis is one of her siblings. Mary’s father sold real estate, and her mother was a nurse. Mary became a nurse and joined the Navy, working her way up to Lieutenant Commander. She worked in Tennessee, Iceland, Vietnam, and Hawaii. While in Tennessee, she worked in Labor and Delivery. During the Vietnam War, she worked on a hospital ship off the coast of Vietnam where she helped care for the American soldiers severely wounded in the war. It is why she suffered from Parkinson’s Disease, a result of her contact with Agent Orange. When she left the Navy, she bought a home in La Verne and became a bloodmobile nurse. She put a sign up in her window that said “A veteran against all wars.” When Khmer Rouge took over power in Cambodia and people were fleeing for their lives, Mary decided that she wanted to help with the resettlement of Cambodian refugees in the United States. She helped resettle three families to this area. The children of those families now have children. Those children adopted Mary and, although a single woman all her life, Mary had nine great grandchildren. Mary was a resident of Hillcrest. She died on December 18. A well-attended graveside service took place on December 29 at La Verne Cemetery.
CONNECT! Relational structures like small groups are an integral part of "being" the church (and not just "doing" church) through time spent together learning, celebrating, and supporting each other. There are many opportunities to CONNECT! now. Some groups are on-going throughout the year and some are during Lent only. Details, locations, dates and sign-up information can be found in the church office, Sunday bulletins and by visiting the church’s website, CONNECT! page.

CONNECT through Scripture and Study:
- Couples Bible Study Tuesday evenings 7-8:30 p.m. with Jenny and Matt Izu: Whether you’ve been dating a few months or married 30 years, all couples welcome! Maximum 6 people.
- 4-Week Friendly Style Bible Study Wednesday evenings 6:00 p.m. with Lisa Stamatis: Come and see how relational bible study can be! Maximum 8 people.
- Yes, You Can Talk About Religion/Theology. Sunday mornings 9:15 a.m. with John Gingrich.
- Friendship Class / Every Sunday 9:15 a.m. / Social Hall with Al Clark: Friendship class is an interactive group that engages issues in ethics, Christianity, and church life. Spring topic: “It’s the Law! Yes, it’s really in the Bible (Leviticus).”
- WABS (Wednesday Afternoon Book Study) / 2nd Wednesday 4:00 p.m. / Library: Fight boredom on Wednesday afternoon; join us as we engage our minds and hearts in discussion of fascinating books. All are welcome to be part of the lively discussion and sharing of our favorite reads!

CONNECT! to Community and Others:
- Bird Watching. Saturday mornings 8:00 a.m. with Jeff Strogen: Year of the Bird! 2018, marks the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the most powerful and important bird-protection law ever passed. In honor of this milestone join this group of nature lovers on 2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/24, and 3/3.
- Euclid Median Meandering Ensemble: Monday evenings 6:00 p.m. w/ Terry Bennett. Along with gaining a bit of exercise, walking the dog, and generally enjoying being outdoors, this group offers deeper connection with others through reflection, fellowship, and fun.
- Minus 50 Group: Sunday afternoons 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Teri Tompkin’s Home. Stephanie Sorrell’s book; Psychosynthesis Made Easy: A Psychospiritual Psychology for Today will serve as the frame work for conversation and support around health and weight loss.
- Spiritual Knitting / Every Sunday 9:15 a.m. / ITAV: Hands-on spirituality. Knitting in community is a form of prayer and meditation. All ages and knitting skill levels are welcome!
- Men-a-logue / 2nd Wednesday 7:00 p.m. / Fireside Room: Men doing intentionally what women do naturally. Guys of all ages are talking about favorite movies, faith, and stupid decisions they’ve made.
- Spiritual Cinema / Last Tuesday 6:30 p.m./Fireside Room: Join us to view films that explore spirit, spirituality, and inspire love and compassion, connecting us more deeply to each other and the world.

more CONNECT! on next page...
CONNECT! with Children and Families:
• LVCoBKIDS Family Fun: Saturday, March 24 10 a.m. – noon. Light lunch, games for all ages, and a scavenger hunt with Amanda Bennett.

CONNECT! with Youth:
• Saturdays with Mar Spencer. Youth will gather every Saturday of Lent from 12-2 p.m. for fun, food, and support; college scholarship workshops, capture the flag, bake and bond for NYC, 3x3 basketball tournament!

CONNECT! with Young Adults (18-35):
• Second Sunday: Conversation about God, Worship, and Community facilitated by Dawna Welch. Sunday afternoons TBD, Library. Let’s talk about styles of worship, music in worship, and then implement those discussions by planning a service!

CONNECT through Social Justice/Service:
• 40 Days in the Desert. Transforming Insight into Action: Practicing personal and collective reflection to guild social action. Monday evenings 7:00-9:00 p.m./Social Hall with Joe Lyons.
• SERVE! Armory Meals for the Homeless / 4th Monday Contact Joy Hofer. This group meets monthly to prepare, deliver and serve meals to hungry people.

Special Social Justice Event Sponsored by Envisioning Commission – One Read/One Church:
I Love to Tell the Story;
50 Years of LGBTQI Community and Our Experience of Being in the Christian Church

4-session series:
• Session 1: Feb. 25, 7:00pm in the Fireside Room. Discussion of the past 50 years of LGBTQI community and our experience of being in the Christian church, and the growth and development of Metropolitan Community Church around the world.
• Session 2: March 4, 9:30am departure from LVCOB. Field trip to Founders Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) in Los Angeles.
• Session 3: April 4, 7:00pm in the Fireside Room. Book study of Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson's "I Love to Tell the Story".
• Session 4: April 22, 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Presentation by Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson.
**Men-a-logue**

February 21, 7:00 p.m.
Fireside Room

What’s Men-a-logue? The second Wednesday of each month, men are getting together in the church library to share what's going on in their lives and discuss topics of interest. Guys of all ages are talking about favorite movies, faith, and stupid decisions they've made. Interested? Join us at 7:00 p.m.

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**Angels’ Share**

Angels’ Share is a “pub theology” group for Young Adults who relate to the La Verne Church of the Brethren. “Angels” usually gather on the last Friday of the month around matters of faith and an occasional craft brew. (Softer drinks are also imbibed.) For the February dates and locations, please check the Sunday bulletins. To get on the email list or with questions, please contact Jenny Izu at jlydeen@gmail.com.

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**Spiritual Cinema Circle**

February 27, 6:30 p.m.
Fireside Room

It’s Spiritual Cinema Circle time again! Join your friends in the Fireside Room at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday evening, February 27, for an enjoyable evening of short films - all more or less "romantic" to belatedly celebrate Saint Valentine’s Day.
Young Adult Food Network
February 20 – 5:00-6:30 p.m.
On the third Tuesday of each month of the school year, the La Verne Church of the Brethren hosts college students from ULV and the community. We provide a nourishing meal and nurturing hospitality.

Students eat well, build community with each other and adult volunteers, as well as learn that the La Verne CoB is a place of welcome. We always welcome volunteers to help cook, serve and welcome students to be in fellowship over a meal. Or just come and eat with the college students and young adults that participate.

The remaining dates are listed below:
March 27 (a week later due to Spring Break)
April 17
May 15

Volunteers are always needed for set-up, serving, clean-up, as well as enjoying dinner and conversation with the students. To offer your help, please contact Corlan Harrison at corlanharrison@gmail.com or (909) 981-7739.

College students within our church family are welcome to come to eat and/or volunteer – whatever your schedule allows!

For general questions about Food Network, please contact the church office at office@lavernecob.org and (909) 593-1364 or Zandra Wagoner at zwagoner@laverne.edu and (909) 593-3511 ext. 4446. This program is co-sponsored by our congregation and the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life at ULV.

Love Luncheon
February, 11, following worship
Please join us, following church service, at our annual Love Luncheon. A delicious meal of Lemon Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Mediterranean Salad, Mixed Veggies and Berry Shortcake topped with Whip Cream for dessert. Every effort will be made to accommodate dietary needs. Our desire is always to create a welcoming environment and encourage our members to invite friends and family to join us in the spirit of fellowship. All proceeds of the Love Luncheon will support the Nigerian Project.
I’ve always considered February as the month of love that I just love, love! Obviously, there’s Valentine’s Day, but more importantly, February is also the month our daughter, Rayna, was born, and that’s a love touchdown! On Rayna’s birthday she gets to pick her favorite meal, which often has been her Grandma Corni’s Tuna Jackstraw Casserole. I have to admit it warms my heart to celebrate my mom and daughter in this way. Who knew? Tuna casserole means love!

~Corlan Ortmayer Harrison

Corni’s Tuna Jackstraw Casserole

1 large can (12oz.) tuna
1/2 can (4 cups) shoestring potatoes
1 can (10 ½ oz.) cream of mushroom soup
1 can (12oz.) evaporated milk
1 16oz package frozen peas
½ teaspoon kosher salt
¼ teaspoon pepper

Combine drained tuna, mushroom soup and evaporated milk. Add peas and shoestring potatoes. Lightly oil a 2quart casserole dish add mixed ingredients and bake until heated through. 350 degrees about 35-40 minutes. Serves 6

Healthy Tips: Try using low fat soup and milk and white albacore packed in water. Add veggies.

One Church, One Read
April 22, 7:00 p.m.

‘One Church, One Read’ is almost self-explanatory, with a few added details! We, as a congregation, are encouraged to read the book I Love to Tell the Story by Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson, an out lesbian who has been instrumental in the work of the Metropolitan Community Church in Los Angeles, across the United States, and globally. This book is a collection of over 100 stories of justice, inclusion, and hope that share poignant experiences of the LGBTQ community.

We have five copies of I Love to Tell the Story in our church library for you to check out, and one copy in the Hillcrest Library. The book is also available at Amazon.com.

Read the book – and then come hear Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson speak in our sanctuary on Sunday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m., sponsored by the Envisioning Commission.
...Jingles the Advent Cat

One November Sunday, in the middle of worship, someone tapped me on my shoulder and urgently whispered, “There’s a cat outside. Have you seen it?” Gently they pulled me toward the door. I resisted going with this person because I am powerless in the presence of the cute, furry, and lost! I audibly exhaled when I noticed the prominent blue collar around the young cat’s neck. “Oh thank God! He has a home!” But that fact didn’t dissuade one of our children from naming him Jingles because of a single, jingly bell on the playful cat’s collar.

The very next day and throughout that week I met Jingles over and over again, in the hallways and corridors of our church, outside the bushes of my office, on the roof, in the trees, and in the church office. Jingles was everywhere, doing what cats do – WHATEVER he wants! Jingles knew no strangers. When the Head Start children came out of their classroom for a walk around the building, Jingles would happily join them. When the siblings of dance students that practice here during the week waited on the patio, Jingles enticed them into a game of chase. When staff would return from lunch, Jingles would bolt across the street, welcoming us back with friendly meows and head bumps to our legs.

Jingles was becoming a regular around here but even so, we were pretty surprised to notice he had joined us for worship on the first Sunday of Advent! Just as the greens were being raised, Jingles made his way up to the pulpit by traveling under the pews and through the legs of our mostly unsuspecting members. Until he appeared by the pulpit, crossed over the chancel, climbed the stairs into the choir loft, before finally perching on the east choir wall where he contentedly looked out over the (his) congregation.

Jingles continued to show up during the week and even made another appearance in worship. Alas, this time he showed little regard for sharing the pulpit. Every attempt to ignore Jingles and carry-on with worship was thwarted by his cunning cuteness and curiosity. The children came to the rescue by extracting Jingles from the INSIDE of the baby grand piano and escorting him outside. Doors had to be shut, and that was simply unacceptable to Jingles. He made his feelings known throughout the remainder of worship with his loud, pleading MEEEOOWWs.

The following Sunday we struck a deal with Jingles (or at least his human family). If he would stay home on Sunday mornings during worship, he could have free reign (of the outside property) during the week. We haven’t seen much of him since. Perhaps it was not our property, with its ample trees and bushes that drew Jingles like a moth to a flame. Perhaps it was the people!

~Pastor Dawna
LVCoBKIDS Sunday School
February’s Sunday School utilizes a curriculum that focuses on child-centered play surrounding different New Testament Scriptures. Children will have choices at the end of each lesson to explore how the lesson was meaningful for them through art, writing, prayer, reading, reflection, and more. Lessons cover key Scriptures such as that of Epiphany to Jesus’ parables.

LVCoBKIDS Valentines for Hillcrest
February 14, 4:00- 6:00 p.m.
Woods Health Services
Family Service Opportunity! Come make someone’s Valentines’ Day a little brighter! Join us as we meet at Woods Health Services, 2600 A Street, La Verne, promptly at 4:00 p.m.

Wear pink or red! We will hand out Valentines from 4:00 -5:00 p.m. Following this time, we will head over to the church for pizza and a family “love” craft. RSVP to Amanda @ amanda@lavernecob.org.

CONNECT! for Youth
Calling ALL youth! Join the youth ministries for CONNECT! Youth sessions starting Saturday, February 17. Each Saturday our Youth Group will be meeting up for some exciting adventures and YOU are welcome to join! See what’s scheduled below:
- February 17 CONNECT! College Concentration: A Scholarship Application Workshop
- February 24 CONNECT! Capture the Flag
- March 3 CONNECT! Bake and Bond
- March 10 CONNECT! College Concentration: A Scholarship Application Workshop
- March 17 CONNECT! 3X3 Basketball Tournament
- March 24 CONNECT! Youth Movie Night

Friendship Class
February 4, 11, 18, 25
9:15 a.m. in the Social Hall
The Friendship Class is an adult Sunday School class. It explores the Bible and topics that range from drone warfare to the paradigm shift. The conversation is thoughtful, and the teacher is excellent. Join the Friendship Class in the Social Hall to get in on the discussion.
Calendar

January 28  Silent Auction
February 17  CONNECT! College
            Concentration: A Scholarship
            Application Workshop
February 24  CONNECT! Capture the Flag
March  3   CONNECT! Bake and Bond
March  4   Buy a Slice Fundraiser
March 10  CONNECT! College
            Concentration: A Scholarship
            Application Workshop
March 17  CONNECT! 3X3 Basketball
            Tournament
March 24  CONNECT! Youth Movie Night

NYC Registration

There’s still time to register! Youth interested in attending the National Youth Conference should register online. The total registration fee is $500 which includes a non-refundable deposit of $250 that must be paid at the time of registration. Please contact Mar Spencer for more information and registration specifics: mar@lavernecob.org. Additional NYC details can be found here: http://www.brethren.org/yya/nyc/.

Register for Winter Camp
First Deadline – January 31
Youth interested in attending Winter Camp (Feb 17-19) at Camp La Verne should register no later than January 31. Cost to attend is $85.00 if applications are post marked by January 31, and $115.00 if postmarked after January 31. Youth have the option to serve as a Banquet Server for a $15.00 discount! You can find more information here: http://www.camplaverne.org/uploads/3/9/9/2/39924827/winter_2018.pdf or by contacting Camp Directors, Erica or Kevin by email: campmanager@camplaverne.org
The Benton & Doris Rhoades Peacemaker Scholarship

Applications are due March 16

Benton Rhoades (1920-2003) was an agricultural missionary with a passion for justice for the rural poor and farmworkers. Doris Rhoades (1918-2016) was a teacher for three years and in her summers she went to Appalachia to provide Christian Education to children. Benton and Doris volunteered at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico in a program to produce food locally grown for the Presbyterian Conference Center. They were active in the National Farm Workers Ministry and agricultural missions. This scholarship is created in their memory.

Frequently Asked Questions:
Who can apply? Any sophomore, junior, or senior from a local comprehensive, continuation, or alternative high school, as well as any high school sophomore, junior, or senior from the La Verne Church of the Brethren.
When is the scholarship application due? March 16th, 2018
How much is the scholarship for? Award amounts are up to $500
When is the scholarship awarded? At the annual Celebration of the Arts at La Verne Church of the Brethren on April 29, 2018. All participants are welcome and encouraged to attend.

For additional scholarship details, please contact Youth Ministries Coordinator, Mar Spencer by email at: mar@lavernecob.org Also note* scholarship application workshops will be held on Saturday, February 17 and Saturday March 10 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the La Verne Church of the Brethren Library!
Shared Ministries
February 28, 2:30 p.m.
Fireside Room
Shared Ministry members visit those in the hospital, Woods Health Center, South Woods, or those who have a special need. They each give a week of their time, on a through-the-year-rotation basis, to visit and be available to you if you face a personal or family problem. If you think you would like to join this fabulous team, please let the church office know at office@laverneCOB.org or by calling (909) 593-1364. Members of this team are: Gary Carl, Millie Davis, Julie Kurtz, Letha & Willard Ressler, Marian Vroman, Paul & Opal Wilkinson and Judy Woodruff.

Hope Partners Food Donations
The Inland Valley Hope Partners (IVHP) have been sheltering the homeless and feeding the hungry of our surrounding communities since 1968. Every year they serve 75,000 very low, and low income residents of west San Bernardino and east Los Angeles counties.

Their Vision: Our community healed of homelessness and hunger

Their Mission: IVHP brings together faith communities, businesses, individuals, and community groups, and ensures the empowerment of people in need by providing food, shelter, and supportive services.

One of the ways you can support their vision and mission is by bringing non-perishable food items on Sunday mornings and dropping them off in the large pink collection bin in the narthex. The following items are greatly appreciated:

- Canned vegetables, fruits and meats
- Mac & Cheese
- Peanut Butter
- Dried beans
- Cereal

Fair Trade Products for Sale
The Youth Ministries Department has Fair Trade items for sale all year long. Come by the Church Office while you are out or any Sunday afternoon to purchase. If we don’t have your preferred items in stock let us know! We’d be happy to order more.
Opportunity for Denominational Giving
One Great Hour of Sharing
March 18
The next special offering for our denomination will be on March 18. This is our One Great Hour of Sharing offering. One Great Hour of Sharing reaches those near and far, sometimes changing the life of someone in distress in your own community, while at other times impacting the lives of those we may never meet but who are in need of our compassion. Gifts given through this special offering empower ministries like the Church of the Brethren’s Global Mission and Service, Congregational Life Ministries, Brethren Disaster Ministries, Brethren Volunteer Service, workcamps, the Global Food Crisis Fund, and many others. (You can give to the denomination through the church anytime you choose. Just be sure to make your check out to the La Verne Church of the Brethren and put “Mission and Ministry Board” on the notation line.)

Camp La Verne Annual Banquet
February 3, 5:30 p.m.
Everyone is invited to the annual Camp La Verne Banquet on February 3. The Silent Auction will start at 5:30 p.m.; please bring your new or gently used treasures to help raise money for Camp! Youth who would like to earn a $25 campership credit toward winter or summer camp fees can help us as servers at the banquet. Please contact Kathy Doramus at k.doramus@gmail.com.

Fellowship Visitors
February 14, 9:30 a.m.
Church Library
Fellowship Visitors give about two hours on the second Wednesday of the month to visit with people in our church community who are unable to be in worship on Sunday morning. Visitors go out in pairs. The wonderful people who do this visiting find that they are the lucky ones who get to meet some of the most amazing people. The next meeting time is Wednesday, February 14, at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Library. Please call (909) 593-1364 if you would like to be part of this ministry.

Opportunity for Denominational Giving
One Great Hour of Sharing
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La Verne Church of the Brethren 909-593-1364 www.LaVerneCOB.org
Children’s Disaster Services Certification
April 14-15 (overnight)
La Verne Church of the Brethren
Children's Disaster Services and its trained and certified volunteers have been providing care for children and families following disasters since 1980. We are currently planning for an overnight training in La Verne, CA (L.A. area) April 14-15 at La Verne Church of the Brethren. The 27-hour overnight workshops provide required training for volunteers who wish to serve in the program. Trainers for this event are Sharon Sparks, Shirley Ness, and Mary Kay Ogden.

Anyone 18 or over is welcome to attend this 2-day training (27 hours) and become a certified CDS caregiver for temporary respite care for children in disaster situations. References and background checks are also required for certification. Once caregivers complete certification, all expenses are paid for disaster responses.

The training is an overnight experience, simulating a shelter situation, and includes an overview of our work, understanding phases of disaster and how we fit in, working with disaster partners, children and family needs following disaster, supporting resilience in children, setting up a children's center with a Kit of Comfort, ethical guidelines, and the national certification process.

Costs vary as follows:
- For registrations post-marked or received more than 3 weeks in advance, the cost is $45
- Registrations post-marked less than 3 weeks from the event are $55
- If you are a certified volunteer and wish to be re-trained, the cost is $25

Please forward this information and spread the word about this workshop. Registration can be found online at our website: <http://www.brethren.org/cds/training/dates.html>. If you or others have questions about these training events, please call Kathleen Fry-Miller at (260) 704-1443 or Kathy Benson at (909) 593-4868 or (909) 837-7103.

We are excited to again be able to offer this national training in southern California!
Is it just me, or do you also find yourself irritated when people ask questions with apparently obvious answers?

You eat up all the food on your plate—leaving not one morsel, and someone asks you, "Was it good?" (You want to answer, "It was revolting. That's why I ate it all.")

It's 102 degrees Fahrenheit outside, and someone walks up and asks you, "Is it hot enough for you?" (You want to answer, "Not at all. I was hoping for at least 120 degrees today.")

You're laid up in the hospital on a gurney with a cast on your leg, an IV in your arm, a brace around your neck, and someone asks: "Do you feel ok?" (You want to answer, "Aside from this cast, this neck brace, this IV, and this hospital, I'm feeling just fine.") ...sorry, guess I'm just snarky today...

Jesus asked a lame man at the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem if he wanted to get well. The answer seems so obvious that Jesus should not have to even ask.

And yet questions—even questions with apparently obvious answers—have the uncanny ability to clear away assumptions. We should never assume that every sick person wants to be healed, or that every unemployed person wants a job, or that every single person wants to be in a relationship. Questions allow people to speak directly for themselves.

It's much easier to pose questions than it is to really listen and respect the answers given. God makes no assumptions. God asks questions and waits for answers.

~Tom Hostetler

SUNDAY 4:00 P.M. CHAPEL VESPERS
February 2018
4 – Tom Hostetler - Virginia Stark, accompanist
11 – (Valentine’s) Tom Hostetler - Annie Greene, accompanist
18 – (Lent 1) Willard Ressler, resident - Bernie Pence, accompanist
25 – Rev. Dr. Min Kyu Park, United Methodist Church - Mary Kay Ogden, accompanist

(The Vespers Service is broadcast on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. on Hillcrest Channel 997.)

STUDIES LED BY PASTOR TOM
Everyone is welcome to attend Pastor Tom’s studies at Hillcrest:

- A weekly bible study of “Luke” Thursday, 9:30 a.m. in the Galen Walker Board Room.
- A men’s bible study of “Acts” meets on Tuesdays at 7:45 a.m. in the private dining room.

Dial-A-Devotion is available 24 hours a day at (909) 392-4301
WOW: Weekend of Wonder
May 18-20, 2018
ECCO Retreat Center, Oakhurst, CA
Once again the Pacific Southwest District Women’s Retreat will be held at the ECCO Retreat Center near Yosemite. The weekend is designed to let participants experience fellowship and renewal of the body, mind, and spirit. Cost is $297 for a private room, $197 for double occupancy, and $187 for three to four to a room. Registration includes 2 nights and 5 meals. You can register at: https://www.pswdcob.org/events/wow/.

“Teach with your life,”
1 Timothy 4:11–16 (MSG)

Young Adult Conference 2018
May 25 - 27, 2018
Camp Brethren Woods, near Keezletown, Virginia
Young Adult Conference (YAC) offers people ages 18-35 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible study, service projects and more... with other fantastic young adults from around the denomination! Dawna Welch will be one of the presenters and workshop leaders! Keep checking the denominational website for registration dates: http://www.brethren.org/yac/.
Upcoming Speakers for the Agenda for Prophetic Faith 2018

Series tickets (5 lectures) are $50
Individual lectures are $15

Lecture: “I Drink My Coffee Black: what it means to be Black in the Trump Era”
Amy Hunter
Sunday, February 25 at 7 p.m.
Holy Name of Mary, 724 E. Bonita Ave., San Dimas
Currently Manager of Diversity and Inclusion for St. Louis Children’s Hospital since mid-2016, Hunter previously served seven years as Racial Justice Director of YWCA St. Louis where she initiated and sponsored Witnessing Whiteness groups. She was a co-facilitator of St. Louis’ Truth and Reconciliation process, an educational equity and youth activism ally and advocate and frequent media commentator and speaker. She has expertise in critical race theory. She writes: “I drink my coffee black so I will not forget the impact globally of colonization on people of color. The impact on health, infant mortality, trauma, poverty, and violence are some of the stark similarities and patterns of oppression that are shared in the lives of Black, Latino, Indigenous, and Palestinian people. I have witnessed the strength of women and mothers; and the impact they are having on movements around the world.”

Lecture: “American Muslims in the Age of Trump”
Amir Hussain
Sunday, March 11 at 7 p.m.
Claremont Presbyterian Church, 1111 N. Mountain Ave., Claremont
Muslims, both within America and around the world, are the religious community that is most affected by the presidency of Donald J. Trump. Amir Hussain is both an American Muslim and a scholar of Islam in North America. Wearing either or both hats, it is clear to him that the remaining years of the Trump administration will continue to be difficult times to be an American Muslim. Professor Hussain will talk about the challenges raised for American Muslims, including issues such as travel bans, Islamophobic tweets, and administrative appointments. He will also look at the realities of Muslim life in the United States.

Peter Dreier
Sunday, April 8 at 7 p.m.
La Verne Church of the Brethren
Peter Dreier is the E.P. Clapp Distinguished Professor of Politics and chair of the Urban & Environmental Policy Department at Occidental College. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago. Before joining the Occidental faculty in 1993 he worked as a community organizer, newspaper reporter, and government official (deputy to Boston Mayor Ray Flynn). He is the author or coauthor of five books including his most recent book, The 100 Greatest Americans of the 20th Century: A Social Justice Hall of Fame.