

INTERCOM

MARCH 2020, Volume 61, No. 3

God in the Wilderness



*Go to the place called barren,
Stand in the place called empty.
And you will find God there.*

~Joan Sauro, from Whole Earth Meditation

Lent began this year on February 26 with Ash Wednesday. Lent consists of the forty days between Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday, excluding Sundays. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer for Easter through penance, repentance, and fasting. Sundays are not included because they are celebrations of God's love for us and cannot be considered days of fasting.

The reason that forty days was chosen is because of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness for 40 days following his baptism. Lent is a time to join Jesus in the wilderness, preparing ourselves for a continued life of discipleship. This season was created so that we have time to look at our lives anew; to consider what has brought us to where we are; to ponder what we are carrying within us that needs to be examined; to look at the layers of our lives; to notice what in our life feels barren and what feels alive with possibility. It is a time to meet God again.

Wilderness living requires different skills. You have to travel with less. You have to give up some of your ideas. You have to make peace with disappointments. You have to learn to see beauty in what you formally thought of as bleak. You have to open up the space of your greatest need. For here there is no hiding. Here you can't rely on your own devices. Here you will finally come to the understanding that the wilderness isn't your enemy....it is your friend.

When you make the trip to the wilderness, you just might find that there is sustenance and angels there.

~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.

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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

March

March 1

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Water at Creation

Susan Boyer

As we begin a Lenten worship series on water, we look at the role that water played in the first creation story. In six days of creation, water is mentioned in three of them. Human beings are only mentioned on day six. Water seems to be of utmost importance.

Genesis 1:1-13

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS (*Set your clocks ahead one hour*)

March 8

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

By the Waters of Babylon

Susan Boyer

While exiled in Babylon, the Israelites sat down under a tree by the waters of the land of their oppressors and sang. Those living in exile kept their relation to Jerusalem alive in liturgies of lament.

Psalms 137

March 15

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Invitation For the Thirsty

Dawna Welch

Jesus re-interprets ritual that would have been very familiar to those attending the Festival of Tabernacles. In doing so, he invites them, and us, to drink and become living water for a thirsty world.

John 7:37-39

Isaiah 58:11

March 22

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Water Into Wine

Susan Boyer

We call the story of Jesus turning water into wine a miracle, but that is not the framework the author of the Gospel of John uses. It is a sign of who Jesus is to be in the world. He brings transformation.

John 2:1-11

March 29

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Walking on Water

Susan Boyer

My friend often says to me, "Is it really an adventure if you can't die doing it?" God wants more from us than safe and stable lives. God calls us to an adventuresome faith.

Matthew 14:22-33



Find us on
Facebook and
Instagram



March Calendar

**March Lenten CONNECT! Groups
are listed in the CONNECT! Section.**

- Mar 1 1st Sunday of Lent
Youth Gathering, 6 p.m., Rainbow Room
- Mar 3 Commissions Meet
- Mar 7 Memorial Service for Leona Ikenberry,
2:00 p.m., Hillcrest
- Mar 8 2nd Sunday of Lent
Daylight Savings Time Begins, Spring Forward
- Mar 10 Personnel Commission, 6 p.m., Fireside Room
Church Board, 7:15 p.m., Fireside Room
- Mar 11 Fellowship Visitors, 9:30 a.m., Library
WABS (Wednesday Afternoon Book Study),
4 p.m., Library
Men-a-logue, 7 p.m., Fireside Room
- Mar 12 Intercom Deadline (April Issue), 5:30 p.m.
- Mar 13 Rhoades Peace Award Scholarship Entry
Deadline
- Mar 15 3rd Sunday of Lent
Denominational Offering: *One Great Hour of
Sharing*
- Mar 18 Shared Ministries, 2:30 p.m., Fireside Room
- Mar 20 PJs and Movie Night, 6 p.m., Social Hall
- Mar 22 4th Sunday of Lent
- Mar 24 LVCoB/ULV Food Network Dinner, 5-6:30 p.m.,
Fellowship Hall
- Mar 29 5th Sunday of Lent
Greeters Breakfast, 8 a.m., Hillcrest
- Mar 30 Hope for Home Meal Prep, 2:30 p.m., Kitchen
- Mar 31 Spiritual Cinema Circle, 6:30 p.m.,
Fireside Room

The window display in the
hallway was created by
Kristi Karns

INTERCOM is the monthly newsletter of the
La Verne Church of the Brethren

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Moderator (vice chair):
Zandra Wagoner
Moderator Elect (chair, Gifts Discernment):
Mike Wolfen
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Jacki Gingrich & Jack Meek
Peace & Justice chair:
Bill Himes
Service co-chairs:
Dot Hess & Deb Jahnke
Personnel chair:
Stephanie Juillerat
Property chair:
Michael Wolfen
Stewardship & Finance chair:
Mariza Naylor

January Giving and Attendance

January Giving Report

YTD Giving 2020	\$46,293.00
YTD Giving 2019	\$53,725.00
YTD Expenses 2020	\$52,223.66

Average Worship Attendance

January 2020	202
January 2019	205

Sympathy to...

...the family of **Leona Ikenberry** who passed away on January 24. Leona's memorial service will be March 7 at 2:00 p.m. in the Maury Smeltzer Lounge.

...**Julie Kurtz**, who gives thanks for the life of her brother, Alan Anderson. Alan passed away on February 2 in Arizona.

...**Mildred Keagy**, following the passing of her sister, Dorothy McCall, who died on Thursday, January 23.

...Clem Rosenberger, former pastor of La Verne Church of the Brethren, and his family, following the passing of Clem's wife, Margaret, on February 2.

Congratulations to...

... Sarah Idris who graduated from the University of La Verne on January 31 and on her engagement to Isaac Orozco.

Continued prayers for...

Peggy Wallace, Michael Fletcher, Katy Antony, Sylvianne Sesteaga, Abi Cruse, Bill Ryan, Jan Newcomer, Peggy Snyder, Leola Ott, San Thon, Brian Lapp, Erma Layman, Barbara Ober, Dennis Short, our members at Wood's and South Wood's Health Services, and all the girls still being held captive in Nigeria.

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 Susan** or **Pastor Dawna** at (909) 593-1364 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.

*Office hours are Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to noon, and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Hosanna
IN THE
Highest

HOLY WEEK

Calendar for Holy Week 2020

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 5

9:15 a.m. Children gather on the courtyard for a palm processional

9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship

Love Feast

Thursday, April 9, 6:30 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Join us for this sacred evening of the Last Supper. Childcare is provided.

Ecumenical Early Service

Sunday, April 12, 7:00 a.m.

Hillcrest Meeting House

Julia Wheeler will bring the message.

Easter Sunday Breakfast

Sunday, April 12, 8:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Come enjoy breakfast prepared and served by the men of our congregation.

If you are a man and would like to help cook this breakfast, please call **Bob Dyer** at (909) 593-8559.

Easter Worship Service

Sunday, April 12, 9:30 a.m.

Sanctuary

Come celebrate Easter in word and song.

Holy Week Love Feast

April 9, 6:30 p.m.

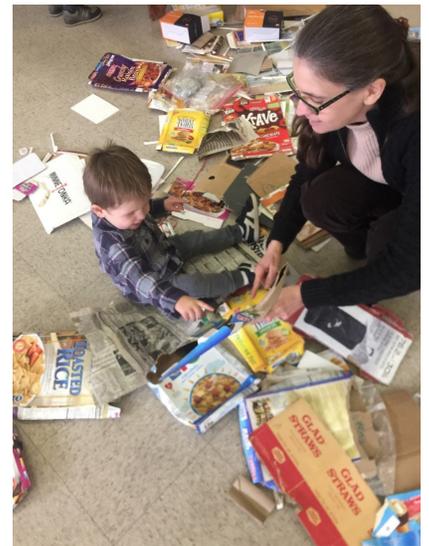
Fellowship Hall

On the night before Good Friday (which is Maundy Thursday) we gather to re-enact the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples. It is a simple, family-oriented, and profoundly important part of our life here at the La Verne Church of the Brethren. We eat a simple meal, wash each others' feet (or hands), and take communion together. We wash feet because Jesus washed the feet of his disciples at his last meal with them. Somewhere in the 20th century we began to describe this act as one of service. But service is a tricky word that suggests someone of privilege helping someone without. Love Feast is about mutuality, community, and "kinship" with all. It is a call of who we are to be in the church and the world. Children are welcome at the Love Feast table, but childcare is also provided.



Peace Camp Reunion Report

On our annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday we held a Peace Camp Reunion after worship in the Fellowship Hall. It was a great time to connect with approximately 43 children and families who participated in Peace Camp during the summer. Held as a Global Village style event, children and adults made Martin Luther King Jr. rainbows with their dreams of a peaceful future, peace rocks, herb sachets, and gathered around tables to chat. They reminisced by looking at pictures and Peace Camp shirts from throughout the years. It was a fun way to remind everyone that peace is for the entire year!





Buy a Slice: Youth Fundraiser

Get ready for your favorite youth fundraiser: Buy a Slice! This year we will be pre-selling whole pies at the beginning of April for \$30 per pie! Pie choices are: Fresh Strawberry, Banana Cream, Lemon Meringue and Peach. Individual slices will still be for sale on Sunday, April 26 for \$5 per slice. Start thinking about what pie you'd like to order to help support our youth as they go on trips such as the Christian Citizenship Seminar and other youth trips!

Kitchen Use Policy

Did you know our church has a new Kitchen Use Policy? The purpose of this policy is to provide operating guidelines for the use of the church kitchen. The key objectives of the policy are to maintain our current kitchen commercial certification, to provide for food handling safety, to provide for kitchen staff safety, and to provide for the maintenance and care of the church investment in kitchen equipment. Highlights of the new policy include the following:

Church Event: Any member of staff or member of the congregation who wants to have a church event that includes the use of the kitchen must speak with the church Office Administrator to calendar the event and have the event approved by staff. In addition, someone must be in the kitchen who has "serve safe certification."

Private Use: Any member who would like to use the kitchen for private use must speak with the church Office Administrator to calendar their event and have the event approved by staff; the member must be trained and acclimated to the kitchen by the Kitchen/Event Coordinator prior to the event. A Kitchen Use Form must be signed, and there will be a charge of \$100 for a Custodian.

Outside Organizations: The policy includes guidelines for outside organizations who would like to use the facilities for an outside event or rental of the kitchen.

Borrowing/Using Church Equipment and Appliances: The policy lists guidelines for members who want to borrow or use church equipment and appliances. Members may only access equipment and appliances after being trained by the Kitchen/Events Coordinator. The training ensures that members comply with all safety and kitchen sanitation rules.

Finally, all who use the kitchen and its equipment must follow the "Daily Use Rules" which include guidelines about food storage, rules regarding the ice machine, and other basic requirements of the kitchen. To request a copy of the full policy, please contact the Church Office.

How to Schedule Our Wonderful Staff

Have you ever wanted to have **Shawn** play at a memorial, or **Ryan** to sing at a service, or **Corlan** to cook for an event? Well, did you know that there is a process to be followed that does NOT include walking up to a staff member in church or calling them on the phone and asking them? Indeed, until an event is schedule with the Office Administrator, it does not exist, and we really want to help our staff manage their busy lives by coordinating all events through the church office. So the next time you wish to request the services of one of our own, please first contact the church office, office@lavernecob.org or (909) 593-1364, and we will take it from there. Thanks for looking out for our hard-working staff!

Give Back to LVCoB with AmazonSmile

The La Verne Church of the Brethren has been registered with AmazonSmile for several months now. Some of you have designated the church as your charitable choice, and we are receiving money for that decision. If you shop on Amazon and you haven't designated the church, consider making your church your choice. Go to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com). You will be prompted to select a charitable organization from a list of eligible organizations. It would be much easier if you use this link (<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-1856332>), and it will direct you to our church as your charitable organization. Then every time you shop, you need to enter your Amazon account through <https://smile.amazon.com/>. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to our church.



Online Giving!

Have you been looking for an easier way to make your church donation than carrying a checkbook? Well you are in luck! On our homepage (www.lavernecob.org) you will now find a button to donate to the church through PayPal. Go to the section titled "Give" or you can scan this QR code.



You can donate through PayPal whether you have an account with them or not. It costs the church about \$2.50 per \$100 given through PayPal. It would help your church to donate a little extra when you are using PayPal.



Food Network

March 24, 5-6:30 p.m.

(different than previously advertised due to Spring Break at ULV)

On the third Tuesday of each month of the school year, volunteers of the La Verne Church of the Brethren 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. Anyone is welcome to come and help or just come and eat with the college students and young adults that participate. It is an amazing event!

We have two more Food Networks after this one: April 21 and May 19.

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 corlan@lavernecob.org 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. This program is co-sponsored by our congregation and the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life at ULV.

Save the Dates



April 25&26

All-church service project weekend,
Watch for details!

LEN
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TEN

Lenten CONNECT!
Check out all the exciting
new and returning
Lenten Small Group opportunities
in the CONNECT! Section!

Valentines for Woods Report

On Valentine's Day, many of us gathered outside of Woods Health Services to spread some love to the residents who live in the specialized care unit at Hillcrest Retirement homes. We passed out home-made Valentines and brought much needed smiles to the faces of those who needed cheer. It was a fun, intergenerational event with lots of love!



Food, Faith, and Family

As I prepare for my Lenten Group, *Soup's On*, I'm looking at an old favorite story and recipe. I'm sure you all have heard of the folk tale Stone Soup. If not, it's a children's story about a hungry soldier cleverly deceiving the starving people of a small village into adding their hoarded vegetables and bits of meat into his magical stone broth. The result was a big pot of delicious soup that fed the entire village. Clever fellow. Asking Rayna what she saw as the moral of the story, she suggested "not to trust a sneaky soldier?" That may be true, but I think we'll lean more towards the power of community. When many come together, even

with a small contribution, big changes can happen. In the case of Stone Soup, a hungry community ate well, together.

I hope you enjoy a little Stone Soup with your community.

~Corlan

Stone Soup- serves 12Ingredients

98 oz. chicken broth
 4 medium red potatoes, cut into eighths
 1 yellow summer squash, chopped
 2 medium carrots, chopped
 1 medium onion, chopped
 2 celery stalks, chopped
 1 tsp. dried thyme
 ½ tsp pepper
 4 cups shredded or cubed cooked chicken
 1 cup frozen green beans
 ½ cup quick-cooking barley
 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained
 4 cups croutons
 1 cup Parmesan cheese

Directions

1. In a Dutch oven, combine the first eight ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer until vegetables are crisp tender, about 10-15 minutes.
2. Stir in chicken, green beans, and barley. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 10-12 minutes or until vegetables and barley are tender. Add tomatoes; heat through. Serve with croutons and cheese.

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CONNECT! - Spiritual Formation:

Purls of Wisdom;

One Project/Many Knitters

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 10:45 - 11:30 a.m.

Church Library: with Ashley Castro and Barbara VanVoorhis

Join this group to help create Friendship Blankets one square at a time! We are making progress toward our goal to create enough blankets by June to send each one of our graduating seniors out into the world with a physical expression of our support, encouragement, and love! Beginner's welcome.

Friendship Class

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 10:45 - 11:30 a.m.

Social Hall: with Al Clark

This class is friendly, and the topic is core of who we are. Join us as we engage Professor Bart Ehrman's video lectures on early Christianity. This series will help us understand how Christianity began, and how the teachings of Jesus developed into the religion of Jesus. There is no need to prepare or to commit to attending regularly. Come when you can and are interested.



Soup's On!

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 10:45 - 11:30 a.m.

Kitchen: with Corlan Harrison

Join Corlan in the kitchen where simple ingredients make for good conversation and good soup! Be prepared to cook, chit-chat and taste.



Current Events and Conversation

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 10:45 - 11:30 a.m.

Courtyard

Join this group on the courtyard anytime you are interested in stimulating conversation about current events and more!



Golden Age of Radio

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 10:45 - 11:30 a.m.

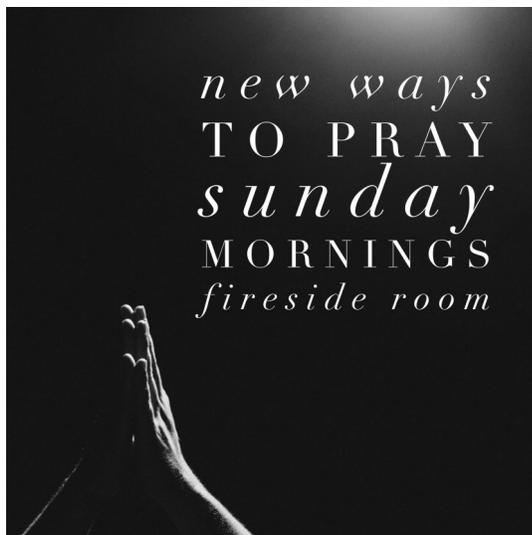
ITAV Room: with Jeff Gilbert

Before there was television audiences enjoyed listening to radio plays, mystery, adventure and detective serials, soap operas, quiz shows, variety hours, talent shows, situation comedies, and children's shows, on the radio. Join this group to experience the golden age of storytelling!

C.O.N.N.E.C.T!

Peacefully. Simply. Together.

CONNECT! - Spiritual Formation:



New Ways to Pray:
Spiritual Practices for Lent
 March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 10:45 – 11:30 a.m.
Fireside Room

Each week we will explore and experience a different prayer practice:

- March 1 Lenten Prayer Beads: with **Janice Shaw-Morgan**
- March 8 Pranayama (breathing): with **Linda Himes**
- March 15 Ask and Receive Prayer: with **Ryan Harrison**
- March 22 Doodle Prayer: with **Sarah Innerst Peterson**



Beginner's Swing Dancing
 March 1 and 15, 10:45 – 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall: with Billy Elftman

Swing dance is just pure fun. It's energetic, upbeat, exciting, and very cool. If there's any dance that's going to bring a huge smile to your face, this is it. Come learn and practice a few basic Swing dance moves. Swing who you bring or be paired with a neighbor!

LVCoBYOUTH (6th-12th Grade)
 10:45 - 11:30 a.m.

Rainbow Room: with Amanda Bennett and LVCoBYOUTH Volunteers

Details can be found in the LVCoB Kids, Youth and Families Page.

LVCoBLITTLES (Birth - Preschool)
 10:45 - 11:30 a.m.

Aqua Room: with Monica Barragan and LVCoB Volunteers

Details can be found in the LVCoB Kids, Youth and Families Page.

LVCoBKIDS (Kindergarten - 5th Grade)
 10:45 - 11:30 a.m.

Yellow Room: with LVCoBKIDS Volunteers

Details can be found in the LVCoB Kids, Youth and Families Page.

C.O.N.N.E.C.T!

Peacefully. Simply. Together.

Lenten CONNECT! Small Groups:

SIGN-UP (Space is Limited):

PJs & Movie Night

March 20, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Social Hall: with Amanda Bennett

Families of all shapes and sizes come and enjoy a movie together. Bring your sleeping bags and come in comfy pajamas while we watch a movie (rated G)! We will have pizza and popcorn. Please bring \$3 per person for pizza.

Healthy Eating for Healthy Living

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 12:15 – 2:15 p.m.

Alternating Homes of Lori Dick, Teri Tompkins, Deb Waas, & Tim Brayton

Plant-based foods have been proven to heal and protect our bodies from major illnesses, including hypertension, diabetes, stroke, and heart attacks. This lunch group will meet to experiment with new foods and share meals together. Participants will bring a plant-based dish to feed six people. Specific ingredient list and address to homes will be shared upon registration.

Flower Arranging

March 7, 14, 21, 1:00 p.m.

Location TBD: with Melinda Jones

Join this group to learn and practice how to work with fresh flowers to create a variety of different shaped arrangements and how to make them last! Small fee for cost of store-bought flowers.

Body Peace

March 7, 14, 21, 9:00 a.m.

Fireside Room: with Ashley Hernandez

Our bodies are our lifelong, loyal friends. These three sessions will be discussion-based with practical steps for learning to trust, tend, and connect to your body with a focus on acceptance and embodiment without judgment.

Bird to Live. Live to Bird

March 7, 14, 21, and April 4

**Locations Vary: with Jeff Strogen
Between 7:00 - 8:00 a.m. to Noon
Carpool from LVCoB (E Street side)**

Join this group of nature lovers who will meet monthly to observe the beauty and diversity of God's creation. Participants will visit various local birding hotspots, observing wintering species as well as spring migrant birds. Trips depart from the church at 7 or 8 a.m. Binoculars are recommended (available for loan, if needed). If you are interested in learning more or if you have questions, send Jeff an email: office@lavernecob.org

Euchre

February 24, 6:30 p.m. (first meeting)

Rancho Cucamonga: with Tom Hostetler

Are you interested in playing, or learning to play, the card game Euchre? Join this group for fun, fellowship, and the joy of Euchre. This group will decide together how often they want to meet after the first meeting.

The Last Supper in Movies

February 26, March 4, 18, 6:30 p.m.

Fireside Room: with Susan Boyer

Pastor Susan will offer another installment of her Faith & Film Series, looking specifically at Last Supper allusions. Some movies may have themes that would not be appropriate for children or youth.

High School Fishy Faith

March 15, 29, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Rainbow Room: Facilitated by Amanda Bennett and Rayna Harrison

High school aged people (and their friends!) are invited to gather for some prayer, meditation, and an open-ended conversation to discuss faith questions. Doubts and questions welcome. Dinner provided! High school only.

C.O.N.N.E.C.T!

Peacefully. Simply. Together.

Lenten CONNECT! Small Groups:

SHOW-UP (On-Going, Open Participation):

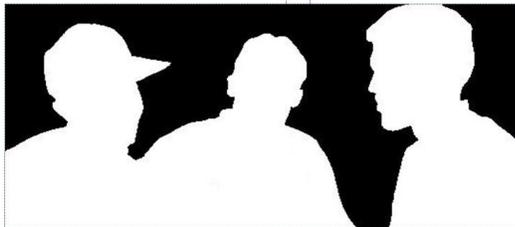


WEEKLY Sunday Lunch HOTSPOT

Sunday, 11:45 a.m.

- March 1 Warehouse Pizza: with **Dawna**
- March 8 Rubio's Coastal Grill: with **Susan**
- March 15 Blaze Pizza: with **Amanda**
- March 22 TBD: with **Corlan**
- March 29 Panera Bread: with **Tom**

Hungry for lunch and companionship after church on Sunday? Come meet us at our weekly HOTSPOT. It's a great way to get to know the people you are sharing pews with on Sunday. Bring your wallet and desire to CONNECT! with the church family.



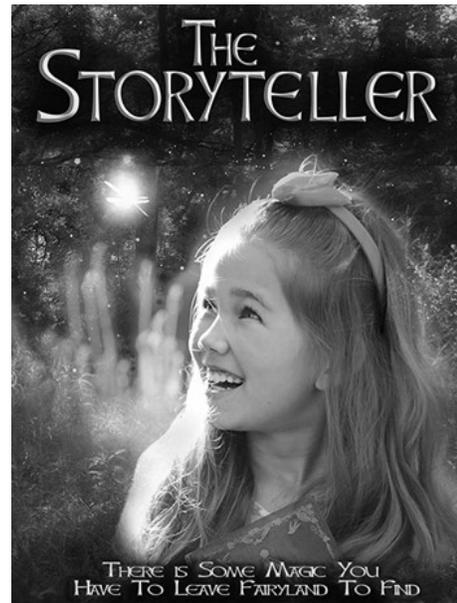
Men-a-logue

Second Wednesday of each month

7:00 p.m./March 11

Fireside Room: coordinated by Greg Emrick

Mark your calendars for the second Wednesday. Bring along a friend and ideas for current and future topic questions.



Spiritual Cinema Circle

Last Tuesday of each month

6:30 p.m./March 31

Fireside Room: with Jeanette Stone and Paul Hopping

In *The Storyteller*, a young girl named Abby appears seemingly from nowhere (with spirit orbs in tow) as a welcome surprise to one woman, and a shock to others because of who she seems to be and the amazing effect she has on everyone she meets. Abby's presence becomes a catalyst for family healing and renewed hope for love and the future. See you on Tuesday evening March 31, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

C.O.N.N.E.C.T!

Peacefully. Simply. Together.

Lenten CONNECT! Small Groups:

SHOW-UP (On-Going, Open Participation):

Wednesday Afternoon Book Study (WABS)

Second Wednesday of each month
4:00 p.m./March 11

Church Library

For our March 11 meeting the group is very pleased to have Barbara Smythe as our guest speaker. Barbara has authored two books and edited a third. She will share her writing/publishing/editing experiences with us.

Her first published book is *Your Hands Are All Squishy Grandma!*, which Barbara wrote after her grandson asked her why she had such "squishy hands." This is written for children and movingly filled with photos of aging hands, accompanied by a lovely text.

Barbara's second book, *Confessions of a Misfit Pastor's Wife*, reveals her years of being "the minister's wife." Written for adults, with Barbara's signature wit.

Barbara's third book is an editorial collaboration with author Leslie Baer Dinkel of the author's memorable involvement in bringing hope and healing to a rural Guatemalan village. The book, *Hope Dancing*, was one of our WABS group's choice for study last fall. A beautiful, poignant story.

We are looking forward to hearing Barbara's accounts of the how's and what's of her bringing these books into being!

(A head's up: For our April 8 meeting, we will read and discuss, *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, by John Irving.)



Euclid Median Walking

Monday evenings, 6:00 p.m.

Meet at Pioneer Jr. Hi (Upland) with Terry Bennett

Join this group for fun, friendship, and fitness as we walk from 18th street to the fire station and back. Bring good shoes and water. Questions? Contact **Terry** at (909) 593-1364.



Angel's Share Pub Theology

Last Saturday of each month

Locations Vary: with Ciera Olsen

We are a group of Young Adults from the La Verne Church of the Brethren who get together on the last Saturday of each month for conversation and companionship. Contact **Dawna Welch** at (909) 593-1364 or dawna@lavernecob.org to be directed to the Angel's Share coordinator.

...Bible Sunday

Bible Sunday is our yearly rite of passage for our fourth graders. It is such a beautiful time during worship when we, as a congregation, present these students with their very own New Revised Standard Version Children’s Bible with their name imprinted on the front. As we present these Bibles, we show our children how we truly value them as part of our faith family. We encourage them to read the Bible for themselves, not allowing just anyone to tell them what the Bible says. It is a Sunday in which we empower and bless these fourth graders.

This year, we have three fourth graders who received their Bible in our annual Bible Sunday. Here is some information on our recipients this year:



Gabrielle Marie Nava

Gabrielle Marie Nava is 9 years old and is in fourth grade at Roynon Elementary School in La Verne. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, playing at the park, reading, and watching horror movies, singing, writing songs, acting, and math. She also adores animals – especially kittens and turtles – and watching YouTube videos about animals. Gabby has been attending the La Verne Church of the Brethren since she was 5 and loves her church family with all of her heart.

Her favorite Bible verse is Matthew 5:8. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”



Dominic Navarro Solis

Dominic Navarro Solis is an almost eleven year-old who likes basketball and football. He is very knowledgeable about sports facts. Dominic’s nickname used to be the “baby whisperer.” He enjoys keeping his little sister and cousins happy. Dominic is also very proud of his curly hair and height.

He likes the Bible verse that he read in front of the church on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday, Joshua 1:9: “I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

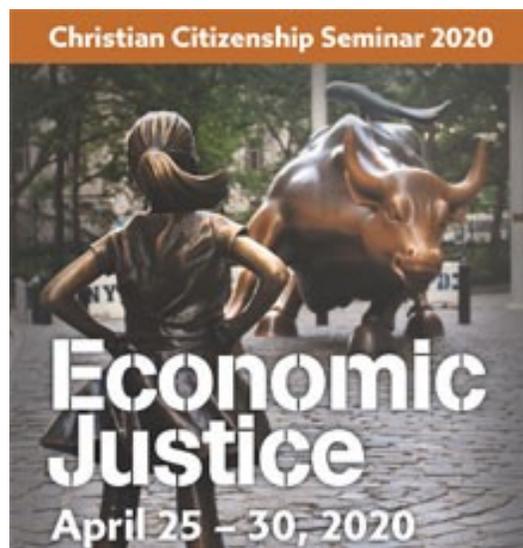


Emilee Emashayna Bishop

Emilee is nine years old and in fourth grade at Grace Miller Elementary School in La Verne. Her passion is animals of all kinds, and she often talks about being a vet when she grows up. She has a Pomeranian name Rosie and is currently in the Grace Miller band, playing the saxophone. She continues horseback riding lessons which she has been doing for six years.

Emilee likes the stories in the Bible when Jesus talks about being nice to everyone.

If you haven’t met these amazing fourth graders, we encourage you to say hello. Introduce yourself. Let our children know you see them and hear them, that their voice and presence are needed and welcomed here.



Spiritual Formation

Little's (Birth – Preschool) - Aqua Room, Sundays, 10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Beginning in March, our little's will experience the story of Easter through open-ended play, stories, and art with our beloved Childcare Provider Monica Barragan. Monica will be having surgery in the month of March and **Paige Butzaff** will serve in her place for a week or two as Monica recovers. Our little's are always in good hands!

Kids (Kindergarten – 5th Grade) – Yellow Room, Sundays, 10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

We just finished an intergenerational puzzling group, and we now begin our series on Holy Week. Our elementary schoolers will be meeting in the Yellow Room with their volunteers, **Lori Nicholas**, and **Beth Snowden-Ifft**, to learn about Holy week through art, drama, science, games, and more.

Youth (6th -12 Grade) - Rainbow Room, Sundays, 10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Peace. What is it? How do we strive for it? What does Jesus say about it? In the month of March, our youth will discuss peace through conversation, games, scripture, and spiritual practices.

Christian Citizenship Seminar (High School Only)

April 25-30, 2020

Registration opened December 2

Christian Citizenship Seminar (CCS) provides high school aged students the chance to explore the relationship between faith and a particular political issue and then act from a faith perspective regarding that issue.

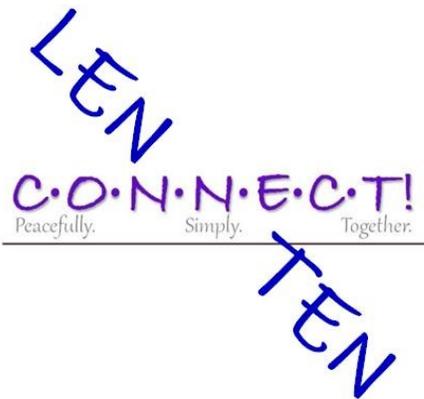
This year's Christian Citizenship Seminar will focus on pursuing **economic justice**.

Registration fee is \$450 and includes:

- Event programming
- Lodging for five nights
- 2 dinner meals, one in New York City and one in Washington D.C.
- Transportation from New York to Washington D.C.

Note: Each participant will need to bring additional money for most meals, sightseeing, personal expenses, and subway/taxi fares.

Contact **Amanda** if you want to go to CCS this year! Amanda@lavernecob.org.



Lenten CONNECT! For Kids, Youth & Families

PJs & Movie Night

Friday evening / March 20 / 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. / Social Hall

Families of all shapes and sizes come and enjoy a movie together. Bring your sleeping bags and come in comfy pajamas while we watch a movie (rated G)! We will have pizza and popcorn. Please bring \$3 per person for pizza.

High School Fishy Faith

Sunday evening

March 15 & 29 / 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Rainbow Room

High school-aged people (and their friends!) are invited to gather for some prayer, meditation, and an open-ended conversation to discuss faith questions. Doubts and questions welcome. Dinner provided! High school only.

Youth Gathering (6th - 12th Grade)

Sunday evening / March 1 / 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Rainbow Room

Calling all youth! Come to our monthly youth gathering on March 1st in the Rainbow Room! Bring a friend! We'll have dinner and explore a scripture together while we build relationships!



Mark Your Calendar!

Palm Sunday

April 5 at 9:15 a.m.

Kids, Youth and Families arrive at church at 9:15 a.m. to prepare for our Palm Processional during worship. Participants carry in palm branches and place them on stage to celebrate Palm Sunday. It is a memorable part of worship to participate in as a family, so mark your calendars now!

The Benton and Doris Rhoades Peacemaker Award



During her lifetime of engagement in service, Doris Rhoades (1918-2016) was a teacher for three years in Appalachia and a social, agricultural, and refugee worker for 25 years in China and Hong Kong. She also worked in various other locations in the U.S. She worked with the Presbyterian Church. Her husband, Benton Rhoades (1920-2003) was an agricultural missionary and administrator of agricultural and farm worker programs. He worked in Ecuador and in various locations in the United States—with the Church of the Brethren and the National Council of Churches. Doris

and Benton met in 1988, and they lived in Claremont for 11 years. Doris and Benton Rhoades spent their lives seeking justice for and lifting up the lives of those who were down-trodden and oppressed.

The Award: Peacemaker Awards vary up to a maximum of \$500 and they will be presented at a time to be announced.

Eligibility: Participants must be a sophomore, junior, or senior from a comprehensive, continuation, or alternative high school.

The Essay:

Option 1: A written essay (about 500 words) that describes what you think about and try to do regarding peacemaking—with your family, at your school, and in your community and the world.

Option 2: A creative expression such as an artistic drawing or cartooning, a self-produced video, a song or composition, or another work of art.

Note that Submissions Must:

Briefly describe how a non-essay entry represents peacemaking, *if it is not explicit in the work*.

Be labeled with your name and school.

Be the original work of the creator. If the work of someone else inspired you, please give credit to the original source.

Deadline: Friday, March 13, 2020.

Submissions will be judged based on the following criteria:

Content (originality of vision, and/or clarity of expression) 50%

Organization (cohesion of ideas and/or major images, depending on media) 25%

Language or skill with the medium used 25%

How to Submit: Entries may be submitted by email (below), or they may be turned in to your teacher, counselor, or school office. If pick-up is required, inform the Peacemaker Award Committee by email that it is ready. Artwork can be returned upon request. Copies of entries may be distributed for the purpose of publicizing the Peacemaker Award.

Who we Are: The Peace and Justice Commission of the La Verne Church of the Brethren. Benton and Doris were part of our congregation from 1992-2003.

For more information, contact:

La Verne Church of the Brethren

Attention: Peacemaker Award

2425 E Street, La Verne, CA 91750

Telephone: (909) 593-1364

Email: office@lavernecob.org



Fellowship Visitors

March 11, 9:30 a.m.

Church Library

The Fellowship Visitors will meet on Wednesday, March 11, at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Library. Visiting residents in Woods Health Care Center or others unable to make it to church brings wonderful rewards, both to those visited and to those who visit. If you would like to add this kind of joy to your life, please join the Fellowship Visitors on the second Wednesday of each month. It's once a month, the second Wednesday morning, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Let **Pastor Susan** (susan@lavernecob.org) know if you would like to serve in this wonderful program.

Brethren Disaster Ministries

April 19 - May 2, 2020

Brethren Disaster Ministries uses a network of volunteers to repair or rebuild damaged homes for disaster survivors who cannot recover on their own. Each district in the Church of the Brethren is given a time slot when they will provide the volunteers. The Pacific Southwest District has been assigned April 19-May 2, 2020. The location is Dayton, Ohio. If you are interested in going, please let **Dot Hess** know of your interest by emailing the church office at office@lavernecob.org.

Volunteers Needed at Camp Peaceful

Pines!

May 16-24

This May you can volunteer to help Camp Peaceful Pines (up in the Central Sierra Nevada Mountains) remodel their Nurse/Director cabin. If you would like to spend a week, or even a few days, in the lovely Sierras, contact Lindy Frantz at (209) 605-6559 or lfrantz667@aol.com. Food and lodging will be provided.

Opportunity for Denominational Giving

One Great Hour of Sharing

March 15

One Great Hour of Sharing is a special offering opportunity. This offering 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.)



Shared Ministries

March 18, 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 Susan Boyer (susan@lavernecob.org) know. Contact the Church Office at (909) 593-1364 for the currently scheduled member of the Shared Ministry team. Members of this team are: **Gary Carl, Julie Kurtz, Letha & Willard Ressler, Opal Wilkinson, and Judy Woodruff.**

Millie Davis retired from this group this year. She was part of Shared Ministry from its inception. Thank you Millie for all the ways you are and have been involved in love and service in this congregation.

Help with Hope for Home Meals

coordinated by Deb Jahnke

Fourth Monday of each month

Every fourth Monday our Service Commission partners with the local Home for Hope shelter to provide a full meal to those living on site. We begin cooking at the church at 2:30 p.m. and deliver the food at 5:00 p.m., followed by serving the meals. If you are interested in connecting with others through this worthwhile service opportunity, contact **Deb Jahnke** at office@lavernecob.org.

Mobile Pantry

We are planning to restock the ULV Mobile Pantry on a weekly basis. This mobile pantry was created by Peace Campers last summer for the food insecure students at the University of La Verne. The University does offer free food boxes once per month for students in need. This mobile pantry will supplement their monthly offerings and be available daily.

You can help us in our effort to keep the mobile pantry fully stocked. Please bring donations to the **church office** or the labeled bin in the narthex of the sanctuary. Food we are requesting are:

- Bottled water
- Granola bars
- Breakfast bars
- Pop Tarts
- Cereal
- Top Ramen
- Non-perishable snacks
- Mac-N-Cheese boxes and individual bowls
- Applesauce
- Pudding
- Crackers
- Trail mix and chips
- Canned soup and chili
- Canned juices



Hope Partners Food Donations

Inland Valley Hope Partners (IVHP) has been sheltering the homeless and feeding the hungry of our surrounding communities since 1968 and we, the La Verne Church of the Brethren have been partnering with them since their beginning.

One of the ways we 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
- Diapers
- Cans with pop-tops

If you have any questions please email **Amanda** at amanda@lavernecob.org.



What's Up at Hillcrest?

In 1949, Hillcrest began from the vision of Martha Lear, a member of the La Verne Church of the Brethren.

It has continued to serve the needs of older Brethren and others.

All the events listed are open to anyone who would like to attend.

Faith Matters - Tom Hostetler

And just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days."

Mark 1:10-13

Ever have an incredible spiritual experience? One where you felt the presence of God so close to you? One where you just knew that God had a plan for your life, and God was walking with you?

And then, has that feeling ever left just as soon as it came? And have you ever felt as though you are lost in the wilderness?

Jesus knew what that was like. He knew what it was to emerge from the waters of baptism to the voice of God proclaiming that God was "well pleased" with him. And he knew what it was to then immediately be sent into the wilderness for forty hard days.

In Lent we are called into a different sort of wilderness for forty days. After the familiar songs, raised candles, and joy of Christmas only a couple of months before, we are now in a time of stark simplicity, repressed "Alleluias," and a journey toward the cross. In times like this we Christians must not seem like much fun to be around.

And yet, in Lent we are reminded that we make this journey because Jesus made it first. Christ went into the wilderness to pray, and to fast, and to ready himself spiritually for what was to come. And in Lent we do the same. We know that we too are journeying to the cross. But we have the luxury of also knowing about the next part of the journey. We have the luxury of knowing about the empty tomb.

And so in Lent we are preparing ourselves to be people of the Resurrection. We are going deeper spiritually, and preparing ourselves to be the people we want to be on Easter morning. Lent isn't something to be endured. Lent is a wilderness journey that will lead us to new life.

MARCH 4:00 P.M. CHAPEL VESPERS

- 1 – Randy Gardner, Purpose Church - *Annie Green, accompanist*
- 8 – MUSICAL VESPERS Loren Newman - *Eddie Potter, accompanist*
- 15 – Willard Ressler - *Judy Woodruff, accompanist*
- 22 – Tom Hostetler - *Mary Kay Ogden, accompanist*
- 29 – Rev. Bob Morris - *Virginia Stark, accompanist*



STUDIES LED BY PASTOR TOM

Everyone is welcome to attend Pastor Tom's studies at Hillcrest:

- A weekly bible study of "Acts" Thursday, 9:30 a.m. in the Galen Walker Board Room.
- A men's bible study of "1&2 Peter" meets on Tuesdays at 7:45 a.m. in the upstairs Birch Court Lounge.



**National Young Adult Conference 2020:
Love in Action**

May 22-25

**Montreat Conference Center, Montreat,
North Carolina**

National Young Adult Conference (NYAC) offers people ages 18-35 a chance to enjoy fellowship, worship, recreation, Bible study, service projects and more... with other fantastic young adults! New this year — infants up to 12 months old are welcome with a parent participant! (Childcare not provided. Please contact the Youth/Young Adult Office if you are bringing an infant.)

Registration includes food, lodging and programming.

Scholarships:

Upon request, we will send a letter to your congregation asking them to provide a scholarship for half of your registration fee. Please make your request by April 15.

Participants currently serving in Brethren Volunteer Service receive a \$25 discount. Simply pay the full registration cost, and we will mail a rebate to the address listed in your registration.

A non-refundable deposit of \$150 is due within two weeks of registering.

Questions? Contact Nolan McBride, nmcbride@brethren.org, (847) 429-4376.

Song and Story Fest 2020

July 5-11, 2020

Camp Brethren Heights

Many of you have already started making your summer plans. As you do you might want to consider participating in Song and Story Fest this year. The dates are July 5-11, 2020. It will take place at Camp Brethren Heights in Michigan. We will let you know the list of storytellers and musicians as soon as the news is out!



**Church of the Brethren
Annual Conference**

July 1-5

Grand Rapids, MI

The theme for this year's Annual Conference is *God's Adventurous Future*. Our theme has historical rootage. In 1958, a variation of the theme was the title of Harry K. Zeller's sermon for the opening worship of Standing Committee: "The Adventurous Future." The phrase was subsequently used to title the book edited by Paul H. Bowman to compile the papers, sermons, and addresses of the 250th anniversary of the Church of the Brethren. Our delegates are **Susan Boyer, Sara Davis, and Julia Wheeler**. Delegate and non-delegate registration for Annual Conference is available online beginning March 2 at 10:00 a.m. at www.brethren.org/ac. The moderator for this year's conference is Paul Mundy of Frederick, MD. This is the year we will hear from the Compelling Vision committee and vote on a vision for our future as a denomination.

WOW Women's Retreat 2020



**This Pacific Southwest District
Sponsored Event
Has Been Cancelled for 2020**