

Lynnewood Lines

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF
LYNNEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor Jenn's Letter to the Congregation

Dear Lynnewood Family,

I hope your summer was filled with rest, laughter, travel and a deep appreciation for God's beautiful creation. Mine certainly was and I thank you for the time away to renew my mind, body and spirit. As the calendars flip and many of us return to busier schedules, I want to warmly welcome everyone back to our regular church routines. It is good to be away and it is also good to return to worship, prayer, and service in community.

This fall, we are launching new ministries, resuming small groups, and planning events to help all of us grow in faith.

September marks the return of Chancel Choir, Wellspring Band, and Handbells. It also means that small groups like Women at the Well, Nourish at Noon, Monday Night Dare to Question Bible Study and Youth Group are back. In addition, there are new things to try: Disciple Bible Study, a monthly Dinner and Spirit Group, Men's Breakfast Group, and Monthly Kids' Service events. To help you dive back in, be sure to add these dates to your family calendar.

- September 8 - 1st Meeting of Disciple Bible Study (Tuesdays, 7-8:15 PM)
- September 10 - 1st Meeting of Dinner and Spirit Group (5:30 PM)
- September 13 - Dr. David Vasquez-Levy, President of Pacific School of Religion, preaching on "Faith Beyond Exclusion" and PSR's upcoming Earl Lecture Series
- September 26 - Rise Against Hunger Service Event
- September 27 - 1st Kids' Service Event
- October 17 - 1st Men's Breakfast Group
- October 18 - Rev. Michael Yoshi and the Friends of Wadi Foquin Conference Project

Let's use this autumn to deepen our connections to God and community, extend our hands to serve our neighbors, and open our hearts to the transformations God has in store.

See you Sunday!

Pastor Jennifer
Pastor Jenn



Music Notes

As I reflect on this past summer, my heart is filled with gratitude especially for the many willing volunteers who offered their time and musical gifts in worship.

Thank you to those who led our congregation in singing songs of praise and worship. Thank you to the vocalists and instrumentalists who filled our sanctuary with glorious melodies and harmonies, lifting our worship to a higher level. We at Lynnewood are truly blessed to have such a talented community!

With thanks and appreciation,

Amelia Han Riegert

Worship Music Coordinator and Principal Accompanist

amelia@lynnewood.org



There's a beauty to the choir's off-season. Because in the absence of our chancel choir leading hymns and offering anthems, individual musicians, guests, and groups come in and share their own talents. It has been a joy to hear a parade of different voices and instruments lead worship this summer, and I thank all of them.

That said...the program year is about to begin for music! Chancel Choir resumed regular Wednesday night rehearsals at 7 pm. A perfect time to try us out!

Handbells will be back for four week sessions starting September 9 and November 11. Wellspring JAM sessions will resume TBD, and before you know it we'll be ready for the Christmas Orchestra.

Look for more opportunities to make and listen to music. Upcoming on August 30, Interfaith Interconnect of the Tri-Valley will be hosting an Interfaith concert at 4 pm at Asbury UMC in Livermore, featuring our own Debbie Roadarmel playing the harp.

Make a joyful noise, friends!

Michael



Family Ministry

The Movement of the Spirit

Be still. Feel the wind and see the direction it is blowing. Be still. Feel the temperature of the wind. Be still. See where the tide is flowing and the water is running. Be still. See where the birds of the air are circling and gliding. Then decide where to cast your net. (Yes, that whole part was about fishing. Or Not) I think the Spirit is always moving around us. As one of my preaching pastors used to say, "The Spirit is at work! Do you see it? If you see it then what do you do?" In order for us to see the movement and work of the Spirit, we have to be still, be observant and actually slow down. I mean like really slow down. When I fished, I turned the motor off, let the boat drift in silence, and observed nature. I then observed again and again before making my decision on where to cast. I believe that is also how life works. We have to slow down, observe, observe, pray, and then follow.

Here is the kicker - we may not always catch fish. We may choose the wrong fishing spot. We may interpret the wind and conditions incorrectly. Yet, at least we are observant and trying to follow the cues. On this journey of life, we have to try and trust the results. If we go down a path and then get redirected, we at least went down the path and learned and moved onto the correct path. There is no failure in this adventure, just learning moments that redirect us.

So church, as we begin a new season, will you look for the guidance and movement of the Spirit?

Will you be open to the pull of God's present Spirit? Will you be willing to then follow and be okay with learning opportunities? My prayer is that we continue to cast our nets and trust that eventually fish will be caught and love will be spread.

Corey

Annual Conference 2026 Report: Healing the World

By Vicki Daughtry Lewis

It was my privilege to attend this year's annual conference June 26-28 in Sacramento as your lay representative, along with Vicki Dillard. The focus for the conference, Healing the World, is from Isaiah 58:12: "And those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; you will raise up the age-old foundations; and you will be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets in which to dwell." Starting with Bishop Sandra Olewine's opening message on living faith rather than simply performing it, and right through to the close, the conference presented many ways to think about repair, restoration, and healing.

Grounding Us in Our Wesleyan Roots

Because I chose to embrace Methodism later in my adult life (I grew up Southern Baptist), I'm always eager to learn more about the foundations of our denomination. And I had ample opportunity! On the opening morning, we were reminded of the five marks of a Methodist (see "The Fruit of a Living Faith," by Steve Harper). A Methodist:

- Loves God
- Rejoices in God
- Gives Thanks
- Prays Constantly
- Loves Others

All five are always in evidence at conference. Before the first plenary session even began, I made a new friend, who invited me to sit with her; she is a member of Campbell United Methodist Church, pastored by Dr. Theon Johnson III (our new District Co-Superintendent, sharing that responsibility with Oliver Mangubat). The musical group accompanied our wait in line for hand baptism, playing the old-timey hymn "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," and together—rejoicing, praying, and loving—she and I sang all of the words.

I had two opportunities to listen to Dr. Ashley Boggan, once in Friday's plenary session and once in the workshop I chose for Saturday afternoon. Dr. Boggan is the General Secretary of Archives and History of the Methodist Church. She spoke about John Wesley's life, including his role in the defense of Thomas Blair, a man expected to be executed for a same-sex relationship. "Those Methodists" became a common insult aimed toward those working for Blair's eventual release, and today we wear that name with pride. Wesley also called for Methodists to help abolish slavery. Dr. Boggan emphasized Wesley's "violetality" as a holy willingness to cross boundaries for the transformation of the world.

Boggan's book "Calling on Fire: Reclaiming the Method of Methodism" draws on the Wesleyan quadrilateral of scripture, tradition, reason, and experience to provide a practical framework of field preaching, micro-communities, social engagement, and leadership activation. She stressed that Wesleyan discipleship is meant to be based on all four, rather than just selecting the ones we are comfortable with. I am happy to have received this education, and to continue growing in our Methodist "kin-dom."

Conducting the Business of the Church

In addition to learning, part of our responsibility at conference is to conduct business. And we did so using twenty-first century tools: AI was used for the first time to translate conference proceedings into Spanish and Korean, and we used our phones and other devices to elect delegates to the 2028 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Clergy elected for the General Conference are Theon Johnson III and Elizabeth Brick; lay representatives will be Rayne Diamond, as well as our District Lay Leader Aton Abril, who worshipped with us here at Lynnewood on Maundy Thursday this year. Then we turned to legislation: this year, for the first time, we returned after the Saturday dinner break to an evening of voting in sections. My section voted on the following from Recommendations, Resolutions, and Petitions for the 2026 Annual Conference, passing them all:

- Item 7, Recommendation to Train Clergy in Climate Change and Disaster Response
- Item 10, Resolution Supporting Gender Inclusivity, Equal Protection, and the Sacred Worth of Transgender and Non-binary People
- Item 12, Resolution on Advancing the Work for Reparations for African Americans
- Item 13, Resolution Urging Fossil Fuel Divestment of All Denominational Funds at Wespeth
- Item 21, Recommendations for the Inclusion of Retired Deaconesses and Home Missioners as Lay Members to the Cal-Nevada Annual Conference Session for Lay Equalization.

On Sunday, we had the fixing of appointments, in which clergy newly appointed and reappointed are announced by district; it is always very moving to lay hands on people and pray for their ministry. Since Jenn was away, we sent her a text letting her know we were virtually laying hands on her as well. I always feel the strong spirit of God in those moments.

Carrying Healing into Communities

Bishop Olewine and Michael Pope gave us a call-and-response message whose themes were our shared responsibility of people, place, and power. These themes were underscored throughout the conference in several ways:

- **People:** Of the 21,176 UMC congregations in the U.S., 73% report average attendance of less than 50. In addition, a 2023 U.S. Surgeon General report highlights our epidemic of loneliness and isolation. According to University of Florida sociologist Michael Adam Beck, religious hypocrisy is the number one reason people who used to be in church aren't; further, one in three Americans have experienced religious trauma. We had a panel of young people addressing questions about what the church needs to do to eradicate racism, and what healing the world means to them. We are reminded to keep making space for young people and welcome them as they are.
- **Place:** In our communities, we are called to do justice, to make sure there is work, food, and safety for all. Further, in our physical church facilities, we are called to ask whether our facilities serve our mission.
- **Power:** The call-and-response message, Reverend Sam Yun's core team report, and a panel discussion on equity stressed the deep listening that deep discipleship requires. We were challenged to be fully woke—to wake the sleeping giant of laity, and to carry out our Wesleyan "practical divinity," in which the personal and social are inextricable.

I will close with my gratitude: thank you for sending me as your representative, for the deep learning opportunity, and for the many mountaintop spiritual moments I experienced there.



Finance Committee Update

Finance Committee News

Greetings from the Finance Committee,

Since the last issue of the Lines, your Finance Committee has been working hard streamlining reporting and tracking of funds. A lot goes on behind the scenes, always with the goal of making sure we are good stewards of all funds received to support Lynnewood each week. This includes preparing for our upcoming work on the 2027 budget and end of year giving.

In regard to giving, have you wanted to move to digital giving, or wanted to increase your reoccurring giving but didn't know how? The following steps will help you do both.

LUMC Digital Giving

1. Using your browser on your smartphone or computer, visit Lynnewood's website: <https://lynnewood.org/give>. (These steps **DO NOT WORK** on the Lynnewood app.)
2. Click **Give**.
3. Click **MAKE A DONATION, LOG IN OR SET UP AN ACCOUNT**.
4. If you already have an account, log in, following the prompts, otherwise, create an account.
5. Click on your **initials** in the upper right corner of the page, then click on **Account**.
6. If you are already giving regularly (i.e., reoccurring), under Giving click on **Scheduled gifts**, then on your recurring gift. This is where you can update the LUMC Fund, your giving amount, and frequency of gift. You can also make an additional one-time gift.
7. If setting up a first-time gift, follow the prompts and then return anytime by clicking on your initials to make future changes.

Warmly,



Lay Leader and Chair, Finance Committee

Outreach Update

RISE AGAINST HUNGER - HAPPENING SOON!

On Saturday, Sept. 26 at 9:00 a.m., Lynnewood UMC will collaborate with Rise Against Hunger to package 20,000 meals that will be distributed to those most in need. We are offering two shifts of 60+ participants each. Sign-ups are online. You are able to choose which shift you want to attend when you sign up. First shift is 9:00-11:00 a.m. Second shift is 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. There is also a sign up to assist with setup starting at 8am that morning. The registration link is on the slide. If you have problems signing up online, please see Mark McClellan, Linda Van Pelt or Corey. Many volunteers of all ages are needed to package the meals, including elementary school children accompanied by a parent. Volunteers who are able to lift a 50-pound bag of rice are encouraged to sign up to help set up for the event. Thank you to all who can contribute!



Join us for a food packaging event as we strive to end world hunger.

Free to attend, please register online!

SIGN UP TODAY!

<https://act.riseagainsthunger.org/event/e836402>

All ages are welcome!

A great way to earn high school service hours!

Saturday, Sept. 26th - 2 shifts

9-11 a.m. OR 11:30-1:30 p.m.

**Lynnewood UMC Fellowship Hall
4444 Black Ave, Pleasanton**

For more info - corey@lynnewood.org or 919-884-0190

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE 2026



Some behind the scenes backpack filling for the big handout with Tri Valley Haven. Over 1000 backpacks were distributed between Lynnewood's site and Robert Livermore Community Center. Thank you to Mary Behrendt and the Outreach Team!

Small Group Highlights



HIKING GROUP

SEPT. 27
1 - 3 PM

**EMAIL PASTOR JENN TO JOIN
AND TO GET LOCATION!**

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP



**Men's Monthly Potluck Breakfast starting
Saturday October 17!**

Please plan to join us at 8 am in Fellowship Hall
for coffee and a potluck breakfast.



Bring your favorite breakfast item.

For additional information please reach out to
Roy Kniveton at rkniveton@hotmail.com or
Dave Ellebrecht at daveelleb@comcast.net
We look forward to seeing you on October 17!



Women BIBLE STUDY

— AT THE — on —



Well "The Bible Jesus Read"

STARTS
WED, SEPT 9
9:30 to 11:30AM

LYNNEWOOD
4444 Black Ave
Pleasanton

What You Will Find:

- Women's Ministry is, well, wonderful!! It is relationship, being seen and heard, living life together. It is knowing others on a deeper level and taking time to delve into questions and issues.
- It is a **safe place** where your thoughts matter and you can be more vulnerable. It is not being alone.
- It is **Jesus centered**. It supports you in becoming more like Him.
- It is **Bible Study**. It is looking at what the Bible has to say about living a Jesus centered life.
- It is **prayer** for one another.
- It is **caring**, for each person, their family, their hopes and concerns.
- And it is **fun and laughter**.

Come Join Us!

RSVP

to Jan Villott
925-200-6125
or
Lynnewood office
925-242-4334

DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

Have you always wanted to read the Bible, but just never found the time? Or maybe you've read it before, but you're ready to read it again with new eyes and new friends? This year we will begin Disciple Bible Study: Fast Track. We'll meet for a total of 24 weeks, devoting 12 weeks each to the Old Testament and the New Testament. Each week will include daily reading (between 3-5 chapters of the Bible each day) and one group meeting (75 minutes). The meetings will include a short video, opportunity for discussion, and prayer.

When:

- Old Testament Session Tuesdays 7-8:15 PM
September 8-November 24, 2026
- New Testament Session Tuesdays 7-8:15 PM
January 12-February 16, 2027 - Lenten Break - April 13 - May 18

Who: Led by Pastor Jenn

Where: In Person and Online

Don't let perfection be the enemy of the good! The commitment can seem daunting, but you do not have to do all the reading or show up for every single class. Life happens and so does grace! You can sign up for just the Old or New Testament or both. If you have interest, trust that you will make the time to grow and that's all that is required.

Sign ups will be available on our website, through the Friday email throughout the summer and after church beginning August 23. If you have any questions, please email pastorjenn@lynnewood.org.

Small Groups



Dare to Question

A Monday night Bible study. Join this group every Monday at 7 P.M. to read and discuss thought-provoking books and other topics. All are welcome to join! Meetings are over Zoom. ID: 813 2116 9421 Passcode: 411564



Hiking Group

NEW SMALL GROUP - 4th Sundays from 1-3 PM

Email Pastor Jenn for details on location.



Joyful Noise Choir

The Joyful Noise Choir, for children ages PreK-6 grade, meets after Worship on Sundays from 10:40 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. We first meet in the Fellowship Hall, have a quick snack, and then sing. Please join us in making a Joyful Noise. We welcome anyone who wants to have fun while learning to sing. There's even room for those who aren't quite sure! The next session will begin in the Fall.



Nourish at Noon

Join Pastor Jenn at noon on the fourth Monday of the month for a time of sharing and prayer. This women's spiritual formation group reads a variety of books, poems, and articles. It's not a Bible study: the readings are a starting point for conversation, personal reflection, and discerning God's movement in our lives.



Men's Breakfast Group

NEW SMALL GROUP - Start date October 17 at 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



Prayers & Squares

Seeking new leaders, please let the office know if you are interested!



Seasoned Citizens

Seasoned Citizens meets once monthly at a local restaurant. We typically meet on the second Tuesday at 11:30 a.m.

This group offers a welcome break from the daily routine with a chance for togetherness and visiting with other church members you may not typically see or talk to during regular church services.

We visit a variety of restaurants with an opportunity to experience different cuisines. So if you're retired or just free for lunch you qualify to join us to relax, connect, meet new friends, and enjoy each others company!

To join, please email Carrie Cochran at carriecochran@comcast.net or text at 925-989-4548.



Women at the Well

Friendship and Connection Great conversations about issues that matter, big & small.

Please join us Wednesday mornings, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary. Contacts: Jan Villott & Susan Gillaspay.



Yoga

Come join us to refresh your mind, body and spirit. Class led by instructor Joy Ellebrecht on Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your yoga mat and blocks. Class donations go toward UMCOR.

LUMC Recognitions in the Community!

Congratulations to
Carrie Cochran with her
selection to the Board
of the Pleasanton
Character Counts
Initiative!



A very big THANK YOU
to Jeff Nibert for his
many years of service to
the City of Pleasanton
as his term as Vice
Mayor ends this
November.

*Please let the office know when you or your family members
have a life event or achievement that we may share with the
congregation so that we can all celebrate with you!*

Contacts

Office

(925) 846-0221 / office@lynnewood.org

Care Team

Prayer Requests - If you would like the prayer chain to pray for you, send a request to Marsha Grimes: marshagrimes@att.net. Please indicate if you'd like this prayer to remain with the prayer chain or have it shared with the congregation in worship.

Visits - Linda Van Pelt: Ivanpelt3513@att.net
Raeanne Passantino: auntirae2@yahoo.com
Mary Ellen Huey: failedretirement@comcast.net

Pastoral Care and Support -

Pastor Jennifer Murdock: pastorjenn@lynnewood.org
Corey Dao-Forrester: corey@lynnewood.org

Stephen Ministers

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life. Their commonality? A passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. You don't have to go through the difficult times alone. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide you with confidential, one-to-one Christian care and support to help you through a tough time. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care. To find out more about Stephen Ministry for yourself or someone you know, please call Linda Van Pelt at 510-376-0483 or email her at Ivanpelt3513@att.net.



*As a **reconciling congregation** that dares to question, love, and serve, we offer wide welcome to all people regardless of age, sex, racial or ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, family status, physical or mental ability, or economic or immigration status.*
