

# Lynnewood Lines

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF  
LYNNEWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**LYNNEWOOD**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## Pastor Jenn's Letter to the Congregation

Summer break is almost here! Some of us will be graduating and moving away from home. Some of us will be busy with swimming and day camps. Some of us will go on vacation and some of us will enjoy family visits. Summer often means a break in routine; a time to relax the schedule and unwind. Of course, this also means that many of us take a break from church! (No guilt...I'm going to be gone for 2 months, too). But, taking a break from church is not the same thing as taking a break from God. God walks with us everyday and joins us in our summer plans. The question is, how will we pay attention to God's presence and continue to grow in our faith?

One congregation that I served sent families home with "God-To-Go" boxes. We filled pizza boxes with crafts, prayers, bible stories and discussion questions, so that families could take God with them on their summer vacations. But, I'm not giving Corey one more thing to do while I'm gone. So, here are a few suggestions for on-the-go devotions this summer.

1. Take a Nature walk. Take a walk and as you do, look for an object that reminds you of God. After you've found the object, reflect upon what drew you to it and what it means. If you are doing this with others, spend some time after the walk sharing your objects and why you chose them. You'd be amazed at how God can speak to us through such a simple exercise.
  2. People Watch -It is likely that many of us will spend some time in an airport or a new town this summer. Don't spend it all watching movies or gaming on your phone! Look up, notice people, pray for each one as they pass by. Pray for their safety, for a meaningful and rewarding time on their trip and that God would bless them.
  3. Garden - Before tending to your garden, spend some time searching the scriptures for a word of praise for nature. Psalm 19:1 and Matthew 6: 28-30 spring to my mind, but do your own search. And then as you garden, pray the line of scripture slowly. Contemplating God's Word, while tending to God's creation (which some call the First Word) just might bring the Bible to life in new ways.
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4. Stargaze - Look at the night sky like you did when you were a child. And yes, get out the app and identify the constellations! But, also just rest in the beauty and wonder. Allow the stars to stir your imagination and gratitude for all that is yet unknown.

The poet Mary Oliver, "But in summer there is everywhere the luminous sprawl of gifts. The hospitality of the Lord." (from her poem, Six Recognitions of the Lord). Summer is full of gifts: fun, rest, joy and adventure. God is inviting us to enjoy them all. So, don't miss the gifts and don't miss the Giver. No matter where you go, God goes with you.

Summer blessings,

*Pastor Jennifer*  
Pastor Jenn



## Summer Notices

### Spiritual Renewal Leave

As most of you know, I will be away on Spiritual Renewal Leave from June 18-August 19, 2026. Along with Corey, you will be blessed with preaching from our Conference Lay Leader Micheal Pope and Rev. Heather Hammer. Micheal will be here in June and again in August. Heather will be in July to share Holy Communion and to assist while Corey takes our youth on mission with Sierra Service Project. Spiritual care will be provided by Corey, Linda Van Pelt and our Lay Leader, Raeanne Passantino. Thank you and I look forward to seeing you in August. Be well and be God's! - Pastor Jenn

### Summer Office Hours: June 1 - August 7th:

During this time period, the office will be open Monday - Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday by appointment. On August 10<sup>th</sup>, hours will return to the normal M-Th 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Fr 12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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## Music Notes

The last Sunday for the Lynnewood Chancel Choir to sing this season will be May 31. I am thankful for our committed choir members who have sung in worship almost every Sunday since the beginning of this academic year and have spent their Wednesday evenings in rehearsal.

Now it is time for me to draft up the summer music schedule for song leaders and special music. As much as we have regulars who have willingly lent their talents in worship during the summer months over the years, I would like to invite anyone who is interested in helping out with worship music to contact me at my email address below.

Also, if you know of any high school student who is in need of community service hours and is interested in lending their musical talents in worship, please direct them to me.

We look forward to hearing our Lynnewood Handbell Choir this summer, as well as other musical instrumentalists and vocalists who will provide special music. Thank you for considering volunteering your time and talents to enhance our worship music at Lynnewood this summer.

Amelia Han Riegert  
Worship Music Coordinator and Principal Accompanist  
amelia@lynnewood.org



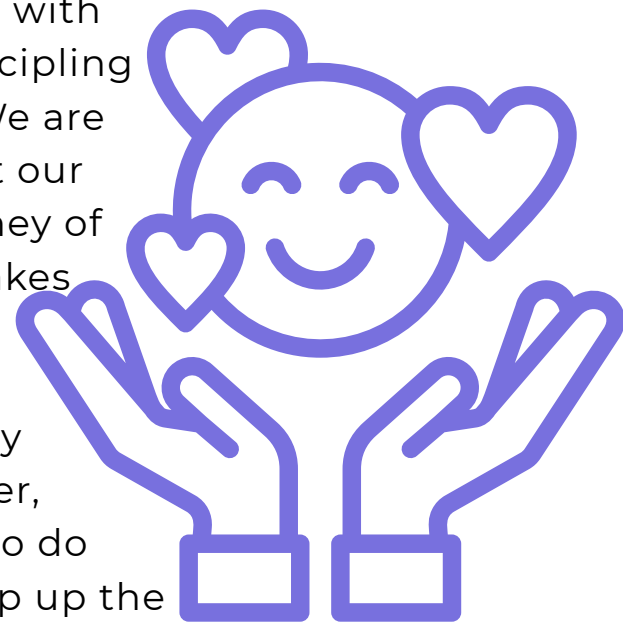
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## Family Ministry

### Gratitude - Trust the Delays

Honest moment - I struggle with gratitude. Let me clarify, I struggle with gratitude for the things I take for granted. I do not take for granted the groceries in my fridge or the safe home that Em, Chal and I occupy. I do not take for granted the family, friends and church that bring me so much joy. I struggle with being grateful for the small things when life feels hectic and stressful and busy. My wife has a saying that I have been trying to learn better for the last 10 years - trust the delays. Trust that when Chal wants to keep playing with that one toy even though we are a few minutes late for a meeting - it is God showing up and telling me to slow down and be grateful for that joyous fleeting moment. Trust the delays and be grateful that we have a God that shows up in the small chaotic delaying ways. Use those opportunities to breathe, thank God, and spread God's unending love.

As we end one season and begin the next, I want to show gratitude for a few things in the life of our church. Family ministry is growing. More families are coming to events, Sunday school, youth and worship. The depth of our engagement and relationships with one another is increasing. Our youth are discipling our children without them even knowing. We are continuing to build programs that will meet our families where they are at in this crazy journey of life and parenthood. All that being said, it takes all of us for that to continue into the summer and fall. With gratitude I say thank you for all of the support you have shown my family, my ministry, and this church. However, gratitude and thankfulness can spur us on to do more and reach more families. So let us keep up the good work and continue to spread the love of God to all this summer and fall through the blessing of events and relationships.



I pray that God fills your small moments, your hectic moments, your abundant life with peace and love,  
Corey aka Chal's Dad

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## Outreach Update

Outreach activities at Lynnewood have been busy in 2026!

Below is a list of activities so far:

- ♥ Make a Difference Day – celebrating with other organizations each year and highlighting the ways in which Lynnewood shares for the greater good of our community.
- ♥ Bundles of Joy program continues to deliver 10 bundles to AXIS Community Health every month. A welcome gift full of newborn supplies is always appreciated.
- ♥ Another successful Red Cross Blood drive in February at LUMC.
- ♥ Tri Valley Haven Graduation Basket program – honoring ‘graduates’ of TVH’s housing programs. Lynnewood provides a basket of new household items to welcome them to their new home upon completing certain milestones to independent living. Six (6) baskets have been delivered so far this year!
- ♥ Undies Sundies – In March, 200 undie items (tshirts, socks, etc.) were donated by you and delivered to Open Heart Kitchen/Shelter.
- ♥ Thirty (30) pairs of eyeglasses were collected and donated to Lion’s Club.
- ♥ Rise Against Hunger – another successful event in May with 10,000 meals packaged.
- ♥ Goodness Village – Lynnewood participated in their health fair by providing mini emergency kits for 28 neighbors (residents) at Goodness Village in Livermore.

Thank you to everyone in our generous congregation for your support to the community and beyond by sharing your time, treasures and talent. We are blessed to make a difference in the lives of so many people!

Your Outreach Committee



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## Finance Committee Update

*Stewardship for a New Day* is the name of a presentation I attended in March, offered by our conference, and presented by Rev. Dr. Ken Sloane, Director of Stewardship & Generosity, Disciples Ministry. This three-hour presentation was eye-opening in the way it provided new and exciting ideas on incorporating giving into our life, as Disciples. The main take aways included the following: stewardship is continual, not seasonal; trust and transparency are important; adapting to a digital reality is a must; and storytelling plays an important role in giving meaning to money.

Pastor Jenn and I began talking about these concepts during our April Lay Leader meeting. We got very excited about the possibilities ahead of us in regard to raising money to support the Trustees Five-Year Maintenance Plan, our General Budget that supports staff and day-to-day operations, and Youth Ministry, etc. We brainstormed several ideas, all of which will be shared in time as they are more fully developed. One idea already in motion is a monthly Financial Update that appeared in the April 26th Bulletin. Another will be a Stewardship Moment later this month.



We are looking forward to shifting our idea of stewardship from campaign-specific needs to a more discipleship focus that will keep us always doing what we do best:

Question, Love and Serve. To be continued..

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raeanne Passanturo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lay Leader and Chair, Finance Committee

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*Women at the Well ♥ Women's Ministry*

# *Soul Care 2*

*Taking Care of Mind, Body and Spirit*

Mitzie Gadd, MFT

**Sat. August 22 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

*We will be enjoying some music, yummys,  
and making of prayer flags to take home  
and to share with others.*

RSVP to reserve your spot by emailing  
Susan Gillaspy - [Susangillaspy@gmail.com](mailto:Susangillaspy@gmail.com)

\$10 per guest, collected at the door  
Refreshments will be served



*Gather Together*

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# 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, next one on May 24th!

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 TBD, Saturday mornings.



## 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](mailto: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.

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## 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: lvanpelt3513@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 lvanpelt3513@att.net.



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*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.*

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