

# Lynnewood Lines

**ISSUE: 2**

QUARTERLY  
NEWSLETTER OF  
LYNNEWOOD UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH

May 2025

**LYNNEWOOD**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## Pastor Jenn's Letter to the Congregation

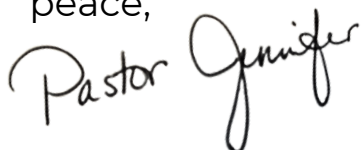
Grace and Peace to you in the Name of our Risen and Ever-Rising God, Happy Easter Season! Easter is more than a Sunday, it is a way of life. We are a resurrected people; called to live into the power of God's life and love each day. The apostle Paul said that all he really wanted was to "know Christ and the power of his resurrection" (Philippians 3:10). What does that mean to you? Maybe it means that we choose hope and faith in God instead of worry over present circumstances? Maybe it means that we work toward God's future of mercy and justice, even though we may not see the results? Maybe it means that we believe change is always possible and we refuse to acquiesce to "the way things are"? Maybe it means that love wins? In this Easter season, I hope you'll reflect upon what the power of Christ's resurrection means to you and ask for that power to fuel your life. As you pray for God's new beginnings in your own life, pray that God's same resurrecting Spirit would bring new life to our congregation.

We have much to look forward to...

- Graduate Sunday (May 18th) to honor our youth
- New Member Orientation - Sundays after church 10:45-11:45 (May 18 and June 1)
- Summer full of Vacation Bible School, Kids' Day Out, Summer Youth Group and SSP
- Juneteenth outing to hear the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir at the Bankhead
- Field trips with Women at the Well

And so much more...

May the Risen Christ breathe his spirit upon us and lead us in the ways of peace,



Pastor Jenn





## Worship Series -PRACTICE RESURRECTION

Easter is more than a Sunday and more than a season of Sundays after the BIG CELEBRATION. It is a way of life. It is choosing to believe in God's power to bring life after death, hope after loss, and joy after grief. Easter is about reaching for life, hope and healing. Perhaps, we find resurrection in its fullness in heaven. Until then, we practice here on Earth. We practice trusting that love is the most powerful force in the world by living it each day. So, in honor of the Resurrected Christ, do something each day just because it's right...just because it makes life better for someone else. Do it because it is the only way we can live now. Practice resurrection!

Excerpts of Manifesto:  
*The Mad Farmer Liberation Front*  
by Wendell Berry

*Love the quick profit, the annual raise, vacation with pay. Want more of everything ready-made. Be afraid to know your neighbors and to die. And you will have a window in your head. Not even your future will be a mystery any more. Your mind will be punched in a card and shut away in a little drawer. When they want you to buy something they will call you. When they want you to die for profit they will let you know. So, friends, every day do something that won't compute. Love the Lord. Love the world. Work for nothing. Take all that you have and be poor. Love someone who does not deserve it. Expect the end of the world. Laugh. Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful though you have considered all the facts. Practice resurrection.*

April 27	Practice Resurrection:	Laughter   Holy Humor Sunday
May 4	Practice Resurrection:	Living in Peace   Holy Communion
May 11	Practice Resurrection:	Serving Others
May 18	Practice Resurrection:	Graduate Sunday
May 25	Practice Resurrection:	Honoring Life
June 1	Practice Resurrection:	Keep the Faith   Holy Communion
June 8	Pentecost Sunday	

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# Music Notes

## Lynnewood Music on YouTube

One comment I've been getting recently is, "I loved the music..." (Thank you! I'm so glad you did!) "AND...where can I listen to it again?"

The answer is YouTube.



The highest praise we can get as musicians in the church is knowing that our music helped create a spiritual experience for you. The next highest, is that you want to hear it again. Many of our the pieces Lynnewood has performed over the years can be found [here](#). To navigate there yourself, go to YouTube, search for Lynnewood United Methodist Church, and then from our channel page select Playlists then Music.

I have been working on getting many of the anthems posted, bell pieces, and special music. During the summer, I will attempt to work through our history and post more. Happy listening!

## Ukulele Choir

What's your summer beach read?  
Is it a ukulele song book?  
I bet it's a ukulele song book.  
It should be.



This summer, Lynnewood will be forming a Ukulele Choir! There is no experience (or even a ukulele!) necessary. Some classroom ukuleles will be generously lent to us. As I always say, the ukulele is the easiest, most forgiving, most egalitarian instrument. Whatever your skill level, complete beginner or masterful expert, we can get together and share our favorite tunes. Meetings will be after worship in the Sanctuary, Sundays starting June 22, culminating in a worship appearance, and hopefully some guest artists and teachers. Email me with any questions, or to register: [michael@lynnewood.org](mailto:michael@lynnewood.org)

As my colleague Pastor Gerald taught me, [I ke alo o Iesu](#): let us go into the presence of Jesus. Aloha!

Michael

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## Family Ministry

### Small Moments, Big Impacts

I was looking around the room at the Easter Egg Hunt and something hit me like a ton of bricks. The small moments we have when we are building community and doing engaging events with families and the younger generations have huge impacts. I am so proud of the outreach and community engagement this church continues to do. We are slowly growing in our numbers at all kinds of events - big and small - which do make an impact on every person that attends. However, the work continues. More growth, especially growing younger in our church community is still possible, but it takes all of us. It takes all gifts, all graces, all ages to show up in small ways to make a big impact and difference in the lives of our community members. I dream and want and know it can be true for our church to look and feel how it did over this past Easter weekend. It takes all of us for that dream to become a reality. It takes all of us finding a way to make an impact this summer and fall at events like VBS, weekly worship, youth summer days, small groups, and new community groups. So are you ready to take that

next step? Are you  
for the gifts that God  
then use them in  
exciting ways?  
keep moving  
make our  
come true.  
ready, let me



willing to be thankful  
has given you and  
new and  
I am ready to  
forward and  
dreams  
If you are  
know. I

promise we can find new ways for you to create small moments that make big impacts. - Corey

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## Member Contributions

Lynnewood Children's Ministry has been such an amazing experience for our girls. It was their first introduction back to a social life after COVID and they have loved being part of this group. Both of my girls have grown and thrived here. Corey runs an amazing children's ministry program that is so welcoming to all children. They really do feel at home in the Church. They are usually the first ones to get up and run to Sunday school every week. They come back excited to share what they learned and did in class. The events are a blast! Vacation Bible School, Easter Egg Hunts, Holiday celebrations and a children's choir. All run by people who love children and want to make Church a fun and safe space for them.

As a parent it's comforting to see your child being treated so kindly, even when they are having a difficult moment. I myself have been comforted by the Children's Ministry as a mom handling parent struggles. At the end of the day, our children leave there knowing they are beloved children of God. It's something my own kids remind me of often because of their experiences at Lynnewood.

Alexa Jensen

Volunteering at VBS last year was not only a very meaningful experience, it was so much fun! What an awesome way to help foster in children a love and knowledge of Jesus.

It was exciting to see the children come in each day with smiling faces, and to watch them experience genuine joy while participating in the various activities. The activities, games, and crafts were really entertaining and engaging. It felt rewarding to build the relationships not only with the kids, but with the other volunteers as well.

I loved sharing the good news of Christ with the children and having a positive impact on their lives. I look forward to being a part of the Lynnewood VBS team again this year!"

Carrie Cochran





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# Finance Update

## Finance Update by the Numbers – Summary thru March 2025

	January 2025	February 2025	March 2025
<b>Donation Income</b>	<b>\$ 42,205</b>	<b>\$ 23,447</b>	<b>\$ 28,125</b>
<b>Quarry Lane Income</b>	\$ 22,133	\$ 22,133	\$ 22,133
<b>Total General Budget Income including from other sources</b>	\$ 66,827	\$ 47,566	\$ 52,803
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ 63,504	\$ 54,201	\$ 66,846
<b>Surplus (Shortfall)</b>	<b>\$ 3,322</b>	<b>\$ 6,634</b>	<b>\$ 14,043</b>
<b>Special Outreach Giving</b>	<b>\$ 2,954</b>	<b>\$ 18,573</b>	<b>\$ 4,390</b>

Dear Lynnewood Family,

It has been a few months since I last reported on our financial status. Two things jump out from the above chart:

(1) You have been exceedingly generous, esp. in your giving towards the LA Fire Relief (bulk of outreach giving in February and March).

(2) Donation income has not kept up with expenses. Donation income covers items such as salaries, program expenses, insurance, maintenance, utilities, etc. In the first quarter, we do get some annual expenses such as insurance and the first property tax payment. That accounts for the bulk of our 1st quarter shortfall.

In closing, THANK YOU for your continued generosity and I encourage you to be regular in your giving to the general expenses of Lynnewood. Please help us to continue to provide meaningful worship, programs and outreach to the community.

Easter Blessings to you all.

Donna Kirch

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## LUMC Recognitions in the Community!

Congratulations to Sue Falls who received an Excellence in Education Award from the Pleasanton PTA Council.

Congratulations to Sharolyn Borris who received the California Music Educators Association's Outstanding Elementary Music Educator Award!

Congratulations to Austin Bush who received the Citizenship Award at Harvest Park Middle School.



## Small Group Spotlight

### SEASONED CITIZENS

Seasoned Citizens is a once monthly luncheon at a local restaurant. We typically meet the 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.

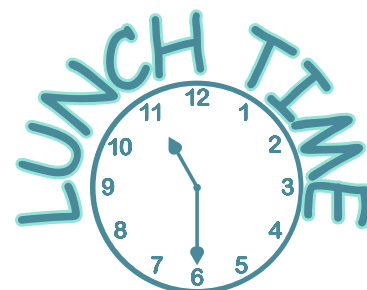
We visit a variety of restaurants with an opportunity to experience different cuisines. So if you're retired or just free for lunch you qualify to join us to relax, connect, meet new friends, and enjoy each others company!

For May, we are meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> at Hunan Chef Chinese Restaurant, located at 4285 Valley Ave in Pleasanton.

To make a reservation please email Carrie Cochran at [carriecochran@comcast.net](mailto:carriecochran@comcast.net) or text at 925-989-4548.

Hope to see you there!

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## Small Groups



### 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.



### 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.



### Prayers & Squares

Please remember whenever we have a quilt, it is not finished until you participate by tying a knot or laying your hands on a knot and saying a prayer. If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact Michele at 447-9141 / [micheleohair@gmail.com](mailto:micheleohair@gmail.com), or Jane at 846-6412.



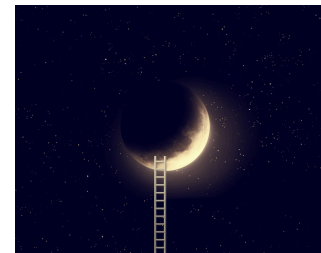
### Joyful Noise Choir

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. Fall dates will be out at the end of Summer.



### 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



### Dream Group

Dream Group meets every third Thursday from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. It is facilitated by Lisa Rigge, who has facilitated dream groups for almost 20 years. Dream group is open to anyone who would like to explore any aspect of their dreams. Dream group is a safe and confidential place to explore and work with your dreams. Please consider joining - we'd love to have new members. For more information: Lisa Rigge ([lbrigs202@gmail.com](mailto:lbrigs202@gmail.com)) or Claire Chow ([clairechow@comcast.net](mailto:clairechow@comcast.net)).

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# Contacts

## Office

(925) 846-0221 / [office@lynnewood.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Ivanpelt3513@att.net)  
Raeanne Passantino: [auntirae2@yahoo.com](mailto:auntirae2@yahoo.com)  
Mary Ellen Huey: [failedretirement@comcast.net](mailto:failedretirement@comcast.net)

## **Pastoral Care and Support -**

Pastor Jennifer Murdock: [pastorjenn@lynnewood.org](mailto:pastorjenn@lynnewood.org)  
Corey Dao-Forrester: [corey@lynnewood.org](mailto: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](mailto:Ivanpelt3513@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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