

# Lamoille Community Presbyterian Church

“Pursuing a faith that makes a difference”

## Crossroads Outpost

Lamoille, Nevada



Lamoille Community Presbyterian Church

### Our Vision

We stand together at the crossroads where God's powerful love compels us to worship Him fully, follow Jesus daily, and live in the Spirit joyfully.

### Our Mission

Our mission is to pursue this vision with commitment, character, and in community.



WELCOME  
TO WORSHIP



### Aflame with faith



In the Old Testament, fire often symbolizes the presence of God's Spirit. For example, God called to Moses from a burning bush (Exodus 3:2-6) and defeated the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:30-39). In the New Testament, tongues of fire rested atop the believers gathered on Pentecost (Acts 2:3).

Some Christians have described a burning or current-like sensation when they encounter God. Methodism founder John Wesley said his heart was “strangely warmed” during worship. After such an encounter, people often feel compelled to share the Good News of Jesus. The flame of faith inside one believer can spark a revival of faith in others. As Charles Spurgeon said, “A burning heart will soon find for itself a flaming tongue.”

### A house united

When President Lincoln declared in 1858, “A house divided against itself cannot stand,” he was echoing Jesus. Scribes thought Jesus was casting out demons by Satan's power, so Jesus responded, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ... If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand” (Mark 3:23-25, NIV). There are countless modern examples: Civil wars. Families torn apart. Business partners going separate ways. Even churches splitting.

Jesus used the “house divided” image to point out the nonsense of the scribes' words. It takes someone *other than* the “strong man” (v. 27), or demon, occupying a space to cast that demon out. Evil can't drive out evil. Sin isn't stronger than sin. Hate doesn't solve hate. Violence doesn't end violence. Two wrongs don't make a right.

Jesus came to “bind” evil with goodness, conquer hate with love and teach us the same. Throughout the gospels, Jesus treats *all* people with love — even those who oppose him — so that, in the end, we all will be a house *united* by God's goodness.

# CHURCH HAPPENINGS



Gina & Jason in front of the Tiber in Rome. The church of the Rock, built into a cave at the top of a mountain (762) steps above Taormina, Sicily.



We bid farewell to Kim and Trent Garcia, who have been integral part of our church community for many years. Their dedication, kindness, and contributions have left a lasting impact on all of us. As they embark on this new journey in Idaho, we extend our heartfelt wishes for success, happiness, and continued blessings in their life ahead. Thank you, Garcias, for being a cherished member of our church family. It's not Good Bye, it's see you later.

Their new address is:  
Kim & Trent Garcia  
15621 Cumulus Way,  
Caldwell, ID 83607



The 2024 Souper Bowl was well attended & loads of fun. Thank you to all who helped set up for the event.



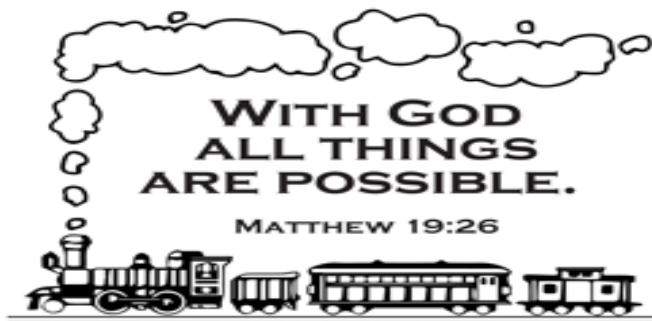
## 7 billion people looking at the sun. Imagine if 7 billion people looked at the Son.

If a tiny virus can do this much damage, imagine what mustard seed size faith can do.



Keep faith in God, through all times. He will pull us through.

*Amen*



### Open hands



Liturgical scholar Balthasar Fischer (1912-2001) shared an “a-ha” realization about the significance of praying with open, outstretched hands, an ancient practice. The opposite gesture, a closed fist, is used to threaten others or even inflict violence. We also grasp things in closed fists, refusing to let go, to share, to hold gently or loosely.

When we pray with open hands, Fischer explained, we’re saying before God that we renounce “all highhandedness, all pride in [our] own sufficiency, all violence.” We hold up our empty hands to God, saying, “I have nothing that I have not received from you, nothing that you have not placed in my empty hands. Therefore I do not keep a frantic hold on anything you have given me; therefore, too, I desire not to strike and hurt but only to give and to spread happiness and joy.”

### Mother — and more

Though I’ve primarily known God as Father — along with metaphors such as rock, eagle, shepherd, potter — I also learned of Scripture passages portraying God as mother. For example (all NIV):

- “For a long time I have kept silent. ... But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant” (Isaiah 42:14).
- “As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you” (Isaiah 66:13).
- “Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them” (Hosea 13:8).
- In others, God is pictured doing traditional “women’s work”: making clothes (Genesis 3:21), sweeping (Isaiah 14:23), preparing and hosting a meal (Proverbs 9:1-6), baking bread (Luke 13:21).

One of my favorite images of God is tucked in Hosea. While many modern dads nurture their toddlers this way, the tender words surely call to mind a mama’s care: “It was I who taught [Israel] to walk. ... To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them” (Hosea 11:3-4). Most importantly, God — however known — is loving and good.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



### Consoler, healer, guide

Holy Spirit, Lord divine,  
Come from heights of heav’n and shine,  
Come with blessed radiance bright!  
Come, O Father of the poor,  
Come, whose treasured gifts endure,  
Come, our heart’s unfailing light!

Of consolers, wisest, best,  
And our souls’ most welcome guest,  
Sweet refreshment, sweet repose.  
In our labor rest most sweet,  
Pleasant coolness in the heat,  
Consolation in our woes. ...

Cleanse our soiled hearts of sin,  
Arid souls refresh within,  
Wounded lives to health restore!  
Bend the stubborn heart and will,  
Melt the frozen, warm the chill,  
Guide the wayward home once more!

—12th-century hymn

## First-team followers

Jesus' ascension into heaven shortly after his resurrection was "one of God's most audacious ploys," according to Pastor Frank Ramirez. "Jesus, resurrected, is Master of space and time, yet he passes on the work of spreading the Good News to his imperfect disciples, who ultimately pass it on to us (who are also imperfect disciples)."

By contrast, most Old Testament patriarchs often stayed on the throne until they died. Many of them could have benefited from a timely "exit strategy," Ramirez notes.

"As a child, I always felt that the world would have been a better place if the resurrected Lord had just taken over everything," Ramirez continues. "But though Jesus is active with us ('For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them' — Matthew 18:20, NRSV), we're part of the first team now."

## Running slowly

At a track meet, we sat in the stands, cheering for our son. I chuckled as a young sibling of an athlete asked, "Why are they running so slow, Mommy?"

These athletes had been training for years, and many were setting personal best times and even state records. Most spectators would provide little competition for the runners. But the child was comparing how he'd felt while running at the park, sprinting to a soccer game.

Along the track, dozens of teammates and coaches cheered. Each time an athlete passed, she heard strong, pointed encouragement. "You've got this!" "Someone's approaching; time to pick up the pace!" "Great stride — keep going!" The coaches and runners knew what was helpful and understood how hard the athletes were working.

My point: Consider who you allow to speak truth into your life. Do you listen to loved ones who "train" alongside you? Or do you give sideline critics too much space in your thoughts? Heed Proverbs 2:2 (NLT), which advises, "Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding."

—Janna Firestone

## The language of lament

Unlike nonbelievers, Christians can grieve with hope (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). On Memorial Day and at Christian funerals and burials, our lament is real — and it's a uniquely Christian concept, according to Pastor Mark Vroegop. "It takes faith to pray when you are in pain," he writes in *Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy*. "Belief in God creates challenging questions, and lament provides the opportunity to reorient your hurting heart toward what is true. But in order for that to happen, you have to turn to prayer. The silent treatment must end."

Vroegop, who had a stillborn daughter, says lament opens a door that leads to trust. Heartfelt lament, he says, can be brief or messy and can feel forced or uncomfortable. But the important thing is to "keep talking to God."

"Don't allow your fear, your despair or your track record of silence to cut off the flow of grace," he urges. "Your pain can be a path toward God if you'll allow lament to be your new language."



## Bible Quiz

What two rivers that we still know today are named in the Creation account in Genesis 2?

- A. Nile
- B. Yangtze
- C. Jordan
- D. Tigris
- E. Ganges
- F. Euphrates

Answer: D & F (See Genesis 2:10-14.)



## You are my witnesses

John White (1924-2002) was a medical missionary, psychiatry professor, church planter and prolific author who wrote about faith and outreach. He refuted the notion that being an effective witness for Christ is akin to being a salesperson. Christians are representing and sharing a person, he said, not touting a product.

"A good witness is like a signpost," he added. "It doesn't matter whether it is old, young, pretty, ugly. It has to point the right direction and be able to be understood. We are witnesses to Christ; we point to him."

# May 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER	3 Layla Land (B)	4
5	6	7	8	9 ASCENSION Shonna Hodgkiss (B)	10	11
12 HAPPY Mother's Day!	13	14	15	16	17	18 Debbie Harmer (B) ARMED FORCES DAY
19 Dorothy H (B) Bruce & Suzanne (A)	20 Victoria DAY	21	22	23 Jason Land (B)	24	25
26 TRINITY Sunday	27 Memorial Service Barbara LeBret (B)	28	29 Sandy Wilmot (B) Katy Smith (B)	30	31	

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317 SR 227 PO Box 281147  
Lamoille, NV 89828-1147



**Church Office: 775-753-6749**  
**E-mail: lamoillepres@gmail.com**

#### **SESSION ELDERS:**

**Gary Jensen:775- 934-8001**  
**Jim Connelley:775-778-9800**  
**Matt Thiel:775-340-8231**  
**Kim Garcia:775-340-2484**  
**John Kendek :775-297-1889**  
**Kevin Hull:775-934-3246**  
**Dorthy Hull:775-934-5340**  
**Gregg Lawrence:775-777-8184**  
**Bruce Carson:443-789-4256**  
**Gerry Pennington 775-340-3501**  
**Roger (Whip) Upton 310-405-2309**

#### **DEACONS:**

**Debbi Thiel:775-340-7811**  
**Susan Lawrence:775-397-1477**  
**Jeanice Jensen:775-777-5678**  
**Becky Jaff:307-620-0671**  
**Barbara Palmer:303-424-1820**  
**Suzann Carson:443-789-8595**  
**Judy Byers:509-780-2640**  
**Kim Upton 310-405-2309**

\*A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. They were ready to discuss the last one. The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what it was. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off thy neighbor's wife."

\*A Sunday school teacher asked her children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping." Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." Joel asked, "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

\*3-year-old, Reese: "Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen."

\*After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

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Coming soon to a street near you!

## Street golf

