

GRACE IN THE DESERT SUMMER ENEWS BLAST!

Community Presbyterian Church of Littlerock, PO Box 788, Littlerock, California 93543, www.cpclr.org, Office 661.944.3231

Being the Church

Transformation isn't easy. As a matter of fact it can take years for an organization to begin seeing fruits of transformation. As a church we've gone through some transformation of our own over the last few years. If someone hasn't been part of our church for a while or if they live in our community and were to drive by on any given day they would immediately notice the change in the way our facility looks with all of the renovations that have taken place over the past couple of years. The color of the church has changed. The landscaping and even the old storage units are no longer on our church campus. They would notice a beautiful patio right at the entrance of the church and they would even notice some new directional signs. We give thanks to God for all of the wonderful changes to the outside of our church building, but in all reality *these changes are only the beginning of what really needs to happen within our church when it comes to transformation.*

First, our church needs to continue trusting that God is at the center of transformation of hearts and minds; the kind of transformation that only occurs in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Second, our church needs to trust its leadership. Our church leaders were elected to serve for a reason. Our elders and deacons are constantly working at making our church a place where people come to know Christ in a new way. Finally, being the church means moving out from the pews and into the world. It's not a one person show; it means learning how to become a participant as opposed to being a spectator. Spectators cheer. If they get bored they let those around them know. Participants get into the trenches and help serve.

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If you've been to an athletic event, you know what I'm talking about. This summer in church we will be talking about what it means to *be the church*. We will look to Paul's letter to the church of the Thessalonians as our scriptural basis for doing church together. I want to challenge you to consider ways in which you can become more of a participant than a spectator. Listen to Paul's words from *1 Thessalonians 2:8*, "*We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.*"

Friends, to be the church means more than just being someone who can speak eloquently or who knows more about the Bible than anyone else. Being the church means that you're willing to share your life with those who are looking for just a little bit of grace in a world that seems to be lacking of grace sometimes.

When we're truly modeling what it means to be the church, people will see Jesus in a new way and they will hear the Gospel loud and clear by the way we're living. Can I hear an Amen?

Pastor K.C.

Christian Education

Part-Time Youth Coordinator

As some of you know there has been some discussion in looking to hire a part-time youth coordinator. We've spent a lot of time focusing on our building, now we're interested in focusing our efforts in building our church from the bottom up with Christ as our foundation. We began with the building of a dedicated room for a church nursery for babies and toddlers. We have a small group of elementary aged children. What we'd like to do now is to be able to say that our church has weekly youth ministry for grades 7- 12.

Now I know many of you are asking the million dollar question? "How are we going to pay for a part-time youth coordinator?" If you recall we sold a parcel of land on our current property to Cal Trans for the purpose of expanding the highway in front our church. The parcel is currently in Escrow and we have received permission from the Presbytery to use some of the money from the sale of the parcel to fund this position for up to a year. This person would lead a weekly youth group on Wednesday evenings.

The other question I know you are asking is, "We don't have any youth?" Why hire a youth coordinator when there aren't any youth? Our thought is that this person will go out and beat the pavement at Almondale Middle School and Littlerock High School. The word will get out in the community and especially families looking for a new church where their kids needs will be met spiritually. You have to start somewhere and sometimes the best way to start a youth ministry is to start it from scratch and trust the Lord that we're doing what he wants us to do in reaching our community for him. Please keep our church in your prayers as we discern what it is that we are called to do and be in the town of Littlerock. If you know someone who might be interested in applying please contact Pastor K.C. in the church office at 661.944.3231.

Children' Ministry Update

As your pastor I must say that one of the strongest selling points any church can have as a young family is looking for a new church home, is a viable children's and youth ministry. The kind of ministry that teaches what it means to truly follow Jesus especially given what many children, youth, and their families are going through in today's world.

Rose Banfield has been a blessing to us and continues to minister faithfully in our nursery and with the children. She has been taking care of both the babies, toddlers, and teaching the Elementary aged children by herself for a while now, and we are thankful for all of the time and dedication she has given in being an example of Jesus to the kids. We now are in need of someone continuing what Rose helped us start, and to walk alongside Rose and our church in caring for children and youth. Your session recently approved a new person to help continue in caring for the children in our church. Lori Brown comes to us from the Horizon Community Church in Palmdale. She and her husband Fred are joining our church this summer and Lori has expressed an interest in helping design a new Sunday school class for children in grades 4th - 6th beginning this month. Rose and Lori will continue working together in making sure that our ministry to children is ready to meet the needs of our kids and to reach new kids for Christ in the Littlerock area. Please keep both Lori and Rose in your prayers as they love kids like Jesus loves them. This means though that we will need additional help on occasion. We are required to have additional help in the nursery when we have more than 4 children. We ask that those parents who have children in the nursery be ready to help when needed. Please read the following note from Lori below on page 4.

GriefShare Group

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. GriefShare seminars and support groups are led by people who understand what you are going through and want to help. You'll gain access to valuable GriefShare resources to help you recover from your loss and look forward to rebuilding your life.

It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never faced before. GriefShare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. Each GriefShare session has three distinct elements:

Video Seminar With Experts

Each week your GriefShare group will watch a video seminar featuring top experts on grief and recovery subjects. These videos are produced in an interesting-to-watch television magazine format featuring expert interviews, real-life case studies, dramatic reenactments and on-location video.

SUPPORT GROUP DISCUSSION WITH FOCUS

After viewing the video, you and the other group members will spend time as a support group, discussing what was presented in that week's video seminar and what is going on in your lives.

WORKBOOK BASED STUDY AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

During the week you will have the opportunity to use your workbook for further personal study of the grieving process and to help sort out your emotions through journaling. Your group will spend time discussing questions and comments from the workbook study.

WHEN TO JOIN A GRIEFSHARE GROUP

You are welcome to begin attending the GriefShare group at any session. Each is "self-contained," so you do not have to attend in sequence. You will find encouragement and help whenever you begin. You will be able to continue with GriefShare through the next 13-week cycle and view any of the videos you have not seen.

WHO SHOULD COME AND WHO SHOULD NOT COME...

GriefShare is for people grieving the death of a loved one. Many other life situations bring deep grief, such as [separation and divorce](#), a loved one who is dying, estrangement, loss of a loved one to a cult, [loss of custody of a child](#) through divorce and more. If you are struggling with a loss not due to a death, GriefShare is not designed to meet your grief needs for healing. We encourage you to ask your pastor or a church leader for guidance in finding a support group or counselor.

Our hope is to begin a GriefShare Group late this summer or early this fall. We are currently looking for a few good folks to help facilitate this Christ centered group as a way of bringing Christ's love to the community during times of grief and loss. For more information contact Pastor K.C. at the church office at 661.944.3231.

Are you on Facebook?

If you would like to join our church Facebook page, please visit the Facebook website and type in the search bar, "Community Presbyterian Church of Little Rock." We will use this as another means for communicating up to the minute information or visit our church web site for more information at www.cpclr.org

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My Name is Lorie Brown. My husband and I are in the process of becoming new members. Due to all the work Rose has done developing the nursery & Sunday School Program. It has grown to the extent that more help is needed; therefore I am working with Pastor K.C. and Rose in developing a new Sunday School Program. While Rose will still remain a large part of this program I will be teaching 4th, 5th & 6th grade. I do have a background of working with youth. I helped implement a 5th and 6th grade youth program at our previous church and taught 5th and 6th grade for 5 yrs. I was a long term substitute teach with the Palmdale School District for 3 years teaching mainly 4th through 8th grade, and I worked with the Boy Scouts as an assistant scoutmaster and crew advisor to the Venture Crew for 9 years. I look forward to this opportunity of serving with you all and feel the Lord has lead me back in this direction of serving children and their families in this wonderful Christ centered church.

Special Thanks from Our Pastoral Intern

My, how time flies! It has been 9 months since I first darkened the doorstep of CPCLR, and as I look back and reflect on these nine months I simply smile at how the grace of our Lord and Savior has guided me in ministry, and blessed me with such a loving, patient, and accepting community of faith to fulfill the small church internship requirement as I pursue ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church USA.

I would like to thank you for all of the love and guidance that you have provided. Leading you in worship and Bible study has been a wonderful experience, and I would like to thank each and every one of you, as you have made this ministry experience a blessed endeavor. Thank you for all of the kind words and support that you have provided

me throughout the term of this internship. I also thank you for accepting me as your student, I have learned so much from all of you.

While my “official” internship time is completed, I will continuing partnering with you all in ministry, as the session will continue to provide opportunities for me to lead in worship and preach, and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue our relationship, and to get the opportunity to see how God is going to use this small, but mighty, congregation in the transformation of the Antelope Valley.

In addition to working alongside KC, I am excited to see how the ministry of the church is expanding. I am encouraged to see more children every Sunday, and I look forward to the re-launch of the Youth Ministry program. I have agreed to stand in the background and help guide and lend some of my expertise to the new Youth Ministry Coordinator.

Thank you for welcoming Micah and me into your family. I will always have warm memories when I look back to this past season of ministry. I look forward to making more of these memories in the future.

I echo the Apostle Paul’s words in the introduction to his letter to the Philippians,

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

-James

of Littlerock
PO Box 788

7854 Pearblossom Highway,
Littlerock, CA 93543

Phone:
661.944.3231

Fax:
661.944.3894

E-Mail:
revkcwahe@sbcglobal.net

- *Men's Breakfast June 19th, July 17th, and August 21st 8:00am*
- *Women's Fellowship June 24th, July 8th & 22nd, August 5th 4:30pm*
- *July 4th Fellowship Dinner after church*
- *Mariners for July & August TBA*
- *Fellowship Dinner August 1st after church*
- *Lancaster Jethawks Baseball Night August 13th 7:00pm Game*

Don't Forget!

- *Communion is on the first Sunday of the month!*
- *Bible Study and Choir are on break for the summer*
- *Food Bank still needs help every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month*

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.cpclr.org

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COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF LITTLEROCK
