August 26, 2026

MESSENGER

****

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Sundays at 1 PM

942 Altadena Dr.

Altadena, CA 91001

****

INFO

Sermons are always available...catch up on the ones you haven't heard!

iTunes: bit.ly/AltadenaBaptistPodcast

On our website:

www.altadenabaptist.org/sermonaudio/

Also, check us out online:

Facebook (private group): www.facebook.com/groups/altabap

On the web: www.altadenabaptist.org

Contact Information:

Due to the fires, our mail has been forwarded. Please send mail to PO Box 91055, Pasadena, CA 91109. You may still call the church phone at 626-797-8970;

general office communication: altabap@aol.com

Connie Larson DeVaughn, pastor altabapconnie@aol.com

George Van Alstine, associate pastor gvachurch@aol.com

The Master Weaver

The Navajo have long been admired for their patterned weaving. In Ghana they call it Kente cloth. Iran is known for its Persian rugs. Every culture weaves. Every culture has named it, honored it and passed it down, because weaving is not just about making cloth. It's about gathering threads that otherwise remain separate, and making something beautiful. Weaving is the patient work of bringing strength out of fragility.

At ABC we're calling our process of coming together into one body "Tapestry: Woven in Faith." We have long understood and welcomed the variegated diversity of our congregation. It's a many-colored splendor we're interested in, knowing that one day, there will be *"a great multitude that no one can count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb…crying out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'" (Rev. 7:9-10)* We long for a little heaven on earth, worshiping God in unity, out of great diversity.

Taking advantage of the fact that we are a church without walls, we have decided to worship in a different way once a month, departing from our regular format of worship. We began a couple weeks ago, with a brunch on our little green lawn outside of our office building. Each future Tapestry will look different, but we are committed to honoring Jesus in worship each time.

The Tapestry Team is guided by four principles:

1. *Getting a deeper understanding of each other.* We want to connect more than just briefly on Sunday. We want to connect broader than just the core friends we talk to on Sunday. Each person at ABC has talents, challenges, ideas, along with a fascinating history.
2. *Giving the worship team regular time off to also participate and connect.* Our worship team puts in up to four hours a Sunday to set up, lead, and take down our worship space. We appreciate their hard work, and don't want them to burn out. They, also, need to receive in worship.

(continued on next page)

August 19, 2026

(**Continued from other side**)

3. *Finding out what our congregation wants and needs*. We are committed to deeply listening to each other. This was the focus of our first Tapestry, and will be a running theme. As a congregationally led church, we value each person's input. Sometimes we might not like what we're hearing—we want to hear it anyway.
4. *Helping our congregation work through change to allow for growth and acceptance*. We have been going through massive change for many years. And yet, not knowing what's ahead brings fear and trepidation. Change is exhausting. We want to be a resource and a help to each other even as we meet our future with faith.

We believe God is bringing beauty out of brokenness, and pattern out of chaos. He is doing something intentional and beautiful among us. But it's also careful and slow—maybe it feels too slow to us. From our point of view, we can see only a few inches of God's magnificent tapestry; so much of his work is hidden from our eyes. Sometimes we can't see the beauty, because we're looking at the back where it's messier. But God is the master weaver, and we can be confident that *"He who began a good work among us will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." Phil. 1:6*

Our next Tapestry is Sept. 13, 1:00 PM @ 942 E. Altadena Dr. We would love for you to come on this journey with us.

Pastor Connie Larson DeVaughn