



FIRST FRIDAY FORUM

The Impact of the Pandemic on Children and Families

Ryan Timpte

The Covid Pandemic has reached into all facets of our lives. First Friday Forum speaker, Ryan Timpte, will explore one facet in his talk, “The Impact of the Pandemic on Children and Families,” June 6 at 10:00 am It will be a webinar presentation with registration required.

Timpte explains, “The pandemic has disrupted life for everyone in our society, especially young children and families. An interdisciplinary approach shows that the cracks kids have been falling through weren’t created by the pandemic. Instead, the pandemic merely exacerbated problems already inherent in our systems.”

He will walk the audience through some of the key research that shows the cracks in our systems as well as the questions that parents, grandparents, and concerned community members should be asking as our society moves forward.

“An example of what I'm talking about is the ways that schools function in our society: Instead of just being centers of learning, they function as food banks for kids who would otherwise go hungry, counseling centers for kids going through mental health crises, and after-school childcare facilities so that parents can work. All three of these issues (food insecurity, mental health challenges, and childcare) were greatly exacerbated during the pandemic because schools were closed.

“It's worth asking, why has our society structured itself to place such a burden on schools? How can grandparents, and the community at large, step up to alleviate some of that pressure? Why is our society structured to treat the issues facing children as ‘burdens’ in the first place?”

Timpte is the former Director of Children’s Ministry at LOPC and has served children in churches and other non-profits for over twenty years. He holds a Master of Divinity and an M.A. in Christian Education from Princeton Theological Seminary. His primary job now is stay-at-home dad for his two sons, ages 6 and 3, here in the Bay Area. He says that job is “incredibly difficult and so much fun.”

Register for this Zoom webinar, which is sponsored by the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, at lopc.org/first-friday-forum

Written by Bobbie Dodson-Nielsen.