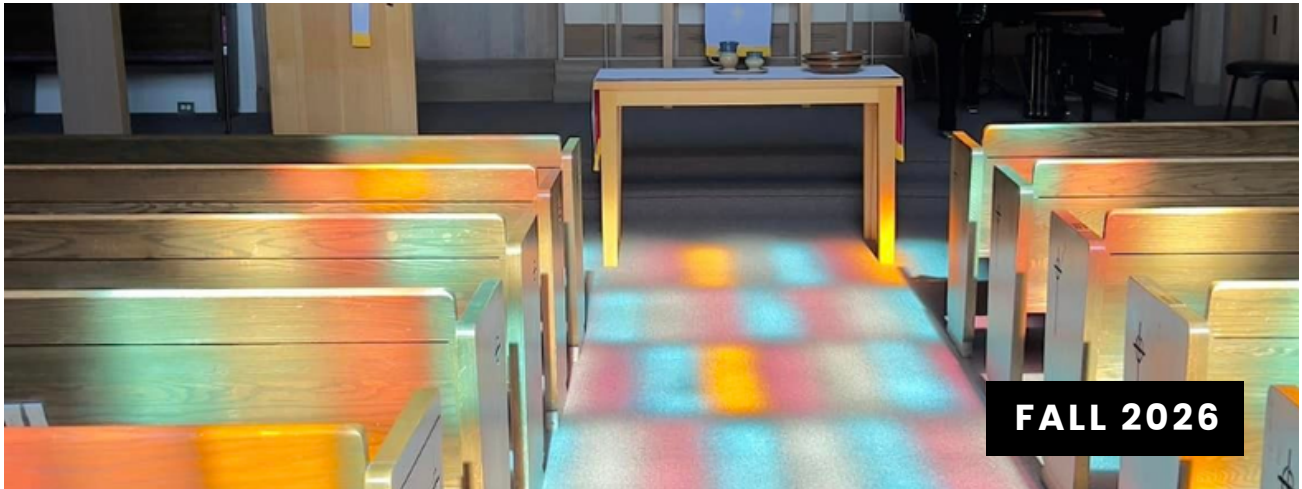


The Light of Lakewood Presbyterian Church



Dear Church,

Last month was my 3 year anniversary at LPC and my how the years have flown by! It feels like the transition from summer to fall came faster this year than most, doesn't it? The cloudy skies and rain storms are a welcome change as I transition into the new rhythms for the school year.

As I've been reading ahead in the fall lectionary passages, I've been reminded of the simple fact that ***we belong to one another***. We were not made to go through life alone. Even though relationships & friendships can, at times, be painful, awkward, frustrating, exhausting, or high maintenance, it's always worth it in the end to invest in others and to let them know and care for you in return.

Caring for others starts with a simple reach-out. Is there someone you haven't seen at church lately? Send them a

text to let them know you're thinking about them. It doesn't take much to make a big difference to someone.

Allowing others to care for you can be hard for people who always seem to find themselves in caregiver mode (*I know who you are!*). It starts with knowing what your own needs are and then actually telling people how they can meet those needs. I often tell people, "I'm a terrible mind reader!"

If you've been wanting to meet with me but I haven't reached out to you first, it's because I didn't know! I'd love to get together this fall to hear about what's going on in your life so that I can be one small part of the village that supports and cares for you. You deserve love & belonging. Let's belong to each other.

Pastor Laura

FALL 2026

In this newsletter you can expect:

Educational Opportunities

Action Plan Report

Celebrating Life at L.P.C.

Community Activities

Committee Reports

Why a Nametag

Newsletter contributions are always welcome.

The deadline for the Advent newsletter is November 11th. Please email your submissions to Cynthia at florfam@comcast.net

Fun Activities for Our Community!

Lakewood TOT TIME



Tot Time, hosted by Lakewood Presbyterian Church, is a time for little ones (birth- 4ish) and their adult to gather together.

Each month we have a snack, songs, stories, and play time in the nursery (plus tea & coffee for the grown-ups!)

All are welcome!

Upcoming Dates:

September 17

October 1, 15

November 5, 19

December 3, 17



1ST & 3RD
THURSDAYS
10:30
AM

8601 104th St. Lakewood, WA 98405

Open. Affirming. Welcoming of all families. 🌈

Now that our nursery space is not being used during the week, Pastor Laura is starting a new outreach to the community for caregivers and young children. We will overlap with yoga, so non-parents can also stop by to get a cup of coffee and say hi. The more intergenerational relationships, the better. Please help share the word and let Pastor Laura know if you'd like to help with it.

SIGN UPS NEEDED!

Trunk or Treat

is such a wonderfully safe time, when we provide it in the church setting.

Let's not disappoint the kids – we need **YOU** to come with your car/trunk, “goodies” and decorations on Saturday, October 24th from 4 – 6 pm.

Sign up at coffee hour
October 4, 11 & 18.



WHO ARE WE?

PASTOR

REV. LAURA NILE TUELL

NURSERY ATTENDANT

KIRI-ANN ZAMBARD

PIANIST

XIAOHUI YANG

CUSTODIANS

ANDREA RITTENHOUSE
STEVEN HORNYAK

2026 CHURCH LEADERS

DEACONS

TOM CALLAHAN
CANDICE COCHRAN
TINA MESSMER
KELLIE ROGIER
BRAD TOURANGEAU

ELDERS

BECKY BUESCHER
JAMIE SIMONS
DAUNA RITTENHOUSE
JIM HALL
KAREN JOHNSTON
OPEN SEAT

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

MELINDA ROGIER

CLERK OF SESSION

BECKY BUESCHER

TREASURER

JAMIE SIMONS

SESSION COMMITTEES:

MISSION & SOCIAL

DAUNA RITTENHOUSE

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

JIM HALL

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

JAMIE SIMONS

NOMINATING

JAMIE SIMONS

PERSONNEL

BECKY BUESCHER

WORSHIP

KAREN JOHNSTON

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

OPEN

Friends who Feast Fall Dates 9/23 & 10/28

This is a fun opportunity to socialize over a meal. Everyone is welcome to this no host gathering at Hops n Drops in Lakewood. Join at noon to chat and share a meal.

This group will take a break in November & December, gathering again in January.

Report from the Action Plan Team

By: Chris Piatt



Greetings from the Action Plan team! For about the past year and-half, a session-designated team (*Jenn Rogiers, Heidi Rogiers, Pastor Laura, Jamie Simons, Chris Piatt, Mary McGonigal & Karen Johnston*), has been meeting regularly to consider what the future of our church might look like. In 2025, we recommended to session that we move to a model of a 3/4 time pastor, which was instituted last fall.

Since then, we have been working to **create a foundation of understanding** that will serve us well as we explore what it is that God is calling us to in terms of ministry, and as we consider paths toward financial sustainability. We've used tools from RootedGood, a faith-based impact organization, that introduced us to ways some churches have successfully considered these questions and then gone on to do amazing things. As a church with a large property in need of maintenance for a small congregation, we are not alone. Many churches are shrinking and dealing with similar issues and yet some have become bold, mission-driven powerhouses! But using this approach involves **real seeking about what God wants us to be doing**. How do we even know, or discern that? And how can we make a difference in the world and be financially sustainable?

We feel that LPC considers **true and welcoming hospitality as one of its core strengths** and we think this may be much of its missional foundation. Also, our **kids are much loved**, we have an enviable percentage of children in the

congregation, we feel committed to nurturing kids, and to leaving a legacy of hope and thriving for them in their future. **Being multigenerational** is also our strength, and we aspire to both utilize and support people of all ages in our congregation and the community.

Importantly, our congregation also **cares deeply about our environment** and wishes we could do more to answer God's call to care for our earth.

At the same time, our Presbytery has been developing ways to support churches with expert coaching, community building with other churches doing similar work, and grant funding, in a program called "Growing Forward Initiative." Our LPC team enthusiastically recommended to session that we join Presbytery in this effort, so that we can enjoy and benefit from this support! We are now in the process of joining this initiative, which will mean reconfiguring our team and continuing this work. We will be sorting out more about how this new iteration will look in the next couple of months, so stay tuned!

Finally, **we need your prayer!** Not in some superficial way like "God bless the Action Plan amen." This is about sensing how God wants to use us—LPC—as a group of humans in this community over the next 50 years. It is daunting and joyful and potentially very powerful! Please think of this work, and ask for the strength, the commitment, the energy and the passion we will require to help co-create the world God has always envisioned for us.

Don't miss the fall Murder Mystery Party!



Step into a world of suspense and intrigue! A murder mystery party is an interactive evening where each guest takes on the role of a unique character — complete with secrets, motives, and alibis.

Over the course of the night, you'll gather clues, interrogate suspects, and work together (or against each other) to uncover who committed the crime. Expect laughter, drama, and plenty of surprises as the story unfolds. No acting experience needed — just bring your curiosity and your best poker face!

Registration Information:

Register in the Fellowship Hall by September 13th.

When you register, you'll be able to choose a character to play for the evening and you'll be given background information on your character. Costumes are encouraged! For more information or to register, see Margie Callahan or Carol Murray during coffee hour.

Office Wing Renovation Update!

Well, we've had a busy few weeks with the office remodel. The remodel has been planned for about 6 months with gathering bids, cleaning out the old 'stuff' in the offices and getting ready for the actual remodel.

We decided that instead of actually removing the asbestos from the ceilings, we would cover the asbestos ceiling with a ½" thick drywall, sealer, and paint. This is an accepted practice in asbestos remediation and a far less costly method. We received bids of up to \$40,000 to remove the stuff and about \$10,000 to cover it with the drywall and seal it. We chose the latter.

The drywall, painting, & carpet removal are done, so now we still need to get new carpet installed (an outside contractor), install lighting, and generally get the spaces ready for use.

We used ½ of our Building & Grounds budget and received donations for most of the rest of the project. We welcome additional donations to upgrade the base-board heat and other upgrades to this area.

There are many people that have worked on getting the project this far and I thank them all for their hard work.

Jim Hall
Building & Grounds Chair



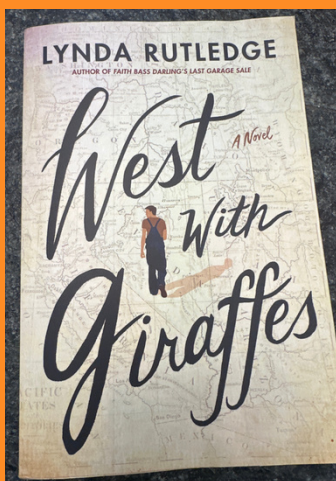
Nursery/ Preschool Update

For the past 2 years, we have rented our nursery space to a Japanese immersion co-op preschool, Wapato/Koguma Preschool. Due to state budget cuts, Bates Technical College had to cut all co-op programs so we just learned that the Wapato Preschool is moving to another church in UP that hosts another co-op for them to collaborate with. They were wonderful tenants and we wish them well in their new home!

This means LPC is looking for a new preschool tenant! If you know of any preschools or co-ops that are looking for a place to rent for the next school year, please contact a member of Session!

Little Free Library

It's been easy for me to walk right by our little free library without noticing- but as I stopped today a number of titles caught my eye, and I left with a book recently recommended by a friend! There is something for everyone, including contemporary fiction, romance, spirituality, and a smattering of Westerns, so stop by and see what catches your eye. Big thanks to those supporting this with donations of great books!



Why I Wear My Nametag at Church

I will admit to some Sunday mornings I walk into the sanctuary, and I don't feel like grabbing my nametag. I've been here a couple years now; everyone should know I'm Cynthia. Then I stop, because it's NOT a 30-minute ordeal to find my nametag and put it on. It's only a few seconds to send a very welcoming message.

Why do I believe wearing my nametag is more welcoming!

- Thankfully, we are not a stagnant community! We have new visitors regularly. Having my name on my chest gives a small sign that I am open to meeting new people.
- When I visited other churches, it felt more inclusive for me as a guest to put on a nametag, when a lot of regular attendees were wearing nametags. I didn't feel like I stood out like a sore thumb because I was one of a few wearing a nametag. It then made it easier for people to greet me.
- We are all getting older, (a fact I don't want to admit some days) with age comes occasional lapses in name recall. I've never been good at name recall and it seems to be an issue for me more these days. I really appreciate it when other people are wearing nametags. I realized, if it helps me, it probably helps others.
- I like being greeted by name. Do you?
- As we age we can feel very embarrassed when we recognize a face but don't recall a name. This is especially true for people living with dementia. When I wear my nametag, I am helping others to feel more comfortable in our community, because they don't have to remember my name is Cynthia, my nametag gently reminds them.
- Nametags help make our welcome more inclusive.

Thanks for joining me in this small step to show how we care and want to include everyone.

Deacons in Action

“We all care for one another.”

As Deacons, we are blessed to care for our church family and reach out to those in our community who may need a little extra support.

Holiday Assistance

This Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Deacons will be helping church members, friends of members, and local families through meal assistance and our Christmas Giving Tree.

If you know of a family who could use some help, or if your own family is in need, please speak with one of the Deacons. We would be honored to help make the holidays a little brighter.



New Benevolence Fund

We are excited to introduce a new Benevolence Fund for our church. This fund is designed to provide limited financial assistance of up to \$350 per year to individuals or families connected to our church experiencing unexpected financial difficulties. Assistance is given as a gift, and repayment is not expected.

We are grateful for this new opportunity to care for one another and hope it will be a blessing to those in need. Together, we can remind each other that no one has to walk through difficult times alone. You may donate directly to the Benevolence fund to assist others, or contact a Deacon about requesting assistance.

Worship Committee Update

The worship committee has been working on moving our worship supplies for the office renovation, caring for our treasured Advent banners, planning for worship leaders and ushers, considering sound system needs, and working with Laura to start planning fall worship.

I'm personally excited about our August learning about prayer and loved the Sunday on praying with our bodies and praying without ceasing. I'm hoping it will continue to help me be engaged as a spiritual being and soften my tendency to focus so much on always doing doing doing.

Extra special thanks for Laura's creativity and dedication, William's huge help in gently schlepping heavy things to new locations, Candice's deep institutional knowledge of how things have been done, and Suzanne being willing to be our musician with a last minute cancellation

-Karen Johnston, Worship Chair



It's not too late to pay this years Per Capita.

Per Capita is the money we pay to Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly for each of our members.

This year's Per Capita is \$50.00.

Please consider making a gift to cover your Per Capita, so we won't have to take the money out of the general fund. Each gift is deeply appreciated.

Christian Education



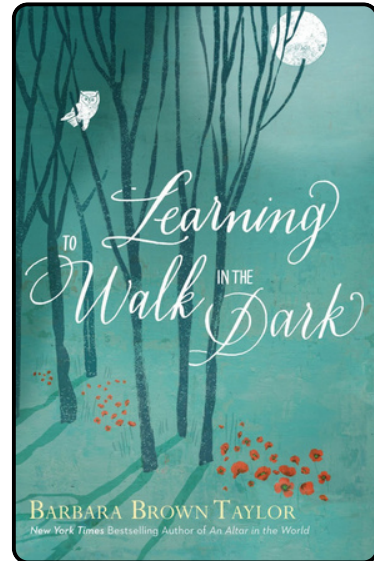
After two years of planning and preparing, our full **Godly Play ministry** is finally launching on September 13th! We have 10 volunteers who went through the full training over the summer and they will be taking turns teaching each Sunday.

Godly Play will take place during the Sunday School hour (after Children's Time to the end of the worship service), every Sunday except for communion Sundays. When the office wing is finished, the former conference room will be turned into our Godly Play classroom. In the meantime, we will continue with our "mobile classroom" in the tile floor of the Fellowship Hall.

We could still use more adult volunteers, both directly on Sundays and indirectly through art, woodworking, set up & take down, so if you are interested in being involved, please see Pastor Laura!



LPC Adult Book Group



September 23- October 28

Wednesdays from 2:00-3:15pm
LPC Fellowship Hall

Join us for our fall adult class on Barbara Brown Taylor's Book ***Learning to Walk in the Dark***. Each chapter, we'll read two chapters and follow along a multimedia study guide with discussion questions, poetry, contemplative practices, and additional resources to deepen your reading experience.

Register by emailing Pastor Laura at laura@lakewoodpres.org and buy your copy of the book wherever you buy books.

Save the dates for our Advent group study, November 11-December 16 (with a break for Thanksgiving).



Looking back at **Summer Fun!**

Our Annual Picnic/Potluck was held Sunday, July 26th following the worship service. As always our grill masters, the Rogiers Family, did a great job. Lots of food was provided by the congregation. The Steel Drum Band was wonderful and provided music throughout the meal time. The attendance was over fifty, plus children. We are already looking forward to next year.



In July, the social team, along with new members Anthony and Ally Flemming, hosted a lunch at church for seniors and it was a smashing success! Anthony was our chef and it was a wonderful afternoon.



Sequalitchew Creek Trail Outing



Kids Adventure day was Wednesday, July 22nd. The 8 kids plus adults hiked the Sequalitchew Creek trail – over 3 miles. It was a hot day, but everyone did well. After returning to the church, kids enjoyed painting rocks with Melinda Rogiers, The snack and beverage was a welcome treat and kids went home tired but happy.



Church Calendar

Sept. 15 - 4:30 pm	Session Meeting
Sept. 19 - 6:30 pm	Murder Mystery Party
Sept. 23 - Noon	Friends Who Feast
Oct. 4 - 10:30 am	World Communion Sunday (<i>Rev. Barlow Buescher's first sermon back at LPC!</i>)
Oct. 13 - 4:30 pm	Session Meeting
Oct. 24 - 4:00 pm	Trunk or Treat
Oct. 28 - Noon	Friends Who Feast

October 11- November 1	Stewardship Season <i>"Dare to Dream"</i>
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Nov. 1 - 10:30 am	All Saints Day & Stewardship Potluck
Nov. 10 - 4:30 pm	Session Meeting
Nov. 28 - 9am	Church Decoration
Nov. 29	Advent Begins

Ongoing:	
Thursdays 10:00 am	Gentle Yoga
9/17, 10/1, 10/15, 11/5, 11/19 at 10:30 am	Tot Time
9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/28 at 2:00 pm	Adult Book Study - "Learning to Walk in the Dark"



Did you know we have a podcast?



SCAN THIS!

If you miss coming to church on a Sunday, you can still catch the sermon! We now have a podcast where you can catch up on the sermon every Sunday afternoon. Follow the link, scan the QR code, or subscribe on Apple Podcasts to "Lakewood Presbyterian Church Sermons."

*Join us for
worship,
Sundays at 10:30a.*