

The Light of Lakewood Presbyterian Church



What will this new year bring?

Dear Church,


Do you remember when 2025 used to sound so far away it was practically sci-fi (we're a full decade past "Back to the Future 2"!!)? And yet here we are, a few weeks into this new year together. I have a lot of hope and excitement about this year for Lakewood Presbyterian Church. 2024 was a big year for us as congregation- my maternity leave, Pastor Addie's wonderful leadership, and the year-long the Feasibility Study, which finished it's first phase in December. Now we get to wonder together, **what will this new year bring?** Where will we find God at work in our community, in our families, and in our church?


I am excited to ask these questions with you. My favorite African proverb says, **"if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."** I want this church to go far and that means it's going to be a team effort! We will need to walk together down the road God is leading us on. I hope you'll consider how God is calling you to be a part of this church family this year. Whether it's through service, giving, joyful participation, or inviting others in, you have an important role in this church. We need one another!


In Christ's love,


Pastor Laura

In this month's newsletter you can expect:

 Earth Care Team update

 Photos from recent events

 Information about groups & classes

 A calendar of events



ONLINE GIVING



LPC FACEBOOK

*Pastor
Laura
teaching a
Godly Play
lesson on
Creation for
children's
time*



What is Godly Play?

In July, we received a **\$1000 grant** from Columbia Theological Seminary (Laura's alma mater) to start Godly Play at our church. So what is it?

Godly Play is a creative, imaginative approach to Christian formation and spiritual guidance.

Godly Play has a Montessori foundation with 40+ years of research and practice.

Godly Play values process, openness, discovery, community and relationships.

Godly Play models the worship life, stories, symbols and rituals of Christian congregations.

Godly Play allows practitioners to make relevant and personal theological meaning.

Godly Play nurtures participants to larger dimensions of belief and faith through wondering and play.

Interested in learning more? Good news-- Joy Studer, Creative Director of the Godly Play foundation will be coming to introduce us to Godly Play on **February 23rd** during worship.

Who are we?

PASTOR

REV. LAURA NILE TUELL

NURSERY STAFF

PARKER WILLIAMSON

KIRI-ANN ZAMBARD

PIANIST

XIAOHUI YANG

CUSTODIAN

ANDREA RITTENHOUSE

2025 CHURCH LEADERS

DEACONS

- MELINDA ROGIERS
- BARBARA POLAND
- TOM CALLAHAN
- CANDICE COCHRAN
- TINA MESSMER

ELDERS

- SUZY FARLEY
- BRAD TOURANGEAU
- BECKY BUESCHER
- JENNIFER ROGIERS
- JAMIE SIMONS
- DAUNA RITTENHOUSE

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

MELINDA ROGIERS

CLERK of SESSION

BECKY BUESCHER

TREASURER

JAMIE SIMONS



Earth Care Team News



Thanks to everyone who participated in our first congregational earth care meeting. One of the most supported ideas for a first project in our church was recycling. The Earth Care Team is researching to find a container system that will best meet our needs to recycle paper, aluminum and glass.



The Grief Group

February 5–March 26, 2025

When I (Laura) returned from my maternity leave in the summer, one of the first things I learned was that there was a request for a grief group. I quickly saw how important that group would be for our congregation and started looking into a format and leader that would suit our needs. It took longer than expected, but God makes all things good in God's time, and we now have two amazing leaders who are going to lead our first group (meet them below!).

This group will be open to the public and to anyone who wants a group to share and process their grief with. There's no time limit or rules to who can join. It can be the loss of a spouse, a friend, a child, a parent, or any number of relationships that brings you to the group. We only ask that you come ready to listen well and share when you are ready. Please plan to commit to attending at least 4 of the 5 sessions.

**Meeting Dates: February 5, 12, 26, March 12, 26
4:00–5:30pm; In the Fellowship Hall**

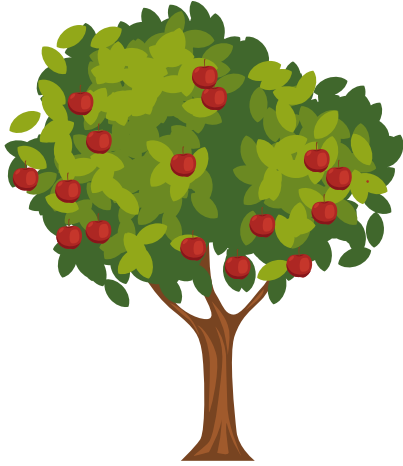
To rsvp for the group, contact Pastor Laura



Rev. Riley Pickett (she/her) is a hospice chaplain and writer in Tacoma, WA. She received her Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Riley previously served as the interim pastor of Hagar's Community Church, a church planted within the state's largest women's prison. Drawing on her own lived experience of grief and her experience walking with others at the end of life, Riley is passionate about creating spaces to speak openly and honestly about loss of all kinds.



Cathryn Kelly (she/her) has been on her own grief journey for five years, navigating the ups & downs, gifts & challenges, and everything else in between. She specifically seeks opportunities to connect with people of all ages, finding ways to show up, learn, and grow alongside one another. Cathryn has been a Bridges Center for Grieving Children group facilitator for two years, has experience supporting people on hospice, and processes her own grief through writing poetry and farming.



Our Epiphany Worship Series:

The Fruit of the Spirit

"...is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things."

What does it mean to live a life that is truly water by the Holy Spirit? We all want to "bear good fruits" but if when we honestly reflect on our lives, we have to admit there's some bad fruit on those branches too. During the Epiphany season (the Sundays between Christmas and Lent), we will be focusing on

the nine attributes that the Apostle Paul calls "fruit of the spirit." Like fruits grown in orchards, **it is God who provides the conditions for growing but we, the farmers, still have crucial work to do.** Watch as the tree in our sanctuary bears new fruit each week as we meditate on God's word together.

"The Book of Confessions for Today"

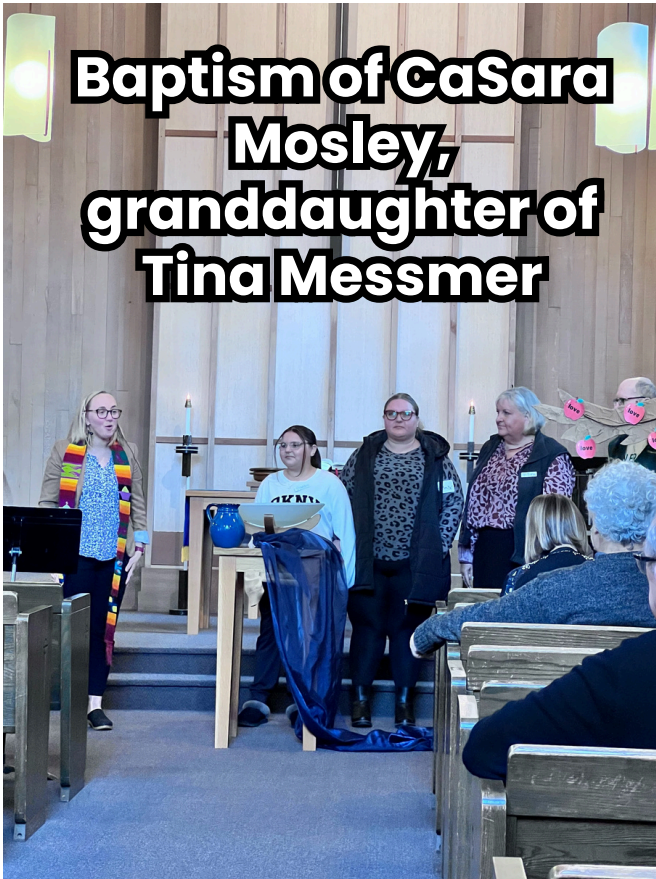
Meeting Dates:
February 18, 25, March 4
11:30-1:00pm
In the Fellowship Hall



Do you know what the Book of Confessions is? Better yet, do you know why it's important and what it has to say about our lives today? Join Sue Watkins, retired minister who has recently started attending LPC, for a 3-week series on the Book of Confessions. Over a simple soup lunch, we'll learn about the Confessions and then we'll spend time reading in-depth the Confessions of Barmen and Belhar, which were both written during times of political violence. These confessions are as relevant today as when they were written!

Cost: \$10 for a Book of Confessions. Donations for the lunches appreciated. Sign-up for the class will be available in February

Photos



Church Calendar

January

January 19	Installation of Elders & Deacons "Questions & Discussions" Coffee Hour
January 25	Session & Deacons Retreat (9:30-3:30)
January 26	Worship & Welcoming a new member!
January 30	Gentle Yoga - 10 am

February / March

February 2	Worship, Annual Meeting & Potluck
February 5	Grief Group (4:00-5:30pm)
February 6	Gentle Yoga - 10 am
February 12	Grief Group (4:00-5:30pm)
February 13	Gentle Yoga - 10 am
February 18	"The Book of Confessions for Today" 11:30-1pm
February 20	Gentle Yoga - 10 am
February 23	Worship- Godly Play with Joy Studer
February 25	"The Book of Confessions for Today" 11:30-1pm
February 26	Grief Group (4:00-5:30pm)
February 27	Gentle Yoga - 10 am
March 4	"The Book of Confessions for Today" 11:30-1pm
March 5	Ash Wednesday



Help us find a new Nursery Attendant!

In 2024, we went through *three* different Nursery Attendants, all of whom resigned or were let go. As you can imagine, it was a frustrating year for the staff, parents, and the children of LPC. We have two amazing high schoolers (Kiri Ann & Parker!) who serve as our the Nursery Assistants, but we need a consistent adult to lead our nursery. **We are looking for a reliable adult who loves young kids, is a good leader, and is interested in a very part-time weekend gig.** Do you know someone who might be interested? Send their information to Pastor Laura!

Feasibility Study Update

As you hopefully know, the Session concluded their work on the year-long **Feasibility Study**, which examined our resources, obstacles, and vision for purpose in the world. The study concluded with a vote of the congregation on December 15th to **pursue plans to change our leadership model and sell a portion of our property to fund capital improvements to our facilities.** This vote did not authorize any final decisions, just the ability to pursue those options.

Now what?

We will be forming a new **task force** to take over the next phase of this work. If you are interested in being a part of this team, please contact Pastor Laura. There is lots of work ahead and it will take all of us working together to ensure a vibrant, sustainable future for our church.

On Sunday January 19th, we will be having a "Questions and Discussion" time during our Fellowship Hour for anyone to share their questions, concerns, and ideas.

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."

Questions? Call Pastor Laura

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