

2023

ANNUAL REPORT



LAKE GROVE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Real. Active. Faith.

PARTNERING WITH CHRIST

WHO TRANSFORMS THE WORLD
ONE LIFE AT A TIME.

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PASTORS LETTER

DEAR FRIENDS

I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations! - Psalm 89:1

In the pages of this annual report, you will see evidence of the faithfulness and goodness of the Lord shown through vibrant and fruitful ministry. Indeed, the Lord is so faithful and has led Lake Grove well through a difficult season.

It was not an easy year as we walked through many changes, including the departure of our senior pastor. Out of that pain, God provided congregational connections and improvement to our communications and transparency. Thank you for how you engaged with one another and the leadership of Lake Grove through Listening Sessions and the regular rhythms of our life together as a congregation.

Worship, discipleship, mission outreach, fellowship activities, and caring connections marked our life together, there are highlights of this on every page. We have so much to be grateful for and also so much to look forward to! In 2024 we will be celebrating our congregation's 100th anniversary. We have now been called to this place and on this property for 100 years. This is significant and worthy of great celebration. We celebrate all that has happened in the past as well as embrace the future. How will God use us in the next 100 years? No matter what, we will sing of God's faithfulness to the next generation!

Pastors Susan Graham and Graig Flach



WORSHIP



We are blessed with 3 service options at Lake Grove! Our 8:00 Blended and 9:30 Modern Services are led by Joe Sanchez in our updated Fellowship Hall. Our 9:30 Sanctuary Service is led by our majestic, 1,500-pipe organ, along with a rotating schedule of choirs: the 80-voice Sanctuary Choir, our Children's and Youth Choirs, or the Covenant Bell Choir.



AVERAGE IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE PER SUNDAY:

37

8AM BLENDED SERVICE ATTENDANCE

57

9:30AM MODERN SERVICE ATTENDANCE

247

9:30AM SANCTUARY SERVICE ATTENDANCE



LAKE GROVE
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ERIN
FOGG

MISSION OUTREACH



A MISSION FOR EVERY MEMBER

We hope that everyone connected with Lake Grove will be involved with at least one of our mission partners. We think that about half our members participate regularly with these partners - as hands-on volunteers, financial supporters, sponsors.

In 2023, there were mission trips to Jordan, France/Spain, and Zambia. In 2024 we are planning trips to Guatemala and Senegal. Almost every week, there are “mini-mission-trips” in the greater Portland area, volunteering or transporting goods for our local partners.

“SHARING THE LOVE AND MESSAGE OF CHRIST NEAR AND FAR”

FOOD

- Afghan Refugees
- Agros International
- Care & Share
- Family Promise
- Manna Ministry
- Pink Eraser
- Portland Rescue Mission
- Salvation Army Shelter
- Shepherd’s Door
- Woodburn Farmworker Families
- World Vision Zambia

WATER

- Salaam International
- WaterAfrica - World Vision Zambia
- YD Adventures

SHELTER

- Afghan Refugees
- Agros International
- Family Promise
- Lake Oswego Transitional Shelter
- Pink Eraser
- Portland Rescue Mission
- Shepherd’s Door
- World Vision Zambia



LGK

LAKE GROVE KIDS

LAKE GROVE KIDS



2023 found LGK continuing to provide Family Coffee, Snack and Story, Open Gym, and Parent Nights Out as a space for families to connect and build relationships. Second Sunday events, like Brunch and Bingo, and Coffee and Corgis, brought our church community together for food and fun each month. LGK has also continued to partner with MOPS to provide space for moms of young kids to join together bimonthly.

The summer continued our partnership with Noah's Ark as we joined with them to provide four summer camps for our kinder-second graders. In the fall, we started Family Fellowship on Wednesdays during children's choir as another space for parents to connect. November saw LGK running Angel Tree as one of their mission components. LGK has also continued to see growth with new families joining in on the fun.

45 KIDS ON AVERAGE EACH SUNDAY

14 VOLUNTEERS ON SUNDAY

10⁺ NEW FAMILIES

4 PAID CAREGIVERS

3 BABIES BORN





LAKE GROVE YOUTH



“The conversations my teens get to have at youth group, they don’t get to have anywhere else. It is a special place and important to their spiritual growth.”

- *LGY Parent*

At Lake Grove Youth, we want every student to feel welcomed, included, and free to be themselves. We provide an inclusive space for students to play games, connect with each other, and explore faith in Jesus.



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Highlights from this year of middle school ministry include our awesome summer camp at Washington Family Ranch and the amazing service-based City Camp in collaboration with churches in Salem, Oregon. Students also loved our monthly outreach events including NERF Night, our annual Friendsgiving event where 40 students came together for a Thanksgiving-style dinner and movie night, and countless hang out times over burgers, coffee, or ice cream.

20

AVERAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

9

AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

9

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT SUNDAY MORNING GATHERINGS

HIGH SCHOOL

High school ministry this year included welcoming students into leadership roles including conducting listening sessions with middle schoolers, serving on our Sunday Morning Experience Advisory Committee, and leading middle schoolers at youth group and Sunday morning Youth Gatherings. Our weekly high school youth group continues to be a welcoming and fun space for high schoolers to relax, have some fun, and have conversations about Jesus.



N  **AH'S ARK**
preschool

ENROLLMENT

45 STUDENTS

10 TEACHERS

4 CLASSES



In 2023, Noah's Ark celebrated its 25th year of providing exceptional early childhood education to children ages two to five. Lake Grove Church celebrated Noah's Ark's milestone birthday on June 4th with bouncy houses and Pronto Pups on the front lawn following the 9:30 AM services. Noah's Ark looks forward to celebrating its 26th graduating class in May of 2024 and continuing its legacy well into the future.

FUN FACT:

Did you know that Sheryl and Ian Cooper, who work as teachers at Noah's Ark, own and run a

website called teaching2and3yearolds.com? This website provides support and resources to early childhood educators worldwide. Teaching 2 and 3-year-olds is also quite popular on social media platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram, where they share playful and educational activities for toddlers and preschoolers.





COVENANT KIDS

We offered extended care with an enrichment program. Students stay up to two hours and enjoy a time for lunch, play, and special activities.

SUMMER CAMP

The fun continued over the summer! Noah's Ark held nine weekly camps open to all children in our community ages 3-5.

CHAPEL TIME

Noah's Ark offered a monthly chapel time for teachers, students, and their families. Family Chapel Time included worship through singing, story, and prayer. Ms. Susan led the chapel time with support from Abby Krawson, Laura Fuller, and the LGK Team.

KINDER PREP CLASS

Noah's Ark offered a new bridge class in the fall of 2023 for children who would benefit from another year before kindergarten. These students thrived under the teaching of Ms. Sarah Sievert as she prepared them for the next steps in their education. In early December, the Kinder Prep Class acted in a live nativity scene on Sundays between worship services. Noah's Ark Preschool will continue to offer its unique kindergarten preparatory class and curriculum each year as needed.





ADULT MINISTRY



64-84

Attendance for Adult Education Classes

- The Life and Imagination of C.S. Lewis (3 sessions)
- A Time for Wisdom (2 sessions)
- The Miraculous Center of Christianity (2 sessions)
- Walking the Santiago de Compostela (Kevin Cummings) (1 session)
- Science and Faith: Enemies or Allies? (2 sessions)
- 2 Sat. AM workshops on Civility (combined attendance: 94)
- Strategies for Disagreeing Civilly
- Skills for Good Stewardship of Disagreement
- Ongoing Adult Sunday School class

2 Recreational Events
Men's and Women's Hike

25

Weekly Women's Wed. AM Bible Studies

- Jesus and Women in the First Century and Now
- Predicting Jesus (Isaiah)
- Better (Hebrews)
- Abide (I, II & III John)
- God of Freedom (Exodus 19-40)

64-104

Men's Bible Study Breakfast

64-84

Attendance for Adult Education Classes



MUSIC MINISTRY

WORSHIP CHANGES THE WORSHIPER INTO THE IMAGE OF THE ONE WORSHIPED.

Thanks be to God that worship is vital and vibrant at Lake Grove Presbyterian Church. Through the grace of God, and your generous support, the Music Ministries at LGPC continue to be a dynamic and active part of the worshiping, caring, equipping, and witnessing life of our church. Music ministries provide leadership for worship services and other musical programs throughout the year, providing opportunities for more than 200 regular participants of all ages to express their faith through music. In addition to its more visible aspects, the music ministry provides children, youth, and adults with significant opportunities for spiritual and musical growth and Christian fellowship through weekly rehearsals, workshops, and music mission trips. We're thrilled at what the Lord has enabled us to do together and excited to keep singing on!



- Over 150 singers and ringers from ages 4 and up served as volunteer music ministers in 2023!
- Our choirs continued to minister to the congregation both inside and outside the church walls.
- Music Mission Trip - In June of 2023, 50 members of the Sanctuary Choir embarked on a Music Mission Trip to France and Spain. Through free concerts, the choir shared the Gospel through sacred music, opened hearts to God's word, and built relationships founded in Christ's love.
- We made upgrades to our Fellowship Hall (new stage, lighting, with screens to come)
- Worship through Music and Easter Sunday were the most highly attended services of 2023.
- Spring Sing featured our Hope and Peace Choirs.
- Peace Choir sang a world premiere piece written just for them by local composer Cecille Elliott.
- On December 3, there was special music at the 8am featuring Hope Choir and 9:30 Modern services featuring a full band.
- On December 10, in our sanctuary services (9:30 and 11:00), Worship through Music featured Handel's Messiah with full orchestra and soloists.
- Hope and Peace Choirs shared Christmas joy at Carman Oaks Assisted Living Facility in December.
- Our Christmas Eve 3pm, 4pm, 5pm, 7pm services were attended by over 1600 people.

MUSIC MINISTRY



MODERN WORSHIP

The Modern Worship service has been growing into its identity over the last year. The Fellowship Hall has undergone new upgrades, new sounds have been introduced, and the congregation is finding its voice. We have both celebrated and mourned together, and the congregants have grown closer because of that. There is a lot of excitement about things to come!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC STAFF

We thank Leanne Bilstrom for her 34 years of ministry as the director of our Covenant Bells! A new handbell piece was commissioned in her honor and premiered at the Bells and Brass concert. Jeff Wood celebrated his 10 year anniversary at Lake Grove and also had his first choral arrangement published!



CONCERT SERIES

We welcomed over 2000 community members in person and online for our free concerts. The Lake Grove Concert Series is Lake Oswego's regional hub for world-class music, presenting the area's finest talent performing uplifting music in a beautiful and welcoming space. The concerts are free and easy to attend given their single hour length and ample on-site parking. With close connections to members of the Oregon Symphony, the series was created in order to open the building's doors to the entire community, sharing both the awe-inspiring space and the rich cadre of musical talent. The result is a community-based, family-friendly series that provides an easily accessible concert experience in the heart of Lake Oswego.





CONGREGATIONAL CARE



LOVE AS WE HAVE BEEN LOVED

We believe that the love we experience from God in Christ flows through us to one another. The hope and pursuit of our care ministry is that people experience the love of Christ through caring relationship with one another, share in the pain and joy of life together, and find meaningful support and grow in capacity to care for others. Our caring teams walked through a lot of life experiences with members and friends of Lake Grove this year. Some highlights include:

- Celebrating with our members who turned 90 or above with a fantastic birthday party
- Graduating a new class of six Stephen Ministers
- Food Pantry began partnering with Lake Oswego Hunger Fighters to expand accessibility
- 110 cards sent to comfort and encourage, 324 birthday cards for those turning 75+
- 12 meal trains organized
- 20 memorial receptions hosted by our Memorial Reception team
- 24 grieving families received grief booklets
- An average of 20 people receive home communion each month
- 50 + rides given by our transportation team
- 36 hours of prayer devoted by our Prayer Team on Tuesday mornings and countless hours outside that time
- Over 1,000 caring calls and visits through our Care and Friendship Visitation teams









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