

MISSION OUTREACH NEWS

January - February - March
2026

Providing Food, Water, and Shelter in Jesus' Name

Thanking God for Lives Impacted in 2025

When I stop and think about the Mission Outreach ministries of our congregation, I am inevitably "driven to my knees" (sometimes literally) in gratitude and praise. What a privilege for us to be the channels of God's love and support to:

- Neighbors who struggle to keep food on the table
- Mothers who have escaped the dangers of either addiction or domestic violence, many of them with children
- Families without a stable place to live who need some tangible support to help them take the last couple steps toward self-sufficiency
- People living on the streets of Portland, in need of temporary shelter first, and then a plan for the future
- Farmworker families in Woodburn whose children benefit from a safe and loving place to be for pre-school and after-school activities
- Hard-working families in Central America who can leave poverty behind and thrive when they get access to land and education
- Citizens of Senegal who are being introduced to the love and message of Christ
- Citizens of Zambia who have never had dependable access to clean water
- Syrian refugees who have been driven to neighboring countries, receiving practical help and the Gospel story
- Young people learning about Christ as they face the challenges of rafting and rock-climbing



That's a summary of the kinds of things we support through our ongoing mission partners, day-in and day out, "24/7/365". In addition, our special offerings contributed to relief in Ukraine (through an orphanage) and in Gaza (essentials to survive), as well as evangelists sharing Christ in places where it is dangerous to do so.

I am humbled that God entrusts such channels of support and hope to us.

In 2025 God's love was flowing freely through those channels, thanks to our congregation.



Pastor Craig

PASTOR GRAIG RETIREMENT NEWS

As you may be aware, our beloved Missions Pastor has announced his upcoming retirement from active ministry here at Lake Grove Presbyterian Church at the end of April. While the Missions Team here at Lake Grove is sad to see him move on; we are excited to see where the Lord is leading him in the future. Please be assured that our mission focus will continue to function as normal under the direction of our Missions Elder Susie Crowell with Kristi Werner assisting her as needed. We are in contact with the Presbytery which is working with us to find an interim Pastor who will help to oversee the worship and mission focus of our beloved church.



Stay tuned for our next newsletter as we look back on Pastor Graig's time here at Lake Grove Presbyterian Church and celebrate all that God has done through the relationships that he built with our many and various ministry partners, staff and former Elders!

CELEBRATING OUR AFGHAN REFUGEE FAMILIES

For almost 4 years Lake Grove has been working with two precious families that were relocated to the Portland area from Afghanistan in early 2022. Over this time relationships have been built. We have celebrated their daily accomplishments and mourned with them during the hard times. And through it all they have been shown the love of Christ through those that have worked closely with each family.

The Rajabi Family saw two of the girls graduate from Beaverton High School this past spring and they are continuing their education at Portland Community College as they work toward new careers here in the United States.

The Dashti Family experienced an unexpected loss that was almost unbearable when they lost a young child after their arrival. We grieved with them as they grieved; and celebrated with them as they welcomed twins (a boy and a girl) and a new son this past year.



Rajabi Family

Through it all, and through your faithful giving to LGPC we were able to help support them when a need arose as they built their new life in a new country.

Many members of our congregation and beyond have tirelessly worked with these two families as they continue to adjust to life within the United States. They have given their time, and in some cases their own money to help these two families thrive here in the Portland area. These sweet friendships will continue into the future as these two families continue to thrive in their new lives.



Dashti Family

As we enter 2026 our "sponsor" relationship may be completed - but our prayers for these precious families will continue. Please join with us as we continue to pray for these families.

Christmas Care and Share Food Delivery

On Saturday, December 20th the Fellowship Hall at LGPC was filled with holiday cheer as members of our church family and families representing the National Charity League served 100 families in our community that were facing food insecurity over the holiday season.

Thanks to your generous contributions over this past year Care and Share was able to deliver over 200 food boxes to families in need.



Are you interested in being a part of this vital ministry in 2026? Please contact Kristi Werner for any additional information at kristi@lakegrovepres.org.

CHOIR MISSION TRIP TO CROATIA

Our choir's mission is to share the Gospel through sacred music, open hearts to God's Word, and build relationships founded in Christ's love. This summer, that mission comes to life once again as music becomes our means of ministry.

This June marks our fifth Music Mission trip, a milestone that reminds us how powerfully God works through music. Over the years, we have watched the beauty and universality of sacred music touch hearts, transcend language, and create deep connections through our free sacred music concerts. Time and again, we have seen music open doors for worship, witness, and relationship-building in ways words alone cannot.

The Music Mission Go Team—made up of 45 choir members and 54 total participants—will depart for Dubrovnik, Croatia on Monday, June 15th, carrying this calling forward. Our journey will include a series of joint concerts with local choirs, an aspect of our mission that has proven especially meaningful. Singing side by side with local musicians allows us to form genuine relationships and share faith through collaboration rather than performance alone.

Our first concert will take place on Thursday, June 18th, with the Dubrovnik Chamber Choir. From there, we travel to Split, where we will perform a concert with the University Choir Bombardelli on Saturday, June 20th. On Sunday, June 21st, we will provide music for a local church worship service before heading to Zadar for a concert on June 22nd with the Croatian Music and Choral Society Zoranić.

Our final stop will be Ljubljana, Slovenia, where we will offer our Farewell Concert at St. Nicholas Cathedral on Wednesday, June 24th.

We are also thrilled to welcome gospel singer Pam Baker again this year, whose voice and ministry have been a powerful part of previous Music Mission trips, as well as our stunning soprano, Abby Krawson, whose artistry continues to inspire audiences and fellow musicians alike.

As we prepare to go, we give thanks for the ways God has used music as mission—sharing the Gospel, opening hearts, and building relationships grounded in Christ's love—and we look forward to seeing how God will move through this next chapter of our Music Mission journey.

Mission Partner Spotlight



Who We Are -

Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC)

We are a national movement mobilizing churches to transform their communities.

The body of Christ is God's answer to community brokenness and a part of His plan of redemption and restoration. That's why we mobilize local churches to offer a holistic approach to caring for people in all areas of life: spiritual, mental, emotional, relational, and physical.

We exist to help churches help people - offering a shared strategy and structure for working together across denominational lines. We help neighbors in need first by receiving calls to our Connection Center, then supply for their practical needs like furniture, shoes, and hygiene products. This opens the doorway to new relationships in the church community.

Our Roots

Love INC is a national movement founded in 1977 in Holland, Michigan, birthed from a burden to see the Church respond to community needs with more than short-term relief. Today, affiliates across the U.S. and Kenya engage thousands of churches, volunteers, and community partners to meet community needs.

Mission:

To mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ.

We Are Local

Each affiliate is an independent 501(c)3 non-profit supported and funded by individuals and the local church. Our national team holds local affiliates to standards of excellence for the Love INC model.

Each Love INC affiliate maintains a connection center that receives phone calls from neighbors in need. These neighbors can be individuals in your church or community members seeking benevolence from you. Either way Love INC is here to help.

We opened our Connection Center in February 2005. We take community calls every Tuesday and Thursday and remain dedicated to serving Clackamas County with care and purpose.

We Are a Network of Churches

Love INC is the unified church in action. Churches come together to form a Love INC network to serve the community. Love INC exists at the will of the local church and is not a stand alone ministry separate from it. By joining the Love INC network churches agree to work together for the wellbeing of the community.

Vision:

To see Christian churches united in purpose and fully engaged in actively living out their faith by lovingly serving people in need in their communities.

Love INC does not have churches, churches have Love INC.

"Merry Christmas"

To: All of the Heavenly Angels
At the
Lake Grove Presbyterian Church

My name is [REDACTED] and I want to thank you all for your kindness, compassion and love this Christmas.

You have lifted the spirits of my family, as well as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] make them feel like "Matter too", even from this prison cell, which is a really beautiful gift to give to them in its self.

But, You went above and beyond that with the presents that filled the space under the tree for each of them, from their Uncle [REDACTED]

Something I never could have done on my own. - Plus, you were also thoughtful enough to make sure there will

be food on the table, for Christmas and beyond.

It is sooooo beautiful and it really touched my heart.

Thank you.

I too even received a Christmas card.

How wonderful is that!

It is a spirit lifting, soul moving kindness on a grand scale that I will never forget.

Sincerely

I am humbled, I am grateful

I am amazed by it all.

[REDACTED] with love,

PS. Thank you Angel tree. God is shining his light on you. All.

This is the Reason "why" Angel Tree is a ministry that Lake Grove continues to support year after year. Not only are you providing the opportunity for children to receive gifts from their incarcerated parents during the holiday season. You are being the hands and feet of Christ to those that are in the prison system itself. You are extending the Grace of Christ to those who may not have experienced this joy in the past! Thanks to your generous contributions this year we had the opportunity to serve 59 families providing gifts for 148 children this holiday season! Thank you!

NOAH'S ARK MISSION PROJECTS

WOODBURN FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

This past fall our Noah's Ark families took the opportunity to serve our Mission Partner the Woodburn Family Learning Center. These precious families collected warm winter clothes to serve those in need in the Woodburn area. These items were collected in November and were delivered to Woodburn on November 23rd. Thanks to the generosity of our Noah's Ark Families children in need were provided warm winter clothing before the rainy season!



Pray for our 2026 Mission Partners

Agros * Care & Share * Family Promise * Lake Oswego Transitional Shelter Ministry (LOTSM)
Love INC * Manna Ministry * Pink Eraser * Portland Rescue Mission
Presbyterian Urban Network (PUN) * Salaam International * Salvation Army West
Senegal Ministries * Shepherd's Door * WaterAfrica * Woodburn Ministries
World Vision * YD Adventures

Family Promise Art Show

On Saturday, November 1st 20 Artists, 14 Musicians, 10 Food Artisans, and 20 Volunteers gathered together to raise funds for one of our Ministry Partners - Family Promise of Tualatin Valley. At the end of the day each Artist/Baker had sold items and long-lasting memories were made.

Together this group was able to raise \$10,000 in support of the Bridge to Home Facility that serves homeless families in our community.



Stay tuned ... plans are underway for a second Art Show on Saturday, November 7th, 2026! If you are interested in being a part of this event, please contact Sher Ireland at sher.ireland@gmail.com.

Christmas Joy Offering

Thank you for your generous contributions during our annual Christmas Eve Offering. Because of your generosity Lake Grove was able to raise \$13,807 to help provide a play area for the children served by Family Promise of Tualatin Valley! Updates will follow as construction begins on this project!



Matthew 25: 35-36, 40 - For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."



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