

January/ February 2024

THE LIGHT OF LAKEWOOD

News, Updates, and Stories from
Lakewood Presbyterian Church



WHO WE ARE

Lakewood Presbyterian Church

8601 104th St SW
Lakewood, WA 98498

PASTOR REV. LAURA NILE TUELL

NURSERY STAFF MAE HERRON, PARKER
WILLIAMSON, KIRI-ANN ZAMBARD

CUSTODIAN ANDREA RITTENHOUSE

2024 CHURCH LEADERS

DEACONS

RENEA WILLIAMSON
CHELSEA WILLIAMSON
MELINDA ROGIERS
BARBARA POLAND
TOM CALLAHAN

ELDERS

BECKY BEUSCHER (CLERK)
JENNIFER ROGIERS
JIM HALL
CONNIE DUNKLEBERGER
SUZY FARLEY
BRAD TOURANGEAU

CHURCH INFO

LAURA'S WORK CELL 503-877-4794

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

PASTOR LAURA'S EMAIL:
laura@lakewoodpres.org

CHURCH WEBSITE:
<http://www.lakewoodpres.org/>

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ONLINE GIVING



LPC FACEBOOK

*"You are the light of the world...
so let your light shine before
others, so that they may see
your good works and give glory to
your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:13, 16*

“Jesus’s face was set toward Jerusalem....”

Dear Friends and Members of Lakewood Presbyterian Church,

When I was a college student at Seattle Pacific University, the college followed a seasonal “lectio” each quarter, focusing on a different book of the Bible. One quarter, we focused on the Gospel of Mark and the only thing I remember about that time was a massive art installation set up in the main square of the campus called, “Paradigm Shift” by Dr. Roger Feldman.

The art piece was interactive- you could actually walk through it!- and was meant to represent two paradigm shifts in and because of the Gospel of Mark. First was the shift that occurs in both Mark and Luke when Jesus “turns his face toward Jerusalem” the rest of the gospel dramatically shifts with Jesus’ singular focus on Jerusalem and the Cross. It also represents the paradigm shift that occurred in Judaism after Mark’s gospel was written. While I still don’t really understand Modern Art, this art piece still sticks in my mind, all these years later.



Now that Advent and Christmas are behind us, I find myself at my own “paradigm shift” with my singular focus on what is ahead- the birth of the twins and my impending maternity leave, which happens to coincide with Easter! My focus at home and at work is about **preparation**. Preparation for Holy Week and Easter, preparation to be gone for a season of time, and preparation for these babies to make their entrance into the world. Some of these events are easier to plan for than others!

I am working hard to prepare not just my family but you, my congregation, for this **paradigm shift** of our lives. We have all just gone through transition and change- my family moving to Washington and this church starting a new chapter with a new pastor. It might seem an inconvenient time for another transition but I believe that God will be with us throughout it. My hope is that I can prepare you all well for this season of my absence so that the work of the church may continue on.

The Session and I will keep you updated about my maternity leave plans and what that will mean for the church. The current plan is for my maternity leave to be 4 months long with my first Sunday back being the Annual Church Picnic in July. We are actively searching for a “coverage pastor” who will take on pastoral leadership duties in my absence. I do not know how the birth and life of the twins will change me or my family, but I do know that change is inevitable. As I turn my face toward Easter and toward the birth of these new lives, I give thanks that I have this community of love and care with me.



Peace,

Pastor Laura

Church Calendar

JANUARY- FEBRUARY

Jan. 28

1/29-2/4

Feb. 14th

Feb. 14th

Feb. 18th

Annual Meeting and Potluck

Pastor Laura on vacation

“Ashes to Go” 11 am - 1 pm

Ash Wednesday Service - 7pm

First Sunday of Lent

MARCH

March 2nd

March 24th

March 28th

March 29th

March 31st

April 1st

Pastor Laura's Baby Shower

Palm Sunday & Pancake Breakfast

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Easter Sunday

Laura's Maternity Leave Begins

More information about Holy Week services and events will be coming soon from the new "Ministry in the Congregation" team!

a look back at...

ADVENT AT LPC



2024 LEADERSHIP

New Elders & Deacon



We excited to welcome three new leaders to our Session and Deacon teams for 2024! Both teams are re-adjusting their membership numbers to better suit the needs of the church.



Becky Beuscher is joining Session not only as an Elder, but also as our new Clerk of Session. Becky has served in both roles previously and currently leads our Sunday School for elementary aged children.



Jennifer Rogiers is also returning to Session, this time as a co-leader of the new “Mission in the Community” team.

Tom Callahan is joining our Deacons for the first time at LPC, and has previously been ordained as a deacon at his previous congregation. He’s looking forward to getting to know our members better through his role as a Deacon.

Thank you to our “retiring” leaders



We are grateful for the leadership of our elders and deacons who are rotating off their leadership positions this year.

Dan Evans spent 6 years as Elder, Clerk of Session, and the last year as Pastoral Nominating Committee chair! These roles are extremely time consuming and we are indebted to him for his service to the church!



Jamie Simons finished her 6 year term as a Deacon, where she spent lots of her time on the maintenance and upkeep of the Free Little Pantry. She and Jason also loved setting up for communion together.



Edna Drummond finished her 3 year term as a Deacon. Edna often baked the bread for communion and loved helping figure out how to use our resources to serve our community.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

A New Kind of Committee

For 2024, Session is trying out a new committee Structure that we think will better serve the needs of our current congregation. We're committed to trying it out for one year before officially changing our by-laws. You can hear more about these new committees and how you get involved at our Annual Meeting next Sunday, January 28th. The 3 teams are: Ministry in the Congregation, Ministry in the Community, and Ministry of Support. All the teams could use more members, so please consider signing up!



Church Pianist Search

Jennifer Matson ended her time as LPC's church pianist on January 7th. While we were sad to see her go, we're excited for this new chapter of her career as the owner of her own music school. We are actively searching for our next church pianist, but have been unsuccessful thus far. Please keep our Personnel Team in our prayers as they search and if you know anyone who might be interested in the job, please encourage them to apply. The job description can be found on our website.



Ashes to Go

In addition to our traditional evening service for Ash Wednesday, we will be offering "Ashes to Go" to our community from 11am-1pm on Ash Wednesday (February 14th). We will have a tent set up in the parking lot for folks to stop in and receive an imposition of ashes, as well as a blessing and a cup of coffee.

Holy Week

Easter is coming early this year (March 31st!) so we are hard at working planning for our Holy Week events. We don't have anything officially planned yet, but stay tuned for more updates in our March newsletter and in our regular announcements when we finalize our plans.



AN UPDATE ON FAITH ACTION NETWORK

By Connie Dunkleberger

The Faith Action Network is a multi-faith, non-profit organization through which thousands of people and over 160 faith communities across Washington State partner for the common good. Together, we are powerful voices of faith and conscience advocating for a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world. Lakewood Presbyterian is a member of this organization and in the past has played an integral part in advocacy through attending events and sponsoring forums with other churches in the 28th Legislative district. Hopefully we will continue this and become even more involved in this advocacy organization in 2024.

There will be an open **Interfaith Advocacy Day in Olympia on February 8th**. This annual gathering of advocates brings our combined voice and concerns to our lawmakers & includes:

1. Workshops that will explore the issues on FAN's 2024 Legislative Agenda.
2. Meeting with advocates from your own legislative district (Lakewood's district is the 28th).
3. Meeting with your legislator or their legislative assistant.

Even if you can't participate in the face to face advocacy with our legislators you can follow some of the legislative action by tracking the progress of the proposed and bills, making phone calls or sending emails to our legislators in support of the focused legislation. The issues FAN advocates are focused on this year are in four major areas:

- o **Promote Economic Justice**
- o **Protect and Expand the Social Safety Net**
- o **Address Climate Change and Environmental Justice**
- o **Increase Safe Affordable Housing and Prevent Homelessness**

Specific bills and issues are outlined on the FAN website or contact Connie Dunkelberger at connied@harbornet.com, for a copy of the legislative agenda for 2024. If you are interested in attending the in-person Advocacy Day on February 8th, call Connie at 253 565 7518.

Keep Democracy Working! Attend a Legislative Zoom Workshop!

Another way to get involved: attend an Immanuel Presbyterian Mission and Peacemaking Committee legislative Zoom. Once a week for an hour, folks from IPC and other communities will gather on ZOOM to inform each other and advocate for social justice bills in Olympia.

Future Meetings are always at this ZOOM Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83698217747>

Meeting ID: 836 9821 7747

Mondays at 7pm: 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/20, 2/26, 3/5

The work will be guided by the legislative agendas of Faith Action Network (FAN) as well as the Alliance for Gun Responsibility (Alliance). Email Beth Prevo at bethiep123@comcast.net with any questions.

GENTLE YOGA FOR WELLNESS

By Margie Callahan

I am so pleased to be able to offer in-person Yoga classes at our church! Yoga has been a part of my life for many years (maybe 40 years...I lost count) and I began teaching this ancient practice in 2000 after completing teacher training.

Most of my continuing education has been in the Iyengar tradition which focuses on alignment, breath work, flexibility, balance and relaxation. Iyengar yoga is so very good as it uses props such as straps, blocks, and chairs to adapt and modify poses for just about any physical limitation. As a retired occupational therapist, I have a special interest in teaching accessible yoga and believe the benefits of yoga can and should be accessible to Every Body.

Over the years I have completed several specialty certificates including Yoga for Scoliosis and am an Opening Yoga Instructor which focuses on bringing yoga to people with disabilities. I also enjoy learning about and participating in other energy/movement practices such as the Feldenkrais method and Pilates.



This class meets weekly at the church on Thursdays, 10 to 11 am. It is fairly gentle with options for all levels, and chairs are available for those wanting more support. Cost is by donation to the Food Pantry. Please wear comfortable clothing, bring a yoga mat (I have a couple extra) and other props if you have them. Everyone is welcome!

Please let me know if you have any questions or would just like to talk about yoga.

Margie Callahan mcyogini@gmail.com Phone/text: 509 528-3475