

The Light of Lakewood Presbyterian Church



NEWS, UPDATES, AND
STORIES FROM LPC



It's good to be home.

Last year, I moved back to Washington State for the second time in my life. Even though it had been 7 years, that move felt less like a new beginning than it did like picking up where I left off in the middle of a chapter. Of course, things had changed in the years I was away and I had actually never lived in Tacoma before! I was coming back as a different person and with a totally different life, and yet it still felt like home.

Coming back from maternity leave has felt the same way. It feels like a new start and yet it's not quite new. I don't have a clean slate (for better and worse!) but I do have a history with you now. My "second first day" has been filled with more joy and peace than my first. It is good to be in a place where I am known and loved and where my family is welcomed with open arms.


I want everyone who walks through our doors to feel the kind of warm welcome I received on both of my "first Sundays." In the year that I have been here, I have been delighted to see you greet visitors with enthusiasm and joy, but I've also seen how it can be hard for newcomers to take the next step to break into this tight knit community. Sometimes, being new at this church can feel like being an outsider at a family reunion where everyone has been there for years.


I think that our next task together is to welcome newcomers so fully that we allow our community to be changed by their presence. Change isn't always easy, but it's a part of growth. I hope we can be open to that change as we look toward the future together.


Yours in Christ,
Pastor Laura

In this month's newsletter you can expect:

 A Prayer for
Back to School

 Reflections from
Dan on his role as
a delegate to GA

 Save the Dates
for upcoming
events

 A Letter from
Pastor Laura,
and more!



ONLINE GIVING



LPC FACEBOOK

Blessing of the Backpacks- Sunday August 25!

It's hard to believe it but back to School is just around the corner! We will be doing our second annual "Blessings of the Backpacks" on the last Sunday of August.

Kids who are going back to school, preschool, or daycare are invited to bring their backpacks to church in order to receive a blessing as they prepare for a new school year. Teachers and school staff are invited to bring their school bags too!



More Pantry Supplies Needed!

Good news-- our free little pantry shelves are getting bare. That means our community is being well served by it! It also means it's time to restock.

Next time you're coming to church, bring some shelf stable foods to restock our supplies. Thank you for caring for our community in this important way!

Who are we?

PASTOR

REV. LAURA NILE TUELL

NURSERY STAFF

ALLY SUTTLES
PARKER WILLIAMSON
KIRI-ANN ZAMBARD

PIANIST

XIAOHUI YANG

CUSTODIAN

ANDREA RITTENHOUSE

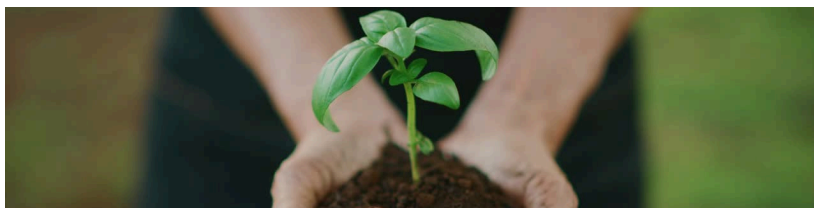
2024 CHURCH LEADERS

DEACONS

- RENEA WILLIAMSON
- CHELSEA WILLIAMSON
- MELINDA ROGIERS
- BARBARA POLAND
- TOM CALLAHAN

ELDERS

- BECKY BUESCHER (clerk)
- JENNIFER ROGIERS
- JIM HALL (treasurer)
- CONNIE DUNKLEBERGER
- SUZY FARLEY
- BRAD TOURANGEAU



Looking for Earth Care Members

LPC recently joined **Presbyterians For Earth Care**. God is calling us to figure out our part in protecting and caring for creation! We're interested in greening our building--do you have experience grant-writing?

Contact Jennifer Rogiers (jmrogiers@gmail.com / 253-314-2895) or Connie Dunkelberger (connied@harbornet.com / 253-565-7518) if interested in joining the earth care team.

Reflections on 2024 General Assembly from Dan Evans

My experience of General Assembly 226 is through the lens of my unique history and relationship with the Presbyterian Church and my own personal phase of life at this time.

I am a PK, and both my father and my maternal grandfather were McCormick graduates. I was first ordained as a Deacon while in high school and moderated the youth gathering for the Kansas synod. I remember how excited my dad was when he was able to attend a meeting featuring Rev. J. Herbert Nelson.

Like many of my boomer generation, I grew away from mainline Protestant religion throughout the 70's and 80's. But when my wife and I started our family, I asked my dad for contacts that might help us find a church. This turned into one experience I'll never forget. He recommended a church with a pastor who had been a kid in one of his churches. This pastor, who became a good friend and baptized my oldest daughter, was tragically outed in a terrible event, and driven to be removed from his church. He struggled thereafter to find a place to live out his call and his gifts, and died many years later during the AIDS epidemic. Thank God for how far we have come.

Our congregational involvement over the next 30 years was touch and go, given the particular times and histories of Immanuel and Shepherd of the Hill churches. There were both good and not so good times for us. In the past eight years we have recommitted to the Church at Lakewood Presbyterian, where we have been accepted and active. I served as Clerk of Session for 6 years, and connected with Presbytery staff and wider Church polity in my role as Chair of our Pastor Nominating Committee.

I entered the world of General Assembly without any experience of the Church at the national level. A few colleagues with that experience shared a bit of knowledge, but I felt I would be largely flying blind. Thanks to Tammy's support and encouragement I found enjoyment and enlightenment. I did say yes to the nomination of Commissioner. I was quickly confronted with hundreds of documents to read and struggled to keep ahead. All in the context of around 800 commissioners, observers, advisors, and Electric Slide experts. Our training by Shari and through the videos provided to commissioners was helpful but overwhelming. I had to learn about YAADs and MADs plus assorted other cryptic entities. We were given "Equity Primes" which guided our use and approach to discussion. And we were reminded that we are seeking to be faithful together in times of disagreement. It was a long, uphill struggle for my aging brain.

Our first meetings involved three full days of committee work, done at home via Zoom. We discussed recommendations that would later be presented and acted on in the plenary sessions. My committee was GAEC (General Assembly Entity Coordination) and Tammy's was Ordination. (She was lucky with her assignment because most people know what an Ordination is. I didn't have that benefit with "Entities.") Our committee tasks involved reading and discerning the nature and appropriateness of Committee Reports and recommendations.

Reflections on 2024 General Assembly from Dan Evans cont.

Our committee tasks involved reading and discerning the nature and appropriateness of Committee Reports and recommendations. The committee work would subsequently be used to guide action on recommendations and overtures– including the “Olympia Overture” related to refining and improving the sections of the Book of Order (BOO) regarding our support of LGBTQ+ members and leaders.

There was a break after the committee work to give commissioners and other attendees time to travel to Salt Lake City where the plenary sessions were held. Time was provided between the plenary sessions to meet and visit with various other attendees. Tammy described that she used some of that time to visit with her seminary friends. I visited the Covenant Network and spoke with Rev. Brian Ellison the Covenant Network chair and attended a luncheon for ruling elders. The new Stated Clerk, Rev. Jinyun Oh, spoke with the attending ruling elders.

Other highlights included a wonderful and fun performance by a Scottish bagpipe and drum group and a closing ceremony performed by Japanese Taiko drums.

This General Assembly was a hybrid effort whereby committee work started at home via Zoom and then shifted to in-person plenary format for most of the active business. It is expected that the hybrid approach will be used for future Assemblies starting with the 227th Assembly in 2026.

Overall I came away with a healthy respect for GA as an important part of our church. It wasn't a perfect meeting– any effort to effectively share and dialog with a very diverse group of roughly 800 intelligent and loving Children of God is bound to have its quirks and challenges. But it was impressive to watch as the Presbyterians maneuver the collection of opinions and ended with a large mixture of advances and improvements to our beloved community. I feel honored to have been one small actor in the life of PC(USA). It prepared me I think to help our congregation and grow into the potential we have as part of our Presbytery. Thanks be to God and thank you for helping me attend the Assembly.



The delegation from Olympia Presbytery, including Dan Evans and Chris Piatt from LPC!

Want to read more about what happened at GA? [The Presbyterian Outlook](#) has a summary of the top 10 stories here!



Highlights from 2024 General Assembly from Dan Evans

1. New CPM process was completed
2. A moving presentation by a transgender member from Salt Lake City who had been welcomed heartily and praised the work of the Assembly and the larger church.
3. A new Stated Clerk was elected and installed. Rev. Jinyun Oh. She is the first woman to be installed as Stated Clerk and will take office for 227th General Assembly in 2027.
4. Heard from the stated clerk of the Church of Scotland who reported on its work with Christian Jewish Dialogue.
5. Recognized a Transgender Day of Visibility.
6. Set aside funds for Latino Ministries.
7. Approved the writing of a study document denouncing antisemitism and Islamophobia.
8. Voted to fully divest from fossil fuels. But after the Assembly ate lunch, the action was rescinded and no further action was approved. Due to the complexity of the issue it was left in the hands of Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI).
9. An overture from the Olympia Presbytery was easily approved to clarify and improve Book of Order revisions. The change will now go to Presbyteries across the country for final approval.
10. The National Caucus of Korean Presbyterian Churches asked to become a full caucus of the Assembly but the request failed to obtain approval.
11. The Assembly rejected Christian Zionism, voted to call congregations to take action against gun violence to protect children, and called Presbyterians to urge all elected officials to advocate ending prolonged solitary confinement in our penal systems and the use of un paid labor.
12. The Assembly called for a group of mid-council leaders to work with Board of Pensions to explore medical plans for pastors and spouses or families.
13. Special offerings were reduced to three by combining youth and children into the Joy offering.
14. We heard directly on how houses of worship can receive tax credits from the IRS to invest in clean energy and receive incentives for solar panels and charging stations.
15. A unified budget was passed by the Assembly that will combine the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency by 2026.
16. New rules were approved by the Assembly for the election of moderators to be taken at the end of each Assembly instead of at the beginning.



We're wearing name tags now on Sunday mornings!

Thanks to Pastor Addie, we now have beautiful, reusable name tags for our congregation. If you're a member or just planning on sticking around for awhile, write your name in sharpie. If you're just visiting, write it in dry erase marker so we can re-use it again another time. Don't forget to take it off before you leave and put it on the music stand so you can use it again the next Sunday.

Not sure about this whole name tag thing?

But everyone knows my name!
Guests and newcomers don't!

But I know everyone's name already! Are you sure? What about our first time visitors?

But it's just one more thing to do.
I know, but this is a small thing we can do to help feel welcome and known.

But I'm new and it feels more comfortable to be anonymous.
Yes, it's certainly easier to be anonymous, but it's also lonely. Be brave. Let us get to know you.



**"I have called you by name; you are mine."
Isaiah 43:1b**

*God knows our names,
now let's get to know one another's!*

Musical fun at the Church Picnic in July with the “Steel Rain” band from PLU!



August Church Calendar

Find online at lakewoodpres.org/calendar

- Wed, August 14 (9:30a-12pm) **Popsicles with Pastor Laura**
- Thurs, August 15 (10-11a) **Gentle Yoga**
- Sun, August 18 (10:30a) **Worship and Coffee Hour**
- Tues, August 20 (9:30-11:30a) **Wapato Preschool Building Use**
- Wed, August 21 (9:30-11:30a) **Wapato Preschool Building Use**
- Thurs, August 22 (9:30-11:30a) **Wapato Preschool Building Use**
- Thurs, August 22 (10-11a) **Gentle Yoga**
- Sun, August 25 (10:30a) **Worship, Blessing of the Backpacks, and Coffee Hour**
- Sun, August 25 (12:15-1:45p) **Session Meeting**
- Thurs, August 29 (10-11a) **Gentle Yoga**



A Prayer for Back to School

There is a letting go, entrusting your child to the unfamiliar: faces, routines, and locations that will become uniquely theirs.

Connection is folded up today, like a quiet blessing tucked inside a pocket, where it can help them remember

your love covers all the space between what they have known and what is now theirs to discover for themselves.

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

From “Ordinary Blessings for Parents” by Meta Herrick Carlson

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