

MARCH 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
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
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/>

This issue:

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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*

“...God will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey.”
Numbers 14:8

Dear Friends and Members of Lakewood Presbyterian Church,

When I accepted this call last June, I never could have imagined that preparing for my first Easter at this church would also be the time in which I would be preparing for two new members to join my family! God certainly has different plans for my life than I do (a lesson I find myself constantly re-learning!) but I am filled with so much gratitude for all the beautiful surprises along the way.

Last week, I had the most wonderful baby shower, thrown by Chelsea Williamson and the women of the church, who truly *showered* us with love and gifts. These babies are already so lucky to be born into a church family that loves them so well. Thank you to everyone who came and to everyone who contributed toward the gifts from the whole church. It meant so much to me and I am so, so grateful.



It's a bittersweet time for me as I prepare to be away from you all for four months. I am looking forward to the substantial time that my family will have together as we survive the bleary-eyed newborn phase and start finding new routines as a family of five. I know that this sacred time together is a gift. I'm also recognizing how much I will miss you all! I do not take it for granted that I have a job and community that I love and so I will miss you during my time away. While on maternity leave, it's important that I have the time to focus solely on learning how to be a mom of three and not on being your pastor so I am grateful you will have the leadership of Pastor Addie during my time away. That being said, I also value being in community with you all and look forward to planning a "meet the babies day" sometime during my maternity leave so that you all can meet the twins! We will schedule event that after they are born.

These next few months will be busy ones for LPC. One of the biggest things that will be going on is our **Church Feasibility Study**, which the Session voted to begin back in January. This process will build on the work you've done in the past on the Mission Study and Vital Congregations Initiative. I was hired on a two-year contract because you knew that we would need to figure out together how to have a sustainable model of ministry. The feasibility study is how we are doing that work. **Our first gathering of the process is next Wednesday March 13th 5-7pm** and we are calling it "Imagining a Hopeful Future." We will be introducing you to our facilitator, Heather James, who will guide us through the process of discerning what the future ministry of Lakewood Presbyterian Church will look like. To borrow a made-up word from author Glennon Doyle, I am excited "scited" (scared & excited) to be starting this process with you all. There is great vulnerability and great potential as we walk forward together in confidence that God goes with us.

Peace,
Pastor Laura

Church Calendar

MARCH	
March 9th	Church Clean Up Day (9 am-12 pm)
March 10th	Class w/ Sarah ButlerWills (9 am)
March 13th	Feasibility Study Congregational Meeting and Meal! (5-7 pm)
March 23rd	Easter Egg Hunt (11 am)
March 24th	Palm Sunday & Pancake Breakfast
March 28th	Maundy Thursday Service (7 pm)
March 29th	Good Friday Service (12 pm)
March 31st	Easter Sunday
April 1st	Laura's Maternity Leave Begins

MEET OUR NEW STAFF!

Our Temporary Supply Pastor, Pastor Addie!



Rev. Addie Domske (she/her) was rooted and raised in rural America, spent her early professional life in urban spaces, and found herself recently doing ministry in exurban tech hubs like California's Silicon Valley and the Seattle area. Because of that she has love for what the church was, what the church is, and what the church can be. Originally from a little borough north of Pittsburgh, Addie sees God working in the world through justice movements. She is especially attuned to theology that is queer, anti-colonial, and that combats anti-Blackness. She believes trees have something deeply theological to teach us and feels closest to God when laughing.

In May of 2022, Addie had a host of fabulous folks supporting her own parental leave when she welcomed her baby Sagan Jan-Zi Domske into the world. Addie is excited to spend this sacred season with LPC to learn from you, to support Laura in nurturing her new family members into the world, and to have good conversations together about God. Addie lives in Snohomish with her spouse Dan, 2 year old Sagan, and a menagerie of animals including two turtles, a bearded dragon, an aquatic frog, and a black cat named Bissa (بسّة).

Our Church Pianist - Xiaohui Yang



Xiaohui Yang is a Juilliard-trained classical pianist who has preformed around the globe and now is our new church pianist! Xiaohui and her husband Ronaldo Rolim moved from Philadelphia to University Place a year and a half ago when he took a position as the

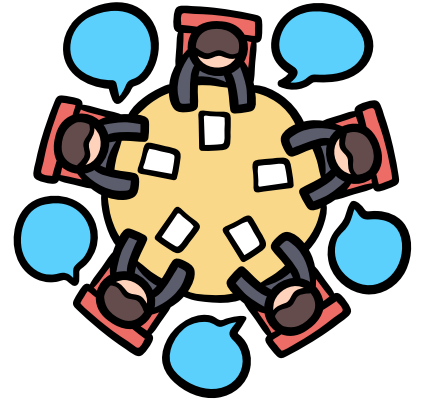
Assistant Professor of Piano at University of Puget Sound. Prior to her daughter Maya's birth in October, Xiaohui travelled often for performances around the country and the world, so she hasn't had the opportunity to get to know the people in this community. When her daughter Maya was born in September last year, she had to slow down her performing schedule, and she is enjoying being settled here for a longer stretch of time. Even though finding time to practice has become much more challenging, Xiaohui is still so grateful that she can spend this precious time with Maya and be able to witness every little change she makes everyday. Xiaohui heard about the position from her husband and agreed to work with us on a temporary basis, as her schedule allows. She says, "it's so wonderful to be part of the community, have the opportunity to get to know people here, and share beautiful music together."

Xiaohui will often be bringing her daughter Maya with her on Sundays. Maya started traveling with her for performances when she was only 7 weeks old and she has already been to 9 states. Because of the amount of music she has to bear with from her pianist parents every single day, she could sit on her bouncing chair and listen to them practice for about 45 min and has been able to sit and listen to concerts that last a little over an hour!

NEWS & UPDATES

About Our New Committee Structure

If you attended our Annual Meeting in January, you heard the announcement that we are trying a one-year experiment with a new format of Church Committees/ Teams. Our previous model had more teams than we were capable of filling with volunteers. We have consolidated all the previous teams into 3 new committees, lead by Session members. The Session voted to commit to this format for one year, to see if this new model will better suit our needs. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to Pastor Laura or one of the members of Session. The new teams are:



Ministry in the Congregation

Led by: Suzy Farley & Becky Buescher

Members: Suzanne Forbes, Candice Cochran, Edna Drummond, Melinda Rogiers

Areas of focus: Worship, Adult Education, Children, Social

This team focuses on the internal ministries of the church and by combining into one team, we hope to have more collaboration and synchronization between the different ministries. Team meeting will be monthly and will alternate between in-person and Zoom.

Ministry in the Community

Led by: Connie Dunkleberger & Jennifer Rogiers

Members: Chris Piatt, Susan Woodall-Lane

Areas of focus: Mission, Community Engagement, Outreach, Marketing

This team seeks to answer the question, “how does the ministry of LPC better the lives of the people in our community?” Team meeting will be monthly and will alternate between in-person and Zoom.

Ministry of Support

Led by: Jim Hall & Brad Tourangeau

Members: None yet!!

Area of focus: Buildings and Grounds, Finances, Personnel

This critical team supports all the other ministries of the church. We need more members, especially someone who can be our **volunteer Personnel Liaison**. That position would facilitate the behind-the-scenes Personnel work of hiring new employees, supporting current ones, and working with other volunteer leaders. It is a flexible, low time-commitment position and if you think you might have the skill set and desire to do so, we could really use your help! If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Jim or Brad!

HOLY WEEK EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt!

Our annual community Easter Egg Hunt will be held on **Saturday March 23rd** at 11 am SHARP with a lunch to follow. There will be separate spaces for kids of different ages so that all have an opportunity to find eggs! The deacons are collecting **monetary and candy donations** for the event so if you would like to donate, please do so by **Sunday March 17th**.



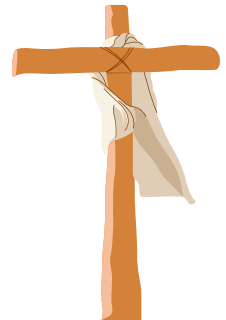
Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday, we will be doing a “Palms to Passion” liturgy that follows from Christ’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem through to the Passion narrative on the cross. The service will include a responsive storytelling of the Passion Narrative that involves the whole congregation. Join us afterward for our annual pancake breakfast!



Maundy Thursday

Join us for the Maundy Thursday service where we gather to remember Jesus’ last gathering with his disciples around the Table. The service is held in the Fellowship Hall with a simple meal meant to represent the Last Supper, although you should plan to eat dinner beforehand since it isn’t a full meal. The service includes a reading of the gospels and the celebration of the Eucharist.



Good Friday

Join us for a “7 Last Words” tenebré service on Good Friday at 12:00pm. This is one of the holiest days of the year and is a very meaningful way to prepare for Easter. The service is a time for meditation and reflection on Jesus’ last words on “the hardest and holiest day of the church year” as author Kate Bowler says.