

A welcoming and loving community of faith that learns, grows, and serves together.

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



CONTENTS

Care.....	2
Children's Ministry	3
Communications	4
Family Ministry	5
Fellowship.....	6
Finance.....	7
Foundation	8
Mission in Service	9
Membership & Connecting	10
Operations.....	11
Personnel	11
Seedlings	12
Seniors	12
Spiritual Formation	13
Worship.....	14
Youth	14

pastor's message

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

-Psalm 91:1-2 (NRSV)

by Peter Whitelock, Pastor - Head of Staff

As we have continued our journey with the pandemic this past year, it has been tempting at times to throw up our hands and admit defeat.

We've all been there! And yet, as the Psalmist reminds us

above, the deep reality of our existence is that God shelters us and is worthy of our trust. In light of that truth, when so much seemed to be shutting down in the world around us, LOPC was busy conceiving and creating new ministries to serve our community and world. This annual report is a witness to that work.



I have received so many expressions of love and support from you, our members and friends, regarding the good impact we have made in these challenging times. The truth of the matter, of course, is that at every turn God has been faithful with the encouragement, strength, and resolve needed to propel us forward. When coupled with your generosity, the work of our leaders, volunteers, and staff has been a beacon of love and support to so many. I pray that in the pages of this report you will not only read about our accomplishments as a community of faith, but also discern the presence of God through whom all things are truly possible!

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Whitelock'.

care

2021 elders: Lynne Terril and Leslie Finertie

In 2021, Care Ministry hosted over 45 classes, including recurring Tuesday exercise and Faith 'n Fun on Fridays. Many Care Ministry groups, such as the Voyager groups, Deacons, and Stephen Ministers, along with over 15 families, delivered Touch of Love care packages to LOPC seniors in March, September, and December. This provided a wonderful opportunity to connect with and care for seniors who aren't able to leave their homes often.

During February through June, about 30 volunteers made semi-monthly calls to over 80 seniors, often connecting them to various services such as Barnabas visits and Stephen Ministry.

Linda Fodrini-Johnson and Pastor Gerald Chinen continued a Zoom support group twice per month for those caring for a loved one with dementia.

In October, Care Ministry participated in LOPC's Fall Fest. Care and Senior Ministries had a table set up for card making with children, the Stephen Ministers provided leis and tropical fortune cookies, and the Deacons served beverages.

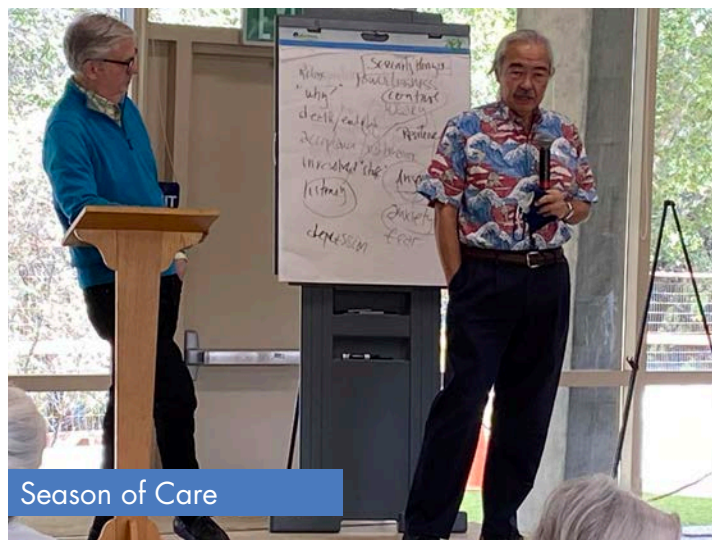
The Prayer Team continued to meet every Monday, praying for all requests and additional lists of first responders, medical personnel, and essential workers.

The Deacon Board met via Zoom and monitored the Deacon line for requests throughout the year. The Deacons served at 14 memorial receptions from July through December. The Deacon Emergency Fund approved ten financial requests totaling \$14,465, with several other requests referred to other resources for assistance. Barnabas team members continued to call on home-bound seniors. Helping Hands also provided meals throughout the year. The Deacons prepared the elements used by our pastors on communion Sundays.

2021 was a year of transition for Stephen Ministry with the addition of two new Stephen Leaders replacing retiring Leaders and several other Stephen Ministers leaving service. Training continued to be offered throughout the year. Stephen Ministers supported more than 20 individuals with weekly meetings.

The annual Season of Care program was held in October in-person with Ray Campton discussing the spiritual impact of the pandemic "In the Valley of the Shadow."

Pastor Gerald Chinen, Congregational Care Pastor, continued his video interview series "Talking Story." His guests in 2021 were Anthony Lucero, Rev. Dr. Ken Fong, Dr. Satsuki Ina, Rev. Sandhya Jha, and two of our young people, Amanda Young and Hailey Hilsabeck. Recordings of these interviews can be found at lopc.org/talkingstory.



children's ministry

2021 elder: Peter Shumaker

In 2021, the Children's Ministry Team had many opportunities to learn, grow, and serve in response to the ever-changing needs of children in the context of a pandemic.

January through May, Children's Ministry staff, Ryan Timpte, Lori Robinson, and Susan Wentworth, provided online children's programming. On Sunday mornings, children logged into The Garden to talk about the monthly virtue, hear a story, and chat in small groups with adult volunteers.

January through March, Kids Rock provided another opportunity on Wednesday afternoons for children in kindergarten through 4th grade to gather online to talk about God and explore different prayer practices that they could do at home. In March, the 4th and 5th graders met in-person with Ryan and Susan to make their capstone video which is a Kids Rock tradition for kids graduating from the program.

In June, Children's Ministry began in-person programming. On Sunday mornings, the Sunday school program, The Garden, began meeting for children six months old through 4th grade. A live Zoom feed was also offered so children could participate from their homes. The online option was available until November when children became eligible to be vaccinated.

Vacation Bible Camp occurred June 7-11 and was in-person, outdoors, and socially distanced. The theme for camp was "Be Brave!" 60 campers and 25 volunteers enjoyed a week of fun and fellowship while learning how God helps people to be brave in a changing world.

In October, Kids Rock met in-person for the fall session with 20 children and 10 parent volunteers. Onsite childcare was provided for younger children of parent volunteers. The theme was "Kindness," and children learned about kindness through scripture, games, and activities that promote kindness.

In December, Children's Ministry hosted an Advent Festival in Fellowship Hall. Congregation members of all ages were invited to make Advent wreaths, decorate cookies, and create ornaments to take home.

Throughout the year, Children's Ministry continued to contribute to the LOPC worship services with weekly children's messages recorded by Ryan Timpte, Lori Robinson, Allison Kunz, and Keris Dahlkamp.

Children's Ministry looks forward to 2022 while continuing to learn, grow, and serve God together.



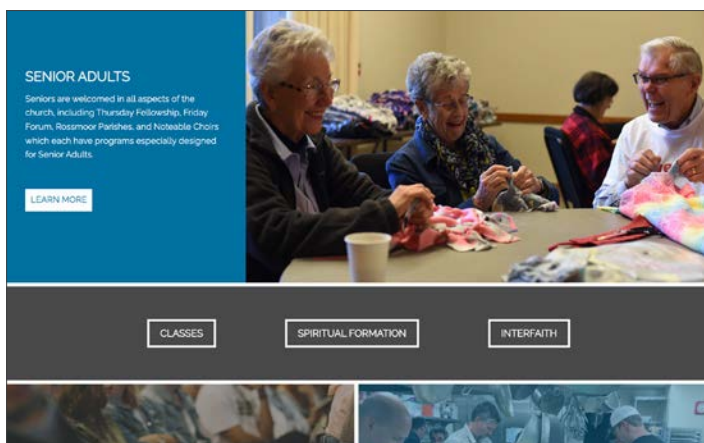
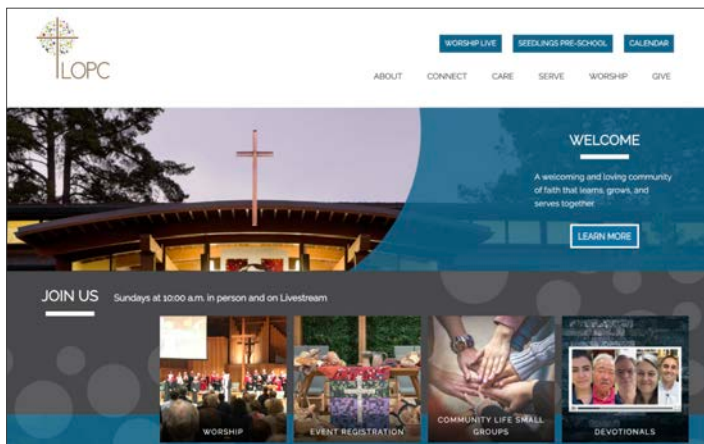
communications

2021 elder: Jim Davis

In 2021, the Communications Team continued to build and refine our digital capabilities to support a virtual church experience while also preparing for a post-pandemic church. One of the first things the team did was to complete the work of last year's team in updating LOPC's mission and vision to:

A welcoming and loving community of faith that learns, grows, and serves together.

This new mission is meant to appeal to both the "churched" and "unchurched" in the broader community so that LOPC is seen as a place where everyone is welcome. In addition, the team neared completion of the new LOPC website. The new website, which will be launched very soon, will improve the user experience as well as simplify both site maintenance and content management.



On the virtual front, work continued with a focus on investing in equipment and software to improve the virtual experience. In addition, as worship transitioned back to in person, the approach was modified to allow for a full worship experience whether a person was in the sanctuary or at home. The team also began to look at its overall communications

strategy. FOCUS, Connections, as well as other printed collateral continued to be produced throughout the year. This included a redesign of LOPC's monthly publication, FOCUS, providing a modern look, while also allowing for expanded design possibilities for one of LOPC's signature communications vehicles.



The Communications team began to review LOPC's use of social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter while keeping an eye on better leveraging these channels to reach a broader and more diverse audience. The team began working with each of the ministry areas to define a communications strategy and plan specific to their needs. The first completed communications strategy for a team was for Chris Baldwin's Developing Disciples and Building Fellowship Ministries. The Communications Team looks forward to a blessed new year where the Communications Team can be more effective in communicating LOPC's messages to both the church and broader community.



family

2021 elder: Julie Atkinson

The Family Ministry team is excited to have been able to welcome families back to the LOPC campus during 2021 through safe, in-person activities, while still maintaining online programs. The pandemic continues to affect families in different ways. The Family Ministry team focused on offering a variety of programs and individual pastoral care to meet families needs.

Mission

Throughout the year, the Family Ministry team partnered with the Care Ministry team to deliver gift bags to the seniors in our community. This was an opportunity to check in on the seniors and provide companionship. Two book drives took place in the spring and fall, and the team collected numerous children's books for Superstar Literacy and Primera Iglesia. LOPC families volunteered at Winter Nights Shelter on the LOPC campus in November and also participated in many other mission projects during the holidays such as putting together food boxes for Monument Crisis Center and gifts for children at Harbor House.

Special Needs Ministry

Special Needs Ministry began in 2021 with holding youth group events via Zoom, as well as some in-person, socially distanced, and masked events. In the fall, they were able to resume in-person Respite Nights with a small number of families. They also brought back Capernaum and Monday evening groups.

Community Activities

As families continued to navigate stressful times, the Family Ministry team worked to offer opportunities for relaxation and social interaction. They supported the fun movie night over the summer, as well as the Fall Festival in October, and the Advent Festival in December. Self-care as a spiritual practice has also been a focus. The team remains committed to the Girls Leadership program and will support them as they navigate a return to in-person programs.



Parent Support Groups, Small Groups, and Bible Studies

2021 began with a well-attended session by Ray Campton on "Partnering Through the Pandemic," to help families address the mental health issues that have arisen throughout this pandemic. The need for individualized pastoral care has been very high. Pastor Jaime remains very close with local mental health professionals to provide referrals to therapy and other resources for issues such as domestic violence, depression, and anxiety. Pastor Jaime also led several small groups for moms, including book studies on two books on *Raising Children with Justice, Mercy, and Love* and the book *Help, Thanks, Wow*. Family Ministry has also led more than eight Bible studies over the past year for people of all ages.

The Family Ministry team been blessed to continue building faith, fellowship, and providing parents and their children with spiritual growth and support during these unprecedented times.

fellowship

2021 elders: Jerry Hook and Brianne Riley

2021 was a year of innovating fun Fellowship Ministry offerings!

In-Person Events Returned!

Outdoor Movie Night (July 16) – Approximately 120 people watched “Raya and the Last Dragon” and enjoyed Golden Ice Cream Truck treats.

Fall Fest (October 17) – Approximately 400 people attended! In partnership with LOPC Foundation, this event included live music, a bounce house, games, and crafts. The LOPC Foundation generously paid for a taco truck! Wow!

Advent Festival (December 5) – The Children’s Ministry team partnered with the Fellowship group Young Families Connect to put on an Advent Festival. Attendees made Advent wreaths, decorated cookies, and had playground fun.



2021 Fellowship Groups Review:

Small groups were reorganized to live in one of three categories: **Belong, Grow, and Care**. There were 47 group offerings listed in 2021!

Faith at the Movies Fellowship Hour – A new hybrid in-person and Zoom small group offering in the summer to discuss sermon themes. Thank you to leaders Jerry Hook, Linda LoGrasso, Sharon Bartlett, Herb and Randi Long, Jiyeon Bae, and Isaac Kim.

Life Groups – Nine-month small group programs launched in September. Thank you to leaders: Chris Baldwin and Jonathan Nolen (Men’s Group), Sharon Bartlett and Heather Logan (Women’s Group), Tom Scovel (Intergenerational Group), and Jaime Polson (Mom’s Group).

Young Families Connect – Hosted three gatherings (October-December). Thanks to Fred Oh and Meehae Kwon, Adam and Liz Voelker, and Jonathan and Jenn Nolen for hosting breakfast bites!

4th Monday and 4th Friday Book Groups – Met monthly via Zoom while discussing books. Thank you to leaders Jean Fiske and Catherine Coleman!

LOPCided Quilters – Donated 241 quilts to Hillcrest Congregational Church, Winter Nights, Walnut Creek Methodist, and Hope Solutions! Thank you to leaders Louise Tanno and Judy Kronmiller!

Chicks with Sticks (Knitters and Crocheters) – Donated 2,918 items to: The Hillcrest Layette Project, Loaves and Fishes, Warm Coats, Warmth for Warriors, and Winter Nights. Thank you to leader Dianne Schneider!

Freebirds – Partnered with the youth ministry to donate gifts to Primera Iglesia. Thank you to leaders Sue and Jim Nagle and Brian and Liz O’Shea!

Voyager Ships – Hosted Zoom and in-person gatherings! Thank you, Ship Captains!

Presbyterian Women – Have two circles that are meeting. Thank you to leaders Colleen Fawley and Mary Lou Young!

finance

January to December 2021

Income	Actuals	Budget
Pledge Income	\$ 2,335,771	\$ 2,160,000
Non-Pledge Gifts, Loose Offerings	334,207	440,000
Faith Component	195,663	200,000
Foundation Support	385,615	385,948
Seedlings	(5,896)	54,000
Employee Retention Credit	329,809	0
Session Emerging Needs	0	110,505
Special Gifts & Other Income	241,604	126,145
Total Income	3,816,773	3,476,598
Total Expense	3,735,825	3,476,598
Total Surplus	\$ 80,947	\$ 0

We are truly fortunate and thankful for everyone that has given of their time, talent, and treasure to LOPC in 2021. LOPC is blessed to be in a strong position financially, after another very difficult year. The Finance Team has had a challenging time during 2021, but also a very rewarding one. The staff at LOPC has done an incredible job pivoting to hybrid programming and reallocating our resources to meet the needs of the congregation and our mission partners. We are truly thankful to have such a great staff in the way they have used our resources.

Overall, Net Income came in strong with an \$80,947 surplus. Total Income was \$3,816,773 and exceeded budget by \$340,175. Congregational Giving was \$171,499 stronger than planned levels. LOPC also received unbudgeted Employee Retention Credits of \$329,809 from the government, which were used to offset some onetime expenses. Because of the higher

income, LOPC was able to cover an unexpected loss of (\$59,896) for Seedlings related to the pandemic and not use the Session Emerging Needs funds of \$110,505, that was originally budgeted to supplement income shortfalls.

Expenses of \$3,735,826 were higher than planned by \$259,228. Mission giving and expenses were stronger by \$97,068. Personnel and Worship expenses were higher related to several transitions in 2021/2022 and the impact of the pandemic.

Our congregation generously contributed \$195,663 for the Faith Component as well as \$175,771 in higher Pledging, both which helped LOPC finish in a very solid position to start 2022, and allow us to do more in all areas of our ministry.

Thanks again to everyone for all you do for LOPC.

foundation

Established in 1993, the LOPC Foundation strives to be a permanent, reliable source of significant funding for LOPC's ministries. The Foundation grants funds to LOPC to support ongoing and new ministries, expand mission outreach, and maintain LOPC facilities.



For the 2021 fiscal year ended September 30, the Foundation appropriated:

- \$395,116 for LOPC's ministries; and
- \$118,000 for facilities-related projects.

Grants for LOPC's 2021 operating budget included \$163,473 in general ministry expenditures relating to: church staff salary support, mission partners, deacons, spiritual formation, family ministry, children, and youth.

The Foundation closed its 2021 fiscal year with \$12.5 million of invested net assets, including: \$3.5 million related to general ministry, \$7.5 million of restricted facilities funds, and \$1.5 million of other restricted funds (deacons, youth, leadership, fellowship, mission, and music). The Foundation has a policy of annually distributing 4% of a 12-quarter weighted average of invested net assets for each of its funds.

In fiscal year 2021, the Foundation welcomed \$26,030 in both immediate and legacy gifts. We are tremendously grateful for, and enriched by, the generosity of those who have contributed in support of the many ministries and missions at LOPC.

At the end of 2021, Phil Placier and Jerry Ducey completed their terms as Foundation trustees. We are

deeply grateful for their years of dedicated service and stewardship. As we begin 2022, we are delighted to welcome Linda Fodrini-Johnson and Doug Bontemps as trustees, and look forward to their contributions in the years ahead.

If you have included the Foundation in your estate planning, please let us know so we can thank you and include you as a "Friend of the Foundation." If you would like to make an immediate gift or arrange a future legacy gift and join other Friends of the Foundation, please contact any of the 2022 Trustees: Jim Beckemeyer, Doug Bontemps, Lois Boyd, Jen Crocker, Linda Fodrini-Johnson, Kristi Haigh, Staci Johnston, Mike Ross, and Dara Youngdale.

generosity team

2021 elder: Linda Fodrini Johnson

The pledge campaign for 2021, *LOPC is Stronger than the Storms*, was successful in raising \$2,158,297 with 481 households pledging. The Generosity Team is deeply appreciative of the LOPC members who gave so generously during such challenging times.

In 2021 the team surveyed younger church members on their participation and giving trends. They also developed a system to remind members and friends that Stewardship is the giving of time, talent, and treasure. This new method of communication will start in the New Year.

The team developed the 2022 campaign *What Matters Most* with an emphasis on the many ways in which everyone has given during the pandemic and how they continue to do the work of Christ in the world with the giving of time, talent, and treasure. The scripture for this campaign was 1 Corinthians 13:13: "And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

As of mid-January the team has raised \$1,923,635 for 2022.

mission in service

2021 elders: Stephanie Bontemps and Rick Burris

The request for resources from LOPC mission partners did not subside in 2021. Need in our community continues to grow with little end in sight. As in 2020, LOPC is committed to providing its mission partners with support to meet increased demand from the exponential growth in clients seeking resources.



Winter Nights Family Shelter

Making a Difference in Our Community

Addressing homelessness in the local community continues to be a focus at LOPC. In 2021, LOPC hosted Winter Nights Family Shelter twice. First partnering with Walnut Creek United Methodist Church (WCUMC) and providing drop-off meals for their guests, and in the fall with guests living on the LOPC campus for two weeks in Fellowship Hall with volunteers providing meals, tutoring and various activities.

In November, LOPC was awarded the Rollie Mullen Leadership Award by STAND! for its commitment to helping STAND! beautify and prepare its transitional housing units, in the midst of the pandemic, into welcoming homes for traumatized families.

Disaster Response Efforts

LOPC has a long tradition of providing support to disaster victims domestically and globally. In 2021, LOPC raised \$14,360 that was split between Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC). The funds

for Haiti went to PDA to provide food, water, and emergency power generators for those communities impacted by the hurricane. The remaining funds went to IRC to respond to the humanitarian crisis across large areas of Afghanistan by providing displaced families in the country with shelter, clean water, sanitation, and other necessities. LOPC also responded to the Nyiragongo Volcano eruption in the DRC as well as the bombings in Gaza that affected Atfaluna Society of Deaf Children with \$2,500 each.

2021 Special Offerings

The congregation generously responded to four special offerings in 2021. Funds were raised to support Shelter Inc. (\$11,890) to address homelessness, help Fotokids (\$4,335) to supplement food for its families; and for STAND! and Healing Hearts (\$14,512) to address trauma caused by domestic violence and war. The 2021 Christmas offering (\$25,230) benefited Atfaluna, to support deaf children and their families in Gaza, and Children of Faith Missions, to continue to care and support orphaned children in India.



Fotokids

Service Opportunities

Service for others is at the forefront of what LOPC does. Despite the pandemic, LOPC was able to successfully create a hybrid model of the annual love does day of service in February. Members of the LOPC congregation volunteered in-person and at home for projects including the assembly of breakfast and hygiene kits, writing care notes to first responders, and

continued next page →

creating polar fleece blankets.

The focus of the summer of *love does* service programming supported under-served communities. Backpacks were collected for Monument Crisis Center to distribute to students eager to return to school. Volunteers supplied both breakfasts and lunches for a Harbor House summer camp. LOPC also collected school supplies that were shipped to JF Kapnek Trust preschools in Zimbabwe.

In early fall, a book collection resulted in over 900 books benefiting Safe Passages and Primera Iglesia in Oakland. Both organizations are committed to increasing literacy in their communities. During Christmas, participants donated toys for White Pony Express and Harbor House, and gift cards were collected for Hope Solutions, all for distribution to low-income families.

Raising Awareness

In 2021, a Racial Equity and Engagement Team was formed. The goal of the team was to discern a path forward for the church to address racial equity and to engage our congregation in authentic relationships with other communities. The team continues to meet, held extensive interviews with organizations, and sought out the input of the congregation in a survey at the end of 2021.



membership & connecting

2021 elders: Ryan Feaver and Jeanette Shearer

The Membership Ministry hosted three membership classes in February, May, and October and welcomed 21 new members to LOPC. All of these classes were on Zoom, with the exception of an in-person get together following the October class. They are looking forward to returning to some in-person classes in 2022.

In December, the membership team completed its annual end of the year membership rolls maintenance project. The project focused on identifying members who either relocated out of the area or who have out of date contact information in our database and can't be reached. 44 members were removed from the rolls in 2021 as a result of moving away or requesting to be removed. Two members transferred their membership to other churches. There were 33 members who passed away in 2021. The total active membership of LOPC is 1,731 members.

operations

This was a very productive year for the Operations/Facilities team. Several significant upgrades were made to the IT network. Some highlights include installing a new firewall, adding additional storage, replacing switches, installing additional WiFi access points, while upgrading others, and installing a large battery backup system for our servers. These improvements increase security and reliability.

With the lease expiring on the office copy machines, it was decided to purchase new machines. This will result in a significant overall yearly cost reduction. Two new Konica Minolta copiers were purchased and installed in June. A new business level copier was also purchased and installed for use in the Accountant's office.

Also purchased in 2021 were three flat screen TVs; one camera for Zoom, and a new DVD player. These TVs have been very useful for some of our smaller group gatherings and Bible studies.

For facilities, the Chapel outer office area was painted in addition to the large and small counseling rooms. The wood paneling in the Chapel Narthex was refurbished. Several Ministry Center offices were also painted and deep cleaned. Exterior lighting on Fellowship Hall was replaced, both on the patio and playground side, with new LED flood lights. Also installed were two new LED floodlights along the walkway outside the Davies Room. The timer for these lights was replaced with a timer that automatically adjusts for seasonal daylight changes. All of the decorative light bulbs in the Chapel were replaced with LED. These projects not only are cost and energy efficient, but they increased the brightness over the former lighting.

Unfortunately, some of the mature pine trees on campus had beetle infestation and had to be removed. These included four pine trees and a large oak that fell during a winter storm. Significant tree and brush trimming along the hillside was accomplished to prepare for late summer fire season.

The Kurth Memorial Garden board began working on plans for the expansion of the garden to increase the number of available niches. They have met with an architect and preliminary plans have been drawn.

Lastly, a special thanks goes to our Thursday Work Crew and their coordinator, Rich Lewis, for the numerous projects they complete. Their fantastic expertise and hard work are a blessing to the entire church.

personnel

2021 elder: Bill DeWolf

If one thinks about the many strengths at LOPC, the personnel should be high on the list. 2021 exemplified how blessed LOPC is to have the wonderful staff which includes clergy, program and administrative staff, and teachers.

Adaptation to the constraints of the pandemic required significant staff resources. The staff skillfully navigated the regulatory requirements in re-opening the campus. This attention to the changing regulatory demands has been remarkably managed.

2021 brought changes in our personnel. LOPC is so grateful for the gifts shared by those who resigned or retired in 2021. They are Devin Crane, Lidia Jesionek, Tess Houston, Stewart Scharch, Hiroko Shibuya, and Ryan Timpte. LOPC welcomed Eric Thompson (Technical Director) and Farah Mohammadzai (Accountant) to the staff at the end of 2021.

LOPC personnel policies and procedures are regularly reviewed, updated and approved annually by Session. The Personnel Team recognizes that staff compensation needs to be sufficient to attract the high quality and dedicated team that is currently in place. The team has established a process for annually reviewing all staff with adjustments in compensation based on established criteria.

As the Personnel Team looks to the future, they are grateful that the LOPC staff is prepared to continue to support church programs as they have historically done. The staff will be required to adapt to continually changing ways of reaching out to the LOPC and broader community through both digital formats and other means. The Personnel Team is confident that the wonderful LOPC staff is up to the task.

seedlings

2021 elder: Ellen Stuart

Seedlings is in its 38th year of operation and continues to be considered one of the premier preschools in the Bay Area. Under the leadership of Director Coleen Moulton and Assistant Director Kathy LaPlante, a parent and staff led Board of Directors and 15 teachers, Seedlings continues to excel in providing a safe, nurturing, developmentally appropriate environment where children six months to five years old can play, learn, and grow.

Seedlings continues to operate keeping families and staff as safe as possible, despite the global pandemic. One of two classrooms that closed during the initial year of the pandemic reopened this year, and they were able to hire two new staff members to add to their team.

The school continues to follow the strict protocols determined by the program's licensing agency, Community Care Licensing, Centers for Disease Control, Contra Costa County Health Services, and the State of California.

Seedlings expanded to 95 families this year in seven classrooms with 15 dedicated teachers. They also welcomed 30 new families this year. The program continues to navigate changing protocols, and providing a safe and healthy environment takes precedence above all else.



Halloween at Seedlings

seniors

2021 elder: Catherine Coleman

Reaching out to LOPC seniors was a priority for Senior Ministries in 2021. Touch of Love projects were a great success in 2021. This was an effort to connect with older LOPC members who weren't able to leave their homes often due to the pandemic. Small gifts (including home communion kits) and live plants were delivered to homes and were physical reminders that these individuals are cared for by the LOPC community. Judging by responses, the most appreciated aspect of the Touch of Love efforts may have been the deliveries made by young families who were eager to engage with seniors for outdoor chats.

Zoom exercise and education classes were well received by the LOPC community, especially for those who were unable to be together in-person. The Senior Ministry Team lined up excellent presenters and appealing subject matter yielded consistent attendance.

Writing of cards and making phone calls was a priority. Rossmoor Parish members emphasized that staying connected and up to date, plus keeping that community's directory current during pandemic restrictions, was deeply appreciated.

Thursday Fellowship (TF) volunteers were assiduous in outreach efforts after weekly events were no longer feasible. Several Zoom meetings of volunteers served to organize, share TF guest developments, and plan deliveries to the roster of guests twice during the year of waxed Amaryllis requiring no water.

Covid conditions at the end of 2021 enabled a lively in-person holiday gathering bringing nearly 70 TF guests together on December 16. Painstaking attention by the planning volunteers to health safety details resulted in an event featuring a craft, live music and a carol sing, and a catered box lunch for each guest.

First Friday Forum (FFF) transformed their popular January-June program to an online format. A positive addition was the ability to increase physical convenience for the speakers, since programs were online. And FFF was able to consider online resources to grow its audience and email distribution list.

spiritual formation

2021 elders: Terry Clark and Kara Yu

This past year, Spiritual Formation and its sub-ministries teams adapted well to virtual events as the result of the pandemic.

In 2021, LOPC produced over 205 Daily Devotional Videos! To date there are over 230 email subscribers who get devotionals emailed to them as they air, and these videos are also uploaded to LOPC's Facebook page, Instagram, and on the website. This online ministry drives virtual engagement with members and friends and beyond.

In January, the winter/spring 10:10 program had special presentations on "How worship builds resistance" with Jennifer Davidson and "How worship gives us purpose" with Ray Campton. In February, there was a special presentation: "Worship gives us direction—a look at the Belhar Confession" with Allan Boesak (presentation archived online). In September, Pastor Lauren Gully presented a hybrid 10:10 on learnings from her Sabbatical.

The Interfaith Team held a very successful Warm Winter Clothing drive in January, collecting over 1,000 clothing items from generous LOPC members that were sorted and packed for distribution to un-housed men and teen boys in partnership with White Pony Express.

In February, the Interfaith Team collaborated with LOPC's interfaith partners in presenting a Zoom program "Heart to Heart/Neighbor to Neighbor" bringing 50 people of different faiths together in small groups discussing how their faith traditions and communities have supported them during the pandemic.

The six-week Lenten Study had 160 participants, in small groups, studying the book *Entering the Passion of Jesus*, considering meaningful moments in the last week of Jesus' life, to encourage self-reflection on what Jesus may be challenging people individually and the church as a whole to risk as they respond to God's call to action on anti-racism.

The fall series on "God's Grace in Our Stories: Spiritual Practices for Anti-Racism," engaged 50 participants in small groups over five weeks in guided exploration of their own personal stories and racism experiences. Guest speakers Rev. Riana Robinson and Gent Grush facilitated an online/in-person hybrid retreat, leading a path to discernment for one's own next steps in their anti-racism journeys.

All of the SF teams, including those referenced above as well as Women's Spiritual Journey and Companions, remained very focused throughout the year addressing multiple issues on anti-racism and anti-bias.



worship & music



2021 elders: Judy Clark and Brian O'Shea

The global pandemic necessitated continued flexibility, and LOPC Pastors, staff, and Worship and Music Team continued to show great resilience to keep worship strong. The year started with Livestream services as the only option for worship, but in mid-April the Sanctuary opened up to live, in-person services and utilized highly innovative technology solutions to create "hybrid" services which integrated both live and recorded content. Strong safety protocols were implemented, including mask requirements for all indoor activities on campus, and aligned with Contra Costa County Health Services to ensure that all Covid guidelines were followed, with the top priority of keeping the congregation, staff, and guests safe.

After a Covid hiatus in 2020, the LOPC Christmas Concert took place on December 11 and 12. The concert was a complete success and featured an amazing performance by the LOPC Festival Choir and Orchestra and several guest artists. A total of 911 guests attended the three concerts. The Worship and Music team would like to express its deep gratitude to the performers, the wonderful staff, and the amazing Director of Worship and Music, Brett Strader.

The LOPC floral team continued to create their beautiful arrangements for the Sanctuary, and this November the quilts, provided by members of the congregation, were once again displayed. The LOPC Handbell Choir is currently on hold following the resignation of director, Tess Houston.

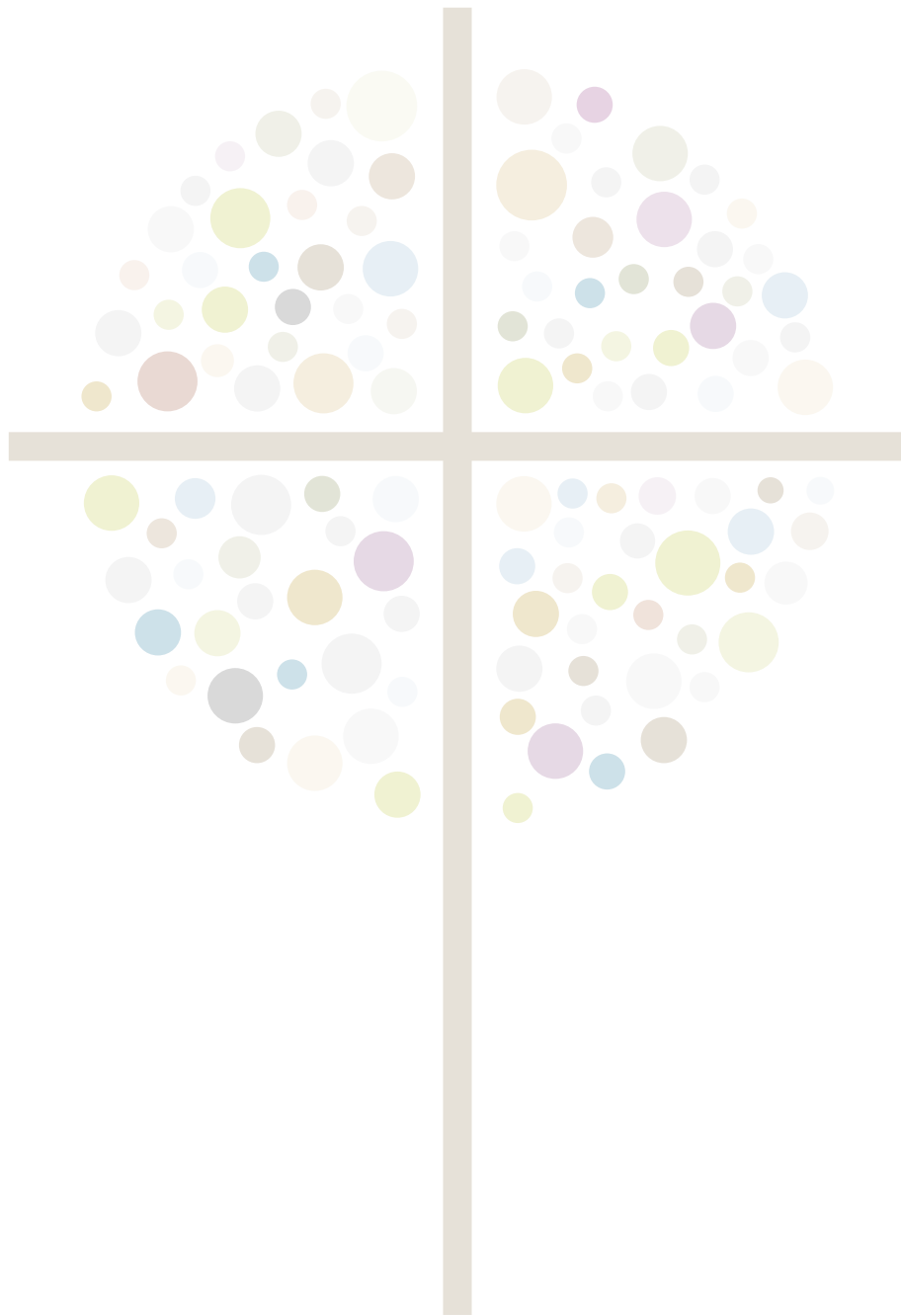
Overall, 2021 ended with strong Livestream and in-person attendance, a truly remarkable Christmas Concert, and great momentum heading into the new year.

youth

2021 elders: Lee O'Haver and Tom Scovel

Like other ministries in the congregation, the Youth Ministry team remained challenged by the continuing and evolving constraints due to the pandemic. However, because Youth Directors Keris Dahlkamp and Allison Kunz had nimbly transformed most of the youth programs to outdoor settings in 2021, they were able to continue with safe and successful YOW and BTW weekly gatherings throughout the year. During the first week of June, they held a highly fulfilling and well-attended "Project Serve" event where over 70 youth and over a dozen adult advisors and volunteers alternated by groups to work at LOPC or at the sites for Monument Crisis Center, the CCC and Solano Food Bank, Trinity Center, White Pony Express, Loved Twice, and the church's Thursday Fellowship. On the last day, all gathered at the LOPC parking lot that had been transformed by Habitat for Humanity into a large production line to build ten playhouses for children of members of the Armed Services living in the Bay Area. Again, following county health protocols and because restrictions were eased in the fall, they were able to hold all YOW and BTW programs indoors beginning with pizza meals. They ended the year with the ever-popular Mediocre Talent Night for YOW and a celebratory dress-up dinner for BTW in December. Youth worship services were greatly enhanced by youth bands led by Michael Morales. Keris, Allison, and the Youth Ministry Team are grateful for all the youth who took advantage of these program. A special thanks to the faithful advisors whose love for Christ is manifested in their service to our youth.





Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church

2021 Annual Report

49 Knox Drive • Lafayette, CA 94549

925-283-8722

lopc.org