

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church





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pastor's message

By Peter Whitelock — Head of Staff

Dear LOPC Family,

What an impactful and transformative year this has been! While it is impossible to capture the full scope of how our ministry has impacted the community and reached beyond our walls, the pages of this annual report offer a faithful record of faith in motion. I commend it to you, trusting that you will be encouraged and enlightened as you read about our shared journey of service and outreach.



We have worked diligently to remain true to our core identity: “a welcoming and loving community of faith that learns, grows, and serves together.” This is not just a mission statement; it is a living reality that I witness every day. Whether through our local outreach, global mission partnerships, or the quiet ways we care for one another in times of need, we are demonstrating what it means to follow the way of Jesus.

Our community of faith is comprised of a large gathering of servants who give generously of their time, talents, and treasure. Your stewardship is the fuel that makes our ministry possible. In an era defined by uncertainty, LOPC offers the steady promise of support to everyone who seeks it. I am continually amazed by how this congregation embraces new opportunities, provides for a vital ministry, and leads with compassion.

Even in reviewing our accomplishments of this past year, we are already leaning into a new year. Thank you for your faithfulness, your energy, and your heart for Christ. Together, we continue to grow as a beacon of hope, following the path of love.

Yours,

Peter Whitelock

care ministries

Submitted by Elders Diane Vollering and Alexis Thompson

The Care Ministry Team at LOPC dedicated 2025 to fostering “belonging in community” through expanded service, education, and new connection groups.

The Deacons exemplified the ministry of compassion, distributing over \$35,000 via the Community Care Fund to support mental health, legal aid, and urgent family needs. In addition to delivering countless meals and maintaining contact with over 80 home-centered members, Deacons supported a high volume of memorial services and began serving communion at the new Chapel service. Significantly, the Deacons successfully assumed leadership of the Kurth Memorial Garden, ensuring the long-term continuity of this sacred ministry.

Stephen Ministry continued to grow, commissioning four new ministers and training a new leader, Heather Logan. They provided vital care to congregants and offered

impactful continuing education, including a well-attended presentation on end-of-life doula services.

Our commitment to parent and community education remained strong. In September, we partnered with *NeuroSpark+* to host a workshop series on emotional safety and resilience, supporting local parents, educators, and the Seedlings staff. We also successfully launched “Women on Wednesdays” (WOW), a new weekly group for connection and study that gained wonderful momentum through Advent.

As the Family Ministry Task Force finalizes research for future programming, we offer thanks to Elder Diane Vollering for her faithful three-year term and support Elder Alexis Thompson as she transitions to Family Ministry. We look forward to an amazing 2026!

children’s ministry

Submitted by Elder Nancy Baum



2025 saw several changes for Children’s Ministry. With the return of a two-service format, Bloom and Belong was created as an additional offering for the 9:00 a.m. Sunday School program. In the fall, The Garden expanded to a three-classroom setting at 10:30 a.m. to better serve children with age-appropriate curriculum and engagement. We also explored a variety of curriculum offerings and decided to switch to “Sparkhouse” curriculum published by Augsburg Press.

We welcomed 65 children into our Vacation Bible Camp and took them on an adventure through Alaska, learning that God can point the way true north. The special offering collected at VBC was sent to John Muir Land Trust and we raised over \$743 for its foundation.

We enjoyed our children’s choir during Holy Week and on Christmas Eve with 22 beautiful voices leading us in worship.

PLAY on Wednesday provided a creative and welcoming outlet for grade school children to explore the Bible in a mid-week setting. Using drama, games and hands-on lessons, participants performed, made quilted jackets, and showcased their work during two end-of-session gatherings of family and friends.

Directors Emily Austin and Susan Wentworth visited older children’s preschool classrooms at Seedlings, creating an additional bridge between the preschool and the LOPC community. Through their engagement with the students, families became more aware of LOPC programs and offerings.

We continued to welcome over 25 families to our various Special Needs programs. We had over 35 volunteers ranging from the age of 12–80 at each of our events to support our families who have children and youth with special needs.

connecting/membership ministry

Submitted by Elders Patrick Chen and Lauren Browman

The Membership Team hosted three in-person new member classes in 2025. We introduced two of the three classes of new members to the congregation during worship, and the third and final 2025 new member class to be introduced to the congregation in January. The ministry welcomed a total of 40 new members in 2025, which did not include youth confirmands since there was no confirmation class in 2025. In December, the team completed the annual membership rolls maintenance project; 65 members were removed (two requested to be removed/letters of transfer out and 19 deceased members.) Total active membership at LOPC is 1624 members.

We continued to develop the Next Steps program, a program to assist new members with becoming engaged with the LOPC community and programs. Emails were personally sent to recent new members with intentional invitations to specific volunteer opportunities, social events (like Fall Fest), and other church programs to get/keep them involved. The team reached out about every six weeks or when the calendar had events coming up. New members are considered “new” for 24 months after joining LOPC and the team will stay in contact with them during that time.

This program includes a reception by elders, connecting over lunches and social mixers, and introductions at a worship service. Furthermore, we encourage immediate participation in events and service opportunities sponsored by Fellowship, Spiritual Formation, Children/Youth, and Mission. For those who attended the new membership classes but were not ready to officially join, we continued to communicate with them and extend open invitations to explore the life of the church. The Membership Team remained committed to help seekers and new members find LOPC a welcoming church where they can freely Attend, Connect, Serve, and Give.

To increase visibility of new member resources on Sunday morning, the Welcome Center was renamed Visitors Center. This new name will more clearly help welcome visitors and direct them to the physical place if they have questions. Gina Hageboeck joined LOPC staff in 2025 as Chris’s assistant, and she has been a wonderful addition to the team. She added so much to the execution of our events, classes, and the Visitors Center welcome bags.

fellowship

Submitted by Elders Jonathan Nolen and Cathy Eberhardt



Throughout 2025, churchwide fellowship events were strong and continued to draw a record number of attendees. These included the winter Movie Night, spring Palm Sunday Egg Hunt, summer Backyard Bash and Ministry Fair, October’s Fall Fest, and December’s Jingle Bell Jamboree. The largest events were the Palm Sunday Egg Hunt, Backyard Bash, Fall Fest, and Jingle Bell Jamboree, bringing in between 300 and 400 people at each. This is the result of LOPC staff member Gina Hageboeck’s excellent planning skills which led to successful marketing and volunteer recruitment. 2025 was a success for community events and engagement!

Community Groups were redesigned to transition from service-plus-meetings into interest and lifestyle-

based groups focusing on connection while fostering a sense of community. Newer groups, like Young Families Connect, Middle & High School Families, and Women on Wednesdays, created opportunity for group connection that was not previously available. Legacy Groups remain strong, while some adjusted their schedules and recruited members.

A months-long Significant Relational Groups Task Force was formed to evaluate LOPC groups. The goal of the task force is to define what is working, what is not working, and how to better develop and support LOPC’s groups with the five pillars of the church in mind. The task force will continue their work in 2026.

finance

Submitted by Charles Cowden

LOPC benefited greatly from the strong support of the congregation in 2025, with members contributing their time and incredible talents in addition to financial resources. The church finished the year in a robust financial position, recording a net surplus of receipts over disbursements.

Receipts and Giving

The congregation demonstrated remarkable generosity by contributing \$3,613,000 which was \$586,000 more than budgeted. Pledge income remained the largest source of revenue, which is vital for church planning and making long-term commitments. Non-pledge gifts and loose offerings were also stronger than anticipated and we had exceptional responses to special gifts and offerings. Additionally, there was stronger than expected support from Seedlings and contributions exceeded expectations for year-end giving. The LOPC Foundation also provided over \$430,000 in budget support for operations, further strengthening the church’s financial position.

Expenditures and Mission Support

In 2025, total expenditures amounted to \$4,008,000 which was very close to budget if Mission Special Offerings are excluded. This outcome resulted, in part, from the invaluable contributions of volunteers, whose efforts helped reduce expenses. While overall expenditures did exceed budgeted amounts, this was primarily due to increased support for Mission in Society and non-mission special gifts, which were generously backed by the congregation and distributed to both global and local mission partners. The support distributed to our Mission partners in 2025 totaled \$443,000.

Capital Spending

In addition to operating budget support, the LOPC Foundation also reimbursed LOPC \$329,000 for

LOPC 2025 and 2024 Operating Results			
	2025 Actual	2024 Actual	Variance
Congregational Giving:			
Pledge Income	2,397,881	2,340,747	57,134
Non Pledge Gifts	735,041	692,201	42,840
Faith Component	191,064	218,147	-27,083
Mission Special Offerings & Gifts	289,394	304,237	-14,843
Total Congregational Giving	3,613,380	3,555,332	58,048
Other Sources of Income:			
Seedlings Contribution	186,654	162,997	23,657
Foundation Support	431,067	424,665	6,402
Investment and Other Income	95,282	86,860	8,422
Total from Other Sources	713,003	674,522	38,481
Total Receipts	\$4,326,383	\$4,229,854	\$96,529
Disbursements:			
Ministry Teams Spending	3,565,226	3,414,221	151,005
Mission Spending	443,081	434,597	8,484
Total Disbursements	4,008,307	3,848,818	159,489
Net Before Session Transfers*	318,076	381,036	-62,960
Pastor Housing Fund	-300,000	-300,000	
Net Additions to Session Reserves	18,076	81,036	

*Net before transfers to Session Designated Funds to be approved at Session meeting.

capital improvements and repairs in 2025. These capital expenditures made in 2025 included the Chapel HVAC, windows in the Christian Life Center, new technology for the Oak Room, paving the parking lot and other expenses for painting, carpet and furnishings.

Strategic Transfers and Reserve Funds

LOPC’s Total Receipts exceeded Operational Expenditures in 2025 which provided additional resources to supplement Session Approved Designated Funds available for future needs.

Looking Ahead

The congregation’s steadfast support has positioned LOPC for continued strength and growth. As we look forward to 2026, we do so with optimism, confident in the church’s ongoing ministry and mission outreach to a world in need.

2024 LOPC CPA Reviewed Financial Statements are currently available on request. Please contact Jaime Polsn or Suzanne Ferraro if you are interested in viewing them.

foundation

Submitted by LOPC Foundation Trustee Lois Boyd

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 2025 fiscal year ended September 30, the Foundation appropriated:

- \$441,000 for operating budget support;
- \$367,000 for facilities-related projects.

Grants for LOPC's 2025 operating budget supported general ministry expenditures relating to: church staff salary support, mission partners, deacons, spiritual formation, family ministry, children, and youth.

The Foundation closed its 2025 fiscal year with \$15.3 million of invested net assets, including: \$5.3 million in unrestricted funds supporting general ministry, \$7.7 million of restricted facilities funds, and \$2.2 million of other restricted funds (deacons, youth, leadership, fellowship, mission, and music). The Foundation has a general practice of annually appropriating 4% of a rolling 12-quarter average of invested net assets for each of its funds to LOPC. Operating expenses of the Foundation were 0.5% of the net assets.

In fiscal year 2025, the Foundation welcomed \$496,000 in both direct and legacy gifts. We are tremendously grateful

for, and enriched by, the generosity of those who have contributed to support the many ministries and missions at LOPC.

Highlights of the year included:

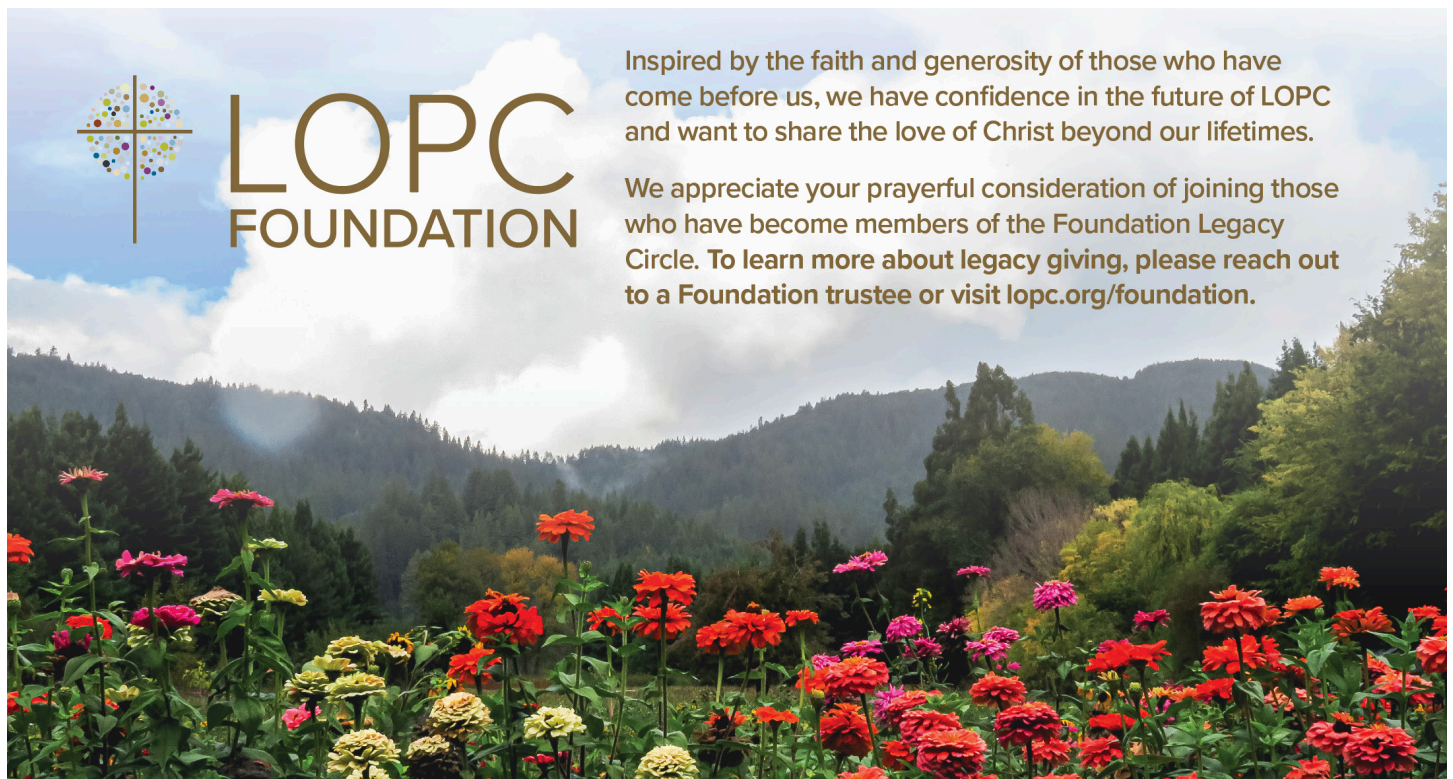
1. Exceeding \$15 million in assets;
2. Adding a significant number of new Legacy Circle members (those who have made a formal commitment to support the Foundation, formerly Friends of the Foundation);
3. Sponsoring the Visioning Event where pastors reported the outcomes of the congregational surveys and discussed ministry goals;
4. Hosting LOPC's Fall Fest, where trustees helped to serve meals for 300+ and had the opportunity to introduce ourselves and explain how the Foundation partners with the church.

If you have included the Foundation in your estate planning, please let us know so we can thank you. Please contact any of the trustees if you or someone you know would like to learn more or if you would like to make a direct gift or arrange a legacy gift and join other Legacy Circle members. The 2026 trustees are: Lois Boyd, Mark Cratsenburg, Jen Crocker, Esther Kim, Gwenn Lennox, Cam Olufson, Linda Rosenthal, Mike Ross and Mark Weaver.



Inspired by the faith and generosity of those who have come before us, we have confidence in the future of LOPC and want to share the love of Christ beyond our lifetimes.

We appreciate your prayerful consideration of joining those who have become members of the Foundation Legacy Circle. **To learn more about legacy giving, please reach out to a Foundation trustee or visit lopc.org/foundation.**



mission

Submitted by Elders Phil Hunter and Juanita Kizor



In 2025, our congregation came together in amazing ways, offering not only help but also hope, care, and friendship to those who needed it most. Every project and act of service, big or small, made a real difference and showed what we can achieve when we serve with love and generosity.

Love Does Day. Our annual Congregational Day of Service brought together over **250 volunteers of all ages**. On campus, we sorted and bagged 10,000 diapers, assembled 60 shopping carts for Monument Crisis Center, and created 80 fleece blankets for children through Calico. Clothing and household donations were sorted for Youth Homes' Thrift Store, helping them raise over \$7,500. Volunteers also assembled 290 breakfast bags, 269 toiletry kits for unhoused neighbors, and 107 full-size toiletry kits for Hope Solutions. Off campus, teams cleaned and organized kitchens at STAND! and Loaves & Fishes, rescued and repackaged food at White Pony Express, and partnered with Habitat for Humanity on the Esperanza Place development.

Serving All Year Long. Love Does is more than just one day, it's a year-round commitment. Over **225 volunteers of all ages** served at MCC Rice and Beans days, Food Bank WorkDays, Trinity Center Meal Kits, Hope Solutions Backpacks of Hope, and more, making a difference at every step.

Global Mission Partner Support: LOPC supported our international partners, Fotokids, Atfaluna, Children of Faith, Kapnek, and Congo, by giving financial gifts from special offerings and donations, offering prayers through monthly groups and *United in Prayer*, and building youth connections with Children of Faith through exchange programs. The congregation also welcomed international partners, such as Anand Thandu from Children of Faith, during worship and on the plaza. Together, these efforts helped our partners care for and uplift communities around the world.

Standing with Our Neighbors. Immigration advocacy volunteers distributed over **7,000 Know Your Rights cards**, trained as Welcome Navigators to accompany people to court, and served as Court Watchers at Contra Costa immigration hearings.

Youth Making a Difference. More than **45 youth** served at KidsFest at Hope Solutions, bringing crafts, celebration, and encouragement to children and families.

Winter Nights. Over **240 volunteers** supported five unhoused families with meals, bingo nights, a Halloween party, homework help, movie nights, visits from Canine Companions, handmade quilts, and warm items from Chicks with Sticks. Floral and custodial teams kept the space welcoming and bright.

Generosity That Makes a Difference

- \$98,980 donated to special offerings
- Over 77 barrels of food (15,400 lbs.) delivered to Monument Crisis Center (up from 12,900 lbs. last year)
- Over 150 MCC holiday food boxes distributed
- Hope Solutions Spirit of Giving Program: 35 families and 100+ individuals sponsored with gifts and grocery gift cards
- Two Trinity Center clothing drives with overwhelming community response, providing enough clothing to meet needs throughout the seasons
- EFP bedding and linen drive resulting in five carloads of donations for families in need

Love Does participation more than doubled in 2025, showing the incredible generosity of our congregation. Every act of service made a difference so thank you to all who gave their time, energy, and love. Here's to an even more impactful 2026!

operations

Submitted by Elder Jeff Budke

The Operations Ministry's mission is to create a warm, welcoming, functional and beautiful space for worship, meetings, and activities on campus. The team is responsible for the maintenance, operations, and improvement projects for the physical campus buildings and grounds as well as the information technology and audio/visual infrastructure.

Operations

The team was responsible for the set-up, production, post-production, and clean up for all the happenings on campus in 2025. Including:

- **Sanctuary:** ~100 events including worship services, memorial services, First Friday Forums, concerts, and other community events.
- **Christian Life Center (CLC):** Seedlings Preschool (daily Tuesday thru Friday), Sunday morning Children's and Youth Ministry (The Garden, Bloom and Belong, Youth Alive, and BTW – By the Way), and weekly Quilters meeting.
- **Chapel Building:** Al-Anon meetings, Sunday worship, memorial services, Youth Ministry meetings, Stephen Ministry meetings, Community Life meetings, Lamorinda Village Offices, and LOPC Foundation Offices.
- **Fellowship Hall Building:** Weekly events include Thursday Fellowship, Cub Scouts, Lamorinda Village, and YOW. Bi-weekly and monthly events include Women's Bible Study, Friday Fun Nights, Congo Mission Team, and Child Abuse Prevention. Periodic events include memorial receptions, movie nights, luncheons, speakers, and Canine Companions meetings. Annual events include our Leadership Retreat, love does, Seedlings Art Show, Palm Sunday Egg Hunt, Vacation Bible Camp, Backyard Bash, Warm Winter Nights, and the Jingle Bell Jamboree.
- **Ministry Center:** Provides office space and IT infrastructure for church staff. Library provides meeting space for Operations, Community Life, and Worship meetings. The Sunshine Factory, our newly designed community workspace, is used for large scale event preparation.
- **Kurth Memorial Garden:** Interment, plaque installation, and landscape maintenance.
- **Grounds:** Weekly landscape maintenance, repair, and clean up.

Capital Projects

We were blessed with approximately \$250,000 from the LOPC Foundation, which contributed significantly to important capital improvements on campus.

- **Sanctuary:** Exterior staining (50%) and A/V equipment replacement.
- **Christian Life Center (CLC):** Window replacement, HVAC system repair, various security improvements, interior painting, and room 202 floor repair.
- **Chapel Building:** HVAC system replacement, narthex refurbishment, woodpecker damage repair and remediation, balcony furnishings, and visitor sign installation.
- **Fellowship Hall Building:** Kitchen refrigerator replacement.
- **Ministry Center:** Oak Room painting, bathroom exhaust fan replacement, damaged ceiling tile replacement, office painting (2), Sunshine Factory creation, glass alcove enclosure installation, HVAC repair, and lighting repair.
- **Grounds:** Parking lot resealing/restriping and stairs staining.

Led by Jaime Polson, our core Operations Team consists of Jim Davis, Tom Galbraith, Kevin Miller, Lupe Lopez, Eric Bell, Lalo Ryes, and Ricardo Enriquez. We are also extremely grateful to Rich Lewis and our Thursday Work Crew whose efforts and expertise are indispensable.



personnel

Submitted by Elder Royce Nicolaisen

The 2025 Personnel Team included Elder Royce Nicolaisen, Lois Boyd, Bill DeWolf, Linus Eukel, Meehae Kwon, Brian O'Shea, and Peter Whitelock. Terry Clark served the first half of the year prior to moving out of the area.

The team met monthly and focused on reviewing employee policies, compensation, and benefits to ensure LOPC is offering competitive salaries and benefits and a fair, equitable, and enjoyable work environment.

Employee Compensation & Benefits

The team discussed and reviewed current benefits including workers' compensation, medical, dental, vision, disability, paid time off, and paid holidays. The team presented pastor salaries and benefits to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on February 2. The team discussed the importance of housing support for clergy which will remain a priority for the team.

Employee Policies

The team reviewed and approved the LOPC employee handbook which is updated annually to ensure compliance with current labor law. The sabbatical policy for clergy was reviewed to ensure compliance with the San Francisco Presbytery's updated requirements.

Staff Updates and Transitions

In 2025 LOPC said goodbye to Cathy Scheve, administrative assistant for Jaime Polson, and Dave Englebrektson, campus operations coordinator. We welcomed part time administrative coordinators Shelli Brudzinski, Amy Campbell, and Gina Hageboeck to support clergy and the administrative manager. LOPC member, Jim Davis, was hired as the new campus operations manager and Rev. Cynthia Purivs joined us in January as the youth ministry director. Rev. Jane MacKenzie's temporary contract was extended for two years following approval from the Personnel Team and the San Francisco Presbytery. Planning for increased staffing and demands related to adding a second Sunday worship service in September was a primary consideration during the summer.

Staff Performance Reviews

Annual performance reviews, with performance standards, were completed in the fall. The team completed Rev. Peter Whitelock's annual review in November and presented it to session in December. The team continues to be both impressed and grateful for his leadership and guidance for the entire congregation.



seedlings

Submitted by Coleen Moulton

In 2025, Seedlings proudly upheld its status as a premier preschool in the Lamorinda area, serving over 107 children and welcoming more than 30 new families to our campus.

Under the guidance of Director Coleen Moulton and Assistant Director Kathy LaPlante, along with a dedicated parent and staff-led Board of Directors and 22 committed teachers, Seedlings continues to thrive in creating a safe, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate environment for children aged six months to five years.

Through the expertise of our infant, toddler and preschool teachers, our well planned curriculum supports each stage of early development and builds on the social, emotional and academic foundations that benefit children well into their future learning. This year, our infants, toddlers and preschoolers focused on multi-step art projects, working together using classroom materials, as well as learning to be a friend!

Seedlings also maintained its focus on being LOPC's "front porch" ministry by welcoming families to our campus throughout the year:

- In March, we hosted our 20th annual Spring Showcase, where teachers collaborated for months with children from infants to pre-kindergartners to create stunning masterpieces to display.
- We welcomed more than 40 families onto our waiting list, eager to secure a spot in our program for the upcoming year. These families participated in private tours with the directors to learn more about our program and LOPC.
- Our Lamorinda renowned Summer at Seedlings program welcomed back former graduates in our new TK program!
- Our 2nd annual October Truck or Treat event provided children with the chance to explore various community vehicles, including a fire truck, police car, and school bus, while trick-or-treating. This Lamorinda community event attracted over 300 visitors!

None of these opportunities would be possible without the help of our many parent volunteers and staff who continue to make Seedlings the wonderful place it is!



seniors

Submitted by Elder Sally Roberts



Senior Ministries experienced an active and meaningful year, providing opportunities for older adults to connect within the church and the wider community.

Our Rossmoor Parish gathered in the spring at the Stanley Dollar Clubhouse. The afternoon offered time for fellowship, learning about mission projects, and sharing personal experiences of staying connected to the church. Seniors living in Rossmoor continue to be a vibrant and engaged community, eager to build relationships and support one another.

First Friday Forum presented six engaging speakers on the first Friday of the months January through June. Topics included the economics of migration, the science of sensitive kids, the dawn of artificial intelligence, the story of human trafficking, and understanding wildfires and climate change. These speakers addressed timely issues of interest to our adult community.



Workshops on Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) were offered twice during the year, with 10–12 participants attending each three-week session. Couples had the opportunity to learn together, share experiences, and explore practical tools to help navigate the challenges many seniors face along this journey. Following the three-week course, participants were invited to join Pastor Jane's weekly MCI Support Group. The need for dedicated support groups for individuals with MCI is evident. Participants in this now two-year support group attend regularly and have expressed a strong desire for continued connection and guidance.

Thursday Fellowship celebrated its 46th year. This vibrant and large ministry meets weekly in Fellowship Hall, where 60–75 guests and volunteers enjoy an afternoon of connection, lunch, activities, and programs. Many participants attend with a caregiver. Caregivers value the opportunity to connect with others and have offered significant support to the large network of volunteers who faithfully plan activities, speakers, and meals.

Bereavement and grief classes were offered twice in 2025. Held in person for nine weeks, they provided a welcoming space for individuals experiencing loss to share, learn coping strategies, and receive validation from others on a similar journey. Three additional classes of interest to our senior community were held after worship on Sundays in the spring and fall. These classes—*Memory Matters*, *Hospice and End of Life Care Decisions*, and *Promoting Positive Aging*—were very popular and attended not only by senior adults, but also by younger adults seeking support and information for their parents.

Together, these ministries reflect our ongoing commitment to nurturing connection, compassion, and lifelong faith formation among older adults, while responding thoughtfully to the evolving needs of our community.



spiritual formation

Submitted by Elders Jeff Eyet and Sebastien DuBois

The Spiritual Formation Team explored opportunities to cultivate and facilitate the spiritual growth of LOPC members and the community. Our vision is to build a supportive community where members can openly share their faith journey and learn from each other, while encouraging spiritual development across all aspects of life, including personal character, relationships, and service.

2025 provided opportunities to reflect, plan, learn and evolve offerings, to welcome new team members, and to support the transition of legacy programs. The team was inspired by the commitment made by program leaders including Carl Grant, Robyn Dean, Carson Beckemeyer, Mary Lou Browning, and Gloria Reid.

As the team recognizes and honors the 3-year term completion of Jeff Eyet as the elder of Spiritual Formation, we welcome the addition of Heather Logan as the new elder for the ministry for 2026.

Programs from 2025 included The Women's Spiritual Journey, Men's Ministry (Monday Nights and Men's Friday

Fellowship), Women's Ministry (Women on Wednesdays), and Companions for the Journey. There were also ongoing study groups throughout the calendar year that gain very good engagement. During Lent, 9 study groups read *From Wilderness to Glory* by N.T. Wright. A Fall book study had 10 small groups engage *The Good and Beautiful Life: Putting on the Character of Christ* by James Bryan Smith. For Advent, 11 small groups engaged with *God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Many thanks to small group leaders: Chris Baldwin, Jeff Eyet, Peter Whitelock, Sharon Bartlett, Heather Logan, Sue Nagle, Jane MacKenzie, Cynthia Purvis, Jim & Carson Beckemeyer, Tom Scovel, Alexis Thompson, & Diane Vollerling.

A new program was launched with the help of Carson Beckemeyer's "Calm for Kids/Mindful Movement" that ran through Vacation Bible Camp and midweek Play on Wednesday programs for kids and parents. Pastor Jane MacKenzie hosted "Living Waters for Anxious Times", a contemplative ministry opportunity.

worship & music

Submitted by Bettie Graves and Jody Black

As we stand at the beginning of a New Year it is important to take time and examine where we have journeyed over the last year. Our vision for Music and Worship at LOPC is to find ways to develop an open and inclusive family of faith.

To this end the Worship and Music Team is comprised of a group of dedicated individuals who share their skills. Along with our choirs and pastoral leadership the Worship and Music team is responsible for greeting worshippers, arranging flowers, completing seasonal displays, and supplying our pews with order and the materials needed to keep them current.

Highlights from 2025 include:

- As worship attendance increased, a second Sunday worship service in the chapel was added and ran from March – June, when we went back to one service for the summer months.
- The Lenten sermon series was based on the Mysterious Parables of Jesus from Luke's Gospel.
- Our summer sermon series was titled "Travel Adventures from the Bible".

- After much consideration, LOPC's session approved adding a second Sunday worship service in the sanctuary, with new worship times at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- LOPC's Music Ministry sponsored a big band concert at LOPC featuring jazz and swing favorites. Net proceeds benefited Monument Crisis Center.
- "A Musical Remembrance for All Souls" was held on All Saint's Day and provided a time to remember those we love who have died.
- The fall sermon series was titled "The Good and Beautiful Life".
- The annual Christmas concerts were a big success! The theme was "A Musical Nativity". One of the four concerts was advertised as family friendly and featured a petting zoo and hot chocolate on the plaza.

We give thanks to God for each person who serves with us on the Worship and Music Team and for you, our congregants. You are each appreciated and are a blessing. To God be the Glory and have a Blessed 2026!

youth

Submitted by Leslie Vallee

In 2025, the youth ministry at LOPC thrived under the leadership of Youth Director Cynthia Purvis focusing on spiritual growth, community building, service, and fun.

The year began for middle school Youth on Wednesdays (YOW) and high school By the Way (BTW), with exploring our identity through creative activities like life-sized posters and collages, tied to biblical themes of “being a child of God” and being “made in God’s image”. In the Spring we explored Jesus’ identity, his miracles, and salvation.

Service remained central: February blanket-tying for cancer patients, Spring Baskets for the children at Hope Solutions, multiple Kids Fest events with games, crafts, and lunches supporting local youth.

Summer service-learning opportunities included Service Squad where middle schoolers played bingo with the guests at Trinity Center, learned about regenerative farming, filled 200 care bags and wrote cards for the unhoused, and took a hike with the John Muir Land Trust.

The high schoolers traveled to Raleigh, NC on their service learning trip and served at a food bank, community garden, and a diaper bank, addressing homelessness, poverty, and food insecurity.

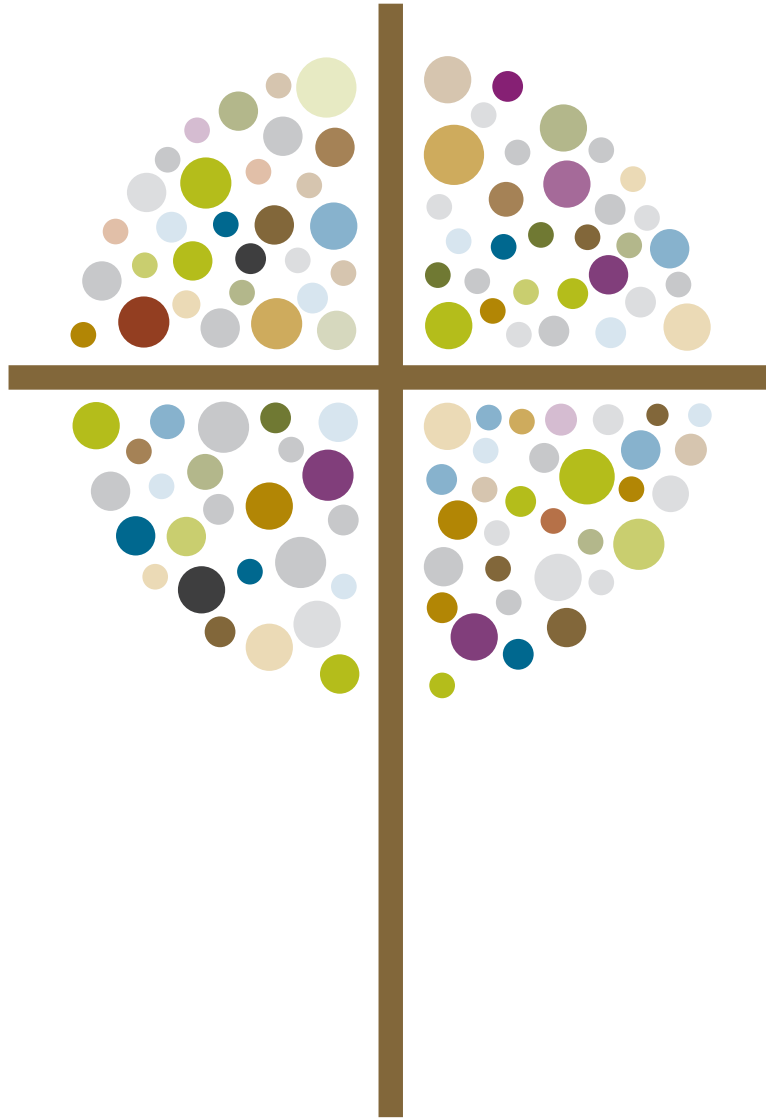
We also had lots of fun this year including a high ropes course and zip-lining at Westminster Woods, broomball, water balloon fights, s’mores, tie-dye, and Halloween Neon Night costume parties.



Fall brought Friendsgiving meals, confirmation lessons at BTW covering the Trinity, sacraments, the Holy Spirit, and Bible origins. At YOW we followed *The Good and Beautiful Life* and discussed anger, worry, lust, and lying. For Advent we explored waiting, enjoyed Christmas parties with ugly sweaters, the ever-popular Mediocre Talent Show at YOW, and the BTW alumni dinner.

Youth Alive, our Sunday morning gathering for 5th–8th graders, nurtured meaningful connections by exploring what it means to live in Christian community through lively discussions on friendship qualities, handling conflict, and pursuing unity.





Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church

2025 Annual Report

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lopc.org