

Spire

February
2024
Vol. 33
No. 2

A note from Pastor Karla...

A story was once told of a rich man who had a son to whom he promised an annual allowance. Every year on the same day, he would give his son the entire amount. After a while, it happened that the only time the father saw his son was on the day of allowance. These infrequent visits troubled the father because he loved and enjoyed his son so much. So, the father changed his plan and decided to only give his son enough of the allowance for the day. Then the next day his son would return. From then on, the father saw his son every day. This is the same way God deals with us as his children.

If you have ever wondered what God's will is for His people, you don't need to look further than the Bible to discover what that is. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Prayer is one of God's greatest gifts and one of God's greatest desires for us. Prayer enables us to remain connected to our Father with our daily needs.

If you can believe it, the Lenten season begins this month on February 14. Part of our focus for this period, as a way to deepen our discipleship and move our Faith Forward, is to practice as a community 40 days of intentional prayer. Now, many of us already pray daily, but perhaps we don't understand the many layers of prayer. We view prayer as conversation and less as communion. While conversation with God is important, communion with God

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Starting on Page 9!



ANNUAL REPORT
• 2023 •

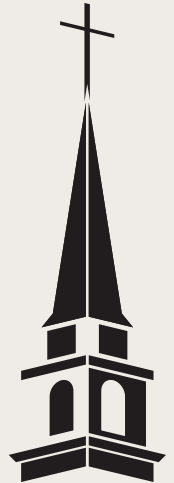
**Point Loma
Community
Presbyterian
Church**

Worship Services

Sundays
Sanctuary Service 9:00 am
Online Service 9:30 am
Café Service 10:30 am
in the Chapel

Rev. Karla Shaw
Senior Pastor

2128 Chatsworth Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92107



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Looking Ahead

Feb. 5	Teen Center Opens!
Feb. 5	VBS Registration Open
Feb. 7	Wine, Women & Word
Feb. 9	Parents' Night Out
Feb. 13	Senior Luncheon
Feb. 14	Ash Wednesday
Feb. 29	Make & Take



**Sign up for our weekly
email newsletter!**

Pointlomachurch.org

Our Vision

Loving everyone to *LIFE* with everything we have.

Our Mission

Through authentic community, we seek to *experience* Jesus, *journey* into deeper faith, *strengthen* the Church, and *transform* our world.

Values

We are a good home.
We are intergenerational.
We inspire engagement.

A note from Pastor Karla... continued from page 1

is an opportunity to align our will with God's will. This helps direct our "life together" when we are all praying around the same themes. Praying alone and praying alone together are two different things.

So, as we step into another quiet time of preparation, I invite you on this 40-day journey with me. What will God change in us and through us if we dare to ask and listen? May we have both the strength and courage to find out.

Rev. Karla Shaw
Senior Pastor



CHURCH NEWS

Session Meeting Highlights | JANUARY 24, 2024

Each January the Session starts the year electing and appointing the leaders and members of these church councils: Corporate Officers, Session Mission Groups, Executive Committee, Audit Committee Chair, Endowment Funds Committee, and Commissioners to the San Diego Presbytery. Next month the Session will approve the members of the many mission teams that do church work within the Mission Groups.

This is also when the Session reviews and approves the annual church budget, carefully prepared by the Finance Committee. Details of the budget will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on Feb. 11.

Renovation Building Committee chair Sue Skala presented a comprehensive review of the construction management team's recommendation for the project. The Session discussed and approved the several changes which will also be presented on Feb. 11.

The meeting concluded with the elders recounting how they have seen God at work in our church, with many hopeful and grateful comments.

John Spafford
Clerk

Campus Access

We will be activating our campus access control system on Monday Feb 12, securing the 3 perimeter gates to our inner campus. The front office will be the primary entrance for all members, guests and visitors, during business hours. Access passes will be granted to defined groups as needed for after hours access. Thank you for helping us keep track of who's on our campus. We look forward to seeing you!

Faith Forward

Thank you to all of our Faith Forward Pledgers!

We currently have commitment cards totalling 89% of our pledge goal for 2024. If you have not yet completed a Faith Forward pledge card, it's never too late!

Completing a pledge card each year is very helpful to our budgeting and planning process even if you have a recurring online gift. Thank you!



FEBRUARY FLOWER DONATIONS

Each week, the Deacons deliver flowers in order to brighten days and bring cheer. We are so grateful to those who have donated to make this flower ministry possible. The flowers this month are given...

- FEB 4 In loving memory of John Clark, Verna Wood Lamott and Janet Hill Lamott by David, Jack, Stephen and their families
And, by John Boaz in loving memory of his wife Marianne and her mother Mary Fisk.
- FEB 11 By Dimi Michalek in memory of her parents Norris and Anne Howe
And, in loving memory of Carolyn T. Meredith and Joel Calhoun by her family.
- FEB 18 In loving memory of his dear Linda, by Fred Daughtery
And, by Tom and Geri Nielsen in loving memory of their parents, Gerhard and Tove Nielsen and Henry and Dorothy Dahl.
- FEB 25 In honor of Dianne Grafton's birthday, and in memory of Bruce Jackson's (83) and Dottie Orr's (95) on February 20th, by Robert Tripp Jackson.



Life Events | Deaths

Anne Ryan passed away January 1, 2024. A Memorial Service will be held in the Sanctuary on Thursday February 1 at noon. Pastor Karla will be officiating.

Janet Pugh passed away January 13, 2024. Services are pending.

Lance Smith passed away on January 27, 2024. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, March 9 at 2:00 pm

Scody Hage passed away on January 18, 2024. Services are pending.




A service for **Hugh Larson** was held on January 27. Rev Chris Lenocker officiated.

EXPERIENCE JESUS

Engage with Us Online


Have you ever missed Worship? Or been especially moved by a song or message? We maintain a vast library of online resources including past worship services, choir selections and even Bible studies on our YouTube channel and other social media platforms. Find, follow and like us to keep up with the latest news and events!

pointlomachurch.org

   @pointlomachurch

We Have a Podcast!

The Point Loma Community Church Podcast includes the weekly sermon and other special classes. Listen each week on your favorite podcast platform.

 pointlomachurch.org/podcast

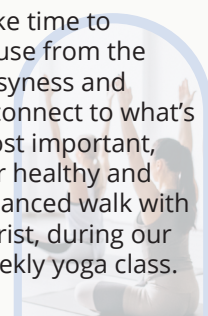
Release Reconnect Restore Yoga

WEDNESDAYS
12:00PM
CHAPEL OR
ZOOM



GET THE
ZOOM
LINK

Take time to pause from the busyness and reconnect to what's most important, our healthy and balanced walk with Christ, during our weekly yoga class.



Scan here

Serve at PLCPC!

Check out all the ways to serve around campus at pointlomachurch.org/serve

JOURNEY INTO DEEPER FAITH



Red Brick Preschool | redbrickpreschool.com

Our Infant classroom is full! This classroom will enroll as the age up to the toddler classroom. We will start enrollment for Fall 2024 this month for our 2-5 year olds. If you have any questions or would like more information on our wonderful preschool, please contact us at preschool@pointlomachurch.org.

February 5th - 15th in our entryway we will be having a Scholastic book fair. If you would like to get some children's books please stop by. Thank you all for your support and interest in the preschool.



Brick Youth Group

Ryan Silvia, ryan@pointlomachurch.org
Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

A NOTE FROM RYAN

Hi Red Brick Church! Can you believe it's already been two months? We've been having so much fun in the Youth Department, the time has just flown by. Youth Group on Sunday nights is going strong. We're super excited about our High School Hangouts and Teen Center, and the renovations to the Youth Center have it looking absolutely amazing! There's still a lot of work left to do and a lot of fun to be had so make sure you stay tuned for even more fun with PLCPC Youth.



CELEBRATE! YOUTH PARENTS DINNER WAS AN ABSOLUTE BLAST!

We had over 55 people participate. Thank you so much to all the amazing parents who put up with all my chaos and participated in all the silly activities we had planned. Will Ehrlich ate a particularly gross cookie and I saw quite a few amateur architects with their spaghetti and marshmallows and I know our students loved all of it. Thanks so much to everyone who signed up to help out! We've still got a lot of spaces left for volunteers so if you didn't get a chance to sign up we still need lots of help with volunteers or food! Contact Ryan for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

HIGH SCHOOL HANGOUTS THURSDAYS 3:00-6:00PM YOUTH CENTER

High School students are invited to join us in the Youth room after school! We'll have space to get work done or just a cozy couch to put your feet up on for a little while after a long day of classes. We'll end our time at 5:30pm with a meal and a short Bible Study. Hope to see you there!

TEEN CENTER OPEN! MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS 3:30PM-5:30PM YOUTH CENTER

Kicking off Feb. 5, PLCPC is hosting all Youth in the Point Loma area. We're partnering with the local YMCA to offer a space for all youth who just need a place where they can be themselves. All Youth in the area are welcome to join us after school for homework help, fun or just a quiet place to rest.



Sarah Butterfield, Director of Children & Family Ministry
sarah@pointlomachurch.org | 619-223-1633 x215



In Kids' Cafe, we started off 2024 learning about the two most important commandments: love God and love others. We got a chance to show our love for others at our most recent Family Jam with a service project! The kids helped assemble 100 hygiene kits full of toiletries for refugee families at the border. We partnered with World Relief to distribute the kits. Thanks to everyone who showed up to help!

In February for Kids' Cafe, we'll "gear up" and get ready to live with kindness, so we can show others they are valuable by how we treat them. Each Sunday, we'll hear a Bible Story and engage in activities and crafts to help us learn more about God. You can always see what we're up to with weekly updates on our website!



Mark your calendars for February 9th for a Parents' Night Out! We will have dinner and games for kids in grades Kindergarten and up, as well as childcare for kids 4 and under. We expect it to be a fun time for everyone, and we hope that parents will take advantage of a pre-Valentines' Day date night!



Our next Make and Take event is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 29th, from 5 to 7 PM. Join us in the FLC to make a beautiful wood ball spring wreath with faux floral and greenery! Light snacks will be provided, and childcare is available.

UPCOMING MOPS EVENTS

- **Feb 6** 9:30-11:30am
MOPS
- **Feb 13** 9:30-11am
Bible Study: Questions Jesus Asks
- **Feb 13** 6:30pm
Book Club: Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver
- **Feb 20** 9:30-11pm
"What's for Dinner?" with Grace Lomax
- **Feb 27** 9:30-11am
Bible Study: Questions Jesus Asks



**REGISTER YOUR CAMPER OR
TO VOLUNTEER AT VBS 2024**



STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

Participate in our knitting and crocheting group!

We meet the second Thursday of the month at 10:00 am in the Parlor. We each make 8 in squares that are sewn together to make blankets to donated to New Day Urban Ministries or MOM (Military Outreach Ministry).



Can't make the meetings? Here is the knitting pattern.

- Use size 10 needles
- Cast on 32 stitches (close to 8 inches across)
- Knit each row. Slip the first stitch of each row to create a neat edge.
- Keep knitting until work measures 8 inches from the cast on row then
- Bind off, work in the ends.
- To donate, drop off at the front office



Contact Hope Roel at hopearoel@outlook.com if you have any questions.

Wine, Women, & Word FEB 7, 5:00-7:00PM

Please join us for a time of relaxed fellowship, meeting new women and good conversation at the Point Loma home of Susan Cramer. Bring a friend! We request a \$15 donation for a light meal and beverages. Cash, check or Venmo accepted that evening. Please RSVP to jnissen2019@gmail.com to receive Susan's address.

MEN@WORK TUESDAYS, 8:30 AM LIBRARY & VIA ZOOM

We meet each week for a time of fellowship and Bible study. Afterwards, when needed we perform repairs, painting, and fix-it projects on our church campus and for the preschool.

For work projects contact Allen Hobbs, allenmhobbs@msn.com or Sam Bick, samuelbick@aol.com. For the Zoom link and Bible study information contact Em Cummins, emcum@sdsu.edu.

Women's Retreat

On January 27-29, women gathered at the Bahia for another successful annual Women's Retreat! It was a great time of fellowship and growing in faith.



Senior Adult Ministry Programs



VALENTINE LUNCHEON EXTRAVAGANZA WITH THE RHINESTONE GRANNIES

**Tuesday, February 13 • Doors open at 10:00am,
Entertainment at 11:00am, Lunch at 12:00pm • Family
Life Center - \$7 at the door**

Don't miss this very special luncheon when we will celebrate both Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day. Entertainment will be provided by the Rhinestone Grannies, a dynamic team of dancers who are all over the age of 70! If you have not experienced the Grannies before, you are in for a treat! Menu will be roasted pork tenderloin with cranberry-apple chutney; herb-seasoned baby potatoes, vegetable and dessert. RSVP required by 2/9 for this popular event.

RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP

Wednesday, February 21 • 12:00 - 1:00pm • Family Life Center

Would you like to learn more about proper recycling and composting? The new rules about green waste and recycling can be confusing. Recycling advocate, Alicia Sacks, will educate us on how to make recycling easier and even fun! You will also get a close-up look at a living worm bin! Bring your questions; refreshments provided. Contact Elaine to reserve your spot.

PIZZA AND A MOVIE: "THE BOYS IN THE BOAT"

Wednesday, February 28 • 11:00 - 1:00pm • Family Life Center - \$5 at the door

"The Boys in the Boat" is about the 1936 University of Washington rowing team that competed for gold at the Summer Olympics in Berlin. This inspirational true story follows a group of underdogs at the height of the Great Depression as they are thrust into the spotlight and take on elite rivals from around the world. Enjoy this true story while enjoying hot pizza, salad and a cookie. RSVP to Elaine by 2/25.

FOREVER FIT WEEKLY CLASS

Every Wednesday • 9:00 - 9:50am • Family Life Center • Instructor: Elke Ertle

Join us weekly for this free, gentle exercise class especially for senior adults. Exercises are chair-based with some standing with a focus on flexibility, balance and core strength. Equipment provided, no reservation needed. Offered in partnership with the Ryan Family YMCA.

Register

ONLINE pointlomachurch.org/register

CONTACT ELAINE MSW, Director of Senior Adult Ministry
(619) 223-1633 Ext. 210 | elaine@pointlomachurch.org

Prayer Quilt Ministry

1st Saturday of the month, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Contact Maureen Blackhall, maureenblackhall@gmail.com
Request a prayer quilt, email
redbrickprayerquilts@gmail.com

Prayer Requests

Submit Prayer
requests to the
Prayer Chain at
prayer@pointlomachurch.org

TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

An update from UPLIFT

A MISSION PARTNER OF POINT LOMA COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are so grateful PLCPC has supported UPLIFT San Diego Kids at Heart Tutoring since the program began in 1987! Free Kids At Heart tutoring services are essential to addressing racial equity and academic disparities across marginalized groups. The families we serve do not have the means to hire outside academic support. Children living in poverty and English as a second language learners fell much further behind during Covid than their better-resourced peers. We need your help to fill this gap!

Here's a wonderful recent KAH Student & Tutor success story from Leslie: "I started attending the Kids at Heart tutoring program when I was in 2nd grade. Throughout my time at the program I had multiple tutors, but the tutor that made the greatest impact was Andy. He always made me and my peers feel heard and supported. Andy always came to the tutoring site with a positive attitude and a lot of patience. As teenagers we would give him a very difficult time, but he never gave up on us. Andy would always ask how we were doing and created a safe space for us. Not only did this program help me with my education, but also provided the extra support necessary while my mother was battling stage 3 breast cancer. Till this day, I am very grateful that I had UPLIFT KAH support throughout this difficult stage in my life as they gave me the motivation to not give up. Thanks to Kids at Heart tutoring & Swimming Upstream mentoring, I was able to believe in myself and accomplish every short term goal had. I stay touch with Andy and provide him with life updates. Thanks to the program, I was able to graduate from Cal State San Marcos with a Bachelors in Criminology & Justice studies, and am now a drug & alcohol counselor at a residential facility for adolescents."



HOW CAN YOU HELP UPLIFT?

Is God calling you to make an impact in our local community? Would you like to be part of a thriving team of volunteers delivering God's love and positive energy to the San Diego region? Helping a child in poverty excel in literacy and education only takes an hour a week, but the joy and sense of purpose generated by advancing Students' academic achievement will overflow through your whole life and theirs.

Volunteer

If you would like to know more about virtual online or in person Tutoring & Mentoring at Malcolm X & Skyline Libraries please email victoria@upliftsandiego.org or monica@upliftsandiego.org, or call our office at 619-234-4504, upliftsandiego.org





ANNUAL REPORT • 2023 •

If you have ever stepped onto the PLCPC campus in the middle of the week, then you know just how busy our church is. While a lot of churches gather primarily on Sunday morning, our church gathers nearly every day of the week for learning, fellowship, and service. Our church cares about all parts of a person--spiritually, emotionally, physically--and our ministries reflect that. As you flip through this Annual Report it is easy to see God at work.

It is no secret that we have a big vision. It is not a small task to *Love Everyone to Life with Everything we Have*. Not surprisingly, over the years, our campus has become worn with all the activity. As a result, 2023 was a monumental year as our *Generation to Generation* Capital Campaign received pledges totalling 4.5 million dollars to renovate our Preschool, provide better wayfinding and security on our campus, create more flexible multi-purpose rooms for our adults, and build an elevator to the second floor. The generosity of the congregation gave confidence to the Renovation Task Force to pass the baton to a Building Committee who worked tirelessly throughout the remainder of the year to move the plans forward.

With all this excitement over the next chapter of the church, it made sense that our theme for the second half of 2023 became *Faith Forward: Take a Step*. As we have journeyed through the book of Matthew on Sunday mornings, and discovered more about our own call to discipleship, it has been a reminder not only to keep moving, but to give thanks for the work God has already done through us. I am truly in awe at the faith of this church. I am equally in awe at the faith God has placed in us to do His work in this place. PLCPC continues, time and time again, to give when the needs arise, to love beyond expectation, and to offer hope when all seems lost. It is my greatest honor to be your pastor.

May you be inspired by God's faithfulness as you read this report. Remember every number represents a person--a story that has been altered because of God's grace working through small steps of faith.

EXPERIENCE JESUS

Experience Jesus is the invitation to encounter the living Lord through worship services, music and the visual arts.

New Memory Care Worship Services

This year we developed and produced Memory Care Worship Services which were featured in the Beacon and Union Tribune.

Holy Week

We participated in a powerful re-enactment of Leonardo da Vinci's last supper on Maundy Thursday following a simple dinner in the Family Life Center.

An interactive Good Friday service in our Chapel brought home the powerful last moments of Jesus before his death.

Visual Arts Program

With a \$5000 grant awarded by the *Discernment and Congregational Vitality Committee* of the San Diego Presbytery, a new visual arts program will be put in place during Lent 2024 to help others experience Jesus and God's word more.

Spring Children's Musical

The Children's Music Ministry inspired us by leading worship with a musical in May called "Are We There Yet?"

Christmas Concert

We had a festive and joy-filled Christmas Concert featuring traditional Christmas carols arranged by Dan Forrest led by our adult and children choirs, bells, worship band, orchestra, piano, and organ. 931 people attended either in-person or online. *Fun fact: Three generations from one family were represented in our Christmas Concert choirs.*

Christmas Eve Services

The birth of Jesus was celebrated by all the generations at a very full Chapel service in the morning, a Family Service led by our children in the afternoon, an online curated service viewed across the country, and two beautiful evening services in our Sanctuary, ending with candle-light carol singing on the plaza.

Live Streamed Programs

Our vibrant Online Ministry Team supported the livestreaming of several special programs throughout the year, as well as many Memorial Services.

Growth Online

Our YouTube channel saw significant growth in 2023. Our YouTube subscribers doubled to 689 with 372 new subscribers gained. And, views of our YouTube content tripled. We had 66,697 views in 2023 from 22,000 views in 2022. Content included worship services, music, and bible studies.

We also saw a significant increase in attendance at our in-person events and services due to more digital outreach.

JOURNEY INTO DEEPER FAITH

Journey into Deeper Faith fosters the ongoing faith formation of people from seekers to committed Christ-followers and leaders at all stages of life; from children, families, youth and adults.

Preschool

The Red Brick Preschool continues to prepare children for elementary school by increasing independence. As a supplement to building a lifelong foundation for academic success, the preschool also teaches children about the Bible and Jesus' vast love for them through daily prayer, monthly Chapel, and bible stories.

The Preschool this year enrolled 110 children, which is up from 103 families. The Preschool also became licensed to offer infant care (6 weeks to 24 months) for up to 18 students. This is in addition to six classrooms serving our children ages 2-5 years old.

Children's and Family Ministry

One of the biggest changes to the Children's Ministry in 2023 was expanding to include families. With this pivot, Sarah Butterfield began her service as the Director of Children and Family Ministry in January. Her hire allowed more coordinated efforts and programming between our children *and* their parents. The learning opportunities included our weekly Kids Cafe, averaging about 20 children each week, our annual VBS which served 192 children with 86 volunteers (mostly youth), a family day camp, a Tuesday Morning Mom's Bible Study, and a bi-weekly MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) group.

The outreach opportunities to engage new and existing families were a new monthly Family Jam, quarterly Make and Take events, EasterFest, a Back to School BBQ, Trunk or Treat, as well as Red Brick Christmas. These events brought well over 1000 people onto our campus.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Our youth ministry experienced a leadership change mid-year with the departure of Michael Lombrano. Evan Gratz and Karen May provided interim leadership for our youth until we hired Ryan Silvia in November. A focus on building a Young Adult Ministry was also added to the Youth Ministry role under Ryan.

BRICK Youth (6th-12 grade) averaged between 20-25 students each week, experiencing Jesus through worship gatherings, small groups, and monthly events. The Young Adult Ministry met monthly to build relationships through speakers and conversation. And, the Scout Ministry (boys and girls) continued to thrive.

Adult Ministry

We had many options for adults to grow deeper in their faith in 2023 from on-going bible studies and seasonal classes to contemplative retreats. Some of the offerings included:

- The Sunday Scripture Group averaged 12-15 weekly attendees and studied The Chosen series.
- The quarterly Debrief the Sermon Series group averaged 10-15 participants.
- The Tuesday Women's Bible Study averaged 45-50 weekly attendees and studied the books of 1 and 2 Corinthians and Revelation.
- An Online Bible Study on the Parables averaged 12 weekly attendees.
- A Rooted small group study took place in the winter.
- A Wednesday Men's Study averaged 8 weekly attendees.
- The Centering Prayer group, which met online, averaged 6-10 weekly attendees.
- A Lenten Book Study of "Renovated" averaged 25-30 weekly attendees.
- An Advent Quiet day had 12 participants.
- A Monday Morning Men's group meeting for conversation and accountability averaged 8-10 weekly attendees.
- The Men @ Work group, who engaged in bible study followed by work projects on the church campus, averaged 12 weekly attendees.
- Over 100 women and children met on our campus every Thursday for Community Bible Study.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

The Strengthen the Church Mission Group builds our community through gatherings of authentic fellowship and seeks to care for the needs of people through ministries of prayer and care.

Deacon Ministry

The Deacon Ministry provided leadership for the ministries of compassion, kindness, and service within the church and community. They did this in 2023 by:

- Greeting every week at the 9:00am worship service and 9:30am online worship service
- Delivering 3-5 flower bouquets weekly as well as 50 Easter bouquets and cards to those in grief, pain, or celebration
- Keeping in touch with 15 of our college students through cards and gifts
- Serving the church with two Deacon Breakfasts resulting in proceeds to benefit the preschool classrooms
- Organizing the Coffee on the Porch gathering between services each Sunday.
- Running the Lenten Food Drive and Backpack Drive
- Providing Love Baskets of food to those in need of support.

Prayer

The Prayer Chain Ministry offered prayer support for 150 prayer requests that were sent to over 200 prayer partners. The 30+ members of the Prayer Quilt Ministry made 117 quilts, of which 97 were tied and prayed over in worship with prayer continuing at monthly meetings for six months. There were also 15-20 small prayer squares distributed per quarter at Coffee on the Porch.

Knitting Group

The 8 members of the knitting group met monthly for knitting and conversation. In 2023 they donated 12 knitted blankets to New Day, Urban Ministries and Military Outreach Ministry.

Memorial Guild

This essential ministry of the church, made up of 42 members, offered support for grieving loved ones through the coordination of memorial receptions. There were 11 memorial receptions in 2023 and 31 families received supportive services.

Outreach

The first ever PLCPC adult kickball team, made up of 20 members, had fun competing against others in our community.

We also had our first ever Pickleball tournament in March.

Yoga welcomed many new people to our campus and online every Wednesday.

In the summer, we engaged hundreds of our neighbors by having a church presence each week at the Point Loma Summer Concert Series.

In 2023 we had 31 people attend our Discover our Community classes and welcomed many of them into membership.

Men's Ministry

In addition to the *Journey into Deeper Faith* bible studies, we had 38 men grow in relationship with one another at our Men's Retreat. The men also hosted three Payers & Pints fellowship gatherings and had 27 men participate in a Men's Fantasy Football League.

Women's Ministry

In addition to the *Journey into Deeper Faith* bible studies, we had a fabulous Women's Retreat at a local hotel with over a 100 women in January. The speaker was Sarah Butterfield. The women also had five Wine, Women, and Word gatherings in people's homes with 20-25 women in attendance each time. The Women's Connecting Dinner in May, which included 98 women of all ages and stages of life, proved to be a night of laughter and fellowship.

Senior Ministry

The ministry to mature adults was a vital one in 2023, providing enriching fellowship and educational opportunities that nurtured the spiritual, social, intellectual and physical wellness of many. The highlights included:

- Monthly Luncheons with 55-73 attending
- Monthly Lectures on topics such as fall prevention, memory screenings, and aging well
- Special Events like a SPAM tasting, tours, field trips, trivia night, and Teen Tech 4 Seniors
- A weekly Forever Fit gentle exercise class in partnership with the YMCA that averaged 55 attendees
- Tours of five Senior Living Facilities
- A GriefShare Support Group Session and holiday workshop

Serving Within the Church

Serving the church is essential to our discipleship and this past year we rolled out a webpage which highlights the many serving opportunities at the church. We have countless people engaged serving various ministries every day of the week.

TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

Transform Our World reaches out to the world with the Gospel of Christ through mission, sheltering, and community service within and beyond our walls.

Mission Partner Grants

Each year, through the generosity of this church community, we take a portion of our funds to support our mission partners through grants. In 2023, we distributed seven local grants totaling \$38,000, two regional grants totaling \$15,000, and five international grants totaling \$47,000.

Sheltering Ministry

At PLCPC we maintain a temporary shelter to provide asylum seeking families a place to live in a stable/safe environment while learning to navigate the asylum-seeking process and allowing them time to find more permanent housing. In 2023 we sheltered two families, both from Haiti with school-age children. With God's assistance, our first family moved to new housing in June, and our second family, which spent six months with us, moved to their new home in December. In January 2024, we welcomed our new family of six from Venezuela.

Military Outreach Ministry

Once again we collected toys from the congregation and converted the FLC into a one-day Christmas Toy Store in December. We provided no cost toys to over 50 junior enlisted military families serving in San Diego.

Rancho Genesis Intergenerational Mission Trip

In July, 18 people, ranging in age from 10 to 78, attended a 6-day mission experience in Mexico. The group had a unique opportunity to show God's love to children from a Mexican orphanage.

Community Blood Drives

Three times in 2023 we hosted the San Diego Blood Mobile. The units of blood collected touch more than 100 lives.

Care Portal

In 2023, we started a partnership with Restoration 225 to help support kinship families in hopes of preventing kids from entering the foster care system. This program is just launching in the San Diego area and we are one of the pilot churches.

Serve Opportunities

Dozens of church members engaged in service of our local Ministry Partners, including Uplift, Loaves and Fishes, New Day Ministries, and Genesis Diez. An inter-generational group also served bi-monthly at Ladle Fellowship housed at First Presbyterian Church downtown.

MISSION SUPPORT

Mission Support includes Personnel, Facilities, Finance (including our budget/accounting, stewardship, audit, and endowment), and overall operations for church administration.

Personnel

We said farewell to several staff this year and welcomed even more. In coordination with the San Diego Presbytery and Personnel, the Session approved a 3-month, much-deserved Sabbatical for Pastor Karla starting in May 2024. We also contracted with ChurchHRNetwork to do a professional review of all of our human resources from a faith-based perspective.

Facilities

2023 was a busy year for both dreaming and working on our buildings. We replaced the sanctuary carpet and updated our WIFI antennas. Our contract with the San Diego Airport Quieter Non-Residential Program began window replacements. In late summer, through a 2022 awarded non-profit security grant program, we began the initial installation of an Access Control camera surveillance system for our church.

Finance

In 2023 we saw God at work in our finances by providing just the right amount of resources at just the right time. Specifics from our year-end financial picture will be discussed during the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 11, 2024.

Endowment

2023 was a successful year for our Endowment. There were 50 generous gifts from constituents to promote PLCPC's long-term mission. \$65,000 from Endowment resources were used to support the Capital Campaign and other mission-driven needs. The total principal of the Endowment now exceeds \$2 million. These funds are invested in widely diversified funds held by the Presbyterian Foundation ("New Covenant Funds") and only the income from these investments are spent. An independent financial audit was also completed and reported to Session.

Other Operations

Changes in California legal requirements for non-profits, as well as, our Session reorganization into five distinct Mission-Oriented groups required updates and reviews of all of our policies and procedures. We also had the privilege of hosting the PC(USA) Board of Pensions THRIVE conference in July.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Renovation Task Force was released and the Building Committee was formed in June 2023 to continue the vision of building a new and revitalized campus space for the preschool and adults. The first task the Building Committee completed was to hire a Construction Manager. After much prayer and many interviews, we selected Consolidated Business Systems, Inc (CBSI).

CBSI took charge in August with bi-monthly meetings with the Building Committee and as needed, meetings with staff. Environmental site work, such as marking underground utilities, tracking sewer lines, and soils testing were completed. They continue to interface with Quieter Non-Residential Programs, SDG&E and others.

With the help of CBSI, the Building Committee selected a General Contractor, Prava. Prava's team studied our campus and provided cost estimates and value engineering for the proposed design. We continue to work as a team along with the architect, domusstudio, to accomplish our goals.

Pledges for the renovation total \$4,532,534.60. The church has received \$2,921,393.46 of those pledges with a remaining \$1,611,141.14 still outstanding. Thank you for your continued support as we build for future generations!

LENT AT POINT LOMA CHURCH

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

February 14 - March 30

Bring donations of non-perishable food items and personal hygiene items to collection boxes on campus.

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14

Dinner 6:00pm, Family Life Center

Service 6:45pm, Sanctuary & livestream

ENRICHING YOUR PRAYER LIFE CLASS

Wednesdays, February 21 - March 20

6:00pm, Chapel

Finding fresh and creative ways to pray and be with God during this Lenten season and beyond!

PALM SUNDAY

March 24

In-person services 9:00am, Chapel & Sanctuary

Online service 9:30am, pointlomachurch.org

EASTERFEST

March 24, 10:00am-12:00pm

Games, crafts, snacks, music. Fun for the whole family!

WALK WITH ME: A LENT ART REFLECTION

March 27 - 28 Gallery open in Chapel

March 24 Online Artist Talk 6:30pm

Step into the studios and hearts of our visual artists as they present custom works based on the sermon scripture throughout Lent.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 28

Dinner & Service 6:00pm, Family Life Center

GOOD FRIDAY

March 29 12:00pm, Chapel

A reflective and experiential service focused on Jesus' final moments on the cross.

DAY OF PRAYER

March 30 6:00am-6:00pm, Chapel

Stop by throughout the day for prayer time.

JOIN US EASTER SUNDAY!

March 31 9:00am and 11:00am

Sanctuary & Livestream