



Annual Report FY 2022-23

What Happened in the World? The US Supreme Court sided with Bremerton High School football coach Joe Kennedy who was fired for praying on the field before games... and overturned *Roe v. Wade*, a substantial victory for pro-lifers that ratcheted up tension in an already boiling hot national political climate... also adding to that tension was the indictment of former US President Donald Trump on charges of hush money (with other possible indictments looming)... Queen Elizabeth died after a 70 year reign... Turkey and Syria were devastated by a 7.8-magnitude earthquake claiming nearly-60,000 lives... Violence raged on... in the ongoing horror of the Russia-Ukraine war... in mass shootings in Monterey Park, CA, at a Presbyterian school in Nashville; those two too many on their own, but unfortunately only two of so many more.

Through It All.....We Worshipped – This is what God’s people do. We sang songs of lament, and we sought to remind evil and remind ourselves of its defeat with our songs of praise. We prayed for our world and community, and we recited ancient creeds. In the summer we preached and sang through the Psalms in a series titled *Then Sings My Soul*. **Dax Baumgartner** and the praise band prepared a musical version of every Psalm in the series, 27 weeks in all! In the Fall we preached through the Letters of John, attendant to his themes of light and love, in *Light and Life to All He Brings...* And we gathered on Thanksgiving Eve as the host church with four other churches in an attempt to renew/revitalize a service that had dwindled to just our congregation and Silverdale Lutheran. New participants this year were St. Charles Anglican, St. Antony Episcopal and Discovery Fellowship. We shared Communion with these congregations.

During Advent we waded slowly and contemplatively through John 1, while the Choir, led by **Glen Milligan** gave a concert, *Candles and Carols*, and Dani climbed a ladder to conduct the children’s message from a ledge as an angel on Christmas Eve. From January 1, through Lent and Eastertide all the way to Pentecost we *Practiced Resurrection* with Paul in his letter to the Ephesians. We began Lent, as is our custom, with stations inviting interactive meditation on our mortality and sin, and we ended Lent, as is our custom, with trumpet and organ and “Christ the Lord is Risen Today,” but not before we journeyed through Holy Week; a Maundy Thursday Seder Dinner orchestrated by **Rich and Barb Buckham**, and a Good Friday musical reflection on the Last Words of Christ led by the choir.

Kids In the summer scores of church volunteers put on *Monumental*, a Vacation Bible School themed around Monument Valley and God’s “monumental” love with nearly 100 kids in attendance. In the Fall Children’s Director **Dani Sharrett** worked with the **Fellowship** team and **Women of CKPres** to put on a new iteration of the Harvest Party, complete with pie-eating contests, tractor rides and bounce houses. For the first time in a longtime, we ran out of parking! Dani led three different six-week Kids Club iterations, in the fall was “Pumpkin Parables,” in the winter an exploration of our emotions in light of God’s love, and in the spring was a science themed, “Hands On Faith.” Each of these had at least twenty kids attending. Nursery coordinator **Amy Brueseke** and nursery staff **Daphne McClendon** worked with a team of volunteers to provide great care for little ones: **Bece Bettridge, Ben Brueseke, Judy Jensen, and Beth Pray**. A solid team of teachers anchored the weekly Sunday school time: **Renata Durst, Mary Eyer, Dave and Melissa Hartman, Mary Hoard, Martie Hole, Kim Huston, Peggy Iversen, Justin Sharrett, David and Stephanie Sweeney, Ty and Grace Whitman**

Youth continues to be a conundrum/mystery/frustration/discouragement to all parties involved, for staff, parents, and the small number of youth who attend. Youth Director **Ty Whitman** moved youth to Sundays after church, filled the summer calendar last year with fun (and free!) events including Escape Rooms, Defy (trampoline park) and lock-ins, and substantive weekly studies. We will continue to “watch and pray.” Still, God has provided solid, Christ-centered leaders; David and Stephanie Sweeney and Grace Whitman. David and Stephanie filled in as interim youth directors during Pastor Tyler’s Sabbatical as Ty was involved in other leadership capacities.

Young Adults/Young Families Twice in the summer young adults and young families were invited to share dinner prepared by **Steve and Michele Shaw**, and **Jerry Tomeo**, Communion, and worship together at Songs in the Night led by Pastor Tyler, Grace Whitman, David and Stephanie Sweeney, once in the firepit area and once (due to rain) in the youth room. Elder Renata Durst helped initiate a time of board games on the first Sunday of every month after the worship service.

Women of CKPres, led by **Diana Zegers**, continues to be a thriving ministry for deepening relationships with one another and with Christ. Their monthly events strike a rich balance of fun (Game Night, Craft Night, Dress Like a Christmas Carol?!), depth (Retreat



at Rolling Bay Presbyterian with an extended time of meditation on God's Embrace, Women's Tea) and service/outreach (Harvest Party, Accessory Sale, helping at and making bird houses for the Garden Plant Sale).

Men

Post-pandemic, the men's ministry at least program-wise, has been anchored solely by the weekly men's breakfast. But it has been quite an anchor, facilitated by Steve Shaw, Jerry Tomeo and **Bob Jensen**, meeting every Saturday to pray together and go deeper on the sermon text and enjoy bacon, eggs, steel-cut oats and donuts.

Jonathan Edwards Conference... After the success of last year's Psalms Conference, we did another conference in the spring. This was keynoted by Douglas Sweeney, the current dean of the Beeson Divinity School, the father of CKPres member David and a renowned Jonathan Edwards scholar. In a Friday night chapel service, two Saturday lectures and a Sunday sermon, Dr. Sweeney challenged the congregation to a deeper, authentic faith, using the wisdom and insights of Jonathan Edwards. **Joe** and **Bece Bettridge**, City Chapel pastor Josh Lott, and Ty Whitman provided breakout sessions.

Leadership- Strong leadership was provided by our **Session Elders**: Margaret Campbell, Gwen Dewey, Renata Durst, Melissa Hartman, Peggy Iversen, Bob Jensen, Larry Keeton, Cindi Olmstead, Justin Sharrett, LoisAnne Sykes, Linda Wahlquist, and Ty Whitman. **Al and Jody O'Brien**, the new co-clerks of Session were able to step into the role after combatting health issues. This Session, along with the strong staff of Ty Whitman, Dani Sharrett, Patrice Johnson (Officer Manager), Dax Baumgartner, Glen Milligan, Amy Brueseke, **Megan Kane** (bookkeeper), **Kalen Spees** (AV) and **Brett Howarth** (livestream) helped everything move smoothly and seamlessly during **Pastor Tyler Kirkpatrick's** 12-week **Sabbatical** from January-March. Ty Whitman carried the bulk of the preaching and leadership responsibilities with skill and grace, but Joe Bettridge, **Jim Davis**, **John Haberlin** and guest preacher **Josh Kluth** filled the pulpit and provided support and congregational care.

Speaking of care, under the direction of Session and guidance of Bece Bettridge and elder Margaret Campbell, the **Deacons** restructured and are flourishing in exciting ways, focusing on a small teams-based approach. Those teams are: Grief Ministry Team, Person-to-Person, Meal Train, and Transportation. **Deacons** Mo Anduiza, Tacy Boswell, Betty Brownley, Amy and Ben Brueseke, Joyce Davis, Judy Jensen, Brittany Kirkpatrick, Kathy Lockwood, Cheri Paulin, Gary Spees and Connie Wade served and led the congregation in this ministry of "compassion, witness, and service."

Garden Under the leadership of David and Stephanie Sweeney, and the help of many volunteers, the church garden, in its first season *grew!* 1,000 pounds of food, donated to Kitsap Community Resources, to be precise. Rain gardens and water catchment cisterns were installed—at no cost to the church—by the Kitsap Conservation District. A plant sale in April brought in funds to sustain the ministry. This continues to be a rich opportunity for our church to serve the community, care for God's creation, and commune with one another.

Partnerships: We continue to offer monthly financial support people and organizations who are on the ground doing the work of Christ; locally and globally. We had visits from CKPres-supported missionaries the Ellingtons (serving in India) in February, did a sponsorship drive with Children of the Nations in September, had food drives and Thanksgiving baskets thanks to **Tacy Boswell's** coordinating, and once again, led by **Barb Stark** donated many items for Kitsap Community Resource's Christmas Angels.

The Amazing Wednesday Morning Crew – Bob Jensen's tireless group of servants: **Bill Enger**, **Chris Funke**, **Greg Gillen** and **Peter Van Sickle** continue to keep the church looking magnificent; plowing and shoveling snow, pruning trees, fixing sprinklers and toilets, updating the kitchen and changing out furnace filters amongst many, many other ongoing projects to maintain and beautify the place.

By the numbers: Weekly attendance averages: 118... New members: 9... Current membership: 152... Deaths: 2... We lost Stan Davis unexpectedly in December to a heart attack and Kay Gordon in August after a long decline due to dementia. Our operating budget was \$511K, budget receipts \$513K. We have increased our giving for seven consecutive years and met our budget three of the previous four years! However, due to a 27th pay period in the upcoming 2023-24 fiscal year, Session decided to roll that "bonus" pay period into this previous year, meaning that we end the year with a net loss of just over \$19,000. The Monday morning offering counting crew of Tacy Boswell, Betty Brownley, Diane Jones, Carol Sakavich, our bookkeeper Megan Kane, and Steve Coffey, in his eleventh year as Treasurer continued to hold us *accountable*.

Approved by CKPres Session on June 27, 2023. *Sola Dei Gloria!*