

Lake Oswego United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming, Earthwise, Just Peace Congregation

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

1111 SW Country Club Road, Lake Oswego, OR 97034 503.635.4348

God is still
speaking.

November 10, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of LOUCC,



Together, we are the church! In the midst of the ongoing pandemics of COVID, injustice, climate change, political divisions, racial reckoning, and more, I am grateful for this congregation who embodies God's love, compassion, and justice in the world. Adapting, inventing, flexing, and Zooming, we are discovering new ways of living out God's love within and beyond our community. As we lean into this next year, our church theme is **"Weaving Spirit and story to discern our way forward."** With your generosity and participation, we will listen, learn, and live into how God is calling us to be the church in our new landscape. Here is some of what we hope to do in 2022:

Together, we will listen for the Spirit's call in our lives. Through meaningful hybrid worship, opportunities for spiritual formation, and a church wide visioning process, we will tune our ears and hearts to how the Spirit is moving in and through our congregation. What does it mean to be the church in the world today? What gifts has God given us as individuals and a congregation? What needs exist in our wider community now, and where God is calling us to serve?

Together, we will listen for the stories of our community—where we've been and where we are now—as a way to discern where we are going. This year, we will explore our LOUCC land story, share our pandemic stories with each other, and listen to the stories of those in our wider community. Through various adult education, faith development, and mission programs, we will reconnect with each other and reach out in support toward those beyond our walls.

Together, we will continue to be a voice for justice and hope in our community. With our annual mission giving and our ongoing commitments to antiracism, environmental action, immigration justice, and LGBTQ+ equality, we will make an impact in the community around us, connecting our gifts to the world's deep need.

Enclosed is a copy of our 2022 Plan, which describes how we are **"Weaving Spirit and story to discern our way forward."** There is also a video of Treasurer Amy Oh explaining our 2022 Plan at www.loucc.org/2022generosity. To live into our goals means raising \$345,000 for this year, a 9% increase over our 2021 budget. Among the primary drivers of this increase are raises for our hardworking staff, new technology and equipment for our hybrid worship services, and higher facility-related costs as we reopen our building for worship and more community gatherings.

Please prayerfully consider how God is inviting you to be part of **"Weaving Spirit and story to discern our way forward."** Then complete and return the enclosed commitment card (or the online version) by November 21, when we will dedicate our gifts in worship.

Thank you so much for your generosity, as *together we listen for the Spirit's call and live out God's love and justice in our world.*

With gratitude,

Rev. Jennie E. Ott
Pastor