

Community Life at Land of the Sky UCC

Updated February 2024

Learn more about all of the teams and groups at Land of the Sky and sign up to find your community! Below, find a description of each group and contact information for the group's organizer. If you're interested, you can sign up by [clicking here](#) or emailing office@landoftheskychurch.org!

Kids' Ministry

Vicki Garlock is our new Coordinator for the Preschool-Grade 5 Spiritual Formation program! We're currently exploring the entire Moses story, and we need volunteers to help with the classes. Teachers work in pairs, lesson plans and craft supplies are provided, and no previous knowledge is required.

Contact: Vicki Garlock, kids@landoftheskychurch.org

Tech Team

We have three distinct stations/roles in our tech booth every Sunday morning and we sign up based on an availability schedule. You would not be "assigned" days to be present. The more people we have on the team, the more ability we have to share the wealth of our time and talents in a month's time.

1. Zoom Host: This station is preferably managed in house, but does not necessarily require that you be present in the sanctuary. It is vital to our worship experience, but if you can run a zoom meeting already, requires very little training!! This requires some attention to detail and it's primary function is to engage with the Zoom Room, manage the recording of the service, and may involve dropping links in to the chat box. Easy Right?
2. Video Control: This station is responsible for managing the cameras during worship. You may know that we have two cameras that capture all of the action during our service. This position requires some training of the tech board that controls the cameras, but once you know the buttons it generally runs pretty smoothly. Primarily this role will follow the movement

at the front of the sanctuary and maybe do a special zoom in on the cute piano player once in a while. HA!

3. Sound and Screen: This station is possibly the most complex of the three stations. It would likely require at least 2 training Sundays at a minimum, but don't let this scare you. At this station you are responsible for running the sound board and ensuring that our TV monitors at the front are displaying the appropriate content. While knowledge of sound, music, and tech is a plus this can be trained if you have an inclination towards technology. If tech and lots of buttons isn't your thing, you might be more suited for one of the other roles.

Please consider volunteering with our amazing group of humans that bring the sounds and sights of the service to us EVERY Sunday that we have worship.

Contact: Ryan Garcia, ryan@landoftheskychurch.org

Worship Visual Arts

As we continue to grow as a community and as we continue to transform our physical worship space it is apparent that talent and vision abound here This team will be called upon to manage, design, and implement our sanctuary's liturgical wardrobe. You may have noticed that the sanctuary's wardrobe loves to coordinate with the church seasons. We will:

1. Create and implement decor for the change of liturgical seasons and special Sundays.
2. Contribute to worship planning by envisioning, creating, and implementing experiential worship experiences.

We've done this in the past in various ways, specifically on kick-off Sundays. We've made a candle, created a beautiful candle vase, woven our prayers on a prayer loom, painted together, and watched painting in motion.

Doesn't this sound like fun? Oh, don't worry...I've been doing it for 9 years...it is, I promise! If you're thinking to yourself, "gosh, this seems like a lot, I just want to

help decorate for Advent, Christmas, and Easter", never fear....THIS GROUP IS FOR YOU!!!! We love C&E decorators. *wink* Please consider volunteering with our amazing group of humans that bring beauty to our beautiful Worship space!

Contact: Ryan Garcia, ryan@landoftheskychurch.org

Worship Musical Arts

We have an ever growing, ever thriving MUSIC MAKING CONGREGATION. Kate and I are finding our groove and want to continue to infuse our worship services with the talents that YOU bring to the table.

We are all called to make a joyful noise. If you play an instrument, bang a drum, or fancy yourself a vocalist (not all those who sing sing solo!) WE WANT YOU!

Please consider making music with us!

Contact: Ryan Garcia, ryan@landoftheskychurch.org

Justice Team

The work of social justice has always been foundational for Land of the Sky. We are people who care deeply about our fellow humans and our earth, and we feel called by God to commit ourselves to helping in every way that we can, and fighting injustice whenever it occurs. The purpose of the Justice Team is to facilitate this work. To coordinate the hands of the congregation; to connect with our immediate and broader communities and fellow workers therein; to share knowledge and the activities already being undertaken by those in our congregation; and to ensure that social justice remains integrated into the fabric of Land of the Sky.

Some of the tangible tasks that the team undertakes are to coordinate the choosing of monthly tithed giving recipients, facilitating biannual Worship Outside the Walls, and coordinating our presence at Blue Ridge Pride. The Prison

Ministry team is also a part of the Justice Team, and brings outreach and fellowship to those currently incarcerated.

The Justice Team is currently in a re-launching phase, with meeting times yet to be determined. They will be about once per quarter. Critically, the team also intends to meet in smaller groups when the need arises, to organize responses to events that occur out in the community and world.

Contact: Noah Wiese, noahwiese@gmail.com, 202-997-9744

Newcomer Engagement Team

The Newcomer Engagement Team is the first connection point for new folx who enter our community. The team lead is notified of new people in our community when they fill out a connect card or sign up to receive communications online and sends them a welcome email.

Newcomer events have varied over the last year ranging from ice cream socials to soup dinners. We have also been in the process of evolving the format and agenda for the meetings, but regardless, the following process is still true for planning any type of in-person newcomer event.

The hope is that these events happen quarterly so we have a fairly regular cadence of connecting with new folx who come into the church. As of 2023, these are done in-person.

Contact: Yolanda Adams, yoliea@gmail.com

Hospitality Team

The purpose of the hospitality team is

1. To extend hospitality, welcome and opportunities for connection to everyone at LOS.
2. To plan and host events for the full LOS community; such as the Christmas Lunch and Pop-up Snacks.

The hospitality team meets 4 times per year - about 1 month prior to each event

Contact: Kathy Self, kself1716@gmail.com

CORE Team

The Community Life CORE Team gathers & responds to prayers within the LOS community, spoken during "Joys and Concerns" in Sunday services. The CORE Team mails supportive correspondence to those experiencing difficult times, or joyous milestones and coordinates with Pastor Sara and CONNECT team leaders. Additionally, they mail welcoming cards to newcomers and provide communication and tracking of meal train requests. The team leader and team members communicate by email, or meet together as needed.

Contact: Christina Dubuc, tindadubuc@gmail.com

Women's Group

The Women's Group gathers twice a month, once for sharing discussion, and once for sharing an activity (e.g., dinner out, attending a movie or performance). The first of the month is an intimate time listening to and supporting each other. Each month we ask a question or two to spark conversation: For example, How or where have you experienced God's presence (or the sacred/the divine) in the past month, or where are you longing for that awareness? What is a question, concern, or thought that's been circling in your mind .. what do you keep thinking about when you can't fall asleep? We hold the space to share our stories, joy, and grief. You're welcome to attend any time and come as frequently (or infrequently) as works for you. If you're looking for an intergenerational group of women to go deep with, and/or get out of the house and do something fun with, then this group's for you!

Contact: Becky Robinson, beckywrobinson@gmail.com, 803-507-5543

Men's Group

The men's group is open to anyone who would like to join, we discuss issues that we may be facing and have conversations about men in the bible, How their actions shaped them, and how it relates to modern-day life. We seek to support each other and create a welcoming environment for all. We also plan social events where we can get together and have some fun. Our hope is to be of service to the congregation, this means that we will have volunteer project that will help our church family feel supported.

Contact: Hector Salgado, hector773@gmail.com

Crafting Group

The LOS crafting group would like to invite you to join us on the third Saturday of each month for 'Creative Reflection'. This is your time to relax with a favorite craft, paint, write, share poetry or just connect with other LOS friends. Whatever creative outlet gives you joy; bring that along and enjoy some down time from the busyness of life.

Contact: Lynette Minnich, Lynette@minnichnet.org

Pub Theology

Pub Theology meets at local breweries to answer the big questions of life (haha). That is, we pick a faith-related topic & kick around ideas together over a pint (or mini) & often, food-truck food. Past topics have included Faith vs Belief, Second-half Living & the Practice of the Better.

Contact: Kim Halley, kimhalley@gmail.com

Hiking Group

Are you into adventures outside? Do you prefer chatting while moving your body? If so, come join the hiking group. We will start meeting quarterly or more as available (Anyone can lead a hike!). Our first hike will be a moderate/hard one around 5 miles at the Pink Beds loop in Pisgah on September 23. We will offer other offerings of easier and shorter hikes in the future.

Contact: Alyssa Brown, 512-247-8986

Running Group

The purpose of the Running Group is to be healthy and have fun with encouraging friends. Usually meet Saturday 7:30 a.m.(sometimes 8 in winter) at Montford Visitor Center or Jim Colvin's house on the Wilson trails.

Contact: Kim Halley at 864-423-3932 or Jim Colvin at 908-380-5937

Meditation/Yoga Group

If you've thought, "I know yoga is good for you but I'm too (fill in the blank)," our yoga sessions are perfect for you. If you've thought, I know meditation would be good for me but I can't (fill in the blank)," our meditations will be a pleasant surprise.

We are in the planning stages for the remainder of the year. Our sessions will be on either Tuesday or Thursday evenings.

Contact: David Smith, davidsmith92b@gmail.com

Cooking Club

Cooking Club seeks to build community and support one another by gathering periodically to create a family-friendly meal swap and to stock the church freezer in support of mealtrain options that are easy to grab for delivery. Fully remote participation is an Option.

Contact: Samara Price, whybanker@gmail.com, 828-545-4808

Elders Group

Elders Together is a group of senior adults who meet quarterly to discuss topics related to the spiritual and practical aspects of aging well.

Contact: Vv Kelly, janeyskelly@gmail.com, 828-775-2357 or Kathy Thornton, ksthornton@comcast.net, 215-284-2833

Dinners of 8

Dinners of 8 will bring together 8 adults from Land of the Sky to eat a meal together at least 4 times over 6 months. You can eat in each others' homes or eat out. You can have breakfast, lunch or dinner. It is up to your group to decide. Childcare is an option as well! And you can let us know if you'd prefer a same-season-of-life or different-season-of-life group. This is a great low-commitment way to get to know others in this beloved community.

Contact: Linda Stransky, 3eyedraven68@gmail.com