

ANNUAL
REPORT

SUNSET



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A Word from Pastor Steve

Dear Sunset Church,

Highlights

I'd like to share two highlights from last year.

The first highlight that I'd like to celebrate is the Sunset staff. Last year felt like a turning point. We have a dedicated and unified group of people who are committed to seeing Sunset flourish and sharing the Good News of Jesus.

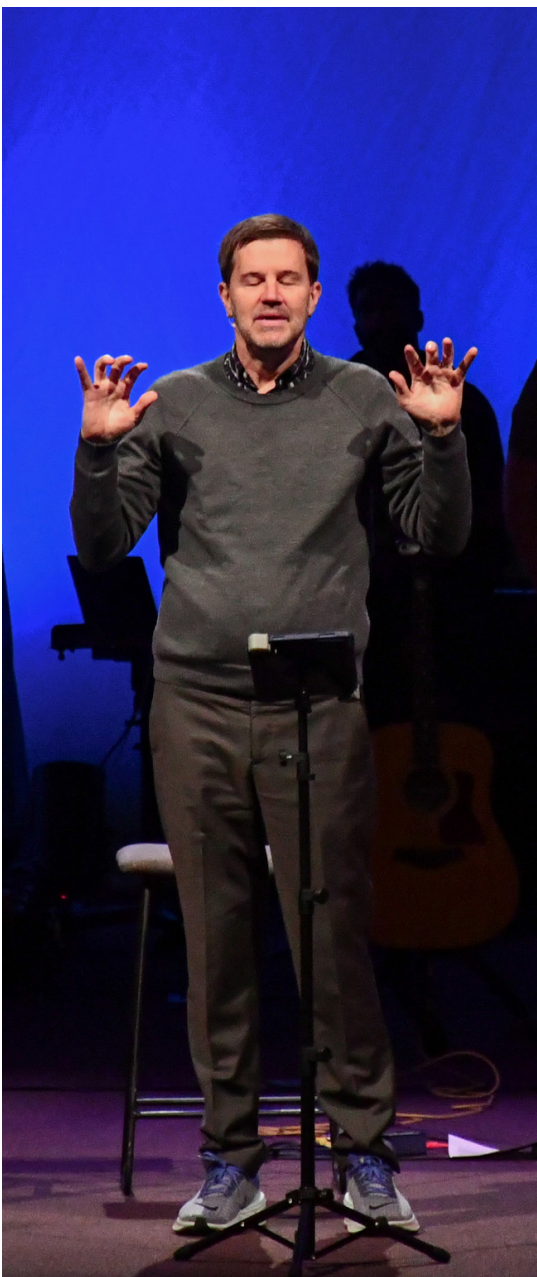
Sunset's Church Administrator, Bob Thomas, led our ministry staff through a thoughtful process of creating short-term goals for Sunset Church. We unanimously unified around three primary goals for our church over the next three to five years.

The first goal is creating flourishing children and youth ministries. While we remain committed to being an intergenerational church, we recognized that young adults weren't actively present in our congregation. For a church to survive long-term, we need to focus on bringing young adults and young families into our community. We believe the gift of our physical location and facilities allows us to serve our children and youth in a special way.

Second, we named a goal to build loving and joyful connections with Jesus and others. As a staff, we read and discussed *The Other Half of Church*. We all resonated with the importance of creating a vibrant and joyful culture at Sunset. We continue to work toward every person being welcomed into the doors of this church with genuine delight that they are here.

Lastly, the third goal is to develop well-equipped leaders functioning with joy. We realize as a staff that we cannot fulfill our ministry dreams without volunteers. Our volunteers are vital to all our ministries. We deeply desire to equip our leaders and volunteer leaders in such a way that they experience joy as they serve others in love.

The Sunset staff also went through the process of individual goal setting. These individual goals helped create actionable steps toward reaching the three-to-five year goals and flourishing the ministries God has entrusted to our care. I'm celebrating that the entire staff leaned into this process through collaboration, feedback, and encouragement.





Every Tuesday all Sunset staff gather together to share good news stories, provide ministry updates, and pray for one another. When I look around the room, I thank God for each and every staff member. It gives me great joy to hear their laughter when we gather. The staff culture and work that we accomplished together gave me great hope for the future of the church.

My second highlight is personal. Last year I made a commitment to go through the Ignatian Prayer Exercises. The Spiritual Exercises are a collection of prayers, meditations,



and reflections that were developed by St. Ignatius of Loyola in the 16th-century. They are intended to help people deepen their relationship with God. I was inspired to do Ignatian Prayer Exercises after watching my wife, Michelle, lead groups of women through these exercises. One of our church members, Janet Eney, led three other men and me through a nine-month journey of prayer. I prayed for about one hour every day with the goal to fall madly in love with Jesus. It was a transformative experience in my spiritual journey. One of the Ignatian prayer elements is called "The Loving Gaze" where Ignatius invites us to begin our prayer by imagining the loving gaze of God. He also invites us to pray imaginatively in the scriptures. After a breakthrough in prayer, I began to imagine holding Jesus's hand as his friend as I read the story of his life and ministry in the gospels. I feel like I know and love Jesus more through those nine months of prayer.

Good News Story

Last year, a beloved former elder, Wayne Moore, battled a resurgence of cancer. He decided to try the CAR T-Cell treatments. This was a long process with extended stays in the hospital. Due to Wayne's compromised immune system and vulnerability to infection, he and his wife, Lynn, were not able to attend worship regularly. After all of the treatments and recovery time was completed, I was thrilled to see both Wayne and Lynn in the sanctuary. Lynn said something I'll never forget. She said, "People have said they have missed seeing us at church over the last four months, but I felt like we never left. Our church community surrounded and took care of us spiritually with love and prayer and physically by providing food. So, we were never away from the church, the church just came to us." To me, this story speaks to the value of building joyful and loving connections. Wayne and Lynn's connection to Jesus was their rock and firm foundation during his illness. This church community, especially their small group, became the hands and feet of God's steadfast love through Jesus Christ. Stories like this give me great hope that we will continue to see the Holy Spirit build joyful and loving connections at Sunset Church in the years to come.

Vision

My vision for the next ministry year (October 2024–September 2025) is that we would practice the way of Jesus as an entire church community. Using *Practicing the Way* by John Mark Comer as a resource, we are offering an introduction to spiritual formation. We are learning what it means to follow Jesus as his apprentice. The three driving goals of an apprentice are to be with Jesus, to become more like him, and to do as he did. We are all being spiritually formed, and much of our spiritual formation is unintentional. As we become more aware of the forces that are forming us, we consider Jesus's way as a counter formation to unintentional spiritual formation. And we will learn the nine spiritual practices that can help form us to become more like Jesus.

With this foundational understanding of how spiritual practices fit into formation, we will begin practicing all nine spiritual practices together over the next few years. We are planning to teach three sermon series on individual practices in the next year. I am looking forward to seeing how we as a community will be formed more into the likeness of Christ in the years ahead. I am especially excited to explore spiritual practices as a community. I hope and pray that as we practice the way of Jesus, we will not only grow in Christ but grow in unity as the body of Christ.

Blessings,

Steve Ruetschle
Senior Pastor



Current Ruling Elders



Rupa Devadoss
President

Rupa was raised in a Christian family in India and moved to the U.S. for her master's degree. Her family has been living in Portland for 14 years and calling Sunset Church home during this time. She and her husband serve as small group leaders in the children's ministry and middle school ministry. She works for Nike and has two kids and two golden doodles. She enjoys hiking, sewing, and being by the ocean. "Be still and know that I am God" deeply resonates with her, and she lives by the belief that "Where God leads, He provides."



Steve Slotemaker
Treasurer

Steve and his family have attended Sunset since 2019. Steve and his wife, Meghan, share three daughters ages 18, 16, and 11. He currently works for TIAA Kaspick, an investment management firm focused on managing and administering assets for large non-profit organizations. He has served on the board of The Dougy Center, Faithful Friends, and is on the capital campaign for the French International School of Oregon.



Kathy Hartrum
Secretary

From childhood, nature's beauty and complexity from the minutia of the cell to the magnitude of space has pointed Kathy to our awesome Creator. Even more awesome are the beauty and complexity of Scripture through which the Spirit displays God's incomprehensible love. As part of Sunset since the 90s, she has served in the music ministry, Women's Bible Study, and care groups. Praying for Sunset's people, pastors, ministries, and staff is among her favorite responsibilities as an elder.



Damon Flennaugh

Damon was born and raised in Seattle, Washington where he attended First A.M.E. Church. He married Yukiko in 1995, and in 2000, he finished a master's degree in engineering at the University of Washington, started a career at Intel, and celebrated the birth of their first child, Nicole. In 2002, after the birth of their youngest child, Trejan, the family started attending Sunset Church. Growing up under themes of God's goodness and mercy, Damon is a firm believer in service towards those in need. In his free time, he enjoys audiobooks, time with family, and cheering for the Huskies!



Kent Richards

Kent is a native Oregonian and has been at Sunset since 1981. Kent and his wife, Nancy, have one daughter, Anne Marie Boyd - who is married to Chris. He is a proud grandpa to their two kids! Kent has been a painting contractor for over 40 years and is now enjoying helping others with real estate. He has seen God's blessing continue at Sunset through all circumstances and looks forward to serving at Sunset and participating in this amazing church body.



Tricia Russell

Tricia and her husband, Andrew, moved to Hillsboro in 2015 and soon welcomed daughters Kayleigh and Claire. They chose to call Sunset home as they loved the children's ministry. Tricia came to faith at a young age after she watched her mom move towards hope and Christ following a family accident. She has a service-oriented heart and is excited to encourage and pray for all who encounter Sunset in the hope that people will see God's love and tender mercies through us as his ambassadors.

Ruling Elder Nominees



Julie Barnett

Julie is a native Oregonian, growing up in Salem in a loving home filled with lots of laughter. After graduating from Western Oregon University with a degree in International Studies and French, she met her husband, Aaron. It's been the joy of their lives raising their three children: Lydia, 21, a junior at the US Air Force Academy, Luke, 17, a high school senior, and Tyler, 14, a freshman, both at Sunset High. After living abroad as a family in Amsterdam and London, they now call Cedar Mill their home. She volunteers with Wyldlife (Young Life), helps coach middle school track, and enjoys playing piano and singing with the Sunset worship team. She believes that Jesus' love for us is the greatest gift, and to love others is the greatest calling. 1 John 4:19



Rick Noling

Rick grew up in Presbyterian churches in Southern California, and his personal faith journey began at the Billy Graham Crusade in 1963. After college, he felt a call to Fuller Seminary where he earned his MA to be a more effective layman. His career was in the high-tech industry as an engineer, CFO, and CEO. During breaks from his business career, he worked in ministry. His roles included leading administration and prayer ministries at Community Presbyterian Church in Danville, CA. The next was as Interim President of Forest Home Christian Conference Center. After retiring as CEO of a technology company, he served as the Minister of Administration here at Sunset for over three years.

Throughout his life, Rick has graciously served on numerous boards, both public and private, on church sessions. He currently serves on the board for Leighton Ford Ministries, a ministry that encourages pastors. Rick and his wife, Kathy, moved from California to Oregon 10 years ago and love the Northwest. His two daughters and their families live close by, and the delight of his life are his six grandchildren. Rick's hobbies include woodworking, reading, and playing with his two golden retrievers.



Kirsten Williams

Kirsten was raised in the church until about age 12 when her family stopped regular attendance. While her faith never wavered, she spent some years keeping God at a distance. After she married her husband, Paul, they found Sunset in 1997 and have been members since 2002. Sunset has helped her develop a stronger, more active relationship with Christ, and she strives to keep him at the center of her life. They have raised four daughters at Sunset who are scattered across the US – happy, thriving, and developing their own faith. Kirsten has worked in various roles from process engineer to miscellaneous part-time roles but is now fully retired.

She's been heavily involved at Sunset over the years from leading Food & Toy to Women's Bible Study to Care Group Leader. She's currently volunteering with Helping Hands and at community groups like Catalyst Partnerships, Store to Door, and BSD. She also loves all things outdoors like hiking, camping, fishing, and she loves to travel.

Clerk of Session Report

Active Membership 9/30/2023 **583**

Gains

New Members 15

Re-instate Per Request 2

Total Gains 17

Losses

Request 2

Deaths 5

Moved to Inactive Status 48*

Total Losses 53

Active Membership 9/30/24 **547**

Baptisms

Believer Baptisms 25

Infant Baptisms 0

Infant Dedication 1

* This number reflects multiple years of data-base clean-up.



Operations Update

Dear Faithful People of Sunset Church,

The Lord has blessed Sunset both in ministry and through your financial support. I continue to be profoundly appreciative, humbled, and blessed by the staff and body of believers who love Jesus Christ! The following is a summary of some of the operational highlights of the year.

Strategy Alignment: The staff spent the last year working to create clarity around Sunset's purpose and vision for the future. Sunset's staff are fully engaged in this process, and the result has been the development of:

- Simplified Core Values
- Long-Term Goals around children, youth and families, equipped leaders, and a connected culture
- Annual Goals for each ministry with collaborative objectives that align with long-term goals

Human Resources: After reading *The Other Half of Church*, Sunset staff felt it would be wise and proactive to spend time working on our team culture. A special thank you to Carrie Peebles, Maddie Martinez, and Laura VanderGiessen (the culture team) for leading this effort.

- Staff participated in a team culture assessment that led to the development of clear actions for regular communication, connection, and engagement with leadership.
- The culture team led the staff in developing value commitments to govern how to work and communicate well with each other.
- The human resource team implemented an annual performance review process which occurs in the first quarter of every calendar year.

Community Connection: Sunset continues to be a connection point for the local community using the amazing building God has provided. Over 30 different organizations have used the church space this year, serving tens of thousands of people that have come through the doors. There have been events, church gatherings, and outreaches for local Chinese, Bangladeshi, Indian, Hispanic, Filipino, and Ghanaese communities as well as for homeless and special needs populations. Two concerts with well-known Christian musicians and a comedian were hosted. The largest events were the Mission Connexion conference and Portland's Singing Christmas Tree. This fall, Sunset has been very blessed to welcome the upper school (6th through 12th grade) at St. Stephen's Christian Academy. St. Stephen's graciously converted and paid for the new grassy area that once was an unused community garden. This space will be available for use by both their students and Sunset's. Praise God!

Finance/Budget: God has demonstrated his overwhelming provision for this church. In the following pages, you will see more details of last fiscal year's financial operations as well as the current fiscal year budget. The following is a breakdown of operations revenue sources for the 2024 fiscal year (October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024).



	2024 Fiscal Year (Actual)	2024 Fiscal Year (Budget)	Budget to Actual Variance	2023 Fiscal Year (Actual)	Year-over-Year Change
Giving	\$2,241,314	\$2,063,882	\$177,432	\$2,111,797	\$129,517
Facility Use	\$317,469	\$237,569	\$79,900	\$213,578	\$103,891
Interest/Other Income	\$35,832	\$12,000	\$23,832	\$12,072	\$23,760
Total Revenue	\$2,594,615	\$2,313,451	\$281,164	\$2,337,447	\$257,168

Staff worked together to produce a base budget for the next fiscal year based on expected ministry and operational needs. In addition, two areas have been prioritized in 2025 that would require additional funding. Those areas include:

- Interiors update of the children’s wings to create a fresh and welcoming setting for young families and youth.
- New exterior digital entry signage on Cornell to serve as an invitation to the community to join the Sunset family and the groups that use the facility.

If you are in a place to contribute over and above your traditional giving to Sunset, please consider giving towards these projects. Go online at www.sunset.church and select the Give button (choose the Building Fund option) or contact me at bobthomas@sunset.church.

Work has also begun to finalize a long-term capital plan that focuses on debt reduction that would allow more dollars to be designated towards ministry and outreach.

None of this could be done without a great team. A giant thanks to:

- Jessica Marshall** – Director of Finance & HR
- Bobbie Woodruff** – Church Administrator Coordinator
- Karen Carroll** – Adult Ministries & Contributions Coordinator
- Steven Hawes** – Facilities Lead and Sunset’s team of Ministry Hosts, which include **Josh Erickson** and **Matt Johnson**.
- Russ Snyder** – Facilities Specialist
- Curt Charles** – Security & Safety Volunteer Lead
- Travis Cibolski** – Technical Arts Director

Thank you for the joy, love, and support you bring to Sunset!

Blessings,

Bob Thomas
Church Administrator



Financial Statements

Balance Sheet

Description	9/30/23	9/30/24
Current Assets		
Checking	\$250,246	\$253,763
Savings & Money Market	\$836,256	\$828,814
Long-Term CD	\$30,801	\$266,281
State Unemployment	\$36,421	\$37,285
Accounts Receivables	\$4,693	\$3,687
Total Current Assets	\$1,158,417	\$1,389,830
Fixed Assets		
Cornell Road Land & Site Improvements	\$5,499,686	\$5,499,686
Cornell Road Building	\$23,356,475	\$23,356,475
Furniture & Equipment	\$1,514,983	\$1,514,983
Total Fixed Assets	\$30,371,144	\$30,371,144
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(\$17,300,109)	(\$18,038,057)
Net Fixed Assets	\$13,071,035	\$12,333,087
Total Assets	\$14,229,453	\$13,722,918
Current Liabilities		
Credit Card Liability	\$0	\$16,136
Long-Term Liabilities		
Building Loan	\$2,774,526	\$2,658,467
Total Liabilities	\$2,774,526	\$2,674,783
Total Equity	\$11,454,927	\$11,048,135
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$14,229,453	\$13,722,918

Fixed Assets and Depreciation

On December 31, 1981, the fixed asset records were established by estimating the fair market values of the land, buildings and improvements, and the furniture and equipment as a whole. Purchases after December 31, 1981, are recorded at cost; donations at estimated fair market value. Depreciation is not stated as an expense on the activity statement in this report. This non-cash item and accumulated result is reflected as accumulated depreciation on the balance sheet.

Liabilities

Property financing is currently with Heritage Bank entered into on December 28, 2021. The mortgage balance as of September 30, 2023, was \$2,658,647. The interest rate is 3.3%.

Notes on mortgage:

- 1) Mortgage matures on December 15, 2031
- 2) Mortgage has prepayment penalties during the first 3 years.

Operating Budget Summary

1 October – 30 September

Income	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Operating Revenue	\$2,313,451	\$2,594,616	\$2,536,999
Operating Expenses			
Adult Ministries	\$14,740	\$14,515	\$19,000
Children's Ministries	\$5,029	\$4,787	\$7,000
Student Ministries	\$14,944	\$12,298	\$14,000
Worship & Music	\$13,620	\$17,164	\$17,500
Tech Arts	\$12,102	\$10,822	\$26,500
Outreach & Missions	\$28,000	\$29,913	\$42,988
Administration	\$146,980	\$137,531	\$165,943
Buildings, Grounds & Security	\$376,194	\$283,884	\$306,994
Utilities	\$303,679	\$286,117	\$302,209
Salary & Benefits	\$1,399,261	\$1,338,804	\$1,460,447
Total Administration Expense	\$2,226,114	\$2,046,330	\$2,235,592
Total Expenses	\$2,316,119	\$2,136,505	\$2,362,580
Net Income	(\$2,668)	\$458,110	\$174,419

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements as a whole are not presented fully in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Rather, they are designed to meet the informational needs of the congregation by presenting a comparison of the cash-basis budget with actual cash transactions. Statements of cash receipts and expenditures are on a modified cash basis; that is, receipts and expenditures are recorded as the cash transactions occur. Liabilities relating to lease obligations are not reflected on the balance sheet. These liabilities include leases on photocopiers.

Designated Funds

Fund Balances

	Designated Income	Designated Expense	Gain/Loss
Adult Ministries Designated	\$27,946	\$32,870	(\$4,924)
Children's Designated	\$20,851	\$15,155	\$5,696
Outreach & Missions Designated	\$164,322	\$231,145	(\$66,823)
Operations Designated	\$64,854	\$48,081	\$16,773
Youth Designated	\$53,616	\$48,055	\$5,561
Build Reserve Designated	\$13,483	\$103,188	(\$89,705)
Total Change in Designated Balances	\$345,072	\$478,493	(\$133,421)
Asset by Class Summary		9/30/23	9/30/24
Operations		\$311,451	\$677,525
Building		\$526,871	\$432,667
Missions		\$226,194	\$157,850
State Unemployment		\$31,050	\$31,864
Adult Ministries		\$65,887	\$60,963
Children		\$1,523	\$6,912
Youth		\$503	\$6,563
Total		\$1,163,479	\$1,374,344

Fund Balances

The funds indicate the net value of the church (assets minus liabilities). To better represent the activities of the church and to provide better management of the resources, the funds have been divided into several categories. The Operations Fund shows the liquid assets available for general operations of the church. The Building Fund shows liquid assets available for building projects.

Building Fund

Activity Statement

1 October - 30 September

Description	
Beginning Balance 9/30/23	\$526,871
Income	
Contributions	\$13,483
Expenses	
Energy Trust HVAC Upgrades	\$56,278
East Entry Fireline Break	\$36,482
Folding Tables	\$4,900
Fire Alarm Panel	\$3,390
Elevator 5-Year Inspection	\$4,500
Miscellaneous	\$2,137
Building Fund Balance 9/30/24	\$432,667





**Making disciples of all the nations —
who are becoming transformed into
the likeness of Christ.**



Sunset Kids

At Sunset Kids, we embrace Jesus' words: "Let the little children come to me." (Matthew 19:14 & Luke 18:16) This is the heart of children's ministry, where fun and joy create a vibrant environment for kids to learn about Jesus and His love. Over the past year, we've joyfully welcomed many new families, building a community filled with laughter and learning.

Special events enhance our Sunday mornings and foster connection. Harvest Fest invited families from the community to join us for an evening of games, food, and fun. Parents' Night Out offered parents/guardians a well-deserved break for date nights or Christmas shopping — knowing their children are having a blast at church. Family Game Night was a perfect opportunity for families to meet new friends and enjoy games together.

Easter Sunday was a highlight for many as children from Sunset and our local neighborhoods gathered for an exciting egg and candy hunt, followed by a delicious all-church breakfast. The sight of smiling faces inside and outside of the building keeps our hearts hopping.



Where fun and joy create a vibrant environment for kids to learn about Jesus and His love.



221 Campers	164 Volunteers	\$4,347 Raised for Missions
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Our biggest event of the year, Kids Camp, welcomed 221 kids this year with 164 volunteers coming together for an unforgettable week centered around Noah's Ark. Children sang, danced, created animal masks, drew chalk animals in the parking lot within a life-size footprint of the Ark, and learned valuable lessons about trusting God through life's storms.

Looking ahead, we are excited to expand classroom space to accommodate the 40% growth in numbers. We've already added **four new classrooms** to this growing ministry!

One of the most significant goals in the coming year is the Sunset Buddies program. 1 in 5 families have a child with some sort of disability. 90% of families with disabilities do not attend church. (Joni & Friends). We want to welcome children of all abilities into Sunset Kids just as Christ welcomed all children to his side. Join us as we continue this wonderful journey together!



Wildfire - Middle School Youth



As we all know, middle school is an awesome and awkward time in our lives.

The past year, we had a stellar group of leaders and volunteers who invested in our students weekly. Last year, we wandered the corn maze, packed out DEFY with over 200 middle and high schoolers, started a weekly Bible study, took 34 students to summer camp, and explored what a “successful” small group looks like for a group of middle school students.



Last year, in an effort to be where students are, Carrie Peebles — Middle School Lead — signed up as an AVID tutor with the Beaverton School District. Carrie helped lead a group of peers as they discussed solutions to their current (mostly school) challenges. These discussions gave her opportunities to meet with students almost weekly at Stoller, Cedar Park, and Tumwater Middle Schools. Through these classes, she connected with some of Sunset’s youth group students and invested in the middle schoolers in the community. Two of those students attended summer camp, and one started attending Wildfire this fall.

As we begin this year, we’re focusing on application and relationship-building between students and leaders. Each week we’re asking the questions, “What does this tell me about who God is? and What does this matter for my day tomorrow?”



We are so grateful and privileged to be a part of the faith journey for the middle schoolers in our community.

As students develop into who they want to become, we’re a place where they can connect with others. They’ll also learn about applying their faith while having fun too!





We sent 47 students and five leaders to high school camp where kids made decisions to follow Jesus and reignited their faith, passion, and pursuit of having a relationship with Christ.

Overflow - High School Youth

What a fantastic year we had in high school youth group! This was a rebuilding year – starting with our first meeting in September. The students, the rock star leaders, and the entire congregation worked to reignite this ministry. We are celebrating the increased attendance and excitement that we have seen growing and overflowing from week to week. Our team has been intentional about pursuing and inviting students each week. As leaders, our desire is that they know and hear they are loved and welcomed, and we want to see them each week! We walked through the Alpha Youth course, which gave some great framework for faith-based discussions in our small groups.

We had several highlights this past year which included an incredible Youth Sunday in May. The Sunset congregation was able to see and hear from students through the telling of their stories and experiences of weekly youth gatherings, service trips, and camp.

The after-church fundraising lunch was an incredible success, and the generosity of all of YOU made it possible for so many kids to afford camp. We were able to send 47 students and five leaders to high school camp where kids made decisions to follow Jesus and reignited their faith, passion, and pursuit of having a relationship with Christ. We look forward to this next ministry season with great anticipation of helping each of our students understand what it means to be a “sent people” on their school campuses, sports teams, and in their homes. Thank you for your support, prayers, and love for all of our students! We invite you to pray with us for every student to find a place here where they feel seen, known, and loved.



Seen

Known



Loved

Adult Ministries

Our adult ministries serve to make a large church small and get people into community together. The Good News Stories below are just a few examples of the pivotal role our adult ministries play in creating connections within our congregation.



As we studied scripture, we were challenged and experienced the love of Jesus.



Women's Bible Study

The Lord continues to bless the Women's Bible Study ministry here at Sunset. We had around 200 women participate, and it has been a source of joy for many — a place of support and love to be seen and known through the highs and lows of life. As we studied scripture, we were challenged and experienced the love of Jesus. The teaching, small groups, and special events give a place of belonging and connection for women in our community.



Sunset Moms

Sunset Moms continues to offer a safe-haven and connection for moms in many stages of life. Our biggest blessing of the last year was seeing God's provision for several needs and ideas. We saw him provide volunteers who stepped in to support our childcare needs. Additionally, Rona Friesen began a homeschool art room to provide creativity and learning for our homeschool kids. She created a welcoming space for them and has truly enriched the ministry. We are grateful to be able to serve a wider scope of mamas through this. We eagerly anticipate continuing to serve local moms in the coming year.

Racial Justice

The racial justice ministry serves to help build unity in the body of Christ as we facilitate conversations about race. Throughout the year, we brought awareness to honor diversity by celebrating both Black History and Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Month. In February, we had a positive response and good participation as we studied Dominique Gilliard's *Subversive Witness* book, stewarding what we have to do Kingdom Work well. For AAPI Month in May, our team served Thai-iced tea, mochi, and nori seaweed snacks. We also welcomed Markus Lloyd, founder of Threaded, in July to teach on racial reconciliation and its importance for all believers. We're excited about the continued growth, awareness, and conversations around racial reconciliation.



Alpha

"There's a seat for you at the table..."

We started the ministry year by launching an Alpha course – creating a safe space to question life, faith, and meaning. We celebrated a first-time commitment to follow Jesus, and a lot of participants took deeper steps in their engagement with their faith. We had around 60 participants and facilitators, and we look forward to continuing the conversation with those exploring their faith in 2025.



11

new small groups

100+

new people joined small groups

400

overall people in small groups

Small Groups

We're excited about the momentum around small groups as we started *Practicing the Way*. We had several new small group leaders step up and show true gospel hospitality by inviting people into their groups who may not have joined a group otherwise. There's a hunger and an excitement for community to engage with the *Practicing the Way* curriculum across Sunset Church. Nearly all small groups, new and existing, are taking part in this course. This is the first time for a unified small group curriculum in many years.

Young Families

As we work toward creating flourishing children's and youth ministries, one of the ways we do that is by creating a welcoming community for young families. Each month, we gathered around the table for a meal and friendship. We found this to be a great opportunity to invite new families into our church for deeper connection.



There's a hunger and an excitement for community to engage with the *Practicing the Way* curriculum across Sunset Church.

Outreach

What an incredible year we had in outreach! We are so thankful for the opportunities that God presents us with; to be a blessing in our community and across the world, as we long to be a place for joyful and loving connections in Jesus and the larger body of Christ!



Helping Hands Food Pantry and Clothes Closet

The Food Pantry, in cooperation with the Oregon Food Bank, served an average of 1,172 people per month (approximately 350 families). With your generous support, we purchased food items that helped to ensure families had access to healthy, fresh food options. The Clothes Closet served an average of 35 families each week. This ministry relies on generous donations of clothing, shoes, and blankets received from the community and Sunset's congregation. The many volunteers in this ministry serve faithfully and are a light in our community.

Christmas Outreach

We had a wonderful Christmas season, specifically as we engaged with Operation Christmas Child and Angel Tree. Sunset families shopped and purchased gifts to fill shoeboxes that were then delivered to children around the world through the Operation Christmas Child network. Each box also included materials that shared the message of the Good News of Jesus! For Angel Tree, Sunset volunteers and families made calls to recipients, wrote gift tags, purchased gifts on behalf of a child's incarcerated family member, then gathered to build gift bags filled with treats! We then set out to deliver the gifts. The lobby was filled with excitement and joy as we served together.



Sunset Missions Prayer Community and Global Partners

The Missions Prayer Community meets monthly to lift our Global Partners to the Lord in prayer. It is our goal to get to know the people/people group each Global Partner is working with, to be filled with God's love for them, and to listen to what God is doing around the world.



In addition, we have been working with an outside agency that specializes in missions strategy and planning. We've gathered a team and have done some great work in discerning the future scope and impact of our outreach at Sunset and around the world. We've engaged in workshops and our next steps will be completing an evaluation process. We look forward to updating you throughout the next year.

We invite you to pray with us, that we are a people who continue to lean into the Great Commission call on our lives as we ourselves continue to be transformed into the likeness of Christ.



Worship

The Worship & Creative Arts ministry is such a thriving community. One of our recent new additions told me that because of the busyness of his family's life, they hadn't been able to plug into a small group and had felt somewhat on the fringe of the church over the past year. Once he began serving on Sunday mornings, several members of the worship team came up to him and invited him and his family to join a small group and connect one-on-one. This was unprompted and exemplifies a thriving ministry wherein our volunteers feel the freedom to boldly invite and include people in their community, along with encouraging them to go deeper in their faith.

One highlight was that we had an awesome Worship Intern serve with us over the summer. She helped bring new life and energy into our church.

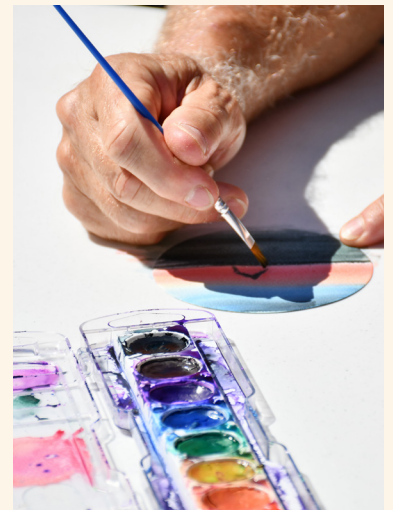
This year, Sunset Worship also released an original song – "You Said Yes" – which we sang as a church in Sunday morning and youth worship services. We also released an arrangement of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" during the advent season.

Art & Practice was an additional highlight during the summer this year. We saw different art pieces that inspired people in the congregation to create based on the nine practices in *Practicing the Way*.



We're focusing on strengthening the NextGen worship ministries, and we want to intentionally engage with the students and children at Sunset. We hope to allocate more resources, time, and effort to these ministries. In the coming year, we'd love for you to pray for us as we heighten our focus in this area.

The Worship & Creative Arts ministry consists of over 60 active volunteers! We are so blessed to have a large group of committed and passionate Christ-followers within our ministry. Our primary goal this year revolves around growing and strengthening relationships with volunteers. Please pray for us as we seek God to know how to best accomplish this.





14986 NW Cornell Rd

Portland, OR 97229

503.292.9293

sunset.church