

2026 Annual Report

Sunset Church



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

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From Pastor Steve

Dear Sunset Family,

When I think back on this year at Sunset, I'm filled with joy and gratitude for the ways I've seen God at work. Here are a few highlights, along with what I'm excited about in the year ahead.

Highlights
One highlight was continuing our journey through the Practicing the Way (PTW) series. It has been wonderful to see how our small groups have embraced the PTW video courses. We focused on three spiritual practices last year. The spiritual practice of generosity unleashed joyful generosity in our congregation. The spiritual practice of fasting gave new insights into the biblical reasons why we fast. The spiritual practice of community created greater joyful and loving connections in our church family. It has been a joy to hear how these spiritual practices have made a difference in so many people's lives.

This past year also brought a renewed focus on our Global Outreach ministry. Having developed and refined values and strategies, we were able to prayerfully identify two new unreached people groups to serve. Throughout the first three Sundays in May, our theme, "To the Least Reached, with the Hope of Jesus," helped us share the vision for Sunset's global initiatives. We ended the series with a Passport to the Nations event where we officially announced our focus on the Miga in Southeast Asia and the Amari in South Asia. To top it off, I was able to join the Miga Vision Trip to Southeast Asia! It was an inspiring trip that gave me even greater confidence in our choice to reach the unreached Miga people.

The biggest highlight for me was receiving a $300,000 matching gift offer from a couple in our church. The elders and I had been fasting and praying weekly through the season of Lent for God to reduce our $2,400,000 mortgage debt. This matching gift offer came as a complete surprise a couple months after we had been fasting and praying. It feels like God is on the move. We let our congregation know about this matching gift giving opportunity, and it has been a joy to see how this gift has inspired joyful generosity in the congregation.











Looking Ahead
I'm excited to keep journeying through the PTW series together. This upcoming year, we'll focus on the solitude and serving practices on Sunday mornings and in small groups.

To prepare for the upcoming solitude focus, the Sunset elders will be reading Invitation to Solitude and Silence: Experiencing God's Transforming Presence by Ruth Haley Barton. The staff have the opportunity to begin their season of Lent and solitude emphasis by attending a silence and solitude retreat at the Mt. Angel Abbey. I am expectant to hear the impact of these experiences.

To support the spiritual practice of serving, we plan to invite our entire congregation to take a spiritual gifts inventory and facilitate a class to process what we learned. We are also planning to host a church wide day of service as a culmination to that series. I'm looking forward to seeing how the Holy Spirit will form us more into the likeness of Christ as we practice solitude individually and serving in the community together.

I will also continue to teach through parts of the Gospel of Luke in order to know and love Jesus more. We are beginning with a series called "Amazed by Jesus," looking at the miraculous events that left people in awe. Next calendar year, we will begin by looking at Jesus' powerful teaching on prayer. Then, we will look at "Jesus the Storyteller," teaching through his surprising parables. I am also planning on preaching a special series on the extraordinary Parable of the Prodigal God. God is clearly on the move at Sunset, and I feel such hope for what is ahead. I am looking forward to dreaming about what God would like Sunset church to do for His glory in Portland and around the world in the years ahead.

May you be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service of giving is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. (2 Cor 9:11-12 ESV)

God bless you,
Steve Ruetschle
Senior Pastor



Current Ruling Elders



Rupa Devadoss
President
Rupa grew up in a Christian family in India and moved to the U.S. for her master's degree. She and her husband have lived in Portland for 16 years with their two children and have made Sunset their home. Together they serve as small group leaders, and Rupa is grateful to be part of the children's and middle school ministries. She works at Nike and enjoys hiking, sewing, and the ocean, which reminds her of God's vastness and peace. Anchored by Psalm 46:10, she trusts God's promise that where He leads, He provides.



Steve Slotemaker
Treasurer
Steve and his family have attended Sunset since 2019. Steve and his wife, Meghan, share three daughters ages 20, 18, and 13. 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 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.



Julie Barnett
Julie is a native Oregonian who, with her husband Aaron, has loved raising their three children Lydia, Luke and Tyler. While living both abroad and now in Cedar Mill, she enjoys supporting Young Life, coaching middle school track, volunteering at Sunset High School and serving on the Sunset worship team. Julie believes Jesus' love is the greatest gift, and loving others is our greatest calling in life (1 John 4:19).



Rick Noling
Rick's faith journey began at a 1963 Billy Graham Crusade and led to an MA from Fuller Seminary alongside a high-tech career as engineer, CFO, and CEO. He's served in ministry leadership at several churches (including Sunset) and now supports pastors through Leighton Ford Ministries. Rick and his wife, Kathy, moved to Oregon 12 years ago and enjoy family, grandkids, their golden retrievers, woodworking, and reading.



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.



Kirsten Williams
Kirsten and her husband, Paul, found their way to Sunset Church in 1997 and have been members since 2002, raising their four daughters here. Sunset has been central in deepening her walk with Christ, and she has served in many ways — from Food & Toy and Women's Bible Study to Care Groups, Sunset Food Pantry, and community organizations like Catalyst Partnerships. Now retired, Kirsten enjoys hiking, camping, fishing, traveling, and time with family.

Ruling Elder
Nominees



Todd Gillingham
Todd moved to Oregon in 2000 and quickly found a home at Sunset Church. Members since 2001, he and his wife Melanie belong to a care group that began as a New Member Class. Todd and Melanie have been married since 1991 and have two awesome daughters, Abby and Anna. Todd has a family practice in the area and enjoys attending symphonies in his free time.



Todd McIlraith
Raised in a Christian family in Lafayette, CA, Todd asked Jesus to be his Lord and Savior just before entering middle school.Throughout his life, he has felt the Lord's persistent call to follow him and continues to be amazed by the beauty and order of God's creation. After marrying Marlo in 1999, they moved to Oregon and have raised their three children here in the Portland area. Todd has been a chemistry teacher for 19 years at Southridge High School. The family started attending Sunset Church regularly in 2009 and has stayed ever since. Todd loves Sunset! He has led music for children's ministry, taught the 5th grade Divin' In class, has led his adult small group and is currently leading a discipleship group of high school boys.

Financial Update

Dear Sunset Family,

Thank you for another year of faithfully supporting the life and ministry of Sunset Church. Your generosity, prayers, and willingness to serve have made a real difference. As I have stepped into overseeing Sunset's Operations and Administrative teams, I have been grateful for the people who care for this church and the many ways God continues to provide.

Our Purpose
The Operations Team helps create the conditions for ministry to thrive. We steward the finances and facilities entrusted to Sunset, care for and support our staff, and maintain the administrative systems that help our church serve people well. Whether we are preparing a room, welcoming a visitor, processing a gift, or planning a major repair, our work supports Sunset's mission and the people carrying it out.

My focus is to help the team work with clear responsibilities, good communication, and shared priorities so we can respond well to today's needs and prepare responsibly for the future.

We are also grateful for those who rent our facilities, including St. Stephen's Academy, Llamados, and the American Red Cross. They benefit from the spaces and resources of this campus while contributing rental income that helps us care for the property and support Sunset's ministry.

Gratitude for Our Team
I am grateful for the care, practical skills, and steady effort that the Operations Team brings to the everyday needs of the church. Many of them work well before people arrive and after they leave. Please join me in thanking:

Karen Carroll — Adult Ministries & Contribution Coordinator
Bobbie Woodruff — Facilities Rental & Front Office Coordinator
Steven Hawes — Facilities Lead
Kailee Aughtman — Ministry and Event Host
Matt Johnson — Ministry Host
Tim Kuskie — Part-time Ministry Host
Raiden Moreno — Part-time Ministry Host
Russ Snyder — Facilities Specialist
Curt Charles — Volunteer Security Lead

I also want to thank Bob Thomas, who now serves as Sunset's Volunteer Finance Committee Chair, for continuing to share his time and experience in support of Sunset's financial stewardship.

Generosity and God's Provision
This year brought unexpected repairs to our elevator, boiler, and HVAC systems. Time and again, something would break, and a gift would arrive to help cover the expense. Those moments were a tangible reminder of God's provision through this congregation, and I am deeply thankful.

Through the Practicing the Way generosity practice, a $300,000 lead matching gift invited the congregation to give toward eliminating our mortgage debt. The match has been met and exceeded! The opportunity to give remains open, and we look forward to sharing and celebrating the final amount together at the annual meeting on November 22, 2026. Thank you for helping us make meaningful progress toward the debt reduction goal shared last year.

These mortgage gifts are designated for debt reduction and are separate from our operating giving. Operating giving exceeded the budget by $350,037 this year, and our operating surplus allows us to move forward with replacing three additional HVAC units in the coming year.

2026 Project Updates

This year's facility improvements supported worship and helped us continue caring for the spaces used by children, students, and the wider church family. Projects included:

- Sanctuary stage remodel.
- Replacement of two East Wing HVAC units.
- Continued cosmetic updates to the East Wing.
- Painting in the Student Center and second-floor hallways.
- A new children's check-in counter, benches, and art.

The Cornell Road digital marquee sign remains in progress, and we look forward to completing installation in the year ahead.

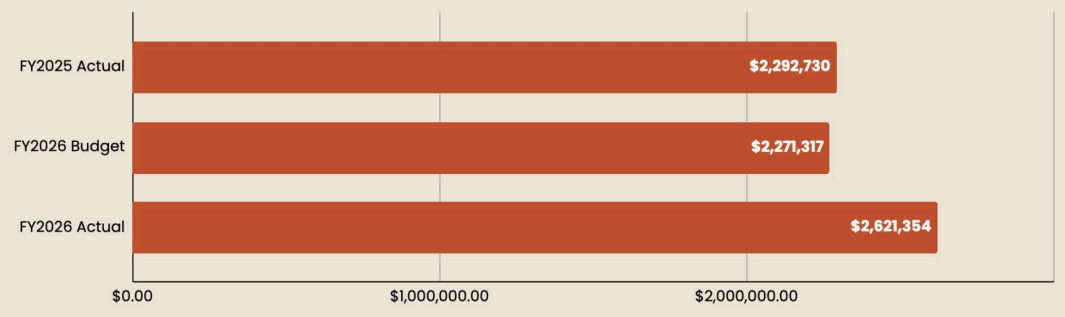
Operating Revenue Snapshot

For the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, total operating revenue was $3,136,120, exceeding budget by $385,168, or 14%. Tithes and offerings increased $328,624, or 12.5%, over last year. The figures below exclude designated gifts for mortgage debt reduction.

Revenue source	FY2026 actual	FY2026 budget	Above budget	FY2025 actual
Operating giving	$2,621,354	$2,271,317	$350,037	$2,292,730
Facilities use income	$460,050	$439,735	$20,315	$407,094
Interest income[1]	$54,715	$39,900	$14,815	$50,839
Total operating revenue	**$3,136,120**	**$2,750,952**	**$385,168**	**$2,750,663**

[1] FY2025 reported this category as Interest/Other Income.

Operating Giving Snapshot



Looking Ahead

In the coming year, we plan to replace three additional HVAC units, complete the digital marquee sign, and continue making progress toward eliminating our mortgage debt. We will also keep strengthening the systems and communication that support our staff and ministries, while planning carefully for the ongoing needs of our campus.



Thank you for entrusting us with the care of Sunset's resources and for the many ways you invest in this church. I am grateful to serve alongside you as we follow Jesus and share His love with the community.

With gratitude,
Jessica Marshall
Director of Finance and Administration

Financial Statements

Balance Sheet

Description	9/30/25	9/30/26
Current Assets		
Checking	$162,462	$104,124
Savings & Money Market	$840,165	$1,195,325
Long-Term CD	$610,419	$657,637
State Unemployment	$31,864	$31,864
Accounts Receivables	$2,960	$6,546
Total Current Assets	**$1,647,870**	**$1,995,497**
Fixed Assets		
Property, Building & Equipment		
Cornell Road Land	$5,499,686	$5,499,686
Cornell Road Building	$23,356,475	$23,779,155
Furniture & Equipment	$1,503,498	$1,571,537
Accumulated Depreciation	**($18,853,081)**	**($19,575,200)**
Total Fixed Assets	**$11,506,578**	**$11,275,178**
Total Assets	**$13,154,448***	**$13,270,675**
Current Liabilities		
Credit Card Liability	$25,853	$24,795
Long-Term Liabilities		
Building Loan	$2,533,676	$2,096,309
Total Liablities	**$2,559,529**	**$2,121,104**
Total Equity	**$10,594,919**	**$11,149,571**
Total Liabilities & Equity	**$13,154,448***	**$13,270,675**

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, and the current loan was initiated on January 13, 2023. The building loan balance as of September 30, 2026, was $2,096,309. The interest rate is 3.3%. The mortgage matures on May 15, 2032.

* Adjusted total number due to 2024 asset correction.

Operating Budget

Summary

1 October - 30 September

Income	2026 Budget	2026 Actual	2027 Budget
Operating Revenue	**$2,750,952**	**$3,136,120**	**$2,847,632**
Operating Expenses			
Adult Ministries	$28,741	$23,746	$26,379
Children's Ministries	$8,000	$6,094	$8,280
Student Ministries	$13,700	$14,290	$14,600
Worship & Music	$18,750	$20,844	$16,548
Tech Arts	$11,214	$12,554	$12,198
Outreach & Missions	$20,350	$16,098	$25,200
Administration	$192,770	$185,089	$198,274
Buildings, Grounds & Security	$368,665	$337,212	$355,104
Utilities	$292,054	$278,057	$284,210
Salary & Benefits	$1,512,604	$1,349,895	$1,563,937
Total Administration Expense	**$2,366,093**	**$2,150,254**	**$2,401,525**
Total Expenses	**$2,466,848**	**$2,243,881**	**$2,504,730**
Net Income	**$248,104**	**$892,239***	**$342,902**

Asset Acquisition (FY 2026)

Building	
HVAC Units 5 & 6 Replacement - East Wing	$422,680
Furniture & Equipment	
LED Pendant Fixtures - Fellowship Hall	$29,106
Benches, Conference Tables, Room Dividers	$16,170
Digital Mixer Console	$22,763
Total	**$490,719**

*Acquired using operating income revenue.

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. 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 operations lease obligations are not reflected on the balance sheet.

Accounting Services

To meet current mortgage lending requirements, Heritage Bank requires an annual compilation by an external accounting firm. In addition, the Sunset Church bylaws require a more thorough review by an external based acccounting firm every four years. Lake Oswego based Aprio Advisory Group, LLC completed a review of fiscal year 2024 in June of 2026. They will begin the fiscal year 2025 compilation in January 2027 and then move onto the 2026 compilation. Annual reporting for 2026 regarding asset acquisition and depreciation has been adjusted based on the advice of the firm.

Designated Funds

Fund Balances

	Designated Income	Designated Expense	Gain/Loss
Building Fund Designated	$515,376	$103,115	$412,261
Adult Ministries Designated	$58,545	$58,318	$227
Children's Designated	$13,051	$12,414	$637
Outreach Designated	$0	$9,211	($9,211)
Community Assistance (Food Pantry & Clothes Closet)	$141,699	$143,084	($1,385)
Operations Designated	$0	$12,200	($12,200)
Youth Designated	$53,505	$55,535	($2,030)
Global Designated	$67,099	$70,866	($3,767)
Total Activity	**$849,274**	**$464,743**	**$384,531**
Asset by Class Summary	**9/30/25**	**9/30/26**	**Gain/Loss**
Operations*	$1,051,661	$1,314,268	$262,607
Building	$420,971	$521,521	$100,550
Global Outreach**	$32,881	$29,114	($3,767)
Local Outreach**	$33,619	$24,408	($9,211)
Food Pantry & Clothes Closet	$1,385	-	($1,385)
State Unemployment	$31,864	$31,864	-
Adult Ministries***	$61,517	$61,744	$227
Children	$7,571	$8,209	$637
Youth	$6,401	$4,371	($2,030)
Total Change in Designated Balances	**$1,647,870**	**$1,995,499**	

*Financial Assistance moved from Outreach to Operations.
**Split Local & Global Outreach.
*** Treasures-Night to Adult Ministries.

Clerk of Session

Baptisms

Beliver Baptisms	15
Infant Baptisms	4
Infant Dedication	2

Active Membership 9/30/24	**565**

Gains

New Members	31
Re-instate Per Request	0
Total Gains	31

Losses

Request	1
Deaths	5
Total Losses	6

Active Membership 9/30/25	**590**

Building Fund

Activity Statement

1 October - 30 September

Beginning Balance 9/30/25	**$420,971**
Income	
Building Project/Contributions	$515,376
Fund Balance	$936,347
Expenses	
Sanctuary Stage Remodel	$35,021
East Wing Elevator Repair	$24,979
Paint Student Center & Second Floor East Wing Hallways	$14,650
Boiler Repair	$24,868
Miscellaneous	$3,597
Total Expenses	**$103,115**
Net Fund Balance	**$833,232**
Principle Loan Reduction Payment (Matching Gift)	**$311,710**
Building Fund Balance 9/30/26	**$521,521**

As we look toward 2027 and the next five years, we're continuing to focus on two strategic stewardship goals that will free up future funds for outreach and ministry. One goal is to eliminate the Building loan which currently stands at $2,096,309. The second goal is to continue to replace aging HVAC units over the next 5-10 years as our current systems are between 25 and 30 years old. The estimated cost is $1,480,00. In 2027, we intend to continue using designated Building Reserve and Operations funds to replace additional units in the fellowship hall, gym, and basement.





Our Values

Sunset's mission statement is to make disciples of all the nations — who are becoming transformed into the likeness of Christ. Along with the mission statement, we aim to focus on four core values.

We create joyful and loving **connections** with Jesus and others.

We value authentic relationships and a deep sense of belonging where everyone is welcomed and known.

We **grow** in Christ through spiritual practices.

Through Scripture, prayer, and shared rhythms of faith, we become more like Jesus together.

We **serve** others in love.

We put love into action through generosity, compassion, and service in our church, community, and around the world.

We **share** the Good News of Jesus.

We teach and believe in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ and encourage joyful sharing of what God has done and is doing to bring people towards Jesus.

From Here to the Nations



Project Homeless Connect
In July, Sunset hosted the Beaverton One Day event for Project Homeless Connect. It was a joy to get to partner with such a wonderful organization again. This event provides the chance for people experiencing homelessness to access a wide range of resources all in one place. 413 people showed up to receive all kinds of assistance from housing support to vision exams and even pet care! It is such a joy to use our space that we have been blessed with to serve the community and provide a welcoming place for our unhoused neighbors.



Miga
A hunger and thirst to learn more about Jesus is stirring in the hearts of the Miga. Twelve Discovery Bible Story groups of women want to meet. Due to the recent natural disaster, the few Miga fishermen following Jesus are reading God's Word every night which is sparking the interest of nearby family, friends, and neighbors. Sunset Global Partners A & D, ask the Lord of the Harvest to send more workers who can help with this new, growing interest in God's Word!



Food Pantry & Clothes Closet
The Sunset Food Pantry & Clothes Closet continued to thrive, providing food and clothing to neighbors in need. A noteworthy part of this year's story was the way our volunteer teams stepped up while Sarah, Sunset's Food Pantry manager, needed time away to care for her family during a crisis. For much of 2026, volunteers carried extra responsibilities and supported one another to keep the ministry running. We also saw God's perfect timing in the arrival of Caitlin, our new Outreach Coordinator. Her knowledge and support were a gift to volunteers as they faithfully served clients.



Amari
The Amari are one of the largest unreached people groups. During a scouting trip to South Asia among the Amari in May, the most surprising discovery was how God is revealing Himself to some pockets of young adults. Despite persecution, courageous young men and women are choosing to follow Jesus the Messiah. He is transforming their lives — and they are sharing this Hope with their peers and families.



Catalyst Partnerships NW
Sunset partnered with Catalyst again this year to help Mr. Ballou whose home was badly damaged by a roof leak. Although our scheduled workdays were rained out, we financially supported the project. Several Sunset folks also helped with other Catalyst projects throughout the year. As one of Sunset's local outreach partners, Catalyst brings volunteers, local partners, and donors together to provide free, critical home repairs that help restore peace of mind, stability, and a sense of belonging for under-resourced neighbors.



A Protected Partner
Praise God for a new leadership role for one of Sunset's Protected Partners! Having served the Lord for more than 20 years in Southern Africa and among the First Nations in the USA, she now cares for other faithful workers on the field. One Challenge has entrusted her to lead its Global Care Team, supporting field workers throughout the organization. Pray for God's strength and wisdom as she leads this global membercare team.

Loving, Joyful Connections

At Sunset, we place a high value on creating joyful and loving connections with Jesus and others. We saw people build friendships, encourage one another, and grow closer to Jesus around tables, on Sunday mornings, at summer camp, and through summer Connect Groups.



The Connection Counter launched this year, helping people get connected at Sunset. We also started two new small groups specifically for young families. Between these two groups, 15 families with kids ranging from infants to teenagers built joyful, meaningful connections. The Sunset Moms ministry also provided a place for connection for moms, mentor moms, and kids! Our racial justice gatherings gave people space to share stories of God's faithfulness through their immigration journeys.

Sunset's growing Treasures Ministry served adults with disabilities each Sunday. Many new faces came after attending Night to Shine, and we purchased more tables as the group filled up the gym! What an amazing way for the Treasures to connect with each other!

We welcomed several new families into our growing Sunset Kids community. At Kids Camp, children ages four and up joined us for "Power Up: Level Up Your Faith." Kids embraced the message that God gives us everything we need, burned off some energy with crafts and outdoor games, and had FUN together. More than 150 volunteers served that week. Volunteers made camp a place where kids could experience God's love and connect with others.





Middle and high school youth groups shared experiences that opened the door to friendships and conversations about faith. Thirteen eighth-grade girls spent a weekend at the beach exploring trust, both with each other and with God. Meals around a table, a craft project, and a late-night Taco Bell delivery with Baja Blasts gave them time to enjoy being together.

EVRYTYN Night brought together middle school students, including many newcomers and gracious volunteers who helped to connect with them through games, karaoke, food, Nintendo, and dodgeball. At summer camp, middle school students and their leaders shared fun, conversations, and cabin time. A group came home and began a 21-day challenge to spend regular time with God, get outside, and spend less time on devices. For the high school students who attended Camp Firwood, the week brought meaningful connections. Although the first few days were hard for some, by midweek, students who didn't know each other before camp formed deep bonds, and many relationships with Jesus deepened.







Through Sunset's Global Outreach initiatives, we celebrated longtime connections and began building new ones. In January, friends, volunteers, and colleagues gathered with Ron Riesinger and his family to celebrate his retirement after 43 years of cross-cultural ministry. There were heartfelt stories, laughter, games, and fun desserts. We also celebrated the long-awaited unveiling of our unreached people focus areas: the Miga people of Southeast Asia and the Amari people of South Asia. At the Passport to the Nations event, all ages joined in activities to discover and grow in God's heart for reaching the nations. People met and encouraged Global Partners, learned about the Miga and Amari, and prayed together. The Miga Vision Trip team was grateful to meet our Global Partners and the Miga in person during September 2026. The visit sparked excitement about discovering more opportunities for the Sunset family to build meaningful connections with them. Our Global Partners emphasized how much they valued ongoing and consistent prayers of the Sunset community. The renewed Global Outreach newsletter also gave us a way to stay connected and offer heartfelt support and encouragement.

The Worship and Creative Arts ministry welcomed ten new volunteers to their teams. Our Worship and Creative Arts staff, team of six, also attended the Experience Conference in Orlando, FL to learn, grow, and be refreshed.

Our two amazing summer interns, Heidi and Delaney, brought connection and joy through their fun videos, energy, and willingness to work with kids, adults, and volunteers alike.

These stories offer a brief snapshot of the joyful and loving connections that grew throughout our ministries this year.

Truly a good news story for Sunset Church!

Numbers at a Glance

265 kids ages four and up joined us for "Power Up: Level Up Your Faith" Kids Camp this summer!

121 women from Sunset gathered at Canby Grove Christian Conference Center for a spring retreat — deepening connections with each other and God.

135 people shared a delicious meal together at the 55+ Christmas luncheon, while also hearing from Rev. Ken Mulder and Dr. Barbara Feil.

15 different Connect Groups gathered over the summer, offering different activities and opportunities to spend time together.



Growing in Christ

This year, we grew in our faith as we studied God's Word, prayed for one another, and learned to become more like Jesus in our daily lives. Across all ages, we had opportunities to learn and try new practices — encouraging each other along the way.

We continued learning about spiritual formation through the Practicing the Way course. In small groups and Sunday morning messages, we explored generosity, fasting, and community - learning how to put these practices into action and make space for God in our daily lives. Pastor Steve also invited the whole church to fast together on Holy Saturday, a meaningful shared experience for many.

In March, members of the 24/7 Prayer ministry gathered to share stories of how God answered prayers over the years. Throughout the year, these faithful people prayed each week for our church, community, and world. Coming together gave them an opportunity to hear and celebrate what God did through those prayers.

Women's Bible Study welcomed over 200 participants for studies on the parables, Galatians, and God's Law — providing a beautiful space for the women in the community to grow in their faith and understanding of God's Word. The Men's Morning Watch ministry changed its name to Men's Breakfast and Bible Study to reflect the heart of the ministry, gathering around a delicious meal and studying God's Word together. This multigenerational group gathered at 7:30 am every Saturday morning and studied several books from both the Old and New Testaments throughout the year.













In Sunset Kids, Bible stories, verse memorization, games, and crafts continued to create a fun, Christ-centered environment. Each week, kids of all ages were invited into a deeper understanding of God's Word and His love for them.



Sunset's high school youth group started using the Fresh Fire app to follow a Bible reading plan together and share reflections and prayer requests within their small groups. This helped students stay connected and grow in daily spiritual practices, even when life got busy and they missed Wednesday night gatherings.



The 5th grade "Divin' In" class graduated twelve students in 2025–26 as they transitioned into Middle School Youth Group. The class explored the foundations of faith through the Old Testament theme, "Jesus as the Star of God's Plan," then built on that theme by studying the Gospel of Mark. Jesus' question to his disciples, "Who do YOU say that I am?" encouraged students to take a fresh look at Jesus and think for themselves about his role in their lives.



Our two summer interns worked through a curriculum plan designed to help them develop practices and rhythms in their walk with Jesus. Alongside their ministry roles, they took time to learn and practice ways of growing in their relationship with Him.



Prayer was central to our growing relationships with the Miga and Amari unreached people groups. Each month, a group gathered on Zoom to pray for these two people groups and our Sunset Global Partners. We heard stories of breakthroughs, from God's provision of farm equipment for the CLIDE team in Uganda to Miga hearts transformed as people experienced the presence and hope of Jesus following a traumatic natural disaster.

Our congregation showed generous hearts and a willingness to try the practice of fasting together — some for the first time!

What a gift it was to continue learning and growing together.

Serving in Love

This year, the Sunset Church family served others in love through practical help, meaningful connections, and holistic care. That love reached Sunset's neighbors and nations around the world.



More than 300 volunteers came together for Night to Shine, celebrating and serving 190 honored guests and more than 150 family members and caregivers. Our high school students also helped put together resources for the event, joining the many people who made this special evening possible.

The Congregational Care Team made more than fifty visits to members of our church family who were hospitalized, in rehabilitation facilities, homebound, or facing long-term illness. These visits provided prayer, connection, and encouragement. The team also introduced an extended bereavement support process for members and regular attendees who experienced the loss of a loved one. Throughout the first year following a loss, the team sent quarterly care notes offering encouragement and comfort to those grieving.

Helping Hands became the Sunset Food Pantry and Clothes Closet, a name that clearly communicates what the ministry offers our clients and community. The Food Pantry served 4,490 families and 13,567 individuals, and the Clothes Closet served 1,699 families. We praise God for the hearts of those who faithfully served others in love each week!

Our adults, kids, and students found meaningful ways to serve together. Sunset Women's participants helped prepare for Kids Camp, and children attending camp brought in 874 items of applesauce and cereal for the Sunset Food Pantry. Sunset Kids created more than 100 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to share with children in need around the world. Through our congregation's Christmas Outreach efforts, we delivered a total of 187 shoeboxes and served more than 150 children through Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree program.

One of the eighth-grade girls' Life Groups spent thirty minutes each Wednesday evening sorting clothes in the Clothes Closet during small group time - giving them a meaningful way to spend time together and serve. The SUMR youth gathering also continued sorting clothes as needed throughout the summer.

During spring break, our high school students participated in a local service trip. They spruced up the landscaping and spread bark around the church, created resources for a local ministry that taught English to refugees, and helped lend a







hand at a sister EPC church in Northeast Portland. Throughout the year, they also packed snack bags for Union Gospel Mission's Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach meals.





Sunset's Global Partners continued serving their communities with care and compassion. When natural disasters destroyed homes and disrupted lives among the Miga in June, the Miga team responded immediately with clean drinking water, food distribution packs, psychological care, and stories of Jesus. What began as emergency relief grew into a ministry of long-term recovery, relationship-building, and community transformation. As the team addressed needs for shelter, water, food security, livelihoods, and emotional well-being, they also found opportunities for deeper relationships, spiritual conversations, and ministry among people already connected to their work.

Pastor Steve, Michelle, Caitlin, Dave, and Mary went to Southeast Asia and met our Miga Global Partners, A and D, in person. They offered support for the Miga team through pastoral care, teaching on solitude, active listening, and celebrating all that God was doing. They were sent off with three full bags of supplies for the Miga team — all donated by the Sunset congregation! Our congregation filled three bags with supplies for faithful workers serving the Miga of Southeast Asia. During their visit, Sunset Church's generosity, encouragement, and timely prayers were a huge blessing to the team.

CLIDE in Uganda added four classrooms to the Koochamialuk school, and the government provided seven trained teachers. This opened the door for many children to receive a formal education for the first time! Global Partner Dale continued to electronically publish newly translated Scripture so that more Central Asians can read and study God's Word.

Sunset's Worship Ministry led worship at the Mission Connexion conference in January. The team also served the wider church by leading worship for the EPC Northwest Presbytery in May 2026.

From sorting clothes and packing shoeboxes to visiting those facing illness and supporting communities recovering from disaster, our church family shared the love of Jesus through their time, generosity, and willingness to serve.

What a privilege it was to serve together.

Local Outreach: Food Pantry & Clothes Closet

13,567
individuals served in the Food Pantry.

3,004
volunteer hours in the Pantry.

1,699
families served in the Clothes Closet.

678
volunteer hours in the Closet.

Sharing the Good News

Throughout the year, we shared the good news of Jesus with our neighbors and the nations. Through classes at Sunset, school Bible clubs, worship, and the steadfast work of our global partners, people had many opportunities to learn about Jesus.



Five people joined the Alpha course to learn more about what it means to believe in and follow Jesus. Volunteers prepared a delicious meal each week, helping make the class a warm and welcoming place to ask questions and explore faith. Three participants went on to join Sunset small groups.

On Easter Sunday, Sunset Kids classrooms were bursting at the seams as the team welcomed familiar faces and many first-time visitors to hear the Gospel message and celebrate the hope of the resurrection. Later in the year, our Kids Ministry intern, Delaney, found a creative way to share the good news through Legos, connecting with kids through a toy they already knew and loved.

Our Easter celebration brought the entire church family together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, with a large band and choir helping lead worship. We also celebrated 14 baptisms as people publicly declared their faith in Jesus. What a joy to celebrate these declarations of faith together!









Students also shared the good news with their neighbors at school. Carrie helped start a Bible club at Tumwater, where about students gathered weekly to talk about the Bible. Two teachers hosted the group and helped plan games and Bible passages to study. High school students also led clubs at several local schools, sharing their faith with peers and classmates. Every club saw an increase in attendance. Our students continue to grow in sharing the good news of Jesus in their everyday lives. During seven SUMR Youth gatherings, middle and high school students watched portions of the Alpha Youth series. Most already described themselves as having a relationship with Jesus, but the videos and discussions gave them space to ask questions, hear something new, and talk about faith together.

Our commitment to sharing Jesus with the nations took a new direction this year. In the spring, Pastor Steve's three-week series, "To the Least Reached, With the Hope of Jesus," introduced Sunset's new Global Outreach focus. Bookmarks, a take-home Peoples + Partners prayer guide, and a new video helped us learn and pray together. The series culminated in the announcement of our commitment to the Miga and Amari unreached people groups through prayer, giving, learning, and going.

Our Global Partners, A & D shared stories of new Miga believers telling their own neighbors about Jesus. Lydia, who put her trust in Jesus, began sharing her story with other women. Even



while struggling to feed her young family, she found joy in telling others about her faith. Meshach, one of several men baptized this year, memorized the story of Peter and Cornelius. Following the natural disaster, he began reading his Bible more and leading Bible studies so other men in his village could hear about Jesus and the hope he had found.

When Eric and Judith Hedeen visited in August, they brought news of the growing church in Malaumanda, where they had translated the Bible and planted a church. Men and women from that community were praying for and traveling to Minini — a village five days away on foot — to share the Gospel. We also hosted Global Partner Patrick T., who shared his excitement about new workers in Central Asia, including three single professionals. These young men were living with local families and learning the language as they sought to share the hope of Jesus.



Dr. Val reported that 450 children attended Sunday School, and several were becoming eager messengers of the good news to their families and communities. CLIDE also shared how Pastor Labu used chronological Bible storying cloths to teach people in Rapada, who then began sharing stories of Jesus themselves.

Jerry and Barb Manderfield told us that some parents of children at Destiny School had come to faith in Christ and were now attending church and worshipping Jesus.

A Protected Global Partner had several opportunities to give First Nations Bibles to people exploring faith. We join in praying that readers would come to know Jesus, the "Creator who Sets Free."

We celebrated with Global Partner Beth as she completed the rigorous process of becoming a Bible Translation Consultant. In this role, she reviews Scripture translations for accuracy, clarity, and natural language, while training and supporting local translation teams. Her work builds on earlier contributions to Bible translations in several Central Asian languages, including Uzbek and Kyrgyz, helping people read and understand God's Word in their own language.





We're grateful for the ways people shared Jesus with their neighbors and the work our Global Partners did in sharing Jesus with the nations this year. We have loved seeing Jesus come alive through conversations with classmates, stories shared with family, and the ongoing work of sharing the good news in unreached places.

To God be the glory for the Good News of Jesus!



Thank You

Thank you for being a part of Sunset Church. Your prayers, generosity, and willingness to serve make so much of this possible. We're grateful to follow Jesus together.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." - Numbers 6:24-26

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