

Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church

Annual Report 2020

Greeting from the Pastors

Life at Ladue Chapel during the year 2020 was unprecedented in a variety of ways. Multiple changes in staff led us to saying goodbye to people who had served with us for many years and welcoming new people into our midst. The COVID 19 pandemic caused us to engage in ministry in ways we had never imagined before. But there were two abiding constants throughout this time of change and upheaval. God's Holy Spirit continued to guide, inspire, and comfort us, and the love and commitment this family of faith has for each other continued to shine through every twist and turn of the journey.

Here are some of the highlights of our ministry together in 2020

- We welcomed the Rev. Doug King as our new pastor / Head of Staff into our midst as we said goodbye to the Rev. Dr. Susan Andrews with thanksgiving for her interim ministry with us.
- Due to the rapidly spreading pandemic, we successfully transitioned from in-person to online worship with light speed. Special thanks here go to the Rev. Melanie Smith for making it all happen!
- Our music program continued to be exceptional due to David Erwin, our Minister of Music, and the dedicated members of our choir and bell choir.
- We transitioned our complete support staff in the office and are now again fully staffed. We are very excited about our new colleagues and their presence with us.
- We celebrate the ministry of our officers--elders and deacons--as they found ever new and creative ways to stay in touch with our members during this pandemic (phone calls, communion kits, countless zoom meetings, etc.)
- We continued to feed the hungry due to the many food drives organized by our Mission Committee.
- We give thanks to our Stephen Ministers who continued to shepherd members in need of a listening ear.
- We utilized the "Box Ministry" as a way to stay connected with our families, our children, and our homebound members. From Vacation Bible School, to Advent and Lenten boxes, we provided meaningful ways for our church family to explore their faith. A big shout out here to the creativity and dedication of our Director of Spiritual Life,

Anne Peacock and our Director of Faith Formation and Family Ministry, Courtney Chandler.

- We kept our building functional and welcoming due to the efforts of our maintenance crew, John Poelker, Rian Beaulieu and Warren Thomason.
- And so many other things that are not “written in this book”

Last but not least, a big “Thanks” to all of our members – your faithfulness, support and prayers for our entire staff mean the world to us. We are grateful for you all beyond words!

Doug

Mel

Dieter

Worship Ministries

Due to the spread of the Covid-19 Virus, many changes took place this year. The revised Sunday morning schedule started on March 1st but lasted only two weeks. Beginning March 15th, all Ladue Chapel Sunday morning church services were held virtually. The Sunday morning service was pre-recorded and continued throughout the year, airing at 10:30am. One was able to access the service through Facebook and later also through YouTube. It took great collaboration and creativity on the part of the staff to record the different parts of the service throughout the week and meld them into a cohesive service.

A Ladue Chapel Health Force was created to make recommendations to Session on when and if in person services would be held.

On 4 Wednesday evenings in August we held Evening Prayer services outside on the Circle Drive, and David Erwin also led 2 outdoor Hymn Sings in August.

Music for Sunday services was provided by a soloist up through August. Beginning in September and continuing through the end of the year, a Chamber Choir consisting of our 9 section leaders met for a brief time each week to record an anthem and the hymns for the following Sunday. The Chamber Choir was also able to record a Christmas concert; the highlight of this was our first virtual choir recording (“Silent Night”) which involved the entire Chancel Choir.

The Chapel Ringers have been meeting weekly since September as well, rehearsing in a well-ventilated and distanced format in Fellowship Hall. They were able to record several pieces which were used in worship throughout the autumn and at Christmas.

The single concert we hosted in 2020 was “In Their Own Words,” held on February 16. This highly successful event featured author/historian/musician Dr. Eileen Guenther leading a program based on her book “In Their Own Words; Slave Life and the Power of Spirituals.” It featured guest soprano Marlyssa Hudson and our own Chancel Choir.

Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry at Ladue Chapel seeks to live into the baptismal vow we as a congregation have made to our children: "to love, encourage and support you, to share the good news of the gospel with you, and to help you know and follow Christ."

While 2020 was met with many challenges, there were still some special moments happening with our children's ministry. In January, Route 345 went to Incredible Pizza. We continued to meet in person as part of Monday Madness until in person meetings were suspended due to COVID. We then continued to meet via Zoom with the children. Stay home parents with small children met in February and March for story time with Courtney in the children's library. Also, at the beginning of 2020, we had a teacher training for the new Sunday School Schedule.

After church ministries went virtual in March of 2020, Courtney Chandler continued to offer Word and Wonder stories online through the end of the school year. Vacation Bible School had a very different look as we continued to gather virtually. The whole staff, along with lay leaders from the church, helped create a special and meaningful experience for our children. All of the VBS activities led to a Popsicle party at the church.

In the fall, Monday Madness and Route 345 resumed with masks and social distancing as we met outside for choir and a time to be led in a bible story. We had several 2nd grade children receive bibles that were personally delivered by the Director of Children and Family Ministries.

Advent Boxes were created and passed out with activities for families to do throughout advent. Middle School youth met twice outdoors while wearing masks for Sunday Funday. Finally, the children shared their gifts and talents in worship as they performed the prerecorded version of "A Journey to Bethlehem." While it has been a trying year, it has also opened the door for many creative new ideas that we hope to continue.

Youth Ministry

This year Youth Ministry got creative in how we do ministry!

In March of 2020, we received 15 confirmands into full membership of Ladue Chapel. Shortly after their reception, our church services moved online.

After worship moved to livestreaming, our high school youth group moved online as well, meeting over Zoom March-May.

In May, as church continued to gather virtually, our students worked together to create a pre-recorded Youth Sunday. Students recorded themselves from home leading us through all aspects of worship and reminding us of God's faithful & loving presence.

In the summer of 2020, the Youth Committee partnered with Children's and the Mission Committees to create the Matthew 25 Fellowship. Based on the Matthew 25 program through our denomination-the program utilized two of the three pillars; dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty. Over the course of five weeks, five Matthew 25 Fellows engaged in conversations and heard from community leaders around the topics of hunger, housing insecurity, education inequality, gender/orientation rights and healthcare inequity.

In the fall of 2020, 11 students were welcomed into the 2020-2021 confirmation class. For the first time ever, the majority of classes were held over zoom and while it was a very different way of meeting, we had excellent participation (and attendance!) as students asked questions about who is God? Was Jesus human or divine? Who or what is the Holy Spirit? What does it mean to be church? The confirmation class of 2020-2021 was welcomed and received in the spring of 2021.

While nothing could have prepared us for all the ups and downs 2020 brought our way, we are thankful for the creativity that has emerged—God's loving Spirit is alive and well in this place!

Fellowship Committee

During the first months of 2020, the many members and guests enjoyed fellowship through the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Lenten BBQ, a Men's and a Women's Retreat, and in Bread Breaker groups.

After March 15, fellowship events were cancelled and/or re-envisioned due to COVID. Committee members reached out to new members to check-in and see how they were doing and sent Christmas Cards to their fellowship groups during Advent. Additional cards were mailed to homebound members, new members, members with pastoral care concerns, and church leadership. We celebrated Rev. Mel Smith's Installation in September, a drive-through Trick or Feed in October, and a drive-through Watcher's Eve celebration in November.

With the purchase of two outdoor pre-lit Christmas trees, white lights for three live trees in the front of the church, and two patio heaters, the fellowship committee extended the time that groups could meet outside and brought a more celebratory feel to the outside of the church during Advent.

Member Ministries

Adult Education

The Adult Education Program was halted last March and plan on using many of the speakers that were engaged for this past year's programs in 2021.

Deacons

2020 was a year like no other for the Deacons. Instead of delivering flowers to our homebound members and hosting the annual Strawberry Festival, we had to rethink our mission of caring for the members of Ladue Chapel. Our meetings were on Zoom but we found ways to stay in touch with our homebound members by sending out dozens of cards and making hundreds of phone calls.

Under the leadership of Matt Mikula, our moderator, the Deacons kept in touch with our most isolated members. In October, when it became clear that we would not be able to share communion on World Communion Sunday, the Deacons purchased communion kits and shared them with both homebound members and members alike. It was a little different but so meaningful for all who participated. We ended the year by delivering Advent booklets to all homebound members.

Stephen Ministry

In January through mid-March, Stephen Ministry continued to provide one-on-one support for individuals facing a difficult time in their lives, as well as meeting with members who were hospitalized and with members who were in nursing homes. Following the onset of the pandemic, when hospital and nursing home visits were no longer possible, Stephen Ministers continued to stay in contact with one-on-one care receivers, and reached out to congregational members by telephone during the following months. Stephen Ministers also regularly met by Zoom for continuing education and fellowship.

New Members

In February of 2020, we welcomed 5 new members into the congregation. With the pandemic limiting the ability for visitors to experience worship in person, the New Member Committee focused its attention on a combination of current member retention and outreach to visitors attending our virtual worship services. We worked to identify visitors through analysis of the church's social media channel data and sent greetings to any visitors attending virtual services.

Mission Committee

2020 was an active year for the Mission Committee even with challenges of the pandemic. Mission Committee worked to provide opportunities for the congregation to serve in spite of the shutdown and the congregation responded generously.

The Mission Committee is thankful for the generous support our church provides to Mission. Twenty percent (20%) of the Church's prior year living donor contributions supports mission: 10% to the various agencies and programs and 10% to our denomination (General Assembly, Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy and Synod of Mid-America).

The Mission Committee led the congregation in January 2020 in packing 240 Clean-up buckets to be provided to families in natural disaster areas by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

A 5-week virtual education program, Matthew 25 Fellows, was created and jointly sponsored with Youth and Children Education. Five impressive high school members participated. The program focused on dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty, covering hunger, housing insecurity, education inequality, gender/orientation and healthcare insecurity.

Matthew 25 sponsored two webinars: Road to Unity and The Bail Project, both well attended.

We participated in one Rebuilding Together-St Louis October build day, once assured of safety.

The Hunger Team hosted six drives for food and cleaning supplies needed by agencies to contend with the virus. The drives were necessarily held on the outside of the church and the congregation generously responded. These included:

- May 2020 – Served as one of six collection points in an Isaiah 58 community drive
- We held drives at the church in July, August, September and October and in December an Angel Tree drive for an agency and its families
- Results: 3,100 pounds of food & carloads of food, child care supplies and grocery cards.

The Turkey & Ham drive had to be converted to an ask for cash in lieu of frozen turkeys: \$5,377 was collected – approximating 360 turkeys, a record number.

List of Agencies

Supported by the Mission Committee in 2020

Mission-Children & Youth	Missions-Hunger
Cornerstone Center for Early Learning	Gateway Greening, Inc.
Firm Foundation Tutor - Restore St Louis	Isaiah 58 Ministries
Gateway Human Trafficking	Meds and Food for Kids
LEAD Tutoring	Waymakers / Chapel for the Exceptional
Mission Interns	Missions-Housing & Health
Presby. Children's Homes and Services	All Among Us, Inc.
Uni-Pres Kindercottage	Care and Counseling, Inc.
Missions-Church Worldwide	Casa de Salud
Clean Up Buckets for PDA	Habitat for Humanity St Louis
Costa Rica Co-Worker - Karla Koll	Jubilee Services
Interfaith Partnership of Greater St Louis	Rebuilding Together - St Louis
Theological Education	STARS-St. Andrews Resources for Seniors
UKirk-St. Louis (at Trinity PC)	The Bail Project – St Louis
Wycliffe Bible Translators, Inc.	

Property Committee

2020 Accomplishments:

- Roofing Project-New copper had to be replaced as well as many damaged portions of the roof, all over the building.
- Automatic Door Installation-Installation of automatic doors for our main bathrooms and for the entrance door to The St. Andrew's Memorial Garden; allowing handicap accessible options and helping Ladue Chapel become ADA compliant.
- Elevator Installation-We had a new elevator built and installed in the dormant elevator shaft.
- Air Purification System-Installed a new air purification and ionization system into our existing units that sit atop the sanctuary.
- Fireside Room-We are in the process of redecorating The Fireside Room with new curtains and new furnishings. To be completed in early 2021.

Plans for 2021:

- Fireside Room-Completion of Fireside Room redecoration.
- New HVAC Units-Replace 3 old HVAC units with 3 new ones.

Stewardship Committee

This past year the Stewardship Committee worked diligently to communicate with our congregation in spite of the church building being closed. The committee called to thank those who had pledged and to remind those who hadn't yet pledged to make their contribution. Ed Reeb chaired the 2021 campaign, Our Legacy—Our Promise, which kicked off with a series of Stewardship messages during the online services. We also created and sent a brochure about the campaign and called members again to remind them about the importance of Stewardship at Ladue Chapel.

Staff Resources Committee

This has been a busy year for our committee and a year of many transitions for our staff. We are so proud of how well one and all have managed this most extraordinary of years.

Emily Holman, Tom Sargent, and Suzanne Williams all retired. We are grateful for their many years of faithful service to Ladue Chapel.

We said goodbye to Susan Andrews and Harper Phillips and thanked them for all their good work with us.

We were blessed by our very own Jane Geer and all her good and steady work in our business office during all of this turnover.

We welcomed Jesi Hempstead and Doug King into our midst and all they have begun to share with us.

And we have been so very blessed by our continuing staff of Deiter Heinzl, Mel Smith, David Erwin, Anne Peacock, Courtney Chandler, John Poelker, Rian Beaulieu, Warren Thomason, and Julie Walther-Scheibel. Their steady excellence has kept us grounded in the midst of so much change.

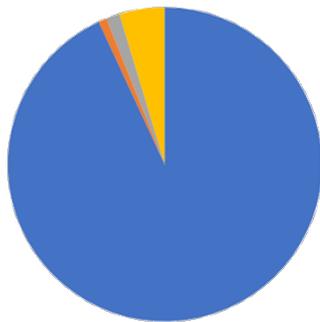
Ladue Chapel Finance Committee

The Finance Committee faced many challenges and changes during 2020. The hard work paid off and the end result was a solid understanding of Ladue Chapel’s finances highlighted below. Operating at a deficit has been new territory for Ladue Chapel. The Finance Committee has taken this very seriously while working to provide financial oversight and controls for the church.

2020 Highlights

- Applying for and securing a forgivable PPP (payroll protection program) loan.
- Hiring Angie Fink to help complete the 2019 audit and get the 2020 books in tip top shape.
- Saying goodbye to long time Financial Assistant and friend Suzanne Williams and gratefully working with Jane Geer during the interim to find Suzanne’s replacement, Keith Kult.
- Hiring UHY and Kent Kay to oversee book keeping, accounting and reporting until we were able to welcome Mark Vago, Ladue Chapel’s new Church Business Administrator.

Sources of Revenue

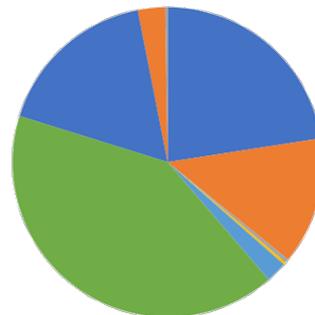


Sources of Revenue	
Contributions	1,730,422.00
Other Income	15,903.00
Play Day Out	26,026.00
Property Usage Fee	86,954.00
	<u>1,859,305.00</u>

● Contributions
 ● Other Income
 ● Play Day Out
● Property Usage Fee

Use of Funds	
Administration	474,738.00
Health and Benefits	279,705.00
Adult Programs	8,355.00
Children and Youth	5,753.00
Play Day Out	46,451.00
Staff Resources	865,721.00
Mission	360,154.00
Worship and Music	59,936.00
Children and Youth	5,241.00
	2,106,054.00
	(246,749.00)

Use of Funds



● Administration
 ● Health and Benefits
 ● Adult Programs
● Children and Youth
 ● Play Day Out
 ● Staff Resources
 ● Missions
● Worship and Music
 ● Children and Youth