

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ASTORIA

## *Our Mission Statement:*

*"To help people within a kind, safe and compassionate community to know Christ and grow His Love."*

**Week of March 11, 2024**

## *Get Ready to Share Some Easter Joy!*

*As not only spring grows closer, so too does Easter. That means it's almost time to bring in some flowers for Easter morning to place on the floral cross for all to see. So, come help celebrate the empty cross and our risen Lord. If you don't have flowers to share, no worries! Flowers will be provided. More details in the next newsletter.*



## *Announcements*

- ♣ **The Food Bank** – Is in need of plastic or reusable bags, cat food, breakfast cereal, mac & cheese and volunteers. Please contact the church office for more information. The Food Bank is open Monday through Friday from 3pm – 4pm, except on holidays, and is located on the north side of the church.
- ♣ **Sunday Mornings** – Your help is needed! We need greeters, ushers and liturgists to share the warmth of our church family with all who come to worship. Sunday School Teachers are needed too! See the sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary or during fellowship or contact the church office for more information.
- ♣ **Bowling & Pizza** – Come join us for fun, food, and fellowship at 5 PM on the third Wednesday of each month at the Lower Columbia Bowl in Astoria. And don't forget to invite a friend! Next Bowling & Pizza Day is March 21.
- ♣ **PW Women's Bible Study** – Women, come join in the Presbyterian Women's Bible study, **Sacred Encounters**. We'll be meeting at 10AM on the third Saturday of the month, March 16 at the Davidson's home. For info call the church office. For more details about the study see: <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/bible-study/sacred-encounters/>

## **FRIDAY COFFEE (& TEA) FELLOWSHIP**

### **COME JOIN US**

Join us every month on the second Friday. We're meeting Friday April 12<sup>th</sup> in the church parlor at 10 am for coffee, tea, treats, and fellowship. Come join the fun!



## NOTES FROM BEYOND THE PEWS

### *Thoughts from Pastor Paul*

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Hope and pray this note finds you well and feeling blessed. It is my hope too that your Lenten journey has been a fruitful one and that you have been able to find a spiritual discipline to help you strengthen your relationship with the Holy Trinity.

Choices, decisions, plans, etc... No matter what you call it, each day, from our earlier years to our later years, and every year in between, we are faced with making choices. Said choices can range from what clothes to wear or what to have for lunch to where to live and what career path to take to the hardest of choices about what next steps to take regarding loved ones who are having serious health issues. Choices can be made without much thought to so much thought that it keeps you up at night. Halleluiah that we don't have to make any choices on our own. For God is always with us, offering us good counsel and advice, comfort and grace. The only thing we must do is to seek and trust God. The writer of Proverbs said it great, "Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; God's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all." (MSG) Whenever we try to make decisions without guidance from God, we do so at our own peril. Sure, we may get it right every once in a while, but we stand a better chance and a whole lot less stress when we seek God's help. And remember too, regardless of the choice you are trying to make, to keep focus on God and Jesus' teachings while listening to God's still speaking voice that is whispered to us through the Holy Spirit. Do this, and regardless of how difficult the choice, you will have made the correct one. Have faith in your faith! Remember the words from James 1:5-8, "If you don't know what you're doing, pray to God. God loves to help. You'll get God's help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who "worry their prayers" are like wind-whipped waves. Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way, adrift at sea, keeping all your options open." (MSG) God loves you big time and won't steer you wrong. So, even after you've made your choice, when you find yourself questioning your decision, fight that urge. That's just the great tempter trying to lead you astray. If you sought, heard and followed God's guidance, you need not worry. It may take a while, but all will be well.

Please be safe and take care of yourselves and be kind to those around you, and that includes yourself. If you'd like to hear from me, please give me or the church office a call and let me know. And don't forget to not just invite someone to church or a church event, bring them! See you at church!

Blessings and shalom,

Pastor Paul

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### *BYOCC – Bring Your Own Coffee Cup*

To help with reducing waste from fellowship time, please bring a reusable coffee cup for your beverages during fellowship.

We'll even make sure it is washed and ready for the next week's fellowship time.





Join us March 17 at 10AM,  
For Our Combined Worship  
& Potluck with Our  
Sister Church,  
Pioneer Presbyterian  
Church in Warrenton

*First Presbyterian Astoria &  
Pioneer Presbyterian Church*  
33324 Patriot Way, Warrenton, OR



Scan with your phone for  
directions.

## Easter Egg Hunt!

Let the hunt begin!

Join us Sunday, April 7,  
after worship for a good  
ol' Easter Egg Hunt.

**HAPPY HUNTING!**

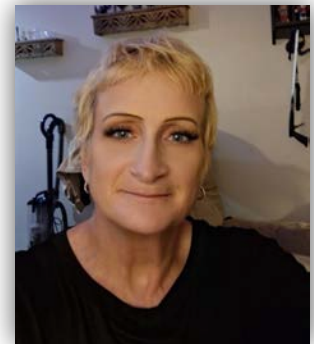
We all looking forward  
to seeing you!



## We Welcome our New Custodian

Please join in welcoming our new church family member. Our new custodian, Kari Steadman. We are excited to have you aboard helping to make sure our facilities are kept clean and in order.

Kari, we are excited to have you here and to have you as part of our family. Welcome Kari!



## Per Capita Payment

As most of us know, pledging is an important part of helping our session to create a budget every year. To know how much we can afford to spend on church activities and mission work, we must have an estimate of how much money will be coming into the church.

Our Presbytery is no different, except that they have a budget that relies on income that is received not from pledges, but rather on a per capita. The per capita is determined by the number of active members of the congregations divided by the budgeted expenses. For this year, the amount of our per capita is \$45.60. The per capita helps our Presbytery to continue its important work of supplying resources and services to each congregation, including ours, as well as doing other missional work in the Presbytery's region.

We are asking that each member please pay their \$45.60 per capita to the church, so that we can pass it on to the Presbytery of the Cascades without pulling money directly from the church's resources.

Please let the church office or our Finance Team know if you've any questions.

## FPC Astoria Calendar

March	12	Session Meeting at 4 PM	
	14	VBS Planning at 10AM in the Christian Resource Room	
	16	Women's Bible Study – 10AM at Hazel's House	
	17	Combined Worship & Potluck at Pioneer Presbyterian at 10AM	
	19	Deacon's Meeting at 4PM in the Christian Resource Room	
	20	Bowling & Pizza at Lower Columbia Bowling at 5PM	
	24	Palm Sunday	
	28	Maundy Thursday Seter Dinner at 5:30PM in Goodenberger Hall	
	29	Interfaith Peace Walk at 3:30PM in downtown Astoria (see flier below for more details)	
		Good Friday Service at 6PM in the Marcotte Chapel	
31	Sunrise Easter Service at the Astoria Column at 7AM		
	Easter Worship & Celebration at 10AM		

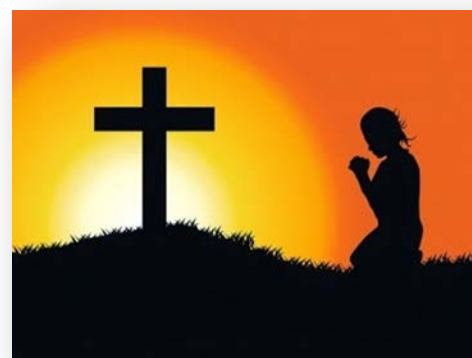
## Working for Justice and Peace in March

All Month:	
• Women's History Month; <a href="http://womenshistorymonth.gov">womenshistorymonth.gov</a>	
Date(s)	Event
11	J&P Book Discussion Group online, 3:30–5:30 PM Our Missing Hearts by Celeste Ng. Register at <a href="http://presbyterianwomen.org/justice">presbyterianwomen.org/justice</a>
11-22	UN Commission on the Status of Women, <a href="http://unwomen.org/en/csw/csw68-2024">unwomen.org/en/csw/csw68-2024</a>
17-23	National Agriculture Week; <a href="http://iatp.org">iatp.org</a>
20	Mr. Rogers Day, <a href="http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/office-of-chris-tian-formation/mr-rogers-day-resources">presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/office-of-chris-tian-formation/mr-rogers-day-resources</a>
22	World Water Day, <a href="http://worldwaterday.org">worldwaterday.org</a>
25-31	National Farmworker Awareness Week, <a href="http://saf-unite.org/national-farmworker-awareness-week">saf-unite.org/national-farmworker-awareness-week</a>
29	Good Friday; <a href="http://presbyterianmission.org/story/april-15-2022/">presbyterianmission.org/story/april-15-2022/</a>
31	Easter; <a href="http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/resurrection-lord-easter">presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/resurrection-lord-easter</a>
	National Farm Workers Day, <a href="http://nationaltoday.com/national-farm-workers-day">nationaltoday.com/national-farm-workers-day</a>
From the Presbyterian Women in the PCUSA   <a href="https://www.presbyterianwomen.org">https://www.presbyterianwomen.org</a> <a href="https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2024-JP-Calendar-FA-rvsd-2.pdf">https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2024-JP-Calendar-FA-rvsd-2.pdf</a>	

### Prayers of the People –

*Please send prayer requests to the church office*

- Juanita & Marcella Price – Healing & Peace
- Michael Smith – Healing & Discernment
- Duffy Mueller – Healing, Peace & Discernment
- Katy Paz – Healing & Peace
- Butch & Vinie Elliot – Healing & Peace
- Gerald Smith – Healing, Peace & Discernment



### Continued Prayers for God's Creation

All those touched by mass shootings and other crimes of hate and violence.

The people of Ukraine, the Gaza Strip, and other parts of the world as their lives have been torn apart by war.

Those seeking justice and equality.

Those suffering from oppression and violence.

Those who are forced to flee their homes, risking life and limb for the hope of a better life.

For those who prioritize profit over God's creation, that their hearts be changed to make serving and saving God's creation their one priority.

God's creation as it seeks to survive mankind's exploitation and global climate change.

## Getting Involved in the Community

- ☪ Volunteers are needed for the church's food bank to stock shelves and to help serve customers.
- ☪ Attend a local public meeting:
  - City of Astoria
    - Monday, March 18, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
    - Tuesday, March 19, Historic Landmarks Commission at 5:30PM.
    - Tuesday, March 26, Planning Commission at 5:30PM.
    - Wednesday, March 27, Parks Board at 6:45PM
  - Clatsop County
    - Wednesday, March 13, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
  - Clatsop Community College
    - Thursday, March 14, Board of Education Meeting at 5:30PM.
  - Astoria School District
    - Wednesday, March 13, School Board Meeting at 7PM.
  - Port of Astoria
    - Tuesday, April 2, Commission Business Meeting at 4PM.

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## Church Directory

Next time you're at church, please take a moment to review the church directory. Let us know if your contact information needs updated or included.



We hope to have an up-to-date church directory before Easter.

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# First Presbyterian Church of Astoria Invites one and all to an evening of Bowling, Pizza Fun & Fellowship

At the Lower  
Columbia Bowl  
826 Marine Dr  
in Astoria  
March 20  
At 5PM



Scan for  
Directions



**75 YEARS** |  **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



**February 14-March 31, 2024**

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

**WAYS TO GIVE —**

- + Through your congregation
- + Online at [pcusa.org/give-oghs](https://pcusa.org/give-oghs)
- + Text OGHs to 91999 to give



-or-  
You can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries.

**IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!**

To learn more about how your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference, visit [pcusa.org/oghs](https://pcusa.org/oghs)



One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four annual special offerings. The four churchwide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a congregational church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

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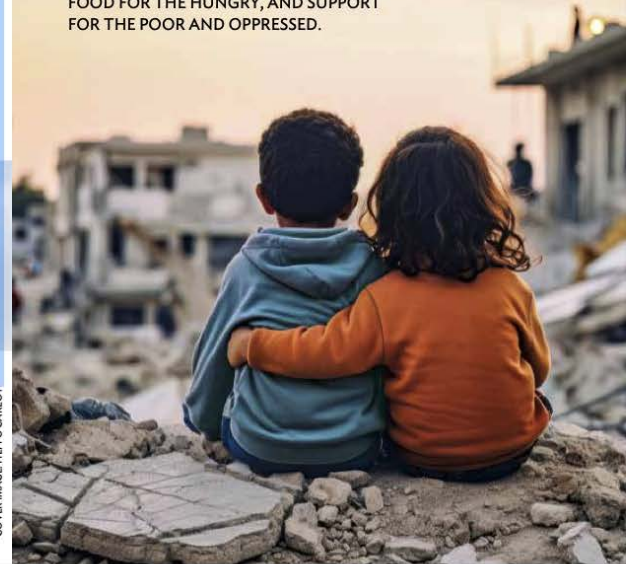
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**75 YEARS** |  **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

# REPAIRING THE BREACH

— ISAIAH 58

PROVIDING RELIEF FROM NATURAL DISASTERS,  
FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY, AND SUPPORT  
FOR THE POOR AND OPPRESSED.



## Repairing the Breach, Fixing What's Broken

In Isaiah 58, God, through the voice of the prophet, calls us to be repairers of the breach — and by repairing the breach, we will, by God's grace, be led into a new season of justice, freedom and peace.

“Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

You shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.”

—Isaiah 58



**One Great Hour of Sharing supports programs in over 100 countries.**

FLETCHER

**75 YEARS** |  **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

IN THIS SEASON OF LENT,  
we follow Jesus' example;  
walking alongside the most vulnerable  
to partner in repairing the harm inflicted upon them.  
**WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER;**  
and we are there with those who need us.

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable through three life-saving programs ~



HOUSE RESTORATION - VILLAT

**PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

*Restore Streets to Live In*



FASUPE MINISTRIES

**PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM**

*Share your Bread with the Hungry*



CARIDAD GARDENS

**SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE**

*Loose the Bonds of Injustice*

*Please give generously.*

**IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!**



## Astoria Annual

# INTERFAITH PRAYER WALK

***Good Friday, March 29th, at 3:30 pm***

This year the Churches of Astoria will again be hosting an interfaith Prayer Walk through downtown Astoria.

Join us in praying for our city during this prelude to the Easter Season. We'll meet at the parking lot at 12th & Duane across from the former Peace Lutheran Church (now Peace First). We'll plan to walk and pray through the downtown area for approximately an hour and a half.

***Contact Pastor Stephan Kienberger with questions:***

***[pastor@peacefirstlutheran.com](mailto:pastor@peacefirstlutheran.com)***

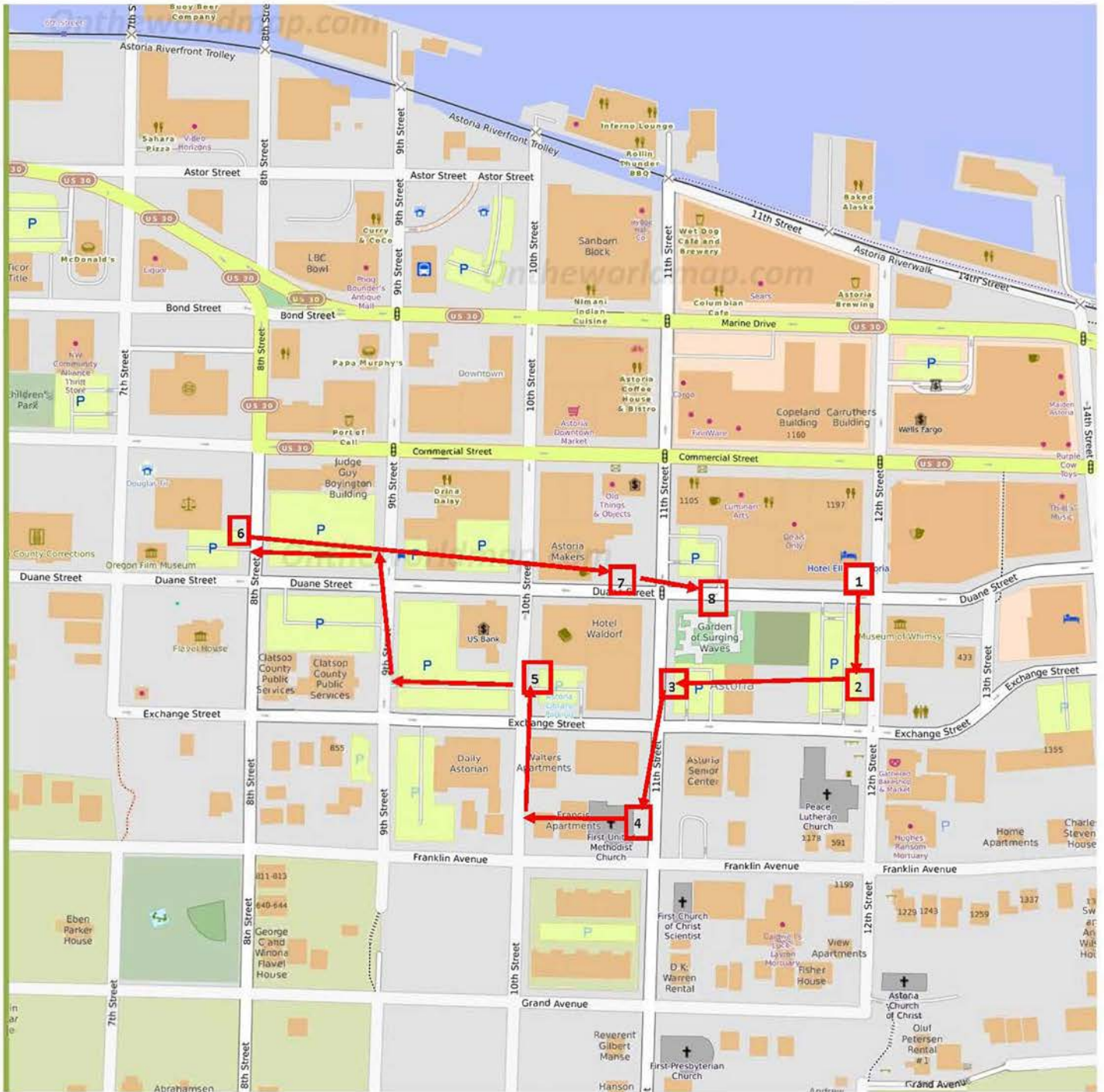
***(503) 325-6252***





# Good Friday Processional: Prayers for the Community

## Friday, March 29 @ 3:30 P.M.



We meet at 12th and Duane to begin the processional and will end at 11th and Duane at the Garden of the Surging Waves.



Join us in supporting the Friendship Fund during the month of March.

[columbiamemorial.org/friendship-fund](http://columbiamemorial.org/friendship-fund)

## Donate Now!

**The Friendship Fund at the CMH Foundation was created to help CMH caregivers who are in immediate need of financial support due to a crisis or other unexpected event.** Donations from CMH caregivers primarily support the Friendship Fund, although some outside donors do partake in giving, as well.

The Friendship Fund was established in 2016 for caregivers in emergent financial need through no fault of their own. Volunteer committee members review anonymous applications, compare with policy and vote to approve.

**The fund donated \$36,245 to caregivers in 2023.**

### How can I participate?

1. Participate in the month long campaign events
2. Donate directly from your paycheck
3. Make a one-time donation





**Office Hours –**

**Monday through Thursday** – 9:00 am to 12 noon

**Pastor Paul's Office Hours & Contact Information**

Pastor Paul is in the church office during office hours and is available by phone, text or email most times.

*Please note, Pastor Paul takes his Sabbath every Friday but is always available for emergencies.*

**Email:** [pastorpaul@fpcastoria.org](mailto:pastorpaul@fpcastoria.org) **Phone:** 971.606.5606

**Prayer Requests & Newsletter Articles & Information –**

The newsletter is published the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week of the month.

If you have anything that you would like included, please send it to the church office by 12 noon on Wednesday on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month.

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01-17-2006

I TOLD YOU GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS ...  
HE'S ANSWERED MINE ON FRAMES ONE,  
THREE, AND SEVEN



## First Presbyterian Church of Astoria

1103 Grand Avenue, Astoria OR 97103

Join us every Sunday at 10AM for a family friendly,  
Christ centered worship where all are welcome & accepted.

[www.fpcastoria.org](http://www.fpcastoria.org) | email: [office@fpcastoria.org](mailto:office@fpcastoria.org) | phone: 503.325.1702



An Open & Affirming  
Church Family



Scan for  
directions