

# 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 25, 2024**

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

*This Sunday is Easter Sunday! That means it's time to celebrate our risen Lord and to bring in some flowers to place on the floral cross for all to see. So, come help celebrate the empty tomb and our risen Lord. If you don't have flowers to share, no worries! Flowers will be provided.*



## *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 April 17.
- ✝ **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, April 20 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. As the Lenten season comes to a close and as we enter Holy Week, 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.

If you've been able to be in worship this Lenten season, you've heard a lot of talk about Simon, or as Jesus liked to call him, Peter. What is so great about Peter is the fact that, although Jesus called him to follow him and eventually lead his disciples, Peter was really good at saying something once without thinking twice. In other words, Peter had a talent for putting his proverbial foot in his mouth. And if you are like me, you can appreciate Peter's talent for doing this. Not because it's something one endeavors to do, but because many of us, me included, share Peter's talent. And here's the good news, if Jesus was able to look beyond Peter's stumbling, he does the same of each of us.

This isn't always something that is easy to remember. There are many times when we hold onto those moments when we stumble, putting our foot in our mouths being one possible stumble, and feel like the whole world is judging us for said stumble, when in reality, we ourselves are the only ones judging us. In Luke 9:62, Jesus reminds us that we must not look to our past but rather forward to God's future, "Jesus said, 'No procrastination. No backward looks. You can't put God's kingdom off till tomorrow. Seize the day.'" (MSG)

Now don't get me wrong, when we find ourselves saying something regretful, we must make amends to try to set things right, but we must not do so on our own; instead, we must seek the help of the Holy Spirit to give us the words and actions necessary to set things right. Then we must seek to move forward on God's path and not let the words or actions of the past keep us in the past. Remember Jesus' words from John 3: 16-18, "This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted..." (MSG)

So, siblings in Christ, do your best, with the help of the Holy Trinity, to not stumble, but if you do, remember Peter and that you are in good company. Remember too, with the help of the Holy Trinity, to pick yourself up and not dwell in past mistakes. For when we do that, we miss out on the gift of God's present and future that is laid out before us. As it is written in Isaiah 43:18-19, "Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new." (MSG)

And by the way, if someone stumbles in front of you like Peter did so often, respond like Jesus taught us, show them God's agape love and help them back up as best you can.

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, shalom, and HAPPY EASTER!

Pastor Paul

*He is  
Risen*

**Holy Week Services & Celebrations:**

**Maundy Thursday – 5:30PM**

**Good Friday Service – 6PM**

**Easter Sunday Worship – 10AM**

**[www.fpcastoria.org](http://www.fpcastoria.org)**

**We are an Open & Affirming Church Family  
Where All are Welcome & Accepted!**

## 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!





## **New Members' Class – Saturday, April 27**

Wondering what it means to be a Presbyterian? Wondering what church membership is all about? Wondering why church membership is important? Well, come join us for a New Members' class and we'll do our best to answer all your questions. Whether you're interested in joining, just wanting to find out more information, or maybe you're a current member that just wants a refresher course, all are welcome to attend, Saturday, April 27, from 10am to 2pm. Lunch will be provided, and childcare is available with advanced notice.



## **Astoria Citywide Vacation Bible School 2024 "Camp Firelight"**

**June 24-28, 2024, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm** at Peace First Lutheran downtown campus, corner of 12th & Exchange. Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade.

At Camp Firelight VBS, your students will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time on their summer camp adventure with God. They will become Campers and discover how to put their trust in God in every situation.

To register go to:

<https://form.jotform.com/212875056503152>

or scan the QR with your smartphone



## **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.

## **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.



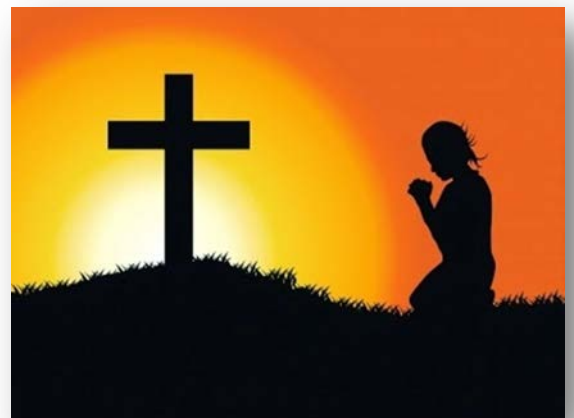
## FPC Astoria Calendar

|       |    |   |
|-------|----|---|
| March | 28 | Maundy Thursday Seter Dinner at 5:30PM in Goodenberger Hall                                 |
|       | 29 | Interfaith Peace Walk at 3:30PM in downtown Astoria<br>(see flier below for more details)   |
|       | 16 | Good Friday Service at 6PM in the Marcotte Chapel   |
|       | 31 | Sunrise Easter Service at the Astoria Column at 7AM<br>Easter Worship & Celebration at 10AM |
| April | 7  | Easter Egg Hunt following worship   |
|       | 9  | Session Meeting at 4PM  |
|       | 11 | VBS Planning Meeting – 10AM in the Christian Resource Room                                  |
|       | 12 | Coffee Fellowship at 10AM in the Parlor   |
|       | 17 | Bowling, Pizza & Fellowship at 5PM at Lower Columbia Bowling                                |
|       | 20 | Women's Bible Study at 10AM at the Davidson's   |
|       | 21 | Sailboat Church Prayer Talk – after worship in the Christian Resource Room                  |
|       | 27 | New Members' Class – 10AM – 2PM in the Christian Resource Room                              |

## Prayers of the People –

*Please send prayer requests to the church office*

- Bob Girard – Strength & Hope
- Juanita & Marcella Price – Healing & Peace
- Michael Smith – Healing & Discernment
- Linda from Chicago – Healing & Discernment
- Joanna from Seaside – Healing & Discernment
- Kari Stedman – Healing & Discernment
- Patti Brockhoff – Healing & Discernment
- Will Sheridan – Healing & Discernment
- Alice Burgess – 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, April 1 and 15, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
  - Tuesday, April 16, Historic Landmarks Commission at 5:30PM.
  - Tuesday, April 30, Planning Commission at 5:30PM.
  - Wednesday, April 24, Parks Board at 6:45PM
- Clatsop County
  - Wednesday, April 10, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
- Clatsop Community College
  - Thursday, April 11, Board of Education Meeting at 5:30PM.
- Astoria School District
  - Wednesday, April 10, School Board Meeting at 7PM.
- Port of Astoria
  - Tuesday, April 2, Commission Business Meeting at 4PM.

## **Working for Justice and Peace in March & April**

| <b>March:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Women's History Month;</b> <a href="https://www.womenshistorymonth.gov">womenshistorymonth.gov</a></li></ul>  |  |
|--|--|
| Date(s)  | Event  |
| 25-31  | National Farmworker Awareness Week, <a href="https://saf-unite.org/national-farmworker-awareness-week">saf-unite.org/national-farmworker-awareness-week</a>  |
| 29   | Good Friday; <a href="https://presbyterianmission.org/story/april-15-2022/">presbyterianmission.org/story/april-15-2022/</a>   |
| 31   | Easter; <a href="https://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/resurrection-lord-easter">presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/resurrection-lord-easter</a>  |
|  | National Farm Workers Day, <a href="https://nationaltoday.com/national-farm-workers-day">nationaltoday.com/national-farm-workers-day</a>   |
| <b>April</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Sexual Assault Awareness Month;</b> <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_Assault_Awareness_Month">en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_Assault_Awareness_Month</a></li><li>• Ecumenical Advocacy Days; <a href="https://advocacydays.org">advocacydays.org</a></li></ul> |
| 2  | PW Together in Action Days for Children's Literacy; <a href="https://presbyterianwomen.org/justice">presbyterianwomen.org/justice</a>  |
| 7  | World Health Day; <a href="https://who.int/campaigns/world-health-day">who.int/campaigns/world-health-day</a>  |
| 8  | International Romani Day; <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Romani_Day">en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Romani_Day</a>  |
| 22   | Earth Day; <a href="https://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-day-sunday">presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-day-sunday</a>   |
| 24   | Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day; <a href="https://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/churchcalendar/armenian-genocide">presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/churchcalendar/armenian-genocide</a>   |
|  | Denim Day; <a href="https://denimdayinfo.org">denimdayinfo.org</a>   |
| <b>From the Presbyterian Women in the PCUSA</b>   <a href="https://www.presbyterianwomen.org">https://www.presbyterianwomen.org</a><br><a href="https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2024-JP-Calendar-FA-rvsvd-2.pdf">https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2024-JP-Calendar-FA-rvsvd-2.pdf</a> |  |



## 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



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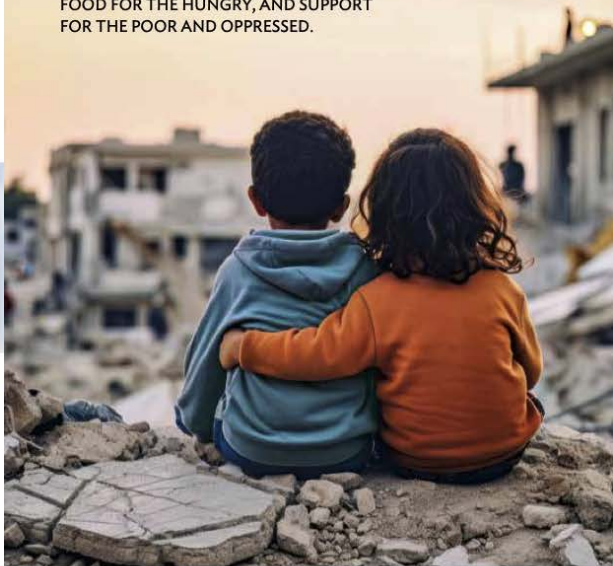
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## 75 YEARS | ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERINGS HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

# REPAIRING THE BREACH

— ISAIAH 58

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



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



KASUPE MINISTRIES



CARIDAD GARDENS

**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE**

Restore Streets  
to Live In

**PRESBYTERIAN  
HUNGER  
PROGRAM**

Share your Bread  
with the Hungry

**SELF-  
DEVELOPMENT  
OF PEOPLE**

Loose the Bonds  
of Injustice



FLETCHER

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

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

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)***

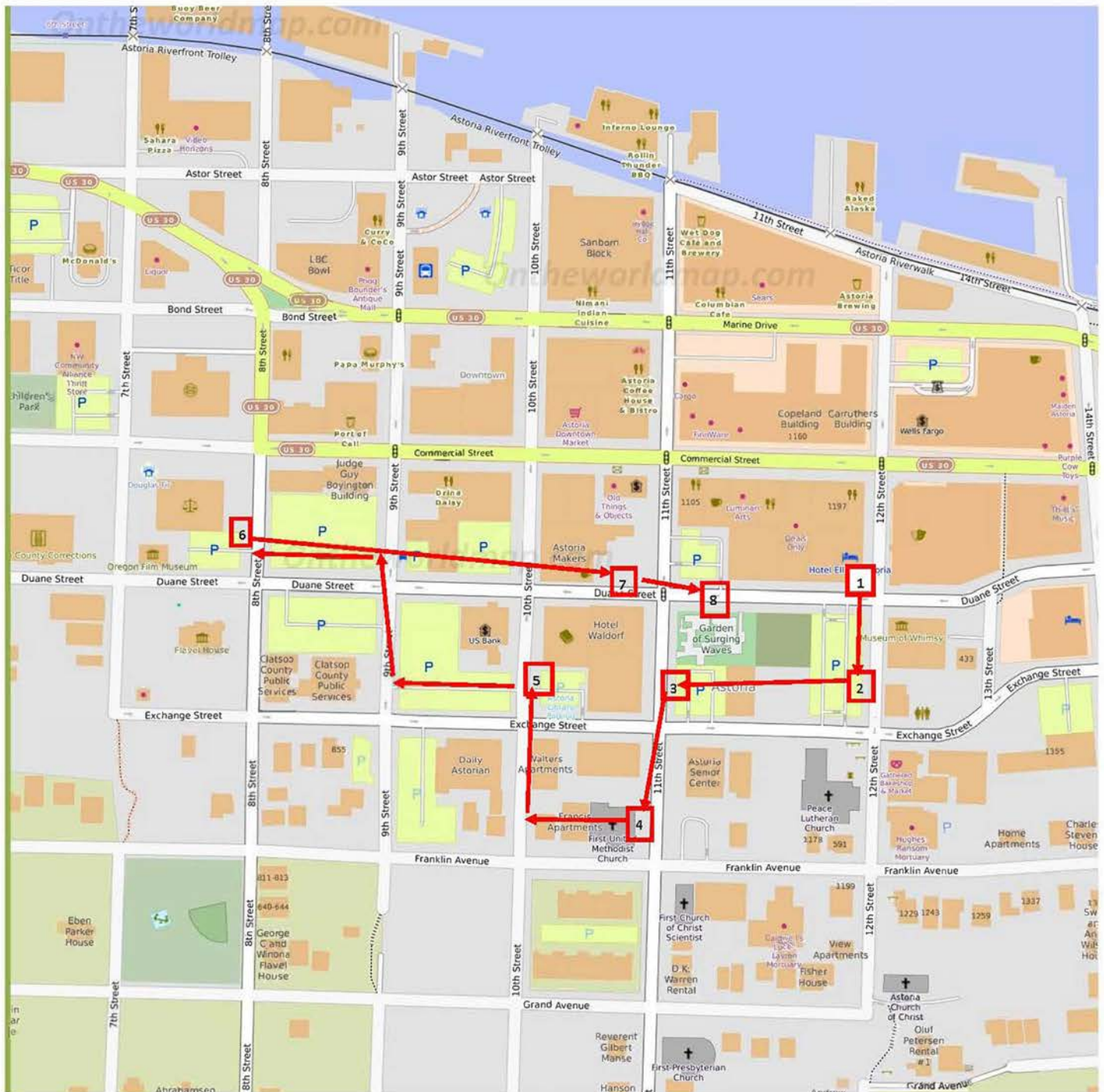
***(503) 325-6252***





# 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.**

## **Find Out More About What's Happening in our Denomination**

Find out more about what is going on in our denomination, the PCUSA, by visiting and subscribing to the PC(USA) News at <https://www.pcusa.org/news/>

Current stories include:

- ✝ *Author speaks to the value of naming and reclaiming women's stories from the gospels*
- ✝ *PCUSA webinar brings out important election issues for 2024*
- ✝ *Presbyterians for Earth Care webinar looks at real faith in a sinful world*



### **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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03-23-2015

EVEN PASTOR EVENTUALLY CONCEDED THAT  
THIS PARTICULAR SERMON RAN ON MUCH  
TOO LONG



## 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