

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 April 8, 2024



A Beautiful Cross of Flowers

A big thank you to all who were able to assist with and contribute to bringing the floral cross to life Easter Sunday with the beautiful and fragrant bouquet of flowers.

Announcements

- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **The Food Bank** – Is in need of plastic or reusable bags 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.
- ✚ **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 12th 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,

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Hope and pray this note finds you well and feeling blessed this Easter season.

As I write this note, the world is getting ready for a total eclipse. Although the effect in our part of the country will be limited, it is still somewhat exciting. I myself, out of childlike curiosity, hope to find a resource online to watch a bit of the eclipse live. It's events like this that help me to keep life in perspective.

When we are able to take a step back from our busy lives and soak in God's wondrous creation, whether it is taking in the views of the mighty Pacific or Columbia River, or walking through the quiet of a forest, or looking across the vastness of God's creation from a mountain top, or watching an eclipse, it's easy to feel peaceful, humbled and excited all at the same time as we witness the power and wonder of God's creation, of which we are a small part of. And with a relationship with the Holy Trinity, we can take comfort in the knowledge that, although we may be a small part of God's creation, there is no part of God's creation that is insignificant or unimportant to God. As we read in Job 12:7-10, *"But ask the animals what they think—let them teach you; let the birds tell you what's going on. Put your ear to the earth—learn the basics. Listen—the fish in the ocean will tell you their stories. Isn't it clear that they all know and agree that God is sovereign, that he holds all things in his hand— Every living soul, yes, every breathing creature?"* (MSG)

And if we are finding it difficult to find peace in our day-to-day living, I find it helpful to seek God's presence by journeying into God's wondrous creation. It helps too to remember Jesus' words from Luke 12: 25-32,

"Has anyone by fussing before the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? If fussing can't even do that, why fuss at all? Walk into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They don't fuss with their appearance—but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them. If God gives such attention to the wildflowers, most of them never even seen, don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you?"

"What I'm trying to do here is get you to relax, not be so preoccupied with getting so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep yourself in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Don't be afraid of missing out. You're my dearest friends! The Father wants to give you the very kingdom itself." (MSG)

So, continue to take advantage of this beautiful, wonderful bit of God's creation that we live in and, as I know many of you are already doing, enjoy God's wondrous gifts while remembering in your whole being that we are all a small, but important part of something much bigger than any one of us. And siblings in Christ, that is a good thing that we should be able to find God's shalom and comfort in.

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

Church Women,

Would you be interested in attending and/or helping organize a Mother's Day Tea with the women at the Clatsop Plains Presbyterian Church on Saturday, May 11, 2:00, in Goodenberger Hall?

Here's what I need to know: will you attend (yes or no), could you bake some cookies, could you help set up and decorate tables, etc. We can talk about this at our coffee this Friday, but if you can't be there, please call or email me (see below). I need to hear from you very soon so that I can get back to the Clatsop Plains organizers. I look forward to hearing from you, SOON. 😊 Thank you.

Linda Oldenkamp 503 298 1945 lindavid@pacifier.com



A Successful Hunt

A big thank you to all who made the Easter egg hunt last Sunday a big success. From those who stuffed and hid the eggs to those who hunted down and found the hidden eggs for some big time fun!



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 "Camp Firelight"

2024

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.

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
April 17
At 5PM



Scan for
Directions



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.



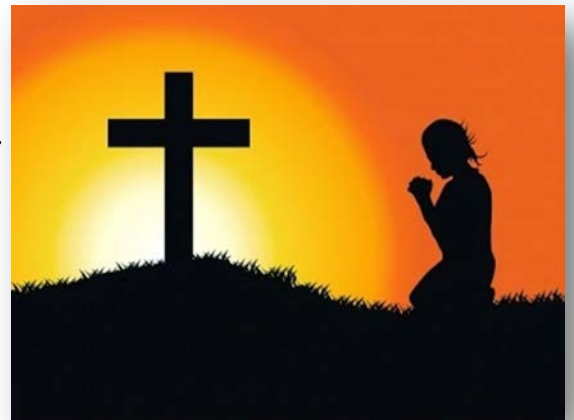
FPC Astoria Calendar

April	10	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 Blue – Mourning the loss of his wife, Barbara.*
- *Glen Ahrens – healing of his knee so that he retains full use of it.*
- *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 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, May 7, Commission Business Meeting at 4PM.

Working for Justice and Peace in April

April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual Assault Awareness Month; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_Assault_Awareness_Month • Ecumenical Advocacy Days; advocacydays.org
8	International Romani Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Romani_Day
22	Earth Day; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-day-sunday
24	Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/churchcalendar/armenian-genocide
	Denim Day; denimdayinfo.org
From the Presbyterian Women in the PCUSA https://www.presbyterianwomen.org https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2024-JP-Calendar-FA-rvsd-2.pdf	

‘A Matter of Faith’ podcast also features Dr. Sarah Leer, a practical theologian and youth worker

by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/young-people-voice-their-hopes-for-what-they-want-the-church-to-become/>

LOUISVILLE — The Rev. Lee Catoe and Simon Doong, the hosts of “A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast,” opened their most recent installment with the voices of youth who’d attended a conference at [Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center](#) in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Catoe asked youth about what they want to see happening in the church today. Among their answers, which can be heard [here](#), were:



Dr. Sara Leer, a practical theologian and youth worker, was the most recent guest on “A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast.” (Contributed photo)

- “There’s a lot in the world that needs to be changed. I think we need to start small and just keep going.”
- “I want to see people going out and talking face-to-face and not have everything be social media related. I think the church should be going out and connecting with other people.”
- “I think the church can support members to run for office and take part in the government and be part of policy development and implementation.”
- “I want the world to be a peaceful, loving place, and for everyone to have what they need. I want churches to be loving and accepting.”
- “I’d like to see more positivity and see the church as a whole take a bigger part in everyone’s life.”
- “I want to see the church show up by advocating for LGBTQ+ and marriage rights. They should include those issues in sermons or in bulletins and be open to conversations.”
- “I’d like to see the church be more involved in the local community and see if they can hold town halls to discuss the issues. The church can take those recommendations to community leaders.”
- “I would like the church to learn to be better allies to the people of color in our community.”
- “I want the church to talk more about reality.”
- “I’d like to see the church become a place where people can not only go to learn about Scripture, but also go to learn about topics that need to be spoken more of.”
- “It would be nice to see diversity throughout the church.”
- “I just wish the church would practice radical inclusivity like they say they do.”
- “I would like my church to do more community service by cleaning up pollution.”
- “I think the church would be better if we focused more on correcting sin than condemning sin and welcoming those who are different or living a different life than we know. Jesus came to heal the sick.”

After listening to the youths’ comments, Doong and Catoe introduced their guest, [Dr. Sarah Leer](#), a practical theologian and youth worker.

“I appreciate what you’re doing,” Leer told the hosts. “Every time you release a new episode, I think, that’s a really cool person. You’ve racked up an impressive list of guests, and I’m honored to be joining y’all.”

Asked about how to empower youth, Leer said she often uses the term “power sharing” instead, especially following her doctoral work under the supervision of [Dr. Christine J. Hong](#) at [Columbia Theological Seminary](#). “If we look at youth 12-18, those youths are looking to share their lived experience, and they want to be truly integrated into the community,” Leer said. “I think we’re often used to integrating youth as an additional person on a committee. What does it mean when you’re actually asking youth to be involved in those inner workings?”

As part of her doctoral studies, she worked with a group of youth “who were my co-leaders,” she said. Using the [Participatory Action Research](#) approach, “I would stop and ask them along they way, ‘What do we do here?’ Then you have to listen to them. ... That translates to us as church workers and family members and people who hang out with adolescents: You have to listen and then adapt. You have to actually follow their lead, and I think that’s especially true with queer teenagers and queer youth.”

“With this particular method, it’s very humbling as a church worker and as a researcher when they would correct something I did, or they would say, ‘I don’t like that part. Change that part.’ They were very kind about it,” Leer said, “but it’s a whole different lived experience, a whole different generation from mine. I had to listen, follow their lead and then move forward.”

That approach may be a paradigm shift, Leer said, “but it’s something that’s really vital. If we continue the way we have, those of us in church world can see where that’s headed. We really need to listen to Gen Z,” those people born between 1996 and 2010. “I am an elder Millennial [those born between 1980 and 1995] who is ready to support you. I want to support what Gen Z is putting into the world.”

That includes “asking institutions to be authentic and intentional,” she said, “and they’re looking for institutions that are authentic and intentional that will involve them in the process.”

“I think it’s a shift,” she said, “and I hope we get there.”

“I can’t imagine going to middle school right now,” Catoe said later in the conversation. “I think that’s an important posture for faith communities to take — to have those conversations and put financial resources in place to prioritize young people.”

“Part of my call is to create more affirming adults,” Leer told the hosts. “My call is to be collaborative. We have a huge task ahead of us, especially with all the trans bills, with all the youth who are targets. We’ve got to work on this together because it’s lifesaving.”

Listen to other editions of “A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast” <https://amatteroffaith.buzzsprout.com/>.



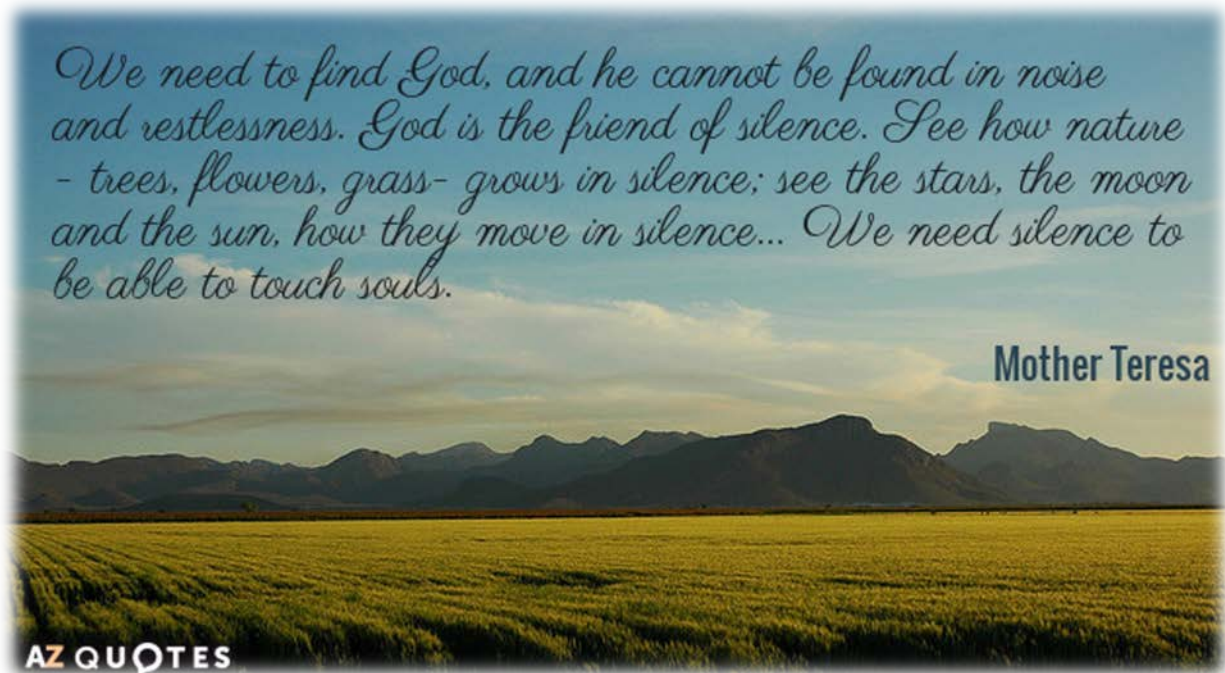
"A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast" with the Rev. Lee Catoe and Simon Doong drops each Thursday.

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 **Phone:** 971.606.5606

Prayer Requests & Newsletter Articles & Information –

The newsletter is published the 2nd and 4th 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 1st or 3rd week of the month.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Exodus 14)

06-05-2009

MAKE SURE YOU STOP FOR A SEC, MOSES,
AND REALIZE JUST HOW WILDLY COOL THIS
IS



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 | email: office@fpcastoria.org | phone: 503.325.1702



An Open & Affirming
Church Family



Scan for
directions