

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 22, 2024

The Common English Bible

In case you've been wondering, the translation that we've been hearing from in worship is the Common English Bible or CEB. The CEB translation is one of the most recent translations and, as Dr. Massingale wrote, "The Common English Bible incorporated 120 translators from 24 denominations to provide an understandable English text. Most modern translations use no more 3 texts.

Translating and comparing from 5 original language texts makes the Common English Bible one of the most academically rigorous English translations to date. More than 700 people were involved in making sure that the text was relevant, readable, and reliable."¹ In short, this may be the best English translation of scripture that we have available.



Announcements

- ✝ **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.
- ✝ **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.
- ✝ **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 May 15.
- ✝ **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, May 18 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 May 10th in the church parlor at 10 am for coffee, tea, treats, and fellowship. Come join the fun!



¹ Massingale, Dustin. One Week Bible CEB . Unknown. Kindle Edition.

NOTES FROM BEYOND THE PEWS

Thoughts from Pastor Paul

Dear Siblings in Christ,

It is my hope and prayer that this week's note finds you well and feeling blessed.

As this Easter season draws to a close, we will soon reenter into what is referred to as Ordinary Time on the liturgical calendar. Ordinary Time encompasses that part of the Christian year that does not fall within the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter. Ordinary time does not need to be "ordinary," and is not somehow a "break" from the Liturgical Year. As a matter of fact, the color for ordinary time is green to denote growth as we continue to reflect on the teachings, life, death and resurrection of Jesus and continue to grow in our relationships with the Holy Trinity and with our siblings.

Growth, be it spiritual growth or physical growth, is change. If we truly believe, that in Jesus, we have eternal life and yes, there are some people out there who do not pay taxes, so the old saying that the only constants in life are death and taxes doesn't hold true as much as the two constants being change and God. Think about the change that the disciples went through that Pentecost morning some two-thousand years ago. Of course, their change didn't start then, it started when they began to truly follow Jesus. But regardless of when the change first occurred, there is no question that it did indeed occur.

The first disciples were not without their anxiety regarding the changes they were experiencing. They had gone from being students of Jesus, to being the ones charged with carrying forth God's message of love, grace and mercy that is meant for all of God's creation. But as we read in John 14, "He will remind you of all the things I have told you. I'm leaving you well and whole. That's my parting gift to you. Peace. I don't leave you the way you're used to being left—feeling abandoned, bereft. So don't be upset. Don't be distraught." (MSG) And just as Jesus didn't leave the disciples without the tools, resources and skills they needed to carry forth God's message to God's creation, we too are given the same tools, resources and skills to carry forth God's message to God's creation. At the core of these tools, resources and skills is the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that also helps us to meet the challenges of each day, regardless of how big or small those challenges might be. Of these challenges, change seems to always be present. A pastor once told me that, "Change isn't so bad, it's the transition that'll get you every time." Change is neither good nor bad, it is simply change. How we respond to the change determines whether not it is good or bad. When we look to the Holy Trinity for wisdom and guidance and, with a Christ centered heart, mind and spirit, follow God's still speaking voice, we can make the best out of whatever changes or transitions life presents us.

Our church family has seen many changes over the years. People come and go in the life of the church, a pastor retires, and a new one arrives, and each day the world continues to present new challenges. The changes are not done. They will continue, and with the help of the Holy Trinity, we will be able to make the best of each change. And just because it will soon be "Ordinary Time" doesn't mean nothing special is going to occur. We must let God continue to work through us, changing us, molding us and using us to make God's creation a better place for all, throughout time, Ordinary or otherwise. Change allows God's message to reach those who may not have witnessed it firsthand before. Kind of like that first Pentecost morning more than two thousand years ago.

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!

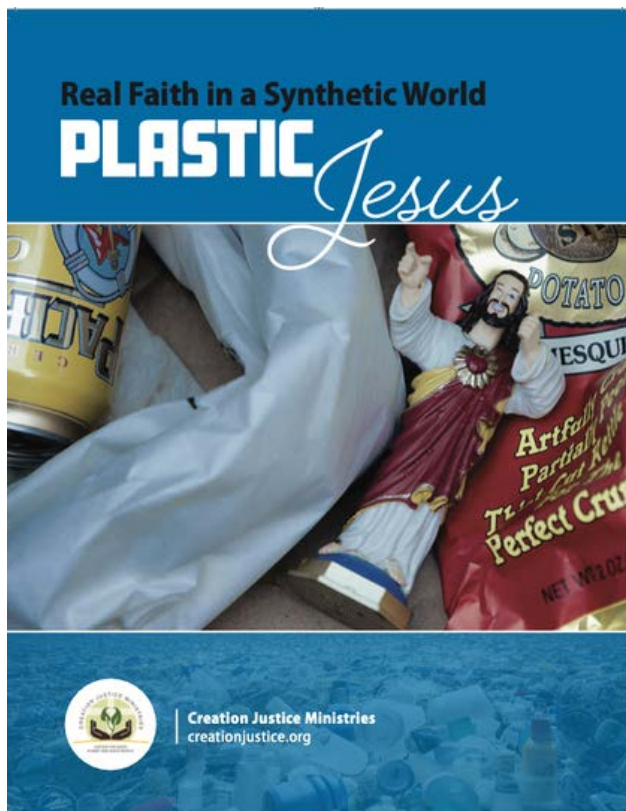
Pastor Paul

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, 2:00pm, 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



Earth Day Sunday 2024

Everywhere we look in our culture you will find plastic. One place where you will not find plastic, however, is in the Bible.

This resource is designed to help congregations think more deeply about the ways that plastics impact our lives and God's creation. It is also intended to equip people of faith to take actions to address this epidemic in faithful and practical ways.

Download this resource to find stories of individuals and communities making a positive impact, sermon starters to spark meaningful discussions in your church, worship resources to unite in prayer and reflection, and actionable steps to address the plastic crisis in your life, community and our world.

LEARN MORE:

<https://www.creationjustice.org/plasticjesus.html>

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.

Prayer Time

If you feel a call in your heart to share in conversation with our loving God in a time of prayer, please join us beginning Tuesday, April 30 at 9:30am in the Christian Resource Room for a time of meditation and prayer.

We will use this time to share with each other and our loving God, and then listen for God's still speaking voice to respond to our hearts and minds.

Unless the Holy Spirit says otherwise, we will continue this every following Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30am in the Christian Resource Room unless otherwise noted.

We hope to see you there.



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.



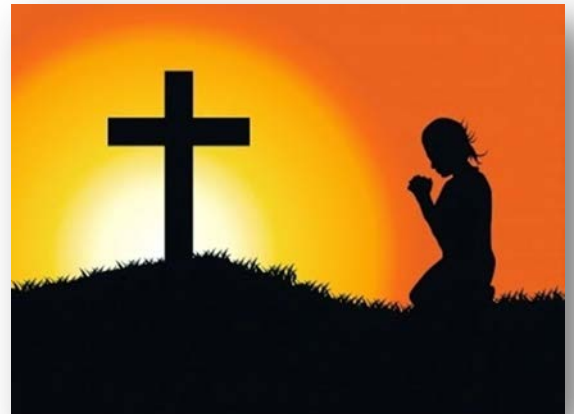
FPC Astoria Calendar

April	27	Saturday	New Members' Class – 10AM – 2PM in the Christian Resource Room
	30	Tuesday	Prayer Fellowship – 9:30am in the Christian Resource Room
May	8	Wednesday	Fellowship Team Meeting – 10AM in the Christian Resource Room
			Session Meeting at 4pm in the Christian Resource Room
	10	Friday	Friday Coffee/Tea Fellowship at 10 AM in the Church Parlor
	11	Saturday	Ladies' Tea – 2:00pm, in Goodenberger Hall
	12	Sunday	Mothers' Day
	15	Wednesday	Bowling, Pizza & Fellowship at 5pm at Lower Columbia Bowling
16	Thursday	VBS Planning Meeting at Peace Lutheran Church at 10am	

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, May 6, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
 - Tuesday, May 21, Historic Landmarks Commission at 5:30PM.
 - Tuesday, April 30, Planning Commission at 5:30PM.
 - Wednesday, May 22, Parks Board at 6:45PM
- Clatsop County
 - Wednesday, May 8, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
- Clatsop Community College
 - Thursday, May 9, Board of Education Meeting at 5:30PM.
- Astoria School District
 - Wednesday, May 8, School Board Meeting at 7PM.
- Port of Astoria
 - Tuesday, May 7, Commission Business Meeting at 4PM.

Working for Justice and Peace in April & May

April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual Assault Awareness Month; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_Assault_Awareness_Month • Ecumenical Advocacy Days; advocacydays.org
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
May	Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; asianpacificheritage.gov
2	National Day of Prayer; www.nationaldayofprayer.org
2-8	Children's Book Week; www.everychildareader.net/cbw
6	May Holocaust Remembrance Day; www.ushmm.org/remember/days-of-remembrance/resources/calendar
7	National Teacher Day; www.nea.org
11	World Fair Trade Day; www.wfto.com
	Stamp Out Hunger Day; www.about.usps.com/corporate-social-responsibility/nalc-food-drive.htm
12	Mother's Day; www.presbyterianmission.org/story/a-prayer-for-mothers-day
13	J&P Book Discussion Group online, 6:30-8:30 PM (Eastern) on Transforming: The Bible & the Lives of Transgender Christians by Austen Hartke. Register at www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice
15	Palestinian Nakba Remembrance Day; www.presbyterianmission.org/story/may-15-2022/

19	Pentecost; www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/pentecost
	Intercultural Church Sunday; www.pcusa.org/resource/intercultural-ministries-19226
22	International Day for Biological Diversity; www.cbd.int/idb
27	Memorial Day; www.presbyterianmission.org/story/may-30-2022
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	

National Faith + Climate Forum gathers more than 20 denominations and faith communities

Environment April 23, 2024

More than 1,400 people attended online and in person, from California to Maine

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/national-faith-climate-forum-gathers-more-than-20-denominations-and-faith-communities/>

Special to Presbyterian News Service



Photo by Robert Kooreny via Unsplash

Held last week, the [National Faith + Climate Forum](#) assembled an unprecedented gathering of faith community members committed to build thriving congregations through care for Creation with faith-driven action.

Drawing more than 1,400 registrants nationwide gathered online and in person at 70 locations from California to Maine, this forum, hosted by [Blessed Tomorrow](#), a partner of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), marks a significant milestone in the faith community’s response to climate change. This diverse gathering represented more than 20 denominations and faith traditions, each committed to integrating faith-driven environmental stewardship into

congregational life.

The forum provided a platform for national faith leaders to engage in deep discussions and share innovative strategies for building vibrant, resilient communities through care for Creation. Attendees were united by a commitment to addressing climate change and enhancing the vitality of their congregations. The forum highlighted the urgency of our challenges, the vast opportunities for solutions, and how faith communities play a significant role in advancing progress.

Achievements of the National Faith + Climate Forum

- Empowered leaders — Provided clergy and faith leaders with free tools and resources to weave Creation care into their spiritual guidance, preaching, teaching, and pastoral work.

- Inspired congregations — Highlighted effective ways for congregations to engage in Creation care, featuring transformative initiatives like the [One Home One Future](#) multi-faith campaign and Blessed Tomorrow's [Climate Ambassador](#) training.
- Connected communities — The in-person and online formats enabled fruitful connections with local and national faith-based leaders eager to further their climate action efforts.
- Strengthened collaboration — Offered dynamic networking sessions to foster shared purpose, a deep sense of unity, and access to grants to further collaboration at the community level and beyond.

The forum's vibrant exchange of ideas and collaborative spirit has laid a solid foundation for ongoing action. Participants were empowered with actionable insights and practical strategies to implement just and equitable solutions in their congregations and at the same time strengthen the social and spiritual fabric of local communities.

[The discussions, panels, and engagement activities](#) at the forum will be available to replay on demand beginning May 1. Subscribe to [Blessed Tomorrow's newsletter](#) and follow @BlessedTomorrow on social media for updates.

PC(USA) partner Blessed Tomorrow hosted the National Faith + Climate Forum. The day-long event demonstrated the burgeoning power of faith-driven Creation care and climate advocacy, and furthered collaborative efforts to enhance congregations and our given and shared home.

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*
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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.

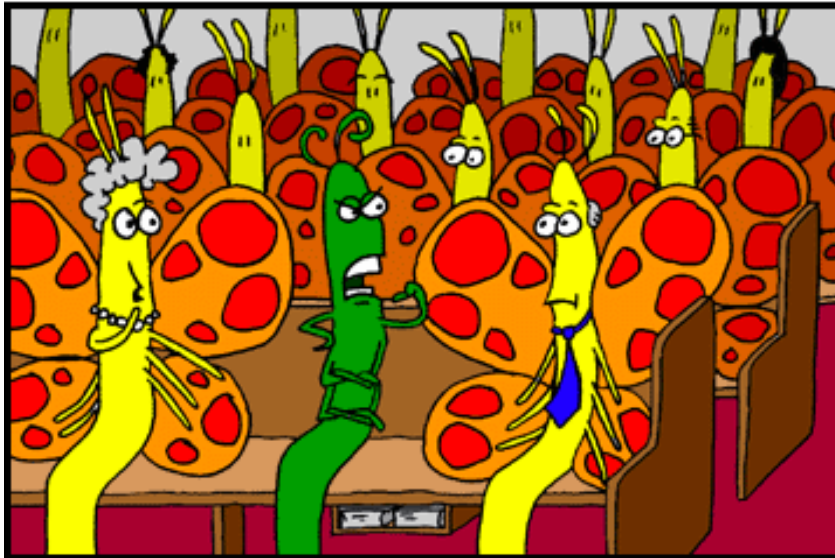
Email: pastor paul@fpcastoria.org **Phone:** 971.606.5606

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.

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Thanks to Nadine Fafard

03-28-2000

I DON'T CARE HOW GOOD YOU ALL FEEL
... I HATE CHANGE



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