

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 May 6, 2024

Peace Flag Movement – A Brief History

It all began in June of 2016 with a worldwide rise in violence, homicides and another mass shooting; a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida. Anger, grief, and feelings of helplessness led a small community in Natick, MA to display peace flags as an expression of the need for change – for people to stop killing, come together and care. The story spread as people passing by noticed and wanted to participate. Distribution expanded. Upworthy shared the story. A standing objective was set and remains: anyone who wants a flag can have one. Flags are not for sale. Common Street Spiritual Center became the first fiscal sponsor.

Incorporating the input of people from many communities, a flag was designed to better represent the meaning of this symbol. The PEACE flag represents: Every Culture, Race, Spirituality, Gender, Sexuality, Age, and Ability. The new design evolved into a symbol of collective connection, and in the name of racial justice, with new hues and black lettering. All colors stand side by side, a representation of equality—for all. For more information, visit: <https://peaceflagmovement.org>



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 reusable bags, cat food, dog food, 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 not meeting in May but will again in June on June 14th 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,

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

My family and I are just loving it here in Astoria. Regardless of sunshine or rain, or anything in between, it is always beautiful. From the rivers to the trees to the mountains, I always find my heart doing leaps of joy in celebration of what a gift God has given in giving us such a wonderful place to live. And an added bonus are all the wonderful people that make up this area. We all come from different walks of life and may have some differing viewpoints here and there, but together, we add to the beauty of the area.

Another thing that I love about this area is watching the ships cruising up and down the river. I feel like a little kid when I see one and want to do nothing else but watch it sail by. Each morning after I drop off Hazel at work, I look off to the west when crossing the Old Young's Bay Bridge to see if there are any ships in the channel. This morning, I saw one of the massive cruise ships heading into town.

With each ship, whether it is a cruise ship or a cargo ship, I can't help but to think of the many people who are on board from all over God's creation. What experiences they bring, where they come from, what is life like on board, what is life like where they come from, what have they seen on their journeys, what was it like crossing the Columbia Bar, etc...? The Columbia River is somewhat like a superhighway or international airport of rivers, bringing people from all over the world through our corner of it. I've spoken to a few people who have volunteered as cruise ship ambassadors, and they all seem to say how the passengers are so happy and thankful to be greeted by members of the community. Apparently, something that is not present in all ports.

Yes, we need to be careful with 'stranger danger, but we also need to remember that greeting strangers and making them feel welcome, regardless of who they are or where they come from, is something that has always been important in our faith. Scripture calls us to always be there for the travelers, immigrants, be them from another country or another community. In Leviticus 19:34, for example, it is written, "You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." (ESV) Another example is Hebrews 13:1-2, where it is written, "Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." (NIV) And as Christians, little Christs, we need to remember to continuously practice hospitality, and that hospitality is an extension of the agape, selfless love that Jesus has for us and that he commands us to have for all others. This is, more often than not, not easy to do. But then again, Jesus warned us that by following him, and living as he calls us to live would be difficult at times. He did however promise us that even though there would be difficult times, if we lived as he called us to, we would realize a deep peace, shalom, that goes beyond understanding or comprehension. We just need to trust in him, grow in him, and allow him to grow in us through prayer and discipline. It's like riding a bike. There can be a lot of scrapes and bruises at first, but after a while it becomes second nature.

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

TO: PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN,

FR: Linda Oldenkamp

WHAT: MOTHERS DAY TEA with women from Clatsop Plains Presbyterian Church

WHEN: THIS Saturday, May 11, at 2:00pm. RSVP to me by Thursday at 503 325 3981 or hit reply.

WHERE: Goodenberger Hall

WHAT ELSE: It's okay to bring a friend. If you wish, bring a white elephant gift (something from home that you don't use/need of something you purchase) Wrap your gift. No gift jokes please. Dress is informal, but hats are appreciated! 😊

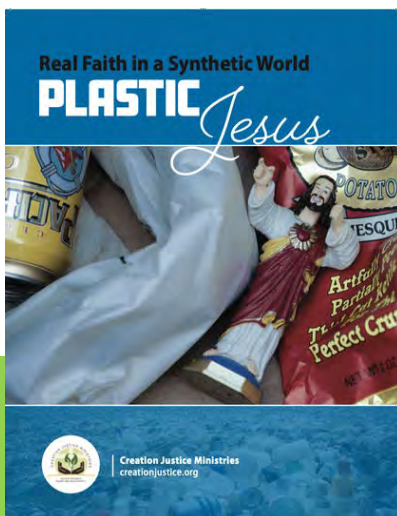


New Members' Class – Saturday, June 1

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 12pm. Childcare is available with advanced notice.



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>

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 each Tuesday and Thursday 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.

We hope to see you there.



Baby Bottle CAMPAIGN



MOTHER'S DAY TO
FATHER'S DAY



Pick up a baby
bottle



Pray over
baby bottle



Fill with change,
dollars & checks



Return baby
bottle

Astoria Coop's Change for Community for May is *Copeland Commons*

You can help by rounding up your purchase total or donating pocket change. Together, we can be the positive change for community!



For more information, visit:
www.copelandcommons.org
or scan



Other Ways to Give:



PayPat



Venmo

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

May	9	Thursday	Conversations with God Prayer Time – 9:30AM in the CR Room
	11	Saturday	Ladies' Tea – 2:00pm, in Goodenberger Hall
	12	Sunday	Mothers' Day
	14	Tuesday	Conversations with God Prayer Time – 9:30AM in the CR Room
			Building Liaison Meeting at 11am in the Christian Resource Room
			Session Meeting at 4pm in the Christian Resource Room
	15	Wednesday	Bowling, Pizza & Fellowship at 5pm at Lower Columbia Bowling
	16	Thursday	Conversations with God Prayer Time – 9:30AM in the CR Room
VBS Planning Meeting at Peace Lutheran Church at 10am			
19	Sunday	Pentecost Sunday – Be sure to wear red to church!	

Happy Mother's Day

She opens her mouth
and wisdom, and the
teaching of kindness is
on her tongue.
Proverbs 31:26



Prayers of the People –

Please send prayer requests to the church office

- *Fred & Norma Novak – Healing, peace and discernment*
- *Jackie Templeton – Remembering her husband of 60years, Mike, who died a year ago.*
- *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 20, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
 - Tuesday, May 21, Historic Landmarks Commission at 5:30PM.
 - Tuesday, May 28, Planning Commission at 5:30PM.
 - Wednesday, May 22, Parks Board at 6:45PM
 - Clatsop County
 - Wednesday, May 14, 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

May	Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; asianpacificheritage.gov
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	

The fruit of justice will be peace

World Mission May 7, 2024

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/the-fruit-of-justice-will-be-peace/>

General Assembly and the shaping of our witness

by the Rev. Philip Woods, Mission Crossroads | Special to Presbyterian News Service



Salt Lake City, Utah, is the site of the 226th General Assembly, which begins next month. (iStock photo)

Next month, we will be gathered again in General Assembly, this time in Salt Lake City, discerning, according to our ecclesiology, the leading of the Spirit for our times as we consider how we organize our life and witness as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

As part of that, we will consider many overtures (proposals) from presbyteries putting forward issues and concerns that they believe the Church should be speaking out on or acting on today. Much of our work in World Mission is shaped by the decisions General Assembly takes on these overtures.

At the 225th General Assembly in 2022 (General Assemblies are held every two years), the Assembly encouraged us to stand with and advocate for our global partners in situations of conflict; recognized that Palestinians live under a system of apartheid and called upon us “to seek appropriate ways to bring an end to Israeli apartheid”; and made a number of recommendations on our support for the Democratic Republic of Congo, supporting human rights in the Philippines, responding to the human needs of those affected by violence in Cameroon, responding to the situation of depleted uranium in Iraq, ending the siege in Gaza, responding to the needs of the people of Syria, advocating for a Korea Peace Treaty, expanding our engagement with Eastern Europe, promoting peace in Ethiopia and denouncing the Russian military invasion of Ukraine. General Assembly also directed us to explore a “global covenant” to facilitate ecumenical cooperation with global partners who are ministering alongside us in the U.S. with their diaspora communities here, made a number of recommendations on the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, and called upon us to integrate concerns about and responses to climate change in our global relations.

This is a substantial agenda, which we have faithfully followed and will be reporting on at this Assembly, having woven it into our routine work of journeying with partners across the world, much of which is reflective of these concerns. Listed like this, they remind us how widespread and deep are the troubles of this world, and how we need to be showing up for our neighbors as Matthew 25, [in its telling of the judgment of the nations](#), shows us.

It also speaks eloquently to the theme of this issue of Mission Crossroads. With more justice in this world, we can also discover peace, and with peace we can all flourish.

At the time of writing, it is too early to know exactly what issues will come up at this year's General Assembly. For sure, though, there are plenty that deserve our attention at this time.

We are ready to respond as part of our commitment to stand in solidarity with our partners as we journey with them and they with us, and as they share in our concerns about life here in the U.S., which is a whole other story that General Assembly will no doubt also be speaking to.

[Follow along](#) for the latest in GA news. To subscribe to "On the Road to GA," click [here](#).

The Rev. Philip Woods is Presbyterian World Mission's associate director of global strategy and program.

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*
-



**TO BE KIND IS MORE IMPORTANT
THAN TO BE RIGHT. MANY TIMES,
WHAT PEOPLE NEED IS NOT
A BRILLIANT MIND THAT SPEAKS
BUT A SPECIAL HEART THAT
LISTENS.**

- F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

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.

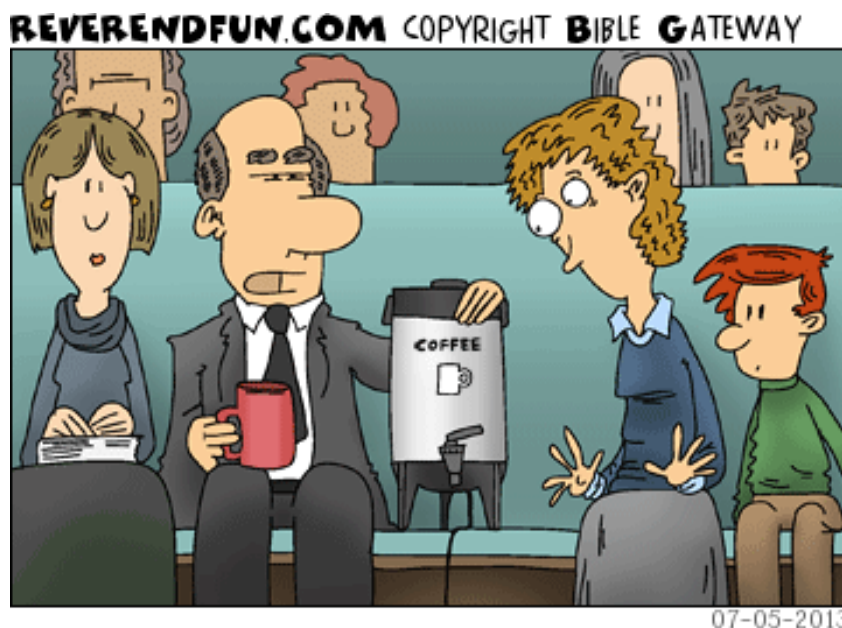
Please note, Pastor Paul takes his Sabbath every Friday but is always available for emergencies.

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.



I DECIDED TO BE PREPARED EVER SINCE
THAT ONE WENT ALMOST AN HOUR OVER



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