

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 20, 2024

The Time After Pentecost

The Sundays after Pentecost (like the Sundays after Epiphany) are sometimes called Ordinary Time—not because they are routine or mundane, but because their primary rhythm has to do with following the Sundays “in order.” Indeed, each Sunday is a celebration of Christ’s resurrection from the dead on the first day of the week, and it is this holy mystery that animates, renews, and transforms our life of faith. There are certain notable features of this period of time in the Christian year. First, these Sundays are bracketed by festivals that concern key theological affirmations of the church: Trinity Sunday and Christ the King/Reign of Christ; the former celebrates the mystery of God’s triune being, while the latter extols the sovereignty of God in Jesus Christ. Second, the Revised Common Lectionary readings for the time after Pentecost cover large sections of the biblical story—major narratives of the Hebrew scriptures; the writings of the apostles to the earliest Christian communities; and the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ ministry of teaching, healing, feeding, and welcoming. (Book of Common Worship, p352)

Announcements

- ✠ **Change for Community** – Next time you’re shopping at the Astoria Coop, be sure to round up at the register to help Copeland Commons. You can even add more to your donation if you are called to do so. (See the flyer below for more ways to help.)
- ✠ **Astoria Pride Parade** – Come help celebrate and show support for the LGBTQIA2S+ community on **Saturday, June 8** by joining us in the Astoria Pride Parade. We will meet at 3rd and Riverwalk at 11am.
- ✠ **Baby Bottle Campaign** – Don’t forget to grab a baby bottle from church, pray over it and the campaign and then fill the bottle with change, cash and/or checks. We’ll be collecting the bottles on Fathers’ Day, Sunday, June 16.
- ✠ **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.
- ✠ **Sunday Mornings** – HELP! We need greeters, ushers and liturgists, Sunday School teachers to help with our Sunday worship. See the sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary or during fellowship or call the church office for more info.



FRIDAY COFFEE (& TEA) FELLOWSHIP

COME JOIN US

Join us every month on the second Friday for coffee, tea, treats, and fellowship. Our next gathering is June 14th in the church parlor at 10am. 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.

Sabbath. It is an important part of our lives, or at least it is supposed to be. Sabbath, according to the Bible Dictionary is defined as,

“The Jewish day of worship and rest, established when God rested after the six days of creation (Gen. 2:1-3). The fourth of the Ten Commandments called for the Sabbath to be observed and “kept holy” (Exod. 20:8). The Pharisees placed restrictions on Sabbath observance that prohibited acts of mercy or necessity (Mark 2:23-24). But Jesus declared that “the sabbath was made for man and not man for the sabbath” (Mark 2:27-28). The O.T. Sabbath fell on the seventh day of the week, or our Saturday. Most Christian groups observe Sunday as the day of worship because of Christ's resurrection on the first day of the week (1 Cor. 16:2).”¹

Regardless of how you observe Sabbath, it is important that you observe Sabbath. As God took a breather after creating everything, we too must take a break from our labors. Think about all the times Jesus took time to get away from the crowds so that he could, not only find peace and clear his heart and mind, but so that he could be, without distraction, in conversation with God. For example, Matthew 14:22-23 tells us, “As soon as the meal was finished, [Jesus] insisted that the disciples get in the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he dismissed the people. With the crowd dispersed, he climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night.” (MSG)

We must find time in our busy lives to take that deep breath and to find enough quiet that we can hear God in our thoughts. Without that quiet time with God, God can't recharge our spirit and mind. Without any Sabbath time, we may find our emotions coming to the surface a little more. Without Sabbath time, we may find our tempers a little shorter and our ability to handle crisis and challenges waning. We must find time in our lives to find God. And in this time with God, we must be focused on God. We must not allow ourselves to multitask, working out other issues in our lives while trying to have a conversation with God. Think how you feel if you are trying to have an important conversation with someone while they are busy texting and talking at the same time, giving you only a portion of their focus. It's not fair to you, it's not fair to the person on the other end of the text. And it is just as bad to do that to God as it is to do it to one another.

And as Jesus proved to us and the Pharisees, everyone's Sabbath is a little different, and because of life, it doesn't always fall on the same day. Yes, I may get in trouble for saying this, but our first responders can't always take Sunday off. Unfortunately, a fire will not wait until Monday to be put out, nor will any other emergency wait until a weekday for resolution. So, with that, although we should all seek to Sabbath on the same day, that doesn't always work out, and as Jesus shows us in scripture, God understands that.

So, regardless of what day you are able to observe the Sabbath, regardless of how you Sabbath, make sure you are, whole heartedly, taking time for Sabbath. Not only is it needed for good mental and physical health, but God also tells us we must do it. God doesn't suggest it, God requires it! 😊

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

¹ Knight, George W.; Ray, Rayburn W.. Pocket Bible Dictionary (Value Books) (p. 278). Barbour Publishing, Inc.. Kindle Edition.

Kirkin' O' The Tartan – A Brief History

On the 25th day of July, 1745, the young Prince Charles Edward Stewart (Bonnie Prince Charles) returned from France and landing at Lochnanaugh began the enlistment of the Highland Clans for his abortive attempt to dethrone George II of England and to restore the Scottish throne to the Royal House of Stewart. After a succession of victorious battles with the English at various locations, vastly outnumbered, exhausted and hungry, the reduced Highland ranks were utterly routed at Culloden on April 16, 1746.

To subdue the spirit of the vanquished Highlanders, the English Parliament at Westminster invoked the Act of Proscription that banned the wearing of any sign of the Tartan, forbade any speaking in Gaelic, outlawed Scottish music, dancing and the playing of the pipes, which the Act said “emitted an aggressive and warlike sound.”

It was 36 years before the Act of Proscription was revoked and, during all those years, Highland churches had a special day when the Highlanders gathered, each with a small piece of Tartan concealed under their outer clothing and, with the right hand held over the precious piece, they all joined in the prayer that it might please God speedily to cause the repeal of the devastating Act of Proscription.

When finally the Act was repealed, the Highlanders, as Cunningham in his History of Scotland has written: “returned with joy to their beloved kilt, no longer bound to the unmanly trews of the lowlanders.” In 1941, the Rev. Peter Marshall, chaplain of the U.S. Senate and minister of Washington’s New York Avenue Presbyterian Church created a special Sunday service to give solace to Scottish-Americans involved in the war and this ceremony of the tartan being blessed in church has been practiced throughout Canada and the United States since that time. Even American astronaut Alan L. Bean took a piece of Armstrong tartan to the moon and back.

<https://www.thetartanlady.com/kirkin-o-the-tartan>

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, June 1, from 10am to 12pm. Childcare is available with advanced notice.



Astoria Citywide Vacation Bible School "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>

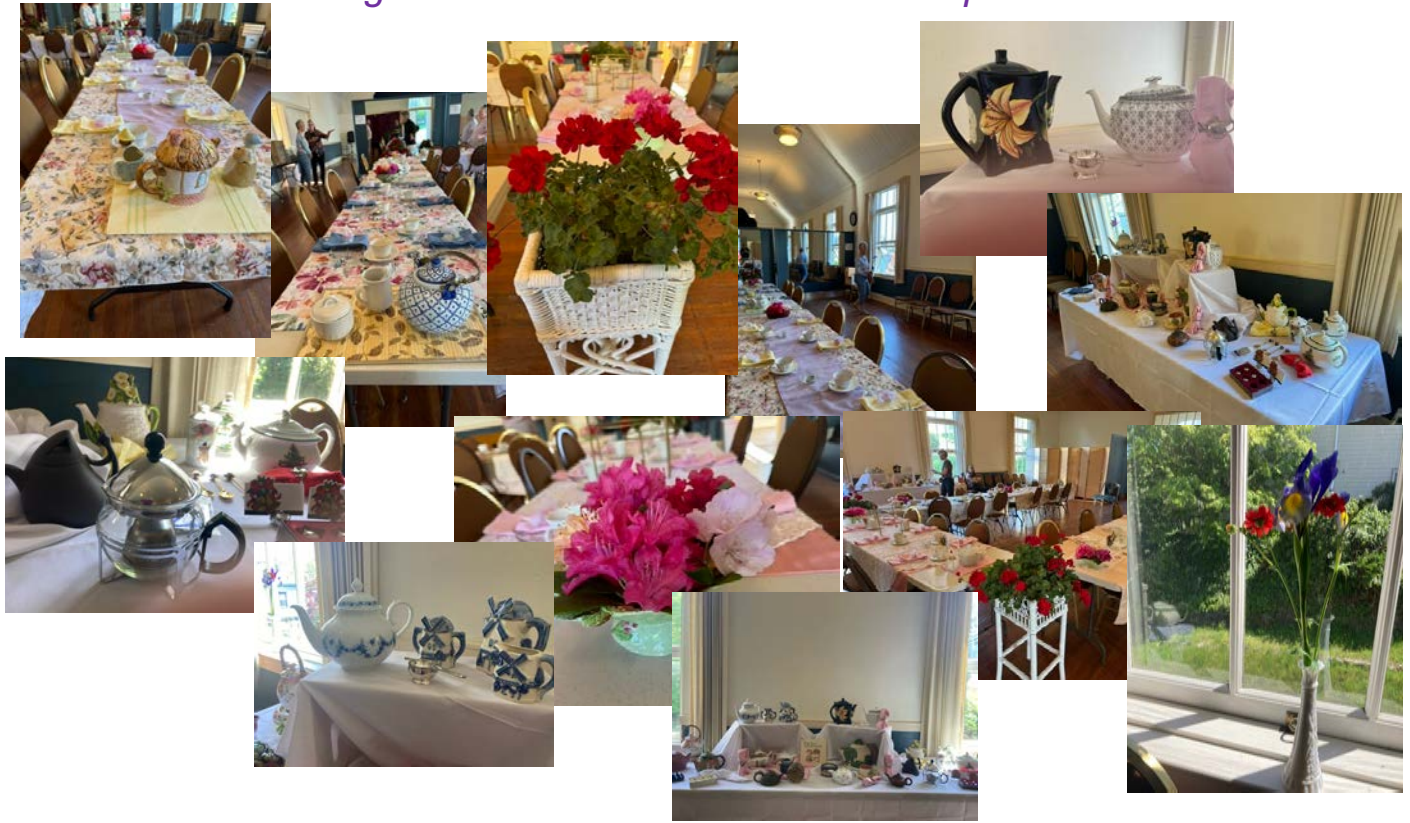
or scan the QR with your smartphone



2024

What a Wonderful Ladies' Tea

A big THANK YOU to all who made it possible!



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.



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!



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

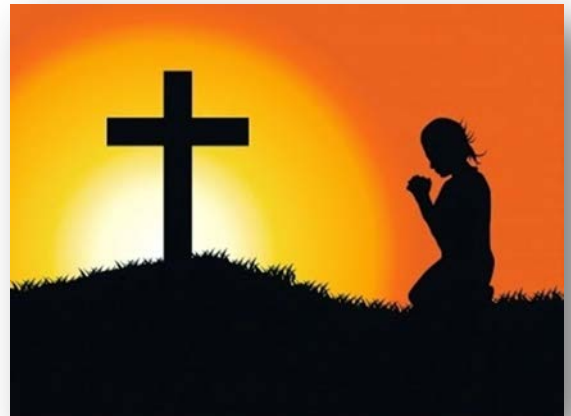
May	21	Tuesday	Conversations with God Prayer Time – 9:30AM in the CR Room
	23	Thursday	Conversations with God Prayer Time – 9:30AM in the CR Room
June	4	Tuesday	Conversations with God Prayer Time – 9:30AM in the CR Room
	6	Thursday	Conversations with God Prayer Time – 9:30AM in the CR Room
	8	Saturday	Astoria Pride Parade – meet at 3 rd & Riverwalk at 11am
	14	Friday	Coffee & Tea Fellowship at 10am in the Parlor
	17-23	Mon-Sun	Pastor Paul is out of the office. Call the office for pastoral care.
	19	Wednesday	Bowling, Pizza & Fellowship at the Lower Columbia Bowl at 5pm
	24-28	Mon-Fri	Astoria Citywide VBS - Camp Firelight 9am – 12:30pm
	25	Tuesday	Session Meeting at 1:30pm in the Christian Resource Room
	27	Thursday	Food Bank Board Meeting at 1:30pm
30	Sunday	Kirkin' O the Tartan at FPC Astoria – 10am	
		Potluck & Fellowship to follow worship in Goodenberger Hall	



Prayers of the People –

Please send prayer requests to the church office

- Jennifer & Timothy Kramer – Healing & discernment
- Family & Friends of Roberta Ryding in their time of mourning
- George Willsie - Healing
- JoAnn Feary – For complete healing
- 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 22, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
 - Clatsop Community College
 - Thursday, June 13, Board of Education Meeting at 5:30PM.
 - Astoria School District - Wednesday, June 12,
 - Budget Hearing at 5:45PM.
 - School Board Meeting at 7PM.
 - Port of Astoria
 - Tuesday, June 4, Commission Business Meeting at 4PM.

Working for Justice and Peace in April & May

May	Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; asianpacificheritage.gov
22	International Day for Biological Diversity; www.cbd.int/idb
27	Memorial Day; www.presbyterianmission.org/story/may-30-2022
June	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) Pride Month; https://archives.gov/news/topics/lgbt-pride-month
7	National Gun Violence Awareness Day; https://wearorange.org/ or https://nasponline.org/research-and-policy/policy-matters-blog/national-gun-violence-awareness-day
16	Father's Day; Presbyterian Men Sunday; https://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/men
19	Juneteenth; https://presbyphl.org/what-is-juneteenth-resources-for-formation-education-and-gospel-witness
20	World Refugee Day; https://un.org/en/observances/refugee-day
21	National Indigenous Peoples' Day; https://presbyterianmission.org/story/celebrating-indigenous-peoples-day
30	Immigration Sunday; https://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration
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	

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:

- ✚ [Unification Commission Introduces its Culture Consultant](#)
- ✚ [Presbyterians Urged to Contact their Senators on Initiatives that Limit Free Speech, advocacy for Palestinian rights](#)
- ✚ [Without passages on justice for the poor, the Bible is a very slim volume](#)

A UKirk campus minister responds to campus protests

Collegiate Ministries May 20, 2024

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/a-ukirk-campus-minister-responds-to-campus-protests/>

‘Students are learning about their role in community organizing and amplifying their voices,’ says pastor at UT Austin



by Beth Waltemath | Presbyterian News Service

University Presbyterian Church’s UKirk ministry hands out food near the landmark tower on the University of Texas at Austin’s campus. (Contributed photo)

Since April, protests in support of Palestine and pro-Israel counter-demonstrations have occupied college campuses across the nation as a new generation of students finds ways to speak and act in accordance with their conscience. According to [The New York Times](#), more than 2,900 people have been arrested or detained on campuses across the country.

Presbyterian students have been among them. On April 7, the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow posted to [Facebook](#) news that his youngest child had been among the [20 students arrested at Pomona College in Claremont, California, on April 5](#) for a peaceful protest in support of Palestine. She was banned from campus as a result. “Yes, we were worried during the action, but make no mistake, we are in full support of her choice to risk her body in order to keep pressure on institutions that continue to support the acts of the state of Israel in Gaza and the West Bank,” wrote Reyes-Chow. “We have had long talks about how to leverage the privileges of wealth, status and familial support, so do not cast this act as one of youth.”

Many [UKirk](#) collegiate ministers have answered the call to provide spiritual and other support to the individuals involved in and affected by the protests, which have stretched over several weeks and interrupted graduation plans. In the most recent [newsletter of UKirk Collegiate Ministries](#), UKirk’s executive director, the Rev. Gini Norris-Lane, shared words of encouragement with UKirk leaders: “We have all heard about the protests that have and are taking place on college campuses around the country, many on the campuses you serve. I am proud of the many ways you have borne witness in person and online, stood vigil in prayer, and embodied a faith that seeks not only to proclaim peace but also to work for peace here and around the world.”

According to Norris-Lane, there are a little over 200 UKirk-affiliated ministries across the country. These ministries vary in form, from student fellowships, nonprofit cafes and gathering spaces to congregational-based ministries. Many of these ministries, such as those serving students at Princeton University, the University of Michigan, the University of Tennessee, the University of Texas at Austin and Ohio State University, have responded by offering students, faculty and others spiritual support during the protests and the responses of the administration and police.

In a recent tally of campus arrests, UT Austin ranked in the top five, with 136 arrests. In a [public letter](#) following the first arrests in late April, UT Austin’s president, Jay Hartzell, noted that 26 of the 55 individuals “had no UT affiliation.” Students were calling on the university to divest from

companies profiting from Israel's war with Gaza. [\\$52.5 million](#) of the university's endowments is invested in arms manufacturers.

[UT Austin's UKirk Ministry](#) is based within the congregation of [University Presbyterian Church](#). In a [sermon](#) responding to the university's involvement of the police toward peaceful protests, UPC's senior pastor, the Rev. Matt Gaventia, preached on [1 John 4:7-21](#) and lifted up love as the foundation of education: "But on Wednesday [April 24], the University of Texas failed this basic mandate. It neglected to teach with love."

In a recent Q&A with the Presbyterian News Service, the Rev. Carter Grant, associate pastor at UPC, shared what it's like on the campus of UT Austin and how an intergenerational ministry like UPC is responding to the multiple ways their community is impacted by protests on campus.

PNS: How have the campus protests affected your campus?

Grant: These protests have rocked our campus and our surrounding community. Students generally feel frustrated by the absurd amount of police presence sent to the peaceful protests, and betrayed by the administration that was instructed by Governor Abbott to receive state troopers.



University Presbyterian Church Austin celebrates UKirk Student Sunday during a recent worship service (Contributed photo)

UT is a popular alma mater for many in Austin overall and at UPC, so this is personal for many. Imagine seeing the campus where you met your spouse or lifelong best friend or where your mind started to open to the beautiful mess of the world — and that campus being trampled by police on horseback, state troopers in full riot gear systematically circling and encroaching upon students peacefully protesting in a university free-speech zone, carrying hogtied and/or teargassed teenagers out to public transit buses being repurposed as prisoner transit buses full of other arrested protesters. Because so, so many were arrested, and they planned accordingly to have enough space to transfer them all. It's a lot for this community to see.

The vibe is tense and heavy on campus. It's hard to talk or think about anything else. [UKirk Austin](#) held previously scheduled events for UT's "Dead Days" of studying and finals week, and it was all but impossible for us not to share our personal experiences of the protests. This is the first protest event that many students had ever attended or witnessed; it is a tragedy that what they saw was undue and excessive violence against people who sit next to them in lecture halls. But they're also learning so much about empire, power structures and love of neighbor these days that they might never learn in a classroom!

PNS: Have students in your ministry been directly involved in the protests?

Grant: A select few of our UKirk Austin students have been involved with the protests and the subsequent organizing and community-building events that have come about in this movement on campus. This time will be a formative memory for our students. It already seems like the events

have illuminated the prophetic voices and infectious compassion in these students — I think we can find a lot of hope in this! It's ironic that these police actions might just result in inspiring more subversive tactics. Some students were inspired by the events and got involved after the first Wednesday of escalated police involvement; on the other hand, a few felt overwhelmed and desperately tried avoiding the entire tower/lawn/mall areas. It is pretty incredible that most of our UKirk Austin students are learning about their role in community organizing and amplifying their voices, as well as practicing self-care amidst the chaos.

PNS: How have campus administrators responded?

Grant: A good portion of UPC's congregants are faculty or administrators at UT Austin, and they are heartbroken. They feel powerless; they're stuck in a really tough place. Whenever I've been on campus in the past few weeks, which is more often than usual in order to witness the events or meet with struggling students, I tell the UT admin and faculty who go to UPC that I'm around and ask them what they need. Sometimes they just need a hug! Some want to process with me the terrible stories that they hear from the students they love; especially those students of theirs who were arrested. I'm really glad that so many faculty and administrators are acting as pastoral care resources for their students and walking alongside them in this crisis. The Spirit is on the loose working through so many people on this campus!

PNS: What has been the impact on your campus ministry?

Grant: UKirk Austin already had a prominent pastoral care focus before this crisis, so it was helpful that the infrastructure to help walk alongside the students, faculty and staff was already in place. I have only been in this call for eight months, and I was concerned that the trust wasn't built up enough for me to be an effective pastoral care resource for this time, but I was surprised by the students' willingness to let me in. That has been a blessing in itself! Though I feel like this is more of a reflection on the students' great need for support when witnessing something so publicly violent and jarring like this for the first time, and the power that a collective crisis has on forging bonds faster than normal. The collective experience that we're all witnessing creates a common ground and an amplified urgency to connect with our communities. I'm glad that UKirk Austin can be a community like that; a springboard and safe haven for people to get the Sabbath and restoration that is hard to find most any time in life!

PNS: How have you or your ministry offered spiritual care (or other support) during this time?

Grant: Our ministry (like any good 21st-century campus ministry!) is food- and fellowship-forward; we leaned into that for sure. I brought snacks and meals to students in the encampments in addition to the food-centric study break events we had planned. Some students did the work of bringing food to other students in need and UKirk Austin footed the bill. Being able to help in those little ways adds up! One time while (the Rev.) Matt (Gaventa) and I ate dinner with students after a long day of escalated police presence at protests on Monday, April 29, a UKirk Austin student looked at us and said, "When you see your pastors at protests more often than Sunday mornings, you know you're at the right church." That made my heart sing.

I pray that the long-lasting impact will be on my relationships with the students. We are so blessed that a few of our students are interested in politics or community organizing and are involved in the events on campus. I've been taking their lead as to what UKirk Austin and UPC's involvement should look like during these chaotic days. Doing little things with the many abundant resources of the church, like printing items (students have to pay so much to print on campus!) or bringing in cute dogs to pet the stress away, I have to believe that that will make an impact on our community building as a campus ministry.

UKirk is a ministry partner with the PC(USA) through the Presbyterian Mission Agency's office of [Christian Formation](#) and one of five ministry partners in the [Christian Formation Collective](#).

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.

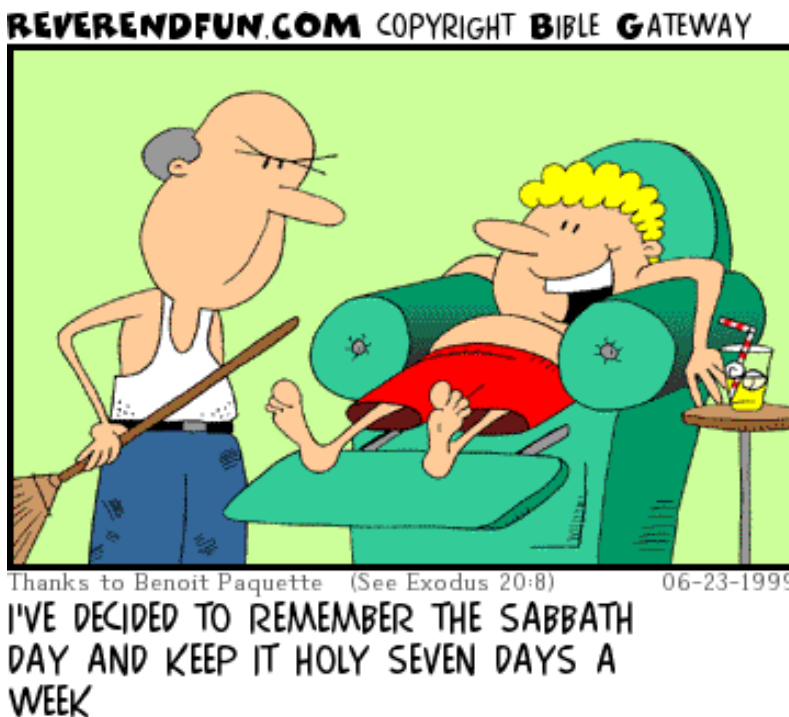
Please note, Pastor Paul takes his Sabbath every Friday but is always available for emergencies.

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.





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



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directions