

# 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 June 3, 2024**



### *Kirkin' O' the Tartan – Sunday June 30 at 10am*

*Our fifth Sunday celebrations with our sister church family, Pioneer Presbyterian Church, are always a wonderful time for worship & fellowship, and this month's will be no exception. We are planning a Kirkin' O' the Tartan with a potluck following the service in Goodenberger Hall. If you're wondering what that is, I've rerun an article from our last newsletter below that gives a good history & description.*

*A part of the service will be a procession of the tartans. If you have a family tartan, you are welcome to process with your family tartan, as a banner and/or wearing it. If you would like to purchase a flag or banner for your tartan, there are many places online that can help. I ordered my family's tartan flag from ScotsTee at: <https://scotstee.com/pages/scottish-clans#D>*

*Please contact Pastor Paul or the church office if you'd like to participate in the procession. There are also tartans for each branch of the military that will need carried in. If you'd like to carry one of these banners, please let us know which one. We'll have more details coming soon for a practice procession.*

## **Announcements**

- ✚ **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.
- ✚ **Free Library** – We now have a Free Little Library at the church. Nancy Cole is looking for books to stock it. Please help make this community outreach a success. See below 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.
- ✚ **Sunday Mornings** – HELP! We need greeters, ushers, 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

Have you ever found yourself feeling lost? I'm fairly positive that each of us have had one time or another in our lives when we felt like we missed a turn somewhere along the way, either literally or figuratively. It's somewhat funny too, at least from my experience, how the lost feeling isn't one that gradually shows up; instead, it is one that is all of a sudden there. One minute all is okay and the next second...BAMM! What just happened?!?!

Yes, we know God is there for us, but sometimes life can feel so overwhelming that, even with knowing God is there with you, that lost feeling can sometimes blind us from seeing and feeling God's presence. Scripture is full of people who suffered from feeling lost. For example, Isaiah 6:5, where Isaiah says, "Mourn for me; I'm ruined! I'm a man with unclean lips, and I live among a people with unclean lips. Yet I've seen the King, the Lord of heavenly forces!" And sometimes that's what it takes for things to get better. We need to realize that we are lost. And when you're lost in life, who better to ask for directions but God. Think about those wonderful words from Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul." If we give ourselves to God, if we allow God to guide us through our lost times, although we may still feel a sense of being lost, we can find a peace that is of God. As we read in Psalm 23:4, "Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure."

So, if you feel lost, take that deep breath, read some scripture, say a prayer, and rely on God's guidance while listening for God's still speaking voice through the wisdom and comfort of the Holy Spirit. With God guiding you, you will find the peace in your heart that you couldn't find on your own. As Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." God will get you to where you need to be.

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



## **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>

## **Free Library**

We now have a Free Little Library at the church! It is located outside the entrance leading to the office/conservatory. Nancy Cole is looking for books to stock it. If you have adult or children’s books that you would be willing to donate, please bring them to the church. Hopefully it will be up and running by the end of the week.

Once we have books in the Free Little Library, please find one that you might like to read - take it and then replace it with another book or read it and bring it back.

Please help make this community outreach a success.



## **Astoria Citywide Vacation Bible School (VBS) 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.

## 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



## **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**

<b>June</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Conversations with God Prayer Time – 9:30AM in the CR Room</b>
	<b>6</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Conversations with God Prayer Time – 9:30AM in the CR Room</b>
	<b>8</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Astoria Pride Parade – meet at 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; Riverwalk at 11am</b>
	<b>11</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Conversations with God Prayer Time – 9:30AM in the CR Room</b>
	<b>13</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Conversations with God Prayer Time – 9:30AM in the CR Room</b>
	<b>14</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; Tea Fellowship at 10am in the Parlor</b>
	<b>17-23</b>	<b>Mon-Sun</b>	<b>Pastor Paul is out of the office. Call the office for pastoral care.</b>
	<b>19</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Bowling, Pizza &amp; Fellowship at the Lower Columbia Bowl at 5pm</b>
	<b>24-28</b>	<b>Mon-Fri</b>	<b>Astoria Citywide VBS - Camp Firelight 9am – 12:30pm</b>
	<b>25</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Session Meeting at 1:30pm in the Christian Resource Room</b>
	<b>27</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Food Bank Board Meeting at 1:30pm</b>
	<b>30</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Kirkin' O' the Tartan at FPC Astoria – 10am</b>
		<b>Potluck &amp; Fellowship to follow worship in Goodenberger Hall</b>	



Those who walk with God,  
always reach their destination.

Henry Ford

## **Prayers of the People –**

*Please send prayer requests to the church office*

- *Rebecca Springle – Her mother’s cancer & father’s bodily challenges*
- *Linda Oldenkamp – Healing & peace*
- *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*



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### **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.

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## 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, June 17, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
    - Tuesday, June 18, Historic Landmarks Commission at 5:30PM.
    - Tuesday, June 25, Planning Commission at 5:30PM.
    - Wednesday, July 24, Parks Board at 6:45PM
  - Clatsop County
    - Wednesday, June 12, 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, July 2, Commission Business Meeting at 4PM.

## Working for Justice and Peace in June

June	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) Pride Month; <a href="https://archives.gov/news/topics/lgbt-pride-month">https://archives.gov/news/topics/lgbt-pride-month</a>
7	National Gun Violence Awareness Day; <a href="https://wearorange.org/">https://wearorange.org/</a> or <a href="https://nasponline.org/research-and-policy/policy-matters-blog/national-gun-violence-awareness-day">https://nasponline.org/research-and-policy/policy-matters-blog/national-gun-violence-awareness-day</a>
16	Father's Day; Presbyterian Men Sunday; <a href="https://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/men">https://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/men</a>
19	Juneteenth; <a href="https://presbyphl.org/what-is-juneteenth-resources-for-formation-education-and-gospel-witness">https://presbyphl.org/what-is-juneteenth-resources-for-formation-education-and-gospel-witness</a>
20	World Refugee Day; <a href="https://un.org/en/observances/refugee-day">https://un.org/en/observances/refugee-day</a>
21	National Indigenous Peoples' Day; <a href="https://presbyterianmission.org/story/celebrating-indigenous-peoples-day">https://presbyterianmission.org/story/celebrating-indigenous-peoples-day</a>
30	Immigration Sunday; <a href="https://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration">https://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration</a>
From the Presbyterian Women in the PCUSA   <a href="https://www.presbyterianwomen.org">https://www.presbyterianwomen.org</a> <a href="https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2024-JP-Calendar-FA-rvsd-2.pdf">https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2024-JP-Calendar-FA-rvsd-2.pdf</a>	

## 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:

- ✝ [Healing through evangelism](#)
- ✝ [Severe and dangerous weather impacts multiple PC\(USA\) presbyteries in recent weeks](#)
- ✝ [James Atwood Institute for Congregational Courage coming to Ghost Ranch Aug 22-25](#)

# PC(USA) pastor brings stories from Ukraine to a US audience

**Youth** June 4, 2024

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pcusa-pastor-brings-stories-from-ukraine-to-a-us-audience/>

## The Rev. Dr. Robert Gamble, executive director of This Child Here, visits the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky

by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service



*This Child Here is an organization that ministers to families impacted by the war in Ukraine. (Photo courtesy of This Child Here)*

LOUISVILLE — In a presentation that featured a Zoom conversation with three people on the ground in Ukraine, the Rev. Dr. Robert Gamble, executive director of [This Child Here](#), spoke on the topic “The Lamentations of Ukraine” with clergy and members of churches in [Mid-Kentucky Presbytery](#) last week. Gamble and others illustrated ways that This Child Here, a ministry validated by the [Presbytery of Western North Carolina](#), works with families, mostly women and children,

displaced by the war in Ukraine.

Near the end of Gamble’s talk, an app on his smartphone sounded, indicating another Russian drone attack on [Izmail](#), where This Child Here operates in southwest Ukraine near the Black Sea. Among the warnings the app issues during a drone attack: “Overconfidence is your greatest enemy.”

After three visits to Ukraine, Gamble established This Child Here in 2006. Eighteen years later, “after working with street kids, working in orphanages, training foster families and teaching peacemaking techniques to teens, Ukraine is at war,” he told people gathered for his talk and for lunch at [John Knox Presbyterian Church](#) in Louisville, “and we now work with families displaced by this war.”

“Everyone I meet has a story of pain, loss and lament,” Gamble said, citing these passages in the Book of

Lamentations: “[How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she,](#)” followed later by, “[Young and old lie together in the dust of the streets.](#)”

“This is Ukraine,” he said. “Bodies in the dust of the streets.”



*This Child Here offers youth in Ukraine access to summer camps and workshops, including learning to paint. (Photo courtesy of This Child Here)*



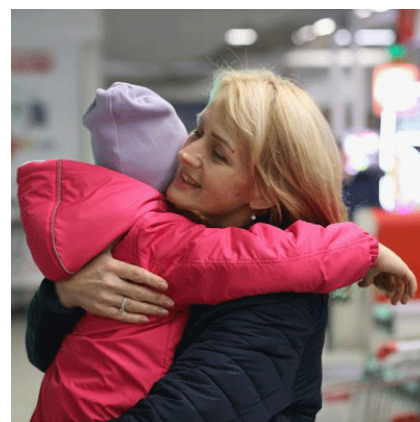


*The ministry of This Child Here began by, among other services, meeting families in grocery stores and contributing to their needs. (Photo courtesy of This Child Here)*

Gamble said This Child Here “just started with what we knew to be the right thing: meeting families at grocery stores, paying for what they needed, gathering a list of names and faces.” Then, “we organized a summer camp at a retreat center near the beaches of Bulgaria. People bonded. We rented buildings and opened centers for sports and creative activity. ... I did not know that so much care could be given without words. I didn’t know there is a therapy of belonging, a therapy of place, a therapy of recreation which could also be worded ‘re-creation,’ and a therapy of lament.”

Participants heard from three people at This Child Here’s facility in Izmail, including Olya Balaban, the ministry’s program manager. A [recorded clip](#) showed Balaban and Gamble enduring a drone attack together.

“It’ll take some victories on the battlefield before Ukraine can prevail,” Gamble said of the war now in its 28<sup>th</sup> month. “Families come to us with their lamentations. Each story I hear is its own howl of pain, often unbearably beautiful in language and honest, brutal in detail. We get the whole searing account of the siege and destruction of Ukraine.” Gamble borrowed from the book “[A is for Alabaster: 52 Reflections on the Stories of Scriptures](#),” written by his friend, [Anna Carter Florence](#).



*Olya Balaban hugs a child in Ukraine. (Photo courtesy of This Child Here)*

Asked how youth served by This Child Here make their plans for the future, Balaban replied, “It’s hard to plan even for today. We try to support mothers and children every day” and plan camps “on the sea every summer.”



*The Rev. Dr. Robert Gamble*

It can be difficult, Balaban said, for staff and others to find out what’s going on in other regions of Ukraine. “We get our information from our president [Volodymyr Zelenskyy], from the government and from people who write about it,” Balaban said.

Operating This Child Here since the war began with Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, is “our evidence of grace and power,” according to Gamble.

“Surrounding these families and their stories, holding each lightly yet firmly, is a structure I can only define as a healing community of love and trust. It is our life together,” Gamble said, quoting Florence’s book. “It allows the words to pour out without bleeding out.”

“There is a rhythm we enter into - each day and week, in our gatherings in Izmail, Ukraine, in our talk, and in our play, by which, with our vessel — namely, the community itself — we gently guide these families toward speech and hope when the wilderness of grief has taken both,” Gamble said, again referencing “A is for Alabaster.” – [Click here to learn more about This Child Here.](#)

## 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.

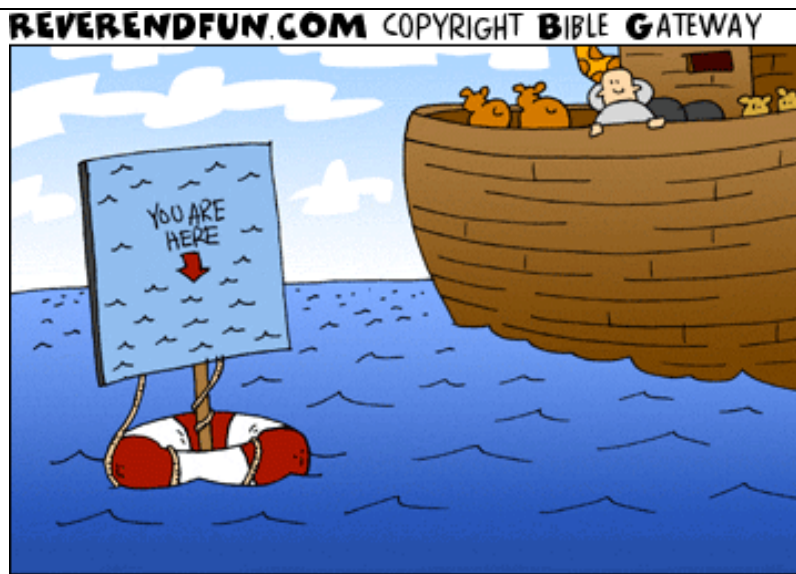
*Please note, Pastor Paul takes his Sabbath every Friday but is always available for emergencies.*

**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.



## 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



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directions