



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 September 23, 2024

World Communion Sunday

This tradition, always held on the first Sunday in October, was originally conceived by Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr of Shadyside Presbyterian Church (USA) in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933. He had served as a moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. The U.S. Presbyterian Church adopted World Communion Sunday in 1936, then in 1940, the National Council of Churches endorsed it and promoted it to churches globally. Since that time, the practice has grown and expanded beyond denominational lines, emphasizing ecumenical partnership and unity throughout the Christian tradition.

World Communion Sunday is a celebratory Sunday that invites us to think beyond the walls of our own congregation. On this day, people around the world celebrate Communion as an act of radical unity. While we gather at our own Table to celebrate Christ's joyful feast, we will also remember, with fondness, our siblings in faith celebrating this same meal around the world.

This year, we are celebrating World Communion Sunday with our siblings throughout God's creation on Sunday, October 6. You are invited to bring a bread that represents the diversity of God's creation to worship that Sunday. We will process the breads into worship at the beginning of the service and then make them available to all during the fellowship time.

Announcements

- **[Bowling & Pizza](#)** – Come join us for fun, pizza, and fellowship at the Lower Columbia Bowl in Astoria. And don't forget to invite a friend! Our next bowling & pizza night is Wednesday, September 25th at 5pm.
- **[The Food Bank](#)** – Is in need of reusable bags, breakfast cereal, canned soup 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.
- **[Women's Retreat & Bible Study](#)** – Ladies, save the date for fun & fellowship in Seaside, October 17 through October 19. If you'd like to attend and if you'd like a ride, contact the church office. If you can only make it for the Bible study on Saturday, no worries. The Bible study is titled **Let Justice Roll Down**. See <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/bible-study/justice/> for more details.
- **[Post-Doom Panel Discussion](#)** – Wednesday, October 16 at 3pm in the Marcotte Chapel. See below for more details.
- **[Prayer Time](#)** – Join us every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30am in the Christian Resource to pray for our church family, our community and the rest of God's creation.

Our Church Family's Financials for August 2024

Income – \$10,231.18

Expenses – \$9,478.03

Thoughts from Pastor Paul

Dear Siblings in Christ,

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

This week, Tom Scoggins and I sat down together in our Christian Resource Room and, via a live YouTube feed, watched some of the speakers from the Stewardship Kaleidoscope. One of the topics brought up in the first Plenary was the importance of stepping outside our comfort zones, fully accepting the possibility of failure when trying something new. Without the risks of trying something new, we cannot grow in the ways God is calling us to grow. Yes, in stepping outside our comfort zone to try something new, we are bound to make mistakes. But if we take too much time, looking at the "...only ifs..." and "...what ifs..." we risk going down a slippery and dangerous slope. As my dad was fond of saying, "Hindsight is always 20/20." Instead of learning from any mistakes, we risk dwelling on them. A failure is only a true failure if we allow it to be. We need to learn from our mistakes, our failures, and with the wisdom and council of the Holy Trinity make corrections and continue again to move forward on God's path. This is true for every aspect of our lives where expectations fall short. If we focus too much on the past, we stop paying attention to what's ahead.

As the Apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 3:12-14, "I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back." (MSG) When we are faced with disappointment, when we feel like our hopes are dashed, it is okay to mourn the cause of our disappointment and despair, but we must, sooner than later, take a deep breath and get back onto moving forward on God's path, concentrating on new experiences and new relationships focused in and on spreading the gospel and bringing glory to God. As Jesus tells us in Luke 9:62, "No procrastination. No backward looks. You can't put God's kin-dom off till tomorrow. Seize the day."

So, whether it's something new we're trying out at church, or items that are a little more personal like not getting a job that you were hoping for or an unforeseen bill, or any other hardship, we must do what we can to learn from what has happened or not happened and remember to not only look forward, but to move forward on God's path. Remember, God gives us everything we need to do just that. Not to mention, God is there with us with every step and every breath, helping us back up whenever we stumble along the way.

As I closed in the last newsletter, I so too close here by saying if you are in need of anything, someone to talk to, someone to pray with, someone to just listen to you, please do not hesitate to let me know. Again, Paul's words say what I feel for all of you, and it is those words I will close with this in this newsletter. "My dear, dear friends! I love you so much. I do want the very best for you. You make me feel such joy, fill me with such pride. Don't waver. Stay on track, steady in God." (MSG) Amen.

*Blessings and shalom,
Pastor Paul*

FPC Astoria Calendar

Every Tuesday & Thursday		Prayer Time at 9:30am in the Christian Resource Room	
October	4	Friday	Blessing of the Animals – 12noon at the CMH Labyrinth Park
	6	Sunday	World Communion Sunday – Bring bread to celebrate other cultures.
	8	Tuesday	Facilities Liaison Team – 11am in the Christian Resource Room
	10	Thursday	Facilities Management Team – 11am in the Christian Resource Room
	11	Friday	Coffee, Tea & Friday Fellowship – 10am in the Church Parlor
	13	Sunday	We receive new members into our church family!
	15	Tuesday	Session Meeting at 4pm in the Christian Resource Room
	16	Wednesday	Post-Doom Spirituality Discussion - 3pm – 5:30pm in the Marcotte Room
	17	Thursday	Worship Team Meeting – 11am in the Christian Resource Room
	17 - 19	Thursday - Saturday	Women’s Retreat & Bible Study in Seaside – Contact the church office for more information.
	23	Wednesday	Bowling, Pizza & Fellowship at the Lower Columbia Bowl at 5pm

Prayers of the People – Please send prayer requests to the church office

- Anna Langeberg – Recovering from spinal coard surgery
- Sara Jackson – Healing, peace and discernment
- Deborah Towner – healing, peace and discernment
- Family & Friends of Pat Fox in their time of mourning
- Crystal Oliver – Healing, Strength & Peace
- Rebecca Springle – Her mother’s cancer & father’s bodily challenges
- Jennifer & Timothy Kramer – Healing & discernment
- George Willsie - Healing
- JoAnn Feary – For complete healing
- Fred & Norma Novak – Healing, peace and discernment
- Glen Ahrens – healing of his knee so that he retains full use of it.
- 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

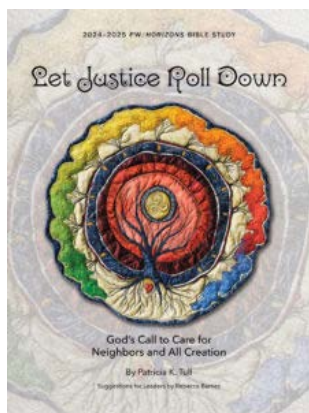
All those touched by mass shootings and other crimes of hate and violence.

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 would be changed to make serving and saving God’s creation their number one priority.

All of God’s creation as it seeks to survive mankind’s exploitation and the results global climate change.



Women's Bible Study – Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation

Join us the third Saturday of the month each at 10am. The October gathering will be a Women's retreat in Seaside from Thursday, October 17 through Saturday, October 19.

We are called to care for neighbors and God's creation with all our hearts, with particular care for society's least powerful members who are disproportionately impacted by unjust systems. In God's first instructions to the nation of Israel we hear "you shall not pervert the justice due to the poor" (Exodus 23:6); in Moses' final speech at the promised land's border, he reiterated, "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20); and from Amos, the earliest recorded prophet, "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream" (Amos 5:24). Scripture reminds us that we are called to speak out to urge our society to act for just transitions in this fast-changing world.

See <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/bible-study/justice/> for more information.

For more details about:

- The retreat - contact the church office or Arlene Landwehr
- The Bible study, contact Hazel Davidson.

Post-Doom Spirituality Discussion

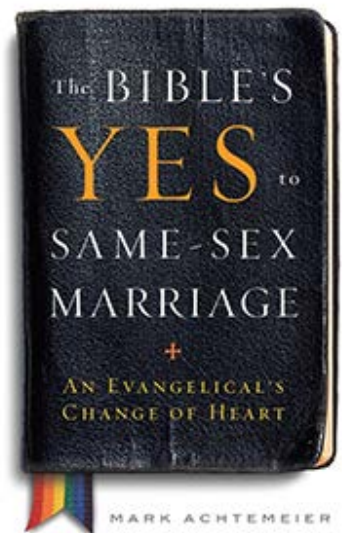
As we navigate an era marked by climate change, political unrest, global capitalism, and the looming threat of nuclear conflict, it is crucial to find a spiritual path that transcends despair and embraces wisdom and action. Post-doom spirituality is about discovering a deeper, more resilient, and interconnected way of living and being in the world. Join us on this timely topic, especially as we head into a contentious election that could reshape the very fabric of democracy.

Wednesday, October 16 from 3pm – 5:30pm in the Marcotte Chapel



Book Study – The Bible’s Yes to Same-Sex Marriage by Mark Achtemeier

In the early 2000's, Mark Achtemeier embarked on a personal journey with the Bible that led him from being a conservative, evangelical opponent of gay rights to an outspoken activist for gay marriage and a fully inclusive church. In **The Bible's Yes to Same-Sex Marriage**, Achtemeier shares what led to his change of heart: the problems with excluding groups of people and the insights into the Bible's message that led him to recognize the fullness of God's love and support for LGBT persons. Readers will discover how reading snippets of Scripture out of context has led to false and misleading interpretations of the Bible's message for gay people. Achtemeier shows how a careful reading of the whole Scripture reveals God's good news about love, marriage, and sexuality for gay and straight people alike.



Meeting Sundays following worship in the Christian Resource Room. So, come, fellowship & learn!

September 29 – Chapter 5 | October 6 – Chapter 6

"A Stroll Through Time"
20th Century Fashion
A fashion show presenting private collections of the past 100 years

Stay tuned for time & date

eventbrite

First Presbyterian Astoria

First Presbyterian Church of Astoria
All Are Welcome!

Funds raised will benefit the North Coast's first PFLAG support group (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) to be housed in this church

PFLAG

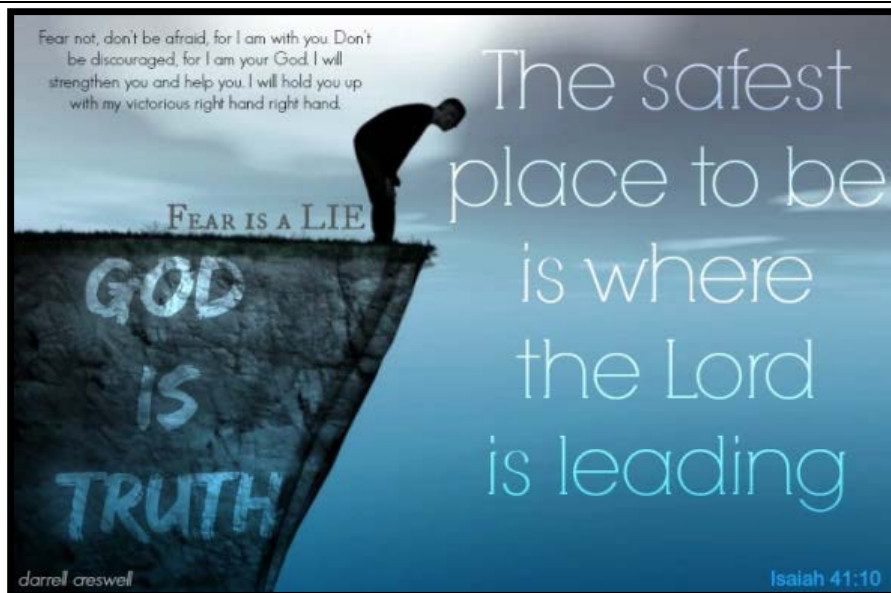
Attention All!

Help is needed to make this a success. We need:

- Models, sizes 6-8-10-12
- Help with snacks and beverages
- Setting up and breaking down
- Getting the word out
- Supplying vintage 20th Century Fashion

Help as you can to support this wonderful and important cause as funds will benefit the North Coast's first Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) chapter.

Contact the church office for more details or if you'd like to help in any way.



Blessing of the Animals

In the Spirit of St. Francis of Assisi

Join CMH Chaplain Lori Blake for a blessing of the animals with your pet or a photo of your pet.

When: October 4, 2024

Time: Noon

Where: CMH Labyrinth



Who is St. Francis of Assisi?

St. Francis of Assisi was born in the 12th century and is remembered for his generosity to the poor and for his love for animals and nature. He is the Catholic Church's patron saint of animals and the environment.

Remembering Francis' love for these brothers and sisters of ours, we invoke God's blessing on these animals, and we thank God for letting us share the earth with all the creatures.



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
 - Tuesday, October 7, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
 - Tuesday, October 15, Historic Landmarks Commission at 5:30PM.
 - Tuesday, October 22, Planning Commission at 5:30PM.
 - Astoria School District
 - Wednesday, October 9, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
 - Clatsop County
 - Wednesday, October 9, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
 - Clatsop Community College
 - Thursday, October 10, Board of Education Meeting at 5:30PM.
 - Port of Astoria
 - Tuesday, October 1, Commission Business Meeting at 4PM.

Working for Justice and Peace in October

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Violence Awareness Month; ncadv.org/take-action; nomore.org; presbyterianwomen.org/justice or presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa • Fair Trade Month; fairtradefederation.org/celebrate-fair-trade-month • National Disability Employment Awareness Month; dol.gov/agencies/odep/initiatives/ndeam
6	World Communion Sunday; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/world-communion-sunday
11	International Day of the Girl Child; unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/girl-child
	National Coming Out Day; hrc.org/resources/national-coming-out-day
13	Children's Sabbath: Educate a Child, Transform the World; pcusa.org/news/2015/8/14/educate-child-transform-world
16	World Food Day; fao.org/world-food-day/home/en
24	United Nations Day; un.org/en/observances/un-day
<p>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</p>	

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:

- ☪ ['Food Vision 2030' calls for improved access to healthy food while supporting local farmers and food workers](#)
- ☪ [Seeking reconciliation on the road](#)
- ☪ [A queer eye for worship](#)

‘Let Justice Roll Down’

Environment September 24, 2024

Presbyterians for Earth Care is offering a monthly webinar on the Presbyterian Women/Horizons Bible study for 2024-25

by Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — On Sunday, [Presbyterians for Earth Care](#) rolled out the first of nine monthly online sessions exploring “[Let Justice Roll Down: God’s Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation](#),” the 2024-25 Presbyterian Women/Horizons Bible Study. The leaders for the study, written by the Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull, Professor Emerita of Old Testament at [Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary](#), are the Rev. M. Courtenay Willcox and the Rev. Lucy Youngblood.



Photo by Patrick Schneider via Unsplash

Willcox is transitional pastor at [Tree of Life Church](#) in Springfield, Pennsylvania. Youngblood is parish associate at [Shandon Presbyterian Church](#) in Columbia, South Carolina. Youngblood is a nurse technician in the trauma unit of a Columbia hospital. PEC’s Mindy Hidenfelter put on the webinar.

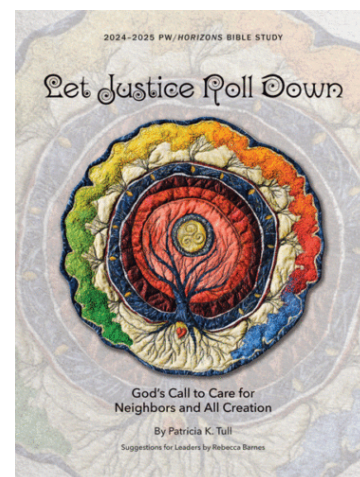


The Rev. Lucy Youngblood

Webinar participants began by watching a talk that Tull recorded on Lesson One, “Environmental Justice,” which explores these verses from the prophet Ezekiel: [33:21](#), [34:8](#); [17](#) and [18-19](#). Here’s Tull’s translation of verses 18-19: “Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must your feet also trample what remains of your pasture? When you drink of clear water, must you pollute the rest with your feet? And must my sheep eat what you have trampled with your feet, and drink what you have polluted with your feet?”

“Though written long before modern pollution evolved, it’s a straightforward image of what pollution looks like,” Tull said. “Ezekiel understood quite well that resource greed of some meant degradation and disease for others.”

In “Let Justice Roll Down,” Tull quotes this Environmental Protection Agency definition: “Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.”



As Tull points out, it's only in the past four decades that we even had a name for environmental justice. Dr. Robert Bullard conducted a landmark study, "[Dumping in Dixie](#)," documenting the placement of landfills near Black neighborhoods throughout Houston. In 2007, Bullard contributed to "[Toxic Wastes and Race at 20, 1987-2007](#)," a United Church of Christ report.

Commissioners to the PC(USA)'s 226th General Assembly had a lot to say about environmental justice, approving an overture on [becoming free from plastic pollution](#) and a paper on [lithium mining](#). The Assembly's [Environmental and Climate Justice Committee](#) also heard an update on [environmental justice and the costs of green transitions](#).

"By telling stories of those who are working for justice," Tull said, "we can become more aware of what our role can be."

Webinar participants were divided into small groups to discuss questions including:

- What similarities do you see between Ezekiel's metaphor of the sheep and environmental inequities today? What differences do you see?
- Read the EPA statement out loud. What does this articulation of environmental justice include? What surprises, if any, do you discover?
- Why do you think fair treatment is paired with meaningful involvement in the EPA statement? What might be some roadblocks to meaningful involvement?
- What examples have you seen of various pollutants mentioned in this lesson, or others?
- It is easier to point out environmental harms than to correct them. Can you recall efforts you have made or seen that address such problems in your community? What has resulted?



The Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull



The Rev. M. Courtenay Willcox

Tull will be joining one of the future webinars, as will the Rev. Rebecca Barnes, coordinator of the [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#). Barnes wrote the Bible study's "Suggestions for Leaders."

"Friends," Willcox said as the 75-minute session came to a close, "this time together made my heart very happy. Thank you."

Presbyterians for Earth Care will offer the remainder of the "Let Justice Roll Down" Bible study on the fourth Sunday of each month through May at 7 p.m. Eastern Time. Upcoming dates are Oct. 27, Nov. 24, Dec. 22, Jan. 26, Feb. 23, March 23, April 27 and May 25. Learn more [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.

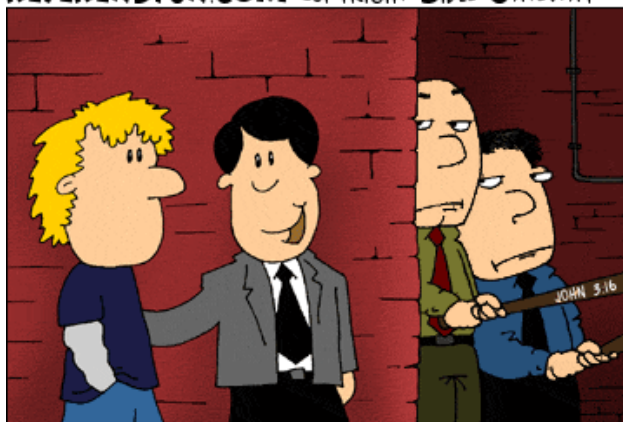
Email: pastorpaul@fpcastoria.org **Phone:** 971.606.5606

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 God's Servant (See John 3:16) 03-07-2003

IT'S A SHAME THAT I COULDN'T REACH YOU WITH GOD'S MESSAGE ... PERHAPS THE DEACONS WILL HAVE BETTER LUCK



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