



# 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 October 21, 2024**

*Please Join in Welcoming Our 'Official' New Family Members!*



We are so excited to welcome:

- Gina Caffrey
- Corine Burgholm
- Billie & Dave (& Bubbles) O'Neel
- Shane & Max Chase



## *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, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm.
- **[Now Live Streaming on Facebook](#)** – Nothing can really take the place of worshiping in person with our siblings in Christ, but there are times when we might not be able to make it to worship. If, for whatever reason, you're unable to make it to worship, don't lose hope! For, we've got you covered with live worship on the church's Facebook page. The recording even remains after the live stream so you can watch it whenever you'd like. <https://www.facebook.com/fpcastoria/>
- **[The Food Bank](#)** – Needs reusable bags, breakfast cereal, feminine hygiene products, 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 Bible Study](#)** – Ladies, come and enjoy the fellowship and Bible study the third Saturday of each month at 10am at the Davidson's home. Contact Hazel Davidson or the church office for more details. The Bible study is titled **Let Justice Roll Down**. See <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/bible-study/justice/> for more details.

## *Our Church Family's Financials for September 2024*

**Income – \$7,035.06**

**Expenses – \$9,291.78**

## *Thoughts from Pastor Paul*

Dear Siblings in Christ,

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

This past week, Pam Wev and I sat through the webinar, Post-Doom Spirituality with Matthew Fox, Margaret Wheatley, and Brian McLaren. The webinar sought to help in discovering a deeper, more resilient, and interconnected way of living and being in the world.

The discussion began by asking the presenters the seemingly simple question, given the whirlwind of happenings running from climate change, political unrest here and abroad, the increasing threat of war, how do you feel? The first speaker, Brian McLaren, started with the realization he had been given through a couple of recent events. He realized that the doom and gloom feeling seems to come from both sides of the fence of opinions and that through this feeling of doom, we tend to connect with those who share our feeling of doom. The second speaker, Margaret Wheatley, spoke about a sense of knowing that we are entering a time of conflict. She spoke to finding a place of peace within so she could deal with the dark and heavy feeling and to help others do the same. The third speaker, Matthew Fox, described how he opened his curtains that morning to witness the most beautiful rainbow he had seen in his eighty some years. This reminded him that we should be grateful and put the beauty of God's creation first, we might find then the challenging times easier to take. When the webinar viewers were asked to share how they felt, comments ranged from cautiously pessimistic to cautiously optimistic.

The discussion then moved to three inquiries of the three panelists. The first, how is your faith serving you at this time? It was first explained that there is a difference between faith and beliefs. Beliefs are something that we get through listening to someone, while our faith is acquired. Faith comes from our direct experience with life and learning from said experience. Faith, not belief, is what sustains us through life. Faith doesn't require belief in any one religion, or deity, but understands that love without rewards is valuable. The second person to answer this question spoke about having trust. Fox reminded us that the Greek word often translated as faith in scripture is more accurately translated as trust. Fox concluded that we need to trust that God will help see us through anything by giving us what we need when we need it. The third person spoke about how most of us need to rediscover our beliefs in regards to our faith. McLaren realized that he had tied his faith to the priorities of mankind such as capitalism, and that we need to disentangle our faith from those things and that we need to be compassionate to ourselves during that process of disentanglement.

The next question posed to the speakers was, what have you observed about the emotional journeys as people come to terms with our current situation and how has hope played a role? It was suggested that when we find ourselves feeling a strong emotion like sadness, we need to pause and ask ourselves, how many other people are feeling this same emotion at this time throughout the world and try to help yourself realize that you are not alone in what you are feeling and to try to find comfort in that. Another speaker told of how we must first look to the opposite of what we are seeking in order to truly arrive at what you are seeking. For example, in order to truly find hope, you must first experience despair. There are times when we must hit 'rock bottom' despair before we can experience hope. We also need to develop grieving practices so that we can identify our grief otherwise it will eat us up. He also mentioned doing the same with despair. He defined hope as a verb with the sleeves rolled up. Hope is not only something that we have, but also something that we do. Another speaker spoke about hope being a characteristic of the human spirit, always looking forward to what is possible. We must not get stuck in only looking toward the future with hope; rather, we must take the steps to get to that future for which we are hoping for. Sometimes the best

way we can get through tough times is by asking ourselves, 'How can I help others who are going through similar or worse situations than mine?'

The final question posed to the panel was 'What is your role to work and contribute in the world that is collapsing? What activities and practices sustain you?' One speaker spoke about experiencing joy and wonder even in times of despair. He also said we need to use our creativity to find new ways of doing whatever is no longer working. Another speaker spoke about how we have the ability to respond to the troubles of the world in either a positive way or a negative way. We can seek and work for resolution, or we can dwell in despair. We must also work together to create spaces for others to come together to work through issues.

From all this, I find reassurance in the comfort and knowledge that, by trusting in God and in the gifts that have been provided each of us, that if we truly realize our situation, and work together toward our hope for the future, we can see our way through any despair that we face, no matter how great or small. It may mean the end of things as we know them, but it will not be the end of us. It reminds me of what Matthew quotes Jesus of saying in Matthew 6:25-34:

"Therefore, I say to you, don't worry about your life, what you'll eat or what you'll drink, or about your body, what you'll wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds in the sky. They don't sow seed or harvest grain or gather crops into barns. Yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are? Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life? And why do you worry about clothes? Notice how the lilies in the field grow. They don't wear themselves out with work, and they don't spin cloth. But I say to you that even Solomon in all of his splendor wasn't dressed like one of these. If God dresses grass in the field so beautifully, even though it's alive today and tomorrow it's thrown into the furnace, won't God do much more for you, you people of weak faith? Therefore, don't worry and say, 'What are we going to eat?' or 'What are we going to drink?' or 'What are we going to wear?' Gentiles long for all these things. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them. Instead, desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, stop worrying about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (CEB)

In short, working together, with the agape love, guidance, wisdom and shalom of the Holy Trinity, although we may feel despair at times, we can use that despair to focus on the hope of what tomorrow can bring. With that hope, we must then do as God calls us to do, doing what needs to be done to make our hopes realized and God's creation a better place for all.

As the old saying goes, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. So, with that said, I'll close in my new, 'old' way...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 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,*

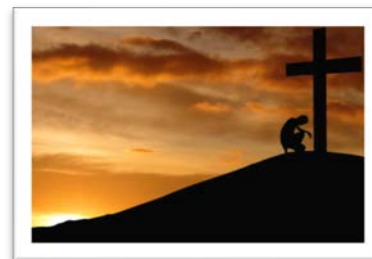
*Pastor Paul*

## FPC Astoria Calendar

October	21	Monday	Facilities Management Team – 11am in the Christian Resource Room
	23	Wednesday	Bell Choir Practice at 4pm in the Marcotte Room
			Bowling, Pizza & Fellowship at the Lower Columbia Bowl at 5pm
28	Monday	Facilities Management Team – 11am in the Christian Resource Room	
November	1-2	Friday-Saturday	Presbytery Meeting in Ashland Oregon
	3	Sunday	Daylight Saving Time Ends ( <i>Fall back one hour</i> )
			All Saints Remembrance
	4-10	Monday-Sunday	Pastor Paul on Study Leave – For pastoral needs, contact the church office
	12	Tuesday	Facilities Liaison Team Meeting at 11am in the Christian Resource Room
	19	Tuesday	Session Meeting in the Christian Resource Room at 4pm
	20	Wednesday	Bowling, Pizza & Fellowship at the Lower Columbia Bowl at 5pm
24	Sunday	Thanksgiving Potluck – 2pm in Goodenberger Hall	

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

- Anna Langeberg – Recovering from spinal cord surgery
- Sara Jackson – Healing, peace and discernment
- Deborah Towner – healing, peace and discernment
- Crystal Oliver – Healing, Strength & Peace
- Jennifer & Timothy Kramer – Healing & discernment
- George Willsie - Healing
- JoAnn Feary – For complete healing
- Fred & Norma Novak – Healing, peace and discernment
- Marcella Price – Healing & Peace
- Michael Smith – Healing & Discernment
- Linda from Chicago – Healing & Discernment
- Joanna from Seaside – 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

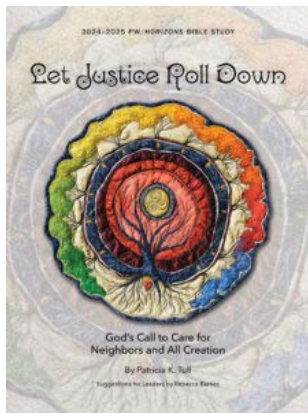
All those touched by mass shootings and other crimes of hate and violence.

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 next Bible study will be Saturday, November 16 at Hazel's house.

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 Bible study, contact Hazel Davidson.

## ***A Big Thank You to all the Ladies who helped make the Women's Retreat in Seaside a Big Success!***

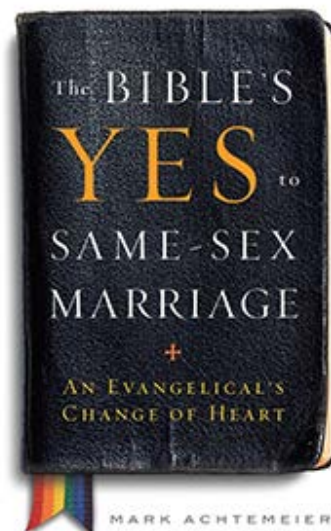


***Fun was had by all who attended!***

## *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!**



**October 27 – Chapter 8 | November 3 – Chapter 9**

## **Come join the Celebration! The Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner**

**Sunday, November 24  
at 2PM  
In Goodenberger Hall  
Contact the church  
office for more info.**



## Getting Involved in the Community

- ☛ Volunteers are needed for the church’s food bank to stock shelves and to help serve customers. Contact the church office for more information.
- ☛ Attend a local public meeting:
  - City of Astoria
    - Monday, November 4, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
    - Tuesday, November 19, Historic Landmarks Commission at 5:30PM.
    - Tuesday, November 26, Planning Commission at 5:30PM.
  - Astoria School District
    - Wednesday, November 13, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
  - Clatsop County
    - Wednesday, November 13, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
  - Clatsop Community College
    - Thursday, November 14, Board of Education Meeting at 5:30PM.
  - Port of Astoria
    - Tuesday, November 5, Commission Business Meeting at 4PM.

## Working for Justice and Peace in October & November

<i>October</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic Violence Awareness Month; <a href="http://ncadv.org/take-action">ncadv.org/take-action</a>; <a href="http://nomore.org">nomore.org</a>; <a href="http://presbyterianwomen.org/justice">presbyterianwomen.org/justice</a> or <a href="http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa">presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa</a></li> <li>• Fair Trade Month; <a href="http://fairtradefederation.org/celebrate-fair-trade-month">fairtradefederation.org/celebrate-fair-trade-month</a></li> <li>• National Disability Employment Awareness Month; <a href="http://dol.gov/agencies/odep/initiatives/ndeam">dol.gov/agencies/odep/initiatives/ndeam</a></li> </ul>	
24	United Nations Day; <a href="http://un.org/en/observances/un-day">un.org/en/observances/un-day</a>
<i>November</i>	
Native American Heritage Month; <a href="http://archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month">archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month</a> or <a href="http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov">nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov</a>	
10	Hunger and Homelessness Sunday; <a href="http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/hunger">presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/hunger</a>
11	J&P Book Discussion Group online, 6:30–8:30 PM (Eastern) on Searching for Savanna: The Murder of One Native American Woman and the Violence Against the Many by Mona Gable. Register at <a href="http://presbyterianwomen.org/justice">presbyterianwomen.org/justice</a>
13	World Kindness Day; <a href="http://randomactsofkindness.org/world-kindness-day">randomactsofkindness.org/world-kindness-day</a>
20	Universal Children’s Day; <a href="http://un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day">un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day</a>
	Transgender Day of Remembrance; <a href="http://glaad.org/tdor">glaad.org/tdor</a>
25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women; <a href="http://un.org/en/events/endviolenceday">un.org/en/events/endviolenceday</a> or <a href="http://unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action">unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action</a>
25–D10	16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence; <a href="http://unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism">unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism</a>
28	Thanksgiving; <a href="http://americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving_poster.pdf">americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving_poster.pdf</a> or <a href="http://presbyterianmission.org/resource/just-living-alternative-thanksgiving-ideas">presbyterianmission.org/resource/just-living-alternative-thanksgiving-ideas</a>
<b>From the Presbyterian Women in the PCUSA   <a href="https://www.presbyterianwomen.org">https://www.presbyterianwomen.org</a></b> <b><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></b>	

## 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:

- ✚ [Two PC\(USA\) congregations receive historic preservation grants](#)
- ✚ [PC\(USA\) church in Oklahoma assessing damage, how to move forward following arson fire](#)
- ✚ [Ordination task force wants to hear from a variety of Presbyterians](#)

## Two years after floods, presbytery works to support neighbors impacted by hurricanes

[Disaster Response](#) October 22, 2024

### Churches in Transylvania Presbytery gathered Sunday to fill disaster relief buckets for communities impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton

by Rich Copley | [PC\(USA\) Communications](#)

Follow this link for a short video presentation about this story: <https://vimeo.com/1021868586>

LEXINGTON, Kentucky — More than 60 members and staff of at least eight churches in Eastern and Central Kentucky's [Presbytery of Transylvania](#) gathered in the fellowship hall of [First Presbyterian Church of Lexington](#) late Sunday afternoon to fill large buckets with a plethora of supplies needed to begin recovery from a natural disaster like a hurricane or a flood.

The effort was in response to Hurricanes Helene and Milton, which ravaged communities in the southeastern United States from Florida to Virginia in September and October. It was also inspired by the outpouring of support Eastern Kentucky received from [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) (PDA) and other organizations two summers ago following catastrophic flooding in 16 counties in Transylvania Presbytery.



The Rev. Philip Lotspeich, General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Transylvania, participated in the event and said communities in Eastern Kentucky are still working to recover from flooding two years ago. (Photo by Rich Copley)

The Rev. Philip Lotspeich, the presbytery's general presbyter, said Sunday that two years later, people are still working to recover from the floods that came with little warning.

"I don't know if that's paying it forward or paying it back," said Rev. Linda Kurtz, Associate Pastor of Christian Formation at First Presbyterian, who co-organized the bucket brigade with the Rev. Hannah McIntyre, pastor of [Pisgah Presbyterian Church](#) in neighboring Versailles, Kentucky.

Kurtz noted that many of the churches that experienced flooding in 2022 contributed to the drive either financially or by bringing supplies. In all, the effort involved nearly 100 people and raised more than \$13,000, and funds remaining after expenses for the bucket project are paid will be donated to PDA. One of the donors was a lay pastor in Eastern

Kentucky who lost his car and suffered significant damage to his property in the floods.



“We know how effective cleanup buckets can be and how important they are in the initial mucking out,” Kurtz said.

When she heard that hurricane response had put a significant dent in the supply of buckets PDA and [Church World Service](#) (CWS) had on hand, Kurtz said she and McIntyre were inspired to put together a bucket effort to help replenish supplies for continued hurricane response or “for the inevitable next disaster.” Sunday’s event resulted in 117 completed buckets.



The Rev. Hannah McIntyre of Pisgah Presbyterian Church in Versailles, Kentucky was co-organizer of the bucket event. She led the volunteers in prayer before the bucket filling began. (Photo by Rich Copley)

The fellowship hall at First Presbyterian resembled the home-goods aisle at a grocery store with heavy garbage bags, dishwashing detergent, gloves, and many other items on tables arranged in a horseshoe. Participants grabbed a bucket and proceeded around the tables taking each item and stuffing them into the buckets.



The Rev. Franklyn C. Pottorff (left), Pastor and Head of Staff at First Presbyterian Church of Lexington, worked on his filled bucket along with Ruling Elder John Davis of Midway Presbyterian Church. (Photo by Rich Copley)

At the end of the line, lids were put on the buckets, they were sealed and loaded on a truck that delivered them to a CWS distribution point in Indianapolis Monday.



The Rev. Linda Kurtz, Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Lexington, was the co-organizer of the disaster relief bucket event. (Photo by Rich Copley)

“We are overwhelmed with the response from this presbytery,” McIntyre said, “and not just these churches that were here today, but churches from across Transylvania Presbytery. It’s been amazing.”

*[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#) is one of the [Compassion, Peace and Justice](#) ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. To contribute to PDA’s hurricane response, click [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.*

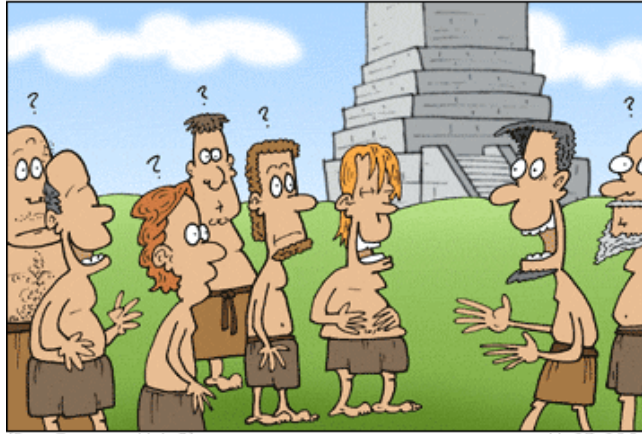
**Email:** [pastorpaul@fpcastoria.org](mailto:pastorpaul@fpcastoria.org) **Phone:** 971.606.5606

### 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.

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(See Genesis 11:1-9) 11-27-2006

NATURALLY, ONLY A PERCENTAGE OF THE  
POST-BABEL CROWD GOT HIS JOKE ABOUT  
"BABELLING ON"



## 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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