



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 November 4, 2024

Good News from Ashland!

A big thank you for all your prayers and additional big thank you to Nancy Cole, Jay Kirkpatrick, Rebecca Duffy, and Hazel Davidson for journeying with me to the Presbytery meeting on November 1st & 2nd in Ashland Oregon. After explaining Jim Wallace made the motion on behalf of the Commission on Ministry, to allow for our church family to call me as an installed pastor, Rebecca, Nancy, Jay and Hazel got an opportunity to share their thoughts. The vote to allow us to proceed requires a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote in the affirmative from the Presbytery. There were a couple of comments made by those present in favor of the motion, and when those voting in the affirmative were asked to stand, only those who could not vote remained seated. Likewise, when it was asked for those who opposed the motion to stand, no one stood. Praise God!

The next step will be our Congregational meeting on Sunday, November 24 following worship, when it will be your turn, as a church family to vote to accept me as your next called and installed pastor. If that vote is in the affirmative, the next step will be an installation service, with the date to be determined.

Again, a big thank you to all for all your prayers and kind words. I feel truly blessed to be your pastor and a part of this wonderful church family in a wonderful and blessed community.

Announcements

- **[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.
- **[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, November 20th at 5pm.
- **[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 message is being written the day after the election. My thoughts and emotions seem to be despair, anger, anxiety, fear, disappointment and sadness. There's one emotion or thought that I am actually surprised isn't showing its face, and that is hopelessness.

Recently, I found myself being called to read the book, "**Preaching in Hitler's Shadow: Sermons of Resistance in the Third Reich**" edited by Dean G. Stroud. One of the sermons titled, "Christ Crossing the Stormy Lake and Jesus' Glory" by Paul Schneider, preached on January 28, 1934, in Hochelheim, Germany speaks to the power of God in times of turmoil. Schneider was the first Protestant pastor to die in a concentration camp. In this sermon, Schneider preach on the gospel story from Luke 8:22-25 and Matthew 14:22-32, where, while crossing the lake in a small boat, the disciples find themselves in a threatening storm that is calmed by Jesus. Schneider wrote,

This is how it is with all the storms that come upon you, O Christian, which you must suffer for Jesus' sake and because you follow him. You should know: "He, the Lord, is with you, he awakens. When the power of the waves tries to cover the little boat of your heart in the dark night, then stretch out your hand. Listen to me, watchers in the night!" Where is the storm? It is not so much around you as in you, in your heart. There, deep in your heart, you see, as Peter did, the heaving winds blowing against you, and you become afraid and begin to sink. But even then the Lord holds out to you his saving hand and holds you firm in order to strengthen your weak faith. But just what is it then that you have to do alone in order to experience Jesus' glory in the storm, in this storm over the church, in this storm over your life as a Christian? You must believe, trust, and abandon yourself to the miraculous power of the Lord in whom you believe.¹

When we ask Jesus to calm the storm of life that seems to be howling around us, it is actually the storms of our hearts that Jesus calms. And as we may feel dread from the results of yesterday's election, we must remember that, regardless of how big the storm around us may seem, God's steadfast love for each of us keeps us grounded in God's peace. It's that type of peace that helped Paul and Silas pray and sing hymns while sitting in a prison cell in Acts 16. It's that type of peace that will help keep us going through whatever the world may witness tomorrow or in the next few years.

So, siblings in Christ, although none of us can truly know what tomorrow may bring, we all can be confident that we go through none of it alone, for the Holy Trinity is always with us. As God is always with us, we must continue to always be there for each other. Not only hold fast to the two greatest commandments, selflessly loving God with all that you are and selflessly love all others as God calls us to love ourselves; with God's help, live out those commandments with every breath and every heartbeat. Though the future may seem very uncertain at this time, remember that the world has faced so much over the centuries, and that although régimes come and go, God stands firm. I am reminded of the powerful scripture from Micah 6:8, "But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don't take yourself too seriously—take God seriously." (MSG) or as it is translated in the New International Version, "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with your God."

¹ Stroud, Dean G.. Preaching in Hitler's Shadow: Sermons of Resistance in the Third Reich (p. 83). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.. Kindle Edition.

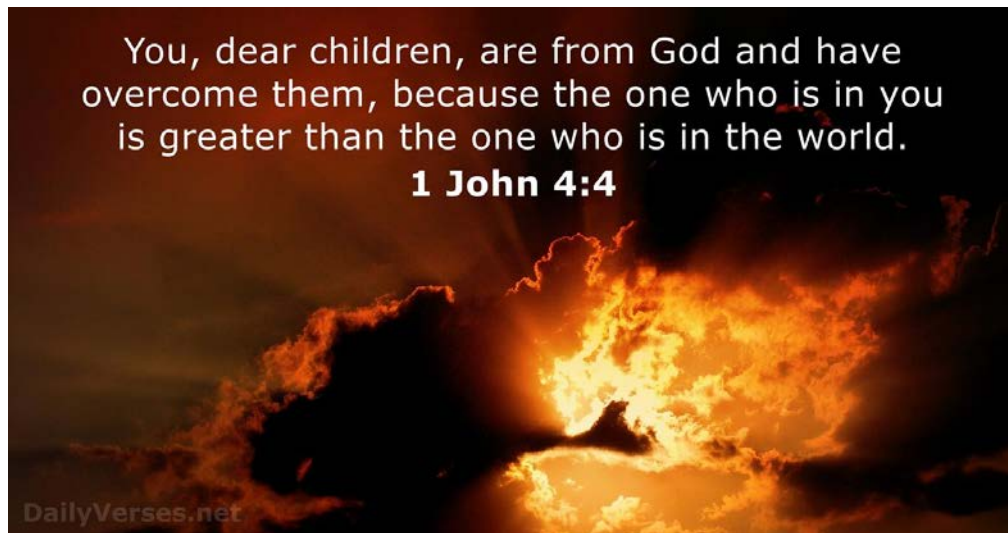
(NIV) Take heart too from the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s words, “I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.”

Take time to breath, take time to meditate with God, take time to pray and reflect, with God’s help, on yesterday, today and tomorrow. Continue to be there for each other and continue to do the work that God has called each of us to. Brining to life, through our continued actions and words, the agape, selfless love that God calls us to in all we say and do regardless of what is happening in the world around us. As members of the body of Christ, as Christians, or little Christs, it is our responsibility to remain steadfast in the storm, helping others to know and feel the love and shalom that is God. Together, with the help of the Holy Trinity, not only will we find hope, we will know that hope realized.

Please, as you continue to show God’s love, grace and kindness to each other, remember to show that same love, grace and kindness to yourself. And, 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. I again close with Paul’s words, “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

Join us at 9:30am every Tuesday and Thursday in the Christian Resource Room for a time of prayer.

November	4-10	Monday-Sunday	Pastor Paul on Study Leave – For pastoral needs, contact the church office
	8	Friday	Coffee, Tea & Fellowship in the church parlor at 10am
	12	Tuesday	Facilities Liaison Team Meeting at 11am in the Christian Resource Room
	16	Saturday	Women’s Bible Study – 10am at Hazel Davidson’s home
	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	Congregational Meeting immediately following worship

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 – Peace & Discernment
- 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

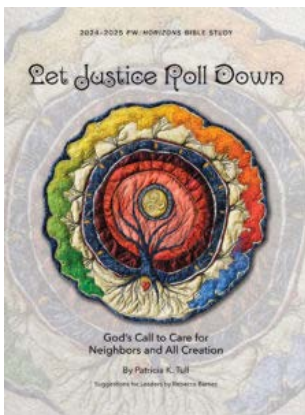
All those touched by mass shootings and other crimes of hate and violence.

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.

Come join the Celebration! The Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

Sunday, November 24
at 2PM

In Goodenberger Hall

Contact the church
office for more info.



Congregational Meeting

Join us **November 24** for a Congregational Meeting following worship.

We will vote for new Deacons and Ruling Elders and whether or not to receive Pastor Paul as our next Installed Pastor.

From our Siblings in Christ at Pioneer Presbyterian

Dear friends at First Presbyterian

We hope you will join us as we celebrate Christmas with a dinner at the Seaside Golf Course Restaurant on Avenue U in Seaside on Friday, December 6th, at 6pm. Strong in Song will lead us in music.

The menu is:

- **Prime rib special \$27 (10oz) - with veggies and baked Potato**
- **Baby Back ribs ½ rack \$20- with baked beans and Coleslaw**
- **Homemade Alfredo Pasta with Garlic Bread Mushroom / veggies \$18**
- **Grilled or Crispy Chicken \$19**
- **Prawns / Steak / Bay Shrimp \$23**

The regular dinner menu is **\$3 more** and comes with **soup or salad**.

Please contact First Presbyterian's office by Thursday, November 21 if you'd like to attend.

Thank you and we look forward to celebrating together.

Sincerely, Kathleen Teeple and your friends at Pioneer Presbyterian

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 18, 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, December 3, Commission Business Meeting at 4PM.

Working for Justice and Peace in October & November

<i>November</i>	
Native American Heritage Month; archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month or nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov	
10	Hunger and Homelessness Sunday; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/hunger
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 presbyterianwomen.org/justice
13	World Kindness Day; randomactsofkindness.org/world-kindness-day
20	Universal Children's Day; un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day
	Transgender Day of Remembrance; glaad.org/tdor
25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women; un.org/en/events/endviolenceday or unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action
25–D10	16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence; unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism

28	Thanksgiving; americanindian.si.edu/sites/1/files/pdf/education/thanksgiving_poster.pdf or presbyterianmission.org/resource/just-living-alternative-thanksgiving-ideas
From the Presbyterian Women in the PCUSA https://www.presbyterianwomen.org https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2024-JP-Calendar-FA-rvsvd-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:

- ✝ [PC\(USA\) election vigil affirms need to keep working and praying for justice](#)
- ✝ [Advent hope in the midst of uncertainty](#)
- ✝ [You can open a gate for them to do something](#)

Chapel service unites Presbyterians in prayer following Nov. 5 elections

Communication November 6, 2024

Worship leaders invite PC(USA) national staff to pray for the nation as a ‘people of hope, justice and reconciliation’

by Emily Enders Odom | Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — As the plaintive strains of “Be Still, My Soul” filled the Presbyterian Center, worshipers gathered for prayer, both online and in the chapel, on the morning following the national election.

“Election result or no, we will gather in prayer, scripture and song to be encouraged and energized,” wrote the Rev. Dr. John Wilkinson earlier in a message inviting PC(USA) national staff members to attend the weekly chapel service. “We are called to pray for our leaders and to love our neighbor.”

In introducing the nature and structure of the 30-minute service, Wilkinson, the director of the PC(USA)’s [Ministry Engagement and Support](#), explained that because the Presbyterian tradition and practice of morning prayer doesn’t include a sermon, he would be leading the gathering in a time of extended prayer around the themes of hope, justice and reconciliation.



The Rev. Dr. John Wilkinson

Worship leaders Tonia Trice, HR Generalist; Laurie Griffith, Associate Director, Constitutional Interpretation, Office of the General Assembly; and Rev. Edwin González-Castillo, Director of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, joined Wilkinson in reading selected scripture passages and excerpts from the PC(USA) Book of Confessions. Phillip Morgan provided music for the service.

Before inviting worshipers to pray with him, Wilkinson offered a brief statement of purpose, beginning with quotes from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the [Confession of 1967](#).

“The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state,” read Wilkinson citing King. “It must be the guide and the critic of the state,

and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority. But if the church will free itself from the shackles of a deadening status quo, and, recovering its great historic mission, will proceed to speak and act fearlessly and insistently on the questions of justice and peace, it will enkindle the [people's] imagination.”

Wilkinson then set out to pray for “our deeply, deeply divided nation — for all who will be pleased with [Tuesday's] outcome and those who will be disappointed,” and to pray for those serving in elected office.

“John Calvin called them ‘magistrates,’” Wilkinson explained. “Calvin believed that magistrates are God's representatives on Earth and have a duty to enforce the law and act in the people's best interests ... that they might lead us, the consenting governed, in the way of peace. We recommit ourselves to peace and reconciliation, even though they may be elusive.”

Wilkinson also referenced his current work in financial stewardship as a lens through which he frequently views the world. He called the gathering to embrace a “stewardship of citizenship, which includes this moment and how we live into it ... God calls us not out of the world but into the world to be the hands and feet of Jesus.”

In his prayer, Wilkinson took care to “lift up all who received difficult news this week, our colleagues and friends,” referring to Tuesday's [announcement](#) about the reconfiguring of ministry work in the new Interim Unified Agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the accompanying reduction in force.

“We remember their work with deep gratitude in this silent moment,” Wilkinson prayed.

An uncharacteristically subdued chat feature on Zoom — which began with one online worshiper asking, “How does one scream in the comments section” — included mostly expressions of thanks as the service concluded.

“Prayers and deep gratitude for this community of purpose, pain, and promise,” wrote one worshiper in the chat. “This is a hard week and a hard day; it's good to gather together.”

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 George Rudd (See Genesis 2:18-25) 10-05-2005

CAN I DO "CAT" OVER AGAIN? I WAS THINKING OF GOING WITH SOMETHING MORE CREATIVE, LIKE "FELIS DOMESTICUS"



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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