

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 18, 2024

Stewardship Time

If it's November, it must be a busy month for our congregation. We have our Thanksgiving pot-luck dinner later this month; we are electing new church officers to serve us for the next few years; and we have our yearly opportunity to make a pledge of how we will support our church in the coming year. This opportunity is otherwise known as the "Stewardship Campaign".





Here is what to expect: Later this month all of our congregation members and attendees will receive a letter from me. Enclosed in that letter will be a "pledge card". After you prayerfully consider how much you will pledge to the church, on a weekly, monthly or annual basis, you are asked to return the completed pledge card to the church. We ask that you return your pledge card by a date early in December, as that will allow the budget committee to have a good idea about how much money the church will have to work with in fulfilling its mission in 2024.

We plan on having a brief "dedication of the gifts" during the worship service on December 15, so we can all look forward to that.

Thank you in advance for your financial support of our church, as well as all the other ways you contribute!

Tom Scoggins, Stewardship Chair

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, November 20th 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. Next bible study is December 21 at 10am.

Our Church Family's Financials for October 2024

Income – \$6,788.93

Expenses – \$12,643.36

Thoughts from Pastor Paul

Dear Siblings in Christ,

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

This newsletter, I am feeling called to repeat a note that I shared a few months back.

This week I feel called to talk a little about “values”. It seems a catch phrase that is used a lot these days by people running for political office. Statements like, “They threaten our values...” or “A candidate with good values.” It has been used so long and so often that its definition has become, I believe, lost or watered down.

Granted, I still have a lot to learn in my Christian walk, but one thing I have learned is that you can't, and must not, put God in a box. And although we may consider ourselves conservative or liberal, we must not categorize God or any other part of the Holy Trinity as conservative or liberal. God is God. And whenever I am working on a sermon, I strive for and pray that instead of coming from either a conservative or liberal approach, I am coming at it from God's approach. And with the help of Jesus' teachings and his life examples, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I feel pretty confident that, most of the time I am successful. On different occasions, I have been told that I was not conservative enough by some and not liberal enough by others. In each of those moments I was a little upset at first, but then I realized that, while in human terms this may have been a criticism, I felt relief when I remembered that it was not people's agendas that I was trying to satisfy but rather God's. It reminds me of Ezekiel 33:31 “So they come to you as people do, and they sit before you as my people. They listen to your words, but they refuse to do them. Though they speak of their longing for me, they act out of their own interests and opinions.” (CEB) Again, we must strive not to be either conservative or liberal, but rather Christ like.

Now, with all that said, back to the earlier comments about “values”. What are Christ like values? First, they are neither conservative nor liberal; instead they are Christ's. And Jesus made it very simple for us when he answered the question, “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?” We find Jesus' reply in Matthew 22: 37-40, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love your all others as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.” So, what should our Christian values be based on? If you're thinking love, then you're on the correct path. Remember too that the Greek word for love used is the self-less, put the other person first type of love. Agape love. And as 1 John 4:8 says, “The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love.” (CEB) And that is how I discern if I'm on God's path or somewhere else. Am I showing and sharing that agape love?

Regarding political candidates using the term “values”, if they're talking “Christian Values”, they better be showing and sharing agape love. For example, if they are putting God's creation above money and power; if they are concerned that all people, regardless of social or economic standing are getting the health care and resources that they need; if they support peaceful responses over showing force, if they are welcoming and showing love for immigrants and refugees, they are showing and sharing God's agape love and true Christian values. If in doubt, pray for discernment and then ask that time-tested question, “What would Jesus do?”

Siblings in Christ, seek not to be conservative or liberal; rather seek to be Christ like in your heart, mind and in your actions. Seek to live the agape love that is God with all of creation.

Please, as you continue to show and share God's selfless 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 | 19 | Tuesday | Session Meeting in the Christian Resource Room at 4pm |
| | 20 | Wednesday | Bowling, Pizza & Fellowship at the Lower Columbia Bowl at 5pm |
| | 23 | Saturday | Bagpipe Swap meet 11am-4pm in Goodenberger Hall |
| | 24 | Sunday | Congregational Meeting immediately following worship |
| | | | Thanksgiving Potluck – 2pm in Goodenberger Hall |
| 26 | Tuesday | Facilities Management Team – 11am in the Christian Resource Room | |
| December | 6 | Friday | Pioneer Christmas Dinner at Seaside Golf Course Restaurant |
| | 13 | Friday | Coffee & Tea Fellowship at 10am at Joan Scoggins' home |
| | 21 | Saturday | Women's Bible Study at Hazel Davidson's house |
| | | | Service of the Longest Night – 7pm in the Marcotte Chapel |
| | 24 | Tuesday | Carols & Lessons Christmas Eve Service at 7pm |

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:

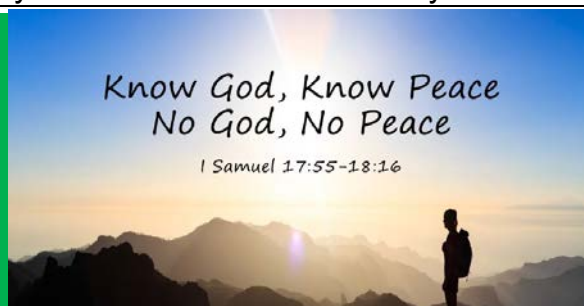
- **Prime rib special \$27 (10oz) - with veggies and baked Potato**
- **Baby Back ribs ½ rack \$20- with baked beans and Coleslaw**
- **Homemade Alfredo Pasta with Garlic Bread Mushroom / veggies \$18**
- **Grilled or Crispy Chicken \$19**
- **Prawns / Steak / Bay Shrimp \$23**

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.

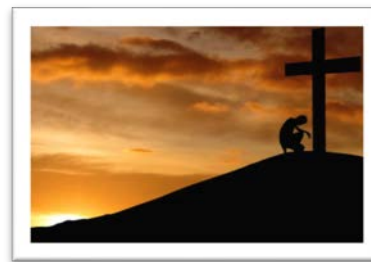
Thank you and we look forward to celebrating together.

Sincerely, Kathleen Teeple and your friends at Pioneer Presbyterian



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
- 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
- Katy Paz – Healing & Peace
- Butch & Vinie Elliot – Healing & Peace
- Gerald Smith – Healing, Peace & Discernment

Continued Prayers for God's Creation

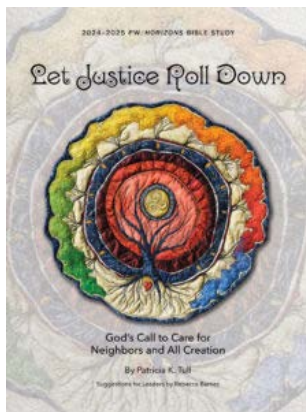
All those touched by mass shootings and other crimes of hate and violence.

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, December 21st 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.

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, December 2, 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, December 11, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
 - Clatsop County
 - Wednesday, December 11, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
 - Clatsop Community College
 - Thursday, December 12, Board of Education Meeting at 5:30PM.
 - Port of Astoria
 - Tuesday, December 3, Commission Business Meeting at 4PM.

Working for Justice and Peace in November & December

| <i>November</i> | |
|--|--|
| Native American Heritage Month; archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month or nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov | |
| 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 |
| <i>December</i> | |
| 1 | World AIDS Day; presbyterianmission.org/resource/presbyterian-aids-awareness-sunday-worship-ma-teria |
| 5 | International Volunteer Day; un.org/en/observances/volunteer-day |
| 10 | International Human Rights Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_Day |
| 18 | International Migrants Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Migrants_Day |
| 25 | Christmas; presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/nativity-lord-christmas |
| 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:

- ✝ [*A beginning, not an ending*](#)
- ✝ [*Hey moderators! Make mistakes, like Moses did*](#)
- ✝ [*Friend of civil rights icon John Lewis reflects on importance of non-violence and forgiveness*](#)

Interfaith Immigration Coalition expresses solidarity with immigrants, refugees and newcomers

[Advocacy & Social Justice](#) November 15, 2024

PC(USA) advocacy director says, ‘We recommit to solidarity as we live into hope and faith that God is making a way’

by [Darla Carter](#) | [Presbyterian News Service](#)

LOUISVILLE — The transition taking place at the White House has prompted an interfaith coalition that includes the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to issue a statement reaffirming its commitment to advocating for immigrants, refugees and other newcomers seeking to make a home in the United States.

The [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#), which is comprised of more than 56 national, faith-based organizations, released a statement Thursday expressing its solidarity with the vulnerable and showing its concern about the potential impact of Donald Trump returning to office.



Photo by Ra-dragon via Unsplash

“Understanding that the policies that may be in store in the next administration — mass deportation, family separation, curtailing access to protection from persecution — may profoundly impact families and vulnerable people on the move and at the border, the Interfaith Immigration Coalition recommits to the critical work of accompaniment, solidarity and action alongside immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, [DACA](#) recipients, [TPS](#) beneficiaries and others impacted,” the coalition stated in a [news release](#).

During his bid for the presidency, Trump claimed that migrants were “poisoning the blood of our country” and promised mass deportations. He has further shown his commitment to an anti-immigration agenda by [selecting Tom Homan](#), his former acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), as his new “border czar,” stating, “There is nobody better at policing and controlling our Borders” and noting that Homan will be “in charge of all Deportation of Illegal Aliens back to their Country of Origin.”

Amid this climate, the coalition remains steadfastly committed to working “across differences to find common ground and pursue just policies that lift up the God-given dignity of every individual,” and is planning to continue “raising the moral voice with clarity, courage, and conviction,” according to the release.

The coalition’s statement is accompanied by quotes from concerned immigration advocates and religious leaders, such as the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, who noted that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has a long history of welcoming immigrants into its congregations and ministering alongside newcomers.



“As Presbyterians, we believe in a God who promises, ‘[I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert](#),’” said Hawkins, who leads the [Presbyterian Office of Public Witness](#) and the [Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations](#), quoting from Isaiah 43:19b. “Today, we rededicate our call to be with immigrant, migrant, and refugee siblings as the wilderness and desert surround them. Today, we recommit to solidarity as we live into hope and faith that God is making a way. We will sit with (and shout with) our immigrant siblings during this time, seeking dignity, protection, and security.”

Others showing their solidarity include Rick Santos, President and Chief Executive Officer of [Church World Service](#).

“As we prepare to usher in a second Trump Administration, CWS stands firmly with our immigrant and refugee neighbors, and vulnerable families around the world — as well as people of faith and conscience across the nation who support them,” Santos said. “We will never stop working to defend our nation’s tradition of compassion and welcome, and to protect the rights of the most vulnerable.”

Santos also is calling for others to speak up.

“We ask for our supporters, neighbors and friends to make their voices heard and to join us in calling for the new administration to maintain the programs and policies that support newcomers and to reject misinformation and fearmongering about immigrant and refugee communities,” Santos said. “Together we will work to safeguard protection for our immigrant and refugee neighbors and defend pathways to safety and lifesaving aid for families who remain in danger.”

The [Presbyterian Office of Public Witness](#) and the [Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations](#) are part of the [Compassion, Peace and Justice](#) ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

BAGPIPE SWAP MEET

BAGPIPES • DRUMS • ATTIRE • ACCESSORIES!



+ LIVE CELTIC MUSIC!

FEATURING: Preston Wilde (Uilleann + Flemish bagpipes), Micah Babinski (Border Pipes), Zephan Knichel (Scottish Smallpipes)

Tables, chairs, coffee and tea will be provided. Feel free to bring lunch (local food carts & restaurants nearby).

FREE & OPEN

TO THE PUBLIC

SATURDAY, NOV. 23RD, 2024 • 11AM - 4PM

First Presbyterian Church - 1108 Harrison Ave. • Astoria, OR

www.cascadiabagpiper.com/swapmeet

OPEN JAM SESSION

Fiddles, guitars, smallpipes welcome

6-9PM
Breakside
Brewery

Astor Street Opry Company

The Southern-Fried Yuletide Comedy!

CHRISTMAS BELLES



a jones hope wooten comedy

• December 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 20 & 21, 2024

Doors 6:30pm / Show 7pm

Friday & Sat. shows Doors 6:30pm / Show 7pm
Sunday Matinee 12/15 Doors 1:30pm / Show 2pm
\$20 front Row Seats / \$10 House seats
Saturday 12/14 Special Limited Seating
Dinner Show \$35 per person.
Doors @5:30pm / Dinner 6pm / Show 7pm

Tickets Available at www.asocplay.com

503-325-6104

129 west bond St Astoria OR

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 Mikel Rice (See Exodus 32) 08-11-2003

YOU'VE HAD THESE NEW LAWS FOR LESS THAN A DAY AND YOU'VE ALREADY BROKEN ALL OF THEM



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