

# 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 January 27, 2025*

### *Thank you! Also, Can You Help?*

We serve an awesome God, and God has blessed us with a wonderful church family. There are many who keep things going. We are blessed with many who make sure the doors, lights, heat, windows, and everything else in our buildings keep working the way they need to work. There are those who help communicate with our renters (*another blessing*), making sure both their needs as well as our needs are met. There are those who make sure there are plenty of fellowship activities that are not only fun but help us to reach out into the community to enlighten others about what a wonderful church family we have and to know that any and all are welcome to join in anything and everything we do. There are those who help to make sure nothing is missed throughout the year in our worship services and that worship is meaningful and that God is always glorified. There are those who help bring the gift of music and those who help keep our finances in check (*no pun intended*). There are those who help make sure doors are locked, lights turned off, supplies stocked, and everything is clean and there are those who help with the church office, answering the phone and emails that come into the church every day. There are those too who help with stocking the food pantry, donating to it and who help serve its many clients. I'm pretty sure I missed someone in all that, and if so, apologies. To all of you who serve this church family in any way, we are all so grateful and thankful for all that all of you do.

In the next few pages is a list of the various committees or teams that make sure everything is getting done that needs to be done. If you feel called in any way to help, please contact the Session member associated with the committee you'd like to help with. You do not have to be a Ruling Elder, serving on session or even a member to serve on any or all committees. You just have to be called in your heart.

Again, a big thank you to all from your very grateful church family.

### *Announcements*

- ☪ Friday Coffee & Tea Fellowship – Please join us Friday, February 14 at 10am for coffee, tea, treats & fellowship in the church parlor.
- ☪ **Now Live Streaming on Facebook (YouTube coming soon)** – Sunday worship is available as recordings or livestreaming at: <https://www.facebook.com/fpcastoria/>
- ☪ **The Food Bank** – Needs:
  - ☪ breakfast cereal,
  - ☪ feminine hygiene products,
  - ☪ canned soup,
  - ☪ volunteers.
- ☪ **Women's Bible Study** – Ladies fellowship and Bible study every 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 February 15 at 10am.
- ☪ **First Friday Flicks** – Join us Friday, February 7 at 7pm in the fellowship hall as we watch Wall•e, eat some popcorn and enjoy some good fellowship. See the trailer: <https://youtu.be/CZ1CATNbXq0?si=kLFHTD00dONHRyms>
- ☪ **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, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

## Thoughts from Pastor Paul

Dear Siblings in Christ,

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

Given all that is going on in our nation and around the world, I wanted to share with you, a devotion that I wrote last year. It's titled, **Turning Over Tables**

### Scripture

*"They arrived at Jerusalem. Immediately on entering the Temple Jesus started throwing out everyone who had set up shop there, buying and selling. He kicked over the tables of the bankers and the stalls of the pigeon merchants. He didn't let anyone even carry a basket through the Temple. And then he taught them, quoting this text: My house was designated a house of prayer for the nations; you've turned it into a hangout for thieves." (Mark 11:15-17, MSG)*

Early in 2020, I traveled with a group of fellow clergy to Alabama to tour the Civil Rights' trail. It was humbling to walk in the places where so many fought back against centuries of racism. As we crossed the bridge in Selma, I tried to picture in my mind Bloody Sunday, March 7, 1965, and how the horrific events of that day helped to move our country in a positive direction. I truly hope and pray things are getting better for my siblings of color. And as I read the passage from Mark, I couldn't help but to hear John Lewis' call for some "Good Trouble" as that seemed to be what Jesus was doing.

Although there have been many who have viewed Jesus' kicking over tables and casting out the merchants as only keeping out merchants from our churches, I think it is much more. I've always felt that the merchants were keeping those who may not have had enough money from worshiping God as they were called to worship. History shows us that the church does this from time to time. We set up tables or build walls of bigotry and ignorance keeping groups of people from worshiping God as they are called. In the early church it was those without money and the Gentiles, later it's been people of color, other nationalities, and more recently, people from the LGBTQIA+ community. Each time this happens, it is our responsibility to, in a peaceful and loving way, kick over those tables and to knock down those walls. And God only knows who the next group will be that needs tables turned over, I just pray that we will be ready to respond as did Jesus when God calls us.

### Prayer

*Loving and gracious God, may we always be ready to, in your loving way, turn over tables when others are prevented from worshiping you as you call them to worship. Amen.*

We must stand firm in our faith and with our loving, gracious God, continuing the work that Jesus started some two thousand years ago, sharing the selfless love, changing hearts and lives, helping others to stand so they can also share the selfless love that is God with others, until the whole of creation is working with each other instead of for themselves. Guided by and with the help of the Holy Trinity, together we can make sure all share in God's agape love, grace and mercy, and that all of God's creation will know and live into God's justice and shalom.

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. If you are in need of someone to talk to, someone to pray with, someone to just listen to you, please do not hesitate to let me know.

*Blessings and shalom,*

*Pastor Paul*

## A Note from Our Clerk of Session

We did it! We did it! We did it! The annual report is done. We gathered the information, organized the data and printed it. It only had a few corrections! The annual report was presented at the congregational meeting January 26 in Goodenberger Hall. The meeting was followed with a tasty potluck which included strawberry shots, desserts, salads, ham, soups and a delicious stew. But the best part of the day was the fellowship. To see a copy of the annual report, please the go to the church's web site – [www.fpcastoria.org](http://www.fpcastoria.org) or contact the church office. Thank you for making this possible.

*Yours in Christ,  
Rebecca Duffy*

## Our Church Family's Financials for 2024

Income – \$ 139,592  
Expenses – \$ 164,658

*Please Note, the Income amount includes \$25,000 transferred from savings.*

## FPC Astoria Calendar

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

January	29	Wednesday	Regular Stated Presbytery Meeting 6pm – 8pm via Zoom
February	4	Tuesday	Food Bank Board Meeting at 10:30am in the Christian Resource Room
	7	Friday	First Friday Flicks featuring WALL.E at 7pm in Goodenberger Hall
	9	Sunday	What's So Amazing About Grace book study at 11:45am in the CRR
	10	Monday	Valentine's Day Dinner & Fellowship at Mo's Astoria at 5:30pm
	11	Tuesday	Session Meeting at 12noon in the Christian Resource Room
	14	Friday	Friday Coffee, Tea, Treats & Fellowship at 10am in the church parlor
	15	Saturday	Women's Bible Study at Hazel Davidson's home at 10am
	19	Wednesday	Bowling, Pizza & Fellowship at 5pm at the Lower Columbia Bowl
	20	Thursday	Deacon's Meeting at 4:30pm in the Christian Resource Room



### First Friday Flicks

Presents...

### WALL·E

Friday, February 7 at 7pm in  
Goodenberger hall  
*Free admission, popcorn  
and fellowship for all  
Scan to see the trailer*



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

- Jenny & Mike Curtis – Jenny’s healing
- Anna Langeberg – Healing, peace and discernment
- 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 & Discernment
- Gerald Smith – Healing, Peace & Discernment

### **Continued Prayers for God’s Creation**

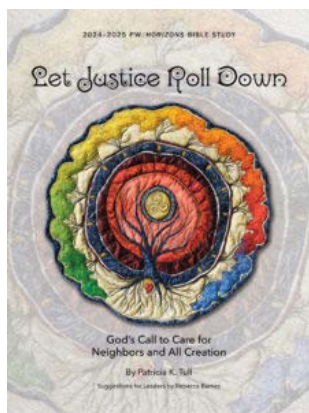
All those touched by mass shootings and other crimes of hate and violence.

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, February 15 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.

# New Book Study

What's So Amazing About Grace?

By Philip Yancey

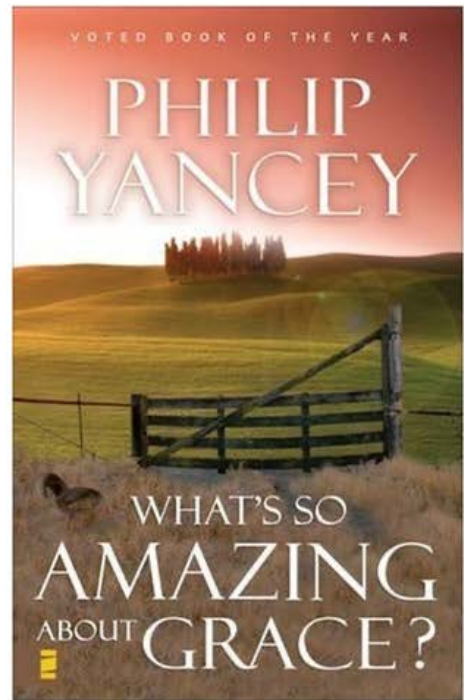
Begins Sunday, February 9 at

11:45am in the Christian

Resource Room

Contact the church office or scan

the code to order the book



## Valentine's Dinner & Fellowship

Save the date!

Monday, February 10 at 5:30PM

For our first annual  
Valentine's Day Dinner

At Mo's Seafood

101 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Astoria

Regular Menu





PEO CHAPTER FE



# ACCESSORY SALE

Jewelry, Scarves, Purses, Home Decor

Your support helps women with scholarships,  
grants and low interest loans.

Saturday, February 1

11 AM - 3 PM

Pacific Grange, U.S. Hwy 101

Near Cullaby Lake entrance, Warrenton



## *Our Session Has a New Look!*

*"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." (Romans 12:6-8, NIV)*

If you feel called to be a part of any of these teams, please let one of your Session members or Pastor Paul know. All are welcome to join any or all of the teams. The teams are:

- Buildings & Grounds – Mike Curtis, chair
  - Repairs and maintenance of church buildings.
  - Correspondence and coordination with organizations leasing space from FPC Astoria including the annual review and signing of corresponding leases through the Building Liaison Team (BLT).
  - Manage and coordinate rentals of church space for special events through the Facilities Management Team (FMT).
- Christian Education – Rebecca Duffy, chair
  - Determine needs for Christian education for all ages of the church family and seek ways to meet those needs.
  - Coordinate with recruiting teachers and facilitators for different studies.
- Fellowship & Outreach – Arlene Landwehr, chair
  - Coordinate activities that promote fellowship and outreach that help to strengthen the relationships between church family members and members of the surrounding community.
- Mission & Stewardship – Corinne Garrison, chair
  - Identify mission needs both locally and globally that the church family can contribute to either financially or physically.
  - Coordinate efforts to gather support for mission activities with
    - "Moments for Mission"
    - Gathering or creating announcements and inserts seeking assistance from the church family in answering the needs of the given mission.
- Finance & Stewardship – Arlene Landwehr, chair
  - Attend to and maintain all FPC Astoria's financial bookkeeping requirements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and related laws.
  - Send out letters with giving amounts to those who have contributed to the church family's finances.
  - Create and implement annual stewardship campaigns.
- Worship – Nancy Cole, chair
  - Continually review weekly worship and recommend changes based on comments from the congregation or from personal experiences.
  - Identify and help plan special worship opportunities throughout the liturgical year.
  - When needed, assist in filling the pulpit through obtaining pulpit supply.
- Personnel – Bob Magie
  - Meet with the employees of FPC Astoria on a regular basis.
  - Ascertain the needs of the employees.
  - Give employee reviews at least annually.
- Nominating -
  - Seek candidates for open Ruling Elder and Deacon seats.

## 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, February 3, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
    - Wednesday, February 26, Park's Board at 6:45PM.
  - Astoria School District
    - Wednesday, February 12, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
  - Clatsop County
    - Wednesday, February 12, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
  - Clatsop Community College
    - Thursday, February 13, Board of Education Meeting at 5:30PM.
  - Port of Astoria
    - Tuesday, February 4, Commission Business Meeting at 4PM.

## Working for Justice and Peace in February

Remember, every Thursday throughout the year is an opportunity to participate in Thursdays in Black. See [www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in-black](http://www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in-black)

In every country, gender-based violence is a tragic reality. This violence is frequently hidden, and victims are often silent, fearing stigma and further violence.

We all have a responsibility to speak out against violence, to ensure that women and men, boys and girls, are safe from rape and violence in homes, schools, work, streets – in all places in our societies.

The campaign is simple but profound. **Wear black on Thursdays.** Wear a pin to declare you are part of the global movement resisting attitudes and practices that permit rape and violence. Show your respect for women who are resilient in the face of injustice and violence. Encourage others to join you.

Often black has been used with negative racial connotations. In this campaign Black is used as a color of resistance and resilience.

<i>February 2025</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black History Month; <a href="http://blackhistorymonth.gov">blackhistorymonth.gov</a></li> <li>• One Billion Rising for Justice, <a href="http://onebillionrising.org">onebillionrising.org</a></li> <li>• National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, <a href="http://teendvmonth.org">teendvmonth.org</a></li> </ul>
1	National Freedom Day, <a href="http://state.gov/national-freedom-day-deepening-our-resolve-to-fight-human-trafficking">state.gov/national-freedom-day-deepening-our-resolve-to-fight-human-trafficking</a>
1-7	World Interfaith Harmony Week, <a href="http://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com">worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com</a>
09	Souper Bowl of Caring, <a href="http://tacklehunger.org">tacklehunger.org</a>
12	International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers, <a href="http://redhandday.org">redhandday.org</a>
<p><b>From the Presbyterian Women in the PCUSA   <a href="https://www.presbyterianwomen.org">https://www.presbyterianwomen.org</a></b>  <a href="https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2025-JP-Calendar-FA.pdf">https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2025-JP-Calendar-FA.pdf</a></p>	



## Join Us in Celebrating...



## Welcome Our Newly Ordained & Installed Deacon – Shane Chase

Please join in giving Shane a big congratulations and thank you for answering God’s call to become a Deacon. Our Book of Order defines a Deacon as:

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

## A Hardy Congratulations after a lot of hard work and study to...

- Killian Caffrey for completing his **Jesus and Me** Scouting award and
- Seamus Caffrey for completing his **God and Family** Scouting award

*Great Job Gentlemen!*

*Keep up the great work! We are all very proud of you both!*



## **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:

- ✝ [Small churches living well on the frontier](#)
- ✝ [PC\(USA\) grant program designed to launch student activists](#)
- ✝ [Of chaplains and chapels](#)

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## **PC(USA) advocacy committee issues statement supporting Bishop Budde**

*Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice say Budde's courage and truth-telling has echoes in pioneering Presbyterian women*

**January 27, 2025 | Advocacy for Women and Gender Justice**

LOUISVILLE — Throughout the history of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), women have faced adversity with courage and perseverance, breaking barriers to pave the way for future generations. Margaret Towner was ordained in 1956 as the first woman Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA). She faithfully served as a pastor and Christian educator, exemplifying steadfast determination.

In 1974, Katie Geneva Cannon became the first African American woman ordained in the Presbyterian church. Against all odds, she not only earned a postgraduate degree but also became a trailblazer in both the congregational and academic spheres. Rebecca Reyes was ordained in 1979 as the first Hispanic woman in the southern branch of the church, the Presbyterian Church of the United States, knowing the road ahead would be difficult. That same year, Elizabeth Kwon became the first Korean American woman Minister of Word and Sacrament after transferring her ordination to the UPCUSA. In 1987, Holly Haile Smith Davis made history as the first Indigenous woman ordained in the PC(USA).



*Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde*

These women, and countless others, faced challenges on the floors of presbyteries, within local congregations and in the broader church. Their perseverance has created a legacy upon which generations of women now stand. Recently, their strength was echoed on the floor of the 226th General Assembly, where women spoke boldly against injustice, ensuring that their voices were heard.

This legacy of courage and truth-telling is mirrored in the actions of Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, who preached a message of mercy from the pulpit of the National Cathedral. For proclaiming the Gospel, she has faced ridicule, threats, and attacks. Yet, like the women who have come before her,

she remains steadfast in her calling.

The [Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice](#), a standing committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), stands in solidarity with Bishop Budde. We condemn the hate-filled rhetoric directed at her and call for an end to such threats. Her witness reminds us of the courage of the women at the tomb who, when the disciples were huddled in fear, [were the first to encounter the risen Christ](#). Christ entrusted them with the message of the Resurrection, charging them to go and tell the good news.

It is this tradition of perseverance, bold proclamation, and unwavering faith that sustains us today. We honor those who have gone before us, and we stand firm in the Gospel's call for justice, mercy and love.



**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.*

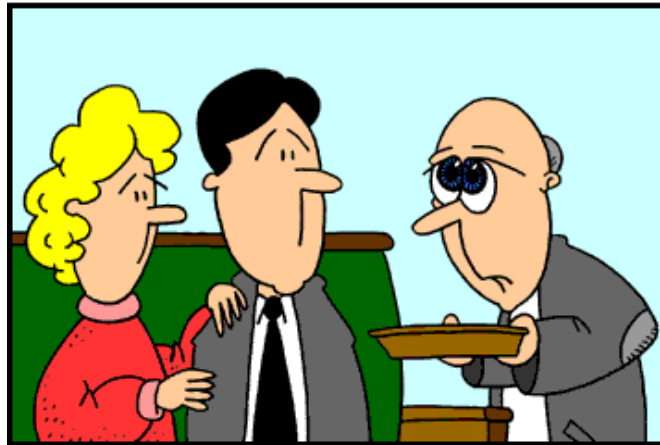
**Email:** [pastorpaul@fpcastoria.org](mailto:pastorpaul@fpcastoria.org) **Phone:** 971.606.5606

**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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02-23-1998

IT WAS SAID THAT IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE OFFERING-TAKING ABILITIES OF GOOD OL' SAD FRED, THE CHURCH WOULD'VE HAD TO SHUT DOWN YEARS AGO



**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



Scan for  
directions