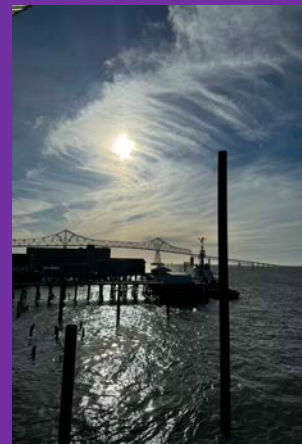


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ASTORIA

Our Mission Statement:

"To help people within a kind, safe and compassionate community to know Christ and grow His Love."

Week of April 7, 2025



Your Deacons Are Here & There for You

To say that our church family is made up of some pretty wonderful people seems a great understatement. Hopefully you all know that you are never truly alone. Not only is the Holy Trinity always with us, but we also have our siblings in our church family and the group of folks that are always there, ready to listen and pray with you, your Deacons. Your Deacon is someone you can call on whenever life goes a direction that leaves you feeling alone in the world.

According to our Book of Order, "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." (BOO, p. 27)

Our current Deacons are Joan Scoggins, Diane Hankins, Jay Kirkpatrick, Jenny Curtis and Hazel Davidson with one vacancy. As a member of our church family, one of these fine folks is your Deacon and is there for you should you need someone to talk to or pray with. If you don't know who your Deacon is, or if you'd like to serve as a Deacon, contact the church office.

Announcements

- ✦ [Bowling & Pizza](#) – Join us for bowling & pizza night Wednesday, April 9 at 5pm.
- ✦ [Friday Coffee & Tea Fellowship](#) – Please join us Friday, April 11 at 10am for coffee, tea, treats & fellowship in the church parlor.
- ✦ [Easter Floral Cross](#) – Bring your flowers from home to help decorate the Easter Cross on Easter Sunday, April 20.
- ✦ [Book Study – What's So Amazing About Grace by Philip Yancey](#) – Now starting, Sunday April 27 at 11:45am in the Christian Resource Room.
- ✦ [Now Live Streaming on Facebook \(YouTube coming soon\)](#) – Sunday worship is available as recordings or livestreaming at on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@FirstpresbyterianastoriaOrg>
- ✦ [The Food Bank](#) – Needs:
 - breakfast cereal,
 - individually wrapped toothbrushes,
 - 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 April 26 at 10am.
- ✦ [First Friday Flicks](#) – Join us Friday, May 2 at 7pm in the fellowship hall as we watch **How to Train Your Dragon**, have some popcorn and enjoy some good fellowship. See the trailer: <https://youtu.be/1huZhKwhIQc?si=m-F4RKUAUzUjU-Gn>
- ✦ [Holy Week Activities](#) – Join us at any or all of the events occurring Holy Week this year as we prepare to celebrate our risen Lord and Savior:
- ✦ Palm Sunday Worship – Sunday, April 13 at 10am
- ✦ Maundy Thursday Seder Meal & Soup Potluck – Thursday, April 17 at 5:30pm in Goodenberger Hall
- ✦ Good Friday – Friday, April 18
 - Prayer Walk – 3:30pm starting at the corner of 12th & Duane
 - Worship – 5:30pm in the Marcott Chapel
- ✦ Easter Sunday – Sunday, April 20
 - Sunrise Service – 7am at the Astoria Column
 - Celebration & Worship – 10am
 - Easter Egg Hunt following worship

Thoughts from Pastor Paul

Dear Siblings in Christ,

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

It's hard to believe that we are nearly done with this season of Lent. I hope and pray that you have been able to find a spiritual discipline to help strengthen your relationship with God during this time of Lent.

According to our Book of Common Worship, "The season of Lent is a time for growth in faith—through prayer, spiritual discipline, and self-examination in preparation for the commemoration of the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus Christ... Reconciliation is a key theme in the season of Lent—reconciliation with God and with one another through the grace of Jesus Christ.... Lent is a period of forty days—like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call of repentance to Nineveh, and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness." (BOCW, p. 233)

As Richard J. Foster states in his book, **Celebration of Discipline**, "The classical Disciplines of the spiritual life call us to move beyond surface living into the depths. They invite us to explore the inner caverns of the spiritual realm. They urge us to be the answer to a hollow world. John Woolman counsels, "It is good for thee to dwell deep, that thou mayest feel and understand the spirits of people." Spiritual disciplines can come in many forms. You can fast from something like a specific food item or vice that you have in your life such as electronics. Other examples of possible disciplines are journaling or praying at specific times throughout the day. One year for Lent, I felt called to give up jumping to negative conclusions about anything and everything and instead sought a positive attitude. Every time I heard the voice of negativity in my heart and mind, I essentially said 'NO' to it, prayed for God's wisdom and strength and then, with the help of the Holy Trinity, replaced the negativity with positivity.

When speaking to a colleague about a 24-hour fast they once did, they mentioned that every that every time they felt the hunger over taking them, instead of reaching out for a snack, they reached out for God. At the end of the 24-hour period, they felt a deep relationship with God, one that continues to this day. They did say that the discipline of the fast was, by no means easy, but it was very worthwhile. They also shared the need to continuously practice a spiritual discipline to help maintain a deepened relationship with God. Much like an athlete must continue to work out to maintain their physique, we must continuously keep working to maintain and strengthen our relationship with our loving God.

As Richard Foster warns in his book, **Celebration of Discipline**, "The Spiritual Disciplines are intended for our good. They are meant to bring the abundance of God into our lives. It is possible, however, to turn them into another set of soul-killing laws. Law-bound Disciplines breathe death." This is why it is sometimes helpful to attempt a spiritual discipline for a short period such as Lent. Just long enough to make a difference, but not too long to make it routine.

Whether you have found a spiritual discipline for Lent or not, I do encourage you to find something that helps to strengthen your relationship with God. We have been given everything we need to strengthen and deepen our relationship with the Holy Trinity, we need but put those gifts to use. As Foster stated, "God has given us the Disciplines of the spiritual life as a means of receiving [God's] grace. The Disciplines allow us to place ourselves before God so that [God] can transform us." So, siblings in Christ, please pray on it and find a discipline that works for you. Trust me, better yet trust God, although it may be difficult at first and you may experience some failures, if you keep it up and truly practice a spiritual discipline, you'll appreciate it in the end.

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

Our Church Family's Financials for March 2025

Income – \$ 6,680 – year to date = \$40,909
 Expenses – \$ 17,845 – year to date = \$43,444

FPC Astoria Calendar

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

April	8	Tuesday	Session Meeting at 12noon in the Christian Resource Room
	11	Friday	Friday Coffee, Tea & Fellowship at 10am in the church parlor
	13	Sunday	Palm Sunday Worship at 10am
	17	Thursday	Maundy Thursday & Seder Meal in Goodenberger Hall at 5:30pm
	18	Friday	Prayer Walk through Astoria – 3:30pm starting at corner of 12th & Duane
			Good Friday Service – 5:30pm in the Marcott Chapel
	20	Sunday	Easter Sunrise Service at the Astoria Column at 7am
			Easter Worship & Celebration at 10am in the Sanctuary
			Easter egg hunt following worship for grades pre-K through 5 th
	26	Saturday	Women's Bible Study at Hazel Davidson's home at 10am
	27	Sunday	What's So Amazing About Grace Book Study at 11:45am in the Christian Resource Room



First Friday Flicks Presents...

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON

Friday, May 2 at 7pm in

Goodenberger hall

Free admission, popcorn and fellowship for all

Scan to watch the trailer



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

- The family and friends of Shelby Thompson at her passing and her new born baby girl Lillyana Rose who is in NICU
- Family & friends of Betty (Elizabeth Jane)Moberg mourning her passing
- Family & friends of Kathy Davidson mourning her passing
- Shane Chase for healing, peace and discernment
- Melanie Battle for peace, strength and discernment
- Jon Wright for healing, peace and discernment
- 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
- 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

The people of our nation and the world as it is affected by the adverse changes to our national government and economy.

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.

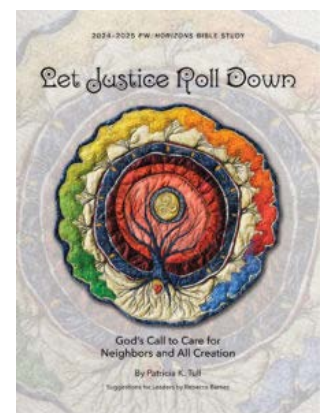
Women’s Bible Study – Let Justice Roll Down: God’s Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation

Join us the third Saturday of the month each at 10am. The next Bible study will be announced soon.

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.



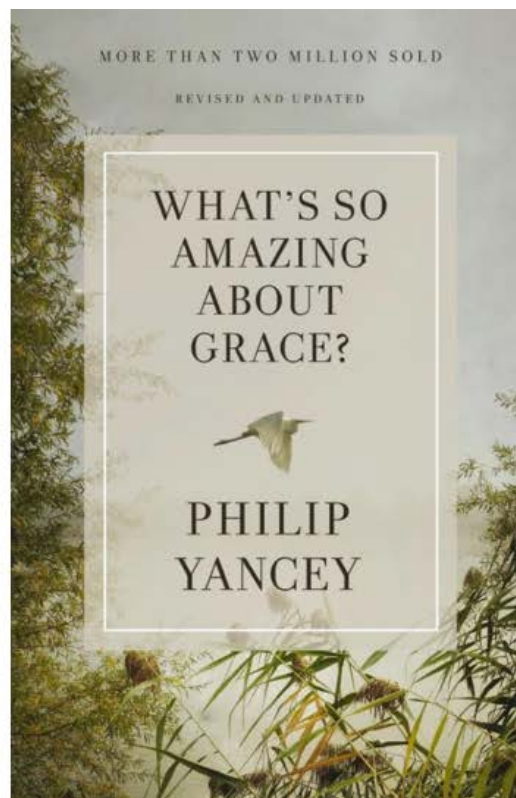
Book Study

What's So Amazing About Grace?

By Philip Yancey

Now starting Sunday, April 27 at
11:45am in the Christian
Resource Room

Contact the church office or scan
the code to order the book



This Lenten season, please give generously to
One Great Hour of Sharing.

Every gift makes a difference in the life
of the most vulnerable of God's people.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!



EASTER EGG HUNT EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

**Snack size candy donations are needed for the Easter Eggs
Please bring your donations to the church by Thursday, April 17**



Holy Week

- **Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday Worship & Celebration**
- **Thursday, April 17 – 5:30 PM – Maundy Thursday and Seder Meal in Goodenberger Hall**
- **Friday, April 18 –**
 - **3:30pm – Good Friday Prayer Walk Through Astoria**
 - **5:30 PM - Good Friday Worship in the Marcott Chapel**
- **Sunday, April 20 – Easter Sunday! HE IS RISEN!!!**
 - **Easter Egg Hunt following worship**

Our Session...

"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, April 21, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
 - Astoria School District
 - Wednesday, April 9, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
 - Clatsop County
 - Wednesday, April 9, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
 - Clatsop Community College
 - Thursday, April 10, Board of Education Meeting at 5:30PM.
 - Port of Astoria
 - Tuesday, May 6, Commission Business Meeting at 4PM.

Working for Justice and Peace in March and April

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

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>April 2025</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexual Assault Awareness Month; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_Assault_Awareness_Month• Ecumenical Advocacy Days; advocacydays.org	
7	World Health Day; who.int/campaigns/world-health-day
08	International Romani Day; en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Romani_Day
18	Good Friday; pcusa.org/resource/resources-good-friday
20	Easter; pcusa.org/resource/resources-easter-sunday
22	Earth Day; pcusa.org/earth-day-sunday-resources
24	Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day; pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/world-mission/jinishian-memorial-program/armenian-genocide
30	Denim Day; denimdayinfo.org
From the Presbyterian Women in the PCUSA https://www.presbyterianwomen.org https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025-JP-Calendar-FA-updated-Feb2025.pdf	

ASTORIA ANNUAL INTERFAITH PRAYER WALK

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH

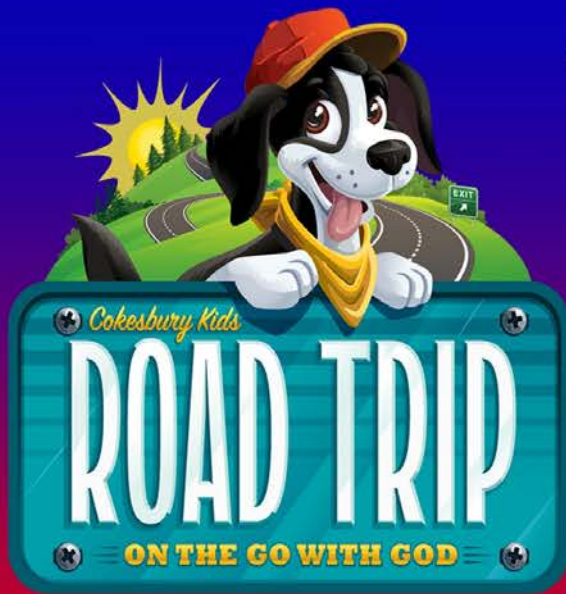


3:30-5 PM

Join the Churches of Astoria for an interfaith Prayer Walk through downtown Astoria.

We'll meet at the parking lot at the corner of 12th & Duane.

Questions, contact Pastor Stephan Kienberger:
pastor@peacefirstlutheran.com
(503) 325-6252



ASTORIA CHURCHES VBS 2025

June 23 - 27
9am - 12:15pm

725 33rd St, Astoria

At "Road Trip - On the Go With God", your students will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they are on the go with God. They will become Travelers and discover how God is with them wherever they go!

Presented by:

First Baptist Church of Astoria
First Presbyterian Church of Astoria
Peace First Lutheran Church, Astoria

register
online:



Questions: (503) 325-6252

There's an App for that...

What is IconCMO And How Does It Help Our Church?

IconCMO is a database that keeps the records for your church. It allows staff and church members to utilize your church's database for communication, membership information, print your own contribution statements, and so much more.

What Can I Do After Logging Into IconCMO?

Our church members can:

- edit and view your own information,
- view and communicate with other church members — an online church directory,
- view or print out a donation statement at any time,
- see what groups your are in.

Our church staff can:

- edit or view any record based on their security level,
- add donations, pledges, members, groups, and attendance,
- review church accounting books or payroll,
- communicate via mass email or text messaging to the entire church or certain groups,
- and so much more...

Can I Use My Mobile Device?

Yes! Our church members can have access to the church directory at their fingertips to communicate to other church members. Check out the [information about the mobile apps](#). Our church members can use one of the two app download buttons below to get the mobile application.



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:

- ✚ [One Great Hour of Sharing helps empower people on the margins](#)
 - ✚ [Westminster John Knox Press publishes an insightful guide on disability relationships](#)
 - ✚ [Food, agriculture, and organizing for our lives](#)
-

Presbyterians join push for 'moral budget' in Washington

Repairers of the Breach and supporters want to preserve safety net for children and other vulnerable members of society

April 7, 2025 | Darla Carter | Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — The Presbyterian Office of Public Witness stood in solidarity with [Repairers of the Breach](#) recently as the latter held a prayer and protest rally in Washington, D.C. to decry proposed budget cuts that it says would be detrimental to women, children and other marginalized people.



Supporters of Repairers of the Breach gathered for Moral Witness Wednesday on April 2 in Washington, D.C. (Photo courtesy of the Office of Public Witness)

Supporters gathered outside the U.S. Supreme Court April 2 for the second “Moral Witness Wednesday” by Repairers of the Breach, a faith-based, anti-poverty organization trying to keep Congress from adopting a budget that it says would weaken the social safety net while benefitting the rich.

“We cannot go along with what is happening,” said the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, president of Repairers of the Breach, who was speaking by phone to those gathered in person and online. “This budget is a budget for the greedy. It is a budget for taking. It is a shameful thing.”

In early March, the advocacy group highlighted its concerns in a report called [“The High Moral Stakes of the Policy Battles Raging in Washington.”](#) and last Wednesday’s rally was accompanied by the release of a new [appendix](#) that says the U.S. president’s “allies in Congress are in the process of passing a budget that would take services away from women and children, tear immigrant families apart, and perpetuate war.”

“This budget is a betrayal of every sacred tradition that teaches us to care for the widow, to care for the orphan, to care for the stranger, to care for the poor,” said the Rev. Dr. Hannah Broome, director of religious affairs for Repairers of the Breach. “See, you don’t need to be a Christian to hear the warning of the prophet Isaiah when he says, ‘Woe to those who make unjust laws.’ You only need a conscience.”

In his remarks, Barber said the cuts would hurt several vulnerable groups, including children, older people and LGBTQIA+ persons, and called for “a movement across America.”



The Rev. Christina Cosby of the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness, second from right, joined Repairers of the Breach for a rally in Washington, D.C. (Photo courtesy of the Office of Public Witness)

“Now is the time that we must do whatever it requires in our nonviolent traditions,” Barber said. “If we have to sit in, let’s sit in. If we have to march, let’s march. If we have to engage in nonviolent civil, direct action and disobedience, let’s do it. Our future is worth it. We must do collective action together. We will not let this democracy fail on our watch.”

Those who joined the gathering included the Rev. Christina Cosby, Representative for Domestic and Environmental Policy Concerns for OPW.

“The re-launch of Moral Wednesdays by the Poor People’s Campaign and Repairers of the Breach is one way people of

faith can take a stand and move their prayers to be a prophetic witness in the public square,” Cosby said.

Speakers at last week’s rally included John Cavanagh of the [Institute for Policy Studies](#), a partner on the report with Repairers of the Breach and the [Economic Policy Institute](#).

“The battle for the budget sets the moral tone for a nation’s soul and that battle has begun here in the richest nation on Earth,” Cavanagh said. Members of Congress “have begun the process for a budget that will cut and endanger health insurance for 36 million people by cutting Medicaid. Nearly 1 in 5 women (and) almost half of all children rely on Medicaid or its Children’s Health Insurance Program. Shame! The cuts will risk hunger for 40 million recipients of food stamps. Shame!”

Cavanagh went on to ask the public to seek out the report, “demand an end to policy violence against women and children and demand the urgent adoption of policies that guarantee a healthy future for all.”

The rally was followed by a march to the Capitol building, where a prayer circle was formed. (See video [here](#).)

“As people of faith, we must pray alongside impacted communities, and our prayers must not stay inside our sanctuaries,” Cosby said. “It is vital that they move to public action, calling for a budget that protects programs, people and the planet over profits.”

For more information about Moral Witness Wednesday, go [here](#).



(Photo courtesy of the Office of Public Witness)

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.

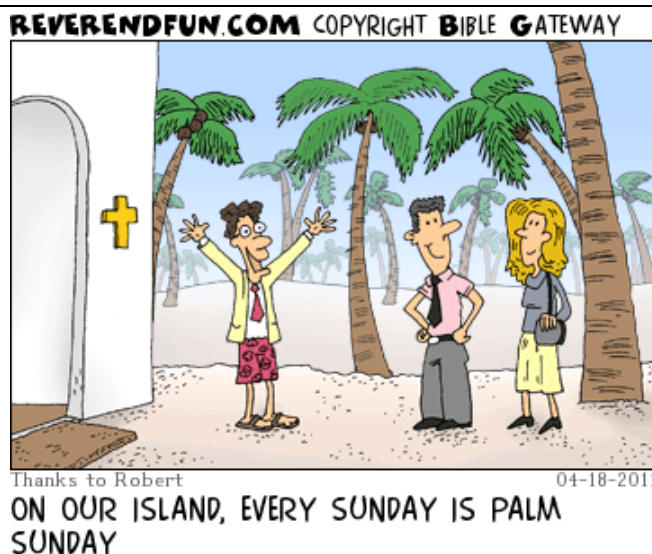
Please note, Pastor Paul takes his Sabbath every Friday but is always available for emergencies.

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.



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