

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 June 16, 2025

Your Help is Greatly Appreciated and is Greatly Needed

First, a big thank you to God for each and every one of you and the gifts that you bring this church family. As you read in the previous newsletter, our church family has a rich and wonderful history serving God through serving each other and the Astoria community. The fact that we are able to continue to, with God's help, write that history is because each of you are continuing to answer God's call of agape, selfless love, that is lived out in the service to God and our community. Thank God for each of you. And to each of you, thank you.

I'm sure this does not come as a shock to anyone, but our wonderful, beautiful facility that we are blessed with is in need of some tender, loving care. Our buildings and grounds team has identified many items that need maintenance soon, if not sooner. These items include, but are not limited to:

- Sewer line repairs estimated at approximately \$10,000
- Boiler repair estimated at approximately \$23,000
- Door repair for 11st entrance at approximately \$4,000

In addition to these repairs, there will be the eventual need for painting both inside and outside, a new roof, plus all the other little things that go with the maintenance of any building, let alone a 122-year-old building.

Although we are applying for grants; more funds are needed than grants can supply. Therefore, our session, together with our Facilities Management Team and the Building Liaison Team will soon be putting a plan in place to reach out to anybody and everybody with a capital campaign to help with these and future costs so that future generations can share in the blessing that are our buildings. If you feel called to assist with this capital campaign, please contact a session member, the church office or Pastor Paul. Please help as you can.

Announcements

- ✦ [Bowling & Pizza](#) – Join us for bowling & pizza night Wednesday, June 18 at 5pm.
- ✦ [Juneteenth Service](#) – Wednesday, June 18 at 7pm at the Garden of the Surging Waves.
- ✦ [Vacation Bible School \(VBS\)](#) – Sign up now on the church's website for this year's community wide VBS. The VBS will run from June 23 through June 27 from 9am – 12:15pm each day. Volunteers are also needed. Contact the church office for more information.
- ✦ [Kirkin' O' the Tartan](#) – the time to get your plaid on is quickly approaching. Sunday, June 29, we will celebrate our second Kirkin O' the Tartan as we celebrate the Presbyterian Church's Scottish roots. A potluck will follow the celebration service in Goodenberger Hall.
- ✦ [Now Live Streaming YouTube](#) – Sunday worship is available as recordings or livestreaming at on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@FirstpresbyterianastoriaOrg>
- ✦ [Women's Bible Study](#) – Next Bible study is June 21 at 10am at the Davidson's home. Contact Hazel Davidson or the church office for more details.
- ✦ [Book Study – What's So Amazing About Grace by Philip Yancey](#) – Sundays at 11:45am in the Christian Resource Room.
- ✦ [The Food Bank](#) – Needs:
 - breakfast cereal,
 - individually wrapped toothbrushes,
 - volunteers.

Thoughts from Pastor Paul

Dear Siblings in Christ,

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

As I seek the wisdom and council of the Holy Spirit in writing this newsletter note, I find my thoughts swirling around of the events of the world, both near and far. Instead of turning swords into plowshares as we are called to do in scripture, nations seem to be turning plowshares into swords. I am so saddened by the stories of innocent, hardworking individuals who are seeking citizenship through legal means being taken away in shackles with the threat of being sent back to a place they had fled; places they fled because of threats to their lives and their family's lives. It breaks my heart too to see jobs and services being cut that so many rely on for so much without any consideration of the negative repercussions both immediate and long term. And this list of things that leave me with a feeling of dread for the future for all of God's creation seems to only grow as does my feeling of helplessness to truly make a positive difference. But then the Holy Spirit nudges me ever so gently, and whispers into my heart and mind that it's not up to me, on my own as an individual, to solve the problems of the world. Rather, I am to, together with the help and presence of the Holy Trinity, work with others to help bring about the change that God calls us to. As Phillip Yancy wrote, "To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world."¹

We need to turn our worry, our lament, our anxiety toward God so that we can receive and know God's love, hope, and shalom, a peace that transcends all understanding. God doesn't just want us to turn to the Holy Trinity; God calls us and commands us to. Remember what Matthew quotes Jesus of saying in chapter 11, verses 28-30, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (NIV) Also, in chapter Matthew 6: 22-34 states,

"Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a musty cellar. If you pull the blinds on your windows, what a dark life you will have!

"You can't worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you'll end up hating the other. Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other. You can't worship God and Money both.

"If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds.

"Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp or shop, but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them.

"If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

"Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes." (MSG)

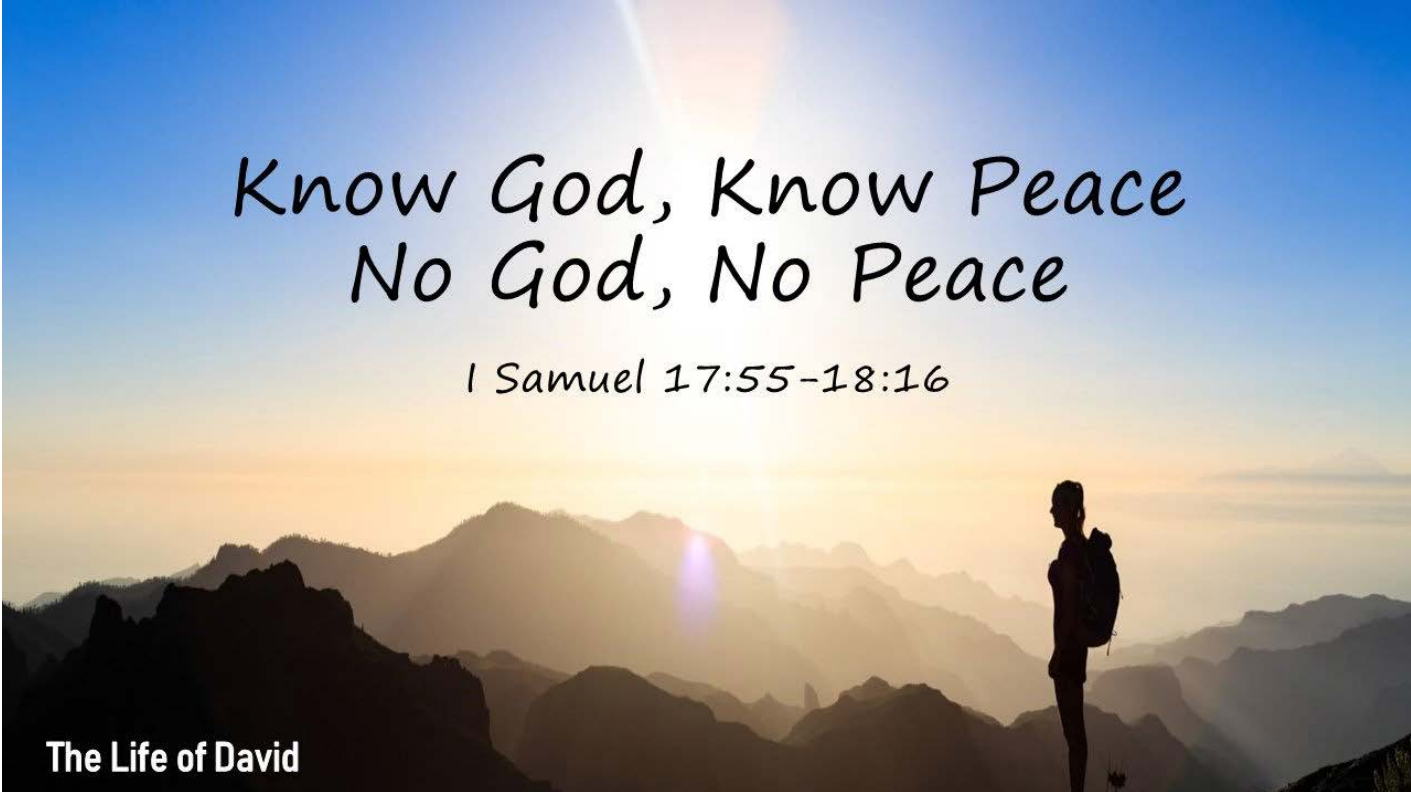
¹ <https://www.bookey.app/book/prayer-by-philip-yancey/quote>

Siblings in Christ, bad things are unfortunately going to continue happen; however, working together with the Holy Trinity, and following God's call in our hearts and lives we can not only help to make God's kingdom known in the here and the now, but we can also better know the shalom and love that comes with doing God's work. Siblings in Christ, no matter how bad things are going in the world of man, don't lose hope; instead, gain God's peace of heart and mind.

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 photograph of a person standing on a mountain peak, silhouetted against a bright sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow over a range of mountains. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange near the horizon. The person is wearing a backpack and looking out over the landscape.

Know God, Know Peace
No God, No Peace

1 Samuel 17:55-18:16

The Life of David

Our Church Family's Financials for April 2025

Income – \$ 7,629 – year to date = \$63,951
 Expenses – \$ 16,050 – year to date = \$70,035

FPC Astoria Calendar

Join us at 9:30am every Tuesday and Thursday in the Christian Resource Room for a time of prayer and each Sunday at 11:45am in the Christian Resource Room for “**What’s So Amazing About Grace**” book study.

June	17	Tuesday	Session Meeting at 12noon in the Christian Resource Room
	18	Wednesday	Bowling, Pizza & Fellowship at 5pm at the Lower Columbia Bowl
			Juneteenth Service at the Garden of Surging Waves at 7pm
	19	Thursday	Facilities Management Team Meeting at 10am in the Christian Resource Room
			Building Liaison Team Meeting at 12noon in the Christian Resource Room
	21	Saturday	Women's Bible Study at 10am at Hazel Davidson's house
	23-27	Monday-Friday	Community Vacation Bible School 9am-12:15pm at Peace Lutheran
	26	Thursday	Deacon's Meeting at 5pm

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

- For all who are being displaced or disadvantaged by federal cutbacks
- Joe Shaw for healing and recovery
- Patti Shaw for peace, discernment and strength
- Jill Ritch for healing, peace and discernment
- Lillyana Rose who is in NICU
- Joyce and Dick Etulain for healing, strength & discernment
- Dave O'Neel for healing and discernment
- 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

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 & 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.

Update on Tongue Point and Job CORPS

Although the challenges are far from over, it is my hope and prayer this day finds you able to catch your breath and find some shalom. A court order is in place that pauses the closure and evictions of the Job CORP students and faculty. Here's what is known so far:

1. We don't know if this will remain in effect indefinitely, or when it may be reversed. Last I heard, the hearing is on June 17.
2. CCA has been able to locate housing for all the students that would need housing and is currently seeking housing for staff.
3. The Harbor has announced that they will manage the receiving and distributing of funds regarding food and housing needs of the Tongue Point folks.
4. I currently have 10 homes listed as a result of the email to the area spiritual leaders. We will continue to take names and information of those who are willing and able to assist with housing and will share that information with CCA in the event it is needed.

Next steps:

- **PLEASE write and/or call our representatives and the Department of Labor. Remind them of all the positives that Job CORP has done and continues to do for our nation by giving its students all they need to be solid citizens, contributing to the betterment of our communities and nation through the positive outlook they bring to the revenue they bring through their gainful employment; helping not only themselves and their communities to prosper, but also the companies for whom they are employed.**
- Here is the contact information:

House of Representatives

District	Name	Party	Room	Office	Phone	Committee Assignment
1st	Bonamici, Suzanne	D	2231	RHOB	(202) 225-0855	Education and Workforce Science, Space, and Technology
2nd	Bentz, Cliff	R	409	CHOB	(202) 225-6730	Energy and Commerce Natural Resources
3rd	Dexter, Maxine	D	1207	LHOB	(202) 225-4811	Natural Resources Veterans' Affairs
4th	Hoyle, Val	D	1620	LHOB	(202) 225-6416	Natural Resources Transportation and Infrastructure
5th	Bynum, Janelle	D	1508	LHOB	(202) 225-5711	Financial Services
6th	Salinas, Andrea	D	403	CHOB	(202) 225-5643	Agriculture Science, Space, and Technology

Senators

Name	Office	Phone	Committees
Merkley, Jeffery	531 SH	202-224-3753	Appropriations, Environment and Public Works, Foreign Relations, Rules and Administration, Budget, Jt. Com. Printing
Wyden, Ron	221 SD	202-224-5244	Energy and Natural Resources, Finance, Budget, Jt. Taxation, Select Intelligence

Address mail as follows:

U.S. Senate

Name

Office

Washington, DC 20510

Department of Labor

Phone: 202-693-6000

U.S. Department of Labor

AGENCY NAME

OFFICE NUMBER

200 Constitution Ave NW

Washington, DC 20210

[Find agency names and office numbers here:](https://www.dol.gov/general/agencies-contact)

<https://www.dol.gov/general/agencies-contact>

Thank you all for all you have done and continue to do. You each are truly blessings to our community.

Please let me know if you've any questions.

Blessings and shalom,

Pastor Paul

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, June 23, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
- Astoria School District
 - Wednesday, July 9, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
- Clatsop County
 - Wednesday, June 25, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
- Clatsop Community College
 - Thursday, July 24, Board of Education Meeting at 5:30PM.
- Port of Astoria
 - Tuesday, July 1, Commission Business Meeting at 4PM.

Working for Justice and Peace in June

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>June 2025</i>	
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQI+) Pride Month; https://archives.gov/news/topics/lgbt-pride-month	
6	National Gun Violence Awareness Day; https://wearorange.org or https://nasponline.org/research-and-policy/policy-matters-blog/national-gun-violence-awareness-day
8	Pentecost; https://pcusa.org/resource/pentecost-creativity-home
15	Father's Day; Presbyterian Men Sunday; https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/fathers-day
19	Juneteenth; https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/blogs/historical-society-blog/juneteenth
20	World Refugee Day; https://un.org/en/observances/refugee-day
29	Immigration Sunday; https://pcusa.org/how-we-serve/global-engagement/immigration
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	

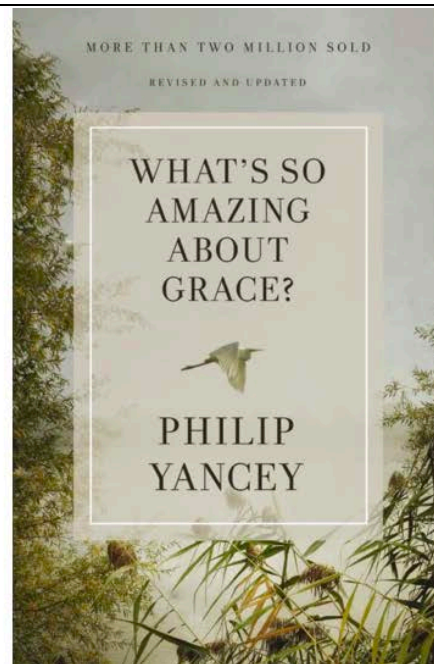
First Presbyterian Church of Astoria
invites you to our second...
Kirkin' O' the Tartans
Celebrating our
Scottish Heritage
Sunday, June 29 at 10am
1103 Grand Ave, Astoria
www.fpcastoria.org
Scan for directions 

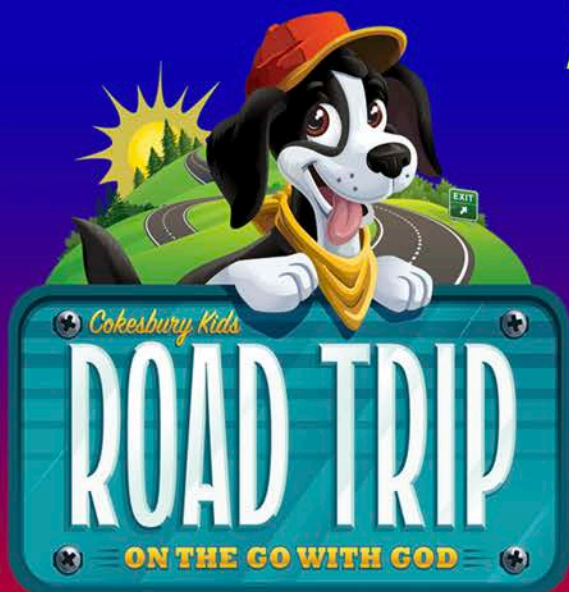


Book Study

What's So Amazing About Grace?
By Philip Yancey

Sundays at 11:45am in the
Christian Resource Room
Contact the church office or scan
the code to order the book





ASTORIA CHURCHES VBS 2025

June 23 - 27
9am - 12:15pm

725 33rd St, Astoria

At "Road Trip - On the Go With God", your children 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!

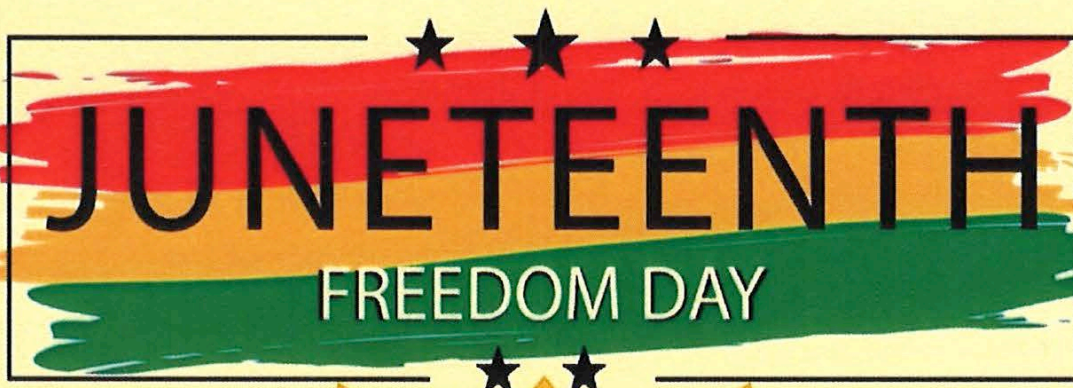
Presented by:

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

Questions: (503) 325-1702

register
online:





JUNETEENTH
FREEDOM DAY

*Service of Commemoration &
Remembrance of the Emanuel 9*

Sponsored by Peace First Lutheran Church, Astoria

**WEDNESDAY
JUNE 18
7:00 pm**

Garden of Surging Waves

Heritage Square, corner of 11th & Duane, Astoria, OR

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:

- ✝ [Bolstering ecosystems, churches and neighborhoods](#)
- ✝ [MRTI reports substantial progress on corporate engagement](#)
- ✝ [Rooted: The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity — Mission of the Church: The Church and the Holy Spirit](#)

Young adults discover and transform the world through the YAV program

Pentecost Offering helped make Steffan Johnson's years of volunteer service possible

June 3, 2025 | Emily Enders Odom | Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — From the classroom to the locker room — and back again — Steffan Johnson has found himself on a 27-year-long quest to discover the “real world.”

The South Carolina native — who spent his undergraduate education at the PC(USA)-related St. Andrews University playing college football while earning a degree in philosophy and religious studies — said that because those years didn't bring him anywhere close to finding what he was seeking, he enrolled in Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

“In seminary, since I didn't have my friends around me in the locker room, I just poured all of that energy into my studies,” said Johnson, who received a master's degree in theological studies in 2023. “I dove into everything that the professors gave us, including Martin Luther and Augustine. And even though seminary was life-changing, I can't just go and tell a stranger on the street what Martin Luther said. I love Augustine, but 95% of churches wouldn't even know who he was. I needed to find the language where I could connect with everyday people.”

And he ultimately did find it — through the PC(USA)'s Young Adult Volunteer program.

The YAV program — which has been changing the lives of young people ages 19–30 for three decades — also emphasizes living in intentional Christian community, spiritual formation and vocational discernment.

“I committed to my YAV year as a 25-year-old fresh out of seminary,” Johnson said. “Up until that point, I was just a student pursuing my education, which was a little nerve-racking. I had friends



The Young Adult Volunteer program has produced more than 1,900 alums over the past 30 years (contributed photo).

starting families and businesses, and it felt like my first time entering the world. The YAV program helped me understand the flow of the real world.”

An ecumenical, faith-based year of service that is lived out in sites across the U.S., virtually and around the world, the YAV program is supported, in part, through the Pentecost Offering, one of the PC(USA)’s four Special Offerings.

Not only do gifts to the Pentecost Offering benefit the YAV program, but the Offering also supports the Office of Presbyterian Youth and Triennium and the Educate a Child, Transform the World national initiative. A hallmark of this shared offering is that 40% of it is retained by individual congregations for local ministries, while the remaining 60% is used to support children at risk, youth and young adults through ministries of the PC(USA).

“Our slogan, ‘A year of service for a lifetime of change,’ is really true,” said Destini Hodges, coordinator of the YAV program, which has produced more than 1,900 alums over the past 30 years. “I love the way the young adults are ‘transformed’ through their service.”



Steffan Johnson

As one of those alums, Johnson was placed by the program in four different sites across New Orleans during his term as a YAV.

“I got a pretty wide view,” he explained.

Johnson’s service encompassed stints with the Jefferson Food Bank; Mid-City Ministries, an after-school program; Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans (RHINO), a citywide ministry focusing on service projects and volunteer work originally established in response to Hurricane Katrina by St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church; and the Program of Hope, run by First Presbyterian Church, which

ministers to New Orleans’ homeless population.

“During my discernment process, one of the aspects that compelled me was volunteering in these multiple communities in New Orleans,” Johnson said. “This was my chance to see where my studies were useful in the world. While learning more about the city, I saw myself helping people in need — youth and young adults — all while sharing a community with other YAVs, enjoying jazz music, great food and even better people.”

Because he was always “intrigued by youth ministry,” Johnson found that his youth-centered YAV service aided his vocational discernment.

“While in New Orleans, I volunteered as a tutor and, at the same program, I conducted a Bible study with young people,” he recalled. “It was great! Although my enthusiasm for youth ministry definitely prepared me for my role as a YAV, my background in education was put to the test by a loving group of grade school students.”

Like when Johnson was teaching second graders how to read, which he called “the hardest thing ever.”

“I was trying to be cool but also to be the disciplinary figure they needed,” he said. “And whenever they asked me hard questions, I had to acknowledge that I don’t always have all the answers. We’re all still learning.”

Including the YAVs in his own community, three of whom were from Scotland.

“Sharing a house together, I realized how many things in our lives are the norm but aren’t really normal for others,” said Johnson. “Like I tried to explain what Black History Month is because not everyone knows. We all keep learning.”

Especially Johnson himself.

Since he found that he was still discerning his vocational path when his year in New Orleans came to a close, Johnson applied for and served in a virtual YAV placement with the PC(USA)’s Asia Pacific and Africa offices.

He was grateful for the opportunity — and for the Pentecost Offering, which largely made it possible.

“Presbyterians should give to the Pentecost Offering so that young people can experience diverse communities, learn more about their place in the world and build an appetite for justice for future generations,” said Johnson. “By giving, young adults are given a chance to grow socially, vocationally, and more important, spiritually.”

Office Hours –

Monday through Thursday – 9:00 am to 12 noon

Pastor Paul’s Office Hours & Contact Information

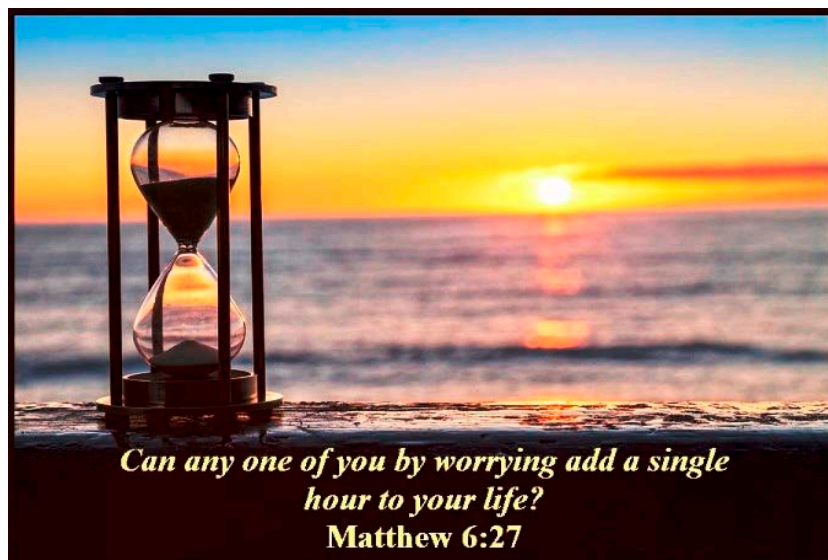
Pastor Paul is in the church office during office hours and is available by phone, text or email most times. *Please note, Pastor Paul takes his Sabbath every Friday but is always available for emergencies.*

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 Jason Baker

01-26-2009

GREAT, THERE WENT OUR CHANCES FOR
WINNING THE FATHER & SON BOWL-OFF



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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directions