

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 July 14, 2025



Per Capita Payment

As most of us know, pledging is an important part of helping our session to create a budget every year. To know how much we can afford to spend on church activities and mission work, we must have an estimate of how much money will be coming into the church.

Our Presbytery is no different, except that they have a budget that relies on income that is received not from pledges, but rather on a per capita. The per capita is determined by the number of active members of the congregations divided by the budgeted expenses. For this year, the amount of our per capita is \$50. The per capita helps our Presbytery to continue its important work of supplying resources and services to each congregation, including ours, as well as doing other missional work in the Presbytery's region.

We are asking that each member please pay their \$50 per capita to the church, so that we can pass it on to the Presbytery of the Cascades without pulling money directly from the church's resources.

Please let the church office or our Finance Team know if you've any questions.

Announcements

- ✦ [Bowling & Pizza](#) – Join us for bowling & pizza night Wednesday, July 16 at 5pm.
- ✦ [Now Live Streaming YouTube](#) – Sunday worship is available as recordings or livestreaming at on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@FirstpresbyterianastoriaOrg>
- ✦ [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.
- ✦ [Session Meeting](#) – There will be no session meeting for the month of July.
- ✦ [Don't Miss Out](#) – There are many opportunities to help out around the church. We are always in need of people to help as liturgists, greeters, fellowship time, and so much more. Look for the sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary or in the Christian Resource Room during fellowship time.
- ✦ [Combined Worship & Picnic Fellowship](#) – Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 24 at 10am as we join our sibling church family from Pioneer in worship, food and fellowship at Cullaby Lake's South Shelter.

Thoughts from Pastor Paul

Dear Siblings in Christ,

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

A big tapadh leibh (pronounced: tapa laba) to all who helped make our second Kirkin' O' the Tartans a wonderful success. And in case you were wondering, tapadh leibh is Scottish Gaelic for 'thank you all'. We had a truly bonnie time.

It was sure great to see the excitement and feel the excitement in the air as John Goff played the bagpipes and as so many participated in carrying the tartan banners into and from the sanctuary. A big thank you too to Jan Walker who traveled all the way from Salem with said banners.

Then there was the wonderful potluck that followed. A big thank you to all who prepared the hall for the event and another big thank you to all who made sure that everything was cleaned and put away when all was done.

Truly a wonderful event from beginning to end. And again, a big thank you to everyone who made it possible; those that helped before, during and after, as well as those who were there to help celebrate.

Regardless of the reason for the event, regardless of how big or small the event is, regardless of where it is, whenever we come together in fellowship with God and each other, it is a wonderful thing. In her devotional titled, **All Together**, Rachel Hackenberg wrote, "Together is often where we find God. When we're struggling to find God, together is how we hold on. Together is a practice through which we make meaning." Fellowship is a good and valuable part of our Christian journey through life. Think about the Apostle Paul's words from Hebrews 10: 22-25, "So let's do it—full of belief, confident that we're presentable inside and out. Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshipping together as some do but spurring each other on..." (MSG)

So, whether it's the Kirkin' O' the Tartan, Sunday morning worship and fellowship time, bowling & pizza, going on walks together, book studies, picnic worships, movie nights, game nights, Friday Coffee & Tea, potlucks, or whatever other activities the Holy Spirit brings our way, it is so important that we do what we can to join in any or all of these, and don't forget to invite someone new to join in the fellowship. Again, quoting Rachel Hackenberg, "Together is not only the place to which we come. Together is the place from which we are sent. Because "all together" is the Spirit's call, not simply Her comfort." Regardless of where or what it might be, I hope and pray that we will see each other there, and that our fellowship will be indeed Spirit filled.

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

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 11th street 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.

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

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

July	16	Wednesday	Bowling, Pizza & Fellowship at 5pm at the Lower Columbia Bowl
	18	Thursday	Facilities Management Team Meeting at 11am in the Christian Resource Room
	22	Tuesday	Building Liaison Team Meeting at 12noon in the Christian Resource Room
	27	Sunday	Ordain and install our new Deacon, Dave O’Neel during worship

We Share Our Joys & Concerns

- Jean Cox for healing and discernment
- For all who are being displaced or disadvantaged by federal cutbacks
- Joe Shaw for healing and recovery after having a stroke
- 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 & discernment
- Pam Wev 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
- Fred & Norma Novak – Healing, peace and discernment
- Marcella Price – Peace & Discernment
- Alice Burgess – Healing & Discernment
- Katy Paz – Healing & Peace
- Butch & Vinie Elliot – Healing & Discernment
- Gerald Smith – Healing, Peace & Discernment
- Michael Smith – Healing & Discernment
- Patti Brockhoff – Healing & Discernment
- Will Sheridan – 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.



Tongue Point / Job Corps Update

From Job Corps –

At present, we are not facing any new or active attempts to shut us down, and we are continuing to operate under a federal injunction that has temporarily blocked the closure. However, we anticipate that the Department of Labor will appeal the injunction and persist in its efforts to end the program.

Our most promising path forward is sustained outreach to our federal elected officials, encouraging them to include Job Corps in the federal budget. If funded through the budget, Job Corps would be protected by law and benefit from congressional oversight. While Job Corps is not currently included in the proposed federal budget, we're encouraged by the growing bipartisan momentum in support of the program and its 61-year legacy of impact.

For now, we remain fully focused on supporting our students and helping them build strong futures. Again, thank you for reaching out—we deeply appreciate your continued support.

For us...

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. The contact information follows...

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

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>

Other Ways to Make a Difference

- ☪ 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, July 21, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
 - Astoria School District
 - Wednesday, August 13, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
 - Clatsop County
 - Wednesday, July 23, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
 - Clatsop Community College
 - Thursday, August 14, Board of Education Meeting at 5:30PM.
 - Port of Astoria
 - Tuesday, August 5, Commission Business Meeting at 4PM.

Working for Justice and Peace

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.



Join us Sunday, August 3rd as we journey to Fort Columbia to see *Into the Woods* at the 2pm matinée. Please purchase your tickets before by following the information on the flyer and then contact the church office if you would like a ride or if you'd like to drive.

PAPA PRESENTS

INTO THE WOODS

JULY 11TH - AUGUST 10TH

FRI. & SAT. 7PM | SUN. 2PM

FORT COLUMBIA THEATER CHINOOK, WA
NO DISCOVER PASS NEEDED

**TICKETS ON SALE AT
WWW.PAPATHEATER.COM
& AT OKIE'S THRIFTWAY**

INTO THE WOODS

Music and Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM
Book by JAMES LAPINE

Originally Directed on Broadway by James Lapine
Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

Into The Woods is presented through special arrangement with Music Theater International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

SCAN FOR TICKETS!



@PAPATHEATER

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:

- ✝ [BeLoved Asheville shows love to Texas after devastating flooding](#)
- ✝ [A 'laboratory of love'](#)
- ✝ [Young adults invited to live out their faith at upcoming 'Jesus and Justice' conference in Michigan](#)

Whose sanctuary is this, anyway?

The Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson, who leads the Children's Defense Fund, lends insight to Amos' prophecy

July 15, 2025 | Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — Whose sanctuary is this, anyway?

That was the provocative question the Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson, president and CEO of the [Children's Defense Fund](#), explored Sunday during a sermon based on [Amos 7:7-17](#), a lectionary passage, at [New York Avenue Presbyterian Church](#) in Washington, D.C. Watch Wilson's captivating sermon [here](#). He begins reading from Amos at 31:52.

"I'm glad those are not my words!" Wilson said after relating the words of Amos' prophecy of doom for King Jeroboam II and his people. "This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God."

"This conversation and conflict comes up between one who is a priest, Amaziah, and one whom we have deemed a prophet, Amos," he noted. "Here at Bethel there is a dialogue about whose sanctuary this is."

In this context, sanctuary "is an open-air space, spaces in nature where those who gather might have direct contact with God," he said. "God's open space in nature had been ... sanctified and set apart by those who engage in priestly ritual to distinguish between the sacred and the profane, that this is holy ground."

Just before this text, Amaziah engages in conversation with the king "about Amos before he talks to Amos," Wilson noted.

"Where I'm from, [Wilson served congregations in Missouri and Texas before beginning his work with the Children's Defense Fund] we are a little bit careful about people who talk about you to the authorities before they talk to you. We're careful about people who would rather talk to the police than talk to their neighbors. ... We have a short word for that: we call them 'snitches.'"



The Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson

“Some feel more comfortable with proximity to power,” Wilson said, “than they do with [proximity to] God’s people.”

Go back to your own neighborhood, Amaziah tells Amos. “Don’t speak this way here,” is how Wilson put it, “because this is the king’s sanctuary.”

“Amaziah’s declaration may sound far-fetched. We can hardly imagine someone coming here into the hallowed grounds of New York Avenue Presbyterian Church and saying, ‘this is the president’s sanctuary.’ We would never say, ‘this is [Mayor] [Muriel Bowser](#)’s sanctuary.’ But I want to suggest there are many of us who do so each and every day.”

Amaziah “is not only claiming property rights for a building, he is also gentrifying ground, claiming a portion of Creation that God made for God’s self. Who does he think he is?” Wilson asked.

The question can also be asked, “whose sanctuary are you, anyway?”

“The challenge of dual citizenship in this world and in the kingdom of God is presented in the context of this text,” Wilson said. “The question of allegiance to the things of God or the things of the kingdom, the empire, the nations of this world, is a realistic question we must answer as we begin to shape our beings as God’s people.”

Amaziah “calls Amos a prophet and Amos says, ‘nah, bruh,’” Wilson said. “If you let others define your identity, your community, your call, you’ll be left to pick up the broken pieces of the narrative they construct for you.”

Amos’ answer to Amaziah has lessons for us today, he said.

First, “prophecy is not a profession but a commitment to principles.”

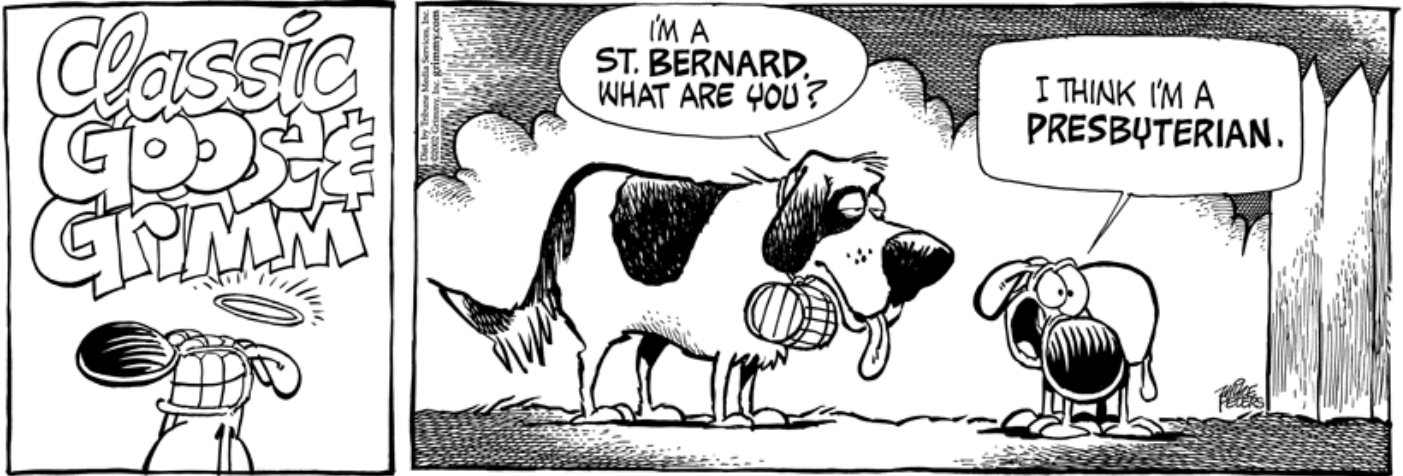
Amos is saying, “I don’t have papers for this. I’m not a member of the guild ... I am a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore trees. Amaziah has done what many of us have done when it comes to ministry: he has delegated the ministry of God’s Word to a select group of people who hang together in the sanctuary, tarry around the church” and wear garb like the stole Wilson wore on Sunday.

“Your call,” Wilson said, “is to live out the reality of what the red doors of your sanctuary really mean.” Church doors that are red historically signal there’s refuge and safety from violence inside. “In a world where people are knocked out and grabbed up for being different, what does it mean to live a witness that among us, they are fully and completely safe to be their whole selves?”

“It’s not a professionalized ministry that is somebody else’s responsibility,” he said, “but rather is the call of the entire congregation.”

The second lesson is that “elevation in ministry is connected to proximity of marginality.” In simpler terms, it’s the idea that “if you want to get up with God, you have to be with the people who are on the outside,” he said.

In the west, we see leading “as being out front. Here, the prophet says, “I was following.’ How do you follow from the front?” Wilson asked.



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 direction