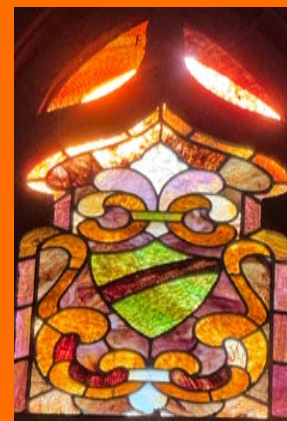


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ASTORIA

Our Mission Statement:

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

Week of July 28, 2025



Please Join in Welcoming Our Newest Deacon, Dave O’Neel!



Announcements

- ✦ [Donate Online](#) – We are accepting online donations. You can either look for the QR Code at church or go to the [church’s website](#) for more details.
- ✦ [Friday Coffee, Tea & Fellowship](#) – Join us Friday, August 8 at 10am in the Church Parlor for coffee, tea and fellowship.
- ✦ [Bowling & Pizza](#) – Join us for bowling & pizza night Wednesday, August 20 at 5pm.
- ✦ [Now Live Streaming YouTube](#) – 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,
 - boxes,
 - volunteers.
- ✦ [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 group of us recently finished going through Philp Yancey's book, '**What's So Amazing About Grace?**'. Even though I have facilitated this class several times in the past, and yes, the book has been revised a few times with new stories about grace added while older ones have been removed, regardless of the minor changes to the content, the overall message remains the same and is one that, I myself, have needed to be reminded of each time I've dove into it. Yancey reminds us that Grace is such a powerful and necessary part of a healthy world. Grace is also a part of Christian life. It is not something that we should think about now and then, it is something that we must accept and share with all. "The world can do almost anything as well as or better than the church," says Gordon MacDonald. "You need not be a Christian to build houses, feed the hungry, or heal the sick. There is only one thing the world cannot do. It cannot offer grace." MacDonald has put his finger on the church's single most important contribution. Where else can the world go to find grace?"¹ Just as Jesus was challenged by the ungrace of many of the church leaders of his day, so too have many throughout time and God's creation been shunned, persecuted and even killed because of churches not living into the grace that God has so freely given all. As Christians, little Christs, we are called to do better. Even though it is not always easy, we are called to show God's in any and all situations. "Grace comes free of charge to people who do not deserve it, and I am one of those people. I think back to who I was—resentful, wound tight with anger, a single hardened link in a long chain of ungrace learned from family and church. Now I am trying in my own small way to pipe the tune of grace. I do so because I know, more surely than I know anything, that any pang of healing or forgiveness or goodness I have ever felt comes solely from the grace of God. I yearn for the church to become a nourishing culture of that grace."²

Yancey reminds us that grace doesn't always make sense when we view it through the eyes of human thought. But when we invite the Holy Spirit into our hearts, although it may go against everything the world of man teaches and tells us, we will feel an ache to show grace. I am reminded of the ever-popular Bible verse that is often displayed on a big piece of cardboard, John 3:16, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life." This makes it sound so finite and that there will be some who are left out of God's love, but then you get to verse 17, we are reminded that God's love and grace are meant for all, "God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him." (CEB) And yes, we are to show grace even to those who we don't agree with or who have done things that turn our stomachs. It's one thing to show grace, it's another to condone actions that are counter to the love and grace that are God. Showing grace is giving another the chance of redemption, to turn their lives around and to get back on a positive path. We must not only show grace to others, but we must also be prepared to show grace unto ourselves.

So, please pray for the Holy Spirit to give you the shalom, courage, strength and wisdom to show, share and to receive grace wherever it is needed. Let others witness the healing gift of grace that God has given a broken world. A gift that is meant, not for a few, but for all.

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

¹ Yancey, Philip. What's So Amazing About Grace? Revised and Updated: The Key to Transforming a Broken World (p. 7). (Function). Kindle Edition.

² Yancey, Philip. What's So Amazing About Grace? Revised and Updated: The Key to Transforming a Broken World (p. 33). (Function). Kindle Edition.

Our Church Family's Financials for June 2025

Income – \$ 8,005 – year to date = \$73,064

Expenses – \$ 11,208 – year to date = \$80,956

(Above numbers do not include an \$8,000 grant to assist with the sewer repair)

FPC Astoria Calendar

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

August	3	Sunday	Care Center Worship & Fellowship: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2pm – Astor Place • 3pm – Clatsop Retirement Village
	8	Friday	Friday Coffee, Tea & Fellowship at 10am in the church parlor
	10	Sunday	Into the Woods – Meet at the church at 12:30pm and then ride/drive to see the show (<i>Please purchase tickets before</i>)
	11	Monday	Copeland Commons Meeting in the Christian Resource Room at 6pm
	19	Tuesday	Building Liaison Team Meeting at 11am in the Christian Resource Room
			Session Meeting at 12noon in the Christian Resource Room
24	Sunday	Worship, Picnic & Fellowship at Cullaby Lake at 10am with Pioneer	

We Share Our Joys & Concerns

- Dick and Joyce Etulain - Healing, Peace & Discernment
- 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 for healing
- 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
- 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
- Crystal Oliver – Healing, Strength & Peace

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.



Sign up for a FREE BACKPACK
filled with back-to-school supplies

SUMMER 2025 TL-MODA & THE SALVATION ARMY DAY OF SERVICE

Back to School Drive

One Mission. Thousands of Students.

#TLMODAGivesBack @tmoda.org SalvationArmyUSA.org

TLMODA Toyota Lexus Minority Owners Dealership Association THE SALVATION ARMY

Walmart

Register at salarmy.us/backpackswarrenton
Lum's Toyota, Warrenton
Friday, Aug 15, 11am-1pm

[You Can Now Give Online or with Your Phone](#)

Are you called to give financially but forgot your check book or don't have any cash? No worries! Scan the QR code with your phone and follow the instructions. You can also go to the church's website, www.fpcastoria.org for more details.



Scan with your phone to give online

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.

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](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, August 4, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
- Astoria School District
 - Wednesday, August 13, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
- Clatsop County
 - Wednesday, August 13, 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.

FREE! FREE! FREE! FREE!

FREE!

**CHILDREN'S
CLOTHING
EVENT**



We have plenty of clothes in nearly new condition, Infant through 6th Grade.

Please come and shop!

Look for the **OPEN** Sign!

Next Dates:

Friday, August 1, & Saturday, August 2, 2025

HOURS:

Friday 3:00 – 6:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

At Warrenton First Baptist Church
30 NE 1st St, Warrenton

Contact:

Sandi Bridgeman 503-791-7522

(Donations accepted and appreciated during open hours)



Join us Sunday, August 10th 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

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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

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**AUGUST
9TH & 10TH**



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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:

- ✝ [‘There’s a lot of hurt there, but there’s also rays of hope’](#)
- ✝ [After six long years, Presbyterian Youth Triennium opens its doors and its heart to young people from across the nation](#)
- ✝ [Triennium at play](#)

‘We were born to dream and to do work to change the world’

PC(USA) Co-moderator CeCe Armstrong preaches on opening day of 2025 Youth Triennium

July 29, 2025 | Darla Carter | Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE – It would be foolish to expect the Rev. CeCe Armstrong to take to the stage without making some noise, and she made it clear that she doesn’t want participants in the Presbyterian Youth Triennium to be shrinking violets either.

“Are you ready to change the world?” Armstrong asked as she returned to the stage for benediction on Monday. “... Go in peace and make some noise!”

Armstrong, the co-moderator of the 226th General Assembly, preached during the opening night of worship at Triennium, a youth gathering that is taking place through Thursday at the Kentucky International Convention Center in downtown Louisville.



Rev. CeCe Armstrong preached at the Presbyterian Youth Triennium on July 28, 2025, in Louisville, Kentucky. (Photo by Rich Copley)

[Born to Dream worship service at Triennium video](#)

For young people, Triennium is a revival and a chance to experience a reawakening, she said.

The worship service included an appearance by fellow co-moderator the Rev. Tony Larson who, early on, joined with Armstrong to bring light-hearted greetings to the crowd. There also was plenty of uplifting singing from the [Nettletons](#) and others, including Armstrong, as well as prayer, a procession, and imagery and props to connect with scriptural and thematic references.

A group known as the Energizers got worship off to a fun start by teaching the crowd a series of dance moves for them to follow along with before the service moved into more traditional worship.

Armstrong gave an encouraging and motivational sermon based on Psalm 126 (A Harvest of Joy), and Acts 2:1-21, which focuses on the day of Pentecost. She also incorporated the Triennium theme, “As if We Were Dreaming.”

As Armstrong began the sermon, she noted that Triennium audiences have been told in the past that there is work to do, and today, “there is even more work to be done.”

But there is also the need to dream.

“We were born to dream and to do work to change the world,” she said. “Now, you might dream alone, or you might do some collective dreaming. You may even face nightmares, but at the end of the day, you ought to wake up and dream.”

Delving into the psalm, Armstrong pointed out its multiple references to “shouts of joy.”

She then laid out three distinct times when shouts of joy are warranted: Restoration, renewal and resurrection.

“When one feels renewed by work that God has done, it is as if there is a new heaven and a new earth and the old has passed away,” she said before querying the crowd.

“Are y’all tired of doing something the way you’ve always done it?” she asked, receiving plenty of affirmations.

In life, it’s important to move out of God’s way, she noted, and to “let go of what was and make room for the new.”

She also talked about the resurrection of Jesus, adding that “the future is safe and sound because we have a God who can do all things but fail.”

Later, Armstrong turned to the Biblical account of the day of Pentecost and the transformative power of the Holy Spirit.

“Because the Holy Spirit had come, these scared and terrified disciples were renewed and restored,” Armstrong said, noting that the Holy Spirit makes room for growth, development and the expanding of potential.

When the Holy Spirit arrived it was a noisy process, with a loud rushing of wind, Armstrong said, before asking the crowd to contemplate what kind of “noise” or difference they’re making in the world.

“What kind of noise are you making or are you making any noise back home?” she said. “Can anyone even hear you? ... Are you making yourself available for others to know you exist? If you’re not, then there must be a change in your behavior. You must be present in the community to let them know you are here. Be loud so people can experience the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit.”

She added, “You are responsible for making noise and once that is done, you will see a new thing. You will recognize that you were born to dream.”

Videographer Alex Simon contributed to this story.

Find additional coverage of the Presbyterian Youth Triennium at www.pcusa.org. To learn more about the event, go [here](#).



Rev. Tony Larson and Rev. CeCe Armstrong, co-moderators of the 226th General Assembly, greet those gathered in Louisville for the 2025 Presbyterian Youth Triennium. (Photo by Rich Copley)

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



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Affirming
Church Family



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