

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 August 11, 2025

One Task Down!

A Big Thank you to our Buildings & Grounds' team for coordinating the repair of the church's sewer line.



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.
- ✦ [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.
- ✦ [First Friday Flicks Returns](#) – Friday, September 5 at 7pm in Goodenberger Hall with Small Foot. Watch the movie trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBw6EvIxIS8>
- ✦ [Women's Bible Study](#) – Starting on Saturday, September 20 at 10am at Hazel's house. See below for more details.

Thoughts from Pastor Paul

Dear Siblings in Christ,

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

Although I have a long way to go to mature in my faith journey, I feel I have come a long way. When I was a teenager, I can remember feeling anxiety at all the bad things that were happening in the world. There was no shortage of lamenting from the adults around me as to how the world was so much better when they were children and that future generations were only making things worse. This made me feel empty inside, leaving little hope for mine and future generations. So, I did the only thing I knew I could do besides worrying and complaining, I prayed. I prayed for an answer from God as to why there was so much bad happening in the world and asked why God didn't seem to be doing anything to make things better. With that prayer still in my heart and mind, I heard God's answer the next Sunday in church during the sermon. I can't remember what the passage was for the morning, all I remember is what the pastor said. He said that there is actually much more positive in the world, it's just that the negative makes its presence better known. It's louder and tends to get better press; while the positive is less concerned about self-promotion and is more concerned about doing God's work through righting wrongs and making sure people have their physical and emotional needs met.

It is my firm belief that there is a great deal of good happening throughout the world. It is also my belief that, although there have been some pretty wonderful moments in the past, there are an endless number of wonderful moments in the future. With all due respect, giving the title, 'the greatest generation', to a past generation does an injustice to future generations that have inherited a world that, through putting profits above creation, climate change and injustice and intolerance put at risk, all of creation, as well as creation's future. As I witness upcoming generations working to make a positive difference in addressing climate change and intolerance, and doing so without seeking fanfare or glory, I see God's work being done; we witness the kingdom of God being revealed through their efforts that seek to slow down climate change and to make bigotry and intolerance something of the past. Yes, there is still a long way to go, but I do believe our future generations, if they continue on the positive path, making creation and God the priority over profits and stuff, there will be many great generations to come.

Scripture reaffirms our need to keep hope in the future, whether we are a part of it, or it is a part of our legacy. As we read in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." In Proverbs we read, "Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off." The Apostle Paul tells us in the epistle to the Romans, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." Also in Romans, "And hope does not put us to shame because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

Siblings in Christ, no matter what the news cycles are telling you, no matter how much your heart laments about what is going on in the world, yes there is a lot of bad stuff happening, and yes, there may have been better times in the past, but do not lose hope in the future that God has laid out before all of creation. Rejoice in what God has given and continues to give. Contrary to what the world of man may tell us, God has given us everything we need to move creation forward toward knowing, experiencing and sharing God's kingdom. But it is with God's help that we must work together, for we, as the church, are God's hands and feet. I don't believe that Jesus' return will be him coming to finish the work he started 2,000 plus years ago. It is my belief that he gave that task to all future generations, including ours, and that when Jesus' work has been accomplished throughout the world, that is when all will witness Jesus' return whether he descends from the heavens or is seen in the hearts of those around us; Jesus' presence will be known by all of God's creation. That is something truly wonderful to not only hope for, but to also work for.

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 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	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
	21	Thursday	Deacon's Meeting & Dinner at the Davidson's
	22	Friday	Praise group practice at 6
	24	Sunday	Worship, Picnic & Fellowship at Cullaby Lake at 10am with Pioneer
	31	Sunday	Commissioning Service for Mark Dobney at 3pm at Pioneer Presbyterian in Warrenton
September	5	Friday	First Friday Flicks Returns at 7pm in Goodenberger Hall with the movie Small Foot

We Share Our Joys & Concerns

- Family and friends of the Reverend Chuck Arnold at his passing
- Family and friends of Julie Davies at her passing
- Dick and Joyce Etulain - Healing, Peace & Discernment
- Jean Cox for healing and discernment
- 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 & 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
- For all who are being displaced or disadvantaged by federal cutbacks

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.

#TLMODAGiveBack @tmoda.org SalvationArmyUSA.org

TL MODA 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



First Friday Flicks Presents...

SMALL FOOT

Friday, September 5 at 7pm in
Goodenberger Hall

Free admission, popcorn and
fellowship for all

Scan to watch the trailer



Keeping Job Corp Open & Running:

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...

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, August 18, 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, September 2, 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.

August 2025

6	Hiroshima Day; https://pcusa.org/worship-with-us/yearbook/august-6-2020
9	International Day of the World's Indigenous People; https://un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day
10	Day of Prayer for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula; https://pcusa.org/worship-with-us/yearbook/june-24-2018
17	Public Education Sunday; https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/pcusas-education-roundtable-urges-presbyterians-support-and-protect-public-education
19	World Humanitarian Day; https://un.org/en/observances/humanitarian-day

From the Presbyterian Women in the PCUSA |

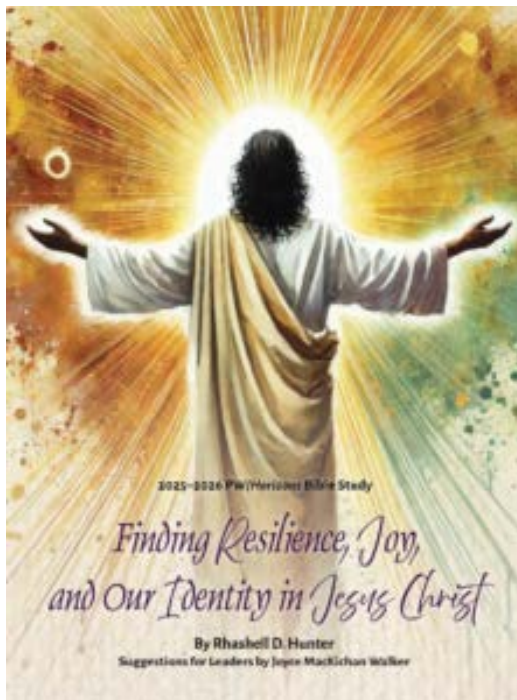
<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org> <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025-JP-Calendar-FA-updated-Feb2025.pdf>

*Church Picnic & Potluck Fellowship with our Siblings from Pioneer Plains
Sunday, August 24 at 10am at Cullaby Lake, South Shelter*



Come Join the Celebration!

You are invited to Celebrate the Commissioning of Mark Dobney at Pioneer Presbyterian Church at 3pm on August 31.



Women's Bible Study – Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

Join us the third Saturday of the month each at 10am beginning September 20, at Hazel's house.

See <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/current-bible-study/> for more information. For more details about the Bible study, contact Hazel Davidson.

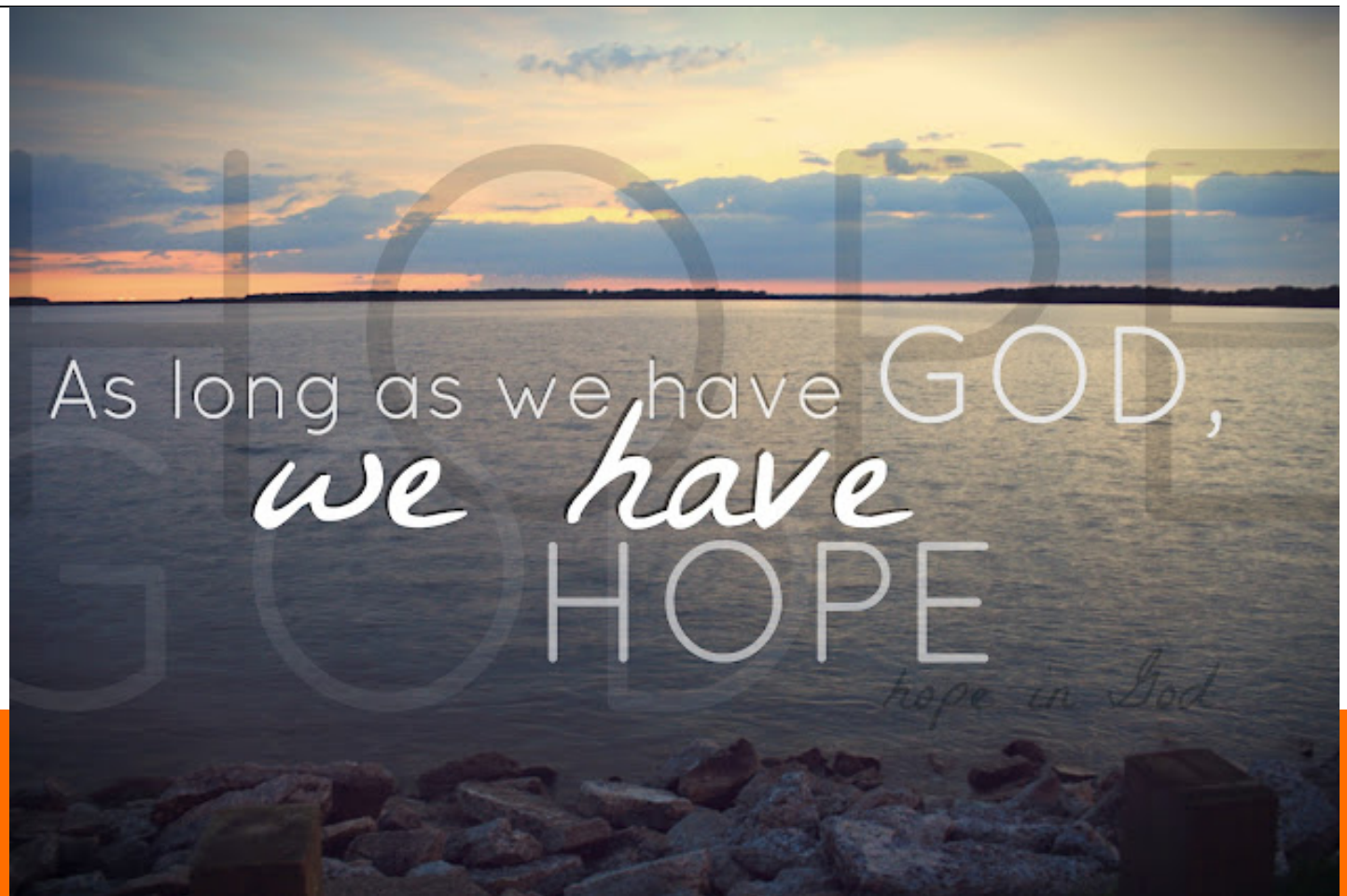




Scan for
Directions

At the Lower
Columbia Bowl
826 Marine Dr
in Astoria
August 20
At 5PM

First Presbyterian Church of Astoria Invites one and all to an evening of Bowling, Pizza Fun & Fellowship





Walk For Palestine

Permanent Ceasefire Now

**Last Sunday of the
Month @ 3p
Meet @ 8th +
Commercial St
Astoria**

**Family
Friendly**

—
Meet outside the
Astoria Post
Office. Join in a
peaceful walk
around downtown
Bring your flags +
signs!



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:

- ✝ [What's in a name: Introducing Pearl 2.0](#)
- ✝ [Better ways to read the Bible](#)
- ✝ [PMUN and OPW fellows visit the United Nations](#)

International student delegates make connections at Triennium

Presbyterian Pan American School sends its first delegation

August 8, 2025 | Beth Waltemath | Presbyterian News Service

"If you are Presbyterian, you know about it, 100%. It is a big event, and that got us excited," said Brenton, a high school senior from Ixtlahuca, Mexico, who attended Presbyterian Youth Triennium for the first time this year. "We were pretty excited to meet new people from all different places and to get to know how God changed their lives in so many ways," he said and noted that it was "a far way to travel, but totally worth it." Brenton was part of a delegation connected to Mission Presbytery through his enrollment at the Presbyterian Pan American School (PPAS), a PC(USA)-related college-preparatory school located in the Texas Coastal Bend about 90 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border.

International Students at Triennium video

Founded by Presbyterians in 1911 with the mission to educate young boys from Mexico, today PPAS equips and empowers an international community of some 70 students — from such countries as Mexico, China, South Korea, Rwanda, Taiwan and Colombia — for lives of Christian leadership as global citizens.

This was the first time that PPAS sent students to Triennium as a group.

The five students represented connections to the PC(USA) through the school that stretched to Mexico, Colombia and South Korea. Brenton's family has long-standing ties to the Presbyterian church and PPAS through his grandfather, who served as a pastor in Mexico. Two other students in the delegation attended elementary school in South Korea but learned of PPAS when their families or friends moved to Mexico for work and joined local churches. From those communities, they heard about both the educational opportunities at PPAS and the Triennium event for Presbyterian youth.

"The experience we've had is very impressive. I know that I'll remember it all my life," said Brenton.

"It was worth the effort, and I'm enjoying it," said Yeojoon, an 11th grader who persuaded PPAS principal Dr. Juan Plascencia to let him attend when another student had to cancel at the last minute. According to the



Five students from the Presbyterian Pan American School attended Presbyterian Youth Triennium last month. (Photo by Rich Copley)

students, Plascencia strongly encouraged them to go, hoping they would return to the PPAS community, share their excitement and inspire younger students to attend in three years.

Kevin, a rising 12th grader also from South Korea, learned about PPAS through a friend named David, whom he met in India when he was only 5. David later moved to Mexico and then enrolled at PPAS. He recommended the school to Kevin, who was a few years younger and looking for a high school experience abroad. The challenge of cultural exchange prompted Kevin to attend Triennium as well.

“Meeting new people from all different states was an exciting event for me,” Kevin said. “I really like exchanging these pins from all our different states.”



The five students from Presbyterian Pan American School who attended Presbyterian Youth Triennium pose at the Kentucky International Convention Center. (Photo by Rich Copley)

Valentina, 17, heard about PPAS from a family friend in Colombia and about Triennium through Plascencia. She appreciated making connections with youth from all over — something she had noticed about being Presbyterian since enrolling at PPAS. “A highlight for me has been knowing more about God and the Presbyterian church,” she said. Her parents had attended “normal church,” but at school she came to appreciate the connectional nature of the Presbyterian church, especially through seeing so many countries and states represented by the youth delegations.

Although the PPAS delegation was new to Triennium — which was held for the first time this year at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville — they were among several other international delegations, including a sizeable group from Puerto Rico and another from [Susamacher Presbyterian Church](#), founded in 1871 in Trinidad. [Those delegations contributed to Tuesday night worship](#) by leading salsa dancing (Puerto Rico) and steel drumming (Trinidad).

“All these people here are like my family,” said Shara, 17, who is originally from northern Mexico but feels close to the group of PPAS students because of the community of care and faith fostered at the school. She saw that same kind of community at Triennium.

“I love this event because there are many activities here to be more connected to God and other persons from different countries,” Shara said. Her favorite part was worship and a long-held Triennium tradition: “I love to exchange pins,” she said, pointing to the most recent one she received. “The person who gave it to me is from Puerto Rico. It’s a really unique pin. I really love it.”

Gifts to the [Christmas Joy Offering](#) provide leadership development opportunities and help Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color — like PPAS — provide quality education for our future leaders.

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.

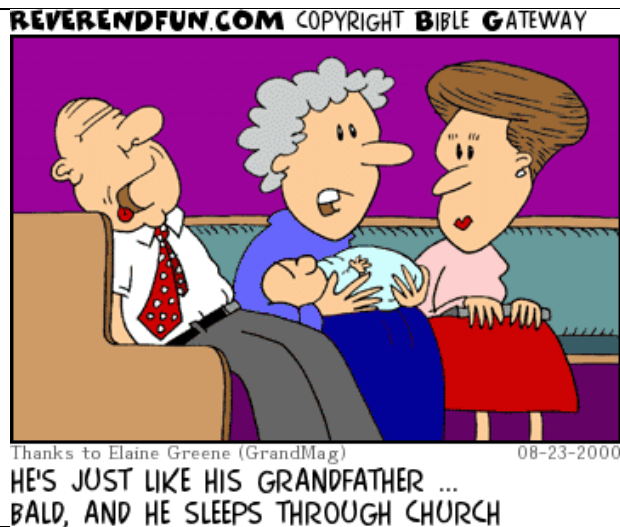
Please note, Pastor Paul takes his Sabbath every Friday but is always available for emergencies.

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
direction