

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 September 8, 2025

Your Deacons are Here to Help

Deacons as Defined in the Book of Order (G-2.0201) - The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to your Deacon should you need anything. They are there for you. Each Deacon has a group of church family for which they are responsible. If you're not sure who your Deacon is, please contact the church office or Pastor Paul.

Your FPC Astoria Deacons are Joan Scoggins, Jay Kirkpatrick, Dave O'Neel, Shane Chase, Diane Hankins, and Hazel Davidson

Announcements

- ✦ [Coffee & Tea Fellowship](#) – Join us Friday, September 12 in the church parlor for coffee, tea, food and fellowship.
- ✦ [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.
- ✦ [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.
- ✦ [First Friday Flicks](#) – October's First Friday Flicks will happen on the second Friday, Friday, October 10 at 7pm in Goodenberger Hall with Mary Poppins. 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.
- ✦ [Book Study Starting](#) – Beginning Sunday, October 12, at 11:45am in the Christian Resource Room, we will take a look at **Vanishing Grace**, the sequel to Philip Yancey's **What's So Amazing About Grace?**
 - **Book:** <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/vanishing-grace-philip-yancey/1127764880?ean=9780310351542>
 - **Study Guide:** <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/vanishing-grace-bible-study-guide-philip-yancey/1141914992?ean=9780310825494>

Thoughts from Pastor Paul

Dear Siblings in Christ,

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

If you're anything like me, when you hear the word, 'evangelize', you find yourself cringing and your gut tightening into a knot. The term evangelists has been used to describe people who use the Bible to scare people into acting in a way that promotes their agenda instead of God's agape, selfless love. This is not evangelism. Our Book of Order defines Evangelism as the following:

God sends the Church to proclaim the gospel in the world: announcing the good news of God's liberating love; calling all people to repent and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; baptizing, teaching, and making disciples in Jesus' name; and offering the promise of eternal and abundant life in Christ.

In the Service for the Lord's Day, we hear the proclamation of the gospel and have the opportunity to respond in faith, committing and recommitting our lives to Jesus Christ. Accordingly, an invitation to prepare for Baptism and live out baptismal discipleship is to be a regular part of Sunday worship. Christian worship also prepares believers to go forth, in the power of the Spirit, to share with others the good news they have received, inviting them to join in following Christ's way. (W-5.030264)

Perhaps you've noticed, as have I, at some events, be it a football game, a parade or a concert, there's someone holding up a big piece of cardboard with John 3:16 written across it. Of course, they are referring to the Bible verse that says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (NIV) I've never been 100% sure why, out of all the verses in the Bible, they chose this one. To those of us who know Christ in our hearts and lives, it's not telling us anything we don't already know, but to those who don't yet know Christ in their hearts and lives, by itself, this verse may sound like an ultimatum rather than an invitation. Either believe in God's Son or perish. I don't know about you, but I've never been one for a 'hard sell'. It usually has quite the opposite effect on me and causes me to walk away rather than look deeper. If we include the next verse from John 3:17, it, to me, takes away some of the tension that using only John 3:16 might create when it says, "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (NIV)

It seems that many are trying to scare people into relationships with Jesus. This, to me, totally goes against Jesus' life examples and teachings. For example, when Jesus was brought the woman who had been accused of committing adultery with the crowd demanding she be stoned to death, Jesus turned the crowd's demands back on them, saying to them, "The sinless one among you, go first: Throw the stone." Then, after realizing their own sins, the crowd left. Instead of condemning the woman, Jesus asked her, "Woman, where are they? Does no one condemn you?" Her answer was not that Jesus was left to condemn her; instead, she said, "No one, Master." To which Jesus said, "Neither do I," said Jesus. "Go on your way. From now on, don't sin." (MSG) Jesus didn't scare her into repentance, rather, he showed her the agape, selfless love that is God.

It is so important that we evangelize in the way that Jesus did (and does). Instead of scaring people into a relationship with Jesus, we need to show the love and grace that Jesus showed all who he met, and that he continues to show us. The title Christian means little Christ. We must, with the help of the Holy Trinity, do everything we can to live as Christ Jesus lived, and continues to live through us who have truly invited him into our lives. When we can do this, that is when others will witness true evangelism and when people will remember that Jesus was sent, not to condemn the world, but to save it.

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 August 2025

Income – \$ 8,500 – year to date = \$97,719.64

Expenses – \$ 8,400 – year to date = \$100,820.02

\$10,000 transferred from savings with a YTD total transferred from savings of \$20,000.

FPC Astoria Calendar

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

September	12	Friday	Coffee & Tea Fellowship at 10am in the Parlor
	13	Saturday	Stuck/Jinkins' Wedding at 12noon
	15 - 21	Monday - Sunday	Pastor Paul on study leave
	17	Wednesday	Bowling & Pizza Fellowship at 5pm at the Lower Columbia Bowl
	20	Saturday	Women's Bible Study at 10am at Hazel's home
	23	Tuesday	Session Meeting at 12noon in the Christian Resource Room
	25	Thursday	FMT meeting at 11am in the Christian Resource Room

We Share Our Joys & Concerns

- Family and friends of Malcolm Van Meer
- Family and friends of those touched by the Minneapolis school shooting
- Family and friends of Keith Linehan at his passing
- Family and friends of Jim Applegarth at his 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 continued 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.



*Come Join us for Coffee,
Tea
& Fellowship,
Friday,
September 12
at 10am
In the Church Parlor.*



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...

MARY POPPINS

Friday, October 10 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, October 6, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
- Astoria School District
 - Wednesday, September 10, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
- Clatsop County
 - Wednesday, September 10, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
- Clatsop Community College
 - Thursday, September 11, Board of Education Meeting at 5:30PM.
- Port of Astoria
 - Tuesday, September 16, 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

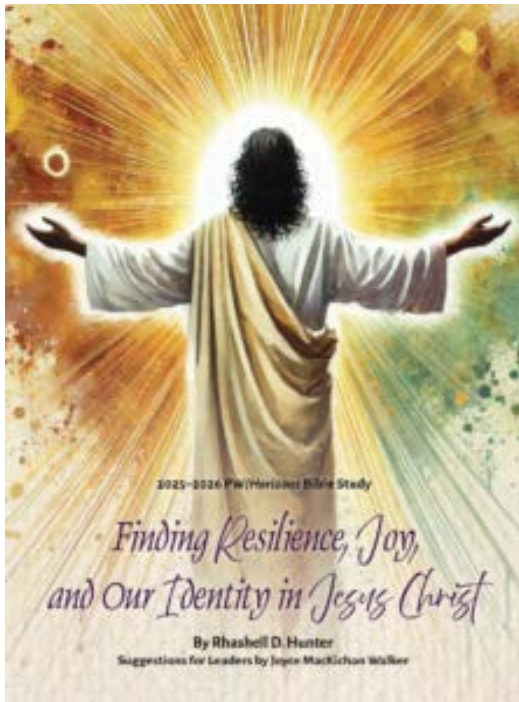
In every country, gender-based violence is a tragic reality. This violence is frequently hidden, and victims are often silent, fearing stigma and further violence.

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.

September 2025	
National Hispanic Heritage Month [Sep 15–Oct 15]; www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov	
1	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation; www.creationjustice.org/world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-of-creation.html
	A Season of Peace begins; www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/season-peace
2	Labor Day; www.presbyterianmission.org/story/labor-day-prayer/
8	International Literacy Day; www.en.unesco.org/commemorations/literacyday
9	J&P Book Discussion Group online, 6:30–8:30 PM (Eastern) on Poverty, By America by Matthew Desmond. Register at www.presbyterianwomen.org/justice
21	International Day of Peace; www.presbyterian.typepad.com/peacemaking/2010/08/celebrate-the-international-day-of-peace.html
27	Native American Day; www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/nativeamerican/pdf/celebratingnativeamericanday.pdf and www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_American_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	



**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.



First Presbyterian Church of Astoria



The Food Bank Needs:

- Breakfast cereal,
- Peanut butter,
- Boxes
- Volunteers

Contact the church office at 503.325.1702 for more information.



Scan for
Directions

At the Lower
Columbia Bowl
826 Marine Dr
in Astoria
September 17
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:

- ✚ [Participants submit helpful ideas around last week's 'Holy Shift' presentation](#)
- ✚ [Congregations asked to join International Day of Prayer for Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo Oct. 19](#)
- ✚ [This month in Presbyterian history](#)

Presbyterians urged to 'Touch the Earth Lightly'

Service marks World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

September 5, 2025 | Darla Carter | Presbyterian News Service



Photo by Emilia Morariu via Unsplash

LOUISVILLE — The title and lyrics of the gentle hymn "[Touch the Earth Lightly](#)" (Glory to God #713) served as a call to action for attendees of a recent prayer service for those serving on the staff of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The hymn, which urges listeners to treat the Earth with care, helped to close a service that stressed the need to be good stewards of Creation and to care for all living creatures.

The Rev. Rebecca Barnes and Jessica Maudlin, who are both with the [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#), and the Rev. Dr. David Gambrell, Associate for Worship in the [Office of Theology & Worship](#), led the online gathering, which commemorated the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

The service opened with a Call to Worship, inspired by [Psalm 148](#), calling for all to praise the Creator's name.

Later, Barnes and Maudlin alternated reading a Litany of Confession, adapted from Rev. Keatan King's "Litany of the Garden," which referenced some of the ways in which humankind has contributed to harming the environment.

"God of air, breathe new life into our dust every day as you did in the beginning," Barnes said. "Unite all people in one rhythm in our inhaling and exhaling. We exhale hazardous substances, without regard for who will have to inhale our contamination. Teach us to extend the privilege of inhaling deeply to all neighbors. We pray for the day when air is always fresh."

The litany also spoke of the need for people to be generous to one another and the planet by mimicking the Earth itself.

"God of Creation, we pray that we will learn to show the Earth the same love and grace which it extends to us," Maudlin said. "Teach us the intrinsic value of every creature. Teach us to give freely

and spontaneously among one another the way that the Earth gives of itself freely to us. Holy One, we have nothing that was not first given to us by your generous heart and your open hand.”



Photo by Brandon Morgan via Unsplash

Later, Gambrell read [Luke 8:22-25](#) followed by a reflection from a colleague who's part of an ecumenical group called the [Consultation on Common Texts](#), responsible for the Revised Common Lectionary. The passage from Luke describes how the disciples became alarmed when a boat they were on with Jesus was enveloped by a fierce storm while he was sleeping.

When the disciples came to him, Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and waves, causing the storm to subside. He also asked the disciples, “Where is your faith?”

In today's world, "people also cry out in fear as the world is ravaged by hurricanes and other natural disasters as well as war and other calamities, Gambrell noted. But "this gospel passage calls us to faith anew. ... The love of God flows through this story and through all of Scripture like a river, steady and sure."

During the benediction, Maudlin prayed that God would “inspire us to work for the end of conflict, and for the full restoration of broken relationships — with you, with the ecumenical community, with the human family, and with all Creation.”

She continued, “Prince of Peace, through your wounds, teach us to stand in solidarity with the woundedness of others, of Creation, and of the world. Through your resurrection, make us people of hope — with a vision of swords turned into ploughshares and tears transformed into joy. May we come together as one family, to labor for your peace — a shalom where all your people may dwell in safety, and rest in quiet places.”

The month of September is the Season of Creation. Go [here](#) to read about it and find ways to observe it.

Additional image credit: Illustration of the Earth by Elena Mozhivilo via Unsplash.

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.

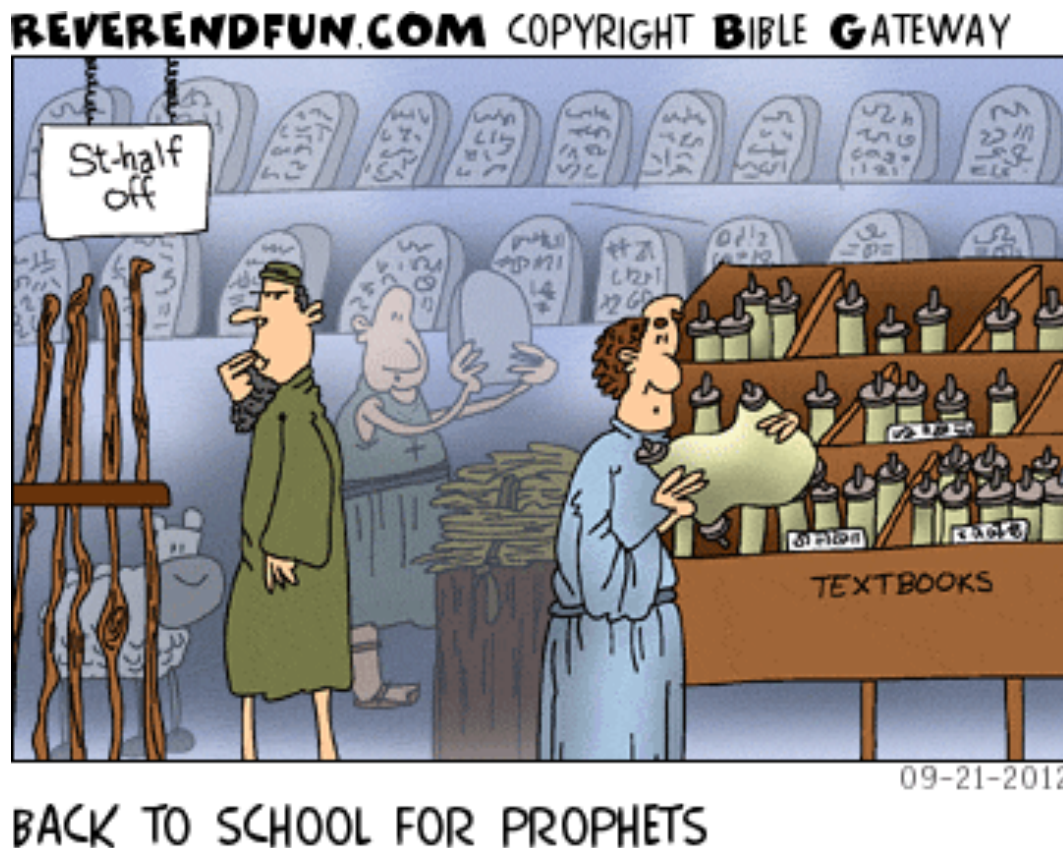
Please note, Pastor Paul takes his Sabbath every Friday but is always available for emergencies.

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