

# 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 October 20, 2025

## *Facilities Management Team*

We are truly blessed, not only with a wonderful and caring church family but also with a beautiful and historic church sanctuary and fellowship hall. The workmanship presented is awe-inspiring. Again, we are truly blessed.

Another blessing is that the facilities that we have been blessed with are not sitting idle throughout the week waiting for Sunday worship and fellowship to show life. Instead, there is life throughout the week with activities through, not only our church family, but also with the Unitarians and the Astoria Music Conservatory. Occasionally other groups or individuals also reach out to use these facilities that we have been blessed with. That is where the Facilities Management Team (FMT) comes into play. This team, which is as big a blessing as our facilities and church family, helps to manage and coordinate with our current long-term renters together with anyone who would like to use space for an event. They also negotiate the leases and rental agreements with the long-term renters.

Working with our Session and Buildings and Grounds your FMT works to make sure we are charging a fair price for use of our facilities so that we can not only better respond to the expenses of building repairs, but that we could also be more proactive about future repairs and maintenance. Unfortunately, as our building continues to age, the cost of repairs and maintenance continue to increase.

Please join me in thanking our FMT for all the hard work that they have done and continue to do. Our FMT currently consists of Linda Oldenkamp, Rebecca Duffy, Mike Curtis, Jay Kirkpatrick and John Hankins. Reach out to one of them or the church office if you feel called in helping too or if you've any questions.

## *Announcements*

- ✦ [Rides are Available](#) – If you would like a ride to any church activity, please contact the church office.
- ✦ [First Friday Flicks](#) – Friday, November 7 at 7pm in Goodenberger Hall with **Brave**. Watch the movie trailer: [https://youtu.be/TEHWDA\\_6e3M?si=YVuHrDOHngQk-lbC](https://youtu.be/TEHWDA_6e3M?si=YVuHrDOHngQk-lbC)
- ✦ [Coffee & Tea Fellowship](#) – Join us Friday, November 14 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>
- ✦ [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.
- ✦ [Book Study Starting](#) – Beginning Sunday, October 26, 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.

This week, I'd like to share with you a powerful parable that comes to us from our Native American siblings. It is titled The Two Wolves and contains a very powerful message, especially for these times that finds our society being polarized more and more by differences, and sharing not love and ideas, but hate and anger.

A young boy came to his Grandfather, filled with anger at another boy who had done him an injustice.

The old Grandfather said to his grandson, "Let me tell you a story. I too, at times, have felt a great hate for those that have taken so much, with no sorrow for what they do. But hate wears you down, and hate does not hurt your enemy. Hate is like taking poison and wishing your enemy would die. I have struggled with these feelings many times."

"It is as if there are two wolves inside me; one wolf is good and does no harm. He lives in harmony with all around him and does not take offence when no offence was intended. He will only fight when it is right to do so, and in the right way. But the other wolf is full of anger. The littlest thing will set him into a fit of temper."

"He fights everyone, all the time, for no reason. He cannot think because his anger and hate are so great. It is helpless anger, because his anger will change nothing. Sometimes it is hard to live with these two wolves inside me, because both of the wolves try to dominate my spirit."

The boy looked intently into his Grandfather's eyes and asked, "Which wolf will win, Grandfather?"

The Grandfather smiled and said, "The one I feed."

We know which wolf to feed, and with God's help, we will make sure the good and peaceful wolf is well fed. 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 September 2025

Income – \$ 8,054 – year to date = \$131,766.49

Expenses – \$ 9,768.70 – year to date = \$120,734.20

## FPC Astoria Calendar

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

	21	Tuesday	Session Meeting at 12noon in the Christian Resource Room
October	24-25	Friday-Saturday	Presbytery meeting in Salem
	26	Sunday	Book Study Vanishing Grace: Bringing Good News to a Deeply Divided World by Philip Yancey – 11:45am in Christian Resource Room

November	2	Sunday	Daylight Savings Time Ends ( <i>fall back an hour</i> )
			All Saints Sunday
	7	Friday	First Friday Flicks – <b>Brave</b> at 7pm in Goodenberger Hall
	14	Friday	Coffee & Tea Fellowship at 10am in the Parlor

## 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 the Celebration! The Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

Sunday, November 23  
at 2PM

In Goodenberger Hall  
Contact the church  
office to sign up for a  
dish or for more info.



## 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](http://www.fpcastoria.org) for more details.



Scan with your phone to give online



*First Friday Flicks Presents...*

## BRAVE

**Friday, November 7 at 7pm in  
Goodenberger Hall**

*Free admission, popcorn and  
fellowship for all*

*Scan to watch the trailer*



### *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 20, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
- Astoria School District
  - Wednesday, November 12, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
- Clatsop County
  - Wednesday, October 22, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
- Clatsop Community College
  - Thursday, November 13, Board of Education Meeting at 5:30PM.
- Port of Astoria
  - Tuesday, October 21, 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](http://www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in-black)

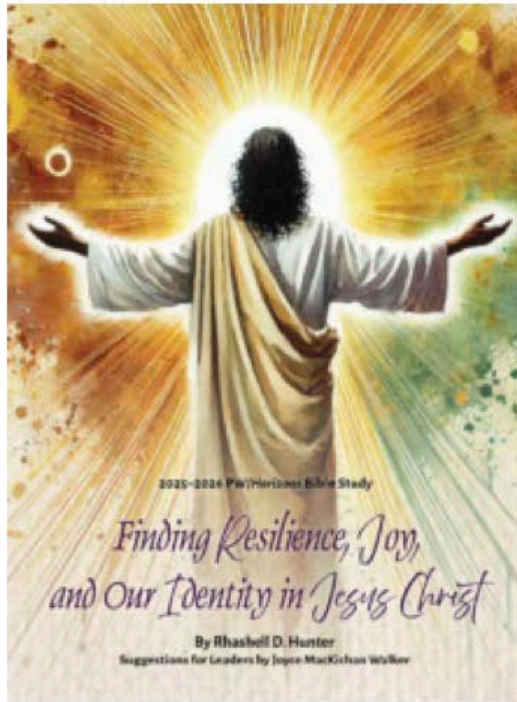
In every country, gender-based violence is a tragic reality. This violence is frequently hidden, and victims are often silent, fearing stigma and further violence.

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.

<b>November 2025</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Native American Heritage Month; <a href="http://archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month">archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month</a> or <a href="http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov">nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov</a></li> </ul>	
3 – 9	Children’s Book Week 2; <a href="http://everychildareader.net/cbw">everychildareader.net/cbw</a>
8 – 16	National Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week; <a href="http://pcusa.org/how-we-serve/justice-peace/hunger">pcusa.org/how-we-serve/justice-peace/hunger</a>
13	World Kindness Day; <a href="http://randomactsofkindness.org/world-kindness-day">randomactsofkindness.org/world-kindness-day</a>
20	Universal Children’s Day; <a href="http://un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day">un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day</a>
	Transgender Day of Remembrance; <a href="http://glaad.org/tdor">glaad.org/tdor</a>
25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women; <a href="http://un.org/en/observances/ending-violence-against-women-day">un.org/en/observances/ending-violence-against-women-day</a>
25 – D10	16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence; <a href="http://unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism">unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism</a>
27	Thanksgiving; <a href="http://pcusa.org/resource/thanksgiving-prayers">pcusa.org/resource/thanksgiving-prayers</a>
<b>From the Presbyterian Women in the PCUSA  </b> <a href="https://www.presbyterianwomen.org">https://www.presbyterianwomen.org</a> <a href="https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025-JP-Calendar-FA-updated-Feb2025.pdf">https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025-JP-Calendar-FA-updated-Feb2025.pdf</a>	



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

Join us the third Saturday of each month each at 10am at Hazel's house. The next Bible Study is Saturday, November 15th.

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.



# 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:

- ✝ [A year after Helene: 'Volunteers have saved this church](#)
- ✝ [Challenging us to persevere in Christian witness](#)
- ✝ [Faith leaders amplify the need to protect religious freedom at Oak Flat vigil](#)

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## [Presbytery of Yukon and PDA set to respond to deadly storm in Alaska](#)

*'When something affects one community in Alaska, it affects us all'*

October 17, 2025 | Darla Carter | Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — The devastation and evacuation of multiple communities in Alaska is being deeply felt by the [Presbytery of Yukon](#), following a deadly storm on the state's western coast that swept some homes away.

"Alaska, as the largest state in our country, has the smallest population, so when something affects one community in Alaska, it affects us all," said the Rev. Elizabeth Schultz, executive presbyter, who has been in touch with [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#). "We do not have Presbyterian churches in the two villages that were evacuated, but they are Alaska Native communities, and we do have churches in eight Alaska Native communities, and that family is very tight, and so we are all very connected up here."



The Rev. Elizabeth Schultz, executive presbyter of the Presbytery of Yukon.

The west coast of Alaska was hit by remnants of tropical typhoon Halong, generating high winds and sea surge that inundated communities and damaged homes and infrastructure. At least 49 communities reported being impacted.

The two hardest hit communities, Kipnuk and Kwigillingok, are in an area near the Bering Sea that saw water levels more than 6 feet above the highest normal tide line, according to [CBS News](#).

The body of a woman was recovered in Kwigillingok and two people were reported missing. More than 50 people were rescued during search and rescue operations involving the Alaska National Guard, Alaska State Troopers and the U.S. Coast Guard last weekend.

This disaster isn't "just flooding," Schultz said. "This unprecedented evacuation of the entire population of two villages and those families and communities are being brought to hub communities around the state, one of which is Anchorage, where the presbytery office is. We will be in direct care of hundreds of people that are now being brought to Anchorage because their villages are not safe to inhabit at the moment."

In addition to flooded homes, there has been damage to power and communications systems, roads and boardwalks, a runway and other infrastructure, according to Alaska officials.

These villages “are tight-knit and are used to a very small, connected life,” Schultz said. “They were then told, ‘Grab one suitcase and come to the airport. We’re evacuating you.’ ... These individuals will be with us for weeks, if not months, so these kids are going to need to go to school. All they have is one bag of belongings. They are now hundreds of miles from their home and in a completely different culture.”

The presbytery is seeking grant funding from PDA and will be working with fellow churches to meet the needs of those affected.

“In a time of disaster, we really need to wait for the state and national efforts to play out for a few days here to see where people are and what the agencies on the ground are asking for, instead of just jumping in with our own new idea,” Schultz said. “The Red Cross and Salvation Army are on the ground coordinating the movement of people from these communities into Anchorage and the shelter that’s set up for them. They will be telling the faith communities what they need in the coming days.”



Alaska Air National Guard C-17 Globemaster III aircrew evacuates about 300 displaced western Alaska residents, following a severe storm that hit Alaska’s West Coast. (Alaska National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Joseph Moon)

The response from faith communities will be an ecumenical one. It is likely that the presbytery will be “partnering with the other denominations that are a little closer to those villages,” Schultz said. “I was already on a call today with our Methodist, Episcopal and Lutheran colleagues” to talk about long-term response.

Presbyterians who would like to help are encouraged to donate to PDA.

Schultz explained the importance of PDA’s involvement this way: “Not only is it financially going to be helpful, it sends a message to all of our ecumenical partners that this denomination cares about these communities, even though they are in places most people in the lower 48 have never heard of,” she said. “There is a huge faith presence in our Alaska Native villages, and it sends that needed message that they are not alone.”

The Rev. Kathy Lee-Cornell, PDA Associate for National Disaster Response, stressed the importance of collaboration.

"PDA relies on our faith leaders to connect us with the areas and people where our resources may positively serve impacted individuals and communities, like the Alaskan Natives across Yukon-Kuskokwim," said Lee-Cornell. "Through their responsiveness, Presbytery of Yukon allows Presbyterians to bear witness to our compassionate kinship with one another during difficult circumstances, and we are honored to support their efforts in the immediacy of the typhoon and throughout the long-term recovery."

*To assist Presbyterian Disaster Assistance with its response in Alaska, go [here](#).*

## 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.

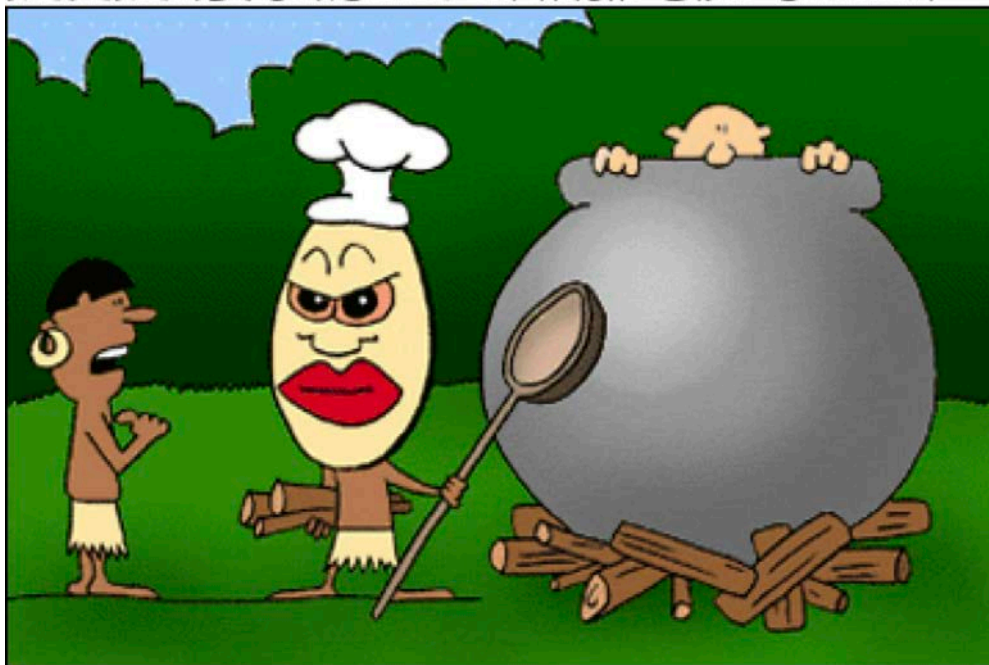
**Email:** [pastorpaul@fpcastoria.org](mailto:pastorpaul@fpcastoria.org) **Phone:** 971.606.5606

Prayer Requests & Newsletter Articles & Information –

The newsletter is published the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month.

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Thanks to Carl Serkland

10-22-2002

WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BOIL THIS  
MISSIONARY ... HE IS A FRIAR

**A Just World for All**

First Presbyterian  
Church of Astoria  
Come Join our Open &  
Affirming, Family Friendly  
Fellowship Sundays at 10am  
All are welcome & accepted!

[www.fpcastoria.org](http://www.fpcastoria.org)



### 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](http://www.fpcastoria.org) | email: [office@fpcastoria.org](mailto:office@fpcastoria.org) | phone: 503.325.1702



An Open &  
Affirming  
Church Family



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