

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 November 17, 2025

Stewardship Time

If it's November, it must be a busy month for our church family. We have our Thanksgiving pot-luck dinner later this month; we are electing new church officers to serve us for the next few years; and we have our yearly opportunity to make a pledge of how we will support our church in the coming year. This opportunity is otherwise known as the “Stewardship Campaign”.

Here is what to expect: Later this month all of our congregation members and attendees will receive a letter from us. Enclosed in that letter will be a “pledge card”. After you prayerfully consider how much you will pledge to the church, on a weekly, monthly or annual basis, you are asked to return the completed pledge card to the church. We ask that you return your pledge card by December 21, as that will allow the budget committee to have a good idea about how much money the church will have to work with in fulfilling its mission in 2026.

We plan on having a brief “dedication of the gifts” during the worship service on December 21, so we can all look forward to that.

Thank you in advance for your financial support of our church, as well as all the other ways you contribute!

Blessings and peace.

Announcements

- ✦ **Congregational Meeting** – We will have a short congregational meeting on Sunday, November 23 to elect Deacons and Ruling Elders for the class of 2029.
- ✦ **Thanksgiving Potluck** – Join us for our annual Thanksgiving potluck on Sunday, November 23 at 2pm in Goodenberger Hall. Contact the church office to sign-up.
- ✦ **Hanging of the Greens** – Come join in the celebration as we get our church's sanctuary ready for Advent and Christmas by hanging decorations and greens on Saturday, November 29 at 9:30am.
- ✦ **Rides are Available** – If you would like a ride to any church activity, please contact the church office.
- ✦ **First Friday Flicks** – Friday, December 5 at 7pm in Goodenberger Hall with **Arthur Christmas**. Watch the movie trailer: https://youtu.be/TEHWDA_6e3M?si=YVuHrDOHngQk-lbC
- ✦ **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** – 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.

As we celebrate the Reign of Christ Sunday this Sunday, November 23, Year C of the Revised Common Lectionary's Liturgical Year comes to a close with the new Liturgical Year beginning the following Sunday with the beginning of Advent. Thanks to so many stores early start to the secular celebrations of the Christmas season, for many, the season of Advent has been reduced to opening a door on a calendar to reveal a piece of chocolate or a hidden image, to the lighting of a candle each Sunday during Advent. It would seem that the actual meaning of Advent has been somewhat lost in the rush of celebrating Christmas. It's easy to think of Christmas as a Hallmark inspired holiday rather than the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

According to the Book of Common Worship, "'Advent' means coming or arrival. This word has a double significance, as in Advent we celebrate Christ's coming into the world and look with longing for his coming again. The season of Advent begins with an emphasis on final things (eschatology). We watch and pray with expectant hope for the establishment of God's justice and the return of the Prince of Peace. As the weeks of Advent progress, the focus shifts to thanks and praise for the birth of the one who has already come—Jesus Christ our Savior.

The origin of the season of Advent is uncertain. It may have been patterned after the season of Lent as a period of penitence before Christmas, or as a time of preparation for baptism at Epiphany. The duration of Advent was, in some times and places, as long as six or seven weeks. The Revised Common Lectionary still anticipates the themes of Advent in the final three weeks of the Christian year, including Christ the King/Reign of Christ. This feature of the lectionary allows preachers and worship planners to get a head start on Advent before it is eclipsed by preparations for Christmas." (BOCW p163)

As I think of Advent, I harken back to my childhood when my sister and I would sit down with the various catalogues that had been sent from various companies like Sears, Montgomery Wards, and JC Pennys. Each catalogue boasting large selections of the latest 'must-have' toys. My sister and I would 'dog-ear' pages and mark the items that we "couldn't live without". Then, we would spend nearly every available moment leading up to Christmas reviewing our findings in each catalogue until either the catalogues fell apart from use, or Christmas day arrived. Yes, my parents spoiled me too much, but that is a whole other note. In this note, it's the excitement that I remember building up to Christmas. Each day I woke with a joyous anticipation and excitement that we were one day closer to Christmas.

This Advent, as we get closer to Christmas, it is my hope and prayer that we can all feel that same joyous anticipation and excitement that I felt as a child. Although we may not get the toys that we want we will most certainly get the gift that we need, or at least celebrate, that gift that all of God's creation is desperately in need of, the gift of remembering and celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

Siblings in Christ, be excited about the coming of Christmas, but until it arrives, allow the joyous anticipation and excitement of Advent to move you toward the joy and true meaning of Christmas day. So, for the next few weeks, may you have a blessed and joyful Advent season. Reflect on the season of Advent and what it means and in doing so, may you find God's shalom, that is a peace that goes beyond any comprehension.

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 October 2025

Income – \$ 7,827.00 – year to date = \$104,900

Expenses – \$ 14,577.59 – year to date = \$134,601.79

FPC Astoria Calendar

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

November	18	Tuesday	Session meeting at 12noon in the Christian Resource Room
	19	Wednesday	Pizza & Bowling at 5pm at the Lower Columbia Bowl
	21	Friday	Voices for Healing concert benefit for the Harbor at 7pm at the Charlene Larson Center for Performing Arts
	22	Saturday	Bagpipe Swap meet 11am – 4pm in Goodenberger Hall
	23	Sunday	Congregational Meeting following worship to vote on new Deacons and Ruling Elders
			Thanksgiving Potluck at 2pm in Goodenberger Hall
29	Saturday	Hanging of the Greens in the sanctuary at 9:30am.	
December	5	Friday	First Friday Flicks at 7pm in Goodenberger Hall featuring Arthur Christmas

We Share Our Joys & Concerns

- Lena Linehan - healing and peace after leukemia diagnosis
- Dorothy Hamill - for peace and healing with the loss of her daughter Alexandra
- 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
- 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
- For those who are being persecuted because of their race, country of origin, religion, sexual orientation or willingness to stand against the injustices being perpetrated throughout God's creation.
- 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.



Scan for
Directions

At the Lower
Columbia Bowl
826 Marine Dr
in Astoria
November 19
At 5PM

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

Congregational Meeting

Join us **Sunday November 23,**
following worship
for a quick Congregational Meeting.
We will vote on a officers for 2026.

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.



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.

Ever wonder how 2 Billion presents get delivered all in 1 night?



First Friday Flicks Presents...

ARTHUR CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 5 at 7pm in
Goodenberger Hall

*Free admission, popcorn and
fellowship for all*

Scan to watch the trailer



Feeding the community

Published 9:00 am Sunday, September 21, 2025

By MATHIAS LEHMAN-WINTERS



Ray Montgomery gestures to food that will be distributed to the community. Photos by Mathias Lehman-Winters / The Astorian

Volunteers fight hunger against growing need

What makes a community? Attending garden parties, school plays and city council meetings can bring people together.

But for volunteers with Clatsop Emergency Food Bank, the word “community” has a deeper meaning — it means showing up for those who need it most.

For the past 50 years the food pantry has operated out of the First Presbyterian Church of Astoria. Nancy Cole has been volunteering there for 17 years.

“I attend the church, and one of the members said, ‘well, you’re retiring. It’s your turn.’ And so I retired in 2008 and I have been volunteering there ever since,” Cole said.

Cole serves as secretary of CEFB, which makes her “the bread runner,” as Cole described it.

“I go to Safeway to get day-old bread, I dispense and I stock and I do all the statistical reports that need to be turned into the state and the regional food bank,” Cole said.

She said the food bank operates in part from Fred Meyer and Safeway donations and with the help of grants from the county and city.

“With those grants, we have been able to purchase personal hygiene products that otherwise we would not carry,” Cole said.

But the real lifeblood of the food pantry are its volunteers.

“Last month, there were 21 different volunteers and they worked 140 hours,” Cole said. “We have volunteers from the church. We also have many volunteers from the public. We always need more volunteers.” Raymond Montgomery and his sister Jo Black spend two days a week volunteering at the food pantry. He said the food pantry serves a variety of clients.



Jo Black volunteers at the food pantry two days a week.

“We get all sorts of people; they check in with Clatsop Community Action, and CCA usually refers them to us,” Montgomery said. “We get a lot of homeless people, people living in their cars; we don’t worry about that because we are here to feed Astoria.”

Montgomery has been volunteering with the food pantry for eight years.

According to Black, Montgomery used to work for Lockheed Martin “back east, then he moved here (to Astoria) and became Mr. Volunteer.”

“I have turned into an entirely different person,” Montgomery said.

Montgomery said the food pantry has everything a person or family could need, from staples like bread, cereal and meat to toiletries and hygiene products. And so much comes from the generosity of local people.

“Franz (Bakery) gave us seven free racks of bread the other day,” Montgomery said. “Local gardeners bring in their produce ... we have a lot of support within the community.”

The food pantry also encourages people to donate any produce they may grow in their gardens, such as apples, pears, carrots, or zucchinis.

Montgomery said several factors are challenging the organization. For one thing: “The need has gotten bigger.”

In addition, recent cuts from the Trump administration to food assistance programs have only exacerbated the problem.

“Quite often what you get from the government is the United States Department of Agriculture stuff — milk, eggs, cheese,” Montgomery said. “Sometimes we’ll get noodles ... potato flakes ... but noticeably less (since the cuts),” he said, gesturing to a single box of potato flakes on an otherwise empty shelf.

The CEFB gets some of its food from regional and state food banks. But in March, the USDA cut \$500 million in funding for food banks.

A single box of USDA dehydrated potato flakes sits on an otherwise empty shelf.

Cole said on an average day, over the course of an hour, the food pantry will see between four and 15 clients.

Clients enter the basement of the church, where the food bank is located, and can select which food they need and place it in a cart.

“Our method of providing for the clients ... is kind of a shopping method, in that we don’t just give them a box of food,” Cole said. “They have these carts and ... if there are three people in the family, they get a certain amount of food. If there are seven people in the family, they get more food.”

Black said that for her, helping the community comes easy. “I’m a retired registered nurse, so I’m used to serving people,” Black said. “You can’t just sit in your house. It’s nice to see people get what they need or want.” Black said the food pantry tries to keep the barrier of entry low for the community. “We don’t ask any questions — just their name, how many people they’re feeding, and zip code,” she said.

The food pantry based out of the First Presbyterian Church of Astoria operates Monday through Friday between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.



Canned tomato-based goods sit on a shelf.

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, December 1, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
- Astoria School District
 - Wednesday, December 10, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
- Clatsop County
 - Wednesday, December 9, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
- Clatsop Community College
 - Thursday, December 11, Board of Education Meeting at 4:30PM.
- Port of Astoria
 - Tuesday, December 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.

November 2025

- Native American Heritage Month; [archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month](https://www.archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month) or [nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov](https://www.nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov)

3 – 9 Children’s Book Week 2; everychildareader.net/cbw

8 – 16 National Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week; pcusa.org/how-we-serve/justice-peace/hunger

13 World Kindness Day; randomactsofkindness.org/world-kindness-day

20 Universal Children’s Day; un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day
Transgender Day of Remembrance; glaad.org/tdor

25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women;
un.org/en/observances/ending-violence-against-women-day

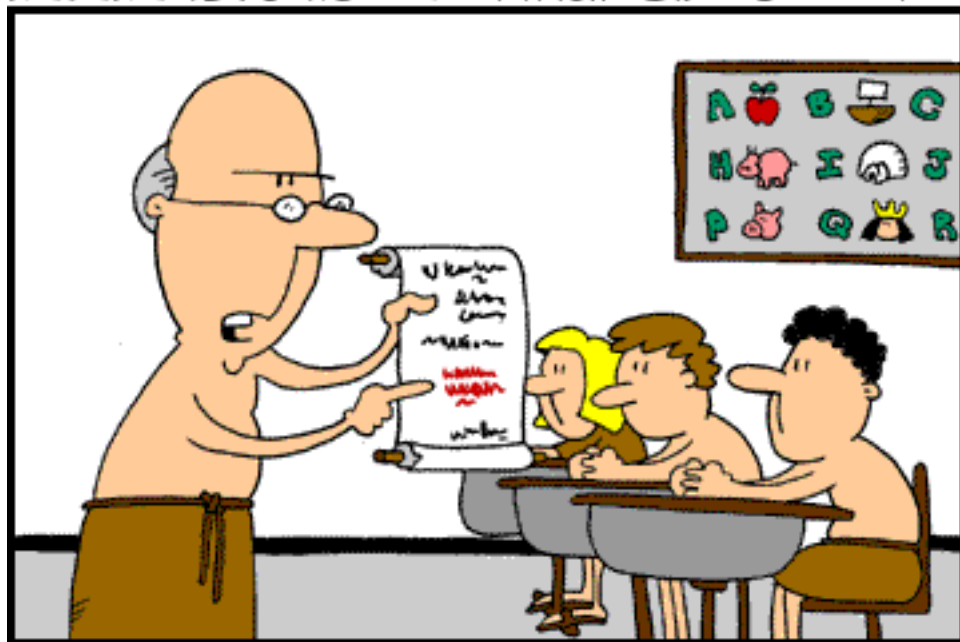
25 – 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence; unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism

27 Thanksgiving; pcusa.org/resource/thanksgiving-prayers

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>

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Thanks to DeLane McCurry

11-09-1998

I'M NOT SURE WHO WAS ALL PASSING NOTES TODAY, BUT THIS RED WRITING LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THAT JESUS WAS IN ON IT

BRODY JONES

PRESENTS

Voices For Healing

“VOICES FOR HEALING” BRINGS TOGETHER THE ASTORIA HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR AND THE NORTH COAST CHORALE AT THE CHARLENE LARSEN CENTER FOR AN INSPIRING EVENING CELEBRATING MENTAL WELLNESS, MINDFULNESS, AND THE HEALING POWER OF MUSIC.

“AN EVENING OF MUSIC, MINDFULNESS, AND HOPE”

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS CONCERT SUPPORT THE HARBOR, A BEACON OF HOPE FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT, PROVIDING SAFETY, HEALING, AND STRENGTH TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES.

PURCHASE TICKETS HERE



NOVEMBER 21, 2025

7:00 PM

588 16TH ST.
ASTORIA, OR
97103

ADULTS **\$15**

KIDS (UNDER 12) **\$10**

SENIORS (55+) **\$10**

MILITARY **\$10**

AUCTRIA.EVENTS/VOICESFORHEALING



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:

- ✚ [PC\(USA\)'s chapel service highlights practicing honest patriotism and confronting white Christian nationalism](#)
- ✚ [ACQ+E invites LGBTQIA+ Presbyterians to the first National Queer Presbyterian Gathering set for Nov. 18–20](#)
- ✚ [Standing by the 'noisome temple'](#)

Immigration crackdown opens old wounds for some Japanese Americans

SDOP representatives reflect on a troubling period of US history

November 13, 2025 | Darla Carter | Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — As immigrants are snatched from U.S. streets, rounded up in workplace raids, and forced to face other indignities as part of a federal crackdown on immigration, the Rev. Janice Kamikawa is reminded of another troubling time in the history of this country, her family and other Japanese Americans.

Relatives of the Presbyterian minister, who are based in Sacramento, California, were among about 120,000 people of Japanese descent who were sent to incarceration camps in various U.S. states during World War II.

“Japanese Americans were forcibly removed and put into these camps,” said Kamikawa, a member of the West Task Force of the [Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People](#) (SDOP). “My own heart for social justice grew out of this injustice.”

Kamikawa and fellow task force member David Johnson have been reflecting on the [injustice against Japanese Americans — as well as what were then called resident aliens of Japanese nationality](#) — while doing community work in California on behalf of SDOP that involves coalition building and offering support to marginalized people in California and other parts of the world.



The Rev. Janice Kamikawa (photo courtesy of the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People)

SDOP believes in the importance of “intercultural connection, relationship, community building (and) learning about each other’s different cultures” as ways to increase sensitivity and understanding, Kamikawa said.

In contrast with that is a federal crackdown on immigrants that has included sending the National Guard into Los Angeles to assist with immigration enforcement. Various tactics being employed around the country to intimidate immigrants and encourage them to self-deport have sparked fear but also memories of past injustices, such as the Japanese American incarceration camps.

The 2025 immigration raids and deportations “have been heartbreaking and painful,” Kamikawa said.

Kamikawa and Johnson, who is also a pastor, attended a conference earlier this year in Oakland, California, called “Changing Perspectives on Japanese American Incarceration.” The event included Japanese American scholars, artists, community organizers and other participants from around the country discussing the history of the camps as well as intergenerational trauma associated with them and the healing that is needed within the Japanese American community, Kamikawa said.

Though sometimes referred to as relocation centers or internment camps, the incarceration camps were akin to being in jail.



During the forced removal and relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II, evacuees board a train from a rich farming area to a temporary assembly center in Merced, California. (Dorothea Lange via Wikimedia Commons and the [U.S. National Archives and Records Administration](#))

“There were barbed wires around, and there were guard towers,” Kamikawa said.

During that sad period of American history, both of Kamikawa’s parents, her grandparents, aunts and uncles were sent first from their homes in Sacramento to Walerga Assembly Center, a temporary detention center, then to an incarceration camp in Tule Lake, California, and then to another camp, Amache, in Granada, Colorado. Her parents were married in the Amache incarceration camp.

Kamikawa’s parents often shared stories with her and her siblings about their time in the camps and the injustice they endured.

Kamikawa’s mother recalled a stressful moment at Walerga for her, her family and other Japanese Americans.

“They were put on trains, and my mom said that the windows were all covered in black cloth,” said Kamikawa, her voice breaking. “They didn’t know where they were going.”

Due to wartime fear and hysteria as well as racial prejudice, the country had become suspicious of people of Japanese descent in the wake of the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japan and decided Japanese Americans needed to be excluded from designated areas of the West Coast based on so-called wartime military necessity.

Both Kamikawa and Johnson said they are reminded of that when they hear about the country’s current efforts to clamp down on immigrants, who’ve been accosted on the streets, at home and in their workplaces, and in some cases been deported to unfamiliar countries.

During World War II, the U.S. government was trying to isolate Japanese Americans “because we were nervous about what was happening between Japan and the United States,” said Johnson, who is African American. “When we’re nervous about something or we’re fearing something (as a country), the first thing we want to do is set something up and lock it away.”

Johnson would like to see more people become aware of the Japanese American incarceration camps as a cautionary tale about depriving immigrants of their rights today.

“A lot of people in my circles really don’t know about” the camps, or they have a superficial understanding of them, he said.

Kamikawa's relatives, including some who were young children, were incarcerated as a result of Executive Order 9066, which was issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942.

During a time when California had been divided up into military zones, Executive Order 9066 "authorized military commanders to exclude civilians from military areas. Although the language of the order did not specify any ethnic group, Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt of the Western Defense Command proceeded to announce curfews that included only Japanese Americans," according to the [U.S. National Archives and Records Administration](#).

Later, on March 29, 1942, under the authority of Roosevelt's executive order, DeWitt issued Public Proclamation No. 4, which would lead to the forced evacuation and detention of Japanese American West Coast residents, the archives note.



[Young men outside at Manzanar incarceration camp](#), approximately 1942. (Photo by Frederick R. Thorne via Pearl Digital Collections, Presbyterian Historical Society.)

"In the next six months, approximately 122,000 men, women and children were forcibly moved to 'assembly centers,'" according to the National Archives. "They were then evacuated to and confined in isolated, fenced and guarded 'relocation centers,' also known as 'internment camps.' The 10 sites were in remote areas in six Western states and Arkansas: Heart Mountain in Wyoming, Tule Lake and Manzanar in California, Topaz in Utah, Poston and Gila River in Arizona, Granada in Colorado, Minidoka in Idaho, and Jerome and Rohwer in Arkansas."

Among detainees were older people, such as Kamikawa's grandparents. Her parents were young adults in their 20s.

They were monitored en route to the camps. "My mom told me they stopped at this one stop somewhere to go to the bathroom, and the guards came out, you know, surrounding them," Kamikawa said.

The dwellings at Tule Lake were "big barracks," she said, with sections sometimes being divided by blankets or cloth. Families did their best to persevere with dignity and patience and for the sake of the children, she said.

The Issei — first generation Japanese immigrants — were determined to create beauty in the midst of the bleak and dire living conditions, Kamikawa said. "My grandparents, they built porches and gardens. They made it the best they could. ... My grandfather, my mother's father, was an artist, so he created plays."

Though the families tried to make life as normal as possible, they also suffered indignities such as limited privacy, loss of property back home, and being required to sign a loyalty questionnaire to assess their allegiance to the United States. The loyalty questionnaire created deep divisions within the Japanese American community that have continued for decades, Kamikawa said.

Eventually, the United States issued an apology to Japanese Americans, following the “Redress Movement,” which was led by three major organizations: the Japanese American Citizens League, the National Council for Japanese American Redress and the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations, Kamikawa said. The organizations worked with the Japanese American community and did advocacy, congressional lobbying and organizing.

In 1980, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians was established by an act of Congress to investigate the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans (as well as others, such as the Unangan (Aleut) people of the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands, who were forcibly relocated to camps in southeast Alaska during the fight for naval supremacy in the Pacific during the war).



[Aerial view of a Japanese American incarceration camp](#), approximately 1942. (Photo by Frederick R. Thorne via Pearl Digital Collections, Presbyterian Historical Society.)

Hearings were held in multiple cities across the United States, and more than 750 people testified before the commission, according to the Densho Encyclopedia. An aunt of Kamikawa testified at one of the hearings, she said.

The commission vindicated the Japanese American incarceration camp detainees and found that their incarceration was driven by “race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership.”

In conjunction with the passage of the [U.S. Civil Liberties Act of 1988](#), the U.S. government formally apologized and issued redress checks of \$20,000 each, with the first ones going to nine elderly Japanese Americans in a 1990 ceremony, according to the National Archives’ [Pieces of History blog](#). Eventually, about 82,000 people [were compensated](#).

(Go [here](#) to learn about restitution to the Unangan [Aleut] individuals who were forcibly relocated to overcrowded and unsanitary camps in Alaska.)



The Rev. David Johnson, a member of the West Task Force of SDOP, gives a sermon at St. Peter’s by the Sea Presbyterian Church.

Historical events related to the Japanese American camps were explored during the “Changing Perspectives on Japanese American Incarceration” conference in Oakland. Kamikawa said the conference deepened her understanding of the camps, thanks to new research, findings and insights.

The conference also gave Johnson a chance to learn about the history and to build relationships with attendees.

In their roles as SDOP task force members, Kamikawa and Johnson distributed information about SDOP and showed the ministry’s commitment to being in solidarity with people in the Asian American Pacific Islander community.

"I believe that it was very important that two colleagues from PC(USA)/SDOP — an African American man and a Japanese American woman — showed and exemplified the importance of intercultural bridge building and connection to all communities," Kamikawa said.

The Rev. Janice Kamikawa contributed to this report.

Learn more:

- Listen to [a sermon](#) on immigration that the Rev. David Johnson gave at St. Peter's by the Sea Presbyterian Church.
- Read about the Presbyterian response to the forced relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II [here](#).
- Find various links and resources related to immigration and refugees on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) [website](#).
- Get to know the [Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People](#).
- Read about a group called [Tsuru for Solidarity](#) 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 **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