

# 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 January 12, 2026

## A Big Welcome to Our New ‘Official’ Church Family Member!

Please join us in welcoming Stacy Kelly as he ‘officially’ becomes a member of our church family!



## Announcements

- ♪ [Bowling, Pizza & Fellowship](#) – join us Wednesday, January 14 at 5pm for fellowship, pizza & bowling at the Lower Columbia Bowl.
- ♪ [Women’s Bible Study](#) – Saturday, January 17 at 10am at Hazel Davidson’s home.
- ♪ [Annual Congregational Meeting](#) – We will have our annual congregational meeting, Sunday, January 25 following the worship service to review the past year, this year’s budget and to vote on Pastor Paul’s terms of call for 2026.
- ♪ [Pledge Cards](#) – Our session is getting ready to put together next year’s church budget, and we are hoping and praying to do so with a balanced budget. So that we can do the best we can do with putting the budget together, we need to have the pledge cards turned in by December 15. Thank you for your continued support in helping us to do God’s work. If you need a pledge card, please contact the church office.
- ♪ [Family Movie Night](#) – Saturday, February 7 at 4pm in Goodenberger Hall with **Mega Mind**. Watch the movie trailer: <https://youtu.be/ead9HCX9fe4?si=9NTLbuBA1nJXBK9F>
- ♪ [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.
- ♪ [Rides are Available](#) – If you would like a ride to any church activity, please contact the church office.
- ♪ [Live Streaming YouTube](#) – Sunday worship is available as recordings or livestreaming at on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@FirstpresbyterianastoriaOrg>

## *Thoughts from Pastor Paul*

Dear Siblings in Christ,

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

This newsletter, I am feeling called to repeat a note that I shared back in 2024.

This week I feel called to talk a little about “values”. It seems a catch phrase that is used a lot these days by people running for political office. Statements like, “They threaten our values...” or “A candidate with good values.” It has been used so long and so often that its definition has become, I believe, lost or watered down.

Granted, I still have a lot to learn in my Christian walk, but one thing I have learned is that you can’t, and must not, put God in a box. And although we may consider ourselves conservative or liberal, we must not categorize God or any other part of the Holy Trinity as conservative or liberal. God is God. And whenever I am working on a sermon, I strive for and pray that instead of coming from either a conservative or liberal approach, I am coming at it from God’s approach. And with the help of Jesus’ teachings and his life examples, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I feel pretty confident that, most of the time I am successful. On different occasions, I have been told that I was not conservative enough by some and not liberal enough by others. In each of those moments I was a little upset at first, but then I realized that, while in human terms this may have been a criticism, I felt relief when I remembered that it was not people’s agendas that I was trying to satisfy but rather God’s. It reminds me of Ezekiel 33:31 “So they come to you as people do, and they sit before you as my people. They listen to your words, but they refuse to do them. Though they speak of their longing for me, they act out of their own interests and opinions.” (CEB) Again, we must strive not to be either conservative or liberal, but rather Christ like.

Now, with all that said, back to the earlier comments about “values”. What are Christ like values? First, they are neither conservative nor liberal; instead they are Christ’s. And Jesus made it very simple for us when he answered the question, “Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?” We find Jesus’ reply in Matthew 22: 37-40, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: You must love all others as you love yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.” So, what should our Christian values be based on? If you’re thinking love, then you’re on the correct path. Remember too that the Greek word for love used is the self-less, put the other person first type of love. Agape love. And as 1 John 4:8 says, “The person who doesn’t love does not know God, because God is love.” (CEB) And that is how I discern if I’m on God’s path or somewhere else. Am I showing and sharing that agape love?

Regarding political candidates using the term “values”, if they’re talking “Christian Values”, they better be showing and sharing agape love. For example, if they are putting God’s creation above money and power; if they are concerned that all people, regardless of social or economic standing are getting the health care and resources that they need; if they support peaceful responses over showing force, if they are welcoming and showing love for immigrants and refugees, they are showing and sharing God’s agape love and true Christian values. Jesus would never seek to deport someone; instead, he would make sure their needs were being met. God doesn’t see borders or bank accounts; God sees people and their hearts and how they treat each other. If in doubt, pray for discernment and then ask that time-tested question, “What would Jesus do?”

Siblings in Christ, seek not to be conservative or liberal; rather seek to be Christ like in your heart, mind and in your actions. Seek to live the agape, selfless love that is God with all of creation.

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. And, if you are in need of anything, someone to talk to, someone to pray with, someone to just listen to you, please do not hesitate to let me know. I again close with Paul’s words, “My dear, dear friends! I love you so much. I do want the very best for you. You make me feel such joy, fill me with such pride. Don’t waver. Stay on track, steady in God.” (MSG) Amen.

Blessings and shalom,

Pastor Paul

## Our Church Family's Financials for December 2025

Income – \$ 6,903.11 – year to date = \$132,452.85 +  
 Expenses – \$ 15,954.13 – year to date = \$162,451.67  
 Year to date deficit = \$-29,998.82

## FPC Astoria's Calendar

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

Month	Date	Day	Time	What & Where
January	14	Wednesday	5pm	Fellowship, fun, bowling & pizza at the Lower Columbia Bowling alley
	17	Saturday	10am	Women's Bible Study at Hazel Davidson's home
	20	Tuesday	12noon	Session meeting in the Christian Resource Room
	25	Sunday	Following Worship	Annual Congregational Meeting to review annual report and vote on Pastor Paul's terms of call for 2026
February	7	Saturday	4pm	Family Movie Night in Goodenberger Hall – Mega Mind
	8	Thursday	4pm	Deacon's Meeting in the Christian Resource Room
	11	Wednesday	5pm	Fellowship, fun, bowling & pizza at the Lower Columbia Bowling alley
	13	Friday	6pm	Valentine's Fellowship at Gino's
	17	Tuesday	12noon	Session meeting in the Christian Resource Room
	18	Wednesday	5pm	Ash Wednesday Service in the Marcotte Chapel
	21	Saturday	10am	Women's Bible Study at Hazel Davidson's home



Scan for  
Directions

At the Lower  
Columbia Bowl  
826 Marine Dr  
in Astoria  
January 14  
At 5PM

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

### We Share Our Joys & Concerns

- Cliff and Mary Wheaton - healing and peace
- Friends and family of Mary Williams after her passing
- 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
- 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
- Jon Wright for healing, peace and discernment
- 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, Sudan, 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.

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*First Presbyterian Church of Astoria  
Family Movie Night*

**MEGA MIND**

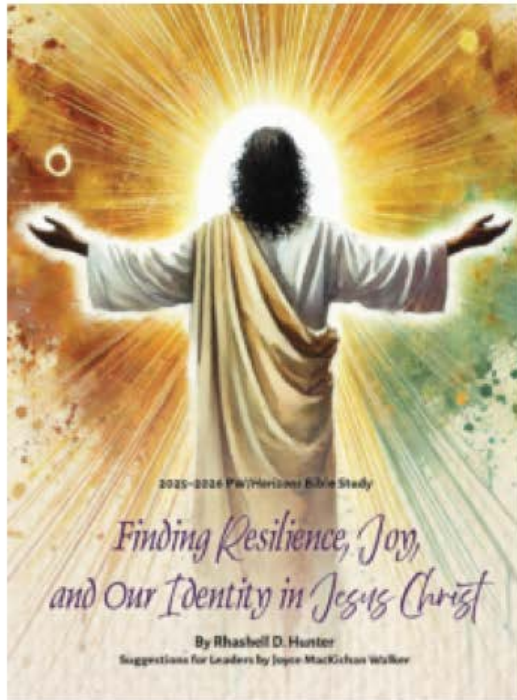
**Saturday, February 7 at 4pm in**

Goodenberger Hall

*Free admission, popcorn and  
fellowship for all*

*Scan to watch the trailer*





**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, January 17th.**

See [https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/  
current-bible-study/](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.

## Pledge Cards Needed

The session needs to get next year's budget ready. So, please don't forget to turn in your pledge card!

Need one? They're in the back of the sanctuary or contact the church office.



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## *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, January 20, City Council Meeting at 7PM.
- Astoria School District
  - Wednesday, January 14, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
- Clatsop County
  - Wednesday, January 14, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
- Clatsop Community College
  - Thursday, January 14, Board of Education Meeting at 5:30PM.
- Port of Astoria
  - Tuesday, February 3, 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.

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### *January 2026*

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National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month; [polarisproject.org](http://polarisproject.org)

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16 National Religious Freedom Day; [religiousfreedomday.com](http://religiousfreedomday.com)

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18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; [oikoumene.org/week-of-prayer](http://oikoumene.org/week-of-prayer)

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19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day; [thekingcenter.org](http://thekingcenter.org)

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27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day; [unesco.org/en/days/holocaust-remembrance](http://unesco.org/en/days/holocaust-remembrance)

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### *February 2026*

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- Black History Month; [blackhistorymonth.gov](http://blackhistorymonth.gov)

- National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month; [teendvmonth.org](http://teendvmonth.org)

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1 National Freedom Day; [presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-2824-national-freedom-day](http://presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-2824-national-freedom-day)

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1-7 World Interfaith Harmony Week; [worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com](http://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com)

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8 Souper Bowl of Caring; [tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org)

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12 International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers; [redhandday.org](http://redhandday.org)

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18 Ash Wednesday; [pcusa.org/resource/ash-wednesday-service](http://pcusa.org/resource/ash-wednesday-service)

**From the Presbyterian Women in the PCUSA |**

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2026-JP-Calendar-NEW-FA.pdf>

## 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:

- ✝ [The Rev. Jihyun Oh speaks out concerning US military action taken against Venezuela](#)
- ✝ [Walking together into what comes next](#)
- ✝ [Beginning Feb. 4, Presbyterian Peace Fellowship will offer action circles on protecting children from gun violence](#)



### [A statement in memory of Renee Nicole Good](#)

January 12, 2026 | Presbyterian Office of Public Witness | Presbyterian News Service

**The Presbyterian Office of Public Witness laments the death of a mother shot by an ICE agent in Minnesota**

The Presbyterian Office of Public Witness is mourning the death of Renee Nicole Good. (photo by Carly Hendrickson via Unsplash)

The Presbyterian Office of Public Witness has released a statement on the death of Renee Nicole Good, a 37-year-old Presbyterian woman whose fatal shooting by a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer last week in Minneapolis has sparked protests around the country. The statement, mourning her death and affirming the right to "peaceful protest and lawful observation" without the threat of deadly government responses, can be read in full below.

### Remembering Renee Nicole Good

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

John 15: 12-13

Jesus teaches that there is no greater love than the willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice for others, to lay down one's life for someone else. It is to offer oneself unselfishly for the sake of others, especially the defenseless and the vulnerable.

On Wednesday, Jan. 7, Renee Nicole Good was shot while moving her car, attempting to follow the orders of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officer. Her last words, captured on video, were, "I'm not mad at you."

We lament and mourn the loss of Ms. Good, a widow of a veteran, a wife and a mother who put herself in harm's way not out of any desire to do harm, but to observe and bear witness to the actions of ICE. We affirm the right to peaceful protest and lawful observation for all Americans, without the threat of repressive or deadly responses by government and law enforcement authorities.



People gathered for a vigil in South Minneapolis following the fatal shooting of Renee Nicole Good. (Photo by Chad Davis via Wikipedia Commons used under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license.)

Alongside Ms. Good, we remember George Floyd, whose life was taken at the hands of law enforcement in 2020, within one mile of where Ms. Good was murdered at the hands of enforcement officers, a stark and enduring reminder of the deadly consequences of injustice and the unfinished work of truth, repentance, and transformation to which God continually calls us.

As Presbyterians, we hold a twofold connection to Renee Good. First, we are bound by our shared faith in a God of justice, who calls us to engage the powers of this world and to counter hate with love. Our tradition compels us to oppose injustice with a prophetic word from the Lord and to participate in the transformation of the world God loves.

Our second connection is more personal: Ms. Good was one of us. She was a fellow Presbyterian. Edgewater Presbyterian Church in Illinois remembered her with these words: “Renee Nicole Good lived out the conviction that every person deserves kindness, regardless of their background. ... Her story is a testament to the power of the Presbyterian mission and a challenge to our conscience. We mourn a fellow Presbyterian whose quiet smile and creative spirit touched lives from Colorado to Northern Ireland to Minnesota.”

In the coming week, we will remember the life and witness of the martyred Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who called this nation to a “radical revolution of values.” Values that demand divestment from racism, materialism and militarism. Ms. Good’s life and death echo this same moral call.

Her memory also stands in a sacred lineage of faithful witnesses who have risked and lost their lives in defense of human dignity. We remember the four Maryknoll Sisters — Sisters Ita Ford and Maura Clarke, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel and Lay Missioner Jean Donovan — who were abducted, abused and murdered in El Salvador in 1980 for standing alongside the Salvadoran people.

We also remember the Rev. Elijah Lovejoy, who was murdered for his opposition to the evil of slavery and for whom the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy is named. These are not isolated tragedies but part of a continuing story of costly discipleship.

We must remember her name: Renee Nicole Good. We remember her as a testament to Jesus’ teaching that God does not change the world through violence but through faithful presence amid struggle, and that love refuses to abandon the work of acceptance, justice and compassion.

Ms. Good’s wife, Rebecca Good, offered a fitting memorial:

“On Wednesday, Jan. 7, we stopped to support our neighbors. We had whistles. They had guns. We were raising our son to believe that no matter where you come from or what you look like, all of us deserve compassion and kindness. Renee lived this belief every day. She is pure love. She is pure joy. She is pure sunshine. Renee was a Christian who knew that all religions teach the same essential truth: We are here to love each other, care for each other, and keep each other safe and whole.”

Through this remembrance, we rededicate ourselves to advocacy in the name of Christ Jesus. We stand with those who are detained or killed by ICE, treated unjustly and vilified, whom God defends as bearers of the divine image. We proclaim a God who values all people and who calls us again and again to remind the world to value the lives of all.

Being people of faith, Dunham said, includes standing up for others when they can't stand up for themselves.

"This is the craziest thing to me in the world: there are people who are scared to come to church because they're being targeted by other people that profess to be Christian," Dunham said. "That just doesn't make any sense to me."

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### *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.

# Congregational Meeting

Join us **Sunday January 25,**  
**following worship**  
for the Annual Congregational Meeting.  
We will review the annual report for 2025  
and vote on Pastor Paul's  
2026 Terms of Call.



**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