

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 26, 2026

Book of Order Tidbit

G-1.0301 The Meaning of Membership and Baptism –

In Jesus Christ, God calls people to faith and to membership in the Church, the body of Christ. Baptism is the visible sign of that call and claim on a human life and of entrance into the membership of the church. The baptism of children witnesses to the truth that God’s love claims people before they are able to respond in faith. The baptism of those who enter the covenant of membership upon their own profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior witnesses to the truth that God’s gift of grace calls forth a response of faithfulness. Thus, the triune God, incarnate in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, gives to the Church not only its mission but also its understanding of membership. (p. 21)

Announcements

- ✠ [Family Movie Night](#) – Saturday, February 7 at 4pm in Goodenberger Hall with **Mega Mind**. Watch the movie trailer: <https://youtu.be/ead9HCX9fe4?si=9NTLbuBA1nJXBK9F>
- ✠ [Bowling, Pizza & Fellowship](#) – join us Wednesday, February 11 at 5pm for fellowship, pizza & bowling at the Lower Columbia Bowl.
- ✠ [Coffee & Tea Fellowship](#) – Come enjoy some good treats and conversation, 10am, Friday, February 13 in the church parlor.
- ✠ [Valentine’s Day Fellowship](#) – Join us at Gino’s at 5:30pm on Friday, February 13 as we celebrate Valentine’s Day together!
- ✠ [Ash Wednesday Service](#) – Come and join us as we ready ourselves for the season of Lent on Wednesday, February 18 at 5pm in the Marcotte Chapel.
- ✠ [Women’s Bible Study](#) – Saturday, February 21 at 10am at Hazel Davidson’s home.
- ✠ [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. 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.
- ✠ [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 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.

With the way society seems to be spinning out of control, it is easy to find oneself losing hope and finding despair. With that said, this newsletter, I am feeling called to share the story of the Two Wolves:

An old Cherokee chief was teaching his grandson about life.

“A fight is going on inside me,”

he told the young boy,

“a terrible fight between two wolves.”

“One is evil, full of anger, sorrow, regret, greed, self-pity and false pride.

The other is good, full of joy, peace, love, humility, kindness and faith.”

“This same fight is going on inside of you, grandson...and inside of every other person on this earth.”

The grandson ponders this for a moment and then asks,

“Grandfather, which wolf will win?”

The old man smiled and simply said,

“The One You Feed.”

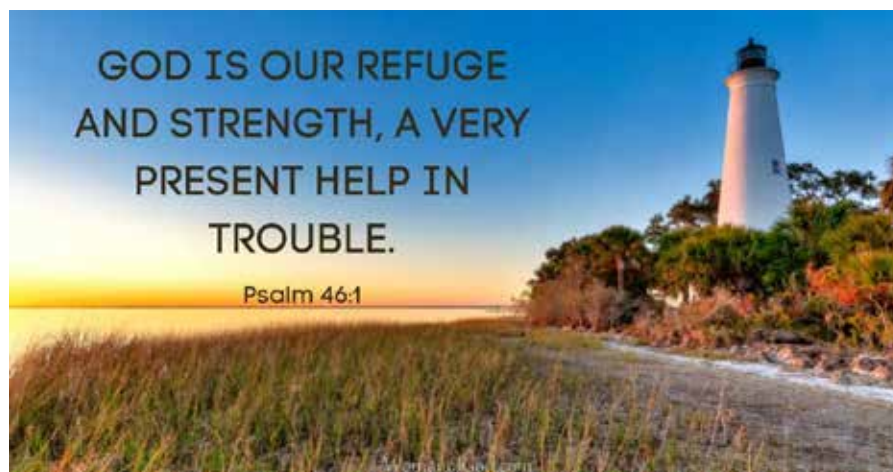
~Feed the Good Wolf ~

Siblings in Christ, that is exactly what we must do. We must, with the help of the Holy Trinity, seek to feed the positivity in our lives. Remember the words from the psalmist in Psalm 46:1-3, “God is a safe place to hide, ready to help when we need him. We stand fearless at the cliff-edge of doom, courageous in seastorm and earthquake, Before the rush and roar of oceans, the tremors that shift mountains. Jacob-wrestling God fights for us, God-of-Angel-Armies protects us.” (MSG) When we remember God’s promises to us and that God is always with us, when we remember all the good that God has done and continues to do, and when we focus on continuing the work that Jesus started, sharing the selfless love that is God with all who would receive it, regardless of the situation, that is when we feed the good wolf. Together, and with God’s help, may we do all we can to make sure the good 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. 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 the Apostle 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
February	7	Saturday	4pm	Family Movie Night in Goodenberger Hall – Mega Mind
	11	Wednesday	5pm	Fellowship, fun, bowling & pizza at the Lower Columbia Bowling alley
	12	Thursday	4:30pm	Deacon's Meeting in the Christian Resource Room
	13	Friday	10am	Coffee, Tea & Fellowship in the church's parlor
			5:30pm	Valentine's Fellowship at Geno'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

Audio/Visual Booth Help Needed

Please see the sign-up sheet at fellowship time to sign up to help with the AV Booth during Sunday worship.

Don't Worry!
Training will be provided.





*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



Scan for
Directions

**At the Lower
Columbia Bowl
826 Marine Dr
in Astoria
February 11th
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 Minneapolis, 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.

*Come Join us for Coffee,
Tea
& Fellowship,
Friday,
February 13
at 10am
In the Church Parlor*



Valentine's Dinner & Fellowship
Save the date!
Friday, February 13 at 5:30PM
For our second annual
Valentine's Day Dinner
At Geno's
3693 Leif Erikson Dr, Astoria
Regular Menu





Please join us Wednesday,
February 18 at 5PM for our
Ash Wednesday Service

ASH WEDNESDAY

At First Presbyterian Church of Astoria
In the Marcotte Chapel
Located behind the chancel
All are Welcome & Accepted

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.

Here's Our Session for 2026

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." (Romans 12:6-8, NIV)

If you feel called to be a part of any of these teams, please let one of your Session members or Pastor Paul know. The teams are:

- Buildings & Grounds – Mike Curtis (chair), Dave Pollard, John Hankins, Jay Kirkpatrick, Pete Caffrey, Charlie Linehan
 - Repairs and maintenance of church buildings.
 - Correspondence and coordination with organizations leasing space from FPC Astoria including the annual review and signing of corresponding leases.
 - Manage and coordinate rentals of church space for special events.
- Christian Education – Rebecca Duffy (chair), Corrinne Garrison, Hazel Davidson
 - Discern the needs for Christian education for all ages of the church family and seek ways to meet those needs.
 - Coordinate with recruiting teachers and facilitators for different studies.
- Fellowship & Outreach – Arlene Landwehr (chair), Nancy Cole, Joan Scoggins, Rebecca Duffy
 - Coordinate activities that promote fellowship and outreach that help to strengthen the relationships between church family members and members of the surrounding community.
- Mission & Stewardship – Stacy Kelly (chair), Corrinne Garrison, Tom Scoggins
 - Identify mission needs both locally and globally that the church family can contribute to either financially or physically.
 - Coordinate efforts to gather support for mission activities with
 - "Moments for Mission"
 - Gathering or creating announcements and inserts seeking assistance from the church family in answering the needs of the given mission.
 - Create and implement annual stewardship campaigns.
 - Send out letters with giving amounts to those who have contributed to the church family's finances.
- Finance – Arlene Landwehr (chair), Tom Scoggins, Mary MacDonald, Bill Landwehr
 - Attend to and maintain all FPC Astoria's financial bookkeeping requirements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and related laws.
- Worship – Jenny Curtis (chair), Nancy Cole, Joan Scoggins, Sherry Payne, Arlene Landwehr
 - Continually review weekly worship and recommend changes based on comments from the congregation or from personal experiences.
 - Identify and help plan special worship opportunities throughout the liturgical year.
 - When needed, assist in filling the pulpit through obtaining pulpit supply.
- Personnel – Bob Magie (chair), Diane Hankins, Linda Oldenkamp
 - Meet with the employees of FPC Astoria on a regular basis.
 - Ascertain the needs of the employees.
 - Give employee reviews
- Nominating – Rebecca Duffy (chair), Joan Scoggins (Deacon Rep), Corrinne Garrison, John Goodenberger, Dave Pollard
 - Seek candidates for open Ruling Elder and Deacon seats.



**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, February 21st.

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.



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, February 2, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
 - Astoria School District
 - Wednesday, February 11, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
 - Clatsop County
 - Wednesday, February 11, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
 - Clatsop Community College
 - Thursday, February 12, Board of Education Meeting at 4:30PM.
 - 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

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.

February 2026

- Black History Month; blackhistorymonth.gov
- National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month; teendvmonth.org
- 1 National Freedom Day; presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-2824-national-freedom-day
- 1-7 World Interfaith Harmony Week; worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com
- 8 Souper Bowl of Caring; tacklehunger.org
- 12 International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers; redhandday.org
- 18 Ash Wednesday; 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:

- ✝ [Pastor bridges law and faith](#)
- ✝ [‘It aligns with justice, it sustains human dignity and it has strengthened our long-term partnership’](#)
- ✝ [Serving Palestine’s children and youth through theater](#)

Comforting words for a hurting city

January 26, 2026 | Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service



Minneapolis has suffered the killings of two of its residents at the hands of federal immigration agents (photo by Collin Clyne via Unsplash).

The Rev. Margaret Fox's preaching at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis resonates

LOUISVILLE — Few sermons preached by PC(USA) teaching elders receive a standing ovation, but that's how the congregation at [Westminster Presbyterian Church](#) in Minneapolis responded Sunday following stellar preaching by the Rev. Margaret Fox, the church's associate pastor of adult ministries.

Watch the service [here](#), with Fox beginning her sermon at the 28:35 mark.

With [Isaiah 6:1-8](#) and [Luke 5:1-11](#), as her preaching texts, Fox used biblical call stories to speak words of compassion and comfort to residents of a city that [has suffered the deaths of two of its residents at the hands of federal immigration agents](#).

[Fox](#), who's also trained as an attorney, said she woke up Saturday morning "with a renewed sense of resilience, connectedness and purpose" following Friday's demonstrations, an interfaith worship service, and "the supportive presence of elected officials, the hundreds of clergy who traveled in from across the country ... the great peaceful crowd that formed downtown, the messages of love and support coming in from around the country. All came together to cultivate a shared sense that Minnesota is figuring out something important about how to do resistance and mutual care, and that our community has something to say to the country and the rest of the world about how to stand up against tyranny and how to stand together with and for each other."

But by mid-morning Saturday, "that brief sense of hopefulness was shattered" as reports of the killing of 37-year-old ICU nurse Alex Pretti began to circulate. Fox was in a public space at the time, and she received a hug from a stranger sitting next to her. "I could feel the hurt and the anger radiating out of his body in waves," she said. "Finally, I forced myself to put down my phone and open my Bible, looking again at our texts for today."

What she hoped she could offer those in worship Sunday was a comforting message, "words that tell us that it's all going to be OK," Fox said. "There is a word of solace in these [biblical] stories, to be



The Rev. Margaret Fox

sure. But the primary message in these stories is a word of call, reminding us that we have agency, that we have purpose, that we have each other and that we have a role to play.”

Isaiah’s call begins with a “a time stamp,” the death of King Uzziah, “the end of ... an era marked by economic growth and military stability” for people living in Judah. “Judah had few options, and all of them were bad,” Fox said: capitulate to the Assyrians, become occupied, pay tribute, or “stand up and face possible annihilation.”

It’s in the midst of all this chaos that Isaiah has his famous vision, which “takes the form of a theophany, a spectacular manifestation of God.” Isaiah protests that he is unworthy, and so an angel presses a hot coal to his lips. “With that, he is ready to answer the call of God,” Fox said.

It’s a terrifying vision, she said, but the comfort is this: “In the middle of a time of great upheaval, the prophet receives ... an overwhelming, overpowering embodied experience that God is on the throne. No matter who on Earth might seem to have all the power, it is God alone who reigns.”

“Even in times when it feels the political order is crumbling, a deeper order, a moral order, underpins the universe,” she said. “What is true and false, right and wrong, fact and fiction is not decided by the ones with the most weapons, but by the Lord God of Hosts.”

What about the other story, which details Luke’s version of Jesus calling his disciples? “In contrast to the spectacular vision of the prophet Isaiah, this call feels much more ordinary,” Fox said. “There will be a miracle, yes — the great catch of fish — but it’s a much more earthly [calling]. The one who does the calling — he feels more ordinary, too”: Jesus, who is at once “fully divine but also fully human, an ordinary, man-sized man,” not a being whose garment hem alone filled the temple.

Rather than taking up space, Jesus is running out of space, Fox noted. People “have come out in droves to see what he’s all about,” and so Jesus orchestrates “a feat of ingenuity” by asking Simon to push the boat a ways from the shore. “He’s made himself a little amphitheater where, arranged on the slope of the shoreline, the people can all see him and, with his voice carrying across the water’s surface, hear him too,” she said.

“What Jesus does here is an inventive act of repurposing — taking something meant for one use and transforming it into something else,” Fox said.

“There’s been a lot of repurposing here in Minnesota over the last two months,” she said. Parents and neighbors “have become patrollers, taking shifts as kids are dropped off and picked up at school. Signal chats have become networks for arranging rides and distributing food.” Cellphone cameras “have become recorders of crowdsourced documentary shot in real time,” she said, “one brutal clip after another, of the rise of an authoritarian state.”

The one repurposed object “that feels the most ubiquitous is the ordinary whistle,” she said. “Until two months ago, whistles were relatively rare. You might find one at the bottom of a soccer coach’s gym bag or in the emergency kit of the hiking pack stashed in the garage. Now they’re everywhere.”

A whistle is a warning, she said. “It’s a way to alert those who are in the most danger that it’s not safe to be out in the street, or to call those who are able to come and witness. ... A whistle is a warning to ICE agents too. On the lips of a referee, a whistle means stop. It means foul. It means you are out of bounds. A whistle says this is a violation. It’s a violation to enter a private home without a warrant. It’s

a violation to bring someone outside in the cold with no clothes. It's a violation to profile people based on race. It's a violation to detain a 5-year-old and to release tear gas into the vents of a family's car. It's a violation to knock the phone from the hands of a legal observer who has the right to record what is happening. It is a violation to shoot, point-blank, 10 times, a man who has been wrestled to the ground. It is a violation of the rules that we've agreed to live by, of the bounds of human decency, of the norms that hold us together, of the laws of our democracy. It is a violation of the ICE agent's own humanity and of the sacred worth and dignity of every person."

A whistle issues a call "so sharp and piercing that it cannot be ignored," Fox said. "It's a call to come out and bear witness. It's a call to stand up and say no."

"I promised you I would find comfort in these stories, and there's comfort in this one too," she said. "The comfort comes in the abundance of ordinary miracles that are unfolding here before us in our cities. In Isaiah's story, it's God who fills the temple. In Luke's story, it's the fish who fill the net. In our story here in Minnesota, it is the people who fill the streets. The comfort that comes with our call is we are answering it together in connection, in community, in mutual care, and that we are standing, we are resisting and we are strong," she said to sustained applause from those in worship.

"From the nets of our labor, through the noise and confusion — from the city or the seashore, Jesus summons us all," Fox said, and those in worship stood and again applauded.



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
