

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 February 9, 2026

A Note from Our Clerk of Session

Greetings from the clerk of session.

So, what does a clerk of session do? The clerk is the “secretary” who takes session minutes, sends reminders on behalf of the congregation and documents what the church does business wise. Session makes sure the doors are open, lights are on and the bill are paid. It continues administrating church business from personnel matters to building repairs and maintenance, from tracking income to leasing our facilities to events and inviting the community in. The clerk also keeps up with the membership and works with the Presbytery to document our presence here on the coast. I am so blessed to have the support of the membership of Astoria First Presbyterian Church.

Blessings and thanks,

Rebecca Duffy, Your Clerk of Session

Announcements

- ✠ [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.
- ✠ [Family Movie Night](#) – Moved to Saturday, February 21 at 4pm in Goodenberger Hall with **Mega Mind**. Watch the movie trailer: <https://youtu.be/ead9HCX9fe4?si=9NTLbuBA1nJXBK9F>
- ✠ [Pledge Cards](#) – 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. It’s never too late to turn one in.
- ✠ [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.

It's been a few weeks since our annual congregational meeting and I'd like to again share with you my report from the Annual Congregational Report. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, our Clerk of Session, or any of our Session members should you have questions or comments. With that said, here's my report:

Before I get too far into my report, I'd like to start by sharing how blessed my family and I feel for being here and for being called to be part of this wonderful and blessed church family and community. It is hard to believe that, as of July, we will be celebrating three years here in Astoria.

In 2025, even with the increasing challenges that our world, nation, community, church family and each of us faced each day, working together we have been able to, and with the help, wisdom, comfort and guidance of the Holy Trinity, make our way through many of these challenges, and we will continue to do just that as long as we don't lose sight of the path God has laid out before us.

In 2025 we faced some relatively large and unexpected expenses when a break was found in the sewer line that goes under the garage, and our 8-year-old boiler developed leaks. With these unplanned repairs costing close to \$30,000, although money did have to come out of our reserves, we can rejoice for those who were able to help by sending in extra funds toward these repairs. We can also rejoice in the Presbytery grant that was received to help contribute to these repairs. The stark truth is that, with our current deficits, we have maybe two years of funds available in our reserves. Our session continues to pray, work, plan and discern how we can financially keep going beyond two years and how we can again have a balanced budget. It is in storms such as this that we must remain calm and keep our focus on God and doing God's work, trusting that God will give us the answers and resources we need to continue doing God's work as a church family.

Because our beautiful sanctuary and fellowship hall are not getting any younger, and we know there will be more of these surprise repairs in the future, I am asking our session, with the help of the finance team and buildings and grounds team, to begin a capital campaign in 2026, to help establish a fund that we can draw on for future repairs while leaving our reserves alone. As our church family prepares to celebrate its 150th anniversary, by doing this, we can help to ensure that the facilities that we've been blessed with can be here for future generations.

Along with the difficult news, there were good things in 2025. For example, we celebrated our second Kirkin' O' the Tartan service. We also received a technology grant from Presbytery in 2025. This helped us to purchase a computer for use in an audio/visual (AV) booth. It also allowed us to mount and provide power to the two projectors used in worship, together with purchasing a new Point, Tilt, Zoom (PTZ) camera so that people who are unable to attend in person can still participate in worship as we live stream on YouTube. The mixing board that we have in service was given to us from First Presbyterian Church of Portland. The mixing board allows the operator to monitor and control the sound heard during worship, both in the sanctuary and online. In 2026, we hope to get a second technology grant to purchase two new projectors that will be brighter and have longer bulb life.

Perhaps the most exciting part of 2025 for me was when you all voted to change my call from that of a temporary supply pastor to a called and installed pastor; making my call here feel a little less temporary. A big thank you to, not only our session, but to each of you for making this happen. I am both honored and excited about this and the opportunity to continue to serve God and our church family into the distant future.

In 2025, we have been blessed to see many new faces during worship and at our many church events. One of the new faces to our church family was welcomed by our session in 2025 and officially welcomed into our church family in January of 2026, Stacy Kelly. Stacy brings a great many gifts and blessings to our church family. He also jumped in with both feet as he was elected to session as a Ruling Elder at our November 2025 congregational meeting. We are so blessed to have Stacy, not only as an 'official' member of our church family, but to have him serving on session. Welcome Stacy! 😊

As we enter 2026, and as you look at the various reports in this report packet, it is obvious that there are some big challenges that lay before us. Perhaps the biggest challenge is our deficit budget. Although we must be concerned about this, we must not let it consume us. We must continue to have faith in our faith and trust that

God will guide us through our budget shortfalls and into whatever future God has in store for us. Helping us to do this is not only the Holy Trinity, but also our fabulous Session, Deacons and all the other volunteers that help to make sure we continue to do God's work throughout all of God's creation. Please be sure to give these folks a big hug and thank you next time you see them, and next time you are in conversation with God, be sure to share your thanks for gifting us such a wonderful church family.

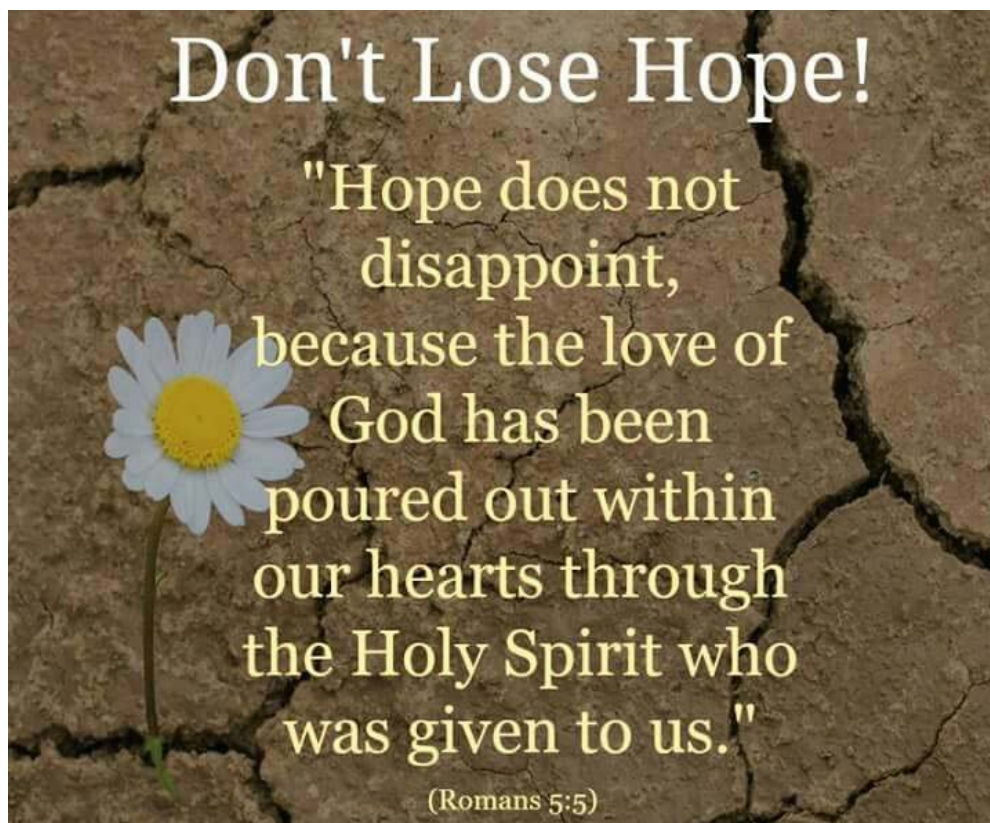
As we work together, with the help of the Holy Trinity, to ensure God's work continues being done in and through our church family, this year and into the future, let us please continue to keep our church siblings in our thoughts and prayers who are battling health issues, and whose personal freedoms and liberties are being threatened by narrow mindedness and the rollback of laws that were meant to protect people. When one of our church family suffers from illness or the attacks of bigotry, we should all feel it. We must continue to be there for each other, standing firm with each other as we stand firm with God. As the Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 6:2, "Carry each other's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ." (CEB) And in Romans 12:15 "Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down." (MSG)

Even with the challenges that we will face in 2026, it is my hope and prayer that you will join me in finding God's excitement for this upcoming year as we continue to grow in our faith and find new ways to share the agape love that is God with each other and with those whom God brings into our lives. I am reminded of the words from 1 Peter 4:8-11, "Everything in the world is about to be wrapped up, so take nothing for granted. Stay wide-awake in prayer. Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything. Be quick to give a meal to the hungry, a bed to the homeless—cheerfully. Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it: if words, let it be God's words; if help, let it be God's hearty help. That way, God's bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and he'll get all the credit as the One mighty in everything—encores to the end of time. Oh, yes!" (MSG)

Again, my family and I feel so blessed to be a part of this church family. I feel in my heart, that if we don't lose sight of God and God's path, if we keep working toward making God's kindom known in the here and the now to all who would receive it, great things will happen. I am so excited to see what God has in store for our future here at FPC Astoria. As long as we all continue to listen to and follow the Holy Trinity, I know and trust it will be good.

Blessings and shalom,

Pastor Paul Davidson



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

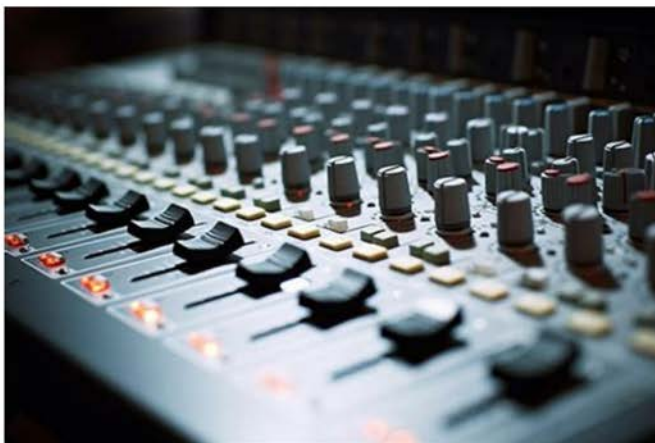
9:30am every Tuesday and Thursday in the Christian Resource Room for a time of prayer.

Month	Date	Day	Time	What & Where
February	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
4pm			Family Movie Night in Goodenberger Hall – Mega Mind	

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.





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



*First Presbyterian Church of Astoria
Family Movie Night*

MEGA MIND

Saturday, February 21 at 4pm
in Goodenberger Hall

*Free admission, popcorn and
fellowship for all*

Scan to watch the trailer



We Share Our Joys & Concerns

- Shane Chase for healing, peace and discernment
- Jeremy Annett for healing and peace
- Cliff and Mary Wheaton - healing and peace
- 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
- 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

Sunday, March 1, at 6PM

JUSTICE and PEACE



Come and join us as we seek to share God's light of Justice and Peace that is meant for all of God's creation.

Garden of the Surging Waves on the corner of 11th and Duane
Scan for directions:



Starting Sunday, March 8 at 4pm in the Church Parlor

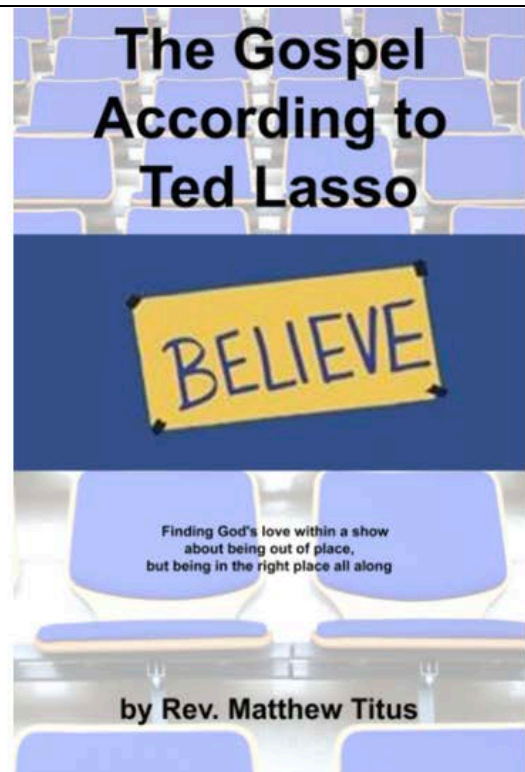
This short devotional book written by Rev. Matthew Titus dives into many of the ways that God's love and presence shine through the many characters and situations as viewers laugh, cry, and revel in the true authenticity of what it means to serve and be with others. We'll watch an episode and then share what we learned.



Please Note:

Ted Lasso contains adult language and content and may not be suitable for all.

Scan the code or contact the church office to order a copy of the book



Your Voice is Needed!

Come Join Us today, March 1st, as we bring music and fellowship to

- 2pm at Astor Place *and*
- 3pm at Clatsop Retirement Village

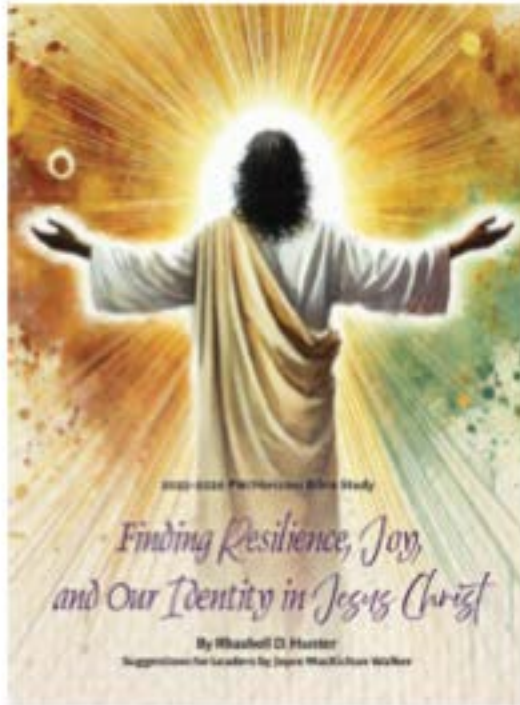


Here's Our Session for 2026

"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
 - Tuesday, February 17, 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, March 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.

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:

- ✝ [Peruvian documentary is haunting and yet hopeful](#)
- ✝ [From immigrants to entrepreneurs, SDOP partners are working to overcome life's obstacles](#)
- ✝ [A primer on praying and preaching](#)

A Call to stand with the people of Cuba



Communities of faith are being urged to speak out about the suffering of the Cuban people. (photo by Erin Dunigan)

February 9, 2026 | Office of Public Witness | Presbyterian News Service

Faithful solidarity in a time of crises

More than a dozen faith-based organizations, including the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Cuba Partners Network of the PC(USA), have signed a letter urging policymakers and leaders to take steps to reduce hardships for ordinary people in Cuba and to reduce barriers that prevent communities from accessing food, medicine and basic necessities. The

letter, being delivered to the White House and Congress, also calls on faith groups to speak out about the suffering of the Cuban people. Read the letter in full below.

As communities of faith, we write out of deep concern for the people of Cuba and out of a shared commitment to peace, compassion and the protection of human life. We are alarmed by the growing risk of escalation and by clear signals that regime change is being pursued as a goal of U.S. policy toward Cuba. In this moment, we reject any approach that seeks to impose political outcomes through coercion or treats human suffering as leverage.

The U.S. embargo and related restrictions have long contributed to hardship in Cuba by limiting access to resources and weakening the economic conditions that make daily life possible. Cuba also faces serious internal challenges, including mismanagement and shortages driven by multiple factors. We hold in our hearts the many layers of hardship the Cuban people are carrying. We know that some of these burdens arise from long-standing difficulties within the island itself — patterns of governance and policies that have, over time, made daily life more fragile for many families. In all circumstances, our deepest concern is that no action, whether at home or abroad, should add to the suffering of those already facing so much.

In recent weeks, the cutoff of Venezuelan oil shipments to Cuba and renewed threats of coercion have raised the risk of dangerous escalation. Communities of faith speak clearly in this moment: Cuba's political future must be determined by Cubans themselves, free from external pressure, threats or interference.

Communities of faith in the United States have been in relationship with Cuban faith communities through prayer, partnership and accompaniment for more than a century. We have listened as our Cuban partners describe the realities facing their people and the burdens borne most heavily by the vulnerable. We write with urgency to call for policies rooted in humanitarian concern, peace and respect for human dignity.



Across Cuba, many people are struggling to meet basic needs, including reliable access to food, clean water, electricity, transportation and safe housing. Reduced fuel supplies have immediate consequences, contributing to blackouts, limited water access, reduced mobility and disruptions to essential services. When daily life becomes unsustainable, many have no choice but to leave their homes, contributing to hundreds of thousands leaving the island in recent years.

We are especially alarmed by barriers to health care and life-saving medicines. When essential medications are unavailable and clinics and hospitals face shortages, treatable illnesses become life-threatening. No parent should have to search endlessly for antibiotics. No elderly person should have to ration heart medication. No one should fear that an avoidable medical crisis will become a death sentence.

For too many years, U.S. policy toward Cuba has relied on pressure and isolation, harming communities while failing to achieve its stated political goals. This approach has exacted a heavy human toll and has not produced meaningful or lasting change. The true measure of any policy should be whether it reduces human suffering and allows people to live with dignity in their own communities.

We oppose threats of intervention, destabilization, or any effort to force political change through coercion. We call instead for diplomacy, sustained engagement, and people-to-people connection that reduce suffering and help build the foundations for peace. We also affirm the importance of allowing people in Cuba to express their concerns and longings in peaceful ways. The ability to gather, to speak, and to be heard is part of the God-given dignity that belongs to every person, and we pray that such moments be met with understanding and restraint.

We offer this call in solidarity with our Cuban partners and with all who are working to meet urgent human needs. We honor the ministries and community networks that continue to provide care, accompany families, and sustain hope in the face of extraordinary hardship.

A call to action

We urge policymakers and leaders to pursue a course that reduces hardship for ordinary people and expands humanitarian space. We call for steps that:

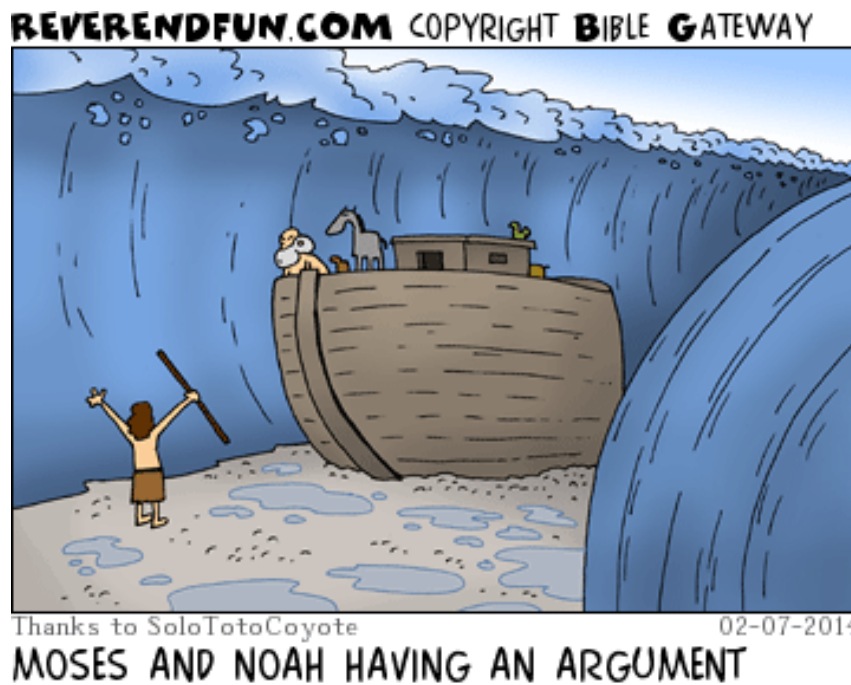
- reduce barriers that prevent communities from accessing food, medicine, and basic necessities by lifting the embargo and removing US sanctions
- enable faith-based and humanitarian partners to provide assistance without fear, obstruction or unnecessary delay
- support sustained diplomatic engagement and practical cooperation that serves human life
- reject rhetoric and strategies that rely on escalation, destabilization or collective punishment.

We call on communities of faith across the United States to respond with prayer, public witness and active solidarity. Speak about the suffering of the Cuban people in your congregations and communities. Share accurate information and resist rhetoric that treats hardship and instability as acceptable tools of policy. Contact your members of Congress and urge them to support a course of engagement that expands humanitarian access and rejects strategies that deepen deprivation in order to force political change.

A prayer

Holy God, Draw near to all who suffer, and strengthen all who serve their neighbors in hardship. Provide daily bread where there is scarcity, healing where there is sickness, and hope where there is fear. Sustain those who care for the sick and protect those most at risk. Turn every heart away from hostility and toward the things that make for peace. Give wisdom to those who hold authority, and compassion to all who shape public policy. Amen.

Alliance of Baptists, American Baptist Home Mission Societies, American Friends Service Committee, Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America ~Bautistas por la Paz, Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy, Church World Service, Cuba Partners Network of the Presbyterian Church, (USA), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Florida Council of Churches, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ, Latin America Working Group, Mennonite Central Committee U.S., National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, Pax Christi USA, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), The United Church of Christ, The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society



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
