

# 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 March 9, 2026

## Thoughts About Deacons

In our denomination, the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. (PCUSA), we have two groups of individuals who are elected by and from the congregation to serve three-year terms. The first group is the session which is made up of Ruling Elders. As the title suggests, the session is the team that 'rules' and manages the business of the church family. They lead the different teams that make sure bills are paid, we are sharing the gospel outside the walls of the church, that special offerings are happening, that worship is happening, and that our church staff are happy.

The other group of elected members are the Deacons. Each church family views Deacons a little different. In our church family Deacons, which comes from the Greek word that means 'servant', not only make sure that Communion is ready to go each month, they also are there when you might need someone to listen, pray with or just about anything else. Each Deacon has a 'flock' for which they are responsible. They help keep the pastor informed about church family members' needs. In short, the Deacons are there for you. Later in this newsletter is the list of Deacon flocks. Be sure to find your name and your Deacon.

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## Announcements

- ✠ [Coffee & Tea Fellowship](#) – Come enjoy some good treats and conversation, 10am, Friday, March 13 at the O'Neel's.
- ✠ [Bowling, Pizza & Fellowship](#) – join us Wednesday, March 18 at 5pm for fellowship, pizza & bowling at the Lower Columbia Bowl.
- ✠ [The Gospel According to Ted Lasso](#) – Join us in the Church Parlor beginning Sunday, March 15 at 4pm as we begin to study the wisdom of Ted Lasso. See below for more information.
- ✠ [Women's Bible Study](#) – Saturday, March 21 at 10am at Hazel Davidson's home.
- ✠ [Family Movie Night](#) – Moved to Saturday, March 21 at 4pm in Goodenberger Hall with **Tomorrowland**. Watch the movie trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vjx7wxjCv9A>
- ✠ [Mr Rogers Day](#) – Sunday, March 22, help us to celebrate the ministry and legacy of Mr. Rogers by wearing your best Mr. Rogers' sweater.
- ✠ [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.

First, a big thank you on behalf of my family and myself to everyone for your prayers while Hazel and I have battled the seasonal “ick”. While we still have a bit to go to be near 100%, we’re getting closer every day.

In last week’s sermon, I was called to talk about a few things. There was the topic of scarcity mindset which seemed to me, the reason the disciples were doubtful that the 5,000 plus could be fed. As Dr. Robyne Hanley-Dafoe wrote in her Psychology Today article, “When we are operating from a scarcity mindset, we see the world through a lens of “not enough.” Scarcity thinking is rooted in fear and keeps us focused on what we lack.”<sup>1</sup> Talking about scarcity mindset led to the topic of Joan Gray’s book, **The Sailboat Church** where the scarcity mindset seemed to have a lot in common with what Gray calls the “rowboat church”. Gray wrote, “The bedrock reality of life in the rowboat church is that “God has given us a basic agenda (for example, to make the world a better place, save souls, help the poor, spread Christian truth, and uphold justice) and then left it up to us to get on with it.” The dominant attitude in [a rowboat church] is either “We can do this,” or “We can’t do this.” The church focuses on circumstances, such as the money it has or can raise, the available volunteers, the charisma and skill of the leaders, and the demographics of its community. The rowboat congregation believes and acts as if its progress depends on its own strength, wisdom, and resources. It’s all about how hard, long, and well people are willing to row.”<sup>2</sup> Counter to the rowboat church is the sailboat church. According to Gray, “In contrast, the bedrock reality of life in the Sailboat church is that God “through the power at work within us can do abundantly far more than we could ever ask or imagine” (Eph. 3:20). Sailboat churches tend to focus not on their own situation, resources, or limitations but rather on discerning God’s unfolding will. They engage in intimate partnership with God, trusting God to provide and do what only God can do. These congregations live in the creative tension between two spiritual realities.... The first of these realities we hear from Jesus at the Last Supper with his disciples: “Without me you can do nothing” and the second reality voiced through the angel Gabriel, “With God, nothing is impossible.”

The conclusion was that, when we have faith in our faith and remember and trust that we serve an awesome God who is indeed, as Gray put it, “...interested in saving the world...” that, through God working in and through us, nothing is impossible. For, as we read in Ephesians 3:0-21, “God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.” (MSG) This doesn’t mean that God just makes things happen. Instead, it means that God makes things happen through us. So, I invite you to join me in taking a deep breath and, with all your heart, ask God the question, “God, what do you want us, as a church family, to be doing now?” Trust God to not only hear this prayer, but also to answer it.

In short, yes things may not always look great and the times ahead might not look easy, but as long as we put our oars away and raise our sails, allowing God to work through us while we work together, God will help us to move forward. Similar to what Joan Gray reminds us in her book’s conclusion, as long as there was a God interested in saving the world there would always be work for the church. It might not look much like anything we have done before. It might lead us far outside our comfort zones. But we must expect God to answer our prayer for guidance, to fill our sails, and to move us on into the future. We may not have much, but when we put ourselves into God’s hands and wait expectantly to see what God will do and we will not be disappointed. As a matter of fact, we just might learn something new about ourselves and find that we have a stronger relationship with God and each other.

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

## Our Church Family's Financials for February 2026

Income – \$ 7,991.61 – year to date = \$ 46,578.11  
 Expenses – \$ 12,019.16 – year to date = \$ 32,441.50

## 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
March	12	Thursday	4:30pm	Deacon's Meeting in the Christian Resource Room
	13	Friday	10am	Coffee, Tea & Fellowship at the O'Neel's
	15	Sunday	4pm	The Gospel According to Ted Lasso Study in the Church Parlor
	17	Tuesday	12noon	Session meeting in the Christian Resource Room
	18	Wednesday	5pm	Fellowship, fun, bowling & pizza at the Lower Columbia Bowling alley
	21	Saturday	10am	Women's Bible Study at Hazel Davidson's home
			6pm	Family Movie Night in Goodenberger Hall – Tomorrowland
29	Sunday	10am	Palm Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary	
April	2	Thursday	TBA	Maundy Thursday Service at Pioneer Presbyterian
	3	Friday	5pm	Good Friday Service in the Marcotte Chapel
	5	Sunday	10am	Easter Worship & Celebration
	15	Wednesday	5pm	Fellowship, fun, bowling & pizza at the Lower Columbia Bowling alley
	16	Thursday	4:30pm	Deacon's Meeting in the Christian Resource Room
	18	Saturday	10am	Women's Bible Study at Hazel Davidson's home
6pm			Family Movie Night in Goodenberger Hall - Ratatouille	

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/everyday-resilience/202411/6-ways-to-shift-out-of-a-scarcity-mindset>

<sup>2</sup> Gray, Joan S.. Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice (p. 13). (Function). Kindle Edition.

## 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  
March 18th  
At 5PM

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



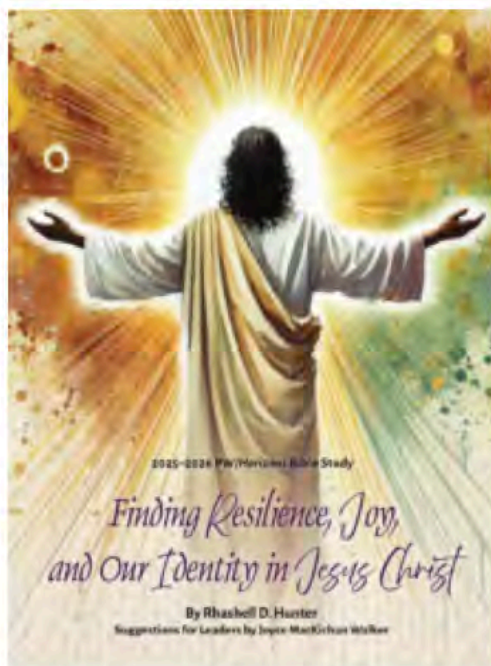
*First Presbyterian Church of Astoria  
Family Movie Night*

## TOMORROWLAND

**Saturday, March 21 at 6pm** 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, March 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.



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### *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.

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## **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

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

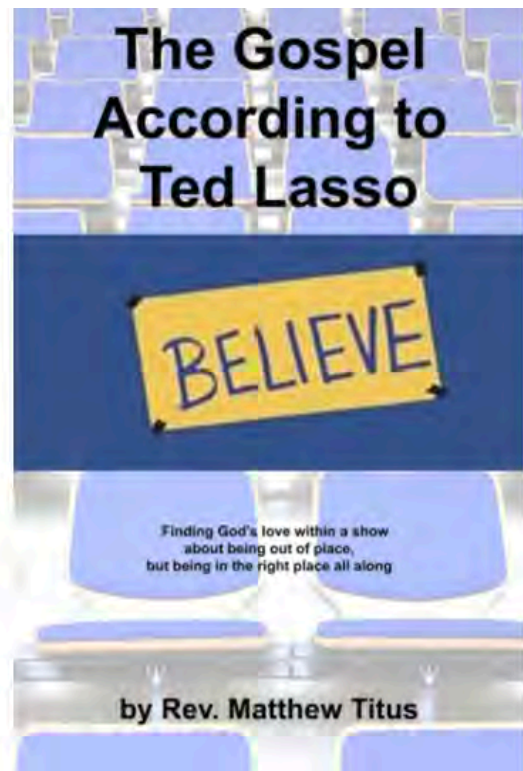
This short devotional book written by Rev. Matthew Titus dives into many of the ways that God's love and presence shine through the many characters and situations as viewers laugh, cry, and revel in the true authenticity of what it means to serve and be with others. We'll watch an episode and then share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



### Mr. Rogers Day is March 20

Fred Rogers was an ordained minister of word and sacrament for the PC(USA) and was a notable public figure whose work around peace and reconciliation is worth remembering. Rogers was also a pioneer in the world of Christian education and formation of young children. March 20 was his birthday and the day that the PC(USA) has chosen to highlight all we can learn from his work.

Visit [pcusa.org/mrogers](http://pcusa.org/mrogers) for a complete list of things to do, a compilation of helpful PC(USA) resources, worship ideas and links to additional sites and resources.



Sunday, March 22, help us to celebrate the ministry and legacy of Mr. Rogers by wearing your best Mr. Rogers' sweater. Together, let's make sure it is indeed a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood!

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## Do You Know Who Your Deacon Is?

*The word "deacon" originates from the Greek word "diákonos" (διάκονος), which means "servant". We are very blessed to have an amazing group of deacons. They are here to serve. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out to your Deacon. If, for whatever reason, you don't find your name listed below, let the church office or Pastor Paul know and we'll get that remedied.*

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### Deacon Flock 1 – Hazel Davidson

- Chase, Max
- Chase, Shane
- Curtis, Jenny
- Curtis, Mike
- Davis, Dannel
- Duffy, Rebecca
- Fowler, Jeanne
- Landwehr, Bob
- Landwehr, Gayle
- Landwehr-Wiley, Shirley
- Nelson, Elizabeth
- Orr, John
- Price, Marcela
- Scoggins, Joan
- Scoggins, Thomas

### Deacon Flock 2 – Dave O'Neel

- Caffrey, Killian
- Caffrey, Peter
- Caffrey, Regina
- Caffrey, Seamus
- Dee, Bobbi
- Goodenberger, John
- Keim, Phil
- Linehan, Charles
- MacDonald, Janie
- MacDonald, Mary
- Oldenkamp, Linda
- Pollard, Dave
- Redding, Dana
- Wev, Pamela

### Deacon Flock 3 – Joan Scoggins

- Bergholm, Coreen
- Cole, Nancy
- Garrison, Corrinne
- Gingrich, Julia
- Haglund-Smith, Becki
- Kelly, Stacy
- Magie, Bob
- Magie, Cindy
- O'Neel, Billie
- O'Neel, Dave
- O'Regan, Valerie
- Stambough, Steve
- Thiringer, Charlotte
- Van Meer, Sandy
- Van Nostran, Bill
- Van Nostran, Yvonne

### Deacon Flock 4 – Corrinne Garrison

- Davidson, Elizabeth
- Davidson, Hazel
- Davidson, Paul
- Finch, Tara
- French, Steve
- Goodenberger, Jennifer
- Hankins, Diane
- Hankins, John
- Horton, William
- Landwehr, Arlene
- Landwehr, Bill
- Linehan, Cliff
- Linehan, Lena
- Meinersmann, Richard
- Payne, Sherry

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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, March 16, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
- Astoria School District
  - Wednesday, April 8, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
- Clatsop County
  - Wednesday, March 25, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
- Clatsop Community College
  - Thursday, April 9, Board of Education Meeting at 4:30PM.
- Port of Astoria
  - Tuesday, April 7, Commission Business Meeting at 4PM.

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## *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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## ***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:

- ✝ [Strengthening ministry to LGBTQ youth](#)
  - ✝ [The values of Global Ecumenical Partnerships](#)
  - ✝ [Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church to dedicate anti-gun violence sculpture](#)
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### ***A PC(USA) statement on the escalating war with Iran***

March 2, 2026 | Office of Public Witness | Presbyterian News Service

#### **Sustained diplomacy, accountability and multilateral engagement are what's needed**

We are deeply troubled by the expanding military assault on Iran and the widening regional war it now threatens to become. As Christians shaped by the reconciling love of Jesus Christ, we grieve every life lost and every family now living in terror. Decisions of war and peace are measured not in political claims but in human lives.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has repeatedly affirmed that war must never be entered into lightly. Military force must be a last resort, and international disputes must be addressed through sustained diplomacy, accountability, and multilateral engagement grounded in international law. Our General Assemblies have called for negotiated agreements that constrain nuclear proliferation, reduce regional tensions, and prioritize civilian protection.

We are gravely alarmed that this expanding military campaign is already resulting in civilian casualties and retaliatory strikes across the region. Reports that civilian infrastructure, including schools, has been struck heighten our alarm and underscore the devastating human cost of escalation. The people of Iran, many already living under repression and economic hardship, will bear the brunt of destruction, displacement, and fear. Families across neighboring countries now face renewed instability and the prospect of a widening war. Civilians, not political leaders, will suffer first and longest. History warns us that regime-toppling interventions and open-ended military campaigns often unleash consequences far beyond what leaders anticipate.

We affirm clearly: the Iranian government's repression, corruption, and human rights abuses are real and grievous. Our opposition to this escalating military action is not a defense of authoritarian rule. Nor does our concern end with another nation's abuses. Every government, including our own, is accountable for how it wields power, and democracies must guard against actions that erode the rule of law and constitutional restraint.

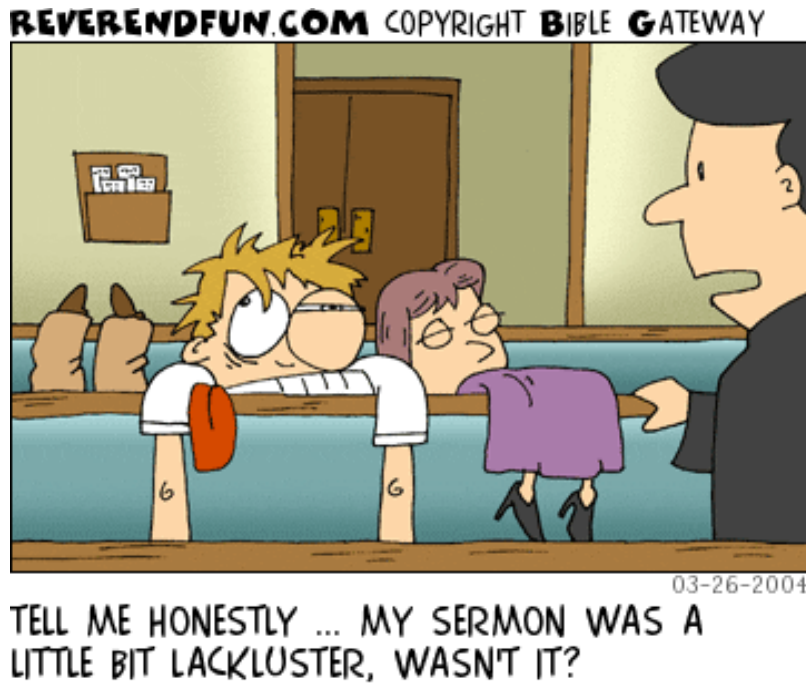
Rather, our opposition reflects our conviction that bombs do not create democracy, and airstrikes do not build just societies. Lasting peace and freedom require sustained diplomacy, support for civil society, regional de-escalation, and accountability under international law. Our church has long urged:

- renewed diplomatic engagement rather than military brinkmanship

- congressional oversight and adherence to constitutional war powers
- protection of civilians as a moral and legal priority
- serious investment in nonproliferation and multilateral agreements
- a foreign policy that reduces, rather than expands, cycles of retaliation.

As Presbyterians, we confess that true security does not come through military might but through justice, restraint and accountability. We call for an immediate cessation of further military escalation and for a return to sustained diplomacy grounded in international law. The stakes are too high for impulsive action or open-ended conflict. We pray for wisdom and courage among leaders, for the people of Iran, for Israelis and Palestinians, for U.S. service members, and for all who may suffer as a result of this decision. And we recommit ourselves to Christ's call to be peacemakers in a world too quick to reach for war.

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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.

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## 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

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