

# 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 23, 2026

## *Moment for Mission*

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees — serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Typically received during the season of Lent, this Offering helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations.

## *Causes Supported*

Disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, immigration, migration & refugees.

## *Announcements*

### ✝ [Holy Week Services](#) –

- Sunday, March 29 at 10am – Palm Sunday
- Thursday, April 2 at 5pm – Maundy Thursday Satar meal at Pioneer Presbyterian
- Friday, April 3 – Good Friday
  - 3:30pm – Prayer Walk through Astoria
  - 5:30pm – Good Friday Worship in the Marcotte Chapel
- Sunday, April 5 – Easter Sunday
  - 7am – Sunrise Service at the Astor Column
  - 10am – Sunday worship & celebration
  - After worship – Easter Egg Hunt

✝ [Floral Cross](#) – bring your fresh cut flowers to church Easter Sunday from 9am – 9:50am

✝ [The Gospel According to Ted Lasso](#) – Join us in the Church Parlor beginning Sundays at 4pm as we study the wisdom of Ted Lasso. See below for more information.

✝ [Coffee & Tea Fellowship](#) – Come enjoy some good treats and conversation, 10am, Friday, April 10 in the church parlor.

✝ [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.

As the season of Lent comes to a close at the end of Holy Week, we get ready to celebrate the empty tomb and our risen Lord and Savior on Easter Sunday. Before we get to Easter Sunday though, we experience the Three Days which are Mandy Thursday, Good Friday and the Great Vigil of Easter. According to the Book of Common Worship:

Maundy Thursday (from *mandatum*, Latin for commandment) proclaims Jesus' new commandment to love one another as he has loved us. It celebrates Christ's example of humble service and self-offering, represented by the washing of feet and the sharing of communion. The day ends with the stripping of the church in preparation for worship on Good Friday.

Good Friday proclaims the good news of salvation through the paradoxical suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. The center of this service is the reading of the passion narrative from the Gospel of John, in which Christ is lifted up on the cross as a sign of God's great love for the world. In the Solemn Intercession, we join Jesus' prayer for the church and world, as he reaches out with compassion from the cross. Through the Solemn Reproaches of the Cross, we hear Christ's anguished lament: My people, my church, why have you forsaken me?

The Great Vigil of Easter proclaims God's victory over sin and death through Christ's resurrection. Traditionally, the Easter Vigil begins at sunset, in keeping with the ancient Jewish/Christian understanding of evening as the start of a new day. The Easter Vigil consists of four movements: the Service of Light, rejoicing in the coming of Christ as the light of the world; the Service of Readings, remembering the story of God's mighty acts through history, leading up to Jesus' resurrection; the Service of Baptism, welcoming new members of Christ's body and reaffirming God's covenant with us; and the Service of Eucharist, giving thanks for new life in Christ and anticipating the joyful feast of the realm of God.

Like the threshold of a door, it stands between the two seasons—as through the suffering and sorrow of Jesus' death we enter into God's promise of abundant and everlasting life. Thus the Great Vigil begins the great fifty days of Easter, the church's joyful celebration of the new thing God has done, is doing, and will do in Jesus Christ. (BOCW p 274)

What I love about the Easter season is that, it is not only a celebration of Jesus' resurrection and our renewed relationship with God, it's also celebrating a new beginning for those who know the Holy Trinity in their hearts and lives. The Easter season reminds us that Jesus has done and continues to do so much for us, and that through all he's done and continues to do, and through a true relationship with him dwelling in us and us in him, although bad stuff happens, it doesn't seem as bad as it would without him. We all know people who feel lost, alone and forgotten. We've probably felt those emotions from time to time. But when we remember that we are a part of something much bigger than any one person, when we remember that we are members of a church family that transcends time and location, we remember that when we weep, our church family weeps with us just as when we rejoice, they too are rejoicing. For people without a church family, although that is always available, they either don't know it is, or they don't accept it. For me, that is very sad. Please, not only keep each other in your thoughts and prayers, but also those who don't yet know what a wonderful and awesome thing a church family truly is. As we read in Romans 12:15-21 as translated in the Message, "Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody. Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it." Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good."

Remember, as long as we don't lose sight of God and God's path and keep working toward making God's kingdom known in the here and the now to all who would receive it, great things will happen. As long as we all continue to listen to and follow the Holy Trinity, I know and trust things 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	29	Sunday	10am	Palm Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary
April	2	Thursday	5pm	Maundy Thursday Service at Pioneer Presbyterian
	3	Friday	3:30pm	Good Friday Prayer Walk through Astoria
			5:30pm	Good Friday Service in the Marcotte Chapel
	5	Sunday	7am	Easter Sunrise Service at the Astoria Column
			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	

## 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.



Holy Week Begins Sunday, March 29 with Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 2 - Maundy Thursday

Time to be announced - Satar Meal at Pioneer

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday

3:30pm - Prayer Walk through Astoria

5:30pm - Worship in the Marcotte Room

Sunday, April 5 - Easter Sunday

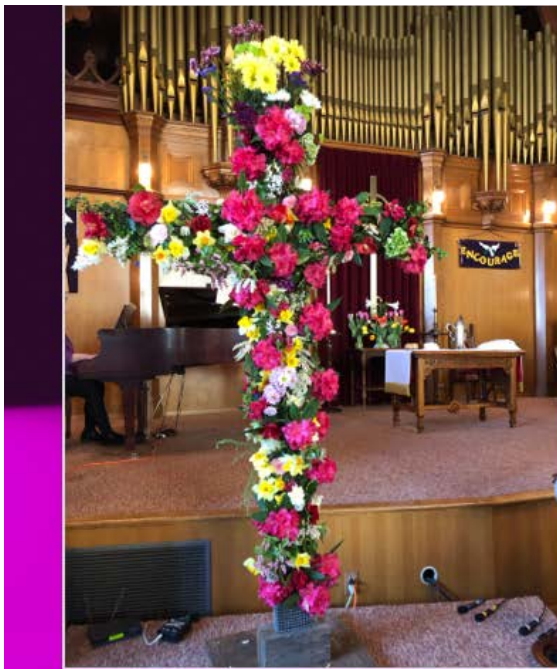
7:00am - Sunrise service at the Astoria Column

10:00am - Sunday worship

After worship - Easter Egg Hunt



Join us for a Community  
Easter Sunrise Service &  
Celebration at the Astoria  
Column Easter Sunday,  
April 5 at 7am



## EASTER FLORAL CROSS

**Sunday, April 5th is Easter!**

**So get ready to bring your fresh cut flowers to church Easter Sunday just before worship so we can decorate the cross in time for the Easter celebration.**

### *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**

- Grady Atwater for healing and peace
- 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

## Sundays at 4pm in the Church Parlor

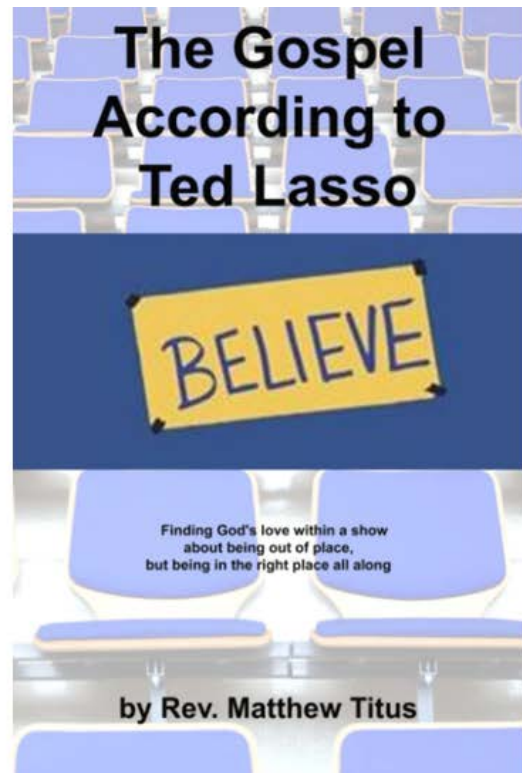
This short devotional book written by Rev. Matthew Titus dives into many of the ways that God's love and presence shine through the many characters and situations as viewers laugh, cry, and revel in the true authenticity of what it means to serve and be with others. We'll watch an episode and then share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



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



## *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.*

### **Deacon Flock 1 – Hazel Davidson**

- Chase, Max
- Chase, Shane
- Curtis, Jenny
- Curtis, Mike
- Davis, Dannell
- 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

## *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, April 6, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
  - Astoria School District
    - Wednesday, April 8, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
  - Clatsop County
    - Wednesday, April 8, 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:

- ✚ [Presbyterian hymn writer the Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette pens a hymn on living with integrity](#)
- ✚ [From guns to gardens to healing the Earth](#)
- ✚ [Pastors need to take time for legacy planning](#)

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## ***The Children's Corner' with Josie Carey and Fred Rogers***

March 23, 2026 | Olivia Cacchione, Presbyterian Historical Society | Presbyterian News Service

### **'Children's Corner' with Josie Carey and Fred Rogers**

When Fred Rogers met Josie Carey at the brand-new Pittsburgh public television station WQED, he likely had no idea of the extent to which their collaboration would shape his career.

At the vanguard of children's educational television, the two developed content that would shape many elements of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," from singing puppets to moral messages of kindness. This year for Mr. Rogers's Day, the Presbyterian Historical Society honors Josie and her profound contributions to educational children's programming.

Josephine V. Franz was born in Pittsburgh on August 20, 1930. Raised in Butler, Pennsylvania, by her mother and grandmother, Josie's was a childhood filled with joy. A show-woman from the start, Josie spent her childhood playing in her family's hotel and Italian restaurants. She took singing, dancing, and piano lessons and loved to "play show" for whoever would watch. "I think we make our own fun, if we're lucky, and I was very lucky," Josie said in an interview with Television Academy.

Despite her idyllic upbringing in Butler, Josie dreamed of moving to Pittsburgh. So, she learned to type and got a job with a Pittsburgh advertising agency in her early 20s. At the agency, Josie was assigned to the show "Ask the Girls", which featured three women offering advice on etiquette, hairdos and the latest fashion. Josie secured products for the women to demo every episode, and occasionally even appeared as a hand model. She found the show's live and unscripted format exciting and the hostesses taught her all about making television.

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Rogers and Josie Carey in the early years of their "Children's Corner."

*Image 1 "The Quiet Success of Fred Rogers," Robert Bianco, The Pittsburgh Press Sunday Magazine, 1989; from the archives of the Presbyterian Historical Society.*

Josie spent evenings acting at the Pittsburgh Playhouse. It was here in 1953 that she was "discovered" by WQED manager Dorothy Daniel, who saw her play a young girl in a bit called "Teeter-Totter Tessie." Daniel immediately spotted a natural for children's television.

At that point in time, WQED had not even launched yet. Josie and other early hires went door to door soliciting donations for the station. When WQED hit the air in April 1954, it did so as the first fully community-funded public television station in the country. It was here that Josie would connect with Fred Rogers, and once the two learned that they both had an interest in children's television, they decided to work together. "We learned right on television how to do television," Josie said of the period.

Running from 1954 to 1961, Josie and Fred's program "The Children's Corner" was one of the first programs to air on the station. Fred and Josie wrote and acted the entire show, which ran for an hour each weekday, and the two had almost unlimited creative freedom. Aimed at children ages 8-12, the show was a pioneer that set the standard for future children's educational television.

Episodes of "The Children's Corner" consisted of songs, gags, guests and, especially, Fred's puppets. Much of the show saw Josie chatting the puppets, many of whom would go on to appear in "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." These dynamic conversations were entirely improvised. "Josie would talk to Daniel as if he was the only person in the room," Fred said of her interactions with Daniel Tiger. "It was magical how they would converse."

Despite dominating the show, the puppets were never part of the original plan. But the night before the program aired on April 5, 1954, Dorothy Daniel held a party. Everyone received party favors, with Fred receiving a tiger hand puppet, whom he named Daniel after Dorothy. Josie and Fred decided to give Daniel a cameo in the program premiere. Appearing through a hole in the backdrop, Daniel said, "Hello, Josie, it's 5:02 and Columbus discovered America in 1492," then waved goodbye and disappeared. Daniel was such a hit that the course for the show was set right then and there.

The two welcomed guests as often as possible, including some famous names. Johnny Carson, Shirley Jones and Charles Schultz were among the more venerable guests. But most were simply local working people including musicians, chefs, magicians and the occasional zookeeper. "We would probably drag in anybody who would come in and do 10 minutes for us," said Josie. The show's budget consisted of "one legal pad" a season, and frugality was always top of mind.



*Image 2 Still from a 1960 episode of WQED's "The Children's Corner," starring Josie Carey, with Fred Rogers, puppeteer and piano. Pearl Digital*

Josie and Fred used the show to interact with children across the region. Kids would write in to share their birthdays, and would tune in to hear the puppet King Friday XIII sing "Happy Birthday" on air. Children could also be part of a club in which they "earned stripes."

One day, they invited all the kids who had earned four stripes to Daniel Tiger's birthday. They expected to see a handful of kids, but instead, children lined up around the block. Josie led the kids in a song in French that they had learned to earn a stripe and every one of them sang it perfectly. Josie declared it one of the most exciting moments in her career.

"The Children's Corner" was so successful that soon NBC called. Josie and Fred started traveling to New York for Saturday-morning episodes. In the first several weeks, the network received 138,000 letters about the show, breaking a record.

The gig presented numerous roadblocks, however. For one thing, they couldn't have guests. And for another, the commute was less than ideal. The two would fly to New York on Friday, do the live program on Saturday morning, and fly back that same afternoon. The reason? Fred wanted to go to his own church in Pittsburgh on Sunday. And speaking of church, NBC didn't want the two to mention God. When Fred responded with, "Well then, I don't think we'll come back," the restriction was lifted.



*Image 3 Title card from a 1960 episode of WQED's The Children's Corner, starring Josie Carey, with Fred Rogers as puppeteer and pianist. Pearl Digital Collections.*

Josie and Fred also enjoyed working together as songwriters, writing and performing all the songs on the program. Josie would write the lyrics and hand them off to Fred, who would compose melodies. Josie then sang them while Fred accompanied her on organ or piano, often adding the puppets.

It was during his time on "The Children's Corner" that Fred enrolled at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and began studying to become a Presbyterian minister. The show itself was not explicitly religious. "We didn't try to tell the children what religion to follow or that they should go to church or anything like that," Josie said of the messaging. Rather, Christianity was primarily expressed through song. Josie performed "Good Night, God" and "Good Morning, God" every week. Both Josie and Fred heard from families that their children sang the former every night before bed. Though Fred was more religious, Josie stated, "I always felt that God really did have a hand in what was happening to us."

Though lesser known than "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," "The Children's Corner" carried immense meaning for its fans. Josie would later receive letters from people telling her she shaped their careers. Musicians, teachers and even a professor of French were inspired by the whimsy of "The Children's Corner" and its surprisingly robust educational content. Of her legacy, Josie stated, "I'd like to be remembered as someone who brought a little light into the world."



Image 4 "The Quiet Success of Fred Rogers," Robert Bianco, *The Pittsburgh Press Sunday Magazine*, 1989; from the archives of the Presbyterian Historical Society. Fred Rogers listens at rehearsals with Josie Carey (far left), Bob Trow, Barbara Russell and Mary Ra

To see Josie in action, check out PHS's digitized copy of "Sunday on the Children's Corner". This 16mm recording is not from a live broadcast of the show; it's in color, and broadcast prints from WQED at the time would have been in black and white. This rare 30-minute-clip demonstrates a bit of the light that Josie and Fred created together.

The film came to archives from the former offices of the UPCUSA Department of Television and Radio, and is part of a larger collection of media that PHS staff picked up when the office, then called Media Services, moved from New York to Louisville in the 1980s. A note on the original canister read "For Audition Only."

"The Children's Corner" was not just broadcast — select episodes were also packaged as vinyl LPs. It's possible that this episode was intended for home or church screenings, and that the Department of Television and Radio sponsored the program specifically to be able to distribute it to Presbyterian Sunday school classes, day schools, or Vacation Bible Schools. At the 3:23 minute mark, Daniel Striped Tiger mentions going to Sunday school earlier in the day.

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12-10-1999

HERE YOU ARE, PASTOR BOND, YOUR INSTA  
VERSE QUOTE 2000 SATELLITE WATCH ...  
AND SHOULD THINGS GO WRONG OUT THERE,  
THIS BIBLE CONTAINS A CLEVER DEACON  
DISGUISE

## 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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