

# 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 April 20, 2026

## *Big Fun & Fashion are Heading Our Way! And It's All for a Great Cause!*

We are so blessed to have, not only a wonderful and loving church family, but also some beautiful facilities. Not only are our facilities beautiful, they are also in need of care and maintenance and hence, the costs of maintaining them unfortunately increases. But, this is where the fun begins...

A Mother's Day Tea and Vintage Fashion Show is being hosted on May 2nd in First Presbyterian Church's Goodenberger Hall at 2:00pm. The event will include a Cake Walk, Best Hat Contest, Silent Auction, Door Prizes, and High Tea, as well as a Vintage Fashion Show with song and dance performances. The event will finish with authentic gowns from the film "Titanic". This fundraiser supports an important historical building housing two church families, a musical conservatory, dance academy, and food bank. Thank you for your kind consideration, and we look forward to seeing you there!

For more details, contact Billie O'Neel or the church office.

Follow this link to purchase tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-stroll-through-time-mothers-day-tea-fashion-show-tickets-1986104264319>

## *Announcements*

- ✠ [A Stroll Through Time – Mother's Day Tea & Vintage Fashion Show](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-stroll-through-time-mothers-day-tea-fashion-show-tickets-1986104264319?aff=ebdssbdestsearch) – Saturday, May 2, from 2pm-4pm in Goodenberger Hall. Contact Billie O'Neel for volunteer opportunities or for more details. Prepurchase tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-stroll-through-time-mothers-day-tea-fashion-show-tickets-1986104264319?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>
- ✠ [Coffee & Tea Fellowship](#) – Come enjoy some good treats and conversation, 10am, Friday, May 8, in the church parlor.
- ✠ [Bowling, Pizza & Fellowship](#) – If even if you don't bowl, come and join the fellowship, have some pizza and route on the bowlers! It's a fun time for all! Wednesday, May 13 at 5pm at the Lower Columbia Bowl.
- ✠ [Women's Bible Study](#) – Join the women's Bible study, Saturday, May 16 at 10am at Hazel Davidson's home. Contact Hazel or the church office if you need directions.
- ✠ [Family Movie Night](#) – Join us at our next Family Movie Night as we watch [Young Woman and the Sea](#), Saturday, May 23 at 6pm in Goodenberger Hall. Free admission, popcorn, fellowship & fun!
- ✠ [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](https://www.youtube.com/@FirstpresbyterianastoriaOrg) – 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.

Wednesday, April 22, we celebrated the 56 Earth Day. According to earthday.org,

“Senator Gaylord Nelson, the junior senator from Wisconsin, had long been concerned about the deteriorating environment in the United States. Then in January 1969, he and many others witnessed the ravages of a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, Senator Nelson wanted to infuse the energy of student anti-war protests with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution.

Senator Nelson announced the idea for a teach-in on college campuses to the national media, and persuaded Pete McCloskey, a conservation-minded Republican Congressman, to serve as his co-chair. Senator Gaylord Nelson recruited Denis Hayes, a young activist, to organize the campus teach-ins and to scale the idea to a broader public, and they chose April 22, a weekday falling between Spring Break and Final Exams, to maximize the greatest student participation.

Recognizing its potential to inspire all Americans, Hayes built a national staff of 85 to promote events across the land and the effort soon broadened to include a wide range of organizations, faith groups, and others. They changed the name to Earth Day, which immediately sparked national media attention, and caught on across the country. Earth Day inspired 20 million Americans — at the time, 10% of the total population of the United States — to take to the streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate against the impacts of 150 years of industrial development which had left a growing legacy of serious human health impacts.

Groups that had been fighting individually against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness and the extinction of wildlife united on Earth Day around these shared common values. Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, urban dwellers and farmers, business and labor leaders.

By the end of 1970, the first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of other first-of-their-kind environmental laws, including the National Environmental Education Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the Clean Air Act. Two years later Congress passed the Clean Water Act.<sup>1</sup>

Our church family is currently looking into becoming an Earth Care Congregation. Our faith urges us to strive for eco-justice: defending and healing creation while working to assure justice for all of creation and the human beings who live in it. This call is rooted in the human vocation of “tilling and keeping” the garden from Genesis 2:15, as well as Christ’s charge to work with and for the most vulnerable. Because of their love for Christ who is firstborn of all creation (Colossians 1:15), churches are challenged to live in a manner consistent with God’s call to not only care for creation, but commune with creation. For more information about Earth Care Congregations, contact the church office or visit: <http://www.pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations>

Caring for God’s creation is another way we care for each other. With God’s help, and working together, we will help to make all of God’s creation a better place for all, starting here in our own church home.

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*

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.earthday.org/history/?\\_gl=1\\*ntnmdo\\*\\_gcl\\_au\\*MTg4MjExNTMwOS4xNzc2ODc4NzI4](https://www.earthday.org/history/?_gl=1*ntnmdo*_gcl_au*MTg4MjExNTMwOS4xNzc2ODc4NzI4)

## Our Church Family's Financials for March 2026

Income – \$ 9,173.00 – year to date = \$ 55,751.11  
 Expenses – \$ 13,625.79 – year to date = \$ 46,217.29

## 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
May	2	Saturday	2pm-4pm	"A Stroll Through Time – Mother's Day Tea & Vintage Fashion Show"
	3	Sunday	After Worship	Congregational Meeting to elect new Deacon
	8	Friday	10am	Coffee, Tea & Fellowship in the church parlor
	9	Saturday	9:30am-4:30pm	Deacons & Ruling Elders' Leadership Training in Goodenberger Hall
	10	Sunday	All Day	Mother's Day
			2pm	Fellowship & Hymn Sing at Astor Place
			3pm	Fellowship & Hymn Sing at Clatsop Retirement Village
	13	Wednesday	5pm	Bowling, Pizza & Fellowship at Lower Columbia Bowl
	16	Saturday	10am	Women's Bible Study at Hazel's Home
	23	Saturday	6pm	Family Movie Night in Goodenberger Hall – Young Woman and the Sea
24	Sunday	All Day	Pentecost Sunday – Wear Red to Church	
		7pm	Justice & Peace for All Worship at the Garden of the Surging Waves Park	

## Congregational Meeting

Join us **Sunday May 3,**  
**following worship**  
 for a very quick Congregational Meeting to  
 vote on a new Deacon for the  
 Class of 2027.

## 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.



**"A Stroll Through Time"**  
**Mother's Day Tea & Vintage Fashion Show**

Cake Walk      Silent Auction      Door prizes

**\$20**      Tickets at: **eventbrite.com**      **Best Hit Contest**

**Saturday May 2, 2026**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Astoria,**  
**Goodenberger Hall**

**HELP US MAINTAIN OUR HISTORIC BUILDINGS**



Scan to Purchase Tickets

*Come Join us for Coffee,  
Tea & Fellowship,  
Friday, May 8  
at 10am  
In the Church Parlor*



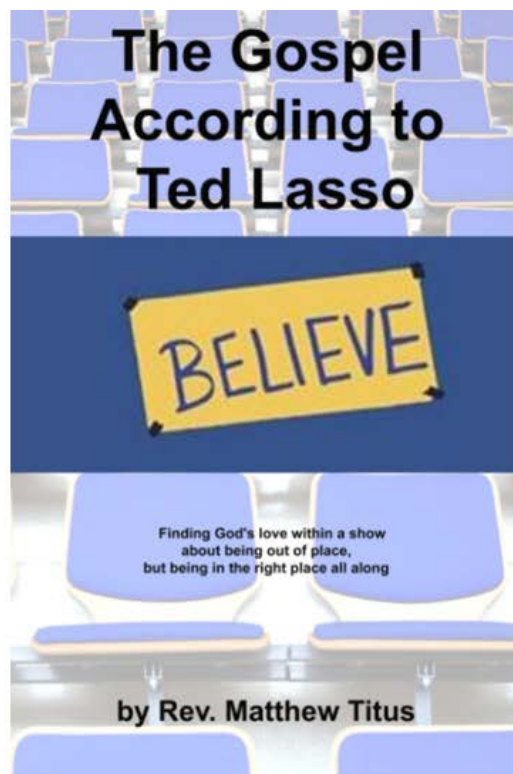
***Returning Sunday, May 3 at 4pm  
in the Christian Resource Room***

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 Sunday,  
May 10<sup>th</sup> as we bring  
music and fellowship to

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



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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

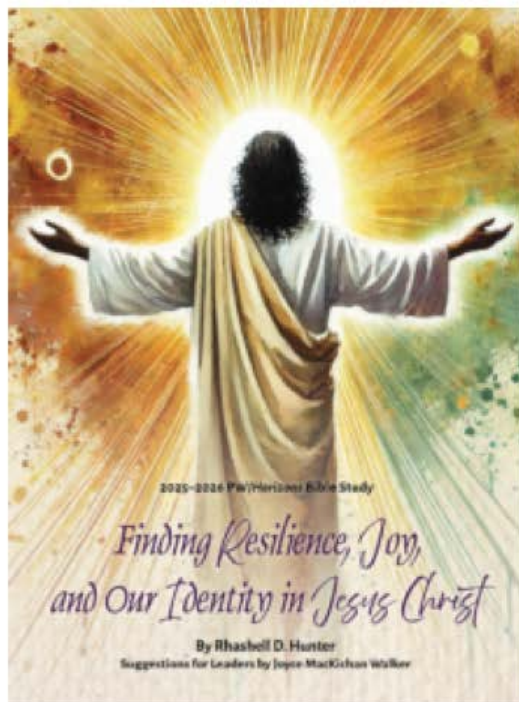
- Family & friends of Cliff Wheaton at his passing
- Grady Atwater for healing and peace
- Shane Chase for healing, peace and discernment
- Jeremy Annett for healing and peace
- Cliff and Mary Wheaton - healing and peace
- Lena Linehan - healing and peace after leukemia diagnosis
- Dorothy Hamill - for 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
- 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



Scan for  
Directions

At the Lower  
Columbia Bowl  
826 Marine Dr  
in Astoria  
May 13th  
At 5PM

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



**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, May 16th**

See [https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/  
current-bible-study/](https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/current-bible-study/) for more information.  
For more details about the Bible study,  
contact Hazel Davidson.



*First Presbyterian Church of Astoria  
Family Movie Night*

**YOUNG WOMAN AND THE SEA**

**Saturday, May 23 at 6pm** in  
Goodenberger Hall  
*Free admission, popcorn and  
fellowship for all  
Scan to watch the trailer*



## 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, May 4, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
- Astoria School District
  - Wednesday, May 13, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
- Clatsop County
  - Wednesday, May 13, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
- Clatsop Community College
  - Thursday, May 14, Board of Education Meeting at 5:30PM.
- Port of Astoria
  - Tuesday, May 5, Commission Meeting at 4PM.

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## Work for Justice and Peace -

[https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what we do/work-for-justice/](https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/what_we_do/work-for-justice/)

### APRIL

• Sexual Assault Awareness Month;

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual Assault Awareness Month](en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sexual_Assault_Awareness_Month)

03 Good Friday; <pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theology-worship/worship/christian-year/good-friday>

05 Easter Sunday; <pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theology-worship/worship/christian-year/resurrection-lordeaster>

07 World Health Day; <who.int/campaigns/world-health-day>

08 International Romani Day; [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International Romani Day](en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Romani_Day)

22 Earth Day; <earthday.org>

24 Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day; <pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/world-mission/jinishian-memorial-program/armenian-genocide>

29 Denim Day; <denimdayinfo.org>

## *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:

- ✝ [Ministering in natural and unnatural disasters](#)
- ✝ [A gentle breath of power in dangerous times](#)
- ✝ [Haitian immigrants win bipartisan victory in Congress but still need faith-based allies as legislation heads to the Senate](#)

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## *Humanizing those who are experiencing homelessness*



Shadow, a member of a homeless encampment in Lomita CA that is served by members of St. Mark's Presbyterian Church. (Photo from 2022 by Rich Copley)

April 20, 2026 | Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service

**A talk at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church explores one way congregations can help: getting to know their unhoused neighbors**

LOUISVILLE — One of the best ways to humanize people experiencing homelessness is also one of the simplest: learn their names.

“Everything changed in our work and in our confidence that we were on the right path when we realized communities had to know everyone experiencing homelessness [in that community],” said Rosanne Haggerty, president and CEO of Community Solutions and the speaker Saturday during a McClendon Scholar Program at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. “This is such a solvable and avoidable tragedy.”

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Watch Haggerty's talk here. She's introduced at the 30:12 mark. A question-and-answer session hosted by the Rev. Glenna J. Huber of Church of the Epiphany, around the corner from New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, begins at 67:35.

"How do we fail to grasp the risk to our communities," Haggerty asked, "allowing the ill and the vulnerable to struggle in plain sight while not even knowing their names and dismissing the impact of hearing their experiences and honoring their agency?"

"There are no good guys and bad guys here," she said. "This is a challenge that has been politicized to everyone's disadvantage."

Click here to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/tMPTjKDVjTo>

Community Solutions is working with 170 communities through its [Built for Zero](#) movement. Since 2015, 211,000 individuals have been housed in Built for Zero communities. Sixty-two communities have verified reductions in their homeless populations.

"If we can harness the resources in the community" — resources including business, faith-based communities and city hall — "that's when things begin to move," Haggerty said.

Haggerty noted that a common tenet among people of faith and others is that we serve the common good — "and that actually needs some infrastructure," she said.

"We have figured this out before, during wartime and the Depression," Haggerty said, but "we have not successfully figured out how to tell that story."

If the goal is to make homelessness "rare and brief," Haggerty has dozens of examples from across the nation. In Atlanta, which Community Solutions has been working with for years, 467 people who had been unsheltered downtown have been housed in the last four months. In Denver, 1,600 people used to live in tents downtown. Now 2,500 are living in hotels that have been released for housing.

"It is a story of political will," Haggerty said, but "homeless service organizations cannot get the job done without joining with mayors, congregations and the business community."

A dozen states have "active pro-housing movements that are putting together bipartisan collations to change the game in terms of what [kind of housing] can be built," she said. In the last year, at least 16 states have changed zoning laws to build more affordable housing, including [accessory dwelling units](#). Such statewide policies "takes the free-for-all debate" out of meetings of the local zoning commission or city council, she said.

Community Solutions' work to reduce homelessness has surfaced [five priority policy recommendations](#), Haggerty said:

- Implement a federal, interagency goal and measurement network for ending homelessness
- Require quality real-time data on homelessness and make data accessible
- Finish the job of ending veteran homelessness
- Act on homelessness as a public health crisis
- End homelessness in rural America.

Haggerty concluded her talk with a Community Solutions video of people discussing their lived experience: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/JX-SwjEQuFY>

During her question-and-answer time with Huber, Haggerty recalled helping to develop a registry of volunteers who were preparing to interact with people who were unsheltered. “People would come back and say, ‘I just spoke to a 25-year-old woman living under a bridge. That’s the same age as my daughter.’”

When that happens, “it’s not an issue anymore; it’s neighbors,” Haggerty said. “We need to create more of those experiences.”

In the coming days, leaders from 13 cities are gathering to learn more about what’s working in Atlanta, Denver and other places. “People are looking for good news, so we show them and put them in communication with each other,” Haggerty said. “We have worked with folks in Atlanta for 20 years. There were a lot of valleys before this peak. Everyone needs to be housed. Everybody needs access to education. We need to hardwire these values into how we’re governed.”

Haggerty said she has “a lot of sympathy for elected officials trying to do the right thing. There are a lot of voices in their ear.” In some cases, people “who show up for affordable housing don’t want it in their neighborhood. How can we help elected officials implement policy? Too often, we are not attentive to the competing pressures.”

After Saturday’s presentation, those in attendance had lunch together before engaging in an afternoon workshop on working to house even more unsheltered people in the nation’s capital.

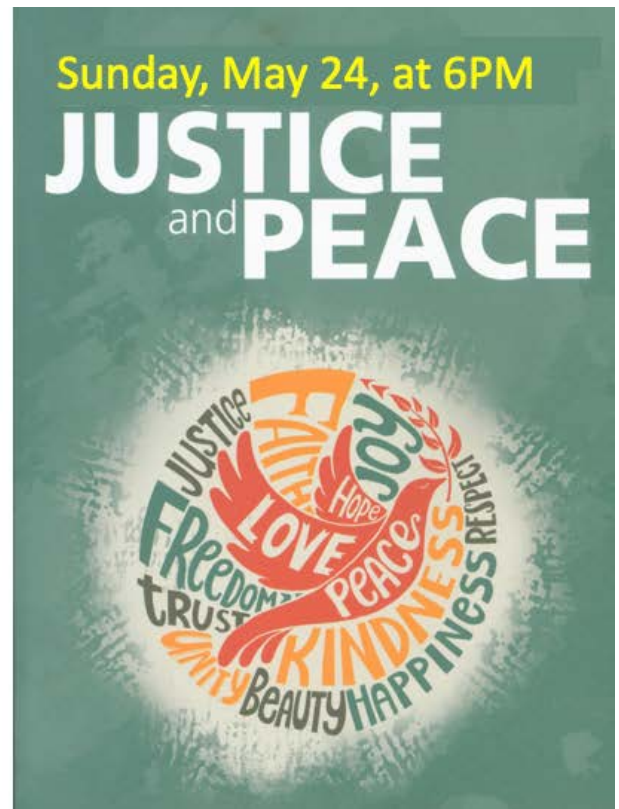
“I am hopeful that people of faith who have been working on this issue and know what’s at stake can show what we’re capable of,” Haggerty said. “What if all our goals and policy intentions, as important as they are, had to be supported by what we can do with what we have, to put our resources and our will in a new, forceful way?”

“I think the congregations of our country, showing that kind of disruptive, transforming energy, is what can offer examples people stepping into relationships and using resources in new ways.” That, she said, “will help us turn the corner.”

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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:



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03-27-2015

DO YOU WANT ME FULLTIME GUARDIAN ON THIS ONE OR SHOULD I FOCUS SOME OF MY EFFORTS ELSEWHERE

## 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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