

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 May 4, 2026

Our Facilities Management Team is Hard at Work

We are so blessed to have a wonderful group of folks who are working to make sure that these beautiful facilities that we have been blessed with are, not only being maintained, but also keeping all who utilize them informed about usage and needs of everyone else using the facilities. They help with making sure our long-term renters have up-to-date contracts and that anyone renting space for events know what to expect.

Our Facilities Management Team (FMT) is currently Mike Curtis, Linda Oldencamp, Jay Kirkpatrick, John Hankins, and Rebecca Duffy. Please thank these folks for all their hard work in helping to manage and maintain our awesome facilities.

The FMT has even established a phone number and direct email address that can be used to report any nonemergency, facilities related issues:

- Facilities Phone: (971) 403-0402
- Email: fmt@fpcastoria.org

Announcements

- ✝ [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!
- ✝ [Peace & Justice For All Community Worship](#) – Join us at the Garden of the Surging Waves on **May 24th, Sunday at 7pm** for some community worship!
- ✝ [AV 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.
- ✝ [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.

This week, I'd like to take a moment and celebrate the wonderful event that our church family hosted this weekend to build support for the wonderful facilities that we've been blessed with, the **A Stroll Through Time Fashion Show and Mother's Day Tea**. Using the analogy from Joan Gray's book, **The Sailboat Church**, this event showed what can happen when a church family takes its hands off of the oars and raises the sails, trusting in the Holy Spirit to move us forward. As I've said before, just because we're relying on the Holy Spirit to fill our sails with the needed energy to move us forward, it doesn't mean that we sit back and do nothing. On the contrary, a sailboat requires the constant tacking of the sails to make sure they are best positioned to work most efficiently. So, a big PRAISE GOD for all the hard work that went into planning and putting together this event to, with God's help, make it a great success. I can't thank you all enough, nor can I praise God enough for each of you and the blessings this church family is to, not only each other, but also to the rest of God's creation.

When you look at the outstanding expenses related to our facilities, especially if your hands are on the oars, it's easy to get discouraged and start rowing. Not only did this event raise more than \$6,500, it also raised the joy in many hearts. This is when you know that, through all the hard work, it is the Holy Spirit moving us forward and not our own efforts at the oars. If we had been rowing instead of tacking the sails, instead of feeling joy, we would have felt emptiness. We must keep the sails raised and keep working together to make sure they are capturing the power of the Holy Spirit to keep us going through any trial and tribulation that we may face, both as individuals and as together as a church family.

Again, praise be to God for this awesome church family! Halleluiah!

And in case you weren't able to make it, here is a wonderful article from the Daily Astorian with some really good pictures: <https://dailyastorian.com/2026/05/02/standing-room-only-at-mothers-day-tea-fundraiser/>

And a link to the recording of the event: <https://youtu.be/dEpqwrEwuCE>

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 March 2026

Income – \$ 11,411.76 – year to date = \$ 67,162.87
 Expenses – \$ 13,915.45 – year to date = \$ 60,132.74

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	8	Friday	10am	Coffee, Tea & Fellowship in the church parlor
	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
30	Saturday	9:30am-4:30pm	Deacons & Ruling Elders' Leadership Training in Goodenberger Hall	

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.



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



Your Voice is Needed!

Come Join Us Sunday,
May 10th as we bring
music and fellowship to

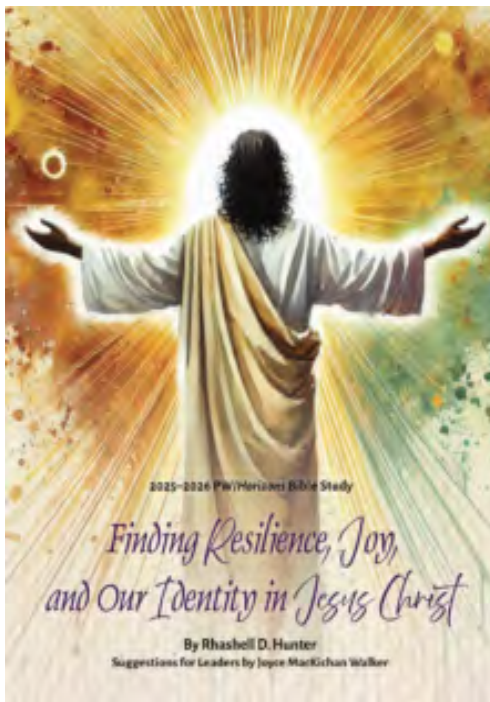
- 2pm at Astor Place *and*
- 3pm at Clatsop Retirement Village



Scan for
Directions

At the Lower
Columbia Bow
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.



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.

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



*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



First Presbyterian Church of Astoria



The Food Bank Needs:

- Personal hygiene products,
- Refried beans
- Boxes
- Volunteers

Contact the church office at 503.325.1702 for more information.

Help Preserve This Historic Place

Scan the QR code below to help maintain and preserve this historic and beloved sacred facility that has been, and continues to be, a gift to all who enter.



Scan with your phone to give online

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 18, 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 18, Commission Meeting at 4PM.

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/)

May

• Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; asianpacificheritage.gov

04–10 - PW Together in Action Days for Children's Literacy;

presbyterianwomen.org/justice

04–10 - Children's Book Week; everychildareader.net/cbw

05 - National Teacher Day; nea.org

09 - World Fair Trade Day; wfto.com

09 - Stamp Out Hunger Day; about.usps.com/corporate-social-responsibility/nalc-food-drive.htm

10 - Mother's Day

15 - Palestinian Nakba Remembrance Day; un.org/unispal/about-the-nakba

22 - International Day for Biological Diversity; cbd.int/idb

24 - Pentecost; pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theology-worship/worship/christian-year/day-pentecost

25 - Memorial Day; cem.va.gov/history/Memorial-Day-history.asp

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:

- ✝ [Imagining a new way forward](#)
- ✝ [This month in Presbyterian history](#)
- ✝ [Church-nested counseling center expands access to care in Atlanta](#)

Hundreds of people, Presbyterians included, rally outside the High Court Wednesday for temporary protective status



Image 1 Paul Beaubrun, a Haitian singer, speaks with advocates Guerline Jozef and Dr. Bernadette Fouché in front of the U.S. Supreme Court.

May 1, 2026 | Cindy Corell, Global Ecumenical Liaison | Presbyterian News Service

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to hand down its ruling this summer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Hundreds of people gathered in front of the U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday morning. Festive music, waving flags and exuberant greetings belied the weightiness of the appeal being argued inside.

The justices heard from plaintiff's attorneys sharing the many positive contributions of well-vetted and hard-working immigrants from Haiti and Syria living under temporary protected status in

communities across the country. D. John Sauer, the U.S. Solicitor General, argued for the government that the immigrants' home countries have stabilized enough for their return.

In the meantime, 1.3 million TPS-holders from 17 countries remain on edge. The court is expected to announce its decision by early-to-mid-summer. Should TPS-holders lose protected status, public health physician Dr. Bernadette Fouché, said, communities across the U.S. where immigrants live and work will feel the loss.

"These are no strangers to America," she said. "They are the nurse who held your mother's hand in the last hour. They are the teacher who learned your child's name on the first day of school. They are the pastor, the farm worker."

"We understand how painful this continues to be for our people," Guerline Jozef told the crowd. She is co-founder of Haitian Bridge Alliance. "We hear you. We see you. We are here with you and for you."

Haitian Bridge Alliance is one of many advocacy and accompaniment groups hosting Wednesday's rally.

Two cases before the justices hold the fate of those in the country with temporary protected status. While Wednesday's case specifically was whether the Trump administration illegally terminated TPS for people from Haiti (300,000) and Syria (6,000), the fate of TPS-holders from 15 other countries likely will be impacted by the decision.

Ginny Atwood, a member of Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church in Kensington, Maryland, attended the rally to support immigrants in this time of great uncertainty.



Image 2 Carmen Sanchez of Los Angeles was decked out in an outfit declaring support for TPS. (Photos by Cindy Corell)

"We are here because we care about people, about how they're treated," Atwood said.

Though she has not been to Haiti, through her church she supports Beyond Borders, a nonprofit that supports families so they are able to care for their children in Haiti.

President George H.W. Bush signed TPS into law in late 1990 as part of an overhaul of the Immigration Act. It provides protection from deportation, work authorization and other benefits to those needing refuge from natural disaster, armed conflict and other "extraordinary and temporary" conditions in their home countries.

The Rev. Viles Dorsainvil, a Moravian pastor who heads up the Haitian Community Center in Springfield, Ohio, was in the courtroom on Wednesday. Afterward, he said he hopes conversations about TPS will lead to a positive and lasting change in immigration policy.

"We are here because we know what is at stake," Dorsainvil said.

"We know the fear of an uncertain future. The question before the court is not only a legal one, but a moral one. We urge a decision that reflects our values. I will continue to stand and advocate for a permanent and dignified solution for all those who call this country home."



Image 3 Ginny Atwood, a member of Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church in Kensington, Maryland, and her daughter Laura showed up to support immigrants.

Springfield is the rural community in which more than 15,000 Haitian families have settled. The city was thrust into the national spotlight when the president and vice-president spread the falsehood that Haitian people there eat pets.

Those eligible for TPS undergo criminal background checks and must already be living in the U.S.

When conditions in those countries improved so that the immigrants could return home, that nation's status would end. But in the three decades since TPS became law, conflicts around the world have deepened. Disasters — natural and human-caused — are slower to resolve. And for many TPS-holders, the continuing peril in their countries have meant long extensions of the status.

More families have settled in communities, raised children, started businesses and become valued employees.

Haitians were offered TPS after Haiti's catastrophic earthquake in January 2010. People from Syria first were offered TPS in March 2012 as civil war there escalated. The status for both countries has been redesignated and extended several times.

Attorneys for the Haitian and Syrian plaintiffs argued that then-Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem improperly terminated TPS for both countries. Both countries remain too dangerous for those who would be deported, attorneys said. Gang violence and political instability have crippled parts of Haiti including the capital city.

A year after the Assad regime fell in Syria, more than 90 percent of the people live in dire poverty, infrastructure is fragile and many people are internally displaced.

Fouché pointed out the incongruity in the State Department naming Haiti and Syria as places too dangerous for Americans to travel, yet safe enough for immigrants to return.

"It is manufacturing fiction dressed in the work of law. It is the manufacture of illegality, the deliberate construction of a lie until the deportation order becomes a coffin," she said.

The Rev. Christina Cosby, Representative for Domestic and Environmental Policy Concerns in the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness, said the rallying cries heard from in front of the Supreme Court are valuable.

"The presence of those gathered outside the Court reminds us that these decisions are not abstract — they shape the lives of families seeking safety and belonging," she said. "Their witness reflects what our denomination has long supported: protecting human dignity and standing with those most vulnerable."

The other countries designated with TPS are Afghanistan, Cameroon, Venezuela, South Sudan, Sudan, Nepal, Honduras, Nicaragua, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Yemen, Somalia, El Salvador, Ukraine and Venezuela.

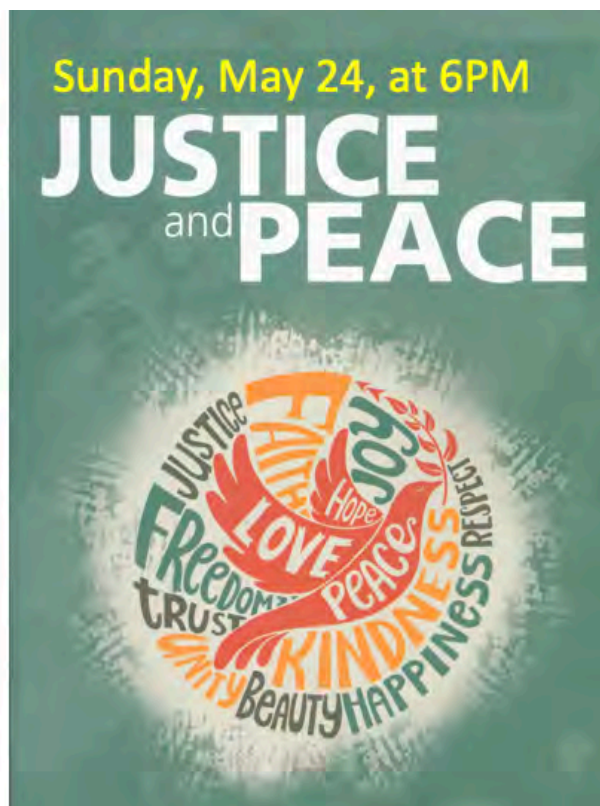
Cindy Corell is a U.S.-based Global Ecumenical Liaison.



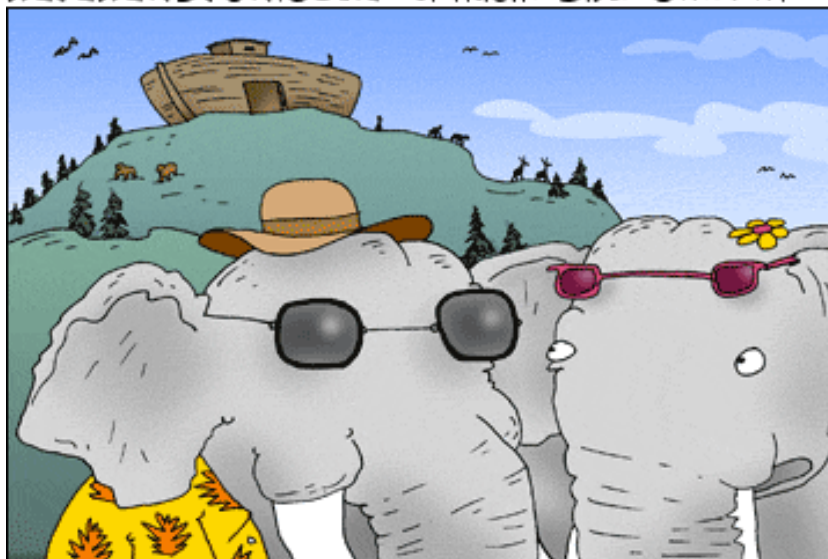
Image 4 Bertha Barrientos, a native of Guatemala, attended the rally as part of the National TPS Alliance.

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:



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Pam Winn (See Genesis 6-8)

05-07-2007

YES DEAR, IT WAS A FINE CRUISE, BUT
I'M NOT KEEN ON DOING IT AGAIN

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
