

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 June 1, 2026

A Big Thank You to all who participated in the Leadership Training

A big thank you to all who gave up their Saturday on May 30 to dive into a day of learning more about the Presbyterian Church (USA), how our denomination is governed (*the polity*), what it means to be an installed Ruling Elder or Deacon (*ordered ministry*), and about our denomination's constitution (*the Book of Order and the Book of Confessions*).

We were joined by many of the ordered ministers from our sibling church at Pioneer; reminding us that, although we may be separate congregations, we are part of a much bigger church family.

A big thank you too to Rebecca and Corinne, and all the others who made sure we were well fed throughout the day long learning event.

The Book of Confessions, the first part of our denomination's constitution, contains the text of twelve confessional documents comprise this volume. Together these documents stand to be significant and instructive to both the individual and corporate life and faith of Presbyterians.

The Book of Order, the second part of our denomination's constitution contains the Foundations, the Form of Government, the Directory for Worship, and the Church Discipline.

These can be downloaded from the following links:

- Book of Order: <https://pcusa.org/resource/book-order-2025-2027-interactive-version>
- Book of Confessions: <https://pcusa.org/resource/book-confessions>

Announcements

- ✠ [Coffee & Tea Fellowship](#) – Come enjoy some good treats and conversation, **10am, Friday, June 12**, in the church parlor.
- ✠ [Memorial Service for Arlene Ydstie](#) – A memorial service will be held to honor the passing of Arlene Ydstie, who was employed by FPC as organist and hand-bell director in the early 1990's before finding closer employment to home in Cannon Beach. The service will be held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on **June 26, Friday at 11am**.
- ✠ [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.
- ✠ [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 many of you know, our church family is facing some big issues financially. The past few years we have had to dive into our ever-shrinking reserves with, at the current needs, a couple of years left. For many of us this has caused, admittedly, myself included a great deal of stress and anxiety. And, like anything else in life that causes stress and anxiety, relieving said stress and anxiety, for what seems obvious reasons, becomes our primary focus. Although we continue to go through the motions of our day-to-day tasks and responsibilities, we often find that, because we are in survival mode, we're merely going through the motions without accomplishing much. In regard to our budget issues, yes, we should be concerned, but not to the point that we lose focus of what God calls us to do. As stated in one of my favorite lines from the movie *Citizen Kane*, "Well, it's no trick to make a lot of money... if all you want to do is make a lot of money."¹ The world of man that we live in tells us from an early age that money should be one of our highest priorities. But does that agree with what God tells us? While the world of man calls us to accumulate as much money and things that we can, God tells us that such things aren't important. As Jesus is quoted in Matthew 6:19-21, "Don't hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it's safe from moth and rust and burglars. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being." (MSG) So, what are we to do? If we are not to 'focus' on our deficit budget, then how can we keep going? Well, as we read in the last few verses from Matthew 6,

"You can't worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you'll end up hating the other. Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other. You can't worship God and Money both.

"If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds.

"Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp or shop, but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them.

"If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with getting, so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

"Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes." (MSG)

No matter what we are going through, whether it is as a church family, within our at home families, or in our own personal lives, we must always stay focused on doing God's work, putting to work our God given gifts and talents to help continue the work that Jesus started and that he calls us to continue.

One thing that most organizations will spend a great deal of time, thought, discussion and discernment on is a mission statement. According to churchrelevance.com, a Mission Statement is, "A church's mission statement is a one-sentence declaration that describes the reason the church exists and guides its actions and priorities. It typically reflects the church's core purpose and values, often aligning with the Great Commission to spread the message of Jesus."

A little over 20 years ago, our Session spent a great deal of time thinking, discussing, discerning and praying over how to best describe the reasons our church family exists and to act as a guide in how we move forward and why. This is a great way to make sure we are living into God's call to and for us. Our church's mission statement is:

"To help people within a kind, safe and compassionate community to know Christ and grow His Love"

Remembering these words helps us to remember the commandments Jesus reminded his disciples and us to keep, the commandments of selfless love that we are to have for God, all of creation and for each other. And while remembering these commandments, may we also remember Jesus' great commission as found in Matthew 26:18-20, "Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you." (MSG) Remember too, we are never alone, for the Holy Trinity is always with us through anything and everything life throws our way. As Jesus reminds us, "I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age." (MSG)

Yes, we still need to worry about the budget, but we must not allow it to become our focus. Our focus must always be sharing God's agape love and living out and up to our church family's mission statement, *"To help people within a kind, safe and compassionate community to know Christ and grow His Love"*. If focus on God and acting on our mission statement, we will more than likely find our needs are being met, including our financial needs.

Siblings in Christ, continue to focus on the Holy Trinity and doing the work that God has called us to, remembering that we are not alone. Not only is the Holy Trinity there with us, but we also have each other. Together, we can and will do great things; great things that bring glory to God.

Blessings and shalom,

Pastor Paul



¹ https://www.moviequotedb.com/movies/citizen-kane/quote_28512.html

Our Church Family's Financials as of April 2026

Income – \$ 24,898.51 – year to date = \$ 92,061.38
 Expenses – \$ 10,012.54 – year to date = \$ 70,368.50

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
June	10	Wednesday	5pm – 8pm	So Long Party for the Caffrey's at Netel Grange, 90525 Logan Rd, Astoria
	11	Thursday	11am	Session Meeting in the Christian Resource Room
			4pm	VBS Planning Meeting at Peace First Lutheran
	12	Friday	10am	Coffee, Tea & Fellowship in the Church Parlor
	17	Wednesday	5pm	Bowling, Pizza & Fellowship at Lower Columbia Bowl
	18	Thursday	6pm – 8pm	Presbytery Meeting via Zoom
	21	Saturday	All Day	Father's Day
	22-26	Monday-Friday	9:30am-12:15pm	Community VBS at Peace First Lutheran
	27	Saturday	12noon	Astoria Pride Parade meet beneath the Megler Bridge
	28	Sunday	10am	Kirkin' O' the Tartan Worship & Potluck

Upcoming Concerts and Events

June	13	Saturday	3pm	North Oregon Coast Symphony Concert at Nahalem Elementary School's Gymn
	14	Sunday	3pm	North Oregon Coast Symphony Concert at Charlene Larsen Center for the Performing Arts
	26-27	Friday – Sunday	10am-4pm	Clatsop Quilt Guild Show Warrenton Grade School
	28	Sunday	4pm	North Coast Chorale Concert at Charlene Larsen Center for the Performing Arts
July	3	Friday	7pm	North Coast Symphonic Band Concert at the Liberty Theatre



Caffrey Family Send Off

When: Wednesday, June 10, 5 to 8 PM

Where: Netel Grange, 90525 Logan Rd, Astoria,
OR 97103

What: see you later party; the Caffrey family will be moving to Montana in July and want to celebrate with our local Astoria area, friends, family, and community. We will miss you incredibly and want to provide a way to share some final laughs and warm hugs (and maybe some tears).

We will be providing pizza and salad. If you want to bring something, please bring a side, a dessert or beverage.

Please RSVP to Gina at 402-689-1677
by June 9th at 9pm



Scan for
Directions

At the Lower
Columbia Bowl
826 Marine Dr
in Astoria
June 17th
At 5PM

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

Astoria Citywide VBS 2026
June 22 - 26
9am to 12:15pm
Kindergarten through 5th
Register online



725 33rd St, Astoria
Peace First Lutheran Church

Sponsoring churches:
First Baptist Church
First Presbyterian Church
Peace First Lutheran Church

The following is needed:

- ♀ Small 8oz water bottles
- ♀ Capri sun juice drinks
- ♀ Assorted granola bars
- ♀ Energy bars
- ♀ Fruit roll-ups
- ♀ Fruit snacks individual bags
- ♀ Goldfish crackers
- ♀ Apple chips individual bags
- ♀ Volunteers

Bring your VBS donations to the church office during the week or at fellowship time.

*Join us as we Celebrate our
Church's Scottish Heritage
First Presbyterian Church of
Astoria's 3rd Annual
Kirkín' O' the Tartans
10am - Sunday, June 28, 2026
Potluck following worship*



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

- Jeff Van Nostran for healing, discernment and shalom
- Yvonne and Bill Van Nostran for peace and discernment
- Joe Fusckino for healing and peace
- 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
- 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
- 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

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.



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, June 15, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
- Astoria School District
 - Wednesday, June 10, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
- Clatsop County
 - Wednesday, June 10, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
- Clatsop Community College
 - Thursday, June 11, Board of Education Meeting at 5:30PM.
- Port of Astoria
 - Tuesday, June 16, Commission Meeting at 4PM.

Working for Justice and Peace - <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2026-JP-Calendar-NEW-FA.pdf>

June

• Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) Pride Month;
loc.gov/lgbt-pride-month/about

05 - National Gun Violence Awareness Day; wearorange.org

07 – Intercultural Church Sunday; pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/intercultural-ministries-support

19 – Juneteenth; pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/intercultural-ministries-support/african-american-intercultural-support

20 – World Refugee Day; pcusa.org/disaster-assistance/migration-accompaniment-ministry/world-refugee-day

21 – Father's Day

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:

- ✝ [Presbytery of San José raises more than \\$30,000 for immigrant legal aid](#)
- ✝ [Showing compassion to the vulnerable in Lebanon](#)
- ✝ [Constitutional Interpretation Committee to discern some weighty matters during the 227th General Assembly](#)

Building abolitionist sanctuaries

June 1, 2026 | Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service

Building Abolitionist Sanctuaries



Image 1 Last week, the Rev. Dr. Nikia Smith Robert spoke during the Westminster Town Hall Forum. (Photo courtesy of Abolitionist Sanctuary)

LOUISVILLE — Last week, the Rev. Dr. Nikia Smith Robert, who leads Abolitionist Sanctuary and teaches at the University of Kansas, stood on the shoulders of U.S. Rep. Shirley Chisholm, Maya Angelou and Archbishop Desmond Tutu to take her turn addressing the Westminster Town Hall Forum at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her talk is here. She's introduced at the 38:40 mark.

“Take inventory of where you enter the Westminster Town Hall Forum and don’t leave the same,” she suggested. “May we all ask ourselves, what will change about how we show up in the world as the result of what we experience here and the mission to invite voices of conscience to address the issues of the day from an ethical experience?”

Durin the final installment of the 2025-26 season, Robert focused her talk on “how we might build abolitionist sanctuaries to repair harms, restore relationships and rebuild more just and equitable systems and a better democracy for communal flourishing beyond poverty, punishment, policing and prisons. The gross injustices we face today have always been death-dealing in the everyday lives of Black and vulnerable people in America.”



The United States “is an empire,” she said, and “this is the same history our federal government seeks to erase to trick us to believe our hands are clean when in fact we are complicit in perpetuating an American empire.”

“When we know our history,” she said, “we can recognize the patterns.”

We’re living “in another episodic sequel of a familiar cinematic horror called ‘The Empire Strikes Back,’” Robert said, and throughout history, there have been many empires. “In fact, Christendom was the state religion of the Roman Empire,” Robert noted. “As Christendom was popularized, Christians were no longer persecuted, but protected, privileged and promoted. Under empire, Christianity became the center of politics and power. Church and state were fluid.”

“The fact of the matter is that Jesus’ cross is contiguous with the carceral state that disproportionately criminalizes and incarcerates Black and brown bodies, many of whom are also racially profiled,” she said. George Floyd died in Minnesota of asphyxiation “just as Jesus did on the cross at Golgotha, the place of skulls.”

White Christian nationalism is not Christianity, Robert pointed out. “What makes America great is our religious pluralism and diversity that champions equality and justice for all — just as much as we fight for the liberation of the oppressed. We need the moral courage of everyone, including communities of faith, to resist empire.” For “those of us who profess Christianity, we must follow not Constantine or Caesar, but Jesus the revolutionary, the first-century abolitionist.”

Abolitionist Sanctuary, which Robert began on Juneteenth in 2021, is a nonpartisan coalition with the mission “to train Black-serving churches, civic organizations and educational institutions to unite against the moral crisis of mass incarceration and the criminalization of impoverished Black motherhood,” Robert said. Its focus is on three programmatic areas: public education through its Abolition Academy, mutual aid support for Black mothers, and narrative-shifting.

When Robert was growing up in Harlem, New York, her neighbors were members of the Central Park Five, who were later known as the Exonerated Five. “I was 10 years old when I witnessed this gross miscarriage of justice in my community,” Robert said. By the time she was 12, “carcerality hit even closer” when she received a Christmas card in the mail from her brother who was in prison. Her mother was 15 years old and living in “abject poverty” when she conceived Robert’s brother, and in early adulthood when she gave birth to Robert. “My mother would go to

any length — including bending the rules and breaking the law — to desperately ensure her children’s survival,” she said.

According to a report on the Status of Black Women in the United States, 80% of Black mothers are bread-winners, either the household’s sole provider or a primary contributor to household incomes, “and yet they do so under crushing economic hardship,” Robert said. Black women are poorer than any other group except Native American women, Robert noted, and in all but two states, the average cost of childcare exceeds 20% of Black women’s median earnings.

Four in five incarcerated women are mothers. “The cumulative consequences of locking away a woman from her family are enormous,” Robert said. “When a mother is forced to choose between paying rent and heating her home during a deadly winter freeze and then is criminalized for the choice she makes, it is the system that has failed, not her.”

Black mothers “not only break the law, but they break the patterns of empire,” Robert said. Cannon’s “living in ethics under oppression assigns virtue to Black women who do whatever is necessary to subsist, with limited options, against a system, because everyone deserves to survive.”

Society “can benefit from the practical wisdom and moral courage of Black women and mothers” who “teach us a better way: not to condemn and cage, but to extend care, compassion, creativity, courage and community,” Robert said. “These are the values that emerge from Black mothers’ survival that I view as instructive for dismantling systems of empire and to build abolitionist sanctuaries.”

“Abolition doesn’t have to be spiritual or grand,” she said. “Abolition is a lifestyle. I am an abolitionist in everything I do” as a parent, partner, professor, preacher, professional and person, she said.

Robert noted that Patrisse Cullors, co-founder of Black Lives Matter, has said abolition does not mean avoiding accountability. Instead, “it shifts the focus from a reactive, punitive justice system toward transformative justice, centering healing and rehabilitation and addressing the root causes of harm.”

“Here is the truth: Black people are not safe in this nation. The LGBTQIA community is unsafe. The poor among us are unsafe. Anyone who opposes the American government is unsafe,” Robert said. “We need sanctuary.”

Robert closed with a portion of Chisholm’s Westminster Town Hall Forum. The former congresswoman told the audience four decades ago that “it is up to concerned and active citizens, like all of us here in this room, to once again move these issues to the front burner. But we must go back again and again to our benchmark principle: the freedom to determine if our policies and our actions are advancing the cause of civil rights and human rights.”

“You must be able to judge,” Chisholm said on March 13, 1986, “if abandoning affirmative action plans and weakening fair housing plans and gutting school desegregation plans move certain children and adults closer to freedom or nearer to the barbed wire of isolation and despair in this nation.”

“May we take inventory of how we came in and may we not leave the same,” Robert said. “May we go and build abolitionist sanctuaries to repair harms, restore relationships and rebuild more just and equitable systems for a more just and equitable democracy beyond punishment, poverty, policing and prisons. Thank you.”

In a question and answer time, the Rev. Dr. Jessica Patchett, Westminster Presbyterian Church’s senior pastor, asked Robert “what we need to know about our public sphere as we go into election season.”

“Vote your conscience,” Robert urged. “Vote in a way that moves the moral arc closer to justice. Vote as though there is an inextricable link between you and someone else. Even though you’re not being deported, there is someone else who loves their family just as much as you do. Vote for justice.”

“When you vote,” Robert said, “you’re trying to fix a system that may be working as it is designed.”

“To be honest, I don’t think we want the same democracy. I think we want a better democracy,” Robert said. “What is the world you think your children and your children’s children deserve? What is the world we are trying to create? Vote your conscience with the sense of community that says, ‘I am because you are.’”

That, she said, would be a sign we are “moving from individual blame to structural accountability.”

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06-03-2013

I PROMISE I'LL FINISH MY HOMEWORK IF
YOU LET ME PLAY A LITTLE MORE ...
HERE'S A RAINBOW, EVEN



Inquirer's Class

Wanting to find out more...

- ✓ About our church family?
- ✓ About our denomination?
- ✓ About opportunities to serve?
- ✓ About possible membership?
- ✓ About much, much more?

Join us for an inquirer's class to find out more about all the above...

Sunday, July 19 at 12noon in the
Christian Resource Room

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
