



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 29, 2026

Our Book of Confessions

In case you've ever wondered if our denomination, the Presbyterian Church USA, has written down its beliefs and theology, the answer would be, yes. This is part one of our denomination's constitution. As stated in "**The Book of Order**", "The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) states its faith and bears witness to God's grace in Jesus Christ in the creeds and confessions in the Book of Confessions. In these statements the church declares to its members and to the world who and what it is, what it believes, and what it resolves to do. These statements identify the church as a community of people known by its convictions as well as by its actions. They guide the church in its study and interpretation of the Scriptures; they summarize the essence of Reformed Christian tradition; they direct the church in maintaining sound doctrines; they equip the church for its work of proclamation. They serve to strengthen personal commitment and the life and witness of the community of believers." (F-2.01)

As stated in the Book of Confessions, "The creeds, confessions and catechisms of the Book of Confessions are both historical and contemporary. Each emerged in a particular time and place in response to a particular situation. Thus, each confessional document should be respected in its historical particularity; none should be altered to conform to current theological, ethical, or linguistic norms. The confessions are not confined to the past, however; they do not simply express what the church was, what it used to believe, and what it once resolved to do. The confessions address the church's current faith and life, declaring contemporary convictions and actions."

In our own personal faith journey, we can use the Book of Confessions as a tool to help us to better understand our denomination's own faith journey. Remember to not use the confessions and creeds as a set of rules, but more so as a set of guidelines.

Follow this link to see the most recent edition of our Book of Confession: <https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/boc2016.pdf>

Announcements

- ✝ [Inquirer's Class](#) – If you've ever wondered what it means to be a Presbyterian, or why we do what we do in church, or any other thoughts or questions about our church family or denomination, come get your questions answered at our upcoming inquirer's class on Sunday, July 19 at 12noon in the Christian Resource Room following fellowship.
- ✝ [Community Events](#) – Your church office needs your assistance in making sure community events are included in the newsletter. Please email the office at office@fpcastoria.org with the date, time, location and event so we can make sure it makes it into the newsletter.
- ✝ [Our Church Family's 150th Anniversary](#) – Next year we will be celebrating our 150th anniversary as a church family. If you would like to help with the planning of this big event, please contact the church office.
- ✝ [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.

Scripture tells us that Sabbath is a very important thing. So important that it was one of the ten of the commandments handed to Moses by God on Mt Sinai. As we read in Exodus 20: 8-11, "Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Work six days and do everything you need to do. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to God, your God. Don't do any work—not you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your servant, nor your maid, nor your animals, not even the foreign guest visiting in your town. For in six days God made Heaven, Earth, and sea, and everything in them; he rested on the seventh day. Therefore God blessed the Sabbath day; he set it apart as a holy day." (MSG) Because Sabbath is so important to ourselves and God's work that we are doing, we need to remember to keep the Sabbath and find rest that is centered in the Holy Trinity so that we can recharge our Spiritual batteries. Remember Jesus' words from Mark 2: 27 "The Sabbath was made to serve us; we weren't made to serve the Sabbath."

On that note, I'd like to share a devotional that I read this last week from the United Church of Christ's Daily Devotional:

The Sabbath Elevator by John Allen

If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day ... then you shall take delight in the Lord. - Isaiah 58:13-14a (NRSV)

One Friday night during my rotation as a hospital chaplain in New York City, a nurse warned me: "Watch out for the sabbath elevators."

From sundown Friday until sundown Saturday, the buttons in this elevator were deactivated. The cars just stopped on every floor. This allowed Orthodox Jewish visitors to move through the towers of the hospital without violating their sabbath observance.

I decided to give the sabbath elevator a try.

After three floors, it felt like every cell in my body was screaming: "You could see two patients in the time it will take to get to the 12th floor! How are you going to code this time in the charting software? Aren't you just being lazy?"

My ambition, my disquiet, and my frantic heart were trampling over this briefest idle moment. And I realized I needed to learn how to take a break. I needed the regular and intentional practice of keeping the sabbath.

Otherwise rest is something I just do if I have time. I'll take a break after things slow down ... in a couple weeks. I'll be able to relax after that next deadline.

Somehow though, that imagined future never comes, and I end up trampling over every idle moment until I am empty and exhausted.

So I'm learning to embrace idle moments, a train ride without checking my phone, a walk without headphones, an afternoon with no plans at all. I am hoping to quiet myself enough to listen for the voice of God. I'm hoping that the next time I find myself on the sabbath elevator, I'll last for four floors. Maybe even five.

Prayer - Slow me. Stop me. Amen.

Siblings in Christ, continue to focus on the Holy Trinity and doing the work that God has called us to, remembering that it's about God's agape, selfless love. Remember too that we are never alone, but that we have the Holy Trinity and each other to make known God's message of love, grace and mercy. And don't forget to take time for Sabbath so your Spiritual batteries can recharge.

Blessings and shalom,

Pastor Paul

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
July	18	Saturday	1pm-4pm	Celebration of Life for ElmaRae Marxen-Griffin in Goodenberger Hall
	19	Sunday	12noon	Inquirer's Class in the Christian Resource Room
	26	Sunday	7pm	Community Service for Justice & Peace at the Garden of the Surging Waves
July/August	27-6	Monday – Thursday		Church Office Closed
August	8	Saturday	11:30am	Astoria Regatta Grand Land Parade
	23	Sunday	10am	Picnic & Worship with Pioneer at Cullaby Lake's South Shelter

Upcoming Concerts and Events

July	18	Saturday	11am-4pm	Astoria Column 100 th Anniversary Celebration at Heritage Square, Astoria
	22 – 25	Wednesday – Saturday	11am – 10pm	Clatsop County Fair & Expo
August	7 - 29	Friday & Saturday	7pm	Shanghaied in Astoria
	16	Sunday	3pm	Many Voices, One Stage Concert at Astoria High School
	23	Sunday	2pm	Shanghaied in Astoria



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

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 in Astoria Oregon.

Scan for directions:



Sunday, July 26, at 7PM

JUSTICE and PEACE



Astoria Regatta Grand Land Parade

**Saturday, August 8 from
12noon - 1pm**

**Come join the celebration and
share with the rest of Astoria
what a wonderful church family
we have!**

**A flatbed or pickup truck is
needed for us to ride on.**



**First Presbyterian Church of Astoria invites you to
worship & fellowship Sunday, August 23 at 10am
at Cullaby Lake, South Shelter**



Scan for Directions

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

- Gerardo Sanchez Lopez and his family and friends, after he was taken from his loved ones by i.c.e.
- 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
- 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
- For all 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.
- Melanie Battle for peace, strength and discernment
- 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.



You Can Now Give Online or with Your Phone

Are you called to give financially but forgot your check book or don't have any cash? No worries! Scan the QR code with your phone and follow the instructions. You can also go to the church's website, www.fpcastoria.org for more details.



Scan with your phone to give online

[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, July 20, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
- Astoria School District
 - Wednesday, August 12, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
- Clatsop County
 - Wednesday, July 22, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
- Clatsop Community College
 - Thursday, August 13, Board of Education Meeting at 5:30PM.
- Port of Astoria
 - Tuesday, July 21, Commission Meeting at 4PM.

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

JULY

04 Independence Day

05 Immigration Sunday; pcusa.org/events/immigration-sunday/july-5th-2026-0800am

30 National Support Public Education Day; nationaltoday.com/national-support-public-education-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:

- ✝ [Urge the US Senate to protect Haitians at risk by supporting Temporary Protective Status legislation](#)
 - ✝ [Christianity without Christian Zionism](#)
 - ✝ [Ruling elders as spiritual leaders](#)
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Matthew 25 and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals

July 16, 2026 | Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service



Image 1 PMUN Fellow Sam Putt leads a prayer outside of the Church Center for the United Nations.
(Photos by Kristen Gaydos)

Fellows at the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations lead worship for PC(USA) staff

LOUISVILLE — Drawing comparisons between [Jesus' words to the sheep as recorded in Matthew 25](#) and the [17 Sustainable Development Goals identified by the United Nations](#), leaders of Wednesday's online Chapel service shared some of their experiences during the recent [High-Level Political Forum](#) held at the United Nations.

PMUN Fellows Chloe Snyder and Sam Putt shared some of what they took away from the forum, while a third fellow, Tucker Samuelian, helped lead worship, which is offered online to PC(USA) staff each Wednesday.

The goals that received in-depth review during the just-concluded forum were Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), Goal 9 (Industry Innovation and Infrastructure), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), which is highlighted each year at the HLPF.

Leaders based Wednesday's worship on [Amos 5:24](#) and [Matthew 25:31-36](#).

"When I was reflecting [on the texts] in relation to the HLPF conference, I realized I thought of the Sustainable Development Goals as being essentially secular, imperfect reflects of Matthew 25 and what it's calling us to do," Snyder said. "When I think of inheriting the kingdom, I think of bettering the world and bettering the lives of everyone — especially when that requires putting aside individual desires."

"That's what I see in the Sustainable Development Goals as well," Snyder said. Achieving even a few of the goals will require "some degree of sacrifice from member states," including money, logistical coordination and diplomatic efforts "that might be costly for them but lead to a better world."

"Sustainable Development Goals and [\[the Matthew 25 invitation\]](#) come from a similar ethos, although the SDGs are imperfect and logistically difficult," Snyder noted.

Unfortunately, the United States "was not present at this UN conference. The United States has in some ways disavowed the SDGs, saying we will not play a role in implementing those," Snyder said. "I found it troubling that the American delegation didn't play a role in that."

Putt called the Matthew 25 invitation "incredibly important to me and very close to my heart."

Putt attended panel discussions during the final day of the forum “that shifted my perspective” on the oft-repeated narrative that the UN represents “all talk and no action.”

“I want you to have fun with this,” one questioner told panelists. “With \$100 million, what would you do to improve implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals?”

Dr. Adedoyin Adeleke, the founder and executive director of [Green Growth Africa](#), which works with the UN to implement SDGs in Africa, said, “first and foremost, ask,” Putt reported. Adeleke then identified some questions he might have, including on energy needs around the world and “what will water make possible?”



Image 2 PMUN Fellows Chloe Snyder (pictured) and Sam Putt also led a prayer walk for Young Adult Delegates during this year's High-Level Political Forum held at the United Nations.

Avery Wallace, communications and operations manager for [NYC H2O](#), which works to protect New York's water ecology, told those in attendance, “We have solutions. We just need to give them the attention they deserve.”

With Matthew 25 as a guide, “I'd like to highlight that the PC(USA) is working toward these goals,” Putt said. “I encourage everybody if they're not sure, just ask. Everybody has something to share, and we can learn from everybody.” For Putt, “that was the main takeaway this past week at the HLPF.”

Part of Wednesday's liturgy was an Affirmation of Unity adapted from the [Belhar Confession](#), which included these words: “Together we come to know the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ; are built up to the stature of Christ, to the new humanity; know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ that we need one another and up build one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness. Together we pray; together we serve God in this world.”

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.

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(See Matthew 14:24-33)

08-05-2013

YOU'VE PROVEN YOU WON'T DROWN, JESUS,
BUT YOU STILL NEED TO SUIT UP AND
COMPLETE THE REQUESTED DRILLS BEFORE
I CAN PASS YOU

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
