

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 July 27, 2026

About Us...

The First Presbyterian Church of Astoria, Oregon, began May 5th, 1877, when twelve members of the Clatsop Plains Pioneer Presbyterian Church joined eight fellow Astorians for worship in an Uppertown schoolhouse.

The original church building was constructed between 1881-1883 on what is now 9th and Duane. The bell, still calling people to worship today, was shipped from New York around the Horn in 1883.

The present building, located at 11th Street and Grand Avenue, was constructed in 1903 at a cost of \$19,075. It was dedicated in 1904. The pipe organ was installed in 1911. The stained-glass windows were designed and installed by the Povey Brothers of Portland Oregon.

The size of the church building more than doubled in 1936-1937, with the addition of an education wing that now houses Goodenberger Hall, office space, the Christian Resource Room and the Astoria Conservatory of Music.

We are proud members of Covenant Network of Presbyterians (CNP). In partnership with CNP, we seek to strengthen the church by working for the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people in its life and leadership.

Announcements

- ✚ **Church Office Closed** – The church office will be closed from July 27 through August 10. If you need anything during that time, email firstpresastoriaor@gmail.com or for...
 - Building related needs: Call (971) 403-0402 or Email fnt@fpcastoria.org
 - Pastoral support, call (971) 606-5606 or Email pastorpaul@fpcastoria.org
- ✚ **Regatta Parade** – Yay! Thanks to Charlie Linehan, we have a truck to ride in for the upcoming Astoria Grand Land Regatta Parade on August 8. We still need:
 - People to ride on the truck or walk next to it (or to take turns doing both)
 - Help decorating the truck for the parade
 - Hard candy to share with the parade watchers
- ✚ **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.

As I have said many times, and will continue to say, we are truly blessed to have a wonderful and loving, Christ centered church family. However, the last two Sundays have not been easy for our church family as we have had to say, not 'goodbye', but 'so long' to two families as they prepare for the next chapters in their lives. No matter the reason, it is never easy to see any church siblings leave.

As was said in the liturgy for both families, even though they will no longer be here in Astoria, they will always be a part of our family and will forever remain in our hearts, thoughts and prayers. As the Apostle Paul wrote in his epistle to the Colossians,

"I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God's great mystery. All the richest treasures of wisdom and knowledge are embedded in that mystery and nowhere else. And we've been shown the mystery! I'm telling you this because I don't want anyone leading you off on some wild-goose chase, after other so-called mysteries, or "the Secret."

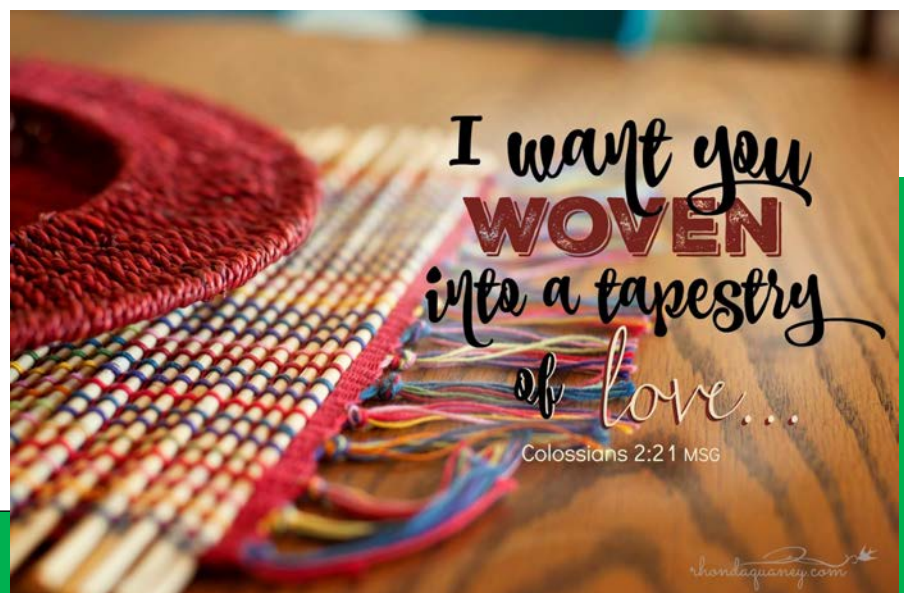
I'm a long way off, true, and you may never lay eyes on me, but believe me, I'm on your side, right beside you. I am delighted to hear of the careful and orderly ways you conduct your affairs, and impressed with the solid substance of your faith in Christ." (Colossians 2:2-5, MSG)

It is my selfish prayer that no more of our church family move away and that those who are leaving us will again return, but I know in my heart that God calls each of us in the direction God needs us to go. God has a perspective on everything and anything that surpasses all understanding. So, with the love of God, I pray that no matter when or where God calls any of us, that we remember in our hearts that we are indeed a part of the tapestry of love that the Apostle Paul wrote about and that we are on each other's side, God's side. When one of our church family members move away, not only are they still a part of our family, as they become part of a new church family, but a part of us also becomes a part of that new church family too. In all reality, we have always been a part of the larger church family made up of all churches that worship our loving and gracious God, this just helps us to remember that.

Siblings in Christ, may we continue to appreciate each other and the awesome church family we have been blessed with, and may we always remember that we are a part of something much bigger. That no matter where God calls us, God's family has no bounds and transcends time. May we too remember to 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/August	27-6	Monday – Thursday		Church Office Closed
August	8	Saturday	11:30am	Astoria Regatta Grand Land Parade
	12	Wednesday	5pm	Bowling, pizza & fellowship at the Lower Columbia Bowl
	18	Tuesday	12noon	Session Meeting in the Christian Resource Room
	20	Thursday	12noon	Deacon's Meeting & potluck at the Davidson's
	23	Sunday	10am	Picnic & Worship with Pioneer at Cullaby Lake's South Shelter

Upcoming Concerts and Events

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

Book Study

Beginning September 6th

This book is a timely and accessible guide and conversation partner for those who want to articulate their faith as Presbyterians in a positive manner—not as who they are not but what they believe about God and the good news of Jesus Christ and how that translates into faith in action. The authors invite readers to a grace-filled Presbyterian discipleship and witness toward God's wholeness in God's beloved world."—Jihyun Oh, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Executive Director of the Interim Unified Agency

Contact the church
office or scan the code
to order the book



TED V. FOOTE JR. AND P. ALEX THORNBURG

BEING PRESBYTERIAN IN A DYSVANGELICAL AMERICA

A Guide to Reclaiming
the Good News of God's Grace



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, August 3, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
- Astoria School District
 - Wednesday, August 12, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
- Clatsop County
 - Wednesday, August 12, 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, August 3, Commission Meeting at 4PM.

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

AUGUST

- 06 Nuclear Victims' and Survivors' Day;
pcusa.org/worship-with-us/yearbook/august-6-2020
- 09 International Day of the World's Indigenous People;
un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day
- 09 Day of Prayer for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula;
pcusa.org/worship-with-us/yearbook/june-24-2018
- 19 World Humanitarian Day; un.org/en/observances/humanitarian-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:

- ✝ [Advocacy & Witness Fellows share highlights of their efforts on Capitol Hill and at the United Nations](#)
- ✝ [When loving your neighbor means protecting asylum-seekers](#)
- ✝ [Supporting abundant life for ministers](#)

Educating voters and ensuring their right to cast a ballot this fall

July 22, 2026 | Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service



Image 1 Ensuring voting rights was a topic during Wednesday's webinar, offered by the PC(USA)'s Advocacy & Witness ministry. (Photo by Rich Copley)

The PC(USA)'s Advocacy & Witness ministry hosts three ecumenical advocates of free, fair, and safe elections

LOUISVILLE — On Wednesday, three ecumenical faith leaders joined with the PC(USA)'s Advocacy & Witness ministry for an informative webinar on voter rights and voter education.

More than 160 people attended to hear ideas and strategies for protecting voting rights from:

- The Rev. Adam Russell Taylor, president of [Sojourners](#)
- The Rev. Dr. Alvin O'Neal Jackson, a leader in the [Poor People's Campaign](#) who co-founded the [Disciples Center for Public Witness](#)

- The Rev. Dr. Hanna R. Broome of [Repairers of the Breach](#) and president of the [North Carolina Council of Churches](#)

Taylor said his parents — his mother is Black and his father is white — instilled in him the belief that his generation has unfinished civil rights work to engage in.

“Voting rights have to be fought for. Democracy is not a given,” he said. We’re currently seeing “the greatest assault on voting rights and on our election system in our generation, and maybe in history.”

In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court weakened the Voting Rights Act by removing the pre-clearance provision in its [Shelby County v. Holder](#) decision, then “finished the job” in [Louisiana v. Callais](#) by removing a provision that enabled states to strengthen Black representation among elected officials. The Court “opened the floodgates for racialized gerrymandering across the South,” he said. “We are facing a landscape where the right to vote is being challenged.”

Sojourners and its partners have launched [Faiths United to Save Democracy](#) to train poll chaplains and peacekeepers for this fall’s midterm elections. “It is fundamentally a theological and moral issue,” Taylor said. “We have framed it in a theological way because it’s an assault on Imago Dei itself — that we are made in the image of God.” The aim, he said, is to “train and equip faith leaders to provide a moral presence at voting sites. We think that work is critical.”

It’s also important to deal with the threat posed by an administration “that has taken over every aspect of the machinery at the federal level designed to protect elections,” potentially “subverting the midterm elections,” Taylor said. Potential scenarios include the presence of Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers at or near polling places on Election Day and a refusal to seat the 120th Congress in January 2027.

“It could be used as a pretense to deny the election results. That’s what authoritarian leaders have done across the world,” Taylor said. “If we show up with our faith, we can turn back those efforts.”

Jackson grew up in the 1950s and 1960s in the Mississippi Delta. A retired Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) pastor, Jackson said that “We don’t need another March on Washington. We need a march to the polls. We have the power to reclaim our tools of government, and it’s time we used it.”



Bishop William Barber II, the president and senior lecturer at Repairers of the Breach and co-chair of the Poor People’s Campaign, is extending a call to “vision voting,” Jackson said — “not party, not partisan, but what is your vision for the country?” The call is for 100 days of mobilization, “calling the nation to the table of democracy and vision voting,” Jackson said.

“We’ve got to remain diligent and organize around a vision,” he said. “That’s how we bring all kinds of folks together.”

Broome called voting “our right and our faithful obligation.”

“What does faith require of us? That we protect our neighbor,” she said. “Our vote is a tool we have been given to love the widow, the orphan, the stranger and the least of these. Walking away from the ballot has never protected anybody who was already unprotected.”

Five generations of her family has been invested in ensuring the right to vote, she said, and so “I am fighting so my grandchildren will inherit a world that’s more just.”

“We can’t stay silent,” Broome said. “Too many people have fought for too long for too little for us to sit down now.”

When the prophet [Amos made his celebrated cry](#), “he wasn’t running for office,” Broome noted. “He was refusing to let God’s people look away from injustice. That isn’t partisanship; it’s the oldest act of faith there is.”

To people who tell her, “I’ve voted my whole life and nothing’s changed,” Broome tells them, “You’re wrong.”

“We stand in the tradition of [Fannie Lou Hamer](#) and [Ella Baker](#),” she said. “We should be stubborn enough to keep showing up.”

During a question-and-answer session that followed their presentations, panelists looked to the work ahead. Taylor said that while the threat to democracy remains a focus of that work, “we have to connect that better to how that affects people’s lives,” including people’s economic plights. “We’re trying to do more about that and do it better.”

Broome suggested that friends at church can produce short videos of themselves walking the short distance to drop their ballot in the mailbox. “Do a montage of your people walking to the mailbox,” she said. “That can be your march to the polls.”

“To me, what lends our democratic system legitimacy is we have a government of, by and for the people,” Taylor said. “Voting is the most critical expression of that, electing and replacing officials on a regular basis.”

“Our democracy is stronger when more people can exercise that fundamental freedom,” he said. “We are all made in the image of God, and our vote is our voice and agency to do what our faith requires of us.”

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.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(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
