

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 August 24, 2026

Happy Regatta!

If you missed the regatta land parade this year, you missed a lot of fun! A big thank you to Coreen Bergholm for the use of her car and trailer for us to use in the parade. A big thank you too to Mike and Jenny Curtis, Billie and Dave O'Neel and Hazel Davidson for decorating and riding in the parade and for giving the parade viewers an taste of what an awesome church family we are blessed with here at First Presbyterian Astoria.



Announcements

- ✚ [Community Service for Justice and Peace](#) – Come celebrate God and God's call for justice, peace and love that is meant to be shared with all of creation, Sunday, August 30 at 4pm at the Garden of the Surging Waves.
- ✚ [Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America](#) – Sunday, September 6 at 12:30pm in the Christian Resource Room, we will begin a 9-week book study. Contact the church office to order a copy of the book.
- ✚ [Care Center Worship](#) – All are welcome to help us bring God's joy and gospel to Astor Place at 2pm and Clatsop Retirement Village at 3pm on Sunday, September 6.
- ✚ [Family Movie Night Returns](#) – Join us, Saturday, September 12 at 6pm for **To Kill a Mockingbird**. Free admission and popcorn in Goodenberger Hall. Bring your own beverage, a comfy chair or pillow and a friend.
- ✚ [Presbyterian Women's Bible Study](#) – The Presbyterian Women's Bible study, **United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other**, begins Saturday, September 19 at 10am at Hazel Davidson's home. Contact the church office for more information or to order a book.
- ✚ [Celebrating 180 years](#) – September 20, Pioneer PC worship and open house celebration event marking 180th years as a Presbyterian congregation on Clatsop Plains.
- ✚ [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.
- ✚ [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 sunrise is a little later in the morning and sunset a little earlier in the evening, there is little doubt that the seasons are changing. It is especially noticeable in our home as Hazel has started prepping her classroom for the quickly approaching day when she will welcome this year's new third graders. This, of course, is something that is being repeated in tens of thousands of places millions of times all over the world this time of the year. Education is such a critical part of, not only our individual development, but of our society as well as the rest of God's creation. As Marian Wright Edelman said, "Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it."

I realize that "*I am preaching to the choir*" when I say that we must never stop learning and growing. As was written in Romans 12: 1-2, "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what God wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you." (MSG) As you may have heard me say before, God is still speaking. And as a very wise person once pointed out, if God is still speaking, are you listening? And, if you're listening, are you doing what God is telling you to do? We must not only seek to continuously grow in our relationship with God, but we also must continuously seek to be transformed by the Holy Trinity. As we read in Proverbs 18:15, "Wise people are always learning, always listening for fresh insights." (MSG)

Praise God, I am not the same person I was when I first truly began my walk with Christ. I was focused, not on God's good news, that is God's gospel; instead, I was focused on judging others for not living up to what I thought they needed to live up to. Again, praise God that I was able to hear God's still speaking voice and a to be transformed by the Holy Trinity from the inside out.

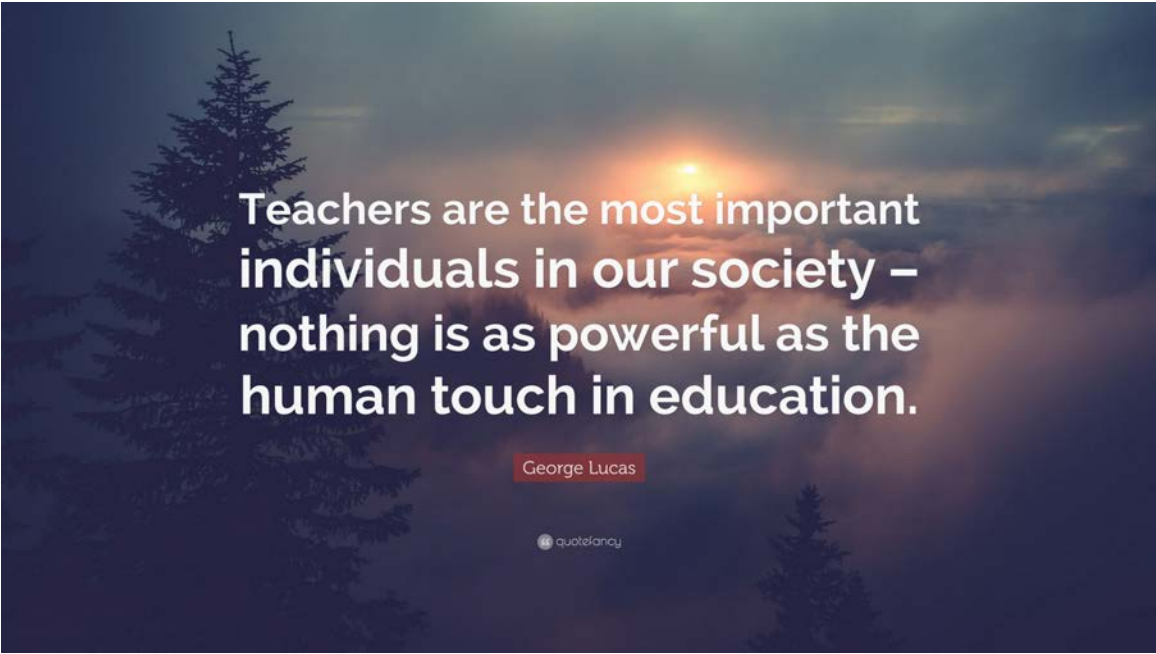
As our denomination, the Presbyterian Church USA, is a part of the reformed tradition, we are not reformed once and that is it; instead, we are reformed and continuing to be reformed. It is, or rather should be, the same with each of us. We must continuously seek to grow in God and God in us. Whenever we forget this, we risk falling into the same trap that those who were always challenging Jesus did in scripture as well as those who claim to be Christians but whose actions seldom, if ever, reflect Jesus' life and teachings and the two great commandments that Jesus pointed out, to selflessly love God with all that we are and to selflessly love all others as we love ourselves.

As we continue to grow in the Holy Trinity and as the Holy Trinity grows in us, we are continuously transformed in ways we may not even realize. As we are continually learning and being transformed by the Holy Trinity, remember to share what you have learned and to always be open to learning more. Every time the world of man puts up a barrier, God shows us ways around that barrier so that we may continue to carry the gospel to God's creation and to those who would receive it.

Siblings in Christ, continue to learn, continue to grow, continue to be changed by God from the inside out. And as you continue to do all these things, continue to share what you have learned and are learning so that others can also grow and be transformed. With each change, a little more of God's kingdom is revealed in the here and the now. Remember, as Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful [tool] which you can use to change the world." And in all this, continue to share God's selfless love with each other, but don't forget to be good to yourself too. See you in church.

Blessings and shalom,

Pastor Paul



Teachers are the most important individuals in our society – nothing is as powerful as the human touch in education.

George Lucas

quoteancy

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
August	30	Sunday	4pm	Community Service for Justice & Peace at Garden of the Surging Waves
September	2	Wednesday	5pm	Bowling, pizza & fellowship at the Lower Columbia Bowl
	6	Sunday	12:30pm	Weekly book begins on "Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America" begins in the Christian Resource Room
			2pm	Worship at Astor Place
			3pm	Worship at Clatsop Retirement Village
	11	Friday	10am	Coffee, Tea & Fellowship in the Church Parlor
	19	Saturday	10am	Women's Bible Study at Hazel Davidson's home
	24	Thursday	4:30pm	Deacon's meeting in the Christian Resource Room
	29	Tuesday	11am	Session Meeting 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, August 30, at 4PM

JUSTICE
and **PEACE**



Scan for
Directions

At the Lower
Columbia Bowl
826 Marine Dr
in Astoria
September 2nd
At 5PM

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

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



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

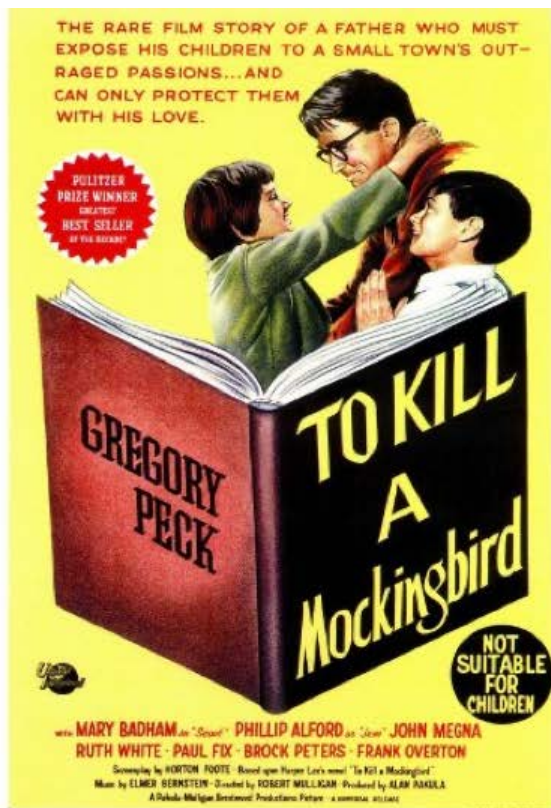
- Family and friends of Susie McIntire at her passing
- Jeff Van Nostran for healing, discernment and shalom
- Yvonne and Bill Van Nostran for peace and discernment
- Joe Fusckino for healing and peace
- Grady Atwater for healing and peace
- Jeremy Annett for healing and peace
- Lena Linehan - healing 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
- 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

Your Voice is Needed!

Come Join Us Sunday,
September 6th as we
bring music and
fellowship to

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





First Presbyterian Church of Astoria Family Movie Night

To Kill A MOCKINGBIRD

Saturday, September 12 at 6pm

in Goodenberger Hall

*Free admission, popcorn and
fellowship for all*

Scan to watch the trailer

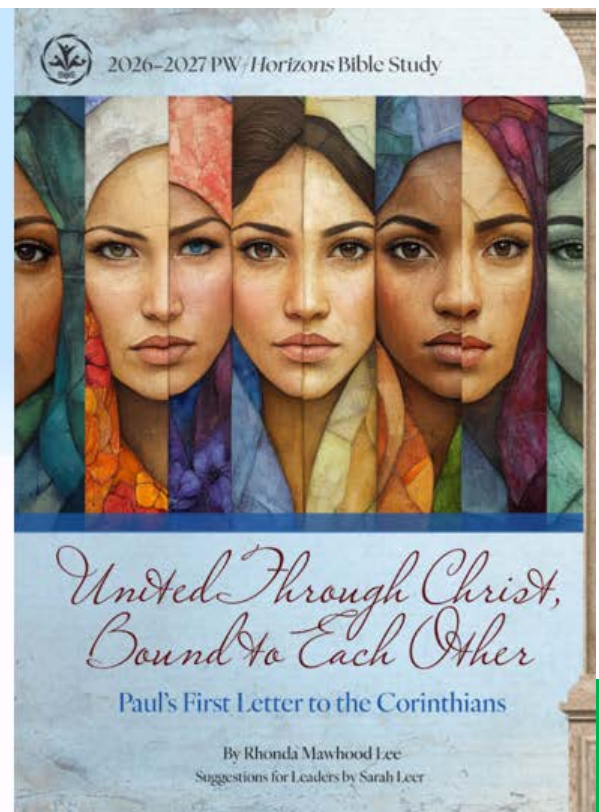


Presbyterian Women's Book Study

Beginning September 19th

Paul wrote at a time when Christians expected Jesus' imminent return; he challenged his friends to be ready when that day came. Two thousand years later, the church is still waiting, still affirming that Jesus will return, and still proclaiming that this world has already been transformed by God's life-giving love. Our challenge remains to live in ways that demonstrate our trust in the resurrection.

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



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
 - Tuesday, September 8, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
- Astoria School District
 - Wednesday, September 9, Regular Board Meeting at 7PM.
- Clatsop County
 - Wednesday, October 14th, Board of Commissioners Agenda Work Session & Regular Meeting at 5PM.
- Clatsop Community College
 - Tuesday, September 8th, Board of Education Meeting at 5:30PM.
- Port of Astoria
 - Tuesday, September 1st, Commission Meeting at 4PM.

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

SEPTEMBER

- National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sep 15-Oct 15); hispanicheritagemonth.gov
- 01 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation; creationjustice.org/world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-of-creation.html
- 07 Labor Day; dol.gov/general/laborday/history
- 08 International Literacy Day; en.unesco.org/commemorations/literacyday
- 13 Disability Inclusion Sunday; pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/disability-concerns
- 21 International Day of Peace; pcusa.org/worship-with-us/yearbook/september-21-2024
- 22 Native American Day; pcusa.org/native-american-day
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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:

- ✚ [SDOP's 'Struggle is Real' webinar to tackle workers' issues and advocacy](#)
- ✚ ['Evicting the American Dream' wins documentary film award](#)
- ✚ [Presbyterian response to drug use across the decades](#)

Want to find common ground? Look to higher ground

August 26, 2026 | Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service



Image 1 Community Day during the 227th General Assembly (2026) drew an enthusiastic crowd in downtown Milwaukee. (Photo by Rich Copley)

A pair of Presbyterian pastors share the ways that political change can come about – even in purple churches

LOUISVILLE — Two Presbyterian pastors with their feet and voices firmly in the political realm were the guests Wednesday during the “Presbyterian Principles and Political Action” webinar offered by the [PC\(USA\)’s Poverty Roundtable](#). More than 175 people attended.

The guests were the Rev. Dr. Ray Roberts, whose recent book is [“A Democratic and Republican Faith: A Public Theology for a Nation in Crisis,”](#) and the Rev. David Lewicki, pastor of [North Decatur Presbyterian Church](#) near Atlanta and a leader with [Presbyterians for a Better Georgia](#). The Rev. Rebecca Barnes, manager of the [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#), and the Rev. Dr. Alonzo Johnson, who coordinates the [Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People](#), hosted the 75-minute webinar.

Roberts said it may sound counterintuitive to say that higher ground is the way to common ground, but reclaiming our theological tradition as Reformed Christians is “the way to we get to higher ground — how tradition helps shape how we look at the world and respond to it.”



Image 2 The Rev. Dr. Ray Roberts speaks during the 227th General Assembly (2026). (Photo by Rich Copley)

As we walk toward higher ground, we also tread on common ground. “Let us not be afraid to offer thick theological reasons for what we advocate,” he said, encouraging webinar participants to “lean into the fact you are a purple church. We need places where people can explore ideas together. If you are a purple church, you’ve got that.”

“We underestimate the spiritual hunger that’s out there,” Roberts said, adding the “deep, deep loneliness” that’s also endemic in the culture.

“People can find in our congregations deep friendships that nurture our lives and call us out of our shells.”

“We are motivated not by ambition, but because we serve a greater cause — God’s rule and reign,” Roberts said.

Lewicki centered his talk on political engagement and churches. Churches have significant latitude to engage in issue-based campaigns that align with an interpretation of their faith. Although they can’t endorse a particular candidate, they can:

- Host constituent meetings in their sanctuary or fellowship hall for those elected to state or local offices
- Host candidate forums during the election season
- Advocate or agitate about issues important at city, county and state levels
- Educate about issues that are important to your congregation

“We brought county commission candidates together for a housing forum,” he said, “and we got them all on the record” on issues including affordable housing.

Lewicki advised congregations to “start where things are most relational with the political entity closest to your home. All politics is local. So, conveniently, is every congregation,” he said. “The most agency and efficacy and satisfaction is engagement at the local level.”



Image 3 The Rev. David Lewicki leads a training session for Presbyterians for a Better Georgia. (Photo by Beth Waltemath)

Start with the issues your church cares about, he said. “Every single ministry is touched by public policy,” including providing food aid, eradicating food deserts and strengthening SNAP benefits and school lunches. The list also includes homelessness and housing affordability, zoning decisions, mental health and addiction services, and policing, as well as poverty, wages, childcare, healthcare and education and school funding, as well as support for teachers.

Lewicki offered this process as a model: First, get a group together at your church and figure out what your congregation cares about. Focus on 1-3 ideas, and do some research about what impact you can make. Vote on the best idea, and then create a plan for policy advocacy, deciding who to partner with. Execute the plan, then evaluate the plan — and repeat.

In the North Decatur community, it was important to have housing available to people at all income levels, he noted. When a development was announced that would be right across the street from the church, the plan went before a community review board. “A couple of us asked the developers how many units are affordable? The developer said none,” Lewicki said. “We said, ‘that’s not enough.’” The neighborhood association got on board, and before the project was completed, it included affordable senior housing units.

Lewicki also shared some of the strategies that have made Presbyterians for a Better Georgia [an effective lobbying group statewide](#). “It’s a marvelous expression of people of faith doing advocacy,” he said. “We do this year in and year out, trying to build momentum.” The work “is a marathon, not a sprint.”

The guests answered a handful of questions posed by webinar participants. Roberts advocated for churches moving the conversation “to the theological rather than the political.”

“What does it mean to say that all our lives are bound together, or that all are sinners?” he said. “We can go to what people have said in the past as a way to talk about things in the present.”

For Lewicki, “doing the work from a place of faith has softened my edges over time because of relationships with people with whom I might disagree.

“There is a distinct flavor of Presbyterian engagement in public life. It’s kind of our brand, and it’s pretty cool,” Lewicki said. “But we work with partners,” especially those who are devoted to a particular issue.

Roberts recommended “recovering core principles that are shared,” including separation of powers and the rule of law, both of which “rest on a theological basis,” he said.

We ought to know who our local and statewide elected officials are and how to contact them, Lewicki said. “You need to know the people making decisions that affect your corner of God’s Creation,” he said.

While Presbyterians can be proud of the advocacy work going on at the [Office of Public Witness](#) and the [Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations](#), “the national stuff is so far away,” and many Presbyterians feel powerless to impact national issues, Lewicki said. “But at a county commissioners meeting, all of a sudden you as a person of faith are an agent in the political process.”

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

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
