

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 September 7, 2026

Care Center Worship Services

Hey, kids look! Do you enjoy singing old hymns? Feel like bringing some cheer to the folks that can't make it to church? First Presbyterian Church is on a rotating schedule with 5 other participating churches that provide worship services to shut-ins on Sunday afternoons. Please join us in worship service at Astor Place and Clatsop Retirement Village. A piano or CD player accompaniment will be provided, along with song books. Your voice or presence will be very much appreciated!

What: Ecumenical Care Center Services

Who: Anyone who likes to sing and bring cheer to residents

Where: Astor Place, 999 Klaskanine Ave, Assembly Room

Clatsop Retirement Village, 947 Olney Ave., 2nd floor Activity Center

When: 2:00 at Astor Place; 3:00 at Clatsop Retirement Village;

Sunday, November 1 and Sunday, December 2

The feedback from the residents/staff has been very positive and they look forward to more services! For many of these people these services are the only opportunity they have each Sunday to worship and hear God's Word.

Announcements

- ✠ [Coffee, Tea, Treats & Fellowship](#) – Join us Friday, September 11 at 10am in the church parlor for coffee, tea, treats and fellowship.
- ✠ [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.
- ✠ [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.
- ✠ [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, from 12-4pm, Pioneer PC worship and open house celebration event marking 180th years as a Presbyterian congregation on Clatsop Plains.
- ✠ [Commissioner Needed for Presbytery](#) – If you are an ordained Ruling Elder and a member of our church family, and are called to serve and represent our church family at the upcoming Presbytery meeting in North Bend on October 23-24, please contact the church office, Pastor Paul, or Rebecca.
- ✠ [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.
- ✠ [Live Streaming YouTube](#) – Sunday worship is available as recordings or livestreaming on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@FirstpresbyterianastoriaOrg>
- ✠ [World Communion Sunday](#) – World Communion Sunday is October 4. Help us celebrate by bringing bread from another culture that Sunday morning to share.

Thoughts from Pastor Paul

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Hope and pray this note finds you well and feeling blessed.

We are so blessed to have such a wonderful church family. This includes the many wonderful siblings who serve as Ruling Elders on Session and as Deacons. While our Deacons help with the spiritual needs of our church family, the Session serves our church family by making sure things are being done to keep our church family moving forward on God's path and living out our mission, "To help people within a kind, safe and compassionate community to know Christ and grow His Love."

As you have most likely heard before, '*Many hands make light work.*' This is true for pretty much everything and anything, and is especially true for life in any church family, even ours. Scripture repeatedly reminds us that, not only do each of us have God given gifts and skills, but that we should answer God's call, even if it's a whisper, to bring our gifts together in concert with each other to do the work that God calls us to. As the Apostle Peter wrote in 1 Peter 4:10-11, "Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it: if words, let it be God's words; if help, let it be God's hearty help. That way, God's bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and he'll get all the credit as the One mighty in everything—encores to the end of time. Oh, yes!" (MSG) And, as the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 12: 6-8, "In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't. If you preach, just preach God's Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don't take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don't get bossy; if you're put in charge, don't manipulate; if you're called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face." (MSG)

With all this said, again, yes, we are blessed with an awesome session; however, they cannot do what they do without help from each of you. We always need help with people serving on one or more of the committees that the Session members chair. These include finance, Arlene Landwehr, chair; buildings and grounds, Mike Curtis, chair; Christian education, Rebecca Duffy, chair; fellowship & outreach, Arlene Landwehr, chair; worship, Jenny Curtis, chair; stewardship & mission, Stacy Kelly Chair; and Personnel, Bob Magie, chair. If you feel called to help with one or more of these teams, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Session members or the church office to let us know. And don't be surprised if one or more of the Session members don't approach you about bringing your gifts and skills to work for God's mission. There is never a shortage of things that need done.

Siblings in Christ, when we work together doing God's work, not only can we do more than we can do on our own, we can also do more and greater things than we could ever imagine or do on our own. And when we are working together to do God's work, that's when we find more hearts and lives changed for the better and when we just might find more hands joining in the work. So together, keep up the great work, that is God's work, and continue to share God's selfless love with each other, while remembering to show yourself some of that same love.

See you in church.

Blessings and shalom,

Pastor Paul

Our Church Family's Financials as of August 2026

Income – \$ 9,205.53 – year to date = \$ 121,196.12
Expenses – \$ 5,876.12 – year to date = \$ 111,043.89



FPC Astoria's Calendar

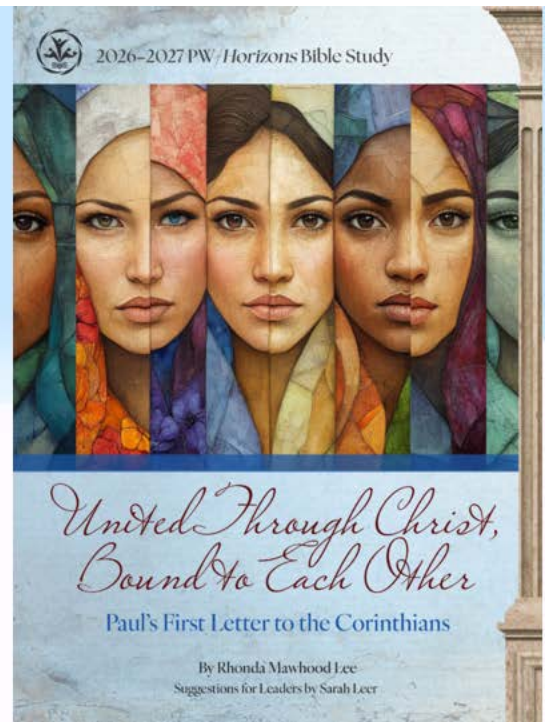
9:30am every Tuesday and Thursday in the Christian Resource Room for a time of prayer.

Month	Date	Day	Time	What & Where
September	11	Friday	10am	Coffee, Tea & Fellowship in the Church Parlor
	12	Saturday	6pm	Family Movie Night – To Kill a Mockingbird in Goodenber Hall
	13	Sunday	12:30pm	Book study – “ Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America ” in the Christian Resource Room (Intro & Chapter 1)
	15	Tuesday	6:30pm	Palestine: Listening, Learning, and Understanding - A Conversation with Alex Awad on Zoom. CLICK HERE TO REGISTER
	19	Saturday	10am	Women’s Bible Study at Hazel Davidson’s home
	20	Sunday	12:30pm	Book study – “ Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America ” in the Christian Resource Room (Chapter 2)
			12noon – 4pm	Pioneer Presbyterian Church’s 180 th Anniversary & Open House
	24	Thursday	4:30pm	Deacon’s meeting in the Christian Resource Room
	27	Sunday	12:30pm	Book study – “ Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America ” in the Christian Resource Room (Chapter 3)
29	Tuesday	11am	Session Meeting in the Christian Resource Room	

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



A vertical poster for Pioneer Presbyterian Church's 180th Anniversary Open House. The top features the text 'You're Invited!' in a cursive font, followed by 'PIONEER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH' in large, bold, blue capital letters. Below this is a banner that says 'CELEBRATING 180TH ANNIVERSARY' and another banner that says 'Open House!'. The date and time 'SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th 12-4pm' are prominently displayed. The background shows a photograph of the church building, a brick structure with a tall steeple. At the bottom, there are three circular icons: a coffee cup for 'REFRESHMENTS', a book for 'HISTORY', and a church building for 'TOURS'. To the right of these icons is a box with the text 'HONORING OUR PAST CELEBRATING OUR PRESENT INSPIRING OUR FUTURE'. Further right is the text 'Come celebrate our FAITH, HERITAGE & COMMUNITY!'. The bottom of the poster features the text '180 YEARS OF FAITH • HOPE • LOVE' and 'All are welcome!' in a decorative font, flanked by white flowers.

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

- Brodie MacDonald for healing and shalom
- Pam Wev for healing and discernment
- 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
- 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

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

Add Your Voice - Prayer Time

If you feel a call in your heart to share in conversation with our loving God in a time of prayer, please join us each Tuesday and Thursday at 9:30am in the Christian Resource Room for a time of meditation and prayer.

We will use this time to share with each other and our loving God, and then listen for God's still speaking voice to respond to our hearts and minds.

We hope to see you there.



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
 - Wednesday, September 21, City Council Meeting at 6PM.
- Astoria School District
 - Wednesday, September 14, 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 13th, Board of Education Meeting at 5:30PM.
- Port of Astoria
 - Tuesday, September 20th, 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); hispanicheritagemoth.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:

- ✝ [In the shadow of September 11](#)
- ✝ [Reading Scripture together is both faithful and fun](#)
- ✝ [Reclaiming Christian womanhood beyond patriarchy](#)
- ✝ [This month in Presbyterian history](#)

Seeing others as Jesus sees them

September 8, 2026 | Mike Ferguson | Presbyterian News Service



Visitors to the Al Amana Centre in Oman come in part to learn from others. (Photos courtesy of the Al Amana Centre)

World Communion Offering supports expansion of interfaith experiences and education through the Al Amana Centre in Oman

LOUISVILLE — For the Rev. Justin Meyers, interfaith understanding isn't just an abstract concept; it's his lived experience.

During his 10 years in parish ministry, Meyers regularly engaged in a wide range of interfaith initiatives, from pulpit exchanges to interfaith

Thanksgiving services to interfaith justice and social initiatives.

But his immersive, firsthand education and commitment to interfaith dialogue weren't limited to the congregations and communities he served.

"I have a family history with my father's sister marrying a Lebanese Muslim immigrant and having cousins who were all raised in the Muslim faith tradition," Meyers said. "I was drawn to the work of interfaith relations since it was not only a piece of my personal history but also a part of pastoral ministry that I valued highly."

Even so, the idea of taking a position with the Al Amana Centre in Oman, a country on the southeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula — was perhaps the farthest thing from his mind.

"I never saw myself becoming a mission worker; I was recruited," said Meyers, an ordained minister in the Reformed Church in America who became the Al Amana Centre's associate director in 2013 and is now its executive director. "And although I never thought my wife would agree to go, she said yes. Oman also offered the opportunity for my sons, who were 4 and 7 years old at the time, to experience something most kids never would have the opportunity to have in their lifetimes."

With its roots in the Reformed Church of America, the Al Amana Centre's work is based on more than 130 years of collaboration between Christians and Muslims in the Sultanate of Oman. It is one of the few Christian-led organizations in the Muslim-majority world working toward sustainable peace.

The staff and Al Amana's eight-member board seek to foster peace and reconciliation through safe, immersive interfaith experiences, offering training sessions and relational encounters that build capacity to work across differences, religious and political.

Through genuine and open exchanges, the Centre's facilitated discussions bridge the gap between people of different beliefs and help participants gain deeper insights into themselves. One of the Centre's



The conversation continues outside the Al Amana Centre in Oman.

priorities is to lift up the role of religion so that people can connect, reconcile and build peace within their own context.

“Interfaith opportunities increase dialogue and knowledge,” said Luciano Kovacs, Global Ecumenical Liaison, Middle East and Europe, with Global Ecumenical Partnerships of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Within the structure of Presbyterian Life & Witness (PL&W), the Global Ecumenical Liaisons (GELs) serve as bridges between the PC(USA) and its international/U.S. partners, mid councils, new worshiping communities, diaspora communities, ethnic caucuses, ecumenical partners and mission networks.

“Interfaith experiences break prejudices, show the ‘other’ as a fellow human being rather than someone belonging to a different religion, without attempting to level diversity,” Kovacs said. “They foster solidarity based on common human needs rather than opposition in beliefs. Personal encounters make religious doctrine secondary to getting to know one another as people.”

Meyers said that many of the people in the region, especially in places such as Palestine and Africa, who need training in interfaith relations and peacebuilding, don’t have the financial resources to spend on the trainings that Al Amana offers, nor do they have the luxury of travel outside of the region.

“Supporting the Al Amana Centre through the PC(USA) allows us to deepen partnerships, offer needed training and retreats to people in conflict zones, and allows us to help people in the U.S. meet and understand people of different religions and cultures in the Gulf, Levant, and the wider MENA [Middle East and North Africa] region,” said Meyers.

Although board members like the Rev. Dr. Elmarie Parker, a PC(USA) minister and former regional liaison for PL&W, were in the process of engaging several U.S. congregations with Al Amana’s work by scheduling learning trips, any such visits to the region are necessarily on hold in the light of the continuing crisis in the MENA region.

“Once this war is over,” added Kovacs, “I would like to see PC(USA) constituents plan trips to Oman to experience directly how the Al Amana Centre conducts interfaith dialogue.”

In the meantime, Al Amana’s ongoing programming continues to advance its critically important mission in the region and beyond.

“Learning peace-building skills from partners like the Al Amana Centre is deeply relevant to the challenges facing congregations in today’s United States,” said Parker. “Increasing our capacity to work effectively across differences of all kinds directly contributes to embodying the invitation of Micah 6:8.”

In fact, the prophet’s threefold call is at the heart of all three of the PC(USA)’s Special Offerings, with Micah’s charge to “love kindness” shining a light on the newest of the three, the World Communion Offering Received by many congregations on World Communion Sunday, which falls this year on Sunday, Oct. 4, this new Offering can be celebrated at any time of the year.

With its singular focus on reconciling God's people around the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, it supports the PC(USA)'s initiatives in racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations, as embodied by the work of the Al Amana Centre.

"The World Communion Offering at its core invites us to something different — to act on a commitment we say has its root and its core expression at the table," said the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Japinga, a Presbyterian transitional minister serving a congregation near Chicago who chairs the board of the Al Amana Centre. "It's a commitment that belongs not to one church, nor just to the Presbyterian Church, but the whole church, the whole world. That the barriers we too often build — cultural, political, personal — that keep us from seeing others as Jesus sees them are set aside here. But if those are only words, uttered only for a few moments on a Sunday morning, they ring hollow. This offering is a way to act: to stand alongside people and organizations breaking down the very barriers set aside at Christ's table."

The Rev. Ellen Sherby, PL&W's manager for International GELs, said that just as reconciliation takes place around Christ's table of grace, "the ministry of Global Ecumenical Partnerships aspires to bring people together for work rooted in strong relationships and local discernment that brings fullness of life to all."

"Just as the World Communion Offering seeks the wholeness of all peoples from all nations of the globe, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) works with others to connect, equip and accompany people in shared work and witness for God's work in the world," said Sherby. "Feast joyfully, give generously. The table is set, and all are invited!"

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.

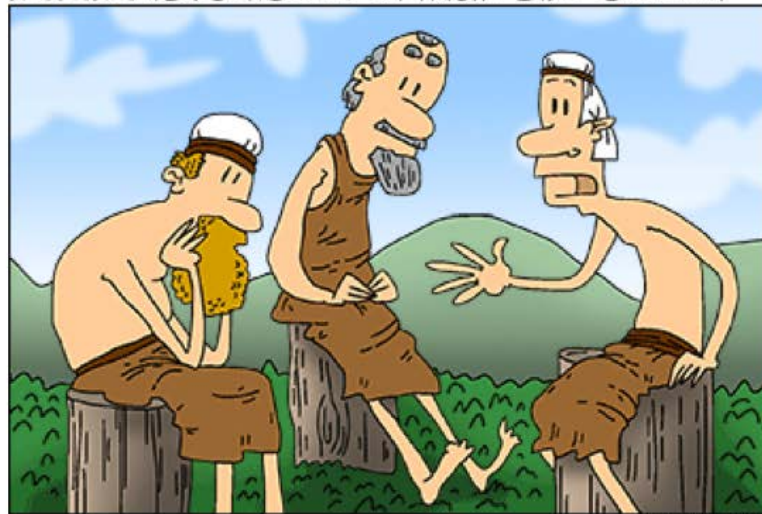
[Help Preserve This Historic Place](#)

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.



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JEEPERS PETER 3 AND JOHN 4, I NEVER
GOT MY BOOK PUBLISHED EITHER BUT YOU
DONT SEE ME MOPING ABOUT IT

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
