



# First Presbyterian Church of Port Angeles



Your Pastor Nominating Committee

is pleased to introduce

Reverend Doctor

**Matthew Paul**

Candidate for Pastor

*PNC Is pleased to introduce*

## **Reverend Dr. Matthew Paul, Pastor Nominee**

The Pastor Nominating Committee prayerfully and enthusiastically recommends Matthew Paul as our next Pastor of First Presbyterian Church Port Angeles.

The Pastor Nominating Committee of First Presbyterian Church Port Angeles, after much prayer and discernment, guided by the Holy Spirit, believe the gifts, vision, and experience of Reverend, Dr. Matthew M. Paul are well matched to inspire and lead our congregation in the faithful pursuit of God's will in the years to come. We are thrilled and excited to introduce Matt to our congregation and our congregation to Matt!



Matthew Paul brings more than 22 years experience as a Presbyterian pastor. He has served congregations in Iowa, Washington, Colorado, and Oregon as Senior Pastor/Head of Staff, solo pastor and Associate Pastor for Youth and Stephen Ministry. Matt's last call was at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Iowa City, Iowa, where he served as Senior Pastor and Head of Staff. At St. Andrew, he shepherded the congregation through a challenging six-year period of discernment and transition beginning with vision formulation and concluding with the construction of a new church campus—a project valued at more than \$14m. It was a once in a lifetime experience and he is grateful for the opportunity to lead a congregation in fulfilling its calling to build a new base for ministry in service to Christ and to future generations.

With that season of ministry complete, he has been eagerly waiting to see where God would lead him next! We are thrilled that he feels called to be our pastor at First Presbyterian Church Port Angeles.

Matt received his Doctor of Ministry from Austin Theological Seminary. He earned his Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and his B.S. in Finance from the University of Oregon. His experience includes leading congregations through change and conflict, helping cast vision, staff and lay leadership development, and new ministry start-up. He has focused his continuing education on Spiritual Formation, Clinical Pastoral Education, Worship, CREDO, Mediation Skills Training, Staffing and Supervision, Leadership Evaluation Assessment Training and Stephen Ministry Training.

When asked to describe the church he would like to serve, Matt responded, *"I believe God is calling me to serve a congregation with a clear sense of purpose. It is a people with **a commitment to spiritual growth, a passion for nurturing Christian disciples, and a heart for service and mission. Christ is the center of this church.** Grounded in God's Word, the people are challenged to seek and share their spiritual gifts. It is a fellowship empowered by the Holy Spirit to embody the grace, love, and mercy of Jesus Christ in the world."*

In his ministry Matt seeks to "share his spiritual gifts in preaching, teaching, and visionary leadership. He is passionate about "helping others see their lives as part of the greater story of God's redeeming work in Christ and to become active partners with Jesus in his ministry. His calling, as reflected in his doctoral project

on incarnational ministry, is to facilitate the spiritual formation in the body of Christ by guiding people in discerning God's vision for their lives and encouraging them in a life of Christian discipleship.

Matt comes to us with high recommendation's from former Session members, former staff and colleagues, friends and seminary classmates. Below are a few examples:

- *"Matt is dedicated and devoted to Jesus Christ. He is passionate about the mission of Christ in the world but is even more excited when others find their gifts for ministry and find their calling in mission. He is a thoughtful preacher who brings both his heart and his mind to his preaching. He enjoys life and welcomes opportunities for fellowship. His family is funny, warm, and kind-hearted".*
- *"Matt is a pastor's pastor, he's organized, faithful and a gifted pastor."*
- *"I have had the privilege of having Matt as a friend and colleague for over 15 years. Matt's ministry is marked by a passion for the gospel of Christ, an astute and caring spirit, and an intellectually sound approach to preaching and teaching. I am excited for the church to step into this new season of life with the Paul family. Matt and Becca will pour their hearts into your community, and Christ will be glorified throughout Port Angeles and beyond!"*
- *"Matt gets excited about helping people in the church to discover their gifts and guiding them in ways to use those gifts in service to the church."*
- "Matt feels called to be a pastor. He is a passionate man as a pastor, his own faith is genuine and he knows he *doesn't* have it all figured out."

## Family



Matt and his wife, Becca, are the proud parents of three outstanding children. Willem is in his fourth year at Iowa State University where he studies software engineering and German. Marina is a sophomore at Central College in Pella, Iowa, where she studies elementary education. Arie is a high school junior. He plays tuba and enjoys chemistry and being on the Knowledge Bowl team. Becca has dedicated her life to early childhood education and most recently served as a preschool Para educator in the Iowa City Community School District. In Matt's free time he enjoys working around the house, brewing beer, watching movies, hiking, and birding.

## **Matt's Statement Of Faith**

I believe in one holy and triune God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The three persons of the Trinity exist in perfect harmony with one another—One in Three and Three in One. While the Trinity is itself a mystery, I am comforted that our God is a communal God of relationships and mutual, self-giving love.

The Father is the creator of all things seen and unseen. God created humanity in God's image, appointing us as stewards of creation. God also created us to be in relationship with God and one another. Although we were created without sin, our own selfish desires lead us away from God's will. Despite our fallen nature, God continues to love us. God has created me in God's own image to do God's will and to glorify God always.

Jesus, the Son, is the redeemer of humanity, born of God and of a woman. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us; fully human and fully divine. During his earthly ministry, Jesus proclaimed God's love for us by calling us to turn from sin and to embrace a new life through faith in God. Jesus followed God's will perfectly; though he was tempted in many ways, he remained obedient. Feeling the full wrath of our sinfulness, Jesus was unjustly condemned to death on a cross. Jesus bore our sins for us in order that we might be forgiven and set free from sin and death. God raised Jesus from the dead on the third day and in this way Jesus triumphed over death. It is only through Jesus Christ that we may know the fullness of God and God's love for us. Jesus is my Lord, my savior, and my friend.

The Holy Spirit is my counselor and guide, in life and in ministry. Jesus sent the Spirit to come alongside humanity as God's continued presence on earth. The Spirit equips believers for the purpose of proclaiming God's word and for building the body of Christ. I trust the Spirit to guide and empower my ministry. The Holy Spirit reveals to me God's presence in my life and sustains me to be in God's service.

I know God through the pages of Scripture, which are illumined to me by the Spirit. The Bible is a record of God's covenantal relationship with humanity as recorded first by the people of Israel and then by Jesus' followers. Scripture is the foundation of my understanding of God and the benchmark by which I examine my faithfulness to God and God's will.

Jesus' ministry continues through the church. We enter this community of believers through the waters of baptism and are sustained for service through Holy Communion. The sacraments are signs and seals of God's grace. Baptism symbolizes the cleansing of our sins, marking the start of a covenantal relationship between individuals and the church. At the Lord's Table, Christ invites us to eat and drink of the new covenant and receive a foretaste of the eternal feast to come. The church is called to be the hands and feet of Christ, to minister to a broken world, seeking the lost, proclaiming the good news, and inviting sinners to new life in Jesus.

# Matt's Education

## Formal Education:

D.Min. Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 2012

M.Div. Princeton Theological Seminary, 1996

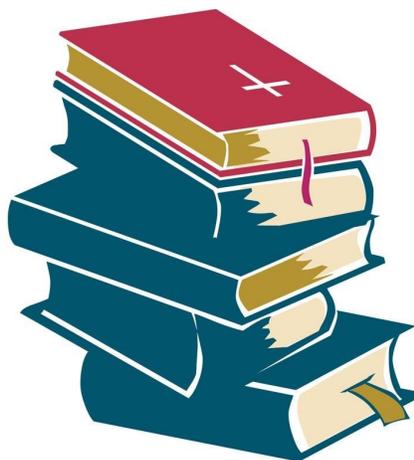
B.S. in Finance, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, 1989

## Continuing Education:

Clinical Pastoral Education

Misc. Training and Conferences including Worship, CREDO, Mediation Skills Training, Staffing and Supervision, Leadership Evaluation Assessment Training and Stephen Ministry Training Conferences.

Coursework in Certificate in Spiritual Formation Program, Columbia Theological Seminary



*We invite you to participate  
in Candidating Weekend, August 24-26.*

Join us for one of these “Meet & Greet” Rev. Matthew Paul opportunities:

To provide a relaxed social settings where members of the church family can informally be introduced, and “rub elbows” with PNC Candidate Rev. Dr. Matthew Paul, his wife Becca, and their son Arie prior to Sunday’s worship, preaching, and formal congregational vote on Call.

**Friday August 24 “Coffee Fellowship”**

4 PM to 6 PM      Location Church, Fellowship Hall  
Hosted by Community Life and PNC

**Saturday, August 25 “Coffee Fellowship”**

1 PM to 3 PM      Location: Church, Fellowship Hall  
Hosted by Community Life and PNC

**Sunday, August 26 All-Church Worship**

Rev. Dr. Matthew Paul Preaching  
10:15 AM Sanctuary

**Sunday, August 26 Special Congregational Meeting**

11:30 Sanctuary

Followed by Reception

Location: Church, Fellowship Hall

Hosted by Community Life and PNC

(No childcare provided. Please bring your family to the Congregational Meeting)

We hope to see you at these events!

Your PNC

*Thank you!*



First Presbyterian Church  
139 W, 8th Street  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

As our seven member PNC met faithfully each week to review Pastor Information Forms, written answers to our Supplementary Questions, conduct phone interviews and reference checks, confer with COM, and eventually invite our top candidate, Matthew Paul, for a visit to Port Angeles we knew you were supporting us, our process and our next pastor in prayer. Thank you! Your prayers made a difference. Our PNC cared for and supported each other as we watched God lead us through the process. We liked Matt as soon as we read his Pastor Information Form. As we got to know him better we liked him even more and he became our top candidate. It was abundantly clear that the Holy Spirit had been leading us faithfully and well. We feel encouraged and blessed that he has agreed to be considered as our next Pastor and hope that you feel as blessed as we do as we proudly present Rev. Dr. Matthew Paul to the congregation for consideration of offering the Call to be our next pastor.