



Highlights

First Presbyterian Church

From the Heart

Dear Friends in Christ,

At a Presbytery sponsored pastor retreat on Whidbey Island last month, Executive Presbyter Laura Terasaki spoke to our group about self-care. Laura stressed the need for us to pull back from our busy schedules—and with them, the sense that things will go awry if we are not involved in them—and make space for rest and renewal. To emphasize her point, she used illustrations from nature and agriculture, where plants, trees, and vines must winter and where farmers intentionally let their fields go fallow. These seasons of dormancy are necessary for healthy production in the future. Life without rest is not sustainable. Laura was speaking about ministry, but the concept holds for all of us.

I have written before about how February is my least favorite month, but Laura's comments have given me a new perspective. February is the perfect time for people to break free from the stresses of our normal calendars and allow ourselves to *winter* along with the rest of nature. In biology, the term *wintering* describes how plants and animals survive cold seasons by adapting their physiology to endure the winter conditions. In winter, certain animals adapt through hibernation or greatly curtail their movement. Many varieties of fruit trees require a certain number of chill hours—where temperatures are consistently below 45°F, for example—which allows trees to form winter buds. A proper chilling during the winter will foster strong growth in the spring.

Applying the concept of wintering to our lives means intentionally setting aside time for rest or sabbath. More importantly, to winter is to recognize the absolute necessity of letting the fields of life go fallow for a season. Wintering takes an act of faith to say that my soils will be devoid of all nutrients unless I allow the Spirit to replenish them through rest. Think about how hard it is to take rest in our busy society where production and achievement are so highly prized.

February is a perfect time to practice wintering. Our bodies are hard-wired to winter when the days grow short. Our circadian rhythms are attuned to the seasons and call us to rest more during the long nights. We often fight these rhythms like toddlers scream and fuss to stay awake, even as their bodies grow more and more tired. Why not take these cues to find rest in prayer, sacred conversations, a good book, or a warm fire? Why not follow the example of Christ who frequently took sabbath rest, away from his growing crowds and busy schedule?

May you find rest and renewal in the rhythms of the season, and may the Lord bless your wintering with an abundance of energy for the coming spring.

Godspeed,



Hour of Praise

**Sunday, February 23, 2 pm,
Sanctuary**

Sing, praise and feel renewed!

Lunch with Leaders

Sunday, February 23, 12:15 pm

Are you interested in finding out more about First Presbyterian Church?

Please join us for a free lunch and a chance to get to know Pastor Matt and some of the church elders.

Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, February 21 or signup at the Connection Center.

Worshiping and Learning



Small Talks on Big Issues

Thursday Evening Small Groups, 7 - 8:30 pm,
February 27, March 6, 13, 27

Session Four: Conflict in the Holy Land

The war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza is just the latest in an ongoing conflict that is deeply rooted in matters of faith and geopolitics that stretch back to the earliest biblical period. Simply raising the topic can instantly lead to a heated argument eliciting such terms as Zionism, apartheid, terrorism, genocide, and end times prophecies. What is the history behind the Israeli/Palestinian conflict? What is actually happening there and what would a compassionate Christian response to the conflict look like? And how has all of this impacted you?

Small Talks on Big Issues is not for everyone, but for those with a burning desire to share their stories and struggles with a goal of seeking better understanding of the topics and of oneself, this might be just right for you. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Pastor Matt for more information and to complete the registration process.

Adult Sunday School

**Sundays, 9:45 am, February 16 -
March 2.**

"Experiencing God" is the title of this new course. Stan Jacobson and Ardith Hansel will be teaching it. This class does not have a book. It will be predicated on the answers to the Question of the Month, which asked, "Where do you experience God in your life?"

Wednesday Women's Bible Study

**Wednesdays, 9 am,
Upstairs classroom**

The Wednesday Bible Study group will be studying Matthew in mid-February. Learning to be disciples by Jesus will be the topic of study.

Church Business Items

December 2024 Financials

Income Year-to-Date: \$442,971
2024 Annual Income Budgeted:
\$380,880

Expenses Year-to-Date: (\$423,853)
2024 Annual Expenses Budgeted:
(\$424,897)

Capital Spending YTD: (\$101,896)
Capital Spending Rebate on HVAC
\$2,100

2024 Annual Capital Budget:
(\$130,837)

* Capital Projects Gift Income
\$46,146

Capital Projects Gift spent
(\$18,427)

**we were given a gift to be used for building repairs specifically.*

Water Damage Building Repairs
thus far: (\$71,933)

Water Damage Insurance
Payment: \$188,653

Christmas Joy Offering totaled: \$2,148
Christmas Eve Offering totaled: \$744

Praise God from whom all blessings
flow!

Session Actions

The Session met in a hybrid meeting in the upstairs classroom at the church and online via Zoom on Monday, January 20 at 7 pm and the following actions were taken:

- Approved changing the Annual Meeting time on February 2 to 1 pm, with a meal prior to the meeting at 12:15 pm. Lunch will be provided by the Community Life Committee.
- Bob Pappas presented the final financial report for 2024.
- Session members volunteered to attend two upcoming Presbytery meetings on February 13, 2025 and May 15, 2025.



Special Events



Sunday, February 2

12:15 pm Lunch (provided)

1:00 pm Meeting

Join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting. We will review 2024.

Lunch will be provided. If you will be joining for lunch please use the sign-up sheet at the Connection Center.

Mexican Train Dominoes

Saturday, February 22, 2 pm

Fellowship Hall

Climb aboard for an afternoon of Mexican Train Dominoes. If you have a set of double 12 dominoes, please bring it. If you have never played this game, don't let that keep you away. It is easy to learn.

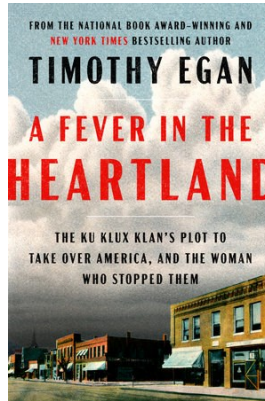
Contact Melanie DeBiddle at 360-477-3643 or Pat Hyden 360-457-1843 for information.

Monthly Events

Book Club

Thursday, February 20, 10:30 am

Fellowship Hall



The Roaring Twenties--the Jazz Age--has been characterized as a time of Gatsby frivolity. But it was also the height of the uniquely American hate group, the Ku Klux Klan. Their domain was not the

old Confederacy, but the Heartland and the West. One man's strategy brought the group out of the shadows – their message endorsed from the pulpits of local churches, spread at family picnics and town celebrations. Judges, prosecutors, ministers, governors and senators across the country all proudly proclaimed their membership. But at the peak of his influence, it was a seemingly powerless woman – Madge Oberholtzer – who would reveal his secret cruelties, and whose deathbed testimony finally brought the Klan to their knees.

Contact Barb Pappas,
bpappas378@gmail.com.

February 2025

Reel Reflections

Dinner and a Movie Edition:

Unspoken; The Christian Heritage of America

Thursday, February 20, 6:30 pm

Hybrid: In person or by Zoom

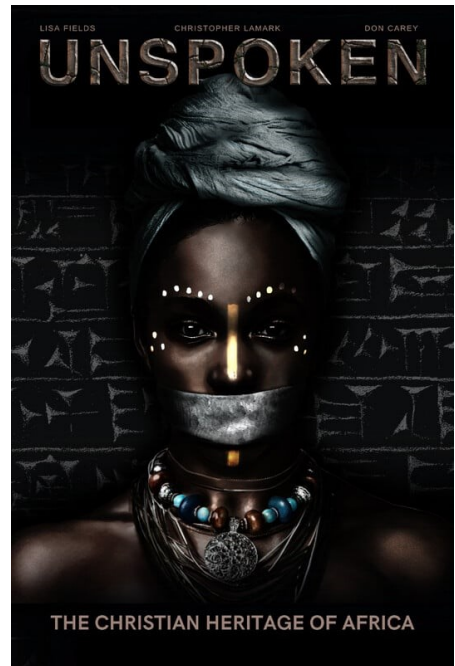
Unspoken tells the incredible story of the historical and nuanced relationship between the Christian faith and African descendants. Christianity is often classified as “the white man's religion.” Conventional wisdom shares tales of Jesus of Nazareth's life, death, and subsequent resurrection traveling from Jerusalem to Rome before ultimately taking root in Western Europe. Christianity spread in many directions following Christ's crucifixion in the Middle East, and many of the oldest Christian traditions trace back to Africa.

Unspoken features a well-curated group of historians, religious scholars, and cultural influencers who, in this groundbreaking film, examine the real history of one of the world's most widely practiced religions.

Please join Pastor Matt and friends for this moving film and stay afterwards for a lively discussion.

If you are bringing your dinner please arrive by 6:00 pm.

Look for Zoom information in the eNews.



Question of the Month

What scriptures do you turn to when you're feeling sad?

Mission & Outreach Committee Report

The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to share with you how your mission dollars are being spent. We hope to do this every month. However, there will be no news in January and December as we have decided not to distribute any funds during those two months.

Rev. Sarah Henken



We support Sarah Henken by sending \$2500 annually to the Northwest Coast Presbytery. They send it to the General Assembly in Louisville, KY, who then sends it to Sarah.

Sarah Henken has served as a mission co-worker since 2010. After six years serving as regional liaison for the Andean countries of South America (Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela), in 2017 her ministry shifted to a key focus on peace initiatives with the Presbyterian Church of Colombia (known as the IPC after its Spanish name). Sarah works in collaboration with the peace commission of the IPC as the church strives to help all Colombians build a new future and bring an end to over 50 years of armed conflict.

A lifelong peace advocate, Sarah helps develop educational materials and programs for the promotion of peace and reconciliation within churches and communities. She engages in diaconal ministry with groups of campesino farmers displaced by the violence as they seek new land to farm and strive to sustain their families. Sarah also coordinates the Young Adult Volunteers who serve alongside the IPC in a variety of ministries. Her home base is in Barranquilla, on Colombia's Caribbean coast. She also visits churches and communities throughout the country.

If you would like to know more about Rev. Henken's work, go to <https://pcusa.org/sarah-henken> or you can email her at sarah-henken@pcusa.org. Her address in Colombia is below and her birthday is in a few days, February 3.

Carrera 38 #74-179, Barranquilla, Atlántico, Colombia

Mission & Outreach Committee Report continued:



NWCP Northwest Coast Presbytery \$2500

Because we are a connected church, we also give funds to the Northwest Coast Presbytery for the following organizations (The Presbytery gives to these organizations according to a prescribed percentage that is listed alongside the organization):

Eagle Wings disability Ministries 20%

Renewal Ministries Northwest 20%

Tall Timber Ranch 30%

Tall Timber Camper Scholarships 10%

Underground Ministries 10%

Mending Wings 5%

Campbell Farm 5%

You can find out more about these organizations by going to www.northwestcoast.org/partners

Friendship Dinners \$500

We have budgeted up to \$500 to provide food for homeless individuals. Most of the Friendship Dinners are held at the United Methodist church with one meal held at our church. The dinners are usually on Friday nights. We are responsible for four meals a year.

Please pray for Rev. Sarah Henken, the Northwest Coast Presbytery and the Friendship Dinners and for the people that are touched by their work.

Reflection is a good thing



Earth Day is coming in April and the Creation Care Team will begin to make plans. I've been thinking about the pieces I wrote for the eNews talking about the use of plastics and its effect on the environment and our health. Reflecting on my practices is a good thing.

For Christmas I received a set of glass food storage containers. I continue to use the flat silicone lids but too often reach for plastic wrap or baggies. I found stretchy edge silicone round and rectangular lids that are in my Amazon cart. I shared some of my plastics information with my sister-in-law and when I looked in her refrigerator recently I saw loads of Mason jars storing food.

I mentioned being dismayed at all the plastic bags of compost I buy for the garden. My husband got me a truckload of composted cow manure from Dungeness Creamery which I spread on the garden beds last fall. I am thankful my daughter lives locally and is willing to help with labor.



I stopped buying cherry tomatoes in single use plastic when a Roma would do. Sunny Farms sells more unpackaged produce so I like shopping there. I get to Sequim every couple of weeks so shopping there for produce and meat is convenient plus I also take my glass recycling to Sequim on the same trip.

One failure on my part is still using Swiffer mop throw away pads. That comes down to the whole issue of convenience which so often affects our earth friendly practices. Quite a few of you shared comments with me about the eNews pieces. I ask that you again share with me any lasting successes regarding reducing your use of plastics. My chats with individuals often inspire my own practices. Like the theme in the January Eco-Tip "just do the next thing" in your journey caring for God's creation.

Stepping out in faith,
Martha Bell

Creation Care Team

February 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 3:45 pm TAFY Dinner Food Donations |
| 2 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School 12:15 pm Lunch 1:00 pm Annual Meeting | 3 7 pm Adult Christian Formation Meeting | 4 8 am FISH Company 12:30 pm Community Life 6:45 pm Praise Team | 5 9 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Worship & Music | 6 10 am Food Bank Helpers 1 pm Love Box 3 pm Mission & Outreach 7 pm Worship & Music Committee | 7 | 8 2 pm Volunteer Hospice Remembrance Ceremony |
| 9 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School | 10 1 pm Naomi Circle 2 pm B,G, P Committee | 11 8 am FISH Company 5:30 pm Youth Christian Formation Zoom 6:45 pm Praise Team | 12 9 am Women's Bible Study 2:30 pm Nominating Committee | 13 10 am Food Bank Helpers 7 pm Small Talks on Big Issues | 14  | 15 |
| 16 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School | 17 Office Closed for President's Day  7 pm Session | 18 8 am FISH Company 4 pm Deacons Meeting 6:45 pm Praise Team | 19 9 am Women's Bible Study | 20 10:30 am Book Club 6:30 pm Reel Reflections Dinner and a Movie: <i>Unspoken</i> | 21 | 22 |
| 23 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School 12:15 pm Lunch with Leaders 2 pm Hour of Praise | 24 | 25 8 am FISH Company 6:45 pm Praise Team | 26 9 am Women's Bible Study | 27 7 pm Small Talks on Big Issues | 28 | |

Youth Group Activities

February - There will be an activity this month. Be on the lookout for an email with details.

March - Saturday, March 22, 4 - 6 pm. Save the date. You don't want to miss this.

April - Saturday, April 26th, B & B Lavender Farm. The time and details are still being arranged.

May - Saturday, May 31, 4 - 6 pm. This month we will be at First Presbyterian. Plan on an afternoon of Spaghetti, Scrabble, and Psalms.

Thank you so much

From Roosevelt Elementary School

**THANKS
FOR BEING**

BIG-HEARTED YOU.

Dear First Presbyterian Church
Family -

On behalf of staff and student
here at Roosevelt, I want to extend
our sincere gratitude for your
generous donation of gift cards.

This thoughtful gesture not only
provides immediate relief, but it
also strengthens the sense of
community we hold dear. We are
truly blessed by your generosity.

Many thanks, Jauralyn





- 3 Sharon Bowman
- 7 Tina Gaiser
- 9 Judy Higbee
Steve DeBiddle
- 10 Mike Ellis
- 14 Bob Walter
- 15 Dorita Reed
- 16 Gail Triggs
- 17 Tim Pearson
- 19 Colin Monaghan
- 20 Tami Bobko
- 23 Chuck Whitney
- 24 Ann Allen
- 25 Edna Haworth
Lillian Woolsey
Loretta Chapman
- 26 Bonnie McCloskey
- 28 Mike Wilkerson



- 10 Andy & Vicki Anderson
- 14 Perry & Chris Keeling

Volunteering & Donating

Valentine Care Packages

It has become a tradition for our church to send special Valentine care packages to those from our church who are either away at college or in the military. Valentine's Day is the perfect time to let them know that their church family is thinking about them.

Things included in the packages can be candy, either homemade or bought, as well as cookies and other sweet treats. Packages can also include snacks such as popcorn, chips, crackers, coffee, tea, coffee gift cards, etc. Maybe a pack of cards or a small game, stamps, pens, paper. The list goes on and on.

There is a collection box in the Fellowship Hall for the goodies.

If you have the name and address of a college student from our church and would like them to receive a Valentine Care Package please send that information to the office as soon as possible.

—Pam Carnahan



WARM HEARTS, WARM KIDS



DONATE TO THE CHILDREN'S CLOTHING CLOSET

Our local schools and school children have access to a local clothing closet just for kids! When they need emergency clothes at school or clothes for everyday due to living arrangements they can visit the clothing closet. CLOTHES ARE NEEDED!

New and clean used clothing in good condition are gratefully accepted.

Items needed most include coats, gloves, pants, socks and underwear & shoes. Size 4T to Adult XL All clothing is welcome. The donation box is in the hallway near the office.

On any given day, a child will need extra clothes at school. Each school needs a collection of clothing to cover emergent needs of their students. There is a clothing closet set up to handle clothing donations for school-aged children. They need both clothing and volunteers to sort and organize. First Presbyterian has a donation box for new and clean used clothing in good condition in the hallway near the office. If you would like to volunteer Bobbie Buckley 360-477-8906 will help coordinate with the clothing closet director.



Six FPCPA members formed an Olympic Angels “Love Box” to support a Port Angeles family giving foster care to a teenager and a toddler in addition to 3 biological children.

Martha Bell is the leader, and members are Rainy Birch, Vee Canning, Bobbie Buckley, Pat Davies, and Susan Fisher.

Training was in November and work began in December. Olympic Angels is a nonprofit supporting foster care in Clallam and Jefferson counties. Besides Love Box, the organization offers a Mentoring program.

The Love Box group provided a few meals, help with holiday activities, encouraging notes, home visits, and more. An FPCPA holiday gift card was presented to the family.

**Love Inside
the Box**

- Gift/Gas Cards
- Household Supplies
- Games & Crafts
- Clothes & Shoes
- Meals & Groceries



**Love Outside
the Box**

- Babysitting
- Spend a Fun Day with the Family
- Be a Listening Ear
- Lawn/Housekeeping Services
- Tutoring/Educational Support

February 2025

First Presbyterian Church

139 W. 8th St., Port Angeles, WA 98362

360-452-4781 | fpcpa.org

Worship Services

Sundays 8:30 and 11 am

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 10 am - 3 pm

Closed for Lunch, 1 - 2 pm on Monday

Closed on Friday

The office is behind the church building off the alley and is handicapped accessible.

Pastor Matt Paul, pastor@fpcpa.org

Lauren Corder, Office Manager,

administrator@fpcpa.org

Cathi Hughes, Office Assistant,

office@fpcpa.org

Online Resources

Church Website: fpcpa.org

Online Worship: fpcpa.org/worship

Giving Online:

Look for this button on our website.

GIVE ONLINE



The First Presbyterian Church of Port Angeles is a community of people of all ages who believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and who seek to follow His teachings. We come together to worship God, to grow in our love and support for each other, and to learn about God's will for our lives. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we go out to the community and the world to share our faith and to serve others.