



# Highlights

## First Presbyterian Church

### **From the Heart**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your cards, prayers, and condolences at the passing of my father. Mourning the loss of a loved one is not easy, but I have been blessed by your care and compassion. I would like to take a moment to share a little about my dad.

Huibert Paul was born in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, on March 1, 1928. He was the youngest of four children and was raised on a farm outside the city. His parents were members of the Dutch Reformed Church, and he grew up with daily Scripture readings at the supper table and weekly worship attendance. (Last year, he gave me a prayer book he had received in his youth and kept all his life.)

In 1940, the Nazis invaded Holland and occupied the country. The war changed the course of my father's life. During the war, his parents hid Jews on their farm, most notably a young boy named Saul, whose parents had been sent to a concentration camp. Remarkably, Saul's parents survived the camps and were reunited with him after the war. My dad was proud of his parents for their faith and bravery and kept as a cherished possession a placard commemorating his parents' enshrinement among the Righteous of the Nations at Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Israel.

In February 1945, just weeks before his seventeenth birthday, my dad was abducted by the Germans and sent to a labor camp on the eastern front, outside of Berlin. There, he was forced to dig ditches for the Germans as they battled Soviet troops in the closing days of the war.

For most of his life, the only story he would tell of his experience was a memory of a Soviet officer on a white horse who announced that his camp had been liberated. It was only in the last decade or so of his life that he began to open up about the horrors he encountered during his imprisonment, and this only at the prompting of my stepbrother's wife. He would later share his story at schools and synagogues.

The experience left a mark on him, and it was only recently that I began to understand that he had suffered from post-traumatic stress syndrome for most of his life. Like so many of his generation who had seen the carnage of war, he was never treated for the psychological scars he bore.

My dad was not the kind of father one reads about on typical Father's Day cards. He did not care much for sports, he did not hunt or fish, nor was he particularly handy around the house. Although he did not impart to me much of the skills or wisdom found on greeting cards, he nevertheless shaped who I am and how I experience the world around me. From him I gained a love for animals, a curiosity about the world, an interest in civic life, and a strong desire for peace.

At his graveside service, the pastor spoke of God's knowledge of us and our innermost parts. Maybe it was the result of an undiagnosed trauma, or just part of his introverted nature, but my dad rarely opened up to those around him. As I remember him, I find myself in mourning for the person I never got to fully know. This is the burden of loss, isn't it? Death brings with it the reality of unfulfilled hopes and dreams that one must find ways to cope with in this life—which pretty much describes the process of mourning.

I take comfort knowing that my dad is in God's presence now, embraced and fully healed by his creator. This Christmas will bring with it a new appreciation for me of the Incarnation, and what it says about God that God would dare to become flesh and dwell in all the complexity, misery, and fleeting joy of human life. Today, I know only in part, but one day I will know fully, even as we are all fully known... just as God has always known my dad.

December 2024

Thank you for letting me share about my dad. I pray these thoughts will help you this holiday season as you remember loved ones who have gone before you to the Lord. And may Emmanuel, God with Us, grant you peace.

Godspeed,

*Mall*

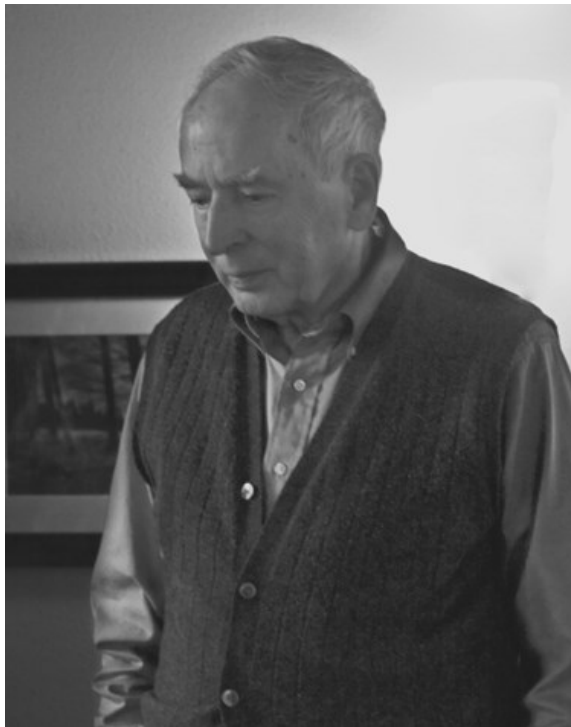
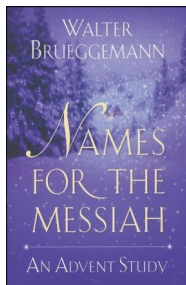


Photo by Gary Giddens

## Worshiping and Learning

### Adult Sunday School

Sundays, 9:45 am, December 8, 15 and 22.



There will be a 3-week class taught in December on Advent. Based on the book, *Names for the Messiah: An Advent Study* by Walter Brueggemann.

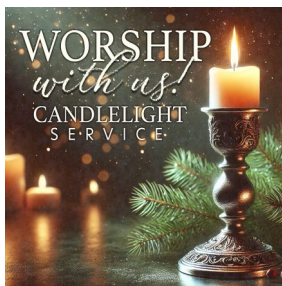
Wayne Brown will be conducting this class.

### Wednesday Women's Bible Study Christmas Breakfast

Wednesday, December 18, 9 am, Glenda Jacquins' home

635 E Whidby Avenue

The Wednesday Bible Study group will be meeting at Glenda Jacquins' home for a special Christmas Breakfast on Wednesday, December 18.



### Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Tuesday, December 24

**6 pm** Lessons & Carols for Families and Children

**8 pm** A Celebration of the Lord's Supper and a Homily

## Special Events



**Sunday, December 8, 4 - 7 pm,  
Fellowship Hall**

Our annual Advent Event is right around the corner. There will be craft stations for everyone to enjoy, including the ever popular **swag building** station.

Greens are needed. Please drop off greens donations between December 1 - 8. There will be a tarp at the northwest back entrance of the church for greens.

After craft time there will be a Soup Supper and other goodies to share. Our intergenerational Christmas play is the grand finale and will start after dinner.

This year's Christmas play is called "A Night in Bethlehem" and the actors are hard at work practicing now.

Following the play everyone is invited to enjoy a Happy Birthday Jesus cake.

We still need soup makers! Please signup at the Connection Center.

## Youth Group Christmas Party

**Saturday, December 14, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Charlie Thompson's home (the address will be sent out in an email)**



Calling all youth! Our annual Christmas Party is going to be a great one.

We will hear some verses of Scripture and light an Advent candle to kick off our party. Then it will be time for our gingerbread house decorating contest! This activity was such a blast last year that it's back by popular demand. Of course, there will be snacks and hot chocolate, too. As always, watch for an email closer to the date & **invite a friend!**

Please bring one item of non-perishable food (soup, mac & cheese, canned fruit or veggies, etc.) to donate to the Little Food Pantry that First Pres. stocks. Help someone hungry during the holiday season.

## Peninsula Men's Gospel Singers Community Christmas Concert

Friday, December 20, 7 pm,  
Sanctuary

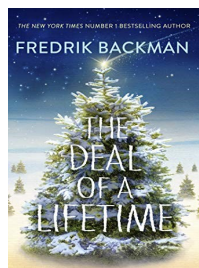


First Presbyterian Church of Port Angeles is the host this year for the PMGS Community Christmas Concert. All are invited to come and celebrate in song the birth of our Savior.

Doors open at 6:30pm. Admission is free, donations will be accepted.

## Monthly Events

### Book Club



Thursday, December 19, 10:30 am

With humor and compassion, Fredrik Backman's *The Deal of a Lifetime* reminds us that life is a fleeting gift, and our legacy rests in how we share that gift with others.

Contact Barb Pappas, [bappas378@gmail.com](mailto:bappas378@gmail.com).

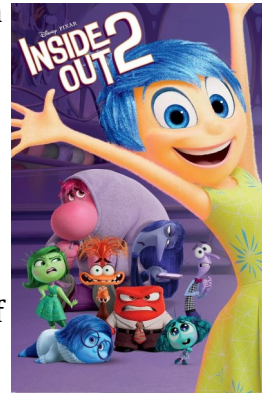
## Reel Reflections

Dinner and a Movie Edition:  
*Inside Out 2*

Thursday, December 19, 6:30 pm

Hybrid: In person or by Zoom

Growing up can be a bumpy road, and it's no exception for Riley, who is uprooted from her Midwest life when her father starts a new job in San Francisco. Like all of us, Riley is guided by her emotions -



Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust and Sadness. The emotions live in Headquarters, the control center inside Riley's mind, where they help advise her through everyday life. As Riley and her emotions struggle to adjust to a new life in San Francisco, turmoil ensues in Headquarters.

Although Joy, Riley's main and most important emotion, tries to keep things positive, the emotions conflict on how best to navigate a new city, house and school.

For this "Dinner and Movie Edition" we invite you to BYOD, *Bring Your Own Dinner*.

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

## **Small Talks on Big Issues**

Thursday Evening Small Groups, 7:00-8:30 pm, December 5, 12

“Small Talks on Big Issues” are four-week small group opportunities for people to delve into some weighty subjects in a caring, supportive, and confidential community of brothers and sisters in Christ. Groups will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Pauls’ home and share a dessert before entering into conversations on sensitive topics close to many of our hearts. Topics will vary throughout the year, and participants are only asked to commit to any one four-week session.

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.

### **Session Two: Christ and Empire**

Jesus calls us to go forth into the world with the Good News and in the process, grow the Kingdom of Heaven. We do this through acts of Christian love and compassion, but does Jesus also want to establish an earthly empire in his name? Did God ordain for the Roman Empire to be a Christian state, as happened under Constantine? For that matter, does God intend for the United States—or any nation on earth—to be a Christian nation? Some believers answer yes to these questions and are increasingly willing to use violent means to create a nation in Jesus’ name. How does this reconcile with your faith and your understanding of the relationship between the Christian Church and earthly powers? Has this topic come up at the holiday dinner table or in conversations in other social gatherings? How can we respond to such ideas in a loving way that maintains relationships despite differences?

## Volunteering & Donating



Would you like to add to the Christmas decorations in the church? Bring a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one to the church office.



### **TAFY Dinner**

**Saturday, December 7, 3:45 pm**

You can donate a portion of a meal: a hot dish, salad, side dish, beverage, or dessert. Sign up sheets are at the Connection Center or contact Marcia Logan at 360-452-3535.

**Supporting Our Schools** - School supplies are always needed so if you can, please donate. There is a collection box in the church.

Do you like to bake but are not able to take your goodies to the schools? We can help. Call Dona Hair at 360-670-3213 to arrange a pick-up. We'll do the delivering for you.

What you bake doesn't have to be cookies. It can be muffins, brownies, cupcakes, Rice Krispies treats, etc... Whatever treat you like to bake, the school staff will love them. The "cookie" sign-up sheet is at the Connection Center.

Contact Sheri Stutesman if you have any questions at 360-460-5347.

**Port Angeles Food Bank** - Please consider joining the monthly group to work at the Food Bank. This group always works the second Thursday of each month at 10 am. Contact Barb Pappas if you have any questions at [bpappas378@gmail.com](mailto:bpappas378@gmail.com).





# CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



As we are a blessing to our local church, we can be a blessing to those who are in the wider body of Jesus Christ. The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

50% of the funds are used to provide critical financial support and grants for current and retired Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

The other 50% of the funds will be used to help develop our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Many of the students attending Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color are the first in their families to enroll in higher education. There are three institutions that are supported by the Christmas Joy offering: Menaul School in Albuquerque, NM ([menaulschool.com](http://menaulschool.com)), Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville, TX ([ppas.org](http://ppas.org)) and Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, AL ([stillman.edu](http://stillman.edu)).

You may give through the regular church offering by writing a check to FPCPA and entering Christmas Joy offering on the memo of your check or you may give online. We will dedicate the offering on December 22nd.

Thanks be to God for His love for all of God's people and for His love for each one of us.

Nancy Jacobson and Tom McCulloch, Co-Moderators, Mission and Outreach Committee

## Prepare the Way

ISAIAH 40

# Church Business Items

## October Financials

Income Year-to-Date: \$358,196  
Income Budgeted YTD: \$317,400  
2024 Annual Income Budgeted:  
\$380,880  
Expenses Year-to-Date: \$362,883  
Expenses Budgeted YTD: \$354,081  
2024 Annual Expenses Budgeted:  
(\$424,897)

Capital Spending YTD: (\$101,086)  
Capital Spending Rebate on HVAC  
\$2,100  
2024 Annual Capital Budget:  
(\$130,837)

Water Damage Building Repairs  
thus far: (\$36,130)

Water Damage Insurance

Payment:  
\$188,653

The capital spending reflects the elevator safety lock and the finished heating and cooling upgrade, copier for front office, new sound bar and new microphones for worship. The Capital projects gift has funded new windows, exterior paint touch up, and the start of a tree removal.

Christmas generosity has started. As of October 31 we have \$3995 donated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Donations for Christmas grocery gift cards, Operation Christmas Child and TAFY Christmas Stockings are arriving regularly. God commands us to love God and each other in Matthew 22:37-39.

Keep up the great generosity show God's love.

## Session Actions

The Session met in a hybrid meeting in the upstairs classroom at the church and online via Zoom on Monday, November 18 at 7 pm and the following actions were taken:

- Approved the request for Peninsula Men's Gospel Singers to hold their Christmas Concert at FPCPA on December 20 at 7 pm.
- Approved splitting any additional surplus funds that need to be allocated to the Mission Budget at the end of 2024 between MANNA and the Food Bank.

## ***Session Actions continued:***

- Approved continuing with the policy approved in 2001 by Session to allow for the American flag to be displayed in the church sanctuary on the Sunday closest to Memorial Day, July 4, and Veterans Day. Session also approved to offer that the flag could be displayed in the sanctuary at the funeral of service members and their spouses if the family desires that it be present.
- Approved adding Cyber Suite Coverage and Umbrella Coverage to the church's insurance policy.
- Approved designating the Thanksgiving service offering to MANNA.
- Approved bereavement leave for Pastor Matt from November 20 – November 24 to attend his father's burial service and celebration of life.

## **Sending Advent blessings to you from Mzuzu, Malawi!**

Our family has so much to be thankful for this Advent season. We are deeply thankful for you and your willingness to join us in prayers and financial support of our family's call to serve in Malawi and to support theological education with our local partner the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian. Please continue praying for the country of Malawi, its government, its leaders, its students, its future, and also pray for our local Church partner, and the universities that we work for.



Merry Christmas,  
Tyler, Rochelle and Mphatso (age 11) Holm



- 2 Hal Fjarlie
- 4 John Hutchison
- 6 Wayne Brown
- 7 Celia Waalkes-Duff
- 11 Evan Cobb
- 12 Ron Fraker
- 15 Pat Hyden
- 18 Betty Roper
- 20 Gayla Napiontek
- 21 Art Bell
- 27 Reed Wendel
- 29 Carol Foss
- 31 Gale Marrs

- 18 George & Sharon Bowman  
Randy & Ardith Schuchardt
- 24 Susan & Harvey Evans  
Bruce & Bonnie McCloskey

## Thank you

A very grateful thank you for all of your prayers, cards, notes, emails, phone calls, flowers, and food. It is so good to be a part of such a caring church community.

I am doing well and healing quickly. A very big heartfelt thank you.

-Anna Nichols


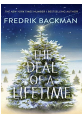
*Dear Members & Friends of the First Presbyterian Church, 11/9/2024*  
 Thank You All for the kindness & love & support you all shared with us over the many years my mom was a member.  
 Peace, Wilma Weddington

From Wilma Weddington, Margaret Whetstine's daughter

*Hello First Presbyterian Church of P.A. !  
 Wow, wow, wow! You all continue to AMAZE with your generous care for the Foster Care Community. Immense gratitude to Susan, Lauren, Pastor Paul, and all of the amazing do-gooders in your congregation. You all are truly life-changers. Humbly,  
 Justine*

From Olympic Angels

# December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service</p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School</p> 	<p>2 7 pm Adult Christian Formation Meeting</p>	<p>3 8 am FISH Company</p> <p>1:30 pm Community Life</p> <p>5:30 pm Youth Christian Formation Meeting</p> <p>6:45 pm Praise Team</p>	<p>4 9 am Women's Bible Study</p> <p>7 pm Worship &amp; Music</p>	<p>5 3 pm Mission &amp; Outreach</p> <p>7 pm Small Talks on Big Issues</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 3:45 pm TAFY Dinner Donations</p>
<p>8 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service</p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School</p> <p>4 pm - 7 pm Advent Event</p> 	<p>9 1 pm Naomi Circle</p> <p>2 pm B,G, P Committee</p>	<p>10 8 am FISH Company</p> <p>6:45 pm Praise Team</p>	<p>11 9 am Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>12 10 am Food Bank Helpers</p> <p>1 pm Stewardship Committee</p> <p>7 pm Small Talks on Big Issues</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 4 pm Youth Group Christmas Party</p>
<p>15 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service</p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School</p>	<p>16 7 pm Session</p>	<p>17 8 am FISH Company</p> <p>6:45 pm Praise Team</p> <p>4 pm Deacons Mtg</p>	<p>18 9 am Women's Bible Study at Glenda Jacquins' home</p>	<p>19 10:30 am Book Club</p>  <p>6:30 pm Reel Reflections Dinner and a Movie: <i>Inside Out</i></p>	<p>20 7 pm PMGS Christmas Concert</p> <p>Deadline for January <i>Highlights</i> submissions</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service</p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 6 pm &amp; 8 pm</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service</p> <p>9:45 am Sunday School</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 8 am FISH Company</p>				





# Financial Stewardship Campaign 2025

## Not Too Late to Pledge!

If you were unable to join us on Commitment Sunday and deliver your pledge for 2025 in person, there is still time. Please help us finish our Stewardship Campaign off with a bang by getting your pledge in before the end of the year. You can deliver your pledge to the church office, drop it in the offering plate, or email it to [financial.secretary@fpcpa.org](mailto:financial.secretary@fpcpa.org).

Pledge cards are available by the offering plates on Sunday and in the church office during office hours.

## More Thanks



Serenity House of Clallam County  
PO box 4047 • 2203 W 18th Street • 360-452-7224

November 12, 2024

First Presbyterian Church  
139 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

First Presbyterian Church members,

Your gift has already made an impact. Everyone deserves the right to access safe, decent, and affordable housing solutions.

Thank you for your gift of \$30.00 to Serenity House of Clallam County on November 6, 2024.

As the Business Development Manager, I would like to personally thank you for making our work possible. We are privileged to be the lead agency for housing and shelter in Clallam County. Your generosity supports our operations as we pour our full heart and effort into sheltering and housing our homeless and low-income neighbors.

In 2024, Serenity House increased our services and outreach in many ways.

The 6-bed medical respite program in partnership with Clallam County Health and Human Services and Olympic Peninsula Community Clinic/REdisCOVERy at our shelter served 40 homeless patients, better assist them as they come out of hospital stays and need extra care. Our 2nd Annual Fall Fundraiser, held at the new Field Arts and Events Hall on October 25th, was a success with over 60 attendees! We are estimating that over \$12,000 was raised for Serenity House.

In total, Serenity House of Clallam County assisted 3,231 individuals with their housing needs from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

Our current and future success of providing shelter and housing in Clallam County is all thanks to the generosity of community members like you!

With gratitude,

Morgan Bartholick  
Business Development Manager

FOR YOUR TAX PURPOSES  
Our 501(c)(3) Federal Nonprofit Tax Number: 91-1180069

Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. We acknowledge no goods or services were provided to you in return for your contribution. Please save this letter for your tax records as confirmation of your donation. Serenity House is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Serenity House has discretion as to the use of the funds and donor preferences will be honored when given.

December 2024

## First Presbyterian Church

139 W. 8th St., Port Angeles, WA 98362  
360-452-4781 | [fpcpa.org](http://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](mailto:pastor@fpcpa.org)

Lauren Corder, Office Manager,

[administrator@fpcpa.org](mailto:administrator@fpcpa.org)

Cathi Hughes, Office Assistant,

[office@fpcpa.org](mailto:office@fpcpa.org)

### Online Resources

Church Website: [fpcpa.org](http://fpcpa.org)

Online Worship: [fpcpa.org/worship](http://fpcpa.org/worship)

Giving Online:

Look for this button on our website.



## Inclement Weather

Should the church need to cancel services and/or church events due to inclement weather, we will utilize several methods to inform you about the closure: 1) the home page of our church website ([fpcpa.org](http://fpcpa.org)), 2) our [Facebook](#) page, 3) our telephone answering machine message (360-452-4781), and 4) email. Please call or email the office if you have questions ([administrator@fpcpa.org](mailto:administrator@fpcpa.org)).



*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.*