



Highlights

First Presbyterian Church

From the Heart

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we begin a new year, I thought I would share some Scripture passages to reflect on as look back at 2024 and/or ahead to 2025 and imagine what the future holds.

As you read these questions:

What did this passage mean to the people who first heard them spoken?

How has the interpretation of these texts changed in light of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus?

What words of comfort or challenge is the Spirit speaking to you as you read these passages?

“See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them. Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the end of the earth.” (Isaiah 42:9–10a, NRSV)

“For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.” (Isaiah 65:17, NRSV)

“The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt... this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” (Jeremiah 31:31–33, NRSV)

“In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near’. This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight’. “(Matthew 3:1–3, NRSV)

“Your boasting is not a good thing. Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch, as you really are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate the festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” (1 Corinthians 5:6–8, NRSV)

“But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.” (2 Peter 3:13–15a, NRSV)

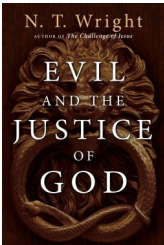
“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” (Revelation 21:1–2, NRSV)

May the Lord bless you and guide you into the new year!

Godspeed,

Matt

Worshipping and Learning



Adult Sunday School

**Sundays, 9:45 am,
January 12 - February 9**

Beginning January 12, a
new 5-week study course
based on the book, *Evil and*

the Justice of God by N.T. Wright.

Books are available in the office.



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.

New books will be available in
January. For information contact Pat
Davies.



Question of the Month

What is something you learned in
church that you wish more people
knew about?

... he will
**SPEAK
PEACE**
to his people,
to his faithful,
to those who
turn to him
in their
HEARTS.



Psalm 85:8, NRSV

January 2025

Small Talks on Big Issues

January 9, 23, 30, February 13, 7 pm, meeting place will be announced soon.



Session Three: Understanding Neurodiversity

Neurodiversity is a term that recognizes the unique ways human brains function. Within this neurodiversity are people who are considered neuro normal or neuro divergent: such as those who have been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism, or dyslexia, to name a few. In this session we will learn about how the brain functions, share our stories, and explore healthy ways to acknowledge and embrace the neurodiversity within our church and familial communities.

Small Talks on Big Issues is not for everyone, but for those 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.

Special Events

Mexican Train Dominoes

Saturday, January 25, 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 360-457-2997 or Pat Hyden 360-457-1843 for information.



Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 2
12:00 pm Potluck Lunch
12:30 pm Meeting

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

Annual report articles are due **Friday, January 10**. Please send a digital copy of your article to the office at administrator@fpcpa.org.

The Annual Report will be available on Sunday, January 26.

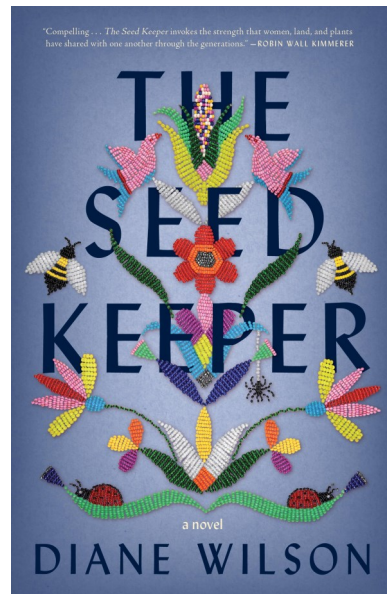
Monthly Events

Book Club

Thursday, January 16, 10:30 am
Fellowship Hall

A haunting novel spanning several generations, *The Seed Keeper* follows a Dakhóta family's struggle to preserve their way of life, and their sacrifices to protect what matters most.

Contact Barb Pappas, bappas378@gmail.com.



January 2025

Reel Reflections

Dinner and a Movie Edition:

Arrival

Thursday, January 16, 6:30 pm

Hybrid: In person or by Zoom



A talented linguist, Louise Banks (Amy Adams) is called on to help initiate communication with the aliens on board a mysterious craft that has stationed itself in

Montana—one of twelve that have landed all over the world. Partnered with a wry astrophysicist (Jeremy Renner) and overseen by an increasingly paranoid military, Louise must find a way to communicate with the Heptapods, a species so fundamentally different from us that at first there seems no real basis of engagement until she begins writing, and they write back.

One review said, “It’s smart, sophisticated sci-fi that asks big questions and does a pretty good job answering them.”

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.

Church Business Items

November 2024 Financials

Income Year-to-Date: \$396,701

Income Budgeted YTD: \$349,140

2024 Annual Income Budgeted:
\$380,880

Expenses Year-to-Date: \$391,802

Expenses Budgeted YTD: \$389,489

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: (\$71,933)

Water Damage Insurance

Payment:

\$188,653

Financials continued:

The capital projects paid this month include tree removal, new windows and exterior paint.

Our church family donated \$9329 total for Christmas grocery gift cards for families in need. There was \$995 donated to make Christmas gift stockings for TAFY.

Operation Christmas Child received \$740 to build and ship Christmas Shoeboxes in addition to the Shoeboxes built at home.

Our cup runneth over with love.

Reminder

Submissions for the Annual Report are to be sent to the church office no later than Friday, January 10. Submit your report/s to administrator@fpcpa.org.



Session Actions

The Session met in a hybrid meeting in the upstairs classroom at the church and online via Zoom on Monday, December 16 at 7 pm and the following actions were taken:

- Approved Pastor Matt's request for study leave to attend the Calvin Symposium on Worship in Grand Rapids, Michigan from February 4 - 10, 2025. This includes Sunday, February 9.
- Approved budget increase for Buildings and Grounds to cover actual expenses incurred after adjustment for Critical Care Project expenses chargeable to Second Mile Fund.
- Approved charging full amount of the painting project as a capital expense to be paid from the designated fund created by the capital improvement gift received this year.
- Approved Budget for 2025.
- Approved designating the Christmas Eve service offering to the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem.
- Approved the date of the Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, February 2, 2025 at 12:30 pm, with a potluck held in the Fellowship Hall prior to the meeting.

Volunteering & Donating



The Mission and Outreach Committee will continue to collect packaged socks throughout the month of January. Please put the

socks in the Little Free Pantry cart in the Fellowship Hall.



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.



TAFY Dinner Dates and Coordinators for 2025

February 1 - Martha Bell

April 5 - Dona Hair

June 7 - Susan Fisher

August 2 - Chris Watkins

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), 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).

The Next Thing

I sent away for Unity's 2024 Advent booklet, the theme and title this year: "Be Not Afraid." I was particularly impressed with an opening story by Rev. Linda Martella -Whitsett in which she recalled being a student in an American ashram in 1977. During a question and answer period, a distraught student asked the guru which spiritual practice or teacher he should follow to address his terrible fear. The author thought it odd that the student should ask about teachers other than the one present. But the guru just calmly listened, paused and then said something simple but profound:

"Just do the next thing."

The guru explained that a brain paralyzed by fear shuts down and has no place to go. So, make your bed, take out the trash, eat lunch, gently proceed with your life...do the next thing. It's New Year's resolution time again and the master key to success in that area might also be "Just do the next thing." Discouraged with current affairs? Just do the next thing. Worried about the state of God's beautiful earth? Just do the next thing.

If you'd like some positive reinforcement from amazing stories of planet-saving actions and innovations, there are a couple of *YouTube* channels I can recommend. *Plant Wild* is a global community of people on a mission to bring back endangered species and clean up waterways.

Sam Bentley hosts a monthly good news recap of positive and innovative solutions that are healing our planet. These are heartening and encouraging stories of people doing the next thing. And finally remember, "...do not be anxious for your life...which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life?" (see Matthew 6:25-35 for the full quote).



Peace and Happy New Year

Interfaith Earth Care Coalition

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	2 3 pm Mission & Outreach	3	4
5 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School	6 7 pm Adult Christian Formation Meeting	7 8 am FISH Company 12:30 pm Community Life 6:45 pm Praise Team	8 9 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Worship & Music	9 10 am Food Bank Helpers 7 pm Small Talks on Big Issues	10	11
12 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School	13 1 pm Naomi Circle 2 pm B,G, P Committee	14 8 am FISH Company 6:45 pm Praise Team 7 pm Youth Christian Formation	15 9 am Women's Bible Study	16 10:30 am Book Club 6:30 pm Reel Reflections Dinner and a Movie: <i>Arrival</i>	17	18
19 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School	20 7 pm Session	21 8 am FISH Company 4 pm Deacons Meeting 6:45 pm Praise Team	22 9 am Women's Bible Study	23 7 pm Small Talks on Big Issues	24	25
26 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School	27	28 8 am FISH Company 6:45 pm Praise Team	29 9 am Women's Bible Study	30 7 pm Small Talks on Big Issues	31	1 3:45 pm TAFY Dinner Donations



On December 18 the Wednesday Women's Bible Study met at Glenda Jaquins' home for their annual Christmas gathering. This year the group also celebrated Betty Roper's 87th birthday.

Happy Birthday Betty!





1 Issac Mayo

2 Cynthia Isenberger

3 Lucy Edwards
Stan Hair

4 Bill Streur

5 Jim Buckmaster
Sandy Cates

6 Hal Force
Jan Yates

7 Martha Hurd

10 Elliot Monaghan

13 Randy Schuchardt

14 Brenda Lovik

15 Mark Wendt

17 Michael Rivers
Rainy Birch

19 Sandy Schultz

20 Chuck Anderson
Martha Bell
Rita Frick

23 Rob Edwards

24 Bernadette Partyka
Henry Wendel

26 Sheri Stutesman

27 Arie Paul



1 Ross & Vee Canning
Rob & Lucy Edwards

11 Tom & Lesley McCulloch

12 MaryAnn Smith & Jack Wise

Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the boxes. Then write those letters on the correct numbered lines below to complete 1 John 4:16 (NIV).


A place to live
 1 2 3 4 5

Opposite of dark
 6 7 8 9 10

Companion
 11 12 13 14 15 16

Hand greeting
 17 18 19 20

Male adult
 21 22 23



8 2 16 13 4 6 2 19 5

17 9 2 5 19 5 12 6 7 19 5 4

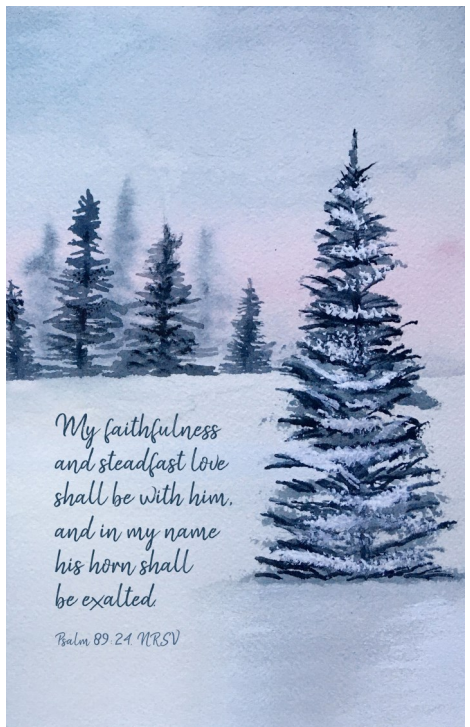
13 15 6 2 19 20 6 7 19 14 4

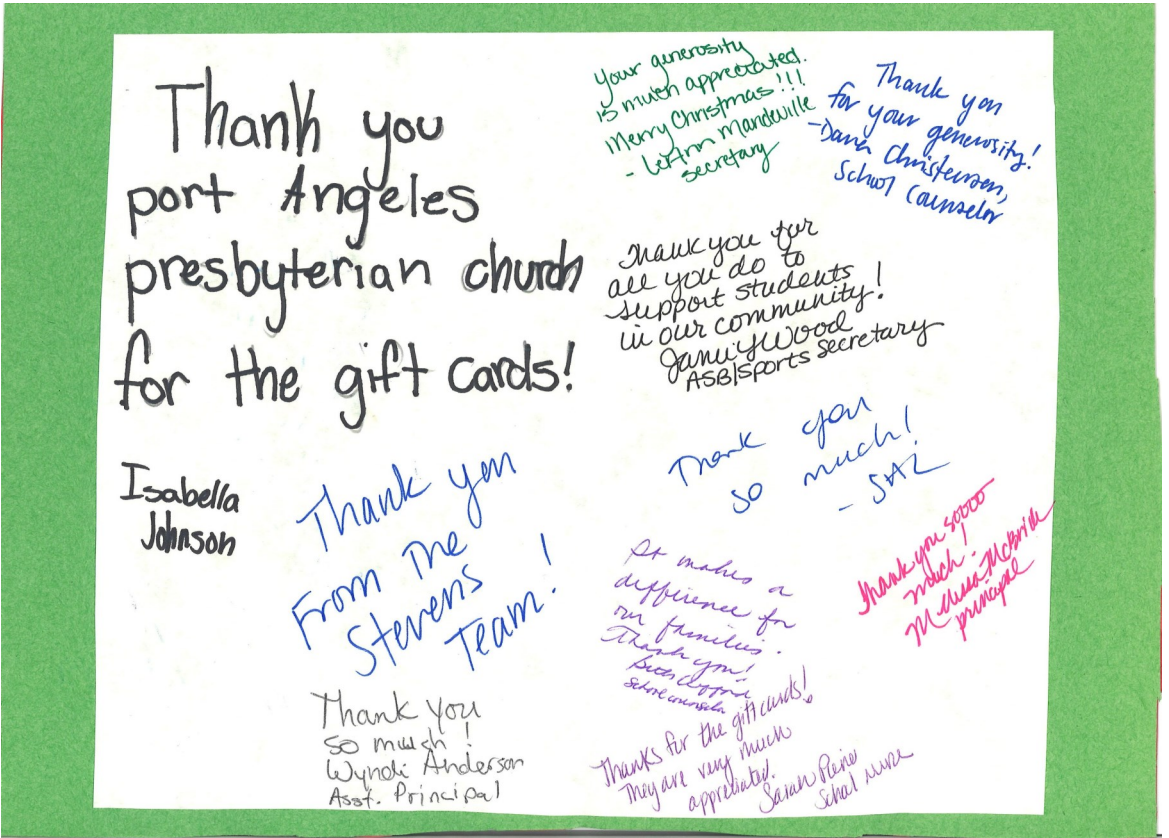
13 15 8 2 16 18 15 16

8 2 16 13 23 10 1 14 21

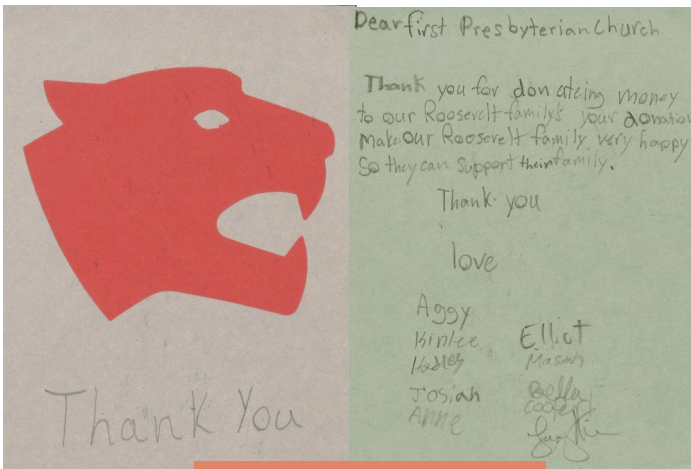
1 John 4:16, NIV

Answers: house; light, friend, wave, man; God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 1 John 4:16, NIV





From Stevens Middle School



From Roosevelt Elementary
Student Council



January 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.