

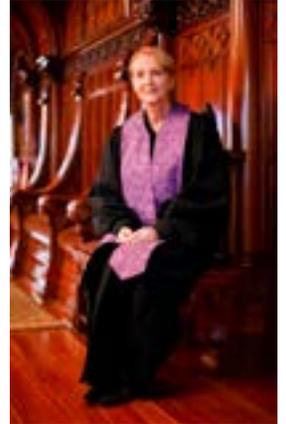


**First  
Presbyterian**  
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

**Spire**  
SEPTEMBER 2020

Centuries ago, the psalmist took heart in a time of challenge and change, remembering:

*God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.*



Rev. Audrey Schindler  
Beth Nakamura/The Oregonian

These ancient words resonate as we are experiencing a shaking of the foundations of much that we have known of the usual way of the world. We join in worship, though at a distance, we look at past photos and see with new eyes the ways we gathered for a meal with friends or family, or came together to celebrate festive occasions in ways that now seem clouded by present uncertainty. We have concern for loved ones furloughed or facing hard choices about working, or child care, or teaching their children. We see the social safety net frayed and inadequate to all the pressing needs for so many in our community.

In all of this, we call to mind the psalmist's words of strength, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." This is a season where it is good to hold each day and all our concerns in heart and prayer, seeking God's strength sufficient for the day.

The psalmist affirms that God is with us in times when all we have known has been shaken; with God's strength, we shall not be moved. The psalm passage concludes, God will help us when the morning dawns:

*There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of the city; she shall not be moved;  
God will help her when the morning dawns.*

And so we hold to hope, and seek God's strength. We continue to love God and neighbor, reaching out to meet the needs of the community by gathering school supplies for Rose Haven and New Avenues for Youth. We read and study, protest and pray for a more just society. In all of this, we await with longing hearts that day when life will at last be restored, and morning at last shall dawn.

Wishing you God's peace and strength to see you through this season,

— Audrey

# What Staff are Doing in Sustaining the Church's Mission & Ministry:

In all these ways, the church and its staff continue to serve the needs of this extraordinary time; thanks so much for your encouragement!

**Audrey:** [aschindler@firstpresportland.org](mailto:aschindler@firstpresportland.org)

- Preaching for services
- Managing staff
- Working with Session to guide the church's life
- Working with Stewardship, budget, Trustees, Finance committee, Personnel

**Brenna:** [bdykman@firstpresportland.org](mailto:bdykman@firstpresportland.org)

- Coordinating pastoral care with pastors and Deacons
- Highlighting ways you can volunteer for our social service agency partners
- Working with the Faith formation committee to provide youth ministry and adult education
  - Working with: Racial Justice Response, Capital Campaign, Mission Giving,
  - Strategic Planning, and Stephen's Ministry

**Carmen:** [cgoetschius@firstpresportland.org](mailto:cgoetschius@firstpresportland.org)

- Working on social media ways of connecting
- Pastoral care
- Attending to the ministry supporting children and their families

**Zane:** [zkbuxton@gmail.com](mailto:zkbuxton@gmail.com)

- Providing pastoral care and coverage of pastoral needs on Friday
- Working with the Congregational Nominating Committee

**Spencer:** [spencer@menucha.org](mailto:spencer@menucha.org)

- Continuing to guide Menucha through this time

**Greg:** [ghomza@firstpresportland.org](mailto:ghomza@firstpresportland.org)

- Plan and provide music for worship, making adaptations for the current season
- Edit weekly Virtual Vespers videos; communicate regularly with members of the staff, Music Ministry, and congregation
- Communicate regularly with colleagues at other churches to discuss experiences and ideas study research related to singing, worship, etc. in the COVID era
- Collaborate with Music Assistant Maddy Ross on weekly Zoom choir meetings
- Planning a "virtual" Celebration Works season, and other plans for Fall

**Maddy:** [music@firstpresportland.org](mailto:music@firstpresportland.org)

- Coordinate with Greg to program engaging weekly choir fellowship via Zoom
- (in Greg's absence I am hosting all meetings and programming).
- Help to facilitate recording a Virtual Choir project for the Chancel Choir to collaborate on from afar
- Research and reach out to community members to discuss singing and music making practices with new COVID protocols and work with Greg to create a safe Fall singing plan.
- Re-imagine and plan a fully virtual Celebration Works concert series that connects each of our live-streamed concerts with a community organization
- Curate our Celebration Works Facebook Page: edit Meet our Musicians videos, post daily calming music posts
- Sing on Sundays

**Leah and other soloists:** Singing for church services

**Kim:** [publications@firstpresportland.org](mailto:publications@firstpresportland.org)

- Coordinating communications online and Spire and worship bulletins, Session minutes, Stewardship and CNC

**Gail:** [office@firstpresportland.org](mailto:office@firstpresportland.org)

- Answering church phones and providing office support
- Providing bulletins and sermons to those homebound
- Updating/organizing Public files
- Adding photos to CCB files
- Spire & Statement Mailings

**Marc:** [cba@firstpresportland.org](mailto:cba@firstpresportland.org)

- Coordinating office coverage with business office staff
- Church financial and facility matters

**Deb:** [business@firstpresportland.org](mailto:business@firstpresportland.org)

- Payroll, accounts payable, stewardship

**Ricky:** [rcappellen@firstpresportland.org](mailto:rcappellen@firstpresportland.org)

- Onsite for facility needs, logging visitors, mailings,
- Cleaning of the garage
- Coordinates deliveries and member visits as needed

**Zenebaw:** Continuing to deep clean the church facilities

## 2020 Stewardship Campaign

As expected, our Stewardship Campaign this year will be different. Due to COVID19, there will be no in-person gatherings. But, there will be plenty of opportunities to learn about the many challenges ahead along with the many things we are thankful for, and the many ways we can stay connected.

Stewardship provides the foundation for our existing ministries and allows us to create new ministry initiatives to meet the needs of our community.

Look for updates in the weeks ahead.

— Cam & Midge Birnie

## Church Financial Update

Session met on August 19th and approved the budgets for FPC church downtown including the garage and for Menucha.

The downtown budget was challenging in light of reductions anticipated in income usually generated by the parking garage, so a number of expenses were reduced or eliminated. For now, we will not be seeking a Director of Christian Education and splitting those duties between Brenna and Carmen, many expenses related to large gatherings were reduced and our draw on the Trust Funds was reduced. The downtown budget anticipates a loss of \$89,000, which can be covered by a low-interest federal loan, EIDL. Session expressed its desire for future budgets to break even.

The Menucha budget for the upcoming year is based upon its operations being severely limited due to Phase 2 restrictions in place in Multnomah County. We anticipate those restrictions to continue throughout the next year. As a result, the budget forecasts a loss of \$278,699. This loss will likely eliminate the reserves specified for Menucha.

For more information, please contact Marc Lavender ([cba@firstpresportland.org](mailto:cba@firstpresportland.org)), Jon Bates, or Rick Lee.

## Ordination Service

You are invited to virtually attend the Ordination Service of Brenna Dykman, our Interim Associate Pastor. The service will be streamed live on **Friday, September 4th at 2 pm** on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/kRirtfFPy8k>



Brenna Dykman, our Interim Associate Pastor preaching at FPC on Sunday, July 26th

## Re-opening Task Group at Work

At Session's direction, a group was formed to examine when and how to reconvene services in our sanctuary. Since May, this group has been hard at work on some knotty problems.

How much risk are we willing to take that COVID-19 might spread due to a service, as has happened in some churches that reconvened too soon? How do we keep that risk to a minimum while still sharing God's work and communing in person with church friends?

How do we deal with child care, with fellowship time, with sharing the Lord's Supper, with an outbreak among members if one occurs, with social distancing in elevators, with getting in and out of tight pews, with -- the list goes on. There's a draft written plan that the committee is submitting to Session that proposes solutions to many problems, which will be shared with the congregation soon. In the meantime, we pray for those who have been affected by this disease, who have had health compromised, families isolated, or livelihoods lost, and that we may soon have these challenges behind us. — Pete Vanden Bosch

## Past Challenges and Perseverance

### From the Church's History; How the congregation weathered the Flu of 1918:

An unexpected legacy of the First World War was the outbreak of the "Spanish" Influenza in 1918; thousands of Americans died. For one five-week period in the fall of 1919, church services were completely canceled. When the church reopened, more than 1,400 people gathered for worship. Early in 1919, members of the church were asked to wear masks in worship in accordance with the recommendation of city health authorities. The authorities also requested that masks be provided by churches for members who did not possess their own; that people be asked to sit in such a way as to provide sufficient separation among them; and that particular attention be given to the request of the Governor who had proclaimed January 19, 1919 a day of prayer for deliverance from the deadly flu.

*A Legacy of Faith; First Presbyterian Church Portland, Oregon 1854-2004*, p. 130.  
by J. Dudley Weaver, Jr.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### “One Church, One Book”

The Racial Justice Response Group recommended and was approved by the Session to use Ibram X Kendi's book *How to be an Antiracist* for FPC's 'One Church One Book' initiative. All members of the church are invited to read the book through September and participate in discussion groups which will begin in early October. Small groups will be meeting once a week for 6 weeks to talk about different sections of the book. To sign up to be a part of the small groups, please fill out the online registration link:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DDYWDDX>

The church has several copies for members to read. For more information about this initiative, please contact [bdykman@firtpresportland.org](mailto:bdykman@firtpresportland.org).

### Collecting School Supplies for Rose Haven:

The Mission Committee is collecting new school supplies for Rose Haven and New Avenues for Youth. Both organizations serve young people who are unhoused or with unstable homes in our neighborhood. Oregon now has the 2nd highest rate of homelessness in the USA. Last school year, the State of Oregon reported that of 21,756 homeless students; 4,427 were in the Portland area. Being a kid is hard enough. Being a homeless kid is even harder. This is why Rose Haven supplies kids with NEW school supplies each year, and they need your help. Starting on **Tuesday, August 25th**, we will be collecting new school supplies. Stop by the 13th street doors from 10 am to 2 pm on any Tuesday in September to drop off needed supplies. Items must be new.

School supplies needed include: backpacks • headphones • digital timers • calculators • 3-ring binders • notebook paper • notebooks • paper • dividers • folders • #2 pencils • black and blue pens • glue and glue sticks • tape • scissors • markers • crayons • colored pencils • combination locks • highlighters • index cards • rulers • hand sanitizer • pocket tissues.

Questions? Please contact Brenna Dykman [bdykman@firtpresportland.org](mailto:bdykman@firtpresportland.org).

### Parenting in the Pandemic

At the end of September, our very own Rev. Carmen will be leading a two-part on-line class exploring parenting in the pandemic. The first class will be a lecture to equip parents. The second class will be a discussion base, providing an opportunity for people to share their experiences and what they have learned in this time so far. Please watch the bulletin and church website for details on the time and date of these classes.

### Open Circle Supports Rose Haven

"We are so grateful for everything that you have done for our community." These words are from Liz, a Rose Haven team member for community outreach. "In the "best of times", the clients of Rose Haven Day Shelter for Women and Children still need services. But we all know that these are times of suffering as households endure the loss of income that provides food, shelter, and security. The traumas of abuse, loss of home, and other disruptive life challenges are increasing daily."



How can we at FPC help these individuals? There are SO many ways to continue to assist. COVID restrictions have been lessened, a bit, and clothing donations are again being received. The most desperate needs at this time are gently used women's shoes (comfortable walking shoes and sandals), women's underwear (new, sizes 5-9), and gently used or new leggings (all sizes). Clients always needs makeup (unopened) and jewelry - anything to make the guests smile. And books are great, too! But, as always, the top priority is rolling luggage, light-weight carry luggage, and camping gear (sleeping bags, tents, tarps, etc.)

The Rose Haven website updates the Shelter's needs and schedule to deliver donations each Monday <http://www.rosehaven.org> -- and click on "I wish to help" (red box) -- click on Shopping Bag icon (donate Supplies). If you have questions, please contact Cindy Finch [cindylooufinch@yahoo.com](mailto:cindylooufinch@yahoo.com), the liaison from Open Circle.

# Celebration Works Virtual Season Announcement

—Maddy Ross, *Director of Music Ministries*

The show must go on!

It is our pleasure to announce that *Celebration Works* will be presenting the 2020-2021 season of concerts virtually *from our sanctuary*. All five of this year's concerts can be streamed from the comfort of your own home. In this time of distance and uncertainty, it is our hope that these concerts will comfort and inspire you.

More information will be available at our *Celebration Works* page on the FPC website at [www.firstpresportland.org/music-art/celebration-works](http://www.firstpresportland.org/music-art/celebration-works). We are so thankful for the energy and passion of our First Presbyterian Church community. You have supported *Celebration Works'* mission through donations, volunteering, and concert attendance and we hope you'll join us in virtually attending these wonderful concerts by local musicians.

The first concert will be on **Saturday, September 26th at 2 pm** with a rebroadcast on Sunday, September 27th at 2pm and will feature local mezzo-soprano Lisa Neher and pianist Stephanie Thompson, pictured here.



*If I Were a Bird* on Saturday September 26th features Lisa Neher, mezzo-soprano (left) and Stephanie Thompson, piano (below)..



# Celebration Works Virtual Concert Calendar



**If I Were a Bird**  
**Saturday, September 26 at 2 pm**  
**(rebroadcast Sunday, September 27 at 2pm)**

*A concert exploring the human condition through the lens of birds with mezzo-soprano Lisa Neher and pianist Stephanie Thompson.*

**Lluvias de Guitarra: Rain Strings**  
**Sunday, October 25 at 2 pm**

*A concert of acoustic guitar music inspired by the poetry of water throughout the ages with guitarist Maria Olaya and special guest vocalist Madeline Ross.*

**Nevertheless, She Persisted**  
**Saturday, February 6 at 2 pm**  
**(rebroadcast Sunday, February 7 at 2pm)**

*A concert of early European music by and about women with sopranos Christine Johnson and Madeline Ross, violist da gamba and baroque cellist Adaiha MacAdam-Somer, and harpsichordist and organist Hannah Brewer.*

**Bach and Sons: Rescheduled!**  
**Friday, March 19 at 7pm**

*A multimedia concert experience exploring the life and music of Bach and his sons, told through stories from the women in their lives with organist Jeannine Jordan and multimedia artist David Jordan.*

**Composers in Your Community**  
**Sunday, May 16 at 2 pm**

*A concert of new music that acknowledges your voice in the region's shared community with music by the local artists of Cascadia Composers.*

## There's Activity at Menucha!

### Lots More Personal Retreats

Good news: Menucha is continuing to fulfill FPC's mission to serve others here by providing hospitality and opportunities for renewal to a growing number of personal retreat guests. We've hosted individuals, couples, and families with kids who enjoyed exploring our ponds and trails.

A resident of downtown Portland said she was so grateful to get away for some quiet. FPC members Steve and Lisa Snodderly stayed one night and complimented us



on the terrific takeaway meals and the deep sense of peace they felt while here. Are you ready for a change of scenery? Then call Menucha at (503) 695-2243 to book your own personal retreat. If being with others feeds your soul, then ask friends to book simultaneously. You'll have separate rooms but can enjoy the grounds together (in a socially distanced manner, of course).

### Menucha is Open for Weddings

Could there be a more beautiful place for a wedding? The pandemic means that our usual gatherings of up to 140 people are on hold, so the silver lining for us is being able to say "yes!" when folks call about having a wedding here. Our new wedding webpage [menucha.org/weddings](http://menucha.org/weddings) has photographs showing beautiful spots for indoor and outdoor ceremonies. The



newlyweds featured in many of the photographs are FPC members Sally and Jerry Fish's daughter Natalie and her husband Michael Hatheway. The webpage also addresses staying safe in these pandemic days and pricing. Cost ranges from an elopement (4 hours rental with maximum of 15 guests) for \$2000 up to full-day wedding (12 hours with maximum guest count determined by Multnomah County phase we're in) for \$3000 - \$3500 depending on what day of the week is booked. This is a limited time offer - now through the end of February. Thank you for spreading the word to anyone you know who might be needing a very special place for a very special date. Call Lauren Deming or Lori Nance to schedule a tour. (503) 695-2243.

## Programs Still Happening

We're adjusting our programs so we can offer them safely during the pandemic. This fall we'll host six events in faith, art, and music. Several will be 100% online with participants paying to study with our expert instructors via teleconferencing technology. Our October watercolor workshops and our Scrap & Sew craft retreat in November will allow a reduced number of guests here in person. Looking ahead, we're encouraged by our steadily-filling 2021 calendar. Guest groups are booked to return and our programs will continue, with many as hybrids of in-person and online experiences. That's good news for this great place!

### Drive-In Worship at Menucha on Sunday, September 6

We're delighted to continue the tradition of worshiping at Menucha over Labor Day weekend in a new way: Drive-in worship on **Sunday, September 6 at 10:30 am.**

Here's how it works:

1. Before leaving home, pack your own communion elements (bread and wine or juice) and a picnic lunch if you wish to stay after the service.
2. Arrive at Menucha between 10:00 - 10:20 am and drive to the large gravel parking lot. Several "parking ushers" will assist you in getting to a "parking place pew."
3. Everyone will remain in their cars except the pastors, who will stand on a nearby hillside. **Worship begins at 10:30 am.** (For those unable to come to Menucha, our regular streaming audio service from downtown will also happen that Sunday.)
4. Everyone will receive a bulletin listing the FM radio frequency we'll be using to broadcast the service. As always, worship at Menucha will be a little less formal than our usual downtown services. It is Camp and Conference Sunday so we'll celebrate the 70th anniversary of FPC's serving others at Menucha! A special offering will go toward continuing Menucha's mission of enriching lives through hospitality, learning, reflection, and renewal.
5. After worship, everyone is welcome to stay at Menucha until 2 pm. The pool is closed due to the pandemic but there is plenty of room for socially distanced picnics, walks, and conversations. How wonderful it will be to reconnect face-to-face with others in our congregation!

## The Tuesday Women's Book Club

The Tuesday Women's Book Club will meet on Zoom on Tuesday, September 8th from 11 am until noon. You will receive a Zoom invite from Jan Mittelstaedt one week before. The agenda includes voting on the books we will be reading for the 2020-21 season. Any questions, contact Marilyn Weber [schatzimlw@gmail.com](mailto:schatzimlw@gmail.com).

## Join the Sound/Streaming Team!

Are you interested in helping with sound and streaming services for our church? Our present team consists of four members who trade off each Sunday, so this is not an every Sunday commitment. We will be upgrading our video system soon. Some experience with a soundboard or video equipment would be helpful, training will be provided. To learn more, please contact Murlan Kaufman [murlankaufman@aol.com](mailto:murlankaufman@aol.com).

## FPC on Social Media

Friends, if you are a regular user of social media, you are encouraged to connect with the church and one another through the First Presbyterian Facebook Page [facebook.com/FirstPresPortland](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresPortland), the First Presbyterian Instagram [@firstpresbyterian\\_pdx](https://www.instagram.com/firstpresbyterian_pdx), and the First Presbyterian Youth Instagram Account [@fpcpdx youth](https://www.instagram.com/fpcpdx youth).

## Support the Northeast Emergency Food Program

In these challenging times, our neighbors who were already struggling economically are greatly impacted and those organizations that serve vulnerable populations are feeling the impact as well. Due to the pandemic, NEFP is serving an average of 400 to 600 families each day they are open! The Northeast Emergency Food Program is looking for additional supplies and volunteers. Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks Mondays through Thursdays and on Saturdays. NEFP is located at 4800 NE 72nd Ave, Portland, OR 97218.

## Open Circle Resumes in September

Open Circle resumes virtually on Thursday, September 10th, with a new starting time – 10:30 am. Meetings will continue on Zoom until it is safe to hold large gatherings in the church building. The Zoom ID is: 852 3047 4824, or <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85230474824>.

We will continue our study in “Loved Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments” by Eugenia Anne Gamble.

To adapt this study to the Zoom format, everyone needs to read the lessons before the meeting.

Order books: [www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/shop) (800) 533-4371

(Monday-Friday, from 9 am to 5 pm, EDT).



## Reoccurring Classes and Church Resources:

- **Lectionary Adult Bible Study**  
Sundays from 9 – 10 am via this link: <https://zoom.us/j/92285138816> or Meeting ID 922-8513-8816
- **Virtual Coffee Hour**  
Sundays from 11:30 – 12:30 pm via this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88436962691> or Meeting ID 884 3696 2691
- **Virtual Scripture Study**  
Mondays at 6 pm via this link: <https://zoom.us/j/97941419399> or Meeting ID 979 4141 9399
- **FPC Faith Formation Resource Hub**  
<http://tinyurl.com/fpcfaithformationresources2020>
- **Virtual Vespers & Sermon Archive:**  
<https://www.firstpresportland.org/church-life/worship-services/service-live-stream/>
- **Rewatch Last Sunday's Service**  
<https://vimeo.com/user2689624/videos>



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## **FPC Calvin Library Alive and Well During Pandemic**

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If you are looking for your next good book check out the church library online at <https://fpcp.scoolaid.net/bin/home> Search by title, author or subject just like the public library. Try a few keywords to see what we have. How about prayer, or justice, or women? Consider checking out several books and don't forget to add a few for children. Send your request by email to Bette at [pdxbookworm@gmail.com](mailto:pdxbookworm@gmail.com) Your books will be checked-out, placed into a brown bag ready for pick-up at the glass office entry of the church. You will receive an email letting you know of pick-up times. We will try to make turn around time no more than a week. We're glad of this way of keeping you in touch with books that are timely for our lives and life of faith!