



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Spire

NOVEMBER 2020

Stewardship - Living Our Faith

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7

What we've remembered and had reinforced through the weekly sermons and know deep down in our souls, is that in the Old Testament stories, like Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Joseph and Moses, God is always present and there to support us, as long as we keep the faith and believe in him. We are never alone . . .

Now that we're ending the year still in the midst of a pandemic, record wildfires, racial justice movement, and an unprecedented political election/divided country, we need to **"live our faith" and realize how blessed we are at FPC to be part of a compassionate and generous congregation!**



We can count on pastors, staff and fellow members to provide us with guidance, support, love and friendship. We've experienced amazing virtual services, vesper services, music, coffee hour, staff adjustments, virtual committee and session meetings and had many other opportunities for education and volunteer service.

We are very thankful that our congregation has been able to support many community organizations, such as Rose Haven Shelter for Women, New Avenues for Youth, Friendly House and the NE Emergency Food Program. With the lack of planned income in 2020 coupled with many unplanned expenses, **your support is more critical than ever during these unprecedented times.** Mail in your pledge envelope or (new this year!) submit your pledge online via this link: <https://firstpresportland.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/39/responses/new>

Questions? Please contact Marc Lavender, Church Business Administrator cba@firstpresportland.org or (503) 228-7331 ext 110.

FPC Annual Meeting via Zoom

On **Commitment Sunday, November 15th**, you're virtually invited to the church's annual meeting via Zoom after worship; elect new Elders to join the Session as well as Deacons and Trustees, members of next year's Congregational Nominating Committee, and approve terms of call for installed ministers.

We'll celebrate Dedication Sunday for the Stewardship Campaign as we **"Live Our Faith."** Plan for a special time of virtual fellowship! Look inside for more on the **Annual Meeting** (pg. 3) and **Congregational Nominating Committee** nominations (pg. 4) or <https://tinyurl.com/Annual-Mtg-and-CNC>

Church's Capital Campaign Heading to the Finish Line

Our church's upcoming annual meeting on **Commitment Sunday, November 15th** will mark the third anniversary and official completion of our Forward in Faith Capital Campaign.

Your faithfulness and generous support have resulted in pledge donations of nearly \$1.8mm, very close to our goal of nearly \$1.9mm. This result allowed the church to fulfill nearly all of its original intent to fund a wide range of projects from mission purposes far and near to Whitman Room and Geneva Hall renovations, stained glass repairs, roof repairs, and more!

We're thankful for all the gifts and pledges that have been given, and hope that you if you're yet to complete your pledge, you will make a final gift before the campaign concludes. We look forward to sharing a report of the campaign and its projects at the annual meeting. Thank you for all you've done to help First Pres move Forward in Faith! Questions? Please contact Bill Nelson, Jon Bates or Marc Lavender cba@firstpresportland.org

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship at 10:30 am
1200 SW Alder St. Portland, Oregon 97205
(503) 228-7331 www.firstpresportland.org

Pastor's Pen



As this extraordinary season continues, we are grateful amid times that can be anxious for the reminders that “seedtime and harvest shall not fail,” as the Scripture assures us. This will be a Thanksgiving like no other that we’ve experienced, requiring creativity to find a way to celebrate with friends and family still often at a distance. This month holds some milestones in the church’s life as well, now re-imagined for this time of sheltering at home.

November 1, we will have a special worship service for **All Saints’ Sunday**, remembering those who have gone before us. Poet Jan Richardson pens a prayer of how we can follow in their way through the wilderness days:

May you know the presence
of those who have passed
through the desert before you.

May they point the way
and sustain you
with their stories.

In the wilderness,
may there be wellsprings.

May there be wings.



Rev. Audrey Schindler

As we cast a vote in the coming election, sitting at the kitchen table filling out our ballot, we pause to say a prayer for our community, our state, our nation, that after contentious times, a spirit of unity and common purpose may yet be renewed and restored.

On November 15th at noon, you are invited to the church’s **first ever [Annual Meeting online by Zoom!](#)** You will find details of that meeting and two practice Zoom sessions inside the Spire. We will elect Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and members of the Congregational Nominating Committee, and will hear highlights of the church’s concluding Capital Campaign, as well as some of the creative ways the church has been serving in mission and reaching out in this season.

On November 15, we will dedicate ourselves and our pledges to the work of God’s kingdom as part of our “Live our Faith” stewardship effort for the year ahead. With the challenges that these days are holding, we’re thankful for your faithfulness in supporting the church’s life and work. You are invited to send in your pledge card to the church, or to make a pledge online through the church’s website.

As we come to Thanksgiving, I am grateful for each one of you, and for God’s presence with us through all the seasons of life, especially in these extraordinary days through which we are living!

Wishing you and yours a blessed Thanksgiving,

— Audrey

Church's Annual Meeting by Zoom! November 15th at 12 noon

This year, our annual meeting will be **online by Zoom video conferencing** (the same platform as the church has been using for our weekly coffee hour and many classes and online gatherings). At this meeting we will elect new Elders to join the Session as well as Deacons and Trustees, members of next year's Congregational Nominating Committee, and approve terms of call for installed ministers.



If you're **new to Zoom**, this tutorial will be helpful background and help orient you to set up Zoom:

<https://nextchurch.net/ten-tips-for-folks-new-to-online-meetings/>

The annual meeting of First Presbyterian will be Sunday November 15 at noon, by Zoom.

Download Zoom as detailed in the video above, and then click the link below to join the meeting at that time. You will need to **download Zoom before the meeting** (as detailed in the video above), and then click the link below to join the meeting when it is scheduled. You can alternatively call in by phone on the number below

Join Annual Meeting by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84221887291?pwd=eENkRkJNWFVlY0ovQklkYk1bm10Zz09>

Practice Zoom Sessions:

We are offering two practice sessions to help you become oriented to Zoom and practice with voting.

You will need to download Zoom before the meeting (as detailed in the video above), and then click the link below to join the practice sessions. You can also call in by phone on the number below.

First Practice Session:

Thursday November 5 at 5pm:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83723154970?pwd=RGkKL1hnaDRiWGN2SU5DSDBYTDNYUT09>

Meeting ID: 837 2315 4970 Passcode: 365986

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcoV76rG1J>

Second Practice Session:

Tuesday November 10 at 1pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88494064943?pwd=YkEzTU0V1FmRFdWbXdmMXdXcTFvZz09>

Meeting ID: 884 9406 4943 Passcode 326894

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcCjHVtgar>

Congregational Nominations!

The annual election of Church officers will occur at the Annual Congregational Meeting, which will be held on **Sunday, November 15, 2020, by Zoom**, following the worship service. After consideration of all the suggestions received from the congregation and all names on our membership rolls, the [Congregational Nominating Committee](#) (CNC) has prepared a slate of nominees who have agreed to serve as Elder, Deacon, Trustee or member of the 2021 Congregational Nominating Committee. During their deliberations, they considered a number of factors, including involvement in the life of the church, past leadership activities and participation in worship. They also considered each person's spiritual gifts, the responsibilities, and the positions to which they are being nominated.

Those nominated are:

Trustees

Peter van Bever Mary Kay West

Elders

Natasha Brown Sarah Schwab
Estelle Brunner Peter Vanden Bosch
Vince Carpenter Amy Wood
Olivia Coles (Youth Elder)

Deacons

James Brunner Gordon Lindbloom
Dustin Coles Jim Patterson
Jess Dallas Bill Resley
Jeane Iles Larna Shively

CNC

Sandy Castles Deborah Resley
Lauren Deming Jean Smith
Alice Estes Mike Starosciak
Shelly Garg Phyllis Whittington
Joey Razzano

New Sunday Services Streaming

Beginning on **Sunday, November 8th**, we will begin using Vimeo for Sunday streaming provider. If you have bookmarked our old provider's link for streaming services each Sunday, go to FPC's website here: <https://www.firstpresportland.org/church-life/worship-services/> and update. You may also wish to bookmark the direct link for future Sundays: <https://vimeo.com/event/363044> Contact Murlan Kaufman: murlan Kaufman@aol.com

MISSIONS & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Emergency Food Closet for Alder House

Through a generous grant from the Capital Campaign Mission Giving Grant and our partnership with Lift Urban Portland, FPC has adopted the Alder House Building. This adoption will provide the residents of Alder House with an **Emergency Food Closet** (EFC). FPC will be temporarily housing the EFC in the Julia West building. To do this, we will need your help! We need volunteers to help assist residents fill out the request forms and to help fill their orders. We are also collecting paper shopping bags to place the orders in and new personal hygiene supplies. To volunteer or drop off a donation, please contact Brenna bdykman@firstpresportland.org

FPC Volunteers with SOLVE

Have you missed seeing the church and your church family? Come clean up PDX with us! On **Sunday, November 15th** from 1-3 pm, FPC will be partnering with SOLVE to pick up trash in the neighborhood around the church. Volunteers will be equipped with gear to pick up trash safely. We will also ask everyone to wear masks and observe social distancing protocols. All ages are welcome, those under 18 must be with an adult from their household. To register for the event, please go to this link <https://www.solveoregon.org/opportunity/a0C1I00000RiQmN>

Karen's Coats Drive

November 1st - December 12th

Open Circle is collecting new and like-new clean winter outer clothing in all sizes. This includes coats, heavier jackets, rain gear, warm hats, scarves, mittens/gloves, boots -- for youth of all ages, women, and men. Donations will be distributed to these local missions: NAYA (Native American Youth and Family Center), Friendly House, Rose Haven, and Union Gospel Mission. Beginning November 1st, collection barrels will be located in Geneva Hall and near the Glass Office. Check in at the 13th Street entrance, wear a mask, and social distance. If you need assistance with delivering donations, please contact Cindy Finch for a pick-up cindyloufinch@yahoo.com This annual tradition is called "Karen's Coats" in memory of Karen and Harry Keefer who spearheaded this effort for so many years.

Youth Group Zoom

On **Sunday, November 8th** from 7-8 pm, youth in grades from 6th-12th are virtually invited to join our Downtown Youth Collective monthly Youth Group Zoom. This month we will have a **social justice theme**, looking at God's call to care for those who are marginalized. We will be doing this in a fun and creative way. Keep your eyes peeled for an e-mail later in the month with the zoom link. If you have any questions, please e-mail Brenna bdykman@firstpresportland.org

One Church, One Book

Thank you to everyone who participated in FPC's "One Church One Book" discussion groups. We had **eight groups and 68 members and friends** reading and engaging with the book, How to be an Antiracist. These groups were the first step to learning and engaging with our Christian call to work for justice.

We remember the questions of the Old Testament prophet who asked, "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

WOW, The Impact of NEFP!

Since the beginning of March 2020 to the end of September 2020, NEFP has served over **300,000 people and delivered over 6 million pounds of food!** With these numbers, they are now feeding the most people in the state of Oregon of any other food pantry. And FPC volunteers have been part of that success. The holiday seasons are quickly approaching and NEFP will be doing holiday boxes this year and will happily take any extra hands to assist with box packing and distribution. Donations (except glass packaged!) of holiday non-perishables are also needed for these boxes. (For example: canned gravy, vegetables, instant mashed potatoes, cake mix, frosting, hot cocoa, etc.)

To sign-up for a volunteer shift <https://bit.ly/volunteerNEFP> Questions? Please contact Bill Resley (kayak500@gmail.com).

DEAR Fund Collection

We will be taking virtual donations on **Sunday, November 29th**. The DEAR fund is a small, donations-only account that helps FPC members who face unexpected one-time expenses. Thank you for helping your FPC family in times of need!

Growing in Faith: Godly Play Boxes Are on Their Way!

This month all the families of the church with children 5th grades and under received a hand-delivered box from the church. These boxes contain all the things families will need to do three "Godly Play" lessons together at home.

Godly Play is a curriculum that helps children to learn the stories of scripture and wonder together about their meaning.

Lori Webb and Anna Wells, two Sunday-School teachers at the church, pre-recorded lessons that can be found on the church website <https://www.firstpresportland.org/church-life/childrens-youth-ministry/> and Pastor Carmen worked with Sally Bates to assemble all the craft materials needed to help the children tell the stories at home. The children were also sent packets of hot cocoa and marshmallows with an invitation to "Kid's Coffee Hour" on Sunday, November 1st (using the Zoom platform). We all miss seeing one another face to face and this family-focused fellowship gathering was meant to give children the opportunity to visit with one another, share a special item from their halloween festivities the night before, and reconnect with grown-ups at the church who love and miss them.



Godly play materials

Celebrating Advent & Christmas in a Time of COVID

Sunday, November 8th at 9 am on ZOOM

Mary gave birth Jesus during a time of social-political disruption and threats. And this year, as we approach the seasons of Advent and Christmas, many of us wonder how we can celebrate safely and authentically during a Covid-19 epidemic, further complicated by intense political divisions.

For ideas about new ways to celebrate the upcoming holidays, join facilitator, Fran Page, on **Zoom Meeting ID: 822 9778 9625**. Together we will explore new possibilities for creating a joyful and meaningful Christmas even this year, in a time of coronavirus.

Vote, Then Sing!

—Greg Homza, Director of Music Ministries

On study leave in Denver last summer, I had the great pleasure to attend several workshops led by Brian Hehn. Brian is the Director of The Center for Congregational Song (which is the resource and programmatic arm of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada),



and is an inspiring song-leader equally comfortable leading an acapella singing of “It Is Well” as he is drumming and dancing to “Sizohamba Naye.” I am a fan! His energy and creativity are boundless, as evidenced by the Election Day concert that he and his colleagues will be presenting on YouTube Live.

Here’s a description from their website – “As God’s people, we are called to be good citizens, so we encourage all our followers and friends to make sure you vote! But once you’ve voted, there’s going to be that anxious time of waiting for the results. As people of faith, we are called to also be a people who ‘fear not,’ giving our worries up to God and trusting in God’s mercy.”

So, on **November 3rd**, from 10 am to 10 pm PST, tune in when you need a break from the news, letting your spirit rest and recharge. This non-partisan event will feature hymns and songs, prayers, scripture readings, and other words of hope, healing, and peace. Above all, it will be a non-anxious presence on Election Day. <https://youtu.be/y3ER4yn9nhQ> (or visit congregationalson.org and scroll to upcoming events)

Celebration Works:

If I Were a Bird

Saturday, December 5th at 2 pm

Sunday, December 6th at 2 pm (rebroadcast)

Mezzo-soprano Lisa Neher & pianist Stephanie Thompson perform a concert of music exploring the human condition through the lens of birds, featuring *Winged from Within*, a new work by Portland composer Theresa Koon.

Stream the Concert here: <https://www.firstpresportland.org/music-arts/celebration-works/>



Rose Haven Addresses

Homelessness, with Help From Open Circle

A continuing concern at FPC is the problem of homelessness in Greater Portland. Open Circle supports the efforts of Rose Haven, a sanctuary from the Portland streets, **offering compassion, practical assistance and community** during the daytime hours to women and children facing loss of home, abuse, and other disruptive life experiences. The staff provides nutritious meals, clothing, first aid, mailing addresses, hygiene, restrooms, showers, educational programs, and guidance through medical and social services. By meeting basic needs and building trust, the staff empowers people to explore long-term change. Rose Haven’s low-barrier model makes it the first point of contact for many seeking social services. The weekly Sunday bulletin provides updated seasonal needs for Rose Haven or visit <http://www.rosehaven.org> -- the list of needed donations are updated often. If you have donations but cannot deliver to Rose Haven, please contact Cindy Finch for a pick-up cindyloufinch@yahoo.com.

Whitman Memorabilia for

Sale: Benefit for Calvin Library

Please contact Mary Priedeman mgpriedeman@comcast.net to purchase and arrange for delivery —notebooks \$12, hot pad holders \$12, set of 6 note cards with envelopes \$12, silk scarves \$40

Julia West Project Update:

A task group from our church has been working toward redevelopment of the church’s Julia West site, seeking funding to build low-income housing with supportive services on site. We have recently had news that the State of Oregon’s Oregon Housing and Community Services agency (OHCS) will be issuing a funding round in the **Spring of 2021**, and Portland Housing Bureau (PHB) will be issuing a bond funding round by the end of this year. The developer with whom our church is working, Community Development Partners, have let us know that both look promising for the Julia West project. Thanks for your continuing interest and prayers for the next chapter of Julia West’s life!

Thoughts on Gratitude and Volunteers at Menucha

“We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives.” – John F. Kennedy

“O Lord that lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness.” – William Shakespeare

Since 1950, FPC’s ministry at Menucha has flourished under the steady care of hundreds of volunteers. We are grateful for years of committee and commission members, for work party participants, for donors, for retreat organizers, for check-in helpers, for telescope operators, for future-thinkers, for office assistants, for labyrinth builders, for gardeners, for wood splitters, and for advocates who tell others about this special place where lives are enriched and changed. Thank you!

Is Menucha allowing volunteers during a pandemic? Yes, if you’re ready to help, we’re ready to have you here. All tasks will be socially distanced with safety protocols in place.

Come enjoy working outdoors during one of the most beautiful seasons to be in the Gorge. Fall needs include raking, picking up sticks, wiping spiderwebs away from doors, washing windows and more. There are some indoor housekeeping tasks needed as well. If you are interested in volunteering, we can find a task that fits your preferred time and level of exertion.

Send us an email for more information hello@menucha.org or call our office at (503) 695-2243 and request to speak with Cloie Cohen, Menucha Development Director.

“Help one another; there’s no time like the present and no present like the time.” – James Durst, musician



A photo of FPC member Hall Broughton, who said “we will be framing this one, as it was the most difficult of the 18 puzzles we have completed since the lock down!”



FPC member Jane van Boskirk, volunteer gardener at Menucha



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Dear Congregational Member,

The annual election of Church officers will occur at the **Annual Congregational Meeting, which will be held on Sunday, November 15th, 2020**, at noon by Zoom.

After consideration of all the suggestions received from the congregation and all names on our membership rolls, the Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) has prepared a slate of nominees who have agreed to serve as Elder, Deacon, Trustee or member of the 2021 Congregational Nominating Committee. During our deliberations, we have considered a number of factors, including involvement in the life of the church, past leadership activities and participation in worship. We also considered each person's spiritual gifts, the responsibilities and the positions to which they are being nominated.

For your information, a brief description of each position follows:

Elders are ordained officers of the church and serve on the Session for a three-year term. Elders can be elected to a second consecutive three-year term. The Session is the governing body of the church and ensures that the work and worship of the church continues to move toward its stated mission. Elders have a ministry of authoritative discipline and governance and are responsible for ensuring that the works of the church are accomplished. Elders should be active, involved members of the congregation who have served in a variety of roles, including leadership, and should be people with spiritual wisdom and maturity to guide the church.

Deacons are ordained officers of the church, serve for a three-year term, and can be elected to a second consecutive three-year term. The Board of Deacons ministers to the congregation through compassion, witness and service. They serve Communion in worship and home visits, visit the home bound, assist with memorial services, co-ordinate the van service on Sunday morning, and deliver flowers at Easter and Christmas. Deacons should be active, involved, and compassionate members of the congregation.

Trustees are not ordained, but are officers of the church corporation. The Trustees meet quarterly and are charged to receive, hold, and manage the financial investments of the church. A Trustee serves a three-year term and can be elected to a second consecutive three-year term. Trustees are active members of the congregation, have served in leadership roles, and, preferably, have a professional background in financial management.

The Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) is a committee of the congregation. The CNC includes nine active members of the congregation who are elected annually. A member of the CNC is elected to a one-year term and may be re-elected to the committee twice for a maximum of three consecutive years. The CNC also includes two current Elders, one who serves as chair, and a representative each from the Board of Deacons and from the Trustees. The CNC nominates candidates for Elder, Deacon, and Trustee positions as well for the CNC for the following year. The CNC also nominates members to pastor nominating committees when called for by the Session.

The CNC met frequently throughout the last spring and summer. The committee prayerfully asked for God's guidance and discernment to lead us to those new officers to serve the church at this time. The committee also carefully considered all suggestions it received from the congregation.

The CNC trusts that you will find this information helpful, hopes that you will be able to participate in the **Annual Congregational Meeting on November 15th**, and asks for your continued prayers for the current and new leadership of the church.

Blessings,

The 2020 Congregational Nominating Committee:

Dustin Coles
Alice Estes
Sally Fish
Amy Hall
Fran Merz-Phinney
Deborah Resley
Jean Smith
Mike Starosciak
Phyllis Whittington

Erich Merrill, Session Representative (Chair)
Mary Priedeman, Session Representative
Jeane Iles, Deacon Representative
Chris Rasmussen, Trustee Representative
Rev. Zane Buxton, ex-officio



Annual Stewardship Campaign

**Pray Faithfully
Serve with Love
Give Generously**

“pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances...”

1 Thess. 5:17-18a

Live our Faith PLEDGE CARD

Name(s) [please print].....

Address

Phone..... Email

Pledges for our church’s mission & ministry next year

\$ (please circle one) weekly/monthly/annually

I have included the church in my estate plan.....

I’m interested in online giving

I would like a call

Questions? Please contact Marc in the Church Office

by phone (503) 228-7331 ext. 110 or email cba@firstpresportland.org

Please mail in your pledge card to First Presbyterian Church, 1200 SW Alder Street, Portland, OR 97205, or (new this year!) submit your pledge online via this link:

<https://firstpresportland.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/39/responses/new>

Thank you!

Questions? Please contact Marc Lavender, Church Business Administrator at cba@firstpresportland.org or (503) 228-7331 ext. 110.



Annual Stewardship Campaign

**Pray Faithfully | Serve with Love
Give Generously**

“pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances...” 1 Thess. 5:17-18a

Ten Percent Giving Chart

ANNUAL Income	10% ANNUAL GIFT	WEEKLY DONATIONS	MONTHLY DONATIONS
\$25,000	\$2,500	\$48.07	\$208.33
\$50,000	\$5,000	\$96.15	\$416.66
\$75,000	\$7,500	\$144.23	\$625.00
\$100,000	\$10,000	\$192.30	\$833.33

Five Percent Giving Chart

ANNUAL Income	5% ANNUAL GIFT	WEEKLY DONATIONS	MONTHLY DONATIONS
\$25,000	\$1,250	\$24.04	\$104.17
\$50,000	\$2,500	\$48.08	\$208.34
\$75,000	\$3,750	\$72.12	\$312.50
\$100,000	\$5,000	\$96.16	\$416.67

Three Percent Giving Chart

ANNUAL Income	3% ANNUAL GIFT	WEEKLY DONATIONS	MONTHLY DONATIONS
\$25,000	\$750	\$14.42	\$62.50
\$50,000	\$1,500	\$28.84	\$125.00
\$75,000	\$2,250	\$43.26	\$187.50
\$100,000	\$3,000	\$57.69	\$250.00



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

FPC Chapel Art Gallery Virtual Exhibit: “Hope in Every Step: The Immigrant Experience”



“Where Can We Go?” by First Prize
Wining Artist Sidonie Caron

Juror Mark Tindle considered over 50 submissions from an international group of artists.

The exhibition was originally scheduled for September 2020 and it was decided that the judging of the entrant’s work would proceed at this time, with the in-person show postponed until September 2021.

To view the full virtual exhibit, please visit:
www.firstpresportland.org/music-arts/visual-arts/

There you can view their selected works of art and an excerpt from their shared impressions on the Immigrant experience.

First Prize Wining Artist Sidonie Caron shares:
“Hope in Every Step must truly be felt by every immigrant. Lest we forget most US residents are immigrants or their descendants. The indigenous population in the US is now small. Immigrants are either pushed here by tragic experience or pulled by hope of a better life. I have experienced both. The first time I was forced from Germany to England when Hitler came to power in 1933 and started his war against the Jews. The second was from England to the USA in search of a better life.”