



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

Spire
MARCH 2021

Volunteers Welcome at NE Emergency Food Program

It's easy to sign up for a few hours each week at the Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP). The primary need is for people to help prepare boxes and bag produce (Louise Nagel doing that in the picture). And there are many other opportunities... as artists, pickup donations from local stores, help with distribution on Thursdays and Saturdays... go to the SignUpGenius here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=s.signup&urlid=60b0a4ca4a92ca2ff2-alder&view=calendar> or email Bill Resley kayak500@gmail.com to send you the link. NEFP is located on 72nd Ave. between Killingsworth and Prescott.



Louise Nagel volunteering at NE Emergency Food Program

Capital Campaign Mission Giving

In 2018, First Presbyterian Church embarked on a 3-year Forward in Faith Capitol Campaign program. In accordance with our church's strategic plan, Session approved applying 10% of funds raised towards mission projects. To that end, the Capitol Campaign Mission Giving Committee (CCMGC) was formed. They were charged with reviewing proposals and submitting to Session for approval, recommended local, national and international projects to support.

We are grateful for the generosity of the congregation! A full summary of the allocation of these mission dollars is on [page 6](#).

[Looking Ahead to Holy Week!](#)

Palm Sunday	March 28 at 10:30 am
Maundy Thursday	April 1 at 7 pm
Good Friday	April 2 at 7 pm
Easter Sunday	April 4 time tbc

follow this link to view the services:

<https://www.firstpresportland.org/2021/holy-week-easter/>

Lenten Organ Chorale Offerings

Each Wednesday through Holy Week, we will be offering a Bach organ chorale to sustain us all in our Lenten journey. Follow this link to watch the latest video on our website: <https://www.firstpresportland.org/2021/holy-week-easter/>

We Celebrate Our Capital Campaign Success!

Three years of
faithful giving,
intentional
planning and
the dedication
of much time



and energy by many FPC members have placed the church in a position to move forward with confidence that its roofs and beautiful stained glass windows are structurally sound, its interior will meet the needs of gathering spaces for classes and hospitality. We have been faithful in investing in missions that serve locally, the region and the world and will involve FPC members in on-going partnerships. — Continued inside on [page 3](#)

Just over a year ago, many of you participated in a congregational conversation that explored spinning Menucha off to form it's own separate organization. This was the culmination of several studies made by our Session and the Menucha Commission. We were trying to find the best way forward for both our church and the retreat and conference center we all love. You may have wondered what has happened since then.

For a few months, this project became a casualty of the pandemic and was put on hold to deal with more pressing concerns. In November of last year the task force assigned the responsibility of managing this project took up where they left off. While we may have lost a bit of momentum, our plans have not changed. We are still anticipating forming a new corporation so that both Menucha and the church can better address their ministry and mission in the world.

For 71 years First Presbyterian Church has operated [Menucha](#) as an ecumenical community-based mission. While Menucha's focus has changed over the years, it's primary goal of gathering people into communities and offering them the hospitality of Christ has not. In that 71 years, Menucha's annual operational budget has grown to \$1.3 million dollars. We have built new accommodations (the Creevey Complex about 25 years ago) and have remodeled existing accommodations (Wright Hall has been under some type of remodel for the last 12 or so years). We have expanded our outreach by offering a variety of programs in faith, music and art. We continue to look for ways to meet our mission with creativity, imagination and love. It is because of this ever-expanding ministry and the need to limit the church and Menucha's liability risk that Menucha and our Session are moving in this direction.

This does not mean that the church is losing Menucha. Menucha will continue to relate closely to our congregation in a number of ways. In practice, most people will notice little difference in the way the church uses Menucha now and in the future. Part of this is defined in a covenantal agreement between Menucha and First Presbyterian Church. This document outlines how we will support each other's mission and how we will work together in the future. The final touches are being put on this document and will be released to the congregation in the next few weeks.

It does mean that each organization will be able to approach it's own ministry in ways that are most productive. Business processes for churches and conference centers vary significantly. With each organization being independent, processes and procedures can be developed that most suit each. This will allow for more efficient management and smoother operations for both organizations. It also means that both Menucha and First Presbyterian Church will become co-equal partners in future ministry efforts. Menucha and First Presbyterian Church look forward to working with each other on a variety of projects. It is our hope that our work will be complementary and synergistic. Menucha will continue to be a resource for our congregation. Church members will continue to provide leadership for Menucha as the new Menucha Board requires that a specific number of Board members come from First Presbyterian Church.

This is an exciting time for all of us as we face this new venture together. I know many of you have questions and we are happy to answer them. Please direct them to either myself spencer@menucha.org or to Brenda Peterson bjpr2@me.com who is the chair of the task force overseeing this project. We will also be providing opportunities for more general discussion of this project in the near future via another congregational conversation.

In the meantime, I hope you'll that you'll keep Menucha and the church in your prayers as we plan our future together.

Grace and Peace.... Spencer



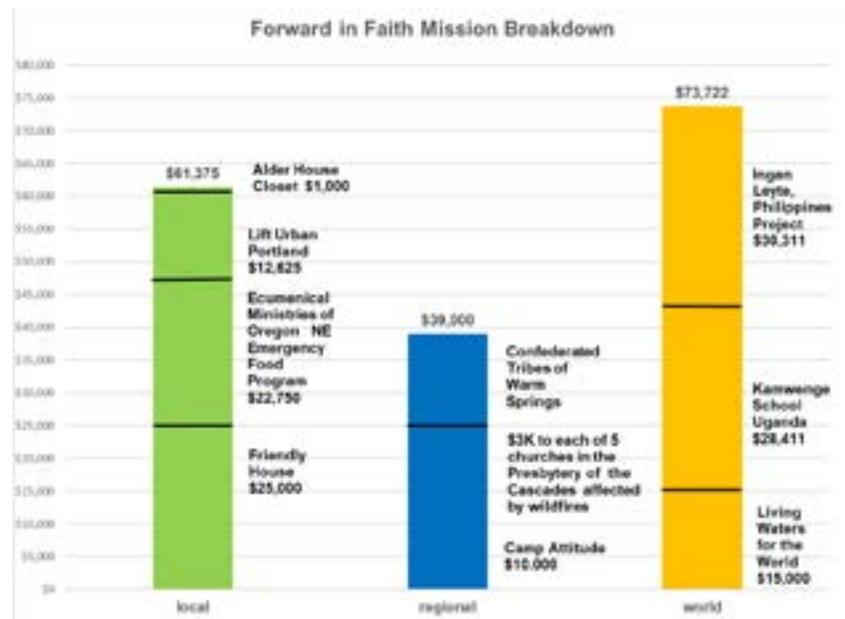
Rev. Spencer Parks

We Celebrate Our Capital Campaign Success!

—Continued from [front page](#)

Costs in changes to the heating plant will be recovered quickly in energy savings. With a **freshly designed website**, FPC more successfully reaches out to those surfing the web for churches in addition to giving more capability to the church. **Added equipment and technology have improved the church's live-streaming** in a time when we cannot be physically in the church. Streaming services now have multiple cameras for multiple views with better acuity.

Thanks to one donor, a reserve fund is in place to meet roofing and structural repairs. Menucha's roads and plumbing have been repaired. To put this another way, when we can gather again in the church, you won't have to avoid rain droplets while viewing art in the chapel. You will see beautiful stained glass windows without cracks, opaque coverings and damaged lead joints, and best, they won't fall out due to rotted housing. You will not risk tripping on torn carpet in the balcony or parish house rooms. You will experience much less of a "basement" feeling in Geneva and Calvin. You will not look at stained or missing ceiling tiles or see strips of paper hanging from ceilings. You will not rush home in order not to use unpleasant restrooms and no need to dodge potholes in and out of Menucha. **The Whitman Room is now a lovely space for a variety of functions.** With window hardware working so that windows can close, outside sound will be cut down considerably.



Décor and improved lighting in Geneva and Calvin will encourage folks to gather for fellowship, classes and use the library. Members will have opportunities to participate in missions locally and around the world to demonstrate God's love and caring.

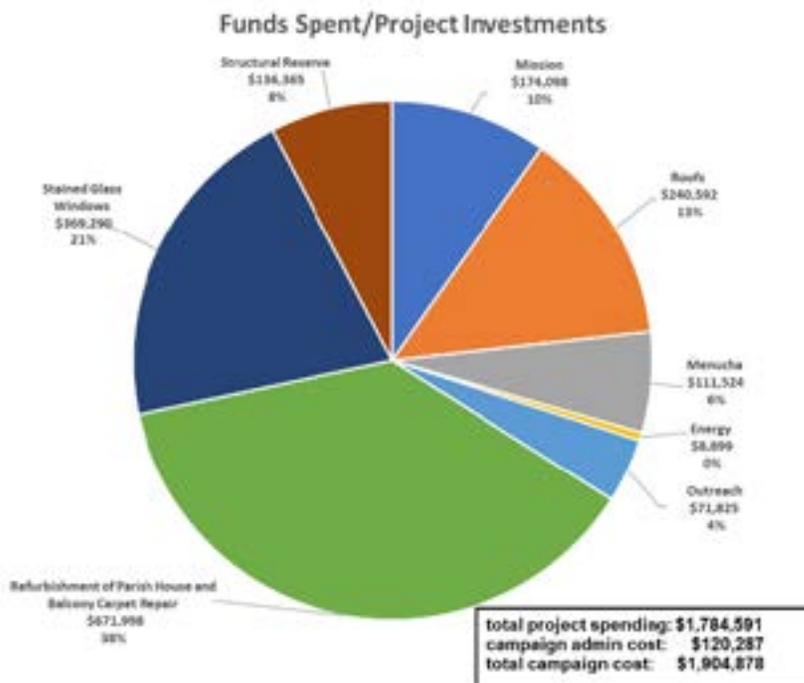
As of January 31, 2021, the capital campaign checking account was closed and moved into FPC's bank with reserved amounts for travel to several of the mission sites when travel becomes safe. Outreach has some uncommitted funds for future use. The roof and structure reserve fund will become a fund within the trust where it can grow but also be ready for structural repairs.

Contributions received after January 31 from those who did not complete their pledges to the Forward in Faith Capital Campaign will be placed in the Mustard Seed Trust Fund (used for facilities repairs) which helped to finance the campaign by approximately \$40,000. It's never too late to contribute but just make sure donations are clearly designated as capital campaign funds.

Perhaps more significant than the physical changes is the fact that **this was a church-wide effort. 180 people and families and a bequest contributed \$1,826,198 and answered the challenge to fund Forward in Faith. Thanks be to God! Please follow this link to view & enjoy before and after pictures!**

<https://vimeo.com/510049700/5901695ec6>

— Thank you, Ann Snodderly, who created the slideshow to represent before and after scenes of the capital campaign building projects.



Bach and Sons Premieres

March 19th

– Greg Homza, *Director of Music Ministries*

This month's [Celebration Works](#) presentation is more than a concert – it's an experience! Organist Jeannine Jordan will perform well-loved music by Johann Sebastian Bach (including the *Tocatta in D minor* and *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*), as well as some lesser-known pieces, including music by two of his sons. The program will conclude with the incredible "St. Anne" [triple] Fugue. The music will be woven with narration from Maria Barbara and Anna Magdalena Bach (J.S. Bach's first and second wives), as well as Catharina Dorothea Bach (his eldest daughter) and Sara Levy (a patron of the arts and collector of Bach's works). But wait, there's more! The music and narration will be accompanied by a continuously changing backdrop of creative visuals by media artist David Jordan, transporting you to Bach's Germany – the churches, the homes, the countryside. This really is an experience you will remember for years to come! The premiere will be on **Friday, March 19th**, at **7 pm**, with a rebroadcast on **Sunday, March 21st** (Bach's 336th birthday) at **2 pm**. Following the rebroadcast, the program will be available until **March 28th**. The concert link and program will be at <https://www.firstpresportland.org/music-arts/celebration-works/>. All CW concerts are offered free of charge as gifts from **FPC** and **CW** donors, but donations in support of the series are gratefully accepted!



Sunday Lenten Series – The Passion Narratives of the Four Gospels

Join Dales Hess March 7, 14 at noon on Zoom

Follow this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81858531347>

The Bible gives us four uniquely constructed accounts of the suffering and death (the Passion) of Jesus Christ. Each writer has a narrative in mind and emphasizes the materials that support that narrative. When we mash them all together as if they were one story, we lose the clarity and the integrity of each story. This course looks carefully at three of these narratives: Mark and Matthew (considered together); Luke; and John. We will begin with a video that will focus our attention on the differences between the event itself and the meaning of the event. The word "Truth" refers to the meaning, not to the details. We will look particularly at Jesus' experience in Gethsemane, at the beginning of the story and at his experience on the cross, which ends the Passion Narrative. Mark and Matthew offer the bleakest of the accounts, as we will see, ending with Jesus' despairing cry on the cross. Luke's account features the healing Jesus, whose sense of mission and compassion are preserved throughout. John's account features Jesus as sovereign, even as a victim of Roman abuse, and sees even crucifixion as a kind of ascension to his heavenly home.

March 7 The Healing Victim of Luke

Luke stresses the help that Jesus draws on in Gethsemane and the healing he offers on the cross. At the end, he commits himself to his Father's care.

March 14 The Victim as Conqueror

Jesus is sovereign throughout John's account. From Gethsemane, where he overcomes the soldiers to the cross, where he founds the church from the cross before he declares the work to be accomplished,

Oregon Public Health PSA Filmed at our Church!

Oregon Public Health asked our church if they could film a public service announcement in our church plaza to highlight the continuing value of social distancing in this season. Thanks to a consultation from a church member who is a structural engineer, we learned that their plan to have a pool of water in the plaza could be supported. The video shows a baby shower outdoors in the rain. https://youtu.be/yIx_M97oQzg



Observe Lent with One Great Hour of Sharing

Each year through the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering, we are given the opportunity to live out the call to become the beloved community of Jesus Christ. Traditionally, the weeks of Lent between Ash Wednesday and Easter are a period of prayer and sacrifice for Christians. You can join believers around the world at this sacred time by remembering our sisters and brothers who are in need through gifts to the annual One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. This past year has been particularly challenging. OGHS reaches out with projects that share God's love by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Many programs have a long-term focus, partnering with communities to address root causes as well. Our donations will be dedicated in worship on Palm Sunday, March 28th.

Open Circle - Join in via Zoom!

In years past, when "snow days" closed Portland Schools and our First Presbyterian Church facilities on a Thursday, it also meant that the Open Circle meeting was cancelled. But no longer is that the case -- with Zoom, we have continued to meet every Thursday, with only a "summer break" in August and traditional holidays. **New members are always welcome** -- extra study guides are available. Meetings are from 10:30 am to noon weekly. Our focus through May is on the Presbyterian Women's Horizon Study -- this year *Into The Light - Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*, such a timely practice to study. We also support our Church members and their community with prayer and cards. If you cannot attend every week, or for the entire meeting, then join us when you can. Each Tuesday, an Open Circle email is sent with the Zoom link and agenda for the Thursday morning meeting. If you wish to be added to this list, please email Marilyn Howe at harrietwho92@gmail.com We look forward to seeing you "on the screen."

The Tuesday Book Club

Join in March 2nd at 11 am via Zoom. Sue Moore will present *The Yellow House* by Sarah Broom. A memoir growing up in New Orleans with 11 siblings and how governmental failures resulted in an environmental and social catastrophe, Hurricane Katrina. [Kelly Farrell-Oliverson](#) will be our Zoom hostess and Marilyn Weber returns as Chair. Please await your Zoom invite from Kelly and sign in at 10:45 am on the day of the meeting. After the meeting there will be time for a Zoom chat with your book club friends.

Presbyter Brian Heron's Sermon for a Time of Change

The Presbyter for Vision and Mission from our regional Presbytery of the Cascades has recorded a sermon for the churches in our region, with his reflections on "negotiating this fragile and fertile time," both for local congregations and for the Presbytery. The sermon is based on John 4: 7-19, and includes some of his personal journey as it pertains to his sense of call with regard to leading the presbytery through a process of transformation.

Follow this link to Brian Heron's sermon:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WXpLLJuGpc>

Brian sends his greeting to our church, "I am deeply grateful for all of you and your ongoing faithfulness..."

Caring for Creation Action Opportunity

Please join FPC's Earth Care Team in supporting the bipartisan "Oregon Clean Energy 2021 Opportunity" initiative! "We are called . . . to serve God, to work alongside the most vulnerable, and to live out our faith by working toward the health of our environment." ("The Call to Care For Creation," PC(USA) Moving Forward Guide.)

Caring for God's creation enhances the health of our planet and all of us, including the most vulnerable, reminding us of the words of Jesus, ". . . as you did it to one of the least of these, my brethren, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40) "The least of these" are: communities of color, recent immigrants, and those who have lost jobs and income because of the pandemic. Call your Oregon House representative (800) 221-2313 to urge their support of this important legislation.

100% Clean Energy for All (LC 1984) will get Oregon on track to expand clean energy-like wind, solar and geothermal-over the next two decades to create good jobs that benefit local economies.

Energy Affordability (HB 2475) will help make energy bills more affordable by providing protection from rate increases, especially for low-income households who spend a large portion of their income on energy needs.

Healthy Homes (HB 2842) will create a new program at the Oregon Health Authority to expand access to retrofits that make homes warmer, healthier, and more energy efficient. To support these bills via email, follow this link:
<https://www.cleanenergyoregon.org/en/take-action>

Capital Campaign Mission Giving

—continued from [front page](#): A full summary of the allocation of these mission dollars is below.

We are grateful for the generosity of the congregation!

Round One:

\$20,000 to [Friendly House's](#) Capital Campaign for redevelopment of the Crawford Building. This redevelopment allows Friendly House to expand their programs to serve people locally across generations and life circumstances.

\$25,800 to [Kamwenge Secondary and Vocational School in Uganda \(KSVS\)](#). This funding enabled the health center at the school to purchase a vaccine refrigerator so that the school nurse can administer vaccines to the students. The funds also helped complete the computer lab in the STEM center at the school.

Emergency Funding

in response to additional needs during the COVID-19 pandemic and local wildfires:

\$5,000 to [Friendly House](#)

\$5,000 [Northeast Emergency Food Program \(NEFP\)](#)

\$1,000 to [Emergency Food Closet](#) at Julia West

\$15,000 (\$3,000 to each of 5 churches in the Presbytery of the Cascades) for fire relief.

Round Two:

\$11,000 to [Living Waters for the World](#) (a ministry of the Presbyterian Church USA). This ministry provides water systems, training and support to communities in Central America that currently have contaminated water.

\$4,000 for travel for training of 2 FPC members by [Living Waters for the World](#).

\$17,750 to [Northeast Emergency Food Program \(NEFP\)](#) for capital improvements and renovations. Their programs provide food, clothing and referral services for over 950 low-income families each month in our community. Addressing ADA issues, upgrading their pantry with commercial grade equipment and installation of LED lighting will all be made possible with this funding.

Allotment of remaining funds:

\$2,611 for mission team travel to [KSVS](#) in Uganda

\$2,611 for mission team travel to [ILP](#) in the Philippines

\$2,500 to [Warm Springs](#) project

Round Three:

\$12,625 to [Lift Urban Portland \(Lift UP\)](#) to support their food security services. This includes our “adoption” of Alder House Apartments near the church (providing 4,500 meals/year), nutrition education to residents of the apartments and equipment for Preston’s Pantry located at First Methodist Church Portland.

\$11,500 to [Warm Springs Library](#) for computers and books at the tribal headquarters. Plans include forming an intergenerational mission team from FPC to travel to Warm Springs to set up the computers and explore ways to connect with the Native American community in Warm Springs.

\$27,700 to the [Ingan Leyte Project \(ILP\)](#) to help rebuild the multi-purpose facility on the island of Leyte in the Philippines destroyed by typhoon Haiyan. This facility provides a site for health needs, education, livelihood training, sports activities, Vacation Bible school and a farmer’s market.

\$10,000 to [Camp Attitude](#) in central Oregon for building a new cabin at the camp. This camp provides a faith-based camping experience for youth and families in the special needs’ community. A youth mission trip to Camp Attitude is hoped for in the future.

**Total funds designated:
\$174,097**

The Capital Campaign Mission Giving Committee is grateful for the very generous support by the congregation enabling us to help these worthwhile projects.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any committee member.

— Greg Aldrich, Rev. Brenna Dykman, Kathryn Hill, Linda Killen and Steve Primack

Medical Surplus Recovery in Portland

The need. In many countries, there are hospitals and clinics with insufficient medical equipment and supplies to treat their patients. They simply cannot afford all that they need.

The opportunity. The United States medical community generates billions in surplus products every year. There are several US-based charities which collect this medical equipment and ship it to hospitals and clinics which are in need.

Currently a group is being formed of those interested in establishing a charity in Portland to collect surplus medical supplies and ship those materials to healthcare providers outside the US.

If you are interested, please reach out to Bill Resley at kayak500@gmail.com to learn more.

Open Circle Support for the Rose Haven Shelter

The Rose Haven Day Shelter for Women and Children thanks FPC members of FPC for their recent donations of so many urgently needed items. Rose Haven direct donation hours are from 1-3 pm, Monday through Thursday. They are located at 627 NW 18th Avenue. Visit their website at rosehaven.org for top needed items which are updated weekly. Questions? Please contact Cindy Finch cindyloufinch@yahoo.com



FPC member Lori Webb enjoys basketball with our Somali-American friends.

From left, they are Ayan, Fatima, Jamila, Lori, and Alkafi.

Their family recently celebrated being in the US for four years.

2022 International Youth Mission Trip Meeting

It has been some years since the FPC youth have traveled overseas in service for the people of God. Youth and families who are interested and eligible (must be entering 9th grade in 2022) are invited to attend an introductory meeting to explore if next year might be the year to go abroad and what type of service God might be calling us to. We will meet on **Sunday, March 7th at 9 am.** Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88113910273>

Reconnect with Menucha

Our staff is excitedly anticipating spring and summer's sunny days and envisioning ways for people to gather at Menucha safely then. Multnomah County's guidelines for social gatherings range (as the levels go from "high risk" now to "lower risk") from 6 – 10 indoor guests and 6 – 12 outdoor guests, until the pandemic is under control. This means all Menucha gatherings for the near future must be small.



Think creatively with us. What could "small" be?

- A mini family reunion for several days
- A picnic one afternoon for a book club
- An overnight retreat for a few people and their life coach
- A getaway for friends who play music together or make art together
- A circle of friends who just want to be together to re-connect after the pandemic separation for a day, or two, or more
- Several parents with several kids to have an outdoor adventure

Please talk with your friends and family and see if there is interest. We have lots of outdoor space where it would be easy to gather for a relaxed, fun, memorable time together. Bathrooms will be available for day use guests. Our kitchen is still putting out excellent meals and we can spread out housing for overnight guests. We will require reservations several days in advance (no drop-ins, please!) so we can prepare clean spaces and meals.

Thank you for spreading the word about this very special place. To make your reservations or just ask questions, please call our office (503) 695-2243 or email office@menucha.org



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Call for Artwork: Earth Care Team Annual Video to Commemorate Earth Day 2021



Calling all earth lovers, tree huggers, sunshine bathers, and everyone else who is otherwise simply in awe of God's glorious creation. The Earth Care Team is launching an annual video to commemorate Earth Day 2021 – and we need your help. Please send us your favorite digital images of photography or artwork that you believe captures all the beauty of the earth. These can include your original images – or the work of others that you admire. Each year we'll record excerpts of sermon and Scripture at FPC, set it to music, and showcase your selections. We'll try to use as many as we can. **Earth Day is April 22nd.** Please have your submissions in no later than **April 8th.** Please submit your images to Dropbox at this link, following the instructions: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/PKnlhN4lIHdwRpvso9Lv>

“We together are God's miraculous plan for rescuing our world.” - Pastor Zane

Questions? Please contact Chris Nilson at cnilson@verizon.net