



**First  
Presbyterian**  
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

**Spire**  
JUNE 2021

## Update on Menucha

At a congregational meeting on May 2, the congregation voted for the disposition of the Menucha property at the time that the new Menucha corporation receives its tax-exempt status, likely early next year. The new Menucha's articles of incorporation have been filed, and the staff anticipates taking on operational control sometime in early fall. We are thankful for your continued help in prayers for Menucha, as it looks ahead to a renewed and vital future.

## Heartfelt Thanks!

As we rejoice that this month at last sees some from the congregation able to gather back for in-person worship, we extend heartfelt thanks to so many who have helped the church through the most intense season of the pandemic.

Thanks to:

- Soloist Leah Papay, who served as our Cantor during the early months of the pandemic, and Greg Homza, who lent beautiful music to these days
- Our four soloists, Madeline Ross, Greg McMahan, Paul Butler, Chelsea Janzen
- Our streaming volunteers for their audio/visual expertise, enabling online worship:
- Chris Nilson, Murlan Kaufmann, Erich Merrill, Dan Wade, Russell Smith
- Elder Jon Bates and Church Business Administrator Marc Lavender for their help in FPC's applications for PPP support during this season.
- Our faithful donors who have so generously supported the church's life and mission through this season.

We will continue to stream the worship services for those worshipping from home, and are glad to move into this hybrid time for our congregation, both gathered and dispersed, united in spirit as together we love God and love our neighbors!

## Reservations for In-Person Worship Services Are Open!

To attend an upcoming worship service, please follow this link to register: <https://www.firstpresportland.org/2021/in-person-worship-signup/>, if you need assistance, please call the church office (503) 228-7331 or email [hello@firstpresportland.org](mailto:hello@firstpresportland.org). Van service resumes June 6.

### What to Expect at in-Person Worship

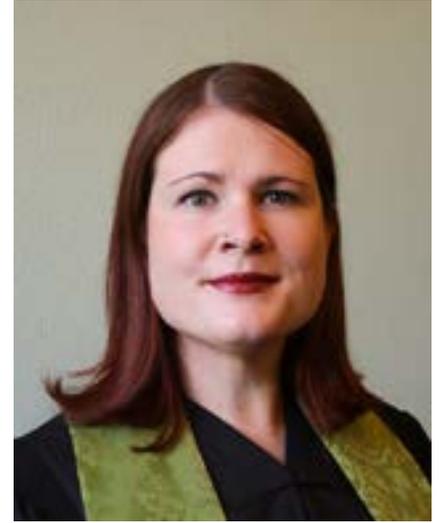
Worship in person will be joyful, and a bit different, to help ensure the safety of the congregation.

- You will be greeted at the door to the sanctuary and given a worship bulletin. You will be asked to sign in at a desk in the entry/narthex and asked if you have had any symptoms.
- Masks are still required in the service to keep congregants safe and to minimize the possibility of break-through infections even in those who are vaccinated.
- Singing and saying prayers (while masked) at a moderate volume is allowed.
- Seats in worship will not be assigned; spaces are taped off to provide distancing.
- After worship, people are invited to gather on the plaza outside to greet one another. Those who are vaccinated would use their discretion as to whether to remain masked while outside. Initially there will not be refreshments, though this may change in later weeks.
- The parking garage will be open for the service and closes at 2 pm on Sundays.
- The garage elevator will be open for use without a pass card.
- The upper windows will be left open for ventilation.

**As the virus numbers continue to change**, please visit the church website for more current information, as we hope to lift some restrictions when possible.

**First Presbyterian Church** | 1200 SW Alder St. Portland, Oregon 97205 | (503) 228-7331 | [www.firstpresportland.org](http://www.firstpresportland.org)

## A Note from Pastor Brenna



Rev. Brenna Dykman

Dear beloved church,

As of late I have been thinking that the naming of this season as ‘unprecedented’ no longer is applicable for we have been navigating its depth and complexity for well over a year. Living in a liminal time, where the only thing that is certain is uncertainty, has left us awash with emotions. We have been moved to tears as the love of mother God was proclaimed over us. In a season of economic hardship, joy was overflowing as our community banded together to exceed our pledge goal for the year. We have had our hearts filled with sorrow at all the different losses associated with the pandemic.

As a community, we have been through much on this journey but we also have embraced it. We have stood in the expansive wasteland of 2020 & 2021 with a posture of openness. We have invited God to grow and stretch and sojourn with us. As part of the team who has the privilege of guiding this community in the wilderness, I have had the delight to see a historic institution gracefully (and at some points not so gracefully) adapt to the realities of the world.

Our community has dedicated itself to do the hard work of engaging in the racial justice movement that has been sweeping our nation. Last year we had 68 people participate in the ‘One Book One Church’ course and now another group is continuing that journey reading our second book, *Dear Church*. We have seen new bible studies started and more people able to joined existing ones thanks to the gift of technology. We have been working to meet the needs of those who have been most impacted by the pandemic collecting supplies for our mission partners who support the un-housed, making special donations to those offering food assistances, and the opening of the [Emergency Food Closet](#). This is just a small slice of all the amazing work the church has been doing during the pandemic.

The other day a well-meaning acquaintance asked me if work has been busy and before I could answer, said, “well there is no way you could be being closed.” I smiled knowing all the amazing things the church has done and simply answered, “our church building may be closed but the work of the church always carries on.”

— Brenna

## Church Officer Nominating

### Process

In preparation for the election of Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) members at a Congregational Meeting to be held in the Fall, your help is needed. The CNC has arranged for you to receive information on



those officers and members currently serving, including those whose terms are ending in January of 2021. As the CNC reviews the possibilities of nominations for second terms for some and the need for new members of the church to fill vacancies, you can help by using the response forms that will be available to suggest names for consideration, along with supporting information.

You can even suggest your own name if you have an interest in this form of ministry. Watch for details in bulletin inserts (online resources for Sunday virtual worship), in email blasts. The CNC has set June 27 as a preliminary deadline for reception of suggested names. Thanks, in advance, for your thoughtful responses.

## Youth In-Person Gathering

Youth, please mark your calendars for Sunday, June 6th from 11:45 am – 1 pm. Come join Pastor Brenna and Pastor Carmen for a time of fun and fellowship. We have missed you and are looking forward to re-connecting as a group. Light snacks will be provided.



## Thank You for Your Christmas

### Joy Generosity!

Individual donations to the 2020 Christmas Joy Offering by members of our congregation as of January 14th totaled \$4,332! Thank you for your generosity! This offering assists church workers and their families with critical financial needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. It also supports young people at Presbyterian schools for students of color, preparing future leaders for our church.

## A Message for Graduating Seniors!

Congratulations to Jade Razzano on the completion of her High school program and Rachel Primack and JD Deming on the completion of their university degrees. We wish them God's blessings as they graduate, and, mindful of their graduating in the midst of the coronavirus season, we ask God's guidance for their next chapter of life. They go out with the love and care of their church family.

## Children's Ministry Internship: Accepting Applications Now!

Are you looking for a meaningful opportunity to share your amazing gifts, grow in faith, and build your resume? Do you like kiddos and have some time available on Sunday mornings?

First Presbyterian Portland has an opportunity for you! We are looking for a [team of interns](#) (ages 14-19) to work on Sunday mornings with the Children's Sunday School program of the church. The internship is



divided into two semesters (September-December and mid-January through May) plus a required orientation gathering in late August. You can apply for either or both semesters. For more info, please click the application link below or reach out to Pastor Carmen at [cgoetschius@firstpresportland.org](mailto:cgoetschius@firstpresportland.org). Compensation is provided! Please prayerfully consider this opportunity that is open to youth of our church (or other churches!). Applications are due Monday, July 5th.

## An On-Line Baby Shower!

As we anticipate welcoming little ones back to the church nursery, please consider showering the babies of the church with love! We have created an Amazon "Wish List" that includes a variety of items the church nursery needs to help welcome babies and toddlers more fully. From a clock and step-stool, to Bible-Story coloring books, there are a variety of items (many quite inexpensive) that will make a wonderful, cheerful addition to that space. Search for the "First Presbyterian Portland's Baby Registry" on Amazon, or go here: <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/firstpresbyterianportland-january-2021-portland/1OVXV0ZLLXWU> Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## Rose Haven Youth Outreach Board

Rose Haven's Youth Outreach Board (YOB) is comprised of high school activists in the Portland metropolitan area moved to positive action. By being intentional catalysts for change, the YOB spreads awareness and inspires action by unifying our community for the benefit of the women and children of Rose Haven who are challenged by experience homelessness and abuse. Their primary goals are awareness, in-kind donations and financial giving to help improve the lives of those we serve. A team of twenty young women, attending eight Portland-area high schools, volunteer their services. They work toward increasing Rose Haven's social media presence on Instagram, fundraising efforts by writing and submitting grant applications, supporting grassroots fundraising efforts, helping gather the supplies and clothing especially needed by teens who need to access Rose Haven services, and hand-writing 500 "love letters" to be included in kids' holiday gift bags. If you are a youth of First Presbyterian Church of Portland, and you are interested in joining the YOB of Rose Haven, please send an email to [youthboard@rosehaven.org](mailto:youthboard@rosehaven.org) to receive more information. To "meet" current members of the Youth Outreach Board and read their stories follow this link <https://rosehaven.org/about-us/youth-outreach-board/> or visit: [rosehaven.org](http://rosehaven.org) > Menu: About Us > Youth Outreach Board

—Cindy Finch

## Call for Greeters

Sign up for a few Sundays now and then, sign up for a month at a time, or whatever fits into your schedule. Are you interested in serving our congregation in this way? Please be in touch with Kathryn Hill by email [hillka@teleport.com](mailto:hillka@teleport.com)

—Kathryn Hill



## Stephen Ministers are the After People

How does it feel after the phone call you hoped you'd never get, after the doctor says there's nothing more that can be done, after you get a pink slip with your paycheck, after your relationship falls apart, and after your friends have resumed their own lives? Stephen Ministers are lay volunteers who are trained to provide confidential, empathetic, Christ-centered care to individuals who are experiencing grief and loss. If you would like to find out more about how Stephen Ministry can support you through tough times, contact Pastor Brenna [bdykman@firstpresportland.org](mailto:bdykman@firstpresportland.org) or Pastor Audrey [aschindler@firstpresportland.org](mailto:aschindler@firstpresportland.org) at the church.



## The Tuesday Book Club

The Tuesday Women's Book Club will meet June 1st at 11 am. A special invite will come from Jan Mittelstaedt to join on Zoom. June will be the end of our season before summer break. We will meet again in September. You will have an opportunity to tell us your favorite book and author and give a brief description of it. After the meeting there will be time for a Zoom chat with your book friends. Any questions or to attend, please contact Marilyn Weber [schatzimlw@gmail.com](mailto:schatzimlw@gmail.com)



## A Matter of Life & Breath

Psalm 64:9 “You care for the land and water it, you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain.”

Scripture guides people of faith to care for God’s creation. Yet in recent years, we have seen worrying trends. Severe heat waves have caused increased hospitalizations, health problems and even deaths among vulnerable populations.

More frequent intense droughts have driven farmers to use more irrigation, lowering the water table and making water a more precious commodity. With warmer air holding more moisture, torrential downpours can cause flooding. Our coastlines are threatened from melting glaciers causing rivers to overflow; people face being driven from their homes by rising seas and having to move to higher ground.

Wildfire plays a valuable ecological role, but with changes in the climate and years of fire suppression, fires are often larger and burn more intensely.

We can help to turn the tide on these concerning patterns if we act quickly and resolutely. We may never have this opportunity again to define what the future will look like, both for ourselves and for the generations yet to come.

— Earth Care Committee of FPC



Oregon’s majestic McKenzie River

## Volunteers for the Emergency

### Food Closet:

Over the past few months, the Emergency Food Closet (located in Julia West) for the Alder House residents has been growing! We are also looking to grow our group of volunteers, to sign up please follow this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=s.signup&urlid=60b0a4ca4a92ca2ff2-alder&view=calendar&mo=1> or contact Brenna at [bdykman@firstpresportland.org](mailto:bdykman@firstpresportland.org) We are also in need of body wash, small bottles of liquid laundry detergent, small bags of dry dog food, new men’s socks.

### WOW! The Impact of NEFP

Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) meets the urgent food needs for over 40,000 people each month.



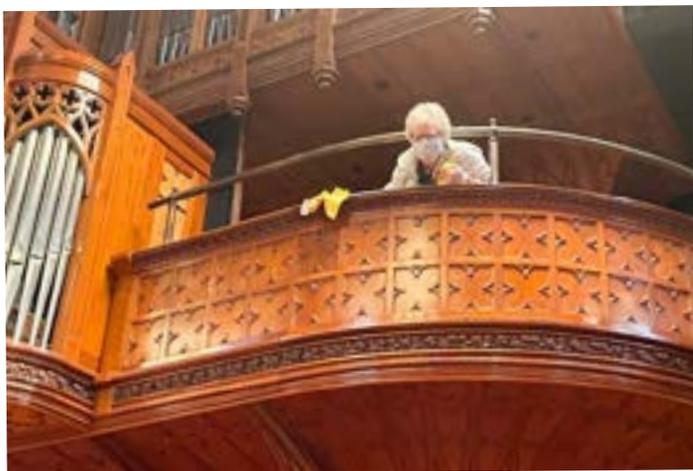
Church Member Bill Resley volunteering at NEFP

During the first five months of the pandemic, NEFP has served 250,000 individuals (an increase of 1,300 percent) and distributed 6.5 million pounds of food valued over \$8 million. Watch KOIN News story, “Food pantries ‘figuring out how people get fed’ in pandemic,” View NEFP’s food box distribution in action in the Oregon Food Bank video “Addressing Hunger in the Wake of COVID-19.” To sign-up for a volunteer shift visit this link: <https://bit.ly/volunteerNEFP> Questions? Please contact Bill Resley [kayak500@gmail.com](mailto:kayak500@gmail.com)

## Thank you, Day of Service Volunteers 2021!!

Saturday, May 22nd, was FPC's 2021 Day of Service when volunteers gathered at FPC to tidy, wipe down and dust, help refresh the church and get it ready to reopen! And at Menucha to care and maintain this precious resource.

Keep an eye out in the July Spire and on social media for more pictures of church volunteers gathering for good work in the community!



## Gratitude for Support for Menucha

When Menucha launched the Revive and Restore Menucha Campaign nearly a year ago, gathering restrictions meant that Menucha had to shift into a park and wait mode. With tremendous support from folks far and wide, 432 friends of Menucha have donated just over \$320,000, helping to cover expenses and arguably to have saved Menucha in this difficult season. Gifts are still welcome through the Friends of Menucha Foundation. [www.friendsofmenuchafoundation.org](http://www.friendsofmenuchafoundation.org)

## Rare Opportunity: Summertime Stays Available at Menucha

Want to spend a few days at Menucha when the weather is glorious? Many of our usual summer groups are unable to come, which means rooms are available. Cost of room is \$110 per night. Meals are \$46.50 per day for ages 13 and up; \$24.75 for folks 7-12; and free for kids 0-6. Take advantage of this pandemic silver lining and book a personal retreat by calling Mary Anne in our office. (503) 695-2243.

## Join an Art Workshop at Menucha, August 8-14

How would you like to leave your usual obligations behind and learn to draw or make jewelry at Menucha for a week in August? We're partnering with the Creative Arts Community to host adult art camps in August. There are 6 spots open in Paul Missal's workshop, Still Life: Drawing Like It Matters and 2 spots in Jewelry Metal Fabrication with Judith Gauthier. With a maximum of 10 students per class, each student will get plenty of the instructor's time and attention plus plenty of Menucha's delicious meals and plenty of time to enjoy relaxed summer days in this beautiful place. Visit <https://menucha.org/programs/creative-arts> to learn more.

## Labor Day Retreat

### September 3 – September 5, 2021

Save the date and plan to gather (safely) with others in the FPC community. This retreat will be a wonderful way to re-connect with people you haven't seen in a long time and get to know newer members of our church family. More info coming soon.

## More from Seeking Beauty: Good Friends - Both with a Love of Photography & Music - Maureen Love & Joanna Ceciliani



Artist Maureen Love has enjoyed performing harp for over 15 years with Pink Martini. Her favorite subjects include Venice and French street scenes.



Venice by rtist Maureen Love



Artist Joanna Ceciliani; as a young singer, she traveled throughout the world with the Portland Opera Company for many years, and always had a camera in her hand, which continues as her passion to this day,



Hummingbird by Artist Joanna Ceciliani



Starry Night by Artist Joanna Ceciliani



**First  
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CHURCH OF PORTLAND

## **New Chapel Gallery Exhibition May 23rd - August 29th** **Seeking Beauty: Good friends; Both with a Love of Photography & Music**



Holding Up Venice by Maureen Love

The Chapel Gallery walls are now filled with the images from Northwest Photographer and Harpist Maureen Love and Northwest Photographer and Singer Joanna Ceciliani. Photos from around the world and from local settings as close as Portland's waterfront welcome visitors back to the Gallery after a long year's absence.

Maureen Love's bio: "my love of photography and music was nurtured in childhood when I assisted my father in his home darkroom. It was magical to see the images appear in the developer. About that same time harp lessons began. For over 15 years I have enjoyed performing with Pink Martini. My favorite subject matter includes Venice and French street scenes, gardens, vineyards and flowers. "

Joanna Ceciliani's bio: "from my first Kodak camera, my interest in photography has only increased. As a young singer, I was thrilled traveling throughout the world with the New

Oregon Singers and later performing with the Portland Opera Company for many years, I always had a camera in my hand. I continue my passion to this day, photographing people, groups, wildlife and anything beautiful that catches my eye, on the ground or in the sky!

Reception date will be announced this Summer.