



**First  
Presbyterian**  
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

**Spire**

SEPTEMBER 2021

## New Art On Display - “Hope In Every Step”

A new and unusual art exhibit will be in the Chapel Gallery in September and October. “Hope in Every Step” celebrates the work of immigrant artists and is part of a larger 7x7 Galleries exhibition focusing on immigration. This juried show features work expressing artists’ perspectives on their experiences: what they left behind to come to this country, their adjustment to new realities, their struggles to assimilate, and how they built community here.

The pandemic interrupted the original plan for this exhibit. The prospectus seeking entries was distributed announcing the work would be on display in 2020 when the pandemic began. We went ahead with judging the entries digitally, awarded first through third place prizes, and put the exhibit on the church website. Now we are able to share most of the 54 works submitted in a traditional gallery experience.

This is also our congregation’s part of the 7x7 Galleries’ first joint exhibition. Our church, First Congregational United Church of Christ, First Unitarian Church, First United Methodist Church, St. James Lutheran Church, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral and Westminster Presbyterian comprise the 7x7 Galleries. Each congregation has an active Visual Arts program and a gallery space and work together to affirm connections of faith to art.

During September and October, all seven church galleries will have exhibits about aspects of immigration and extended hours to allow members of all seven congregations better opportunities to view them. You’ll see a colorful insert in your Sunday bulletin with more information about that in September.



*Images: (left) Dimeji Onafuwa, “Breakthrough”; (right) Virginia Praschnik, “The Story in Their Eyes”*

## Pastor's Pen



As we look to the coming of fall, it's as though the usual patterns of school beginning, church life returning to a full program year, musical concerts beginning their season, people returning to work after summer vacations, all have been shaken up in a kind of kaleidoscope, making new and altered patterns. The new alignments continue to shift as the kaleidoscope turns, with new turns in the virus season leading to renewed strictures, easing and then tightening.

There is a kind of weariness of the pandemic, interwoven with some strands of hope, as booster shots promise a renewed resistance to the ever-evolving virus. The children are returning to school, and college students to the campuses, and we've grateful for the chance for them to have some semblance of a normal year, even though masked.

We look forward to gathering in person or online for worship on our Welcome to Fall Sunday on September 12, with Sunday School resuming in person that morning, and adult classes recommencing. We'll continue to have coffee hour after worship out on the plaza, and plan to put in a larger tent in the plaza courtyard. This year, you'll see many of the church's programs and gatherings creatively re-envisioned to renew the church's life and work in this season.

As we look to Scripture to find a word of encouragement to help us persevere through the extended pandemic, these words from the Apostle Paul's letter to the Colossians hold a benediction for the coming days:

May you be strengthened with all power,  
according to God's glorious might,  
for all endurance and patience with joy,  
giving thanks to the Father,  
who has qualified you to share  
in the inheritance of the saints in light. Colossians 1:11-12

Poet Diane Karay pens a prayer to guide us through these days:

*O God, we come close to you, seeking refuge in the strength and wisdom of your sheltering presence. We have never known your love to wane or fail us. Whether we are strong in faith and diligent in service, or if we are disheartened, burdened, seeking solace and compassion, we find that your eternal love feeds our great hunger and replenishes us with love and endurance. We pray you would renew our hope. We ask you to strengthen us, giving us courage to reach out to refresh weary lives, to help relieve your people's burdens. Refresh our flagging spirits, we pray with the strength and peace of your great Spirit.*

Wishing you peace and perseverance through these days,

# SEPTEMBER 12 WELCOME TO FALL SUNDAY



Please join us for coffee hour on the plaza following worship for special treats and lawn games for the children as we celebrate the start of fall! Sunday School classes will begin September 12, and you'll find details here in the Spire.

## Giving to the Church? We'll Match Your September Gift!



The Trustees have issued a "matching challenge" to the congregation to help build the Annual Giving Endowment, a new component of the church's endowment.

The Annual Giving Endowment was established last year. While most of the church's endowment accounts are established through bequests or as reserves held for specific purposes like repairing the roof or maintaining the parking garage, this fund is different. It was designed to accept Individual Retirement Account distributions, individually owned securities, etc., and this account's earnings in the market supplement church operations.

In the July Spire, the Trustees announced the account was nearing \$250,000 – the threshold it needed to reach before it could start paying dividends to the church budget. The Trustees are delighted to announce the fund has reached that goal – and believe there are people who are still thinking about making contributions.

To encourage them, a Trustee has offered to match contributions up to \$13,000 made to the Annual Giving Endowment before the end of September. As reported in last month's Spire, due to the pandemic relief legislation, there are some special tax advantages to donating securities during the 2021 tax year.

If you would like to participate in this challenge, please contact Marc Lavender, our church business administrator, at (503) 228-7331 and tell him you are interested in the AGE and want your contribution to be matched.

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. II Corinthians 9:7*

## QR Code for the Sunday Bulletin

For those joining us in service if you would like to go paperless, we now have a QR code available at the check-in desk to help you view the bulletin on your wireless device. To use, open your camera and hold over the QR code. A message box will pop up on your device. Click the box and it will directly take you to the weeks bulletin. No special program is required. We will continue to have paper copies available for those who prefer them.



## With Thanks

The church extends heartfelt thanks to all who have been supporting its life and mission through gifts and volunteering through the challenges that the past year has held. Your generosity and faithfulness are helping the church weather this prolonged season and keep its outreach strong to care for those in need in our city. Many thanks!



# Kids Sunday School and Nursery Starts September 12

Immediately following the Children’s Lesson most weeks, children are welcome to either stay in worship or attend one of four Sunday School classes here at the church. Sunday School classes are led by trained, loving volunteers alongside some wonderful high school interns. Feel free to walk your children to class, or if they feel comfortable, interns and teachers can guide them.

Nursery (birth – age 3) — located across from the restrooms and next to the church office

Godly Play (pre-K – 2nd grade) – floor 2

Bible Crew (3rd – 4th grade) – floor 2

Jr. High (5th – 7th grade) – floor 3

The theme for the year is “We are all a part of God’s Story.” Want to know more? Please contact Pastor Carmen at [cgoetschius@firstpresportland.org](mailto:cgoetschius@firstpresportland.org). We can’t wait to welcome your children and nurture them in faith.

## Nursery Volunteers Needed!



Do you love little ones and would you be willing to volunteer to care for the littlest members of the flock at FPC? We are in need of nursery volunteers! We are trying to create a large enough roster so volunteers will only need to sign up about once every 6 weeks. Right now our list of volunteers is slim. Please consider sharing your time and gifts with the church! Training and orientation will be offered. For more information or to sign up, please contact Pastor Carmen at [cgoetschius@firstpresportland.org](mailto:cgoetschius@firstpresportland.org)

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

<b>NURSERY</b> BIRTH TO AGE 3	<b>BIBLE CREW</b> 3RD & 4TH GRADE	<b>JR. HIGH</b> 5TH-7TH GRADE
<b>GODLY PLAY</b> PRE-K THROUGH 2ND GRADE	SUNDAYS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PORTLAND @10:45 AM	<i>Theme:</i> <b>WE ARE ALL A PART OF GOD'S STORY</b>

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PORTLAND PRESENTS

# ART & MUSIC SUNDAYS

LAST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

CHILDREN GET TO EXPERIMENT WITH MUSIC, INSTRUMENTS, AND VARIOUS MEDIUMS OF ART TAUGHT BY GUEST TEACHERS EACH MONTH  
EXPLORING FAITH THROUGH EXPRESSION & PLAY!

# All Church Labor Day Retreat Postponed



Out of an abundance of caution, the Labor Day Retreat Planning Committee and church leaders determined that postponing our All Church Labor Day Retreat is the wisest course of action. The recent sharp increase of cases in Oregon and the frightening

decrease of available hospital beds is sobering. The Delta variant is a game changer and the risk to many, our unvaccinated children in particular, is not worth the benefits of holding the event at this time. If numbers decline, perhaps we can gather at Menucha later in the fall.

Refund checks will be issued for all registrants. If you have questions, you may contact retreat chair Lauren Deming at [laurendeming511@gmail.com](mailto:laurendeming511@gmail.com).

## Disciples Bible Study Begins In September

Have you been looking for an opportunity to participate in an in-depth study of the New Testament? Then the Disciple Fast Track 12-week course is for you. A prior member of FPC, Robert Moyer, has been facilitating these courses through his church in Baker City, Oregon and since the course is fully via Zoom, it allows for those in a wider geographic area to attend.

The course will begin the week of September 6th (specific day and time to be determined by those signed up to participate). The weekly meetings will last about 90 minutes. Robert will need to know your interest in participation by August 28th in order to give time for you to order the workbook, which can be ordered at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/4ub3rat2> and for participants to agree upon the specific day of the week for the meetings. To sign up, or for additional information, please contact Robert at [robmoyer@charter.net](mailto:robmoyer@charter.net) or (503) 866-9318.

## Sunday Mornings

### Children's Ministry Fall 2021

Theme for the year: every one of us has a part to play in God's story

September 12th- Kick-off Sunday  
September 19th- Sunday School  
September 26th- Arts and Music Sunday

October 3rd- Family Sunday  
October 10th- Sunday School  
October 17th- Sunday School  
October 24th- Sunday School  
October 31st- Arts and Music Sunday



November 7th- Family Sunday  
November 14th- Sunday School  
November 21st- Sunday School  
November 28th- Arts and Music Sunday

December 5th- Family Sunday  
December 12th- Sunday School  
December 19th- Sunday School  
December 26th- No Sunday School (day after Christmas)

## Volunteers Needed for the Emergency Food Closet

The Emergency Food Closet (located in Julia West) for the Alder House residents continues to grow! We are also seeking to grow our group of volunteers! To sign up please follow this link: <https://tinyurl.com/FoodClosetSignUp> or contact Brenna at [bdykman@firstpresportland.org](mailto:bdykman@firstpresportland.org) We are also in need of dish soap, full size shampoo & conditioner and small bags of dry dog food. Thank you for your support!

## Submissions for Bulletin/EBlast/Spire

Are you planning to submit an announcement or article for an upcoming bulletin/eBlast or monthly Spire? Please submit your announcement or article to Jennifer at [communications@firstpresportland.org](mailto:communications@firstpresportland.org) by the following dates:

Spire: Monday, September 13

Bulletin/EBlast: Every Monday



## The Tuesday Book Club

Join in September 7th at 11:00 am via Zoom. Nancy Icenogle will present *Murder at the Mission: A Frontier Killing, Its Legacy of Lies and the Taking of the American West* by Blaine Harden. It explains a nonfiction historical account of the once-well-known 1847 Whitman Massacre, an event that helped catalyze the American annexation of Oregon and Washington. Harden's vivid reconstruction illustrates the process of Western mythmaking and of cultural collision. Book recommendations from members will be used to select the reading selections for the coming "reading year." Check your email for your Zoom invite, and sign in at 10:45 am on the day of the meeting. After the meeting, there will be time for Zoom chat with book club friends.

## Fellowship Remains Important

FPC's Fellowship Committee is working on offering ways for our community to gather via Zoom starting in September. Please watch for these announcements and make time to stay connected with our church family. Also, if you have suggestions, please email Sarah Schwab at [qtipschwab@msn.com](mailto:qtipschwab@msn.com).

## Lectors Needed

As we move into the fall season, we're in need of additional lectionary readers for Sunday service! If you're interested in reading during October, November, and December, please reach out to Jennifer in the office via email: [communications@firstpresportland.org](mailto:communications@firstpresportland.org).

## PWM Virtual Sale



It's not too late to donate items to the PWM online sale! Just send Ann Walsh, [ann.walsh@gmail.com](mailto:ann.walsh@gmail.com), the details of what you are willing to donate. Since the sale

begins in August and ends in November, there is still plenty of time to donate! Proceeds will benefit PWM operating and mission projects for the coming year. Please help to make this a success. "This Week at FPC" on Fridays will have an updated list. There are copies of the list of items in the Glass Office in the PWM box, and a list on the website under "News and Events."

## Northeast Emergency Food

### Program: How We Can Help!

From A'Jay Scipio, NEFP Program Manager, "the impact of the time and work our volunteers shared with us between March 2020 and May 2021 cannot be understated and it's because of their efforts we still endure."

Learn more about NEFP:

<https://www.facebook.com/NEFPpdx/>

Volunteer to come to Pantry in NE Portland to sort, box, hand out food and other necessary items:

<https://emoregon.org/nefp/nefp-volunteer/>

Donate to NEFP (Financial or In-Kind):

<https://emoregon.org/nefp/give/>

Pray for NEFP's continuing successful service to Portland!



# Tar Sands Oil Dangerous Load for the Climate and Neighborhoods



The Earth Care Team of FPC is participating in grassroots Clean Air Coordination with 82 other Portland Area churches, synagogues, neighborhood associations, and local organizations with technical assistance and organizing support from Cascadia Action. Those most affected by pollution invite others to endorse their actions but they make the decisions. We endorsed the letter of Linnton neighborhood in NW Portland to the City of Portland requesting that Zenith Energy’s “Land Use Compatibility Statement” be denied. Zenith Energy imports and transfers oil from tar sands, among the most destructive, carbon-intensive fuels. Producing it releases three times as much greenhouse gas pollution as conventional crude oil.

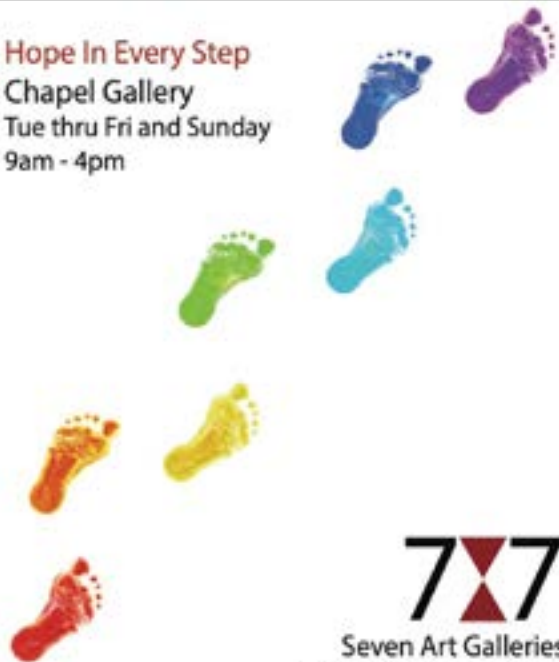
Besides climate change, Zenith Energy’s transport of oil-by-rail poses immense risks to the community including toxic emissions, accidents, spills, fires, and explosions. The oil is shipped through Portland neighborhoods in NW, N and NE, and along the Columbia. In June 2016, 14 train cars filled with tar sands oil burst into flames in the Gorge next to an elementary school. Winds were unusually calm that day, fortunately. The quantity coming through Portland was eleven times higher in 2019 than in 2018, and significantly increased again in 2020—resulting in an annual increase of over 200 million gallons in just two years. To join the Earth Care Team or if you have questions email Chris at [cnilson@verizon.net](mailto:cnilson@verizon.net).

Please join us in celebrating the work of immigrant artists at our exhibit, *Hope in Every Step*. This juried show focuses on their experiences, what they left behind, adjustment to new realities, their struggles to assimilate, and how they built community in a new country

First Presbyterian Church,  
Portland, Oregon

Chapel Gallery access is through our entrance at  
610 SW 13<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland OR 97205

Hope In Every Step  
Chapel Gallery  
Tue thru Fri and Sunday  
9am - 4pm





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