



**First
Presbyterian**

CHURCH OF PORTLAND

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Spire
SEPTEMBER 2022

Welcome Back to Sunday School, Kids!

Our regular Sunday School programming kicked off Sunday, September 11 with a “Blessing of the Backpacks.” As Presbyterians, we believe God calls all of us to learn and serve and grow. As children head off to school for a new school year, we are happy to remind them that God is with them wherever they go. And they can be followers of Jesus at school, on the soccer field, on the playground and every place they find themselves!

Parents and grandparents, please prioritize bringing your beloved children and grandchildren to church this year. We have wonderful teachers and high school interns at the ready to teach them the stories of faith, welcome them with love and laughter, and pray with them as they navigate the challenges of day to day life. The classes we offer are Nursery (birth-3 years), Godly Play (pre-k - 2nd grade), Bible Crew (3-4th grade), and Jr. High (5-7th grade). The monthly schedule is as follows:

First Sunday of the month: Family Sunday (no Sunday School)

Last Sunday of the month: Arts & Music (all classes meet together for crafts/music with guest teachers)

Every other Sunday: Regular Sunday School

We look forward to another fun year of Sunday School. Classes run 10:45-11:30 am!



“Love God, Love Your Neighbor: The Practices that Sustain”

Adult Education: September 18 and 25; 12:00-1:00 pm (In person and on Zoom)

Here’s a little secret that marathoners know: if you’re thirsty, you’ve already waited too long to hydrate. Little known training fact: it takes up to 20 minutes for the water you’re drinking to be available to your body. And we all need water for the long haul. What does that have to do with “Love God, love your neighbor”? As people who follow Jesus, we’re in it for the long haul, and it behooves us to “drink before we get thirsty,” understanding that it’s pretty hard to tend someone else’s soul when yours is still parched. We’ve come through a hard couple of years, and most of us are more than a little thirsty after all the losses, isolation, collective trauma, truth-telling and need of reconciliation. Join us on September 18 and 25 during Adult Education as Presbyterian minister and Franciscan spiritual director Eileen Parfrey helps us explore and experience practices that sustain us in loving God and loving neighbor.



Eileen has been a retreat leader at First Pres for both the women’s retreats and the all-church retreat at Menucha.

After serving Springwater Presbyterian (in beautiful rural Estacada) for 15 years, she joined the Franciscan Spiritual Center as a spiritual director and co-facilitator of the Center’s training program. She and her new husband, Scott Dalgarno, live with a noisy Sheltie named Crosley.

Music News

The 2022-2023 season of FPC’s Celebration Works concert series kicks off on Sunday, September 18, at 2:00 pm, with the Jacob Zimmerman 3, a sax/guitar/bass jazz trio [fronted by Emily Jo and John Jensen’s grandson!] Their program will explore songs from the 1920s-50s, also known as the “78rpm era” of jazz. Weather permitting, this concert will take place on the plaza, where passersby will be able to enjoy the music. It will be a wonderful beginning to CW’s 20th-anniversary season.



On a sadder note, after six years of service (2014-2016, 2018-2022) to FPC, 2+ of which were during COVID, soprano and CW Administrator Maddy Ross has decided to move on to pursue new musical and professional opportunities. She has been a creative collaborator and supportive colleague, and we will all miss her greatly. Happily, she will be returning to sing the soprano solos in the November 6 CW concert, and you can continue to hear her around town with Renegade Opera, Portland Opera, etc. If you’d

like to send a thank-you note, please mail c/o the church address, and it will be given to Maddy. You can continue to follow Maddy’s music at her website: madelinelross.com - and at Renegade’s website: renegadeopera.org

A confirmation class for adults?

If you might be interested in pursuing this, please contact Carmen Goetschius, cgoetschius@firstpresportland.org

As the fall begins, at church, it's a time of renewed energy, as we return from travels and re-engage with the life and vitality of our congregation. On the 11th, we will have our Sunday School kick off and a blessing of the backpacks as children return to school.

This Spire includes the first of several articles highlighting the church staff members and their part in the church's life and work, this month focusing on the pastors who creatively serve the congregation and the community beyond.

Full time pastoral staff:



Audrey Schindler is our pastor and head of staff. Audrey is moderator of our session, and oversees the work of the staff. She preaches many Sundays, plans worship, and is staff liaison to many church committees including Personnel, Finance, Investment, Stewardship, Worship, and visits members in time of illness or loss, presiding at memorials.



Brenna Dykman is our stated supply associate pastor, full-time. Brenna is focusing her ministry at the church in response to our new mission statement, which asks us to love our neighbors. Brenna is involved in mission and service, coordinating the work of the congregation in outreach to the neighborhood. She is also active in worship.

Part-time staff pastoral staff:



Carmen Goetschius is our parish associate, 10 hours per week pastoral, 15 hours in CE. Carmen has a pastoral role, visiting members in time of illness or loss, helping in worship, and also covering much of the role that previously was held by our Director of Christian Education, focusing her ministry on children and families of the church.



Spencer Parks is associate pastor at the church, working 10 hours a week on average at the church. He is staff liaison to the Fellowship committee and assists in worship and pastoral care. Spencer is the executive Director at Menucha, the church's retreat and conference center, serving there for the remainder of his full-time position (with Menucha funding that part of his role).



David Dornack is also a parish associate, working 5 to 8 hours a week at the church in visiting those who are ill or recovering or who have had a recent loss. He also is pastoral liaison to the Deacons, assists in worship, and presides for memorials along with others in the pastoral team.

We are grateful to the congregation for your faithful support of the church's life and work, and ask your prayers for the pastoral team as they guide and serve the church!

Pentecost Paella on the Plaza a Success!

Fragrant and delicious smells drifted into Geneva Hall from the kitchen, greeting everyone who arrived for the Pentecost Paella Party on June 5. While we had hoped to be on the plaza, precipitation pushed the party inside. Games, music, children's activities, and prizes were all enjoyed by those present after they relished the meal prepared by Menucha's skilled kitchen staff. Fabulous decorations created by Linda Lewis warmed and enlivened the atmosphere, and some prize-winners went home with fun or fabulous treasures—or prize experiences to look forward to. Perhaps Presbyterian Pentecost Paella will be perpetuated in the future... but on the plaza!



Good News for Stewarding God's World



The church's Creation Care team joins others in celebrating recently passed climate provisions that will help curb greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment. These align with our call to steward God's good creation. The recently passed legislation includes provisions to help households purchase electric vehicles, heat pumps for heating and cooling, and solar panels, to reduce greenhouse gases toward goals that hope to ease the impact on the climate. Our congregation recently was recognized as among the PCUSA Creation Care churches, in which a focus of our mission and service is on stewarding the Earth that we have been given.

-The Earth Care Team. To join us email jehrestore@gmail.com

New Artist Showcase - Elo Wobig

Fresh Take on Familiar Places

September 4-October 30, 2022

Elo Wobig is a painter whose work is characterized by her sensitivity to color and love of drawing. Regardless of subject, she deliberately includes features so that the viewer might recognize the person, subject or location. Most of her work depicting the Pacific NW originate outdoors, en plein air. Other landscapes from the studio are inspired by her personal records of travels and sketches in gouache. Like many artists, Elo Wobig has been passionate about drawing and mark making since childhood. While she enjoyed a first career practicing emergency medicine, she continued sketching, painting murals and other creative projects for her community. Those projects gave rise to commissioned artwork, reigniting her ambition to become a full-time painter. Since 2017, she has won numerous local competitions including national recognition at the American Impressionist Society Annual Juried Show 2019 held at the prestigious Salmagundi Club. She is honored to have her paintings displayed in the permanent collections of Maryhill Museum of Art and the Museum of the Oregon Territory.