



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

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SPIRE

JUNE/JULY 2022

Save the Dates!

Please mark your calendar for upcoming all-church events:

- Fall Festival: Oct 2, 4:00-7:00 pm
- Crafternoon: Oct 30, 1:00-3:00 pm
- Annual Meeting (by Zoom): Nov 13, 1:00 pm
- PWM Bake and Craft Sale: Nov 20
- Christmas on the Plaza: Dec 3, 4:00-6:00 pm
- Valentines' Tea, January 29

FPC Fall Festival on October 2

Everyone of all ages is invited to the FPC Fall Festival at the Shively Family Barn in Hillsboro. The event will take place from 4:00-7:00 pm, and the address is 30450 SW Grabel Rd. We will gather for Fellowship, Food (dinner), Fun (games and crafts for all ages) and end with s'mores at sunset! Please let us know that you are attending and if you are bringing chili, cornbread, salad or chili toppings by RSVP-ing here: <https://bit.ly/FPCFallFestival>
As part of our mission, please also bring a can or two of chili to fill our food pantry!



It's Nearly Giving Tree Season!



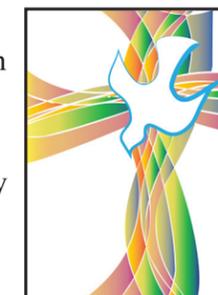
Once again we will be having The Giving Tree for several groups in our community as an outreach mission at Christmas season. The agencies with whom we will work this year are: With Love- Foster Care Support, New Avenues for Youth, Life Changes for Women and their Children, EMO Day Center For Men, and Friendly House. Watch for more information on how and when to donate next month in the Spire and in the weekly bulletins.

Presbyterian Women's Annual Bake and Craft Sale

The annual fundraising bake sale is scheduled for November 20 following worship. We are encouraging all bakers to get your ovens cooking now. If you can the summer's bounty, or make breads, rolls, pies, cakes or cookies, all are welcome. On the flip side, bring your meal planning to the sale to complete your menu. Some of you make cards. We welcome those small additions to get everyone thinking about the coming holidays. The funds raised are needed for the PWM operating expenses of the retreat and our mission outreach. Questions, contact Ann Walsh, ann.walsh@gmail.com.

Mission Sunday - Serving Our Community

On October 16, we will be celebrating Mission Sunday, giving thanks to God for our collective call to serve others. First Presbyterian Church has been working hard to serve its global mission partners in both Uganda and the Philippines, and there has been a renewed focus to reach out to our local community by getting to know our neighbors and helping where we can. With the inflation rate still climbing and the extra funding from COVID grants drying up, food insecurity is becoming a bigger problem than in previous times. Our Emergency Food Closet (EFC) over at Julie West served 114 people in August, which is our highest number yet. It has been a joy over the past two years to get to know our neighbors at Alder House and be able to provide them with the extra food in these challenging times. The EFC has also been a blessing to the church as many people have found it to be a way to get more connected to the church and also to get to know others in the church family. Outside of our work with Alder House, we started partnering with Community Dinners six months ago, an organization that provides hot meals and fellowship once a month to our neighbors at the Rosenbaum Plaza. If you would like to explore ways to help or serve, or more information about any of our mission/service ministries at the church, please contact Pastor Brenna.



Last month we shared the first of several articles highlighting the pastors, among a creative and dedicated team of staff who are serving the congregation and the wider community in a variety of roles. This month, we'd like you to meet our office and finance staff:



Marc Lavender is our church business administrator, working full-time with the church to oversee the finances of the church and support personnel. He also has responsibility for finances at Menucha and oversees the church facility and its staff, as well as the parking garage, and works in concert with the Building committee.



Jennifer Matthewson is our communications staff member for the church, working about 32 hours a week. She oversees our church website, bulletin, newsletter, weekly e-newsletter, and social media sites as part of the church's outreach to the community. She creates memorial bulletins, stewardship brochure materials, and other church publication projects.



Sheila Riche is our front office staff person, answering phones for the church and greeting visitors, as well as helping with congregational needs, records, and mailings. She is in the office Tuesday to Thursday from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, and answers church phones remotely on Mondays and Fridays (the finance staff assists in allowing church members into the building on those days as needed).



Deb Davis is our bookkeeper, working 40 hours per week, keeping the church books, paying bills, logging stewardship giving, and doing bookkeeping for Menucha.

We are grateful for these staff members who help the church as it lives out its mission!

Westside or Southwest Neighborhood Carpool Teams

Some church members are driving less and need a lift to church. We have an inaugural carpool team from the East side; now let's organize Sunday morning teams coming in from the Westside and Southwest. You won't drive every Sunday; ideally 3 to 5 drivers are a team for a rider or two. Many hands make light work! If you are interested in helping drive, please contact the Deacon's transportation coordinator Bill Resley at kayak500@gmail.com or (713) 256-6658.

Stewardship Kick-off!

Your stewardship committee members extend their heartfelt gratitude for your financial support this past year. As we embark on another stewardship campaign for the coming year, we are mindful of the challenges ahead, embracing them with open hearts and minds buoyed by the strength of our faith and church.

To give clarity and focus to our mission of loving God and our neighbors, the theme of our stewardship campaign this year is based on 1 Peter:

... Love one another and have a compassionate heart.

Reflecting on the hardships caused from the pandemic these past couple of years which resulted in lost revenue from the church's parking garage, our church was nonetheless blessed with faithful giving and a record response to pledging which kept our Church life and work strong. We once again ask for your gracious financial support, presence, and prayers to maintain the strength of our congregation as we look to the coming year.

As we prayerfully consider how we can strengthen our outreach programs and respond to the needs of our neighbors, we share God's love through our gifts to continue supporting the life and ministries of First Presbyterian Church. On behalf of the FPC stewardship committee, we thank you for your faithful giving. May Christ's Spirit be with you as we walk the way together throughout these new times of emerging hope.

Questions? Please contact the FPC office by email at office@firstpresportland.org or call 503-228-7331.

Our stewardship activities this fall will culminate on November 13th, Commitment Sunday.

Adult Education this Fall: Love God, Love Your Neighbor

October 9 - The Tools Needed for Your Journey

12:00-1:00 pm, in the church library

Bette Hess, our distinguished church librarian, will introduce us to the tools available in our church library to continue on the journey of understanding how best we can "Love God, Love Your Neighbor." Come and get to know your library. Books are here for us to use. Discover what's inside. *This program is for everyone, including the very young.*

October 16 - Redeeming Mission: Reflections on Best Practices in Global Partnership

12:00-1:00 pm, in the church library

Pastor Carmen Goetschius worked with an ecumenical educational organization in Zambia 2007-2008 and learned a great deal about avoiding cringe-worthy global ministry, as well as the gifts of developing partnerships with neighbors across the world. Join us as we reflect on ways we can live Christ's call to love our neighbors with greater humility and faithfulness.

October 23 - Serving by Accompaniment: How we can best walk beside of Neighbors Near and Far

12:00-1:00 pm, in the church library

Pastor Brenna Dykman will be building on Pastor Carmen's presentation by looking at how we practice accompaniment as a model of mission. She will also be talking about how we can use that in our everyday lives when encountering those in need or service with our FPC Mission partners.

Do you have a quilt you want to put in the November quilt show?

If so, contact Jean Smith: jeanel53@gmail.com by October 9.