



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

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SPIRE

September 2023

Pastor's Pen

Warm September Greetings to you all, dear church!

"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall," wrote F. Scott Fitzgerald. Though we Oregonians are still basking in the warm rays of sunshine beneath blue skies, autumn is right around the corner. And, as everyone knows, autumn is flush with possibility.

Teachers and students are returning to the classroom, and many young adults are off on new adventures. Here at the church, we are starting a new season of ministry programming. On September 10, we will kick off another year of Sunday school for children at First Presbyterian Portland, and kids will be encouraged to bring their school bags to receive a blessing over their backpacks in worship. As a congregation, we will pray that these little ones would be curious and kind, gentle and brave, loving and generous in all that they do. And we will pray that wherever these students (and their backpacks) journey, they will know that God is with them.

Last month we received six new members, and one baby was baptized here at the church. What a joy! Please join me in praying for our growing church family, for little Graham, who was welcomed into the family of faith, and for children everywhere who are beginning a new season of learning, study, and adventure.

This fall, there will be a broad range of faith formation classes offered here at the church, and I hope you will take part. As we grow in our discipleship, the faith of our young people is strengthened. Also, if you run into the two young adult volunteers who have agreed to lead our monthly youth ministry program, Sunday school teachers, or the teens serving as Children's Ministry interns in the fall, please offer a word of thanks! Their commitment to nurturing the spiritual lives of young disciples is a gift to us all.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 5 that we have every reason to hope, so as ever, I share these things in hope,

Pastor Carmen

FALL FAMILY EVENTS

SEPT 9

Playdate at Marshall Park in Vancouver, WA 10AM

SEPT 10

Blessing of the Backpacks & Sunday School kick-off 10:30 AM

OCT 8

Kids' Blessing of the Animals service 11:30 AM

**CALLING ALL
KIDS!**

503-228-7331

www.firstpresportland.org



Youth Volunteer
Kristine Olsen



Youth Volunteer
Justin Forster



Zabbi Powers-Green
enjoying the church
library

Thank you to everyone who supported and prayed for this year's international youth mission trip to Ingan, Philippines. We had a wonderful time learning and serving at the Ingan Leyte Project. We want to say a special "Thank you" to Marci Hope and her team for hosting and taking such great care of us. Salamat!

Thank You!



Open Circle Resumes in September

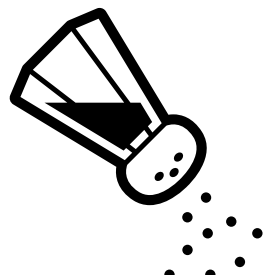
Traumatic experiences change the way people see the world around them and can affect their behavior for years after the event. David W. Peters applies this perspective to some of the best-known stories in the Gospels in his book *Post-Traumatic Jesus: A Healing Gospel for the Wounded*, which Open Circle will be studying from September to December.

Peters examines Jesus and his disciples' actions as members of a Jewish community living under the control of a brutal occupying force, Rome, and how Jesus understood and responded to the needs of the traumatized people around him. Peters also helps us understand why traumatized people react differently to stresses in our modern world, using examples from his own experience as an Army chaplain who served in Iraq and now struggles with PTSD. The book explains how difficult it is to overcome trauma and how we can be more empathetic and helpful to those we encounter who are dealing with its aftereffects.

Open Circle, a weekly gathering of women for study and fellowship, resumes weekly meetings starting at 10:00 am on Thursday, September 7, 2023, in the Heritage Room. Books will be available for \$13 on a first-come, first-served basis. They can also be purchased from PC(USA), Amazon, or Powell's.

At our first meeting, we will be joined by special speakers from the Shepherd's Door, a ministry of the Portland Rescue Mission that focuses on homeless women and their children. They will tell us how the mission embraces these traumatized souls and helps them overcome the barriers they face. After the meeting, we plan to eat lunch together in our first 'brown bag' gathering of the season. Please bring a lunch or plan to place a carryout order from one of the many restaurants in the neighborhood.

We hope to see you there!



Saltshakers resumes in October!

What is Saltshakers?

It is an opportunity to get together with others from FPC and get to know them better over a shared meal. You will have four fabulous potluck dinners, one each quarter throughout the year, with other folks that joined Saltshakers. The first quarter is October thru December. There are usually 7-8 people (four couples, partners, friends, or some single people) at each dinner. Each quarter you will meet with a different group for dinner at a different home. You will host a dinner at your home only once during the year.

The host invites people randomly chosen to dine together that quarter on the day and time of their choosing. For example, for the first quarter, the host would choose a suitable date during October, November, or December, invite the people in the group assigned to be together, and ask them to bring food.

To give everyone time to sign up for this yearlong fellowship program, we will take names all during September and start the program in October. Feel free to talk with Jeane Smith at church or email her at jeanel53@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the fun or have questions.

It is a culinary adventure in meeting others and growing closer as a church family.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SPIRE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Published by: First Presbyterian Church, 1200 SW Alder Street, Portland, OR, 97205 Phone: (503) 228-7331.

Live broadcast on our website: www.firstpresportland.org. Please submit your Spire articles to: communications@firstpresportland.org.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SPIRE, 1200 SW Alder, Portland OR 97205-2298.

Remembering Sam Galbreath



A portrait of Sam Galbreath now hangs in the lobby of the newly renamed Sam Galbreath Alder House at the corner of 13th and Alder across from the church.

Sam was a long-time member of FPC until his passing in June of 2020. In 1991, FPC created a new non-profit corporation, Downtown Community Housing, Inc., to develop Alder House. It was the first single-room occupancy residence built in Portland since World War II, and was an important addition to the city's housing for very low-income people.

Sam became the Development Director of DCHI. He was the one responsible for getting Alder House from a mere concept to a reality. He corralled, cajoled, organized, oversaw, and fielded calls from the architects, the engineers, the city planners, the design reviewers, the contractors, and the bankers who were working on the project.

Sam was a great developer, but he wasn't only a developer. He truly cared about the people who lived in Alder House. He arranged for art therapy students from Marylhurst College to give art classes for Alder House residents—several of whom became talented artists.

Sam's commitment to affordable housing included work as Director of Housing at the Portland Development Commission (now Portland Progress), and serving on the U.S. Secretary of Veteran's Affairs Committee to End Veteran Homelessness.

When Community Development Partners acquired Alder House, they wanted to name it for someone who was committed to giving low-income people a place they could call home. It was fitting that the name they chose was Sam Galbreath Alder House. Our church continues to partner with Alder House with community meals and a food closet.

Soft Goods and Book Drive

Back by popular demand - we are collecting soft goods and books again in Geneva Hall. Clothing in good condition will be going over to the clothing closet at Alder House & Rosenbaum, and other items will go to a local thrift store to raise funds for the 2025 Uganda Mission Trip.

Our Mission Partner Lift Urban Portland & Alder House

FPC is entering its fourth year of adopting the Alder House building through our mission partner, Lift UP. Because of our partnership, 126 food boxes were delivered to residents, thirty of which are customized to meet dietary needs. Along with keeping the Emergency Food Closet (EFC) full of much-needed hygiene supplies through donations from members and the Oregon Foundation Grant, Lift UP also supplied 6,957 pounds of food.

Thank you to everyone who has donated food, worked at the EFC, or helped cook or serve our monthly meals at Alder House.

"I've been getting food boxes for four years now and it helps me survive. You all are doing good!"

– Alder House delivered food box recipient.



Uganda Mission Trip

We hope you'll join us after worship on Sunday, September 24, 2023, to hear about the April mission trip to Kamwenge Secondary and Vocational School in Uganda. You will see some pictures, hear from several voices about their experience visiting our Ugandan brothers and sisters in Christ, and have an opportunity to ask questions. Join us from 11:45 am - 12:45 pm in Calvin Library.