



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

1200 SW Alder St, Portland Oregon 97205
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Darlene Cusick

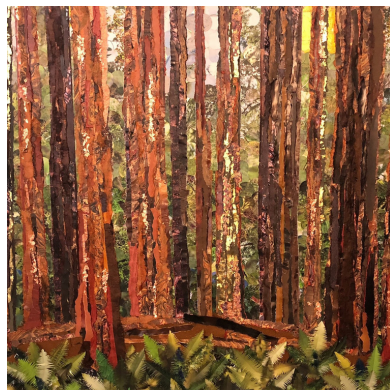
Better Late than Never!

The Steinway Model D concert grand piano in the Sanctuary was formally dedicated with a brief service and a dedicatory recital on Sunday, November 19, 1972 at 4:30 pm. The artist was Darlene Cusick, who at the time was Assistant Organist at First under James Welty, a position she held for some 16 years. Somehow the 50th anniversary of this event came and went, but better late than never, Darlene will mark the occasion with a special concert on Sunday, October 22, 2023, at 2:00 pm. The program will feature works of Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Debussy, Ravel, and Samuel Barber's masterful piano sonata, which was included on the 1972 program.

After her tenure at FPC, Darlene served at Valley Community Presbyterian for 29 years, and currently is the Organist/Pianist at Rise Church (formerly Calvin Presbyterian) in Tigard. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Lewis and Clark College, studying with Nellie Tholen, and a Master's from the University of Washington, studying with Bela Siki. Darlene teaches privately and has taught at Lewis and Clark College and is a member of the Oregon Music Teachers Association. Several of her students have gone on to professional careers and many have been winners in festivals and competitions. A few years back, she yearned to concertize more and entered the prestigious 2011 Van Cliburn Amateur Piano competition in Dallas, Texas. She was chosen as one of 20 semi-finalists out of 144 pianists from all over the world.

Please plan to attend this very special concert, which is offered free of charge, as a gift to the community from FPC and Celebration Works concert series supporters. (Donations will be gratefully accepted.) A festive reception will follow.

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Paperings

Paper Mosaic & Collage
by Beth Merrill Neel

October 1 to November 26

Opening Reception

October 1, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

In this retrospective show, Beth shows the evolution of her paper art, which began as a lark, moved into a hobby, and now is a spiritual practice.

Sometimes inspired by stories of women in the Bible, sometimes inspired by landscapes, and sometimes letting loose with her imagination, Beth hopes you enjoy this variety of works.



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SPIRE

October 2023

Pastor's Pen



Dear members and friends of First Pres,

As the leaves flare red as fall unfolds, there is a quickening of life around us; the starling birds take flight in moving patterns, folding their path across the sky in what are called murmurations, the Chinook salmon make their runs up the river, and the Canada geese fly in V formations, commencing their long migration south.

Here in the church, there is a flurry of life and activity. The children of the church gather for Art & Music Sundays, and learn the stories of Scripture, taking in the heart of our faith in Sunday School classes, Interns work with the children of the church, volunteers gather to serve community dinners at Alder House and the Rosenbaum, and to staff the food closet at Alder House, Open Circle continues its lively discussion and caring fellowship, the Choir members rehearse for special music in the coming season, and Bible study groups reflect deeply on the legacy of Scripture as guide for our lives and path for us to encounter God's grace.

An animal blessing service will be held October 8th after worship in the chapel (this time with pictures of our companion animals rather than the animals themselves), and a class on Ethical Wills (passing on what is important to us) will be offered by Rob Hagan from the Presbyterian Foundation on October 15th.

Stewardship season is to begin this month, with a theme from Psalm 31: Be strong, take heart, all you who hope in the Lord. This seems a passage that we can take as a touchstone for these days with all they are holding.

May this season of autumn's fleeting beauty lift your heart as together we celebrate the love of our Lord that enfolds us through all the seasons of life,

Audrey

Blessing of the Animals Service

FPC will be hosting a family-friendly Animal Blessing Service on Sunday, October 8, from 11:30 am to 12:00 pm, in the Chapel, to give thanks for animals that enrich our lives and to remember pets we've lost. Please feel free to bring a picture of your pet or children may want to bring a stuffed animal that reminds them of their beloved friend. Additionally, if you would like to bless some local animal shelters, please consider buying something on the wish list by going to <https://www.myregistry.com/organization/cat-adoption-team-sherwood-or/2961318/giftlist> for CAT (the Cat Adoption Team) and bring it to the service. We will donate these items in honor of pets we've loved and lost.



Save the Date

Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 12
after worship

Save the date for the church's annual meeting, which will be in person this year after worship in the sanctuary. We will elect new Elders, Deacons, and members of the Congregational Nominating Committee, approve pastors' terms of call, and hear highlights of the church's year. We hope you can join us for this first in-person meeting of the congregation since the pandemic!

FPC Children’s Ministry Sponsors Harper’s Playground

Last February, the children’s ministry of First Presbyterian raised funds for Harper’s Playground and the re-building of Marshall Park in Vancouver, Washington. Harper’s Playground helps cities and schools create parks and recreational spaces that are welcoming to everybody. Our kids raised more than \$1,500 as a part of “Inclusion Month” and earned ourselves a paver at the park. Cami Maes, who moved with her family to Missouri last spring, was an active member of our Sunday School program and inspired us to learn about spina bifida and what it is like to get around on wheels. We learned that creating a welcoming church for all shapes and sizes is a critical part of living out Christ’s Gospel mandate to love our neighbor.

On September 9th, a dozen folks from FPC attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Marshall Park, and we were stunned by the beauty, creativity, and hospitality of this space. Artists, designers, and builders created bronze figures, murals, mosaics, and fire-fighter-themed artwork to complement the playground. It’s truly a wonderful space. Thanks to every child and grown-up who participated in funding this wonderful park!

The Children’s Ministry program at First Presbyterian is committed to creating mission and service opportunities to inspire children to make a positive difference in their classroom, neighborhood, on their sports teams, in their families, and every other place they find themselves. We hope you’ll encourage your own children and grandchildren to take part!

Walk the Wildwood Update

Walk the Wildwood 2023 was a HUGE success!! We raised over \$15,000, which is more than double what we raised last year at our inaugural event. This will go a long way to completing and equipping the new carpentry and welding shop on the campus of Kamwenge Secondary and Vocational School in Kamwenge, Uganda.

Over 80 people registered to walk this year, 43 of whom were first-time participants. In addition, 27 donations were received, helping us to top that \$15,000 mark. And thanks to the church’s Mission and Outreach committees underwriting this event, 100% of what was raised will go directly to the school.

THANK YOU for your generosity!!

Many thanks to the Walk the Wildwood Leadership Team, our set-up/clean-up crews, the walk leaders and sweepers, our car shuttle drivers, and our photographer. Your help is what made this such a successful event.

We hope to see you in 2024!

Go here <https://pim-africa.org/walk-oregon-thank-you> to view the 2023 Walk the Wildwood pictures.

Thanks to Joe Whittington for being our photographer!

Stewardship Campaign 2024

“Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.” Psalm 31:24



At First Presbyterian, we come together as a congregation each fall to renew our dedication and commit our financial support in pledges for the coming year. The needs of the communities we serve continue to grow, and pledging helps us to plan more effectively and widen our impact in areas of need.

As a congregation, we have met challenging times with love and generosity. We look to the new year with renewed hope, and seek, as the Psalm invites us, “Be strong and take heart.” Please prayerfully consider making a pledge to help our church sustain and grow our ministries outreach.

This year our fall stewardship campaign will kick off on October 15, with members of our congregation sharing their commitment to the church in worship and we will dedicate our pledges on November 12.

Join us as together we pledge in the coming season to “Be strong and take heart!”



Presbyterian Women’s Annual Bake & Craft Sale

The annual fundraising bake sale is set for November 19, following worship. We encourage all bakers to prep in advance. Whether you utilize the summer’s bounty or create delicious breads, rolls, pies, cakes, or cookies, your contributions are appreciated! Feel free to bring your meal planning to the sale and complete your menu with our delectable offerings.

While this isn’t intended to be a craft sale, we do welcome small craft additions to ignite everyone’s holiday spirit.

The funds generated from this event are essential for covering PWM’s operating expenses for the retreat and mission outreach. Contact Ann Walsh at ann.walsh@gmail.com with any questions.



Women’s Book Club

Future Book Club Dates:

- 11/7
- 12/5
- 2/6
- 3/5
- 4/2
- 5/7
- 6/4

The Women’s Book Club will convene on Tuesday, October 3, both in-person in the Heritage Room and virtually via Zoom. We encourage you to join us with your brown bag lunch at 11:30 am before our meeting at noon. We will be reading “The Honey Bus: A Memoir of Loss, Courage, and a Girl Saved by Bees” by Meredith May. Our discussion will be led by Amy Wood. The story is about a little girl suddenly thrust into the care of her grandfather, a beekeeper. These little bees taught her everything she needed to know about life, family and community. Part memoir and part beekeeping odyssey. Contact Marilyn Weber for additional information at mlwschatzi@gmail.com.



Saltshakers Resumes in October

Saltshakers is a wonderful opportunity to gather with fellow FPC folks over a shared, potluck meal. Groups will resume meeting in October. For additional information or questions, contact Jean Smith at jeansels53@gmail.com.



Special Offering Support Peacemakers

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice. Our congregation will retain 25% of this offering to witness locally to Christ’s peace. The remaining donations will be used by regional and national ministries of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to advocate for reconciliation and justice in countries around the world, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. Our offerings will be dedicated in worship on World Communion Sunday, which falls on October 1.