



Portland Winter Light Festival



Our church is participating for the third year in the Portland Winter Light Festival, happening February 2-10. This event brings communities together citywide through art and technology. The theme for our display this year is “Let Justice Roll Down Like Water.” A waterfall of lights will cascade from our church and onto the plaza in an illuminated pool.

Our church is using the display to help raise funds for the Warm Springs Reservation, a community of 5,500 people that has been forced to rely on bottled water since 2017. Although the government is funding a new drinking water system to replace an older nonfunctioning one, that project will not be completed for years.

Everyone is welcome to check out our display (No. D47 in the listing) anytime from February 2-10 - and tell your friends! For more information about the Portland Winter Light Festival, visit <https://pdxwlf.com/>.

Soup Supper and Light Festival Stroll

The Portland Winter Lights Festival offers cheery light in the winter darkness.

Join us on Saturday, February 3, for a light dinner followed by a light stroll (pun intended) to see the many creative, beautiful light displays in areas throughout downtown including FPC’s own light display on the plaza.

We’ll gather at 6:00 pm for a simple soup supper and start our walkabout by 7:00 pm. A suggested walking route map will be provided but you’re free to go any way you wish. Invite some friends! Bring your kids or grandkids.

Let us know you intend to come so we can prepare enough soup. Sign up at the coffee hour in Geneva Hall or contact Alexis Crawford in the church office at office@firstpresportland.org or 503-228-7331. Suggested donation for dinner is \$5. For more information on our supper, contact Amy Meabe at amymeabe@gmail.com.

If you’ve never been to the Portland Winter Light Festival and wonder what it’s all about, check out the website <https://pdxwlf.com>. They say, “Get ready for an immersive journey filled with artistic illumination and dynamic performances that will undoubtedly make this festival a highlight of your year!”



Greetings, Church!

Valentine's Day is right around the corner, and soon children's classrooms across the country will be filled with tiny candy hearts that read "You Rock" and "Be Mine." February is the month of love, and you know who is easy to love? Children. In my role at First Presbyterian Portland, I have the privilege of caring for the children who walk through our doors and share the love of Christ with them. I also often find myself asking, "How might we welcome more children and families into our midst?"

I have worked at a variety of churches over the years. Some big and some small. And in every single church I have served, I have found that the most effective form of outreach to neighbors is not a glitzy ad campaign, nor a scrolling marquee. It isn't some fabulous event, though those are nice.

From my experience, people slide into pews on a Sunday morning most readily when they are invited by someone they love and respect. They engage in conversations about faith when someone shows them God's love in a tangible, meaningful way. When we think of "outreach", dear church, we should never underestimate the power of a personal invitation.

I wonder how God might be longing for us to show love to someone we know this month. Perhaps it's through extending an invitation to church or to lunch or to go for a walk. Whatever the gesture, may we all find ways to witness to the God who was and always has been the one who loves us best.

In hope,



Carmen

Please join us for:

*Ash
Wednesday*

**February 14, 2024
12:00 PM**





Creating Fellowship, One Nametag at a Time!

Is your nametag patiently waiting for you? Don't forget to grab yours and proudly wear it at our church services and events! Take a moment to check the table in the Chapel Narthex before or after the Sunday Service to find yours. If you're visiting with us, you can request a nametag at office@firstpresportland.org.

Wearing nametags is key to fostering warmth and connection within our community. Nametags create a friendly atmosphere, making it easier for us to approach one another, greet each other by name, and share meaningful conversations. They serve as a bridge that connects us on a personal level, turning a room full of faces into a gathering of friends.

If you're unable to find your nametag or prefer we use a different name, no worries—simply leave your request on the sign-up sheet at the table. Let's continue to enhance the welcoming spirit of our church through wearing a nametag. We look forward to seeing your name proudly displayed as we strengthen our bonds of fellowship!

Welcome to our Newest Members from 2023!



Andrew, Caroline
& Isaac Baker



Frank Chown



Judy Chown



Steve Chown



Vena Edwards



Don Larson



Anna Lucas



Dan & Marah
Murphy



Joan Palmer



Update on FPC's Solar Project

While diligently exploring the implementation of a solar grid on the roof of the Parish House, we have encountered a significant hurdle in our commitment to environmental stewardship. The Solar Team, comprising representatives from the Finance, Facilities, and Mission Committees, solicited bids from four contractors for the installation of solar generating panels. Through this process, we discovered engineering limitations on the downtown Pacific Power grid, preventing FPC from attaching a solar array at this time.

We will actively monitor the situation and revisit this topic if Pacific Power implements the required circuit changes. For those interested in delving deeper into our efforts towards solar initiatives at FPC, please feel free to reach out to Tom Moore, Marilyn Howe, Jenny Holmes, or Bill Resley.

Naloxone Training

Naloxone (Narcan) is a life-saving medication that halts overdoses immediately. Considering our downtown location, the church ensures the availability of naloxone in the AED cabinet for emergency situations.

We are organizing a complimentary training session on the proper use of naloxone after worship on February 25, from 11:45 am to 12:30 pm in the Heritage Room. Naloxone is administered as a nasal spray, making it easy to use, and its application is protected by Oregon's 'Good Samaritan' laws. All FPC members are welcome to attend.

To help us prepare for the event, kindly RSVP to Bill Resley, one of our Elders, indicating your participation. You can reach Bill at (713) 256-6658 or via email at kayak500@gmail.com.

Rembrandt's

"The Return of the Prodigal Son": An Illumination of God's Grace

Presented by Kristine Olson

Sunday, February 25

11:45 am - 12:45 pm in Calvin Library

Join us as Kristine explores the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32) through the visual lens of the 16th-century Dutch artist Rembrandt van Rijn's monumental painting *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. Focusing on Rembrandt's depiction of the son, and the father---the presentation will consider how the painting illuminates the complexity of forgiveness and the promise of God's grace.

Lenten Soup & Study

Join us on

February 22, 29 & March 7, 14, 21

from 5:30 pm for

Lenten study and soup supper!



Stewardship Campaign 2024



As we are in the final weeks of First Presbyterian's 2024 Stewardship Campaign, we are heartened by your faithfulness in pledging your support for the coming year.

This year, our Session has set a goal of \$775,000 for our pledges, and as of this week, we're at 86.5% of our goal, with pledges totaling \$670,053. With just under 14% more to go, we're confident that the support we need is still out there!

If you haven't had a chance to make your commitment to First Pres, this is the moment to do it. <https://firstpresportland.ccbchurch.com/goto/giving>. Whether you haven't pledged yet or want to contribute a little more, you can pledge online, or contact Marc Lavender, our church business administrator at cba@firstpresportland.org.

Our goal is within reach and will help us meet our budget for lively church programs and mission service to our city and beyond.

The generosity you have shown to First Pres over these past tumultuous years has helped us respond to the changing needs of our city and our world. We are so close to meeting our financial goal for 2024.

Will you help put us over the top?

Gratefully,

Audrey





SAVE THE DATE

WALK THE WILDWOOD
Supporting Schools in Kamwenge, Uganda

Walk the Wildwood, our annual fundraiser for Kamwenge Secondary and Vocational School (KSVS) in Uganda, will take place on **Saturday August 10, 2024**.

First Presbyterian has had a relationship with KSVS since 2012 and began sending mission teams there in 2015. Our church financially supports the school through funding for teacher salaries, individual student sponsorships by church members and through our annual Walk the Wildwood fundraiser.

Our annual fundraiser has been very successful, raising about \$7000 in 2022 and over \$15,000 last year! Money raised has been used to build and equip the new Carpentry and Welding Shop on the school campus. Carpentry and Welding is one of many training programs offered through the vocational school at KSVS.

Mark your calendars now for the opportunity to take guided walks on the trails in Washington and Forest Parks, learn more about the school and enjoy fellowship and a boxed lunch with other participants following the walks. More information will be coming in the next months. Questions? You can email Kathryn Hill at hillka@teleport.com.



Another moment in time from the FPC History Committee...



James Welty

In March of 1956, while James Welty was giving an organ recital as part of his audition to be FPC's next music director, a member of the selection committee, Mr. Ernest Town, had a heart attack. Mr. Welty, who had been a medic in the Navy, crawled over the two balcony railings from the choir loft to the balcony, the first of many times. He was the first to reach Mr. Town and tried to revive him, but was unable to do so. After the ambulance departed, Mr. Welty finished his organ performance. He was hired and served as music director for nearly 37 years, from September of 1956 to January of 1993.

A Prayer of Understanding

As February marks Black History Month, we remember the Belhar Confession, initially a confession of the South African church from 1986, adopted by the PCUSA in 2016 (at the General Assembly held in Portland!), which speaks of racial understanding and justice as part of our living out our faith.

A prayer from the Church of England:

Compassionate God,
who sent Jesus Christ
to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities,
create in us new hearts and enlarged visions,
to see the image of God in every person
irrespective of background or race.
May we be generous in our love of others
as we work towards ending misunderstanding, racism, and injustice;
creating communities of human flourishing,
through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and always. Amen.



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF PORTLAND

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2/2 - 2/10 Portland Winter Light Festival

- 2/3 5:30 pm Soup Supper & Light Festival Stroll, Geneva Hall

- 2/4 11:30 am Cycle of Unforgiveness Class, Heritage Room

- 2/4 11:30 am Nurturing Faith at Home Class, Calvin Library

- 2/4 11:30 am Opening Reception "Intersections" Art Exhibition

- 2/4 Communion Sunday

- 2/6 12:00 pm Women's Book Club, Heritage Room

- 2/11 After Church Update From the Session Retreat

- 2/14 12:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

- 2/18 11:45 am Deacon Meeting, Heritage Room

- 2/19 President's Day – Office Closed

- 2/22 & 2/29 5:30 pm Lenten Soup & Study

- 2/25 11:45 am Naloxone Training, Heritage Room

- 2/25 11:45 am Rembrandt's "The Return of the Prodigal Son?" presentation, Calvin Library



**First
Presbyterian**
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

1200 SW Alder St, Portland Oregon 97205
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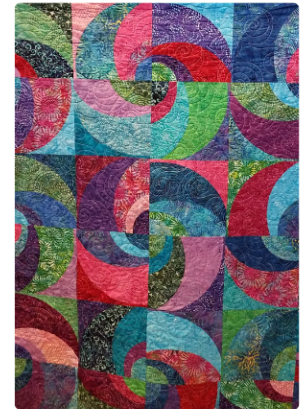
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Intersections

Featuring Artists:

Larry Gross, Sandy Gross & Joel Nickel
February 4 - March 31

Opening Exhibition & Reception
Sunday, February 4
11:30 am - 1:00 pm



Larry Gross holds art and teaching degrees from Concordia University, Nebraska, and Portland State. His diverse artistic mediums include colored pencil, acrylic paint, and wood reliefs, often incorporating a "stained glass" effect inspired by his teaching of stained glass. Earth and its cosmic position are recurring themes. Sandy Gross, with over 20 years of quilting experience, uses batik and print fabrics to create dynamic patterns, emphasizing craft and vibrant color presentation. Joel Nickel, an artist and retired pastor, explores geometric abstraction in graphic designs, gouache paintings, cloisonné enamel pendants, and wall sculptures. His work invites viewers to find harmony in shape, color, and form.

Together, these artists present the "Intersections" exhibit from February 4 to March 31, inspired by a quilt design. Exploring how colors, lines, forms, and patterns interrelate, the exhibit reflects the harmony and playful connections amid contrasting ideas and viewpoints in our daily encounters with culture, politics, media, and religion.