



Join us for a heartwarming Easter celebration as we experience the hope and joy of Christ's resurrection. Before the service, we invite you to participate in the beautiful tradition of flowering the cross. Following the service, we'll host an exciting Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 11 and under. Invite your family and friends for a day filled with joy, worship, and cherished traditions. Let us come together in community and celebration as we rejoice in the blessings of Easter!



## Easter Lilies

Every year, lilies adorn our sanctuary and are given to homebound or ill members of First Presbyterian Church to brighten their Easter season.

You can help offset the cost of the lilies by donating in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Donations for this year's lilies are \$18 for each person remembered or honored.

The link to order online will go live on Sunday, March 10 via eBlast. Order forms will be available Sunday, March 17. The deadline to order your lilies will be Sunday, March 24.

Names of those remembered or honored will be published in the worship bulletin on Easter Sunday, March 31.

We hope you'll join us for Holy Week services as we reflect on the profound journey of Christ's passion, culminating in the joyous celebration of Easter.

Let's come together in prayer, contemplation, and unity to embrace the significance of this sacred week.

**HOLY WEEK**  
at  
**First Presbyterian Church of Portland**

JOIN US IN PERSON & ONLINE	PALM SUNDAY MAUNDY THURSDAY	MARCH 24 AT 10:30 AM MARCH 28 AT 7:00 PM
<a href="http://firstpresportland.org">firstpresportland.org</a>	GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE & SPECIAL CHOIR MUSIC	MARCH 29 AT 7:00 PM
	EASTER SUNDAY	MARCH 31 AT 10:30 AM



Dear First Pres Friends,

Last month, I shared with the congregation my plans to retire from the end of May. Since then, I've been heartened by your good wishes for this coming change.

I've also been curious as to whether the Bible gives any specific mention of retirement. The nearest it comes is in Numbers 8:23-26, which refers to the work of the Levites, who served as priests at that time. At the age of 50, the Levites ceased their regular work and service in the Tabernacle (later the Temple), but they could still lend their support to the younger priests who were continuing to serve.

I'm grateful that the church is at a good place in its life, with a strong staff and lay leadership. As you will look ahead in time to a new pastor, it's likely that it may be someone with more recent training, who has been taught to serve the church in a time of such change. Those in my generation of pastors were trained to serve the church now of yesteryear, in what were called the mainline churches.

You may be familiar with why they were called "mainline" churches. It is said that this was because many of them, traditional and moderate congregations, were located along the main line of the railroad that ran between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, through old established communities like Bryn Mawr along the way.

Now, seminaries train ministers to serve a changing church in a changing world, to think creatively about how the church, reformed and ever reforming, might take on new shapes in a time when society is becoming increasingly secular and churches offer online worship to include those at a distance.

As we plan for my last Sunday with you on May 19th, and begin to look beyond to what the next chapter of the church's life may hold, we recall the words of Psalm 90, "Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations."

God has guided First Presbyterian through its early years, through the building of its sanctuary and the development of its worship, learning and service. The church has seen a succession of pastors come and go, each partnering with our lay leaders for a chapter of the church's life, then turning the page for another to take their place. I've been graced to be a part with you of this chapter of our church's life, and am grateful that God will reveal to you in due season the future and the hope that God has prepared for you for the days that are yet to come.

With love in Christ,

Audrey



P.S. Please join in Holy Week and Easter worship as we celebrate the mystery and joy of our faith!



## A Fond Farewell & A New Beginning

As you may have heard, our beloved lead pastor and head of staff, Rev. Dr. Audrey Schindler, is retiring after more than ten years of faithful service to FPC. We are filled with both joy and sadness as we prepare to bid her farewell. Audrey has been a source of wisdom, stability, and inspiration for our congregation, especially during the difficult times of the COVID-19 pandemic. She has touched many lives with her preaching and pastoral care.

We invite you to join us on May 19 for Audrey's last sermon and a special celebration of her ministry. We will honor Audrey's legacy and wish her all the best for her retirement.

We are also pleased to announce that Pastor Brenna has kindly agreed to serve as our bridge pastor while we search for an interim pastor. The interim pastor will help us navigate the transition period and discern God's will for our future. You can stay updated on our progress by checking the Spire and the FPC website, which has a dedicated page for the pastoral transition at <https://www.firstpresportland.org/pastoral-transition>.

We are blessed to have a strong team of pastors who will support us during this season of change: Brenna, Carmen, Dave (who will all stay on), and Spencer (who will be with us through his retirement in August). Please pray for us, the Session, as we seek the interim pastor. In time, a Pastor Nominating Committee, elected by the congregation, will search for our new pastor.

We have a proven search process, guidance from the Presbytery, and most importantly, God's presence and promise to lead our congregation through this time of transition.

Members of the Session

### Chair Established to Honor the Legacy of a Past FPC Member

North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago informed us that a new Chair has been established to honor the legacy of Dr. Wilma Peterson, who spent her career caring for others as a nurse and training the next generation of nurses. Dr. Peterson was a member of First Presbyterian, who in her later years visited homebound members extending to them the care of the church.



### Red Cross Blood Drive

First Presbyterian Church  
Spring Blood Drive  
Tuesday, March 5  
12:30 to 6:00 pm  
Located in Geneva Hall

Call  
**1-800-RED-CROSS**  
to schedule an appointment  
or visit their website at:  
[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).



## A Heart For The City

With inflation and SNAP benefits being cut, the most vulnerable in our community are being hit the hardest. Thank you to everyone who has brought food to help us supplement the Emergency food closet over at Alder House. On Tuesdays, we hand out food to 25 to 30 people. Because of our committed team of volunteers and our adoption of the Alder House building through Lift Urban Portland, we are living into our mission to care for our neighbors. Food insecurity in low-income buildings is a real problem, and I am so grateful our community has felt called to care for others in this way.

Speaking of food, did you know we serve homemade meals once a month in two low-income buildings located one block away from the church? Serving meals is not just about feeding people's bodies but also about nourishing their hearts and souls, as well as our own. Our amazing team of volunteers not only cooks and serves the meals but also focuses on building community and making sure our neighbors feel seen and loved.

There are so many ways to get involved with these programs or other church-related service/mission activities. To find out more or for help exploring how you might get involved, contact Pastor Brenna at [bdykman@firstpresportland.org](mailto:bdykman@firstpresportland.org). Come have fun with us and join the team!

## Volunteer Opportunities at NEFP

There will be an information table during coffee hour in the month of March. Come by and learn more about NEFP (Northeast Emergency Food Program).

NEFP distributes a three- to five-day (or more) supply of nutritious groceries to our neighbors in need, frequently valued over \$200. We offer a unique self-service shopping experience for guests, allowing them to select their choice of fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, bread, meat and more. There are no quantity restrictions on most items in the pantry. We serve:

- Families with children; roughly 40 percent of those we support are children
- The unemployed and the underemployed
- People with special needs, including the elderly and those with disabilities
- A high percentage of immigrants and refugees
- People experiencing crisis

To volunteer at NEFP, just follow this link: <https://emo-nefp.org/volunteer/>.





## Stewardship Campaign 2024



Pledges recently have helped us reach \$743,133, nearly 96% of our goal, and our church is grateful for your faithful support of the congregation's life and witness! As we finish out our pledge season, please consider joining in making a pledge for the church's work and mission.

Click here <https://firstpresportland.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/57/responses/new> to pledge online, or email Marc Lavender, our church business administrator, at [cba@firstpresportland.org](mailto:cba@firstpresportland.org), and thank you so much for your generous support of FPC's worship and outreach!

## Enneagram Retreat

Pastor Carmen has been working with a team of volunteers from around the Presbytery to develop a day-long retreat on the Enneagram. Whether you are new to the Enneagram or have been utilizing this personality profiling system for years, this retreat will create space for you to engage in meaningful conversations about the 9 personality types with Presbyterians from across the Cascades region. Led by Rev. Dr. Sarah Sanderson Doughty, an expert in the subject, this retreat will help us better understand our deepest commitments, how we see the world, and how we can relate to those around us more generously and faithfully. Come and have some fun with Presbyterians in Albany on May 18th from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm! \$25 early bird registration now through March 31st. Lunch will be provided. For more information or to register, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/knowing-ourselves-an-introduction-to-the-enneagram-registration-808744585827?aff=oddtcreator>



## One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering gives us the opportunity to live out the call to become the beloved community of Jesus Christ. Traditionally, the weeks of Lent between Ash Wednesday and Easter are a period of prayer and sacrifice for Christians. Please consider making a gift to the OGHS part of your Lenten observance.

This annual offering of the PC (USA) has helped rebuild war-torn neighborhoods, provided food, shelter, and education for refugees and people suffering from natural disasters, addressed threats posed by environmental degradation and climate change, and delivered self-development resources to people striving to better their lives in the face of injustice and poverty.

OGHS reaches out in our country and around the world to initiate and support projects that share God's love. Our donations may be made in worship, by mail, or through the church website and will be dedicated Sunday, March 24.



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



After WWII, First Presbyterian Churches' membership and ministry grew. By 1946, church membership was over 2400 members with 25 couples groups. The church supported the relocation of wartime "displaced persons" (including Ladis Kristof, the father of columnist Nicolas Kristof), owned and managed Friendly House, and supported returning veterans in colleges and universities. Between April 1, 1946, and March 31, 1947, two ministers on staff at FPC, Rev. Dr. Paul Wright and Rev. Dr. Mervyn Moss, married 160 couples, baptized 125 babies, and performed 55 funerals!

## Chapel Narthex Display of Sculptures

The new display in the display case in the narthex of the chapel features John Jensen's collection of small-scale sculptures by the Canadian artist Timothy P. Schmalz. Schmalz's life-sized sculptures are installed in various locations worldwide, including [Capernaum](#), the [Vatican](#), and [Fatima](#). Additional information about these small-scale sculptures is available in the notebook located next to the display case.

"Timothy uses his God-given talents and inspirations as a fine artist to glorify and communicate Christianity through the universal language of art." Learn more at <https://www.sculpturebytps.com/about-the-artist/>.

## March Coffee Hour

In 2024 we are using a new volunteer system that involves more members in hosting our Sunday coffee hours, which are very important in the life of our congregation. If your name begins with G, H, or I, March is your month! We need in-person helpers as well as folks who can bring food or even order it online to be delivered to the church. Whatever your personal situation may be, there are ways you can assist.

As soon as you can, please sign up. There are two ways to do this:

1. Use SignUp Genius. To get to it, start at the FPC website, click "Church Life" menu, then click "Fellowship." There you'll see a link to SignUp Genius.
2. Alternatively, you may call Amy Hall (503-330-0377) or Alexis Crawford in the church office.

Thank you! It's lovely when people can come together in support of our whole congregation. Heads up: Last names beginning in J, K, and L are asked to help in April. Finally, we offer deep appreciation to those with A, B, C, D, E and F last names who did an excellent job with our coffee hours in January and February. We are all grateful!



# First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF PORTLAND

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 3/3 10:30 am Family & Communion Sunday

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- 3/5 12:30 - 6:30 pm Red Cross Blood Drive, Geneva Hall

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- 3/5 12:00 pm Women's Book Club, Heritage Room

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- 3/7 5:15 pm Lenten Soup & Study

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- 3/10 11:30 am Artist's Talk with Joel Nickel, Chapel Gallery

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- 3/14 5:15 pm Lenten Soup & Study

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- 3/17 9:00 am Christian Parenting Class: Nurturing Faith at Home

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- 3/17 11:45 am Deacon Meeting, Heritage Room

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- 3/18 Community Dinners at Alder House & Rosenbaum

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- 3/21 5:15 pm Lenten Soup & Study

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- 3/24 10:30 am Palm Sunday

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- 3/28 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service

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- 3/29 7:00 pm Good Friday Service & Special Choir Music

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- 3/31 10:30 am Easter Sunday Worship!



**First  
Presbyterian**  
CHURCH OF PORTLAND

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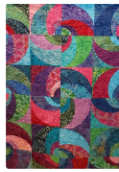
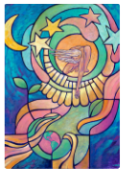
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## Intersections Art Exhibition

Featuring Artists:

Larry Gross, Sandy Gross & Joel Nickel

Through March 31



## Special Choir Music on Good Friday

Please plan to attend the worship service on Good Friday, March 29th, at 7:00 pm. The FPC Chancel Choir will share seven choral meditations on the “Last Words from the Cross” written by West Coast composer Dale Wood (1934-2003). Dr. Shohei Kobayashi, Director of Choral Studies at Reed College, will conduct, with FPC music director Greg Homza accompanying on the Jaeckel pipe organ. This is sure to be a very moving service, and all are encouraged to attend in person if possible (the service will also be streamed to include those at home).

## FPC Women’s Retreat

Embark on a rejuvenating journey with the women of FPC at our annual Women’s Retreat, happening May 3-5 at the scenic Menucha Retreat & Conference Center in the Columbia Gorge. We are delighted to have Pastor Carmen as the guest speaker this year! Mark your calendars as registration opens on Sunday, March 3.

To register online, visit <https://firstpresportland.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/72/responses/new>, or for questions or additional information, contact Lori Webb at [lorilwebb@comcast.net](mailto:lorilwebb@comcast.net).