

Elizabeth J. Searles,  
Olympic Peninsula Extended Needs (OPEN) Housing

Born to PCUSA missionaries (Egypt) and serving in international ministry since 1997 (India, China, Romania, and Poland), Liza Searles moved to PA June 28, 2022, and began work July 1.

“A HS roomie recruited me out of a really fun traveling retirement. She had adopted and long cared for a child experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities as a result of her biological mother’s drug use. She and a host of families feared what would happen to their children when their care no longer could be provided. People experiencing disabilities need a place to live their best lives, as we all do—somewhere safe, secure, sustainable, long-term, affordable, and inclusive. People experiencing I/DD desire and deserve housing where they can thrive and where they can be dependably connected to programs, services, and care. With a handful of concerned parents, OPEN Housing put down enough groundwork to hire a full-time Executive Director. My old roomie called. How could I turn her down?”

Housing security especially concerns parents of adults with extended needs, whatever the reason. Supporting a child outside of the family home, offering the independence and opportunity to thrive, may seem nearly impossible. Parents must anticipate, prepare for, and face harsh realities that may diminish their children’s lives after the parents are gone.

Olympic Peninsula Extended Needs Housing (OPEN Housing) is gearing up to meet critical housing needs. From the seeds of two homes in place now—one in PA and one in Sequim—co-creators at OPEN Housing envision scattered site homes in PA, Sequim,

and the rest of the peninsula to offer housing to the over 450 individuals who are known to have extended needs. At present, less than 1/10th of the need is being met.

OPEN Housing seeks to purchase homes for rapid rehousing, accept legacy home donations that reap tax benefits for the donors, and create purpose-built model communities. OPEN Housing is SASSI: Safe Affordable Sustainable Secure and Inclusive. OPEN’s work is a gift of grace to those among us who are at the greatest risk. Liza will offer “Moment for Mission” at August 7 services, and will be available in Fellowship Hall between services.

### Announcements

(for more info go to [fpcpa.org/news-1](https://fpcpa.org/news-1) and [fpcpa.org/learn](https://fpcpa.org/learn))

**FISH Co. (Men’s Bible Study)**, Tuesday, August 9, 8 am, Zoom  
**Building & Grounds**, Tuesday, August 9, 3 pm, Fellowship Hall  
**Stewardship**, Tuesday, August 9, 3 pm, Upstairs Classroom  
**Praise Team Rehearsal**, Tuesday, August 9, 6:45 pm, Sanctuary  
**“Chain Gang” (Men’s Breakfast Group)**, Wednesday, August 10, 9 am, Traylor’s  
**Women’s Bible Study**, Wednesday, August 10, 9 am, Fellowship Hall  
**Food Bank Helpers**, Thursday, August 11, 10 am, Port Angeles Food Bank