



March 2025

## Highlights



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### From the Heart

Dear Friends in Christ,  
What makes your heart sing? This is a question I am pondering in preparation for a pastoral sabbatical next year. The term sabbatical comes from sabbath, or rest, as commanded in Exodus 20:8-11. In ministry, sabbaticals—generally three months of paid leave—are granted every seven years; serving as an intentional time of rest, reflection, and renewal for both the pastor and the congregation. Due to the timing of my pastoral calls and other circumstances, this will be my first sabbatical in 29 years of ordained ministry.

*What makes your heart sing?* This question is at the heart of the Clergy Renewal Grant funded by the Lilly Foundation and administered by Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana. The grant funds pastor sabbaticals that enrich the lives of pastors and their congregations for continued ministry. Awardees may receive up to \$60,000—of which up to \$20,000 may go to the church to pay for pastoral coverage and related

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*“From the Heart” continued*

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programming during the sabbatical period—to cover sabbatical-related expenses such as travel, tuition, books, equipment, and supplies. The grant application process is rigorous, and applicants must provide detailed itineraries, budgets, and supporting documentation—something I am currently working on with elders Pat Hyden and Nancy Jacobson.

So, what makes my heart sing? Simply put: moments of stillness in the hands of our Creator. Psalm 46:10—Be still and know that I am God—is a perfect expression of this. I particularly resonate with a meditation on this passage that invites the listener to reflect on it as it is read multiple times, shortening with each recitation until the only word left is Be... Throughout my life, I have found such stillness most powerfully in hiking or birding, travel to foreign lands, and spending unhurried time with the people closest to me.

My sabbatical proposal embodies the stillness I find in Psalm 46:10 through daily embrace of and reflection on the passage in times of solitude—hiking and on pilgrimage, travel with family, photography, and a time of reflection on ministry with long-time pastoral colleagues. My plan is to be on sabbatical between Memorial Day and Labor Day, (May 25 - September 7, 2026). Highlights of my sabbatical include a pilgrimage to the Iona Community in Scotland—the birthplace of Christianity in Scotland—trekking the 96-mile West Highland Way from Glasgow to Fort William, a week in Ireland with our entire family, and

*Be still and know that  
I am God.*

*Be still and know that  
I am.*

*Be still and know.*

*Be still.*

*Be.*



three more weeks of travel with Becca to Wales, Scotland, and England. (I've chosen the British Isles because that was Becca's first choice, and after 29 years of following my call, the decision of where to spend sabbatical was hers to make!)

In parallel fashion, Nancy and Pat are developing a plan for the whole congregation to reflect on Psalm 46:10 while I am away. This may include guest speakers and preachers, guided activities, and other opportunities to engage body, mind, and spirit in the practice of being still before the Lord. My sabbatical period will be bookended with gatherings to mark the beginning and the end of the renewal time.

These plans are more than a year off, but the grant proposal is due on March 12. Recipients will be announced at the end of August. In the meantime, I would appreciate your prayers as Pat, Nancy, and I work on the application. I also welcome your questions and feedback on what makes *your* heart sing!

Godspeed,

*Matt*

## Worshiping and Learning



### Ash Wednesday and Lent Observances

March 5 is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent. Services will be at noon and 6 pm.

#### Services during Lent - Gather Around the Table

Lenten Vespers, Wednesdays, beginning March 12, Supper at 6:15 pm, Worship at 7 pm

### *Worshipping and Learning, continued*

Lent is a very special time in our Christian calendar. It is the time we as a church family make preparation for our risen Christ at Easter.

Please join us in person or online for weekly Lenten vespers services. Vespers are an evening service of prayer, designed to draw a spiritual close to the day and to prepare ourselves for holy rest. In addition to songs and prayers, we will practice “lectio divina” (divine reading) of passages from *Jesus on the Cross*.

We have an opportunity to gather before the services to share in a soup, salad, and bread supper in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15 pm. What blessings we will receive as we share food and conversation! Bring food or just yourself to share. God and our family would love to join you there.

### **Lent Devotional Booklets**



coming back to life  
DEVOTIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR LENT

Look for these new Lent devotional booklets by the church office. They contain ideas for celebrating the lengthening

days on our journey to Easter.

## **Hour of Praise**

**Sunday, March 30,  
2 pm, Sanctuary**

Sing, praise, and feel renewed!



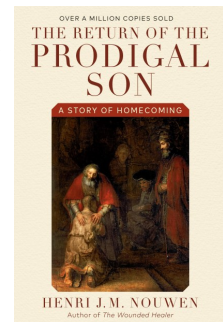
### **Tread Lightly for Lent**

Look for a calendar by PCUSA suggesting ways to reduce your environmental footprint this Lent. Copies will be by the office.

### **Adult Sunday School**

Sundays, 9:45 am,  
March 9 - April 13

We will begin a study about the prodigal son based on the book *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming* by Henri Nouwen.



*Worshipping and Learning, continued*

## Elementary Sunday School

Sundays, 9:45 am

We are excited to be back in our big room! We are currently learning how Jesus shows us he is the Son of God, with Bible stories from the Gospels. What ways can you think of that Jesus has shown us that he is the Son of God? Check with us in a few weeks and see what we learned!

The next unit is titled “The Week That Changed the World,” getting us ready for Easter. We enjoy singing together each week, some old songs and some new songs, both lively and worshipful. We continue learning the books of the Bible in song, and are concentrating on the books of the New Testament. It’s a fun way to learn. Come join us in



our new and improved Sunday School room.

## Praise Songs

A note from your praise team leader: Recently I reminded our congregation that I am interested in hearing what your favorite hymns and worship songs are so I can include them in our praise sets. I’m pleased to report that I’ve heard from several people. And I hope you all will embrace the challenge that goes with this effort.

First, you might wait a bit to get to hear and sing your favorite song. Second, there might be a Sunday when we’re singing someone else’s favorites. And maybe you don’t even know these songs—at all. Please trust that I understand with deep feeling how important it is to be able to enter in with your whole self (heart, soul, mind, and strength) into the moments of worship. Whenever possible, I try to create a mix of old and new. And when you have asked for new songs that have wonderful words and melodies, I remain hopeful that those newer songs can grow into old favorites, too. Thank you for the privilege of helping you come into God’s presence. “Come, now is the time to worship!”

Michael Rivers

## Events

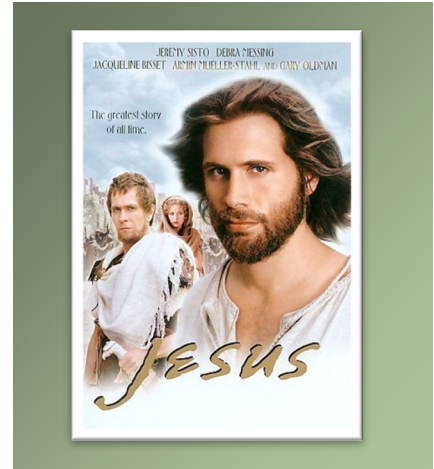
### Reel Reflections Dinner and a Movie Edition

#### *Jesus: The Greatest Story of All Time*

Thursday, March 20, 6:00 pm  
Hybrid: In person or by Zoom

This film is a cinematic blending of the four gospels with the addition of extra-biblical elements not found in the New Testament accounts. It provides a down to earth approach through its focus on the human aspect of Jesus. Compared to more solemn and divine portrayals in earlier films, Jesus expresses emotions: weeping at Joseph's funeral, throwing stones in Lake Galilee upon meeting Simon Peter and James son of Zebedee, dancing at the wedding at Cana, and starting a splash fight with his disciples.

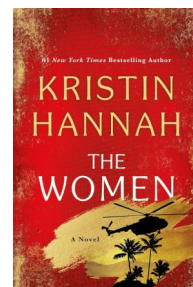
If you are bringing your dinner please arrive by 5:30 pm. This movie is long and will start at 6:00 pm.



### Book Club

Thursday, March 20, 10:30 am  
Fellowship Hall  
*The Women* by Kristin Hannah

*The Women* is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has



too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, *The Women* is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era.

*Events, continued*

## Giving

### Mexican Train Dominoes

Saturday, March 22, 2 pm

Fellowship Hall

Climb aboard for an afternoon of Mexican Train Dominoes. If you have a set of double 12 dominoes, please bring it. If you have never played this game, don't let that keep you away. It is easy to learn.

Contact Melanie DeBiddle at 360-477-3643 or Pat Hyden at 360-457-1843 for information.

### Soup Supper Volunteers

The Worship & Music Committee needs help for the Lenten Soup Suppers: getting the tables set up and the placemats and silverware set. After dinner, we will need hands for cleaning up. The suppers will be held on Wednesdays through Lent this year starting on Wednesday, March 12. Contact Beverly Brown for more information. Many hands make light work!

### Little Free Pantry

The Little Free Pantry needs the following items:

- canned fruit & veggies
- pasta & sauce
- boxed rice mix
- canned beans (any type)
- small peanut butter
- canned soup

Thank you so much for your continued support!

### Youth Group, March Mystery

Saturday, March 22, 6:00 pm  
Fellowship Hall

Join the fun and find out what mysterious activity is planned. Look for an email with details.



*Giving, continued*

## Mission & Outreach

### Tyler Holm

We support Tyler by sending \$2500.00 to the national church. Tyler serves in Ekwendeni, Malawi, at the invitation of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), Synod of Livingstonia, and is a lecturer of systematic theology and church history.

Approximately 200 students are currently enrolled. In addition to residential ministerial students, the university includes many students who participate in its distance learning program.

### Dr. Rochelle Holm

Dr. Rochelle Holm manages the University of Mzuzu's Water and Sanitation Centers, which are committed to increasing the availability of clean water and sanitation in northern Malawi and beyond.

The Holms adopted a Malawian girl named Mphatso. She is affectionately called "Miss M" and is 11 years old.



The mailing address for the Holms is:

University of Livingstonia  
 Faculty of Theology  
 Church of Central Africa  
 Presbyterian  
 P.O. Box 112  
 Mzuzu, Malawi  
[rochelle.holm@pcusa.org](mailto:rochelle.holm@pcusa.org)  
[tyler.holm@pcusa.org](mailto:tyler.holm@pcusa.org)

*The Holms' Birthdays*

Tyler, July 21

Rochelle, April 4

Mphatso, November 15

*The Holms' Anniversary*

October 7



*Giving, continued*

## Underground Ministries

We send \$1000 to Underground Ministries. Part of their mission statement is:

“We serve those at the bottom of the American system: prisoners, gang members, those most feared, locked away in solitary confinement, and deemed dead to society.

“We build relationships, incarnating the kind of love we see in Jesus, friend of sinners and outcasts, who wept over Lazarus in the tomb before he raised him from the dead.”

[undergroundministries.org](http://undergroundministries.org)

## Port Angeles Food Bank

We contributed \$1,000 to their mission: “Nourishing Our Community.”

There are a number of volunteers that volunteer on the second Thursday of each month at 10 AM. Contact Barb Pappas at [bpappas378@gmail.com](mailto:bpappas378@gmail.com) if you would like to know more about volunteering at the Food Bank.

[portangelesfoodbank.org](http://portangelesfoodbank.org)



## Socks Donated

173 new pairs of socks were donated in January and February and were distributed to Serenity House, ReDiscovery, and TAFY. Additional socks are kept for supplying the Little Free Pantry.  
Thank you!

## TAFY Update

Thank you for your support of our February TAFY meal. You, our church family, provided numerous, delish hot casseroles, soups, salads, desserts, juice, and milk. The TAFY family was thrilled—as we are indeed good cooks!

Our next date to support TAFY with a meal is Saturday, April 5. Information will be at the Connection Center.

Dona Hair

*Giving, continued*

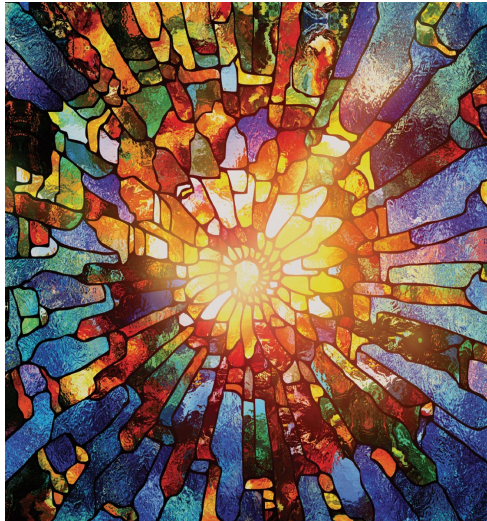
## Special Offering: One Great Hour of Sharing

March 5 - April 20, 2025

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to *One Great Hour of Sharing* supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, to promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and to assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

We have Lenten Fish Banks as well as Sharing Calendars in the office hallway.

This year we will be asking for gifts on Palm Sunday, April 13. You may give online or write a check to the church and put OGHS on the memo line.



### Daylight Saving Time

Don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 8.

God of Love,  
Help us show your love  
today and every day;  
to work with others  
for justice, freedom,  
and peace.

In Jesus' name,

AMEN.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

# March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service  9:45 am Sunday School	3  2 pm B,G,P Committee Meeting  7 pm Adult Christian Formation Meeting	4 8 am FISH Company  6:45 pm Praise Team  7 pm Youth Christian Formation Meeting	5 9 am Women's Bible Study  <b>Noon &amp; 6 pm Ash Wednesday Services</b>  7:30 pm Worship & Music Committee Mtg	6  1 pm Love Box  3 pm Mission & Outreach  7 pm Small Talks on Big Issues	7	8  
9 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service  9:45 am Sunday School  <b>12:15 pm Congregational Meeting</b>	10 1 pm Naomi Circle	11 8 am FISH Company  6:45 pm Praise Team	12 9 am Women's Bible Study  <b>6:15 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Vespers Service</b>	13 10 am Food Bank Helpers  7 pm Small Talks on Big Issues	14	15
16 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service  9:45 am Sunday School	17   7 pm Session	18 8 am FISH Company  4 pm Deacons Meeting  6:45 pm Praise Team	19  9 am Women's Bible Study  <b>6:15 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Vespers Service</b>	20 10:30 am Book Club  <b>6:00 pm Reel Reflections Dinner and a Movie</b>	21	22  2pm Mexican Train Dominoes  6 pm Youth Group Activity
23 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service  9:45 am Sunday School	24	25 8 am FISH Company  6:45 pm Praise Team	26 9 am Women's Bible Study  <b>6:15 pm Soup Supper 7 pm Vespers Service</b>	27 7 pm Small Talks on Big Issues	28	29
30  8:30 and 11 am Worship Service  9:45 am Sunday School  <b>2 pm Hour of Praise</b>	31					

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Marge Vahsholtz
- 3 Fred Rodolf  
Gail Bowlby
- 7 Gail McDonald
- 8 John Taylor
- 12 Dave Logan
- 13 Brenda Nailor
- 14 Chris Keeling  
Stan Jacobson
- 16 John Locke  
Ken Bobko
- 17 Laurie Fineout
- 18 Jason Mayo
- 19 Diane Zimmer
- 29 Pat Graham
- 30 Anne Edwards

## Community

### Congregational Meeting

Sunday, March 9, 12:15 pm

There will be a congregational meeting to elect elders, deacons, and at-large members of the Nominating Committee.

Please join us to discern with one another whom God is calling to serve FPCPA.

### All Church Retreat Camp David Jr.

May 16 - 18, 2025



Mark your calendars to attend the 2025 all church retreat Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, May 16 - 18.



## Church Business Items

### Session Actions

The Session met in a hybrid meeting in the church's upstairs classroom via Zoom on Monday, February 17 at 7 pm, and the following actions were taken:

- Approved request to extend the carpet from the Fellowship Hall into the storage area for an estimated \$1350, with the item to be added to the capital budget.



- 10 Susan Fisher & Mike Ellis
- 13 Steve & Rita Frick
- 27 Mike & Cindy Sofie

- Approved setting the following dates: One Great Hour of Sharing on 4/13/25 and Earth Day Celebration on 4/27/25.
- Approved setting a Congregational Meeting on 3/9/25 at 12:15 pm for the purpose of electing Elders, Deacons, and at-large members of the Nominating Committee.
- Set Session volunteers to attend the Lunch with Leaders meeting on 2/23/25 and the officer examination for new Elders and Deacons at a date to be determined.

## Annual Review

A team of Andy Anderson, Will Streur, and Susan Fisher completed the church 2024 financial review and reported to Session in January and on Feb. 16 during worship services. An annual review is directed in Presbyterian Church (USA) *Book of Order*.

The team focused on automated and check payments, contributions, special giving, monthly financial statements, and bank statements. Online payroll and accounting systems are used.

Special attention was given to changing investment advisors to the Presbyterian Foundation and reviewing the negotiated agreement between the church insurer and the contractor related to extensive property damage.

One recommendation was made to Session regarding policy for formal contracts.

**HAVE YOU  
TALKED  
TO GOD  
TODAY?**

### Ten Things To Say to God Every Day

- I trust you, Lord.
- I need you, Lord.
- I thank you, Lord.
- Forgive me, Lord.
- Help me to obey you.
- Speak to me, Holy Spirit.
- I will follow you.
- I am yours, Lord.
- Let your will be done.
- I believe in your power.



**Question  
of the  
Month**

**What is your favorite  
hymn and why?**

## Financials

### January 2025

Income Year to Date	\$42,422
2025 Annual Income Budgeted	\$412,380
Expenses Year-to-Date	(\$27,441)
2025 Annual Expenses Budgeted	\$419,704
Capital Spending Year-to-Date	\$0
2025 Annual Capital Budget	\$25,500
*Capital Projects Gift Income left from 2024	\$27,719
*We were given a gift to be specifically used for the building.	

^Water Damage Building Repairs thus far:

(This includes 2025 & 2025)	(\$190,386)
Water Damage Insurance Payment	\$188,653

^The water damage insurance \$ has been spent as of January 2025.

We are off to a fantastic start! The Nursery & Sunday School room has been repaired & looks fantastic! The damaged carpet is replaced and looks inviting. Look for progress on the bathrooms next.



## First Presbyterian Church

139 W. 8th St., Port Angeles, WA 98362  
360-452-4781 | [fpcpa.org](http://fpcpa.org)

### Worship Services

Sundays 8:30 and 11 am

### Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 10 am - 3 pm

**Closed for Lunch, 1 - 2 pm on Monday**

Closed on Friday

The office is behind the church building off the alley and is handicapped accessible.

Pastor Matt Paul, [pastor@fpcpa.org](mailto:pastor@fpcpa.org)

Lauren Corder, Office Manager,  
[administrator@fpcpa.org](mailto:administrator@fpcpa.org)

Cathi Hughes, Office Assistant,  
[office@fpcpa.org](mailto:office@fpcpa.org)

*The First Presbyterian Church of Port Angeles is a community of people of all ages who believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and who seek to follow His teachings. We come together to worship God, to grow in our love and support for each other, and to learn about God's will for our lives. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we go out to the community and the world to share our faith and to serve others.*

### Inclement Weather

If the weather conditions make it unsafe to travel, we will notify you of canceled events or worship services via our Facebook page, our website's homepage, and email. Please contact us at [administrator@fpcpa.org](mailto:administrator@fpcpa.org) if you have questions or concerns.



### Online Resources

Church Website: [fpcpa.org](http://fpcpa.org)

Online Worship: [fpcpa.org/worship](http://fpcpa.org/worship)

Giving Online:

Look for this button on our website.

GIVE ONLINE