

Highlights

First Presbyterian Church



From the Heart

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Dear Friends in Christ,

You may recognize that quote from the Bible. It is called Jesus' cry of dereliction, words he cried out from the cross. Theologians point to that moment as illustrating the depth of Jesus' sacrifice, as it signifies when Jesus was truly separate from the Trinity. Jesus cries out to a God who will not answer, nor save him from the cross. Alone on the cross, Jesus experiences the depth of human sin, a weight he willingly took upon himself. Separation from God is the very definition of death.

Jesus' cry of dereliction is also the opening line of Psalm 22: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?* (Psalm 22:1). Yet, while the psalm begins on such a painful note, it ends with an encouraging word: *Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.* (Psalm 22:31-31). The same could be said for the journey Jesus makes to the cross. While it ends in sorrow on Golgotha on Friday evening, hope dawns anew on Easter morning at the site of an empty tomb.

This year during Lent, we will explore some key events in Jesus' last days and moments before his crucifixion. On Sundays in Lent, we will journey with Jesus and the disciples to the cross by looking at some select passage from the Gospel of Mark between Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem through his death on the cross. In a sermon series which I have entitled, *A Fateful Journey to Jerusalem*, we will examine Jesus' cleansing the temple, his anointing at Bethany and the plot to kill him, his trials before the Jerusalem council and Pilate, and his last moments on the cross. Many of these passages are cited during Holy

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Week services, or in the lectionary cycle, but we don't often have time to focus on them sequentially and in the context of the cross.

Additionally, our adult Sunday school class will reflect on the 14 stations of the cross, a centuries old spiritual practice of Christians on pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Meditating on the stations of the cross is a way of exploring the depths of what Jesus suffered on our behalf, and the physical, emotional, and spiritual pain of the crucifixion. For this journey, we will be reading *Station to Station: An Ignatian Journey through the Stations of the Cross*, by Gary Jansen.

I hope these offerings, along with the weekly Lenten vespers, will help you find deeper appreciation for the cross of Christ and inspire you in your walk with Jesus. We know that because he took our sin on the cross, died, and rose again, we will never be forsaken by God. May our Lenten journey in 2024 reinforce this truth.

Godspeed,



Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 4

12:15 pm Potluck Lunch

1:00 pm Meeting

Join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting. We will review 2023 and vote on the pastoral terms of call.

Copies of the Annual Report are available online or at the church.



Baking to Give Thanks

Thursday, February 8

Fellowship Hall

Calling all bakers! We would like to thank the Port Angeles Fire Department and Service Master for the work they have done at the church following the broken pipe/flooding incident.

Let's show our appreciation with more than words and **bake**.

Please bake or buy cookies, muffins or bread and bring them to the church by 2 pm on Thursday, February 8. We will take a basket of goodies to the Fire Department and Service Master on Friday, February 9. For more information call CJ Isenberger, 360-460-5129.

Events



Commitment of Vows

Saturday, February 10, 1 pm

Jenna Buckmaster and Julius Johnson invite family and friends to celebrate their commitment of vows at a service on February 10 at 1 pm.

Immediately following the service there will be a potluck reception. Those attending are asked to please bring either an appetizer or a dessert to share. Soft drinks will be provided.



Youth Mardi Gras Party

Saturday, February 10, 4 - 6 pm

Mardi Gras fun, games, snacks and Bible study at our February party.



Reel Reflections: *The Best of Enemies* Thursday, February 15, 6:30 pm (via Zoom)



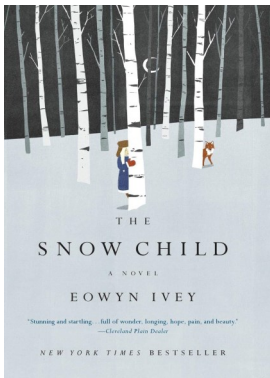
The true story of the unlikely relationship between Ann Atwater, an outspoken civil rights activist, and C.P. Ellis, a local Ku Klux Klan leader. During the racially charged summer of 1971, Atwater and

Ellis come together to co-chair a community summit on the desegregation of schools in Durham, N.C. The ensuing debate and battle soon lead to surprising revelations that change both of their lives forever. (source: rottentomatoes.com)

Join us February 15 for a Reel Reflections screening of *The Best of Enemies*, starring Taraji P. Henson (*Hidden Figures*) and Oscar winner Sam Rockwell. The film is based on a true story of a Black civil rights activist (Henson) and a local KKK leader (Rockwell) who form an unlikely friendship that would last the rest of their lives. It is an uplifting story of how a sliver of compassion can be all it takes to see people in a different light and erode the walls of walls of hatred, fear, and racism. Please join Pastor Matt and friends for this moving film and stay afterwards to for a lively discussion.

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***Note: we will stream the movie via Zoom at 6:30 pm, with discussion following. New to Zoom? No worries, feel free to contact the church office and we can help you set up and test your system. If you prefer to watch the movie on your own, you are welcome to the discussion at approximately 8:45 pm.**



Book Club

**Thursday, February 15, 10:30 am,
Fellowship Hall**

February's selection is *The Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey. This novel was a finalist for the 2013 Pulitzer

Prize for Fiction. *The Snow Child* is set in the 1920s and follows Jack and Mabel, a childless older couple struggling as homesteaders in the Alaskan wilderness. The sudden emergence of a young girl from the woods changes their lives.

Contact bpappas@gmail.com.

Mexican Train Dominos

**Saturday, February 24, 2 – 4 pm
Fellowship Hall**

Contact Melanie DeBiddle at 360-457-2997 or Pat Hyden 360-457-1843 for information.

Church Business Items

December Financials

Income Year-to-Date: \$401,728
2023 Budgeted: \$362,750

Expenses Year-to-Date: \$375,102
2023 Budgeted: \$410,749

Capital Spending YTD: \$28,365
Capital Budgeted 2023 (amended):
\$30,664

Session Actions

The Session met in a hybrid meeting, in person and via Zoom on Monday, January 15 at 7 pm and the following actions were taken:

- Approved the recommendation from representative Session members for Jan Yates and Loran Olsen to transfer their membership from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church to FPCPA.
- Approved the deposit of the \$100,000 anonymous gift to the investment account at New Covenant Trust Company.
- Discussed holding an easter egg hunt for the younger children during the Sunday School hour on Palm Sunday, with the older children planning to hide the eggs for the children in the church basement.

- Discussed holding VBS at FPCPA this summer, reaching out to other churches in town to see who might be interested in participating.
- Discussed participation in a Zoom chat session with Mark Charles, author of the book *Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery* on February 25.
- Discussed opening the chat to others in the congregation who have read the book and would like to join with Session members.

Worshiping and Learning

Ash Wednesday and Lent Observances

February 14 is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent. Two special services will be offered on Ash Wednesday, one at noon and one at 6 pm.



Services during Lent

Lenten Vespers, Thursdays, beginning February 22. Supper at 6:15 pm, Worship at 7pm

This is a very special time in our Christian calendar, Lent. It is the time we as a church family can 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 all 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.

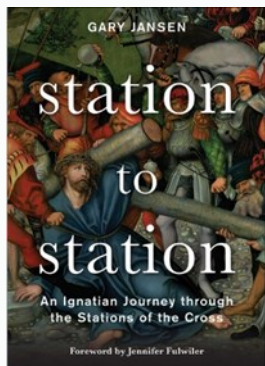


Adult Sunday School

Sundays, 9:45 - 10:45 am

Nazareth Room upstairs

Lenten Reflection on the Stations of the Cross



During the season of Lent, our adult Sunday school class will reflect on the 14 stations of the cross, which commemorate Jesus' journey through the streets of Jerusalem on his way to Golgotha. The

stations of the cross have been used by Christians for hundreds of years as a spiritual practice and meditation on the suffering of Christ. Our journey will be aided by *Station to Station: An Ignatian Journey through the Stations of the Cross*, by Gary Jansen. Jansen's approach to the biblical stations of the cross invites readers to reflect on Jesus' response to the violence imposed upon him, but also how his response to suffering informs ours. The journey is shaped by an Ignatian spiritual approach that invites imaginative prayer as we walk with Jesus to the cross. The course begins on February 18 and concludes on March 24. A limited number of books will be available through the church office at a cost of \$12.

Book Discussion

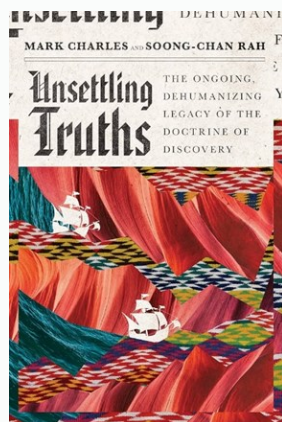
Unsettling Truths: A Conversation with Author Mark Charles

Sunday, February 25, 12:15 - 2 pm

Mark Charles, co-author of *Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery* will join us via

Zoom a discussion about his book, which was featured at Verge—Northwest Coast Presbytery's annual ministry conference—last fall. Charles is an engaging speaker, and we are delighted to have this exclusive opportunity to talk to him about his book, co-authored by Soong-Chan Rah.

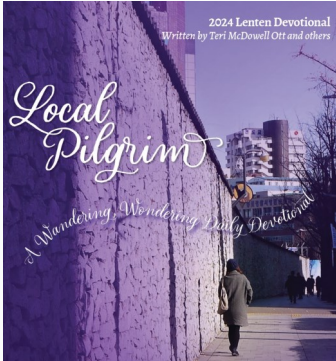
We will gather in the fellowship hall after the second service for a meal and then be joined by Mark Charles at 1 pm for an hour-long question and answer time. Please come with your questions and comments for Mark.



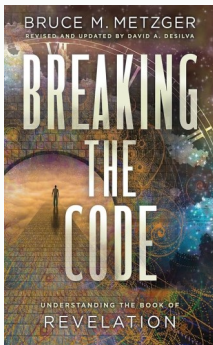
New Personal Lenten Devotional Series

A brand new Lenten devotional series will be available in the office and Fellowship Hall beginning February 4, the day of the annual meeting.

The series is called *Local Pilgrim: A Wandering Wondering Daily Devotional*. Its readings begin on Ash Wednesday (February 14) and continue through Easter Sunday (March 31).



The readings invite us to explore our local community: to visit usual and unusual locations, to observe and listen to people's stories, and to see where God is active there.



Weekly Book Discussion

**Wednesdays,
7 - 8 pm, Zoom
This class began
January 24.**

The Christian Formation Committee is having a weekly book

discussion of Bruce M. Metzger's book *Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation*.

The Book of Revelation contains passages of great beauty and comfort, as well as passages that strike the casual reader as bizarre, bewildering, and sometimes frightening. How are readers today to discern God's message in this peculiar part of the Bible? *Breaking the Code* provides a trustworthy guide to the rich symbolism of this important biblical book.

Volunteering & Donating

Food Bank Volunteers



Please consider joining a group of us from FPCPA plan at the PA Food Bank (632 N Oakridge Dr.) the second Thursday of each

month at 10 am for about an hour of united effort. Please contact Barb Pappas (bpappas378@gmail.com) about the application the Food Bank requires (can be completed online) and to be identified as part of our group. You do not have to attend each month, but you need to be cleared in advance.



Free Little Food Pantry

The Mission and Outreach Committee makes every effort to address the urgent community needs in this place we call home. Right now hunger and food instability are at crisis levels for many families in our neighborhoods. The Mission Committee is partnering with the Washington State University Extension Service to be of assistance during these unstable times. We have committed to providing food, and other supplies to help fill the **Free Little Food Pantry** at 4th and Lincoln in Port Angeles.

County statistics show that the most frequent visitors to food pantries are moms with young children and senior citizens. The Food Bank tells us that they have seen a huge increase (about 250%) in the number of new visitors.

There is a box to receive your donations and a sample list of food items in the Fellowship Hall. This will be an ongoing project and we will restock the **Free Little Food Pantry** a few times during the week. When you do your grocery shopping please considering choosing some food items that will be nutritious and tasty to feed a hungry neighbor.

TAFY Dinner

Saturday, February 3, 3:45 pm

We are responsible for a dinner for the TAFY Youth Center on February 3. If you can please help and provide a portion of a meal - a hot dish, salad, side dish, beverage or dessert.

There is a sign-up sheet at the Connection Center. Contact Marcia Logan 360-452-3535 for more information.



The 8:30 am nursery team needs occasional substitute helpers.

We have a great little bunch of kiddos attending now and our nursery team could use some assistance.

A security check is required which is quick and easy. Please call or visit the church office and the staff will start the process.

For more information contact Bonnie McCloskey 719-237-1022.



Valentine Care Packages

It has become a tradition for our church to send special Valentine care packages to those from our church who are either away at college or in the military. Valentine's Day is the perfect time to let them know that their church family is thinking about them.

Things included in the packages can be candy, either homemade or bought, as well as cookies and other sweet treats. Packages can also include snacks such as popcorn, chips, crackers, coffee, tea, coffee gift cards, etc. Maybe a pack of cards or a small game, stamps, pens, paper. The list goes on and on.

There usually are about 10 boxes that get sent out. I know the recipients always enjoy the little gifts from their home church .

There is a collection box in the Fellowship Hall for the goodies until February 11th. The Valentine Care Packages will be sent out shortly thereafter. If you have the name and address of a college student from our church and would like them to receive a Valentine Care Package please send that information to the office as soon as possible.

—Pam Carnahan



MANNA, a charitable organization our church supports is looking for volunteers. This work involves greeting clients as they arrive and some clerical activities. Volunteering requires three hours, one Thursday morning per month. MANNA's goal is to help the less fortunate weather difficult situations.

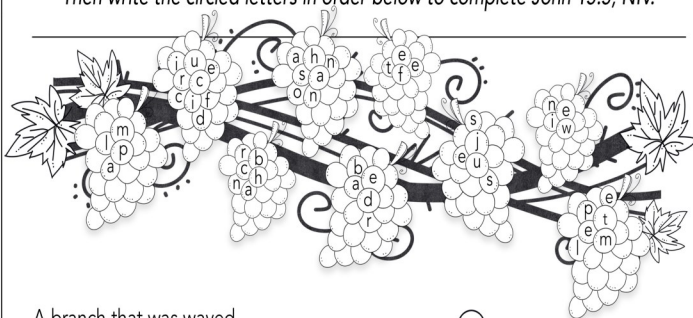
If you are interested please call Jim Ude, 360-452-3932.





A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.



- A branch that was waved _ _ _ _ _
- How Jesus was put to death _ _ _ _ _
- A stick attached to the vine _ _ _ _ _
- People shouted this to Jesus _ _ _ _ _
- Jesus washed these  _ _ _ _ _
- This was broken and eaten _ _ _ _ _
- The Messiah _ _ _ _ _ 
- A drink from grapes _ _ _ _ _
- Jesus drove the money changers from here _ _ _ _ _

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear _ _ _ _ _ ;
apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5, NIV

Answer: palm, crucified, branch, hosanna, feet, bread, Jesus, wine, temple; much fruit

Thank You



The gift of warmth!

Thank you so much for your generous donations to the Give a Sock community care project. The final count was 415 pairs of socks donated.

That is amazing!

Thank you from the Mission & Outreach Committee.

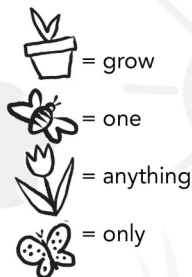


PLANT, WATER, GROW

Building a faith community takes work. How did the church in Corinth come to be?

Directions: Use the code to fill in the words and complete a teaching of the apostle Paul.

KEY



I _____ the _____, Apollos _____ it,

but _____ has been making it _____

So neither the _____ who plants nor the

_____ who waters is _____

but _____, who makes things _____

1 Corinthians 3:6-7, NIV

Answer: planted, seed, watered, God, grow, one, one, anything, only, God, grow

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 3 pm Mission & Outreach Mtg 7 pm Worship & Music Committee Mtg - <i>Zoom</i>	2	3 3:45 pm TAFY Dinner
4 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Potluck Lunch 1:00 pm Annual Meeting	5	6 8 am FISH Company 1:30 pm Community Life 5:30 pm CE Children's Committee 6:45 pm Praise Team	7 9 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Breaking the Code - <i>Zoom</i>	8 10 am Food Bank Helpers	9	10 1 pm Jenna & Julius Commitment of Vows 4 pm Youth Mardi Gras Party
11 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service	12 1 pm Naomi Circle	13 8 am FISH Company 3 pm B, G & P Committee Meeting 6:45 pm Praise Team	14 9 am Women's Bible Study Noon & 6 pm Ash Wednesday <i>Services</i>	15 10:30 am Book Club 1 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30 pm Reel Reflections	16	17
18 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service	19 7 pm Session Mtg March Highlight articles due	20 8 am FISH Company 4 pm Deacons Mtg 6:45 pm Praise Team	21 9 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Breaking the Code - <i>Zoom</i>	22	23	24 2 pm Mexican Train Dominoes
25 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service 12:15 pm Potluck Lunch 1:00 pm Book Discussion with Mark Charles 4 pm OPOP	26	27 8 am FISH Company 6:45 pm Praise Team	28 9 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Breaking the Code - <i>Zoom</i>	29	<div>Don't Miss the DEADLINE!</div> <div>March Highlights articles due <i>February 19</i></div>	

february

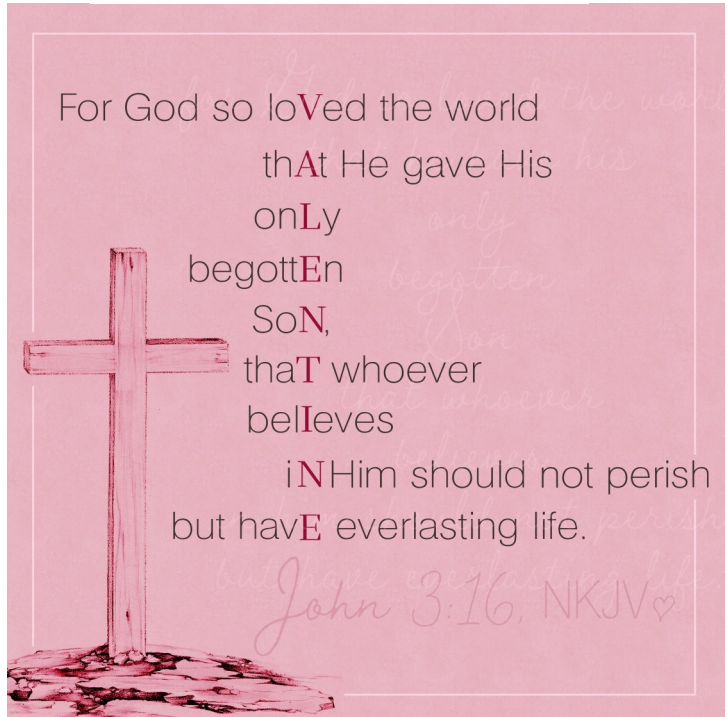
BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Sharon Bowman
- 7 Tina Gaiser
- 9 Judy Higbee
Steve DeBiddle
- 10 Mike Ellis
- 14 Bob Walter
- 15 Dorita Reed
- 16 Gail Triggs
- 17 Tim Pearson
- 19 Colin Monaghan
- 23 Chuck Whitney
- 24 Ann Allen
- 25 Edna Haworth
Lillian Woolsey
Loretta Chapman
- 26 Bonnie McCloskey
- 28 Michael Wilkinson

february

anniversaries

- 10 Andy & Vicki Anderson
- 14 Perry & Chris Keeling



Planning Ahead



Sunday, March 24th

8:30 am & 11:00 am



Thursday, March 28th

Soup Supper at 6:30 pm,

Worship at 7:30 pm



Friday, March 29th

Worship at 7:30 pm



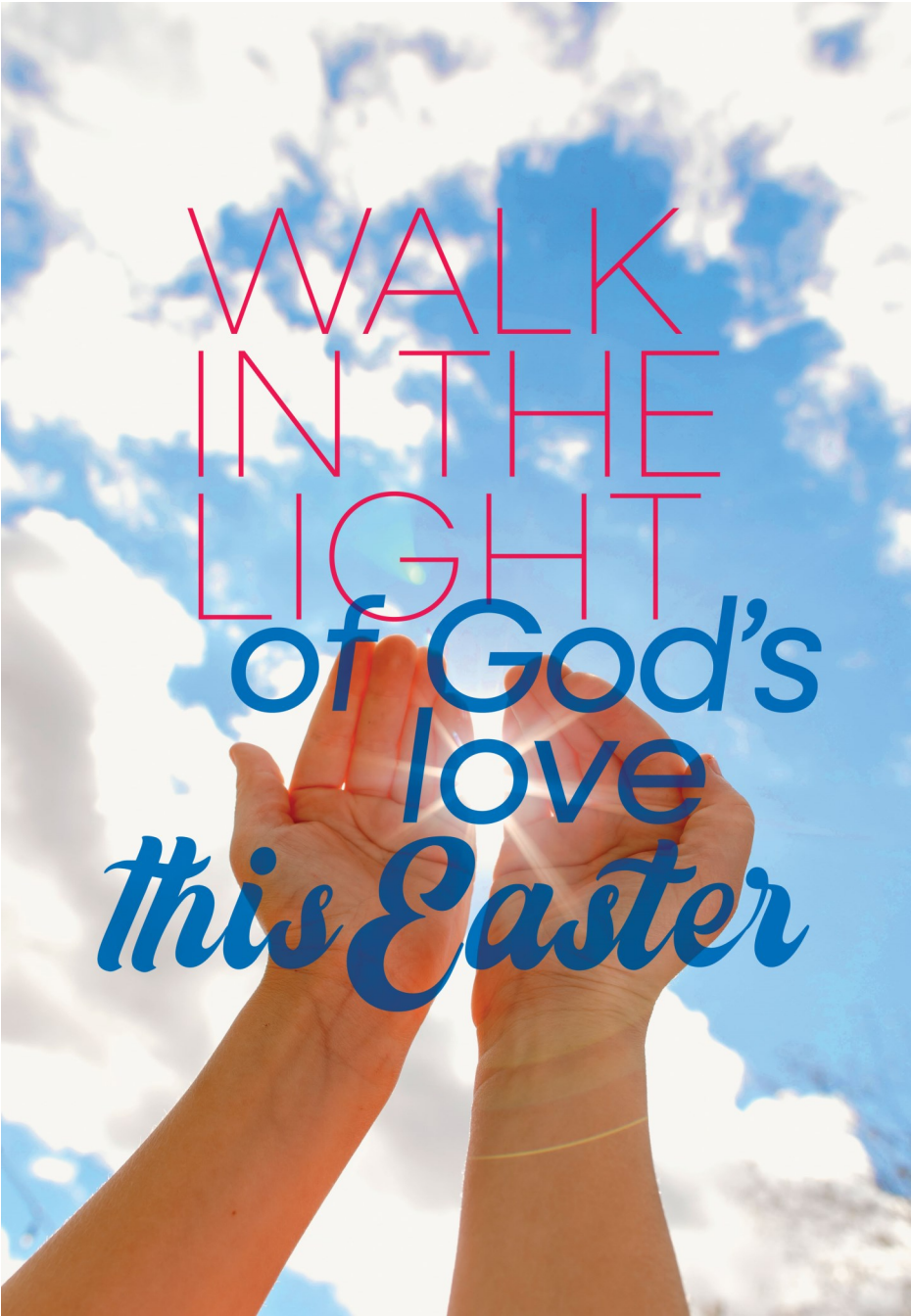
Sunday, March 31

8:30 am & 11:00 am



Sunday, March 31

9:30 - 10:30 am



February 2024

First Presbyterian Church

139 W. 8th St., Port Angeles, WA 98362

360-452-4781 | fpcpa.org

Worship Services

Sundays 8:30 and 11 am

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 10 am - 3 pm

Closed on Friday

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

Pastor Matt Paul, pastor@fpcpa.org

Lauren Corder, Office Manager,

administrator@fpcpa.org

Cathi Hughes, Office Assistant,

office@fpcpa.org

Email and phone messages will be answered when the church office is open.

Online Resources

Church Website: fpcpa.org

Online Worship: fpcpa.org/worship

Giving Online:

Look for this  on our website.

Inclement Weather

Should the church need to cancel services and/or church events due to inclement weather, we will utilize several methods to inform you about the closure: 1) the home page of our church website (fpcpa.org), 2) our [Facebook](#) page, 3) our telephone answering machine message (360-452-4781), and 4) email. Please call or email the office if you have questions (administrator@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