



September 2025

Highlights

From the Heart

Dear Friends in Christ,
Who knew there were so many ways to sing
God's praises?

For several months now we have been singing various short hymns in place of the Doxology—or *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*, as it is titled in our hymnal—just to mix things up a little. The experiment has allowed us to sing praises to God with a whole host of different lyrics, tunes, tempos, and genres. At the root of most of them is one simple word: *Hallelujah!*

Hallelujah means, “Let [us] praise the Lord.” It is a Hebrew word found only in the Psalms—in the section between Psalms 104-150, to be exact—where it punctuates several of psalms with an exclamation of praise. In the hymnal, you have also seen it spelled *alleluia*, which is simply a Greek transliteration of the Hebrew



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word. In the Greek version of the Old Testament and in the Latin Vulgate translation hallelujah is transcribed *alleluia* rather translated. Thus, you will notice the hymnal contains hallelujahs and alleluias.

Interestingly, the only place you find the actual word *hallelujah* in the New Revised Standard Version is in Revelation 19:1-6 where John hears a great multitude in heaven singing, "Hallelujah!" repeatedly. Liturgically, the only time you *won't* typically hear or sing hallelujah is during Lent, where the tone of the season is more somber. (Think: quiet introspection instead of loud shouts of PRAISE THE LORD!)

Although the word is used somewhat sparingly in the Bible, you will find it throughout our hymnal. I suppose there are various reasons for this. First, "Praise the Lord!" is what worship and hymn singing is all about! Secondly, because it comes directly from the Hebrew, the word carries meaning across languages and cultures. We can sing, "*Hallelujah!*" with brothers and sisters in Christ from all over the world and know what one another is saying...just like the great multitude in heaven in Revelation 19.

Praise the Lord!

Godspeed,

Matt



Worshipping and Learning

Praise Team Rehearsals

Resumes in September

Contact Michael Rivers for more information michael.r@fpcpa.org.

Sunday School Kick-off

Sunday, September 7

Fellowship Hall, 9:45 am

Information will be available on the upcoming Sunday School classes for both adults and children.

Youth Sunday School

For Kindergarten - 5th grade.

Sundays, 9:45 am

Resumes Sunday, September 14

Our first unit is called, *Visits and Visions*, and will include Stephen, Philip and the Ethiopian, Paul and Peter. All the lessons in the first quarter will be from the Book of Acts.

For students in the 4th and 5th grades, there will be different activities more suitable to their age in the same lesson.

Young Disciples Sunday School

For 6th - 12th graders

Sundays, 9:45 am, every other week

Beginning Sunday, September 14

Young disciples in Middle School and High School are invited to join this Sunday School Class.

We will start exploring “*God’s Promises for Life.*”

Contact Rainy Birch for more information 360-460-7659 or rainy.b@fpcpa.org.



Adult Sunday School

Sundays, 9:45 am

Resumes Sunday, September 14

Todd Haworth and Wayne Brown will be leading this 11-week course on the Apostle's Creed.

The Apostle's Creed – A Fresh Look

It's easy and comfortable to live as a Christian detached from a coherent understanding of what we believe about the One in whom we believe.

The Apostle's Creed has given Christians a coherent foundation of belief for centuries. Despite the simplicity of the creed, its content has been understood in a variety of ways over the years, suggesting the followers of Jesus have a fresh message to meet the times in which they live. How important is it to believe in the virgin birth? What was Jesus doing in Hell? Why think about life everlasting in this troubled and divided world that needs help now? Join Todd Haworth and Wayne Brown this fall for a fresh look at the Apostle's Creed.

Naomi Circle

Resumes Tuesday, September 9, 1pm

2nd Monday schedule resumes in October.

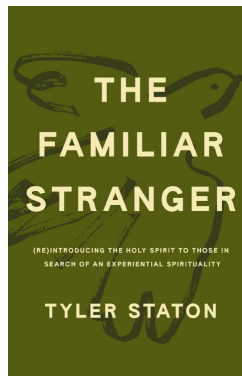
Fellowship Hall

Naomi Circle will continue to study from the book *Brave and Beloved, An In-Depth Study of Women of the Bible*.

If you need a book please contact the church office and we will order one for you. If you have questions contact Beverly Brown, 360-457-8205, antbk2p2@olypen.com.

Thursday Evening Study Group

Begins Thursday, September 25 - November 6, 7 pm, Zoom Meeting

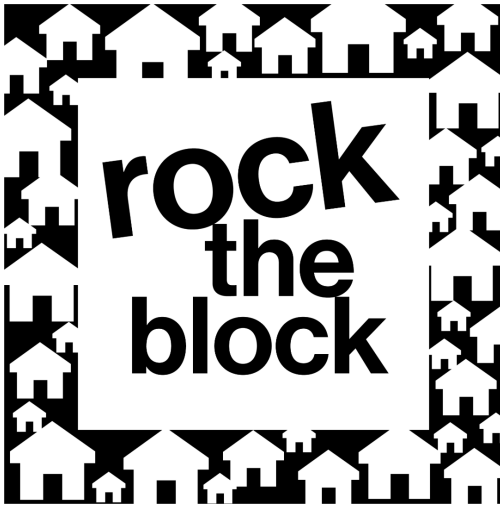


Stan Jacobson will lead this class studying from the book *The Familiar Stranger* by Tyler Staton. In this study Staton reintroduces this oft-neglected Person of the Trinity, tracing the

story of the Holy Spirit as it unfolds throughout the Bible, and inviting believers to close the gap between what Scripture reveals about the Holy Spirit and their lived experience.

Giving

Rock the Block



Saturday, September 27

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Rock the Block is an event that will serve the people in our church's neighborhood by supplying large city dumpsters for folks to dump unwanted items. The dumpsters will be situated in the church parking lot. There is no fee for this service.

There will also be hot dogs and cookies for our neighbors as well as representatives from local service

organizations.

Our church is partnering with Habitat for Humanity specifically their *Aging in Place* program. We will also receive help from Peninsula College, and Port Angeles High School students in this effort.

Would you like to help with this big block party?

We are looking hot dog cooks, traffic directors, cookie bakers, and greeters who will welcome people, answer questions, and encourage residents to stay a while.

Come join the fun as we clean up the neighborhood, meet our neighbors, and Rock the Block.

There are sign up sheets at the Connection Center.

Peace with Creation Season of Creation 2025

On September 21, we will celebrate the Season of Creation. Interestingly, the 21st of September is also the International Day of Peace.

The theme this year is Peace with Creation. The scripture is Isaiah 32:14-18.

On Sunday, September 21, there will be a free will offering. We would like to encourage each congregational member to give whatever they can towards the purchase of saplings. \$30.00 will purchase 90 saplings that are listed in the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog*. Our hope is to collect at least ten sets of the sapling offerings.

This would help areas that are facing deforestation. We will call this offering the “saplings”. You can give online or write a check to First Presbyterian Church of Port Angeles and in the memo section, write “saplings”.



The website for the Season of Creation is <https://www.seasonofcreation.org>.

Thank you for your continued support.

Creation Care Team



A Symbol of Peace

My friends, during Prayers of the People, I often look up at the pew where Anna Barrigan sat and almost weekly asked for peace. I miss her and her steadfast voice. We need peace. I do, personally, nationally, and globally.

After the Creation Care team began to meet about the Season of Creation worship service and the theme “Peace with Creation”, up went the new sanctuary banner with the dove of peace.

Look around your home for a dove or something that symbolizes your desire for peace. Bring that object to worship on September 21 and place it in the front of the sanctuary during the opening worship songs.



Here is what I found to bring.
~ Martha

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Church Office Closed	2 12:30 pm Community Life	3	4 1 pm Love Box 3 pm Mission & Outreach	5	6 9 am Sizzling Super Sale
7 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service Sunday School Kick-off	8 2 pm Julius Johnson Memorial Service	9 8 am FISH Company 1 pm Naomi Circle	10 9 am Women's Bible Study 9 am "Chain Gang" Traylor's	11	12	13
14 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School resumes	15 7 pm Session	16 8 am FISH Company 4 pm Deacons Mtg	17 9 am Women's Bible Study 9 am "Chain Gang" Traylor's	18 10:30 am Book Club 1 pm MANNA Monthly Meeting	19	20
21 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School Creation Sunday	22 1 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	23 8 am FISH Company	24 9 am Women's Bible Study 9 am "Chain Gang" Traylor's	25 7 pm Thursday Evening Study Group	26	27 10 am Rock the Block
28 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School	29	30 8 am FISH Company	1 9 am Women's Bible Study 9 am "Chain Gang" Traylor's	2 1 pm Love Box 7 pm Thursday Evening Study Group	3	4 3:45 pm TAFY Dinner Donations
			Coffee Hour is only offered after the first service, from 9:45 - 10:45 am.			

Church Business Items

Session Actions

Session did not meet in August. The next Session meeting will be on September 8.

Financials

July 2025

Income Y-T-D \$247,818

2025 Income Budgeted \$412,380

Expenses Year-to-Date (\$236,341)

2025 Expenses Budgeted
(\$419,704)

Capital Spending Year-to-Date
(\$21,034)

*2025 Annual Capital Budget
(\$46,534)

*This was adjusted according to the amount spent on water damage repairs.

Good news! The actual expenses for repairs were less than anticipated.

Water Damage Building Repairs
(This includes 2024 & 2025)
(\$259,526)

Water Damage Insurance Payment
\$245,594

Capital Expense spent on Water
Damage (\$13,932)

Vacation Bible School collected \$208.46 for Operation Kid to Kid for winter clothing. Through this program, this will result in \$2,918.44 worth of winter clothing donated.

Memorial Service



Monday, September 8, 2 pm

First Presbyterian Church

A memorial service for *Julius Johnson* is planned for Monday, September 8 at 2 pm

at First Presbyterian Church. There will be a reception to follow.

Thank you

The TAFY youth expressed appreciation and gratitude for the August meal provided by First Presbyterian members. They said their food was, "the bomb, top notch and the best ever."

Our TAFY rotating team responsible for coordinating and receiving meals at TAFY are Martha Bell, Susan Fisher, Dona Hair, and Chris Watkins. The team is very mindful and thankful for your continued generosity and participation.

The next TAFY meal provided by our church is Saturday, October 4. Sign-up sheet is at the Connection Center.

Little Free Pantry

Monetary donations in July helped stock up the Little Free Pantry shelves at church along with a generous amount in the donation bin for August.

Last Sunday there were over 150 items! I placed bags of plums in the pantry while my plum tree was producing; now the peach tree is providing.

Thank you for your generosity. Martha

Dear church family,
Thank you so much for giving me a Scholarship for camp. I went to a young life camp called creek side in Oregon. I went with my best friend Mason. Me and Mason hung out a lot and our favorite part was definitely the pool and waterslides. There was so many fun things

to do there like football, pool, air hockey, carpet ball, mini golf, nine squares, gaga ball, pickleball, volleyball, basketball, and most fun of all the water slides! I had so much fun and I just can't wait to go back next year.

Thanks again,
Isaac Wendel

Events

Book Club

Thursday, September 18, 10:30 am

Fellowship Hall

Five years ago, Geeta lost her no-good husband. As in, she actually *lost* him—he walked out on her and she has no idea where he is. But in her remote village in India, rumor has it that Geeta killed him. And it's a rumor that just won't die.



It turns out that being known as a “self-made” widow comes with some perks. No one messes with her, harasses her, or tries to control

(ahem, marry) her. It's even been good for business; no one dares to *not* buy her jewelry.

continued next page

Sizzling Super Sale

Saturday,
September 6

9 am - 2 pm,
Fellowship Hall

All proceeds will benefit *Olympic Angels*, a nonprofit supporting foster care in Clallam County.

Donations taken
September 3 - 5 ,
10 am - 2pm in the
Fellowship Hall

Dinners for Seven

Are you interested in attending a monthly dinner with congregation members?

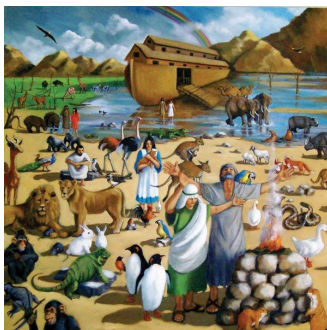
Participants will be divided into groups of seven or eight members and take part in three or more activities with that group over a period of a few months. Groups have most often had potluck dinners at members' homes. Other groups have had picnics, attended plays or sports events or met at restaurants. Each group decides how they want to proceed.

This is an opportunity to really get to know the people you go to church with. This event was very popular in the past. We hope you'll join! Sign-up sheets are at the Connection Center. Contact Rosalyn Taylor for information. 360-477-4062

Freedom must look good on Geeta, because now other women are asking for her “expertise,” making her an unwitting consultant for husband disposal. And not all of them are asking nicely.

With Geeta’s dangerous reputation becoming a double-edged sword, she has to find a way to protect the life she’s built—but even the best-laid plans of would-be widows tend to go awry. What happens next sets in motion a chain of events that will change everything, not just for Geeta, but for *all* the women in their village.

Filled with clever criminals, second chances, and wry and witty women, Parini Shroff’s *The Bandit Queens* is a razor-sharp debut of humor and heart that readers won’t soon forget.



**Farewell to the
Flood Potluck**
**Sunday,
September 21,
12:30 pm**

We are
celebrating the
completion of

the repairs due to the January 2024 flood, with a church family potluck. Bring your favorite dish to share. Please sign

up at the Connection Center. See you there.

Reel Reflections

Returns on
Thursday,
October 16
showing *Lemon
Tree*.

Reel Reflections is most typically on the third Thursday, though that is subject to change. All the movies this year will be shown at the church, if possible, via Zoom, as well.



Mexican Train Dominoes

Mexican Train Dominoes resumes in October. We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall on the 4th Saturday of the month at 2 pm until 4 - 4:30 pm.

The dates we will play this fall are:

Saturday, October 25

Saturday, November 22

It would be wonderful to have more people join the group. Please come and invite your friends. If you have never played that is not a problem. Helping hands are always ready to coach beginners.

Contact Steve or Melanie DeBiddle at 360-477-3643 for more information.

Lavender Potluck

Sunday, August 3, 2025





1	Walter Higbee
3	Dan Cobb
3	Glenda Jaquins
5	Jodee Force
9	Bryn Christensen
16	Becca Paul
20	Lorrie Corder
22	Bill Isenberger
23	Rosalie Doty
24	Tessa Rivers
25	Karen Kremkau
26	Barbara Buchanan
27	Susan Evans



September Anniversaries

5	Larry & Bobby Buckley
7	John & Josie Davis
8	Paul & Sheri Stutesman
9	Mark Wendt & Dorita Reed
24	John & Rosalyn Taylor

Supporting Our Schools

Our church has supported the Port Angeles elementary schools for many years with crayons, glue sticks, and more. It's that time of year to start purchasing school supplies for our Port Angeles children. They all need a lot of supplies.

Below is a list of needed school supplies.

- * 24 pack Crayola Crayons
- * 12 pack Crayola colored pencils
- * 12 pack Crayola markers
- * Ticonderoga or Dixon yellow pencils
- * Pink erasers
- * Pencil sharpeners
- * Elmer's glue sticks
- * Student scissors
- * 1 inch – 3 ring binders
- * Cute Peechees
- * Pencil boxes or pouches
- * Spiral theme notebooks

There is a drop-off bin in the hallway outside the church office.

COOOOOKIES!

It's also time to think about home - baked cookies. For the past few years we have been baking and delivering cookies to the devoted staff and teachers at Port Angeles elementary schools.

They love them, they appreciate them, and cookies are always great to receive.

There is a sign-up sheet at the Connection Center.

Thank you for your generosity.





Mother Says Detox

...Mother Nature, that is. Below are ten items that, according to *Talking with Docs on YouTube* should be eliminated from your home environment.

Dryer Sheets release VOC's (volatile organic compounds) which have been associated with cancer. Wool dryer balls are a good alternative.

Non-Stick Pans release PER's (polyfluoroalkyls) also associated with cancer. If you can't do without, replace the pans often and don't use metal utensils or abrasives for cleaning.

Air Fresheners and Plug-Ins contain phthalates which are endocrine disruptors. Good alternatives are a little cinnamon on the burner, a lit match in the bathroom, or good old ventilation.

Plastic Food Containers release "forever chemicals" into your food and body, especially after prolonged food storage or heating. Even BPA-free plastics are not necessarily safe. Glass is a better choice.

Cleaning Sprays: If you can smell it, you're introducing it into your body. Check the names in the chemical content. If you can't say it, don't spray it.

Scented Candles are associated with cancer. You're heating wax and scent (probably phthalates) to a high temperature, releasing toxic molecules which you inhale.

Microwave Popcorn: You're heating a plastic lined paper bag to a very high temperature...not good. Popcorn popped in a covered pan on the burner topped with butter or a flavored olive oil (yum!) is healthier and less expensive.

Antibacterial Soap contains endocrine disruptors, causes dermatitis in some, and may contribute to increasing bacterial resistance.

Plastic Shower Curtains: What you're smelling when you open a new package are VOCs and phthalates.

Herbicides and Pesticides are not only bad for pests and weeds, but bad for you and bad for Mother Nature.

Interfaith Care Coalition

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



How/where/when do you most often
sing praises to God?

Online Resources

Church Website: fpcpa.org

Online Worship: fpcpa.org/worship

Giving Online:

Look for this button on our website.

GIVE ONLINE