



# *Highlights* First Presbyterian Church

## From the Heart

“[Master] when did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?” Then the King will say, “I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.”

—Matthew 25:37b-40, *The Message*

Dear Friends in Christ,

When Nancy Jacobson introduced our church’s sponsorship of a nearby little food pantry, I was moved by the information she shared. Contrary to what I had assumed, for instance, most of the food from the pantries goes to people with roofs over their heads. These are people with jobs, families, rent or mortgage payments, medical bills, utility bills, and so on, who just trying to make ends meet. In fact, the local director of the program will sometimes avail himself to the LFP when funds are tight. The people who use the pantries are our neighbors, our classmates, our coworkers, who from time to time need a little help putting food on the table. They are also contributors, as some who find themselves with a little extra food will share with others through those same pantries.

Nancy’s minute for mission brought home to me the reality that our neighbors may not always know where their next meal is coming from. We are not talking about people in far off lands, but people right down the street.

*From the Heart continued on p.2*

We see them every day going to work, mowing their lawns, walking to the mailbox, and waving hello when as they pass by walking their dogs. This fact helps us put faces to real needs in our community.

At the start of this year's Lenten season, I suggested people try an alternative fast of doing some form of justice and righteousness on behalf of others. The idea came from reading Isaiah 58:6-7: *"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?"* So, when I made plans for my own fasting, I committed to purchasing something for the little food pantry each time I went grocery shopping for myself.

I learned a few things from that experience. First of all, I make more trips to the grocery store than I thought! Although I am not the primary grocery shopper in our home, all those trips to the store to pick up an item or two for dinner, grab a treat, or for when it was my turn to get healthy snacks for the office, sure added up. Per my fast, each trip, whether for a little or for a lot, meant adding items to the shopping cart for others.

My shopping habits for others changed over time. At first, I was focused on just meeting my commitment. This meant randomly tossing things into the grocery cart to fulfill my Lenten fast. I would still look for things that could be made for a good meal, but not necessarily items I would care to eat. For instance, processed rice and noodle dishes that, while tasty, have way too much added salt and preservatives and nevertheless went into the shopping cart. As time went on I began to be more thoughtful, looking at labels, finding good buys, and combining items like pasta and sauce to make a meal—just as Nancy had suggested.

April 2024

Toward the end of my Lenten journey, another thing happened: I began to imagine the people I was shopping for: spaghetti and pasta for the single mom and her two kids; coffee to fuel a student's morning or late-night study session; soup for the elderly widower dining alone. These were Matthew 25 moments, seeing Jesus in the LFP shoppers. Drawing direct connections between the simple act of shopping for others and practicing a central tenet of the Gospel—to love your neighbor as yourself.

Although Lent is over, please consider such a fast as this in celebration of our Risen Lord.

*I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.*

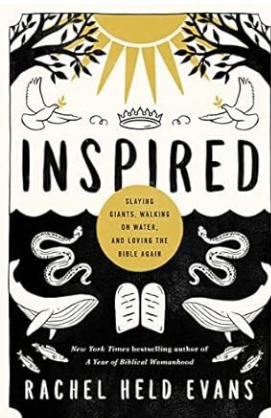
Godspeed,

Matt



## Worshiping and Learning

### New Adult Sunday School Sunday, April 7



This study will work through the book *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans. The class will meet during the Sunday School hour in the upstairs classroom beginning April 7.

Copies of the book are available through the office. Come join us as we look at the Bible with a fresh perspective and seek to be inspired by God's Word.

"While Christians believe the Bible to be uniquely revelatory and authoritative to the faith, we have no reason to think its many authors were exempt from the mistakes, edits, rewrites, and dry spells of everyday creative work. Nor should we, as readers, expect every encounter with the text to leave us happily awestruck and enlightened. Inspiration, on both the giving and receiving end, takes practice and patience. It means showing up even when you don't feel

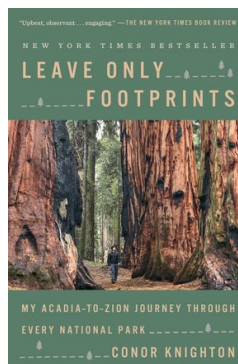
like it, even when it seems as if no one else is there. It means waiting for wind to stir. God is still breathing. The Bible is both inspired and inspiring. Our job is to ready the sails and gather the embers, to discuss and debate, and like the biblical character Jacob, to wrestle with the mystery until God gives us a blessing. If you're curious, you will never leave the text without learning something new. If you're persistent, you just might leave inspired." --Rachel Held Evans

## Special Events

### Book Club

**Thursday, April 18, 10:30 am,  
Fellowship Hall**

April's selection is *Leave Only*



*Footprints: My Acadia-to-Zion Journey Through Every National Park* by Conor Knighton. Knighton shares informative and entertaining dispatches from what turned out to be the road trip of a

lifetime.

Contact [bpappas378@gmail.com](mailto:bpappas378@gmail.com).



## Reel Reflections

**Dinner and a Movie Edition: *Barbie***

**Thursday, April 18, 6:00 pm**

**Hybrid: In person or by Zoom**

Barbie (Margot Robbie) is living her perfect life in Barbie Land, until calamities strike: a cold shower, spoiled milk, flat feet, and (gasp) cellulose. Suddenly, thoughts of her own mortality begin to creep into her head, an unheard thing of in Barbie Land. Facing an existential crisis, she must travel to the real world to unlock the mystery of her unraveling world. Joined by Ken (Ryan Gosling), she soon discovers the joy, peril, and complexity of life among humans.

Join us April 18 for dinner and a movie with *Barbie*, last summer's blockbuster movie featuring a modern look at a cultural icon. While bright, smiling, and pink on the outside, *Barbie* poignantly tackles an array of weighty modern topics, and one very important theological one: *What were we made for?*

For this "Dinner and a Movie Edition" we invite you to BYOD, *Bring Your Own Dinner*.

Please join Pastor Matt and friends for this moving film and stay afterwards to for discussion.

**\*Note: we will start the movie at 6:30 pm, with discussion following around 8:30 pm. Feel free to join us at the church or online.**

## Youth Group Beach Clean-up

**Saturday, April 20**



**8:30 am**

More details coming soon in the weekly eNews.

## **Mexican Train Dominoes**

**Saturday, April 27, 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 360-457-1843 for information.

## **Volunteering & Donating**

### **TAFY Dinner**

**Saturday, April 6, 3:45 pm**



April 6, is First Presbyterian's date to contribute to The Answer for Youth (TAFY) dinner.

You can donate a portion of a meal: a hot dish, salad, side dish, beverage or dessert. There is a sign-up sheet at the Connection Center or contact Marcia Logan at 360-452-3535.

### **Session Actions**

The Session met in a hybrid meeting in the Fellowship Hall and online via Zoom on Monday, March 18 at 7 pm,

and the following actions were taken:

- Received a report from Session members who met with Janet Schade stating that she has been accepted into membership at FPCPA.
- Approved the use of the Sanctuary on September 7 for the 50th anniversary celebration of Roberta Sue Kennedy and Rodney Stephenson who were married there on September 6, 1974.
- Approved increasing the budgeted amount for VBS in 2024 from \$250.00 to \$500.00.
- Approved Pastor Matt's request for time off from May 17 - 23.  
Approved Paul Mattson to serve as pulpit supply on May 19.

### **February Financials**

Income Year-to-Date: \$81,267

Income Budgeted Pro Rata: \$63,480

2024 Annual Income Budgeted:  
\$380,880

Expenses Year-to-Date: \$82,966  
Expenses Budgeted YTD: \$69,608  
2024 Annual Expenses Budgeted:  
\$417,647

Capital Spending YTD: \$24,158

2024 Annual Capital Budget: \$48,650

April 2024

## OPOP Update

Last month, the OPOP Team decided to disband in an official capacity.

We made the decision after an extended time of reflection, noting the struggle it has been to support Jordan since her move back to the Tri-Cities last summer. That challenge became more difficult once she stopped checking in with her parole officer. In recent months, our communication with Jordan has been very sparse.

Although we will no longer be meeting in an official capacity, we will continue to pray for Jordan. Individually we will keep in contact with her through messages and emails. We have also pledged to connect her with local resources in the Tri-Cities area if she wants our assistance getting back on the path to recovery.

While this is a sad occasion, we will always remember the excitement when she was released from prison and as we walked with her in starting a new life. We will remember her baptism and the covenant we made to walk with her as siblings in Christ. She and Noah will remain in our hearts.

We see in Jordan a gifted young woman with incredible potential. In our brief time together, we saw in her flashes of resilience, resourcefulness, and a dedication to reaching her goals that we know are still there as gifts from God. We give thanks to the Lord for her gifts, and we hope to be part of her success story one day.

Please join us in continued prayer for Jordan and for Noah.

Yours in Christ,

OPOP Team



*Jordan and Noah at last year's church retreat.*





THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,  
 Thank you so much for the wonderful Valentine's Day gifts! I loved the cards, treats, snacks, socks, and Starbucks gift cards. It was so nice to receive a fun gift box in the middle of a busy semester. Thank you for always supporting me even on the other side of the country.  
 -Emma Weller

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Forever USA

First Presbyterian Church

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Port Angeles, WA  
 98362



John 8:12

First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for the Special Valentine's day box! That was so sweet and made me feel so loved! I am looking forward to going back to school soon, but right now I am loving working as an LPN! Thank you for the constant support you all have given me!

Love,  
 Anne Edwards



# Beachcombing

When I was a child in Port Townsend, my parents would occasionally load up the truck with junk for the dump, rusty buckets, old carpeting, odd bits of metal, wood that was too rotten to burn and the like. We'd head for what was then called Middle Point, back up to the cliff overlooking the water park and dump away. This stopped in 1960 and the beach below is now fondly called Glass Beach.

Many years ago, my cousin and I walked there from North Beach. It was not a short or easy jaunt and luckily the tide didn't catch us against the cliff face. We found beautiful treasures. Lots of regular beach glass but also pieces of old china plates with opaque edges and shiny bits of pattern still on the surface, shards of milky green Jadeite glass, and cut crystal that had turned lavender, all worn smooth by surf and sand. We made mosaics on bricks with our finds to put in our gardens.

Imagine what we might dump over the cliff today that would end up on the beach where currents would take it who-knows-where. We're glad we don't do that anymore but the truth is we unwittingly do. According to National Geographic, 91% of plastics are not recycled. Millions of pounds, along with other trash, wash up on beaches yearly. When we beachcombed as children, we might find a shell, a starfish or the big prize a glass float from Japan. In some places today children are more likely to find plastic bottles and bags and creatures that have died unnaturally in the tangle.

What can one person do until science and governments tackle the problem?

- Avoid single-use plastics when you can.
- Invest in a reusable water bottle.
- Use non-plastic, reusable grocery bags.
- Pick up beach trash whenever you visit but also participate in organized beach clean-up events. The trash may end up back on the beach, but the data collected is useful to those trying to tackle the problem and not cleaning up is too ugly an alternative.



## Earth Day...a little history

It may be hard to imagine that before 1970, a factory could spew black clouds of toxic smoke into the air or dump tons of toxic waste into a nearby stream, and that was perfectly legal. They could not be taken to court to stop it.

How was that possible? Because there was no EPA, no Clean Air Act, no Clean Water Act. There were no legal or regulatory mechanisms to protect our environment.

In the spring of 1970, Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin created Earth Day as a way to force this issue onto the national agenda. Twenty million Americans demonstrated in different U.S. cities, and it worked. In December 1970, Congress authorized the creation of a new federal agency to tackle environmental issues, the U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency**.

The April 22 date was selected in part because it fell between colleges' spring break and final exams, and also from the observance of Arbor Day, which began in Nebraska in 1872, a day when people are encouraged to plant trees. Since 1970, many important environmental events have happened on Earth Day, including the signing of the Paris Agreement on April 22, 2016.

Earth Day is now a global yearly event with 192 countries taking part in what is the largest civic-focused day of action in the world. It is a day of political action and civic participation. People march, sign petitions, meet with their elected officials, plant trees, clean up their towns and roads. Corporations and governments use it to make pledges and announce sustainability measures. Faith leaders, connect Earth Day with protecting God's greatest creations, humans, biodiversity, and the planet that we all live on.

What can you do to help our planet? Getting involved on Earth Day 2024 is a good place to start.



The theme for Earth Day 2024 is Planet vs. Plastics. The organization Earthday.org is committed to ending plastics for the sake of human and planetary health. The organization's goal is for a 60% reduction in the production of all plastics by 2040. April 21 will be Earth Day Sunday at First Presbyterian Church.

Reducing plastic use has been on my mind for a few years. I buy more glass storage containers and reach for a plastic bag less often.

A few weeks ago I read an article about microplastics and nanoplastics lodging in our organs creating health issues. I spent years at work using a microwave to heat my lunch in a plastic container. Yikes! There is plenty to learn and habits to change.

My first step is to pay attention to the plastics in my trash and in my recycling, so I can make some changes. I hope you will join me on this journey of reducing the use of plastics. My intention is to post information or a reflection in the eNews each week and hope for your input. Respond to [creation.care@fpcpa.org](mailto:creation.care@fpcpa.org).

Stepping out in faith, Martha Bell



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 8 am FISH Company 1:30 pm Community Life 5:30 pm CE Children's Committee 6:45 pm Praise Team	3 9 am Women's Bible Study	4 3 pm Mission & Outreach  7 pm Worship & Music Committee	5	6 3:45 pm TAFY Dinner Donations 
7 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service	8 12:30 pm Monday Musicales Board Meeting 1 pm Naomi Circle 2 pm B, G & P	9 8 am FISH Company 6:45 pm Praise Team	10 9 am Women's Bible Study	11  10 am Food Bank Helpers	12	13
14 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service	15 7 pm Session Meting	16 8 am FISH Company 4 pm Deacons Mtg 6:45 pm Praise Team	17 9 am Women's Bible Study	18 10:30 am Book Club 1 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Reel Reflections, <i>BYOD Edition</i>	19	20 8:30 am Youth Group Beach Clean-up
21 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service	22 May Highlights articles due 	23 8 am FISH Company 6:45 pm Praise Team	24 9 am Women's Bible Study	25	26	27  2 pm Mexican Train Dominoes
28 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service	29	30 8 am FISH Company 6:45 pm Praise Team				
						

April 2024



## Birthdays

- 1 Sue Mayo
- 4 Lucy Monaghan
- 5 Debbie Howe
- 8 Paul Stutesman
- 11 Monty Howe  
Seigfried Schneider
- 14 Trudy Smith
- 15 Leila Reyes
- 18 Michele Haworth  
Todd Haworth
- 22 Barb Pappas  
Jill Sharkey  
Susan Fisher
- 24 Emma Weller
- 25 Ardith Schhardt  
Bruce Emery  
Cindy Sofie
- 26 Carrie Heins
- 27 Bonnie Davidson
- 28 Dona Hair
- 29 Kennebeck Hawley
- 30 Marcia Logan  
Todd Ortloff



## Anniversaries

- 3 Chris & Peter Watkins
- 12 Monty & Debbie Howe
- 18 Bob & Dolly Hutchings
- 23 Michele & Ron Fraker

Puzzles



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

= God

= seed

= planted

= watered

= grow

= one

= anything

= only

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, anything, only, God, grow

Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) to discover how God shows his great love for us.

- 14 - 7 = \_\_\_\_\_ Father

10 + 9 = \_\_\_\_\_ heavenly

9 + 9 = \_\_\_\_\_ the

12 + 12 = \_\_\_\_\_ blessing

2 - 1 = \_\_\_\_\_ Praise

7 + 7 = \_\_\_\_\_ has

11 + 11 = \_\_\_\_\_ every

13 + 13 = \_\_\_\_\_ Christ

8 + 8 = \_\_\_\_\_ us

10 + 10 = \_\_\_\_\_ realms

8 + 9 = \_\_\_\_\_ in

5 + 5 = \_\_\_\_\_ Lord

10 + 11 = \_\_\_\_\_ with
- 10 + 15 = \_\_\_\_\_ in

10 - 5 = \_\_\_\_\_ God

6 - 3 = \_\_\_\_\_ to

12 - 6 = \_\_\_\_\_ and

6 + 6 = \_\_\_\_\_ Christ

18 - 9 = \_\_\_\_\_ our

22 - 11 = \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus

1 + 1 = \_\_\_\_\_ be

7 + 6 = \_\_\_\_\_ who

2 + 2 = \_\_\_\_\_ the

10 + 5 = \_\_\_\_\_ blessed

4 + 4 = \_\_\_\_\_ of

10 + 13 = \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26		

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3, NIV



April 2024



## **Save the Date**

Friday, May 17 - Sunday, May 19  
Camp David Jr.

Come for a day, come for meal or  
stay for the weekend.  
Saturday night's dinner event is  
sure to be a great feast.

For information on the weekend  
contact:

Jennie Wendel, 360-912-2214,

jjs6@u.washington.edu

Sheri Stutesman, 360-460-5347



## 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, 12 - 1 pm**

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)

## Online Resources

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

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

Giving Online: [GIVE ONLINE](#)

Look for this button on our website.



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*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.*