



GROWING DEEPER IN FAITH  
REACHING WIDER IN LOVE  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SNOHOMISH

The Light | March | 2024

## Pastor's Corner

*Year after year passes  
One Lenten season following the other  
And we stand, like Peter, in our courtyards,  
speaking the words he unwittingly spoke,  
words that now hauntingly echo  
down through the centuries  
from his lips to ours...  
We do not even know the man.*

In churches scattered across our country, many Christians will zip quickly from the pageantry of the triumphal entry on Palm Sunday to the splendor of Easter Sunday, without blinking an eye at the sobering events of holy week. The biblical record, however, doesn't rush from Palm Sunday to Easter. It slows down. The events of Holy Week are central to the Gospel story, critical for understanding who Jesus is, and not to be bypassed in a dash to get to Easter.

The significance of this week is demonstrated by the Gospel writers dedicating one third of their gospel account to the last week of Jesus' life. One third!

We give it a lot of weight in our church as well, dedicating the week to worship every night (at 7 PM) with a soup supper preceding it (at 6 PM). There is simply so much to be learned during Holy Week about our faith, about ourselves, and about one we can't ever hope to know by skipping from the shouts of "hosanna" on Palm Sunday to "He is risen" on Easter, missing the cross in between.

The apostle Paul said that his life objective was: "I want to know Jesus Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death (Phil. 3:10)." What a worthy goal for the Christian life - becoming like Jesus in his death and resurrection. And the path that helps lead us there takes us through the cross.

I encourage you to participate in the Holy Week soup suppers and services. It's been a memorable week in the life of our church family as we hear different members share a message each night. How else can we come to "know the man" unless we first see him as a suffering servant, before he ever became our risen Lord?

Lenten Blessings, Pastor Charlie



from the February 5, 2024 meeting

Our study of PURSUING GOD'S WILL TOGETHER  
by Ruth Haley Barton,  
led by Dede Babcock.

### CHAPTER 3

"If you do not know how God is leading you,  
You will not know how to lead others."

Byron Brazier

1. Which comes first?

\_\_\_\_\_figuring out our own best plan?

\_\_\_\_\_listening to God's ideas?

2. Sessions best lead by using the right techniques? Deciding by voting?  
Listening to the important people? the most vocal person? the pastor?  
Discernment?

### Building Blocks for Discernment are required -

1. Discernment is practiced thru the work of the Trinity: God the Father; Jesus, His Son; and the Holy Spirit. Our ego must be put-on-a-shelf and God given preference through the work of the Holy Spirit, at Jesus' request, to lead us into truth (Jn. 16:7-15).

2. We need to cultivate the desire to be more discerning.

3. We need a deep belief in the goodness of God. "In order to surrender to the discernment process, we need to cultivate a deep, experiential knowledge that God's will is the best thing that can happen to us under any circumstance... Jeremiah 29:11.

"I know the plans I have for you, plans for welfare and not for your harm." ...and believe them in the depths of our being."

4. The CONVICTION that LOVE is our ultimate calling -

love for God

love for self

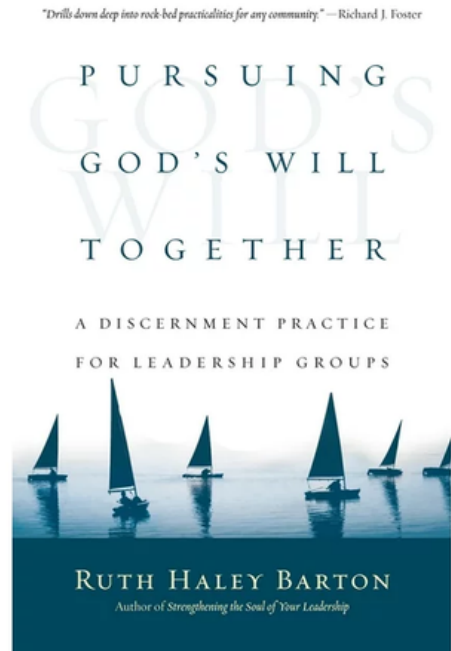
love for others (including enemies)

love for the world

5. We are COMMITTED to doing the will/desire of God as it is revealed to us.

### Business:

- The budget for 2024 was approved.
- Session reported on calls made to inactive members regarding status.
- Session reported on calls made to persons speaking at the 'Listening Meeting' on 12/6.
- Laura Terasaki, Northwest Coast Presbytery Executive Presbyter, led a leadership training February 3 for Session



(Cont. on pg. 3)

## 2024 Ministry Teams

**Assistance for Refugee (ARTS)** Carol Mastrofini

**Building & Grounds** Cris Kennedy

**Community Life** Myrna Lucas, Paula Erickson

**Connexion Groups** Jon Bishop

**Congregational Benevolence** Mary Beth K.

**Community Life** Philomene Prihoda

**Mission** Heidi Saikaly

**Prayers & Squares** Sue Davis

**Stephen Ministry** Jean Hunter

**Stewardship** Polly Fox

**Technology** \_\_\_\_\_

**Women's Ministry** Linda Mueller

**Worship** Anna Thelan

**Youth & Family** Shelagh Hizey

### (Session Corner - Cont. from page 2)

- Nominating Committee was activated to begin the process for nominating elders this Spring and again in the Fall as there are no elders in the class of 2025 and one for 2026.
- The Restructuring Team was reinstated to finish the work they started in 2018.
- Approval was given for a Wednesday Community Night organized by Curt and Cris.
- Dede Babcock was approved to become a member of Personnel from Session.
- Vicki Hesseltine and Kate are teaming up to relieve Marsha of the treasury duties for this year.

### Pastor's Report:

- No treatment needed at this time for cancer.
- Retirement proposed for January 26, 2025, between Christmas and Lent.

### Clerk's Report:

- Average Sunday Worship attendance = 124
- Average Online Worship attendance = 34
- Current Active members = 215

**BIG CHANGE COMING!!!!** The abatement (stripping of floor tiles involving asbestos) of the sanctuary floor will begin April 15th. Services will be held in the Lake View Hall during that process.

## Elders:



**Paula Erickson**  
425-220-2720



**Carole VanLoo**  
424-238-8475



**Curt Green**  
424-750-6088



**Erin Ramirez**  
208-778-5724



**Marifa Bishop**  
425-422-1934



**Dede Babcock**  
425-210-7176

## Where to Find Session Minutes

It's easy to keep up with what's happening with our church's Session!

- Open CCB (Church Community Builder).
- Scroll down to the bottom, under the box with links to The LIGHT, Facebook, and the most recent worship service, and you will see a picture of some papers, called "Index to Church Documents."
- Click on this, and it will open up to a sheet full of blue links to church policies and procedures, annual reports, and a year's worth of Session minutes.
- Clicking on any of those minutes will open the document and you can read what the Session discussed and voted on.



*Lift up your heads, you gates!  
Be lifted up, you everlasting doors,  
and the King of glory will come in.*

**Psalm 24:7**

Special thank you to Cris Kennedy and the crew from Cressy Doors for installing the two new sets of doors in the narthex!

*Wonderful  
Wednesdays*

**Important Dates: Sanctuary Flooring**

- April 6 - Set up for service in LVH,  
Begin clearing the Sanctuary
- April 7 - First service in LVH
- April 13 - Complete clearing the Sanctuary
- April 15 - Abatement work begins in Sanctuary
- April 27 - If abatement complete, begin moving  
back to sanctuary. This is a BIG IF!
- May 4 - Most likely date to move back into  
Sanctuary
- May 5 - Hopefully first service back in Sanctuary



**Remember Community Night?** It was several years ago. We met in the Lakeview Hall and had a light dinner then went off to Bible Study or other activities that were offered. It was open to all ages and we had a lot of fun with it until we decided to add on to the Lake View Hall and had to quit!

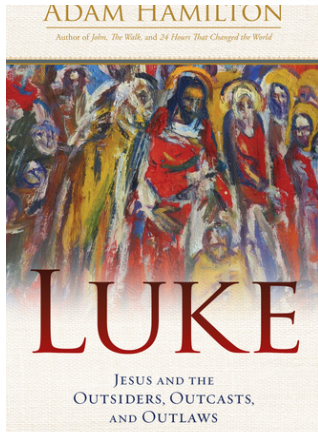
**Remember Acclaim on Wednesday?** We met in the new Lake View Hall, had a light dinner then a short service where someone shared their faith journey, and our Acclaim group led us in some fine music. It was open to all ages and we had a lot of fun with it until we had to pause for the pandemic and quit!

Well--Wednesday night church is back on and now it will be a combo of past activities! We will gather in the Lake View Hall to enjoy a light meal, hear someone share their faith, join in a song and prayer, then choose from a variety of activities! Those activities will include some activities that will be available every week such as music with Mary Beth--she will be teaching all ages to play some fun instruments! A table or two of board games--bring your favorite and invite people to join in! The jigsaw puzzle table will be out! Like to knit or crochet or want to learn? Join some people at a table! Every week there will be something special--cooking classes, Ham radio demo, art lessons, junk journaling, papercrafts, maybe even a birdhouse build (BYOH--Bring Your Own Hammer)!

This is a casual gathering--don't get dressed up--come as you are! The fun starts at 5:30 if you want to help get everything set up, dinner will be at 6:00! Activities will end at 7:30ish.

# LENT

## 40 Days of Renewal



### Lenten Sermon Series

A Lenten sermon series is planned on Adam Hamilton's book, "Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws."

Feb 18th: Luke 1:51-53 "Lifting Up the Lowly"

Feb 25th: Luke 7:36-39 "Blind Spots"

March 3: Luke 18:9-14 "Humility"

March 10: Luke 9:51-53 "Determination"

March 17: Luke 19:1-10 "Zacchaeus: From Taking to Giving"

March 24: Luke 23:32-43 "Hanging with Thieves"



"Lord, I want to live peaceably, help me to forgive!"

"...so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." Romans 12:18

Are you frustrated, carrying resentment, holding a grudge, expecting others or something to change? If you find yourself here, we invite you to join us for this Lent Prayer Retreat. During this prayer retreat, we will reflect on what Scripture teaches us about how to forgive. We will seek God's wisdom for how to "live peaceably" and what prepares us to be and live as forging people.

**When:** Saturday, March 9, 2024 | 9:30am – 12:30pm

**Where:** North Creek Presbyterian - 621 164th St SE, Mill Creek, WA 98012

**Cost:** \$39 (includes snacks)

Register online here! (<https://renewalminnw.org/lent-retreat/>) OR Mail registration to RMNW, PO Box 12243, Mill Creek, WA 98080 Email Trish, [office@renewalminnw.org](mailto:office@renewalminnw.org), for more information.



(March 25 - 29 at 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM)

A much enjoyed and meaningful tradition at FPCS, we will be offering a light soup supper and short devotional service during each evening of Holy Week. The soup suppers start at 6:00 PM with the service from 7:00 to 7:30 PM (with the exception of a full service on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 7 PM). Various congregational members and pastoral staff will provide leadership for the services and our Community Life Ministry Team will be organizing the soup suppers. Childcare will be provided if requested, to enable parents with young children to attend. We hope you will take the wonderful opportunity for one hour each evening of Holy Week to gather together as we devote ourselves to God and each other in prayer and reflection.

## Mission Updates

Dear Partners in Ministry,

I have tried writing this letter multiple times. My heart is weighed down with grief and my spirit is weary as I read the daily reports of shellings, death and destruction or talk with beloved partners in the region and hear their concerns. It is a season of deep lament. With the Psalmist (13:1-6) I pray and cry out, "How long, Lord?"

As complex as the 75-year-long history is between the modern State of Israel and Palestinians, so too is the history along the border between Israel and Lebanon. Since October 7, 2023, the daily exchange of fire between Hezbollah and the Israeli Army has pushed civilians on both sides of the border from their homes. On the Lebanese side, nearly 30,000 people have been displaced by the fighting from their towns to places further north in Lebanon. At least 42 towns on the Israeli side have been evacuated.

The National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL) has six Presbyterian congregations along the southern border of Lebanon. It is a stunningly beautiful area filled with ancient olive groves and pine forests along with grazing and farmlands, steep ravines, and small rivers. Now, the white phosphorous bombs used by the Israeli Army have burned more than 47,000 olive trees at the height of the harvest season along with hundreds of hectares of other agricultural land. It will take decades for the orchards and soil to recover.

Through our partners, I see flickers of light and life in the midst of relentless destruction—a counterpoint to the lament I feel. A space of grace opens in my spirit to join the Psalmist in that profound declaration of faith: "But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me (Psalm 13:5-6)."

We, as members of the PC(USA) are participating in these flickers of light and life through grants sent by both World Mission's Middle East/Europe Office and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Please let me know if you would like to further contribute to these efforts.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers, collaboration in advocacy work, and financial partnership. You too are a counterpoint to the lament that marks my days. I am grateful. Continuing in Christ's Service together,

*Elmarie Parker*

(Currently working from Oregon)



The view from the Presbyterian Church in Deirmimas.



Some of the many olive groves across southern Lebanon.

### **We support Grace Zoughbi and Michael Arteen through United World Missions.**

Grace, a Palestinian from Bethlehem, and Michael, an Egyptian, have always been called to minister to the Arab people. After Grace received her Doctorate in Theology they both got positions at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Lebanon. Grace is a professor and Michael a chaplain. In addition, they have been working on contextualizing courses for Arab students to be taught in the Middle East and North Africa. This is a vital ministry that serves the Arab region as they seek to train leaders to better serve the church and academy. They continue to work tirelessly and pray earnestly that God will work in the lives of the individuals and communities where they are teaching, discipling and mentoring. They ask that we remember them in our prayers as they spend extensive time in the Middle East



## Remember in Your Prayers...

### Church Family Members

- Bill and Lois La Barge - for healing for Bill following a recent fall
- Scott Miller - treatment for cancer
- Kathleen Hansen and family - treatment for cancer
- Bill Gavin - continued treatment and healing for Bill
- Elizabeth Gamble - recovery from surgery
- Jason Gamble - loss of his father
- Sara Seiber - recent cancer diagnosis
- Caregivers for these and other church family members
- 

### Homebound

Gary Gloe, Josh Hesseltine, Carolyn Moss, Jerry Williamson, and Bill Barker

### Friends of FPCS

- John Ortmeyer - former counselor - health
- Tamara Montoya, friend of Lise Pettigrew
- Shelli Dyche, Scott Miller's sister, in treatment for cancer
- Sue Davis' daughter-in-law, Tammy, with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Nola Fischer, child with malignant brain tumor
- Valerie Christopherson (sister-in-law of Marlie Bilbruck) for cancer metastasized to the liver
- Yvonne Carr (mother-in-law of Marlie Bilbruck) for malignant brain tumor
- Cynthia Sundman, missionary in Peru
- Pastor Moses & Margaret Tanni, doing ministry in Cameroon amidst civil war
- Tall Timber Camp

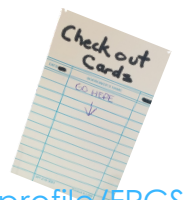
### Ongoing Prayer Support

- Prayers for peace where there is war and turmoil: Israel, Palestine/Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, Lebanon
- All refugees forced to leave their homes due to violence or natural disasters; all those left homeless, and those going hungry
- Global leaders--for wisdom and the will to act justly and to uphold human rights

### Church Library

To see a listing of all the books in the library, go to our online catalog:

<https://www.librarything.com/profile/FPCS>  
or follow the QR code to our links library.



### Click or Scan



## One QR Code to Save Them ALL!

If you're looking for it, you'll probably find a link to it [HERE](#) or scan the QR code. Not finding what you want? Please let the office know:

[office@snopres.org](mailto:office@snopres.org)



## Deacon's Offering:

### First Sunday of Every Month

The first Sunday of each month is Deacon's Offering Sunday and you can put a donation marked "Deacons" in the offering plate or go to SnoPres Online and designate a donation to the Deacon's Fund. The Deacons thank YOU and those we help also Thank You!

## Need a Hand, Lend a Hand

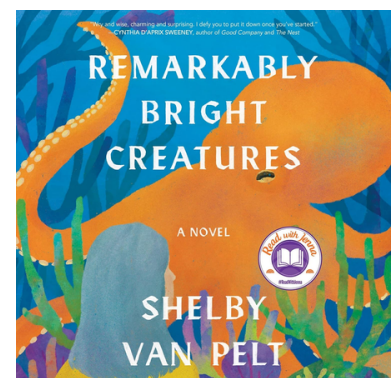
What is it? This program is an outreach of the Deacons. It provides a means for members to make requests for assistance or offer assistance in a variety of ways. This could include things such as changing a light bulb in a hard-to-reach area, helping to move a microwave or maybe helping with a tree that has fallen during a storm. We are in the process of moving the request online, so if you have a need we may be able to help with, please call/text Chad Bjerkan at 206-920-2837. In the meantime, if you would like to be placed on the list of potential hand-lenders, please let Chad know as well.

The Book Club has a spring break in March and will not be meeting. Our April book club selection is "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt, a charming original exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope that traces a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus. We will share a potluck salad at the home of Phyllis Mentzos at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, April 10. Carol Johnson will be our reviewer. Questions? Call Carol at 206 595 9462 or email Carol at [cjohnson98290@gmail.com](mailto:cjohnson98290@gmail.com).



## Deacon's Transportation Ministry: Do You Need a Ride?

If you can't drive yourself, we can give you a lift. We can take you to a doctor or dentist appointment, to our church on Sunday, or for a church event. When you need a ride and you have run out of options, just call the office and we will see what we can do.  
360-568-6498



## Women's Ministry Book Club:



## SnoPres 101: Training Session Offered

"Do you have questions about the SnoPres Online (CCB) church management program? Would you like to learn how to use it better? Everybody in our church family will probably interact with it at some time or another, so we've decided to offer a SnoPres Online (CCB) Basics training session after church on **March 10**.

If you don't already have a CCB account, please go to [snopres.ccbchurch.com](https://snopres.ccbchurch.com) and set up an account. You're encouraged to bring your phone, tablet, or laptop to the meeting. Need help setting up your account? Contact Kate in the church office for assistance:

[office@snopres.org](mailto:office@snopres.org)



### WHAT'S HAPPENING:

- Read [The Light](#) (February Newsletter), and [Weekly What's Happening](#)
- Links to Live-streamed Worship every Sunday at 10:30 AM
  - Join live worship using [Zoom](#) - or - [Facebook](#)
- Sunday Worship Service Video Recordings
  - February 4: [Complete Service](#)
  - January 28: [Complete Service](#)
  - January 21: [Complete Service](#)
  - January 14: [Complete Service](#)
  - Find earlier (previous four months) worship services in [FPCS Facebook Page videos](#) or the [FPCS YouTube Channel Sermons Playlist](#)
- Submit your 2024 Estimate of Giving plan [here](#).
- [Zoom Meeting Leader Instructions](#)



## TIME TO UPDATE YOUR CCB PICTURE!

Is your picture on CCB from too many years ago? Are your school-age children still shown as toddlers?

### Time to update that picture! IT'S EASY!

Open CCB; find your profile. Click on the picture, choose the option "replace". A dialog box will open, asking for the file with the new picture. Just select it and then click "Open" at the bottom of the box. The program will automatically format the picture to fit the size.

## News from Northwest Coast



The Commons at FPC Bellingham is excited to announce our upcoming conference on the theme of Art + Faith: Art as Spiritual Practice, happening March 15-17, 2024 at First Presbyterian Church of Bellingham. Our keynote speaker, Scott Erickson, is joined by Shannon Sigler (of the Brehm Center), Corey Greaves (of Mending Wings) and Jani Wild (pastor at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Bellingham). You can find a link to purchase tickets or find more details here: [Art & Faith Conference](#)

## Grateful for Your Gifts to FPCS

Our thanks to all who have made a pledge for 2024 and for all those making plans to do so. We can only carry out our ministry and support our local, regional, and global missions with your gifts! We are grateful for your faithfulness and generosity. Online giving has played an important role in providing consistent support through recurring or individual gifts. To give, follow this link: <https://snopres.org/give> or visit our website and click on the "Give" link in the menu. For questions or help please email [office@snopres.org](mailto:office@snopres.org). Designated gifts for 2024 can be set up the first week of January.





GROWING DEEPER IN FAITH  
REACHING WIDER IN LOVE  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SNOHOMISH

## Articles Inside...

- Wonderful Wednesdays - Starts March 6
- Lenten Small Group Studies
- Holy Week Soup Suppers & Worship
- Mission update from Elmarie Parker
- Session Corner and Ministry Teams
- SnoPres 101 Training - March 10th

office@snoapres.org | www.snoapres.org

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation, providing care-givers to those who request it.

360-568-8737

**NPS:**

**Counseling Centers of**

Hanna Cho

**Director of Music Ministry:**

Kate West

**Bookkeeper:**

**Office Manager /**

Rev. Elizabeth Klein

**Pastoral Assistant**

Rev. Charles Lewis

**Pastor:**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SNOHOMISH  
REACHING WIDER IN LOVE  
GROWING DEEPER IN FAITH



First Presbyterian Church of Snohomish • 1306 Lakeview Ave • Snohomish, WA 98290 | 360-568-6498