



GROWING DEEPER IN FAITH
REACHING WIDER IN LOVE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SNOHOMISH

The Light | December | 2022

To our neighbors, we are probably considered a bit slow on the uptake of getting ready for Christmas. No Christmas lights, no tree in our window offering holiday cheer, and although we have managed to replace the frost bitten summer flowers on the front porch with some seasonal greenery, we still haven't ventured into the attic to find the red bow for the wreath. But what our neighbors don't know is that we are preparing for Christ's birth in other ways. We are enjoying our Advent devotional which connects us to themes for worship services being developed. We are discerning how we can embody the love of the incarnate Christ through gifts to charities, including volunteer time. And we are preparing ways to share the love of Christ with our neighbors who will delight whenever we finally get around to hanging the lights and decorating the tree (which will be soon!)

As you look through this newsletter, you will see there are many ways we embody Christ's love as a congregation, and there are opportunities to get personally involved through ministries such as the Alternative Gift Market; the Interfaith Family Shelter; Snohomish Food Bank; and the Assistance for Refugees Ministry Team (ART). You will also see we can celebrate the many volunteers who equip other ministries of the congregation: those who facilitate worship and will provide special music; those who coordinate Deacons' and mission ministry activities; those who have pitched in to do youth ministry this fall; and our elders who have successfully completed the work of our Temporary Associate Pastor Search Committee! All of this is worthy of front page news, but our front page isn't large enough to accommodate it, so we invite you to pour yourself a cup of tea or coffee, or indulge in some hot chocolate topped off with whipped cream and a peppermint stick, and read on to learn more!



Pastors Charlie and Ann



Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 24 ~ 7 PM

Enter this holiest nights of the year with your family and friends as we celebrate the eve of our Lord's birth. Please consider inviting your extended family, neighbors and friends as we wonder at the gift God gave our world on this most holy night in giving us himself. The tradition of singing of "Silent Night" by candle-light brings worship to a close.

Deacon Christmas Eve Offering

On Christmas Eve an offering will be received for the purpose of supporting our deacon's local ministries: Community Kitchen, Food Bank, Interfaith Shelter, Mobile Medical Clinic, etc. and other ministries of our deacons.

Christmas Day Service

Dec. 25 ~ 10:30 AM

Our Christmas Day service will be a simple, family-friendly service with much singing and some light reflections and activities that children as well as adults can engage in.



**Advent
Devotionals
Available Now!
"From Generation
to Generation"**

We are glad to once again have an Advent Devotional for our congregation that invites you to a simplified way of marking these days of Advent by a ritual of reading, reflecting, and praying your way through this season. Our 2022 Advent booklets which are available in the narthex, or they can be sent to you at your request by calling the office at 360-568-6498.

Alternative Gift Market ~ Dec. 4



Please come visit the Alternative Gift Market in person or as a [virtual shopper with our online catalog](#). Payment can be through [this online form](#). The Alternative Gift Market offers unique gift options which support local and global missions. Invite friends to come and join in the joy of celebrating Christ's birth by bringing hope, comfort, and joy to others.

Christmas Joy Offering: December 18

The Christmas Joy Offering, a Presbyterian tradition for many decades, will be received on Sunday, December 18th. The Christmas Joy Offering offers you a direct way to support retired and active church workers and their families (50%) as well as Presbyterian racial-ethnic schools (50%).

Tall Timber Snow Camp

Dec. 29 - Jan. 1. All Ages Welcome

Over the New Year Holiday, we are inviting individuals and families to come up and enjoy Tall Timber in the snow for our 2022 Snow Camp. Register with family, friends, or an open spirit to make new relationships with others. There will be plenty to do outside in the snow, after which you can warm up by a crackling fire with hot drinks at our scenic lodge. You won't want to miss this fun winter event! \$100 for adults covers participation fee (\$50 for ages 5-10, free for 4 and under) covers 8 meals and winter activities, including cross country skiing, snow shoes, and the tubing hill. Lodging is extra with prices based upon accommodations. \$700 reserves a private cabin for your group. Find out more by going to this link:

<https://www.talltimber.org/snowcamp>



YOUTH MINISTRY

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity". 1 Timothy 4:12

Jr. High Youth Group & Dinner December 7 and 14

Led by: **Scott Miller**

(Students grades 5-8)

Wednesdays from 4:30-6:00 PM, in the FPCS Youth Room and LVH

Sr. High Youth Group & Dinner December 8 and 15

Led by: **Mary Boose**

(Students grades 9-12)

Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 PM in the FPCS Youth Room and LVH

During our youth group gatherings, students spend time together playing games and talking about faith and life. There will be a meal offered. Please contact Scott, Mary or one of the pastors if you have questions.



Save the Date! Youth Christmas Party!!!

Youth are invited to join in our festive holiday celebration on Friday, December 16 from 5-9 PM. Dinner and Activities will be provided.

Open to ALL

School-Age Youth.

Please RSVP to Merridy Sheldon by December 14

(dinilee123@gmail.com or 425.737.0147)

Christmas PARTY



Christmas Concert, Dec. 9 ~ 1:50 PM

Gathering music will begin at 1:50 PM with the brass quintet.

Come and enjoy an afternoon of Christmas music to get you in the holiday spirit.

This event is sponsored by the deacons of First Presbyterian Church. Performers from both First Presbyterian and St. John's Episcopal will present a program of traditional Christmas music in addition to congregational singing of familiar Christmas carols. The event will be held in the sanctuary.

Performers will include: Phyllis Mentzos, Lex Lane, Joyce Reimer, Mary Beth Kurtenbach, Tia Nieuwsma, Janice Halvorson, Jan Gowett, MaryLee Locknane, Jim Kassebaum, and Jon and Marita Bishop. Also performing will be a combined handbell choir - participants from both congregations and The Choppers Brass Quintet.

A reception will follow in the Lakeview Hall.

Please RVSP by [clicking here](#) or adding your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex.



LAST Family Firepit Friday!

Come join families from the church for this **last** first Friday of the month fun firepit gathering at the Lambs. Have kids? Bring em! Want to hang out w/ kids? Come! Dec 2: 5:30-7:30 PM

Pizza provided. Bring smores, drinks, or a side dish to share.

RSVP requested.

hillarystarr@gmail.com

or 360-453-75 See directory or contact the Lambs for address.





MISSIONS

...at home and around the world



Celebrating the Call of Our New Temporary Associate Pastor!

While this news is so great it should be on the front page, we are needing to hold back a few more weeks before we can give you the details you most want to hear. So here's what we CAN tell you...

Our Search Committee had a wonderful experience getting to know this person and it was a unanimous perception that this person was who God was leading us to call to serve the congregation. The Search Committee extended the call, which was immediately accepted. The terms of the call have been worked out and a contract has been signed. The next steps are in the hands of the Northwest Coast Presbytery, who will interview this person for both admission to the presbytery and approval for ordination.

After December 15, we will be able to announce the details and reveal a photo of our Temporary Associate Pastor, who will be welcomed in worship January 15, with a reception following. January 16 will be the pastor's first day on the job. And we will host an ordination service sometime after February 9. Thank you for your prayers!

Save The Date:

Mission Retreat at Tall Timber
March 10-12, 2023
All are welcome!



Holiday Family Craft Event Success

Dedicated women from our church, as well as a few sisters in Christ gathered Saturday, Nov. 12, to lead a holiday family craft event at the Women's and Family Shelter in Everett. The air was buzzing with joy as 12 children and their mothers gathered to make paper Christmas Trees, holiday bells, winter scarves, ornaments and more. Families also had the opportunity to frost and eat some Christmas cookies! This beloved annual event, coordinated by Jill Sahlstrom, couldn't be possible without the help of cookie bakers, craft organizers, and the women who were on site, including three generations of the Mentzos clan, Rita Stoess, Rhonda Atrengenio, Shannon Boswell, Jill, and a sister from St. John's. Thank you, Jill, for prioritizing this special event!



ConneXtion Small Groups

"It is humbling in the best possible way to discover how much we need one another to understand God." (Mandy Smith, *Unfettered*) Experience the curiosity, the wonder, the fellowship of weekly sharing with others as we discover together God at work in our lives through the reflection upon scripture.

[Click the link here](#) to inform us of your interest. We will quickly respond. See the calendar for Zoom links to these meetings



Interfaith Shelter Ministry

In gratitude for the gift God gave us in the birth of his son Jesus, the Board of Deacons is sponsoring a collection drive to benefit the Interfaith Family Shelter.



The Interfaith Family Shelter is in downtown Everett. It can accommodate up to 11 families with children at any given time. Clients receive 90 days of shelter and basic needs services, including meals, showers, personal hygiene kits and laundry services. Families also work with a case manager, who helps them develop a customized solution to overcome homelessness and achieve permanent stable housing.

As you can imagine, Interfaith has many on-going needs. The deacons invite you to gift the residents of the shelter with any of the following items.

- * Gently used or new bath towels
- * Gently used or new full or twin sheet sets
- * Gently used or new full or twin blankets
- * Gently used or new silverware
- * New pillows
- * New hairbrushes and hair ties
- * New children's dental supplies
- * New underwear for all genders, ages and sizes
- * New shampoo and conditioner

Items can be placed in the narthex throughout December as well as in and around the manger on Christmas Eve. Cash or checks can be placed in the offering plate or dropped off at the church office. Checks should be made out to the church with a note designating Interfaith as the recipient. [Or pay online here to "Deacons Interfaith Shelter".](#)

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Your gifts shine the light of God's love on those who are in need of hope and tender care.



Giving To FPCS

We are thankful for the faithfulness of our church members who continue to give generously to the church's ministry during this unsettling economic time brought on by the global pandemic. Online giving has played an important role in providing consistent support through recurring or individual gifts. Please 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.



[Follow this link to submit your Estimate of Giving for 2023.](#)

[Instructions on setting up one-time or recurring online giving.](#)

Using Your IRA to Make Donations to the Church

There are tax advantages available to those over 70 ½ who have an IRA. You may donate directly to the church from your IRA brokerage account and not have the money taxed when it is distributed from the IRA. If you are or going to be 70 ½ or older in the coming year and have an IRA, it would be worth your time to contact your investment advisor and set up your payments to the church in this manner. If you do decide to do this the church needs to be contacted as to your intentions.

Jim Kassebaum, Stewardship Committee

Stewardship Pledges for 2023

We had a wonderful Consecration Sunday and Luncheon on November 6 with Rev. Elizabeth Klein preaching an inspiring message around the theme "God loves a cheerful giver." Our thanks to all who have made a pledge or indicated other ways you would like to contribute to the mission of the church next year. If you have not turned in your stewardship pledge for the 2023 general budget, please do so online or at the church office. We are grateful for the generosity and spirit that characterizes our church.

*The ART Ministry Team thanks you
for your ongoing support of our refugee community.*

Since its formation on March 31, 2022, the Assistance for Refugee Ministry Team (ART) has received overwhelming support from our congregation. In May we had a very successful home goods supply drive. This was instrumental in Refugee and Immigrant Services Northwest (RISNW) making the decision to refine its donation process at the Carl Gipson Center. Prior to our drive, there wasn't a designated location for donations to be stored nor a process for distribution.



Home Goods Supply Drive
May 27 - June 12

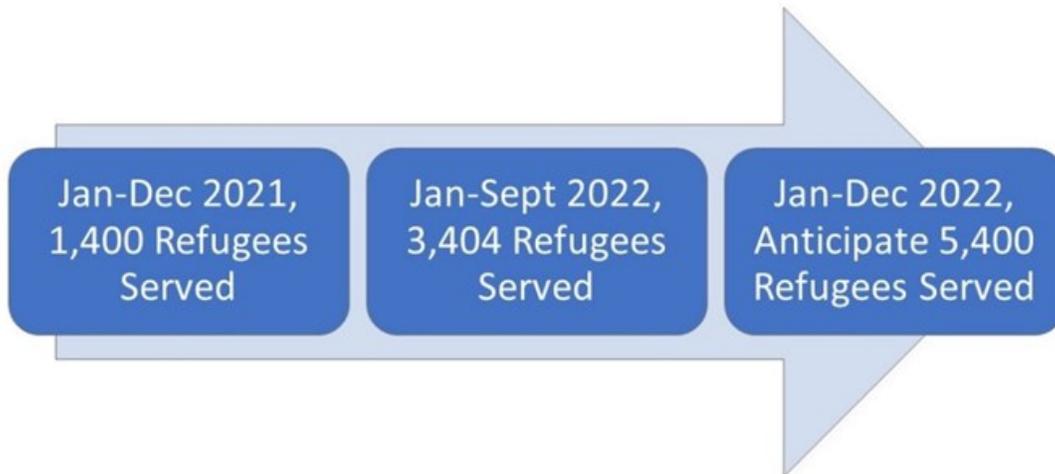
- Blankets
- Sheets
- Towels
- Dishes
- Cleaning Products &
- Hygiene Products

We began providing volunteers for the newly designated donation room in July of this year. Our congregation has provided two volunteers to distribute donations each week. A total of 23 individuals have volunteered at the Welcome Center, some more than once! Many of our congregants have provided donations of clothing and home goods directly to the Welcome Center.



July 2022 – Dec 2022
23 Welcome Center
Volunteers

The donation process has evolved over the months as we have attempted to move to a more streamlined system. This has proved challenging given the increasing number of refugees coming into Snohomish County and the variability of the donations received. RISNW has experienced a year-over-year increase of 286% in refugees served. RISNW has served in nine months the number of refugees normally expected in a three-year period.



Our church has donated \$5,000 to RISNW to provide necessities for our refugee families but so much more is needed. ART is supporting the efforts of RISNW by helping bring together members of the community beyond our congregation. The Salvation Army is an example of this community alliance. The Salvation Army provided school supplies for our refugee children. This allowed the children to start school prepared and empowered.

The Community Alliance



While there will be more to do in the coming year, the ART Ministry Team is grateful for your devotion to our refugee community in 2022. “There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore, I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.” Deuteronomy 15:11

Sincerely,
Carol Mastrofini,
On behalf of the Assistance for Refugees Ministry Team



New Members

We warmly welcome our newest members to the life and ministry of the church at Snohomish First Presbyterian. The following persons will be publicly received on Sunday, December 11 as they profess their faith and intention to continuing grow in love of and in service to Jesus Christ through the life of our congregation: Nathan and Tia Nieuwsma, Elie and Heidi Saikaly, Jared and Laurel Smith. Note: Jared will be received through adult baptism by immersion amidst the beauty of nature, later in the year at an outdoor worship service yet to be planned. Please extend each of these individuals a warm welcome.

New Church Officers

With grateful hearts we welcome the new leaders of our congregation who will serve on beginning January 2023. They are:

Elders: Marita Bishop (2023 class), Paula Erickson, and Erin Ramirez (2024 class)

Deacons: John Mueller (2023 class), Vicki Hesselstine, Shelagh Hizzey, and Elie Saikaly (2025 class)

Nominating Committee for 2023: Shirley Feik, Ona Kassebaum, Carl Knappe, Phil Prins, Jill Sahlstrom, Elder and Deacon representatives TBD.

Thanks to officers completing terms of service: With deep appreciation for the energy, love and faithful service to our church and community, we thank the following people for their commitment as an elder or deacon:

Elders: George Vasil

Deacons: Julius Ametsitsi, Jon and Val McKenzie, Lori Prins

We are so grateful for your investment of time and energy in serving the congregation!



The Women's Ministry Book Club is taking a break in December. Our January book club selection is *I Guess I Haven't Learned That Yet: Discovering New Ways of Living When the Old Ways Stop Working* by Shauna Niequist, part memoir and part reflection and encouragement. We will share a potluck salad at the home of Rita Stoess in Lake Stevens at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, January 11. Lori Prins will be our reviewer. Car pooling is suggested since parking at Rita's is limited. Further details will be given closer to the date of our meeting. Questions? Call Carol Johnson at 206-595-9462 or email Carol at cjohnson98290@gmail.com

Wednesday Morning Study: Encountering Jesus in the Gospel of John

Described as a gospel in which a child can wade and an elephant can swim, John's gospel is both simple and clear while at the same time complex and deep. In John's gospel, Jesus encounters a wide variety of people. Each of Jesus' encounters allows us to discover - or rediscover - Jesus for ourselves as if for the very first time.

Join us Wednesday mornings at 10 AM, by Zoom, as we seek to let the Word that spoke all life into being at the dawn of creation, speak new life into us. [Follow this link to join meeting](#) or follow the link in the What's Happening email calendar.

Amazon Smile Gives Back

When ordering online, if you use [Amazon Smile](#) and designate First Presbyterian Church of Snohomish as your charity, Amazon will donate a portion of every purchase to the church. Can't find FPCS in the charities list? Make sure "All" categories is selected.

But Wait, There's More

Fred Meyer shoppers may also specify First Presbyterian Church as a charity in order for a percentage of your purchases to have an additional bonus.



Thanks to Christmas Decorating Party

We appreciate the crew that decorated our sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season.

Thank you to: Paula Erickson, Vickie Hesselstine, Michell Hovey, Audrey Kellerman, Darla Lane, Myrna Lucas, Erin and Tayrin Ramirez. And thanks to Rich and Louise Guthrie again for the Christmas tree!

Thank You! To ALL Volunteers!

You are essential to our work. Your commitment of faith, vision, and willingness to devote energy, creativity, love, and sometimes great physical effort and financial assistance to support the varied ministries of this congregation is essential. You enable us to have a significant impact upon our community, and because of you, this congregation has friends around the world who are touched by your generosity.

Donations for YWCA Working Women's Wardrobe

Please ensure that all clothing is washed / dry-cleaned, in good condition and placed on hangers to prevent wrinkling. Donations may be hung in the church reception area coat rack where donation cards are available to clearly label donations. Clothing should be office-appropriate and reasonably fashionable. Accessories (handbags, scarves, umbrellas) & shoes are also needed. There is a specific need for large sizes. Thank you for the donations coming in!

Order Coffee by **December 11** for pick up the following week.



HOW TO ORDER AND PAY

Call Joan Lane for questions or instructions on placing an order or [order and pay online](#). Your cup of coffee does a world of good when you place an order with us! Thank you!

ART Volunteer Appreciation & Christmas Dessert Party
December 14th, 2022, 1-3 PM
Charlie & Ann's Home
6432 57th Ave SE Snohomish

RSVP-Carol 425-218-0473
carolmastrofini@gmail.com



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

The First Presbyterian Church Deacons have re-started their Transportation Ministry. If you can't drive yourself, we can give you a lift. We can take you to a doctor appointment; or a dentist appointment; or to our church on Sunday; or to a church event; or when you need a ride and you have run out of options.



Just call Jon McKenzie at 360-631-2495 and we will see what we can do.

Food Bank Pledge for Christmas Your Deacons have pledged that The First Presbyterian Church will donate to the Snohomish Food Bank to support their Christmas dinner baskets. We have pledged to donate 250 boxes of Cake Mixes with a can of Frosting and/or boxes of Brownie Mix. So, we Deacons are asking that you bring in your Cake mixes with a can of frosting or a boxed Brownie mix to the church so that we can take them to the Food Bank. All our donations must be at the Food Bank by December 14th so we need to bring them to the church as soon as possible. This is the first time we have done this pledge since the pandemic started, so let us make a good showing of our generosity. Thank you!



Farm-fresh Eggs Available

The chickens tended to by our church secretary, Liz Hanlon, have slowed production for the winter months but, extras will continue to be available for pick up from the self-serve LVH refrigerator.

Donations toward chicken feed will keep the girls producing and \$1/doz. will be added to our Deacon funds. (Egg cartons recycled here.) Contact Liz, in the office, for questions.

Ever wonder how long eggs are good for? As a general rule, unwashed eggs will last around 2 weeks unrefrigerated and about **three months or more** in your refrigerator. (Liz's eggs go into the refrigerator the day they're laid.)



Deacon's Offering: First Sunday of Every Month



It has been a good two years since our church operated in a "normal" manner. One of those "normal" things we all used to do is place a special Deacon's offering into the offering plate the first Sunday of each month. The First Presbyterian Church Deacons want to remind you that 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 CCB and designate a donation to the Deacon's Fund.

The Deacons thank YOU and those we help.
Thank You!





Remember in Your Prayers . . .

Church Family Members

- Kathleen Hansen – treatment for cancer
- Bill Gavin - treatment for malignant melanoma
- Rebekah Fox - navigating health concerns
- Devin Bishop - cancer treatment
- Lucy Mae Gagnon, upcoming surgery
- Hank Robinett, Joan Robinett-Wilson and family in their recent loss of Donna.
- Elaine Sundman – recovery from surgery
- All those dealing with COVID
- Myrna Lucas – gratitude for a successful surgery
- John Mueller and family in the loss of his brother, Don, the oldest of nine siblings
- Winny Chow – recovery from car accident
- Stacy Haddenham - long term Covid
- Chuck Murray – on hospice care
- Jerry Williamson - healing after fall and stroke
- Lee Warren – recovering from multiple surgeries

Homebound

- Gary Gloe, Chuck Murray, Marcia Otteson

Friends of FPCS

- Tracy Klingler, sister of Susan Klingler, stage 4 lung cancer, but reduced 35-50% with 1st few Chemo treatments. Keep praying!

Ongoing Prayer Support

- World leaders in response to acts of war against Ukraine and for all who are experiencing great loss and suffering because of it.
- People around the world impacted by the COVID -19 pandemic - health and economic challenges
- All displaced persons forced to leave their homes due to violence or disaster.
- Governmental leaders
- Cynthia Sundman ~ returning to mission work based in Peru
- Andrew Lewis ~ offering spiritual care through Story International, Huehuetenango, Guatemala
- Pastor Moses & Margaret Tanni and family in Cameroon; prayers for peace amidst civil war and violence against civilians

The Library Corner

Looking for a book to read? The church library has some recently donated books. They are in the new book section of the library.

Check them out!

- *Heaven* by Randy Alcorn
- *Invitation to Love: The Way of Christian Contemplation* by Thomas Keating
- *The Awakening of Hope: Why We Practice a Common Faith* by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove
- *Bible for Today's Family New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs* American Bible Society
- *The Classic Works of Phillip Keller* by Phillip Keller:

A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23

A Layman Looks at the Lord's Prayer.

A Shepherd looks at The Good Shepherd and His Sheep

A Gardener Looks at the Fruits of the Spirit



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

<https://www.librarything.com/profile/FPCS>

Christian Videos for All Ages!

The church pays for your subscription to this service which brings an abundant of helpful media resources direct to you. This includes Christian videos for children, adult Bible studies, and thought provoking videos on varied topics relevant to Growing Deeper in Faith and Reaching Wider in Love. It is worth exploring!

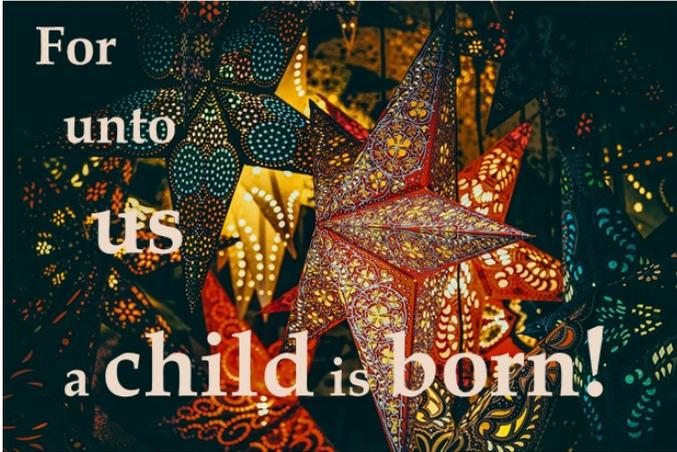
Have you explored Amplify Media yet?

Find the Covenant Bible Study and many other Christian videos for all ages.

Go to my.amplifymedia.com/amplify. Click on the silhouette/person in the top right-hand corner, click on "Enter Access Code" from the drop-down menu, enter our church's code: **TFMBLW**, create your log-in (your email address) and password.



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We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation, providing care-givers to those who request it.
office@snoPRES.org ♦ www.snoPRES.org



Looking for
the e-Light?

Counseling Centers of NPS:
360-568-8737

Co-Pastors:
Revs. Charles & Ann Lewis
Director of Music Ministry:
Hanna Cho
Church Secretary:
Liz Hanlon

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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