



GROWING DEEPER IN FAITH
REACHING WIDER IN LOVE

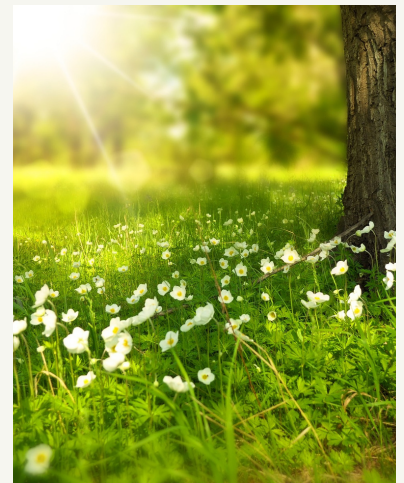
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SNOHOMISH

The Light | April | 2023

Who Are You Looking For?

Our Lenten journey has urged us onward as seekers with probing questions of faith. We come now to Holy Week with more questions. We gather with the crowd at the Palm Sunday parade to ask ourselves, "How will I respond to Jesus? Where am I headed?" We ask the same question Peter asked of Jesus, "Will you wash my feet?" And perhaps we can relate to the questions Jesus asks God from the cross, "Why have you forsaken me?" Soon we will be hearing the question Jesus asks Mary in the garden, "Who are you looking for?"

"Who are you looking for?" That may be the best question and most complicated of all. It is the same question Jesus asks the threatening crowd who came to the garden at night with torches and weapons:



"Who are you looking for?" Sometimes we are looking for someone we have defined based upon our own perceptions. Sometimes we diagnose someone as a threat, defining them on our own terms, rather than by who they are. When Judas led the crowd with swords to the garden in search of Jesus, they were looking for someone they saw as a blasphemer and troublemaker. They were looking for a problem to get rid of. They may have known Jesus by name, but did they truly know the one they were looking for? Mary came to the garden looking for a mortally wounded Jesus: a broken, lifeless body. She was looking for the dead man whose body had been laid to rest in the tomb. Mary defined who she was looking for by her own expectations. And what about us? Might we be looking for a Jesus who mirrors our own theological or political perspective? Answering the question of who we are looking for comes with the risk of confining Jesus and restricting Jesus, as if we can create Jesus in our own image. It has been said that Peter was the most honest when he spoke his words of denial on the night of Jesus' arrest: "I do not know the man."

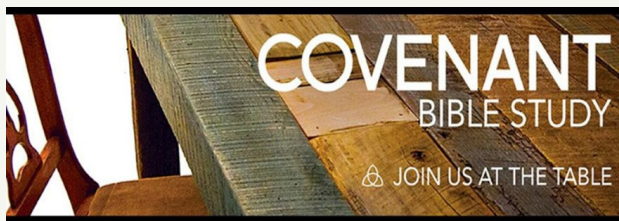
What would happen if instead, we let Jesus define himself. What difference would it make to the angry crowd, to Mary, or to us, if we would respond to the question with Jesus' own words saying, "I am looking for the one who said he is 'the way, the truth, and the life.'"

Even though we know the story of Easter, and we know not to expect to find Jesus in the tomb, do we really know where Jesus will show up? How he will appear to us? When he will come to us? Doesn't the resurrection story tell us that Jesus is more likely to surprise us by showing up where we least expect him? And when we do see him, isn't he likely to appear different from who we expect? Let us continue seeking with open hearts, open mind, and open eyes. Co-Pastors Ann and Charlie Lewis



Weds Bible Study Re-Starts April 19

Our Wednesday morning ConneXtion group will be determining its next topic and beginning again on April 19 after a short hiatus. We will be selecting from Phil Yancy's book, "The Jesus I Never Knew," a course from Adam Hamilton, or another option from Amplified media. Join us on Wednesdays at 10 AM on Zoom by using this [link](#).



Covenant Bible Study: For Beginners and Those Seasoned in Scripture

Thursday evenings, from 6:30-8:30 PM, both in-person at the church, or via Zoom. There will be 24 sessions (started March 2nd) in three units. Participants in the Covenant Bible Study will experience a comprehensive, in-depth study of the Old and New Testaments around the theme of covenant. We have 9 participants and would love to have a few more join us for the last four weeks. Email ann@snopres.org if interested!



Holy Week Evening Devotional with Soup Supper

(April 3 – 7 at 6 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 PM with the service from 7 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 to enable parents with young children to attend. We hope you will take the wonderful opportunity for each evening of Holy Week to gather together as we devote ourselves to God and each other in prayer and reflection.

One Great Hour of Sharing

As part of our Lenten season of growth and giving, we will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering on Palm Sunday, April 2. This has commonly been the largest of our special offerings during the year (est. average has been \$3,000), helping provide food, blankets, medicines, agricultural tools, and education to reduce suffering and poverty. In addition, the OGHS offering provides relief to millions of persons displaced from their homes due to war, famine, and natural disasters. Begun in 1949, the OGHS offering is supported by eight denominations and Church World Service (the CROP Walk folks). Thank you in anticipation for your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing.



Small Groups ConneXTions

There is no better way to grow in faith than to join with others in the study of scripture and sharing your spiritual journey. You are eagerly welcomed.

[Click the link here](#) to inform us of your interest. We will quickly respond. See the calendar in the What's Happening Friday email or the CCB calendar for Zoom links to these meetings.



Endowment Scholarships

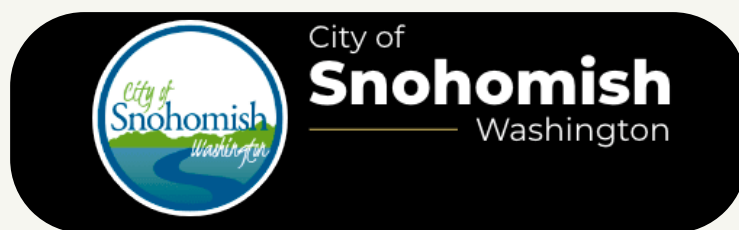
Attention: first year trade school, first year and returning university, or seminary or graduate students who are affiliated* with the Snohomish Presbyterian church. We will be receiving endowment scholarship grant money to assist students as they take the next steps on their educational journey. Scholarship applications are available here on-line and at the information table in the narthex. Please submit applications to the church office. If you have questions, call (360) 568-6498, or e-mail: office@snopres.org. The Youth and Family Ministry Team is responsible for administering and disbursing the Endowment Student Scholarship Grants. We are eager to assist you as you continue to further your education and grow in the knowledge of God's will and purpose for your life.

(*affiliated– students attending FPCS & children of FPCS parents, staff, and missionaries of FPCS.)

Please utilize our church library!



All in the local community are invited to use our church library, located in the room between the front desk and the kitchen. We have a self-check-out system. Please place the card at the front of the book in our checked-out box. Keep the book as long as you need! We highlight children's books each month at the shelf near the education wing entrance. Our entire catalogue is searchable at snopres.org.



Middle Housing in Snohomish

The City of Snohomish recently asked for volunteers to become "Civic Ambassadors". The group includes various folks from around the City; young (high school student) and old and in between. Included are regular people; an educator, a pastor (our own Temporary Associate Pastor, Addie) and retirees (me for one). Our goals are to get the community more involved in the decision making process for the vision of Snohomish over the next 20 years. And to direct people to the employees at the City who can answer any questions they might have about....well, anything. We will also be involved in various community events, such as the Easter Parade, Farmers Market, Food Bank, Senior Center and Earth Day. One way of gathering information is the attached survey. People who live outside the City limits, but have a vested interest in our City are all encouraged to participate. It will only take a few minutes and can be completely anonymous.

<https://www.snohomishwa.gov/775/Middle-Housing>



SNOPRES FAMILY MINISTRIES

Youth and Family Ministry updates can be found here each month. (Questions? Text our Associate Pastor, Addie at 724.971.6952; include your name, so she knows who it is!)

We were delighted to form a Family Ministry Team in March! We have met twice now and are undergoing discernment around our mission and vision. Please welcome our members: Justin Blasko, Riley Boerger, Stacy Haddenham, Shelagh Hizzey, Jennifer Johnson, and Jeff Lamb. Elder Scott Miller serves as our Session Liaison.

Borrow a Worship Activity Bag!

Children and their voices are always welcome for the entirety of worship. If your child would like to sit with you during church, grab take an activity bag (located near the right door entering the sanctuary) for them! Families are also invited to sit in the pews near the "playgrounds" -- the interactive play, child-sized tables located at both sides of the sanctuary front.

VBS Dates: Compassion Camp

Save the dates -- that's right, it's plural! Mark **June 26-30** and **August 14-18** in your calendar. We are going big and bold this summer for VBS--we're offering TWO sessions! We will be using the Compassion Camp curriculum from Illustrated Ministry. We'll do the same program, twice, as an effort to offer more affordable childcare to our community throughout the summer. (Yes, you can sign your kids up for both!) Stay tuned for more specifics.

Interested in helping out with VBS? Contact Addie with your interest.



Open to ages 16 & above:

Register for Godly Play Training!

Godly Play is a Montessori-based Sunday School program and we're looking for teachers! A Godly Play teacher can be a parent, a grandparent, a trusted adult, or even a high schooler--the expectation is to serve **4-5 Sundays per year** and to participate in our group training so that we as a church lift up the ideology of Godly Play: that children are deeply spiritual.

Sign up for the training taking place on **June 9th (5p-8:30p) & 10th (8:30a-5:30p)** at our QR code OR contact our Associate Pastor, Addie, at addie@snopres.org to learn more.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

Nursery Shower Brunch

IN SUPPORT OF THE
SnOpres Children's Rooms

SAT, APRIL 22 9-11 AM
RSVP at QR Code

COME TO ENJOY SHOWER GAMES, GIFTING, AND COMMUNITY!

MISSIONS

...at home and around the world



Presbyterian Disaster Relief for the Earthquake in Syria & Turkey

Financial support for relief efforts can be designated to DR999999-ST earthquake. Gifts can be made online by clicking here, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "DR999999-ST Earthquake" written on the memo line and mailed to

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),
P.O. Box 643700,
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



SAVE THE DATE

May 20, 2023

Celebrate the completion
~ Snohomish Cabin ~
At Tall Timber

Just a 2 hour trip to
Enjoy the amazing scenery
at Tall Timber

Discover the significant ministry of
camp

Enjoy a wonderful meal
Celebrate and dedicate the
Snohomish Cabin

Additional options:

- Join a fun Tall Timber fundraiser golf event at Kahler Glen the morning before heading to the camp
- Spend a night at Tall Timber
- Add on a visit Leavenworth

SAVE THE DATE!

Mission Retreat at Tall Timber

October 20-22, 2023

Everyone is welcome to come!
More details will be coming soon.



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 **April 9**

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 using this Link](#) or follow the QR code on page 9. The order form will allow you to pay at the end. Your cup of coffee does a world of good when you place an order with us! Thank you!

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.



Per Capita Gifts

Being Presbyterian means we are part of a larger family that supports one another. We do that, in part, through our per capita gift. Our per capita gift is what all the members of each Presbyterian Church pays to cover the operating overhead of the church at the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly in order to allow 100% of our giving to the larger church to go to mission. You might think of the per capita giving (\$52 this year) as all the members of a household pooling their resources to cover the operating expenses like the electrical bill and utility bills so that the rest of their gifts can cover the major items like food and housing payments.

Giving To FPCS

We are thankful for the faithfulness of our church members who continue to give generously to the church's ministry. 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.

IRA 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



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. Thank You!

Free-Range Tasty Eggs Available

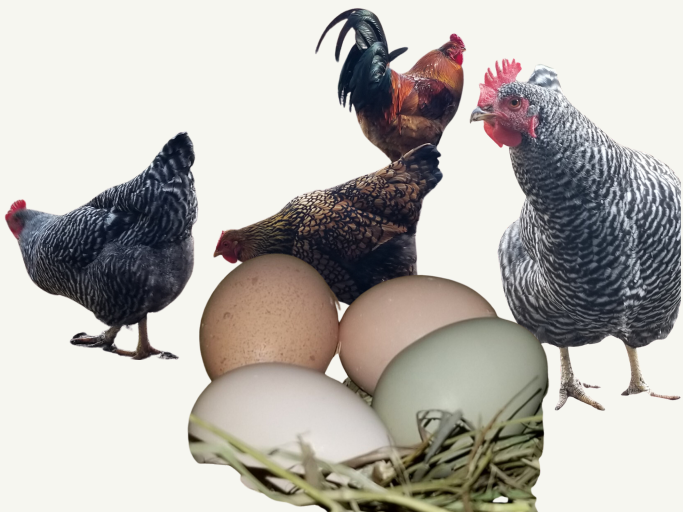
The chickens tended to by our church secretary, Liz Hanlon, are enjoying the sun and are increasing productivity of tasty cage/hormone-free protein nuggets, available for pick up from the self-serve LVH refrigerator.



Suggested donation (\$5/dozen) toward chicken feed will keep the girls producing and \$1/doz. will be added to our Deacon's 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. **Egg-hack:** hard-boiled eggs peel easier as the eggs get older. Who knew?

(Liz's eggs go in the fridge the day they're laid.)



Snohomish Food Bank

Firstly, the many items that we have delivered to the F.B. These last few weeks have, very gratefully, been received. THANK YOU.

We are now tasked with a new challenge, FOOD BANK EASTER BASKETS By March 30th we have a goal to deliver 100 jars of Peanut butter and 100 jars of jelly. We thank you in advance.

Need a hand, Lend a hand

What is it? This program is an outreach of the Deacons. It provides a means for congregation 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 on line, 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.

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 the office and we will see what we can do.



**WOMEN OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SNOHOMISH AND THE
WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SNOHOMISH!**

THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MINISTRIES TEAM IS CORDIALLY INVITING YOU
TO A WOMEN'S TEA AND LIGHT LUNCH ON
SATURDAY, APRIL 29 FROM 11:30 UNTIL 2:00 IN THE LAKE VIEW HALL.

THIS YEAR WE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO PLAN THE TEA AND SET IT UP.
WE HAVE GROWN TOGETHER AS SISTERS IN CHRIST DURING THE TIME WE HAVE SHARED OUR
BUILDING. IT IS A JOY TO WORK TOGETHER!

OUR THEME IS "FOREVER SISTERS"

WE WILL GATHER TOGETHER WITH OUR WOMEN FAMILY MEMBERS TO CELEBRATE
THE CONNECTIONS WE HAVE BUILT WITH EACH OTHER.

IN ADDITION TO OUR FELLOWSHIP TIME, WE WILL HAVE A HAT CONTEST COMPLETE WITH A PARADE.
PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED. HATS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO ATTEND; HOWEVER, THOSE WHO WISH TO
PARTICIPATE CAN "COMPETE" IN OUR CONTEST IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

THE SPIRIT OF SPRING MOST GLAMOROUS/RETRO
MOST UNIQUE/CREATIVE SILLIEST

DELECTABLE TREATS WILL BE SERVED AS A LIGHT LUNCH FOR ALL

PLEASE RSVP BY SUNDAY, April 23rd IN THE NARTHEX.

WE HOPE TO ENJOY TEA WITH YOU ON April 29, 2023

DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED

WOMEN'S MINISTRY BOOK CLUB



Women's Book Club Our April book club selection is *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave, a fast-moving heartfelt thriller about the sacrifices we make for the people we love most. We will share a potluck salad at the home of Marita Bishop at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, April 12. Anne Sterley will be our reviewer. Questions? Call Carol at 206-595-9462 or email Carol at cjohnson98290@gmail.com.



**All are Invited to Join Us for the July 15
Wedding of Daniel Lewis and Esther Okech**

We are happy to announce the upcoming marriage of Daniel Lewis and Esther Okech. We know many of you have watched Daniel grow and some of you have appreciated meeting Esther in worship. We want to include all who would like to join us in the celebration of their marriage at a 2 PM worship service, July 15, at First Presbyterian Church of Snohomish. This is an open church wedding – all are welcome! Please let us know you would like to join us for this event. [Your response here via a Google form will assist us in planning.](#) Pastors Charlie and Ann Lewis along with Sebastian and Sabina Okech of Nairobi, Kenya.

Remember in Your Prayers

Church Family Members

- Al Bartz and family in the loss of Lettie Lee
- Scott Miller - treatment for cancer
- Kathleen Hansen - treatment for cancer
- Bill Gavin - treatment for cancer
- Devin Bishop - treatment for cancer
- Marsha Murray - now at home with ongoing recovery from stroke
- Rebekah Fox - recovery from surgery
- Chuck Murray - on hospice care
- Jerry Williamson - ongoing health concerns
- Those dealing with COVID
- Those who are providing care for family members in need

Homebound

Gary Gloe, Chuck Murray, Carolyn Moss



Friends of FPCS

- Prayers for the Rev. Dr. John and Fran Ortmeier, as John is in care for congestive heart failure.
- Prayers for the co-worker of Stacy Haddenham in the loss of his newborn daughter, Elena Melody, born at 30 weeks.
- Tracy Klingler, sister of Susan Klingler, stage 4 lung cancer

Ongoing Prayer Support

- Situation in Ukraine and all who are experiencing loss and displacement.
- Earthquake losses and recovery efforts in Syria & Turkey.
- Tornado in Mississippi
- Pakistan floods, Yemen war, Syria, and other places of unrest.
- Refugees forced to leave their homes due to violence or disaster.
- People around the world impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
- Governmental leaders
- Cynthia Sundman ~ mission work Peru
- Andrew Lewis ~ completing his mission work at end of April in Huehuetenango, Guatemala
- Pastor Moses & Margaret Tanni and family in Cameroon amidst civil war and violence against civilians



One QR Code to Save them ALL!

If you're looking to link to a signup form, the newsletter, our SnoPres Online home page, or FPCS calendar, the Underground Coffee order form, our "Needs" lists, the Presbyterian Disaster Relief efforts, ... well, just about anything, please follow this QR code. Not finding what you want there? Please let the office know: office@sнопres.org

The Library Corner

The following books have been donated to the church library by Kelly and Stacy Haddenham in honor of Laurie Robinson and David Pugh. These books are ready for check out and can be found in the new to our library section.

A Body Broken, A Body Betrayed.
Race, Memory and Eucharist in White-Dominant Churches
by Mary McClintock Fulkerson and Marcia W. Mount Shoop.

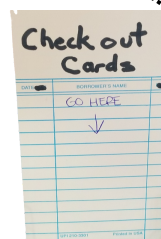
Ministry Among God's Queer Folk
by Bernard Schlage's and David Kunitz
White Too Long

The legacy of white supremacy in American Christianity
By Robert P. Jones

What Kind of Christianity
A History of slavery and anti-black racism in the Presbyterian Church
By William Yoo

Tomorrow Begins Now
Teen heroes who faced down injustice
By Ava Lorelei Deakin

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 LinkTree QR code, above, to our library of links.



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Articles Inside...

- Holy Week Soup Suppers & Devotionals
- Easter Services
- Updates to childrens rooms in education wing!
- Bible Study/ConneXTion Small Groups



seeking: honest questions for deeper faith

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

Co-Pastors: Rev. Charles & Ann Lewis
Temporary Associate Pastor: Rev. Addie Domske
Director of Music Ministry: Hanna Cho
Church Secretary: Liz Hanlon
Counseling Centers of NPS: 360-568-8737

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