

APRIL

2026

THE CHURCH'S LIFE
News of the First Presbyterian Church
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From the Pastor's Desk



Dearest friends,

I've probably told you this before, but Easter is my favorite Christian High Holy Day. Technically, all of Holy Week is tied for first place, but it's all wound up in something that feels just a little bit holier to me than the other holidays. Maybe because Easter reminds me of sunrise services and picking out a brand new Easter dress. Easter, no matter where it falls, always smells a little like spring and sunshine peaking through the winter slog.

Holy Week as a whole has this special place because it's a place to process the so-muchness of the betrayal, the crucifixion, and the resurrection. Even if it's a story we've heard every year, there is something overwhelming about the reality of a human man being betrayed by his community, condemned by his government, and killed in broad daylight. So we take time on Thursday to remember that Christ's community loved him, and yet he was still betrayed. We take time on Friday to sit with the grief of loss and love of those who have been unfairly treated and lost. There is time on Saturday to sit in the silence of what will be next. And still Sunday comes.

And no matter what, Sunday comes. Christ rises. The Good News is shared. All shall be well. See you Sunday, friends. Where hope will prevail again and again.

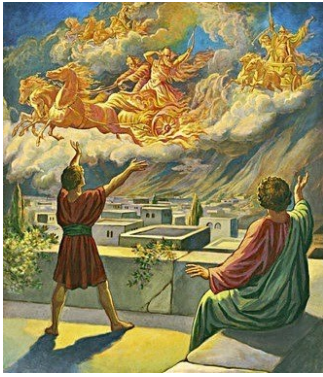
*"The sun will rise, the sun will rise
Bringing life to the earth
as it springs from the ground
The sun will rise, the sun will rise
Won't you dry all your tears lay your burden down?" - The Sun Will Rise by The Brilliance*

All my love,
Pastor Jo



Coffee with Pastor Jo

Coffee with Pastor Jo: **Tuesday, April 28th at 10am—12pm** at Kickback Café.



Eastertide Sermon Series: Elijah and Elisha

In the season after Easter, we're left with a bit of Holy Mystery we don't always know how to handle. After the excitement of the resurrection, we often wrestle with feelings of God's majesty

and grace in every part of our lives. This Eastertide, I look forward to us reflecting on the majesty and unexpected acts of God's providence in the lives of two prophets in the Bible, Elijah and Elisha. Over a five-week period, with three different preachers sharing, I hope you will discover wonder and awe at all God has accomplished throughout history in the stories of Elijah and Elisha.



Holy Week Worship Services

Maunder Thursday Meal and Worship

5:30pm Supper with PUMC joining us at FPC

6:30pm Worship and Communion with PUMC at FPC

Good Friday Worship

12:00 noon Worship service at FPC

Easter Sunday Worship

10:00am Worship with flowering of the cross

Mission

PPOW News



We are excited and grateful to announce a new partnership with the Oregon Area Food Pantry! Julie Krzystof is the new manager, and when she heard about our mission, she invited us to collaborate. We now have a non-profit account under the church name. Cindy, Wendy, Char and I shopped for both March and April deliveries, and left with 462# of food!! This includes many of our regular items: cereal, tuna, canned chicken, macaroni and cheese, rice, dry beans, peanut butter, jelly, diced tomatoes and toilet paper! We were also blessed with extras we haven't provided each month such as: canned fruits, canned veggies, pasta, pasta sauce, condensed soup, and ground turkey. Our generous monthly donor's gift covered over half of what was spent on perishables and remaining items, including small hams for Easter, along with regular in-kind donations. We are so glad to be able to provide even more food for our households of PPOW!

PPOW for April

During the month of April, we are asking for donations of Ranch salad dressing. Is there an American kid alive who doesn't want Ranch on EVERYTHING? We are asking for 16 ounce or 36 ounce bottles, any brand. Let's help our PPOW kids dip their veggies or chicken nuggets or pizza or you-name-it in Ranch! Oh, maybe they can use it on a salad, too.



Thanks for all the vegetable oil donated in March - it's a big help!



One Great Hour Of Sharing Offering

On Palm Sunday, March 29, we received the One Great Hour Of Sharing Offering. Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees — serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.



Here's a little history of the OGHS Offering: Immediately following World War II, U.S. Protestant churches made appeals for relief and reconstruction in areas devastated by the war, primarily Europe and Asia. In 1949, the leaders of several denominations formed a committee to organize an appeal for support of the separate campaigns of their churches. Their joint statement in support of this effort remains remarkably contemporary: A program called *One Great Hour* was broadcast on the evening of Saturday, March 26, 1949, over major networks and many independent stations. The script was written under the direction of playwright Robert Sherwood. The cast included some of the foremost dramatic and musical talents of the time, such as Gregory Peck and Ida Lupino; President Harry Truman brought greetings. The broadcast closed with a request that listeners attend their local church the following morning and make a sacrificial contribution. No exact measure of receipts was possible, but it was estimated that more than 75,000 churches participated. The next year, the offering was repeated, using the name "One Great Hour of Sharing" for the first time. At times, *One Great Hour of Sharing* was coordinated with the Roman Catholic Bishops' Fund Appeal for Overseas Aid and the Jewish Passover Appeal. Free time and space were donated to this joint appeal through the Advertising Council. From the beginning,

this has been an ecumenical effort. While each denomination allocates its gifts differently, all use their funds for ministries of disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development aid. Today, projects supported by *One Great Hour of Sharing* are under way in more than one hundred countries, including the United States and Canada.



WE ARE THERE

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for justice, resilience, and sustainability.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.



Christian Ed



Adult Education - AED Training with the Emergency Management Team

Join us after church on April 12th with the wonderful Emergency Management Team, where they will provide our annual training on the church AED. They will also walk us through the process of what to do in the event of an emergency.

Session News from February



Following are a few items from the February Session meeting, which weren't able to be printed last month. The March Session meeting scheduled for March 26 was cancelled due to Pastor Jo's illness.

Clerk's Report

A corrected 2025 "Clerk of Session Report" from the FPC Annual Meeting was presented. FPC membership at beginning of 2025 was 76 and at the end of 2025 was 81. These numbers were incorrectly reported as 77 and 83 in the annual report.

Christian Education

Adult education in March - "Coffee with a Cop." Chief Officer Jenny is coming to FPC to discuss current events in the Oregon Community. She will then answer questions from the congregation.

Connections

The Breakfast Bunch met on Thursday, February 5, 2026 at Luke's in McFarland. The congregation is helping provide food for the Pres House on Sunday, March 1. On March 22, there will be a birthday reception for those having birthdays in January, February, March and April.

MOTION: To approve Joanne Wroblewski to use Sanctuary May 3, 2026 for her piano recital, at same rental rate as last year. Motion carried.

Worship

The January 25th Sunday included the installation and ordination of officers during worship followed by the annual meeting.

April



- 1: Jim Wallace
- 3: Steven Gmeinder
- 5: Kitty Montgomery

- 10: Debra Marchant
- 11: MaryAnne Buenting
- 16: Rodger Engel
- 18: Judy Belanus
- 20: Stephanie Johnson
- 22: Margaret Johnson & Mark McDermid
- 26: Mark Curless
- 29: Barbara Rueth

February Financial Snapshot

First Presbyterian Church of Oregon				
Monthly Financial Summary				
as of	February 28, 2026			
		Monthly	Year-to-date	Year-to-date
		Amount	Actual	Budget
Pledges Committed (Annual Budget \$131,500)				
	Operating Cash Revenue from Pledges	\$ 8,220	\$28,153	\$21,917
Operating Income				
	Total Income	\$ 9,645	\$31,075	\$24,924
	Deduct: Total Expenses	\$ 16,958	\$30,013	\$32,589
Adjustments to Cash:				
	Add: Transfer from Reserve Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Add: Transfer from Scholarship Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Deduct: Transfer to Sabbatical Supply Pastor Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Deduct: Transfer to Future Major Maint Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Deduct: Principal Payment on Debt	\$ 907	\$ 1,811	\$ -
	Net Operating Income (Loss) ADJUSTED	\$ (8,221)	\$ (749)	\$ (7,665)
Cash Balance-Operating Fund				
	Beginning Balance	\$ 11,682	\$ 3,582	
	Ending Balance	\$ 3,547	\$ 3,547	
	Increase in Available Operating Funds	\$ (8,135)	\$ (35)	

Per Capita for 2026 — The Per Capita payment for each FPC member this year is \$45.00 per person, an increase from last year. As you are able, please place your check made out to FPC in the offering plate or mail it to the church, or you may pay via our online giving page. Your per capita payment is much appreciated by the church and John Knox Presbytery.