



2026

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



Dearest friends,

At the start of this year, I decided I wasn't going to do a traditional New Year's Resolution. Instead of one or two core goals, I was going to make twenty or so minor goals, about all different parts of my life, and try to see where it put me. It's in the format of a little Bingo card, where I check off each section as I accomplish it. It contains all types of things, such as baking three new types of bread (this is why we had baguettes last month for communion!), cleaning up and deleting all my old email addresses, and finishing the t-shirt quilt that I started in January of 2018 and still haven't finished.

Some of these things are easier than others, but they contain both things that can be done in a few minutes (hold a plank for five whole minutes) and things that will take a bit longer (go to the gym 120 times). And it's really shaped my year in an interesting way. Where I previously didn't view myself as an athletic person, my little bingo card has encouraged me to say yes to going to the gym, going for a run, or holding planks more than I ever would have done before.

So more than halfway through the year, I can confidently say I've thrown a lot of spaghetti at my walls in my personal life. I'm watching more movies, spending more time on personal projects, and moving my body in healthy ways. And more than any individual accomplishment (though it was quite neat to hold a five-minute plank) is the reminder that I can change. I can start a new project in the middle of the week, redefine how I view myself, and try new things, knowing that there is grace in failure.

As we wrap up our summer series on the prophets, I hope that you, too, can be reminded of our individual and collective ability to change. On the small things or on the bigger things. We can be more grateful, open up our Bible a bit more, and love a little deeper. We can let go of the frustration and guilt that we hold from times gone by. We can ask the big questions about who we are and build and rebuild what it means to be us. And thanks be to God for that.

See you soon,
Pastor Jo



Coffee with Pastor Jo

August 13th from 10 AM - 12 PM at the Kickback Cafe

Breakfast Bunch—Aug. 27

Join us for "Breakfast Bunch" on August 27 at **Lukes Café in McFarland** -- 8:30AM. All are invited, all are welcome!



Summer Office Hours

Pastor Jo will hold office hours on **Wednesdays** from **9 AM - 11 AM**.

FPC Program Year!

Fall is right around the corner, so mark your calendars for the **start of the Program year on September 13th!** Join us for a wonderful morning of Backpack Blessing, the return of the FPC choir, Sunday School, and the first Adult Education session of the year!



Summer Sermon Series: The Prophets

This summer, we have been spending our time learning about the prophets throughout the Bible. This includes minor prophets, such as Jonah, who are featured only in a shorter book of the Bible. It also includes people like Moses' sister Miriam, who was named as a prophet during the Exodus. Each week, we have drawn a name from a bowl to determine the sermon theme for the following week. We have had a fun summer of learning!



Still Time to Get Your Giving Statement

If you are in church in the next couple of weeks, please pick up your printed report of your giving thus far this year. They will be available at the back of the church in an envelope with your name on it. It will save us the postage for mailing them out. Thanks!

Christian Ed

Adult Education

Join us after worship on the second Sunday of the month to learn from Pastor Jo:



September 13th - What Happened at General Assembly?

October 11th - What is Presbyterianism?

December 13th - What are the different types of Presbyterians, and why did they split?

January 10th - What denominations can Presbyterians work with on Sundays?

February 14th - What are the different types of Christian Denominations?

March 14th - What are the Abrahamic Religions?

April 11th - AED Training



Youth Education

Mark your calendars for the special events happening for our children's ministries. More information to come in the September Newsletter!

September 13th - Blessing of the Backpacks

October 4th - Bible Presentation

Session News from July



Action Items from July Session Meeting:

Motion: To approve the use of the church facilities for the family gatherings of the Freymiller and Baker families (Karen and Preston's families) on Sunday, December 13 and Saturday, January 9.

Acknowledged the passage of the following Electronic Motion on July 16 by email:

Motion: To approve renewal of the FPC Mortgage with an interest rate of 6.69% and a monthly payment of \$1,648, effective July 23, 2026,. This renewal is for 5 years.

Motion: To approve the revision of the eligibility language in the college scholarship policy, as stated below. The removed language was "1. Members of the church who:", which was replace by the language in red below:

"Section I. ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

A. Who is eligible:

1. Participants in the church family who:

a. reside in the greater Oregon, Wisconsin, area

b. regularly participates in the church's life

c. enroll for the first time

d. as a full-time student at an accredited institution of higher earning, with the intention of obtaining a bachelor's degree, technical degree, associate's degree, or equivalent."

At the July meeting we also had our annual meeting with the Deacons. We had a good meeting of sharing stories about FPC, a preview of what is upcoming in the fall (Adult Education, early youth education, important dates, and sermon series), and finally Pastor Jo shared highlights from the PC(USA) General Assembly in Milwaukee where they were a commissioner representing John Knox Presbytery .

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Hanson
Clerk of Session

**SAVE THE DATE
CONSECRATION SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 8, 2026**



August

4 Norm Walmer
 8 Cheryl Rogers
 9 Wendy Goist Jones
 13 Nathan Weigt & Renee Martel
 20 Leah Rogers
 31 Connie Mitchell

June Financial Snapshot

First Presbyterian Church of Oregon

Monthly Financial Summary

as of June 30, 2026

	Monthly Amount	Year-to- date Actual	Year-to- date Budget
Pledges Committed (Annual Budget \$131,500)			
Operating Cash Revenue from Pledges	\$ 2,920	\$ 66,430	\$ 65,750
Operating Income	June	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Total Income	\$ 4,407	\$ 79,259	\$ 74,773
Deduct: Total Expenses	\$ 12,152	\$ 84,104	\$ 97,767
Adjustments to Cash:			
Add: Transfer from Reserve Funds	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Add: Transfer from Scholarship fund	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -
Deduct: Transfer to Sabbatical Supply Pastor Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Deduct: Transfer to Future Major Maint Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Deduct: Principal Payment on Debt	\$ 2,357	\$ 6,048	\$ -
Net Operating Income (Loss) ADJUSTED	<u>\$ (10,102)</u>	<u>\$ 107</u>	<u>\$ (22,994)</u>
Cash Balance-Operating Fund	June	Year-to-date	
Beginning Balance	\$ 15,661	\$ 3,582	
Ending Balance	<u>\$ 5,467</u>	<u>\$ 5,467</u>	
Increase in Available Operating Funds	<u>\$ (10,194)</u>	<u>\$ 1,885</u>	

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