



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



Dearest FPC,

After living in Wisconsin for the last 9 years, my tolerance for hot summer temperatures is much lower than it once was. I was looking back through some old photos of Texas summer camps I attended in grade school, and I was reminded of how I spent weeks in 100-degree heat day after day without much complaint. We camped outside in tents and swam every day, but didn't think twice about how there might be other parts of the world that had another way of spending their summers.

There's something about getting acclimated to a new place or new routine that's hard to define. There's not a single day I can identify as the last day I enjoyed exceptionally hot weather. Just as in all transitions, I can't identify the last time I didn't know someone's name when they came to church. We get settled, and sometimes we don't realize that we're enmeshed in normalcy until we recall when things were different.

After 18 months together, things feel normal. I don't forget my keys at home as much, and all the books I need on a given day are in my office, so I don't have to dig through boxes to find them. We're settling into routine as we approach the next program year this fall. As we settle into this season, I encourage you to look forward and continue to ask questions about what is next, how we can love more deeply, and enjoy the delight of routine while also exploring all that will come next.

Seasons change, and Summer is still a little too warm for me.
All my love,
Pastor Jo



Coffee with Pastor Jo

Join Pastor Jo for coffee and conversation at the Kickback Cafe on August 26th 11 AM - 1 PM

Brunch Church, Sunday, August 31, 2025



Please plan to attend FPC's Brunch Church event on Sunday, August 31, 2025, at 10:00. Brunch Church is an exploration or a rethinking of meals, worship, and the community of God, according to Kendall Vanderslice in "We Will Feast," available from Pastor Jo's library.

The event will be presented with congregation seated at tables at 10:00 AM. Each table will have settings for 6, bread servings, and fruit servings. The congregation can sign up for 4 or more brunch casseroles (such as eggs, potatoes, breakfast meats, cheese, quiche, etc.) to serve 8 or more. Signup sheet will be provided by Connections, chaired by Nancy Sheldon. Connections will also be responsible for providing fruit or fruit salad for each table. Worship committee will be responsible for providing bread offerings for each table.

The congregation will remain seated at the tables for the duration of Brunch Church service. Pastor Jo will deliver their usual sermon, shortened to allow for sermon discussion at each table. The atmosphere will be casual. Music, aside from prelude and postlude, will be sung acapella. The worship service will be integrated and interwoven with the brunch meal. The central idea is to return to an early church concept of group communion, and experiencing worship combined with the humble act of eating and drinking together, or the love feast, Agape.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this special new event of Brunch Church at FPC on Sunday August 31 at 10:00 . Questions can be addressed to Pastor Jo, Nancy Cox, (Worship committee chair), or Nancy Sheldon, Connections Chair.

Mission

PPOW Delivery in July

The July PPOW delivery served seven households. Donations of \$266.61 were greater than the \$243.27 spent from our budget. Each household received food valued at \$72.84. Thanks to Wendy for coordinating while I was on vacation!





Summer Sermon Series - Women of the Bible!

After so much joy last summer going through the Women of the Bible, we will be continuing our series this summer! We'll learn about women in both the Old and New Testament.

Office Hours for Pastor Jo, Summer Update!

Pastor Jo's summer office hours will be Wednesday from 10 AM - 12 PM. Please stop by the church to talk, reflect, and meet with Pastor Jo. You can always email or call Pastor Jo if you would like to meet at another time during the week.



Session News—July

Actions approved by Session

Ezrah Schmeelk desires to become a member of FPC, and FPC will support and sponsor his candidacy for the ministry. **Motion:** To approve Ezrah Schmeelk for membership in FPC - Oregon, and to support Ezrah's candidacy for the ministry with Sue McGuigan as liaison.

C.E. presented a "Safe Sanctuary Policy," developed by C.E. with input from the Emergency Management Team. **Motion:** To approve the Safe Sanctuary Policy for First Presbyterian, with minor wording changes to "Two Person Policy" and the next sentence beginning "There will be."

We received a request for use of a room in our building from United Cerebral Palsy (UCP), which is a nonprofit organization that works with children of all abilities. Property Committee proposed the following motion. **Motion:** To approve the use of the Nursery at FPC on Mondays from 9:30am-11:30am for a playgroup called "Connect the Tots." They will rent the space for \$25/week.

We also received a request to use the church building for a performance by the a cappella group "The Drama," directed by Elisa Kaether, which Pastor Jo is also a member of. **Motion:** To approve the use of FPC by the a cappella group "The Drama" on Friday, September 5 in the evening for a freewill donation.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Hanson, Clerk of Session



August Birthdays

August 4 Norm Walmer
 August 8 Cheryl Rogers
 August 9 Wendy Goist Jones
 August 13 Nathan Weigt and
 Renee Martell
 August 20 Leah Rogers
 August 31 Connie Mitchell

June Financial Snapshot

First Presbyterian Church of Oregon				
Monthly Financial Summary				
as of	June 30, 2025			
		Monthly Amount	Year-to-date Actual	Year-to-date Budget
Pledges Committed (Annual Budget \$131,230)				
	Operating Cash Revenue from Pledges	\$ 8,780	\$ 58,829	\$ 65,615
Operating Income				
	Total Income	\$ 10,132	\$ 69,231	\$ 73,095
	Deduct: Total Expenses	\$ 13,282	\$ 80,770	\$ 96,547
Adjustments to Cash:				
	Add: Transfer from Reserve Funds	\$ -	\$ 9,471	\$ -
	Deduct: Principal Payment on Debt	\$ 878	\$ 5,300	\$ -
	Net Operating Income (Loss) ADJUSTED	\$ (4,029)	\$ (7,367)	\$ (23,452)
Cash Balance-Operating Fund				
	Beginning Balance	\$ 3,491	\$ 7,597	
	Ending Balance	\$ 334	\$ 334	
	Increase in Available Operating Funds	\$ (3,156)	\$ (7,262)	

Per Capita for 2025 — The Per Capita payment for each FPC member this year is \$40.00 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.