



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



Dear friends,

This past week, I preached about how to be the salt of the earth, we're to act as witnesses to others. We're to listen to the stories of people often ignored, those older than us, those younger than us, and those whose voices may have been lost in the cacophony that is our loud and full world. More than just hearing stories, there is something to be said about those moments when we listen without the intention of fixing. We can hold the exhaustion and loneliness, or the delight and rejoicing, without the need to make it better.

As we wander through our summer together, when you're travelling across the world or across town, what would it look like to open your ears and your hearts to those around you? Listening with the intention of truly hearing and not responding or resolving is one of the kindest gifts you can give another person.

This summer, we're continuing to listen to the women of the Bible, many of whom are more complex than we initially thought. But with the Bible, as with humanity, we're called to listen and learn from the words and stories of the Bible. Imperfect people in an imperfect world offering grace and history that often remind us of our own current lives. I'm so excited to see where this summer will take us together.

Listen, hear, and love deeply above all else.  
Pastor Jo



## Coffee with Pastor Jo

Join Pastor Jo for coffee and conversation at the Kickback Cafe on July 14th 10 AM - 12 PM.

## 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.



## 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

## Mission

### PPOW Delivery in May

PPOW had only seven households this month. Two families moved out of the park. Cash and food donations were \$317.45, with \$167.20 coming out of our budget. Each household received food valued at \$69.23 each! As always, THANK YOU for your continued support!



## Celebrating Pentecost— Donations to the Oregon Youth Center

In June, instead of PPOW donations, the Mission committee collected snack and drink items for the Oregon Youth Center. Now that the annual Pentecost offering (which had a youth focus) is a thing of the past, the committee decided to support our

## Donations to Youth Center (cont'd.)

our local youth who come to the Youth Center throughout the year. We hope your generous donations will sustain those hungry kids for a few weeks, at least! Thank you, as always for your kindness in supporting all that the Mission committee does.



The PPOW collection for July is canned tuna fish (6 oz. cans.) Any brand is fine.



## Christian Ed



### Christian Education

During the summer there will not be a monthly Sunday School. However, there will always be activities in the playground area for all ages. We will also have two Christian Education leaders available to supervise children that wish to leave worship after the Children's Blessing. Please contact Judy Belanus with questions, suggestions or concerns.

## Vacation Bible School 2025

We welcomed 8 participants for VBS on Thursday, June 26. Our theme was *The Good Shepherd* and Psalm 23. Pastor Jo shared the story using the curriculum, Godly Play. After some crafts, snack and free time, a script was written for a play. That meant costumes, set painting, more crafts and lunch, of course. We sang songs and practiced our play, just in time for our audience to arrive, the residents from the Beehive. The performance was enthusiastically received and many of our guests joined in as we sang our familiar Bible camp songs. We ended our time together sharing a snack before waving goodbye. Parents arrived just in time to collect their tired kids and wave goodbye to the tired adults!



Thanks to EVERYONE who made VBS 2025 a success!

### Actions taken by Session

**Motion:** To hold a **joint Deacons/Session meeting on July 24 at 5:30PM**, which includes a meal which will be handled by Judy Belanus.

Pastor Jo reported that they had a great week leading and working at Kin-dom Camp for a week with 11 LGBTQ+ campers attending. Jo also shared the joy of welcoming 6 new members to FPC, sharing the "Prince of Egypt" movie with FPC, and recognizing 180 years as a congregation for FPC and PUMC during June.

Property Committee formed a subcommittee to evaluate and consider roof replacement options due to the hail damage last month. Session approved the bid from Maly Roofing Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

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## July Birthdays

July 6 Steve Jenson, Jacob Johnson,  
 Nancy Nelson, & Theo Wiersema  
 July 10 Sue McGuigan  
 July 20 Ralph Stromquist  
 & Mike McDermid  
 July 21 Stephen Sackett & Alex Coyier  
 July 25 Sam Gangopadhyay

## May Financial Snapshot

<b>First Presbyterian Church of Oregon</b>				
<b>Monthly Financial Summary</b>				
as of	May 31, 2025			
		Monthly	Year-to-date	Year-to-date
		Amount	Actual	Budget
Pledges Committed (Annual Budget \$131,230)				
	Operating Cash Revenue from Pledges	\$ 7,045	\$ 50,049	\$ 54,679
Operating Income				
		May	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
	Total Income	\$ 8,405	\$ 59,099	\$ 60,913
	Deduct: Total Expenses	\$ 12,697	\$ 67,488	\$ 80,453
Adjustments to Cash:				
	Add: Transfer from Reserve Funds	\$ -	\$ 9,471	\$ -
	Deduct: Principal Payment on Debt	\$ 895	\$ 4,421	\$ -
Net Operating Income (Loss) ADJUSTED				
		\$ (5,186)	\$ (3,339)	\$ (19,540)
Cash Balance-Operating Fund				
		May	Year-to-date	
	Beginning Balance	\$ 8,697	\$ 7,597	
	Ending Balance	\$ 3,491	\$ 3,491	
	Increase in Available Operating Funds	\$ (5,207)	\$ (4,106)	

**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.