



GROWING DEEPER IN FAITH
REACHING WIDER IN LOVE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SNOHOMISH

The Light | September | 2025

Pastor's Corner

Kingdom Stories

How do you describe something as mysterious and vast as the Kingdom of God? Jesus often told a story to illustrate, one that surprised his listeners, prompted thoughtful reflection, laughter, sometimes tears, and dialogue. The stories Jesus told were called parables. They are short, symbolic stories which inspire creative responses, rather than laying out straightforward rules. Why do you think Jesus often chose to teach with stories instead of rules? Here are a few possible reasons.

- **Stories engage the heart and imagination:** Rules can be memorized, but stories are remembered and felt. They invite reflection and inner dialogue. A story like the Good Samaritan prompts the listener to ask, "Who am I in this story?"
- **Stories bypass defensiveness:** When someone hears a direct rule or command, it can provoke resistance or rationalization. A story, on the other hand, can slip past the intellect and speak to the conscience.
- **Stories invite participation:** Jesus' stories required people to think, interpret, and respond. This moved people from passive receivers of information to active seekers of truth.
- **Stories reach across time and culture:** A parable like the Prodigal Son resonates in every age and culture. Rules may become outdated or misunderstood, but stories carry timeless emotional and spiritual truths.



We invite you this Fall to listen and respond to the parables Jesus taught about life in the Kingdom of God. On September 21st we will begin our sermon series about these parables. On September 28th we will start a new Sunday Class, learning ways to deepen our study and application of Biblical stories ([see details on page 2](#)). And on October 5th we will kick off small groups where you will have opportunities to participate in conversations, meals, and experiences which bring these stories to life.

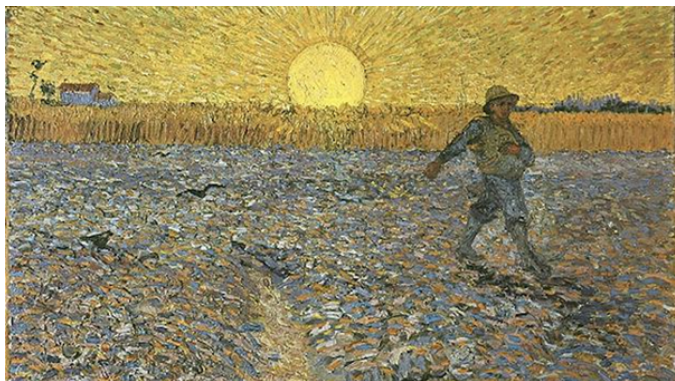
As I have been planning these activities with Tom and the Spiritual Formation Ministry Team, I am personally reflecting on how often Jesus' parables turn the tables on our expectations, point straight to the heart of what ails us, and give us courage in the face of obstacles and life's pains. We hope our attention to these stories will strengthen each of us as we walk together on the Way of Jesus.

Kindly,

Elizabeth Klein

Pastoral Associate

KINGDOM STORIES



We are inviting all of our small groups to study the stories of Jesus this Fall. The Sermon series will be covering familiar stories, seeking to go deeper and to integrate the message into our lives together.

You will have opportunities to participate in conversations, meals, and experiences which bring these stories to life.

Please join us for our Fall Series beginning September 21st in worship. The Sunday morning class will begin at 9 am on September 28th and run until November 16th.

If you want to be a part of a ConneXTion small group, please contact Jon Bishop for an enriching experience this season.

Your Pastoral Support Team and Spiritual Formation Ministry Team

Thank you to the Prayers and Squares group for the beautiful quilt I was gifted. The colors and the picture blocks and even the stitching make it a piece of art I deeply treasure. We read all the prayers aloud that day and they are most appreciated. I am also thankful for all the uplifting prayers we received throughout this surgery and recovery period. And who can forget the wonderful meals we received on some of our most difficult days? What a great church!

God is good! Thank you all!

Brian Shropshire



*Thank you Jesus for being able to celebrate my 95th birthday with my many friends! Thank you for the many cards and good wishes. What a BLESSING! Praise the Lord! Thank you all.
Audrey Kellerman*



Farmer's Markets Dates

- September 7th
- September 14th



Music Director Search Update

We are enthusiastically searching for a new **Director of Music Ministries**. Would you help share the opportunity? Here is an easy link to the [Job Description](#) and our [Church's Videos](#) of our Worship Services, to send to anyone you know (or anyone they know) who might be gifted and interested in helping our praise bring Glory to God. We will be reaching out for candidates and inviting applications in Sept. and hope to close the search by early Oct. so we can begin selection. Your help in sharing this post would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

The Search Team

YOU CAN DO IT! JOIN & PLAY!



First Presbyterian Church of Snohomish 360-568-6498

We are welcoming new handbell players to join our choir.

Never played handbells? If you read music, you can learn to play handbells. Training will be provided.

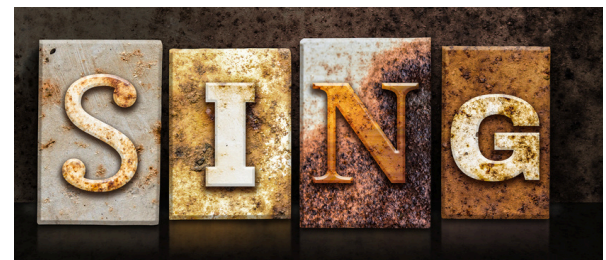
Contact Sally Hart or the church office for more information.

Rehearsals are scheduled to start on Thursday, September 4th at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

- Find yourself humming as you work on things at home?
- Notice yourself singing in the shower more than normal?
- Discover you're singing loudly in the car as you drive for one last summer vacation trip?

If the answer to **ANY** of these is **YES**, it might be a sign to come and join the choir.

Our first rehearsal of the 2025-26 Church Program year will be **Sunday, September 14th** from noon to 2:00, and the first Sunday we will be singing will be **Sunday, September 28th**. If you're interested in joining, but would like a bit more information, contact the church office at [**office@snopres.org**](mailto:office@snopres.org)



The FPCS Community Garden is beginning--on its way to fruition! The first steps for the **VICTORY GARDEN's** spring planting will begin **THIS FALL** on **Tuesday, September 9th at 1:15**. We will stake out the plot, apply cardboard, and top it off with compost, so it can break down over the Fall and be ready for planting in April. If you want to help out on the 9th, it would be helpful (but not required) to have a shovel, rake, and/or wheelbarrow labeled with your name. St. Michael's Catholic Church is mentoring us as we make this first small start, and Bailey's is donating the compost. All produce will be donated to the Food Pantry.



It's time to roll up our sleeves and give the Church facility a good polish! Join us on **Saturday, September 13th from 9:00 to 4:00** for an All-Church Work Day. We're asking all Ministry Teams to identify areas of the building that they use, and come and spend some time on those areas. There is something for everyone to do! Oh, and there will be **FOOD!** Community Life is providing Hot Dogs and BBQ Chicken. We're asking you to bring a salad or dessert to share! [Click here to RSVP.](#)

Women's Ministry Book Club:

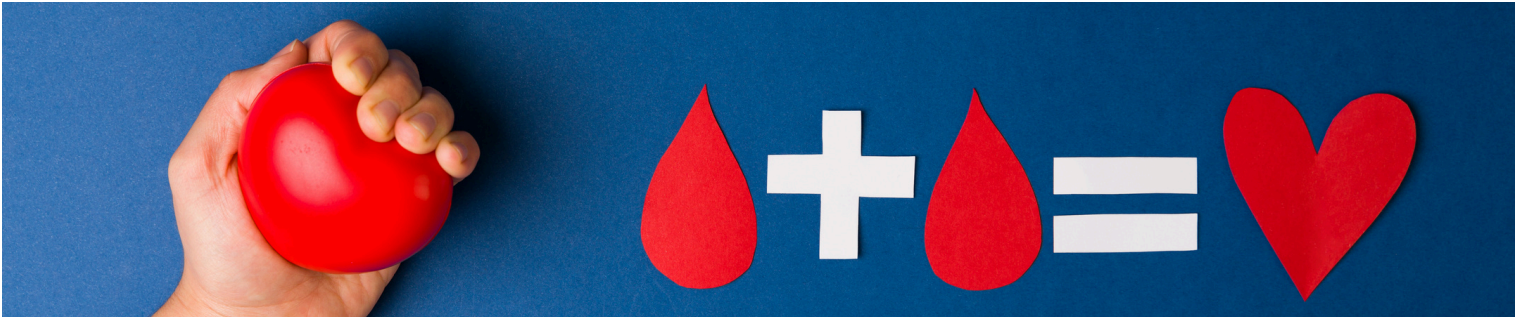
The Book Club will meet at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at the home of Debby Lowery, and will share a potluck salad. Marita Bishop will be leading us in our discussion of "**When Crickets Cry**" by Charles Martin, the story of a man with a painful past, a little girl with a doubtful future, and a shared journey toward healing for both of their hearts. Questions? Call Carol Johnson at 206-595-9462 or email Carol at cjohnson98290@gmail.com.



Blood Drive
Friday, September 26th
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Lake View Hall

Give blood. Help save lives.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)
or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Snohomish
to schedule an appointment.





Wi'am: The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center

Wi'AM, the Palestinian Transformation Center located in Bethlehem in the West Bank, was founded by Zoughbi Zoughbi in 1982.

Their mission is to improve the quality of relationships and to promote peace and justice, by creating a culture of acceptance of others as they are, engaging in conflict transformation, and empowering civil society, while attending to critical needs for the social, political, psychological, and economic well-being of the community.

One of their main programs is in conflict resolution. They mediate to resolve injustices and conflicts between individuals, families, and neighbors. They also organize workshops in high schools in non-violent resistance; find jobs for the marginalized in the community; run children's programs that provide a safe environment for growth, as well as a place to express and channel feelings into educational and creative endeavors. This year because of the difficult situation in Bethlehem - 60% unemployment - they have provided food, medicine, and other essentials to many people.

Since the start of the war in Gaza, the West Bank has experienced an increase in home demolitions, harassment by the IDF, crop destruction, and settler violence.

we asked Zoughbi Zoughbi how his life has been affected by this. He was kind enough to send a lengthy update that you can find on our website here: [Zoughbi Update Letter](#)

[Your Mission MT](#)



LET US THEREFORE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DO WHAT LEADS TO PEACE AND TO MUTUAL EDIFICATION. ROMANS 14:19

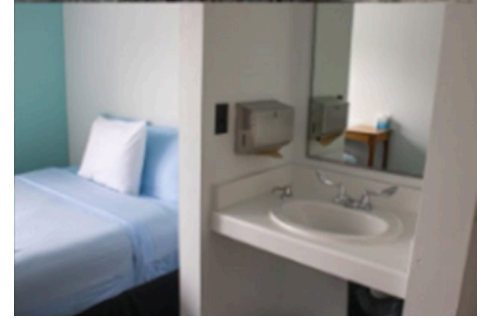
The Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world.

From September 7th - October 5th, your gift will be added to the gifts from Presbyterian congregations worldwide to help support those working tirelessly to promote the peace and redemption of Christ. You can give online through CCB or snopres.org, selecting 'Peace & Global Witness'.

COME & SEE Churchwide Fall Retreat, Oct 10-12

Registrations, fundraisers, and plans for the church-wide retreat, **COME & SEE**, at the Dumas Bay center, continue to move forward. Currently, registrations stand at 20 persons, and there's still room for up to 10 more. We don't need a final count until Sept 28th.

Thanks to the fundraising efforts, we have funds for scholarships for those unable to pay the whole \$330 registration, so don't let the cost deter you from coming. Thank you to Mary Beth Kurtenbach for the lively ideas for fundraising, and all those who have donated time and efforts for quilts and special events!



The retreat will look at us seeing Jesus (and Jesus seeing us) through the various spiritual practices highlighted in the summer sermons. Starting on Friday evening, after dinner on our own, we will meet in large and small groups, as well as enjoying individual time to be creative, artistic, reflective, prayerful, and restful. We will be blessed by the leadership of Rev. Elizabeth Klein; scriptures and prayers will be the center of our exploration and reflection. There will be music and "down" time, as well as delicious meals, culminating Sunday morning. .

The Dumas Bay retreat center features private rooms, catered meals, and beautiful grounds. The registration fee covers 2 nights and 4 meals. Everyone is invited, as Jesus invited followers, to "Come and See" what this relationship and discipleship life is about.



The Spiritual Formation Ministry Team encourages everyone, even if you can't attend, to continue in prayer for those attending, leading, and crafting the retreat. Cards for the various retreat attendees will be available for us to send prayerful messages as the retreat draws nearer.



NOTE:

The quilt auction and event sign-ups are only available until Sunday, September 7th. If you haven't had a chance to bid on the gorgeous quilts or sign-up for the amazing events that are being offered, you're rapidly running out of time. Talk with Mary Beth Kurtenbach or a member of the Spiritual Formation Ministry Team for more details!

Scan to Register!



Pledge and Giving Statements

Can you believe it's already September? Time for kids to go back to school and for Pumpkin Spice everything!!

This would be a great time to run a Pledge and Giving Statement for 2025. There are a few reasons we suggest this.

1. We want to make sure it looks correct to you.
2. If your situation has changed during the year, and you need to make a change to your pledge, this is a good time to get that taken care of as well.
3. We have transitioned to a different payment processing system, and we want to make sure that you aren't having any difficulties with your giving.

Giving Statements are available for you to access in CCB! Here is a step-by-step guide:

- 1) Log into your CCB page
- 2) Click on '**My Giving**'
- 3) On the '**Giving Statement**'
- 4) Select Individual or Family
- 5) Select Quick Date Range - scroll down to '**Year to Date**'
- 6) Run Report

If you are having problems accessing this information or would like a paper copy mailed to you, please contact the office at: office@snopres.org. Please send an email with any concerns or updates to both: Treasurer@snopres.org and Office@snopres.org.

Thank you!

Statement of Activities			
Year to Date Through July 2025			
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Offerings	\$ 259,597	\$ 281,120	\$ 492,645
PerCapita Collections Inc	6,942	4,800	4,800
Other Income & Gifts	16,041	12,792	23,650
Total Income	282,580	298,712	521,095
Total Expense	326,458	329,223	557,611
Net Ordinary Income	\$ (43,879)	\$ (30,511)	\$ (36,516)
Capital Project Expense	YTD		
Electrical Panel Project	\$ 96,522		
HVAC & Furnace	32,134		
	128,656		

Assets as of July 31, 2025		
	As of July 31, 2025	As of July 31, 2024 (PY)
Assets		
General Operating Account	\$ 75,490	\$ 100,500
Other Assets	32,869	21,268
Total current assets	\$ 108,359	\$ 121,768
Investments		
General Fund - Unrestricted	415,519	490,798
General Fund - Restricted	366,650	329,422
Scholarship Endowment Funds	343,162	349,488
Total Investments	\$ 1,125,331	\$ 1,169,708
Total Assets	\$ 1,233,690	\$ 1,291,476



During July, the Church received \$30,749 in total operating income, and had total expenses of \$42,407, resulting in a net loss of \$11,658 from operations, compared to an expected net loss of \$13,451. Year-to-date offerings are now under budget by \$21,524. Overall, most expenses were close to target again in July. If the current trend continues, and costs exceed the income, the church may need to transfer funds from reserves to cover routine operating costs. These are the same funds that we use to make major building and equipment repairs and replacements.



Lead with Purpose:

A Leadership Seminar for All Leaders and Emerging Leaders
Sunday, September 7th at noon in Lake View Hall

Transition times in churches allow us to purposefully consider our leadership and to work together. Christian leaders are called to be—rooted in the Word, united through sharing, and sustained by prayer.

This seminar invites you into a deeper way of leading, centered on three foundational rhythms: God's Word, sharing life, and intentional prayer. Together, we'll explore how Scripture forms our leadership, how open conversation creates healthy teams, and how prayer invites God's Spirit into every decision.

You'll learn to ask compassionate, curious questions that unlock hearts and open doors for understanding. Using our "Word, Share, Prayer" & "Three Questions" framework, you'll gain practical tools to build traction in your meetings and relationships, and printed resources are included in your training kit.

Leadership isn't just about getting things done. It's about caring for the people God has entrusted to you. In this class, we model how to check in with your team, care for your committee members beyond the tasks, create space for prayer, consider succession planning, and even share a meal—seeing Jesus in your gatherings.

We'll also walk through how to develop an agreed-upon vision for your group, shaping your yearly goals in alignment with where God is leading. Everything—every meeting, every plan, every prayer—is guided by this shared vision.

Whether you're new to leadership, or seasoned and seeking renewal, this class offers a path toward Christ-centered, life-giving leadership.

Be equipped.

Lead with clarity.

Walk with Jesus.

This event is open to all. Please RSVP to the office by Wednesday, September 3rd as to whether you are able to attend, so that we are sure to have sufficient food and materials for everyone.

SESSION CORNER - SEPTEMBER 2025

Eight new members were presented and accepted into the congregation in July: Dick and Nancy Walker, Laney Newton, Tom Staggs and Kay Eder-Staggs, Rita Hardin, and Steve and Pam Willis.

COMMITTEE AND MINISTRY TEAM reports were approved as read.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION reports that Elizabeth and Tom are developing a workshop to train leaders for establishment of small groups. Also, Elizabeth is preparing an 8-week series for Sunday morning education hour. The October 10-12 retreat is confirmed with Elizabeth as guide. "Come and See" is the theme.

MISSION MINISTRY TEAM delighted in hosting a Pool Party at the Snohomish Aquatic Center with Eagles' Wings.

Two upcoming Sundays will feature special guest speakers in service, with potlucks following: Kathy Giske on August 31st and Anne Thomas September 21st.

ENDOWMENT gifted 12 scholarships of \$3,000 each to aid in education for FPCS College Students.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATES:

- Facilities: The bidding process policy updates were approved. Additional information was presented concerning upcoming facility projects for the year 2026, 1-3 years, 4-6 years, and 7-10 years, so that we can proactively plan for those expenses.
- Communications: The online worship experience has improved. We have moved away from Zoom and added YouTube for online worship.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Session approved a motion by Pastor Tom to approve the Mission Study Team and their work. Mission Study Team Members are Carol Mastrofina, Julie Reynolds, Kelly Snow, Jared Smith, Elizabeth Klein and Pastor Tom. They will use information from the History and Hope gatherings, the demographics study, TCI Assessment, etc. to assess where we've been as a congregation, where we are currently, and where we want to go in the future. The goal is to be finished by December when the Session, PNC, and the congregation will use it to search for a pastor.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE is nearing completion of filling PNC positions.

A VISITATION AND CARE ministry is being formed to strengthen the caring bond for members needing extra care. Members of the congregation are needed to join this essential ministry; training will be provided to volunteers. Please share your interest with Tom.

The meeting was adjourned with gratitude and closed by praying for those on the care list.
Next Session Meeting: September 8th, 5-7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marita Bishop

Remember in your prayers...

(bold text indicates new prayer request)

Church Family Members

- For Bruce and Melissa Groenewegen in the passing of Bruce's mother Catherine
- Prayers of comfort and a sense of peace for the family of Jennifer Robinson, sister of Laurie Robinson, who passed away at the end of July
- Debbie Ingram and Family - comfort for the family in the passing of Patrick on August 1st
- Martha Skinner - health problems
- Judy Richardson-Fox as she recovers from a broken arm suffered during a fall
- For the family of Loren Hole who passed away recently
- Heather and Brian Shropshire as Brian recovers from open heart surgery
- Bob and Anne Sterley as Bob recovers from heart issues
- Dick and Meridee Vuori - she is recovering from a fall
- Dick and Elaine Sundman - health concerns
- Ethan, and mom Rachel Greenberg - Ethan has metastatic melanoma
- For the FPCS Nominating Team as they search for members to fill roles of Pastor Nominating Team Member, Elder, and Deacon
- Rich Guthrie - heart issues
- Sara Seiber - treatment for cancer
- Shelagh Hizey - cancer treatment
- Ray and Lise Pettigrew in the loss of their son

PRAISES!

- Praise for the marriage of Rachel Colegrove to Chase Rogers on August 16th
- Thanksgiving for a wonderful VBS week, and huge thanks to Tia, and all who helped!
- Thanks to Heather Shropshire for all the extra music-related organizing she's done this summer
- Gratitude that Peter, Val & Jon McKenzie's nephew, is home after 200 days in the hospital
- DeWayne Kurtenbach - Jeff Kurtenbach's father, recovering from a stroke - he's doing better!
- Praise that Tony Velasco, father of Tia Nieuwsma, is doing better after his surgery

Friends of FPCS

- Rob West, Kate's brother, has undergone 5 straight days of radiation to try and shrink tumors on his right lung
- Kevin Poole, Mary Lee Locknane's son-in-law, living with stage 4 cancer over the last 4 years
- For those who are adversely impacted by the reduction or termination of government programs
- Pastor Moses & Margaret Tanni in Cameroon - Pastor Moses and Margaret have been struggling with a number of health issues
- Cynthia Sundman, missionary in Peru
- Cindy Duncan - Jan Gavin's niece - stage 4 renal cell carcinoma

Ongoing Prayer Support

- For the families and communities affected by the devastating flooding in Texas, notably the families who had daughters at Camp Mystic
- Prayers for peace where there is war and turmoil: Israel, Palestine/Gaza, Iran, Lebanon, Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, Haiti, and many other places
- All refugees forced to leave their homes due to violence or natural disasters; all those left homeless, and those experiencing hunger such as in Tigray region of Ethiopia, and Sudan
- Global leaders--for wisdom, and the will and courage to act justly, and to uphold human rights

Homebound

Gary Gloe, Josh Hesseltine, Rosemary Bailey, Elaine and Dick Sundman, Marilyn de Soto, Barb Holmes, Carolyn Moss, Jerry Williamson (hospice) and Bill Barker

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:18

2025 Snohomish CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER
ONE STEP AT A TIME

The office will provide support in any way possible. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Vicki Hesseltine or the church office. Thank you!



Snohomish Community Food Bank Wish List

Here is a list of items currently being requested by the Snohomish Community Food Bank. Items can be brought to the church and deposited in the box outside the Sanctuary doors.

- Boxed Cereal
- Kid Granola Bars
- Fruit Snacks
- Canned Pears
- Canned Peaches
- Fruit Cocktail
- Diced tomatoes
- Canned Corn
- Canned Peas
- Canned Chicken
- Mac & Cheese
- Nutritional Drinks
- Adult Briefs, Large/XL
- Dry Dog Food
- Dry Cat Food
- Baby wipes
- Stage 1 & 2 Baby Food
- Size 5 & 6 Baby Diapers



Our **Wonder-Full Worship** program is up and running! It is available for students from Preschool through 5th grade. In addition to our annual Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter lessons, we will cover themes such as:

- Patriarchs
- Women in the Bible
- Children in the Bible
- Kings of Israel
- Prophets
- Traditional stories from Godly Play (Creation, Moses at Mt. Sinai, Noah, etc.)



The starting date for the youth group will be Sunday, September 14th 12pm-2pm for ages 10 and up or families with younger siblings. High school youth group will start Thursday September 15th 5pm-7pm for high school age youth. We will have youth outings/events every 3rd Saturday of the month. The first one will be September 20th with activity and time TBD. Activities will likely either be a re-do of the rained out Mini-Golf or Bowling. Stay Tuned!! Contact Talea at youth@snopres.org if you have questions or suggestions!



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1306 Lake View Ave
Snohomish, WA 98290
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INTERIM PASTOR
REV. TOM DABASINSKAS

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE
REV. ELIZABETH KLEIN

OFFICE MANAGER
KATE WEST

ACCLAIM! WORSHIP TEAM
HEATHER SHROPSHIRE

**SUPERVISOR OF CHILDREN &
YOUTH MINISTRIES**
TALEA BLASKO

NURSERY
JENNIFER JOHNSON
RILEY BOERGER
JAXON LOCKNANE

CUSTODIAN
JENNIFER JOHNSON

COUNSELING CENTERS OF NPS:
360-568-8737

Notable September Dates:

1st - Office Closed for Labor Day
4th - Handbell Rehearsals Start
7th & 14th - Farmer's Markets
7th - Leadership Training
9th - Victory Garden Work Party
13th - Church Work Day & BBQ
14th - Choir Practice & Youth Group start
21st - Fall Sermon Series Begins: **Kingdom Stories**
26th - Red Cross Blood Drive
28th - Fall Adult Ed Class Begins

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