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

The Light | September | 2026

Pastor's Corner

The Spirit Led Life



"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. Isaiah 55:8 NIV

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. *Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT*

One of my seminary professors observed, "Christians say they believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but many are unsure what to believe about the Holy Spirit." I understand why. God's Spirit leads in very ordinary as well as extraordinary ways. God's Spirit guides and empowers us, yet sometimes leads us in unexpected ways.

I have also heard people ask important questions like:

- How can we distinguish the Spirit's leading from our own desires?
- Does God's Spirit still work today as he did in the New Testament?
- What about the times when it seems God is absent or silent?

This Fall, our sermon series, **The Spirit Led Life**, will explore these questions and more. Each week we will look at scriptures which teach us about the Holy Spirit and then look at examples in the book of Acts which show the Holy Spirit at work in the everyday life of the early church.

God's Spirit often works through the encouragement, wisdom, and support of other people. So, I encourage you to spend intentional time with people who can help you reflect on and apply what we learn on Sundays. Use the study guides we have created. Join the Sunday class or a small group. Attend the Fall Retreat. The following page provide more information about all these opportunities. (See page 2)

My prayer is that we will discover a renewed sensitivity and appreciation of God's Spirit leading us in our everyday lives and a renewed intention to follow with trust and anticipation.

Tom Dabasinskas
Interim Pastor





“A Palestinian Christian's Message of Hope”
Saturday, Sept 19, 1-3 pm

This will be a time to learn, pray, and be in fellowship. Our speaker will be Rev. Dr. Alex Awad who recently spoke at PCUSA's "***Christianity without Christian Zionism: Proclaiming the Gospel, Pursuing Justice, Rekindling Hope***" conference. Here are links you may enjoy exploring, in order to learn about him.

Christ at the Checkpoint | Alex Awad and Mark Labberton (Fuller Seminary recording)

Alex Awad — Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace

Our intent is that participants will leave with clear ideas about how they can join in God's work for justice and peace for all his precious children of the Holy Land.

Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP with the number of people in your party. **RSVP HERE**

Grace and peace,

FPCS Mission Team



On October 9th and 10th, adults seeking wisdom, refreshment, a deeper well of faith, spiritual comfort, and energy will gather at the church for an in-house retreat.

Our theme: **“Following Jesus in a Fractured World”** is intended to provide a biblical basis for our community unity, energy, and communion.

We will explore Matthew 5 and Jesus’ transformational sermon, focusing on the Blessings Jesus promises for those who struggle.

We are keeping the costs low so all can attend who need refreshment: $50, and scholarships are available. Click here to **REGISTER**

For more information, ask the Spiritual Formation Ministry Team: Becky Kiser, Paula Erickson, Jonathan and Marita Bishop, Laurie Robinson, Dave Pugh, Kay Eder-Staggs and Carl Knappe.

Connextion corner

This Fall: Connect in a ConneXtion Small Group

Enjoy fellowship, friendship, inspiration, growth:

- Starting September 13, 9:00AM, every Sunday in the church Conference Room - reflections about weekly sermons - facilitator: Paula Erickson
- Wednesday mornings at 10:00 via Zoom - Sue Davis & Debby Lowery leading - starts 9/16. They will be starting with the book, "Breakfast at Sally's" (Salvation Army). New Members are encouraged to join.
- Men’s Support Group, every Sunday, 7:00AM, in church Youth Room

For other options, contact Jonathan Bishop

Summer 2026 New Members



On Sunday, August 23rd, some old friends of FPCS became the newest members of our church family. Jim and Phyllis Mentzos and Toko Magnus met with Tom to go through a membership class; they were examined by members of our Session, and then formally presented as members before the congregation during the worship service. These three joined Andrew and Nathan Lamb and Ari Seiber (see page 6) who joined following the Confirmation Class led in the spring by Talea and Pastor Tom. **WELCOME!!**



Only 2 More Farmer's Markets

Upcoming dates:

- September 13th
- September 27th

If you have questions or would like to donate something to help our Women's Ministries, please contact Linda Mueller at 425-299-3633. We are all looking forward to the next 2026 Market Days!!





Our Current Impact

August 2026

New families served last month: **75**

New Individuals served last month: **298**

Individuals served so far in 2026: **3,692**

Total days we served food last month: **22**

Snohomish students served last month: **131**

Amount of groceries distributed last month: **185,264 lbs**

Senior clients served last month: **410**

The Victory Garden contributions so far: 51 bouquets, 100+ lbs of produce & 44 packets of herbs

Value of groceries distributed last month: **$350,672**

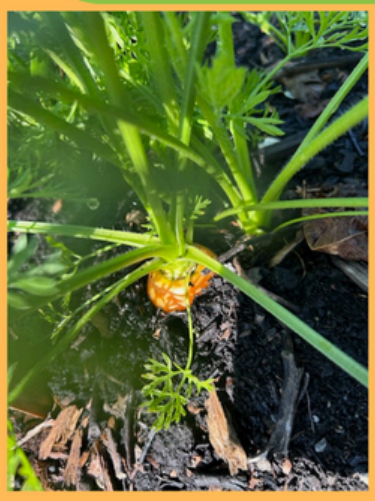
August/September Items Needed:

- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Rice
- Peanut Butter
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Soup
- Tomato Soup
- Tomato Sauce

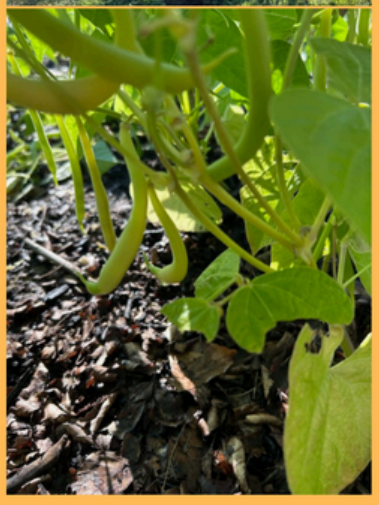












Friends and Faith
Snohomish First Presbyterian Church
Youth and Family Ministry
Learning, Loving, and Growing Together in Him
September 2026



While teachers and students are getting ready to go back to school, our Youth and Family team is getting ready for our fall programs to start up again. We have engaging and exciting lessons for Wonder-Full Worship for our children beginning September 13th. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Shelagh Hizzey or Joyce Chambers.

WONDER-FULL WORSHIP LESSONS

SEPT 13 - GOD CREATES THE WORLD
SEPT 20 - GOD CREATES PEOPLE
SEPT 27 - ADAM AND EVE AND THE FALL
OCT 4 - CAIN AND ABEL
OCT 11 - NOAH LISTENS TO GOD
OCT 18 - GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE
OCT 25 - TOWER OF BABEL
NOV 1 - GOD CALLS ABRAHAM
NOV 8 - LOT HAS FIRST CHOICE
NOV 15 - GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM
NOV 22 - SPECIAL VISITORS

Summer 2026 Confirmation Students



Andrew Lamb



Nathan Lamb



Ari Seiber

On Sunday, August 23rd Andrew and Nathan Lamb and Ari Seiber stood before the congregation, professed their faith, and chose to become members of the First Presbyterian Church of Snohomish. This followed a Confirmation Class in the spring led by Talea and Pastor Tom. Topics covered in that class included: "What Is Faith and Where Do I Fit," "How Do We Read the Bible," and "Living Out Our Faith in Action." Following the Confirmation Class they were examined by members of our Session, and then formally presented as members before the congregation during the worship service. These three were joined by Jim and Phyllis Mentzos and Toko Magnus. **WELCOME!!**

If you missed the VBS Highlight Video or just want to watch again, click on the VBS Image or scan the QR below to take a look!





A special Thank You to all of the Staff, Volunteers, Students, and Families who helped make our 2026 VBS such a success! We were thrilled to see so many students and their families in worship following VBS.



Youth Group Update

September 2026

Youth Group Schedules

Belay Youth (10+)

Monthly Theme: Welcoming/Community
Sept. 6th: Belay youth 12-2
Sept. 13th: No Belay youth (Church BBQ 12-1)
Sept. 20th: Belay youth 12-2
Sept. 27th: Youth DND 12-2

Summit Students (9th-12th)

Sept. 16th: 4pm-6pm
Sept. 23rd: 4pm-6pm
Sept. 30th: 4pm-6pm

September Event

We will be hosting a family worship on September 26th from 6:30 pm-7:30 pm. We will be outside at the amphitheater (weather permitting), where we will enjoy s'mores and worship focused on family and love. Please invite your grandparents, aunts, and uncles, and join us for a night of love.

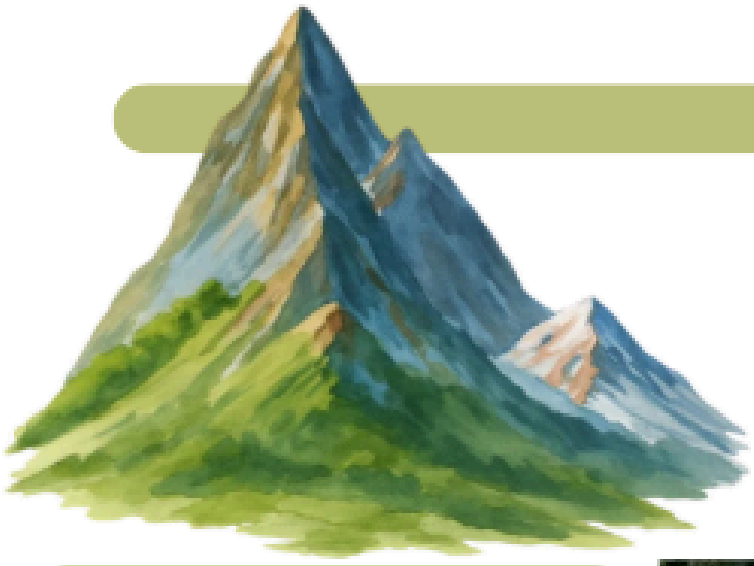
Congergation Engagement:

With the school year starting up for our students, we need your support. On Sunday the 6th, we will have a booth with wristbands and each band has a student's name. We're asking you to wear yours all week and remember to pray for your student as they start this new school year!

Youth Supervisor Note:

This month has been busy but so incredibly fun. A couple of highlights for me were supporting Ivy as her dance team performed at the AquaSocks, as well as the Youth Lock-In, which was so incredibly fun and nourishing for my soul. At the Lock-In, we intentionally worshiped twice, and both times I felt the Lord's presence as the students sang and praised. With the school year starting back up, I am excited to re-launch our senior high youth group, Summit Students, and hope the kids are ready for some fun!

Our programming is mountain-themed, as we view the mental development of young faith as a continuous uphill journey, and we promise to be there for every climb.



Last Month Recap

August 2026

2026 VBS: Many youth members attended or volunteered at VBS this year! We had so much fun worshiping, learning, and playing! It was the perfect VBS for this celebratory year!



AUGUST MONTHLY EVENT:

Youth 2026 Lock-In + SnoPres Olympics

We spent an incredible 18 hours at the church, where 13 students created countries and competed in different challenges to reach gold! We laughed a lot and worshiped too! Shout out to our vital volunteers who truly made this event possible and meaningful!

BELAY YOUTH:

Although the youth group was limited this month due to lower summer-time attendance, the youth made a Scavenger Hunt for the 150th celebration and attended 3 practice circle sessions with the frame: What comes to mind when you hear the phrase "Back to School"?

Financial Position (as of July 31, 2026)



General Operating Fund: The fund balance is $19,500, equal to approximately two weeks of operating expenses. $35,000 was transferred from reserves to the operating account in early August to meet projected operating requirements.

Invested Reserves: Invested reserves total approximately $1.454 million across unrestricted, purpose-given, scholarship, and permanently restricted funds.

- **Unrestricted:** $434,500 (available for Session-directed use)
- **Purpose-given:** $554,200 (designated for specific projects)
- **Scholarships:** $222,600 (funded by investment gains)
- **Permanently restricted:** $242,500 (held in perpetuity; income supports donor-directed purposes)

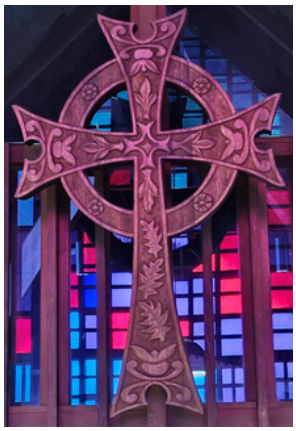
Summary Statement of Activities			
January - July, 2026			
	Actual	**Budget**	**over**
Income	288,300	326,300	-38,000
Expense	335,500	334,500	1,000
Shortfall	-47,200	-8,200	-39,000

Vanguard investments decreased $37,500 in July, however, year to date investment gains still show increases of $155,800, strengthening the overall reserve position.

The church remains debt-free, providing financial flexibility despite the operating shortfall.

Note: Totals are rounded to the nearest $100.

Make Your Gift Go Farther - Donor Advised Funds



Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) have been around for a long time but have been gaining in popularity in the past few years. DAFs are sometimes referred to as "charitable giving savings accounts". You put money into your DAF, it grows (tax-free) through interest, and you distribute the funds on your schedule to any eligible IRS-qualified charity.

When you contribute stocks, cash, or other assets to a DAF, you take an immediate charitable donation tax deduction. You also do not have to pay capital gains tax on the donated assets. The funds in your DAF will grow tax-free so the amount you have to donate can potentially grow, making even more money available for charities. Finally, you advise your DAF on granting money to your chosen charities.

A DAF is like a charitable investment account for the purpose of supporting charitable organizations that you care about.

If this interests you, please consult with your broker or bank about the Donor Advised Fund that they sponsor.

🌿✨ SESSION CORNER • SEPTEMBER 2026 ✨🌿

News & Notes from Your Session

Session met on August 3rd for a full evening of prayer, discussion, and planning as we continue preparing for the next season of life and ministry at FPCS.

🌷 AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS

- Session joyfully approved welcoming seven new members, including three confirmation students. We are grateful to see new members becoming part of the life of our congregation.
- Session reviewed our financial position. With giving and income currently below budget, Session approved transferring funds from our Rainy-Day Fund to support the operating budget. Ministry teams continue to remain within their budgets.
- The 3Practice Circles are beginning to move into ministry teams, creating opportunities to explore together what it means in practice to "Love like Jesus so all are truly welcome."
- Session agreed that FPCS will participate in some form in the Presbytery's Jubilee Campaign, with more information to come.

🌱 OUR STRATEGIC PLANNING JOURNEY

Over the past year, Session has been doing a great deal of work to listen, discern, and prepare FPCS for the future. The new Strategic Planning Journey document brings that work together in one place so the congregation can see where we have been, what we have learned, and how the pieces connect.

It includes the development of our mission and vision, the strategic planning work completed by Session, and the leadership tools being developed to help us put that work into practice. 📄 **Read the Strategic Planning Journey here**

💚 LOOKING AHEAD

Session will gather September 26–27 for the next stage of this work, focused on bringing our learning together into a shared approach for faithful decision-making and leadership.

🙏 Thank you for continuing to pray for our church, its leaders, and one another as we move forward together.

Approved Session minutes are available here: **June approved minutes**

Session Corner reflects the most recent Session activity, while the linked minutes are the most recently approved minutes available.

Remember in your prayers...

(bold text indicates new prayer request)

Church Family Members

- **Prayers for teachers and students returning to school**
- **Keith Elliot - broken hip after a fall - surgery scheduled**
- **Mary Beth Kurtenbach - recovering from surgery on her foot August 18th**
- **Dan Njaa's sister, Dianne Rice, has passed away - prayers especially for her immediate family: husband Jon and their adult children, Aaron and Amanda, as they walk this new path**
- For Melissa Kiser recovering in rehab after a fall
- For Caitlyn, Austin, and Winter Bilbruck and all their family - Baby Vera is at Seattle Children's and has undergone heart surgery
- Vicki Hesseltine as she undergoes immuno-therapy
- John Hesseltine as he wrestles with cardiac issues, plus upcoming knee surgery
- For Marlene Latimore - losing her eyesight
- Charlie and Ann Lewis and family - health
- Prayers for the work of the PNC

Ongoing Prayer Support

- **Prayers for victims of earthquakes in Colombia, Japan, Indonesia, and Venezuela**
- **Prayers for all those impacted by fires in our area, in Canada, Europe, and worldwide**
- **For victims of recent flooding in Nepal & China**
- Continued prayers for persistent political unrest and financial instability in Cameroon
- 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
- Global leaders--for wisdom, and the will and courage to act justly, and to uphold human rights

Homebound: Josh Hesseltine, Rosemary Bailey, Marilyn de Soto, Barb Holmes, Carolyn Moss, Merridee Vuori

Friends of FPCS

- **For a close friend of Toko Magnus who has been diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disorder, and is struggling with the diagnosis and treatment - for peace and strength for her and her family**
- Hank Robinett's daughter Julie Ann Smith is suffering from increasing Alzheimer's - prayers for the whole family
- For the Mueller's two-and-a-half year old granddaughter who has fatty liver disease
- Doug Hood - nephew of Jean & Jim Hunter - cancer treatment
- Pastor Moses and Margaret - health issues
- Cynthia Sundman, missionary in Peru

PRAISES

- **For the work of Anne Thomas in Cambodia, Laos and throughout SE Asia**
- **Praise for Cindy Duncan being free of all brain tumors (24 have been removed)**
- **For Nate Burns, grandson of Cindy Duncan who has been suffering from a rare form of epilepsy - they have found a medication that works!!**
- **For old friends who are now new members of FPCS!**
- **Toko Magnus' brother has responded to chemotherapy for lymphoma and is now in remission, on maintenance doses for 2 years!**
- Ray Rubalcava is home from rehab and continues to recover from his heart attack!

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



Our summer golf season has ended but we're not quite ready to put the clubs away yet. Beginning Sunday, **September 6th** at **2:00**, our inaugural Fall Golf will begin at the **Snohomish Golf Course**! Tee times beginning at **2:00 pm**. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early so that we can assign teams. Pay your green fees and meet us under the tree by the first tee. **All ability levels are welcome.** Please contact Chris Harkness if you have questions.

Give blood. Help save lives.

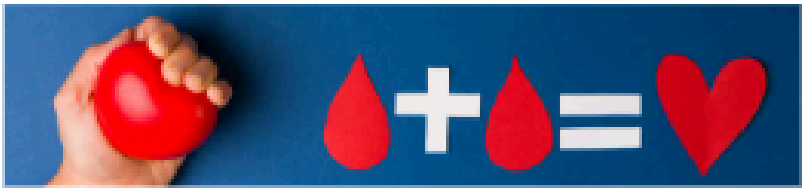
Blood Drive

Friday, September 25th

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Lake View Hall

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





A portion of the proceeds raised will go towards supporting the Snohomish Community Kitchen. This volunteer organization provides over 8,000 meals each year for people in need of nutritious food. In association with Church World Services (CWS).

CROP Hunger Walk Snohomish

October 18, 2026 at 1pm

Please join us in the fight against hunger. The steps we take and funds we raise will make a difference in the lives of others.

The walk begins at St. John's Episcopal, 931 Second Ave, Snohomish, WA 98290 on October 18. On-site registration opens at 12:30 p.m. and the walk-around at 1 p.m.

Contact: Yvette War Bonnet at yvettewb@comcast.net

crophungerwalk.org/snohomishwa

Donate or sign up for your walk today!

God at Work! - ART Ministry Team

Grateful to be a part of such a generous congregation! Thanks to Jeanne and Joyce sorting through the contributions to fill the backpacks, Jon Bishop then delivered fully-filled backpacks for 15 elementary students and the needed supplies for secondary students. In addition, there is nearly $400 to buy the backpacks for the secondary students.



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