



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

The Light | December | 2025

Pastor's Corner

What a Gift!

Christ has generously divided out his gifts to us... so his people would learn to serve and his body would grow strong. This will continue until we are united by our faith and by our understanding of the Son of God. Then we will be mature, just as Christ is, and we will be completely like him.

Ephesians 4:7 and 12-13 CEV



'Tis the season of being thankful and giving of gifts.

Yet it is also a time in which we can easily feel discouraged or anxious hearing the news of what is going on in our world, community and maybe even our personal lives. There is war, conflict, division and suffering all around us. It is good to remember that it was to circumstances like these that God came and dwelt among us. God wanted us to know the gifts of love, peace, hope and joy in the midst of the difficult circumstances of life.

God entered our troubled world so that we could know this good news: the gift of Jesus and all this means for us. We can experience and share the gift of Jesus' love, peace, hope and joy. We can be people who make an eternally significant difference in these troubled times!

I am thankful for how we are learning and maturing in faith and eager to serve and strengthen other people. I'm grateful for the people serving as elders, deacons and part of search teams to identify our next Pastor, Director of Music and Youth Director. I celebrate the many ways this church is serving within our local community (see pg. 2 & 4) and supporting ministry around the world (see pgs. 2, 4 & 7). I am also thankful for the financial gifts you have given to prepare us for how God will continue to bring good news through this church to future generations of people. (See pg. 8)

Join us this Advent as we celebrate God's gift of Jesus that brings hope amidst fear and discouragement. Reach out to other people around you that need to hear and receive this good news. The birth of Jesus is truly a gift unlike any other!

Let's come, see, receive and share the gifts God has for all of us!

Tom Dabasinskas

Interim Pastor

2025 Everett Gospel Mission Christmas Party

Once again our church shared Christmas joy at the Everett Gospel Mission by hosting a Christmas Party! The residents created ornaments, gifts, and decorated cookies. This was possible thanks to the following volunteers: Laney Newton, Kay Elder-Staggs, Lynda Bachelor, Barbara Rubalcalva, Mary Polley, Monica Byerly and Scarlett Byerly along with her two friends that joined the festivities! Additional thanks to those volunteers who made cookies and helped organize supplies: Paula Erickson, Vicki Hesseltine, Toko Magnus, and Cathy Haddenham. Finally, sincere thanks to everyone for your prayers.

Sincerely, Jill Sahlstrom, Mission Ministry Representative



Christmas Joy Offering



Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Renewal Ministries Northwest

Advent Gathering

Light Shines in the Darkness...and His Name is JESUS!



Are you feeling the effects of darkness in your life or the world around you?

At this retreat we will reflect and pray with the words God spoke into the heart of the great prophet Isaiah to declare, "He will be called..." The name JESUS is packed with promises that bring us into the light. Promises to deliver, heal, and revive our souls like nothing else can!

Facilitators: Rev. Dianna Kunce & Rev. Denise Easter

Date and Time: Saturday, December 6 from 9:30am-12:30pm

Registration: Cost: \$49, includes handouts and snacks

Location

Renewing Chapel at Renewal Ministries Northwest Office
16300 Mill Creek Blvd, Mill Creek, WA 98082

[Click to Register](#)



2025 Advent Study!



As you journey through this Advent season, may you remember: hope that trembles is still hope. This season, let us trust that the Good News is greater than fear.

Materials have been ordered and are available for you to pick up your copy at church on Sunday morning. If you are unable to get to the church to pick up your book and would like one mailed to you, contact Kate in the church office (office@snopres.org).

If you would like to be connected to a small group for this Advent season, please contact either Paula Erickson or Jon Bishop.

AGM Is HERE!



The FPCS Alternative Gift Market (AGM) provides the members of our church community with opportunities to spread God's love and dedication to social and economic justice by supporting a variety of non-profit organizations doing good works both locally and internationally.

Online purchases and donations may be made from Sunday, November 23rd (online) through Saturday, December 6th. Items purchased will be available for pick-up at the Alternative Gift Market on Sunday December 7th.



Poinsettia Sign-Up

Every Advent season we decorate our sanctuary with poinsettias. If you would like to purchase one in honor or memory of a loved one, you can sign up online here or leave your name on the sign-up sheet at the welcome desk in the entry. Order by Sunday, Dec. 22 to have your loved one's name included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Cost is \$15. If paying by check, please mark "Poinsettia" in the memo line of your check. [Click to order online.](#)





A Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent – December 14

Our December 14th service will be a Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent. The service consists of nine scripture readings, each followed by a musical offering by many of our talented musicians or the singing of a familiar carol. Please join us for a service filled with familiar music for the season.



Christmas Eve Services at 5 and 8 pm

We enter this holy night and the mystery of the season as we celebrate the eve of our Lord's birth. Bring your extended family, neighbors and friends as we wonder at the gift God gave our world in giving us the gift of his love in Jesus. Candlelight will bring our evening worship services to a close in recalling that silent, holy night when all was calm and all was bright and Christ our Savior was born.

December 24 at 5:00 PM – A family oriented candlelight service with child-care provided for children up to three years old.

December 24 at 8:00 PM – A traditional candlelight service with choral music.

Thank you to Ray and Lise Pettigrew for once again donating the beautiful Christmas tree for our Sanctuary.



Christmas Eve Carols & Cookies

Celebrate with us! •

Live Nativity, Christmas Cookies, Carols, and Fun.

4 pm, Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Gift bags for the kids, family pictures with angels, camels, and wisemen, plus the joy of singing.

Join us for our Christmas Family Eve service at 5 pm.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



Wonder-Full Worship

Kids are connecting with the new Bible stories, and our adult leaders appreciate the updated teaching format. It's meaningful, engaging, and full of energy. Let's keep the momentum going! Here's how:

- Bring your children, grandchildren, or invite neighborhood families—everyone's welcome!
- Consider volunteering as a teacher—we're building a great team.
- And please keep our leaders and children in your prayers.

This December, our engaging lessons will explore these inspiring stories as we look at the Advent and Christmas Stories!

- The Promise of Hope: Prophets Foretell of Christ's Birth
- The Promise of Peace: Gabriel Visits Mary
- The Joy of Good News: Shepherds Hear the Good News
- The Gift of Love: Christ is Born!
- Jesus is Presented to Simeon and Anna
- The Magi and the Flight to Egypt



**Christmas Celebration
at Neah Bay PC
Saturday; December 13th**



You are invited to celebrate the Birth of the Prince of Peace with our Makah sisters and brothers in Christ at Neah Bay PC on Sat, Dec 13. This is a 40+ year bridge of friendship with the Makah Tribe of Neah Bay on the far northwest corner of the Olympic Peninsula.

Participants stay overnight at the Hobuck Beach Resort and attend the NBPC worship service on the following Sunday. If you have questions about the event, feel free to contact Heidi at hhsaikaly@comcast.net. A CCB sign up to volunteer and/or contribute supplies for the event will be sent out soon.



A Message from Cynthia Sundman

Hello,

Thank you for praying for this weekend's women's conference. It was a wonderfully blessed time for all participants.

This was only the second regional women's conference for churches in the Apurimac (Abancay) and Cusco provinces. It was a huge privilege to be asked to be the guest speaker. Our theme was "Serving together in love". I taught on "Woven together in love" and "One heart and one

spirit".

God truly blessed our personal as well as small group times as we focused on passages that demonstrated the components of love in Colossians and Ephesians. We had impacting discussion times looking for ways to improve the way we love and serve together.

One of the highlights was the interactive prayer stations which brought us closer to God and to each other. Some of these ladies I have known since 2001. It was especially meaningful to see how 2 of the pastor's daughters from Abancay had matured in their faith becoming leaders and servants in the church.

One daughter came with her 3 sons who were also serving in the praise and worship team.

Please continue to pray for these ladies, that the Lord would show them how to put into practice what they learned both in their own lives and in their churches and women's circles.

Thanks again,

Cynthia

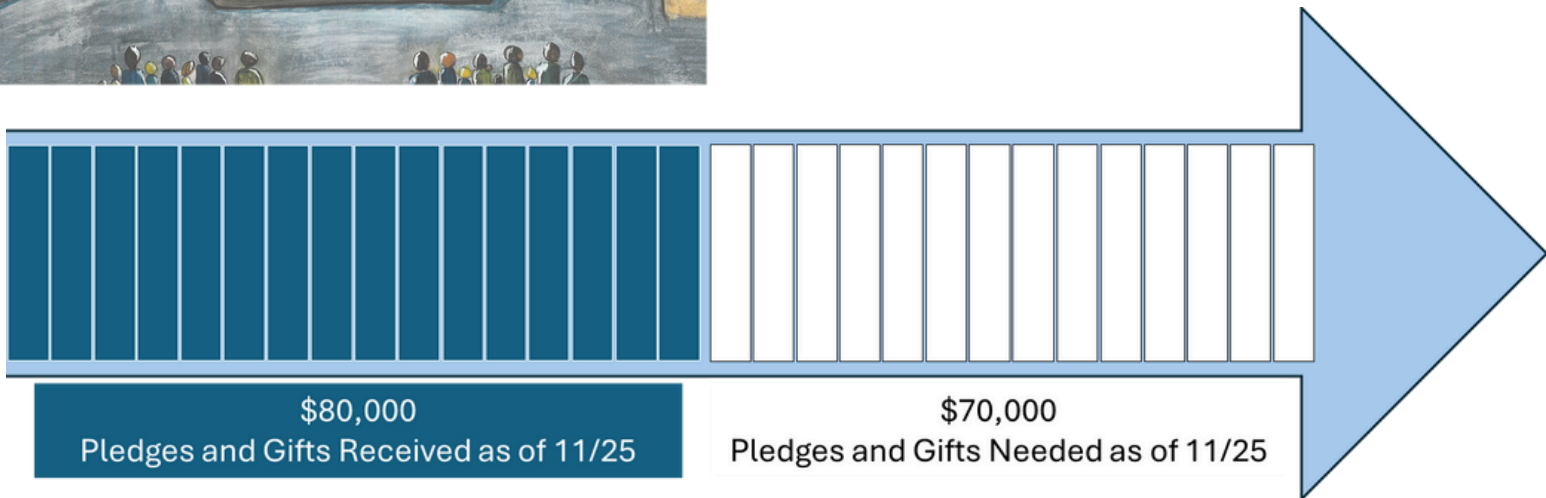


You are invited to serve in ministry with Cynthia in Arequipa, Peru. For further information, about the summer, 2026 Mission Trip to Arequipa, contact Heidi Saikaly at hhsaikaly@comcast.net.



Foundations for the Future

Celebrating 150 years of ministry through FPCS and faithfully preparing for what God will do next!



Pledge and Giving Statements

Can you believe it's already December? Christmas Is Almost Here!

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!



Stewardship Update

Thank you to all who came and participated in Consecration Sunday on November 9th. As of November 25th, we have received pledges from 80 households. If you still need to complete your pledge, you can do so online: **2026 Pledge Card**
If you have any questions or would like to revise your pledge, please contact Kate in the office at **office@snopres.org**.

Statement of Financial Position			
As of October 30, 2025			
	As of Oct. 31, 2025	As of Oct. 31, 2024	
		(PY)	
Assets			
General Operating Account	\$ 86,939	\$ 85,278	
Other Assets	36,422	7,458	
Total current assets	\$ 123,361	\$ 92,736	
Investments			
General Fund - Unrestricted	419,422	513,812	
General Fund - Restricted	370,021	354,434	
Scholarship Endowment Funds	371,260	361,291	
Total Investments	\$ 1,160,703	\$ 1,229,537	
Total Assets	\$ 1,284,064	\$ 1,322,273	



End of Year Giving
REMINDER: All 2025 giving must be either postmarked or received in the office by Wednesday, December 31, 2025.

In October, the Church received \$45,098 in total operating income and had total expenses of \$43,694 resulting in a net profit of \$1,404 from operations, compared to an expected net loss of \$7,638. As of October 31, the Church has total assets of \$1,284,064 and continues to be debt free. We have received pledges and collections toward the **Sanctuary Refresh Project** totaling over \$64,000 at the end of October. We are 43% of the way to our \$150,000 goal!

Statement of Activities			
Year to Date Through October 2025			
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Offerings	\$ 389,096	\$ 389,913	\$ 492,645
PerCapita Collections Inc	7,172	4,800	4,800
Other Income & Gifts	26,890	18,704	23,650
Total Income	423,158	413,417	521,095
Total Expense	462,385	468,322	557,611
Net Ordinary Income	\$ (39,227)	\$ (54,905)	\$ (36,516)
Capital Projects Expense	Year to Date		
Narthex Windows	\$ 12,570		
Electrical Panel Project	96,522		
HVAC & Furnace	51,414		
Ed Wing Plumbing	35,807		
Total Capital Projects	\$ 160,506		

SESSION CORNER - DECEMBER 2025

The Session meeting on November 3rd began with Marita Bishop leading a devotion and prayer. We then approved the following items:

- Youth Minister Search Team beginning their search in January. Talea will be here until the summer of 2026
- Receipt of the reports from Ministry Teams, Committees, Clerk of Session and Task Force were approved.
- Nominating Committee recommended changing the number of people serving as Deacons from 12 to 8. Session approved along with reducing the number serving on Nominating Committee from 7 to 6. Changes will be voted on at the November 23rd Congregational Meeting
- Endorsed Deacon and Elder nominations received from the Nominating Committee.
 - Elders: Kim Boase (3 Year Term), Marsha Murray (1 Year Term)
 - Deacons: Marry Polley (Extend 2 Years), Sue Davis (3 Year Term), Carol Johnson (2 Year Term)
- Also approved Appointment to Endowment Board and 2026 Nominating Committee Members
 - Endowment Board: Jeff Kurtenbach (3 Year Term)
 - 2026 Nominating Committee: Mary Beth Kurtenbach, Linda Mueller, Mary Polley, Christopher Harkness, Rita Stoess, Carlene Crossman
- A Joint Meeting of Elders and Deacons will take place on Monday, December 8th.

They received updates and discussed next steps in Strategic Planning Areas:

- Facilities: Presented a preview of the Rensch Study to look at future facility projects
- Youth and Family: The guidelines and application process for scholarships is being updated.

Updating Membership Roles: Those on the list that have shared time, talent, or treasure with the church are being left on. Elders and clerk are contacting the remaining inactive members to see if they wish to reengage, transfer or drop their membership.

The date of the Annual Congregational Meeting will be determined at the December meeting.

Please pray for Session as they focus in upcoming meetings on budgeting and long-range strategic planning.

Respectfully submitted,
Marita Bishop

Welcome to Our New Church Officers:

With grateful hearts we welcome the new leaders of our church who will serve on Session and on Deacons beginning January 2026. They are:

- **Elders:** Kim Boase and Marsha Murray.
- **Deacons:** Mary Polley, Carol Johnson, and Sue Davis.
- **2026 Nominating Committee:** Mary Beth Kurtenbach, Chris Harkness, Linda Mueller, Carlene Crossman, Mary Polley, and Rita Stoess.

Thanks to officers completing terms of service and our 2025 Nominating committee:

With deep appreciation for the energy, love and faithful service to our church and community, we thank the following people for their commitment and service:

Elders: Dede Babcock and Marita Bishop

Deacons: Vicki Hesseltine, Jeff Kurtenbach, Elie Saikaly, Debby Ingram, Judy Richardson-Fox & John Mueller

2025 Nominating Committee: Marita Bishop, Debby Ingram



Remember in your prayers...

(bold text indicates new prayer request)

Church Family Members

- Bob and Anne Sterley - comfort in the sudden loss of their son Jeff to cardiac arrest on November 1st
- Bill Barker and family - peace and comfort in the loss of Jerry Williamson
- Kelly Snow - for those having a tough week due to Thanksgiving and beginning of holidays
- Mary Beth Kurtenbach - recent knee surgery
- Yvonne Carr - closing days of life
- Duane - for his son, difficulties following return from Middle East
- Rose - prayers for the PNC
- Prayers for the family of Gary Gloe as they mourn his passing on October 12th
- For the family and friends of Marcia Moser who passed away on October 25th
- Debby Ingram and family - comfort for the family in the passing of Patrick - for Debby's health
- Shellie - prayers for Bob and Anne Sterley
- A young daughter is "butting heads" with her mom - prayers for forgiveness for all
- For Bruce and Melissa Groenewegen in the passing of Bruce's mother, Catherine
- Ethan, and mom Rachel Greenberg - Ethan has had cancer, is undergoing immunological infusions over the next year
- Rich Guthrie - heart issues
- Sara Seiber - treatment for cancer
- Shelagh Hizey - cancer treatment

PRAISES!

- Shelagh's daughter-in-law was diagnosed with a very aggressive breast cancer in October - after 3 surgeries, it has disappeared!
- Nancy Walker - praises for tough but helpful conversation with daughter-in-law
- John Mueller - thankful for recent trip to Missouri and for his family and 10 gr. grandkids
- Mary Lee - grateful that Kevin is planning to cook the Thanksgiving turkey!

Homebound

Josh Hesseltine, Rosemary Bailey, Elaine and Dick Sundman, Marilyn de Soto, Barb Holmes, Carolyn Moss, Bill Barker

Friends of FPCS

- Larry Hood (Jean & Jim Hunter's brother-in-law) - medical issues as a result of a fall - now home
- For Troy - husband of Toko's sister Naomi - met. colon cancer, difficult decisions for their family
- For Patrick - brother-in-law of Marge Bryan's daughter - pancreatic cancer
- For those who have been adversely impacted by the government shut-down
- Reed - chemotherapy
- Prayers for Beatrice Furr (Caleb's stepmother) and family as she nears the end of her life following a battle with lung cancer
- Prayers that Cindy Duncan's (Jan Gavin's niece) body will continue to tolerate the chemo - travel mercies as she continues coming fr. Alaska to Fred Hutch for treatment
- Doug Hood - nephew of Jean & Jim Hunter, diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer - chemo
- Kevin Poole, Mary Lee Locknane's son-in-law, living with stage 4 cancer over the last 4 years
- Pastor Moses and Margaret, struggling with a number of serious health issues
- Cynthia Sundman, missionary in Peru

Ongoing Prayer Support

- The national election in Cameroon (where Pastor Moses Tanni and his wife Margaret live) took place Oct 12th - for peace to follow
- For the increased levels of political violence, and violence in general, that is emerging nationwide - that we would seek to find areas of commonality
- 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

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



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1306 Lake View Ave
Snohomish, WA 98290
360-568-6498

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

JAXON LOCKNANE

CUSTODIAN

JENNIFER JOHNSON

COUNSELING CENTERS OF NPS:

360-568-8737

office@snoptes.org | www.snoptes.org

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