



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

The Light | October | 2025

Pastor's Corner

God's Generosity to Us and through Us

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11 NIV

This month we will be talking about opportunities we have to be generous with people around us. We are able to be generous because of God's immense, continual, far-reaching generosity with us. God blesses us not just materially but also our heart, soul and mind. Consider the ways the Bible talks about all that God has given us:

- God loved us before we were born (Ephesians 1:4-5)
- While we were still sinners God died for us (Romans 5:8)
- We have been given every spiritual blessing in Christ (Ephesians 1:3)
- God has given us Holy Spirit to understand what God has given us (1 Corinthians 2:12)



And reflect on what we are learning of God's generosity in the parables:

- The Farmer who scatters seed on all types of soil (Matthew 13:3-8)
- The Estate Manager who gives equally to the first and last (Matthew 20:1-16)
- The Father who gives to the prodigal son and the older brother (Luke 15:11-32)

As we are generous with the time, talent and treasure God has given us, we get to see God blessing future generations of people! Let's look for and enjoy God's generosity in our lives. Let's look for and enjoy the opportunities we have to be generous with other people. What a privilege that we can be a part of helping people experience life with God!

Be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this we will be storing up our treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

1 Timothy 6:18-19 NLT

It sure will be fun to hear the stories of how God blesses people through your generosity!

Tom Dabasinkas

Interim Pastor

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.

It's not too late to join!! The Adult Ed class Sunday mornings at 9 am in Lake View Hall.

2025 Fall Connexion Groups

Leader: Paula Erickson
When: 12:30 pm Sundays
Where: At the Church

Leader: Michael Prihoda
When: 9:00 am Tuesdays
Where: By Zoom

Leader: Becky Kiser
When: 7:00 pm Wednesdays
Where: At the Church & by Zoom

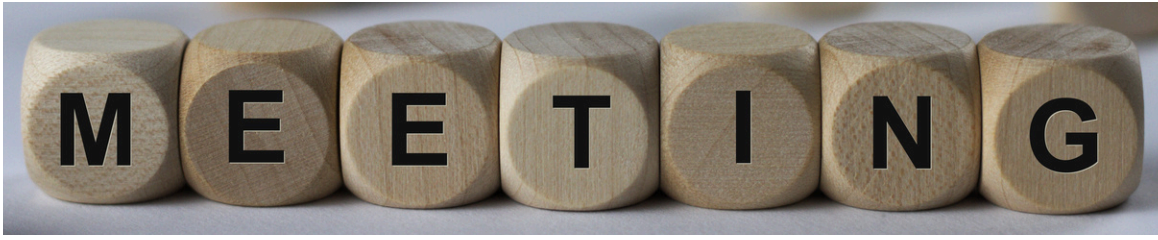
Leader: Jean Hunter
When: 10:00 am Wednesday
Where: By Zoom

Leader: Mary Beth Kurtenbach
When: 6:30 pm Thursdays (Soup Dinner)
Where: Kurtenbach Home

Leaders: Jon & Marita Bishop
When: 7:00 pm Thursdays
Where: In Homes

Contact the Leader or the church office if you would like to join one of these groups.

C O N G R E G A T I O N A L



On Sunday, October 26th there will be a Congregational Meeting following the Worship Service. The purpose of this meeting is to introduce you to the individuals that have been selected for the Pastor Nominating Team and have the Congregation vote to approve those individuals. Those individuals will be introduced to you initially through an insert in the Sunday Bulletin on October 12th.

Another element of this meeting will be to present the results of the TCI Assessment that we have asked the congregation to take over the last month. If you have not yet completed the assessment, please plan to do so by Sunday, October 5th. The easiest way to complete this assessment is to do it online. It should take 20-30 minutes. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FirstPresSnohomishWI> The password is: fpcswi



Foundations for the Future

It's that time when our church begins to focus on stewardship through our Consecration Sunday activities. This year Consecration Sunday is November 9th, and our theme is "Foundations for the Future," with Ephesians 2: 19-22 as our scripture.

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his spirit."

In 2026 our church will be 150 years old! Generations of faithful people much like us have worked and prayed and sacrificed to keep it strong. Now it is our job to ensure that our church remains strong and vibrant for another 150 years. Pastors Tom and Elizabeth will be explaining all this during upcoming church services with the help of some members of our church family. So be alert to God's leading as you watch this stewardship drive come alive. Please prayerfully ask God how you can join with the saints of the past to give this church a strong foundation of faith in God and love for others as we look to the years ahead.

Introducing: The Victory Garden Ministry Team

The FPCS Community Garden is beginning--on its way to fruition! The first steps for the VICTORY GARDEN's spring planting took place last month. We're starting small. We've created a 20'x20' enclosed location with outside access to water (outside double doors behind education wing) Prepare the space for no-dig gardening this Fall, with cardboard and compost in the hopes of planting potatoes in the Spring. Special thanks to Bailey Farm for the compost dirt!!



As you start raking and cleaning things up at home, please consider bagging your leaves and bring them to the church – leave them (closed bags) by the garden area for us to compost for mulch.

There is something for every age to do to help with our garden. If you would like to help or would just like more information, please talk with a Victory Garden team member: Julie Reynolds, Paula Erickson, Cris Kennedy, Becky Kiser and Philomene Prihoda.



Thank you to all who joined together to celebrate my 95th birthday! I'm sorry that I was unable to be at church that Sunday to celebrate with you. I took a bit of a fall, but I'm recovering well and look forward to joining you again. It's an honor and a great privilege to have reached this age and I look forward to joining you again on Sunday.

Hank



Church Clean Up Day Really Cleaned Up!

A huge thank you from the Building and Grounds Team to everyone who participated in the Church Clean Up Day! The church is cleaner and more organized thanks to everyone's efforts. That huge dumpster was overflowing at the end of the day.

It was hard to get a total because people were on the move, but a conservative estimate is that about 40 people attended. At least that was the count at the delicious luncheon provided by the Community Life Team. And a thank you to Community Life for giving us an opportunity to re-energize with a hearty meal and time for fellowship!

Let's do this again in the spring to get ready to invite the community to our 150th birthday!



Free Firewood

We had a tree taken down behind the church. Now there is some firewood available. Stop by with a truck and take what you would like to have! The tree was a fir tree, if that matters.

Donations!

- Did you know that our sanctuary roof is moss free and cleaned thanks to a donation to Building and Grounds?
- There is a large screen TV that replaced a failed projector in the Lakeview Hall—a gift from a donor.
- Our aging freezer, that almost constantly needed to be defrosted, was replaced with a brand new frost-free version as a gift from a donor.
- The dangerous tree by the playground was removed by a donor to make room for the garden to grow food for the food bank.
- The Nursery is being repainted thanks to a generous donor.

Thank you to all those who see a need and step forward to care for our beautiful church!



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

Meet Joel Skellie

Our guest choral director, Joel Skellie, has been an active member of the Kitsap community for over 35 years. He conducted the Bremerton Symphony Concert Chorale for 14 seasons, presenting concerts with both classical and pop repertoire. He then formed the Kitsap Music Association, bringing together community musicians to present choral concerts to support local non-profit charities.

Mr. Skellie has served as a vocal and choral adjudicator, and as chorus director for Kitsap Opera. He was active in Community Theater and Vienna Night and as Music Director for the Bremerton Community Theater's production of Jesus Christ Superstar. Joel most recently served as the Director of Worship Arts at North Point Church, Poulsbo for 12 years, and after retirement formed the Poulsbo Community Choir.

A prolific writer and composer, Mr. Skellie has had several works premiered with the Bremerton Symphony and it's Chorale, and has written and produced numerous plays and musicals. He is perhaps best known locally for his Victorian Christmas series.

Lately Mr. Skellie enjoys his lifelong love of sailing, spending time with Patty, his wife of 50 years, his sometimes annoying but always loved grandchildren, playing chess and spending time with friends.

Chancel Choir

- 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 next choir rehearsal will be **Sunday, October 5th** from noon to 2:00, and the next Sunday we will be singing will be **Sunday, October 19th**. If you're interested in joining, but would like a bit more information, contact the church office at office@snopres.org



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.)

October Youth Events

10/2 Community Kitchen
(open to all ages)

10/5 All ages Youth Group

10/9 Senior High Youth Group

10/12 All ages Youth Group

10/18 Youth Outing: Pumpkin Patch/Corn Maze

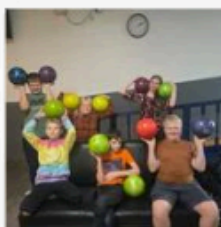
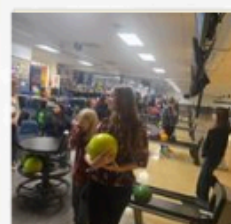
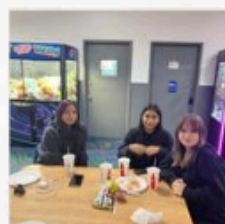
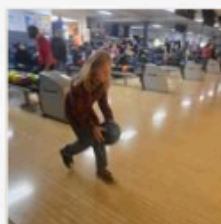
10/19 All ages Youth Group

10/23 Senior High Youth Group

10/26 All ages Youth Group

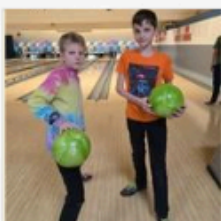
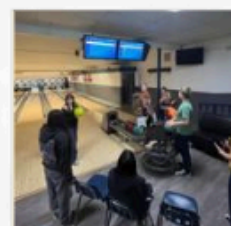
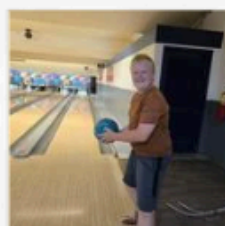
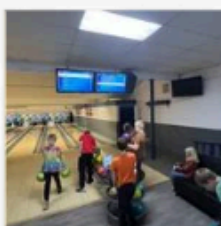
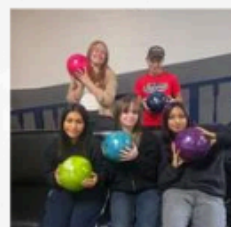
10/30 Senior High Youth Group

Youth Update



September Youth Outing

Bowling!!



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.



Ladies! Women's Ministries is launching a new venue for Bunco. We will be hosting BUNCO in the Lakeview Room on **Saturday, October 18th** from **11:30 to 3:30**. We know it is sometimes rough to get out to Linda's home so we have decided to move to the church to make access really easy. There is plenty of room for the snacks you will bring, more tables will be available for play, you can bring a guest, and getting to the fun is easier for all in a one room venue. Please sign up in the Narthex Sunday, October 5th and 12th.

We can hardly wait for October 18th to arrive! Dress for fall with Halloween around the corner and bring a snack to share. We will see you on the 18th of October. Questions? Please call Linda at 425-299-3633 or speak with Melissa, Marge or Rita. See you soon!

Family Shelter Party - November 1st

Save the date! Saturday, November 1st from 10:00 am to Noon, all women and children are invited to join the Christmas party at the Everett Family Shelter! Our church has hosted this fun event for the last 25 years. If you are available to help prepare supplies, meet Jill at the church at 10am on Thursday, October 30th. At the party, we will set up tables with art and craft supplies for the residents to create painted wooden ornaments, beaded necklaces, felt banners, decorated scarves and other decorations and gifts. You can help make their Christmas jollier by joining us at the shelter or by donating craft supplies or sugar cookies that the children can decorate. Please leave labeled donation sin the church library. We will meet in the church parking lot at 9:30 on November 1st and carpool together since parking is limited at the shelter.

Click to sign up: [Christmas Party Sign-Up](#)

Ideas? Questions? Contact Jill Sahlstrom at jill.sahlstrom@gmail.com

SESSION CORNER - SEPTEMBER 2025

Session formally approved the formation of our newest Ministry Team. We are thrilled to introduce you to the VICTORY GARDEN Ministry Team. They are already hard at work setting the location of the garden to the north of the church building. Paula Erickson is the leader! They have contacted other churches in Snohomish and have good help for the way forward. PURPOSE? To grow food and flowers for the food bank. Cardboard and mulch have been laid, thanks to Don Bailey for a truckload! Next spring we will be ready to plant. See Page 4 for more info.

Building and Grounds:

- Session approved Narthex window replacement: Sky Valley Glass is replacing the 15-year-old windows in the Narthex that have been slipping down and leaving gaps.
- A hearty group of church-folk gathered Sept. 13 to sort, repair and clean church spaces, inside and out. We were blessed with a BBQ lunch served by the Foxes...oh, so good! Bailey corn also!! Thank you all!! See Page ?? For more info.
- SESSION approved the plumbing quote to repair leaking pipes in the Education wing.
- Session approved a process to help build the community among the people who watch worship services online.

Stewardship:

Session approved the **FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE** Stewardship Plan to be launched October 12th in anticipation of our 150th anniversary as a congregation in the Spring. See Page 3 for more info.

Pastor's Report:

- Joel Skellie will serve as an interim choir director beginning in September.
- A Sunday morning Spiritual Formation class will be held at 9 am from September 28th through November 16th.
- Connexion groups are forming for Fall...sign-ups in the foyer for several options! See Page 2 for more info.

Next meeting Monday, October 6th.

Respectfully submitted,
Marita Bishop

Pledge and Giving Statements

We've arrived at October - the beginning of the Fourth Quarter of the year. On **Sunday, October 5th**, we will have printed copies of your Year To Date Giving Statements printed and available for you to pick up at the church after Worship. If you are not here to pick those statements up, they will be mailed to you.

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!

During August, the Church received \$42,304 in total operating income and had total expenses of \$40,485 resulting in a net profit of \$1,818 from operations, compared to an expected net loss of \$10,634. Year-to-date income is under budget by \$5,921.00. As of August 31st, the Church has total assets of \$1,285,380.



Statement of Activities

Year to Date Through August 2025

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Offerings	\$ 300,331	\$ 312,246	\$ 492,645
PerCapita Collections Inc	7,172	4,800	4,800
Other Income & Gifts	17,381	13,758	23,650
Total Income	324,884	330,804	521,095
Total Expense	366,944	371,950	557,611
Net Ordinary Income	\$ (42,060)	\$ (41,146)	\$ (36,516)
Capital Project Expense	YTD		
Electrical Panel Project	\$ 96,522		
HVAC & Furnace	32,134		
	<u>128,656</u>		

As of August 31, 2025

	As of Aug 31, 2025	As of Aug 31, 2024 (PY)
Assets		
General Operating Account	\$ 88,222	\$ 81,638
Other Assets	32,869	27,366
Total current assets	\$ 121,091	\$ 109,005
Investments		
General Fund - Unrestricted	435,831	524,970
General Fund - Restricted	374,178	334,388
Scholarship Endowment Funds	354,279	366,316
Total Investments	\$ 1,164,288	\$ 1,225,674
Total Assets	\$ 1,285,380	\$ 1,334,679

Remember in your prayers...

(bold text indicates new prayer request)

Church Family Members

- **For Marcia Moser as she recovers from hip replacement surgery**
- **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 issues
- Judy Richardson-Fox as she recovers from a broken arm suffered during a fall
- Bob and Anne Sterley--health issues for Bob
- Dick and Elaine Sundman - health concerns, also in process of moving again
- 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!

- **Dick and Nancy Walker - thankful for being part of our wonderful church family, and for friends both new and old**
- **John Mueller - prayers for Bible studies beginning this fall**
- **Audrey - praises for Hank Robinett's 95th birthday - Happy Birthday, Hank!!!**
- **Praise that Brian Shropshire is recovering well from his heart surgery - thank you for all your prayers during his recovery**
- Thanks to Heather Shropshire for all the extra music-related organizing she's done over the summer
- Gratitude that Peter, Val & Jon McKenzie's nephew, is home after 200 days in the hospital

Friends of FPCS

- **Doug Hood - nephew of Jean & Jim Hunter, diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer**
- 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 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

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



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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

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