



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

The Light | January | 2026

Pastor's Corner

Love Well

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35 NIV



As we enter a new year it is common to set goals and make resolutions. In these verses Jesus gives us an important one that we must do: love one another. As I reflect on this, a couple of questions come to mind. What does it mean to love people well? Do we love like Jesus loves? Then I begin to wonder, do the people in our families, work and community know that we are followers of Jesus based on how we love them? Loving well is beginning to feel a little challenging.

Then I remember the context of this verse. Jesus said these things after he had washed his disciples' feet, including those of the person who would go on to betray him. Loving well is going to be dirty, smelly and difficult work!

Then I slow down and reread the part of this passage that says, "as I have loved you." How has Jesus loved us? Remembering how life-changing and life-giving God's love has been helps me see how important it is for other people to know this love. Reflecting on how graciously and patiently Jesus loves me is motivating to love over the long haul no matter what people's response. And trying to love people well makes me realize that I continually need to receive Jesus' love too!

As we begin this new year, I encourage us to set our intentions to love well. I pray we will experience how life-giving and life-changing it is to receive and share Jesus' love. Join us on Sundays as we learn how Nehemiah lived out this command to love well. Also be sure to find other groups of people who help you reflect on what it means for you to love well, and who will support you as you do your part in that. Every day will provide us with opportunities to love well as we interact with people in our lives. May they experience the life-changing, life-giving love of Jesus!

Looking forward to what God will do,

Tom Dabasinskas

Interim Pastor

Celebrating 150 Years: **Embracing Our Past, Envisioning Our Future**

In 2026, our church marks a remarkable milestone: 150 years of ministry, worship, and community life. This celebration is not only about looking back—though we have much to remember with gratitude—but about honoring how God has been faithful across generations while inviting us to imagine what comes next.

Rather than centering the anniversary around one single event, the 150th Celebration will unfold throughout the year in a series of moments designed to bring us together in different ways. Some gatherings will be reflective, others light-hearted and social, and others outward-facing as we share our story with the wider community. Along the way, you'll see opportunities to remember, to reconnect, to celebrate, and to look ahead with hope.

You'll notice the 150th theme woven into worship, fellowship, and special events across the months ahead. We'll be sharing photos, stories, music, and visual reminders of our past—while keeping our eyes on the future God is calling us toward.

January: Our Story • Our Hope

We'll begin the year with a month-long reflection experience called **Our Story • Our Hope**, which sets the tone for the 150th Celebration.

Beginning January 4th, reflection spaces will be set up in the church where you're invited to share:

- memories of First Presbyterian Church of Snohomish, and
- hopes or prayers for the church's future

These spaces will remain available throughout the month, allowing everyone time to participate in their own way.

We'll officially kick things off on Sunday, January 11th, with cake and fellowship following worship—a simple, joyful way to gather and mark the beginning of this milestone year together.

Our Story • Our Hope is intentionally meaningful without being heavy, participatory without pressure, and rooted in gratitude and community.

What to Watch For:

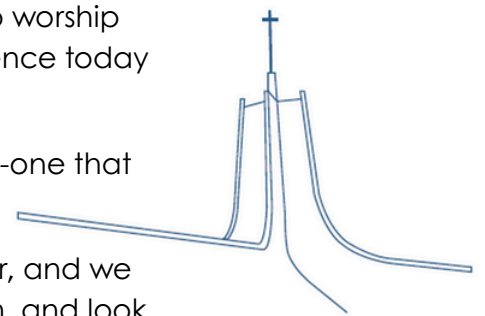
As the year unfolds, look for:

- Monthly or seasonal events that invite participation in different ways
- Visual reminders of our history throughout the church
- Special music, storytelling, and moments of remembrance woven into worship
- Community-facing events that celebrate both our past and our presence today

You don't need to attend everything to be part of the celebration.

Each gathering stands on its own, and together they form a shared story—one that belongs to all of us.

We are grateful for the many hands and hearts helping to shape this year, and we look forward to celebrating with you as we remember where we've been, and look with hope toward where God is leading us next.



150 YEARS

*Embracing Our Past
Envisioning Our Future*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF SNOHOMISH

1876-2026

A Note from Bob & Anne Sterley

With gratitude, we'd like to thank our church family and friends for all the lovely cards, texts, calls, and flowers we received on the recent passing of our son. All the love and support is so appreciated and we are truly blessed by these acts of kindness.

Thank you,
Bob & Anne Sterley



Go and Do Likewise, Following Jesus into Our Common Humanity is a book by local pastor and author Rev. Terry Kylo. Beginning Sunday, January 11th and continuing for six weeks, the Adult Spiritual Formation class will be using Rev. Kylo's book to examine what the scriptures have to say about the many divisions with which our nation is struggling. The book is filled with wisdom and hope that Christians can make a positive difference in our divisive culture.

The publisher describes the purpose of the book this way:

"We are living in a time of profound social divisions in the United States. Many of us feel deeply concerned and long for a better future for our families and communities.

What can we do that will make a difference?

Trust grows when we know each other, do good for each other, and honor each other in public. Our Wisdom Traditions remind us of these truths. Neighbors of different cultures, faith traditions, political perspectives, and life circumstances can come together in simple yet powerful encounters."

Please join us on Sunday morning, January 11 at 9:00 in the Lake View Hall as we explore ways to bring reconciliation, respect, and love to individuals and groups in our community with which we may find ourselves at odds.

ATTENTION FPCS Group Leaders - Annual Reports Due by January 19th

Just a friendly reminder...all Ministry Teams, Committees, and Task Forces need to have your 2025 Reports in by January 19th, so that the complete Annual Report can be assembled and available prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 15th following Worship. Reports needed:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|
| • Women's Ministry | • CROP Walk | • Nominating | • Worship |
| • Congregational Care | • Mission | • Personnel | • Deacons |
| • Community Life | • Sanctuary Refresh | • Endowment | • Stewardship |
| • Youth & Family | • Building & Grounds | • Spiritual | • Finance |
| • Prayers & Squares | • AGM | • Formation | • ART |
| | | | • PNC |

Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club will meet at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at the home of Judy Richardson-Fox, and will share a potluck salad. Linda Mueller will be leading us in our discussion of **"Frozen River"** by Ariel Lawhon. *Frozen River* is a gripping historical mystery inspired by the life and diary of Martha Ballard, a renowned 18th-century midwife who defied the legal system and wrote herself into American history. Questions? Call Carol Johnson at 206-595-9462 or email Carol at cjohnson98290@gmail.com.



Carols, Cookies and a Live Nativity by the Youth and Family Ministry Team

Isaiah 11:6 tells us, *"A child will lead them."* The verse prophesied the Messiah's reign and tells us that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to children, who often serve as our examples of trust and humility.

"How can we make the manger scene come alive and bring fellow worshipers together to celebrate Christ's birth?" was the question that begged an answer this Christmas season.

So, the team joined heads and hearts to create this year's live nativity on Christmas Eve. Over 50 people sang Christmas carols, munched on yummy cookies, and watched as the children took us back to Bethlehem for just a few minutes, doing what they do best: leading us to Him.

Many thanks to those who poured hours and hours into this celebration. Mostly, thank you, kids, for showing us your sweet and simple faith. We serve Him by helping your walk with Him grow deeper and stronger.



SnoPres Youth

Upcoming Events

January

2026

JAN 4	All Ages Youth Group 12 pm-2 pm
JAN 8	Senior High Youth Group 5 pm-7 pm
JAN 11	All Ages Youth Group 12 pm-2 pm
JAN 15	Senior High Youth Group 5 pm-7 pm
JAN 17	Youth Outing-TBD All ages welcome! Time: Tbd
JAN 18	Youth D&D After Sunday Service
JAN 22	Senior High Youth Group 5 pm-7 pm

*FOR MORE DATES SEE MONTHLY YOUTH CALENDAR YOUTH@SNOPRES.ORG

Wonder Full Worship

Everyone is welcome to be a part of this ministry. Here's how you can get involved:

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

If you're interested in helping, please contact Joyce Chambers or Shelagh Hizzey. We would love to have you involved!

This month, we are learning about Jesus through the Gospel of Matthew. Our lessons include:

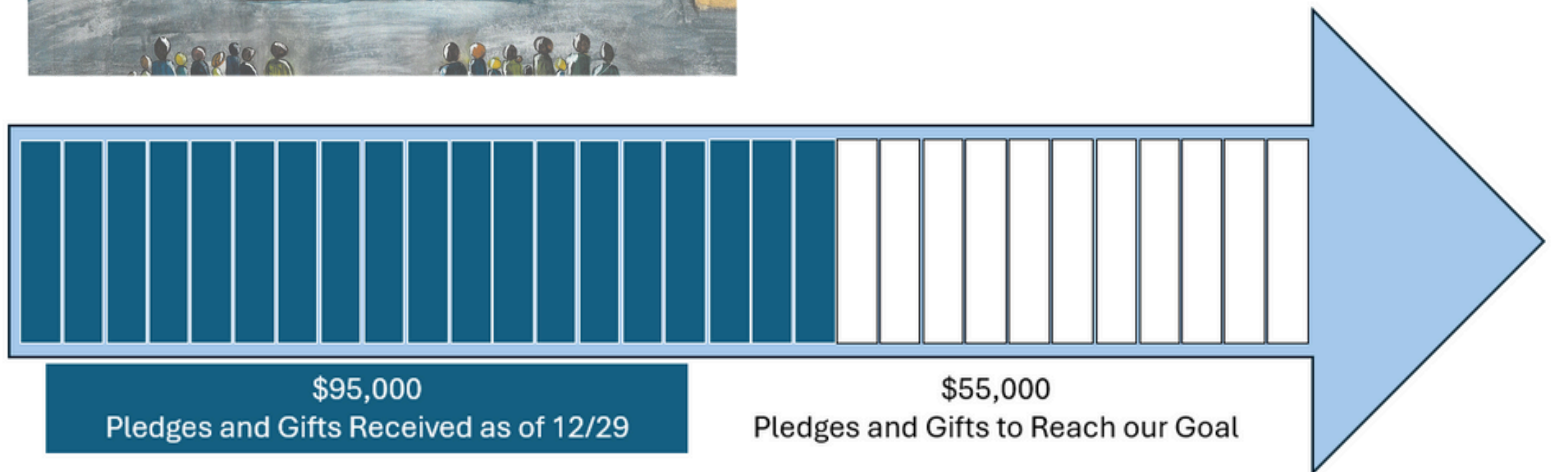
- The Magi Visit Jesus and the family's flight to Egypt
- John the Baptist
- Jesus' Baptism
- Jesus in the Wilderness





Foundations for the Future

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



Pledge and Giving Statements

Well, we're here. Welcome to 2026!

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. 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! We are not planning on mailing statements to everyone. Statements will be either emailed or 'snail mailed' to you if you request one. If you would rather print your own, 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 '**Last Year**'
- 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 Financial Position

As of November 30, 2025

	As of Oct. 31, 2025	As of Oct. 31, 2024 (PY)
Assets		
General Operating Account	\$ 61,960	\$ 259,833
Other Assets	17,097	7,320
Total current assets	\$ 79,057	\$ 267,153
Investments		
General Fund - Unrestricted	342,559	515,282
General Fund - Restricted	422,373	309,562
Scholarship Endowment Funds	376,113	373,085
Total Investments	\$ 1,141,045	\$ 1,197,929
Total Assets	\$ 1,220,102	\$ 1,465,082

In November, the Church had \$34,742 in total operating income and had total expenses of \$41,328 resulting in a net loss of \$6,586 from operations, compared to an expected net loss of \$10,650. We ended the month with \$61,960 to support our operations and ministries, and had a total of \$342,559 in reserves that can be used for building and capital projects.

Grateful for Your Gifts to FPCS

Our thanks to all who have made a pledge for 2026 and for all those making plans to do so. We can only carry out our ministry and support our local, regional, and global missions with your gifts! We are grateful for your faithfulness and generosity. Online giving has played an important role in providing consistent support through recurring or individual gifts. To give, follow this link: <https://snopres.org/give> or visit our website and click on the "Give" link in the menu. For questions or help please email Kate in the office at office@snopres.org.

Statement of Activities

Year to Date Through November 2025

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Offerings	\$ 421,380	\$ 421,295	\$ 492,645
PerCapita Collections Inc	7,336	4,800	4,800
Other Income & Gifts	29,184	21,171	23,650
Total Income	457,900	447,266	521,095
Total Expense	503,214	512,820	557,611
Net Ordinary Income	\$ (45,314)	\$ (65,554)	\$ (36,516)
Capital Projects Expense	Year to Date		
Narthex Windows	\$ 25,139		
Electrical Panel Project	96,522		
HVAC & Furnace	136,618		
Ed Wing Plumbing	35,807		
Total Capital Projects	\$ 294,086		

SESSION CORNER - DECEMBER 2025

The Session met twice in December. The first meeting on December 8th was the Annual Joint Meeting of Deacons and Elders. Christmas treats and conversation were enjoyed before Merridy Sheldon reported on the Deacon's ministries and accomplishments of the past year. Pastor Tom gave out appreciation cards to leaders completing their terms of service this year.

We then split into our separate groups and Session took the following actions:

- Minutes of November meetings were approved.
- The baptism of Arya Pelerine for 12/21/25 was approved.
- Members of the 150th Celebration task Force were approved. They are: Marlie Bilbruck (moderator), Shellie Starr, Marita Bishop, Carol Mastrofini, Cris Kennedy, Mary Beth Kurtenbach, and Riley Boerger.
- The age of children attending Wonder-Full Worship has changed to K-5th.
- Received ministry team, committee, clerk, and task force reports.

Pastor's Report:

- Staff reviews are taking place as well as pastoral meetings with Elders.
- Director of Youth and Music Minister searches are underway.
- Training for Elders, Deacons, and Ministry Team leaders is scheduled in January.
- Approved to retain Joel Skellie on a monthly contract until a new music director is hired.

Treasurer's Reports:

- Approved a motion from Sanctuary Refresh Task Force to accept the bid from Hawk Brothers Construction to do the work of remodeling the sanctuary, not to exceed \$120,000.

Dates of note:

- Ordination/Installation Date: January 4th 2026
- January Session: January 5th
- Session Planning Retreat: January 30-31
- Annual Congregational Meeting and Chili Cook-Off: February 15 following worship

The meeting on January 15th was held to discuss the 2026 Budget and update the Church Membership Rolls.

- Approved membership changes. Approved to restore one inactive member to active status, issue Letters of Transfer for two members, and remove 7 names from the list of active members.
- Session unanimously approved the adjusted 2026 budget. Details on the budget will be presented at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 15th.

Respectfully submitted,

Marita Bishop

Remember in your prayers...

(bold text indicates new prayer request)

Church Family Members

- **Merridee Vuori - suffering from dementia and now living in a residential facility**
- **Kelly Snow - friend Randi beginning radiation**
- **Nathan - for those affected by the flooding**
- **Kathryn and Thurlow Powell - both are experiencing health issues**
- **Dick Sundman, Cynthia, and Laurie and their whole family following the passing of Elaine**
- **Charlie and Ann Lewis and family - Charlie recently experienced a mild stroke**
- Bill Barker and family - peace and comfort in the loss of Jerry Williamson
- Mary Beth Kurtenbach - recent knee surgery
- Bob and Anne Sterley - loss of their son Jeff
- Bruce Carr and family in the loss of his mother
- Duane - prayers for his son after his return from the Middle East
- Rose - prayers for the PNC
- Prayers for the family of Gary Gloe as they mourn his passing
- For the family and friends of Marcia Moser who has passed away
- Debby Ingram and family - comfort in the passing of Patrick - also, for Debby's health
- 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 Hizzey - cancer treatment

PRAISES!

- **Beatrice Furr - responding well to treatment**
- **Arya - "I got baptized!"**
- **Joshua - "I celebrate that we can celebrate!"**
- **Shelagh's daughter-in-law was diagnosed with a very aggressive breast cancer in October - after 3 surgeries, it has disappeared!**
- **Linda Mueller - may our church continue to be blessed with the love and faith of Christmas**
- **Marlie - thanks for prayers and support in the passing of her mother-in-law**

Friends of FPCS

- Naomi, Toko's sister, and their whole family, in the loss of Naomi's husband Troy to colon cancer
- For Patrick - brother-in-law of Marge Bryan's daughter - pancreatic cancer
- Reed - chemotherapy
- Prayers for Beatrice Furr (Caleb's stepmother) and family as she nears the end of her life
- Prayers that Cindy Duncan's (Jan Gavin's niece) body will continue to tolerate the chemo - travel mercies as she continues travelling from 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

- 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

Josh Hesseltine, Rosemary Bailey, Dick Sundman, Marilyn de Soto, Barb Holmes, Carolyn Moss, Bill Barker, Kathryn & Thurlow Powell

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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