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

The Light | August | 2026

Pastor's Corner

Receiving and Sharing God's Gifts



Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Colossians 3:16 NLT

Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Colossians 3:15 The Message

I have enjoyed worshiping with you this summer in the relaxed, beautiful setting of the Lake View Hall. I have also valued reflecting together on how we can more fully receive and share the gift of God's gracious presence with us. How might we "let the message about Christ fill our lives" and "let the peace of Christ keep us in tune with each other?"

So far this summer, we have explored four gifts that God's presence makes possible:
Creativity – Because we are created in God's image, we can participate in God's work of nurturing wholeness and holiness in other people.
Encouragement – The confidence we receive through our relationship with God gives us the courage to help others recognize these same truths about themselves.
Forgiveness – Like the father in the parable of the prodigal son, God rushes out to forgive and embrace us. We then have the opportunity to extend that same forgiveness and love to others.
Hospitality – God takes the initiative to meet our needs abundantly and invites us to extend abundant, generous care to others.

Where is God inviting you to receive one or more of these gifts?
With whom is God inviting you to share these gifts?

Three practices help me receive and share God's gifts. First, is noticing the people and situations before me. Next, is reflecting on my thoughts and feelings and letting God to speak into them. Because distorted views of God or ourselves often shape our thinking, remembering and trusting the truth about who God is and who we are is crucial. As I notice, reflect, and trust, I begin to think, feel, and respond differently. My responses increasingly reflect the presence of our gift giving God.

May we increasingly let God's presence shape who we are and how we relate to other people. Enjoy the blessing of receiving and sharing God's good gifts.

Tom Dabasinskas
Interim Pastor

P.S. If you are looking for a good book to read this summer, checkout Theo of Golden, by Allen Levi. It was my favorite book of 2025 and it's all about the transformative power of being seen.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame!





And the Celebration Continues!

We are getting closer and closer to our 150th Anniversary Celebration! Leading up to that, we enjoyed a night with the Everett AquaSox (Everett beat the Eugene Emeralds with a final score of 6-2)! The official celebration is **Saturday, August 29th** from **noon to 5:00**. If you're interested in helping get the church ready to show off to the neighborhood, there will be an All-Church Clean Up day from 10am to 1pm on **Saturday, August 22nd**! Watch What's Happening for more details.



Calling All Bakers!

Would you be willing to make a pie (or 2)? We need pies to serve at the 150th Community Celebration on August 29th. Start bringing in baked pies on August 1st and put them in the church freezer. Contact Kate in the office to if you have questions. THANK YOU!

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





Summer Together!

Many of the kids enjoyed an evening together at the Everett AquaSox game on Saturday, July 25th. We've also been enjoying time together outside during summer church services. If you'd like to join us, meet in the hallway outside the Lake View Hall immediately following the kids' message!

Big thanks to Kai Polley, who put up our basketball hoop in the parking lot so we can shoot hoops! Thanks also to the moms and dads who brought fishing poles on Sunday, August 2nd so we could fish at Hill Park!

Vacation Bible School planning is underway. Thus far, we have 32 kids signed up and a fun curriculum planned. We'll be enjoying songs, bible verses, artwork, and games that will remind us of **TIME WITH GOD**!

If you haven't signed up, there's still time. You'll find registration details on the church website.

WONDER-FULL WORSHIP
Where Children Experience the Wonder of God

Wonder-Full Worship is on a break for the summer.
We'll be back with more engaging and exciting
lessons for our children in on September 13th.

150 YEARS
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF SNOHOMISH
1876-2026

What's Next?

Vacation Bible School
August 10-14, 2026
"TIME WITH JESUS"

Here is a peek at the fun and learning we have planned:

Day 1 - Jesus Yesterday - He was There
John 1:1-3, The creation story
Day 2 - Jesus in the Past - He Makes a Way
Moses and the Red Sea
Day 3 - Jesus Today - He Helps Me Be Brave
David and Goliath
Day 4 - Jesus Today - He Loves Me
Jesus Feeds the 5,000
Day 5 - Jesus Forever - He is Coming Again
Revelation 21 - Heaven

It's Time to Sign up to be a VBS Volunteer!
Sign-up sheets are at the main entrance to the church, or contact Kelly Snow at snowmeltingaway@gmail.com, Mobile: 206-683-8191

We need volunteers to:
1. Leading Songs and Motions
2. Teaching Bible Lessons
3. Creating Crafts
4. Organizing and Serving Snacks
5. Indoor and Outdoor Games
6. Decorating





Last Month Recap

July 2026

PARENTS: We are piloting a new communication source BAND, with this we can send messages, polls and have a calendar that adds all events straight to you phone, join using the QR code or feel free to message Riley for a link!

JULY MONTHLY EVENT:
We enjoyed a beautiful summer day with a pool party!! Though the group was, the laughs were many and the ice cream eaten was even more impressive! Huge thank you to Shelagh and Garnet for hosting!



YOUTH GROUP:
We kicked off after our hiatus and have been running ever since. We hosted a You Collage making party, celebrated Braeyln's B-Day, played some DND, and of course spent lots of time outside!





Youth Group Update

August 2026

Youth Group Schedules

Belay Youth (10+)



Schedule:

August 2: 12-2pm
August 9: 12-2pm
August 16: DND 12-4pm
August 23: NO BELAY DUE TO LOCK IN
August 30: 12-2pm

Summit Students

We will return in September

August Event

We are so thrilled to be hosting a **YOUTH LOCK IN** on August 22nd-23rd. Drop off will be at 4pm on the 22nd and pick up will be at 9am or after church service on the 23rd! PLEASE let Riley know if your student will be able to join us! We will also be hosting the first annual SnoPres Olympics, which we are excitingly planning!

RILEY'S NOTE:

I want to start by thanking everyone of you for the warm welcome and patience as I f igured out how to do this! I have h ad a blast this past month with t hese incredibly special and u nique students! One thing I have l earned so far is that this group is s o creative so they thrive with a ctivities centered around that! I also learned they will title everything they create! I am so looking forward to this upcoming Youth Lock In as my youth group lock in was one of my treasured memories from youth group so I hope the students love it as much as I did! Please feel free to drop by during my office hours even just to say hello!

WE HAVE AN INSTAGRAM!!!
FOLLOW US: @SNOPRES_YOUTH

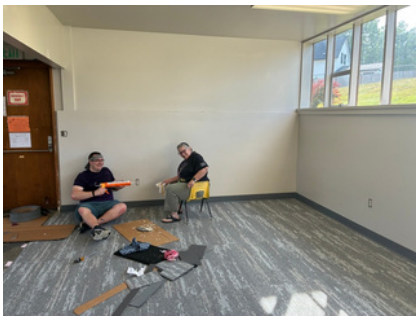


B&G At Work









The Building and Grounds Team tackles many projects throughout the year all around the church campus. Many of those tasks are easily visible...but, not always. This summer, members of the team have undertaken the task of sprucing up the Preschool space downstairs. That has included painting, replacing lights and outlets and, (the big task,) replacing the carpet and hard surface flooring! Special thanks to Cris Kennedy, Nate Nieuwsma, Christopher Harkness and Jim Kassebaum for the **HOURS** of work that you have spent working on this project!



Carrots and Peas and Spuds...Oh My!!

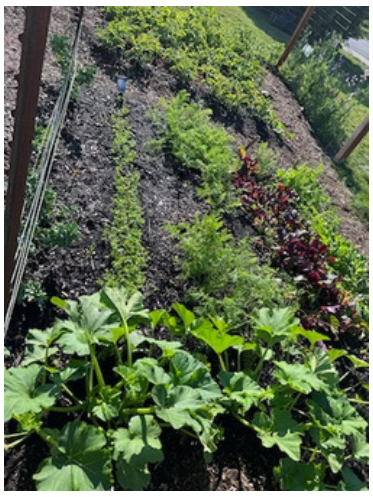


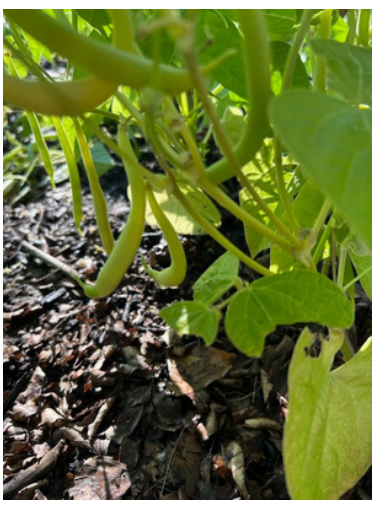
The Inaugural **Victory Garden** is **BURSTING** with goodness. So far, we have harvested **38 pounds** of produce and **17 bouquets** that have gone to the **Snohomish Food Bank**! Thank you to all who have helped. If you would like to know how you can be involved, please contact Paula Erickson or Philomene Prihoda!

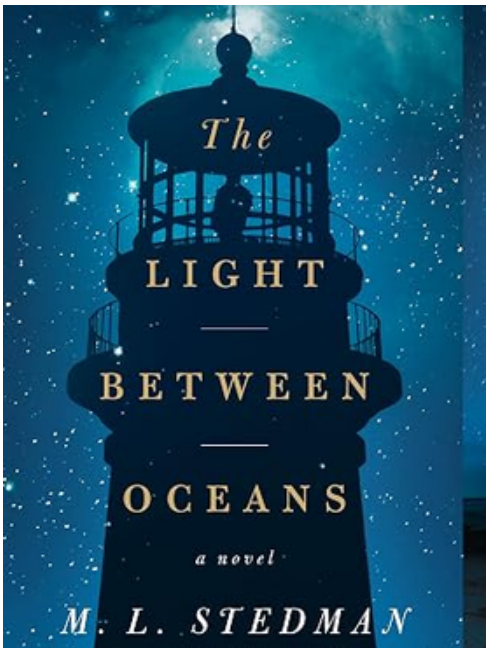












Women's Book Club

Our next meeting, August 12, will be at Myrna Lucas's home. We will be discussing **The Light Between Oceans** by M.L. Stedman. *"In 1926, a lighthouse keeper and his wife on an isolated Australian island find a boat with a dead man and crying baby, leading to a life-altering decision with devastating consequences. "* Pat Bond will be our reviewer. We will not meet in September for our Fall Break.

Farmer's Markets have returned!

Upcoming dates:

- August 9th
- August 23rd
- September dates TBD

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 2026 Market Days!!



Snack Time

Our 2026 VBS is rapidly approaching. If you are able to help with items for our snack time, we would greatly appreciate it! Items can be brought to the church anytime starting August 5th. CLICK HERE or scan the QR codeto view the Needs Request. Thank you!

Cleaning DAY

And the Celebration Continues!

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Financial Position (as of June 30, 2026)

Thank you everyone who has taken part. We have exceeded our 2026 giving for the **Per Capita** budget!

General Operating Fund: The fund balance is $38,300, equal to approximately four weeks of operating expenses.

Invested Reserves: approximately $1.487 million across unrestricted, purpose-given, scholarship, and permanently restricted funds.

- Unrestricted: $457,200 (Session-directed use)
- Purpose-given: $553,500 (designated for specific projects)
- Scholarships: $233,900 (funded by investment gains)
- Permanently restricted: $242,500 (held in perpetuity; income supports donor-directed purposes)

Vanguard investments increased by $36,900 in June, strengthening the overall reserve position.
Fourteen scholarships of $3,000 each were awarded in June.
The church remains debt free, providing financial flexibility despite the operating shortfall.
NOTE: Totals are rounded to the nearest $100.

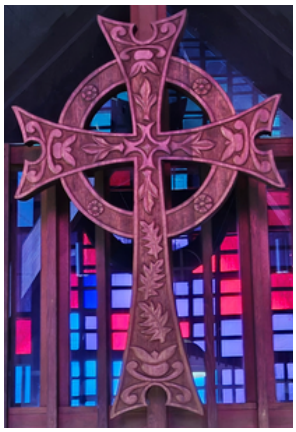


Summary Statement of Activities

January - June, 2026

	Actual	Budget	over Budget
Income	$258,000	$295,000	$-37,000
Expense	$285,600	$288,100	$-2,500
Shortfall	$-27,600	$6,900	$-34,500

Make Your Gift Go Farther - Legacy Giving at FPCS



In the not to distant past, companies would set up funds for their employees' future as a "Thank You" for working a lifetime at their companies. This was called a Pension and if you met the work requirements of the company, you could retire from the company with a wage that lasted for the rest of your life. Most companies have discontinued this practice! Now each working individual must look out for their future to make sure they have money to support themselves in their retirement years. One way to accomplish this is through an IRA (Individual Retirement Account). Once you start working, you can invest a part of your pay into an IRA on a regular basis. Then, not only will the IRA increase on a regular basis, but the interest accrued will also help increase the IRA's values over time. This gives you a nice "nest egg" to retire on.
But where does the Legacy Giving to the First Presbyterian Church come in? Well, if you wish to keep giving after your death, you can identify the First Presbyterian Church as the beneficiary of an IRA. That way, upon your Death, the IRA goes directly to the Church. Also, once you retire, you will be required to take a percentage of your funds out of your IRA each year. This is called an RMD (Required Minimum Distribution). To keep from paying taxes on some or all of these funds, you can give some or all the funds directly to the Church. This is a win for you and our Church.
So, to get started, do some research on IRAs through the internet, through your Bank, and/or through your Financial Adviser. Get started now because this will only help your future and our Church's future. Over the next several months, the Stewardship Team will be presenting the congregation with different options, different ways that you can Make Your Gift Go Farther. Meanwhile, check out IRAs!

Remember in your prayers...

(bold text indicates new prayer request)

Church Family Members

- **Dan Njaa's sister, Dianne Rice recently passed. Prayers especially for her immediate family: husband, Jon and their adult children Aaron and Amanda as they walk this new path**
- **For Ray Rubalcava who is recovering in rehab from a heart attack, and for Barb and family**
- For Melissa Kiser recovering in rehab after a fall
- For Melissa and Bruce Groenewegen in the passing of Melissa's father
- For Heather Miller - loss of her mother, Kitty
- For Marlene Jo Denini as she recovers from surgeries
- Healing for John Mueller as he recovers from a broken leg, and for patience for the family
- For Cynthia and Laurie Sundman in the loss of their father Dick
- Caitlyn Bilbruck and family - baby Vera was moved to Seattle Children's and has undergone heart surgery
- Vicki Hesseltine as she undergoes chemo-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 Japan and Venezuela**
- 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

Friends of FPCS

- For Nate Burns, 23 month old grandson of Cindy Duncan, being treated for a rare form of epileptic seizures, and for his family
- For Chris, friend of Marsha Murray, recovering from surgery
- Prayers that Cindy Duncan (Jan Gavin's niece) will quickly find the next effective treatment for her kidney/brain tumors and that her insurance will cover it
- Toko Magnus' brother had lymphoma 20 years ago, then went into remission after chemotherapy, but was recently diagnosed with a recurrence - he is now on chemotherapy
- Hank Robinett's daughter Julie Ann Smith is suffering from increasing Alzheimer's, and prayers for the whole family
- For the Mueller's two-and-a-half year old granddaughter Ava, who has fatty liver disease and health issues
- Doug Hood - nephew of Jean & Jim Hunter - cancer treatment.
- Pastor Moses and Margaret, struggling with a number of serious health issues
- Cynthia Sundman, missionary in Peru

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

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



Deacon's Offering:
First Sunday of Every Month

The first Sunday of each month is Deacon's Offering Sunday, and you can put a donation marked "Deacons" in the offering plate or go to SnoPres Online and designate a donation to the Deacon's Fund. The Deacons thank YOU and those we help also Thank You!

Need a Hand, Lend a Hand

What is it? This program is an outreach of the Deacons. It provides a means for members to make requests for assistance or offer assistance in a variety of ways. This could include things such as changing a light bulb in a hard-to-reach area, helping to move a microwave or maybe helping with a tree that has fallen during a storm. We are in the process of moving the request online, so if you have a need we may be able to help with, please call/text Chad Bjerkan at 206-920-2837. In the meantime, if you would like to be placed on the list of potential hand-lenders, please let Chad know as well.



Deacon's Transportation Ministry:
Do You Need a Ride?

If you can't drive yourself, we can give you a lift. We can take you to a doctor or dentist appointment, to our church on Sunday, or for a church event. When you need a ride and you have run out of options, just call the office and we will see what we can do.
360-568-6498

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