



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

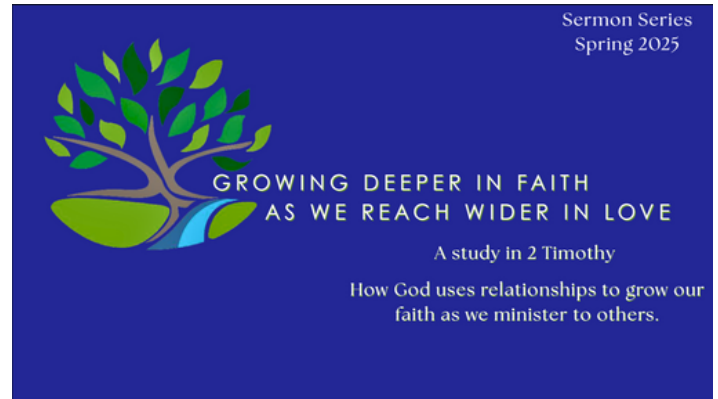
The Light | May | 2025

Pastor's Corner

Growing Deeper in Faith as We Reach Wider in Love

"You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well.

2 Timothy 2:1-2 NRSV



I love FPCS's Mission Statement. It clearly captures in a memorable way what God invites us to as followers of Jesus. I've enjoyed learning how this is being lived out here and beginning to pray with you about how God is calling us to be about this in the years ahead.

Our next sermon series will be exploring the themes in our mission statement as expressed in the apostle Paul's second letter to Timothy. This letter gives us very practical insight as to how we can live out what God call us to be and do. This insight revolves around who we are in relationships. God uses relationships to grow our faith as we minister to others.

Over the upcoming months we will also be entering into some important activities related to the transition. One of these is the History and Hopes Gatherings. This summer we would like to hear from you related to how you have seen FPCS fulfilling it's mission, what have been the impediments to doing that and what your hopes are for doing that in the future. We will be announcing the dates of these gatherings in worship this month. For an explanation of the Transition Process and a timeline of all of the activities, please visit the page on our website about this: **Pastoral Transition**

Also in the next month, Hanna Cho will be concluding her role as Director of Music Ministry. In June she and her family are moving to Dallas Texas where her husband Michael is going to start a dental practice. FPCS has been richly blessed by Hanna and her ability to lead us in a wide variety of worshipful musical expressions. Please join us in sending her and her family off to their next place of ministry with appreciation and love. Please read the note from Hanna that is located in this newsletter. (See page 2 for Hanna's Note)

This season of transition as church is a time of spiritual growth that involves all of us taking steps of faith. Let's keep encouraging one another through this growth process. I look forward to our times of worship together as we continually, "consider how to stir up one another to love and good works" Hebrews 10:24 ESV

Tom Dabazinskas

Interim Pastor

tom@snopres.org

THANK YOU!

Dear Church Family,

It is with a full heart that I write to share some personal news. After nearly nine and a half years of serving as your Music Director and Organist, I will be stepping away from my role as our family prepares to relocate to the Dallas area. My husband, Michael, will be starting a new dental practice there — an exciting new adventure for our family — but one that also brings the sadness of saying goodbye to a church that has been so much more than a workplace to me.

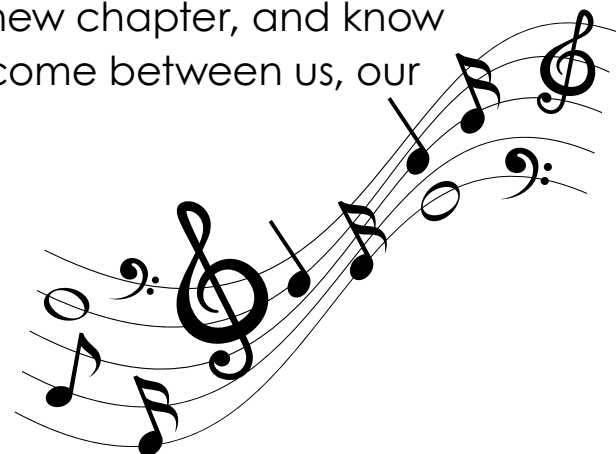
From the very first day I began this journey with you, you welcomed me not just as a musician, but as a member of your family in Jesus Christ. You encouraged me, embraced me with your smiles and warm hugs, and lifted me up with kind compliments and support through every season of ministry. You appreciated the music I offered in worship — not just with your words, but with your presence, your participation, and your open hearts.

More than anything, I am grateful for the way you have lived out your faith before me. You have shown me what it means to be the Church — to love one another, to serve with humility, to walk with Christ in grace and joy. Through your example, you have taught me how Christians should live. This congregation has been a true spiritual home, and it has been one of the greatest joys and honors of my life to serve alongside you in worship. I will carry our shared memories and music with me always — and I will miss you more than words can say.

Please keep us in your prayers as we begin this new chapter, and know that you will remain in mine. Though miles may come between us, our connection in Christ will always remain.

With all my love and deepest gratitude,

Hanna Cho





CHANGING NATIONS THROUGH SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Rev. Kathy Giske is an Australian-Greek born in Cairo, Egypt. Living in an international community with its many cultures and languages prepared Kathy for her life's work. She began her career serving in trade relations with the Australian Embassy in Athens, Greece. Her work involved travel to the Middle East where she witnessed first-hand the spiritual hunger and physical needs of the people. Motivated by God's compassionate heart, Kathy began to sense God calling her to serve as an international mission strategist.

In the years that followed, the Billy Graham team recruited Kathy to serve as program director for three world congresses that gave her opportunity to meet and build relationships with hundreds of leaders from every continent. She has also served in leadership positions with World Vision International, Issachar, and thirteen years with Frontier Fellowship. Through her growing networks, Kathy connected resources to opportunities by forming partnerships that empowered indigenous leaders to be a force for good in their community.

Today, in her role as Director of Middle East Partners, Kathy is able to converge a lifetime of leadership experience and passion to this strategic vision. Although Kathy has no children of her own, she has a passion to mentor the next generation of younger leaders to achieve preeminence in their sphere of influence and fulfill their calling. She regularly takes them on mission trips to the Middle East so they can connect and serve with organizations serving refugees from that region.

For thirty years, Kathy was married to her best friend and husband, Steven Eric Giske, whom she lost to brain cancer in January 2025. She is an active member at University Presbyterian Church where she serves as a pastoral assistant.

Contact Kathy:
Email: kathygiske@yahoo.com
Phone: 425-770-3793



Mark Your Calendars!

**Join us after worship
on Sunday, May 25th
for a Potluck hosted
by the FPCS Mission
Ministry Team**



The 2025 Crop Walk will be scheduled for early Fall. FPCS will be hosting the walk this year. A light Soup luncheon will be served following the walk. We are needing a Champion(s) who will coordinate the walkers and activities this year. Please contact the office or Vicki H. if you are available.

Bible 101

Bible 101
April 27th – June 1st
9:00 am

Led by Rev. Becky Kiser

We'll put all those random Bible stories together in order, see the history of God's people, do some basic intro to interpretation and the development of the Bible itself. All in 6 weeks!



Women's Ministry Book Club: The book club will meet at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at the home of Ona Kassebaum, and share a potluck salad. Carol Johnson will be leading us in our discussion of "Mrs. Quinn's Rise to Fame" by Olivia Ford, a huge-hearted, redemptive coming-of-old-age tale, a love story, and an ode to good food. Questions? Call Carol Johnson at 205-595-9462 or email Carol at cjohnson98290@gmail.com



Happy Mother's Day

Motherhood: All love begins and ends there.- Robert Browning

Thank you to all mothers: Past, present and future. We can never adequately express our gratitude for all that you have done for us!



During March, the Church received \$49,896 in total operating income and had total expenses of \$59,655, resulting in a net loss of \$9,760 from operations, compared to an expected net loss of \$9,198. The final \$96,522 payment for the Electrical Panel Project was completed in March. The Statement of Activities compares the actual total income and expenses to the Annual Budget. The Assets Statement lists the Church's total cash and investments. The General Operating Account covers the monthly routine bills and salaries, while Investments are long-term in nature. For questions or more information, contact Vicki at Treasurer@SnoPres.org.

Statement of Activities

Year to Date Through March 2025

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Offerings	\$ 138,997	135,629	\$ 492,645
PerCapita Collections Inc	6,877	4,800	4,800
Other Income & Gifts	7,889	6,513	23,650
Total Income	153,763	146,942	521,095
Total Expense	143,024	142,872	557,611
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 10,739	\$ 4,070	\$ (36,516)
Capital Project Expense	YTD		
Electrical Panel Project	\$ 96,522		

Assets as of March 31, 2025

	As of Mar 31, 2025	As of Mar 31, 2024 (PY)
Assets		
General Operating Account	\$ 168,372	\$ 21,770
Other Assets	36,681	235,664
Total current assets	205,053	257,434
Investments		
General Fund - Unrestricted	388,180	411,746
General Fund - Restricted	369,119	350,809
Scholarship Endowment Funds	356,818	348,350
Total Investments	1,114,117	1,110,904
Total Assets	\$ 1,319,170	\$ 1,368,338



The mission of the **Interfaith Family Shelter** is: Uniting in services to families—with children—facing homelessness in Snohomish County.

During the month of May our church will be collecting items for Interfaith Family Shelter. Items may be placed in the box in the narthex marked Interfaith Shelter.

Listed below are their current needs. Thank you for your support.

Rita Stoess, Deacon

Top Priorities

- **Twin Bedding (most needed)**

- Light blankets & quilts
- Twin sheet sets
- Pillowcases

- **Full Bedding**

- Sheet sets
- Light comforters

Hygiene Items (All Ages & Genders)

- Shampoo & conditioner (full-size)
- Body wash & face wash
- Deodorant (men's, women's, unscented)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Razors & shaving cream
- Hairbrushes & combs
- Hair ties and accessories
- Lotion
- Baby wipes & diapers (all sizes)

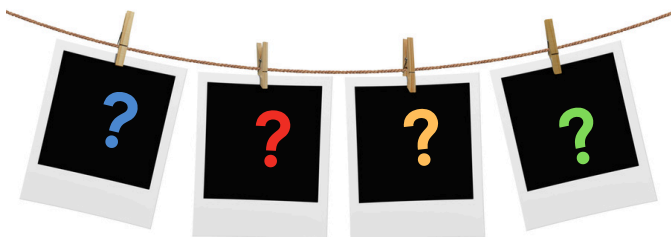
Household Essentials (Dorm-Style Basics)

- Bath towels, hand towels, washcloths
- Dishes (plates, bowls, cups – sets of 4 or more)
- Silverware sets
- Pots, pans, and cooking utensils
- Small appliances (microwaves, toasters, coffee makers, slow cookers)
- Food storage containers
- Dish soap & sponges
- Laundry baskets or hampers

Bonus Summer Items

- Reusable water bottles
- Box fans or small portable fans
- Sunscreen & bug spray
- Close toed shoes

Volunteering Photos



The Stewardship Team is putting together a video thanking all our church volunteers. To produce this video, we need photos of our church friends doing their volunteer work. Thus, would you look through your cell phone and/or camera's photo history and Email us any photos that you may have showing our church family members volunteering and doing God's work. Send those photos to M. Jon McKenzie at Email, m.jon.mckenzie@gmail.com, and include a brief description of what is happening in the photos. Thank you!



YOUTH GROUP

Our Middle and High School students meet on Wednesdays from 5-7pm. We have moved our meetings back to the church. Come with some ideas for Service Projects, Social Ideas, Activities, and Menu Suggestions. We will be planning and making our own meals each week (at least in part). We look forward to seeing you and your friends. Questions? Email youth@snopres.org

Oh boy!
IT'S A

SPRINKLE

- HONORING -

Baby James

SUNDAY

4

12-2:00 PM

Lake View Hall After Church. Snack Foods Will Be Provided.

RSVP To Jaxon, Riley, or Bevin-Anne In The Nursery, Or Text Jaxon (425) 512 - 6334



Big brother Lucas has plenty of clothes to share. This is just a Sprinkle to show we care. If you feel the need to buy something, check our registry for the things we need! Bottles, Board Books, Wipes, and Diapers (Huggies and Up&Up), will always be welcome.

Registered at Target and Amazon

**See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.
Isaiah 43:19**

**It's not done yet, but something new is
coming to the Youth Room...stay tuned!**



As part of the Snohomish Pride Community Agreements, they have placed 'Edges to Center' at the heart of their work. This is one example of what the 'Edges to Center' work focuses on.

EDGES TO CENTER

- Intersecting identities of race, disability, neurodivergence, mental health, income level, size, age, immigration status, Indigenous heritage, etc. affect our lived experiences and perceptions.
- The more intersecting marginalized identities one has, the less access there is to privilege in this world; the more privilege one has, the more access to unearned advantages one has.
- Make space and listen to the most marginalized among us. If we center spaces around the most marginalized, it's safe for all, but when we center the most privileged, it's safe for only a few. If you have many privileged identities, reflect on some of the unearned advantages that may unconsciously shape how you approach this work.

Be curious about how you might approach others differently with this in mind and listen well to those around you who may have a more expansive view to offer.



We will be participating in the Snohomish Pride Parade again this year. The date of the parade is Saturday, June 7th. Watch What's Happening and the June edition of the Light for more details on how to sign up and participate!

And What Has Your Session Been up to Lately??

SESSION CORNER: April 2025

Moderator - Pastor Tom Dabasinskas

- Encouragement was given to participate in the Pride Parade on June 7th as part of **THE PROGRESSIVE CHURCHES** (Christ the King, FPCS, Snohomish United Methodist, St. John, Cedar Cross, Everett United Church of Christ, Kirkland Congregational-UCC, Lake Washington Christian Church and United in Grace ELSA/UMC).
- Approval was given with delight for the new **Family Ministry Team** members: Kay Ditzenberger, Kelly Snow, Shellie Starr, Shelagh Hizzey, and Joyce Chambers to support the work that Talea is doing.

Strategic Planning Updates

Communications - Carol Mastrofini: Carol, Carole Van Loo, Carlene Crossman make up this group. They've been meeting with small groups of 2 or 3, and have met with 7 groups so far which make up a sampling of the membership. They focused on internal communication using 3 questions, what's working well in our church communication, where we can improve, and ideas to help us communicate in new and meaningful ways. Next, they will focus on external communication by having non-attenders & non-members watch a sermon online and fill out a survey describing their experience. It was decided the May 18th sermon would work for this.

Building/Facilities - Curt Green: Curt shared how the group has met all through December and created an outline of work that needs to be done. Currently they're problem solving the HVAC for the sanctuary. Michael Prihoda, co-chair of Sanctuary Refresh is on the team. The team is working with some of Refresh ideas as they work to get the must-do items done first. Pastor Tom noted that we'd prefer to have an overall plan, and have that plan broken into smaller chunks. Curt shared that immediate problems need to be addressed first such as the HVAC work, but also try to do some Refresh work along the way. Pastor Tom attended the last meeting and will continue to work to help facilitate progress/process with all stakeholders.

Youth and Family - Dede Babcock: Dede shared the information from their last meeting. They have formed a Youth and Family ministry team. They meet with Talea every other week. They are working on getting adult volunteers to be with Talea at each youth group. Godly Play teachers are taking July and August off, there are about 6 teachers currently. Discussed challenges of having a large group of various aged students all on one night.

2025 Nominating Committee – Mary Beth has agreed to be the elder moderator. Members at large are Marita Bishop, Carlene Crossman, and Linda Mueller. Deacons Rep TBD. The work will be increased this year with the nomination of the Pastor Nominating Committee.

Pastor's Report – Tom talked about various aspects of the Transition Process. Please look at the Transition info page on the church website. **Pastoral Transition**

Next **Presbytery Meeting** is May 15th in-person at North Creek Presbyterian Church. Marlie, Mary Beth and Carlene were approved as delegates.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marita Bishop

As part of our strategic planning efforts to strengthen communication and outreach, we are conducting a survey to evaluate the online worship experience at First Presbyterian Church of Snohomish. We are reaching out to request your help in identifying nonmembers who might be willing to participate.



What We're Looking For:

We are seeking nonmembers from the following generations:

- **Gen X** (born 1965–1980)
 - **Millennials** (born 1981–1996)
 - **Gen Z** (born 1997–2012)
-

Key Details for Participants:

- Service to View: Sunday, May 18, 2025 (live or recorded)
 - Viewing Options: Facebook or Zoom
 - Time Commitment:
 - View the full worship service (approximately 90 minutes)
 - Complete a brief 5-minute anonymous survey
 - **Survey Deadline:** Must be completed by **May 25, 2025** (7 days after the service)
 - **Privacy:** All responses are anonymous and used only for internal planning
-

What We Need from You:

Please send us the **name and email addresses** of your recommended participants by **Monday, May 13th**. Once received, we will send participants:

- The service viewing link
- The survey link
- Simple instructions

If possible, let your recommended participants know:

- This is part of a church project to improve our online worship experience.
 - They will be asked to view the full Sunday service and then complete a short, 5-minute survey.
 - Their honest feedback is valuable and appreciated!
-

Thank you for helping us take this important step in strengthening our ministry. Your support helps us ensure our online presence is meaningful and welcoming to all.

With gratitude,

Carol, Carlene, & Carole



Remember in your prayers...

Church Family Members

- Rich Guthrie - Heart issues
- Debby Ingram - Health Issues
- Patrick Ingram - Health Issues
- The family of Marguerite Simpson as they mourn her passing
- Sara Seiber - Treatment for cancer
- Shelagh Hizzey - cancer treatment
- Mary Beth Kurtenbach as she continues to recover from foot surgery
- Marcia Moser - dealing with health issues
- Ray and Lise Pettigrew in the loss of their son on March 24th
- Hanna, Michael and Eliana as they move to Texas

Homebound

Gary Gloe, Josh Hesseltine, Rosemary Bailey, Elaine and Dick Sundman, Marilyn de Soto, Barb Holmes, Carolyn Moss, Jerry Williamson (hospice) and Bill Barker



Friends of FPCS

- Sue Davis' daughter-in-law, Tammy, with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Cynthia Sundman, missionary in Peru
- Pastor Moses & Margaret Tanni in Cameroon
- Cindy Duncan - Jan Gavin's niece - Stage 4 renal cell carcinoma

Ongoing Prayer Support

- Prayers for peace where there is war and turmoil: Israel, Palestine/Gaza, 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

FPCS Prayer Chain

If you would like to be added to a list to receive prayer requests as they come into the church office, or as members of the Prayer Team are made aware of them, please email Kate at office@snopres.org to be added to the list.

JOIN US!

You are invited to join our small group where we are focused on prayer. We would happily welcome you to our Tuesday prayer team, which meets weekly at 11:15 am to pray for our church, community, and world. Questions?? Call Myrna Lucas @ (425)422-2489, Paula Erickson @ (425)220-2720, or Carolyn Mather-Greenberg @ (360)568-7128.

"Prayer is the link that connects us to God."

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 assist with, just call the office and we will see what we can do! 360-568-6498.

In the meantime, if you would like to be placed on the list of potential hand-lenders, please let the office 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

Church Library

To see a listing of all the books in the library, go to our online catalog:

<https://www.librarything.com/profile/FPCS>

or follow the QR code to our links library.



Click or Scan



One QR Code to Save Them ALL!

If you're looking for it, you'll probably find a link to it [HERE](#) or scan the QR code. Not finding what you want? Please let the office know:

office@snores.org



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HANNA CHO

ACCLAIM! WORSHIP TEAM
HEATHER SHROPSHIRE

**SUPERVISOR OF CHILDREN &
YOUTH MINISTRIES**
TALEA BLASKO

NURSERY
JENNIFER JOHNSON
RILEY BOERGER
JAXON LOCKNANE

CUSTODIAN
JENNIFER JOHNSON

COUNSELING CENTERS OF NPS:
360-568-8737

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation, providing care-givers to those who request them.

office@snopres.org | www.snopres.org

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the office.

*I reply to emails on these days
Personal day off and Sabbath: Friday and Saturday
In person meetings: Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday
Typical work week: Sunday - Thursday*

Pastor Tom's Schedule:

- A Message from our Music Director Hanna Cho (pg. 2)
- New Session Update (pg. 8)
- The Communications Strategic Planning Team needs your help! (pg. 9)
- 2025 Snohomish Pride Parade Announcement (pg. 7)
- During the month of May our church will be collecting items for Interfaith Family Shelter. (pg.5)

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