



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

The Light | March | 2025

Pastor's Corner

Let's hold firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let's consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds.

Hebrews 10:24-25

Thank-you for your warm, gracious welcome of Tori and me. We have been blessed by how you are living out FPCS's Mission Statement: growing deeper in faith and reaching wider in love.



Lent provides a great time to encourage one another in these directions. The Oxford Dictionary defines encouragement as, "giving support, confidence or hope to someone." As followers of Jesus, we have a certain hope because of God dwelling with and in us (Colossians 1:27 and Romans 5:5). This is a hope worth knowing and sharing! Our Lent series is entitled, **The Hope of Glory**. This will be a great time to hear more about this encouraging hope.

My prayer is that you would not just hear about but personally grow in knowing and sharing the hope of Christ. To do this, we all need people with whom we can discuss and apply what we are learning from the scriptures. Do you have relationships where you can do that? A great place to build these types of relationships is ConneXtion Group. These are small groups that will be gathering once again during Lent. The article in this newsletter written by the Spiritual Formation Ministry Team will give you more details on how you can be part of a ConneXtion Group.

Whether it be in a ConneXtion group or with other supportive friends, I encourage you to make the most of these supportive relationship by doing three things:

- Share your story authentically – Honestly share with one another. Where have you seen God at work and where do you want to see God at work? What are the faith steps God has helped you take and what are the faith steps ahead of you?
- Be compassionately curious – Ask questions that will help you get to know people. Then listen with a prayerful attentiveness as to what God is doing in their life and yours.
- Love the "strangers" in your life - These might be people estranged due to conflict or differences. Or this might be someone different than us that we haven't taken the time to get to know.

These three things will take courage to do. What better place to practice this than with supportive friends who can encourage us. I know that as we relate in these ways, we will see God moving in our lives in beautiful ways. "He who promised is faithful." I look forward to hearing those stories!

Tom Dabazinskas

Interim Pastor



Help us celebrate "The Green!!"

Women's Ministries is looking for women who love to laugh and share fun or learn something new.. You are invited to help celebrate the "Shamrocks" on Saturday, March 15th at the home of Linda Mueller with a St. Patrick's Day Bunco Party. The event will begin at 11:00 and end by 3:00. You are asked to wear green, bring a treat to share and dig out your sense of humor. Please sign up in the Narthex with your name and contact information. Linda Mueller can be reached at 425-299-3633. You can google your way to 3323 157th Avenue S.E. Snohomish, Washington on March 15th. We are looking forward to you coming to join the party! Linda Mueller, Rita Stoess, Melissa Groenewegen, Marcia Moser, and Marge Bryan can answer any questions! See you there!

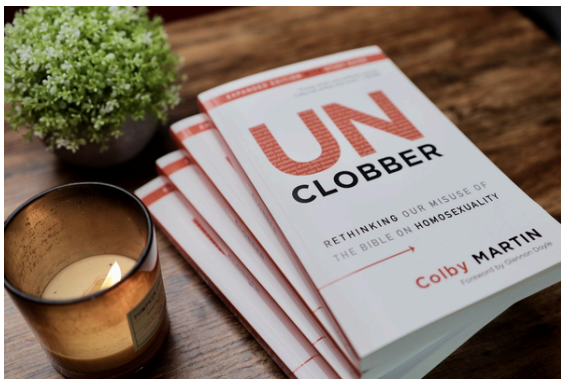


LENT begins with the Ash Wednesday service on March 5 at 7:00, and continues for 40 days (not counting Sundays), reflecting Jesus' 40 day fast in the desert prior to beginning his ministry. The Spirituality Formation Team is providing resources for this meaningful time leading up to our observances of Holy Week.

- All the congregation is encouraged to take a copy of the devotional book "Rise" by John Pavlovitz, a companion book to the one we used in Advent called "Low." These are available in the narthex.
- We will also be offering more 6-week ConnectXion groups on a variety of days & times, for a small group sharing experience during Lent. These are in addition to the ongoing groups, which folks may also join for the 6 weeks or longer. Look for the sign-up lists in the narthex.
- Small groups are a good way to share our spiritual life, reflections & struggles. We also get to know other people in our congregation at a deeper level.
- The study of "UnClobber" also continues through Lent at 9am Sundays. This book is a deep & serious look at the 6 passages in our Bible which are often quoted against people who are LGBTQ.

Look for the sign-up sheets in the Narthex and sign up today!

Spirituality Formation Team

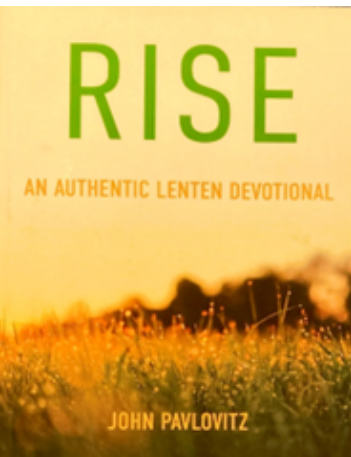


There are six passages in scripture, the “clobber” passages, that have often been used by mainline churches to exclude men and women in the LGBTQ+ community. The book **UnClobber** by Colby Martin reexamines each of those six passages to see what the Bible says and doesn't say about homosexuality. UnClobber will be the basis for a ten-week adult education class beginning Sunday, February 2. Together we will study the Biblical teachings and interpretations in Martin's book as well as share our own stories and questions around this critical and divisive issue.

Some of the questions we will be addressing include:

- Who and how does God call us to love?
- What do we do when our hearts and our heads don't seem to align with what we read in scripture?
- What is at stake when we exclude marginalized communities?

We invite you to join us at **9:00 Sunday** mornings. We meet in the **Community Room**. Dave Pugh leads us in this important study and discussion. A limited number of books are available in the Narthex or you can order a copy on Amazon.



RISE is a 40-day journey of elevated hopes and ascending spirits with short reflections for each day of Lent, which begins on Wednesday, March 5th. It speaks to the way we are called and invited to get back up:

- We allow our hopes to rise when we are in the middle of the struggle.
- We wait in darkness for the sun to rise, knowing that joy comes in the morning.
- We rise to our feet after falling to our knees in desperate prayer.

- We rise when we are knocked from our feet, persistent in this life.
- We rise to meet the coming day, knowing we are held by a Love that will have the last word.

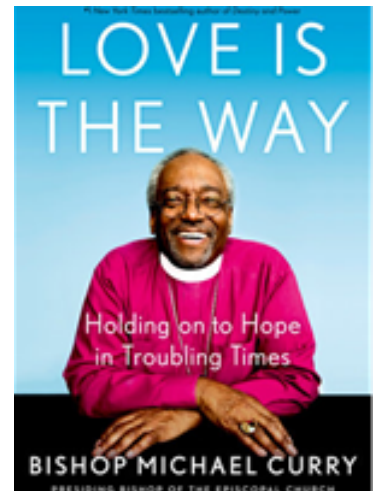
We hope RISE will be the perfect companion for the season and that you'll join us as we seek higher places and better angels.

There are three (3) groups doing this study. They meet Sunday afternoons by Zoom or in Person (Paula Erickson) Tuesday morning in person (at Julie Reynolds') and Tuesday evenings in person at the church (Jon Bishop)



Lectio Divina

There are 3 different groups meeting throughout the week that are practicing the spiritual discipline of **Lectio Divina**. Those groups meet Monday mornings at the church (Michael Prihoda), Wednesday evening at the church and by Zoom (Becky Kiser) and Friday afternoons at the church (Becky Kiser).



Love is the Way:

Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times

The way of love is essential for addressing the seemingly insurmountable challenges facing the world today: poverty, racism, selfishness, deep ideological divisions, competing claims to speak for God. This book will lead readers to discover the gifts they need in order to live the way of love: deep reservoirs of hope and resilience, simple wisdom, the discipline of nonviolence, and unshakable regard for human dignity. Group meet by Zoom Wednesday mornings at 10 am or contact Jean Hunter for more details.



Endowment Applications Being Accepted Now

Attention: High School Seniors, first year trade school, and returning university, or seminary and graduate students who are affiliated* with the Snohomish First Presbyterian Church. We are now accepting scholarship applications. They are now available at the information table, or by following this link: [Application](#). Please return the completed application to Kate West in the church office, or to office@snopres.org. Last year we awarded 15 scholarships to students attending school ranging from Shoreline Community College to Stanford University. We're so proud of our scholarship recipients and we look forward to awarding this year's scholarships in the spring.

*affiliated- are those parents and students who attend Snohomish First Presbyterian Church, students of staff and students of missionaries with whom our congregation personally supports. It also includes those students who participate in Snohomish First Presbyterian Youth Group.



Here is a summary of the FPCS financial information for January 2025. The Statement of Activities compares the actual total income and expenses to the Annual Budget, with a third column showing the percentage received or used compared to the 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. They require Session approval to use. For questions or more information, contact Vicki at Treasurer@SnoPres.org.

Statement of Activities

Year to Date Through January 2025

	YTD Actual	Annual Budget	% Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Offerings	\$ 43,129	\$492,645	8.8%
PerCapita Collections Inc	430	4,800	9.0%
Other Income & Gifts	2,496	23,650	10.6%
Total Income	46,055	521,095	8.8%
Total Expense	43,593	557,611	7.8%
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 2,462	\$ (36,516)	-6.7%

Assets as of January 31, 2025

	As of Jan 31, 2025	As of Jan 31, 2024 (PY)
Assets		
General Operating Account	\$ 204,540	\$ 208,078
Other Assets	45,418	47,052
Total current assets	249,958	255,130
Investments		
General Fund - Unrestricted	437,881	411,746
General Fund - Restricted	361,365	349,139
Scholarship Endowment Funds	358,763	348,350
Total Investments	1,158,009	1,109,235
Total Assets	\$ 1,407,967	\$ 1,364,365



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



Update on our Supervisor of Youth and Children's Ministry

We are **THRILLED** to have Talea Blasko on our staff as a part-time Youth Supervisor. She will be working 10-15 hours a week and we thought it might be helpful to give you an update on what

Responsibilities:

While she is with us, Talea will fully participate in the life of the congregation. This includes participating in worship, fellowship, learning, mission, and sharing of gifts, building a network of relationships, and demonstrating Christian discipleship. Additionally, she will:

- Develop relationships with youth and families who attend FPCS and in the larger community.
- Work in coordination with the rest of the church staff.
- Plan and host regular age-appropriate Bible based meetings.
- Plan and organize regular monthly combined youth and children's ministry events.
- Partner with other churches in the community on ecumenical events.
- Deliver the children's message in worship at least once a month.
- Maintain compliance with "Safe in our Care."
- Planning youth and children's participation in special worship events, which may include:
 - Youth Sunday
 - Family Christmas Eve Service

Thank you for your Support and Encouragement!



The Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, located in Lebanon, equips leaders for ministry challenges in the Middle East and North Africa using on-line classes. We currently have 2 missionaries who are professors for the seminary - Grace Al-Zoughbi and Dustin Ellington. Grace is currently teaching a course on missiology - offering a Middle Eastern perspective that equips them for mission work in the region. The course emphasizes contextual theology, helping students share the gospel in a culturally relevant way. Dustin teaches classes on the Old Testament.

Michael and Grace al Zoughbi Arteen



In the past month Grace & Michael organized a forum for the theological schools in the Middle East to explore ways to share the gospel effectively in the workplace. Michael has been working on projects supporting displaced Syrians and Lebanese as well as Palestinian Christians providing practical help and hope to those affected by war. He is preparing for meetings with Christians from Morocco, Mauritania, Sudan and Algeria. His focus is on exploring ways to support these communities, many of whom face significant challenges in their faith journey. His goal is to offer both spiritual and tangible assistance to strengthen the local church in North Africa.

Together they remain committed to encouraging theological education, discipleship and collaboration within the broader Christian community , ensuring that the church in the Middle East and North Africa is equipped to face current challenges and future opportunities.

Dustin and Sherri Ellington

Dustin and Sherri were based in Lebanon but because of the war and instability there they are now in Jordan. Sherri does theological editing for the ABTS seminary's blog and seeks to be relationally involved with them. She feels called to spend time in prayer for his work in the Middle East, including for holistic peace. She is currently working on a Master of Arts in Ministry at a Presbyterian seminary in Dubuque Iowa. Dustin along with his classes at ABTS continues to study eshmen Arabic since he teaches and preaches in Arabic and now live and work in a different area with different dialects.



The Ellingtons and the Arteen ask for prayers for hope, strength, provision and refreshment as they press on in their ministry.



TALL TIMBER FAMILY CAMP

2025

JUNE 29– JULY 3

**REGISTER AT
TALLTIMBER.ORG**



Learn More
www.Talltimber.org



Contact Us
1-509-763-3127





Work and Wonder at Tall Timber

Save the Weekend: May 2-4

Come and be a helping hand to prepare camp for summer activities in an awesome setting.

Talk with Jon Bishop if you have questions:

snodoc@hotmail.com or 425-422-2296



And What Has Your Session Been up to Lately??

SESSION CORNER:

February 17, 2025

Moderator - Pastor Tom Dabasinskas

Devotion led by Julie Reynolds from Isaiah 43:19-21 with members sharing what they were looking forward to as we move into this new season of the church.

APPROVED BELOW:

- Request from Jon Bishop to schedule a Tall Timber Work Retreat May 2-4 Discernment Process Guidelines ([click here](#))
- Removing Randall Gowett's membership per his request
- 2025 account payable list updated to reflect changes
- Treasurer requested authority to change credit card companies to one with better customer service and better rewards.
- Dede moved that Charlie be allowed to officiate Rachel Colegrove's wedding in August. The final language concerning Charlie's Separation Agreement with COM will be coming.
- The Treasurer's Financial Reports showed the generosity of our congregation as we completed 2024 with a surplus!

Strategic planning updates:

- Carol on Communication and Volunteer Engagement - small groups of the younger generation regarding improvements and vision.
- Dede on possible changes with the Worship time and Godly Play for kids.
- Curt on immediate projects to be presented at the Congressional meeting soon and Phase 2 visioning for the next 5 years.
- Youth Leader...Talea Blasko in on the job!
- Electrical Panel Update...almost wrapped up.
- Sanctuary AV Issues...Phil will work with the AV team to assess the needs in the Sanctuary and begin to update the needs to fix issues.
- The congregation will be presented with with major facility needs, resources on hand and anticipated need at the February 23rd meeting.
- Playground wood chips have been delivered.
- Elder assignments to Ministry Teams...Assignments completed and functioning...will be listed next month.
- Next Presbytery Meeting is May 15th in-person at North Creek Presbyterian Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marita Bishop



Remember in your prayers...

Church Family Members

- Debby Ingram - treatment for multiple myeloma
- Patrick Ingram - as he recovers at home
- Lori Warren - hospitalized after falling
- Heather Miller and daughters Brittany, Molly, and Jessica in the loss of husband and father, Scott Miller
- Kero Ebeid - recovery from accident
- Sara Seiber - treatment for cancer
- Shelagh Hizey - cancer treatment
- Caregivers for these and other church family members
- Mary Beth Kurtenbach as she continues to recover from foot surgery which is taking much longer than they had anticipated
- Sue Davis in the loss of her mother
- Bill & Pam Wanser in the loss of his sisters, Bethia and Kathleen
- Charlie and Ann, in time of transition
- Talea Blasko as she begins her work with the youth group
- Notehelper family in the loss of Peter
- The family of Marguerite Simpson as they mourn her passing

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

- Tamara Montoya, friend of Lise Pettigrew
- Sue Davis' daughter-in-law, Tammy, with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Valerie Christopherson (sister-in-law of Marlie Bilbruck) for cancer metastasized to the liver
- Cynthia Sundman, missionary in Peru
- Pastor Moses & Margaret Tanni in Cameroon
- Cindy Duncan - Jan Gavin's niece - Stage 4 renal cell carcinoma with metastasis to the brain - she has already had one kidney removed, months and months of immunotherapy, and Gamma Knife surgery to deal with the first 2 tumors in her brain; now 7 more tumors have been treated with the Gamma Knife procedure.

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



**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, 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

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@sno-pres.org



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YOUTH MINISTRIES**
TALEA BLASKO

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RILEY BOERGER
JAXON LOCKNANE

CUSTODIAN
JENNIFER JOHNSON

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360-568-8737

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

office@snopres.org | www.snopres.org

- In This Edition:**
- Update from the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary
 - FPCS Scholarship Applications are now available for 2025
 - Learn more about Small Group options for Lent
 - Save the Date - VBS 2025 and Tall Timber events!

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