



GROWING DEEPER IN FAITH  
REACHING WIDER IN LOVE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SNOHOMISH

The Light | June | 2024

## Pastor's Corner

The image of the Christian life as a journey is an old but good one. In the Old Testament, the forty years of wandering in the wilderness was a journey that forged a community into a people of faith before they reached the promised land together. And in the New Testament, the followers of Jesus were known as “people of the Way,” implying a journey toward being Christ-like.

I think of this image often as I reflect on the gift that Ann and I have experienced serving with you in the journey we've been on since 1999. It's hard to imagine that this journey with you will reach its conclusion for me as your pastor 8 months from now. My last Sunday will be January 26, 2025. I anticipate enjoying these next 8 months with you and want to assure you that I will be working to make the transition as smooth as possible. That includes ending well by making sure all ministry bases are covered, strategic plans and priorities are being processed by the session, and the congregation understands the plans to hire an interim pastor skilled in transitional ministry prior to your next installed pastor.



While Ann's and my journey with you began almost 25 years ago, the beginning of this church's journey was nearly 150 years ago when John R. Thompson stepped out of a canoe on the shores of the Snohomish River and walked into the Blue Eagle Dance Hall with the goal of establishing Snohomish County's first church. John Thompson's dream was not simply to establish a church, but to build a community, to shape Christian character, to foster growth in discipleship, to inspire ministry, and to pass on the faith to following generations. Ann and I share Thompson's dream and have tried to work toward it

It's my prayer that the interim pastor and your newly installed pastor will continue to build on the dream of our church's founder and on Jesus' "I have a dream" speech in Luke 4: "Preaching good news to the poor and providing release the captives, giving sight to the blind and freedom to the oppressed".

In the closing pages of the final book of C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia, The Last Battle, the Christ figure, Aslan, leads his followers into a new world that is marvelous beyond imagining. "Don't stop," Aslan's voice cries out. "Don't stop. The journey is just beginning." Over and over the words of Aslan ring in their hearts and their driving motto becomes... "Further up and further in," where every step of the journey leads them to horizons more promising than the one before.

May that be our motto and motivation as well, confident that further up and further God has even better things in store for us.

Onward and Upward,

*Charlie*



Chapter 5 of **PURSUING GOD'S WILL TOGETHER** by Ruth Haley Barton

**WE CONTINUE TO CONSIDER WHO WE ARE AS A COMMUNITY**

**WHAT VALUES DO WE HOLD DEAR?** (not ideals, but actual ways of being, qualities of character)

- What matters to us?
- How have our values shaped us in positive ways?
- How have we been broken when we have failed to live our values consistently?

**WHY ARE WE TOGETHER?** “He went up the mountain and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve to be with him and to be sent out to preach.” Mark 3:13,14

**SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION** as a community

- Lived experience, not theories.
- Accountability and responsibility to the community.
- Truth-telling, lovingkindness practiced, gratitude and celebration
- Conflict transformation ‘where 2 or 3 are gathered together’. Not in isolation.

“Only in commitment can there be real belonging.” Gordon Cosby

**SESSION Business in May.**

**From the May 6, 2024 session meeting:**

1. Approval of Pastor Charlie’s proposed retirement date of January 26, 2025. This allows him time after the holidays to tend to closure and our celebration of Ann’s and Charlie’s ministry as a couple.
2. Approval of participation in the Snohomish Pride Parade with other churches in town...and a modest amount of money for a new banner.
3. Approval of a baby shower for Daniel and Esther and Jared and Laurel on June 2 after worship, with Ann Lewis being present as a grandmother!
4. Approval of Ann Lewis assisting Charlie with the memorial for Curt Green's mother.
5. Report of playground changing form to be more in line with what the pre-school children enjoy...swings, a slide on the slope, and a simpler climbing structure.

(CONT. ON NEXT PAGE)

**Session met on May 20, to finish the agenda.**

6. Approval for for Ann Lewis to participate in the dedication of Oliver Akwe Lewis and baptism of Lilah Louise Smith.
7. Approved Harold Johnston, Susan Langager, Marj Njaa and Jon McKenzie serving on the Endowment Board.
8. Approved a job description for the Interim Minister. A search committee will be formed soon and will work with Presbytery to interview candidates in the next few months.
9. Sanctuary Refresh asked for approval to get rid of the pews from the choir loft and wings of the sanctuary. It was granted after some discussion. We also approved the advice to continue meeting in the Lake View Hall until Sanctuary Refresh sees the project through. Many details to be worked out so patience is requested. The cement floor will be 'finished' after all the other work is done. Architect drawings are expected mid-June...then the 'fun' begins! Decisions, decisions!
10. Communion will be moved to June 9th with the baptisms happening on the 2nd.

**Where to Find Session Minutes**

It's easy to keep up with what's happening with our church's Session!

- Open CCB (Church Community Builder).
- Scroll down to the bottom, under the box with links to The LIGHT, Facebook, and the most recent worship service, and you will see a picture of some papers, called "Index to Church Documents."
- Click on this, and it will open up to a sheet full of blue links to church policies and procedures, annual reports, and a year's worth of Session minutes.
- Clicking on any of those minutes will open the document and you can read what the Session discussed and voted on.

**MEET YOUR  
MINISTRY TEAM  
MODERATORS!**

Ministry Teams are the service arm of the congregation. They can be short-term or long-term, large or small. Each team is born out of interest and volunteers who share that passion. Here are the teams and their moderators. Pray for them and consider joining any you feel called.



**Jeanne Hoek**  
Assistance for  
Refugees



**Sue Davis**  
Prayers &  
Squares



**Polly Fox**  
Stewardship



**Cris Kennedy**  
Building &  
Grounds



**Jean Hunter**  
Stephen  
Ministry



**Linda Mueller**  
Women's  
Ministry



**Marge Bryan**  
Congregational  
Care



**Jon Bishop**  
Connexion  
Groups/Small



**Anna Thelen**  
Worship



**Philomene  
Prihoda**  
Community Life



**Heidi Saikaly**  
Mission



**Shelagh  
Hizey**  
Youth &  
Family



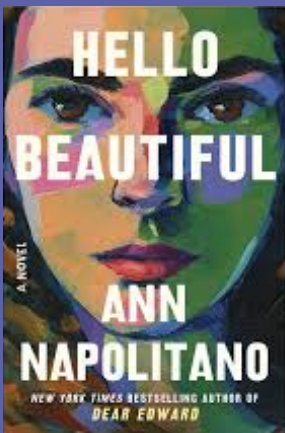
Ladies! You are cordially invited to a garden tea party hosted by Women's Ministries, on Saturday, June 15th in the Lake View Hall from 11:30 to 2:30. You will indulge in a scrumptious light lunch with tea and play some games as you share in fellowship.

Our speaker, Elizabeth Klein, will inspire and entertain you and the yearly tradition of a Hat Parade and Competition will complete the fun. Categories for the hats will consist of:

- "The Spirit of Spring"
- "Most Glamourous"
- "Silliest"
- "Most Unique/ Creative".

Prizes will be given throughout the tea.

# RESCHEDULED



## Women's Ministry Book Club:

Our May book club selection is "Hello Beautiful" by Ann Napolitano, a profoundly moving portrait of what is possible when we choose to love someone not in spite of who they are, but because of it. We will share a potluck salad at the home of Dede Babcock at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, June 12th. Karolyn McDaniel will be our reviewer. Questions? Call Carol at 206 595 9462 or email Carol at [cjohnson98290@gmail.com](mailto:cjohnson98290@gmail.com).

## Community Kitchen

The first Thursday of each month FPCS serves a wonderful hot meal at Community Kitchen. On May 2nd we served 100 hearty meals of roasted pork loin, garlic mashed potatoes, green salad, a vegetable and a blueberry lemon crumb cake for dessert. The following volunteers made this happen. Thank you Carol Mastrofina, Shelagh Hizzy, Paula Erickson, Howard and Rita Stoess, Lori Prins, Philomene and Michael Pihoda, Toko Magnus, Mary Polley, Lynda and Marsh Batchelor, Lori Allen and John Silvernale. What a great team! Our next meal is on June 6th. Check the Community Kitchen needs list to see where you might like to serve.

**THANK YOU!**

Vicki Hesseltine

# MENTAL HEALTH

Did you know we have a mental health resource team, Counseling Center of North Puget Sound (CCNPS), located in our church facility? Many of you heard about it this past Sunday during the Mission Spotlight on 4/28.

CCNPS's clinical staff includes psychologists, mental health counselors, clinical social workers and marriage and family therapists, as well as specialists in child mental health, ethnic minorities, and developmental disability.

Knowing that many are struggling with anxiety, family stress, and depression following the pandemic, our cultural challenges and divisions, as well as the chaos in the world, it is good to know that there are people specially trained to help, offering tools and resources to assist you.

We are pleased to have in house the resources of CCNPS Director, Doug Chandler, along with Cheryl Iler and Zachary Brisson.

Mental health counseling is vital component of our life together. We encourage you to share your resources with us if you have been helped.

*Are you willing to send one of the pastors the person, contact info, training, specialty, and ways you have been helped?*

Let us know if you would be willing to let people ask you about your experience. We would like to provide both personal and general references for our community. Anonymous referrals with the area where you were helped are also welcome.



## **Tall Timber Is Open!**

This summer take advantage of a personal or group retreat, a family gathering, a special event in the amazing setting of mountains and meadow. Use a cabin or RV site, meals provided. Enjoy the quiet space, read a book, take a hike, play games. Challenge your kids or grandkids on the climbing wall, ropes course or zip line.

You may have heard that the Tall Timber Board (Riley Boerger, Jon Bishop and Kate West are part of that Board) is searching for a new Executive Director. For that reason, the camp will not be hosting the usual youth camps this summer. But this wonderful space is available for your use, only 2 hours from Snohomish! Contact Velda at [velda@talltimber.org](mailto:velda@talltimber.org).





When Charlie and Elizabeth hosted a time in worship where they extemporaneously answered your questions of faith, many of you responded favorably and asked for more. To that end, we would like to facilitate a summer series where we address your questions.

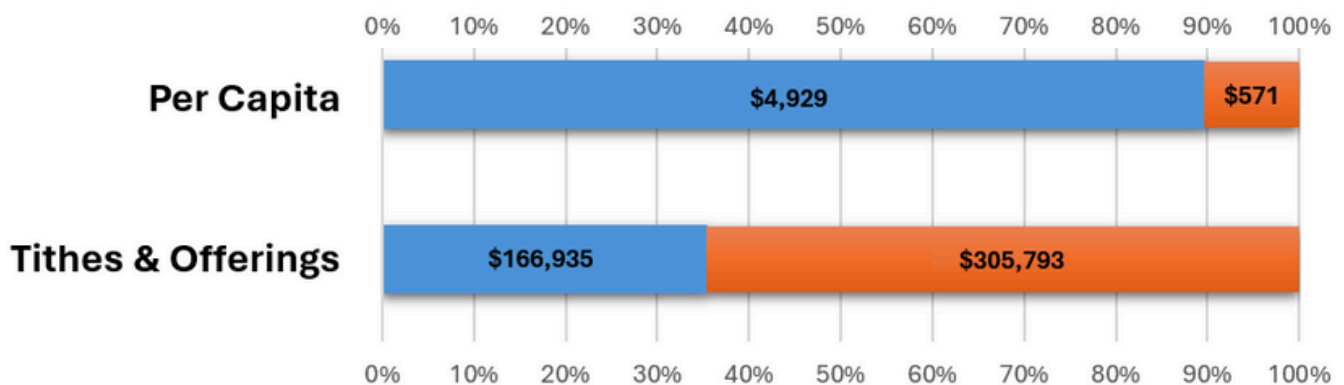
**Will you help us by submitting questions and ideas that we might address so we can customize the series?**

I have heard things like, “How does the church move forward after Covid?” “How can churches share the message of Good News as religion and culture become more authoritarian?” “How does our faith inform our behavior in contentious times?”

**Please let us know how we might encourage your faith journey by exploring questions and concerns together.**

Send them to Kate [office@snopres.org](mailto:office@snopres.org) and she will compile them and we will announce the Sundays where we cover them.

### Collections of Offerings and Per Capita as of 4/30/24



	Tithes and Offerings	Per Capita
Received YTD	\$166,935	\$4,929
Balance Anticipated	\$305,793	\$571



Farmer's Markets are coming your way this summer. They begin on June 9th and are held every other week throughout the summer in front of the church entrance. Women's Ministries appreciates your donations of fruits and veggies, baked goods, books and small items that can be offered for sale. These things are brought on the days of the sales before church. Please put us on your list and be thinking about what you can donate this year. Women's Ministries utilizes the funds raised to offer activities and scholarships for them throughout the year. If you have questions, please contact Linda Mueller at 425-299-3633 or another member of Women's Ministries: Melissa, Jan, Marge, Marcia or Rita. We are all looking forward to the 2024 Market Days!! Thank you for YOUR donations and support!



There are two opportunities for you to participate in VBS this summer. The community VBS will be held July 22 - 26 at Christ the King Lutheran Church from 9:00 am to Noon.

The FPCS VBS will be held here at the church August 19 - 23, also from 9:00 to Noon. We need volunteers for both, so watch future editions of The Light and What's Happening for more specific information and volunteer needs.



## Sanctuary Refresh Update

The Sanctuary Refresh Group is busy. Seeds have been planted and new growth is eagerly anticipated.

Indeed, with the successful removal of asbestos-tainted tile from the sanctuary, architect Bart Shorack, has met with our team and is ready to begin making some preliminary drawings for us to review. We will meet with him to look at those preliminary sketches on June 18. We will share them with you.



With the input of the Building and Grounds Team, we have confirmed that the cement floor is in good condition and can be polished to make a functional yet pleasant finished surface for the future.

In the meantime Session has decided to continue holding worship services in Lake View Hall. In spite of the challenges, there have been many positive comments about meeting in LVH.

FYI: Session also approved Sanctuary Refresh to repurpose benches from the choir loft and wings replacing them with chairs when we move back into the sanctuary.

### **Here's the vision:**

Keep the sanctuary as a worshipful setting while improving flexibility of and access to use. We understand our building is a unique space for reflection and worship yet presents challenges to accommodate the needs of the future. With input from the congregation we have asked our architect to provide suggestions that would

- Make platform space accessible to all and flexible for use by the variety of our musical groups and instruments
- Enable closer contact between speaker and audience
- Allow flexible audience seating arrangement
- Design appropriate space for technology support
- Improve quality and flexibility of lighting
- Improve quality of acoustics
- Expand storage space
- Improve visual appearance

All of this will be done in coordination with the need for upgrading our heating and electrical systems

### **Here is the outline of events:**

Phase 1: Develop preliminary drawings. **We are here!**

Phase 2: "Design Development" making plans sufficient enough to get cost estimates from contractors, develop a capital fund drive, clarify the priority of construction

Phase 3: Construction

Questions, comments? Let us know!

Jon Bishop, Michael Prihoda, Co-Chairs, Sanctuary Refresh





## Church Family Members

- Curt Green - loss of his mother, Ginny
- Cris Kennedy - loss of her sister, Cindy
- Debby Ingram - treatment for multiple myeloma
- Scott Miller - treatment for cancer
- Kathleen Hansen - treatment for cancer
- Bill Gavin - for ongoing healing
- Sara Seiber - treatment for cancer
- Elizabeth Gamble - cancer treatment completed
- Jason Gamble - loss of his father
- 
- Shelagh Hizey - recovery from surgery and strength for future treatments
- Alex DeSoto and Lynn Schilaty and family - loss of son, Eli, and Lynn's brother-in-law, Gary
- Bill and Lois La Barge - for healing for Bill, and adjusting to their new apt. in Bothell
- Caregivers for these and other church family members

## Homebound

Gary Gloe, Josh Hesseltine, Carolyn Moss, Jerry Williamson, and Bill Barker

For those of you who would like to send a card or a note of encouragement to Kero Ebeid following his motorcycle accident, those cards can be sent to:

Kero Ebeid

5815 139th PL NE, Marysville, WA. 98271

He is home now at his grandparents as his parents home is made wheelchair accessible.

## Friends of FPCS

- Shelli Dyche, Scott Miller's sister, in treatment for cancer
- John Ortmeyer - former counselor - health
- Tamara Montoya, friend of Lise Pettigrew
- Sue Davis' daughter-in-law, Tammy, with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Nola Fischer, child with malignant brain tumor
- Valerie Christopherson (sister-in-law of Marlie Bilbruck) for cancer metastasized to the liver
- Yvonne Carr (mother-in-law of Marlie Bilbruck) for malignant brain tumor
- Cynthia Sundman, missionary in Peru
- Pastor Moses & Margaret Tanni, doing ministry in Cameroon amidst civil war
- Tall Timber Camp as they prepare for the summer camp season in the midst of looking for an Interim Executive Director

## Ongoing Prayer Support

- Prayers for peace where there is war and turmoil: Palestine/Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, Lebanon, Haiti
- All refugees forced to leave their homes due to violence or natural disasters; all those left homeless, and those experiencing hunger
- Global leaders--for wisdom and the will to act justly and to uphold human rights



## 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.

## 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](mailto:office@sno-pres.org)



## 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.





Congratulations to the following  
Scholarship Recipients:

- Dylan Baker - WWU
- Madison Boerger - CWU
- Sam Bowles - WWU
- Ella Byerly - WWU
- Jaeden Byerly - WWU
- Rachel Colegrove - WSU
- Aiden Gamble - EWU
- Maddy Gamble - EWU
- Kelly Haddenham - Capella Univ.
- Denton Johnson - CWU
- Ella Pettyjohn - WWU
- Colette Wilson - Stanford Univ.



Our summer golf season began on Tuesday, May 28th at the Snohomish Golf Course with tee times beginning at 5:30 pm. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early so that we can assign teams. We play every Tuesday evening throughout the summer in a very relaxed scramble format and have a great time. All ability levels are welcome. Please contact Vern or Polly Fox if you have questions.



On Sunday, June 9th, we will recognize and honor our High School and College Graduates. Join us as we celebrate this milestone with them and hear what their next chapters will be.

Additionally, with the baptism and dedication on June 2nd, we will be celebrating communion on June 9th!

**Upcoming June Dates of Note:**

- 1 - Snohomish Pride Parade
  - Building & Grounds Work Day
- 2 - Baby Shower for Lilah & Oliver
- 6 - Community Kitchen
- 9 - Communion
  - Graduate Recognition Sunday
  - First Summer Farmer's Market
- 12 - Women's Book Club
- 15 - Women's Tea
- 16 - Father's Day
- 19 - Office Closed for Juneteenth
- 20 - Light Deadline



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## Articles Inside...

- Sanctuary Refresh Update
- Save the Date for VBS (both of them!)
- Scholarship Recipients
- Wanna Get Away? Consider Tall Timber
- Session News

office@snoPRES.org | www.snoPRES.org

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

360-568-8737

**NPS:**

**Counseling Centers of**

Hanna Cho

**Director of Music Ministry:**

Kate West

**Bookkeeper:**

**Office Manager /**

Rev. Elizabeth Klein

**Pastoral Assistant**

Rev. Charles Lewis

**Pastor:**

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