



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

The Light | July | 2026

Pastor's Corner

Transformative Seeing

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well ...Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. Psalm 139:14 & 16 NIV



Eye contact is one of a baby's earliest ways to connect through relationships. Consistently seeing a loving face is critical to their development. Face-to-face interactions with a caregiver foster cognitive, emotional, and social development that shape how babies perceive, understand, and interact with the world.

And the same is true for us spiritually. Consistent, loving interactions with God foster secure attachment, emotional maturity, social connections and cognitive growth in us. This is how the prophet Zephaniah describes God's transformative, loving interactions with us: *For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.* Zephaniah 3:17 NLT

Who are the people that have helped you experience God's powerful loving presence? How did that impact you? Who are the people that God has placed in your life to similarly bless? How might that shape your interactions in the future?

This summer our sermon series is, **The Gift of Presence**. Each week we will be exploring ways we can receive the blessing of how God sees us and help other people experience the same through our relationships with them. Come worship with us on Sundays as together we discover and share the gift of being seen!

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.

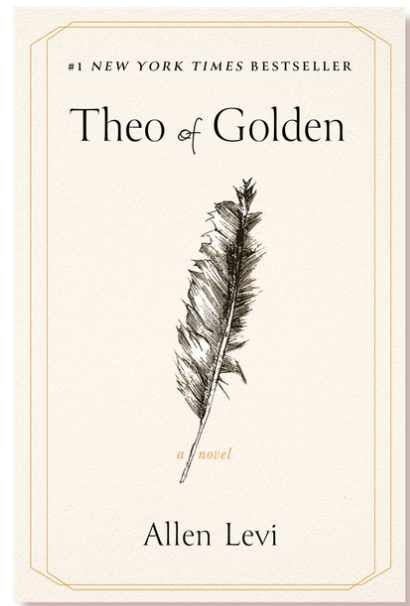


Farmer's Markets have returned!

Upcoming dates:

- July 12th
- July 26th
- 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!!



Women's Book Club

Our next meeting, July 15th, will be at Anne Sterley's home. We will be discussing **Theo of Golden** by Allen Levi. *"Theo arrives in the small Southern city of Golden, Georgia, and begins a campaign of anonymous generosity by buying portraits from a local coffee shop and returning them to their subjects, asking only for their stories in return."* Debby Lowery will be our reviewer.



Pool Party!
Sunday, July 26th, 2026
5-7pm
Snohomish
Aquatic Center

FPCS is hosting the Eagle Wings DisAbility Ministry Pool Party on Sunday, July 26th, from 5-7 pm at the Snohomish Aquatic Center (516 Maple Ave). We hope you will come and volunteer at this joyful time of fellowship and **FUN!** Many thanks to Ted Milburn for donating delicious Wienerschnitzel hotdog meals for the pool party, again!!

Here's the link to our list of needs for the event. Feel free to contact Lynda Batchelor or the church office, if you have any questions.



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

The Youth and Family Ministry Team
wants to say THANK YOU!

1 Thessalonians 5:18 tells us to, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

We want to say thank you to our church family who serve, love us, pray for us, and support the youth and family ministry!



Goodbye Talea!

We are so grateful to Talea for her wonderful 18 months of love and service to our youth! She constantly displayed kindness and patience, showing us what God's gracious acceptance and grace look like in human form. She is off to become a doctor! Come back often, Talea!

We love you!

Hello Riley!

We are thrilled to welcome Riley as our new Director of Youth Ministry. Yay! We can't wait to grow, learn, and love the Lord with her. She brings a spark of joy and energy wherever she goes, and we are excited to have her as our new Youth Director. Thank you, Riley, for your dedication and leadership. Onward and forward we go, together with Him!



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

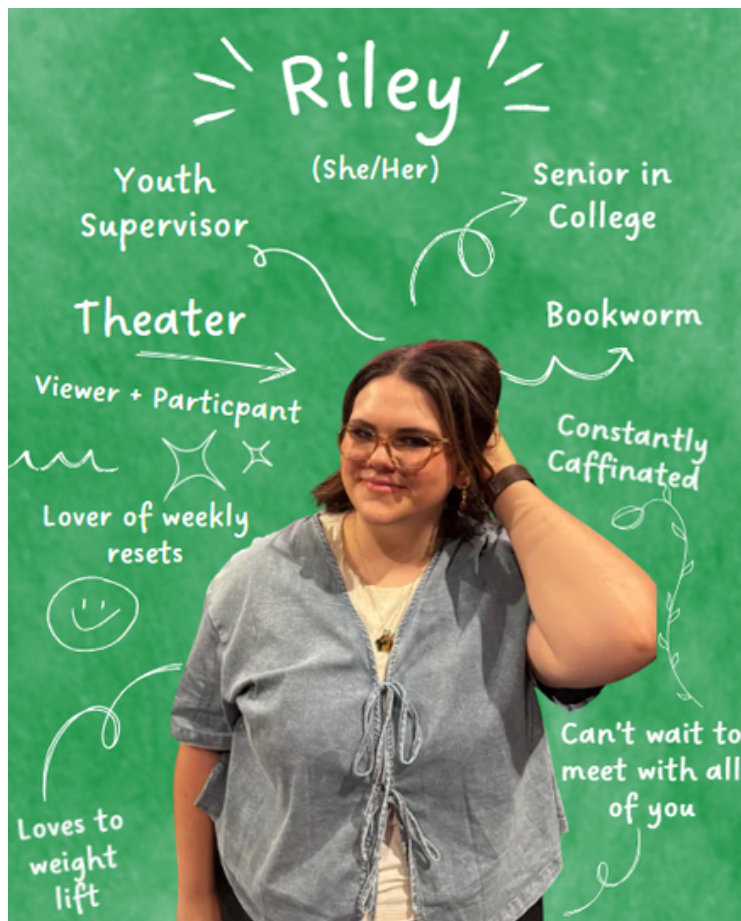
It's Time to Sign up to be a VBS Volunteer!

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






Youth Group Update

July 2026

We have rebranded to a mountain theme. We view our mission as helping our youth hike the beginning of their spiritual journey.

Youth Group Schedules

Belay Youth
Previously All Ages

When:
Sundays after church or 12pm

Who can come:
We invite all youth 10 yrs old and up to come join in the fun and faith this group is founded in!

Summit Students
Previously Senior High

When:
TBD with the new school year

Who can come:
We invite all youth 9th-12th grade to join us in a more deep dive into scripture and tailored activities for those older youths,

July Youth Event

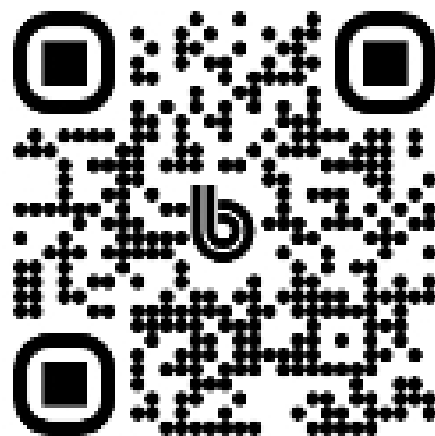
Please share some grace with us as we plan this further. Keep an eye out for an announcement on our **BAND**.

We are currently taking a 2 week hiatus while we transition youth directors. We are very excited to be growing deeper in faith with our youth on our first Sunday back, July 5th!



This summer we invite all youth to join in on the trek of their lifetime...up the trail of the New Testament. To partake, the student will need to get a checkpoint sheet from Riley, and throughout the summer read independently or as a family each book of the New Testament. To get their checkmark, they must bring in their Bible, show Riley the annotations they made while reading, and tell what one story or passage stood out to them most and why. Once their sheet is filled they will earn their surprise. The trek has begun and will end on September 6th, so grab your Bible (see Riley if you need one) and highlighter, get ready for the journey of a lifetime. Contact Riley at youth@snopres.org with any questions and concerns.

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 your phone. Join using the QR code or feel free to message Riley for a link!





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!**



PNC Update

The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him,

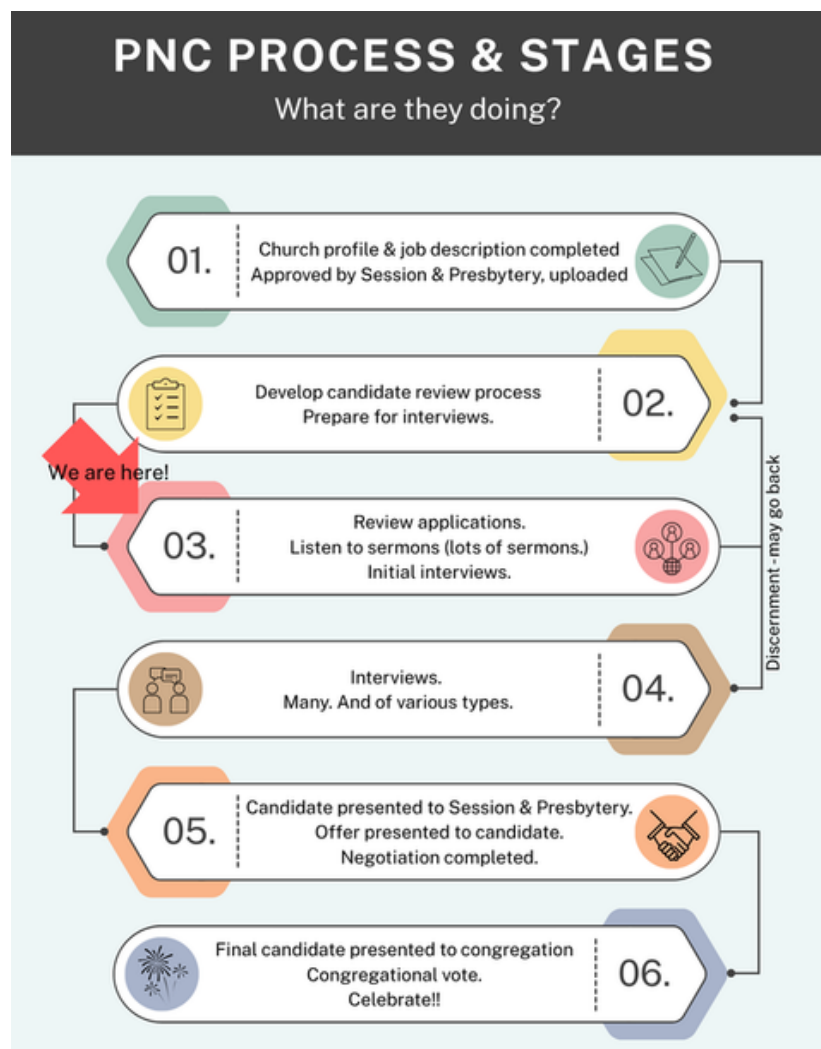
to the one who seeks Him;
it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

Lamentations 3:25-26

Patience is a difficult virtue in this culture of instant gratification. That is what we currently find ourselves working on - patience.

We've had applications and interviews. Through our discernment process we have not yet found the pastor God is preparing for FPCS.

Continue to pray. Continue to spread the word.





Seeds of Faith

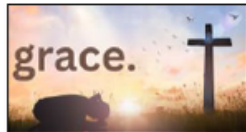
Cynthia Sundman

cynthia.sundman@sim.org



SIM

June 2026



**Out of His fullness we have all received grace in place of
grace already given - John 1:16**

Recently, I had the privilege of being the guest speaker at my old church's missions conference in Arequipa. This church has been holding mission's conferences for the past 10 years, but its primary focus has been on planting churches in the southern region of Peru. As I met with the new pastor, who has a strong calling for missions, along with the church elders, I was encouraged to see how God has been working in their hearts to make missions an integral part of every area of the church. They are gradually embracing the vision of motivating the entire congregation to be salt and light within their spheres of influence, while also participating in global mission efforts.

While there, I had the opportunity to collaborate with their missionary-in-training, Gaby, a friend whom I have been mentoring for several years. Gaby is completing her theological training and hopes to serve in Asia. She is currently mobilizing 15 churches in the surrounding area. One of the biggest challenges she faces is helping these churches understand what missions truly is and guiding them as they work through some of the misconceptions they hold.

Please pray for wisdom and discernment for Gaby as we work together to help these churches move beyond outdated ideas about missions and align with what God desires to do in and through them today.

FPCS Welcomes Kathy Giske

On June 12, Rev. Kathy Giske will preach about **"The Unstoppable Force of an Overcoming Faith"**. She will also stay after the worship service for a potluck in Lakeview Hall. Please **RSVP** with the number in your party and the type (pasta, potato, fruit, tossed greens, etc.) of salad that you will bring to share. Your generous support of FPCS missions is building connections with our sisters and brothers in Christ of the Middle East.

Kathy Giske, an Australian-Greek born in Cairo, Egypt grew up in a diverse international community that shaped her life's calling. She began her career in trade relations at the Australian Embassy in Athens, Greece. This position allowed her to travel throughout the Middle East and witness the deep physical and spiritual needs of the people. Sensing God's compassion for these people, Kathy felt God calling her to dedicate her life to serving Him as a mission

strategist in the Middle East. Shortly after receiving this call, Kathy was recruited by the Billy Graham team, and the Lausanne Committee on World Evangelization, to serve as one of the directors for three world congresses that connected her to Christian mission leaders and theologians from every continent. She went on to hold leadership roles with World Vision International, Issachar, and Frontier Fellowship forming partnerships that empowered indigenous leaders who serve in nations in the Middle East region.

Today Kathy is the Director of Middle East Partners, bringing her lifetime of experience to a strategic global vision. Passionate about mentoring younger leaders, she regularly takes them on mission trips to visit and serve Middle Eastern refugee communities located in Europe. Kathy also serves on the board of Elam Ministries, a prominent Iranian ministry whose headquarters are in London, U.K. For thirty years Kathy was married to Steven Eric Giske, whom she lost to brain cancer in January 2015. She is an ordained minister, and serves as a pastoral advisor at University Presbyterian Church, which is her church community.





Financial Position (as of May 31, 2026)

General Operating Fund: \$56,500, equal to about five weeks of operating expenses, remains under review.

Invested Reserves: approximately \$1.491 million across unrestricted, purpose-given, scholarship, and permanently restricted funds.

- Unrestricted: \$434,400 (Session-directed use)
- Purpose-given: \$545,700 (designated for specific projects)
- Scholarships: \$268,400 (funded by investment gains)
- Permanently restricted: \$242,500 (held in perpetuity; income supports donor-directed purposes)

Vanguard investments increased by \$62,800 in May, strengthening the overall reserve position. The church remains debt free, providing balance-sheet flexibility despite the operating shortfall.

Statement of Activities May 2026 Year to Date		
<u>Ordinary Income/Expenses</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income (Cash Sources)	\$223,735	\$248,904
Expenses (Cash Uses)	\$236,664	\$242,438
Net Income (Loss) Shortfall	\$12,929	\$6,466

Make Your Gift Go Farther - Legacy Giving at FPCS

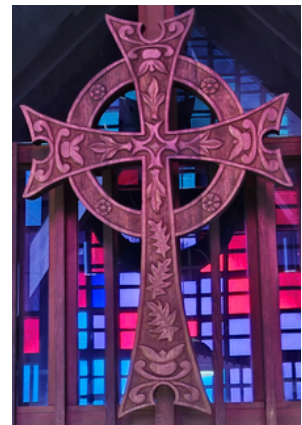
Near the end of the 2003 movie *Secondhand Lions*, the nephew of the two eccentric uncles arrives back at the house to find a restored World War 1 Bi-Plane crashed into the barn. After talking with the local Sheriff about what happened, the Sheriff pulls out a piece of paper that is the uncle's will. And it just says, 'The kid gets it all.'

If it were only that simple. The topic of wills is one not often talked about, especially in church. I think everyone recognizes the importance of having a will. If you don't have a will that clearly outlines what you want to have happen to your estate, the state will come in and take over for you. And that is pretty close to the surest way to make sure that what you wanted to happen doesn't happen. Here are some interesting statistics:

- 18-34 year olds – 24% have a will
- 55 and older – 45% have a will
- 72 and older – 81% have a will

I think too often people don't know what kind of options there are or where to start. Wills can direct more than what happens to your China, your jewelry and the things that you have collected throughout your life and who may take custody of your children. A will can be written to accomplish a variety of needs, such as benefiting family and friends. But did you know that it can also fulfill a desire to support a mission or program? You can include a gift directly to the church as well.

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. But, to start, I would encourage any of you who do not yet have a will in place to consider doing so. If you already have a will in place, consider making a change and adding the church as one of the beneficiaries so that we can continue our ministries, continue our outreach and continue to be the church.





SESSION CORNER • JULY 2026

News & Notes from Your Session



Session met on June 1 with hearts focused on both the present needs of our congregation and the opportunities God is providing for our ministry. Throughout the evening, Session celebrated progress in several areas that will strengthen the life of our church.



JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

- Session enthusiastically approved the hiring of Riley Boerger as our new Director of Youth Ministry and Jennifer Johnson as Nursery Coordinator. We are grateful for the thoughtful work of the search team and excited to welcome both Riley and Jennifer into these important ministry roles.
- Session approved beginning the Sanctuary Refresh project in mid-June, marking another milestone in creating a welcoming and functional worship space for generations to come.



MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Session introduced the Moving Forward Together framework, a practical guide for applying our recent strategic planning to future decisions. Its goal is to help Session and ministry teams move forward with greater clarity, consistency, and shared purpose as we live out our mission and vision.



LOOKING AHEAD

This summer brings many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and outreach, including Soul Pub gatherings, weekly golf outings, Vacation Bible School, our AquaSox outing, and preparations for the 150th Anniversary Community Celebration in August.



Thank you for your continued prayers for our pastor, staff, ministry leaders, and congregation as we faithfully move forward together.



Approved Session minutes are available here:

[Approved May Session Minutes](#)

Session Corner reflects the most recent Session activity, while the linked minutes are the most recently approved minutes available.

Remember in your prayers...

(bold text indicates new prayer request)

Church Family Members

- For Marlene Jo Denini as she recovers from surgeries
- Healing for John Mueller as he recovers from a broken leg (not hip), and for patience for the family
- For Cynthia and Laurie Sundman in the loss of their father Dick, long-time faithful member of our congregation
- For Riley Boerger representing our church at General Assembly, end of June
- Caitlyn Bilbruck and family - baby Vera has been moved to Seattle Children's and has recently had heart surgery
- For Jann and Harold Johnston as Jann has recently gone into a rehab facility
- Vicki Hesseltine as she undergoes chemotherapy
- John Hesseltine as he wrestles with cardiac issues, knee surgery
- Marsha Murray recovering at home after a fall - recovering from a broken wrist and pelvic bones
- For Marlene Latimore - losing her eyesight
- Charlie and Ann Lewis and family - health
- Prayers for the work of the PNC
- Sara Seiber - treatment for cancer

PRAISES!

- Thanksgiving for the enthusiasm and caring of Talea in her wonderful work with the youth!

Ongoing Prayer Support

- Prayers for victims of earthquake in 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 at Denver Children's for a rare form of epileptic seizures and for his parents Nyla and Robbie Burns
- Jim Skinner (Martha Skinner's son) recovering from recent heart surgery
- Prayers for the family of our sister in Christ, Mary Ann Martin, of Neah Bay PC, matriarch of the Makah Tribe, who was in an auto accident in March and has recently passed away
- Brian Melseth, the father of Rose Fowler's daughter-in-law, had back surgery and has been struggling - no appetite and significant unexplained weight loss
- Toko Magnus' brother had lymphoma 20 years ago, went into remission after chemotherapy, but was recently diagnosed with a recurrence - he started chemotherapy recently and so far is tolerating it well
- For Herb Byerly - recovery from skin cancer surgery on his eye, and for his emotional health
- For the family of Pastor Tom's friend Dave who recently died suddenly of a heart attack
- Hank Robinett's daughter Julie Ann Smith suffering from increasing Alzheimer's
- For the Mueller's two-and-a-half year old granddaughter Ava, who has fatty liver disease and health issues
- Prayers that Cindy Duncan's (Jan Gavin's niece) body will continue to tolerate the chemo that is now controlling the tumors
- Doug Hood - nephew of Jean & Jim Hunter with stage 4 liver cancer - chemotherapy; also for Doug's dad Larry recovering after two falls
- 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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