



GROWING DEEPER IN FAITH  
REACHING WIDER IN LOVE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SNOHOMISH

**The Light | November | 2025**

## Pastor's Corner

*I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*  
Philippians 1:6 NRSV

I love seeing people at FPCS be responsive to God's nudges and exploring what good things God has for us and other people around us. And I really love seeing what God continues to do in and through all of you. Here are some of the many wonderful ways I have seen God working in our midst in the last 30 days:

- People serving together to prepare meaningful times of worship on Sundays.
- New people at our church being welcomed and contributing to our life together.
- People attending small groups and classes eager to learn and support one another in their faith journeys.
- People taking a weekend retreat to "come and see" what God has for them.
- People committing to following Jesus in new ways.
- A young adult being baptized and supported by her grandparents and our church family.
- The Victory Garden being prepared to produce food for needy people in our community.
- People having compassionate, curious conversations with those who are different than them.
- New leaders stepping in to serve at the Community Kitchen.
- Our missions team exploring how best to serve together in the future.
- People helping projects like the HVAC replacement come to completion.
- Playground improvements and the nursery being painted.
- The Sanctuary Refresh team preparing for improvements to our Sanctuary.
- Deacons and other people visiting and supporting members of our church who are struggling.
- People supporting a church family member as she graduated to heaven.
- Almost 100 people completing the church assessment, and open to what God wants for us next as a church.

Please continue to encourage and pray for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), the Mission Study Team, the Director of Music Search Team, the soon to be formed Director of Youth Search Team, and the soon to be elected Elders and Deacons. May we together discern where God is leading us in the days ahead.

How is God nudging you to join in the good things He wants to do next? May we all listen and follow where God leads with a humble confidence and peaceful expectancy. Let's keep "reaching out to Christ who has so wondrously reached out to us... let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us." Philippians 3:12-15 The Message

Thankful to be following Jesus with you,

*Tom Dabasinskas*

Interim Pastor

## The Pastor Nominating Committee

We are excited to present to you the candidates elected to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). After receiving input from you as a congregation, the Nominating Committee prayerfully sought people who could faithfully lead a search for the next pastor of our church.

These individuals were confirmed by a vote of the Congregation at the Special Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, October 26th. Please take some time to get to know these candidates, and be praying for them as they begin the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee.



Rose Fowler



Christopher Harkness



Shelagh Hizzey



Nathan Nieuwsma



Julie Reynolds



Kelly Snow



Hillary Starr



Carrie Trimble



## Foundations for the Future

It's that time when our church begins to focus on stewardship through our Consecration Sunday activities. This year Consecration Sunday is **November 9th**, and our theme is "**Foundations for the Future**," with Ephesians 2: 19-22 as our scripture.

*"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his spirit."*

In 2026 our church will be 150 years old! Generations of faithful people much like us have worked and prayed and sacrificed to keep it strong. Now it is our job to ensure that our church remains strong and vibrant for another 150 years. To this end, you will see a difference in your pledge card this year. We are asking that you prayerfully consider both your pledge for 2026 and a special gift in 2025. Please prayerfully ask God how you can join with the saints of the past to give this church a strong foundation of faith in God and love for others as we look to the years ahead.

Ask God how he wants you to participate. God will answer you! Listen and come to Consecration Sunday on November 9th with a smile on your face and a heart full of gladness, for you will be building on the foundation of God's faithfulness.

To submit your pledge for 2026 online, Click or Scan here: [2026 Online Pledge Card](#)



Click or Scan here: [Luncheon RSVP](#) to RSVP for the Consecration Luncheon,

## CONGREGATIONAL



On **Sunday, November 23rd**, immediately following the morning worship service, there will be a brief **Congregational Meeting** for the purpose of electing Elders and Deacons.

The Nominating Committee has two names to present for **Elders**: Kim Boase and Marsha Murray.

New **Deacon** nominees: Mary Polley, Carol Johnson, and Sue Davis.

**2025 Nominating Committee** nominees: Mary Beth Kurtenbach, Chris Harkness, Linda Mueller, Carlene Crossman, Mary Polley, and Rita Stoess.





## *Come and See*

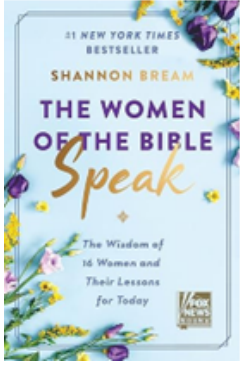
All Church Retreat was held October 10-12 at the Dumas Bay Center which was a beautiful, secluded location overlooking the Bay. Twenty-four attendees joined voices and instruments together in music, held meaningful table and group discussions, participated in art projects (both group and individual), journaled, and created a poem based on our six senses.

We shared delicious meals, had free time for the enjoyment of nature, quiet contemplation, conversation, laughter, creating and/or deepening relationships, naps, and possibly cheering on the Seahawks and Mariners. Elizabeth invited us to be present in Scripture, to imagine what it would be like to receive a personal invitation to 'Come and See', to view various 'Come and See' Scriptures from different perspectives, to learn the historic situational context, definitions of original texts, then to consider how these stories can and do apply today. When the next retreat opportunity arises, please 'Come and See' for yourself! It is a wonderful opportunity to meet others and deepen relationships with one another and Christ.





## Upcoming Events!



Ladies! Please join us for the **Women's Ministries Fall Day Retreat**, **Saturday, November 15th** in the Lake View Hall. We will start the day at 9:00 with pastries, muffins, coffee, tea, and juice. Lunch will be provided with a potato bar and salad. Pies will be served for dessert. We will be studying and sharing the number #1 New York Times Bestseller **The Women of the Bible Speak: The Wisdom of 16 Women and Their Lessons for Today** by Shannon Bream. We will also be sharing our thoughts about the wisdom of Stormie Omartian from her book **Prayer Warrior**. Please Pick Up The Women of the Bible Speak at the table in the Narthex when you sign up. We will end our day of fun and study at 3:30. We can hardly wait to share this retreat with our Sisters in Christ!



The **Women's Book Club** will meet at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at the home of **PHYLLIS MENTZOS (Change)**, and will share a potluck salad. Debby Lowery will be leading us in our discussion of "**Mad Honey**" by Jodi Picoult. **Mad Honey** is a riveting novel of suspense, an unforgettable love story, and a moving and powerful exploration of the secrets we keep, and the risks we take in order to become ourselves. Questions? Call Carol Johnson at 206-595-9462 or email Carol at [cjohnson98290@gmail.com](mailto:cjohnson98290@gmail.com).



Autumn is here, and it's time to sign up for the "**Round Robin Dinners**." Round robin dinners are a fall tradition at our church. They gather groups of 6 to 8 together (couples or singles or families) to share 3 or 4 meals, usually at attendees homes, over the course of the year. It's a great way to meet new folks and get to know one another better over a meal.

There are no rules; they can be any meal, any time, potluck or

at a restaurant, maybe a park. The group decides. You can sign up online, or on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Contact Philomene or Paula if you have any questions. Come and join us!

### **No Leaf Left Behind!**

As you start raking and cleaning things up at home, please consider bagging your leaves and bringing them to the church. Leaves only (no brambles or branches, please, just unsprayed leaves). Leave them (closed bags) by the garden area for us to compost for mulch.

There is something for every age to do to help with our garden. If you would like to help or would just like more information, please talk with a Victory Garden team member: Julie Reynolds, Paula Erickson, Cris Kennedy, Becky Kiser, or Philomene Prihoda.



## 2025 Advent Study!



Luke's Gospel begins the story of Jesus with this opening line: "In the time of Herod..." This detail may seem minor to modern readers; however, it reveals layers of information about the fearful world Jesus entered, one filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability. A world not so unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ's birth, we hear the whispers of angels delivering a surprising message: "Do not fear." When Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi are

each called into God's redemptive story, they do not deny their fears—they move through them. They ask questions, hold fast to courage, trust in good news, and say, "Here I am, Lord." When we find ourselves in fearful times, can we acknowledge our fears while also trusting God?

As you journey through this Advent season, may you remember: hope that trembles is still hope. This season, let us trust that the Good News is greater than fear.

Materials have been ordered and will be available for pick-up as soon as they arrive. Keep an eye on What's Happening as well as the December Light for other Advent and Christmas Happenings!

A decorative border made of green pine branches, red berries, and gold and red Christmas ornaments, framing the text on the left and right sides of the bottom section.

**Help Decorate the Church for Christmas**  
**Want to see our sanctuary in a "festive mood"**  
**for the holidays?**

**Please come and help us decorate our sanctuary and other areas in our building for Christmas. Join us Saturday, November 29 at 10:00 AM to lend a helping hand. Families welcome! Snacks provided!**



## Missions at FPCS

### ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

Save the Date! - Sunday, Dec 7th

Our annual Alternative Gift Market is right around the corner!

This year the 2025 Alternative Gift Market will be held on December 7th in Lake View Hall.

Shopping will be available before and after worship, along with catalog shopping starting on November 19th.

Your support of AGM25 will provide resources for ministries both locally and globally!



**Christmas Celebration  
at Neah Bay PC  
Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**



You are invited to celebrate the Birth of the Prince of Peace with our Makah sisters and brothers in Christ at Neah Bay PC on Sat, Dec 13. This is a 40+ year bridge of friendship with the Makah Tribe of Neah Bay on the far northwest corner of the Olympic Peninsula.

Participants stay overnight at the Hobuck Beach Resort and attend the NBPC worship service on the following Sunday. If you have questions about the event, feel free to contact Heidi at [hhsaikaly@comcast.net](mailto:hhsaikaly@comcast.net). A CCB sign up to volunteer and/or contribute supplies for the event will be sent out soon.

### Presbytery of Yukon and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

The west coast of Alaska was hit by remnants of tropical typhoon Halong, generating high winds and sea surge that inundated communities and damaged homes and infrastructure. At least 49 communities reported being impacted.

The two hardest hit communities, Kipnuk and Kwigillingok, are in an area near the Bering Sea that saw water levels more than 6 feet above the highest normal tide line. This disaster isn't "just flooding," Schultz said (Rev. Elizabeth Schultz, Executive Presbyter). "This unprecedented evacuation of the entire population of two villages and those families and communities are being brought to hub communities around



the state, one of which is Anchorage, where the presbytery office is. We will be in direct care of hundreds of people that are now being brought to Anchorage because their villages are not safe to inhabit at the moment." In addition to flooded homes, there has been damage to power and communications systems, roads, and boardwalks, a runway, and other infrastructure, according to Alaska officials.

Schultz explained the importance of PDA's involvement this way: "Not only is it financially going to be helpful, it sends a message to all of our ecumenical partners that this denomination cares about these communities, even though they are in places most people in the lower 48 have never heard of," she said. "There is a huge faith presence in our Alaska Native villages, and it sends that needed message that they are not alone." To assist Presbyterian Disaster Assistance with its response in Alaska, go [HERE](#).

## Pledge and Giving Statements

Can you believe it's already November? Only 8 weeks until Christmas!

This would be a great time to run a Pledge and Giving Statement for 2025. There are a few reasons we suggest this.

1. We want to make sure it looks correct to you.
2. If your situation has changed during the year, and you need to make a change to your pledge, this is a good time to get that taken care of as well.
3. We have transitioned to a different payment processing system, and we want to make sure that you aren't having any difficulties with your giving.

Giving Statements are available for you to access in CCB! Here is a step-by-step guide:

- 1) Log into your CCB page
- 2) Click on **'My Giving'**
- 3) On the **'Giving Statement'**
- 4) Select Individual or Family
- 5) Select Quick Date Range - scroll down to **'Year to Date'**
- 6) Run Report

If you are having problems accessing this information or would like a paper copy mailed to you, please contact the office at: [office@snopres.org](mailto:office@snopres.org). Please send an email with any concerns or updates to both: [Treasurer@snopres.org](mailto:Treasurer@snopres.org) and [Office@snopres.org](mailto:Office@snopres.org).

Thank you!

Statement of Activities			
Year to Date Through September 2025			
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Offerings	\$ 349,530	\$ 358,787	\$ 492,645
PerCapita Collections Inc	7,172	4,800	4,800
Other Income & Gifts	21,358	16,238	23,650
Total Income	378,060	379,825	521,095
Total Expense	418,766	427,091	557,611
Net Ordinary Income	\$ (40,706)	\$ (47,266)	\$ (36,516)
Capital Project Expense			
	YTD		
Electrical Panel Project	\$ 96,522		
HVAC & Furnace	32,134		
Narthex Windows	12,570		
	141,226		

Statement of Financial Position		
As of September 30, 2025		
	As of Sept. 30, 2025	As of Sept. 30, 2024 (PY)
Assets		
General Operating Account	\$ 81,030	\$ 81,667
Other Assets	15,534	26,409
Total current assets	\$ 96,564	\$ 108,076
Investments		
General Fund - Unrestricted	454,615	532,589
General Fund - Restricted	381,057	336,900
Scholarship Endowment Funds	363,187	370,335
Total Investments	\$ 1,198,859	\$ 1,239,824
Total Assets	\$ 1,295,423	\$ 1,347,900



In September, the Church received \$52,446 in total operating income and had total expenses of \$51,822 resulting in a net profit of \$624 from operations, compared to an expected net loss of \$6,121. Year-to-date income is under budget by \$6,560. As of September 30, the Church has total assets of \$1,295,423 and continues to be debt-free.



## SESSION CORNER - OCTOBER 2025

The Session meeting on October 6 began with Marita Bishop leading reflection and prayer around Matthew 11:28-30. We then approved the following items:

- Special Session Meeting 10/20 to review TCI Assessment results
- Congregational Meeting 11/23 to elect Elders and Deacons
- Director of Youth Job Description
- Ministry team, committee, clerk, and task force reports
- Women's Tea 5/16/2026
- Neah Bay Christmas Party 12/13
- Visitation and Care Ministry Team Description
- Baptism of Anna Rose Mentzos 11/2
- 8 PNC nominees to be presented to the congregation for approval

They received updates and discussed next steps in Strategic Planning Areas:

- Facilities: reported work related to the Victory Garden, HVAC and Piping work in the Ed wing.
- Communications: shared goals of inviting new people, increasing Facebook posts, and strengthening regular communication in written and verbal forms. Please send pictures of events to Kate West. A desire to strengthen our ministry to guests and new people was also shared.
- Youth and Family: Talea is communicating with parents regarding ways to strengthen the ministry to the youth. There has been positive feedback about Wonder-full Worship.

Pastor Tom provided updates on Nominating Committee work, communicating to the congregation about the Sanctuary Refresh project, 21 leaders pledging \$60,000 to this project, 100 persons took the TCI survey (over a 90% response rate!), average Sunday in-person attendance this year of 91 people.

Session discussed ways to continually grow in being a community that is better able to welcome people who are different from ourselves. The Three Practice Sessions Mary Beth Kurtenbach is leading with all Ministry Teams and Committees is a valuable way for us to continually learn these skills.

Carlene Crossman has begun to lead us in the work of following up with people who have not been involved over the past year. In the next month Session members will be contacting people as well as updating our membership accordingly.

Please pray for Session as they focus in upcoming meetings on budgeting and long-range strategic planning.





The mission of the Interfaith Family Shelter is: uniting in services to families—with children—facing homelessness in Snohomish County. During the month of November 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

- **Twin Bedding (most needed)**
  - Light blankets & quilts –
  - Twin sheet sets –
  - Pillowcases
- **Full Bedding –**
  - Sheet sets –
  - Light comforters
- **Hygiene Items (All Ages & Genders)**
- **Household Essentials (Dorm-Style Basics)**
  - Bath towels, hand towels, washcloths
  - Dish soap and sponges
  - Laundry baskets or hampers
- **Bonus winter items**
  - hygiene items, especially lotion
  - “hot hands” hand warmers

### Wonder-Full Worship is a Hit!

Kids are connecting with the new Bible stories, and our adult leaders appreciate the updated teaching format. It's meaningful, engaging, and full of energy. Let's keep the momentum going! Here's how:

- Bring your children, grandchildren, or invite neighborhood families—everyone's welcome!
- Consider volunteering as a teacher—we're building a great team.
- And please keep our leaders and children in your prayers.

This November, our engaging lessons will explore these inspiring stories!

- Joshua
- Ruth and Naomi
- Deborah the Judge
- Hannah and Samuel



## October Pumpkin Patch Visit!



## NOVEMBER YOUTH EVENTS

**November: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>**  
12 pm–2 pm

All ages Youth Group

**November: 6<sup>th</sup>**  
5 pm–7 pm

Community Kitchen  
All youth ages welcome

**November: 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>,**  
5 pm–7 pm

Senior High Youth Group

**November: 15<sup>th</sup>**  
TBD

Youth Outing TBD

**November: 16<sup>th</sup>**  
After Service

Youth D&D



# Remember in your prayers...

(bold text indicates new prayer request)

## Church Family Members

- Mary Beth Kurtenbach- health concerns
- Evelyn Carr - closing days of life
- For the Lamb's cat who has ear mites
- Laney Newton's in-laws and others who are being similarly affected
- Duane - for his son, difficulties following return from Middle East
- Rose - prayers for the PNC
- Prayers for the family of Gary Gloe as they mourn his passing on October 12th
- For Elaine Sundman and family - she is now on hospice, but back with Dick
- For the family and friends of Marcia Moser who passed away on October 25th
- Debby Ingram and family - comfort for the family in the passing of Patrick - also, Debby is currently in the hospital battling an infection
- For Bruce and Melissa Groenewegen in the passing of Bruce's mother, Catherine
- Prayers of comfort and a sense of peace for the family of Jennifer Robinson, sister of Laurie Robinson - Jennifer recently passed away
- Bob and Anne Sterley - health issues for Bob
- Ethan, and mom Rachel Greenberg - Ethan has had cancer, is undergoing immunological infusions over the next year
- Rich Guthrie - heart issues
- Sara Seiber - treatment for cancer
- Shelagh Hizzey - cancer treatment
- Ray and Lise Pettigrew in the loss of their son

## PRAISES!

- **Rob West, Kate's brother, reports that on his last MRI, the tumors on his lungs show a minimum of 25% shrinkage - they can't tell what is scar tissue, so it could be more!**
- **Cindy Duncan's aggressive oral chemo has finally slowed the advance of her cancer - NO NEW TUMORS, and many old ones showing shrinkage**
- **Jill - thankful for rainbows in the midst of storms**

## Homebound

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

## Friends of FPCS

- For upcoming elections - that they would be peaceful and result in honorable and compassionate officials
- For those who are adversely impacted by the government shut-down
- Reed - chemotherapy
- Prayers for Beatrice Furr (Caleb's stepmother) and family as she nears the end of her life following a battle with lung cancer
- Prayers that Cindy Duncan's (Jan Gavin's niece) body will continue to tolerate the chemo drug until all the renal cell carcinoma - travel mercies as she continues coming from Alaska to Fred Hutch for tests and treatment
- Doug Hood - nephew of Jean & Jim Hunter, diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer
- Kevin Poole, Mary Lee Locknane's son-in-law, living with stage 4 cancer over the last 4 years
- Pastor Moses and Margaret, struggling with a number of health issues
- Cynthia Sundman, missionary in Peru

## Ongoing Prayer Support

- **The national election in Cameroon (where Pastor Moses Tanni and his wife Margaret live) took place Oct 12th - for peace to follow**
- For the increased levels of political violence, and violence in general, that is emerging nationwide - that we would seek to find areas of commonality
- 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
- 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**



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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SNOHOMISH

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**ACCLAIM! WORSHIP TEAM**  
HEATHER SHROPSHIRE

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

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360-568-8737

**Change your clocks THIS  
Saturday Night (11/1)**



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