



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

The Light | September | 2024

## Pastor's Corner



Whenever I've helped lead the World Religion Forum at Snohomish High School for a world history class, I've opened by referring to a book by holocaust survivor Victor Frankl, called "Man's Search for Meaning." In it, he points out that our deepest drive and greatest need in life is to discover what gives meaning, purpose, and direction to our lives.

Establishing core values as a faith community gives the church our purpose and direction. It drives our vision, shapes our culture, and energizes our passion.

In 2019 during our church's work with Ministry Architects, our session established Five Core Values that we believe reflect our church (though imperfectly) and that we wish to live into as we continue to move forward. Elizabeth and I will be offering a five-part sermon series on those Core Values starting September 22nd as a way of reminding ourselves who we are and what we strive to be. The five Core Values are:

**CHRIST-CENTERED** (Sept. 22): Following Jesus as disciples, we rely on scripture and prayer to guide our life together in all we do.

**MISSION-MINDED** (Sept. 29): Striving to be servants, we care for the physical and spiritual needs of others by sharing our faith, stories, gifts, and resources.

**INCLUSIVE** (Oct. 6): Welcoming and respecting all, we offer support and encouragement by loving one another, while recognizing our differences.

**CONTEMPORARY** (Oct. 13): Making our faith accessible and relevant to today's world, we engage all generations in faithful living.

**AUTHENTIC** (Oct. 20): Expressing our faith honestly, we reveal our vulnerabilities and apply our faith to living with integrity.

May these core values guide, inspire, and energize us as we strive to grow deeper in faith and reach wider in love.

Grateful to be on this journey of faith and service with you!

*Pastor Charlie*

## Session's Strategic Planning: Building Our Church's Future

Over the past few months, our Session has been working on a strategic plan to guide our church's future. We started with a SWOT analysis, identifying our **STRENGTHS**, **WEAKNESSES**, **OPPORTUNITIES**, and **THREATS**.



### **What We Found:**

We recognized strengths like our strong music program, mission focus, and desire for inclusion. We also acknowledged challenges, such as the need for better communication, attracting younger members, and addressing our aging building. Opportunities include expanding outreach to families, leveraging our interim period, and forming new local partnerships.

### **Moving Forward:**

With these insights, we are prioritizing areas to focus on and developing action steps. Our goal is a clear plan that will help us better serve Christ and our community.

### **How You Can Help:**

Your prayers and support are vital. Together, we can build on our strengths and tackle our challenges to ensure our church remains vibrant and welcoming. Thank you for your continued commitment. We'll keep you updated as we move forward.

Carol Mastrofina  
Session Member  
SWOT Leader



## Session Corner - August 2024

Jesus said,  
"I am the Way,  
the Truth, and  
the Life.

No one knows the Father apart from me."  
John 14:6

**WHAT** does the **WAY** mean? ~ **WHAT** is the **TRUTH**? ~ **WHAT** is the **LIFE**?

Session members pondered, discussed, wondered. Separating the three questions somehow made us think outside the box of the sermons and usual explanations. We did come to an 'aha' that made the search uplifting. I would say to you that asking a session member what that was would be a good idea for you both!

1. Approval of Charlie taking October 21-31 as vacation if he goes to Bethlehem to assist the Nassar family on their farm.
2. Approval for Community Life to host a retirement party for Charlie and Ann Lewis.
3. Joe Ramirez presented a Facility Overview Report, outlining all that needs to be done to bring the building up to code, and stated that we need to separate the projects for upgrades from the Sanctuary Refresh, which will need a capital campaign.
4. Vicki reported on the invested funding sources available for Capital Needs as of August 15, 2024 amounting to \$550,019.
5. The Interim Pastor Search committee has been gathering questions for interviews and is waiting for Presbytery to send the candidates available.
6. Playground is going in gradually. Swing set is almost complete. Donations are appreciated!
7. We celebrate the completion of VBS which had about 45 children.

Next Session Meeting, Monday, September 9th.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marita Bishop



### **Coffee Hosts Needed**

We're looking for a few more people to help with the Sunday Morning Coffee Hour. If you enjoy chatting with people and don't mind getting to church a bit early, talk with Marge Bryan or sign up in the narthex!

# CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

*Snohomish*

CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 13, 2024

SNOHOMISH, WASHINGTON

**27th Snohomish Community  
CROP HUNGER WALK  
Sunday, October 13th  
12:30 pm  
St. John's Episcopal Church**

In Snohomish, the money raised will provide meals to the needy through the all-volunteer **Snohomish Community Kitchen**. The **Community Kitchen** delivers and serves in-house approximately 95 meals each Monday and Thursday. Funds are needed to pay for delivery costs, rent, and food to keep this important resource available to people in need of a meal.

**Please donate, walk, and support our Walk with your prayers.**

**Scan for more information or go to [crophungerwalk.org/snohomishwa](https://crophungerwalk.org/snohomishwa)**



**Guest Preacher from  
Bethlehem on Sept. 15**



We are pleased to have Dr. Zoughbi Zoughbi with us on Sunday, September 15 as our guest preacher. Dr. Zoughbi is the Director of the Wi'am Conflict Transformation Center in Bethlehem which fosters dialogue and promotes peacemaking and reconciliation among people. Wi'am (meaning "cordial relationship") opened its doors in 1994, developing programs that empower children, youth, women, and men, addressing the impact of the long-term conflict.

Zoughbi was the Palestinian Christian guide for our last Holy Land trip on which 12 from our church traveled. We came to see not only the holy places but to hear the sacred stories of the people. It wasn't in the ancient stones that we discovered Jesus in the Holy Land, but we found Jesus in the living stones, the Christians, Jews, and Muslims working collaboratively for a just peace, particularly Zoughbi.

He will be addressing the challenges before our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Holy Land, and explaining how a deeper understanding on our part can mobilize us to stand with our fellow Christians there in this very dark and dire time.

Those of us who have traveled to the Holy Land with the Living Stones trips are indebted to the Palestinian Christians for inspiring our faith and giving us hope that what's just and right will prevail. They help us understand the Christian faith in a far deeper dimension and show us by their example how to live it.

Please plan to come and be stretched and inspired by the faithful witness of Dr. Zoughbi during worship on the 15th.

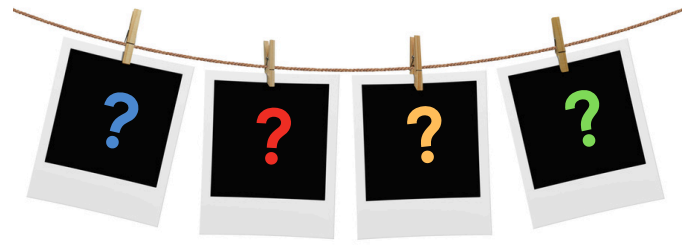
# Eagle Wings disAbility Ministries

At the Eagle Wings Pool Party on Sunday, July 28th, 100-140 guests joined with our volunteers for an evening of picnic style foods, ice cream, and of course playing in the pool. I would have a difficult time finding anyone who didn't have a spectacular evening. The Deacon and Mission Ministry teams extend our gratitude to all who supported us with much needed equipment, and helped with set up, tear down, and serving our guests. Without your generosity this would not have been such a success. Thank you: Phil & Lori Prins, Rich & Louise Guthrie, Eli & Heidi Saikaly, Howard & Rita Stoess, Tia & Nathan Nieuwsma, Paula Erickson, Carlene Crossman, Marsh & Lynda Batchelor, John & Vicki Hesseltine, and most especially Ted Milburn for supplying the 200+ hot dogs, corn dogs, and chili dogs. We also extend our gratitude to the Lions club who supplied additional canopies and help with set up and tear down. Our guests are already looking forward to next year.



## Snohomish Community Kitchen

At the August Community Kitchen, we served 83 meals. Many thanks to all who helped make this a success; Brenda White, Shelagh Hizzey, Paula Erickson, Al and Rhonda Atrengenio, Jean Hunter, Michael and Philomene Prihoda, Lori Prins, Lori Allen, Becky Kiser, Marsh and Lynda Batchelor, Rich Guthrie, John Silvernale, Jeff, Nathan, Andrew, Joshua, and Daniel Lamb, and John and Vicki Hesseltine. This was an evening filled with delicious food, lots of laughter and conversation and piano music. Thank you all!



## 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](mailto:m.jon.mckenzie@gmail.com), and include a brief description of what is happening in the photos. Jon needs these photos by November 1st, 2024. That will give him time to include the photos in the video. Thank you!



**Give blood.**

*Help save lives.*



### **Blood Drive** **First Presbyterian Church of Snohomish**

Lakeview Room  
1306 Lake View Avenue  
Snohomish, WA

**Friday, September 20, 2024**  
**12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)  
or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: Snohomish  
to schedule an appointment.



## Farmers' Markets - Only 2 More

Don't forget to bring your overflow vegetables and fruits to the Farmers' Markets on September 8th and September 22nd. Women's Ministries also loves donations of baked goods and fun items like books and small things you might want to donate. Women's Ministries really appreciates the support of this congregation!

**A BIG THANK YOU!!!**



## Do you play the piano or guitar?

We are looking for musicians who are willing to teach our Godly Play children some church songs/choruses - both old and new! We would meet in Lake View Hall on Communion Sundays for approximately 25 minutes between the Children's Message and just before communion. Questions? Call Shelagh at 425-422-6100

## Wednesday Bible Study:

Starts Sept. 18 at 10am

In conjunction with the fall sermon series on the Church's Five Core Values, we will be exploring each of these values prior to the Sunday they are preached on.

We'll have the following schedule:

Christ -Centered (Sept. 18)

Mission-Minded (Sept. 25)

Inclusive (October 2)

Contemporary (October 9)

Authentic (October 16)

Scripture passages and questions will be sent out to those currently on the Wednesday Bible study list. If you have not attended in the past and would like to, please notify Pastor Charlie so you can receive the scripture and questions. The class will be online at 10 AM each Wednesday. Here's the Zoom link to connect:

**Wednesday Bible Study Zoom Link**



## Governance Team Update: Strengthening Our Foundation

The Governance Team has been working diligently behind the scenes, dedicating countless hours to locate, update, and correlate the policies and procedures that make up our church's Manual of Administrative Operations. This vital work ensures that our church is not only compliant but also organized, transparent, and prepared for the future.

We are thrilled to announce that incredible progress has been made, and the manual will soon be available to all members of First Presbyterian Church of Snohomish. This manual will serve as a foundation for our church's operations, providing clarity and guidance for years to come.

As we reflect on this important work, we are reminded of the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:24-25: *"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."*

Just as the wise man built his house on a solid foundation, our Governance Team is ensuring that our church is built on a strong foundation of clear policies and procedures. This will allow us to weather any storm and continue our mission with confidence and integrity.

Thank you to the Governance Team for their hard work and dedication. We look forward to the unveiling of the updated manual and the strengthened foundation it will provide for our church.

## Come Ring With Us!



Our handbell choir is looking for a few more ringers to join in the fun. We typically play for the service on the last Sunday of each month during the program year. Your commitment is only to attend the majority of the rehearsals for each month so if you have travel plans for a particular month, we will cover your position in the choir with someone else. Weekly rehearsals are at a time convenient for the majority of the choir members – usually Thursday afternoons.

Never played before? Not to worry! If you know the difference between a whole note and a quarter note, you likely have a basic understanding of music theory. And if you don't, we will cover the basics with a short course in music theory and reading a music score. Training in ringing technique will be provided. **Sally will let members know about the date and time for the first rehearsal.** For more information, contact Sally Hart at 425-312-5720 or Howard Stoess at 509-939-0858.

# EVEREST

Conquering Challenges with  
God's Mighty Power



## Everest VBS 2024 Recap:

We had such a fun and crazy week at Everest VBS! From power outages to Yeti sightings, each day came with its own surprises. Throughout it all God was at work and showing His power to provide, comfort, heal, forgive, and love us forever.

The exciting songs, fun games, inspirational videos, delicious treats, vivid Bible adventures, hilarious skits, lovely crafts, and immersive decor were all made possible by wonderful volunteers from our church family! Thank you, volunteers, for all the hours and smiles you



shared with our climbers during VBS. Crew Leaders and Assistants, thank you for sharing your joy and patience with your crews.

Special thanks to Jeanne Whitney, the artist of our beautiful Everest backdrop in the sanctuary! It is absolutely gorgeous, and we hope to preserve it for future use.

Over the course of our week-long VBS, we ministered to 50 children with an average of 35-40 children attending per day. Our climbers raised \$190.98 for Heifer International, which will go towards sending farm animals to families in need. We also raised \$185 towards next year's VBS registration fund. This year we came in under budget and were able to ask families to donate as they were able towards next year instead of requiring the registration fee we had previously advertised for this year.

God is good, and has blessed the fruits of our VBS labors richly. Thank you to all who made Everest VBS a success, and I look forward to what God has in store for us next!



With gratitude  
and blessings,

Tia Nieuwsma





# Church BBQ - Come join us!



Community Life is hosting our yearly Summer Family BBQ on September 29th right after the church service in the Lake View Hall. There will be chicken, hot dogs with buns, and corn on the cob. Please bring a side dish and/or dessert to share. We are also looking for a few people to help clean up afterward. Please contact the Community Life team if you have any questions--Lynda, Paula or Philomene.



## More Kids = More Fun!

As you may have noticed, one section of swings has been installed and another will be installed soon, but we still need your help to add more fun activities. Please make kids a priority! You may contribute to the **Playground online** or by check with the word 'Playground' in the memo line! Thank you!



## CPR/First Aid Training

On Saturday, September 14th, FPCS will be hosting a special training opportunity. This is a 6-hour training course that will cover basic first aid, adult and infant CPR, and operating the church AED Equipment. The cost for this training is \$60/person.

Click to Register: [REGISTER!](#)



## YOUTH GROUP

The new year for our Middle and High School students will begin on Wednesday, September 12th from 5-7pm. This year we will meet at the Hizey home located at 1803 Blackman Shores Place, Snohomish. Our first meeting will be a planning session. 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? Call Shelagh at 425-422-6100



## Remember in your prayers...

### Church Family Members

- Jean Hunter -recovering from surgery at Northwest Hospital
- Patrick Ingram - In Evergreen Hospital
- Debby Ingram - treatment for multiple myeloma
- Scott Miller - treatment for cancer
- The Miller family in the passing of Scott's sister, Shelli Dyche
- Kathleen Hansen - treatment for cancer
- Kero Ebeid - recovery from accident
- Bill Gavin - for ongoing healing
- Sara Seiber - treatment for cancer
- Shelagh Hizzey - cancer treatment
- Cathy Haddenham as she recovers
- Caregivers for these and other church family members
- Rev. Elizabeth Klein as she prepares to undergo surgery and then will be out for most of the month of September

### Homebound

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



### Friends of FPCS

- Cindy Duncan - the Gavin's niece - underwent surgery for a brain tumor
- 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
- Yvonne Carr (mother-in-law of Marlie Bilbruck) for malignant brain tumor
- Cynthia Sundman, missionary in Peru
- Pastor Moses & Margaret Tanni in Cameroon
- Family of Henk Wapstra, founder of the Eagle Wings ministry, as they mourn his passing and give thanks for his life and ministry

### Ongoing Prayer Support

- Prayers for peace where there is war and turmoil: Israel, Palestine/Gaza, Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, Lebanon, and 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
- Global leaders--for wisdom and the will to act justly and 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 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.

## 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@snopres.org](mailto:office@snopres.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.





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## Articles Inside...

- Guest from Bethlehem on Sept. 15
- Core Values Sermon Series
- CROP Walk Information - Oct. 13
- Session News
- Fall Youth Group
- VBS Recap

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

office@snopres.org |  
www.snopres.org

360-568-8737

**NPS:**

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Hanna Cho

**Director of Music Ministry:**

Kate West

**Bookkeeper:**

**Office Manager /**

Rev. Elizabeth Klein

**Pastoral Assistant**

Rev. Charles Lewis

**Pastor:**

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