

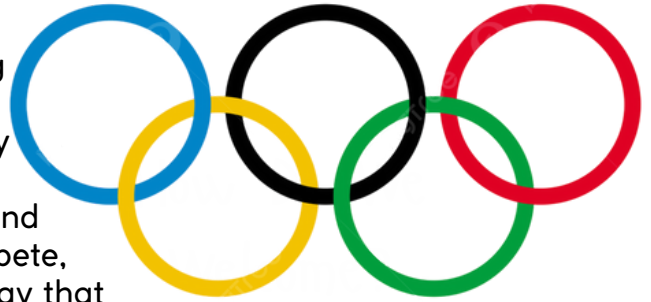


GROWING DEEPER IN FAITH
REACHING WIDER IN LOVE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SNOHOMISH

The Light | August | 2024

Pastor's Corner

The eyes of much of the world will shift some of their focus for the next couple weeks from the more troubling conditions and circumstances around our globe, and in our divided country, to the one event that seems to unify hearts and lift spirits: the Summer Olympic Games in Paris. Once again, the most exceptionally conditioned and most finely tuned athletes in the world will meet to compete, seeing which athlete rises above the others (if you can say that winning by a fraction of a second really makes someone a superior athlete). For those of us who grew up with a life in sports, as I did, watching these highly conditioned and trained athletes compete is a source of enjoyment and inspiration. In college, I had the rare and wonderful opportunity to run against some Olympic runners (from Kenya, naturally), so I've grown to appreciate the discipline and hard work it takes to be a top-level athlete. But I also appreciate that there are other, far more significant areas of life that call out for the very best of us.



Our faith is a prime example. The Apostle Paul compared his faith to that of an athlete. He pointed out that striving to be finely tuned in our faith requires the kind of training and hard work an athlete must do in order to do their best (1 Cor. 9:24-27). Excellence does not just happen. It demands our time, our energy, our commitment. Paul reminds us that when that kind of discipline is present, spiritual fitness is the result - fruits grow - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It is a thrill to witness others grow in their faith, seeing the best in them nurtured to maturity until they are at the top of their game.

A study was done of 300 Protestant churches, each considered "excellent," or functioning at their very best, based on the dedication and devotion they exhibited as a congregation. While there is a level of subjectivity in the study, those conducting the study found that the most vibrant churches - those of Olympian quality - had the following characteristics:

- Expressing a joyful spirit, and creating a warm and welcoming community
- Emphasizing a growing spirit life, and building a deep relationship with God in Christ
- Providing innovative, heart-encouraging, and thoughtful worship
- Providing Scripture-based teaching and preaching
- Appreciating tradition without being static
- Being aware of and able to adapt to the diversity of its members
- Valuing Christian community and the bonds among members
- Dealing with decision-making in a collaborative way
- Graciously addressing challenges
- Reaching out to the wider community and world with the love of the gospel

As we enjoy watching the summer Olympic Games and consider what it takes to rise to that degree of athletic excellence, we give thanks for the ways our church expresses the above "Olympic" qualities. And we pray that we might continue to strive toward growth in each of these areas. May we engage in the discipline and hard work it takes - through study, worship, prayer, and service - as God enables us to be fit and mature spiritually and at the top of our game.

In gratitude for our church,

Charlie

SESSION Business in July

From the July 15, 2024 session meeting:

From Chapter 6: PRACTICES FOR OPENING TO GOD TOGETHER (RUTH HALEY BARTON)

"The best thing a person can bring to leadership is his or her own transforming self."

HOW DO WE CHANGE?

"One of the most important aspects of our community rule of life is simply finding ways to be open to the presence of Christ. Session members discussed ways they find to be aware and open to the presence of God: Some find praying better after the day is done, and even in the awakened hours of the night. Some start the day with devotion and Bible study. Reading authors of spiritual integrity are also a way to become closer to Christ. Spiritual direction, where another soul listens and helps us discover the answers already within us, is another available resource. Rhythms of work and rest are essential. When we neglect these times of renewal, we wear ourselves out. Leaders are stewards of organizational energy - in whatever arena - home, work, church. They inspire or demoralize others by how effectively they manage their own energies, and thus affect the collective energy of those they lead.

AM I WILLING TO CHANGE? is a question worth asking ourselves.

Business conducted:

- Receiving Ministry Team, Committee, and Task Force reports
- Approving Jeff Kurtenbach joining the Governance Committee
- Paying for the cost of polishing the sanctuary floor from Reserves = \$19,741
- Approving Charlie's vacation to extend 2 days from August 3-7 and again August 13-15
- Approving guest preachers for August 11 and September 15
- Planning two extra meetings for Session in August for SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) training... plus a retreat with Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Klein
- Adjusting salary for Elizabeth, moving her from .25 FTE to .3125 FTE
- Moving-back date into the sanctuary was August 4! **(UPDATE - That happened much more quickly than we'd expected!!)**
- Approving Mission request for a Solidarity Sunday for Gaza on July 21

Respectfully submitted,
Marita Bishop

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

Now, more than ever, the world's hungry and displaced need our help. Monies raised from local CROP Hunger walks fund Church World Service (CWS) and our local Community Kitchen. Community Kitchen receives 25% of the funds raised.

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

Scan for more information or go to crophungerwalk.org/snohomishwa



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 to which 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



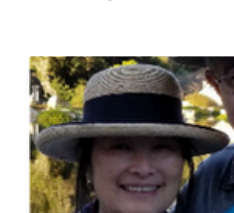
Jon Bishop
Connexion
Groups/Small



Anna Thelen
Worship



**Philomene
Prihoda**
Community Life



Heidi Saikaly
Mission



**Shelagh
Hizzey**
Youth &
Family

Supplies Needed

Watch the August edition of the Light and upcoming What's Happening to see additional ways that you can help, supplies that will be needed, decorating that needs to be done! There's a way for everyone to help out. In the meantime, there are some pieces of equipment that we're looking for. Please let Tia know if you have any of these items:

Climbing Gear

30 Foot Climbing Rope

Tarps

Trekking Poles

Hiking Boots

Sleeping Bags

Headlamps

Lanterns

Ropes

Misting Hoses

Clipboards

Water Bottle Caddies

Kids Plastic Pools

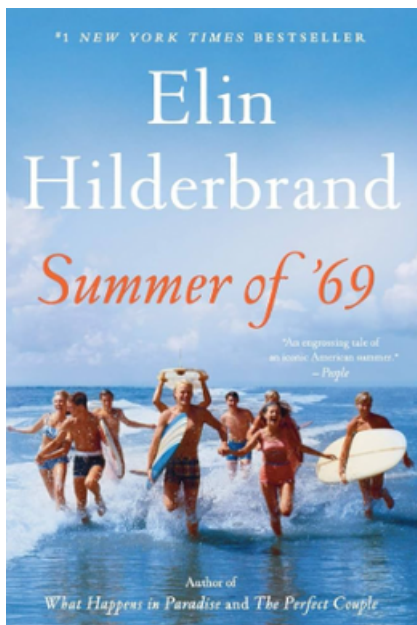
6 Large Beach Towels

2 Tents in their cases/bags

8 Rolled up, Frozen T-Shirts

30+ Spring-Loaded Clothes Pins

2 Inflatable Globes



Dear Parents:

Send your kids on an icy expedition!

At Everest VBS, kids embark on the coolest adventure of the summer! Everest VBS is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences that kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. (Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in play clothes and safe shoes.) Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!

The fun starts at 9:00 am and will end at 12:00 PM. Go online to register your children for this life-changing adventure! vbspro.events/p/snopres-everest-2024

Sincerely,

Tia Nieuwsma

FPCS VBS Director

Or register online at:



Women's Ministry Book Club

Our August book club selection is "The Summer of '69" by Elin Hilderbrand, a novel where four siblings experience the drama, intrigue, and upheaval of the '60's, rich with the details of an era that shaped a nation. We will share a potluck salad at the home of Myrna Lucas at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, August 14. Dede Babcock will be our reviewer. Questions? Call Carol at 206-595-9462 or email Carol at cjohnson98290@gmail.com.

MISSION NEWS – TENT OF NATIONS



Thank you for your generous support of our mission partners. Here is the Friends of Tent of Nations North America message with the link to Nicholas Kristof's NYT article, ["Meet the Followers of Martin Luther King Jr. in the West Bank."](#)



Dear Friends of Tent of Nations,

Please follow the link above to read Nicholas Kristof's article, "Meet the Followers of Martin Luther King Jr. in the West Bank," in the New York Times. (From July 6, 2024. You may have to create a free account with NYT, but no subscription is needed. You can read a small number of articles for free.)

The article reflects on columnist Nicholas Kristof's June visit with the Nassar Family at the Tent of Nations farm. He writes, "During a week of reporting in Israel and the West Bank, I was mostly discouraged — the region may get worse before it gets even worse — but the Nassars buoyed my spirits. They underscored that while it is the militants who make the headlines, innumerable people on both sides of the Palestinian-Israeli divide are trying to bring peace and understanding to a region that lacks both." Follow the NYT link to read the full article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/06/opinion/israeli-palestinian-peace-west-bank.html>

Then please share widely!

Thank you for walking this FOTONNA road for justice and peace!

The FOTONNA Steering Committee

FOTONNA – Friends of Tent of Nations North America



Rev. Hendrik (Henk) Wapstra

Henk Wapstra passed away on Tuesday, July 2nd after a 5 year battle with cancer.

He and his wife, Rosa Lee, were actively involved in our congregation for several years. Henk was also the founder of Eagles Wings disAbility Ministries. His beloved wife, Rosa Lee, has shared her address if you would like to send condolences. Please keep the Wapstra family in your prayers in this time of grieving. Cards may be sent to: 8934 NE 191st Place, Bothell, WA 98011.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, August 10th at 3:00 pm at North Creek Presbyterian Church located at 621 164th St SE, Mill Creek, WA 98012. Reception immediately following.



More Kids = More Fun!

Our deserted playground will soon have swings, but we 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

In September (date TBD), 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. Watch for more details on how to sign up.



Church Family Members

- Debby Ingram - treatment for multiple myeloma
- Scott Miller - treatment for cancer
- Kathleen Hansen - treatment for cancer
- Kero Ebeid - recovery from accident
- Bill Gavin - for ongoing healing
- Sara Seiber - treatment for cancer
- Shelagh Hizzey - cancer treatment
- Alex DeSoto and Lynn Schilaty and family - loss of Eli and Lynn's brother-in-law, Gary
- Caregivers for these and other church family members
- Cathy Haddenham as she recovers from blood clots on her lungs - she is home now but will be recovering for several weeks
- Jim Fox has been hospitalized at Evergreen Hospital for bladder and kidney infections

Homebound

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

Friends of FPCS

- Shelli Dyché, Scott Miller's sister, in treatment for cancer
- 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, doing ministry in Cameroon amidst civil war
- Tall Timber Camp
- Family of Henk Wapstra, founder of the Eagle Wings ministry, as they mourn his passing

Ongoing Prayer Support

- Prayers for peace where there is war and turmoil: Israel, Palestine/Gaza, Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, Lebanon
- 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 to uphold human rights

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



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



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.

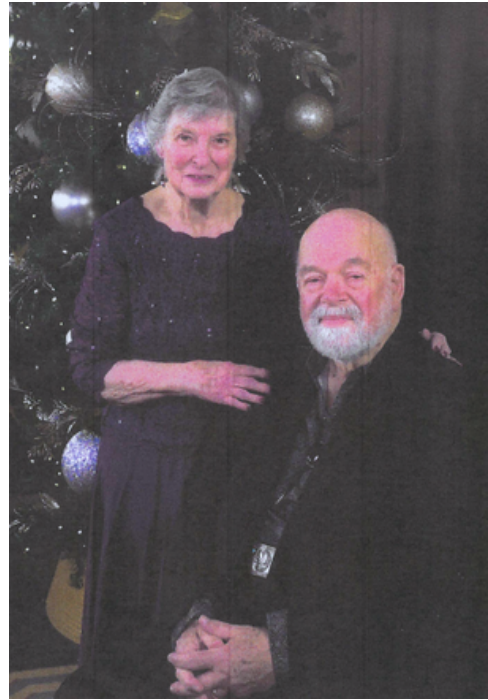




Meet Joyce Brenden

Joyce is such a fan of Minnie Mouse that she moved all the way from Everett to the Orlando area after her husband passed away in 2001 to be able to visit Walt Disney World whenever she wanted. Years later she is back in Washington but still finds time to visit Minnie several times a year. As a former elementary school librarian and retired second grade teacher, Joyce also enjoys working with children and sharing her love of quilting with them.

Meet Jim Fox & Judy Richardson



Jim and Judy were married on March 27, 2022. They reconnected their friendship from 26 years ago when Judy lived in Snohomish on Lord Hill. Both were raised in loving Christian homes where the church was a vital part of each family. Judy spent 35 years as a Christian Catholic and then was a member of University Presbyterian Church for 17 years. Jim and Judy look forward to fellowship with the members of the First Presbyterian Church of Snohomish



Meet Riley Boerger

I have been attending First Presbyterian since I was born, and have loved the community and love that is the soul of our church. I work as a nursery attendant at First Presbyterian Church of Snohomish, and I house sit and baby sit. In my free time I love to read, paint, and write. I just finished my junior year at Lake Stevens High School while also being a full time Everett Community College student, working on graduating my senior year with my high school diploma and my Associates degree. I want to thank my mom and all of you for showing me the true meaning of what being a Christian is.



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Articles Inside...

- Meet Our New Members
- VBS Supplies Needed
- Tent of Nations Update
- Session News
- CROP Walk Information
- Website Update

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

office@snopres.org |
www.snopres.org

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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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