



GROWING DEEPER IN FAITH  
REACHING WIDER IN LOVE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SNOHOMISH

The Light | November | 2024

## Pastor's Corner

In one of the most memorable scenes of C.S. Lewis' wonderful closing book in the Chronicles of Narnia, a small group of children leave behind one stage of their faith journey and move with breathless anticipation into another. Out ahead of them, always just beyond their grasp, is Aslan, the great lion and Christ-figure, who 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.

The image of the Christian life as a life-long journey – further up and further in - is an old one and a good one. It's a reminder that Christian discipleship is a continual process, not a destination. The forty-year journey of wandering through the wilderness proves necessary for fashioning a people who would need to depend upon God if they are to be a blessing to the rest of the world. The earliest Christians being called "People of the Way" is an image that echoes the wilderness journey, and a people who are on the move toward a more promising land and hopeful future.

As our Session moves forward with the creation of planning teams that will focus on areas of our church's life and ministry (see session corner inside), it is an indication that we are not resting on any laurels but, to use a phrase of Apostle Paul, "pressing on to what lies ahead." These are the steps we are taking – and invite you to join us as you're able – to keep moving toward a more hopeful future, trusting in the Spirit to be out ahead of us and also at work among us.

We are part of a denomination whose hallmark is "reformed and always reforming." We are always in the process of growing, evolving, striving toward what lies ahead, fostering an oxygen-rich environment in our congregation that continually grows deeper in faith while reaching wider. This will be particularly important as we enter a transition period in our church with my retirement (at the end of January) and the arrival of an interim and later a newly installed pastor.

The renowned missionary, E Stanley Jones, comments that "everything is being changed. It's not a question of whether things will change or not, but whether they are being changed up or down, for the better or for worse." And the great Scottish missionary, explorer, abolitionist, and doctor, David Livingstone, is known for saying, "I'll go anywhere with God, as long as it is forward."

It is my prayer that this forward-looking perspective and belief in the power of the Gospel is what inspires us as we look ahead, ready to move further up and further in where every step of our congregation's journey leads us to horizons more promising than the one before. With you on the journey,

*Pastor Charlie*





**Closing in on 150 Years...**  
**and Celebrating Together God's Work!**  
**Consecration Sunday and Luncheon on Nov. 3**

We invite everyone to join us for worship and, immediately following, a complementary catered lunch on November 3, as we celebrate the pledging of our gifts for ministry in 2025. Here's what's in store for you on the 3rd:

- Joining hearts and hands and voices together in worship, and celebrating our 148 years of serving this community as the oldest church in Snohomish County.
- Building on the shoulders of those who have gone before us.
- Hearing the message of Rev. Dave Rohrer (retired pastor from Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Bothell) on our theme "Encourage one another toward love and good works" (Heb. 11:24).
- Offering your pledge for 2025 to the ministry of FPCS for our congregation, community, and world.
- Giving thanks for how our gifts make a difference in our community and world.
- Praying for one another and for the ongoing mission of FPCS as we seek to grow deeper in faith and reach wider in love.
- Enjoying another delicious complimentary catered lunch prepared by Nate Fox and his culinary class from Monroe H.S.

There are changes coming next year with Pastor Charlie's retirement at the end of January 2025. An interim pastor is scheduled to pick up the baton the first week of February and lead us until a new pastor is called by our congregation. Just as our church has thrived for nearly 150 years through numerous changes, we on the stewardship team know that God will continue to be faithful as we move into the future, encouraging one another toward love and good works.

We are excited about the future of our church, and we look forward to having you join us on Consecration Sunday for worship and the luncheon afterward. Pledge cards were mailed out in mid-October and have been in the bulletin as have sign-up cards for the luncheon – you may also email ([office@snopres.org](mailto:office@snopres.org)) or call the office (360-568-6498) to let us know you'll be joining us for the luncheon.

## **Exciting News: Our Church's Strategic Planning Teams Are Being Formed!**

We are excited to announce that, following the work done on the SWOT assessment, your Session has moved forward with the formation of our Strategic Planning Teams. These teams will help guide our church as we continue to grow in our mission, strengthen our ministries, and care for our facilities. Each team will focus on a specific area of church life, ensuring that we remain faithful stewards of both our congregation and the Lord's house.



### **Strengths: Youth and Family Ministry, Leader - Dede Babcock**

This team will begin by focusing on our Youth and Family Ministry, working to enhance our programs and better support the spiritual growth of the young people and families in our church. We are eager to explore new ways to nurture the next generation of believers.



### **Weaknesses: Communication, Leader - Carol Mastrofini**

Recognizing the importance of strong communication across all generations, this team will hold small group round tables to listen to your perspectives. These discussions will allow us to hear cross-generational ideas and reimagine how we communicate with one another, ensuring everyone feels informed and connected.



### **Opportunities: Facility and Worship Space, Leader - Curt Green**

This team will focus on our church facility, setting priorities for maintenance and repairs to ensure we can continue to worship in the Lord's house. Caring for our building is a tangible expression of our commitment to creating a welcoming and functional space for all.



### **Threats: No team. Fear of change? We are all members of that team!**

We encourage each of you to participate in any way you feel called. Whether through offering your time, sharing your insights, or lending your skills, your involvement can make a difference as we work together to strengthen our church community.

Stay tuned for information on how to join one of these teams or offering support where you feel led. We are grateful for your prayers and contributions as we embark on this exciting journey of growth and renewal.

In Christ's service.

## SESSION BUSINESS:

### Approved:

- \* Sunday, November 10th following Worship for a congregational meeting to receive nominations for new Elders and Deacons.
- \* Saturday, November 16th for a session retreat at the home of Elizabeth Klein.
- \* Request from B&G to get rid of the final pews being stored (plenty of interest in them).
- \* Request from the ConneXtion Team to expand the ministry and rename it Spiritual Formation MT.
- \* Mission's request for the Neah Bay PC Christmas party on Dec. 14th.
- \* Treasurer Vicki Hesselstine reported that year to date total offerings continue to be above budgeted estimates.
- \* Session approved a budget for leadership retreats and training.
- \* Session approved a budget line for a future youth pastor and a position for Elizabeth working as an educational assistant. The Committee on Ministry (COM) will consult with us on that.

### Old Business:

- \* Electrical Panel contract was signed...work will start after Christmas.
- \* Sanctuary Refresh needs to be worked into line with all projects...will be on hold for a few months, but needs to go to Finance to discuss funds for drawings of plans.
- \* A motion was made to approve live-streaming with privacy arranged for those who do not want to be shown.
- \* The final pieces of the playground equipment cannot be put up until inspection.
- \* The Nominating Committee has three names to present for Elders: Julie Reynolds, Mary Beth Kurtenbach, Phil Prins, and Marlie Bilbruck-Carr. Dede Babcock and Marita Bishop have extended one more year. New Deacon nominees are: Linda Fuller, Rita Stoess, Tia and Nathan Nieuwsma, and Judy Richardson-Fox.

### New Business:

- \* Governance submitted procedures for Bid Proposals for Capital projects and Repairs.

Next Session meeting - Monday, November 4th.

Respectfully submitted, Marita Bishop



## Neah Bay PC Christmas party

You are invited to participate in the upcoming Christmas festivities on Dec 14 at Neah Bay PC, located on the beautiful northwestern corner of the Olympic Peninsula!

For more than four decades, Presbyterian churches have taken provisions for crafts, dinner, and gifts to celebrate Christmas with Makah Tribal children and their families.

Many participants stay overnight in Hobuck Beach Resort cabins and attend the NBPC worship service on the following day. Elie, I, and our children have participated in about 15 years of these gatherings with Jon Bishop, Rich Guthrie, Jeanne Hoek, Lynda & Marsh Batchelor, Ursula Gallagher, Pat Sanvik, and other FPCS friends. This Christmas tradition was paused during the pandemic and resumed last year. We are looking forward to this celebration of the Birth of the Prince of Peace with our Makah sisters and brothers in Christ with YOU.

The Mission Team would like to encourage you and your children to take part in this year's Neah Bay PC Christmas party as volunteers, and/or providing monetary donations to purchase \$25 Walmart gift cards that will be given to the Makah children. These gifts can be made by check to FPCS with "Neah Bay PC Christmas" on the memo line OR online through the CCB, designated for "Neah Bay PC Christmas gift cards."

Feel free to contact Heidi at [hhsaikaly@comcast.net](mailto:hhsaikaly@comcast.net) for further information about itinerary and lodging details.





## 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 30 at 10:00 AM to lend a helping hand. Families welcome! Snacks provided.

## ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

Save the Date! - Sunday, Dec 8th

Our annual Alternative Gift Market is right around the corner!

This year the 2024 Alternative Gift Market will be held on December 8th in Lake View Hall. Shopping will be available before and after worship along with catalog shopping starting on November 19th.

Your support of AGM 24 will provide resources for ministries both locally and globally!

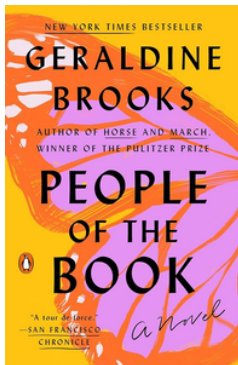


*"The rising sun will come to us from  
heaven to shine on those living in  
darkness"*

*Luke 1:28-29*

*This year Advent begins Sunday, December 1st  
The Spiritual Formation Ministry Team (formerly Connexions)  
invites you to participate in a variety of ways:*

1. Join in educational sessions on Sunday mornings at 9:00am.
2. Be a part of a ConneXtion small group.
3. Hear sermons that encourage us into expanded hospitality.
4. Spend time in personal reflection stimulated by John Pavlovitz's observations in **Low: An Honest Advent Devotional**. Pick up a copy when available in the entry. John reassures us that in the midst of the challenges, the "mess" life brings us, good news remains that "God with us...is Jesus getting low."



The book club will meet at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, and share a potluck salad at the home of Karolyn McDaniel. Pat Bond will be leading us in our discussion of "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks. This novel was inspired by a true story, and follows a rare manuscript through centuries of exile and war.

Questions? Call Carol Johnson at 205-595-9462 or email Carol at [cjohnson98290@gmail.com](mailto:cjohnson98290@gmail.com).

**CROP  
HUNGER WALK**  
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

**The 27th Snohomish Community  
CROP HUNGER WALK  
was held on Sunday, October 13th**

This year's CROP Hunger Walk raised more than **\$14,000** to help eliminate hunger around the world and brought more than **\$3,500** to Snohomish County.

Thank you to all who participated, who wrote checks, who walked, who cheered on others who walked.

# CONGREGATIONAL



On **Sunday, November 10th**, immediately following the morning worship service, there will be a brief **Congregational Meeting** for the purpose of electing Elders and Deacons.

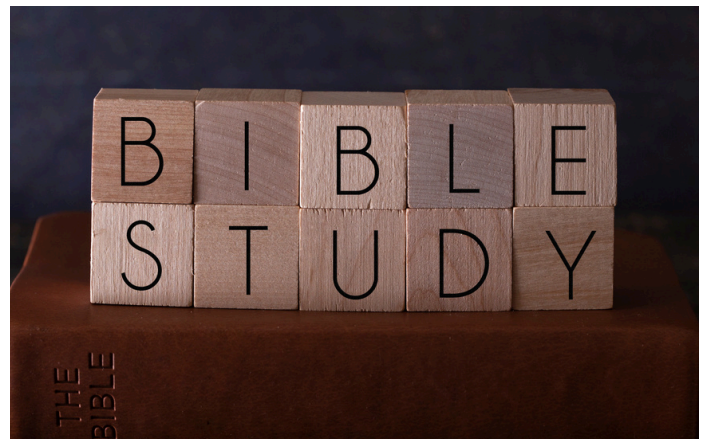
The Nominating Committee has three names to present for **Elders**: Julie Reynolds, Mary Beth Kurtenbach, Phil Prins, and Marlie Bilbruck-Carr. Dede Babcock and Marita Bishop have extended one more year.

New **Deacon** nominees are: Linda Fuller, Rita Stoess, Tia and Nathan Nieuwsma, and Judy Richardson-Fox.

**2025 Nominating Committee** nominees: Carlene Crossman, Linda Mueller, Marita Bishop

The **Wednesday Study** at 10 AM begins a new series on November 13 with Christian author John Pavlovitz, who asserts that the type of persons the world needs right now in our polarized and uncertain times are people of kindness, compassion, and courage. We'll be exploring that topic from two of Pavlovitz' writings. Contact Pastor Charlie if you'd like to be on the weekly mailings for this online course.

Here's the link: **[Wednesday Study Zoom Link](#)**



## **YOUTH GROUP**

Our Middle and High School students meet on Wednesdays from 5-7pm. This year we are meeting at the Hizey home located at 1803 Blackman Shores Place, Snohomish. 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.





Many of our Bible stories happened in a neighborhood just like ours. You are invited to experience the gift of hearing some of these stories told by Biblical storyteller, the **Rev. Ann Lewis**, at **Christ the King Lutheran Church** on **Sunday, November 17** from **4-5 PM**. The theme is "**In the Neighborhood.**" You are invited to bring your own imagination and child-like spirit and be prepared to hear familiar words in new ways.

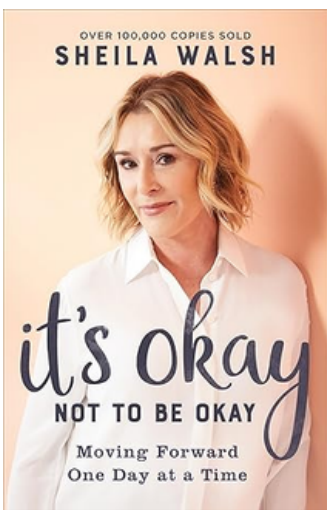


**Building and Grounds** will hold their monthly work day on Saturday, November 2nd from 9 am to noon. All are welcome and invited to join us! We will match your skills to one of our projects.

One of our projects to tackle this work day is draining the hot water tank in the Lake View Hall so we can put a drain pan underneath it and attach a water sensor.

Another project is getting the sanctuary tidied up to decorate for the holidays. This means some dusting and rearranging. We could use a truck for a dump trip for some large items we simply don't need anymore.

Thank you to all of you who came and helped with our October work day - we had a lot of new faces, were able to wrap up a number of projects on our list, and actually finished up early! **THANK YOU!!**



Are you feeling like things are just not quite the way they should be? Women's Ministries is hosting a **special book study** that will help us talk about that on **November 16th** in the **Lake View Hall**. We will be hosting this Day Retreat to study Sheila Walsh's book titled: **It's Okay Not to Be Okay: Moving Forward One Day at a Time**. The Day Retreat will begin at 9:00 with a continental breakfast. A soup luncheon will be served at 11:30 and we will adjourn before 3:30. Women's Ministries will purchase the books and make them available in the Narthex, where you will sign in. You can attend this study online as well. Be sure that you pick up a book. We look forward to sharing this mini Day Retreat! Please contact Linda Mueller at 425-299-3633 or other Women's Ministries members with questions. Jan, Marge, Melissa, Rita, Marcia, and Linda will look forward to answering your questions.



## Remember in your prayers...

### Church Family Members

- Patrick Ingram -treatment for brain lesions.
- Debby Ingram - treatment for multiple myeloma
- Scott Miller - treatment for cancer
- Kathy, Tom, Rhys, and Eric Hansen - following the passing of Kathleen
- Kero Ebeid - recovery from accident
- Sara Seiber - treatment for cancer
- Shelagh Hizzey - treatment for cancer
- Caregivers for these and other church family members
- Joy and praise for the birth of Carol Mastrofina's and Warren Samech's first grandchild, a girl, Guilia.

### Homebound

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

### Friends of FPCS

- Cindy Duncan - Jan Gavin's niece - underwent surgery for a brain tumor related to previously diagnosed kidney cancer
- Tamara Montoya, friend of Lise Pettigrew
- 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
- Tall Timber as the Board works to chart a plan for the future and search for a new Executive Director

### Ongoing Prayer Support

- Upcoming elections on November 5
- 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
- Global leaders--for wisdom and the will 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



## 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...

- Consecration Sunday Coming Nov. 3
- Congregational Meeting - November 10
- Building & Grounds Work Day (11/2)
- Women's Book Retreat
- Session News/ Session Retreat
- Update from Spiritual Formation Group
- Office closed November 11th for Veteran's Day



**Change your clocks THIS  
Saturday Night (11/2)**

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

office@snopres.org |  
www.snopres.org

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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