



February 2026

Highlights



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From the Heart

Dear Friends in Christ,

One morning at the Northwest Coast Presbytery pastors' retreat last month, as I sipped on my first cup of coffee in the gathering hall, I gazed out the windows at a glorious view of the North Olympics. The snowcapped peaks stood out brilliantly against the clear blue skies, perfectly highlighted by the bright morning sun low on the opposite horizon. It was mesmerizing. I soaked up the beauty and gave thanks to God for this place we call home.

My view that morning was from Rosario Beach on Fidalgo Island, near Deception Pass, which is about 40 miles from Port Angeles as the crow flies. Just far enough away for me to conclude that if you really want to appreciate something, you need to see it from different vantage points. Take the Olympics for instance. Viewing them through the window of a plane soaring high above is different from the deck of the Coho sailing across the Salish Sea. The

same is true whether you are in a coffee shop at Pike Place Market or sipping tea in Victoria...or just driving around the Peninsula. There is so much beauty around this place we call home that it takes multiple perspectives to truly appreciate it.

Seeing things from a different perspective is the key to expanding our horizons and deepening our appreciation for God's handiwork. This is true for all of God's creation, whether we are talking about the natural world or the people who inhabit it. Which makes all of the division, partisanship, and tribalism in our world all the more troublesome and concerning. Although we have so many amazing tools at our disposal to gain new perspectives from one another, we use those same tools to further isolate ourselves from one another, and as our fields of vision diminish, so too does our capacity to experience the goodness of God that is present all around us.

Friends, this is not what Jesus desires for us, that we should divide ourselves into ever-smaller tribes, build walls of hatred and mistrust, or cast judgement upon others because they are different than us. Division requires walls, which in turn impedes our vision and limits our perspectives until all we can see is ourselves. Love requires open hearts and

hands, which places us in a posture of welcome and embrace and opens the door for true fellowship...and a sight and taste of the kingdom of God among us (see Luke 17:20-21).

Consider all of the people Jesus encountered in his ministry. He did not shy away from anyone. He met everyone with open arms: rich and poor, outcasts and insiders, Jews and Gentiles, women and men, the sick and the healthy, and so on. All of these encounters gave him a new perspective on humankind so that he could redeem us all.

Let us do likewise, for only then can we begin to break down the walls of division and see the glory of God in one another and the world around us.

Godspeed,

Matt





Worshiping and Learning

Ash Wednesday and Lent Observances



February 18 is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent. Services will

be at noon and 7 pm. There will be a Soup Supper on Ash Wednesday starting at 6 pm.

Lenten Vespers will be on Wednesdays, beginning February 25, at 7 pm, through the month of March.

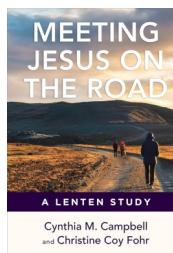
Join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent for vespers services designed around the ancient practice of lament. Throughout this year's Lenten journey, we will gather on Wednesday evenings to pray, sing, light candles, and name our sorrows before God. In worship, we will hold one another's burdens with tenderness and listen for the hope that rises even in the shadows—for lament is ultimately a tool for transformation. Let us gather to breathe, to grieve, and to remember that Christ meets us in every place of longing. All are welcome to rest, reflect, and pray as we journey toward Easter together.

Sunday School

Sunday, February 22 - March 12

9:45 am, Upstairs Classroom

Meeting Jesus on the Road, A Lenten



Study by Cynthia M. Campbell and Christine Coy Forh

Take a meaningful walk with Jesus this Lent that invites reflection, inspires spiritual attentiveness,

and opens your heart to the many forms discipleship can take in daily life. In *Meeting Jesus on the Road*, readers are invited to journey alongside Christ through the Gospel stories that define his earthly path.

Books will be available at the Connection Center.

Question of the Month

In what Psalms of lament, or other biblical lamentations, do you find comfort right now?

Lunch with Leaders

Sunday, February 22, 12:15 pm

Are you interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church?

We invite you to join us for a free lunch and an opportunity to get to know Pastor Matt and several of our church elders. This is a relaxed time to ask questions, hear our story, and connect with others. Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, February 20, or sign up at the Connection Center.

We hope to see you there!

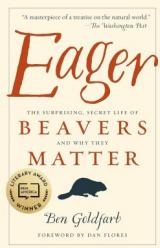
Events

Book Club

Thursday, February 19, 10:30 am

Fellowship Hall

This month we will be reading and discussing *Eager* by Ben Goldfarb. *Eager* is a powerful story about one of the world's most influential species, how North America was colonized, how our landscapes have changed over the centuries, and how beavers can help us fight drought,



flooding, wildfire, extinction, and the ravages of climate change.

For more information contact Barb Pappas, bappas378@gmail.com.

Reel Reflections

Dinner and a Movie Edition:

Akeelah and the Bee

Thursday, February 19, 6:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

Akeelah Anderson, a young girl attending a tough school in Los Angeles, sees the finals of the National Spelling Bee. She decides to enter the competition, despite her classmates derision and the antipathy of her mother Tanya. Thanks to the efforts of her teacher Dr. Joshua Larabee, she reaches the final. When she meets her fellow competitors, she realizes that coming in first isn't everything in life.

Please join Pastor Matt and friends for this moving film and stay afterwards for a lively discussion.

If you are bringing your dinner please arrive by 6:00 pm.



Youth Group

Sunday, February 22, 4 - 6 pm

First Presbyterian Church

Youth, sometimes February can be the most difficult winter month to get through. Come chase those winter blues away with some active indoor games!

We will meet downstairs in the Jericho (painted) room and then move upstairs to the Fellowship Hall for some games. Tables will be cleared out, so we will actually have some space to run, if necessary. Invite a friend, or two.

Mexican Train Dominoes

Saturday, February 28, 2:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

You don't need a ticket for this train!

Come, play and have fun. Beginners are welcome.

Church Business

Session Actions

The Session met in a hybrid meeting in the church's upstairs classroom via Zoom on Sunday, January 18, at 12:30 pm, and the following actions were taken:

- Approved an additional \$7,766 to be

allocated to Mission and Outreach to reach 13.5% for 2025 after the total income for 2025 was tallied.

- Approved David Moffitt for pulpit supply on January 25 and Stan Jacobson for pulpit supply on March 8. Approved having Connor Fredrickson lead the Lenten service on March 11 in Pastor Matt's absence.
- Approved using designated memorial gifts given for Ed Jaquins to an established separate fund to be named the "Ed Jaquins Children's Fund," honoring Ed's years of dedication and service to the youth of our congregation and community. Funds will be used to support educational and social activities for the youth of our church, including capital expenses to create and maintain safe and inviting spaces for the youth, Vacation Bible School, scholarships, curriculum, etc.
- Approved the following Purpose Statement, with the plans for the congregation to review the statement and adopt it at the Annual Congregational Meeting: "We are a people rooted in the love of Jesus—a tapestry woven together by threads of faith, grace, and relationship. We are a safe place to engage and grow

in God's Word. We live out our faith by serving and supporting those in need. Here you will be embraced, encouraged, and empowered wherever you are on your walk of faith. Everyone is welcome! Join us in the call of Jesus: "Come and see".

Financials

December 2025

Income Y-T-D	\$442,379
2025 Income Budgeted	\$412,380
Expenses Year-to-Date	(\$429,296)
2025 Expenses Budgeted	
(\$424,704)	
Capital Spending YTD	(\$23,976)
*2025 Annual Capital Budget	
(\$49,534)	
Water Damage Building Repairs	
(This includes 2024 & 2025)	
(\$259,526)	
Water Damage Insurance Payment	
\$245,594	
Capital Expense spent on Water	
Damage (\$13,932)	
In December we additionally collected:	
• \$150 - Christmas Gift Cards	
• \$5 - Operation Christmas Child	
• \$100 - Little Free Pantry	
• \$390 - Presby Disaster Assistance	

- \$400 - Port Angeles Food Bank
- \$452 - Christmas Eve Collection
- \$2065 - Christmas Joy Offering

\$2150 Year End Beulah Crawford Fund

\$10,700 Year End Ed Jaquins Fund

Nomination Committee

The nomination committee will be meeting in the months of January and February to choose candidates for the positions of elders and deacons. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve God and the church and can be a very rewarding experience.

Candidates serve a three year term beginning in May. Candidates may serve another three years but must take a year off after the six years have been completed. Job descriptions for each position of elder and deacon can be provided.

If you would like to be considered for one of these positions or have questions, please submit your name to Elder Bob Pappas, Elder Tom McCulloch or Deacon Cherry Fox.

As a congregation, please pray for the nomination committee and the whole process of selecting the right individuals.



Thank You

Dear Christmas Decorating Team,

Trudy Smith, Melanie DeBiddle, Steve DeBiddle, Andrea Fry, Dorita Reed, and Mark Wendt we (FPCPA) want to give you a sincere thank you for your decades of faithful service. We cannot thank you enough for your time, effort and love that has been provided for the enjoyment of the congregation. The decorations for the Christmas season have been warm and beautiful.

With greatest love, FPCPA

From Cynthia Isenberger... Cynthia gave this speech at Bill's Celebration of Life on January 17.

I want to thank you all for attending Bill's Celebration of Life today. Bill would say don't remember me with sadness or tears. Just remember all the good times and laughter we shared through the years.

Love, yes, LOVE is the most important thing in the world. God's love for us, he gave his only son so we could have eternal life. We don't see much love in this world we live in today. We all need

a love that is eternal...forever. All of our true identities are deeply intertwined with the desire and ability to love and be loved. That's what Bill and I wanted for both of our lives, even before we knew each other.

I met Bill 31 years ago while visiting his niece, Suzane, who I'd known for 14 years from our days in the Navy at Whidbey Island. She arranged for Bill to take me for a hike since she had to work. We were both going through divorces at that time. He took me out to hike the Ozette Loop. We both felt God had joined us together. Bill kept in touch with me once I went back to Oklahoma, we talked on the phone daily, wrote letters and even started talking to each other on the phone twice a day. In 42 days my divorce was final and I moved out here to be with Bill. The longest time we were ever apart! We both felt that not only did God bring us together, but made us whole together, we were complete and the persons God wanted us to be.

We only had one challenge in your marriage - CANCER. Breast cancer for me 17 years ago and prostate cancer for Bill for the last 7 1/2 years. Bill didn't die of prostate cancer, but he was hormone resistant in February 2025, which meant the meds were no longer

working. Bill and I have now been apart the longest since we first met.

John Denver once stated “it’s hard to stand alone when you need someone beside you. We must remember that we are never alone, God is with us.”

When Bill and I talked about heaven I’d tell him if he died before me, when it came time to meet him in heaven, he was going to have to race to get to me first and try to beat all the dogs in our lives. He always said he used to be a marathon runner and could get to me first. Do you think he can out run the dogs? I didn’t think so.

When we lose someone we love we must learn not to live without them, but to live with the eternal love left behind. Death is not an ending, but a symbol of movement along the path upon which we all are traveling. It may be painful to lose contact with the loved one, but the Spirit can never be gone or lost. We have been and will always be a part of each other.

May God bless you, CJ



TAFY

FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS AND THE DEPTHS OF OUR SOULS, WE WANT TO THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU HAVE DONE FOR ALL OF US AT TAFY AND SPROUTING HOPE GREENHOUSE. YOUR IMPACT IS PROFOUND AND LASTING. YOU HAVE TRULY PUT THE WIND UNDER OUR WINGS, GIVING US THE STRENGTH TO MOVE FORWARD WITH DETERMINATION AND COMMITMENT.

Thank you!

Here are just a few of the moments and missions you made possible

Touchstones to carry your heart forward in a world filled with chaos and uncertainty:

- Creating space for special needs volunteers and students to gain skills that enhance their lives
- Providing safe, stable housing for clean and sober men as they recalibrate and rebuild their lives
- Supplying outreach agencies with personal hygiene items and clothing for clients entering treatment
- Covering auto parts and repairs for individuals living in their cars or needing transportation for work or their children
- Offering a place for court-ordered community service for all ages—up to 250 hours each month
- Creating a growing space where volunteers form friendships, community, and camaraderie
- Providing a warm, safe environment for both new and returning clients seeking safety and connection while providing showers, clothing, laundry and other basic, needs
- Serving healthy, homemade food prepared with love, commitment, and hope for a brighter future
- Providing tutors for children of clean and sober parents who are struggling academically
- Offering scholarships for children to attend camps, participate in sports, and engage in music programs
- Providing medical advice and paying for prescriptions not covered by insurance for children and clients
- Assisting with housing deposits for men and women transitioning into sober Oxford homes
- Providing bus tickets and transportation to Seattle for medical or court appointments
- Offering connections and support for out-of-state parents searching for misplaced children

Your generosity and belief in this work ripple far beyond what can be seen. Thank you for standing with us, believing in people when they need it most, and helping us build hope—one life at a time.

Susan Hillgren and Pam Carnahan

Volunteering and Donating

TAFY Dinners 2026

The dates for First Presbyterian's TAFY meals for this year are the following Saturdays.

- February 7, April 4
- June 6, August 1
- October 3, December 5

We are looking for more volunteers to help provide meals for our neighbors who rely on TAFY. The commitment is very flexible—just once every two months, every four months, or even once a year if that's what you can do.

The dish you provide does not need to feed a large crowd. A family-sized casserole is perfect, and it doesn't have to be fancy. Simple, comforting meals like macaroni and cheese, chili, or corned beef hash are always appreciated by those who are hungry.

There is a sign-up sheet at the Connection Center for February's meal. For ideas on what food you can contribute, please see the flyer at the Connection Center.

If it is more convenient for you to drop off your dish prior to Saturday, please put your item in the church refrigerator and mark it for TAFY. It will be delivered.

Susan Fisher is the coordinator for the February meal. Call Susan at 360-809-3501 if you have any questions.

We are very mindful and thankful for your continued participation and generosity.



Give A Sock, A Hat, A Glove

The Missions Committee asks that you continue to donate to our annual drive to bring extra warmth to those on the streets. We are still collecting new socks, warm hats, and gloves or mittens through February. There is a collection box in the Fellowship Hall for your donations. Thank you.

Mission and Outreach Committee

Cookies for School Staff

We still need bakers to help make and deliver sweet treats to the devoted staff and teachers at Port Angeles elementary schools.

Cookies are always a favorite, but brownies, Rice Krispie treats, or any baked goodie you'd like to share are welcome. These educators work so hard, and they truly deserve a sweet treat to let them know how appreciated they are.

There is a sign-up sheet at the Connection Center.

Thank you so much for your generosity and support!



Valentine Gift Boxes

It has become a cherished tradition in our church to send special Valentine Care Packages to those from our church family who are away at college or serving in the military. Valentine's Day is the perfect time to remind them that they are loved and remembered.

Items for the packages may include candy (homemade or store-bought), cookies, and other sweet treats. You may also include snacks such as popcorn, chips, crackers, coffee or tea, coffee gift cards, small games or decks of cards, stamps, pens, paper, and more—the possibilities are endless!

A collection box for donated items is located in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your goodies by Wednesday, February 11.

If you have the name and address of a college student from our church who you would like to receive a Valentine Care Package, please send that information to the church office as soon as possible.

Thank you for helping us share love and encouragement!



Kintsugi

We can learn some wonderful lessons in sustainability from Japanese culture. Living on a densely populated finite landscape, they, perhaps more than many cultures, understand making good use of and honoring what they have. Sashiko and Boro are respectively traditional stitching/embroidery and patchwork techniques used to repair, reinforce, and recreate garments. These humble, utilitarian practices in sustainability have evolved into beautiful craftwork.

Along the same lines, Kintsugi (golden repair) is the art of repairing broken pottery by filling the cracks with lacquer mixed with gold or silver dust. From a spiritual angle, it's the art of embracing brokenness and finding beauty.

Along with being a lesson in material sustainability, metaphorically speaking, Kintsugi can be applied to ourselves and our society. Who of us has gotten through life without feeling broken at times? Did we remain broken or gain wisdom for a better life from these situations? Did we find the silver lining?

Our society today is seriously damaged. Do we cherish and see the worth in what's broken? Can we muster the

courage and compassion needed to make the necessary repairs? Will we come through these times wiser and stronger? I remain hopeful and I pray that you do also.

As Leonard Cohen wrote:

**"Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in".
...and the gold**

Interfaith Earth Care Coalition

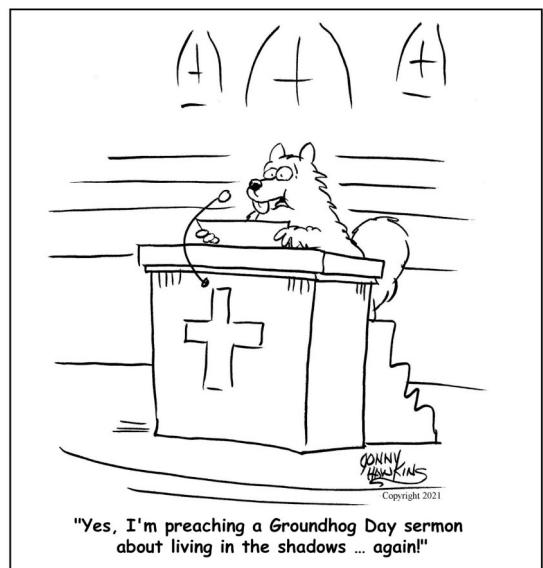


February Birthdays	
3	Sharon Bowman
7	Tina Gaiser
9	Judy Higbee
9	Steve DeBiddle
10	Mike Ellis
12	William Sirguy
14	Bob Walter
15	Dorita Reed
16	Gail Triggs
19	Colin Monaghan
20	Tami Bobko
24	Ann Allen
25	Edna Haworth
25	Elise Sirguy
25	Loretta Chapman
28	Bonnie McCloskey
28	Mike Wilkinson
February Anniversaries	
10	Andy & Vicki Anderson
14	Perry & Chris Keeling

FEBRUARY



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Planning Ahead

? Easter Egg Hunt ?

The Christian Formation committee is seeking your input on which date to schedule our annual Easter egg hunt.

The past several years we have done it between services on Palm Sunday. However, both Palm Sunday and Easter fall over Spring Break this year. Will your family be around during Spring Break? Will Palm Sunday still work? Alternatively, would Saturday, April 4, work?

Please let the church office or a member of the committee know your family's preference by ***Sunday, March 1.***

When we have a date determined, we will ask you to sign up with the number and age of participating children. Thanks so much for your help.



February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School 12:15 pm Lunch 1:00 pm Annual Meeting	2 2 pm Building & Grounds 5:45 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	3 8 am FISH Company 12:30 pm Community Life 5:30 pm CE Children's Committee Meeting	4 9 am Men's Breakfast Group 10 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Worship & Music Committee	5 1 pm Love Box 3 pm Mission & Outreach	6	7 TAFY Dinner 
8 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School	9 1 pm Naomi Circle 5:45 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	10 8 am FISH Company	11 9 am Men's Breakfast Group 10 am Women's Bible Study 12 pm Stewardship	12	13	14 
15 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School	16 Office Closed 5:45 pm Worship Team Rehearsal 7 pm Session	17 8 am FISH Company 3:45 pm Deacons Meeting	18 Ash Wednesday 9 am Men's Breakfast Group 10 am Women's Bible Study Noon & 7 pm Ash Wednesday Services 6 pm Soup Supper	19 10:30 am Book Club 1 pm MANNA Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm Reel Reflections	20	21
22 8:30 and 11 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School Youth Group Event	23 5:45 pm Worship Team Rehearsal	24 8 am FISH Company	25 9 am FPC Men's Breakfast 10 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Vespers Services	26	27	28 2 pm Mexican Train Dominoes 

First Presbyterian Church

139 W. 8th St., Port Angeles, WA
98362

360-452-4781 | fpcpa.org

Worship Services
Sundays 8:30 and 11 am

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday, 10 am - 3 pm
Closed on Friday
The office is behind the church
building off the alley and is
handicapped accessible.

Lauren Corder, Office Manager,
administrator@fpcpa.org

Cathi Hughes, Office Assistant,
office@fpcpa.org



Online Resources

Church Website: fpcpa.org

Online Worship: fpcpa.org/worship

Giving Online:

Look for this button on our website.

[GIVE ONLINE](#)



Inclement Weather

Should the church need to cancel services and/or church events due to inclement weather, we will utilize several methods to inform you about the closure: 1) the home page of our church website (fpcpa.org), 2) our [Facebook](#) page, 3) our telephone answering machine message (360-452-4781), and 4) email. Please call or email the office if you have questions (administrator@fpcpa.org).