



# The Tidings

FBC's monthly newsletter

FEBRUARY 2024

First Baptist Church, 125 SE Cows St., McMinnville, OR 97128  
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**Fat Tuesday**  
**French Toast Dinner**  
**+ Hootenanny**



**February 13**  
**6:30pm**  
**in the FBC**  
**Social Hall**

**Ash Wednesday**  
**Soup Supper**  
**+ Service**



**February 14**  
**6:30pm**  
**at First Presbyterian Church**  
**390 NE 2nd Street**

**First Sunday Speaker Series**  
**Following a**  
**6th Century Rule**  
**in the 21st Century**  
**with Mary Jackson**  
**February 4, after worship**  
**in Walker Hall**

What gems can we discover in contemplation with 21st century Benedictine monastics and oblates living according to the 6th century Rule of Benedict? Mary Jackson has long been intrigued by the contemplative life, and has recently been an oblate at Mt. Angel. Come hear what she's learned and ask your questions about monastic commitment.

## Visioning the Future of FBC: Strategic Planning Update

Dear Friends,

Seventy-six of you filled out the survey that our executive board put together with the help of our consultants - thank you for that! We are in the process of gleaning all that we can from your answers.

There are some clear trends and agreements - **we are firmly committed to inclusion, diversity of thought/belief, social justice, and community service/outreach.** There's a lot we value about FBC, and we're most excited about each other - about the collection of kind, wise, thoughtful, people that make up this congregation - **we're excited about learning from each other and growing together. We appreciate the emphasis on an action-oriented faith that seeks to make a difference in our community and world.** We also have suggestions for what we could do better, and for ideas to pursue, questions to consider, so that we can thrive well into the future.

And all of that is just from an initial reading. Our consultants from the Oregon Organizational Development Network - Bruce, Marisol, Laura, and Glen - are currently analyzing the answers from multiple angles to see what else comes to light. We will share more as we learn it.

The Board has decided to continue our partnership with the OODN. Our initial time with them began in the fall and ran through January, but in many ways we feel like that was a getting-to-know-you period, and we're just now starting on the real work. So we have invested another \$200 to retain their services through June.

**Now, we'd like to begin to have the Congregational Conversations that will give substance to this work.** Each month, we'll tackle one major topic - we hope you can attend one of two monthly sessions. The Monday sessions will be hybrid, so you can come in person or via Zoom; links will be emailed. Here's the plan:

***Honoring Our Commitments to Justice, Peace, & Inclusion***  
**Sunday, February 25, 11:30am & Monday, February 26, 6:30pm**

***Stewarding Our Resources & Sharing Our Space***  
**Sunday, March 24, 11:30am & Monday, March 25, 6:30pm**

***Telling Our Story & Engaging Our Community***  
**Sunday, April 28, 11:30am & Monday, April 29, 6:30pm**

Please save these dates, and come to add your voice and vision to the conversations.

Take care, Erika



## February DISCOVER CONTEMPLATION



The second invitation in Bonnie Smith Whitehouse's *Seasons of Wonder* is Discover Contemplation. There are many ways we know what we know, she reminds us - we know through experience, through our senses, through "the wonders of language, through the intricacies of cognition, through deep wells of emotion, and through the stories, culture, and tradition we inherit." She suggests we can also know through stillness and contemplation, by cultivating "a reservoir of inner calm within ourselves. We can always visit this place of stillness, this awareness of the Holy Spirit moving in and through us." This month, consider:

What have you learned from experience and tradition? What have you learned from stillness and intuition?  
How do you slow down, become still, and pay attention? What do you notice when you do?  
What does it mean to unsee, unhear, unlearn, unknow, undo? Might there be gifts in that?

A couple of ways the author suggests connecting to the weekly themes of this month:

- ✦ Watch - *Chocolat*; *Walking the Camino: Six Ways to Santiago*
- ✦ Listen - a traditional choral arrangement of *Nunc Dimittis*; *Ablaze* by Alanis Morissette
- ✦ Read - *Open Mind, Open Heart* by Thomas Keating

## February Seasons of Wonder Gatherings

### Small Group Meetings

Small groups will continue to meet monthly throughout 2024. If you're connected to a group but unsure of its next meeting time, contact the church office. If you're not yet connected to a group but would like to be, let Erika know.

### Field Trip: to the Trappist Abbey - Saturday, February 17, 4pm

Come experience a small taste of contemplative life. Meet in the parking lot of the Trappist Abbey, 9200 NE Abbey Rd in Carlton. We'll wander one of the trails on the beautiful, serene property, then join the brothers in their 5:30pm Vespers service.

### Makers' Meeting: Hiking Sticks - Saturday, February 24, 10:30am

This month, as we embark on pilgrimages (or prepare to), we'll be making hiking sticks! FBC will provide the supplies for this project (or you're welcome to bring a favorite branch from home) and Wayne Beckwith will offer his crafting/woodworking expertise. Please RSVP to Erika ([erika@fbcmac.org](mailto:erika@fbcmac.org)) so we have enough supplies.

## February's Creation Care Challenge: *Pick up trash!*

At work, school, or even just walking down the sidewalk, keep your eye out for trash. Pick up a piece of trash and contemplate its origins as you place it in the garbage can. Bonus points if no one sees you do it! (book, pg. 28)

See page 5 of the Tidings to learn more about the Plastics Project at FBC on February 10!

FBC received a grant from the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship to do this work with *Seasons of Wonder* throughout 2024. The grant funding will pay for all the books; supplies for the "makers' meeting" crafts and projects; field trip expenses; food for sharing feasts; special worship elements; and this fall's All-Church Retreat at Camp Arrah Wanna. Heidi Toth and Jack Mandeville, who both serve on the Worship and Community Engagement Team, will be traveling to Grand Rapids, Michigan to meet with the grant providers, to share about FBC's hopes and goals with this project, and to learn from other churches and their projects. We are grateful to have been awarded this funding and hope it makes it possible for anyone who wants to, to be able to participate in these activities by removing the barrier of expense.

# Sunday Worship Highlights

FEBRUARY 2024



*FBC is inspired by the words of Jesus in Matthew 25,  
"Whatever you do unto the least of my sisters & brothers, you do unto me."*

## Adult Sunday Classes: (details on page 11)

- ✦ 8:30 am - **CONNECTIONS Class** - Contact - [barbaracoleburr@gmail.com](mailto:barbaracoleburr@gmail.com)
- ✦ 8:45 am - **CHAPEL Class** - Contact - [gary@portlandconsultinggroup.com](mailto:gary@portlandconsultinggroup.com)
- ✦ 8:45 am - **FAITH & JAVA** - 1st Sundays only - in person, Fireplace Room / Contact - [schulmanrob@yahoo.com](mailto:schulmanrob@yahoo.com)
- ✦ 8:45 am - **BEREAN Class** - Contact - [doug.verigin@outlook.com](mailto:doug.verigin@outlook.com)

**10:00 am - WORSHIP** in person in the sanctuary, or streaming live:  
[www.facebook.com/firstbaptistmac/](https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistmac/)

## February 4, Communion Sunday

"Breathe"

Sermon from Genesis 2:4-7 & John 20:19-22

Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching

Music led Tegan Johnson and the Worship Team

*After-Church Fellowship hosted by the Climate Action Group.*

*First Sunday Speaker Series - Mary Jackson will share about her experience exploring the contemplative life (see page 1).*

## February 11

"Embark on a Pilgrimage"

Sermon from Luke 2:41-47

Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching

Music led by Marilyn Dresser and the Choir

*After-Church Fellowship hosted by Music Ministries.*

## February 14, Ash Wednesday

Our friends at First Presbyterian Church are hosting us for this ecumenical, reflective service to begin the Lenten season.

Come at 6:30pm, bring a pot of soup or some bread to share if you like, and we'll enjoy a simple supper before worship.

## February 18

"Launder"

Sermon from Luke 10:38-42

Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching

Music led by Tegan Johnson and the Worship Team

## February 25

"Unsee"

Sermon from Luke 4:14-30

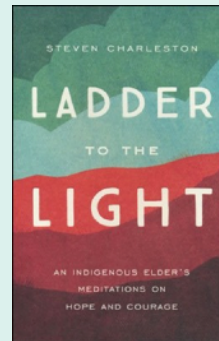
Rev. Erika Marksbury preaching

Music led by Marilyn Dresser and the Choir

## SAVE THE DATE EASTER CHOIR RETREAT

Saturday, March 2  
10am to 1pm at FBC  
*All are welcome to join!*

## Native Voices Book Group



The next monthly meeting will be  
**Wednesday,**  
**February 28,**  
**6:30 - 8:00 pm,**  
**in the FBC**  
**Fireplace Room.**  
There will be a Zoom option.

We'll be reading **Ladder to the Light: An Indigenous Elder's Meditations on Hope and Courage** by Steven Charleston. Discussion led by Lynn Crowell, [herbalynn@comcast.net](mailto:herbalynn@comcast.net)

From the book jacket:

*"Native America knows something about cultivating resilience and resisting darkness. Choctaw elder and Episcopal priest Steven Charleston offers words of hard-won hope, rooted in daily conversations with the Spirit and steeped in Indigenous wisdom.*

*For all who yearn for hope, Ladder to the Light is a book of comfort, truth, and challenge in a time of anguish and fear. Night will not last forever. Together we can climb toward the light."*



# Year-End Financial Report: January 1-December 31, 2023

FEBRUARY 2024

YTD	Actual for Period	% of Amount Budgeted	Budget Update:
Contributions Income:	\$328,257	96.9%	Your gifts and offerings make possible ministry that supports our FBC Mission Statement. We give thanks for a balanced 2024 budget, which was adopted at the semi-annual meeting on January 21, 2024.  If you have not reviewed FBC's 2023 Statistical & Fiscal Report and the 2024 Annual Budget, you may download it via this <a href="#">Link to the Semi-Annual Report</a>
Total Income:	\$398,436	98.4%	
Total Expenses:	\$387,565	95.8%	
Net Income:	\$ 10,871		

**Financial Update** - We appreciate your ongoing contributions in support of our ministry. You may check on your financial contributions to First Baptist Church through our secure church software database, Realm. If you need assistance creating a Realm profile or have other questions, please contact Treasurer, Don Watson (donjw@comcast.net) or Realm administrator, Barbara Burr (barbaracoleburr@gmail.com).

**Finance Committee:** Don Watson, Barbara Burr, Judee Kunze, Roger Dell, Jane Apel

## Church Board Notes, January 10<sup>th</sup>

The Church Board met as scheduled on December 10th in person with two folks joining by computer.

Charlie Walker made a presentation from the Endowment Committee, sharing that our team selects investments that meet Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) standards. This means our investments will be made with companies that share our values, even if that means we make a bit less money over time.

Dee Moore from Together Works joined us to discuss gender-neutral bathrooms. It is important that our building reflects our commitment to be an open and welcoming congregation, and Dee walked us through what that should look like, specifically when it comes to gender-neutral bathrooms. We will have details to share at the semi-annual meeting, so stay tuned for details on this project coming soon.

Virginia shared a devotion on moving beyond dualities (good vs. evil, light vs. dark, etc.) The hope is to create a new paradigm of peace and understanding where we pray for others, not to convert them to our faith, but that they remain strong in their own faiths.

The Board shared their team reports, and Kathleen shared her progress on the Dance Fundraiser. If you are interested in helping to plan this event, please

reach out to Kathleen. Steve Howard is looking into the details of holding a car raffle fundraiser. We agreed that proceeds should be split between the bus fund and supporting current Church operations. The group acknowledged that this means it will take longer and require multiple raffles for multiple cars. Don Watson shared the latest version of the 2024 budget. After much deliberation, the Board agreed to pass along the budget as amended to the congregation for approval at the semi-annual meeting.

We are still in search of a special person to fill a vacant position on the Board representing the membership team, so if you are interested, please contact me or Erika for more information.

Finally, our next Board meeting will be held at 6:30pm on Wednesday, February 21st in hybrid format; in person in the FBC second floor conference room AND also on Zoom. Guests are always welcome at Church Board meetings, so please email me at [gbdlinor@gmail.com](mailto:gbdlinor@gmail.com) if you would like to be added to the agenda, or if you would like a meeting invite to attend via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Larmouth, FBC Moderator

## Good Vegan Muffins from Lara O'Brady a low-carbon recipe from the Climate Action Group

### Ingredients for muffin bottom:

1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups flour (can be any combination of white, whole wheat or Namaste G.F. flour)  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup white sugar  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup brown sugar  
 1 tablespoon baking power  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon baking soda  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt  
 2 teaspoons cinnamon  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  teaspoon ground ginger  
 1 cup pumpkin or butternut squash puree  
 2 teaspoons vanilla  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup vegan milk (soy or almond work well)  
 1 teaspoon vinegar, either apple cider or white  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup light olive oil, grapeseed oil or other oil with little taste

### Streusel Topping (optional):

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup brown sugar  
 $\frac{1}{3}$  cup flour (any type you need)  
 3 tablespoons vegan butter  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon cinnamon  
 $\frac{1}{8}$  teaspoon nutmeg  
 $\frac{1}{8}$  cup quick cooking oatmeal (optional)

### Directions for muffin bottom:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Combine all dry ingredients in bowl and stir and mix well.

Combine milk and vinegar. Let sit for one minute and then add the rest of the wet ingredients.

Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and mix until well combined. Be careful not to OVER mix. 1 or 2 minutes of stirring with a spoon is sufficient.

Add to greased muffin tin or use muffin papers.

### Optional Topping:

Use a food processor or pastry blender to combine the Streusel topping. The vegan butter should be well combined and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  the size of a pea. Sprinkle the topping over the wet muffin bottom.

Bake mini muffins for 10 – 15 minutes, standard muffins for 16-20 minutes, and large muffins for 25 minutes. A toothpick should come out clean when inserted.

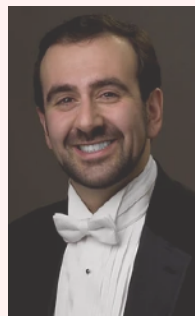
Enjoy!

## World Class Music in McMinnville! ~ Keynote CONCERT Series ~

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

in the First Baptist Church Sanctuary

7pm Doors, 7:30pm Concert, Reception following



### Featuring baritone Anton Belov

Equally at home with opera, oratorio, and concert repertoire, he has performed in NYC's Carnegie Hall & the Metropolitan Opera and Washington DC Kennedy Center. Dr. Belov is an associate professor of music at Linfield University.

Keynote is a once a month, 3rd Wednesday Concert Series thru May, 2024, featuring music ranging from classical to jazz to pop and more. The opening acts each month will be local schools ensembles and/or local musicians.

[www.keynoteconcertseries.com](http://www.keynoteconcertseries.com) for Tickets

Sponsored by The McMinnville Lions Club and McMinnville Performing Arts Association.



## The Plastic Project:

Another Plastics Collection Event

Saturday, Feb. 10, 10 am - 1 pm at FBC



*\$4 per full paper grocery bag/12 bag limit. Tax-deductible - cash or checks only. All items must be sorted, clean, dry, & bagged together as follows:*

### UN-Numbered Miscellaneous Items

Bag straws, utensils, bag clips separately  
 Bag screw-on/flip-top plastic caps together

Numbered Items - look for the number on the bottom; bag together by number . . .

#1 - CLEAR ONLY clamshells, to-go boxes, cups

#2 - #3 - #4 - #5 (each bagged separately)

Examples: cold/hot drink cups & lids, take-out containers, prescription pill bottles, plant pots

**NO STYROFOAM, COMPOSTABLES, OR CURBSIDE RECYCLING ITEMS**

Questions?? 503-207-5482

[zerowastemcminnville.com](http://zerowastemcminnville.com)

(See 'How-to-Sort' video)

PARTNERS: Zero Waste McMinnville, Sustainable Rituals, James Recycling, FBC

## Getting To Know The Classes & Small Groups at FBC

### The Story of FBC's Little Free Library Ministry

Did you know that...

- More than half the children in the US (approx. 13 million) will not hear a bedtime story tonight.\*
- Two out of three children living in poverty have no books to call their own.\*

**The goals of the Little Free Library (LFL) organization are to provide access to books for all ages, strengthen literacy skills, and engage communities.**

What better than to build a LFL and place it in the FBC Courtyard, to celebrate the completion of the FBC Bell Tower and Courtyard renovation! So, Susan Chambers approached Paul Kushner for advice on building a simple, Little Free Library for the Courtyard. When Paul heard that the Courtyard library would honor Charlie Walker for his leadership as chair of the renovation committee, he said, "I have an idea!" There was considerable planning, gathering of supplies, and help from Wayne Beckwith to make a metal roof, and this beautiful, not so little, Little Free Library was completed in October 2020. We can't thank Paul Kushner enough for his creative vision and woodworking skills!



It was an admirable goal to have the LFL in the courtyard to engage community members, but it wasn't feasible to have this work of art exposed to the elements and misuse of a few people on the street. So, in January 2023, the LFL was removed from the courtyard to be repaired by Paul.

During this time, Susan met with the Matthew 25 Committee, who acknowledged that it wasn't realistic for them to provide consequences to the people damaging the LFL. So, Pastor Erika suggested the idea of placing the LFL inside, especially since so many groups use space in the building. On a weekly basis, FBC provides space for 22 recovery groups and A Family Place Relief Nursery and Diaper Bank/clothes closet. FBC also provides space for American Red Cross Blood Drives, space for the Women's Choir to practice and perform, a monthly concert series and for many other groups.

**So, the LFL is back in the business of engaging community and providing access to books in Walker Hall!!** The LFL will operate as it did in the Courtyard, with volunteer stewards who will serve monthly shifts to stock the LFL with books.

**How you can help:**

- Visit the LFL. It's available whenever the building is open. You might find a great book to read!
- Become a volunteer steward. It takes less than 15 minutes per week.
- Donate books. If you have one or two books in good condition, add them to the LFL yourself. If you have more than that, please contact Susan to store the books for future stocking.
- Share the news that FBC's LFL is back in business. Word of mouth is our best advertising.



Contact Susan Chambers, [susanlanechambers@gmail.org](mailto:susanlanechambers@gmail.org) or 503-435-9952 if you would like to volunteer with this ministry, or if you have books to donate.

\*Statistic from [Littlefreelibrary.org](http://Littlefreelibrary.org)



## Getting To Know Your First Baptist Church Family



**MATT & CHERIE YOUNG** were both Northwest-born and raised--Cherie in Walla Walla, WA and Matt in Albany, OR. Cherie had six siblings. She said she loved to fish as a kid but never learned to like the taste of fish. Matt grew up with one younger brother. His memories are of road trips, camping, fishing and waterskiing with his family.

After high school, both of them eventually found themselves in Corvallis, working for the same company. And that's where they met--at a company picnic. Responding to what he says was a needed prod from a friend, Matt asked Cherie out--and it took!

Matt laughingly claims he went to college on the "Disgruntled Workers" program, after deciding he didn't want to spend the rest of his life doing what he was doing at the time. So he got an Associate's Degree at Linn-Benton CC, leading to his landing a job in year 2000 with the City of McMinnville's Waste Water Treatment Plant. He started out in operations and is now supervising the lab as the Environmental Services Supervisor.

The Youngs have two sons, currently ages 22 and 24, whom Cherie home-schooled for much of their school experience--a real dedication. Their younger son, Josh, went to high school at the Sheridan Japanese School, which piqued his interest in Japan and its language. When Josh attended Linfield University, he chose majors in intercultural communication and Japanese. Fulfilling a degree requirement, he spent last year in Japan, giving Cherie and Matt a wonderful opportunity to visit him in Tokyo for 10 days and also to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary there. A trip highlight for Matt was trying new foods and drink at the Tsukiji Fish Market and for Cherie was the architecture at the Senso-ji Shrine.

In their spare time, both Cherie and Matt like to play board games, read books in a variety of genres, and do a lot of walking and hiking. They are also beginner kayakers, stressing that right now they appreciate calm waters.

Though neither Matt nor Cherie were raised in church-going families, when they had their first child, they both decided that they wanted to get involved with church. This began in Corvallis, and they have been attending somewhere ever since. Since year 2000, they have moved back and forth between Sheridan and McMinnville, attending church in the town in which they lived.

Then, having bought a house in McMinnville, Matt was ready to try something different. He realized that he didn't really fit in the churches they had been attending, that he made a terrible conservative and awful fundamentalist, asking too many questions--that he really was a liberal. When asked how they found this church, Matt answered that we (FBC) have a reputation in the community which he respected and admired even when they were attending more conservative churches. So a couple of years ago, they gave FBC a try. Both liked what they experienced here and they joined the church just this last December. Matt has participated with the Bereans class and Cherie is ready to try some of FBC's many offerings. Welcome, Matt and Cherie!



## Why do so many people at FBC support MacHabitat?



Having a home is one of the most basic and fundamental needs for every person. We know that there are people in our community who lack a good home. There are so many reasons why people live in sub-standard housing, but the main reasons are a critical lack of affordable homes and a lack of resources. We see a new homeowner bursting with happiness and pride as they move into a well-built home with support from their community. The new life that Partnering Families provides is frequently a game changer. The families health improves when they have good indoor air quality and adequate heat. Their pride increases as they start along the path to long-term equity.

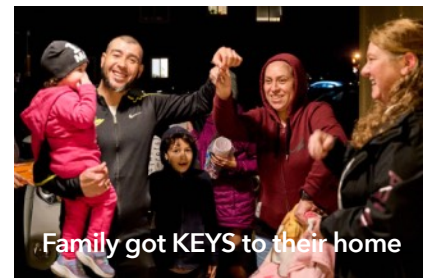
Lara O'Brady and Emily Duerfeldt have both been in homes that are totally inadequate. Emily continues, "I see the need for homes and food. I love supporting people who are building these homes." She is a true Cookie Queen. Lara says, "I love seeing people as they move into a new phase of life and seeing our community come together to support vulnerable families. It breaks my heart open in the best possible way."

**First Baptist Church has been a long-time partner with McMinnville Area Habitat for Humanity (MacHabitat) as they work toward its mission of bringing people together to build homes, community, and hope, since 1991.**

This local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International was established by a group of community members, including FBC Pastor Bernie Turner, to help ensure that everyone in our area has a safe, decent, affordable, place to live. Since its inception, MacHabitat has built 68 homes, with the current build site being a 34-lot development off Cumulus Avenue in McMinnville, called the Aspire Community Development. This development is a little more than half complete, with hopes of completing all the homes and common areas at this location in the next 4-5 years.

In Yamhill County, 57% of households earn below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) and are considered low-income. During a time when affordable housing opportunities are at a critical low, MacHabitat was able to mark some significant successes in working toward their goals in 2023:

- Securing unprecedented funding from Oregon Housing and Community Services to build more affordable housing units at a time, allowing MacHabitat to start four new homes in September, while finishing two more in the Aspire Community Development in McMinnville in December.
- Opening the ReStore Receiving doors 5 days/week, to prevent more building materials and household items from reaching the landfill. MacHabitat then sells these items at the ReStore, where profits assist in providing homeownership opportunities for low-income partners.
- Choosing four new homeowner partners. With homes in the Aspire Community Development assembling at a faster pace, MacHabitat was able to choose more home buyers for their program.
- Receiving seed money from Oregon Community Foundation to start a Repair Program to help complete construction repairs, build ramps, and provide other accessibility accommodations for homeowners who can't afford to fix unsafe conditions. MacHabitat is hoping to implement this program in Spring 2024.



There are many ways that First Baptist Church has supported MacHabitat through the years, including volunteering - at the construction site, at the ReStore, on the "Cookie Crew" (providing snacks for volunteers), on committees, and on the Board of Directors - as well as donations from the church and its members.

MacHabitat thanks us for our years of support to ensure we provide homeownership opportunities to low-income folks in our community!







## Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA), A 2023 Year in Review.

Since its beginning more than 40 years ago BPFNA has been a Baptist voice for peace and justice. The organization gathers, equips and mobilizes peacemakers and justice seekers across the North American continent and beyond. The leadership team and its members work hard to dismantle racism, militarism, colonialism and anything else that mars the roads to peace.

~ Doug Donley, President, Board of Director at BPFNA

This past year the annual Peace Camp was held in Costa Rica gathering 90 in-person participants, 2,100 virtual watches, representing 9 countries. Peace Fund grants were available to support and equip grassroots peace projects. One recipients was the Baptist Seminary of Mexico in Mexico City. Its goal was to provide citizen workshops on conflict transformation in marginalized and indigenous Mexican communities.

Another recipient was the Peace Cathedral located in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia. Yes, our own Holstrom family visited the Peace Cathedral in 2023! The Peace Cathedral is hosting three interfaith conventions on ecological peace, intercultural and inter-national peace, and interpersonal peace involving multi-faith clergy & laity from Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, and Turkey.



BPFNA became a founding signatory of the Apartheid-Free Communities initiative, an ecumenical coalition of faith groups recognizing the State of Israel's treatment of the Palestinian people as apartheid and stepping away from any and all support to Israeli military occupation and settler colonialism. The goal is a just Peace in the Holy Land. A webinar was held in October introducing this movement to mobilize the membership of BPFNA.

Other opportunities to mobilize the membership were to provide speakers and visiting pastors to several Cuban churches. Lectures and events were also shared with the Association of Welcome and Affirming Baptists. BPFNA was present at The Gun Violence Survivor Sit-in sponsored by the Newtown Action Alliance of Washington DC. It was another event that mobilized people for Peace and Justice.

**FBC is a member of BPFNA. Let's strengthen our gathering, supporting, equipping, and mobilizing for Peace with Justice!**

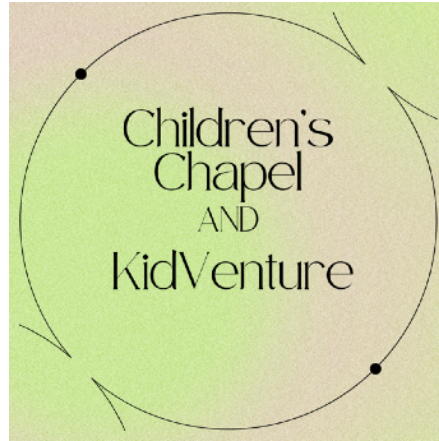
**Let's send a group to this year's Peace Camp. It will be held in the USA at Mars Hill University in Mars Hill, NC. Save the dates of July 15-20, 2024.**

**Please check the BPFNA website <<https://www.bpfna.org>> to register.**

**Maybe several families and friends could attend this year!**



*The Wilkins family hosted a Christmas Eve party and Walter, an eighth grader at Duniway, held a raffle for guests to raise funds for FBC's STARS program. Walter did all the planning, and his family solicited fun things to raffle. Just before the new year, Walter delivered the raffle proceeds to STARS. Walter, his sister Edie, and their mom Liz first got involved with the STARS program during the Covid pandemic. Big thanks to the Wilkins family and all those who supported the raffle!*



## Youth Group

February 4 & 25

(NO Youth Group on February 18)

at First Presbyterian Church

Middle School from 5-6 pm

Dinner for ALL from 6-6:30 pm

High School from 6:30-7:30 pm

## Super Bowl Party!

Sunday, February 11

from 3:30 pm to END of the game  
Toth Toy Barn - 2700 NW Pinehurst Dr  
(we'll have hot dogs & drinks,  
please bring a side or dessert to share)

## Youth Dinner

Wednesday, February 28 at 6 pm

at Mikey's Pizzeria

Drop off & pick up there,  
bring money for dinner, and friends!

## Children's Chapel!

Sunday mornings following  
the Children's Time during worship.  
(except for first Sundays of each month)  
Children of any/all ages are invited to join  
us in the chapel, for songs, a story,  
reflection, and snack.  
Our nursery is also open on Sundays,  
for infants through preschool children,  
from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

## Kidventure - JUST FOR KIDS!

Monday nights from 5:15-6:30pm  
at First Presbyterian Church  
for children Pre-K thru 5th Grade.

We meet for dinner, music, a story and  
activities, and our focus for this year is on  
stories of the Gospels.

Join us at Camp Arrah Wanna  
Friday, February 16  
through Monday, February 19

All children and youth,  
grades 1-12,  
are welcome to participate.

Registration is now open  
at [camparrahwanna.org](http://camparrahwanna.org)  
and the deadline to register  
is February 2.

And CAW is in need of volunteers  
to help make Winter Camp happen!  
Contact Corey Hughes  
([program@camparrahwanna.org](mailto:program@camparrahwanna.org))  
if you are interested or to learn more.



As a part of our continued relationship and work with the  
indigenous people of the Yakama Reservation in Washington state,  
following our Service Learning Trip there in the summer of 2023,  
we are excited to be hosting...

## Dancing Our Prayers

Saturday, March 2 at 6:30 pm  
at First Presbyterian Church

Dancing Our Prayers (DOP) is a program of Mending Wings,  
which exists to empower and heal Native youth through leadership development, cultural retention  
and revitalization programs, spirituality and indigenous ways of life. DOP are teams of Native teens  
who travel locally, regionally and nationally sharing their culture, spirituality, and way of life. The youth  
and staff of Mending Wings drum & dance in full regalia, perform drama, give testimony and speak on  
conciliation issues between Native and non-Native America.

**Everyone is welcome, we hope you will join us!**

## A New Year full of Opportunities! Gather with a small group of FBC friends to make the ordinary sacred.

### FBC Adult Classes

#### Bible Study - Tuesdays, 12 noon

This group meets with Pastor Erika. All are welcome!

In-person in the Fireplace Room OR via Zoom.

A discussion-based Bible study with opportunity to delve deeper into highlighted scripture for the week. It's a great forum for asking difficult faith-based questions and/or sharing life's ups and downs, and requesting prayer, too.

#### Sunday Connections - Sunday, 8:30 am, via Zoom

Each week this class watches a short video by an interesting speaker, on various topics, with lively discussions that follow by all participants. The format provides the ability to connect with one another and with others beyond our local area. Join Us!

Contact: Barbara Burr, [barbaracoleburr@gmail.com](mailto:barbaracoleburr@gmail.com)

#### Sunday Bereans Class - Sunday, 8:45 am, in person

This class continues its exploration of the evolving church in modern times, using contemporary videos and theological texts and articles. They examine how religion and spirituality are manifest in everyday life.

Contact: Doug Verigin (503) 913 3401

#### Sunday Chapel Class - Sunday, 8:45 am, in person

This class is reading/discussing "How to Know a Person" by David Brooks, which explores the art of seeing others deeply and being deeply seen. (The class rotates book choices between a Bible-orientated book and a current issue-related book.) Class members can volunteer to lead a class discussion on any specific chapter they choose. The open discussion is insightful and fun!

Contact: Gary Langenwalter with 971-221-8155 (mobile), or [gary@portlandconsultinggroup.com](mailto:gary@portlandconsultinggroup.com).

#### Sunday Faith & Java Class - Sunday, 8:45 am

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday ONLY - in-person in the FBC Fireplace Room**

This class is dedicated to exploring questions, issues, and experiences in finding spirituality and bliss in everyday living. The class is led by Rob Schulman who presents a new topic each time, followed by interesting discussion.

Contact: Rob Schulman, [schulmanrob@yahoo.com](mailto:schulmanrob@yahoo.com)

#### Sunday Rainbow Class - for Special Needs Adults

Contact: Cynthia Parker, [cynp007@gmail.com](mailto:cynp007@gmail.com)

#### Climate Action Group - Meeting times/locations vary

Contact: Lara O'Brady, [lara\\_obrady@yahoo.com](mailto:lara_obrady@yahoo.com)

#### Together Works - February 12 & 26 at 7 pm, in-person

Fireplace Room at FBC - 2nd & 4th Mondays

Contact: Dee Moore, 971-241-8256, [togetherworksinfo@gmail.com](mailto:togetherworksinfo@gmail.com)

#### Dad's Group - February 12 at 8 pm, in-person (please RSVP)

2nd Mondays each month, location varies

Contact: John Linder, [john.linder93@gmail.com](mailto:john.linder93@gmail.com)

#### Senior Breakfast - Wednesday, February 7 at 8 am

1st Wednesday each month at American Legion Post 21  
126 NE Atlantic, McMinnville (near Highway 18)

RSVP: Gina Foster, 971-237-2789

#### Sew & Sos - in-person

Weekly opportunities for individuals and/or small groups to sew together at FBC (2nd floor sewing room).

Contact: Susan Chambers, [susanlanechambers@gmail.com](mailto:susanlanechambers@gmail.com)

#### Knit Wits - Knitting hats, hand/neck warmers & prayer shawls!

**PM Group - 7 pm, in-person (meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays)**

February 6 & 20 at Gina's

Contact: Gina Foster, 971-237-2789

**AM Group - 9:45 am, in-person (meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays)**

February 8 & 22, at Linda's

Contact: Linda Watson, 971-237-2793

#### FBC Singles - Saturday, February 3 at 4 pm

**Game Night** in the Fireplace Room at FBC.

Bring your favorite game and finger foods or beverage.

**3rd Tuesday Lunch - February 20 at Mezcal, 1pm**

Contact: Lynn Crowell, [herballynn@comcast.net](mailto:herballynn@comcast.net)

#### Sister Circle - Every Friday at 11 am, Fireplace Room

Reading "Chatter" by Ethan Kross

Interested in joining? Contact: Sherill Roberts, [shrobert@linfield.edu](mailto:shrobert@linfield.edu) or 971-237-3630

#### Mom's Group - Gathering TBD

Contact Heidi Toth for details, [tothfive@gmail.com](mailto:tothfive@gmail.com)

#### Men's Breakfast - February 24 at 9:00 am

Les Toth's Toy Barn, 2700 NW Pinehurst Drive

Gary Langenwalter, member of the McMinnville Planning Commission, will speak about "Why Does the McMinnville Planning Commission Matter?"

Contact: Neil Kunze, [kunze@sou.edu](mailto:kunze@sou.edu)

#### Hiking Group - on hiatus until March 2024

Contact: Gloria LaFata, [glowml1@gmail.com](mailto:glowml1@gmail.com)



# FEBRUARY at FBC

FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> Music Rehearsals: 5:20p Bells / 6:30p Choir 8p Worship Team	<b>2</b> <b>FBC Office Closed</b> 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 7:30p - Friday Shelter	<b>3</b> 4p - Singles Group Game Night
<b>4</b> 8:45 - Faith & Java, in person <i>Adult Classes (see pg 11)</i> 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream  5-7:30p - MYC at FPC	<b>5</b> 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 10:30a - Matthew 25 12n - Personnel Committee 4p - Mission Team 5:15p - KidVenture 7p - Worship Planning	<b>6</b> 12n - Bible Study in person & via Zoom 7p - KnitWits at Gina's	<b>7</b> 8a - Senior Breakfast at VFW Post, Atlantic Ave  2p - Faith Formation in person, conference room JAN/FEB mtg.	<b>8</b> 9:45a - KnitWits at Linda's  Music Rehearsals: 5:20p Bells / 6:30p Choir 8p Worship Team	<b>9</b> <b>FBC Office Closed</b> 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 7:30p - Friday Shelter	<b>10</b> 10a-1p - Plastics Collection Project at FBC
<b>11</b> <i>Adult Classes (see page 11)</i> 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream  3:30p - MYC Super Bowl Party at Toth Toy Barn	<b>12</b> 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 5:15p - KidVenture 7p - Care & Concern 7p - Together Works	<b>13</b> 9a - Building & Grounds  12n - Bible Study in person & via Zoom  6:30p - Fat Tuesday French Toast Dinner & HOOTENANNY	<b>14</b> ♥ Happy ♥ <b>Valentine's Day</b>  <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 6:30p - Soup Supper & Service at 1st Presbyterian Church, 390 NE 2nd St.	<b>15</b> Music Rehearsals: 5:20p Bells / 6:30p Choir 8p Worship Team	<b>16</b> <b>FBC Office Closed</b> 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 7:30p - Friday Shelter	<b>17</b> 4p - Field Trip to Trappist Abbey with 5:30p Vespers
<b>18</b> <b>1st Sunday of LENT</b> <i>Adult Classes (see page 11)</i> 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream	<b>19</b> 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 5:15p - KidVenture	<b>20</b> 12n - Bible Study in person & via Zoom 1p - Singles Lunch 7p - KnitWits at Gina's	<b>21</b> 1p- Membership  6:30p - Church Board  7:30p - KeyNote CONCERT at FBC	<b>22</b> 9:45a - KnitWits at Linda's  Music Rehearsals: 5:20p Bells / 6:30p Choir 8p Worship Team	<b>23</b> <b>FBC Office Closed</b> 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 7:30p - Friday Shelter	<b>24</b> 9a - Men's Breakfast  10:30a - Makers Meeting: Hiking Sticks
Winter Camp at Arrah Wanna					Winter Camp at Arrah Wanna	
<b>25</b> <b>2nd Sunday of LENT</b> <i>Adult Classes (see page 11)</i> 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream  11:30am - Congregational Conversation  5-7:30p - MYC at FPC	<b>26</b> 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 5:15p - KidVenture  6:30pm - Congregational Conversation 7p - Together Works	<b>27</b> 12n - Bible Study in person & via Zoom	<b>28</b> 6p - Youth Dinner  6:30p - Book Group, Native Voices	<b>29</b> <b>LEAP DAY!</b> <b>2024 gets an</b> <b>extra DAY</b>  Music Rehearsals: 5:20p Bells / 6:30p Choir 8p Worship Team	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10a-1p - Easter Choir Retreat  MYC Hosts ... Dancing Our Prayers at 6:30p First Presbyterian Church

Erika Marksbury, Senior Pastor  
[erika@fbcmac.org](mailto:erika@fbcmac.org)  
 Sean P. Williams, Children & Youth Minister  
[sean@fbcmac.org](mailto:sean@fbcmac.org)  
 Marilyn Dresser, Music Director, Bells & Choir  
[marilyn@fbcmac.org](mailto:marilyn@fbcmac.org)  
 Tegan Johnson, Music Director, Worship Team  
[tegan@fbcmac.org](mailto:tegan@fbcmac.org)  
 Ron Richter, Building Superintendent  
[ron@fbcmac.org](mailto:ron@fbcmac.org)  
 Donna Weed, Office Administrator  
[office@fbcmac.org](mailto:office@fbcmac.org)  
 Tom Simpson, Building Security  
[toms@viclink.com](mailto:toms@viclink.com)  
 Geoff Clayton, Shelter Manager  
[grclayton@hotmail.com](mailto:grclayton@hotmail.com)

## FEBRUARY Birthday

Ken Piontek 2  
 Mark Pederson 5  
 Virginia Holmstrom 5  
 Mary Dressel 7  
 Doug Verigin 7  
 Jim Kilinsky 7  
 Bill Apel 9  
 Sandy Sutherland 10  
 Nancy Ross 11  
 Laura Christensen 13

Molly Robinson 13  
 Jim Sloss 14  
 Lynne Vincent 15  
 John Linder 17  
 Geneva Foster-Ward 18  
 Jace Early 20  
 Briar Kind 21  
 Zorissa James 23  
 Mary Baker 25  
 Emma Linder 25  
 Steven Park 26  
 Joy Hallett 27  
 Cyrus Scarboro-Ford 27



No  
**FEBRUARY**  
 Anniversary