



The Tidings

FBC's monthly newsletter

MARCH 2024

First Baptist Church, 125 SE Cows St., McMinnville, OR 97128
503-472-7941 • www.fbcmac.org • office@fbcmac.org

Embrace the Mystery of Holy Week & Easter with FBC

Maundy Thursday

March 28, 6:30 pm in the Social Hall

Join with friends for a simple potluck dinner

Consider making and bringing one of the soup recipes in February's Seasons of Wonder chapter, or the communion bread recipe found in March. After dinner we'll explore contemplative stations, including (optional) foot washing, and we'll sing, hold silence, and pray together.

Good Friday

March 29, 5-9 pm in the Social Hall

The inward, meditative work we do Maundy Thursday becomes outward, compassionate work through a foot clinic at FBC's Community Shelter. How to participate:

- ♦ *Collect and bring to the church by March 24: new socks, gently-used tennis shoes, nail clippers, small foot care creams or lotions*
- ♦ *Sign up for a one-hour shift to:*
 - ♦ *welcome guests, offer fellowship, pour coffee*
 - ♦ *invite guests to soak their feet, help to dry guests' feet with towels provided*
 - ♦ *clean and refill soaking tubs between guests' usage*
 - ♦ *distribute collected items to guests*
- ♦ *Donate funds to offset the costs of the professionals providing foot care services for this event (\$35 = one person's care)*

Easter Sunday

March 31, 10 am in the Sanctuary

Come to Walker Hall at 9:30 with cut flowers and help create the flower cross, FBC's tradition of transforming a symbol of crucifixion into a story of resurrection, beauty, and life. When it's full of blooms, we'll bring it into the sanctuary.

We'll celebrate with music, welcoming visiting organist Bill Crane from Portland, and other musicians & instrumentalists. The Choir & Bell Choir will perform an anthem & the Hallelujah Chorus. We'll hear the story of the resurrection - the deep mystery of our faith - and commit ourselves to love everlasting. Invite family & friends to this glorious service.

After worship, the Social Team invites you back to Walker Hall for an Easter Brunch - Yum! Platters of deviled eggs, fruit salad, mini muffins, apricot cream cheese & fresh hot Cross buns, OH MY! And a visit from the Easter Bunny!

Easter Guests & Hosts

If you would like to host an FBC friend(s) in your home for lunch on Easter Sunday, or if you would like to receive an invitation to join folks in their home, please let Donna know - email office@fbcmac.org or call 503.472.7941 - by March 17. She'll pass the names of hosts and guests on to Care & Concern, and that group will coordinate details and be in contact.

Calling all interested voices to be part of FBC's

♪ ♪ ♪ Easter Choir! ♪ ♪ ♪

Please join us, regardless of your musical experiences or background! Singers are encouraged to attend as many rehearsals as possible and/or practice on their own with provided recordings. (see details & schedule, page 5)

A Note About COVID

We have now been dealing with COVID for more than four years. It may seem that COVID has gone away but the *New York Times* reports that weekly more than 2,400 people die and more than 35,000 are infected in the US. Our congregation has seen several cases recently.

With this in mind, it's important to remember good COVID hygiene and communication practices around the church and community. Here are some basics:

- If you test positive for COVID, notify those you've been in close contact with and alert leaders of groups in which you have participated. Remember not everyone reads/has email, so phone calls are encouraged.
- If you have been exposed, please wear a mask until you know you are clear and not infected. Masks are available Sundays at FBC for anyone who wants one. Keep in mind that on-line participation is an option for worship and other church events; ask erika@fbcmac.org about setting up a zoom option if there's not already one available.
- Remember that the church consists of many individuals who are in frail states of health, and re-infection with COVID heightens the risk for long COVID.
- Also, we are here to take care of each other! If you are ill, let the church office know. We'll bring soup, run errands, or help in ways that would be useful to you. Even if you are staying quarantined, trust you are not alone in this.

Good COVID practices are a way we can tend to one another and to our community. Take good care, friends, and thanks for your attention to these concerns.



March EMBRACE MYSTERY



The third invitation in Bonnie Smith Whitehouse's *Seasons of Wonder* is Embrace Mystery. This is a season, she suggests, to invoke the holy, to welcome the divine, and to encounter the mysterious: both in the traditions of the church - Good Friday, Easter Sunday - and in the resurrection of so much of the natural world - bright green shoots, brave little wildflowers. She acknowledges that some people have "happy love stories" with church, where their full selves, questions and doubts included, are welcomed; other people experience church as a place that shuts them down, hurts them or those they love, and robs them of their capacity to wonder. This month, consider:

How can our faith community be a place where mystery and the unknown are welcome?

What might it look like to offer trust, hospitality, and welcome to our questions? To the questions of our beloveds?

Can you name something about which you are faithful and doubtful at the same time?

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

- ✦ Watch - *Il vangelo secondo Matteo; Wings of Life*
- ✦ Listen - *Mary* by Patty Griffin
- ✦ Read - *Annunciation* by Denise Levertov; *The Way of the Rose* by Perdita Finn & Clark Strand

March 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.

Sharing Feast, Sunday, March 17, following worship

There's lots of mystery surrounding St. Patrick's Day! Come to the Social Hall to feast, learn, and share in songs and stories. FBC will provide corned beef and cabbage; you're invited to bring a salad, side, or dessert to round out the feast.

Makers Meeting: Rosaries - Sunday, March 24, 6:30pm

Bonnie Smith Whitehouse writes, "Using a chain of beads to help us repeat our prayers or mantras allows us to drift between wakefulness, imagination, and reverie." Come to string your prayers together, with friends, guided by rose-petal-bead maker Nadya King. Please RSVP to Erika (erika@fbcmac.org) so we have enough supplies.



Scenes from January & February Seasons of Wonder gatherings: creating constellation lamps, sharing homemade King's Cake, gifting homemade candles, a pilgrimage at the Abbey, crafting hiking sticks.

March's Creation Care Challenge: *Plant a garden!*

Watch creation come alive by starting a little garden with your loved ones. You can easily grow herbs or veggies in little pots if you don't have space outdoors. Veggies, flowers, and herbs can also grow in hydroponic systems that sit on a countertop year-round.

FBC received a grant from the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship to do work with *Seasons of Wonder* throughout 2024. The grant funding will pay for books; supplies for the "makers meeting" crafts/projects; field trips; food for sharing feasts; special worship elements; and this fall's All-Church Retreat at Camp Arrah Wanna. We are grateful to have been awarded this funding and hope it makes it possible for everyone to be able to participate in these activities by removing the barrier of expense.



Sunday Worship Highlights

MARCH 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
- ✦ 8:45 am - **FAITH & JAVA** - 1st Sundays only - in person, Fireplace Room / Contact - schulmanrob@yahoo.com
- ✦ 8:45 am - **CHAPEL Class** - Contact - gary@portlandconsultinggroup.com
- ✦ 8:45 am - **BEREAN Class** - Contact - doug.verigin@outlook.com

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

March 3, Communion Sunday

"Hush," Sermon from Matthew 13:1-14

Rev. Erika Marksburry preaching

Music led by Marilyn Dresser

First Sunday Speaker Series -

Members of FBC's 2024 Delegation to AMOS Health & Hope in Nicaragua will share their experiences through photos, stories, and food! Come to the Social Hall following worship to see, hear, and taste their adventure! This group made the tenth visit from FBC over our 20-year relationship with AMOS.

March 10

"Pollinate," Sermon from Matthew 13:31-32

Rev. Erika Marksburry preaching

Reflection from Sam & Jordan Robinson

Music led by Tegan Johnson and the Worship Team

If your class or small group would like to host the After Church Fellowship time, this date is open! Tell sean@fbcmac.org if you want to claim it.

March 17

"Come with Bread," Sermon from Matthew 13:33-34

Rev. Erika Marksburry preaching

Reflection from Lara O'Brady

Music led by Tegan Johnson and the Worship Team

After worship, all are welcome to a St. Patrick's Day Sharing Feast in the Social Hall. Corned beef, cabbage, and drinks provided - if you can, bring a salad, side, or dessert to share.



March 24, Palm Sunday

"Compost," Sermon from Matthew 18:10-14

Rev. Erika Marksburry preaching

Stay after the service this day to participate in the second Congregational Conversation of our strategic planning process. The topic is "Stewarding Our Resources and Sharing Our Space."

March 28, Maundy Thursday

6:30 pm - Soup Supper & Prayer stations (see page 1)

March 29, Good Friday

5-9pm - Foot Clinic at the Community Shelter at

FBC, sign up for a one-hour shift (see page 1)

March 31, Easter Sunday

"Embrace Mystery," Sermon from John 20:1-18

Rev. Erika Marksburry preaching

Music led by Marilyn Dresser and the Choir, with the Bell Choir and guest organist Bill Crane

The Social Team invites you to Walker Hall following the service, to enjoy a tasty EASTER BRUNCH and to visit with the Easter bunny!

Memorial Easter Flowers

In loving memory of those no longer with us.

Bring your potted lilies or other spring flowers to the church office Wed. or Thur, March 27 or 28, between 9a-12n. They'll be beautifully displayed in the sanctuary on EASTER Sunday.

After the service, pick up your flowers or leave them for volunteers to deliver to those needing some tender care!



YTD	Actual for Period	% of Amount Budgeted
Contributions Income:	\$29,113	99.7%
Total Income:	\$32,872	92.9%
Total Expenses:	\$34,134	96.4%
Net Income:	- \$ 1,262	

Everyone is invited to attend the second series of Congregational Conversations, scheduled for March 24 at 11:30am, in person, and March 25 at 6:30pm, hybrid format. Our topic for March is **Stewarding Our Resources & Sharing Our Space.**

These conversations are part of our Strategic Planning process. Come share your voice!

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 questions, 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, February 21st

The Church Board met as scheduled on February 21st in person with Mary, Nadya, and Heidi joining by computer, and Kathleen, Virginia, Cynthia, and Kerry absent. Don Watson shared a devotion from the Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists called "Disturbing the Waters." When still waters are disturbed, it can cause something new to emerge.

Don also gave the Financial Summary, where he noted that while income was close to budget, our expenses were over, due in part to payments made in January that belonged in December, so those line items showed up as double amounts for January. Don also shared that going forward, Realm will require two-step authorization, similar to what many of us have experienced with other programs.

The Board also shared an update of the Strategic Planning process, with the first Congregational Conversation to happen soon. There will be an in-person meeting after church on the 25th, and a hybrid meeting on Monday night the 26th at 6:30pm.

Pastor Erika shared a recap of the Ash Wednesday joint service with First Presbyterian. She also told the Board about plans to hold a foot care clinic in conjunction with the shelter on Good Friday from 5 to 9pm, to help any of our friends who need someone to look at or provide treatment for their feet.

The board also heard a recap of the listening session regarding inclusive restrooms. Erika has reached out to AWAB to see if they have guidance or suggestions for grant opportunities. The Board agreed to create a task force to dive deeper into this issue. If you are

interested in participating, please contact Erika or Mary Dressel, who has agreed to represent the Board for this group.

Erika reported there were no major issues related to the low-barrier shelter during the storm, other than a plugged toilet, which Ron came in to fix in the middle of the night. We are so lucky to have such dedicated staff!

The Board also heard updates on the planned fundraiser dance and the possible car raffle. We will have more to share on these events once we have more of the details worked out.

We will be making attempts to connect folks who need a ride to Sunday Service with those who are able to provide transportation. If you fall into either category, please contact the church office to get signed up. We're also looking for homestay host volunteers for a visiting youth dance group on March 2. If you can host, please contact Sean for details.

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, March 13th 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 if you would like to be added to the agenda, or if you would like a meeting invite to attend via Zoom.

Respectfully, Dave Larmouth, FBC Moderator



Saturday, March 23rd - 9am-12n

Come one! Come All! Let's pitch in to help!

Outside: weed, rake, power wash, lay bark dust.
Inside: window washing, organizing & more.

After work lunch provided.



~ COMMUNITY EVENTS ~

Friday, March 1 at 7pm - First Presbyterian Church presents **Baroque Brass & Organ Classics**
J.S.Bach, Vivaldi, Purcell performed by Mark Bacon & Joan Paddock, Trumpet / Craig Hanson, Organ - Free Admission

Tuesday, March 19 at 7pm - Linfield University **SPRING CHORAL Concert**
Showcasing the diversity & talent of Linfield's Coral groups performing works by women, black composers and works about love.

Our plans for Easter include a special anthem & the Hallelujah Chorus.

EASTER CHOIR RETREAT

Saturday, March 2nd - 10am-1pm
Lunch will be included.

This retreat will be a great opportunity to learn our Easter music while building our choir community and strengthening our relationships with each other. Just show up, or let Marilyn know you are coming so we have plenty of food & music.

RSVP - More info - Questions: marilyn@fbcmac.org

WEEKLY REHEARSALS (are very important)

Thursdays - March 7, 14, 21, 6:30-8pm

Saturday, March 30 - 9am-2pm

Final EASTER Performance Rehearsal

Easter Sunday - March 31

Share the Good News of EASTER through Music during our worship service!

World Class Music in McMinnville!

JAZZ is coming in March

~ Keynote CONCERT Series ~

in the First Baptist Church Sanctuary

7 pm - Doors open / 7:30 pm - Concert begins

Wednesday, March 6th - Featuring Bart & Clark of the Jazz Band, Hit Machine

(Re-scheduled from January 17)

Bart Hafeman, guitarist/vocalist/founder of the band "Hit Machine", and Clark Bondy, saxophonist, perform hits from the last 5 decades.



Wednesday, March 20th - Featuring jazz

vocalist & songwriter
Peter Eldridge

from 'New York Voices.' An evening with one of the most innovative, creative singer-song writers of our generation.

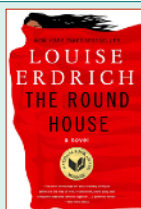


KeyNote is a once a month, 3rd Wednesday Concert Series thru May, 2024, featuring music ranging from classical to jazz to pop and more.

The opening acts each month will be local school ensembles and/or local musicians.

www.keynoteconcertseries.com for Tickets

Sponsored by The McMinnville Lions Club and McMinnville Performing Arts Association



Native Voices Book Group

The next monthly meeting will be
Wednesday, March 27, 6:30 - 8:00 pm,
in the FBC Fireplace Room / Zoom option.

Reading the Round House by Louise Erdrich.

This latest novel was a National Book Award winner.

"One Sunday in the spring of 1988 a woman living on a reservation in North Dakota is attacked. Details of the crime are slow to surface because Geraldine Doubts is traumatized and reluctant to relive or reveal what happened, either to the police or to her husband, Basil, and thirteen year old son, Joe. In one day, Joe's life is irrevocable transformed. A quest for justice takes them first to the Round House, a sacred space...

for the Ojibwa... And this is only the beginning."

Emily Kerrigan will be leading the discussion.

Getting To Know the Classes & Small Groups at FBC



The Sister Circle

Sister Circle by Sherill Roberts

Sister Circle is a church women's group that was formed in 2003, and has been meeting weekly ever since.

The group has a double purpose: to provide a mutual support system within which to explore our spiritual lives as women, and also to explore how we might be experiencing spirituality differently than men. This was an especially important issue 21 years ago, since the Christian church in which most of us grew up was traditionally hierarchical with, as one author said, "the men making the decisions and the women bringing the casseroles." Fortunately, our First Baptist Church in McMinnville is no longer like that. I would like to think that Sister Circle has had some influence in that change.

We read and discuss several books a year. We are presently reading our 73rd book, "Why Religion?" by Elaine Pagels.

Some of our most memorable books have been . . .

"Dance of the Dissident Daughter" by Sue Monk Kidd - "When God Was a Woman" by Merlin Stone,
"Why Christianity Must Change or Die" by John Shelby - "Traveling Mercies" by Anne Lamotte,
"The Heart of Christianity" by Marcus Borg - "She Who Changes" by Carol Christ,
"Leaving Church" by Barbara Brown Taylor - "Who Cooked the Last Supper?" by Rosalind Miles,
"Wilderness Spirituality" by Rodney Romney,
"Braiding Sweet Grass" by Robin Wall - "Reimagining the Divine" by Dara Malloy.

In addition, Sister Circle funds micro loans to women around the world, through an agency called KIVA.

Twelve years ago we passed the hat and collected \$50 which we loaned to a widow with 11 children who lived in the Congo. She used the money to buy palm oil, which she sold as part of her small business. After she paid us back, we re-loaned the money to a woman in Ghana who sold cooked rice.

We have done our small part to help women in Zimbabwe, Nicaragua, Armenia, Tajikistan, Guatemala, Ecuador, Haiti and the US. The loans have mostly helped women to become self sufficient through business and education. The only loan that has not been repaid was the most recent one, to a woman in Louisiana who was starting a restaurant. That was just before Covid hit, and it turned out to be the worst time possible to start a restaurant. Now it's time for us to pass the hat again and start a new chain of loans.

Our mutual support system has been valuable. We have seen each other through joys and sorrows, successes and failures, weddings and deaths. Some of the women have been in Sister Circle since the beginning, but many have joined us along the way, bringing new spirit and fresh ideas to the group.

FBC HIKING Group



Our first hike of the season - Saturday, March 16th. Our hiking group is starting our 14th year of hiking together. We are a diverse group of people, who like to be outside and explore our beautiful Pacific NW. We meet usually on the 3rd Saturday of each month, March-October. We are all senior citizens (quite a bit over 50) and our goal is to stay in shape and keep healthy as long as we can!

We will be meeting at 9 AM in the FBC parking lot to carpool together. **We are going to Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge.** It is near the town of Jefferson. There are numerous trails to explore, with waterfowl and wildlife to observe. Bring your water and a snack or a lunch. Join us as we start a new year together. We are looking at some interesting hikes to do together, some new and some old. We hope to do the 4T Hike in June again, a very popular hike we have done at least once!

Getting To Know Your First Baptist Church Family

Teri Spalding is an Oregon native – born and raised in Albany. She said she grew up in a loving home and was involved in sports and all kinds of fiber arts in school. She graduated from South Albany High School where she had two high school teachers who suggested that she look at Linfield for college, and she was accepted!



At Linfield Teri had a double major in Home Economics and Biology. She wanted to study nutrition, but it wasn't available at Linfield at the time. She was the first generation in her family to get a college degree and graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1981. Amen and Woo Hoo!

When Teri attended Linfield, there was a program where students could sign up to have 'church parents' from FBC. Teri signed up and was 'adopted' by Les and Kathleen Toth, who lovingly invited her to their home for meals over several years. Teri remembers thinking that she hit the jackpot with the Toths as her church parents!

In her sophomore year, Teri attended a fraternity party, where she met Dave, who she would marry, after graduating. Dave was raised in the American Baptist tradition, so was already attending FBC, so he invited Teri to join him. They were married at FBC by Bernie Turner. Teri's first job after Linfield was at the McMinnville Eye Clinic, where she worked for 14 years. She became a certified ophthalmology assistant.

Teri and Dave have two children, Anne who is currently 36 and Jean who is 31. Both kids were dedicated at FBC as infants and Anne was baptized as a teen. Both were involved in Sunday School and other church activities. Teri remembers Mary Martin having a huge influence on Jean as she was growing up. Teri told a story, that when Jean was young and a little antsy in church, she put her finger in one of the hooks on the side of the pew and it got stuck! Jean screamed in the middle of the service, and it was either Mary Martin or Barbara Kauer who came to the rescue with some lotion that Teri used to lubricate the finger to pull it out. They quietly exited the service.

Up until a year ago, Teri worked part time at Timmreck & McNicol Jewelers, the business Dave worked at as a Linfield student and eventually purchased. Jean, their younger child is now a part owner in the business.

Over the many years, you can imagine that Teri has been very involved at FBC. Before they had kids, Teri and Dave were youth group leaders. She sang in the choir and played handbells under the direction of Marion Van Dyk. More recently she was involved with the Friday STARS breakfast, and currently she helps in the Church office when Donna is away. She also is one of the dedicated Sew & So's quilters and still meets with the Mom's Group that was formed when her kids were young.

When asked what keeps her attending FBC, Teri said, "honestly, it's been out of habit – it's what we do, attend church, right?!" But seriously, Teri says that seeing people she's known for so long, and what the community has become, is what keeps her coming back.

Teri is very grateful for the generations of people at the church who were so supportive to her and her family. Starting when folks supported Teri and Dave as a young couple, and then those who supported her through raising her kids. Teri says, "thank you, everyone for your support over the years!!"

My linda Baits, Healing Arts, International Ministries

My linda Baits is a Global Consultant with the International Ministries arm of the American Baptist Churches. For many years, FBC McMinnville has supported her work through our Missions budget. Here's a bit about what she's been up to lately:

Grief and gratitude have been the topics of much of my recent work. I was privileged to accompany global partners and facilitate conversation among the International Ministries Global Consultant cohort in Indonesia last November.



As a part of the Cuban Expressive Arts in Transition pilot project that we started in August 2023, I have been honored to provide supervision alongside my expressive arts colleague, Shabrae Jackson, to a number of Cuban leaders. They have been facilitating Expressive Arts in Transition groups in various communities, supporting varied populations, implementing arts-based practices with children, youth, and senior adults. In April we will celebrate a graduation with them in person.

Last month I accompanied a group from Cherry Hills Church in Springfield, IL on a trip to Manilla, Philippines, to learn from and offer grace-filled support to the women engaged in ministry with Companions with the Poor.

After many years of pondering, processing and procrastinating, I have submitted a PhD dissertation proposal to the European Graduate School. The working title is: "Piecing Together an Aesthetic Response to Ambiguous Loss: An Expressive Arts-Based Research Project Exploring Personal and Collective Experiences of 'Frozen Grief.'" I am on track to finish and defend by summer 2025. I would appreciate all your prayers and kind accountability.

AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2024

GRACE upon GRACE

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is promoting the **2024 America for Christ Offering** which seeks to raise \$1,500,000 to support American Baptist mission & ministries through our churches and community partners across the United States and Puerto Rico.

The biblical theme for America for Christ 2024 is based on Lamentations 3:22-23: "Because of God's great love, we are not consumed, for God's compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

How are AFC Funds Used: Each year ABHMS awards grants from the donations received, to fund . . .

- Grants to churches to fund ministry initiatives such as camps, daycare and youth and young adult initiatives.
 - Grants to American Baptist seminaries and colleges.
- Grants to American Baptist Partners training opportunities, funding of learning opportunities that involve travel and housing, and upgrade to preserve our critical American Baptist spaces.
 - American Baptist Regional Offices.

AFC dollars also fund scholarships for which our own members may apply. Our churches are eligible to apply for ABHMS grants as well. ABHMS does not retain any AFC funds for operations or overhead.

One hundred percent of AFC dollars support vital ministries.

Want to see specific ways AFC dollars are being applied? Check out the Missions bulletin board in Walker Hall.
>> Find AFC envelopes in a sanctuary pew pocket - place your giving in the offering plate.

Clean water, good nutrition, and *amor, amor, amor* in Nicaragua



In late January, **nine folks traveled to work with AMOS Health & Hope as part of FBC's tenth delegation to Nicaragua.** They were graciously hosted by the rural village of Calderon, where they participated in community life, helped to maintain water filters, and shared nutrition information. They returned inspired & challenged. They've got thanks to offer to FBC for sending them, and lots of stories to share. **Come to the Social Hall after church March 3, to hear, see, and taste their adventure!**





Youth Group

March 3, 10, 17

(NO Youth Group on March 24 & 31)

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

Youth Game Night!

Friday, March 15

at McMinnville Covenant Church

from 6-8pm

dinner & games - bring friends!

Youth Dinner

Wednesday, March 20 at 6 pm

at Alf's Ice Cream & Burgers

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.

SAVE THE DATES

for Summer 2024!

Vacation Bible School

Seekers in Sneakers - Discover Jesus!

with First Presbyterian Church

June 24-28 from 9am to noon

children Pre-K-5th grade & volunteers

Summer Camp

at Camp Arrah Wanna

July 15-19

1st through 12th grade & volunteers

Service Learning Trip

with SLAM (Students Learning About

Missions) in Wapato, WA

July 28-August 2

6th-12th grade & volunteers



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 Month Full of Opportunities!

Gather with a small group or class 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

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.

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

1st 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

Sunday Rainbow Class - for Adults with special

needs. Contact: Cynthia Parker, cynp007@gmail.com

Climate Action Group - Meeting times/locations vary

Contact: Lara O'Brady, lara_obrady@yahoo.com

Senior Breakfast - Wednesday, March 6 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

Together Works - March 11 & 25 at 7 pm, in-person

Fireplace Room at FBC - 2nd & 4th Mondays

Contact: Dee Moore, 971-241-8256, togetherworksinfo@gmail.com

Dad's Group - March 11 at 8 pm, in-person (please RSVP)

2nd Mondays each month, location varies

Contact: John Linder, john.linder93@gmail.com

Sew & Sos - in-person

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

Currently sewing prayer bags & making quilt kits to take home.

Contact: Susan Chambers, susanlanechambers@gmail.com

Knit Wits - Knitting scarves, hats, and hand warmers!

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

March 5 & 19 at Gina's

Contact: Gina Foster, 971-237-2789

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

March 14 & 28, at Linda's

Contact: Linda Watson, 971-237-2793

FBC Singles - Saturday, March 2 at 7:30 pm

Attending "See How They Run" at Gallery Theater, purchase a ticket and join the fun! We'll meet at Bierly Brewing at 6pm for dinner, before the show.

3rd Tuesday Lunch - March 19 at Mezcal, 1pm

Contact: Lynn Crowell, herbalynn@comcast.net

Sister Circle - Every Friday at 11 am, Fireplace Room

Reading "Why Religion?" by Elaine Pagels.

Interested in joining? Contact: Sherill Roberts,

shrobert@linfield.edu or 971-237-3630

Mom's Group - Gathering TBD

Contact Heidi Toth for details, tothfive@gmail.com

Hiking Group - Sat., March 16 - meet at FBC at 9am to carpool

Hiking at Ankeny National Wildlife Refuge near Jefferson, OR.

Contact: Gloria LaFata, glowm11@gmail.com

Men's Breakfast - March 23 at 9:00 am

Les Toth's Toy Barn, 2700 NW Pinehurst Drive

Dave King will speak about "I Am What I Am"

Contact: Neil Kunze, kunze@sou.edu

Mark Your Calendar! FBC's Annual All-Church Campout, this year at Beverly Beach State Park on the Oregon Coast! July 19 - July 21, 2024, Contact Dave King for more information - kaveding@earthlink.net.

MARCH at FBC

MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 FBC Office Closed & Pastor's Day Off 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 7:30p - Friday Shelter	2 10a-1p - Easter Choir Retreat 6:30p - Dancing Our Prayers 7:30p - Singles Gallery Theater
3 3rd Sunday of LENT 8:45 - Faith & Java, in person <i>Adult Classes (see pg 11)</i> 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream 11:15a - Nicaragua Team presentation & lunch 5-7:30p - MYC at FPC	4 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Matthew 25 12n - Personnel 4p - Mission Team 5:15p - KidVenture 7p - Worship Planning	5 12n - Bible Study in person & via Zoom 7p - KnitWits at Gina's	6 8a - Senior Breakfast at VFW Post, Atlantic Ave 7:30p - KeyNote CONCERT at FBC	7 Music Rehearsals: 5:20p Bells / 6:30p Choir 8p Worship Team	8 FBC Office Closed & Pastor's Day Off 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 7:30p - Friday Shelter	9 2pm - Memorial Service for Ken Rogers TURN your CLOCKS AHEAD 1 hour Tonight! 
10 4th Sunday of LENT <i>Adult Classes (see page 11)</i> 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream 5-7:30p - MYC at FPC	11 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 5:15p - KidVenture 7p - Together Works 8p - Dad's Group	12 9a - Building & Grounds 12n - Bible Study in person & via Zoom	13 6:30p - Church Board	14 9:45a - KnitWits at Linda's Music Rehearsals: 5:20p Bells / 6:30p Choir 8p Worship Team	15 FBC Office Closed & Pastor's Day Off 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 6-8p - Youth Game Night at Mac 7:30p - Friday Shelter	16 9a - Hiking Group
17 5th Sunday of LENT <i>Adult Classes (see page 11)</i> 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream 11:15a - St. Patrick's Day Sharing Feast 5-7:30p - MYC at FPC	18 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 5:15p - KidVenture 7p - Care & Concern	19 12n - Bible Study in person & via Zoom 1p - Singles Lunch 7p - KnitWits at Gina's	20 1p - Membership 2:15p - Faith Formation 6p - Youth Dinner 7:30p - KeyNote CONCERT at FBC	21 Music Rehearsals: 5:20p Bells / 6:30p Choir 8p Worship Team	22 FBC Office Closed & Pastor's Day Off 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 7:30p - Friday Shelter	23 9a - Men's Breakfast 9a - Church Spring Clean-Up
24 PALM SUNDAY <i>Adult Classes (see page 11)</i> 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream 11:30a - Congregational Conversation, in person 6:30p - Makers Meeting: Rosaries/Prayer Beads	25 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 6:30p - Congregational Conversation, hybrid 7p - Together Works	26 12n - Bible Study in person & via Zoom	27 6:30p - Book Group, Native Voices	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 9:45a - KnitWits at Linda's 6:30pm - Meditative Service with Stations	29 GOOD FRIDAY FBC Office Closed 9:15a - STARS Breakfast 11a - Sister Circle 5-9p - Foot Clinic 7:30p - Friday Shelter	30 HOLY SATURDAY 9a-2p - Easter Rehearsals

> > HOLY WEEK < <

31 EASTER SUNDAY 10 am - WORSHIP in person & Live Stream 11:15 am - Easter Brunch	MARCH Birthday Rob Higgins 1 Jamie Soto 1 Edie Wilkins 2 Sarah Cassidy 4 Maddie Hendricks 4 Dave Larmouth 4 Tiana Rowe 4 Addison Joy Rhine 7	Albert Huff 9 Stacy Martin 11 Cherie Young 11 Nola Olmsted 11 Teri Spalding 12 Sharon Tanaka 13 Janet Langenwalter 16 Asherlee LaPlante 16 Daniel Browne 19 Emily Duerfeldt 19	Helios Ovando 19 Sheila Lenker 19 Jamie Bierly 21 Jule Gradek 21 Beth Ann Pope 22 Georgine Benner 24 Heidi Toth 2 Stephen Sayler 24 Luke Zimmerman 25 Joani Jernstedt 26	 Sally Godard 27 Liz Wilkins 31 Ron Lenker 31 Katie Robinson 31 MARCH Anniversary Paul & Joan Kushner 12 Sam & Nancy Ross 22
--	---	---	---	---