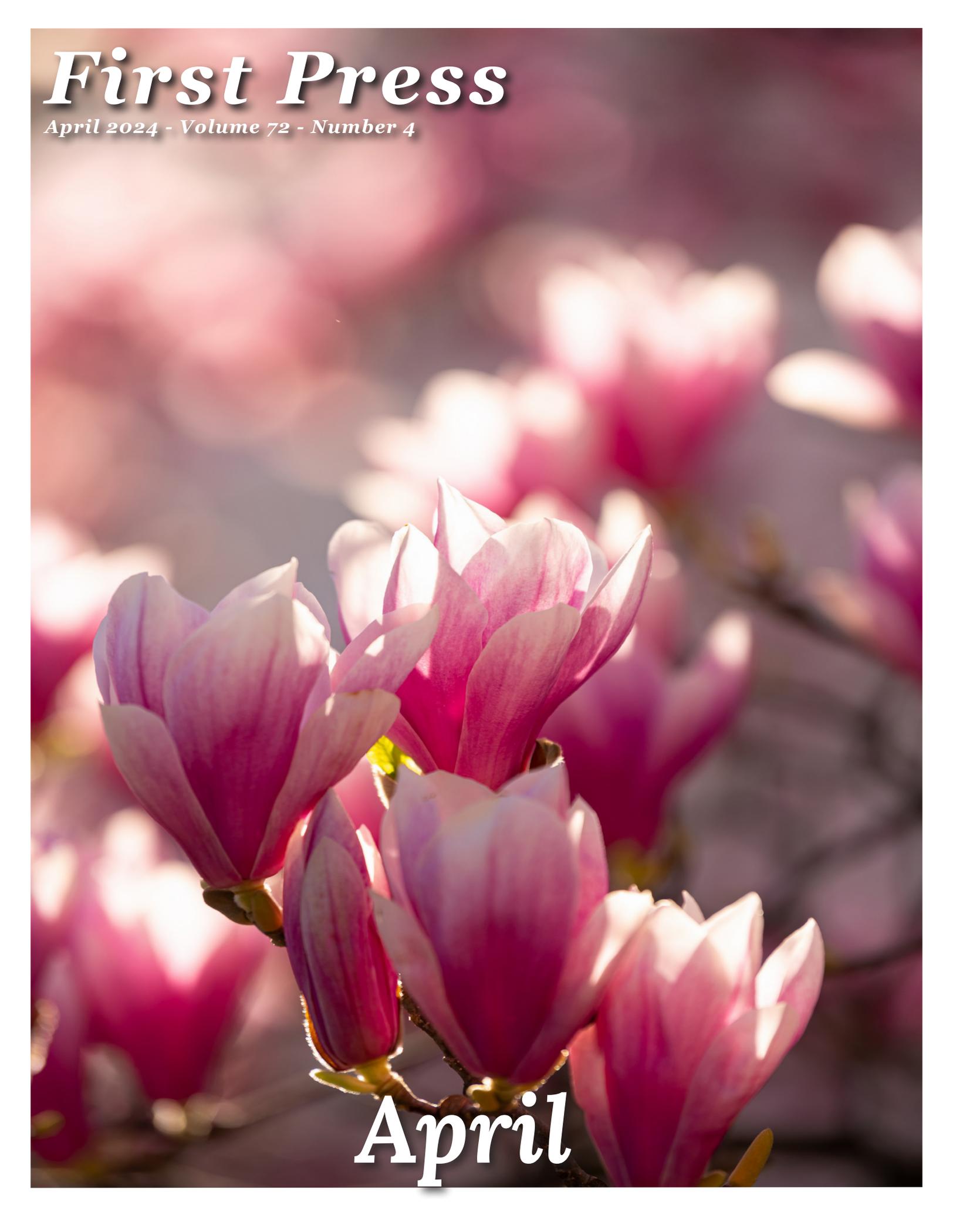


# *First Press*

*April 2024 - Volume 72 - Number 4*



*April*

# Ramblings *from the* Reverend

Friends,

In Paul's magnificent passage of love, I Corinthians 13, his audience is not wedding couples, but rather the church. I Corinthians 13 is just one part of a multiple chapter discourse in which Paul is correcting and encouraging the church in Corinth. At the heart of what Paul is putting forth is the admonition for the church to act in loving community – to take the love that they have received from Christ (a sacrificial love that culminates on the cross and is validated by the empty tomb) and to live out that love with other Christians in the church.

The consistent message of the New Testament is that the church is a community. That the church exists for the mutual encouragement and nurture of one another. The church is to be marked by the kind of communal love that is “patient, and kind, not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.” It is a love that “does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. (The love of the church) never ends.”

What a gift from God that we can belong to a community that places this love as our communal value, the goal to which we aspire. What a challenge it is for all of us individually to participate in the sacrificial love of caring for each other here in the church. The church is the Body of Christ which exists to be in fruitful community with each other.

The church as a community is only one half of what Christ equips the church to be. The church is also called to be an active witness to the inbreaking kingdom of Jesus. Caring for each other is only one of the marks of the true church. Jesus is clear in his calling to the church. In Acts 1 the post-resurrected/pre-ascended Jesus says to his followers, “...You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

To witness to Jesus is to witness to his kingdom. It is to live out lives of sacrificial service, to place the needs of others before our own (because we know that Jesus has already met our deepest needs). It is to be the salt and light that Jesus tells us to be – to flavor the world around us and to shine the light of Christ into the darkness.

There is no competition between these two goals of the church. We are called to be both – a Christ-centered community and a witness to others of the kingdom of Christ.

I'm pleased that we can be both here at First Pres, and I'm personally delighted to be able to do this with all of you!

Blessings –

John

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**First Press Newsletter** (USPS 197-760) is published monthly, except for June and July when combined, by First Presbyterian Church, 318 South Cedar Street, Spokane, WA 99201-7030. Periodical postage paid at Spokane, WA. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to First Press Newsletter, 318 South Cedar Street, Spokane, WA 99201-7030.

# 2024 Easter Lilies

## Lilies Given in Memory of

- **Dulane & Benita Fulton** by Jack & Shirley Vines
- **Jack & Margaret Vines** by Jack & Shirley Vines
- **Don Huddleston** by Jennifer Bonuccelli
- **Joe & Clara Murin** by Rodger & Trudy Pettichord
- **Pat & Eva Pettichord** by Rodger & Trudy Pettichord
- **Brendan Farrington** by The Farrington Family
- **Jim Farrington** by The Farrington Family
- **Lowell Anderson** by The Farrington Family
- **Richard Adams** by Carol Adams
- **Hal & Jean Pierre** by Jackie & Tom Lyons
- **Their Parents** by Karen & Keith Liptack
- **Jerry Gibson** by Beth Gerstenzang
- **Janelle Waltos** by Beth Gerstenzang
- **Luca Synder** by Beth Gerstenzang
- **Charlotte Pearl Glouser** by Pamela Wells
- **Jess Grant Glouser** by Pamela Wells
- **Debbie Potter** by Gary and Myra Watts
- **Glenn Hardy** by Maxine Hardy
- **Jean Hernandez** by Gary and Myra Watts
- **Jennifer Johnson Gilnett** by Ron and Cynthia Johnson
- **Gregory Johnson** by Ron and Cynthia Johnson
- **Mary, Clifford & Michael Miller** by Claudia Hamilton daughter and sister
- **Keith Swenson** by Paula Johnson
- **June & Paul Whittaker** by Frances & John Moore
- **Catherine Klinge** by Sarah Beemer
- **Camilla Phillipson** by Sarah Beemer
- **Dick Schmidt** by Chuck & Liz Schmidt
- **Elaine's Sister Donna** by John and Elaine Carter
- **Linda & Mark Cunningham** by Michael Cunningham
- **Roger Arleth** by Laura Wintersteen-Arleth & Newkirk grandkids
- **CL Kane** by Don and Shirley Whittaker
- **Dr. & Mrs. W. Paul Whittaker** by Don and Shirley Whittaker
- **Dr. Shannon Harrison** by Dr. Brenda Burger
- **Karen Mahan** by Mahan & Kohls Families
- **Jack L. Arkills** by Jan Arkills
- **Dorothy Penman & Dayton Bishop** by Sandi & Jerry Bishop
- **Ed & LuElla Boschee** by Sandi & Jerry Bishop
- **Donna Salgado** by Phillip Salgado
- **Ellsworth & Hilda Salgado** by Phillip & Wendy Salgado

- **Our parents** by Dean & Wendy Largent
- **Sandy Min Mah** by Kezia and Madi Rhodes
- **Barbara Owens** by Paula Clark
- **Donna Lou Sowers** by John & Jen Sowers
- **Richard & Kathleen Frederick** by John & Jen Sowers
- **Thomas & Lenora Kleinpeter** by Tim & Kathy Humphries
- **Robert & Sue Humphries** by Tim & Kathy Humphries
- **Amy Gilstrap Humphries** by Tim & Kathy Humphries
- **Susan Preuninger, sister** by Mary Jane and Brian Jonas
- **Bud & Jo Anna Burt** by The Felgenhauers
- **Bryce Lamotte** by Betty Lamotte
- **Duane Lamotte** by Betty Lamotte
- **Mom, Rhonda, Arlene, & Allen** by Lola Frederick
- **Jerry Wilmot** by Bonnie Wilmot
- **My Loving Parents** by Bonnie Wilmot
- **Luella & Conrad Gladhart** by Barbara Gladhart Rigos
- **Judith Needham** by Rachel Adams
- **Mary Frances & Rich Beckman** by Ned Beckman Family
- **Larry's Parents** by Larry & Linda Yates
- **John, Burt & Vi** by Susan Hawkins
- **Bill & Mary Alice Cunningham** by Dana & LeAnn Cunningham
- **Vickie Grant** by Dana & LeAnn Cunningham
- **Toivo and Hilma Vaikonpaa** by Laila and Doug Kaer
- **William and Dorothy Kaer** by Laila and Doug Kaer
- **Carmen & Robert Hagman** by Kim Hagman

## Lilies Given in Honor of

- **Rodger & Trudy Pettichord** by The Botejue Family
- **Margy Swenson** by Kris and Mitch Swenson
- **Nackie Aldrich** by Kris and Mitch Swenson
- **Anne and Willis Aldrich** by Kris and Mitch Swenson
- **Louise Karn** by Kris and Mitch Swenson
- **Darrel Swenson** by Kris and Mitch Swenson
- **The First Presbyterian Church Staff** by Kim Hagman
- **Bruce Preuninger, brother in law** by Mary Jane and Brian Jonas
- **Lionel Greenwood** by Amy Gilstrap Humphries
- **Our Parents** by Anne & Brian Grow

# Congregational Care

## Diamond Jubilee: April 14th

An excerpt from *A Vision for the Aging Church: Renewing Ministry for and by Seniors* by James M. Houston & Michael Parker, pp.122-125.

“As we review God’s admonitions about how to age successfully, we must remind ourselves that the grace by which we were saved is the same grace by which we live... Though I believe each of us receives a unique call from God, the mission statement for all seniors can be found in Psalm 71:

*For you have been my hope,  
O Sovereign Lord,  
my confidence since my youth.  
From birth I have relied on you...  
Even when I am old and gray,  
do not forsake me, O God,  
till  
I declare your power to the next generation,  
your might to all who are to come. –Psalm 71:5-6, 18*

“When one thinks of elders, one should not think of frail, dependent people. On the contrary, the hope of our nation and perhaps of the world rests on the shoulders of those who comprise the aging church. The most frail and physically dependent person may also be the most ardent prayer warrior or the most wise or courageous member of a congregation. Legions of seniors in churches nationwide can lead the way to a spiritual transformation of America and even the world.

“Elders can leave us a multitude of legacies, including how to live sacrificially, how to appreciate traditions that teach us to value history, how to treasure the moment, how to confront our materialistic tendencies, how to value life from the womb to the grave, how to maintain a robust health and intellect for as long as possible, how to live successfully with and learn from chaos and difficulty, how to live courageously, how to persevere, how to express faith in love, how to genuinely worship, how to live on a budget, how to forgive, how to live in unity with other Christians, how to share one’s faith, and how to glorify and enjoy Christ now and forever.”

**Can you think of seniors at FPC who have taught you some of these things? Come honor them and celebrate them on April 14 in worship!**



**Joining the Church Triumphant**  
Betty Henchel died on March 8, 2024  
Gary Plowman died March 19, 2024  
**Thanks be to God for the lives of his faithful servants.**

SOME OF HISTORY'S MOST ICONIC GAMES, CONVERSATIONS,  
AND MEMORY-MAKING MOMENTS COME TO FPC!



**Intergenerational Gathering**  
April 11 · 5:30-7pm  
Dinner included

*The Gathering*  
  
**Sunday, April 14**  
**Diamond Jubilee Celebration**  
 Join us after worship for intergenerational fellowship and an opportunity to honor our FPC family who are 75+.

JOIN US FOR A VERY SPECIAL  
**EVENSONG**  
 APRIL 25 | 5:30PM  
*Kid's activities available during worship.*

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!**

Feast chef Maureen Ambani and her team will prepare an authentic Kenyan meal then lead us in worship in the sanctuary. We'll also hear about Kara Olmurani, a ministry of healing and prevention for abused children in Kenya




## Financial Update: February 2024

- Pledge income was \$33952 favorable to budget.
- Non-pledge income is \$4271 unfavorable to budget.
- The expenses were \$20919 unfavorable to budget.
- Church operations is \$8781 favorable to budget.

Church Only	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget
Pledge Income	249,035	215,083
Non-pledge Income	33,562	37,833
Other Income	21,394	21,375
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>303,991</b>	<b>274,291</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>324,442</b>	<b>303,523</b>
<b>Income over (under) Expenses</b>	<b>(20,451)</b>	<b>(29,232)</b>

# LAUNCH PAD

## NEW SERIES - THROW BACK

From retro toys to fashion trends, we all love a good throwback. (Especially for grown-ups because it reminds us of being young again.) There are things that remind us of a moment in time, but other things feel timeless and like they're always in style. In this series, kids will travel through the decades and see that the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels are always trending. As we hear from Jesus, we'll see it's always good to be humble, we can always forgive, Jesus is always fair, and love always needs action.



### ELEMENTARY VBS NIGHTS

**JUNE 26**      **JULY 31**      **AUGUST 28**

**TIME: 5:30-8:00**  
**COST: \$15/NIGHT, \$40/ALL THREE**      **REGISTER:**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SOME UPCOMING FUN! USE QR CODES TO REGISTER.

Join Launch Kids for

# CAMP WONDER

LET'S EXPLORE THE WONDER OF WHO GOD IS TOGETHER!

June 24-28, 2024 | 9AM-12PM  
 Ages 3-6  
 Cost: \$30/child

**SPACE IS LIMITED REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!**

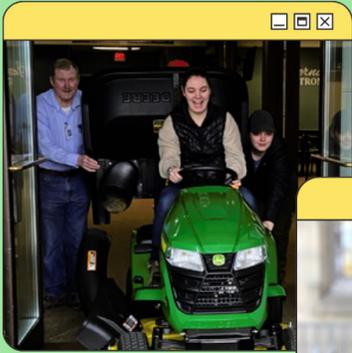
*First Presbyterian presents*

**2024 FAMILY VBS**

**JULY 25-28**  
**COST: \$50/FAMILY**

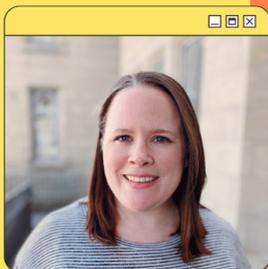
THIS YEAR, VBS IS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY! JOIN US IN THE EVENINGS (5:30-7:30PM) ON JULY 25, 26 AND 27, AND AFTER CHURCH ON JULY 28 FOR A FUN-FILLED FAMILY VBS SUMMER CAMP!

REGISTER YOUR FAMILY ONLINE TODAY!



**Lydia Halma**  
Director of High School Ministry

**Melisa Condon**  
Family Ministries  
Admin. Assistant



**Valli Downey**  
Launch Coordinator

We are so excited to announce that Lydia Halma is our new Director of High School Ministry! We look forward to having her stepping up into this new role. She is a wonderful addition to our student ministries, and we are so grateful to have her! Here's Lydia sharing about her taking on this position:

"I'm thrilled to be stepping into this new director role with our high schoolers! Praxis has meant so much to me as a former intern and leader, and I can't wait to see what God has in store for this ministry now. It's been wonderful to trace God's provision in my own life, and how God brought me to a place where I can say a wholehearted yes to this ministry, and to putting down roots here. It's a gift and an honor to be able to get to know our students and their families, and explore how we all can move forward in following Jesus together!"

Family Ministries is also excited to announce that we've hired Melissa Condon as our new Admin Assistant, and Valli Downey is taking on the new role of Launch Kids Coordinator! Both of them bring such amazing gifts and abilities to these roles, and we are excited to see the ways God uses them!

# Serve.

**“The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.” — John 1:14, The Message**

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## One Parish, One Prisoner

Since introducing our team in worship last month, we’ve heard from a good handful of folks who’d like to participate in an OPOP team! If you’d like to be part of this ministry we know there are over 30 incarcerated friends on a waiting list for a Spokane church group to come alongside them. Talk to Brad ASAP to see if we can get a second team set up!

### OPOP Members



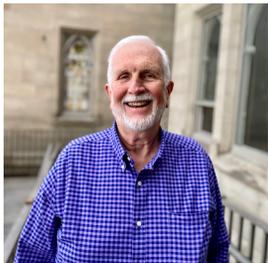
#### **Dan Bair**

My community of friends are not often church-based, or even Christian, having run up too many times against some aspect of its bigotry or rejection. But it is a community where everyone is welcomed, and there is a feeling of safety and support in being both yourself, and who you want to become. I want to share that feeling with our incarcerated friend, who is being reborn with barely clothes and pocket change, and few connections, into a changed world.

Our incarcerated friend didn’t get to pick us, as no newborn chooses to whom it is born. What makes the difference is that, this time, we are choosing them. We hear the language of brother and sister all the time in our liturgy, however, as an only child I don’t really understand what it means to be a sibling. But I can still be family

#### **Colleen Carey**

I was deeply touched by Chris Hoke’s book “Wanted” published in 2015, in which the author describes his journey from becoming a night shift chaplain in a men’s correctional facility to creating a mission to bring prisoners back into full, real lives. OPOP evolved from that work and I feel that FPC is an ideal church to be involved in this mission: One Parish One Prisoner.



#### **Doug Casebolt**

As a hospital chaplain in Orlando, FL, I occasionally was called on to visit the county or city jail as part of the process of requesting a temporary furlough for a prisoner to visit a dying family member in the hospital. Being even that briefly exposed to the prison environment helped me to realize the pain and suffering many of the prisoners were experiencing. Also, it increased my awareness of, “There but for the Grace of God go I!” OPOP gives me an opportunity to possibly alleviate some of the pain I witnessed and, hopefully, contribute to breaking the toxic cycle in one person’s life.

#### **Raeann Decker**

Why did I join the OPOP team?? I attended the introductory meeting to learn about the program and just knew I wanted to participate. And thus far I have been very impressed with the process. We are getting to know Thomas and he’s learning about us as we communicate thru letters. We are also learning ways we can be helpful as he transitions from prison to life after his release. I look forward to seeing how God uses us to bless Thomas as our relationship with Thomas blesses us.





**Brad Hauge**

Scripture speaks in multiple places about not ignoring those in prison, but I had no idea how that could be lived out until I learned about OPOP. I also feel convicted by what our incarcerated friend shared about having never felt accepted by faith-based groups. What a gift to be part of re-writing that narrative in his life!

**Susan Kirkwood**

I wanted to encourage and befriend someone in prison and share Christ's hope.



**Ray McElfish**

I decided to commit to OPOP because I think I have some insight in regards to relating to loneliness and I have seen first hand how working with ex prisoners can potentially make such a difference in their lives and the lives of others.

**Abbey Rodriguez**

Hi I'm Abbey! I chose to be a part of OPOP because I believe that building relationships with people is the best way to heal broken systems. I'm excited to get to know Thomas and learn about his life and experiences.



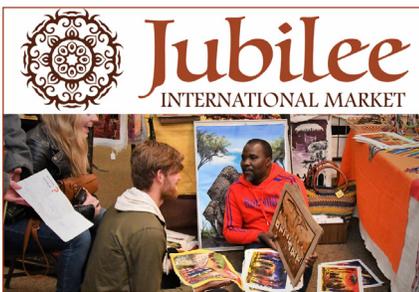
**Carol Tevenan**

I joined OPOP because it is an opportunity to show the love of God by giving needed attention to one who truly needs it. It's also a way to learn more deeply about another human being and oneself.



**We are halfway to having enough people to start at 2nd OPOP team, contact Brad, [bradh@spkanefpc.org](mailto:bradh@spkanefpc.org) if you'd like to be part of getting that off the ground!**

*If interested in participating in any of these opportunities below, email Brad!*



**Jubilee**  
INTERNATIONAL MARKET

In order to bring our beloved Jubilee back this fall we still need a couple people to round out our leadership team. Full training and support available!

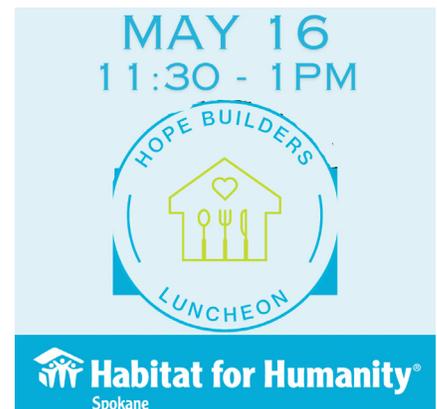


\$30

dine2care  
BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS FOR HOPE  
AND DELIVERED

**BIG TABLE**  
April 25  
7:30-9am

A chance to hear stories of hope while enjoying a world-class breakfast



MAY 16  
11:30 - 1PM

HOPE BUILDERS  
LUNCHEON

Habitat for Humanity®  
Spokane

# First Pres Christian School

## School Auction

Every year we raise money for a full 20% of our school budget, plus tuition assistance! You can help provide for next year in two ways:

1. **Donate** an item or experience.
2. **Purchase a ticket** (or whole table) and join us for the fun! There will be dinner, drinks, games, and live & silent auctions.
3. **Scholarship giving** is a wonderful option if you are unable to attend. You can donate via the QR code or by visiting [fpchristianschool.org/ways-to-give](http://fpchristianschool.org/ways-to-give).

## Half-Day Kindergarten

Kindergarten is an exciting time of growth and learning! That's why we are thrilled to offer a new kindergarten class next year: **half-day kindergarten**. Your student can learn in a loving, small classroom environment with a certified teacher for a shorter length day, allowing them to blossom at their own pace. We will continue to offer our renowned full-day kindergarten class as well! Visit [fpchristianschool.com](http://fpchristianschool.com) for a tour or registration details.

## Flower Basket Fundraiser

May seems far away, but it's just around the corner. Plan to give a favorite teacher or mother figure in your life the gift of living beauty by ordering our famous hanging flower baskets! Many colors will be available. Pick-up will be on Monday, May 6th.

## Now Hiring

It isn't just your imagination: our school is growing! But no matter how much we grow, we will always prioritize small class sizes with loving, experienced teachers for our students. That means it's time to hire for the upcoming school year!

We are beginning the search for two morning preschool teachers (3-year-olds and 4-year-olds). These are hourly roles, \$16.28-\$19.00 per hour, dependent on experience and/or certification. 5-day, 3-day, and 2-day class configurations are available. Interested candidates should email a cover letter and resume with references to [fpoffice@spokanefpc.org](mailto:fpoffice@spokanefpc.org).

First Presbyterian Christian School presents

# A CLASS ACT

**BLACK & WHITE AUCTION**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 27,  
AT 5:30 P.M.  
Spokane Convention Center



Tickets are on sale now



# OPEN REGISTRATION

SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

Preschool through 4th Grade



Preschool K-4th Grade

## NOW FEATURING HALF-DAY KINDERGARTEN



**Register Now!**

# HANGING FLOWER BASKET SALE

**SPOIL THE FLOWER LOVER IN YOUR LIFE WITH BEAUTY... ALL WHILE RAISING MONEY FOR A GREAT SCHOOL!**



VISIT ORDER FORM FOR PICKUP DETAILS



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Christian School

# NOW HIRING FOR THE 2024 - 2025 ACADEMIC YEAR



APPLY NOW | AP

# Shift Calendar

SPRING 2024

## APRIL

- 4/9 SHIFT 6:30-8:30
- 4/16 SPAG NIGHT 6:30-8:30
- 4/23 PAJAMA NIGHT 6:30-8:30
- 4/30 SHIFT NIGHT OUT (meet off campus)

## MAY

- 5/7 SHIFT 6:30-8:30
- 5/14 SHIFT 6:30-8:30
- ★ 5/17-18 OPERATION: AGAPE
- 5/21 CELEBRATION NIGHT 6:30-8:30
- 5/28 ART IN THE PARK 6:30-8:30 (MEET AT THE CHURCH)

## JUNE

- 6/4 Ice Blocking Night 6:30-8:30
- 6/11 FINAL SHIFT! 6:30-8:30

### CONTACT KEZIA

☎ 509-844-2579  
 @shiftjrhi  
 keziar@spokaneffc.org

# Praxis Spring Calendar 2024

- ★ **APRIL 3** NO PRAXIS - SPRING BREAK
- ★ **APRIL 10** PRAXIS IS BACK! 7-9 PM
- ★ **APRIL 17** SPAGHETTI DINNER 7-9 PM
- ★ **APRIL 24** D-GROUPS IN HOMES
- ★ **MAY 1** PRAXIS 7-9 PM
- ★ **MAY 8** PRAXIS 7-9 PM \*WESTPORT APPLICATIONS DUE\*
- ★ **MAY 15** LAST PRAXIS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR
- ★ **MAY 22** SENIOR NIGHT

STAY TUNED FOR SUMMER PRAXIS DATES!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT LYDIA  
 (LYDIAP@SPOKANEFFC.ORG // 619-458-5304)

# MOPS Rummage Sale

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FRIDAY, APRIL 19TH  
9:30AM-3PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH  
9AM-12:30PM

DROP OFF DONATIONS  
THURSDAY, APRIL 18TH 9:30AM - 2PM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT CAMI SCOTT: 717-873-016

# KEEPING *the* FAITH

## A STUDY IN JUDE

Thursday Morning  
Women's Bible Study  
9:30-11:30am, April 18 – May 30

Mark your calendars for two special worship Sundays in April:

- **April 21st** will be Barton Sunday when you'll have an opportunity to hear from the international community of Barton English Language School.
- **April 28th** will be Easter Project Sunday when the group of students from Praxis will share about their mission work in Tijuana over their spring break.



# Coming Up

**April 11** Intergenerational Gathering

**April 14** Diamond Jubilee

**April 19** MOPS Rummage Sale

**April 20** MOPS Rummage Sale

**April 21** Barton Sunday

**April 25** Evensong

**April 27** FPCS Auction

**April 28** EP Sunday

## FPC EASTER & SPRING BREAK Office Hours

MONDAY 4/1: CLOSED

TUESDAY 4/2: CLOSED

WEDNESDAY 4/3: CLOSED

THURSDAY 4/4: OFFICE OPEN 9-12PM

FRIDAY 4/5: OFFICE OPEN 9-12PM

To contact pastoral care during that week, please leave a message with the Deacons Prayer Line: 509-747-1050. Messages will be checked daily and forwarded to the pastor or deacon on call.



## Contacts

(509) 747-1058

Deacon Prayer Line: 747-1050

### Pastoral Team

John Sowers (250)

Betsy Wynne (253)

### Administration

Stephanie Coy (244)

### Worship/Music

Derrick Parker (307)

### Finance

Ella Makarov (242)

### FPC Christian School

Tracy Blue & Shawna Harris (120)

### Family Ministries

Ryan Schmall (163)

### Launch Kids Coordinator

Valli Downey

### Childcare/Nursery

Ryan Childers (164)

### Family Ministries Admin.

Melissa Condon

### High School Ministries

Lydia Halma (161)

### Middle School Ministries

Kezia Rhodes (173)

### Intergenerational Ministries

Brad Hauge (252)

### Young Adult Ministries

Jourdan Cornell

### Adult Ministries

Brenda Norton (243)

### Newcomers Ministry

Sue Reidt (241)

### Communications

April Egly (245)

### Barton English Language School

Becky Rempe (212)

### Office Hours

M-Th 8:30am-4pm and Fridays 8:30am-1pm

### Sunday Worship Services

Online and In-person Sundays at 10am



**First Presbyterian  
Church of Spokane**

For more information about ongoing programs, visit our website at [www.spokanefpc.org](http://www.spokanefpc.org) or pick up a brochure at the church