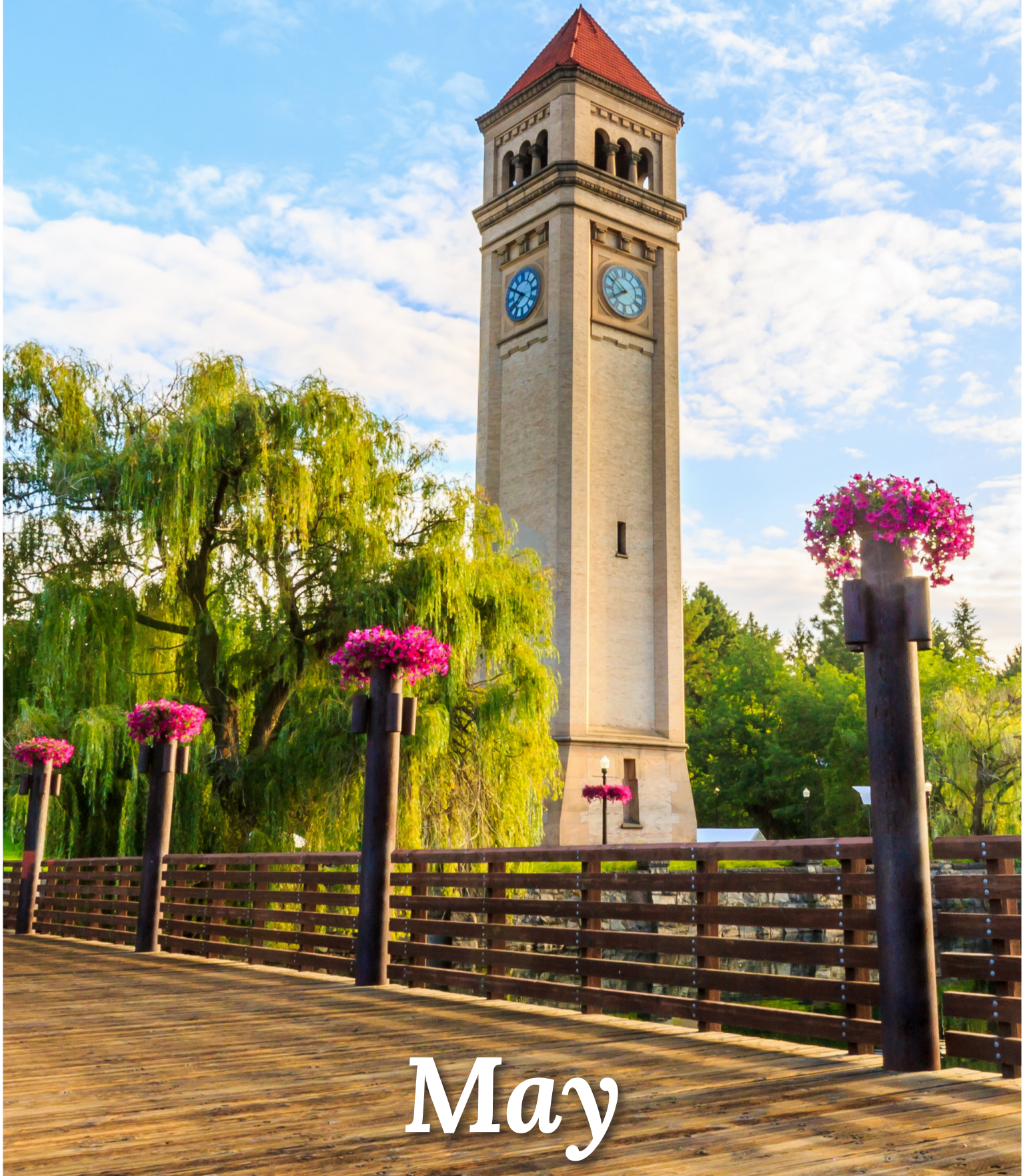


First Press

May 2023 - Volume 71 - Number 5



May

Ramblings *from the* Reverend

Friends,

In their wisdom, the Pastor Nominating Committee that represented First Pres when I was called here, wrote into my “terms of call” that I would receive a sabbatical every seven years I pastored here.

A sabbatical is a time for a pastor to step away and reflect, restore, rest. It is a time, away from the day-to-day, for a pastor to seek the will of God for himself and for the church. The model for this pattern is Jesus himself. Though he never took a sabbatical, per se, the Gospels remind us that he went away to pray frequently. It was through dedicated times of prayer that he determined who he should choose to be his disciples. It was going away to pray that led to the Transfiguration. It was the prayer of Jesus at Gethsemane that clarified and strengthen Jesus to fulfill his call.

I fully realize that I am not Jesus! But I do see his model of getting away for reflection and prayer as being very advantageous for my soul, and for my leadership to this church. So from June 4 until August 15, I will be on sabbatical.

The last sabbatical I had was sponsored by a grant from the Lilly Foundation and enabled Jen and me to travel through the United Kingdom and Ireland. This sabbatical will be spent either here (and Spokane is such a beautiful place in the summertime, that time here will be lovely) or on car trips across the state and down to see my parents in San Diego. I am looking forward to it all.

I will read and walk and golf and pray and plan – all with the gift of doing that without a ticking clock. I know that I will return eager for the next chapter in the life of First Pres Spokane.

In my absence the church will be led by our Session, our wise and visionary elders. The work of the church will be led by our gifted staff, in whom I have all confidence. Betsy Wynne will oversee any pastoral needs, alongside Jourdan Cornell, an ordained Presbyterian pastor, who has joined our staff to work with young adults and to partner with Betsy during my sabbatical.

I look upon us as a church that is strong and healthy. Just as much, I have a vision of us that we are a church that is being stirred by the Holy Spirit to even more community and even more kingdom movement. I feel such peace to be able to go away for these ten weeks and to return energized to minister alongside you as we embrace the call of Jesus on our individual lives and on our life together!

Blessings and Peace,

John

Easter Project 2023

Over spring break, our EP team successfully built a beautiful pink home for Elizabeth, her daughter, Renata, her mother, Concepcion, and her older sister, Celiflora. Throughout the week we were able to learn more about Elizabeth's story as a single mother and the 250 hours of work she completed in order to receive the house. Elizabeth worked with us every day to help build her home, and on Thursday she and her family made our team a delicious lunch that we all enjoyed together. The Holy Spirit was present throughout the week in laughter, food, and being in community with our neighbors in Tijuana. Dios es amor! - Student Ministries



Welcome, Jourdan!

We're excited to be able to introduce Reverend Jourdan Cornell to the staff of First Presbyterian. Jourdan will be primarily working with our young adults, while also providing support in pastoral ministries.

Jourdan and Jonathan (also an ordained PCUSA pastor) and their three kids have been worshiping with us for the last year, since they have been in Spokane.

Jourdan has previously been on the staffs of both the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood and the First Presbyterian Church of Granada Hills.

Jourdan has preached for us before and has participated in various ministries of the church. She will bring wisdom and enthusiasm to First Pres and our ministry to young adults - Welcome, Jourdan!



- John Sowers

SUNDAYS

The Gathering . . . May 14

Join us after worship for time of celebration and fellowship. We'll be serving coffee, tea, lemonade and snacks. There will be activities for kids and kids-at-heart.

If the weather cooperates, we'll gather on the East Lawn ... otherwise in the Fellowship Room

ACT II
COMMUNITIES

Sundays @ 11am
May 21, 28 & June 4



Practice Resurrection ... Part 2

All are welcome to join us anytime. We are exploring what it means to really live like we believe *Jesus is Alive!* We are making it personal and practical; not only talking about the Word but living it (putting it into practice) in relationship with one another. For example, here's something we are considering

Through the power of Christ's resurrection and the Holy Spirit, the Church becomes partakers of God's continual act of inviting and redeeming humanity and creation for our betterment and for life abundant. It is this inviting narrative that should play a significant role in the way we formulate and envision our ministries... In other words, our ministries should be as much about preaching and teaching the gospel of Christ as it is an act of hospitality.

- Espinoza, Missio Nexus



The Gospel according to John

taught by Bruce Gore in the Sanctuary

Relying both on ancient and modern interpreters (including our own beloved Dale Bruner), Bruce follows a verse by verse approach seeking to tie John's teachings to their historical setting, but also exploring the countless ways in which the gospel informs our day to day life of faith in practical and relevant ways. This class offers an enjoyable biblical study for young and old, for "seasoned believers," as well as those who might be new to the life of faith!

Bruce started this series in the fall of 2022. Recordings of each session are available on YouTube. In YouTube, search for 'Bruce Gore' and you'll find it.



THURSDAY NIGHT FUN!



CAN I ASK THAT?



MAY 11

Dinner @ 5:30
Kid's activities
Conversation
Curiosity
Growth

Part II: How to Talk About Identity & Sexuality in the Church

FPC Financial Update

- Pledged income for the third month of the year is \$18,627 unfavorable to budget. Non-Pledged income is \$48,324 favorable to budget.
- The expenses for the third month of the year are \$12,985 unfavorable to budget.
- Net church income/operations was \$108,955 favorable to a budget of -\$13,104 showing an income of \$95,851. Mostly due to Mark-to-Market Value Recognition of LT/ST Presbytery Foundation Investments over three months (\$75,925). Going forward this value recognition will fluctuate monthly depending on change in market value at each month end. Without the market valuation the church operations netted \$19,925 favorable to budget (\$33,030 net income).

Church Only	Year to Date	YTD Budget
Pledged Income	346,765	365,392
Non-Pledged Income	68,323	19,999
Other Income	129,557	37,314
Total Income	\$ 544,645	\$ 422,705
Expense	448,794	435,809
Income over (under) expenses	95,851	(13,104)

Congregational Care

Show your Love, Take them a Meal



Looking for a simple, but meaningful, way to care for one another and strengthen the community life at FPC? We need additional volunteers to prepare and deliver a simple meal to congregation members in temporary need. Many hands make light work! There is no set, advance commitment required. When a need arises, we would notify you and others of the details via email, and you would sign up to provide a meal only if it works for you. The meals are not elaborate, and you could even bring a takeout meal. If interested, please contact Anne Grow growfive@msn.com 509-979-8148 or Bryan Smith brsmith305@icloud.com 240-7439984.

Care & Prayer

CARE & PRAYER

We are a praying church! How can our Prayer Chain pray for you and your loved ones?

At First Presbyterian Church we desire to love one another and our world, through mutual support, encouragement, and service in times of need. Our care is a reflection of God's care for his people.

If you or someone you love is in need of prayer and care, please contact us. We can make hospital or home visits, offer spiritual care and a range of help from the church family, or refer to other sources of support. Just ask!

For prayer or care requests, find the form in the pews on Sundays or during the week, use the online form at the church's website, or leave a voice mail message on the Deacons Prayer Line: 509-747-1050 (checked daily). You can also contact the Pastors through the church office through the week.

Presentation on Dementia & Alzheimer's Disease by Dr. Bruce Dentler

"Dementia Friends" is a 1-hour presentation being offered at FPC on Thursday, May 18, at 6:30pm in the Fireside Room. Dr. Dentler is a retired physician, longtime member of Whitworth Presbyterian Church, and an active member of the Dementia Friendly Communities initiative in Spokane. He will present basic information on what dementia is and isn't, as well as helpful strategies for communicating with those who suffer this disease, with the goal that we might be a more friendly and welcoming church family to families and individuals of all abilities. All are welcome.



May 21st, 2023 10:00am

The FPC Deacons invite our church family to a special worship service & celebration in honor of our congregants 75+ by attending the

Annual Diamond Jubilee Celebration

Hear special messages during Sunday worship service from and about our Jewels in the Crown




*Strengthened by His
Glorious Riches
Ephesians 3:16*

The Deacons will also be hosting a coffee and cookie reception after worship, so stop by and say hello on your way to your Act II classes.

We encourage the entire church family to participate by writing notes of thanks to the generations who have strengthened your faith over the years!

Note cards will be available at the church May 7th & 14th

LAUNCH PAD

LAUNCH KIDS WANTS TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FAMILIES FOR HELPING LEAD OUR LAST SERIES...

Jeanette Schmall, Lesa Painter, Kelli & David Sittser, Katie Heineman, Morgan Zaro, Julie Loew, Rachel Adams, Kael Pitts, Brad Hauge, Erin, Ron, Brenna, & Josh White, Dean & Wendy Largent, Lindsey & Tommy Tribbett



MAY SERIES: HEROIC!

All of us wish we had super powers, but with Jesus we don't need X-ray vision or invisibility to be heroes! In this series, kids will hear stories about the heroes of the early Church - the apostles and disciples who used their unique abilities to spread the good news of Jesus. Through their stories, we'll see that anyone can do great things for God because God gives everyone a mission, the Holy Spirit gives us power, and we're heroic when we work as a team!



HEROES UNITE!

A PARENTS NIGHT OUT!

May 19 - 5:30PM-8:30PM - \$5/Child

Since we're being superheroes for the month of May, we thought it would be fun to have an entire night of fun dedicated to building our super hero skills! Kids are invited to another one of our Friday night gatherings where parents are completely off the hook! We'll be doing all kind of games and activities to help us become better super heroes! Dinner is included, and kids are encouraged to dress up as a super hero! Spots are limited, so don't delay to register!

VBS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We are currently recruiting VBS Volunteers, and we need your help! Whether you can give time setting up decorations, tearing down, or leading a group of kids for the week, there are a multitude of ways to plug in. We can't do it without you! Email Ryan at ryans@spokaneffc.org to volunteer! **For more information about VBS and how to register your child, go to page 11.**



Serve.

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

Meet the Miller Family

We are Mark and Rachel Miller, and our four boys are Abraham (15), Samuel (13), Ezekiel (9), and Jedidiah (7). We serve with Wycliffe Bible Translators in a country of Southeast Asia.

Mark’s story: I (Mark) grew up in Spokane, the son of Ray and Christie Miller of FPC. In college, I got involved with a campus ministry (IVCF) and seemed most “at home” when crossing language and cultural barriers to reach out to international students on campus. Meanwhile I read some books by Wycliffe workers and was fascinated by their stories of people being transformed by engaging the Scriptures in their mother tongue. Upon graduating from WSU in 1993, I went for a month-long Wycliffe orientation (Quest) in southern California. A fellow attendee, Joan Spanne, also had strong ties to Spokane FPC! Two years later, I became a Wycliffe member and was invited to work with the *Lono people who lived in a coastal area of Borneo, just south of the Philippines. The Lono identify strongly with the Islamic faith, but they valued the linguistic work being done by our organization for some of the neighboring ethnic groups, and they asked for Wycliffe’s help to develop materials in their language. God provided a Lono family for me to stay with, and a colleague who served as my mentor. In those early years I learned to speak Lono, and was able to compile some Lono materials.



Rachel’s story: Rachel grew up on an apple and pecan farm in southern New Mexico. Her parents frequently hosted traveling missionary families, including Bible translators. Hearing their stories stirred Rachel’s heart and helped set her on a path toward service with Wycliffe. Not long after her graduation from ORU in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Rachel joined Wycliffe and led a “Scripture Use” team among the Duruma people of Kenya. The Duruma were about to dedicate the NT in their language, but many Duruma pastors were so used to using Swahili in their services that they required some orientation in why and how to use Duruma in church. Rachel and her team of short-term workers were able to come alongside the Duruma churches for that purpose.

Our story: Eventually, Rachel and I each wound up in Dallas to get more linguistics training, and that’s how we met. After some “on again, off again” drama, we tied the knot in 2005. Two years later, having completed my doctoral program in linguistics, Rachel and I moved to Borneo, together with our 3-month old son Abraham. Over the next 15 years, Borneo would be our primary home. Our family grew from three to six. My language work has continued with the Lono community. A basic Lono dictionary was published a few years ago. I’ve been working with a Lono friend to translate a few stories from Scripture in the Lono language. Meanwhile I’ve been able to provide linguistic support to our Wycliffe colleagues and local partners. Currently I serve as Academic Services Director for our entity.



In 2021-22 we made the difficult decision to move to a different region of the country to accommodate our boys' education needs. We miss being closer to the Lono people, and make visits to the area when we can. We are praying for more workers to reach them. Among those workers are the Cook family, who are preparing to move to Borneo and work among the Lono. They are not with our organization, but have similar goals to ours. We will assist them in every way we can.

We're grateful to FPC Spokane for your ongoing support, friendship, and prayers!

With a New Leadership Team, Jubilee International Marketplace can return!

Jubilee International Marketplace has a long history at FPC, starting in 1988. For 30 plus years this two-day celebration of Fair Trade brought together vendors each November that represented artisans from around the world who create beautiful handmade products to sell.

Through the years, Jubilee became a highly anticipated event by the Spokane community. Many shoppers expressed appreciation for FPC's advocacy for fair wages, environmentally safe

production standards, and sustainable relationships with buyers among other criteria established by leaders in Fair Trade. Our last year for Jubilee was 2019.



Now it's time to make a big decision. Can the Jubilee International Marketplace be revived post-pandemic? Do we have leaders among us who share a vision for this event and can bring it back with new energy and vision? The team who've led Jubilee in recent years is eager to support you!



If you are drawn to the concepts of Fair Trade, have organizational skills, and love to draw people across the generations together in service please contact Mary Frankhauser at mfrankhauser@gamil.com

Interested in finding out more information and how YOU can be a part of keeping Fair Trade alive? Join us during Act 2 on May 21st.

First Presbyterian Christian School

Annual Auction

All are invited to join on May 13th at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please scan the QR code to reserve your spot today. If you are unable to attend, but would still like to make a donation to the school, you can do that using the same link on this QR code. Your continued support of the students and staff at First Presbyterian Christian School is appreciated!

First Presbyterian Christian School MARDI GRAS IN MAY!

DINNER & AUCTION

**SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

**Free childcare birth - 5th grade by reservation.
Tickets \$45. Register by May 5! Scan to register!**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Christian School
WHERE CHILDREN LEARN TO LOVE & LOVE TO LEARN

**REGISTER NOW FOR THE
2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR!**



WWW.FPCHRISTIANSCHOOL.ORG

**CALL TO SCHEDULE A TOUR
509-747-9192**

PRAXIS SPRING CALENDAR

2023

3 PRAXIS 7-9
10 PRAXIS 7-9
17 LAST PRAXIS OF
THE SCHOOL YEAR!
7-9
24 SENIOR DINNER

MAY



CONTACT INFO:

KEZIA: 509-747-1058 EX 175
CELL: 509-844-2579
KEZIAR@SPOKANEFPC.ORG
ALIVIA: ALIVIA@SPOKANEFPC.ORG
RACHEL: RACHEL@SPOKANEFPC.ORG

MAY

2 Shift 6:30-8:30

5-6 30 Hour Famine!

9 Shift 6:30-8:30

12 All Middle School Late
Nite Party @Whitworth
Church 5pm-12am

16 Art in the Park Night
6:30-8:30

23 Last Shift of the School
Year! 6:30-8:30

SHIFT SPRING CALENDAR 2023

Contact Info:

Kezia:
509-747-1058 ex 175
cell: 509-844-2579
keziar@spokaneffc.org
Alivia:
aliviab@spokaneffc.org
Rachel:
rachelh@spokaneffc.org

Barton
English
Language
School
invites you
to celebrate
the end of
spring term
with us!

**BARTON
LAWN
PARTY**

**May 26
10 AM-NOON
318 S. Cedar St**

SUMMER FUN AT FIRST PRES!



ALL Y'ALL CAMP

June 16-18 - \$30/Group - Spots are limited!

Join us for our first ever First Pres All Y'all Camp! We'll be gathering at a group site at Bell Bay Campground on Lake Coeur d'Alene for a weekend of outdoor fun! We'll be having group events, campfires, and spend some time worshipping together in the great outdoors! It's going to be an amazing time, and we hope you can join us! Campsites for a group are \$30. You can also join us for the evening on Friday or anytime during the day on Saturday! For more info or questions, contact ryans@spokaneffc.org.



VBS

June 26-30 for preschool-5th grade

This Summer is going to be SUPER! Get ready for SUPER VBS WORLD where we'll be jumping into what the Kingdom of God is all about and how it's not just something for us later but it's here and now, too! We'll be helping kids think about the gifts we're giving and how we can use them to bring the love of God to the world around us every day! It will be a week filled with singing together, unforgettable activities, new friends, and growing closer to Jesus! Use the QR code to register.



ENCOUNTER

July 17th-20th

Calling all incoming 5th-9th graders: this summer we have a service experience that has been created uniquely for you! July 17th-20th, prepare for a week of encounters. Throughout the Bible, we see tons of different people encounter the Lord, and walk away completely transformed! We believe those sorts of encounters are still happening today in countless different ways. This week will be full of service projects around our community, fun bonding time with each other, and plenty of time to encounter the Holy Spirit. If you're interested in joining us this summer, register at spokaneffc.org/events no later than June 17th. The cost of the week is \$50.00 (scholarships will be available). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Lydia Halma, lydiap@spokaneffc.org.



CAMP INVENTION

July 24-28, 2023

Sign up your young inventor for Camp Invention at First Presbyterian Christian School to help them discover innovative role models and learn how to bring their creative ideas to life. Go to www.invent.org for more information.

**...MORE SUMMER
EVENTS TO COME
FOR ALL AGES!**

Coming Up

- May 13 *FPCS Auction*
May 14 *The Gathering*
May 19 *Parent's Night Out*
May 21 *Diamond Jubilee*
VBS Paint & Prep
May 26 *Barton Lawn Party*
June 16-18 *All Y'All Camp*
June 26-30 *VBS*
July 23-27 *Camp Invention*

Contacts

(509) 747-1058

Pastoral Team

John Sowers (250)

Betsy Wynne (253)

Director of Administration

Stephanie Coy (244)

Worship/Music

Derrick Parker (307)

FPC Christian School

Gretchen Hausman (120)

Family Ministries

Ryan Schmall (163)

Childcare/Nursery

Rachel Pitts (164)

Student Ministries

Kezia Rhodes (175)

Intergenerational Ministries

Brad Hauge (252)

Preteen Ministries

Lydia Halma (162)

Adult Ministries

Brenda Norton (243)

Newcomers Ministry

Sue Reidt (241)

Communications

April Egly (245)

Barton School

Becky Rempe (212)

Deacon Prayer Line: 747-1050

Office Hours

M-Th 8:30am-4pm and F 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 or pick up a brochure at the church