

First Press

August 2023 - Volume 71 - Number 7



August

Ramblings *from the* Reverend

Greetings FPC family,

When I was asked to write this newsletter article, my first thought was, there's not too much to say! Writing in mid-July, there is just not much happening in the church's activity calendar these days. We are not yet ready to report on the summer, not ready to begin announcing the fall's activities.

We're somewhere in the middle of a series of guest preachers, somewhere in the middle of John's sabbatical leave. Staffing transitions are ongoing. We've had some "findings" from our consultancy process, but the bulk of the real work is still in front of us, to be picked up again when John returns and the program year gets going. And the conversations that occurred this past spring on sexuality and gender were only preliminary—with nothing yet resolved or concluded, not even a full presentation of the concerns. So what can be said about any of it?

It's surprised me, then, to discover that it's precisely the "in-between" season that deserves our attention. Because I've also heard many stories of you, beloved church, living through "in-between" times in your own lives recently. In the summer, parents are glad last year is over, hopeful for what next year will bring, but figuring out how in the meantime to fill these empty weeks with kids. Recent graduates and newly marrieds have to figure out what comes next. Some of you have lost jobs unexpectedly, others have retired or taken new positions—but have not yet started. How long before we can get into a new routine of predictability? Others have been thrust into seasons of illness or caring for loved ones in decline, grieving the losses—not by choice, thrust into a wilderness with no clear signs, where you don't know the way out. When will this end? How will we survive? Will we even make it through the "in-between" into some promised land?

And our favorite question of all: What should we do about it? Is there any way to hasten through these liminal times? Shouldn't we just take some action, sooner than later? Make decisions, call it, hurry to the next thing, accomplish some small change so we can move on?

Sometimes we can, but often we can't. We have to wait—for the seasons to turn, for opportunities to be brought to us by the Lord's hand, for things to resolve, for the time to be ripe. The Acts of the Apostles (our summer sermon text) begins with the disciples asking Jesus, "Is this the time when you will restore the kingdom?" They're ready, finally, for the Messiah to declare victory over Jerusalem, for the real action to begin. But Jesus replies, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority." In other words—nope! Not yet! The disciples must continue living in the in-between time, waiting for Jesus to come again, without knowing when it will happen.

And how do Christians wait? The same way that the church has been waiting for the Lord's return for nearly two millennia, since Acts 1:11. With the disciplines of the community that keep us available to the Holy Spirit's work (growing discipleship through prayer & scripture, worship, witness, service and fellowship). With the practices that to an undiscerning outsider may look like "rearranging the chairs on the deck of the Titanic" but to the faithful, are the very reality of our abiding in Jesus (John 15:4). And if you've been following our series of sermons on Acts, you know how amazing such action can be, even in the interim!

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Summer is a time when fruit ripens. Cherries and peaches and tomatoes and pumpkins, swell day by day, change color shade by shade, become sweeter and richer and more ready for harvest. Liminal seasons are the time when the Holy Spirit grows within us, bringing the fruit that only Jesus's Spirit can: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. In contrast to the special gifts of the Spirit, unique to each believer, each of these fruits is required for each of the people of God, never one without the others. I'm praying that all of us, in whatever tensions we must endure, will focus on that fruit and trust in God's slow work to "restore the kingdom" in his perfect timing. To God be the glory, in our lives and in our church!

With you in the in-between time, in Christ's love – Rev. Betsy Wynne, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care

ENCOUNTER:SPOKANE RECAP



Encounter:Spokane was a great time of service and community with 20 of our 5th-9th grade students! We spent the week discussing the incarnation and what it means that God became human in Jesus, and how that impacts our call to love and serve our neighbors, and to see Jesus in the face of whoever we are serving. Worship, dynamite dodgeball, small group time, and serving at Thrive, building and stocking Little Free Pantries, Russet Hill English Club, making sack lunches for our neighbors who are unhoused, pulling weeds with Growing Neighbors at the Korean Presbyterian Church garden, and preparing a community meal made for a full and fun week!



Celebrating Staff Anniversaries

5 Years



Stephanie Coy

What led you to FPC?

Carol Williams invited me to attend Unwrap the Gift. I sat next to a mom who talked about MOPS and encouraged me to register. After 4 years with MOPS, Brian Grow hired me as the HR manager.

What is your favorite thing about your work at FPC?

Hands down, the staff. And, I can walk to work in the mornings. And, that everyday is a different day. But most of all, you can feel Holy Spirit move here.

Generally, what makes you smile?

Montana's big sky, late nights on the front porch swing, outdoor adventures, and friend-time.



Ann Harrison

What led you to FPC?

Congregant, Betty Gilliland suggested I might like working at FPC. She was correct.

What is your favorite thing about your work at FPC?

The building and the people who pass through it.

Generally, what makes you smile?

Among the many, many things that make me smile, are making new discoveries of God's love, texts from my family, a nice cuppa' tea or DOMA Coffee, and the British tv show, "Would I Lie to You?"



Lydia Halma

What led you to FPC?

I was a summer fellow from Whitworth the summer after I graduated. I loved getting to know the congregation and experience a variety of ministries all summer long, and at the end of the summer when positions with Praxis and children's ministry were available, I knew I wanted to stay on staff! FPC felt like home.

What is your favorite thing about your work at FPC?

I love the creativity and variety of ministry. I might be jumping around on stage in a Luigi costume for VBS, leading Bible study with 4th/5th graders, writing curriculum, or making up a ridiculous game and it's all important to making kids know they're part of God's family!

Generally, what makes you smile?

I love a good pun! (Ask Brad, when I was the Praxis intern I would get "fired" pretty routinely for them.)

6 Years



Patrick Mwange

What led you to FPC?

My mom led me to First Pres because she is a pastor and found out about the church through World Relief. We came to the church and met Gene & Barbara.

What is your favorite thing about your work at FPC?

I love that the people at the church are very nice and it is very peaceful.

Generally, what makes you smile?

In General, when I have peace I smile and am happy.



Becky Rempe

What led you to FPC?

Barton School. When we first moved to Spokane, I was impressed that FPC offered ESL classes/tutoring.

What is your favorite thing about your work at FPC?

I enjoy working with FPC Staff and Barton Volunteers as we welcome the greater Spokane community into this space.

Generally, what makes you smile?

Evidence of love.

7 Years



Derrick Parker

What led you to FPC?

My wife, Heather Parker grew up going to this church. So it was natural to visit when we moved here in 2009/10 and we've been here ever since.

What is your favorite thing about your work at FPC?

My favorite thing is working with the staff and volunteers, as we endeavor to bring God's Kingdom to earth.

Generally, what makes you smile?

Being with my amazing family!



Welcome Elders Class of 2026

Class of 2026 Elders are Scott Bockstruck, Greg Loew, Colleen Carey, Luanne Jaime.



FPC Night at the Ballpark Wednesday, August 16th



We'll enjoy the game together in a section of bench seats. The cost is \$6 per person. This is a Family Feast Night so hot dogs, pop & ice cream will all be \$2 each. Head to the FPC Event's page for more information.

Congregational Care

Grief Share



GriefShare will begin Wednesday Sept. 6th and run through Dec 6th (we will be skipping the week of Thanksgiving Nov 22nd). 6:00pm-7:30pm in the Fireside Room. With all new videos and revised participants guides, this grief group aims to be helpful to individuals within our church and an outreach into our community. Signups are open now; call Rene at the church office or visit griefshare.org and search for groups in Spokane.

In Case of Emergency

In Case of Emergency... Call the Deacons Prayer Line 509-747-1050

In the summer months, there is always someone on call in case of emergencies. If you or someone you know is in need of an urgent pastoral visit, your best bet may be to leave a message on the Deacons Prayer Line. Those messages are checked daily by the deacons, 24/7/365, and forwarded to the pastor on call as required. (The general church voice line is only checked during office hours, Mon-Thurs in the summer!)



From the Counselor's corner

We move from awkward post Covid realities into reconnecting again, still facing the risks that have captured us into isolation. Attachment to nature, to one another and to our Creator God moves deeply to fill the marrow of our bones depleted from this essence. We are grateful. Blessed. Liberated. We are not in the dark, the shadows and the bleak winter of Covid. There is movement and we are alive with choices. The Spirit of Life cannot be killed. Nor can our souls. May each of us meditate into calmness the beauty to be alive.

Gary Steeves, M.Ed.—Pastoral Counselor and Licensed Mental Health Counselor
Gary continues to offer counseling via teletherapy.
206-957-4707 or GSteeves@Samaritanps.org

Joining the Church Triumphant

Roger Brown died on June 24, 2023

Thanks be to God for the lives of his faithful servants.

LAUNCH PAD



NEW KIDS SERIES! BEHIND THE SCENES

The most important part of any play is what happens “behind the scenes.” There’s lighting, wardrobe, casting, playwriting — so much has to happen perfectly to bring the production together! In the story of Esther, there is a whole lot going on behind the scenes, too. In this four-week series, kids will discover the most important character in Esther’s story isn’t always center-stage, but can often be found behind the scenes working, helping, giving support and giving peace. (Spoiler alert: It’s God!)

YOU ARE INVITED TO
LAUNCH KIDS

**WET & WACKY
WEDNESDAYS!**

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT THE MANITO SPLASH PAD
JULY 12-AUGUST 16
6:00PM-7:00PM

GRAB YOUR DINNER AND BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY TO MANITO FOR
SNACKS, GAMES, WATER, AND WACKINESS!

WET & WACKY WEDNESDAYS

Every Wednesday from 6:00PM-7:00PM July 12-August 16 - At the Manito Splash Pad
The whole family is invited each Wednesday night to grab their dinner and bring it over to Manito Park where we’ll spend our Summer evenings eating together, playing family games, having fun in the splash pad, and getting up to some fun and wacky things together! We’d love to have your family join us for these nights of connection together!

NOW HIRING

Launch kids is hiring Chidcare Workers. For more information please reach out to Ryan, Ryans@spokaneipc.org.

Serve.

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

Roosevelt Work Day! August 30th, 1-3pm

Save the date and come help Roosevelt Elementary staff and teachers prepare for the new school year.

This long-standing tradition is vitally important and so appreciated by our church's neighborhood school! We'll have both indoor work (think making copies, organizing classroom items, etc) and outdoor work (spreading bark, trimming bushes, etc).

We usually need a crew of around 20 folks to make it happen and we know you'll step up for Roosevelt again this summer! Sign up at spokaneipc.org or on a Sunday morning to let us know you'll be there!



MCOC Shoe Drive

Mission Community Outreach Center is holding their 13th annual Shoe Drive. Please bring your donations to the church between now and August 10th.

MCOC'S 13TH ANNUAL
SHOE DRIVE

CAN YOU DONATE JUST **1** PAIR?

WE ARE COLLECTING NEW ATHLETIC
SHOES & SOCKS FOR KIDS

SIZES NEEDED: TODDLER 8-ADULT 12
DONATIONS NEEDED BY AUGUST 10TH

DONATION HOURS:
MONDAY & THURSDAY 1-4PM
WEDNESDAY 10AM-1PM

MONETARY DONATIONS APPRECIATED
CONTACT US TO SET UP AN ALTERNATIVE DROP OFF TIME
1906 E. MISSION (509) 536-1084 MCOC.SPOKANE@GMAIL.COM

FPC Mission Partners

There are over 25 local and international mission partners First Pres works with! The church seeks to establish mutually supportive relationships with local and international ministries and other organizations to support their gospel work with prayer and finances and to engage our congregation in their work so that together we may be transformed by the Holy Spirit. If you are interested in learning more the organizations we work with, please visit our Mission Partners webpage: www.spokanefpc.org/mission-partners.



FPC Financial Update

- Pledged income for the sixth month of the year is \$7,565 favorable to budget. Non-Pledged income is \$69,480 favorable to budget.
- The expenses for the sixth month of the year are \$20,306 favorable to budget.
- Church Operations was \$121,716 favorable to a budget of -\$154,464 showing an income of -\$32,747. Note to financial statements: I have moved all transactions (income and expense) related to Long Term Investments with Presbytery Foundation and 3rd and Cedar to a new section of the income statement called Other Income and Expenses. This section sits below the Church Operations. There will still be a Net Income/Loss line that takes Church Operations and Other Income and Expenses into account. The Mark to Market Value Recognition will still sit below the Net Income/Loss line. In the 2024 budget process all sections of the income statement will be budgeted except the Mark to Market Value Recognition.
- Net Church Income/Loss was \$128,698 favorable to budget of -142,040 showing an income of -\$13,341

Financial Update - 2022 Operating Budget		
June-23		
Church Only	Year to Date	YTD Budget
Pledged Income	\$ 623,118	\$ 615,553
Non-Pledged Income	114,843	45,363
Other Income	84,766	60,400
Total Income	\$ 822,727	\$ 721,316
Expense	855,474	875,779
Income over (under) expenses	\$ (32,747)	\$ (154,464)

First Presbyterian Christian School



First Presbyterian Christian School is planning for new STEM programming for the 2023-2024 school year! With the help of Sarah Hauge's grant writing skills, we were awarded two STEM grants (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). STCU granted us \$10,000 through their new Here for Good Foundation and Avista awarded us \$5,000. These two grants together will allow us the funding to:

- Create an amazing STEM Room in the school, complete with a Maker Space, new STEM materials, books, and equipment.
- Pay teachers/people to teach after school preschool STEM electives (12:45 – 1:30 p.m.) and after school K-3rd Grade STEM electives (3:15 – 4:15 p.m.). We will be looking for some people who have skills in science, technology, engineering, and math to be guest teachers for these classes.
- **Allow FPCS students, as well as other children in our community, to attend these classes for free. We will be inviting friends from FPC Family Ministries, Thrive International, Feast World Kitchen, and Barton School.**
- Fully fund two Family STEM Nights this year, open to school families, church families, and families in our community.



We are grateful for this opportunity to expand our school offerings and our connection with the church and community. More information to come in September! Please contact Tracy Blue tracyb@spokaneipc.org or Shawna Harris shawnah@spokaneipc.org or call 509-5-747-9192 if you would be interested in helping with this project!



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

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





WWW.FPCCHRISTIANSCHOOL.ORG

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



PRAXIS & SHIFT SUMMER CALENDAR

JUNE

16 Backyard Movie @ the 7th Ave House! 7:30-9:30pm

28 Praxis/Shift in the Park @ Comstock 6:30-8pm

AUGUST

16 Spokane Indians Baseball Game 6:00pm

30 Praxis/Shift in the Park @ Comstock 6:30-8pm

JULY

12 Lake Day! Time TBD

26 Movie at the Garland Theatre Time TBD

CONTACT INFO:

Kezia: 509-747-1058
ex 175
+ cell: 509-844-2579
keziar@spokaneipc.org
Alivia:
aliviab@spokaneipc.org

WESTPORT DATES:

6/14 Prep Meeting #1: 6:30-9pm

6/26-30 First Pres VBS

7/9 Prep Meeting #2: 6:30-9pm

7/20 Decoration Shift 3-5pm

7/23 Prep Meeting #3: 1-6pm

7/29-8/6 Serving in Westport



Porch chat

YOUNG ADULTS & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

August 13 @ Noon 1717 W. 8th Ave
lunch provided

Young Adults Westport Trip
August 6-11

Join the young adults as we serve youth in Westport

Contact Jourdan if you are interested!
jourdanc@spokaneipc.org

SUMMER DROP-IN CHOIR


AUGUST 20

REHEARSALS WILL BE AT 8:45AM THE DAY-OF

SIGN UP ONLINE ON THE FPC EVENT PAGE
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT DERRICK: DERRICKP@SPOKANEFPC.ORG



Every Thursday • Summer 2023
7am • FPC • All Ages



Men's
Bible
Study

Book of James & More!
June 22 - August 24

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED MOPPETS

Our Mops (Mothers of Preschoolers) program will be starting in September. We have 100 mamas along with their children meeting monthly, typically on the first Tuesday of the month, from September to May. We meet each month from 9:15-11:45am.

In order to provide a safe, loving and supportive environment for babies and preschoolers while their moms have some time together, we need the help of men and women who are willing to join our childcare team. With several long-serving caregivers stepping away from our team, we are in serious need of new volunteers. We welcome your help even if it is on an occasional basis.

Please consider helping us if you can. For more information, please contact Ryans@spokanefpc.org.

Coming Up

- Aug 6-11 Young Adults Westport Trip*
- Aug 13 Porch Chat*
- Aug 16 FPC Night at the Ballpark*
- Aug 20 Drop-In Choir*
- Aug 30 Roosevelt Work Day*

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

Tracy Blue & Shawna Harris (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)

Young Adult Ministries

Jourdan Cornell

Adult Ministries

Brenda Norton (243)

Newcomers Ministry

Sue Reidt (241)

Communications

April Egly (245)

Barton School

Becky Rempe (212)

Deacon Prayer Line: 747-1050

Summer Office Hours

M-Th 9am-1pm and closed Fridays

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