

8<sup>th</sup> & Holly newsletter  
First Presbyterian Church  
85 South Holly Street  
Medford, Oregon 97501

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Faithful to God; Grounded in Love,  
responsive to the world.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Church

8<sup>th</sup> & Holly

Our 138<sup>th</sup> year

Nurturing people in body, mind, and soul for the glory of God

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Medford, Oregon

October 2023

## From the pastor's study

By Murray Richmond

When I lived in Durham, North Carolina, our local movie theater was open to doing a festival of movies about faith, and I was asked to be on the committee to help choose the films for the festival. Our job was to come up with up to eight films that highlighted faith. We had our first meeting soon after, which turned out to be our last meeting as well.

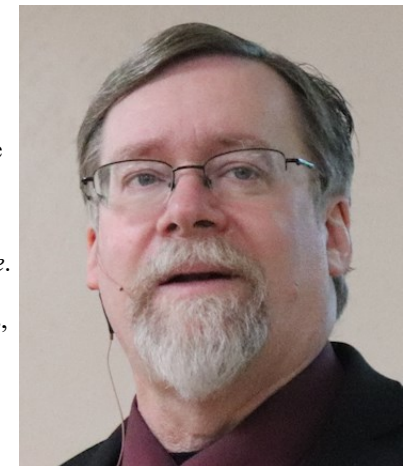
The group was split into two very different sides. One side wanted to show only explicitly Christian movies, like *Ben Hur*, *The Ten Commandments*, and *The Hiding Place*. The other side, and I was on this side, wanted to show movies that help you think about Christian themes. Many of the movies we suggested were considered to be secular movies, but movies that made a point that Christians could discuss, like generosity, atonement, or faith.

At one point during our meeting the side I was on was accused of not being Christian. The meeting never recovered from that remark and the theater owner realized that no matter which movies were chosen, it was going to be a controversial film festival, more controversial than the annual Gay and Lesbian film festival they sponsored.

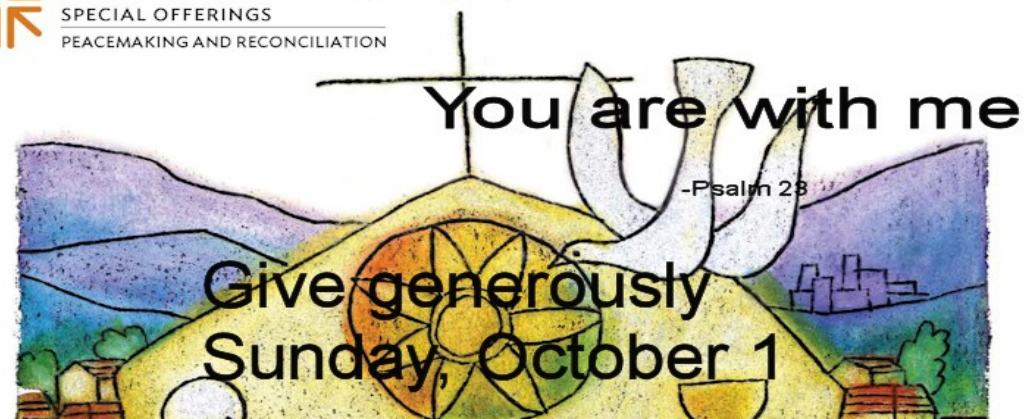
The question we raised but could not answer was, "What makes a movie a Christian movie?" You could ask the same question of novels, or songs, or visual art.

Some people believe that for it to be Christian, it has to specifically mention God, or Jesus. I don't run with that crowd. I think it has to highlight Christian values, but not necessarily invoke the Bible or the names of God and Jesus. If it helps me think more constructively about our faith, then it may not be explicitly Christian, but it helps me be a better Christian.

In October we will continue looking at how movies can help us understand the Gospel better. We'll be looking first at *Bruce Almighty*, then *The Fisher King*, and then *Driving Miss Daisy* followed by a lesser-known film, *Babette's Feast*. If you are looking for something to watch in October, I can recommend all of these to you. (*The Fisher King* has more adult themes than the other movies.) Mike will pick up the series with *It's a Wonderful Life*. There are many things that help us understand our faith better, and I think these movies can help us. I hope during this series you find that to be true as well.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



On World Communion Sunday we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved and we are not alone. We worship together and are fed from Scripture and at Christ's table of peace. Extending the peace of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith—a witness to what it means for us to be the Church, together. Through participation in the Peace and Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. We are not alone. Peace begins with each of us.

resolve  
Center for Dispute Resolution  
and Restorative Justice

This year at First Presbyterian we continue a local tradition, sharing one-quarter of all we receive with the Resolve Center for Dispute Resolution and Restorative Justice. One quarter is shared with peacemaking work in our Presbytery of the Cascades and half goes to peacemaking by PCUSA global mission program.

## Giardinelli returns for October Jazz Vespers

Guitar player Allen Giardinelli returns for Jazz Vespers on October 8, backed by two well-known musicians. Giardinelli, a newcomer to the Southern Oregon music scene, played vespers this past April.

Joining him for the 5 p.m. service are Mark Hamersly on bass and Theresa McCoy on drums.

Giardinelli's been a professional musician for three decades. Raised by two musicians – his mom was a classical violinist, his dad a progressive rocker and European talent scout for RCA records – Giardinelli writes on his Facebook page that after years of jazz guitar work, he's experimenting with blues, funk, and rock.

## Classical Vespers

Pianist Anna-Christina Stretetz has the stage to herself for our October 22 Classical Vespers service. Her most recent appearance at vespers came as accompanist for Braydon Ross's French horn recital this August. Stretetz appears with both Southern Oregon University and Rogue Community College musicians and presented a solo piano recital at Rogue Valley Manor on September 28.

The October 22 Classical Vespers begins at 5 p.m.



# October at First

**1 Sunday World Communion Sunday, Peacemaking offering**  
8:30 a.m. **Informal worship**, Fellowship Hall  
9:45 a.m. **Book of Acts** class, Fireside Room  
11 a.m. **Traditional worship**, Sanctuary

**2 Monday**  
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women's meeting**, Fellowship Hall

**3 Tuesday**  
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom  
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.

**4 Wednesday**  
5:30 p.m. **Choir Practice**, Sanctuary

**5 Thursday**  
7 p.m. **10 Women of the Bible** class, Fireside Room and Zoom

**6 Friday**  
6:30 p.m. **"It Checks Out" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fellowship Hall

**7 Saturday**  
7 p.m. **"Circle of Friends" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room

**8 Sunday**  
8:30 a.m. **Informal worship**, Fellowship Hall  
9:45 a.m. **Book of Acts** class, Fireside Room  
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary  
Noon, **Worship Committee**, Fireside Room  
5 p.m. **Jazz Vespers**, Allen Giardinelli Trio, Sanctuary

**9 Monday**  
4:15 p.m. **Christian Ed Committee**, Library  
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women's meeting**, Fellowship Hall  
6:30 p.m. **Mission Committee**, Fireplace Room

**10 Tuesday**  
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom  
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.

**11 Wednesday**  
5:30 p.m. **Choir Practice**, Sanctuary

**12 Thursday**  
7 p.m. **10 Women of the Bible** class, Fireside Room and Zoom

**13 Friday**  
6:30 p.m. **"It Checks Out" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fellowship Hall

**14 Saturday**  
7 p.m. **"Circle of Friends" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room

**15 Sunday**  
8:30 a.m. **Informal worship**, Fellowship Hall  
9:45 a.m. **Book of Acts** class, Fireside Room

11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary  
12:30 p.m. **Deacons**, Fireside Room

**16 Monday**  
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women's meeting**, Fellowship Hall

**17 Tuesday**  
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom  
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.

**18 Wednesday**  
5:30 p.m. **Choir Practice**, Sanctuary

**19 Thursday**  
9 a.m. **Personnel Committee**, Library  
10 a.m. **Finance Committee**, workroom

7 p.m. **10 Women of the Bible** class, Fireside Room and Zoom

**20 Friday**  
6:30 p.m. **"It Checks Out" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fellowship Hall

**21 Saturday**  
5:30 p.m. **Stewardship dinner**, Fellowship Hall  
7 p.m. **"Circle of Friends" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room

**22 Sunday Consecration Sunday**  
8:30 a.m. **Informal worship**, Fellowship Hall  
9:45 a.m. **Book of Acts** class, Fireside Room

11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary  
5 p.m. **Classical Vespers**, Anna-Christina Stretetz, Sanctuary

**23 Monday**  
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women's meeting**, Fellowship Hall

**24 Tuesday**  
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom  
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.

**25 Wednesday**  
5:30 p.m. **Choir Practice**, Sanctuary

**26 Thursday**  
7 p.m. **10 Women of the Bible** class, Fireside Room and Zoom

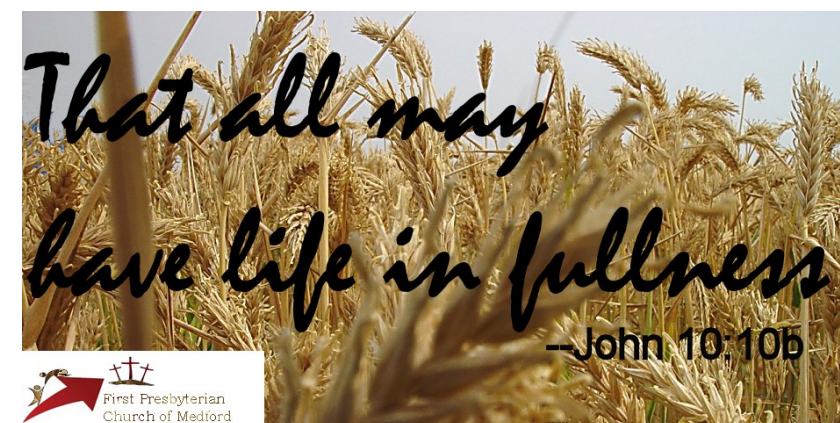
**27 Friday**  
6:30 p.m. **"It Checks Out" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fellowship Hall

**28 Saturday**  
7 p.m. **"Circle of Friends" Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room

**29 Sunday**  
8:30 a.m. **Informal worship**, Fellowship Hall  
9:45 a.m. **Book of Acts** class, Fireside Room  
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary

**30 Monday**  
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women's meeting**, Fellowship Hall

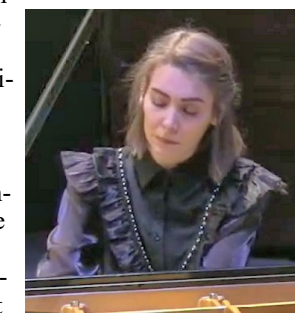
**31 Tuesday**  
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom  
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.



It's time to think about how each of us fits into the work of First Presbyterian Church. Our Finance Committee and Session are busy preparing a budget for 2024. They are talking about goals that implement the new mission and vision statements we adopted a few months ago:

*Nurturing people in body, mind, and soul for the glory of God.  
Faithful to God, grounded in love, responsive to our world.*

You are invited to be part of that conversation at a festive congregational dinner on Saturday, October 21 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The after-dinner speaker is Iryna Kudielina, the Ukrainian pianist who has played for us many times this year. She has a story to tell about living in a troubled world.



Iryna Kudielina

The theme of this year's fall stewardship campaign comes from the Gospel of John's story of the Good Shepherd. Jesus tells us he comes "That all may have life in fullness." As you prayerfully consider both your financial and your physical support for ministries of First Presbyterian in 2024, consider what we can do together for life in fullness, nurturing people in body, mind and soul for the Glory of God.

Come for an evening of celebration, and preparation for making our annual pledges at worship on Sunday, October 22. The meal will be North Carolina pork barbeque prepared by Pastor Murray.

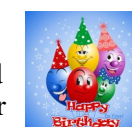
## Think candy!

October's Food of the Month is individually wrapped candy for the sack lunch ministry. Think Halloween candy that you'd give out to the trick and treaters. Our Brown Bag Café includes a piece or two of candy in every lunch sack. So, if we can get ahead on candy when it's on sale for Halloween, we save money. If everyone gives a few bags of candy, we could have enough to carry us for the whole year.

This Sunday, October 1, is produce day for our Food Bank. Please bring a sack of potatoes, carrots or onions to supplement the food we receive through ACCESS, our regional connection to the Oregon Food Bank. Bring your candy gifts later in the month.

## October birthdays

- 2 Peter Funch
- 3 Abby Bursk  
Angelee Richmond
- 6 Howard Colehower
- 9 Katie Taylor
- 11 Bruce Engle
- 12 Makenna Dunn
- 14 Bob Frey
- 18 Gail Hayes
- 20 Nancy Kinsey  
Thomas Murray Richmond IV
- 23 Sylvia Bardes
- 28 Ruth Jones



**First Presbyterian Church**  
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Office hours Mon. through Thurs.  
9 a.m. to noon.

Pastor ...Rev. Murray Richmond  
Congregational Care Associate  
.....Mike Hubbard  
Associate for Visitation and  
Pastoral Care

.....Rev. Mary Wright Gillespie  
Minister of Music and Media  
.....Tony Chunn  
Administrative & Financial Assis-  
tant.....Elizbeth Mahan

Sarah Corson Childcare & Learn-  
ing Center.....Jaime Snider

## Session Committee chairs

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Christian Education—Vacant

Church Growth — Tom McDermott  
(541) 734-4675

Fellowship—Doris Sjolund  
(541) 857-6646

Finance — Cathy de Wolfe  
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Personnel—Carol Holst  
(541) 899-1147

Mission—Bob Frey  
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Worship & Music—Andy Ullrich  
(541) 776-5308

[www.firstpreschurchmedford.com](http://www.firstpreschurchmedford.com)

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prior to publication

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