

8th & 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

8th & Holly

Our 139th year

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

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Medford, Oregon June 2024



From the pastor's study

By Murray Richmond

Summertime, and the livin' is easy
—George Gershwin

Although summer does not officially start until June 21, the unofficial start of summer is Memorial Day. So summer is upon us.

As a child, summer meant one thing—no school. And with no school came days of playing roller bat with my friends, beach vacations, exploring the creeks around my neighborhood, reading books in our hammock, and generally living easy.

Summer
time!

There was a time when summer was easy living, not just for school children, but for many other segments of society. Presbyterian ministers in North Carolina would “summer” in the Montreat, government workers in Washington, D.C. would get the summer off because no one could work in the muggy Tidal Basin in the summer.

I don't know for certain, but I imagine southern Oregon was the same way. Summertime is the time for easy living.

That all changed with the advent of air conditioning. (There was a book, whose title I have long since forgotten, about how the rise of bureaucracy in D.C. was tied to the rise in air-conditioned offices.)

As for church, we have entered the season of what is called Ordinary Time. Between now and Advent in November, there are no big religious holy days. This is, in essence, summertime for the Church. Having down time is important. Judaism gave us one day a week off. Not all cultures have that, and there are places in the world today where the weekend does not mean two days off work.

The idea of a sabbatical rest lies deep in the heart of our history as the people of God. While work is a gift from God, so is rest. I hope we all have a pleasant summer and can celebrate a time when the livin' is easy.

Easy hike and picnic lunch

The newly renovated Japanese Garden at Ashland's Lithia Park is target for a Saturday, June 22 outing organized by the Fellowship Committee. The garden, located above Butler Bandshell in the middle of the park, underwent a restoration in 2021 and 2022. You can either meet the group at 10:30 a.m. in the parking lot off Winburn Way next to the Upper Duck Pond or meet in Medford at the Church parking lot about 9:45 a.m. and carpool to Ashland.

Bring your own sack lunch and water bottle. We'll gather for a picnic near the parking lot after touring the garden. To learn more about the garden and its history, on the Internet go to www.ashlandjapanesegarden.org.

June vespers



Mazzei

Pianist John Mazzei returns to our Sanctuary for the June 9 Jazz Vespers service. He last played the service in May 2023. Mazzei lived in the Rogue Valley from 1983-1993 and was hot on the local jazz scene as well as production artist for many west coast musicians. You may have heard him play at the Marc Anthony in Ashland and at many other local venues during that time. Since 2007 he has been writing music for several publishers worldwide providing music for film and TV. He currently has music on over 275 TV shows and counting. John retired in 2018 after 22 years at Genentech and returned to the Rogue Valley, settling in Jacksonville.

The service, with Mazzei's trio, begins at 5 p.m. Sunday, June 9.

June's Classical Vespers on Sunday, June 23, showcases two flautists accompanied by Jodi French on the piano.

Debra Harris was a professor of flute at Concordia College before moving to the Rogue Valley. Sherrill Kannasto Wood grew up in the valley and has been part of the local music scene most of her life. She was principal flute of the Rogue Valley Symphony and a musician with Oregon Shakespeare Festival. French is accompanist for Southern Oregon Repertory Singers and their composer in residence, as well as organist for Trinity Episcopal Church in Ashland.



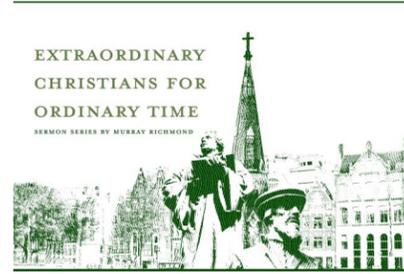
Presbytery meets in Medford

We've been asked to host the early-November meeting of Presbytery of the Cascades. Session extended the invitation contingent on getting volunteer support from other Presbyterian congregations in the area.

Tentative dates for the meeting are Friday and Saturday, November 1 and 2. The last time we hosted the presbytery, about 200 folks from the 90-plus churches attended. Presbytery meets three times a year and connects churches from Vancouver, Washington in the north to the California border.

June at First

- 1 Saturday**
Noon **“Attitude of Gratitude” Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
Noon **Women’s Fellowship luncheon**, Elmer’s, 68 E Stewart
1 p.m. **Vickie Domis memorial**, Clubhouse 555 Freeman Rd. Central Point
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends” Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
- 2 Sunday**
8:30 a.m. **Informal worship**, Fellowship Hall
9:45 a.m. **John’s Letters**, Fireside room
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
- 3 Monday**
4:15 p.m. **Christian Ed Committee**, Library
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women’s meeting**, Fellowship Hall
- 4 Tuesday**
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.
6:30 p.m. **Growth Committee**, Fireside Room
- 5 Wednesday**
5:30 p.m. **Choir Practice**, Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. **“Men’s Unloaded” Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
- 7 Friday**
6:30 p.m. **“It Checks Out” Narcotics Anonymous**, Fellowship Hall
- 8 Saturday**
10 a.m. **Vickie Domis Memorial**, Sanctuary
Noon **“Attitude of Gratitude” Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends” Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
- 9 Sunday**
8:30 a.m. **Informal worship**, Fellowship Hall
9:45 a.m. **John’s Letters**, Fireside room
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
Noon, **Worship Committee**, Library
5 p.m. **Jazz Vespers, John Mazzei Trio**, Sanctuary
- 10 Monday**
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women’s meeting**, Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. **Mission Committee**, Fireside Room
- 11 Tuesday**
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.
- 12 Wednesday**
6:30 p.m. **“Men’s Unloaded” Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
- 14 Friday**
6:30 p.m. **“It Checks Out” Narcotics Anonymous**, Fellowship Hall
- 15 Saturday**
11 a.m. **Summer Fun Day**, Alba Park on Holly Street
Noon **“Attitude of Gratitude” Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends” Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
- 16 Sunday Father’s Day**
8:30 a.m. **Informal worship**, Fellowship Hall
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
Noon **Congregational meeting**, Sanctuary
12:15 p.m. **Deacons**, Fireside Room
- 17 Monday**
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women’s meeting**, Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. **Fellowship Committee**, Fireside Room
- 18 Tuesday**
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.
- 19 Wednesday Juneteenth**
Office and Sarah Corson Center closed
6:30 p.m. **“Men’s Unloaded” Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
- 20 Thursday**
9 a.m. **Personnel Committee**, Library
10 a.m. **Finance Committee**, workroom
1 p.m. **Women’s Fellowship**, craft time, Fellowship Hall



Our summer sermon series celebrates Christians who made an impact

- 21 Friday**
6:30 p.m. **“It Checks Out” Narcotics Anonymous**, Fellowship Hall
- 22 Saturday**
10:30 a.m. **Fellowship hike**, Lithia Park Japanese Garden, meet at park upper parking lot
Noon **“Attitude of Gratitude” Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends” Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
- 23 Sunday**
8:30 a.m. **Informal worship**, Fellowship Hall
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
5 p.m. **Classical Vespers, flute piano trio**, Sanctuary
- 24 Monday**
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women’s meeting**, Fellowship Hall
- 25 Tuesday**
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.
6:30 p.m. **Session**, Fireside Room
- 26 Wednesday**
6:30 p.m. **“Men’s Unloaded” Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
- 28 Friday**
6:30 p.m. **“It Checks Out” Narcotics Anonymous**, Fellowship Hall
- 29 Saturday**
Noon **“Attitude of Gratitude” Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends” Narcotics Anonymous**, Fireside Room
- 30 Sunday**
8:30 a.m. **Informal worship**, Fellowship Hall

Help with the hunger ministry



Thousands of hungry people will be fed over the next year [as a result of](#) two grants received in May. They include \$12,000 from the Reed and Carolee Walker Fund of Oregon Community Foundation and \$20,000 from the American Red Cross Community Adaption Program. Both will support our sack lunch ministry known as the “Brown Bag Café” which has an estimated annual cost of \$39,000. Session accepted the grants this week. They designated Bob Frey, chair of the Mission Committee, to manage the grants. The Brown Bag Café is also supported by the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians and other Medford church congregations. Bob told Session that the Red Cross Community Adaption Program is also assisting in upgrades to our kitchen so it may be used as a Red Cross site during a local disaster. Three refrigerators and a freezer, replacing existing equipment, were delivered last week. The Red Cross will fund replacement of the kitchen floor, with work tentatively scheduled to begin the week of June 10. Contract details are being worked out.

Evonne Hubbard returns to Session

The congregation elected Evonne Hubbard to the Session Class of 2027 and her installation is set for Sunday, June 2. Evonne was ordained as an elder 34 years ago at the Presbyterian Church in Eagle River, Alaska. Since she and husband Mike returned to the Rogue Valley, she’s served on almost all of First Presbyterian’s many committees and been active in Presbytery of the Cascades. Evonne is currently coordinating our Women’s Fellowship; a growing group launched this spring. At the same congregational meeting Cindy Walker was elected to the Board of Deacons. She’s been out of town for a family medical emergency and will be installed later this month.

June birthdays

- 1 Kit Stanford
- Dante Amaya
- Judith Simpson
- 3 Mary Frost
- 7 Delfino Arellano
- Bill Silfvast
- 9 Todd Ward
- 11 Becky Jones
- 15 Tyler Mackey
- 18 Karol Cartmill
- Joan House
- 19 Joan Peckham
- 22 Bill Walker
- 27 Cindy Ward

Looking for a leak

The Church has hired Belfor Restoration to locate the source of inside water damage near the front door of the Sarah Corson Center. Building and Grounds Committee Chair Monty Holst and Sarah Corson Director Jaime Snider will coordinate the work with the contractor. Belfor has extensive experience with water damage restoration, including a couple of jobs in our building caused by plumbing malfunctions. Session, which approved the contract this week, was assured that the job will be carried out without disrupting classes at Sarah Corson Center. Bob Haddon told Session that after the source of the water is determined, the damaged area will be restored.

First Presbyterian Church

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.....Rev. Mary Wright Gillespie
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.....Tony Chunn
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