

8th & Holly newsletter
First Presbyterian Church
85 South Holly Street
Medford, Oregon 97501

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Medford OR 97501
Permit No. 383



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

August 2024

August vespers:

A saxophone artist and pianist Iryna Kudielina



Bob Rawlings

Bob Rawlings returns to our Jazz Vespers service, this time playing his alto saxophone and, with the help of pianist John Mazzei, tackling some of the tunes written by Dave Brubeck.

Rawlings last played vespers in September 2023. Others in the quartet are Mark Hamersly on bass and Teresa McCoy on drums. Rawlings also promises music by Paul Desmond and Django Reinhardt.

The service is at 5 p.m. Sunday, August 11 in the Sanctuary.

The visual art of Steve Harris, a writer and illustrator of children's books, will be on display in our first-floor hallway gallery. His portfolio features black and white illustrations for a story about a young girl.

Iryna Kudielina, the Ukrainian pianist studying at Southern Oregon University, will present the August 25 Classical Vespers. She plays for our worship services twice a month, and for Vespers will invite a musician friend to be part of the service.

Neighborhood walk

We're going to do a neighborhood walk Saturday morning, August 17. We'll organize in teams, divide up the neighborhood radiating out from 8th and Holly, walk and observe, then return to the church to talk about our congregation's place in the neighborhood.

Session members and anyone who's interested will gather at the church at 9 a.m., then walk to their assigned part of the neighborhood. We should be back at the church by 10:45 a.m. and share notes on what we saw.

The walk is the kickoff of learning how our congregation and building can best accomplish our mission statement and vision. Mark your calendars for the next stop in the process, a walk of our physical plant on Saturday, September 21 before the Fall Kickoff dinner. For more information on these walks call Bob Frey at (503) 779-5558 or Tam Moore at (541) 608-0171.



From the pastor's study

By Murray Richmond

When they say that we have a dry heat here, that does make a big difference. I have been vacationing in North Carolina for a while, and they have humid heat out there, which makes things feel much hotter. Same temperature different effect.

In other words, the atmosphere of a place affects almost everything within. High humidity, hotter heat index. A church that has an atmosphere based in love is going to be very different from a church based on guilt.

A church that is based on its mission to the community is different from a church which is more concerned with protecting its institution. (Our Presbyterian Book of Order says we are to carry out our mission even at the risk of losing our lives.)

A church that has a resilience based on faith in God will survive far better than a church whose resilience is based solely on the work of its members.

We are not facing a hardship here at First Prez. The Sarah Corson Center has had to move operations into our building, which affects how we carry out our mission here. Our internal environment will determine how we react to and undergo this hardship. Because of their presence in our building, a few things have had to change. But we are a congregation based on love, our mission, and faith. Sarah Corson is part of our mission here. Providing childcare to families who need it is a mission. We are one of the few facilities in the valley providing infant care.

I managed to adapt to the humidity in North Carolina. We can adapt to this.

In terms of worship for August, these are the Extraordinary Christians we will be looking at: Flannery O'Connor/ Walker Percy; N.T. Wright; Eugene Peterson; C.S. Lewis/J.R.R. Tolkien. It should be interesting!

Presbytery installs moderator, eyes Medford meeting

Presbytery of the Cascades, meeting by Zoom in July, elected the Rev. Margaret Mitsuyasu as moderator elect. The Rev. Jennifer Martin is 2024 moderator. Medford Elder Evonne Hubbard was elected to a second term on the presbytery Personnel and Administration Commission.

We have invited the presbytery to hold their next in-person meeting, November 1 and 2, at our church. Look for details on how you can help host this meeting in the early fall.

August at First

2 Friday
Sarah Corson Center closed, in service training
6:30 p.m. **“It Checks Out” Narcotics Anonymous**, Youth Lounge

3 Saturday
Noon, **“Attitude of Gratitude” Narcotics Anonymous**, Youth Lounge
Noon, **Women’s Fellowship Luncheon**, Black Bear Diner, 1150 E. Barnett Rd.
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends” Narcotics Anonymous**, Youth Lounge

4 Sunday
8:30 a.m. **Informal worship**, Sanctuary
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary

5 Monday
4:15 p.m. **Christian Ed Committee**, Library
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women’s meeting**, Youth Lounge

6 Tuesday
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 50 Columbus Ave.
6:30 p.m. **Growth Committee**, workroom

7 Wednesday
6:30 p.m. **“Men’s Unloaded” Narcotics Anonymous**, Youth Lounge

9 Friday
6:30 p.m. **“It Checks Out” Narcotics Anonymous**, Youth Lounge

10 Saturday
9:15 a.m. **Potluck Brunch**, Bear Creek Park picnic area, 1520 Siskiyou Blvd.
Noon, **“Attitude of Gratitude” Narcotics Anonymous**, Youth Lounge
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends” Narcotics Anonymous**, Youth Lounge

**Save the date
Saturday, Sept. 21**

Fall Kick Off BBQ

11 Sunday
8:30 a.m. **Informal worship**, Sanctuary
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
Noon, **Worship Committee**, Library
5 p.m. **Jazz Vespers, Bob Rawlings Quartet**, Sanctuary

12 Monday
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women’s meeting**, Youth Lounge
6:30 p.m. **Fellowship Committee**, workroom

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

14 Wednesday
6:30 p.m. **“Men’s Unloaded” Narcotics Anonymous**, Youth Lounge

15 Thursday
9 a.m. **Personnel Committee**, Library
10 a.m. **Finance Committee**, workroom
1 p.m. **Women’s Fellowship**, craft time, workroom

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

17 Saturday
9 a.m. **Neighborhood walk**, meet at church
Noon **“Attitude of Gratitude” Narcotics Anonymous**, Youth Lounge
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends” Narcotics Anonymous**, Youth Lounge

18 Sunday
8:30 a.m. **Informal worship**, Sanctuary
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
12:15 p.m. **Deacons**, workroom

19 Monday
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women’s meeting**, Youth Lounge

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

21 Wednesday
6:30 p.m. **“Men’s Unloaded” Narcotics Anonymous**, Youth Lounge

23 Friday
6:30 p.m. **“It Checks Out” Narcotics Anonymous**, Youth Lounge

24 Saturday
Noon **“Attitude of Gratitude” Narcotics Anonymous**, Youth Lounge
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends” Narcotics Anonymous**, Youth Lounge

25 Sunday
8:30 a.m. **Informal worship**, Sanctuary
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
5 p.m. **Classical Vespers, Iryna Kudielina and Friend**, Sanctuary

26 Monday
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women’s meeting**, Youth Lounge

27 Tuesday
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.
6:30 p.m. **Session**, Youth Lounge

28 Wednesday
6:30 p.m. **“Men’s Unloaded” Narcotics Anonymous**, Youth Lounge

30 Friday
6:30 p.m. **“It Checks Out” Narcotics Anonymous**, Youth Lounge

31 Saturday
Noon **“Attitude of Gratitude” Narcotics Anonymous**, Youth Lounge
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends” Narcotics Anonymous**, Youth Lounge

All church brunch, August 10

Join your friends from First Presbyterian at 9:15 a.m. Saturday, August 10 for a potluck brunch in Bear Creek Park, 1250 Siskiyou Boulevard. We’ll furnish the pink lemonade, but it is up to you to bring the rest of this festive outdoor meal.



Bear Creek Park pavilion

Bring your favorite summer brunch dish to share. Bring your own beverage if pink lemonade doesn’t suit your fancy. Table service will be provided.

If you have a favorite lawn chair, bring it as well, but there’s plenty of seating under the pavilion. Questions? Call Dianna Kelley (541-282-3496) or Pastor Mike (541-941-5691)

The search goes on

Finding the source of water leaks which damaged portions of the Sarah Corson Child Care and Learning Center is proving difficult. Bob Haddon, a member of the Building and Grounds Committee, reports that Belfor Restoration, our contractor, this week is evaluating where moisture may enter the first floor.

It is expected that special equipment will then be brought in to drill into the flooring to test leak theories.

Several other sources of water have been eliminated in the investigation which began nearly three months ago.

“Until we find out where” the water came from, Bob says Belfor can’t make a schedule for completion of repairs.

Sarah Corson center relocated from their Urban Center II site over the Fourth of July long weekend to facilitate the investigation. The program moved into the Fellowship Hall, kitchen and the nursery portion of the Christian Education wing.

Director Jaime Snider says “city, county and state inspectors and entities dropped everything to quickly give us the needed inspections and approvals - and all in three days’ time...”

In a thank you note to the congregation, she writes “Our parents and families have been extremely supportive and have appreciated our transparency and open communication. I have never been more proud of SCC and what we have accomplished.”

August birthdays

- 1 Jacky Evans
- 2 Buzz Florip
- 5 Jim Macmillan
- 7 Michelle Wilson
- 8 Marthanne Dedrick
Harold Sudmeyer
- 10 Lee Willms
- 12 Ruth Engle
- 13 Anne Irons
- 20 Claudia Macmillan
- 22 Jean Peterson
Leo Bardes
- 25 Jim Quan
Nick Morgan
- 26 Renae Curtis

First Presbyterian Church

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Office hours Mon. through Thurs.
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Pastoral Care

.....Rev. Mary Wright Gillespie
Minister of Music and Media

.....Tony Chunn
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Sarah Corson Childcare & Learning
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Copy deadline: 4th Monday of the month
prior to publication

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