


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 October 2024

Celebrated organist plays October 27



John West

John West, a nationally known organist, plays our Schoenstein organ for the October Classical Vespers service. West is music director and organist for the Hollywood Methodist Church and lives in Studio City, Calif.

West began studying organ as a 13-year-old. He graduated from Willamette University and continued his studies at the New England Conservatory of Music. He's been a soloist with several symphony orchestras and performs extensively at large venues in the Los Angeles basin.

The Vespers Concert begins at 4 p.m. Sunday, October 27 in the Sanctuary.



Anastos returns for Jazz Vespers

Peter Anastos, a jazz trumpeter, returns to our October 13 Jazz Vespers with some familiar faces as sidemen. The service is at 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Joining Anastos are John Mazzei on piano, Eric Pollard on drums and Tarik Ragab on bass. Anastos first played Jazz Vespers in 2019, shortly after moving to the Rogue Valley from the San Francisco Bay Area.

Our first-floor gallery will feature paintings by Cheryl Magellen during October. Magellen's specialty is portraits and human figures using bright colors.



Peter Anastos



From the pastor's study

By Murray Richmond

Dear friends and members of the First Presbyterian Church, Medford,

This will not be like my other newsletter articles. At our session meeting last Tuesday, I submitted my resignation and announced my retirement as senior pastor of this fine congregation. My last Sunday will be January 12, 2025

This November I will have served you 11 years. It is very bittersweet for me to tell you this as I am both looking forward to retirement but will miss you all dearly. Once I retire, I will no longer be able to participate in this congregation as a member or serve you in any pastoral function. I will not be able to officiate anyone's weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc. That will be the role of your new pastor. But I can be a guest, and I can be a friend.

This decision has resulted in much reflection for me. We have accomplished much together these past 11 years. When I arrived here, attendance was at an all-time low and we managed to raise it significantly (although post-COVID has been a different story). Something I am very proud of is that we continued to pay [all of](#) the church staff their full salaries through the COVID crisis, even when they were only able to work halftime. It was a significant measure of this church's integrity and generosity. We have grown our Brown Bag Café program remarkably. When I first got here, we were only giving out two or three lunches a month and now it's hundreds a week! This church has really developed a heart for the homeless and we are making a difference. Also, we began jazz and classical vespers, which enrich us all, and our community.

I also take pride in the amazing staff I have been blessed to work with. It gives me much comfort, knowing that you will be in such capable hands.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you all for the support and encouragement that you gave me over the years. When I was going through hard times, this church was there for me. It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to serve this congregation.

In the next few months that lie before us, I will not be sitting idle. There are still things I would like us to accomplish together before I go. However, I realize that these next months will go very quickly. In that time, I ask for your prayers as I begin a new phase in my life.

Gina and I are planning to live part-time in Medford, so you may see us around. Feel free to say hello!



Seeds of peace

We receive our annual Peacemaking Offering on Sunday, October 6. It's a tradition that's been going on for over 40 years in the Presbyterian Church, USA. Session designates one-quarter of all money received to continue our support of the local Resolve Center for Dispute Resolution.

The remainder goes to peacemaking work in Presbytery of the Cascades and work by Presbyterian Mission Agency for peace and justice through education and Christian witness. Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace. We are not alone.



October at First

- 1 Tuesday**
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.
6:30 p.m. **Growth Committee**, workroom
- 2 Wednesday**
6:30 p.m. **“Men’s Unloaded” Narcotics Anonymous**, Great Room
5:30 p.m. **Choir practice**, Sanctuary
- 3 Thursday**
7 p.m. **“Bad Girls of Bible” class**, workroom
- 4 Friday**
6:30 p.m. **“It Checks Out” Narcotics Anonymous**, basement room
- 5 Saturday**
Noon, **Women’s Fellowship Luncheon**, Applebee’s, 1388 Biddle Road
Noon, **“Attitude of Gratitude” Narcotics Anonymous**, Great Room
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends” Narcotics Anonymous**, Great Room
- 6 Sunday World Communion Sunday, Peacemaking offering**
8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Fireside Room
9:45 a.m. **“Proverbs” class**, Fireside Room
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
- 7 Monday**
4:15 p.m. **Christian Ed Committee**, workroom
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women’s meeting**, Great Room
6:30 p.m. **Mission Committee**, workroom
- 8 Tuesday**
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.
- 9 Wednesday**
6:30 p.m. **“Men’s Unloaded” Narcotics Anonymous**, Great Room
5:30 p.m. **Choir practice**, Sanctuary
- 10 Thursday**
7 p.m. **“Bad Girls of Bible” class**, workroom
- 11 Friday**
6:30 p.m. **“It Checks Out” Narcotics Anonymous**, basement room
- 12 Saturday**
Noon **“Attitude of Gratitude” Narcotics Anonymous**, Great Room
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends” Narcotics Anonymous**, Great Room
- 13 Sunday**
8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Fireside Room
9:45 a.m. **“Proverbs” class**, Fireside Room
9:45 a.m. **Fellowship committee**, workroom
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
Noon, **Worship Committee**, workroom
- 14 Monday**
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women’s meeting**, Great Room
- 15 Tuesday**
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.
- 16 Wednesday**
6:30 p.m. **“Men’s Unloaded” Narcotics Anonymous**, Great Room
5:30 p.m. **Choir practice**, Sanctuary
- 17 Thursday**
9 a.m. **Personnel Committee**, Library
10 a.m. **Finance Committee**, workroom
1 p.m. **Women’s Fellowship**, craft time, workroom
7 p.m. **“Bad Girls of Bible” class**, workroom
- 18 Friday**
6:30 p.m. **“It Checks Out” Narcotics Anonymous**, basement room
- 19 Saturday**
Noon **“Attitude of Gratitude” Narcotics Anonymous**, Great Room
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends” Narcotics Anonymous**, Great Room
- 20 Sunday**
8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. **“Proverbs” class**, Fireside Room
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
- 21 Monday**
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women’s meeting**, Great Room
- 22 Tuesday**
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.
7 p.m. **Medford candidates’ forum**, Sanctuary
- 23 Wednesday**
6:30 p.m. **“Men’s Unloaded” Narcotics Anonymous**, Great Room
5:30 p.m. **Choir practice**, Sanctuary
- 24 Thursday**
7 p.m. **“Bad Girls of Bible” class**, workroom
- 25 Friday**
6:30 p.m. **“It Checks Out” Narcotics Anonymous**, basement room
- 26 Saturday**
Noon **“Attitude of Gratitude” Narcotics Anonymous**, Great Room
5:30 p.m. **Fall Kickoff BBQ & Potluck**, Methodist Fellowship Hall (*enter from parking lot on Laurel Street*)
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends” Narcotics Anonymous**, Great Room

- 27 Sunday Stewardship Sunday**
8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. **“Proverbs” class**, Fireside Room
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
4 p.m. **Vespers concert, Organist John West**, Sanctuary
- 28 Monday**
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women’s meeting**, Great Room
- 29 Tuesday**
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.
6:30 p.m. **Session**, workroom
- 30 Wednesday**
6:30 p.m. **“Men’s Unloaded” Narcotics Anonymous**, Great Room
5:30 p.m. **Choir practice**, Sanctuary
- 31 Thursday**
7 p.m. **“Bad Girls of Bible” class**, workroom

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



Carolina BBQ

Mark your calendars for 5:30 p.m. Saturday, October 26 for Pastor Murray’s last North Carolina barbeque with us. It’s part of this month’s celebration of generosity. This will be a potluck meal, you bring side dishes or desserts to share. The church will furnish the meat and drinks. First United Methodist Church at 507 W Main is sharing their fellowship hall with us. Enter from the parking lot on Laurel Street.



Stormwater from the downspout, blocked by a plugged subsurface drain, seeped through building walls. The contractor began repair and restoration work last week. We await an estimate of when the job will be complete.

Leak no more!

The extensive water damage in the first floor of our Urban Center II Building housing the Sarah Corson Center didn’t come from a leak. Bob Haddon reported to Session last week that contractors discovered a plugged subsurface drain. Apparently, stormwater from the roof was overflowing where the downspout connected with the drainpipe, then seeping into the building. Belfor Restoration, our primary contractor, has begun repairs of Sarah Corson Center flooring.

Searching for wisdom: A study of Proverbs



Join us on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. for a class on the Book of Proverbs. It’s described as “God’s guidebook to wise living.” Tam Moore will facilitate the weekly class, using a study designed by Warren Wiersbe. Weekly classes run through October.

Meal in a can (or pouch)

This October our Food Bank wants to rebuild its inventory of meals in a can--those heat-and-serve canned products such as Spaghetti O’s, ravioli, chili or Dinty Moore Beef Stew. But when you shop, in addition to cans, look for the newer heat-and-eat pouch food. Your generosity supplements what we obtain through ACCESS, our local community action agency and partner in the state-wide Oregon Food Bank.



The first Sunday, October 6, in addition to bringing your Peacemaking offering, buy a sack of potatoes or onions. First Sunday is fresh food Sunday.

Medford forum

Candidates for mayor and city council positions in the upcoming election are invited to a 7 p.m. forum in our Sanctuary on Tuesday, October 22. We are hosting the forum with the League of Women Voters of the Rogue Valley. There are four candidates for Mayor, with the incumbent mayor not seeking re-election, and six candidates for four Medford city council seats.

First Presbyterian Church

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