


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 November 2024



Vanessa Finney

Bassist Hamersly brings his friends to Vespers

Mark Hamersly, a well-known local musician who most recently played bass with our choir during the October 27 worship service to back up John West, brings his musical friends to Jazz Vespers Sunday, November 10.

The Mark Hamersly Quintet will have Bob Rawlins on saxophone, John Mazzei on piano, Theresa McCoy on drums, and Vanessa Finney on vocals.

Hamersly performs at many Rogue Valley venues in small ensembles or plays classical guitar in solo gigs. He joins with Finney in a jazz duo which styles itself the "LoveNotes." Finney's day job is reporting for Jefferson Public Radio.



Mark Hamersly towers over John West at Sunday worship

Young pianist featured at Classical Vespers

Tereza Golombková, who regularly plays piano and organ for our worship services, will present the November 24 Classical Vespers. She's a graduate student studying piano with Alexander Tutonov at Southern Oregon University, and earlier this year she began organ studies with Peggy Evans, the SOU emeritus keyboard professor.

Tereza grew up in the Czech Republic town of Horni Stropnice. She began learning piano as a four-year-old at the local music school and as a teenager continued at the Conservatory of České Budějovice where she graduated in 2023.

This September she gave the initial concert in a celebration of the 50-year history of the Horni Stropnice music school.



Tereza Golombková



From the pastor's study

By Murray Richmond

Unless you have been vacationing in Antarctica, you know that November 5 is Election Day. The first thing I want to say is vote. I am certainly not telling you how to vote, but being a good citizen means participating in the process, which for most people means voting. It is our civic duty. I was talking to someone who said they would not vote because they were not political, and I asked them, "Forget about being political. Are you a good citizen?"

Second, while the outcome of the election is important, it is more important that we hold to our values as Christians no matter what happens.

We have already seen two ballot boxes vandalized, one in Portland and one in Vancouver, Washington. Rhetoric on both sides has been incendiary. Emotions are running high. Tuesday will not change that. We may not know who wins until later in the week. There will most likely be accusations flying, and rumors may be rampant.

We are people of the Truth. Please don't take rumors at face value. Please do not let yourself be guided by anger at the outcome. Paul tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. When we respond with these values, we know we are on God's side. If we respond with the opposite of these values...well, let me just say we are probably not acting according to the will of God.

Back in the 1970s when Anita Bryant was pushing an anti-gay agenda, the folk singer Arlo Guthrie was asked if he believed that God was on the side of Anita Bryant. His answer was perfect. "I don't know if God is on her side or not. I just want to make sure I am on God's side." Our character and how we respond counts.

Finally, there have been many dire predictions about how bad it will be if either side wins. As the people of God, we do not put our ultimate hope in earthly politics. It's fine to support one candidate over another. It is wise to ask which candidate will be best for our country. But Psalm 20 says,

*Some trust in chariots, and some in horses:
but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.*

Our ultimate hope is not in either candidate. Our ultimate hope is in God. We hope in God, not politicians to be our salvation.



November at First

1 Friday
6:30 p.m. **“It Checks Out” Narcotics Anonymous**, basement room
7 p.m. **“Bad Girls of Bible” class**, workroom

2 Saturday
Noon, **“Attitude of Gratitude”** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends”** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

3 Sunday Daylight Savings Time ends



8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Fireside Room
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary

4 Monday
4 p.m. **Zoom book club** email hughanderson@msn.com for link
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women’s meeting**, Great Room
6:30 p.m. **Mission Committee**, workroom

5 Tuesday
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.
6:30 p.m. **Church Growth Committee**, workroom

6 Wednesday
4:15 p.m. **Christian Ed Committee**, workroom
5:30 p.m. **Choir practice**, Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. **“Men’s Unloaded”** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

7 Thursday
7 p.m. **“Bad Girls of Bible” class**, workroom

8 Friday
6:30 p.m. **“It Checks Out”** Narcotics Anonymous, basement room

9 Saturday
Noon, **Women’s Fellowship Luncheon**, El Molcajete, 1789 Stewart Avenue
Noon **“Attitude of Gratitude”** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends”** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

10 Sunday
8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Fireside Room
9:45 a.m. **Fellowship Committee**, workroom

11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
Noon, **Congregational meeting**, Sanctuary
12:15 p.m. **Worship Committee**, workroom

Deacons, Fireside Room
5 p.m. **Jazz Vespers, Mark Hamersly Quintet**, Sanctuary

11 Monday Veteran’s Day
4 p.m. **Zoom book club** email hughanderson@msn.com for link
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women’s meeting**, Great Room
6:30 p.m. **Mission Committee**, workroom

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

13 Wednesday
5:30 p.m. **Choir practice**, Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. **“Men’s Unloaded”** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

14 Thursday
7 p.m. **“Bad Girls of Bible” class**, workroom

15 Friday
6:30 p.m. **“It Checks Out”** Narcotics Anonymous, basement room

16 Saturday
Noon **“Attitude of Gratitude”** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends”** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

17 Sunday
8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Fireside Room
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**

18 Monday
4 p.m. **Zoom book club** email hughanderson@msn.com for link
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women’s meeting**, Great Room

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

20 Wednesday
5:30 p.m. **Choir practice**, Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. **“Men’s Unloaded”** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

21 Thursday
9 a.m. **Personnel Committee**, workroom
10 a.m. **Finance Committee**, workroom
1:30 p.m. **Women’s Fellowship**, craft time, workroom
7 p.m. **“Bad Girls of Bible” class**, workroom

22 Friday
6:30 p.m. **“It Checks Out”** Narcotics Anonymous, basement room

23 Saturday
Noon **“Attitude of Gratitude”** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends”** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

24 Sunday
8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Sanctuary
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
5 p.m. **Classical Vespers**, Tereza Golombková, Sanctuary

25 Monday
4 p.m. **Zoom book club** email hughanderson@msn.com for link
6:30 p.m. **Narcotics Anonymous women’s meeting**, Great Room

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

27 Wednesday
5:30 p.m. **Choir practice**, Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. **“Men’s Unloaded”** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

28 Thursday Thanksgiving Day
Office and Sarah Corson Center closed

29 Friday
Office and Sarah Corson Center closed
6:30 p.m. **“It Checks Out”** Narcotics Anonymous, basement room

30 Saturday
Noon **“Attitude of Gratitude”** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends”** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

Urban Center II fix includes improvements

Session this week approved a supplemental contract with Belfor Restoration Services, general contractor on the water damage repair job in the Urban Center II building. A blocked stormwater drain overflowed, damaging the floor and wall of the Sarah Corson Child Care and Learning Center on the building’s ground level.

Bob Haddon, who is coordinating repair work with Sarah Corson director Jaime Snider, told Session the Belfor contract may be adjusted as work progresses. Session authorized a total job not to exceed \$150,000 in cost. Included will be sealing the basement walls and installation of a sump pump system. The stairs which access the basement will be redesigned and replaced.

Project costs will be covered by church unappropriated reserve funds and possible insurance settlements. As part of the job, the Child Care Center will get new flooring. There’s no estimate yet on how long it will take to complete all repairs and the new construction.

Special meeting

A special congregational meeting is called after the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, November 10..

The Nominating Committee is presenting Tam Moore as a candidate for the vacancy in the Session class of 2026. Moore resigned from the nominating committee.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

November birthdays

- 2 Eric Smith
- 3 Abby Bursk
- 4 Tom McDermott
- 6 Jaime Snider
- Jeannine Foucault
- 7 Ron Avery
- 9 Megan Marks
- 10 Murray Richmond
- 12 Buck Smith
- 13 Sally Densmore
- 14 Larry Ware
- George Herkert
- 16 Bob Haddon
- Reid Wilson
- 17 Bill Leever
- 19 Paulette Avery
- 20 Tisa Helms
- 21 Gloria Mooney
- 23 Hugh Anderson
- 24 Tam Moore
- 26 Lori Colburn
- 30 David Welt
- Betty Florip

Session asks Pastor Mike to be “bridge pastor”



Pastor Mike

As First Presbyterian prepares to seek a lead pastor after the Rev. Murray Richmond retires in January, Session took a first step this week, informally asking Pastor Mike Hubbard to become a full-time “bridge pastor” in January.

Pastor Mike has been our part-time associate for congregational care for several years. Pastor Murray’s retirement date is Sunday, January 12.

Presbytery of the Cascades has committed informally to provide a consultant to assist us through the formal work necessary before calling a new lead pastor. Representatives of presbytery will brief Session at its November 26 meeting.

Formal action will begin after Pastor Murray’s retirement at a congregational meeting January 12.

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 Assistant.....Elizbeth Mahan

Sarah Corson Childcare & Learning Center.....Jaime Snider

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