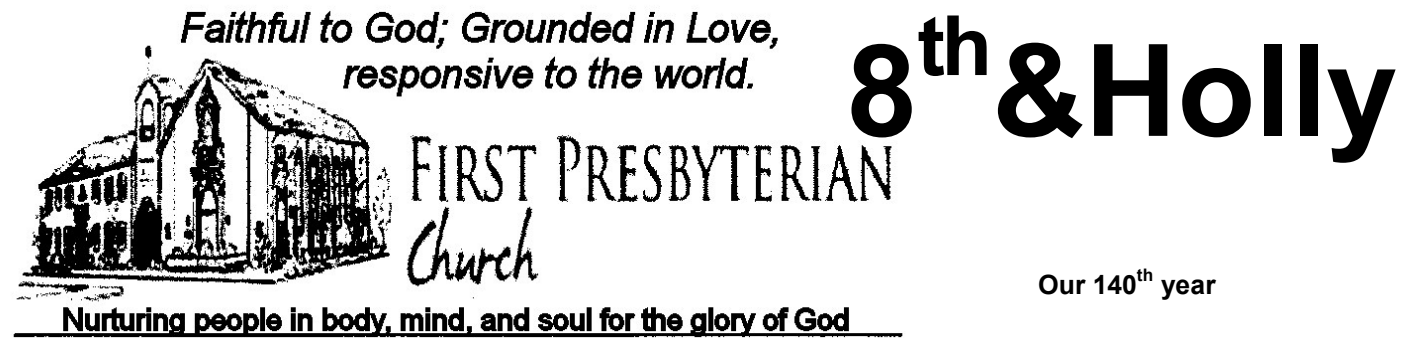


8th & Holly newsletter
First Presbyterian Church
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Medford, Oregon 97501

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The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Medford, Oregon January 2025

Session adopts budget, prepares for transition

In December Session adopted a \$941,527 2025 budget in preparation for a time of transition as Pastor Murray Richmond retires and Pastor Mike Hubbard steps up as Bridge Pastor while we seek our next senior pastor. The adopted budget anticipates using up to \$85,840 from undesignated reserves in addition to offerings, rents and fees offsetting expenses.

Pastor Murray's last worship service with us will be at 10 a.m. January 12, followed by a formal congregational meeting to release him to retirement. The Fellowship committee will host a reception honoring Murray after the congregational meeting.

Session set the annual meeting of the congregation for Sunday, January 29 following a combined 10 a.m. worship service. Business includes receiving reports on 2024 activities and finances, election of new elders and deacons, and honoring those officers completing service to the congregation.

Nominees for the three positions in Session Class of 2028 are incumbents Patty Herkert and Dan Johnson. The nominating committee is still seeking candidates for the remaining position, and a vacancy in the Class of 2027 caused by resignation of Elder Nikki Keating, who wishes to transfer to the Board of Deacons.

Nominees for the four positions in Deacons Class of 2028 are Nikki Keating, Loni Hagler, Marilyn Hultquist and Ellen Rancik. The nominating committee is still seeking candidates for a vacancy in the Class of 2027.

At the annual meeting, we will also elect seven members to the 2025 Congregational Nominating Committee. Nominations from the floor, offered with consent of the nominees, will be accepted for all the leadership positions up for election.

Women's Fellowship

The monthly Women's Fellowship luncheon is Saturday, January 4 at noon. We are going to the Silver Dragon, 1101 Spring Street. Please sign up on the luncheon list in the Narthex so we can make a reservation with the restaurant. Craft time for the fellowship is 1 p.m. Thursday, January 16 in the office workroom.



From the pastor's study

By Murray Richmond

Happy New Year!

In one sense New Year's Day is a fresh beginning. It is a natural time to celebrate another trip around the sun. As we stand at the beginning of the year, there is a lot we do not know about what is come for us. But we know that some things will be different.

I will retire in mid-January and the church will be under the capable leadership of Mike Hubbard. There are a lot of unknowns around this. I will be moving to a new place, and the church will be under different leadership. Neither of us knows exactly what that will look like.

But we do know this—God will be with us through the year.

Over the last few weeks, I have heard many of you tell me how meaningful my ministry has been here. I have appreciated each and every one of those comments, and I thank you for them.

These last eleven years have been some of the best years of my ministry. As a congregation we have had our ups and downs. When I first got here, there was some rebuilding to do. And we did it. We grew a music program that was already very good. We (with the help of Robin Blomquist) started Jazz Vespers and then Classical Vespers. The music at our Sunday morning services has only gotten better through the years.

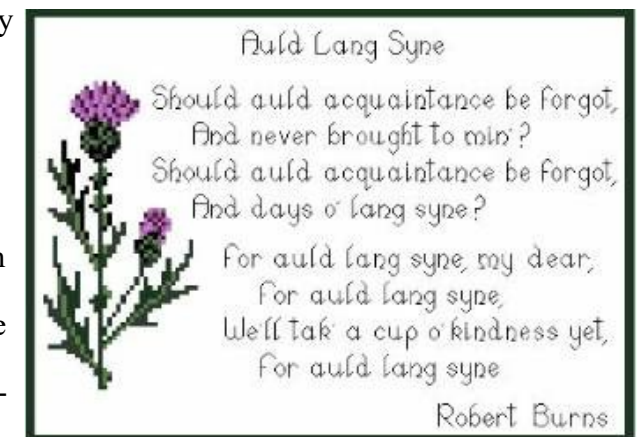
We increased our impact on the community, through serving the Brown Bag lunches. We housed an emergency shelter, with the help of the city. When the fire raged through our community, we again opened a shelter for those who lost all they had.

We went through Covid together. Those were hard times, and frankly we are still recovering from that.

I cannot say enough about talented staff I have worked with these past years. This is by far the best staff a church could wish for.

And finally, I want to say that I will miss you all. While I am looking forward to retirement, I look back on my years here with great fondness. And I will miss you greatly.

In Christ,
Murray



January at First

1 Wednesday *Sarah Corson Center closed until 1/6/25*
New Year's Day, office closed
 6:30 p.m. "Men's Unloaded" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

3 Friday
 6:30 p.m. "It Checks Out" Narcotics Anonymous, basement room

4 Saturday
 Noon, Women's **Fellowship Luncheon**, Silver Dragon, 1101 Spring Street
 Noon, "Attitude of Gratitude" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room
 7 p.m. "Circle of Friends" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

5 Sunday *2nd Sunday of Christmas*
 8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Fireside Room
 9:45 a.m. **Epiphany Hymns** class, Fireside Room
 11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
 Noon, Worship Committee, workroom

6 Monday *Sarah Corson center reopens*
 4 p.m. **Zoom book club** email hughanderson2004@msn.com for the link
 6:30 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous **women's meeting**, Great Room
 6:30 p.m. **Mission Committee**, workroom

7 Tuesday
 10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom
 12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 950 Columbus Ave.
 7:30 p.m. **Church Growth** Committee, workroom

8 Wednesday
 4:45 p.m. **Christian Ed** Committee, workroom
 5:30 p.m. **Choir practice**, Sanctuary
 6:30 p.m. "Men's Unloaded" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

9 Thursday
 6:30 p.m. **Bad Girls of the Bible** part 2, Fireside Room

10 Friday
 6:30 p.m. "It Checks Out" Narcotics Anonymous, basement room

11 Saturday
 Noon "Attitude of Gratitude" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room
 7 p.m. "Circle of Friends" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

12 Sunday *Pastor Murray's final worship with us*
 10 a.m. **Combined Worship**, Sanctuary
 11 a.m. **Congregation meeting** to dissolve pastoral relationship upon retirement, Sanctuary
 11:30 a.m. **Celebration** of the ministry of Rev. Murray Richmond, Narthex & Hall gallery
 4 p.m. **Jazz Vespers**, musicians to be announced, Sanctuary

January 12 notes

Please come early for the combined service on January 12, and bring some cookies or other finger food.

All hands are needed to pack bag lunches at 9 a.m.

Cookies and finger food for the reception honoring Pastor Murray's retirement should be in the Kitchen by 9:45 a.m. The combined worship service is at 10 a.m.

13 Monday
 4 p.m. **Zoom book club** email hughanderson2004@msn.com for the link
 6:30 p.m. **Mission** Committee, Fireside room
 6:30 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous **women's meeting**, Great Room

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

15 Wednesday
 5:30 p.m. **Choir practice**, Sanctuary
 6:30 p.m. "Men's Unloaded" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

16 Thursday
 9 a.m. **Personnel** Committee, Library
 10 a.m. **Finance** Committee, workroom
 1 p.m. **Women's Fellowship** craft time, workroom
 6:30 p.m. **Bad Girls of the Bible** part 2, Fireside room

17 Friday
 6:30 p.m. "It Checks Out" Narcotics Anonymous, basement room

18 Saturday
 Noon "Attitude of Gratitude" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room
 7 p.m. "Circle of Friends" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

19 Sunday
 8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Fireside Room
 9:45 a.m. **Liturgical Calendar** class, Fireside Room
 11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
 12:15 p.m. **Deacons**, Fireside Room

20 Monday
 4 p.m. **Zoom book club** email hughanderson2004@msn.com for the link
 6:30 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous **women's meeting**, Great Room

21 Tuesday
 6:30 p.m. **Session**, workroom

22 Wednesday
 5:30 p.m. **Choir practices**, Sanctuary
 6:30 p.m. "Men's Unloaded" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

23 Thursday
 6:30 p.m. **Bad Girls of the Bible** part 2, Fireside Room

24 Friday
 6:30 p.m. "It Checks Out" Narcotics Anonymous, basement room

25 Saturday
 Noon "Attitude of Gratitude" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room
 7 p.m. "Circle of Friends" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

26 Sunday
 10 a.m. **Combined Worship**, Sanctuary
 11 a.m. **Annual meeting** of the Congregation, Sanctuary
 4 p.m. **Classical Vespers**, Aether Reed Quintet, Sanctuary

27 Monday
 4 p.m. **Zoom book club** email hughanderson2004@msn.com for the link
 6:30 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous **women's meeting**, Great Room

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

29 Wednesday
 5:30 p.m. **Choir practice**, Sanctuary
 6 p.m. **Cascade Presbytery** meeting, Zoom
 6:30 p.m. "Men's Unloaded" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

30 Thursday
 6:30 p.m. **Bad Girls of the Bible** part 2, Fireside Room

31 Friday
 6:30 p.m. Sarah Corson Center **Holiday program**, Sanctuary, reception in Fellowship Hall
 6:30 p.m. "It Checks Out" Narcotics Anonymous, basement room

January birthdays

- 3 Phoenix Olivia Bursk
- 5 Janet Seim
- 11 Patty Herkert
- 12 Connie Sams
- 16 Tammy (Hideko) Snider
- Emma Ward
- 17 Lisa Welt
- Marg Funch
- Ed Hyde
- 20 Rod Voss
- 23 Steven Richmond
- 26 Loretta Barker
- 28 Sandi Frey
- Carole MacKenzie
- 29 Glen Gourley
- Diane Centanne-Bartley
- 30 Doreen Bradshaw
- 31 Carol Holst

Epiphany is here



Next Sunday we celebrate the arrival of Epiphany, a season remembering the arrival of the Wisemen from the East to visit the baby Jesus.

In addition to worship built around the story in Matthew 2:1-12, Doris Sjolund will lead a 9:45 a.m. class on

the music of Epiphany. It will be in the Fireside Room. The actual date of the ancient Christian Feast Day of Epiphany is Monday, January 6.

Our Liturgical Calendar designates the time between Christmas and Lent as the season of Epiphany. There will be a 9:45 a.m. class on Sunday, January 19 exploring some of the background of the liturgical calendar.

Food Bank help

The first Sunday of the month, January 5, our West Medford Food Bank needs to supplement the supply of fresh vegetables such as potatoes, onions and carrots. Buy a bag when you go to the market and put it in the red grocery cart parked in the Narthex when you come to worship.



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Our food of the month for January is breakfast foods – think instant oatmeal in individual packets, energy bars, and boxed dry cereal. This important part of family nutrition is hard to get through our regular supply chain tied to the Oregon Food Bank and the local ACCESS community action organization. Bring your donations any Sunday of the month.

January 12 vespers in flux



Pollard

Drummer Eric Pollard, scheduled to lead Jazz Vespers at 4 p.m. Sunday, January 12 has been called out of town on a tour. Robin Blomquist is working on replacement musicians. We'll let you know how it works out by email.

The 4 p.m. vesper start time will continue through February, then we'll return to 5 p.m. vespers for the balance of 2025, says Robin, who coordinates both musical services.

Aether Reed Quintet debuts January 26

A local chamber music group drawn from reed sections of the Ashland City Band and Rogue Valley Symphonic Band will be featured at the January 26 Classical Vespers Service.

It will be at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Aether Reed Quintet takes its name from the Greek word for "sky" or the fifth element in Greek mythology. Members are Lorin Groshong on oboe and English horn; Jack Boulter, clarinet; Tatjan Luce, clarinet and bass clarinet; Angel McDonald, saxophone



First Presbyterian Church

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 Congregational Care Associate

.....Mike Hubbard
 Associate for Visitation and
 Pastoral Care

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 Minister of Music and Media

.....Tony Chunn
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