

8<sup>th</sup> & 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

8<sup>th</sup> & Holly

Our 140<sup>th</sup> year

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

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Medford, Oregon

February 2025



## Views from the bridge

By Mike Hubbard

I like most everything about bridges. It seems to me that all of history's engineering and architectural marvels come together in a bridge. Always functional, often beautiful, and, hopefully, reliably constructed, the bridge has made the course of human development easier. Try to imagine driving to Portland without the dozens of bridges that span rivers, rail lines, and country roads along the way.

And now, I find that I have become a "bridge," as in "Bridge Pastor." Like any other bridge, my function is to keep

things moving from one side to the other. With God's help and that of the staff, Session, Deacons, and all of you, I will keep the day-to-day functions of the church flowing as we move from Pastor Murray's retirement to our yet unseeable future.

Specifically, that means that I will preach, administer the Sacraments, provide pastoral care, moderate session meetings, and oversee the staff. There are also things that I will not do. Just as a bridge doesn't change the nature of passengers and cargo that cross it, I will not make a lot of changes. What changes are made will be made with the advice and guidance of our various committees. To use an overused phrase, we'll "Keep on keeping on."

Likewise, I will not have a role in discerning what God has in store for our church. Thankfully, there are many very capable folks involved in that process. Without going into details that can be more accurately conveyed by others, I can say that we are making this transition under nearly ideal circumstances.

In the Rev. Robin Garvin, we have a highly qualified Transitional Consulting Pastor. Steve Roe, our South Region Commission on Ministry liaison, has already attended two worship services and two Session meetings via Zoom. Rev. Clark Scalera, the presbytery's Advocate for Congregations and Clergy recently joined a Session meeting as well. When needed, we can also count on Stated Clerk Paul Belz-Templeman and Cherie Elliott, the presbytery's Administrative Manager for advice and assistance.

Still, we dare not leave our future in mortal hands, or, for that matter, human bridges. *For those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you.* —Psalm 9:10

Grace and peace, Pastor Mike



U.S. Highway 101 bridge over Alosea Bay, Waldport

**MAX LUCADO**  
New York Times BESTSELLING AUTHOR

# anxious for NOTHING

**Lenten Study** March 9- April 10  
Two options Sunday class 9:45 a.m.  
Thursday small groups 7 p.m.

**God Has a Cure for Your Worries**

In this five-session video Bible study, Max Lucado explores God's promises in Philippians 4:4-8 and shows that while anxiety is *part* of life, it doesn't have to *dominate* life. As you follow God's prescription for worry—celebrate his goodness, ask for help, leave your concerns with him, meditate on good things—you will experience his peace. You can stop letting anxiety rule your day... and find true calm and contentment in Christ.

THOMAS NELSON  
Since 1798

It's a season for anxiety -- on the national level, we have a federal government busy restructuring the world we've grown used to over the decades. Here at First Presbyterian, we are discerning God's call for a congregation after our pastor for the last 11-years retired.

Jesus told us that in life we will face troubles (John 16:33). Troubles produce anxiety. We're going to spend Lent exploring the promise in Philippians 4:6 that with God's help we are "anxious for nothing."

You have two opportunities to be part of this five-week study:

- A fun Thursday evening video chat with Lucado, a chance for fellowship, and exploring the lesson in small groups with trained leaders.


- A more traditional class on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m., including the video.

There's a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. Indicate which option you would prefer, and if you wish to order Lucado's workbook for *Anxious for Nothing*. Books are \$8.50 each.

### More breakfast food, please

We didn't really fill the Food Bank shelves with enough breakfast cereal in January. So, we are back to "everything breakfast" as February's Food of the Month. Please bring boxed cereal, packets or boxes of oatmeal, energy bars, and place your contributions in the red grocery cart parked in the Narthex.

# February at First

**1 Saturday**  
 Noon, **Women's Fellowship Luncheon**, Black Bear Diner, 1150 E. Barnett Rd.  
 Noon, "**Attitude of Gratitude**" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room  
 7 p.m. "**Circle of Friends**" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

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

**3 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

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

**5 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

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

**7 Friday**  
 6:30 p.m. "**It Checks Out**" Narcotics Anonymous, basement

**8 Saturday**  
 Noon "**Attitude of Gratitude**" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room  
 2 p.m. **Session workshop**, Fireside Room  
 7 p.m. "**Circle of Friends**" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

**9 Sunday**  
 8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Fireside Room  
 9:45 a.m. A **conversation with Robin Garvin**, Fireside Room  
 11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary  
 Noon, **Worship Committee**, Library  
 12:15 p.m. **Deacons**, Workroom  
 4 p.m. **Jazz Vespers**, Kirby Shaw Jazz Choir, Sanctuary

**10 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

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

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

**13 Thursday**  
 6:30 p.m. **Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible**, Fireside room

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

**15 Saturday**  
 Noon "**Attitude of Gratitude**" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room  
 6:45 p.m. Fellowship **Chocolate Contest**, Youth Lounge  
 7 p.m. "**Circle of Friends**" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

**16 Sunday**  
 8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Fireside room  
 11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary



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

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

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

**20 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. **Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible**, Fireside Room

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

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

**23 Sunday**  
 8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Fireside room  
 11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary  
 4 p.m. **Classical Vespers**, to be announced, Sanctuary

**24 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

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

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

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

## Our 140th year: transition time



Steve Roe with Hope, the therapy dog

The congregation has a time of discernment ahead, we learned at the Annual Meeting held last Sunday. And Steve Roe, our liaison from Presbyterian of the Cascades Commission on Ministry, said we are well prepared for searching for a replacement for Pastor Murray Richmond. Following Pastor Murray's retirement on January 12, Session hired Pastor Mike Hubbard as full-time Bridge Pastor and made a covenant with the Rev. Robin Garvin to serve as our Transitional Consulting Pastor. She'll guide us through the transition process while Pastor Mike handles daily pastoral work and worship. Rev. Garvin meets in person with Session the afternoon of February 8 as they select a team to design a process which fits our congregation. "I urge you to take an active part in this process," said Steve, an elder at Bethany Presbyterian in

Grants Pass.

Rev. Garvin told Session we have three questions to answer before we seek a new pastor: Who are we, at this time? Who are our neighbors? What is God calling us to do and to become?

"Doing this important work sharpens a congregation's current self-understanding, enables you to identify areas of focus and increases your probability of finding a pastor whose gifts, skills and passions best match with your congregation and its mission/vision," she said.

In other business, the congregation heard a plea to increase giving in the face of a predicted budget deficit for 2025 and elected new classes of elders and deacons. Three deacon positions and one elder position have yet to be filled.

**A conversation with Robin Garvin**  
 Members and friends of the congregation are invited to a Q and A at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, February 9 as our Transitional Consulting Pastor meets us for the first time. In the Fireside Room.

### Snacks needed

Please sign up to bring light snacks for after-worship fellowship. Lists are in the Narthex.

### February birthdays

- 2 Chunhui Billings
- 7 Nancy Leever
- 8 Suzanne Harrison
- 9 Andy Ullrich
- 15 Marilyn Hultquist
- 15 Sandra Anderson
- 17 Marg Funch
- 22 Mary Lynn Lucas
- 27 Linda Colehower
- 27 Sue Silfvast
- 28 Jaycee Lowe



### Chocolate contest

Tasters get ready. Bakers find the recipe. We are having a Chocolate Contest the evening of Saturday, February 15. It's been a few years since the last Chocolate Contest, but those who remember it will tell you not to eat dessert before you come.

And, professional chocolate tasters say in the hour before you start sampling, don't eat anything with a strong flavor because you might have trouble "noticing the subtle nuances in chocolate."

The party begins at 6:45 p.m. It will be held upstairs in the Youth Lounge. For those who haven't been there lately, you can either take the elevator through our parking lot entry or walk up the stairs in the Christian Education wing. Cooks are asked to cut your entries into small bite-sized samples so everyone, as well as the judges, can have a taste.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
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Office hours Mon. through Thurs.  
 9 a.m. to noon.

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 Transitional Consulting Pastor  
 .....Rev. Robin Garvin  
 Associate for Visitation and Pastoral Care  
 .....Rev. Mary Wright Gillespie  
 Minister of Music and Media  
 .....Tony Chunn  
 Administrative & Financial Assistant.....Elizabeth Mahan

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

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### Your newsletter team

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