


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 140th year

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

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

The man with the horn returns

Trumpeter Randy Scherer plays Jazz Vespers Sunday, March 9. He's a popular local musician who works professionally as part of cruise ship big bands.

March marks the return of a 5 p.m. start for Vespers.

Joining Scherer are Daryl Fjeldheim on saxophone, Brent Olstad on piano, Timothy Kelly on bass and Theresa McCoy on drums.

The illustrations of artist Julie Bayless will continue on display in our hallway gallery. It's a collection from several of the children's books she's illustrated.



Randy Scherer



Jonas Nordwall

Organ virtuoso

Classical Vespers, which took a couple of hits with illness of performers and transportation concerns during February's snowstorm, kicks off its 2025 season Sunday, April 27.

The service will feature legendary Portland organist Jonas Nordwall. He's been organist for Portland's First United Methodist Church since 1971, was organist with the Oregon Symphony for 15 years, and as a young man earned fame with a 10-year gig at the theater organ in the Organ Grinder Restaurant on Portland's 82nd Avenue. At the time it was touted as the largest theater pipe organ in the world.

View from the Bridge

By Mike Hubbard

The Lenten season is upon us, and I find that my bridge metaphor applies as well to these 40 days and 40 nights of song and story.

For most who observe Lent, it is an echo of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert with wild beasts and Old You Know Who. In that sense, our Lord's fasting was the bridge between his baptism and his ministry. It was paved with sand, stones, and serpent tracks. Forty days later, he stepped from its distant end and triumphed over his tempter.

For those seeking to deepen their walk of faith, the practices of Lent—fasting, prayer, and reflection—are the bridge that carries them above life's day to day circumstances and distraction; a bridge with a far end anchored to spiritual ground of a sturdier sort.

This is hardly a novel idea. There is general agreement that Lenten practices began in the years following the Council of Nicaea. In those early days, Lent was a time for learning, 40 days spent on a catechism bridge, if you will.

At that time, becoming a Christian was almost like serving an apprenticeship. The season of Lent prepared seekers, many of them from pagan backgrounds, for the baptismal waters of Easter.

Here at First, we will take our first steps onto the Lenten Bridge on March 5—Ash Wednesday. Psalm 51 will be our text, “spiritual spring cleaning” our theme.

With the exception of that evening, my sermons will be based on lessons from Luke's gospel.

However, lessons from Luke are not our only resource as we make our way toward Easter. On both Thursday evenings and Sunday morning, Tam Moore will lead a study based on *Anxious for Nothing*, a book by American author and minister, Max Lucado. If there was ever a time to heed the Apostle Paul's words to “be anxious for nothing”, now is that time.

A fun Thursday evening class begins on March 13 and a more traditional class on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m., starting March 9. Look for sign-up sheet for either session on the table in the Narthex. There is also a registration link in both the church website and in the Rogue Connections.

Come this Lenten season, I hope to see you on the bridge.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Mike



Psychologists tell us that personal anxiety builds up when we seek to control our own lives. During this Lenten period, we have two opportunities to study how to put away that anxiety. The five-weeks are built around author Max Lucado's book *Anxious for Nothing*. Lucado, a minister, will present video talks for every session. They are built around the promise in Philippians 4:6 that with God's help we are anxious for nothing. Come, learn that the answer to anxiety is in prayer and letting God be in control.

March at First

- 1 Saturday**
Noon, **Women's Fellowship** Luncheon, Wild River Pizza, 2684 N. Pacific Hwy.
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**, 750 N 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
7 p.m. **Ash Wednesday** worship, Sanctuary
- 7 Friday**
6:30 p.m. "**It Checks Out**" Narcotics Anonymous, basement room
- 8 Saturday**
Noon "**Attitude of Gratitude**" Narcotics Anonymous, Great 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. **Anxious for Nothing** class, Fireside Room
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
12:15 p.m. **Deacons**, Workroom
5 p.m. **Jazz Vespers**, Randy Scherer and Friends, Sanctuary
- 10 Monday**
4 p.m. **Zoom book club** email hughanderson2004@msn.com for the link
6:30 p.m. **Mission** Committee, work 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**, 750 N Columbus Ave
1 p.m. **Nominating** Committee, workroom
- 12 Wednesday**
5:30 p.m. **Choir practice**, Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. "**Men's Unloaded**" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room
- 13 Thursday**
9 a.m. **Personnel** Committee, Pastor's study
7 p.m. **Anxious for Nothing** small groups, 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
7 p.m. "**Circle of Friends**" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room
- 16 Sunday**
8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Fireside room
9:45 a.m. **Anxious for Nothing** class, Fireside Room
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
- 17 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
- 18 Tuesday**
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 750 N Columbus Ave
- 19 Wednesday**
5:30 p.m. **Choir practice**, Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. "**Men's Unloaded**" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

- 20 Thursday**
10 a.m. **Finance Committee**, workroom
1 p.m. **Women's Fellowship** craft time, workroom
7 p.m. **Anxious for Nothing** small groups, 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
9:45 a.m. **Anxious for Nothing** class, Fireside Room
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
Noon, **Worship Committee**, chancel
- 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**, 750 N 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**
7 p.m. **Anxious for Nothing** small groups, Fireside room
- 28 Friday**
6:30 p.m. "**It Checks Out**" Narcotics Anonymous, basement room
- 29 Saturday FPC 140th Birthday**
Noon "**Attitude of Gratitude**" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room
7 p.m. "**Circle of Friends**" Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room
- 30 Sunday**
8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Fireside room
9:45 a.m. **Anxious for Nothing** class, Fireside Room
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary
- 31 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

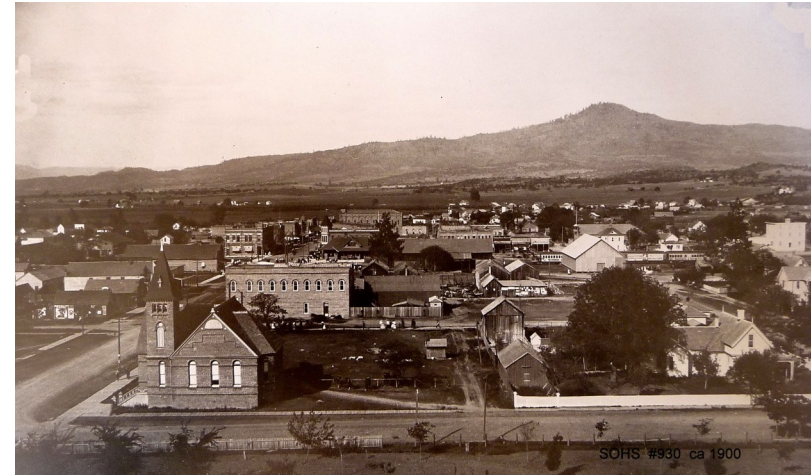
Marking 140 years



Moses Williams

Nine charter members, drawn from the Jacksonville Presbyterian Church congregation, formed First Presbyterian of Medford March 29, 1885. It was just two weeks after the town of Medford was incorporated. Rev. Moses Williams, the organizing pastor, served three years before moving on in a career backed by the Presbyterian Mission Agency of planting churches in many Southern Oregon communities.

Terri Johnson is leading a committee planning a series of events in this 140th year of First Presbyterian. If you'd like to help, please email her at johnsontl720@gmail.com. The celebrations begin after Easter.



You are looking east from Alba Park. Holly Street is in the foreground of this picture made about 1900. C.C. Beekman, a Jacksonville banker and major supporter of the Presbyterian church, on May 18, 1885, donated two lots at Main and Holly. The congregation, first meeting in a schoolhouse on Central Avenue, built a wood-frame church on the Main Street in 1887. The eight-year-old building was destroyed by an arson fire in 1895. A brick building, seen here, was in service the next year. The lot at Eighth and Holly, at the right, was then owned by Rebecca Finney, a member of the congregation. When she returned to Ohio, the lot was given to the congregation which for years used it as a manse. After a building campaign in 1927, the present church building was erected on the Finney lot.

March birthdays

- 3 Cathy Ullrich
- 4 Samantha Lowe
- 5 Katheryn Adams
- 9 Elizbeth Mahan
- 11 Brooklyn Walston
- 14 Jane Blomquist
- 16 Jack Jones
- 19 Linda McDermott
- 20 K.C. McCoy
- 21 Cindy Bursk
- Barbara Moore
- 22 Chloe Sternola
- 23 Ginni Peterson
- 26 Dan Johnson
- 27 Sarah Granger
- 28 Kristy Denman

Peanut butter, again

There's a call for help from our Food Bank, for peanut butter! This used to be a regular distribution item from ACCESS, our regional connection to the Oregon Food Bank. We haven't gotten a shipment in a while. So in March, please help build up the supply. We serve about 130 families every week at West Medford Food Bank.

If each of us brings a jar of peanut butter every Sunday in March, our Food Bank managers say we'll just about cover the peanut butter needs.

This first Sunday of the month, please also bring some vegetables – a sack of potatoes, onions or carrots. And peanut butter.

First Presbyterian Church

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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.....Elizbeth Mahan

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

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