

8<sup>th</sup> & Holly newsletter  
First Presbyterian Church  
85 South Holly Street  
Medford, Oregon 97501

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage paid  
Medford OR 97501  
Permit No. 383



*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

April 2025



## View from the Bridge

By Mike Hubbard

As I write this, the mid-point of our Lenten journey has come and gone. Jordan's baptismal waters, which soaked our Lord's garments, have long since evaporated. He knows the end of his fast draws nearer with each wilderness sunrise. As his hunger deepens, Jesus is ever more attentive. He is mindful that, in the company of jackals and vipers, Satan prowls.

How have we fared during these days of discipline and discipleship? Has our resolve remained steadfast? Have dark desert nights left us fearful or have our souls rested deeply beneath cold starry skies? Morning greets us with dry desert bushes, but, increasingly, our thoughts are fixed on palm branches.

Gradually, the bittersweetness of Holy Week looms in our thoughts.

Holy Week calls to mind the covered bridges scattered about Southern Oregon. Waving our palm branches, we step onto the sunlit span leading to the covered portion. On either side, sturdy white railings lend assurance; the wilderness behind us, we sing. We dance. Palms waving, we shout:

"Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

In the creek bed below, smooth stones lie ready to raise their voices should ours falter.

Later, in the gathering gloom, we cast our palms aside. We shiver and pull our trod-upon cloaks tighter about our bodies. In the gray light, the railings are less assuring. Nervously, we glance behind at the fragments of our short-lived celebration.

With growing anxiety, we cross the dark threshold. The anticipated brightness at the far end disappoints; the deepening melancholy we had hoped to leave behind is before us as well. A wild wind rattles loose boards, the bridge's stout timbers groan. Good Friday finds us at midpoint, and it is dark with a darkness like no other. We stumble on.

Near the end of the second night someone quietly asks, "Didn't He say that something wonderful would happen on the third day?" Another member of our company replies, "Yes, but can even the most wonderful of wonders dispel this darkness?"

Later, as we step from the bridge, a faint grayness steals above the horizon. In the distance a bird sings. Morning's first rays fall on an empty tomb. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! He is risen indeed.

Grace and peace, Pastor Mike



## Who are we, what's our future?

The process for finding a new pastor picks up speed this month as our Transition Team seeks your input. Dan Johnson, co-chair of the team, says a written survey, mailed to selected members and friends of the congregation in early April, will provide the foundation.

"It's important for everybody to give us their opinions," says Dan.

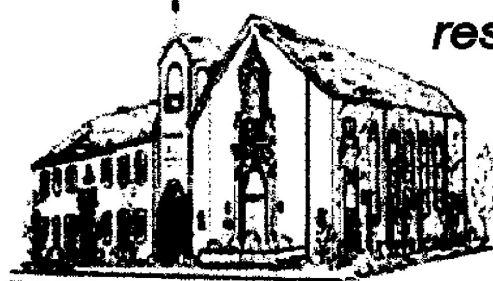
The team is asking for responses by Sunday, April 27.

In addition to the written survey, the team plans to hold listening sessions to share hopes, dreams and visions for this 140-year-old downtown church. Dan says the listening sessions will include discussion of "things we are seeing in the survey."

From this spring's fact-finding the team will prepare for Session and the congregation a document called the Ministry Discernment Profile. It will be reviewed by Presbytery to start the formal pastor selection process.

Team members include co-chairs Dan Johnson and Al Densmore, along with Carl Hultquist, Cathy Ullrich, Bob Frey, Kristy Denman and Jan Barrett. Rev. Robin Garvin, our Transitional Consulting Pastor, advises the team.

*Faithful to God; Grounded in Love,  
responsive to the world.*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Church

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



# April at First

**1 Tuesday**  
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom  
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 750 N Columbus Ave.

**2 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

**3 Thursday**  
7 p.m. **Anxious for Nothing** small groups, Fireside room

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

**5 Saturday**  
Noon **“Attitude of Gratitude”** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room  
12:30 p.m. **Women’s Fellowship** Luncheon, Black Bear Diner, 1150 E. Barnett Rd.  
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends”** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

**6 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, **new members class**, Youth Lounge (2nd floor)

**7 Monday**  
4 p.m. **Zoom book club** email hughanderson2004@msn.com for the link  
6:30 p.m. **“Dopeless Hope Chicks”** NA, Great Room

**8 Tuesday**  
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom  
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 750 N Columbus Ave  
6:30 p.m. **Congregational Vitality** Committee, workroom



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

**10 Thursday**  
7 p.m. **Anxious for Nothing** small groups, Fireside room

**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 Palm Sunday, One Great Hour of Sharing offering received**  
8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Fireside room  
9:45 a.m. **Anxious for Nothing** class, Fireside Room

11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary  
5 p.m. **Jazz Vespers**, Dean Angermeier Band, Sanctuary

**14 Monday**  
4 p.m. **Zoom book club** email hughanderson2004@msn.com for the link  
6:30 p.m. **“Dopeless Hope Chicks”** NA, Great Room  
6:30 p.m. **Mission** committee, workroom

**15 Tuesday**  
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom  
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 750 N Columbus Ave.

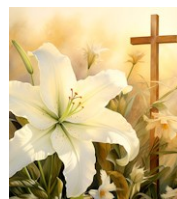
**16 Wednesday**  
5:30 p.m. **Choir practice**, Sanctuary  
6:30 p.m. **“Men’s Unloaded”** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

**17 Thursday Maundy Thursday**  
9 a.m. **Personnel** Committee, Pastor’s Study  
10 a.m. **Finance** Committee, workroom  
1 p.m. **Women’s Fellowship** craft time, workroom

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

**19 Saturday**  
10 a.m. Family **Easter Egg Hunt**, Alba Park  
Noon **“Attitude of Gratitude”** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room  
7 p.m. **“Circle of Friends”** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

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



**21 Monday**  
4 p.m. **Zoom book club** email hughanderson2004@msn.com for the link  
6:30 p.m. **“Dopeless Hope Chicks”** NA, Great Room

**22 Tuesday**  
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom  
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 750 N Columbus Ave.

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

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

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

**27 Sunday**  
8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Fireside room  
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary  
4 p.m. **Jonas Nordwall organ concert & vespers**, Sanctuary

**28 Monday**  
4 p.m. **Zoom book club** email hughanderson2004@msn.com for the link  
6:30 p.m. **“Dopeless Hope Chicks”** NA, Great Room

**29 Tuesday**  
10 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom  
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 750 N Columbus Ave.  
6:30 p.m. **Session**, Fireside Room

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

## One Great Hour

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance,  
—the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and

—Self-Development of People all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

We will receive and dedicate our special One Great Hour offering at worship on Palm Sunday, April 13.

Please give generously. One Great Hour is the single largest way Presbyterians come together

each year to work for a better world. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

### Organ concert April 27

Legendary organist Jonas Nordwall of Portland presents a concert on our Schoenstein organ at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 27. Nordwall is organist and music director for Portland’s First United Methodist Church.

The program mixes orchestral transcriptions for organ – such as Elgar’s *Pomp and Circumstance* – and organ classics including a Bach fugue. There will even be some Scott Joplin jazz arranged by Nordwall.

While attending the University of Portland he earned local fame as lead musician at the Organ Grinder pizza parlor on 82nd Avenue. His instrument was a giant Wurlitzer theater organ. Nordwall is a member of the American Theater Organ Society and directs their summer youth organ program.



Jonas Nordwall

### Invite the grandkids

Our second annual Alba Park Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 19 at 10 a.m. It’s a family event, with an egg hunt for toddlers through six-year-olds. The candy-filled eggs will be in the grass and bushes across Holly Street from the church.

Nikki Keating is organizing this year’s egg hunt. We invite donations of fillable plastic eggs and the candy to place inside. There will be special golden eggs which earn extra prizes for each age group. If you’d like to volunteer to either stuff the candy beforehand or help at the egg hunt, please contact Nikki at (541) 944-3496.

## First Presbyterian Church

85 South Holly Street  
Medford, Oregon 97501  
Phone: (541) 779-1711  
Email: [fpcm@firstpresmedford.org](mailto:fpcm@firstpresmedford.org)

Office hours Mon. through Thurs.  
9 a.m. to noon.

Bridge Pastor .....Mike Hubbard  
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

### Session Committee chairs

Building & Grounds—Bob Haddon  
1-(818) 383-4959  
Christian Education—Nikki Keating/  
Tam Moore  
(541)944-3496 (541) 608-0171  
Congregational Vitality- Dan Johnson  
(541) 621-1738  
Fellowship—Diana Kelley  
(541) 282-3496  
Finance —Cathy de Wolfe  
(541) 773-7350  
Personnel—Cathy Ullrich  
(541) 261-1761  
Mission—Bob Frey  
1-(503) 779-5558  
Worship & Music—Patty Herkert  
1-(503) 810-7599

[www.firstpreschurchmedford.com](http://www.firstpreschurchmedford.com)

### Your newsletter team

Paulette Avery, Cindy Walker  
Barbara & Tam Moore  
(541) 608-0171

Copy deadline: 4th Monday of the month prior to publication

email: [newsletter.firstpresmedford@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.firstpresmedford@gmail.com)