



# *First Press*

*June & July 2023 - Volume 71 - Number 6*

*June & July*

# Ramblings *from the* Reverend

Dear Friends,

Relationships are the foundation of who we are at this particular church. To be a part of the First Pres family is to, at least tacitly, agree to be involved in entering and nurturing relationships.

That is very Jesus-like, isn't it? The story of the gospels is the story of Jesus entering into relationships with others –Jesus as the Son of God initiating and creating a depth and a meaning to a variety of particular relationships.

Often times, of course, Jesus's relationships in the gospel accounts are surprising. They were for the people of Israel during the time of the gospels, and they are for us. We don't expect Jesus to be in relationship with that person, or to have the relationship deal with that issue or circumstance. It's evident that for the ones who reciprocated the relationship with Jesus that there was something about our Lord which nurtured trust in him.

Good relationships lead to trust. We don't trust folks we don't know. We don't trust folks who have not earned our trust. But when we know, and when we are known, trust is the gift that brings life to the relationship. Again, Jesus is the model. And he expects us to follow that model.

We do this kind of relationship well at First Pres; not perfectly, but well. And out of that relationship cultivation we build mutual trust.

The “Can I Ask That” gatherings have been a prime example of conversations built on mutual trust. They are a way in which we can have open conversations with each other on topics that can only be explored if that trust is there. These are the kinds of conversations where unanimous agreement is not the goal but listening and empathy are.

As I have participated in these conversations, I have been moved by the transparency of what is shared. I have been grateful for the active willingness to have a dialogue without judgment. I am aware of the vulnerability of what has been shared by beloved friends in this setting. I admire their courage. I also admire the grace of those who listen.

In particular, sexuality and gender are difficult topics for churches to talk about and yet many of us are talking about them. For some, this conversation about this topic is a bridge too far. Minds are made up, or there is not a personal connection, or it's simply too messy.

My opinion is that the conversations we are having or will be having about sexuality and gender are critical. We have friends, relatives, fellow believers for whom this is not an intellectual matter but a matter of identity.

I had a young queer Christian woman tell me that as she “came out” to herself, her initial conviction was that God hated her and she was God's mistake. That's not an intellectual or doctrinal abstract view, that is a deep cry to God and to the people of God about identity and worth. I am so glad we can be the kind of church that will enter into a relationship and a conversation with our queer brothers and sisters and those who love them.

I also believe that we have a reservoir of trust in each other that we can draw from to have these conversations. This is, for many of us, a test of our trust. Wasn't it easier when things seemed black and white,

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when the relationships didn't require this level of vulnerability? And, yet the way of Jesus will always lead us to places where our trust in him; and through him, our trust with each other, will be tested and stretched.

Our relationships to each other are a gift from God. They reflect that God has actively pursued us for relationship with him. It is in those relationships with God and each other that we truly become the Body of Christ, the living metaphor of the church and our church. I give thanks to God that this particular part of the Body of Christ is the one I have been called to.

Blessings and Peace,  
John Sowers

## High School

Rozalyn Allen, Lewis and Clark  
Jacob Bowen, Lewis and Clark  
Knox Brown, Lewis and Clark  
Ella Downs, Lewis and Clark  
Matthew Endicott, Lewis and Clark  
Aiden Fitzgerald, Lewis and Clark  
Nessa Greenup, Spokane Valley Tech  
Allie Lorentz, Lewis and Clark  
Jaxson Pierce, Lewis and Clark  
John Robinson, Lewis and Clark  
Asher Steer, Lewis and Clark  
Jason Taylor, New Tech Skill Center  
Grace Warne, Gonzaga Prep

## College

Chloe Burley, WSU Nursing School  
Savanna Bradley, Whitworth University  
Molly Brausen, Grand Canyon University  
Drew Craddock, Whitworth MA in Theology  
Deanna Dwyer, University of Michigan  
Camryn Gardner, Whitworth University  
Rachel Halbo, Gonzaga University  
Jenna Janke, University of Portland  
Katherine Kohls, University of Redlands  
Josh Love, Grand Canyon University  
Sarah Mahan, University of Washington  
George McGuinness, Whitworth university  
Emily Reidt, Whitworth University  
Joseph Schauer, Dominican University  
Tori Schauer, Whitworth University  
Daniel Soderquist, Washington State University  
Lily Warne, Gonzaga University

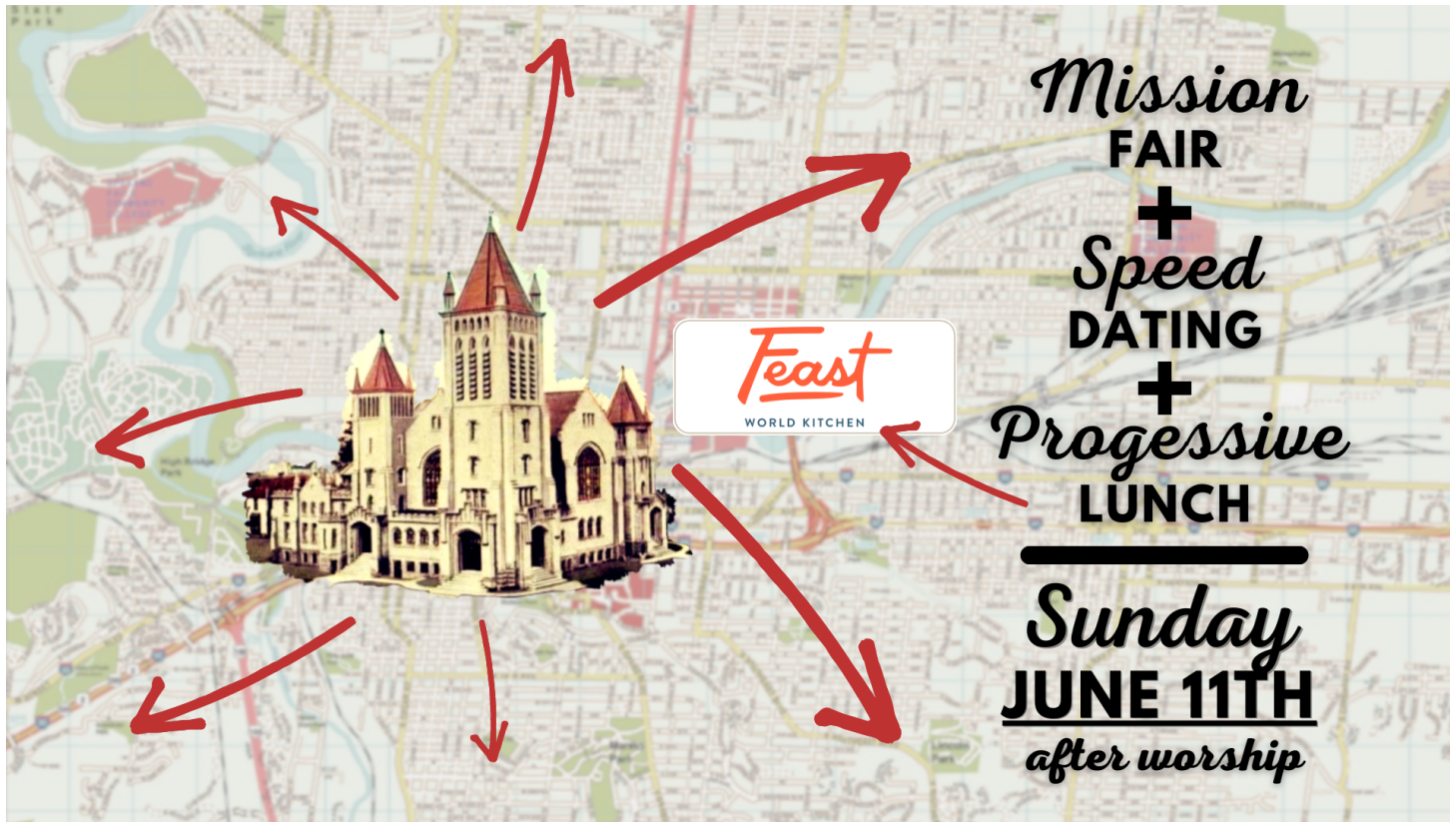


**Class of  
2023**

**Congratulations!**

# SUNDAYS

The Gathering . . . June 11



**ACT II  
COMMUNITIES**

**Sunday, June 4 @ 11am  
LAST ONE**

## **Practice Resurrection**

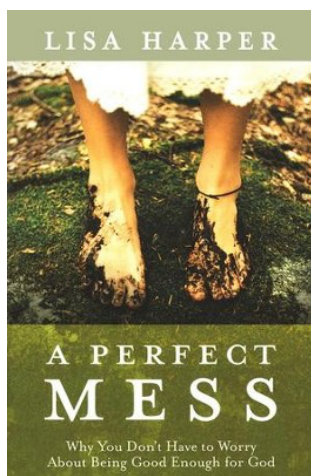
Fireside Room

**The Gospel according to John**  
taught by Bruce Gore in the Sanctuary

# Library News

Have you been to the FPC library lately? If not, come and check it out! It is full of beautiful books with new books added often. You will find a wide variety of Christian fiction and nonfiction books. There is a shelf with large print books and another shelf with books written by several of our church members. Also, please browse the section of books in a series! You will find CD's and a separate stand of movies, as well as a whole Bible and research section. Learn how to sign in on the new computer check out system so you can check out a book, CD or video. Vicki Johnson or another library team member is available most Sundays to show you how. We are no longer using cards to check out so please fill out the yellow sheet by the computer with your name, email and phone number. Once a library team member enters you into the system you are set up for check out. It's easy!

## Summer-time Women's Bible Study Mondays @ 6pm: June 5—July 24 Online or In-person



All women are invited to join the Yada's Monday Night Bible Study this summer either in person or on Zoom as we discuss [A Perfect Mess: Why You Don't Have to Worry About Being Good Enough for God](#) by Lisa Harper. This book explores how God adores and transforms imperfect people through selected Psalms. Hopefully we will learn to stop trying to hide our inadequacies and doubts and instead trust God with our anger, frustrations, flaws, and regrets.

Our **7-week study begins on June 5 at 6:00** and includes Fellowship, Large Group Discussion, and Small Groups for question discussions and praying for each other.

For more information, contact Brenda Norton at 509.747.1058 x243. Sign up at [spokane-fpc.org/connect/adults](http://spokane-fpc.org/connect/adults)

Every Thursday • Summer 2023  
7am • FPC • All Ages

Men's  
Bible  
Study

Book of James & More!  
June 22 - August 24

# Congregational Care

## Welcome Deacons Class of 2026



Class of 2026 Deacons are John Greenup, Michele Greenup, Mike McGowan, Pat McGowan, Selma Rhodes, and Patty Wilhite.

The Deacons elected co-moderators for this coming year, Larry Mann and Steve Baird.



## Diamond Jubilee

At the 2023 Diamond Jubilee we had a beautiful worship service and reception to honor our church family who are 75+. Thank you to the Deacons for hosting and helping lead worship, and our featured speakers who brought meaningful stories of God's faithfulness.



## GriefShare

After its first run at FPC, GriefShare will conclude on June 14. Facilitators will take a break over the summer, but plan to resume next fall. Mark your calendars now for Wednesday September 6, when the group returns with all-new and improved curriculum and videos. Contact Rene Farrington with any questions, [renef@spokanefpc.org](mailto:renef@spokanefpc.org) or visit [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org) for more info.

## Dementia Friends

Two dozen FPC Stephen Ministers and other friends joined Dr. Bruce Dentler to become "dementia friends" in mid-May. If you would like further support as you care for a loved one with Alzheimers or dementia, consider attending the monthly support group that meets at FPC. The local Alzheimers Association leads this group with grace and help. 1:30pm on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.



## Joining the Church Triumphant

Sharon Cordova died March 31st, 2023  
Jean Hernandez died April 19th 2023

**Thanks be to God for the lives of his faithful servants.**

# LAUNCH PAD



**LAUNCH KIDS  
JUNE  
CALENDAR**

June 11, 18, 25 - No Elementary Programming  
June 16-18 - All Y'all Camp  
June 26-30 - Super VBS World

**LAUNCH KIDS WANTS TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FAMILIES FOR HELPING LEAD OUR LAST SERIES...** The Downeys, The Sitters, The Whites, The Tribbetts, The Loews & The Whittakers



YOU ARE INVITED TO  
**LAUNCH KIDS**

**WET & WACKY  
WEDNESDAYS!**

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT THE MANITO SPLASH PAD  
JULY 12-AUGUST 16  
6:00PM-7:00PM

**GRAB YOUR DINNER AND BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY TO MANITO FOR SNACKS, GAMES, WATER, AND WACKINESS!**

## WET & WACKY WEDNESDAYS

Every Wednesday from 6:00PM-7:00PM July 12-August 16 - At the Manito Splash Pad  
The whole family is invited each Wednesday night to grab their dinner and bring it over to Manito Park where we'll spend our Summer evenings eating together, playing family games, having fun in the splash pad, and getting up to some fun and wacky things together! We'd love to have your family join us for these nights of connection together!



**ENCOUNTER:  
SPOKANE**

FPC 5TH-9TH GRADE SERVICE EXPERIENCE  
JULY 17-20, 2023 9AM-2PM

REGISTER ONLINE BY JUNE 17TH  
SPOKANEFPC.ORG/EVENTS  
QUESTIONS? CONTACT LYDIAP@SPOKANEFPC.ORG

## ENCOUNTER

Calling all incoming 5th-9th graders: this summer we have a service experience that has been created uniquely for you! July 17th-20th, prepare for a week of encounters. Throughout the Bible, we see tons of different people encounter the Lord, and walk away completely transformed! We believe those sorts of encounters are still happening today in countless different ways. This week will be full of service projects around our community, fun bonding time with each other, and plenty of time to encounter the Holy Spirit. If you're interested in joining us this summer, register at [spokaneFPC.org/events](http://spokaneFPC.org/events) no later than June 17th. The cost of the week is \$50.00 (scholarships will be available). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Lydia Halma, [lydiap@spokaneFPC.org](mailto:lydiap@spokaneFPC.org).

# Serve.

“The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.” — John 1:14, The Message

## June 11th Gathering

Our church has a long and beautiful history of serving alongside many of our local mission partners. Like so many things, this core part of our DNA took a back seat during COVID. However, your FPC Mission Team feels like it is time to re-engage where possible and are asking you to join us to find out how!



After worship on June 11th please stick around to hear from mission partners such as Side by Side, City Gate, Family Promise, World Relief, and many more about how you can consistently (or sparingly!) be a part of their good work in our city.

Our Gathering will include:

- 4 15-minute presentations from select mission partners
- 4 different “bites” by chefs from Feast World Kitchen
- A chance to see what sort of partnership would fit best for you or your family
- An opportunity to live into our vision of being “externally focused”



## Love Your Neighbor Day

July 30th is shaping up to be a special Sunday! We'll have a slightly-shortened worship service at 10am with preaching by Jerry Sittser. Then after worship we'll have the opportunity to head out into the city to love our neighbors!

The FPC Mission Team will have multiple service sites around town where you, your friends, your kids, and anyone can spend some time prepping, cleaning, mentoring, planting, organizing, feeding, painting, praying, and supporting our neighbors around Spokane.





# Summer Baptism at the Lake During All Y'All Camp

**Saturday,  
June 17 at 4pm**

All are invited to come out to Bell Bay for the worship service and camp dinner to follow.

Anyone wishing to be baptized should plan to attend a class at FPC on Sunday June 4 following worship and will be assigned an elder to meet for conversation. Please contact Pastor Betsy to say you're coming to the class—[betsyw@spokanefpc.org](mailto:betsyw@spokanefpc.org) or 509-747-1058x253.

**FIRST PRES  
ALL Y'ALL CAMP**  
June 17 Lake Baptism

**Email Betsy for more info!**

## FPC Financial Update

- Pledged income for the fourth month of the year is \$4,040 favorable to budget. Non-Pledged income is \$52,577 favorable to budget.
- The expenses for the fourth month of the year are \$15,819 unfavorable to budget.
- Net church income/operations was \$62,527 favorable to a budget of -\$76,989 showing an income of -\$14,462.
- Note to financial statements: I have moved the Mark-to-Market Value Recognition line out of the Church Income section and placed it below the Net Church Operations line so that net operations is not inflated/deflated by market movement of investments. You can see operations with the market value recognition on the last line of the report.

Financial Update - 2022 Operating Budget		
April-23		
Church Only	Year to Date	YTD Budget
Pledged Income	446,524	442,485
Non-Pledged Income	81,046	28,469
Other Income	64,963	43,234
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 592,534</b>	<b>\$ 514,188</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>606,996</b>	<b>591,177</b>
<b>Income over (under) expenses</b>	<b>(14,462)</b>	<b>(76,989)</b>

# First Presbyterian Christian School

## Introducing the New FPCS Principals



Tracy Blue



Shawna Harris

*Welcome!*

We are thrilled to announce the hiring of our new FPCS Co-Principals, Tracy Blue and Shawna Harris! Tracy and Shawna bring over 45 years of teaching and school administration experience to our school. This educational leadership team is a gift we never expected to find when the principal search began, but when Shawna and Tracy approached us and offered their desire to serve together, it was apparent to the Search Committee that their enthusiasm, talents and experience were the best fit for our school. Our confidence in Tracy and Shawna cannot be overstated. Planning has already begun for the next school year and the energy and momentum is contagious. We invite you to introduce your family and hear their shared vision for FPCS.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Christian School  
WHERE CHILDREN LEARN TO LOVE & LOVE TO LEARN

REGISTER NOW FOR THE  
2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR!



[WWW.FPCHRISTIANSCHOOL.ORG](http://WWW.FPCHRISTIANSCHOOL.ORG)

CALL TO SCHEDULE A TOUR  
509-747-9192



## PRAXIS & SHIFT SUMMER CALENDAR

### JUNE

- 16 Backyard Movie @ the 7th Ave House! 7:30-9:30pm
- 28 Praxis/Shift in the Park @ Comstock 6:30-8pm

### JULY

- 12 Lake Day! Time TBD
- 26 Movie at the Garland Theatre Time TBD

### AUGUST

- 16 Spokane Indians Baseball Game 6:00pm
- 30 Praxis/Shift in the Park @ Comstock 6:30-8pm

### CONTACT INFO:

**Kezia:** 509-747-1058  
ex 175  
+ cell: 509-844-2579  
keziar@spokaneipc.org  
**Alivia:**  
aliviab@spokaneipc.org

### WESTPORT DATES:

- 6/14 Prep Meeting #1: 6:30-9pm
- 6/26-30 First Pres VBS
- 7/9 Prep Meeting #2: 6:30-9pm
- 7/20 Decoration Shift 3-5pm
- 7/23 Prep Meeting #3: 1-6pm
- 7/29-8/6 Serving in Westport

## WESTPORT CLOTHING DRIVE



- We are in need of clothing for children and teens ages 0-18
- Bring bags of clothing to church marked "Westport"

Donations will be  
accepted July 2 -  
July 23

Young Adults Westport Trip  
August 6-11  
Join the young adults as we  
serve youth in Westport  
Contact Jourdan if you are interested!  
jourdanc@spokaneipc.org

# Porch chat

YOUNG ADULTS & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

June 4 @ Noon | 1717 W. 8th Ave | Lunch provided

There will also be Porch Chats on July 9th & August 13th

## SUMMER DROP-IN CHOIR

JUNE 11 | JULY 9 | AUGUST 20

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REHEARSALS WILL BE AT 8:45AM THE DAY-OF

SIGN UP ONLINE ON THE FPC EVENT PAGE  
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT DERRICK: [DERRICKP@SPOKANEFPC.ORG](mailto:DERRICKP@SPOKANEFPC.ORG)



## Now Hiring

# CHILDCARE COORDINATOR

Part-time Sunday-Thursday

For questions, detailed job description and application, please contact Ryan Schmall.

509-747-1058 x165 or [ryans@spokanefpc.org](mailto:ryans@spokanefpc.org)



# Coming Up

- June 4 *Porch Chat*
- June 11 *Drop-In Choir*  
*The Gathering: Mission Fair*
- June 16-18 *All Ya'll Camp*
- June 17 *Baptism at the Lake*
- June 26-30 *VBS*
- July 2-23 *Westport Children's  
Clothing Drive*
- July 9 *Drop-in Choir*
- July 17-20 *Encounter: Spokane*
- July 23-27 *Camp Invention*
- July 30 *Love Your Neighbor Day*
- Aug 6-11 *Young Adults Westport Trip*

## Contacts

(509) 747-1058

### Pastoral Team

John Sowers (250)

Betsy Wynne (253)

### Director of Administration

Stephanie Coy (244)

### Worship/Music

Derrick Parker (307)

### FPC Christian School

Gretchen Hausman (120)

### Family Ministries

Ryan Schmall (163)

### Childcare/Nursery

Rachel Pitts (164)

### Student Ministries

Kezia Rhodes (175)

### Intergenerational Ministries

Brad Hauge (252)

### Preteen Ministries

Lydia Halma (162)

### Adult Ministries

Brenda Norton (243)

### Newcomers Ministry

Sue Reidt (241)

### Communications

April Egly (245)

### Barton School

Becky Rempe (212)

**Deacon Prayer Line: 747-1050**

## Summer Office Hours

Beginning June 19

M-Th 9am-1pm and closed Fridays

## Sunday Worship Services

Online and In-person Sundays at 10am



**First Presbyterian**  
Church of Spokane

For more information about ongoing programs, visit our website  
at [www.spokanefpc.org](http://www.spokanefpc.org) or pick up a brochure at the church