

# *First Press*

*October 2023 - Volume 71 - Number 9*



# *October*

# Ramblings *from the* Reverend

Fellow First Pres Family,

I am going to contend that there are two kinds of “Regifting.” The first one? “Well, it’s not for me, but maybe it would be right for \_\_\_\_.” Here’s an example: someone gives me a Los Angeles Dodger’s jersey for Christmas. My reaction: “Well, it’s sure not for me but I know my friend Paul Dionne would like it, I’ll give it to him.”

There’s a happier kind of “Regifting.” My pastor friend, David, has started a “side gig,” a company that sells barbecue adjacent items – a tub for the meat you want to marinate with a cutting board on the bottom of the tub, knives, aprons, and an insulated blanket to keep your barbecue warm. I love his stuff!

And because I love his stuff, I eagerly pass it along! I know how much it means to me, and I am delighted to share it with others.

Our Stewardship Campaign this year is called the Great Regifting. Here is the opportunity for you to pass forward your love for our church by giving cheerfully and generously.

When I think about the ways in which the grace of Christ is demonstrated here, it feels “manifold!” The joy and vibrancy of our worship with each other. The blessings of our active fellowship in smaller groups and as a whole Body. Our important mission work with our community, with Barton School, and First Pres Christian School, and our relationship with Spokane Public Schools through Roosevelt Elementary. Praise God for our programs and our witness...

It is fair to make the assertion that you know deeper and better God’s grace through your involvement at First Pres, and that you want to support it and share it with others. This church is a gift to you – and you want to regift it!

I Peter 4:10 captures this well:

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

We are stewards (caretakers or nurturers) of the manifold grace of God, and so we serve (or share) with one another from that abundant grace. What gift have you received from being a part of this church and how will you share it?

Our spiritual call to give is met by our very real financial needs as a church. The truth is, we are still digging out from the effects of the pandemic. In order for the ministries and mission of this church to continue, we need our collective giving to increase. We need more to give and for more to be given. I pray and ask that you will do just that!

Blessings – John

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*We want to thank Keith Liptack for refinishing the top and sides of First Presbyterian's communion table.*

*This beautiful sacred table has been a part of our church since the 1960s.*

1920s

1930s

1940s

1950s

1960s



## **Boomers & Beyond**

for everyone born in the 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, or 60s

### **Friday, October 13 ~ Fellowship Feast**

Join us 5:30-7:00 for fellowship & a delicious meal made by a Feast chef. Make a reservation online or call the church to sign up. Pay at the door.

# *Handel's Messiah* **Sing-a-long**

Saturday, December 9 at 3pm  
Sing-a-long rehearsal at 1:30pm

Reservations required and will be available starting November 1

# SUNDAYS *after worship*

## ACT II Communities

October 1, 15, 22, 29 & November 5

-  **Adult Community** Fireside Room
-  **Young Adult Community** Room 213
-  **High School Community** Brick Room
-  **Middle School Community** Well Room
-  **Bible Recap Group** Room 212
-  **Gospel of John** Sanctuary  
*taught by Bruce Gore*



*PreK to 5th Grade*  
Downstairs in Family Ministries Area

Nursery Care  
birth - 2yrs  
Main Level



# The Gathering

**FeastFest  
October 8**

Join us after worship for a community street party on Cedar St.

Or ... go to the Fireside Room to hear about One Parish One Prisoner, a mission partner that is new to FPC, then join the street party. See more info about OPOP on page 8.

## BIBLE STUDIES

*NEW ... beginning in October*

Sign up at [spokane-fpc.org/adults](http://spokane-fpc.org/adults) or come to the Connect Center.



### Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study

**1st & 3rd Thursdays 9:30-11:30am**

**Led by Pastor John Sowers, beginning October 5**

Join us for fellowship, teaching and discussion as we work our way through the **Gospel of Mark**. No need to sign up. Just show up with your Bible ... and bring a friend.



### Monday Evening Women's Bible Study

**Mondays @ 6pm ... in person & online**

**October 30 - February 12 (not Dec 18, 25 & Jan 1)**

#### The Prodigal Prophet: Jonah and the Mystery of God's Mercy

Jonah was one of the worst prophets in the entire Bible and yet there are clear connections between Jonah, the prodigal son, and Jesus. Our study will focus on how God saved the world through the one who called himself the ultimate Jonah so that He could be both just and the justifier of those who believe and we can become Spirit-changed, Christ-like women. Our meetings include fellowship, large group study discussion, and small groups for discussion and praying for each other.

# THURSDAYS *in October*

Conflict and misunderstanding between generations is as old as, well, humanity! No matter our current age it's likely at some point each of us bellowed "You just don't understand!" to an older parent or friend. Today, maybe more than ever before, a lack of intergenerational understanding has spilled into neighborhoods, media, and even churches. Join us for our first Can I Ask That? dialogue this fall as we ask, "What is the deal with your generation?" We'll have a chance to share our current experiences while asking questions of those in a different generation. We promise we'll have fun while striving for a more generous stance toward those of a different age.



## CAN I ASK THAT?

**Oct. 12**  
Dinner @ 5:30  
Kid's activities  
Conversation  
Curiosity  
Growth

**What is the deal with  
YOUR generation?**



## TRIVIA NIGHT!

**OCTOBER 26**  
**5:30 • DINNER**

It's trivia time again at FPC! Join together with an intergenerational team to empty out all the corners of your brain where strange facts and useless knowledge live!

Feel free to come with your own team or we can help you find one as we compete against each other for big-brained glory!

[www.spokanefpc.org/events](http://www.spokanefpc.org/events)

# Congregational Care

## “Can I Pray for You?”

In mid-September, the FPC Deacons studied James 5, causing us to ponder more deeply the nature and practice of healing prayer:

*13 Are any among you suffering? They should pray... 14 Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up... the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.*



We discussed the following questions and listed some of our answers. What would you add?

1. What are the risks, obstacles, challenges to praying for healing as simply as James describes it?  
Being bold is risky! Challenge of making time, of not having trust. Death & disease are part of life; should we pray against them? Unanswered prayer might destroy faith. Sometimes we feel undeserving.
2. What is prayer?  
Communication involving God, both outgoing and incoming; includes supplication & praise, confession and worship. It can be a way of caring for someone; it's personal communion with God. It may be meditation, not words.
3. What is prayer NOT?  
Not a formula, not a negotiation, not a transaction. Not always timely; not dependent on the one doing the praying; not always answered how we wanted it. Not showy, not self-serving, not one way, not magic—not a guarantee.
4. What can we pray for?  
Anything and everything within God's will! Compassion & understanding; Acceptance & clarity. Healing. Insight into a situation. For the very words to pray. For forgiveness, for tangible and specific needs. Pray for God's mighty presence with the sick.

If you would like a small group of Deacons and Elders to pray over you for healing, just ask! It is our privilege to pray for one another. We don't have it all figured out, and sometimes have to wrestle with “unanswered” prayers, but we desire to grow deeper in this practice together as a church.

Other ways to join in or request prayers of healing:

- Daily Prayer Chain—request prayer online, through the cards in the pews, or by asking a Deacon or staff member.
- Sunday morning Prayer Partners, at the prayer chapel or in front of the sanctuary
- Request a visit from Deacons or Pastors, at home, in the hospital, or at the church to pray for healing, comfort, and the growth of grace
- Solstice/ Longest Night worship service December 21, 7pm.

Let's continue to grow in prayer together. —Pastor Betsy and the FPC Deacons and Prayer Teams

**Joining the Church Triumphant**  
William Henry died on August 19, 2023  
**Thanks be to God for the lives of his faithful servants.**

# LAUNCH PAD

## NEW SERIES! LEAD THE WAY

In the jungle, every day is an unpredictable adventure! But to safely navigate the vines, animals, and tricky terrain, we'll need a guide to help lead us. This series follows the life of Moses and his journey to leading the Israelites out of Egypt. Through his story, we'll discover how God teaches us how to lead, and learn how to follow God's lead as God leads us to safety, and to what we need.



## FALL FAMILY FEST!

**OCTOBER 21**

**3PM-5PM - FREE!**

Everyone is invited for a Fall party like no other, our Fall Family Fest! We'll be celebrating the season with all kinds of fun, games, food, trick or treating, and music! The event is completely free, and we'd love for you to invite your friends and family on out for all the fun we'll be having! Kids and adults are encouraged to wear a costume, and there may even be a costume contest this year!

We also are in need of some help to make this event happen. We are currently

collecting candy donations to stock up our trick or treat booths. Donations can be dropped off at the church office or in the buckets at the entrances on Sunday mornings. We also are looking for volunteers to lead a booth or trick or treat table. For more info or to volunteer, email [ryans@spokaneffc.org](mailto:ryans@spokaneffc.org).

LAUNCH KIDS AND FPCS PRESENT

# Fall Family Fest

TRICK OR TREAT TRAIL

FUN MUSIC

GAME BOOTHS

FREE!

OCTOBER 21

3:00-5:00

FALL TREATS

FACE PAINT

AND MORE!

318 S CEDAR ST.

CONTACT [RYANS@SPOKANEFFPC.ORG](mailto:RYANS@SPOKANEFFPC.ORG) FOR MORE INFO!

# 4TH-5TH GRADE HALLOWEEN PARTY

OCT 29 5 PM

**COSTUME CONTEST, SPOOKY FOOD CHALLENGE, & MORE!**

**4TH-5TH GRADE HALLOWEEN PARTY!**  
**OCTOBER 29, 5 PM-7 PM**  
**7023 S CREST VIEW ST.**

On Sunday, October 29, all our 4th and 5th grade kids are invited to our first ever Halloween party! We'll be playing some festive and fun games together, holding a costume and spooky food contest, and so much more! For more info, or to RSVP, email [lydiap@spokaneffc.org](mailto:lydiap@spokaneffc.org).

# Serve.

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

## ONE PARISH ONE PRISONER

Every once in a while, God’s timing is impossible to ignore! And we believe this is one of those moments. Just as FPC is learning, and leaning into, what a posture of Biblical hospitality can mean for our church and our city, current elder Derek Taylor introduced us to a ministry called “One Parish, One Prisoner.” Brad has had multiple conversations with staff from OPOP and presented the idea of partnering with them to our Mission Team who unanimously voted to proceed!

### **What is One Parish, One Prisoner?**

Did you know that there are roughly the same number of incarcerated people in Washington state as churches? Imagine if each of our churches agreed to enter into relationship with just one person in prison. One Parish One Prisoner is a re-entry model that matches churches with an incarcerated person for their mutual transformation. A relationship of trust is built through letter writing and prison visits. And when the time comes, this person will find the embrace of an entire parish community who already knows them and can assist with the many obstacles to re-entry.

***“I love this One Parish One Prisoner idea! Compassion is not a relationship between ‘healer’ and ‘wounded,’ but a covenant between equals.”***

***-Father Greg Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries***



One Parish One Prisoner pairs our congregation with someone releasing to Spokane and guides our 7-10 person team through a two-year journey of relationship-building, release planning and holistic reentry support together.

FPC, a local church community, gathered in the name of forgiveness and resurrection, has everything a releasing person might need to rebuild a new life: trusting friendship and community, pre-release housing searches, rides to appointments, job connections, funds to pay off stranglehold fines and get a driver’s license, hope.

***“I received an amazing letter back from Leroy that brought tears to my eyes. I have never been so moved by any letter, from anyone. My eyes and heart are opening to a whole segment of our society which I have only regarded with fear in the past.”***

***-Sarah, parish team member***

Just as importantly, this relationship would transform us. Accompanying one person out of incarceration reveals the wounds in the wider community—and often uncovers those hidden inside the church as well.

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PART OF FPC’S OPOP TEAM? JOIN CHRIS HOKE, FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OCTOBER 8TH IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM AFTER WORSHIP FOR INFORMATION AND A CHANCE TO ASK QUESTIONS.**



# Serving Dinner at City Gate Returns!



FPC has a long tradition of serving dinner to our homeless neighbors in Spokane with our mission partner at City Gate. This is a tradition that we lost over the pandemic years, but one we're ready to begin again! **Beginning on Sunday, October 8th we have committed to serving dinner on the first Sunday of each month.** We have a small, but mighty, crew of folks who are going to help on the 8th but we need a few more! Both for October and beyond.



**Contact Brad ([bradh@spokanefpc.org](mailto:bradh@spokanefpc.org)) to get involved. Let him know if you'd like to:**

- Help serve meals on Sunday evenings
- Help prep food for service (either at home or at City Gate)
- Donate time and/or money by shopping for groceries for each month's meal
- All of the above!

## FPC Financial Update

- Pledged income is \$15,731 unfavorable to budget. Non-pledged income is \$66,419 favorable to budget.
- The expenses are \$31,850 favorable to budget.
- Church operations is \$119,545 favorable to budget.
- Net church income/loss is \$113,244 favorable to budget.

Church Only	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
<b>Pledge Income</b>	793,314	809,045
<b>Non-Pledged Income</b>	133,797	67,378
<b>Other Income</b>	103,507	66500
<b>Total Income</b>	1,030,618	942,923
<b>Expense</b>	1,115,256	1,147,105
<b>Income over (under) expense</b>	(84,637)	(204,182)

# First Presbyterian Christian School

The First Presbyterian Christian School 2023/2024 year has started afresh!

One of our favorite new experiences this year is the newly fenced lawn area, where we have been using our new play and learning bins for outdoor exploration. We've been eating snacks, examining bugs, blowing bubbles, and more in the fall sunshine! This has been a beautiful gift to our students as a place to reconnect with nature and play imaginatively throughout their day.



We've also been loving our new elementary specialist class: Christian Education with Pastor Ryan. Ryan Schmall has been sharing his guidance (and wonderful sense of humor) with our big kids as they begin to examine the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). We are so blessed that our students have this dedicated space and time every week to explore God's love for them!



**CALLING ALL SPONSORS!**

## FPCS FUND RUN

Sponsor one of our classes as they run, skip, hop, jog, and walk in our annual high-energy fundraiser!



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023**

## FPCS STEM ELECTIVES

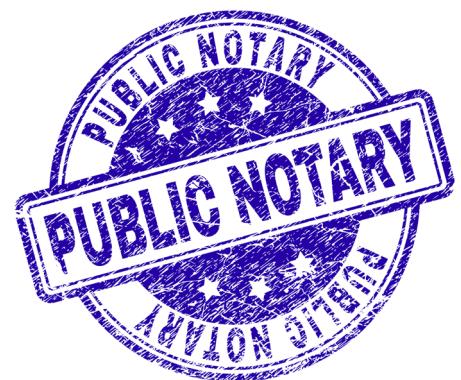
Do you have a K-3rd grade student who loves to explore how the world works? Sign your student up for an afterschool STEM elective! No need to be a FPCS student -- all are welcome!

**SESSION 1: THURSDAYS AT 3:15-4:30PM**  
OCT. 5, 12, 19, 26, NOV. 2, 9

**COST: FREE!**

**SIGN-UP AT [FPCHRISTIANSCHOOL.ORG](http://FPCHRISTIANSCHOOL.ORG)**

**Just a reminder that the church has a notary service. Call to describe your document needs and arrange a time!**  
**509-747-1058.**



**PRAXIS CALENDAR  
FALL 2023**

**OCTOBER**

- 10/4 Spaghetti Night! 7-9pm
- 10/7 Green Bluff! 12:30-6pm
- 10/11 Praxis 7:00-9:00
- 10/18 Praxis 7:00-9:00
- 10/25 Halloween Party! 7:00-9:00

**CONTACT INFO**

Jessie: [jessiek@spokaneffc.org](mailto:jessiek@spokaneffc.org)  
 Kezia: [keziar@spokaneffc.org](mailto:keziar@spokaneffc.org)  
 509-747-1058 ext 175

Follow us on instagram to see what we've been up to!  
[@praxis\\_spokane](https://www.instagram.com/praxis_spokane)

Thank you to everyone here at First Pres for your hospitality this past month. From stocking our pantry, to helping with our move by unloading pods and emptying boxes, to the warm smiles and repeating of your names so we can remember them - everyone has been so welcoming. I can't wait to really get involved and get to know our church family.

Thank you,  
 Jessie Kuehner and family

**STUDENT  
MINISTRIES**

**SHIFT CALENDAR  
FALL 2023**

**OCTOBER**

- 10/3 Spaghetti Night! 6:30-8:30
- 10/7 Green Bluff! 12:30-6pm
- 10/10 Shift 6:30-8:30
- 10/17 Shift 6:30-8:30
- 10/24 Halloween Party! 6:30-8:30
- 10/27-29 Fall Camp @ Camp Spalding

**CONTACT INFO**

Kezia: [keziar@spokaneffc.org](mailto:keziar@spokaneffc.org)  
 509-747-1058 ext 175

**Praxis Parent  
Town Hall Meetings**

Jessie wants to hear from the parents of Praxis students!

Sign up using the QR code.

Questions? Email [jessiek@spokaneffc.org](mailto:jessiek@spokaneffc.org)



REHEARSALS BEGIN OCTOBER 15!

**KIDS  
CHRISTMAS  
CHOIR**

CONTACT [RYANS@SPOKANEFFPC.ORG](mailto:RYANS@SPOKANEFFPC.ORG) FOR MORE INFO!



Sundays Beginning Sept 17

Young Adults

**Spiritual  
Formation**

After Sunday morning worship each week we will learn & practice a way of connecting with God—some new and some ancient. Join us as we expand our spiritual life and practice with prayer, visual art, poetry, & scripture.

# Coming Up

- Oct. 8**      **The Gathering**  
OPOP Fireside Room  
City Gate
- Oct. 12**     **Can I Ask That?**
- Oct. 13**     **FPCS Fund Run**  
Boomers & Beyond
- Oct. 15**     **Kids Christmas Choir Begins**
- Oct. 21**     **Fall Fest**
- Oct. 26**     **Trivia Night**
- Oct. 29**     **4th-5th Grade Halloween Party**

## Contacts

(509) 747-1058

### Pastoral Team

John Sowers (250)  
Betsy Wynne (253)

### Administration

Stephanie Coy (244)

### Finance

David Repp (242)

### Worship/Music

Derrick Parker (307)

### FPC Christian School

Tracy Blue & Shawna Harris (120)

### Family Ministries

Ryan Schmall (163)

### Childcare/Nursery

Ryan Childers (164)

### High School Ministries

Jessie Kuehner (174)

### Middle School Ministries

Kezia Rhodes (173)

### Intergenerational Ministries

Brad Hauge (252)

### Preteen Ministries

Lydia Halma (161)

### Young Adult Ministries

Jourdan Cornell

### Adult Ministries

Brenda Norton (243)

### Newcomers Ministry

Sue Reidt (241)

### Communications

April Egly (245)

### Barton English Language School

Becky Rempe (212)

**Deacon Prayer Line: 747-1050**

### Office Hours

M-Th 8:30am-4pm and Fridays 8:30am-1pm

### 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