

Klamath First
Presbyterian Church

601 Pine Street
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

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Loving God Well.
Loving ourselves well.
Loving others well.

FPC Elders

Suzanne Bocchi
Thelma Cox
Barb Dehlinger
Craig Rappe`
Belinda Scalas
Andrew Smith
Muriel Singer
Ted Stagner
Laura Stewart
Mitch Stokes
Anne Weaver
Gay Woods

FPC Deacons

Randy Clark
Scott Dickson
Deb Johnson
Bill Kennedy
Barb Keeney
Emily Mengis
Terry Mumford
Karolyn Newsom
Valerie Picard
Brooke Smith
Alex Stork
Judy Swan

FPC Staff

Youth Director—Luke Wehr
lwehr@klamathfpc.com
Kid's Ministry & Worship Director- Mary Kern
childresministry@klamathfpc.com &
marykern@hotmail.com
Nursery Coordinator—Ashley Bocchi
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Financial Secretary—Kris Benz
kbienz@klamathfpc.com
Choir Director—Susan Scrimsher
sscrimsher@klamathfpc.com



Join us Sundays for
worship

Service Times:
9:00 Contemporary
11:00 Traditional



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

GROWING DEEPER. REACHING WIDER.

October 1, 2019

**“Discovering,
experiencing
and showing
the goodness
and love
of God”**

To each and every member of the congregation:

First of all, there's no need to run from our Church or the building. Nothing is on fire, and we are in no danger; all will be well. Yes, we are without a pastor for the moment, but we already have applications for people willing to step in and provide leadership. In the meantime, both Ted Stagner, an Elder, and I are here to provide whatever services you need. Feel free to call the church office, and you will be put in touch with one of us. Sleep easy because God is still in control, and He will not let us down. Rest easy, be gentle and loving; everything is just fine. Things are different, but it's alright here at 601 Pine Street.

This is what's happening:

- Your Session is meeting weekly to take care of business that might otherwise slip past us. Please let us know of any concerns because we are unable to answer questions we don't know you have, and we can't solve problems we aren't aware of.
- All of the ministry groups in the church will continue to meet.
- We have pulpit supply from within our ranks through October.
- We are currently checking references and verifying resumes for candidates who have already applied to be the interim/transitional pastor. There have been two applications so far, and both of them seem well-qualified.
- We are in close communications with the budget and finance committees, and we will be paying close attention to the inflow and outflow of money.

This is what we need from you:

- Please keep up your giving as we continue to have normal expenses during this transition.
- Keep attending worship service on Sundays. Our congregation is a large family, and each of us depends on each other for love and support.
- Our children need the continuity of Sunday School and our youth need the stability of The Collective. Please keep them involved.
- Continue to stay connected with your ministry groups and activities such as the senior luncheon, Heartwood life group, and Bible studies.

Remember our verse for the month: “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22-23

God is Love, and his Love surrounds each and every one of us. Carry on, Be STRONG, and O' YES, care about yourself and others. Please GET YOUR FLU SHOT!

-Pastor Barb Dehlinger

HELP PROJECT

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2

The Deacons are re-starting the Help Committee. We are asking for volunteers who are willing and able to help our fellow FPC members who might need assistance with any of the following:

- Transportation to a doctor’s appointment
- Help cooking meals
- Light housework
- Small fix-it projects
- Any little thing can make a huge difference in someone’s life
- Calling the homebound



Sign up to help on the back of your connection cards on the side of your bulletins.

CELEBRATING FINANCIALLY

A few decades ago, our church financial planners saw the need to set up Restricted Reserve Accounts to be used for extraordinary expenses not covered by our annual budget General Fund. It is through these particular accounts that we have been able to accomplish several facilities and program improvements over the past few months:

Upstairs ADA and women’s bathrooms financed by your contributions to the Capital Campaign fundraiser.

A modernized kitchen that has addressed safety and age-related issues while providing an efficient and beautiful new workspace. That project was funded through a generous bequest from Dorothy Proctor.

Upgrades to our sanctuary sound system, repairs to our drum set and a new projector were purchased through Music and Memorial Fund Reserves.

Dollars you donated at the children’s rummage sale, fundraisers and special church offerings supported a recent backpack project and 13 youth summer camperships.

Session wishes to thank the congregation for digging a little deeper and working a bit harder to support these ministries while still keeping your separate Pledge, Non-Pledge and Loose Offering giving current (for those offerings support our budgeted operating expenses). All of these contributions powerfully demonstrate our mission commitment to “growing deeper and reaching wider.”

– Laura Stewart

**September
Finances
(Approximate-
Unreconciled)**

**Income: \$25,434
Expense: \$32,234**

**Net: (\$ 6,800)
YTD: (\$22,831)**

MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE

O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. Psalm 51:1-3

How does God want to be worshipped? So often we make it about what we want, what we like, and how worship feels for us. There is more to worship than how we feel and what our preferences are.

This is difficult for me, too, because I like worship to be comfortable and suited to my preferences and style. But God doesn’t always want me to be comfortable! He wants to change me, mold me, and make me into a disciple. So much growth comes from change.

Psalm 51 doesn’t say to sing to the Lord because we like the way it feels or sounds. We should not make a joyful noise because the songs are powerful or fun to sing. We are told to sing and make a joyful noise because “the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods.” Worship is about God.

Please let God speak through our praise and worship songs whether you know them or not. We do try to have a mix of older contemporary, new versions of hymns, radio songs, and “favorites.”

Our goal as worship leaders is to lead the congregation in meaningful worship. We do not expect to make everyone happy with our song choices, but we know God is happy when we make a joyful noise (no matter what it sounds like!)

Please be praying for both Sunday morning services. God has a direction for us, but it is not always the direction we are comfortable going, and God’s timing can be so different than ours. God is alive in us. He is alive in our worship as well.

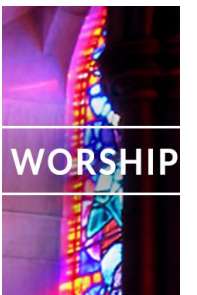
NEW GRIEF CLASS

These are troubling times, and most of us have had something very difficult with which to deal. Sometimes, we just can’t get through it as we may be emotionally stuck, praying to the problem, or we may not be availing ourselves of alternatives for solutions that God expects of us. In a high functioning family, if one member hurts, others step in to help. A lot of that happens here. But, if this church is like most, we do not share our inner-most pain.

- Not everyone benefits or needs a group, but most of us (just by being a part of God’s family) benefit from the process.
- God’s plan calls us to minister to one another, and that includes our mental health.
- Sometimes we think we can fix it, but based on the divorce rate, etc. it doesn’t happen.
- God uses prayer, His Holy Spirit, the Word, our pastors, and others to help us work through difficult times, but many times we are not in the listening mode.
- Dealing with grief, whether it be the loss of someone dear to us (through death, separation, or divorce), loss of a job, dreams not realized, a serious illness or anything where we were emotionally challenged and things don’t go as we planned then....

If the above be the case, please give me, Ted Stagner, a call or text at (253) 882-8299.

**“I’m coming
back to the
heart of
worship and
it’s all about
you, it’s all
about you
Jesus.
-Matt Redman,
Heart of
Worship**



PERSONNEL UPDATE

We are so excited to welcome three new additions to our childcare team! Please help us welcome Rochelle Denney, Gicel Arias, and Kelly Hottman to FPC. These three ladies join Savanna David in the nursery and toddler rooms during Sunday worship and other ministry activities during the week.



Top from left: Rochelle Denney, Savanna “Vanna” David, and Gicel Arias. Bottom from left: Kelly Hottman and Ashley Bocchi.

THANK YOU TO BELINDA!

An administrative assistant works behind the scenes and yet is often the public face or voice of an organization. Belinda Reno has filled that position for FPC for the past six and a half years. When we call FPC, it's Belinda's voice that is heard, whether live or directing to a voice mail. When someone comes to the door of FPC during the week, Belinda opens it for them and directs them to what they need, often visiting with them about how things are going. She has compassionately and professionally talked with hundreds of people in need over the years, determined what FPC can reasonably support, and given them the direction they need. And, of course, there are bulletins, announcements, calendars, newsletters, special requests, emails, mail...that all come across her desk.

So thank you, Belinda! We appreciate all that you have given to FPC. You will be missed. As you move to Washington Federal Bank as one of their Personal Bankers, you will continue to have the opportunity to do what you love...“connect with people.” We look forward to visiting you at your new place of serving people.

-The Elders of FPC



We were so thankful to have great candidates for the childcare positions. Their references were glowing!



I will truly miss each and every one of you!

Belinda Reno

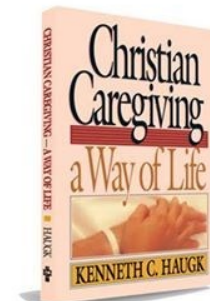
SENIOR NEWS

Our seniors and their guests meet every month on the 3rd Monday for a great luncheon. The next luncheon is on October 21st at noon in the Fellowship Hall. The seniors are providing Chicken Fingers from the Chicken Shack. Please bring side dishes and desserts to share.

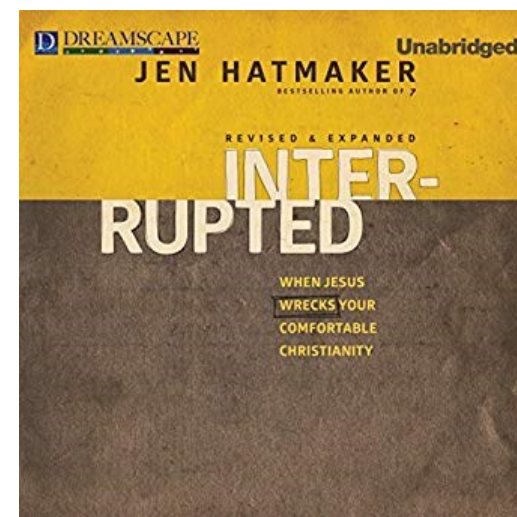
NEW FROM THE LIBRARY

Christian Caregiving: A Way of Life by Kenneth C. Haugk

This book will challenge and equip readers to care for others in a distinctively Christian way and help them feel comfortable talking about their faith, praying with others, and trying to comfort a friend.



Explore Christian caregiving as a way of life.



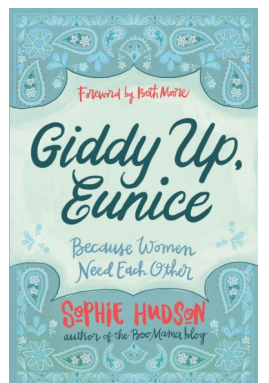
Interrupted: When Jesus Wrecks Your Comfortable Christianity by Jen Hatmaker

Are you one of the millions who crave a new direction in the church, fed up with religious games, empty promises, and cultural Christianity? You are not alone. You are not crazy. Maybe Jesus is ready to interrupt your life. Snatching Jen Hatmaker from the grip of her consumer life, God began asking her questions like, "What is really the point of My Church? What have I really asked of you?" Transparent and imperfect, Jen will engage and inspire you to go beyond comfortable and answer for yourself the question she faced: Is there more to faith than just safe and sequestered, predictable and boring?

Giddy Up, Eunice: (Because Women Need Each Other) by Sophie Hudson

It's easy for women to focus on what seems to separate us: differences in age, parenting styles, career goals, or maybe even core beliefs about whether leggings can adequately serve as pants (the struggle is real, y'all). The reality, though, is that we have far more in common than we realize, and since Scripture shows us the blessing of friendships across generations, it's high time we step out of our same-age, same-stage silos. Life is so much better that way.

Sophie Hudson, in the delightfully quirky Southern style her readers have come to know and love, sends out a rallying cry for women everywhere to open our eyes and see the people God has put in our lives—whether they're behind us, beside us, or in front of us. It is such a gift to love one another, walk with one another, and soak up the blessings that flow across all generations.





Children
are
not
distractions
from
more
important
work.
They
are
the
most
important
work.
-C.S. Lewis



KIDMIN UPDATE

King's Kids is back on Wednesday evenings. We have a fun movie theme this fall. Learn more about our fall curriculum, Bibleflix:

The Bible is full of some really amazing stories! These stories are more exciting than any movie or TV show on Netflix. They were written in the Bible, so we could know God better and know how much he loves us as well as how we can follow his plan for our own lives. Kids will learn how they can be part of God's awesome story.



GOOD NEWS CLUB

Good News Club® is a ministry of *Child Evangelism Fellowship* in which trained teachers meet with groups of children in schools, homes, community centers, churches, and apartment complexes. Each week the teacher presents an exciting Bible lesson with songs, Scripture memory, a mission story and review games or other activities focused on the lesson's theme.

As with all *CEF* ministries, the purpose of *Good News Club (GNC)* is to evangelize boys and girls with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and establish (disciple) them in the Word of God and in a local church for Christian living.

Can We Really Teach the Bible in Public Schools?

Yes! The Gospel has been taught freely in public schools all over the world for some time. Now children in the U.S. have that opportunity, too! In 2001 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *GNC v. Milford Central School* that GNC's can meet in public schools in the United States after school hours on the same terms as other community groups. Children attend *GNC* only with their parents' permission.

A *Good News Club* can identify a home in the neighborhood that is safe for a child to go to in times of trouble. It brings the teaching of biblical morality to his neighborhood. It connects the child and his family to others where they live, developing a good community spirit. When you teach God's Word to children in your neighborhood, your neighbors learn what you believe. Community centers and housing complexes are also great places for a club.

How Can You Help?

Our GNC at Conger needs volunteers. Please contact Mary Kern at the church office or childrensministry@klamathfpc.com if you can be a part of this amazing outreach ministry. Spreading the good news to the young people of Klamath Falls is an awesome way to work on fulfilling the Great Commission!

<https://www.cefonline.com/ministries/goodnewsclub/>

UPDATE FROM THE COLLECTIVE

This month we have been excited to begin having regular youth group meetings. We meet every Sunday from 5:30-7:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Currently we are working through a message series called "DNA." We are discovering what it means to find our DNA, the truth of who we are, in Christ. Right now we are small but mighty. Please keep praying for God to move in our youth.

-Luke Wehr, Director of Youth Ministry

- Oct 25th The Collective's harvest costume party in the Fellowship Hall - 7:30-10:00



In Love with
the Father.

In Love with
His people.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The amazing journey of a simple shoebox gift begins with you and results in **evangelism, discipleship, and multiplication**. For many years FPC has contributed shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child project organized by Samaritan's Purse. We will be packing the shoeboxes here at FPC on October 19th at 9:00 AM. Between this and King's Kids, we are hoping to pack 100 boxes this year!

I have purchased 36 washcloths at Walmart for \$18, 50 pairs of pierced earrings for \$10 on Etsy. I made 100 necklace/bracelet bags that have 18 inches of string, a handful of beads, and three large colorful buttons (which I relate to Father, Son and Holy Spirit.) These are examples of something simple and fun to do. For a list of acceptable items, please visit samaritanaspurse.org. If you need more ideas, for gifts or crafts, please contact me. If you would like to contribute money so we can purchase more items, please bring your donation to the office or write your check to FPC and on the memo line write "Christmas Child" or on a white pew envelope write "Christmas Child" and put it in the offering plate with your donation enclosed on Sunday. Thank you.

Please invite friends and family, bring cookies to share, and join us on October 19th to help pack the boxes. God has blessed this project worldwide with volunteers who will be packing the boxes, knowing so many children will experience happiness and feel God's Love.

Thanks,

