

# Woodburn First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Fall 2024

*Sundays at 11:30 AM unless noted otherwise  
Rev. Cynthia O'Brien preaching at all services*

November 3.....All Saints Day  
Communion, Soup Lunch

November 10..... "Poverty and Abundance—The  
Widow's Mite"

November 17... "Heart, Rejoice! Strength, Rise"  
(1 Samuel 2)

November 24..... Christ the King Sunday  
Jazz Worship with Marilyn Keller and friends

December 1.....First Sunday of Advent  
Communion, Soup lunch

December 8..... "To Guide Us in the Way of Peace"  
(Luke 1)

December 15..... "Trusting and Fearless" (Isaiah 12)  
Group Outing "Gospel Christmas" 4 PM (more info  
on page 4)

December 22.....Christmas Celebration with  
Choir and Guest Musicians

December 24..... Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 4 PM

December 29.....A Festival of Carols with Special  
Guests



## November 3 - All Saints Service of Remembrance

Once again, we will display photos of people who have died. Any size photo, framed or not, is fine. You can bring the photo(s) any time between now and November 3.

All Saints' Day is a time to rejoice in all who through the ages have faithfully served the Lord, and to express our gratitude for all who in ages of darkness have kept the faith. To rejoice with all the faithful of every generation expands our awareness of a great company of witnesses above and around us. It lifts us out of a preoccupation with our own immediate situation and the discouragements of the present. In the knowledge that others have persevered, we are encouraged to endure against all odds (Hebrews 12:1-2). Reminded that God was with the faithful of the past, we are reassured that God is with us today. (pcusa.org)

**Daylight Saving Ends  
Set Clocks Back  
One Hour**

Sunday  
November 3  
2 am

## From the Pastor We Can Do Hard Things

In friendships, relationships, church, school, marriage, business, neighborhood... Sometimes we find ourselves at odds with another person. It happens.

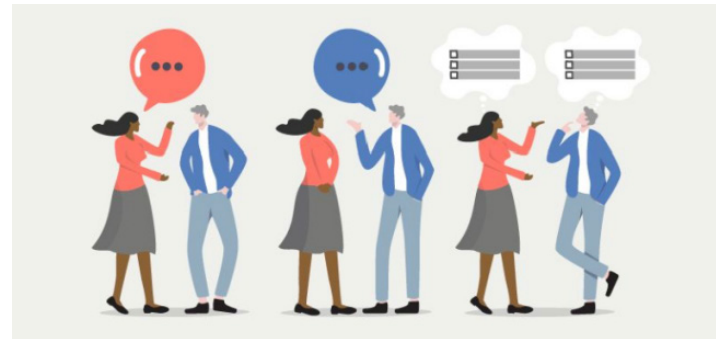
While I teach skills for listening and speaking, even for “disagreeing better,” mostly across the political divide, the skills actually come from marriage and family therapy. So they are really practical for everyday life.

I know how hard it is to actually work through uncomfortable situations. Just last week, dealing with a family situation, I had to listen, paraphrase, pause, pivot and ask for permission to share my side. It was hard, because I wanted to immediately jump in and defend myself, but the other person would not have felt respected or heard.

As I’m learning, I’m glad to share these things with you. In this newsletter, I’ll give you an excerpt from the skills workshop. It’s called “pivot.”

Church is a good place to practice loving and forgiving, so that everyone can feel at home, and so that we can be better at being a light of peace and reconciliation to our neighbors. The more we learn and practice, the more we can do hard things and thrive.

Love,  
Cynthia



## Tips for Navigating Difficult Conversations —“Pivot”

As people called by God to be peacemakers, we hosted a Braver Angels workshop October 15 called “How to Disagree Better.” Some of the skills we practiced were:

- Pay attention, without thinking of how you’re going to respond, listening for the other person’s underlying values and concerns
- Paraphrase what you just heard
- Ask, “Is that right?” and wait for confirmation.
- Pause to see if they might be open to hearing your perspective.

The next one was new to some of us: PIVOT:

- A pivot signals that you are about to offer your own viewpoint.
- Examples: “Can I offer my thoughts on this?” “This is something I’ve thought a lot about.”
- Look for a verbal “Okay, sure,” or a nonverbal nod.
- When you pivot, you are not yet offering your perspective on the issue.
- Think of a pivot as signaling that you are going to make a turn in your car; the actual turn comes later.

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## Serving Our Community

### Help Our Young Families this Fall By Marcy Sterling

Please remember our Family Building Blocks families during the holiday season. Bring personal care products such as toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant. I would like to deliver before Thanksgiving.

Also, looking ahead this to Christmas, families can really use gift cards from Walmart. I will be collecting \$25 donations so I can buy 15 \$25 gift cards for our families. Thank you all for your incredible support.



### Lunch for Teachers

Our church provided lunch for the French Prairie Middle School teachers and staff on their Professional Development day, October 14. Awomancalled Sam coordinated the lunch, purchasing ingredients and making a robust meal including sandwiches, potato salad, Sam's special coleslaw, chips, fruit, homemade cookies and bottled water, as well as green beans from our Community Garden. She was assisted by Vickie, Mark, Marcy, Johanna, Kathy, and Cynthia, as well as Theresa Ashland from First Christian Church.

### Meals on Wheels Needs Help!

Volunteer for two hours a week or more, either packing meals, driving, or riding along.

**VOLUNTEER FOR MEALS ON WHEELS**

*In partnership with NorthWest Senior & Disability Services*

If you are interested in becoming a Meals on Wheels Volunteer, in Woodburn, we are currently recruiting Drivers and In-house Volunteers to assist with this daily program. Please contact us at (503-981-3470) or [volunteer@nwsds.org](mailto:volunteer@nwsds.org)



**SUNDAYS AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

10:45 Choir  
11:30 Worship  
12:30 First Sunday Lunch,  
Other Sundays Coffee Hour

Sunday, November 24 at 4 PM  
Peace Lutheran Church in Salem

Debra Huddleston—Solo Organ Concert

## Group outing: “Gospel Christmas”

Kim Ositis, an elder in the Aurora Presbyterian Church (APC), is a Development Director for the Oregon Symphony and will get discount tickets for “Gospel Christmas” on Sunday, December 15 at 4 pm at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 1037 SW Broadway.

Tickets are \$23 for adults or \$10 for students. Note that this pricing is only for tickets purchased by Kim Ositis using her staff discount. Contact Kim directly (kaositis@gmail.com 206-229-7948). Need a ride? We will circulate a carpool sign-up sheet closer to the day of the concert.

Deadline to reserve tickets with Kim: Monday, November 25

Deadline to submit payment (cash, check or via Venmo) to Kim: Monday, December 2



O God, our Provider, you open your hand and lavish good gifts upon us. So we give you thanks. You create the beauty of the earth and stock it with abundance to sustain human life. You give us friends who share the journey of our lives; family who make us laugh with joy and dry our tears of sorrow; strangers who minister to our needs with generous kindness. You knit us into your larger family called church to encourage us in your Way. You have blessed us with the freedoms of a great nation.

“Thank you” seems insufficient for all your blessings, yet we say it with all we are as an offering of gratitude for our many blessings that we name before you. {Enumerate all you’re thankful for; count your blessings}.

Though we may have seen our fortunes fall this year, we praise you for hiding our treasure in Jesus Christ our Lord, whom not even death can destroy. Though we miss those whose places sit empty at this year’s table, we give you thanks for lending them to us for what time we had. For all your providence with the feast of life that you set before us, we give ourselves to you, with all we are, in thanks and praise. Amen.

*Continued from page 2*

- If the other person seems open to listening to what you have to say, then continue.
- If the other person just repeats their point, ignoring your pivot, or shows wariness about you taking your turn (verbally or nonverbally), then consider backing up.

Then you can start sharing your perspective.

In our workshops (online and in person) we give you skills to do all these things

**Become a member at [braverangels.org](http://braverangels.org) and be part of the movement that heals families, brings neighbors together, and depolarizes our nation.**

## **A Ride to your Doctor Appointment**

Hi! I work for the City of Woodburn Dial A Ride program which takes people to their Medical Appointments out of town . It's donation based, so you don't have to pay if you don't want to or can't, but we appreciate all we get . You have to live in Woodburn to use the service.



Requests for service must be made in advance by calling (503) 982-7433.



## **Jazz Worship November 24**

Vocalist Marilyn Keller returns to lead worship at 11:30 am on Christ the King Sunday, November 24. She will be joined by George Mitchell, piano; Kevin Deitz, bass, and Ron Steen, drums. As the house jazz musicians for Augustana Lutheran Church, Marilyn and the band play everythird Sunday, making it possible for them to come to our church. Expect a variety of music from gospel to jazz standards.

This special service is the second in a continuing series sponsored by the Welch family in memory of Ray and Fran Welch.

## News from Mike Hachquet, Clerk of Session

Helping Teachers, Spreading Cheer, Taking Care of our Facility

### Community Engagement

- Our congregation provided a lunch for 50 teachers at French Prairie Middle School. Special thanks to Sam, Johanna, Vickie, Mark, Marci, and Rev. Cynthia, with fresh green beans from Andy's Community Garden.
- Rev. Cynthia taught "Skills for Disagreeing Better" workshops in October, fostering healthy dialogue in Aurora and Woodburn. Look for these valuable skills in this newsletter.
- In late October, Rev. Cynthia also chaired a national online debate, sharing her wisdom on crucial issues.

### Upcoming Events

- November 24 Jazz Worship: Join us for a unique worship experience featuring jazz music.
- Community Worship Service: On November 24, we'll join the Woodburn Ministerial Association at Hood View Church.
- Christmas Caroling: December 4 & 11 - a joyful tradition to spread holiday cheer.
- The Grotto Trip: We'll schedule this visit once the entertainment lineup is announced. Gospel Christmas by the Oregon Symphony: Sign up for discounted tickets to attend this December 15 event.

### Building and Grounds

- New Church Sign: We're thrilled to announce plans for a new church sign, budgeted at \$18,000 with a city grant covering half the cost.
- Kitchen Update: Approved upgrades include new flooring, a stainless steel counter, cooktop, and down-draft, all aimed at creating a more functional kitchen space. Installation is scheduled to complete by month's end.
- Nursery Flooring: We're considering options for the nursery flooring, with plans to clean the existing rubber mats.

### Financial Update

- Endowment Fund: Our endowment funds have grown, and updates are underway to consolidate accounts for smoother management.
- Mission Support: A motion passed to donate \$4,500 to Aware Food Bank for the remainder of 2024. We are committed to helping our community and will meet with Daisy at the Food Bank to discuss future support plans.
- Garden Project: The Community Garden is thriving! Andy reported a harvest of 1,182 pounds by the end of September, almost double last year's total.

### Outreach and Worship

- Meals on Wheels: Volunteers are needed for this vital community service.
- Love Inc. Auction: We'll be sponsoring a table at the November 2 auction, with proceeds supporting local charities.
- Christmas Eve Service: We'll host our Christmas Eve service at 4:00 PM. Join us in celebration, and help spread the word via social media and local outreach.

### Pastor's Schedule

- Rev. Cynthia will represent our church at the Presbytery meeting in Ashland on November 1-2. Elders interested in attending, please reach out to Clerk Mike Hachquet.

### Next Session Meeting

- Our next meeting will be held on November 20 at 3:15 PM. We welcome your thoughts and prayers as we continue working together for our congregation.

### In Closing

Thank you to all who continue to serve our community and strengthen our church family. As we move into the holiday season, let us focus on fellowship, outreach, and gratitude for each other.

## First Presbyterian Church

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Debra Huddleston, Music Director  
Vickie Gonzales, Newsletter Editor

### Elders

Mike Hachquet, Clerk of Session

Walt Mangerich	Mark Sterling
Marcy Sterling	Johanna Samson
Julie Moore	Vickie Gonzales
Joanne Hanson	Joyce Griffiths