



# Dialogue

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND

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September 2016

## Fall Team to begin programming in September

By Kathy Keener

The Fall Team begins its programming of the church life in September. Fall Team members are: Linda Purdom, Linnea Jones, Adele Hiles, Caroline Kirkman, Carolyn Moeglein, Rick Herst, and Marjorie Bulkley.

Already there are plans for our worship on Labor Day weekend to consider issues of Labor, Fair Pay



and Faith. The entire month of September will be *A Season of Peace* with weekly Minutes for Mission to help us learn how to integrate peace in our lives. On Sept. 11 we will enjoy a potluck and education program on Hospice House by Bruce and Carolyn Johnson. We will lift up Native Americans in our worship the last week of September.

### *Thanks, Summer Team*

By Kathy Keener

The Summer Program Team finished up its work at the end of August with A Day at the Lake. We thank the members of the Summer Team for their outstanding and creative leadership (see article below).

## Summer Planning Team completes season filled with special events

By Elaine Morgan, Moderator

It is with heartfelt gratitude and appreciation that I thank the wonderful members of the Summer Planning Team: Karen Amarotico, Jim Holloway, Barbara Marsh, Linda Purdom, Darlene Saunders, Dick and Alice Welton, and Kathy Keener, staff, with assistance from Marjorie Bulkley and Eleanor Robison. Each one made valuable contributions according to their gifts – from baking cakes for potlucks and pies for gifts to procuring storytellers; from scrubbing and painting the broom closet in Calvin Hall to grilling hot dogs and Polish sausages; from figuring out the sound system in Calvin Hall and making that sound system portable for our pet blessing to gathering treats for our pet guests; from making beautiful table centerpieces to decorating the sanc-

tuary and hanging wind chimes for Pentecost; and from gathering gifts for our graduates to writing articles for the Dialogue.

The Summer Planning Team hosted special events such as honoring four of our graduates and two of our dedicated Buildings and Grounds members and an Education Sunday potluck with John and Kathy Sager, who shared their experiences working with refugees. They also hosted the July 3<sup>rd</sup> homecoming potluck with hotdogs and root beer floats, a 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary party, two storytelling Sundays, Dixieland band and gospel piano jazz Sundays, and the Day at the Lake at Lake of the Woods with hotdogs and Polish sausages.

The Noisy Offerings were designated for the Ashland Food Bank; the winter overnight shelter;

Healthy Women, Healthy Families; and Syrian refugees. The mission giving was divided between FPC Deacons Fund, the Presbyterian Disaster Fund, and the Maslow Project.

Working to plan and make all of these things happen was a heartwarming and joyful time together. (See photos on pages 3, 6, 7.)

### Inside this issue

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They are also seeking stage workers, set builders, costume designers and make-up artists. For more information, watch the video: <https://youtu.be/Yhc1sslWD-Q>

The Fall Planning Team is seeking happy bakers to prepare an unsliced loaf of bread from their ancestry (or from a provided international bread recipe) for World Communion Sunday, Oct. 2. Sign-ups begin in mid-September, but we welcome an earlier call to the church office if you are interested.

We will serve the bread for communion, then serve “leftovers at fellowship for all to taste.

Thanks to all who have contributed to the Dialogue. Articles are welcome for the October issue. Please submit by Thursday, Sept. 22. Email (preferred) to *huntermarcia@gmail.com*.

Marcia Hunter, editor

## Education, worship opportunities coming up with extended Ashland faith community

**COSMIC MASS**  
**with Matthew Fox**  
**Sept. 22 (equinox)**  
**Historic Armory in Ashland**

The (R)evolutionary Creation Spirituality movement – based in ancient Judeo-Christian tradition; supported by leading-edge science; bearing witness for social, environmental, and gender justice; and voiced most powerfully for this generation by spiritual theologian Matthew Fox – is flourishing in the creative and prophetic spirit of our times!

The Cosmic Mass, created by Matthew Fox, is an interactive, all ages, community dance celebration and ritual that re-invents the form of worship. Come be a part of the community worship. The event will last about two hours and will combine some traditional elements of worship (including communion) with progressive elements of video images, music, and dance.

Tickets are \$20 and are available online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-cosmic-mass-ashland-oregon-tickets-26934944143>. Proceeds will support the Rose Circle Mentoring Groups.

**SPIRITUALITY AND JUSTICE**  
with John Philip Newell  
Feb. 3-4, 2017

Continuing the **Evolving Congregations** Series begun with Marcus Borg and Diana Butler Bass, John Philip Newell will bring his message of Spirituality and Justice to Ashland in February.

Newell, the celebrated author of *Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality*, is one of the most prominent Christian teachers of spirituality in the Western world. Formerly a Warden of Iona Abbey in the Western Isles of Scotland, he now divides his time between Edinburgh, where he does most of his writing, and travelling and teaching internationally.

This group is a joint mission of the Presbyterian, Methodist, United Church of Christ, and Episcopal churches. If you are interested in becoming part of the Evolving Congregations team, please talk to Carolyn Moeglein.

## Men's Book Club to meet at end of September

*By David Hall*

The First Presbyterian's Men's Book Club is currently reading *The Black Snow*, by Paul Lynch. We plan to meet in the later half of September to discuss this book at a time and place TBA.

Feel free to get on the mailing list for this group by emailing David Hall at [dhall@mind.net](mailto:dhall@mind.net)

## Notes from Session

*By Linnea Jones, Clerk of Session*

Session met on Tuesday, Aug. 9. Pastor Kathy Keener opened the meeting with prayer.

The Summer Planning team has completed its work with Day at the Lake. Meanwhile, the Fall Planning Team is off and running. Please be on the lookout for information regarding activities going on this fall.

Pastor Kathy's contract goes through the end of September but has been renewed on a month-to-month basis after that with the same terms as her previous contract. A request has been made of Kathy to use up her vacation time this fall.

Buildings and Grounds reported that there will be a workday coming up on Sept. 17 to spruce up the property for the fall season.

Administration and Finance continues to research building use issues and fees. They are also updating the policy for sexual misconduct.

A new tech computer was purchased and is being used at the soundboard on Sunday mornings, as well as by the PNC as they do their interviews with potential ministers. Robb Grover donated a computer for the pastor's office. Thank you to Robb!

## Work Day Sept. 17 — be there!

*By Gene Wright*

Just what you have been waiting and hoping for – Work Day at the church for everyone! It will take place on Sept. 17 from 9 to noon. We are especially in need of outside window washers. The last worker is willing to give guidance, if needed, to someone new. Contact Marilyn Wright, and she will furnish supplies.

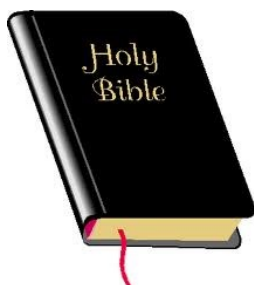
We thank you and hope to see you all on Sept. 17.

*Buildings and Grounds Committee*



Summer programs included Gospel Jazz Sunday with Dave Scoggin on piano and Jeff Addicot on bass (upper left); the Kings' 60th anniversary party (upper right); and Storytelling Sunday with Ilse Forney (pictured left), Bernie Binder and Judi Quiett.





### The Words of Eternal Life: John 6:60-71

Many of his followers heard this and said, "This teaching is too hard. Who can listen to it?"

Without being told, Jesus knew that they were grumbling about this, so he said to them, "Does this make you want to give up? Suppose, then, that you should see the Son of Man go back up to the place where he was before? What gives life is God's Spirit; human power is of no use at all. The words I have spoken to you bring God's life-giving Spirit. Yet some of you do not believe." (Jesus knew from the very beginning who were the ones that would not believe and which one would betray him.) And he added, "This is the very reason I told you that no people can come to me unless the Father makes it possible for them to do so."

Because of this, many of Jesus' followers turned back and would not go with him any more. So he asked the twelve disciples, "And you—would you also like to leave?"

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. And now we believe and know that you are the Holy One who has come from God."

Jesus replied, "I chose the twelve of you, didn't I? Yet one of you is a devil!" He was talking about Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. For Judas, even though he was one of the twelve disciples, was going to betray him.

*Submitted by Debbie Miller*



### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Wendy McAninch
- 3 – Stella Schaaf
- 4 – Sharon Laskos
- 5 – Margot Ormes
- 5 – Raoul Maddox
- 6 – John Wren
- 7 – Carolyn Johnson
- 7 – Connor McCollom
- 16 – Jocelyn Henderson
- 16 – Robb Grover
- 21 – Liz Jones
- 22 – Rick Herst
- 25 – Jane Ann Henderson
- 26 – Judy Sockman
- 27 – Kathryn Slyt

### SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 – Bill and Judi Quiett
- 3 – Sharon and Ed Laskos
- 8 – Barbie and John Breneiser
- 14 – David and Laurel Dryland
- 22 – Barb and Glenn Street

### Haiku corner – By "Poet" Robb Grover

#### Bird conversations--

**squabbles, demands, threats, alarms.**

**I prefer love songs.**



### Presbyterian disaster relief for Louisiana

In response to catastrophic flooding in Louisiana and the Gulf states, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has responded, sending five PDA disaster specialists. Donations to PDA can be made by check to the church (note: Flooding) or online at <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000191/>

## Presbyterian Women's first fall gathering Sept. 8

By Barbara Marsh

Presbyterian Women will have its first fall meeting Sept. 8, the second Thursday of the month, at 1 p.m. in Calvin Hall. Our hosts are Debbie Miller, Sue Sager and Judi Quiett. Eleanor Robison will give us a great introduction to our Horizons Bible study guide, "Who is Jesus?" You will be able to purchase your copy for \$8 and be all set when you attend your Elsie Nelson Circle or Westminster Circle meeting.

I think we will all be impressed with the way the author, Judy Yates Siker, has planned and created so many new and interesting ideas for

us to ponder. This should be quite a special year.

Hopefully the PW yearbook will be ready for us to take home after we have a short but important business meeting.

It is suggested that you keep your PW yearbook near your phone and/or calendar as you schedule your Thursday appointments. Meetings are set for Sept. 8, Nov. 3, Jan. 5, May 4, with World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 3. You won't want to miss any of these "What a difference a lens makes" special programs for Presbyterian women.

## Book Club reading "... *Diary of a Part-Time Indian*"

By Marcia Hunter

The Women's Book Club is reading a young adult novel for our September selection. According to the Amazon website, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie, tells "the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled school on the rez to attend

an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

"Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, based on the author's own experiences and coupled with poignant drawings that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away

from the life he was destined to live."

Please join us Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. at the home of Donna Wright for snacks and an interesting discussion, led by Jill Turner.

## Women's circles to begin new study year

By Barbara Marsh

Shirley Patton is the host for the Sept. 15, 10 a.m. meeting of **Westminster Circle**. The new Bible study is entitled "Who is Jesus?" We are anxious to view Jesus through the eyes of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Each gospel tells the story in a compelling but different way, and we look forward to identifying the sameness and the differences of each. (Hearing Eleanor Robison's introduction to the study at the PW meeting Sept. 8 will be a good "plus.")

This is an ideal time to join or try a circle. We will meet nine times this year on the third Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. After conversation and refreshments we dive into our important lesson of the day.

Those of us who subscribe to Horizons have already been sent our "Who is Jesus?" Bible study, but you may also obtain one for \$8 when you attend your first circle meeting.

Please don't hesitate to call if you would enjoy a ride with Sue Sager or Barbara Marsh. We love company!

— . . . — . . . — . . .

By Marilyn Mobley

The **Elsie Nelson Circle** is meeting Monday, Sept. 12 at 1 p.m. at Linda Purdom's house. We are carpooling from Talent Elementary School, so please be there at 12:30.

We'll be doing lesson 1 of our new study guide, entitled, "Who is Jesus?" The new study guides will be available at the meeting.

Guests are welcome to join us at any time. Any questions, please call Marilyn Mobley.





## Day at the Lake brings congregation together at Lake of the Woods



*Upper left: Carolyn Johnson, Debbie Miller, Howdy Miller, Virginia King, Elaine Morgan, and Pat Gaulke enjoy the meal.*



*Above: Dick Welton and Lawrence King show off their chef skills — and hats!*

*Left: Kent Patton takes Linnea Jones, Shirley Patton and Barbara Marsh on a boat ride.*



*Left: Lawrence King and Amy Patton seem to be having a serious talk.*

### Memorial Planned

Anne Sklensky's family has planned a memorial service at FPC on Saturday, October 8, 2016, at 11am to be followed by a reception in Calvin Hall.

A Mountain Meadows Celebration of Life will be at 2pm.



## September 1 World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation

Pope Francis recently proclaimed September 1<sup>st</sup> as the “World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation,” joining Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios 1 of Constantinople, who earlier extended an invitation for Christians to offer together “every year on this date prayers and supplications to the Maker of all, both as thanksgiving for the great gift of creation and as petitions for its protection and salvation.” The World Council of Churches and the PC(USA) encourage us to set aside September 1 as a day to pray for all God’s people and whole creation.

*Laudato Si* is Pope Francis’ letter on climate change. This prayer is at the end of the encyclical:

*All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day.*

*Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.*

*Amen*

*Lots of folks, milling around, having fun at the lake!*





First Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 626  
Ashland, OR 97520  
Return service requested  
Dated material



## First Presbyterian Church

Corner of Siskiyou and Walker

PO Box 626 Ashland, OR 97520 541-482-3536

*A welcoming and affirming congregation*

**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Kathy Keener [momrev1kk@gmail.com](mailto:momrev1kk@gmail.com) / **Office Manager:** Susan Coghill [presbyashland@yahoo.com](mailto:presbyashland@yahoo.com)

**Director of Music:** Laurie Anne Hunter [lahunter@mind.net](mailto:lahunter@mind.net) / **Parish Worker:** Wendy McAninch

**Treasurer:** Carolyn Moeglein [cmoeglein@yahoo.com](mailto:cmoeglein@yahoo.com) / **Bookkeeper:** Lynn Godsey

**Ruling Elders on Session:** Amy Patton, Elaine Morgan, Linnea Jones, Jill Turner, Howdy Miller, Linda Purdom, Brian Almquist

**Clerk of Session:** Linnea Jones

**Deacons:** Pat Gaulke, Marilyn Mobley, Marilyn Wright, Shirley Patton, Gail Johnson, Ruth Ralls, Debbie Miller, Marjorie Lininger

**Deacon Moderator:** Wendy Ray

**Ministers:** the whole congregation

### Our Mission

We are a faith community centered in Christ, doing justice,  
loving kindness and walking humbly with God.

### Our Vision

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Hands, Open Table



Visit the church website at [www.firstpresashland.org](http://www.firstpresashland.org)  
"Like" us on Facebook at [fb.com/firstpresashland](https://fb.com/firstpresashland)  
Follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/1stPresAshland](https://twitter.com/1stPresAshland)





Regular Sunday Schedule

8am Chapel Worship

9am Pony Espresso

10am Sanctuary Worship

11:15am Fellowship

SECOND SUNDAY Schedule

8am Chapel Worship

9am Pony Espresso

10am Sanctuary Worship

11:30am Christian Education



# SEPTEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div><div>A Season of Peace</div><div></div></div>				1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation  Preschool Starts	2	3
4 Communion Sunday Fair labor & worker justice  Season of Peace begins	5 Labor Day (Office Closed)	6 AYC Fundraiser (NW Pizza)	7	8 1pm Presbyterian Woman	9	10 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear. Psalm 46:1-2A
11 SECOND SUNDAY 11:30am Potuck & program on Hospice House by Bruce & Carolyn Johnson  Birthday/Anniv. Sunday	12 1pm A & F Committee 1pm Elsie Nelson Circle 4:30 B & G Committee	13  4pm Session	14  2:30pm Deacons	15 10am Westminster Circle	16	17 9am-Noon Work Day  
18 Theological Ed Sunday	19	20	21 International Day of Peace	22 Dialogue Articles Due  7pm Cosmic Mass	23	24
Native American Sunday	26  7pm Women's Book Club	27	28	29 10am Dialogue Folding	30	
Weekly Building Schedule						
AA	Fireside Room	7am-8am	M-Sat			
AA	Fireside Room	9am-10am	M-Sat	Preschool	Lower Calvin Hall	9:00am - 12:00pm M - F
Alanon	Fireside Room	7pm-8:15pm	Mon	BNI	Calvin Hall	8:00am - 9:30am Tues
Alanon	Fireside Room	7pm-8:30pm	Fri	Realtors	Calvin Hall	8:30am - 9:30am Thurs

**Sunday, September 4, 2016 The Table of Grace**

Matthew 5:21–37

*Submitted by Matt Gaventa, Amherst, Virginia*

**When you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you . . .—Matthew 5:23–24**

*Reflection: If You Remember*

The legendary preacher Fred Craddock, reflecting on this passage, tells the story of a woman who worked as the receptionist for a high-profile international organization in Geneva dedicated to peacemaking and reconciliation. “It was a good job and a well-paying job,” he says, but she quit after six years because her bosses, so committed to peace and reconciliation, could not be bothered to engage her in conversation. As Craddock tells her story, “all those marvelous people coming and going, trying to bring about the healings of the nations, never spoke to me. The people for whom I worked never called me by name.”

Peacemaking begins with us, in the relationships of our own lives. In this season of peace, we build toward World Communion Sunday with stories of peacemakers and justice-seekers from all across the world. It’s easy to feel a bit overshadowed. And yet peacemaking really begins with us, with our friends and family, and with our actions. So as we approach the table of World Communion Sunday together, if you remember, before we gather, that your brother or sister has something against you: go, make peace. And then come back and offer your gift.

*Action:* Name one strained relationship in your life. How can you make amends in this season?

*Prayer:* God, send your Spirit of peace upon our hearts, that we might be peacemakers in our own lives.

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