



THE GRAPEVINE

POULSBO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Palm Sunday worship with procession with palms, March 24, 9am onsite and online; 10:30am onsite
Maundy Thursday worship with handwashing, March 28, 12:15pm onsite; 7pm onsite and online
Good Friday worship, March 29, 12:15pm onsite; 7pm onsite and online
Easter sunrise worship, March 31, 6:30am onsite beginning in the cemetery
Easter festival worship, March 31, 9am onsite and online; 10:30am onsite

FROM THE PASTOR

We had a great annual meeting last month! One of the conversations that we began at the pre-meeting budget review two weeks before the annual meeting and then followed up on the day was about how we will manage our wonderful facilities and care for them as they age?

Some might say that we have more building/s than we can use right now. And they might be right. PFLC doesn't have enough groups of our members to fill all of our rooms every minute of every day. But we DO have a lot of life and activity in the buildings here all week long.

That is something to celebrate. We have this great resource to share – the gift of space, and there are all kinds of small groups in the community looking for spaces where they can meet. We have opened our doors to many groups over the years, but right now might be the most busy we have ever been.

A friend of mine who is a pastor in Iowa recently started a conversation on Facebook quoting a church research dude who suggested that the future of the church is not in large megachurches but in churches developing relationships in smaller settings.

This isn't a new thought. Megachurches try to create intimacy by breaking up their congregation into small groups to develop relationships. And ironically, many small congregations seem to be trying to figure out how to attract people and get bigger. Because even churches fall victim to the not so great American/capitalistic value that bigger is better and huge equals success.

So I entered into my friend's conversation and as I pondered our context here at PFLC in Poulsbo, and as I looked at our membership and our spaces and who is using these spaces, I think we are bigger than we think and successful!

This is what I wrote in the conversation. "In our place, we have way more building than we can use. So the last number of years we have opened up space for all kinds of groups to use various spaces. That old 1950s model of 'build and expand and they will come' has to be reimagined now in our time. So our small groups are really community groups that may or may not involve one or more of our members. But by opening up, it feels like we are practicing a ministry of presence. Not necessarily OUR presence, but theirs. Together we are all being small groups of fellowship, and all kinds of folks coming together bring a kind of life and community. And the church doesn't have to manage these small groups or try to invent or anticipate them."

Ministry is highly contextual, meaning that it isn't the same everywhere and not always transferable from one site to another. What PFLC engages in as ministry will depend on who God has gathered in this place, and who God inspires to ask us if they can use space here.

Continued next page...

MARCH, 2024



VISION
STATEMENT
People
gathered
and sent in
the love of
Christ.



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There is a common pastoral care theory that says sometimes what a person who is in need needs most is that we just sit with them. We don't have to come up with the right words to say even, but first of all, to sit there and listen. This is called a ministry of presence.

For groups needing a place, we are present for them. AND, they are also present to each other and to us. And maybe together, whether PFLCers are physically in the meeting or activity with one or more of our members or not, people streaming into the building and grounds are blessed and are present blessing us with the opportunity to be of service.

It requires a lot of willingness to say "yes" on our part, and sometimes it requires us to say, "no." We can't accommodate everyone. But we try to welcome as many people as we can, because Jesus welcomed. And Jesus sat with all kinds; Jesus fed all kinds; Jesus healed people even before they asked for it; and, Jesus brought life and wholeness into this world for all people. By opening up to all kinds of people, we are showing love in ways that are really pretty easy, and showing people that some churches are willing to share.

This is ministry that you may or may not have even known was happening, but thank you for your participation in the happenings in our spaces. You are blessed, and you are blessed to be a blessing for so many.

Peace,
Pastor Kent

GENEROSITY MOMENT WITH PR. ALISON

Did you know that the faith practice of giving is all about justice?

1. PFLC chooses benevolence partners for their work in addressing the injustices of food insecurity, housing insecurity, victimization, and so many other things. Giving generously to PFLC helps us step toward justice.
2. When you give generously, you are acknowledging the injustice of the radical wealth disparity in our country and in our world. When you give generously, you are doing the kin-dom work of redistribution.
3. When you give *thoughtfully*, you are cementing in your own brain the generosity for neighbor that God has inspired in you. Those reinforced neural pathways make it easier for your brain to transfer that attitude of generosity into other behaviors.
4. It's not always about donations. You can *spend* to support people who have long been marginalized. I appreciate the work of *Intentionalist* (<https://intentionalist.com/>). I subscribe to their newsletter reminding me to be intentional about bringing justice in my giving. The search engine on the site can help you find local minority-owned businesses and restaurants to patronize.
5. Giving isn't always about money. Many of us have volunteer work we are passionate about, so maybe Lent is a time for us each to engage in a volunteer opportunity that we haven't done before, one that furthers a different mode of justice than we've done before. I'm passionate about fighting bias through education and reading, so I volunteer as a school librarian. As a Lenten discipline, maybe this month I'll also reach out to SURJ ([Showing Up for Racial Justice](#)) to see how I can help school boards make good decisions for underserved students.

As you begin or continue your own work in learning about injustice, justice, and living into God's kin-dom justice, your giving of your self and your wealth can be a place where you begin in small (or big!) ways to demonstrate the love of Jesus for those who are experiencing injustice.

Your Sacred Justice Team invites you this Lent to take some steps into the work of God's kingdom justice. Some justice work is easier. We hear something, and we think, "Oh, that makes sense. OK. I can do that." Other work makes you really think and - Heavens! - change.

The Sacred Justice Team began this work in earnest during Covid lockdown: reading, listening, learning. That is the first step. And one of the things we learned during that time is that the most important thing for people of privilege to do is to shush our voices, shush our reaction to things, and just listen. **Listen to the voices speaking from inside injustice, and believe them, even though their experiences don't match yours.** As we heard in our first Wednesday worship:



When we listen to voices from inside injustice, we will encounter things we have never been subjected to. And we can learn from and honor those who have been subjected to them.

In justice work, you will be asked to set aside things that you have held important for the sole reason that they are harmful to someone else; they are a barrier to someone experiencing the gospel. You might feel a rub, a complaint, a conflict within yourself.

When this happens, stop.

Still yourself.

And listen to the voice from inside injustice.

Then just sit with the discomfort for a bit.

You don't have to experience something as a barrier to understand that someone else *does* experience it as a barrier. And it is our job to remove barriers that keep people from experiencing the love of God in Jesus.

One of the things we learned in our recent renewal listenings was that what is gospel freedom to me might be binding to someone else. In other words, someone in a different circumstance might need a different "good news" than I do. And sometimes something that I am doing that I see as inconsequential or even helpful for me might be harmful to someone who has had different experiences from mine.

These myriad conversations and listenings culminated in the Sacred Justice Team's desire to draw the congregation into a Lenten discipline of listening to voices from inside of injustice and pondering how best to share and be the love and freedom of Christ for them. So we will be spending Lent Wednesday worship listening to voices from inside injustice. Listening, and believing them.

The Sacred Justice team found that this Ash Wednesday prayer set the tone for all of Lent. We found the "injustice, cruelty, neglect, and greed" to be visible in the parables of Mark, as Jesus invites us into honesty about our own role in the "degeneration of the world."

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From *Black Liturgies* by Cole Arthur Riley

God of the Ashes, today, let us hold the tension of the story of our making – born of the dirt, beautifully connected to the earth we walk on. And yet, possessing the knowledge of our own mortality – that our common decay cannot be escaped. As we begin Lent, help us to become honest about the ways our societies and selfhoods are marred by injustice, cruelty, neglect, and greed. Help us to see our own role in the degeneration of the world; that as we push back evil around us, we might also admit those secret evils that dwell in us. As we name how we've been complicit in the ashes of this world, help us to bear them in solidarity and hope.

C: Amen

~ Pr. Alison

FAITH FORMATION PRACTICE:

WORSHIPPING

MINISTRY HEAD, CYNDI GILMAN

Just as we receive communion in two kinds, the PFLC community worships in two places, expanding the ways God can speak love and grace to the world.

As we gather onsite for worship:

Your worship planning team continues to consider current practices with an eye toward improving our encounter with God in word and meal in worship. Some practices we would like to engage in need some helping hands, so if you are interested in helping, contact the church office. We are trying different ways of engaging children in worship, including having the chapel play area available. Children do worship with a joyful noise, and that is a welcome sound!

As we gather online for worship:

The worship service is livestreamed at 9:00am every Sunday. Participate in the service at pflc.org or [Facebook](#) at that time. After the service is over, the recording will remain available on our website and Facebook under "videos" until the following Sunday. In order to receive notifications for live worship, Facebook users need to "like" and follow PFLC's page.

FROM THE MINISTRY HEAD

My mother's kitchen fridge bore a magnet that read, "Too many cooks might spoil the broth in some kitchens, but not mine. I like help." We four kids responded to her call for help in our own way – one quietly obedient and diligent, one complaining but still accomplishing the task, one joyfully productive and me – trying to avoid work at all costs. I still avoid the kitchen, but with help from friends, I signed up to make soup for the Wednesday soup supper. Dates to make soup have been filled—thank you! You can still volunteer to help out the soup makers.

I considered those responses of my 3 siblings and me in terms of the call to work – just our everyday jobs. How many of us wake up in the morning to go to work joyful for the opportunity, quietly diligent, complaining, or avoiding? David said, "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" Psalm 122:1. David was joyful to participate in the act of worship. How many of us wake up for church joyful, complaining, attending out of a sense of duty, or just plain trying to avoid it? Jesus was asked, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?" Matthew 12:10, and Jesus responded in true Jesus fashion with a mix of work and worship. What if, this Lenten season, we approached our work as an act of worship? What would change in our actions or attitude? And conversely, how would it look if we consider our worship as our life's work? Maybe, like David, we just need a new word for how we go forth. What would your word be?

Our opportunities to worship (and work) throughout Lent have begun and will continue each Sunday at 9:00am and 10:30am; and Wednesdays soup at 5:30pm; Worship at 6:15pm. May you be blessed as you are gathered, sent, and serve in the love of Christ.

~ Cyndi Gilman

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP—MARCH 24-31

Palm Sunday worship, March 24, 9:00am onsite and online; 10:30am onsite

Holy Week begins with Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey to the cheers of the crowds expecting a conquering ruler. We will gather this day in the narthex/entry way to begin our worship with scripture and prayer. Then we will wave palm branches as we proceed into the sanctuary. The celebratory nature of this service and the Hosannas of the crowd will give way to cries of "Crucify" by the end of the week.

Maundy Thursday worship, March 28, 12:15pm onsite; 7pm onsite and online

This is a celebration of Jesus' last night when he shares a meal with his disciples, washes their feet, offers the first Holy Communion, prays in the Garden and is betrayed, arrested, and taken away for trial. We also strip all the remaining worship decorations in remembrance of Jesus being taken away and giving up everything.

Good Friday worship, March 29, 12:15pm onsite; 7pm onsite and online

This is a celebration that is most somber. Maybe better called an observance as we hear again the story of Jesus' trial, suffering, and crucifixion. Cries of "crucify" echo in the sanctuary and our souls. It is a service that is meaningful in its starkness and time for meditation. We close this time of worship covering all the crosses in black shrouds, including the large cross behind the altar.

Easter sunrise worship starting in cemetery, March 31, 6:30am onsite

This worship time is early like when the women made their way to the tomb that first Easter morning. We meet among the tombs in our own cemetery by the bench between the sanctuary and the CC. This is a service that begins with some hesitation especially with the reminder of death all around. However, we are gathering with the other part of our congregation which rests in the church triumphant. In that way, the cemetery is also a calming place reminding us that death does not have the last say. Our Savior Jesus has conquered death and has given us the promise of life now and forever.

Easter festival worship, March 31, 9:00am onsite and online; 10:30am onsite

These worship times are joyous occasions when we once again hear the alleluias echoing in the sanctuary. We rejoice to proclaim that Christ is risen! The news which lifts up all our days, the happy ones and the mournful. This is also the message that Jesus sends us to share in the world. That our savior loves each one and is always on your side and by your side.



At Easter, we will be decorating the church with beautiful spring flowers (no lilies please). If you wish to provide flowers, please bring them to the church by Good Friday, March 29, marked with your name so you can pick up your flowers after the 10:30am Easter Worship service. If you prefer that your plant be taken to shut-ins, please label it for "donation". Let Melinda know if the plants are provided in honor or in memory of someone by emailing her at welcome@pflc.org.

DO WE CALL OUT, LORD, LORD?

In 1975 a group of 79 Roman Catholic priests formed a group called Priests for Equity to call the church to act out the words of justice proclaimed by Vatican II. Part of the reforming work of that church council was to take worship out of Latin and put it in the language of the people.

As the Roman Catholic church is a worldwide church in more than 150 countries with 1.4 billion baptized members, there were many languages to consider. So, this group of priests grew in number to over 2,500 by 1988 when they began the project of translating the scriptures through the eyes of justice, equality, and equity.

One of the translating challenges they had was how the word "Lord" was to be interpreted since so many of the countries where there were Catholic churches had negative experiences with slavery, where their ancestors had been taken and sold in the transatlantic slave trade. These captured peoples were controlled by masters and lords of the manor, and a God who is referred to as Lord conjures troubling images and memories.

So 500 years later, these scholars and pastors worked hard to use imagery inspired by the work that God and Jesus have done in accompanying us as Imanuel, as the Most High, the Almighty, and Sovereign God instead of using the colonial oppressor's classist and sexist word "lord."

When "Lord" is used as a form of address, they used Rabbi or teacher in the Christian scriptures, and Adonai in the Hebrew scriptures. The title "Lord" especially when referring to Jesus is difficult to replace because it is confessional. To confess Jesus as Lord, for example, is to say that Caesar is not Lord. So, whenever possible, they used language such as Sovereign and Savior.

In 2007, Priests for Equity finally finished their work of translating scripture into English and published, The Inclusive Bible. It is a translation that is serious about justice, about listening to voices that have been marginalized for so long.

At PFLC, we recognize that there are ways that we also can walk alongside voices advocating for justice and "try out" language for God and Jesus that might be new for us but may represent a more inclusive message for anyone who might come through the doors to this sanctuary.

Also, while we are trying to be inclusive, we acknowledge that we are new to this. And we will make some mistakes. Please add your voice to the conversation, and let's learn and try things together.

One of the things that I have learned in "discovering" The Inclusive Bible is that I have been late to the party. The Christian scriptures portion of this bible was first published in 1994! That's 30 years ago! This work has been available to me since the year before I (Pastor Kent) was ordained as a pastor, so while this is new to me, it isn't new to the church, and it isn't new to the language of faith around the world.

So let us join our siblings in Christ around the world as together we remove barriers, learning and working for a stronger and stronger message of God's love to spread to all corners, near and far.

~ Pr. Kent Shane

LEARNING GOALS FOR PFLC:

- ⌘ Provide opportunities for community for PFLC attenders
- ⌘ Provide opportunities for the people of God to live out their faith and engage their community (near and far) through service and witness
- ⌘ Proclaim the love of God to kids and adults; to encourage kids and adults to proclaim the love of God to each other
- ⌘ Equip parents to be the primary faith-giver for their children
- ⌘ Give teenagers the community they need during adolescence
- ⌘ Equip teenagers to articulate their faith
- ⌘ Equip adults to articulate their faith



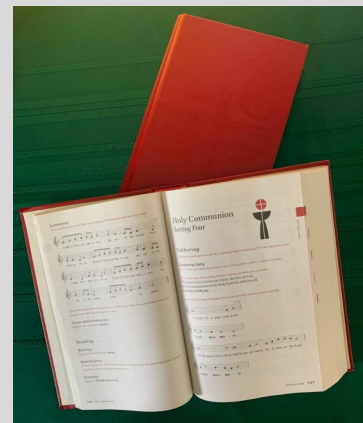
FAITH FORMATION 2024

Got Questions?

All youth and creative type people are invited to meet in Room 201 on Sundays, March 3, 10 & 17 at 11:30am to explore some creative faith formation ideas. We will be looking at ways to ask questions and tell our stories of faith. Would you like to write our own Easter play? How about making a video about your favorite bible story? Maybe record some conversations with people about their favorite memories or bible stories? Start thinking now about what you might like to do, how you would like to be involved: writing scripts, being on camera, being behind the camera, editing the footage, writing music, etc. So many possibilities! Email [Paul Davis](#) with ideas or questions.

Adult Study

Sunday mornings during Lent, we will have adult study in the sanctuary at 11:40am with the theme: *How we worship comes from the Bible? Scriptural roots of our worship services.* We'll learn how each part of worship is either directly found in scripture or based on the worship and thought of the early church.



LIBRARY SELECTIONS FOR MARCH

- ⌘ ***Psalms for Young Children*** by Marie-Helene Delval: "The biblical Psalms describe a whole range of emotions, from joy and wonder to sadness and regret. This collection of Psalms, paraphrased for young readers, uses simple yet powerful imagery to help children express their feelings."
- ⌘ ***John*** by Professor Karoline M. Lewis: The author's commentary "proclaiming John's interpretation of the Christ event."
- ⌘ ***Free of Charge*** - Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace by Miroslav Volf: The author "draws from popular culture as well as from a wealth of literary and theological sources, weaving his rich reflections around the sturdy frame of Paul's vision of God's grace and Martin Luther's interpretation of that vision."
- ⌘ ***The Wounded Healer*** by Henri J. M. Nouwen: The author "offers a radically fresh interpretation of modern ministry. Here he inspires devoted men and women who want to be of service in their church or community, but have found the traditional ways of ministry alienating and ineffective."
- ⌘ ***A Skeleton in God's Closet***, a thriller novel by Paul Maier: At an archaeological dig, "a skeleton almost 2,000 years old is found — will it shed new light on the life of Jesus or plunge the world into darkness and chaos?"

FAITH FORMATION AT HOME

Your homes continue to be the most important place for faith formation. I pray you are able to use at least some of the options below for connecting with your family and friends in caring conversations.

Familing the Faith: Effective Ways to Equip Parents as Faith-Influencers is a wonderful new resource from our friends at *Vibrant Faith*. You can purchase the eBook for only \$10 right [here](#).

Here is a preview from the introduction:

Parents are the primary faith-influencers in the lives of young people, and that influence overshadows all other factors (children's and youth ministers, peers, parachurch leaders). But though we know this truth, the church has largely been unable to "bend the trajectory" that represents conventional ways of capitalizing on this inherent influence.

- ⌘ What will it take to tackle this intractable challenge and show real impact?
- ⌘ How do we plant a new culture of home-centered, church-supported faith-growth practices and habits among families and congregations?
- ⌘ What motivates people to shift their habits and practices?
- ⌘ What catalyzes parents' own depth of relationship with God?
- ⌘ And how do we help plant faith-forming habits in parents in the midst of their everyday life?

Our mission as the church is to partner with parents, and people who are like parents, to focus on enriching the soil of the home. And we believe the way forward is an approach captured by the word **FAMILYING**.

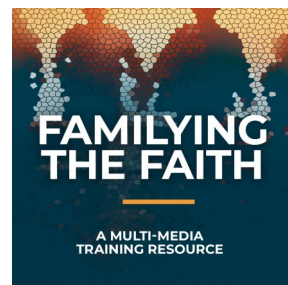
Vibrant Faith has also launched a "Familing the Faith" podcast on January 30 that you can find on Apple or Spotify.

God's Story Our Story is another great way to help engage your family and friends in short devotions, longer caring conversations, and random service projects. You can find it on the confidential page of the PFLC website ([click here](#)) along with the children's bulletin, and more!

Pray as You Go is an online prayer site that offers several options for listening to a new meditation Sunday-Friday each week. It offers soothing music, a prayer, a scripture, and a couple of questions to ponder all in 10-12 minutes. You can access this wonderful tool here: <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

I would like to partner with you in your faith formation, so if you have any questions or want to share some ideas on faith formation at home or away please contact me.

Your partner in faith,
Paul Davis, pauldavis@PFLC.org.



"It is better to think of church in the ale-house than to think of the ale-house in church."
— Martin Luther

BIBLE AND BREW is a weekly bible study on Tuesdays at 6:30pm. The group gathers to read and discuss the upcoming scripture text while enjoying a favorite brew. The group is currently meeting in the library at PFLC.

BYOBB—Bring Your Own Bible and Brew. Please email Paul Davis at pauldavis@pflc.org for more information.

WOMEN'S GROUPS

Below are some groups for women to come together and engage in action that makes a difference in the world, including bible study, knitting for the homeless, and creating quilts for people in developing countries.

- ⌘ **PFLC QUILTERS:** Fireside Room, 10:00am, Tuesdays — If you have questions, please call Pauline Ostheller at 360-598-2239 or email lady.osth@gmail.com or you may contact Sharon Brown at 360-731-5014 or sharonbrown0512@gmail.com. The quilters always appreciate donations of fabric or batting for their quilts. Please call Pauline or Sharon to make arrangements to donate items. If learning to quilt is on your to-do list give one of the ladies a call!
 - ⌘ **KNIT WITS:** Social Hall, 2:00pm, 2nd Saturday—The Knit Wits meet in the Social Hall on **March 9**. If you would like more information, contact Lisa Hutcheson at amcourtright@comcast.net or 360-620-8219.
 - ⌘ **DEBORAH/LYDIA CIRCLE:** Social Hall, 2:00pm, 2nd Thursday—Deborah/Lydia Circle meets for Bible study on **March 14**. The Bible study is in the current edition of Gather Magazine. Two copies of the magazine are in the folder by the WELCA bulletin board in the Social Hall, or you may find the study online at gathermagazine.org. To receive a reminder email before the meeting please contact Helen Humes at 360-509-2105 or hhumes2002@hotmail.com.
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EASTER EGG HUNT!

MARCH 31



There will be an Easter egg hunt for children up through 5th grade on Easter morning, March 31 at 10am. We will gather on the front steps to the church and then head out to the hunting grounds. I am counting on sunshine that morning, so the plan is to hold the hunt near the top of the cemetery. Everyone is invited to come out and share in the joy of little ones tracking down the elusive Easter egg. If you have any questions, or want to help fill and/or hide the eggs, contact Paul Davis at pauldavis@pflc.org. If you want to donate individually wrapped candy or small toys to the cause please drop them off in the office.

TUESDAY NIGHTS ARE SCOUTING NIGHTS!

Cub Scout Pack 4571 is open to boys and girls from Kindergarten-5th grade and meets from 5:15-6:30pm. For more information you can contact Cub Master Sarah Krugerud at pack4571poulsbo@gmail.com.

Scout Troop 1571 is open to boys and girls ages 11-17 and meets from 6:30-8:30pm. For more information you can contact Scout Master Lucas Reber at Troop1571poulsbo@gmail.com.

BELIEVE

I BELIEVE...

PFLC SUMMER CAMP AT OLYMPIC LUTHERHAVEN
JULY 26-28

DO I BELIEVE?

WE BELIEVE...what do we believe? What do you believe? What don't you believe? What do you believe about God? Who do you believe in? How has your faith changed over the years? Do my actions shape my beliefs, or does my belief shape my actions? These and other questions of faith will be explored during PFLC's weekend at [Olympic Lutherhaven](#) on Wildcat Lake this summer. This weekend is for you, your friends and your family (whatever that looks like).

Come and share what you believe and listen to the beliefs of others as we learn and grow in faith together. There will be time for teaching, for learning, for playing, for resting, and for eating!

Registration is now open and for planning purposes the deadline to register is April 21. You can register on the bulletin board at PFLC or email [Paul Davis](#) with any questions.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?



WHAT DO I BELIEVE?

I BELIEVE...HELP ME WITH MY UNBELIEF

FREDERICKSEN WILDERNESS PARK

Fredericksen Wilderness Park on Big Valley Road is 60 acres of forest, trails, wild life, and disc golf. Any time is a perfect time to take a walk in the forest! Take some time out of your busy day and enjoy some time in nature.

While you are out enjoying the park please follow these few simple rules:

1. Drive slowly when entering and exiting the park.
2. The gate will be locked at sundown.
3. As always --if you pack it in, pack it out.
4. No smoking or open flames of any kind.



Find out more on our Facebook page! Please go to <https://www.facebook.com/PFLCFWP> to "Like" and "Follow" the page.

FROM THE MINISTRY HEAD...

It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood,
A beautiful day for a neighbor,
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?

It's a neighborly day in this beautywood,
A neighborly day for a beauty,
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?

I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you,
I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you.

So let's make the most of this beautiful day,
Since we're together, we might as well say,
Would you be mine?
Could you be mine?
Won't you be my neighbor?

Won't you please,
Won't you please,
Please won't you be my neighbor?

(Fred Rogers)

The serving focus for March is our neighbors. In Luke 10, Jesus answers a question from a teacher of the law, "who is my neighbor?" by telling the parable of the Good Samaritan, reminding his listeners that their neighbor is the person they least expect it to be. Mr. Rogers sang about neighbors, reminding all of us that being neighbors is something that everyone can be.



KITSAP COMMUNITY
RESOURCES
Creating Hope | Restoring Lives

Our spotlight is on Kitsap Community Resources (KCR). Kitsap Community Resources is a nonprofit social services agency committed to creating hope and opportunity for all low-income Kitsap County residents by providing resources that promote self-sufficiency and stability. During the month of March, please consider making an additional financial donation to KCR. If your generosity takes a more action oriented tack, there are a multitude of ways to serve alongside KCR. Please go to their website at <https://www.kcr.org/get-involved/> to check what the most current needs are.

If you do not have the bandwidth for any of those options, how about this: be a good neighbor to anyone you come in contact with, this month? Shop at a local business rather than a chain store. Invite a neighbor to coffee. Go for a bundled up walk and say a friendly "hello" to all the folks you meet. Smile, genuinely, at a teenager at the grocery store. Be the kind of person that makes your name or face come to mind when someone hears the word "neighbor".

George Eliot, in his classic novel Middlemarch, notices that "People glorify all sorts of bravery except the bravery they might show on behalf of their nearest neighbors." People of PFLC, go and be brave. Be a good neighbor. Love your neighbor. Let's make the most of this beautiful day; would you be mine, could you be mine, won't you be my neighbor?

FROM THE MINISTRY HEAD...

"If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." ~John 10: 37-38 (NRSV)

"We need reality checks that are simply there, like a brick wall, that demand a response, with no room for choice or "discernment." That's the best way to become holy. It's not what you do, it's what you allow to be done to you." ~Richard Rohr, Radical Grace, pg. 313

There might seem to be a paradox in these two lines. The first, Words of Christ, focuses on believing Him as a result of what He does. The second, by Richard Rohr, a well-known Franciscan priest, author, and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation (<https://cac.org/>) turns that the other direction, toward what is done to you and less about what you do.

As a witness, how do you reconcile the paradox....or can you? I believe it really is an instance of "both/and", which makes living there even more challenging and fuzzy. I'm human, so I like things straight-forward and "binary" (I mean one way or the other.....). Life, however, seldom cooperates in delivering what I like in that regard. It's messy, mostly out-of-control, and very pudding-like...smooshed together and pretty difficult, if not impossible, to split into clean pieces to consider and act upon.



Figure 1 - Puddings

One of the truly beautiful things about the Lenten season is the encouragement you get to spend a bit more time and attention on the questions you have in your life that you and God get to hash-out and confront together. Not that they'll get all done and dusted, but the time spent in the Presence with your life's kinks and stinks can only be a good thing. Being within and aware of the Presence in those times has the ability of helping to realize that the Presence is always there, always aware of what's going on with and within you, and how that flows out into the world.....the part of the Life that is your Witness.

FROM KATY & ANDREW ...

JOHN & GERRY STAMM'S GRANDDAUGHTER & HER HUSBAND WHO ARE ON A MISSION IN MEXICO

Looking back on our last ten months, Andrew and I have so much to thank God for. We were taken into a beautiful, diverse, and ever changing community of faith and given the chance to work in our perspective "areas of expertise" while simultaneously being pushed to grow beyond what felt comfortable. It has been an honor and a blessing to have



been a
part of all
that God
at the
this past
Here is a
snapshot



has done
Ranch
year.
small
of our
time in
photos.



FEBRUARY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- ⌘ Scholarship accounts have been all brought under the umbrella of our Morgan Stanley accounts. Morgan Stanley has consistently better returns than Thrivent and is vastly easier to work with.
- ⌘ Terry Tripp, the Quaker gathering from Bainbridge, and others are still working on getting the Panchuck family here as refugees. U.S. Rep. Derek Kilmer's office will help with this.
- ⌘ As we listen to community members, particularly those who have partnered with us in the use of these buildings, a renaming of the "Christian Center" to something more descriptive of what it actually is might be helpful.
- ⌘ Serving Ministry leaders are continuing to explore community partners serving homeless youth.
- ⌘ Rectifying an oversight from the 2024 budget process: council voted to change "North Kitsap Fishline" budget line to "North Kitsap Food Banks", because PFLC serves the Kingstons area as well as Poulsbo, and we had intended to partner in both communities.
- ⌘ PFLC's Scouts will run the Viking Fest parking fundraiser.
- ⌘ Our Vice President, Cecilia Sanchez, needed to step down. Nominations are being accepted to fill this position for the remainder of the term.
- ⌘ The council had a robust discussion around the request from Genocide No More to use space on March 30, 2024, to invite people to pray for an end to war and genocide in the Holy Land and would be open to the public. Concerns about optics were sifted through PFLC's guiding principle, "How do we best demonstrate the love of Jesus?"

Lutherhaven Pizza Fundraiser

TUES., MARCH 26TH
11AM - 8PM




**21505 Market Place,
Suite #106, Poulsbo**

25% of event sales
go to support Olympic
Lutherhaven. Use the code
CAMP24 for pick up, delivery or
catering on the app,
oathpizza.com or show this flyer





"... you MUST see this choir – it's an unforgettable experience."
– Eric Whitacre

THE CONCORDIA CHOIR

Michael Culloton, Conductor

CONCERT

Thursday, March 7
7:30 p.m.

Lagerquist Concert Hall
Pacific Lutheran University
868 Wheeler St. S.
Tacoma, Wash.

Tickets:
ConcordiaTickets.com
or at the door



THE CONCORDIA CHOIR

Michael Culloton, Conductor

CONCERT

Friday, March 8
7:30 p.m.

University Presbyterian Church
4540 15th Ave. NE
Seattle, Wash.

Performed in collaboration with the Seattle
Children's Chorus Camerata ensemble and the
University Presbyterian Church Cathedral Choir

Tickets:
ConcordiaTickets.com
or at the door



CELEBRATIONS, SYMPATHIES, AND MORE

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/1	Karrie Stemmler	3/17	Wilson Zeigler
	Hildur Gleason		Allyson Dirik
3/2	Kevin Eyer		David Wetter
3/3	Kitty Urban	3/18	Pat Edgren
	Joan Edwards		Keith Hagenbrock
3/6	Kris Read	3/21	Melinda Madamba
3/9	Bill Kimler	3/22	Clara Hendrickson
	Jessica Reiter	3/24	Meghan Wooldridge
3/10	Joyce Moum		Jay Stemmler
3/12	Li-Ching Lorentz	3/26	Marje Fossum
3/15	Roger Heng		Scarlett Madamba
3/16	Thore Fossum	3/31	Robb Young

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3/12	Mike & Debbie Collier
3/17	Dave & Kara Widhalm
3/20	Robert & Lisa Macht
3/21	Jim & Evelyn Levey
3/27	Roger & Kay Lynne Koskela

SYMPATHIES TO:

- † The family of Donna Torkelson, who died January 21.
- † Marilyn at the death of her father on February 10.
- † Sue Heng at the death of her husband, Roger, on February 22.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

- ⌘ March 24, 9am onsite and online; 10:30am onsite – Palm Sunday worship with procession with palms
- ⌘ March 28, 12:15pm onsite; 7pm onsite and online – Maundy Thursday worship with handwashing and communion
- ⌘ March 29, 12:15pm onsite; 7pm onsite and online – Good Friday worship
- ⌘ March 31, 6:30am – Easter sunrise worship starting in cemetery
- ⌘ March 31, 9am onsite and online; 10:30am onsite – Easter festival worship
- ⌘ March 31, 10am – Easter egg hunt, meet at the front steps to the church



VISION STATEMENT

People gathered and sent in the love of Christ.

PFLC GUIDING PRINCIPLE

How can we best demonstrate the love of Christ?



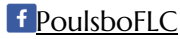
POULSBO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

18920 4TH AVENUE NE

POULSBO, WA 98370

PHONE: 360-779-2622

EMAIL: welcome@pflc.org



THE GRAPEVINE

MARCH, 2024

MINISTRY STAFF

Alison Shane, Pastor
Kent Shane, Pastor
Paul Davis, Director of Faith Formation
Melinda Madamba, Office Manager
Debbie Collier, Music & Choir Director
Miriam Haddon, Organist & Choir Pianist
Hannah Ronning, Custodian

CHURCH COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS

Blake Reiter, President
TBD, Vice President
Terry Beaudoin, Secretary
Elise Kerttula, Treasurer
Paul Jose, Facilities Ministry
Lauren Eyer, Learning Ministry
Elizabeth Vander Esch, Serving Ministry
TBD, Supporting Ministry
Jeff Hora, Witnessing Ministry
Cyndi Gilman, Worshipping Ministry

To contact the church office, please call
360-779-2622.

Office Hours: Mon-Thur, 10am-2pm,
Fri, 10am-noon

Staff may be in the building outside of these
hours, call the office for availability

Sunday Worship: 9:00 & 10:30am

Participate online at pflc.org or
[PoulsboFLC](https://www.facebook.com/PoulsboFLC) on Facebook

Please submit articles by email to
welcome@pflc.org.

Articles are subject to editing.
Submissions due by the 20th of each month.