

# Woodburn First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

Fall 2025

CHURCH NEWS AND INFORMATION is communicated primarily through our weekly email. If you are not receiving it, send an email to [revcynthiaobrien@gmail.com](mailto:revcynthiaobrien@gmail.com) to join the mailing list.



On the third Sunday of each month, we share a special time of candle lighting during our prayers. You are invited to light a candle in remembrance of loved ones or in honor of a special request.



Rev. Robin Garvin will be our guest preacher November 16, 23 and 30 when Cynthia has knee replacement surgery.

Welcome, Pastor Robin!

## All Saints Day of Remembrance, Sunday, November 2

Bring a photo of a loved one to place on our ofrenda up front. You can also bring traditional Dia de los Muertos items like marigolds to decorate the altar.

**LOOKING AHEAD!**  
 November 9 ..... Jazz Sunday  
 November 16 ..... Joan Paddock, Trumpet  
 November 23 ..... Christ the King Sunday

**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**  
 Wednesdays, December 3 and 10 at 5 PM. .... Christmas Caroling  
 November 30 ..... HOPE in the coming of the Lord  
 December 7. .... PEACE in the midst of trials  
 December 14. .... JOY in neighbors helping neighbors  
 December 21. .... LOVE overflowing -- God with us!  
**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** at 4:00 PM ..... December 24

## Financial Report

*A note from Cynthia: The Session and I are deeply grateful for everyone's commitment to support our congregation and our ministry. Especially I'm thankful for Julie Moore, who prepares the finance report each month and the budget each year, and who keeps track of contributions. Thanks to Marcy Sterling, who works with Julie on offerings as well as mission, and thanks to Paula Wolcott, our church Treasurer, who cheerfully pays the bills. I asked Julie to give an update for the newsletter to let everyone know where we stand financially.*

Our monthly operating expenses typically exceed our monthly income. About half of income is from offering and about half from building rentals. A transfer of \$10,000 was recently done from reserves from the poplar tree property sale to add to our operations budget to help offset the difference. It will be analyzed before the end of the year to see if we need to draw down more to balance the budget.

Also, we recently mailed out third quarter giving statements which shows the individual offerings received from January through September.

Thanks to everyone for your support!  
Julie Moore

## Jazz Sunday, November 9



Lively jazz worship with Mike Horsfall, vibes and piano; Laurent Nickel, bass; Brent Follis, drums, and Paul Mazzio, trumpet.

Jazz Sundays at First Presbyterian Church are sponsored in memory of Ray and Fran Welch.



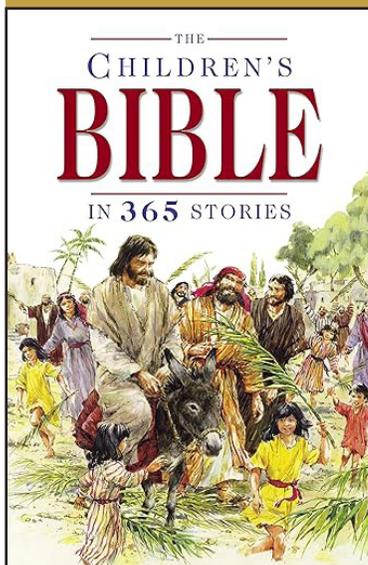
## Building and Ground News

The bell tower, which had been in disrepair for a long time, was removed, and the bell (2,000 pounds with assembly) now resides in our church courtyard.

The front entrance doors and the vestibule were repainted.

# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

## Read the Bible together



**H**ave you ever read the whole Bible? Do you ever wonder how certain Scriptures fit into a larger context? Do you know people who might be familiar with Bible stories like Adam and Eve, Noah and the ark, David and Goliath, or the birth of Jesus, but not a sense of how these stories are connected?

In 2026, we will offer the opportunity for our members, family, friends and neighbors to go through the whole Bible together using a book of paraphrased Bible stories by Mary Batchelor. Mary picked out the most exciting and also the best loved stories of the Bible to help readers see the whole message of the Bible, which addresses the questions people are always asking: What is God like? Why is there evil and suffering in the world? What is the purpose of living?

Pastor Robin Garvin used this book for a successful churchwide reading program with Lake Grove Presbyterian Church. They started in January 2020, and when Covid hit, the reading program really held them together, with Bible discussions continuing in families and on zoom. The

stories are not a replacement for Scripture; they are a gateway to Scripture.

Sign up at church to receive your copy of "The Children's Bible in 365 Stories" by Mary Batchelor (new edition pub. Nov 2, 2025). It is provided at no cost, but donations are always welcome. You can also get additional copies for family or friends for \$19.99 through Powell's or your favorite bookseller.

## A Sabbatical for Our Pastor in 2026

**A**fter serving a church for six years, pastors are required to take a sabbatical for part of the seventh year. Our pastor (now in her eighth year with us) will be on sabbatical from May 18 through September 5, 2026. The Aurora church applied for, and was one of five churches in Oregon that received, the Lilly Foundation's 2025 Clergy Renewal Grant, which provides money for pastors to rest, renew and have travel adventures. The grant also provides money for churches to have a fill-in pastor and renewal programs. We invited Pastor Robin Garvin to be the sabbatical pastor for our church and also for the Aurora church. She said she is delighted!



REV. CYNTHIA ON HER 30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HER ORDINATION.

*There will be a congregational meeting after church November 2 to provide more information and to answer questions about the sabbatical.*

## First Presbyterian Church

Rev. Cynthia O'Brien,  
Pastor  
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503-962-9186, cell

Debra Huddleston,  
Music Director

Vickie Gonzales,  
Newsletter Editor

### Elders

Roger Gonzales, Clerk of Session

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

## Common Ground Songwriting

Several members of our church participated in the Braver Angels Common Ground Songwriting Workshop held at our church October 11. Braver Angels leaders came from Nashville, Kenosha, and San Francisco to guide participants in a series of discussions on a divisive current topic in the news (immigration) and from that discussion to write a song as a group. They finished that whole process in one day and sang the song at the Common Ground concert at the Aurora church on October 12.



## The Community Garden

The Community Garden, cultivated by Andy and Heather Brophy, produced and delivered over 2,000 pounds of fresh produce to the Aware Food Bank. Additionally, our church donates \$750 per month to the food bank.



### Weekly gatherings for all:

Sundays—Coffee after church; lunch after church on the first Sunday of the month.

Mondays at 2 PM—Zoom Bible Study

Wednesdays—Romeos and Juliets meet on Wednesdays at Country Cottage. All are welcome. Bring a friend.

- JULIETS (Just Us Ladies Into Eating Together) have breakfast at 9:30.
- ROMEOS (Real Old Men Eating Out) have lunch at 11:30.
- Choir rehearsals with Debi at 2:00 PM—all are welcome!