

The Chimes

May 2025

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Life After Easter: Rejuvenation and Joy

By Katie Eatherly

As the season of Easter draws to a close, I find myself reflecting deeply on the journey—not just of Christ’s resurrection, but of my own spiritual awakening. Some of you may know my testimony. For those who don’t, I want to share a piece of it with you—how Easter became more than a holiday for me.

Like many, my faith story isn’t linear. I left the church as a teenager after the painful divorce of my parents. For many years, I wandered through life without the grounding presence of God. Those were dark times—years of searching, struggling, and, at times, shutting God out. Then, in February 2021, my father passed away after a long battle with addiction. I was more lost than ever.

Two months later, I was invited to an Easter service by my (now) mother-in-law. That day, the scripture reading was from John 20:13–16, where Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene after His resurrection. Mary, overwhelmed by grief, doesn’t recognize that Jesus is standing right in front of her—until He calls her name. That moment—that verse—was my turning point. My “Mary” moment.

Since then, Easter has held a sacred place in my heart. Yes, it is the celebration of Christ’s resurrection—the cornerstone of our faith—but for me, it is also the anniversary of my soul’s revival.

This year, for the first time, I fully immersed myself in the Lenten season. I participated in Ash Wednesday, walked through the 40 days of Lent, waved palms on Palm Sunday, sat in solemn reflection on Maundy Thursday, and celebrated with full joy on Easter Sunday. During Lent, I spent time “hibernating”—intentionally turning inward to reflect on my relationship with God. I was reminded of Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness. In that time, I uncovered raw emotions, revisited powerful memories, and felt a deeper reconnection to my faith roots.

Walking through Holy Week in an intentional way—being present at each service, reading the scriptures, spending time in prayer—changed everything. Maundy Thursday was especially moving. Receiving communion on the very night we remember its institution felt intimate and profound. This Easter season, I don’t just celebrate an empty tomb. I celebrate a full heart, a renewed spirit, and the joy of rediscovering faith.

As we move beyond Easter Sunday and into the weeks that follow, I carry with me a renewed sense of hope and deep, abiding joy. The resurrection isn’t just a moment in time—it’s a daily invitation to live in the light of Christ, to walk forward with purpose, and to celebrate the gift of grace we’ve been given. The happiness I feel now is rooted in the understanding that I am never alone—Christ is alive, present, and constantly calling us by name, just as He did with Mary. So let us continue to rejoice, to gather, and to grow in faith together. Easter may be one day on the calendar, but its promise is eternal.

Hallelujah!

Scriptures for May

May 4

3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6

Psalm 30

Isaiah 61:1-3

Psalm 90:13-17

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

May 11

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Isaiah 53:1-6

Psalm 114

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

May 18

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Leviticus 19:9-18

Psalm 24:1-6

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

May 25

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Psalm 109:21-31

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John 14:23-29

John 5: 1-9

Walking in the Light

Adult Sunday School



On Sundays from 9 to 10 AM, join us in the FPCP parlor for a continuing Bible discussion and learning group for adults. Guided by the excellent Feasting On The Word curriculum, using the same lectionary calendar our congregation follows when planning weekly scripture readings, our group seeks to provide a welcoming, casual space where folks can learn and share while we reach deeper into scripture and act upon what we find there. We seek to walk alongside and learn from Jesus, and we invite anyone who would like to be in fellowship, exploring how to live more thoughtful, Gospel-centered and Holy Spirit led lives



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN



Our Presbyterian Women are multiple lessons deep into their Let Justice Roll Down Bible Study. It is never too late to join in!

ZOOM information for all sessions:

Scan QR Code to Access from your Phone:

Meeting ID: 856 4486 1027 Passcode: 932940

All Circle Options:

Eve Circle— First Tuesday of the month in the evening

Hoff-Nicholson Circle—Third Wednesday of the month at 12:00 pm

Chase-MacInnes Circle— Third Thursday of the month at 12:00 pm

Online Circle — Fourth Sunday of the month at 4:00 pm



Scholarships

Starting April 1, the Scholarship Committee will begin receiving applications for:

The Leslie Paulson Memorial Scholarship

The First Presbyterian Church Scholarship

The Timm-Harrison Scholarship

The deadline for all applications is **Wednesday, May 14th by noon**. Application forms are available online or in the church office. Please return your completed application to the church office or email at office@fpcpuyallup.org. If your application is sent to the church office, the church secretary will send a "received notice" to you.

Myrna Laycock, co-chair of the scholarship Committee

Town Hall– May 18th

Join the FPC Mission Study Team for lunch after service to discern what the future could hold for First Presbyterian! Lunch included, all are welcome.

Men's Breakfast

The Christian Education committee is beginning a men's breakfast each third Saturday of the month. We will have food fellowship and a speaker with a message. Mark your calendars. Please let Bill Klouse know you are joining us at klouseb@gmail.com

We begin May 17 at 7:30 am at the Meridian Cafe downtown Puyallup.

Each guest will pay their own check.

See you there!

Dinner Fundraiser

The Youth Group will once again be holding a Murder Mystery Dinner on Saturday May 24th at 5:00 pm. Tickets are \$25 and include dinner, a movie, dessert, and, of course, entertainment :)

Tickets go on sale April 27th and last chance to purchase will be May 18th

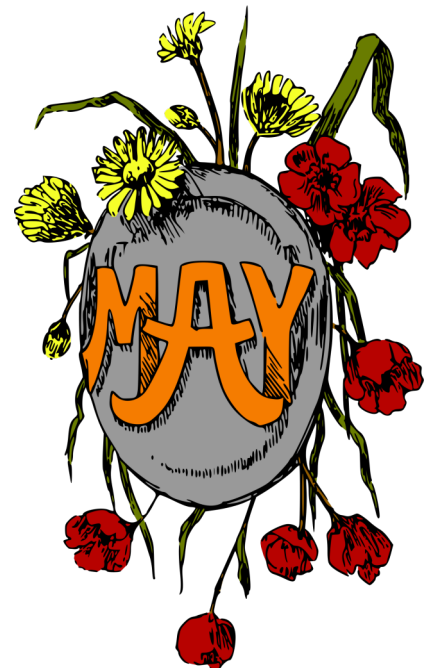
Personnel, Stewardship, and Finance Update

March 31, 2025, was the end of the first quarter of our fiscal year. The expectation for financial income is 25%.

First Presbyterian Church income is currently 26% and the expenses for the quarter are 23.5%. We are on track at this time.

Thank you for staying current on your pledge. This makes it possible for committees to continue their work here at FPC and in the community too.

We also thank Cherie at Good Faith Bookkeeping for her detailed accounting work for us.





Youth Bingo Fundraiser

Church Medical Supplies

FPC has the following medical supplies available to borrow:

- 3 Walkers with Wheels
- 3 sets of Crutches
- 1 Large Bath Seat
- 1 Small Walker with a Seat
- 1 Stand-up Walker
- 2 Elevated Toilet Seat Risers
- 1 Full Leg Brace
- 1 Shower Seat
- 1 Small Boot
- 1 Pressure Releasing Heel Protector
- 1 Bed Rail
- 3 Hand Grabbers
- 1 Bath Mat
- 2 Stand Up Canes
- 3 Canes
- 1 Adjustable Cane

To use one of these items, you can check it out of our medical supply closet. Make sure to use the sign-out sheet so we can keep track of items!



Youth Sunday Bible Jeopardy



Easter Sunday Laying of Hands after Baptism



Maundy Thursday Prayer Fire

