

Seeking the Path of Christ Our Journey in Lent

As we journey through Lent in this season of reflection and repentance, the Worship and Arts Committee invites our church members and friends to make opportunities to seek a deeper relationship with Jesus and his way. Using the ancient symbol of the labyrinth, we take time to wind our way on a 40 day pilgrimage ending at the crucifixion of Jesus before experiencing the glory of Easter. Enter the journey in these ways:

Worship on Sundays – A time to hear and respond to God’s word with the celebration of communion. Follow the deepening colors of the labyrinth path on the worship order and chancel decoration.

Labyrinth Tour – April 13th (See article in this issue for details)

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 14th – Experience Jesus’ triumphal entry to Jerusalem and his impending death, with procession of palms.

Maundy Thursday, April 18th at 7:30 p.m. – We remember Jesus’ last meal with his friends, receive communion and move to the crucifixion, ending in silence. Quietly walk the labyrinth in the parlor.

Good Friday, April 19th from Noon to 5:00 p.m. – The Sanctuary and Meditation Room (off the balcony) will be open for personal prayer and reflection.

Easter Worship - April 21st

Celebrate the Resurrection with the Word read & proclaimed
Grand Processional with children and choir
Combined choir of children, Youth Bells, Chancel Choir & Trumpets
Children’s sermon - telling the story with Easter eggs
Celebration of Communion



Tower Talk

Pastor Paulette Mixon-Weller



Lent is here!

The word Lent is from the Old English meaning “springtime.” Spring time is the time of year when we anticipate Easter and slow down and contemplate the cross and the sacrifice of Jesus. This year we are “seeking the path of Christ” throughout Lent. Jesus lived a life in touch with God. He “went up the mountain to pray” often. Can we follow Christ up the mountain to pray? As one of your pastors, I admit that sometimes I get “too busy” to pray.

This Lent I am trying to pray more, and make praying the first thing and not something that I fit in if there’s time. Over the years I have heard stories of Mother Theresa. Those that visited her expected to see constant care of the poor and dying, but she and the nuns that worked with her began each day with hours of prayer. She would say that the more they had to do, the more they needed to pray.

In my life when I set aside everything else to pray, God shows up and nurtures my soul and even rearranges my plans for the day. Paul reminds us in Romans that “nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus,” but sometimes we create barriers.

This Lent, I invite you to lay down all and seek the path of Christ with me. Let’s encourage one another to embrace the divine mystery before us and set aside time to meet the great lover of our souls.

With Love,

Rev. Paulette Mixon-Weller

Thanks from the Youth Group!

Thank you all so much for coming out to support our annual Pancake Brunch. It was a huge success. We had ten kids and four adults helping this year. We raised nearly \$750.00 and our expenses (less than \$100.00) were covered by the ice cream fund. We will be using the proceeds primarily to send six kids to Triennium in July and to continue our mission work of distributing hygiene kits twice a year at HOMEpdx (next time on April 21st).

Labyrinth Tour in Lent

Worship & Arts Committee is offering one more outdoor labyrinth walk in April.

APRIL 13, 10:00 am - Meet in the church parking lot to carpool to the labyrinth in the parking lot of Unity Church, SE Stark and 47th Avenue. If it is a dry day, we will continue to Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church to walk its labyrinth.

Can’t join us on this date? Pick up a list of labyrinths in the Narthex and make time to walk several during Lent on your own or with friends.

Prayer Chain

If you are interested in joining the RCPPC *Prayer Chain*, please see Andrea Tawney. or Paulette for details. Sign-up is available every Sunday following worship. Contact Paulette if you have questions. If you are in need of prayer, prayer cards are in the pews. Please fill out your prayers and praises and return in the offering plate.

Our ramp has been fitted with new decking and structural supports. It is looking great and feeling much sturdier.



Tower Youth Group

Happy Spring from the Tower!

Thursday, April 4th and 18th

5:30-6:30 p.m.: Hand bell rehearsals for Easter

April 7th

Dollars for Donuts with Cassy, Lisa, and Shannon (Laura gone)

April 14th

Laura gone; no activities planned

Holy Week

"Jesus Christ Superstar"

viewing-time and location TBD

April 21st

Easter Sunday

9 a.m. Hand bell call

Distribute hygiene kits at HOMEpdx

12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

April 27th

5-9 p.m. Murder mystery
at Becky and Bill Duncan's

April 28th

Mother's Day Bouquet sales; games

Looking ahead for summer: in June we will do our big auction fundraiser for Triennium, Bid for the Kids; July is Triennium 16th - 19th; August we will try to do an overnight to David's house at the beach.

We meet each Sunday after services, from 11:15 -12:15, food provided. Come check us out! Parents and grandparents are always welcome to join in too.

Laura Gillooly, Youth Ministries Director

Martha Service:

Looking for a group to join? One where you'll have a great time doing good things for our community? Martha Service might be just what you're looking for. Join us April 3rd between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in Room 8. No sewing experience required!

Do you know that you have a Shepherd?



We divided the people in the directory alphabetically, and one of the 12 Shepherds has the joy of writing or calling or visiting you. We are working on a system for getting newer people set up with a shepherd. If you have any questions about Shepherds, please email paulette@rosecityparkpres.org.

Our Shepherds will meet May 1st, July 1st, September 1st, and November 1st.

If you would like to be a shepherd, let Paulette know. There have been many positive responses to this program. It is a great way to show you care. This congregation cares so much, but it is hard to make sure all 200 members and friends feel that care. If you feel called to write cards or reach out, please let Paulette know. Thank you!

Move to Your Advantage in April!

Studies have shown that movement is necessary for proper hydration. In Dana Cohen's book, "Quench" the author states that, "movement moves hydration down to the cellular level". Also, scientific studies have proven that physical movement in tandem with music can significantly improve your outlook on life.

Why not move with **Gentle Moves?** It's weekly and wonderful. No need for fancy gym clothes, simply dress comfortably for movement. See you there!

Thursday's/Playroom 10am-11am

Contact Sheila L. for more information:

lachance.sheila@gmail.com

Volunteer Needed: Church Treasurer

The Stewardship and Finance committee is looking for a volunteer to replace our present church Treasurer John Thoma. John has done an exceptional job as our treasurer for the last 10 years. He has found his experience as Treasurer to be very rewarding, a great way to work with many church members and to have an intimate understanding of what the church is doing. John is willing to work with and train a new person for the treasurer's position.

The Treasurer's responsibilities are to prepare and present a monthly financial statement to Session, work with Katrina Halvorson (the church's financial bookkeeper), prepare annual budget for Session in January, and present annual budget to Annual Congregational Meeting in February.

The amount of time needed to prepare monthly statements is about 4-5 hours and about 20 hours for annual budget. If you were an Elder on Session, you would easily spend 4-5 hours in monthly meetings. The Stewardship and Finance Committee chair assists with the annual budget by providing information on income from church members, rental income, and income from Presbytery Foundation.

Contact Ray Amling if you are interested in becoming our new Treasurer, or if you need more information regarding the position.

Active Mariner Groups

Mariner groups identify themselves by ship names with the idea that members are traveling the world together as fellow sailors. At RCPPC we have two active groups, but in the past there have been more. Some mariner groups have aged out but stayed together for many years.

The groups that are active now are the Pathfinders and the Dinghys. The Pathfinders have 3 couples and 5 singles and have been together for many years. The Dinghys have 12 couples and have been an active group for well over 30 years; we have watched and guided our children growing up and now we are doing the same with our grandchildren. We are mostly a social group with many members very involved with the business and worship of RCPPC. We are proud of our donations over the years to many food banks and social services.

Because of our size and the fact that we meet in our homes, we cannot be open to new members but we have several couples who have volunteered to help start a new group. We are blessed to have many new members and feel certain that a new group could be formed and thrive in a supported community. Contact Wes or Diane Hanken if you are interested in joining a new group.

DEACONS' EASTER GIVING

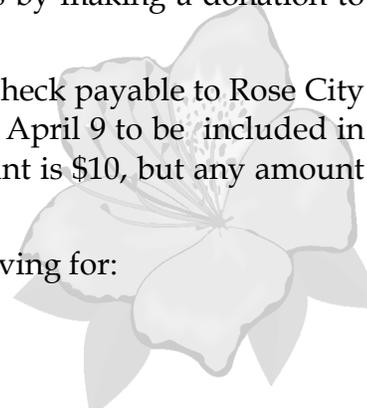
This Easter, the Board of Deacons invites congregants to honor loved ones by making a donation to the Deacons' Fund. This will better allow us to meet our budget.

Please complete and return this form to the church office along with your check payable to Rose City Park Presbyterian Church. Forms must be received in the church office by April 9 to be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin listing honorees. The suggested donation amount is \$10, but any amount is welcome.

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ in honor of/in memory of/in thanksgiving for:
(please circle one)

Honoree:

Your Name:



Fall Women's Retreat at Menucha

October 18th-20th, 2019

The Women's Retreat Committee has already begun the process of planning our fall retreat on the beautiful grounds of Menucha Retreat and Conference Center. Our leader will be the Rev. Dr. Sandy Tice, Senior Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of San Bernardino, CA.

Sandy holds a Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary, a Doctor of Ministry, and a Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction, both from San Francisco Theological Seminary. Thinking she would be in retreat work all her life, her undergraduate degree is in Recreation and Leisure Studies. She worked at Westminster Woods in California and directed the Camp and Conference Ministries for the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii for several years. She has served several churches, taught seminary classes, and provided leadership at Companions on the Inner Way, a contemplative Christian retreat.

Sandy will be leading us in "Seasons of the Heart", a theme that relates the yearly seasons to the season in which we currently find ourselves. It does not relate to age alone, but rather to our current circumstances and our feelings about those circumstances.

Save the weekend of October 18th - 20th on your calendar, and watch for more information regarding this opportunity for retreat!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Shepherds are often made aware of someone who would be blessed with the gift of a prayer shawl. If you have yarn to donate, or would like to create a prayer shawl, talk to Cindy Robertson or Tommy Roberts.

February Session Report

Active membership roll has been reviewed and all is in order.

- ..#Paulette Mixon-Weller will attend the Festival of Homiletics being held in Minneapolis during the week of March 13th.
- ..#A Capitol Building Fund Campaign Committee has been formed. Members include Karen LaBonte, Peter Bilotta, Amy Lawrence, Wayne Knepper, Shannon Bromenschenkel, and Jim Munson.
- ..#A Motion was passed to approve a \$10,225.00 contract with the Portland Painting & Restoration Company for the painting of the upper and lower narthex areas.
- ..#Four new policies have been approved by the Session to help publicize our church position on various protocols. The four approved policies include: Records Retention, Financial Reimbursement, Inclement Weather, and Whistle Blower.
- ..#A new team has formed to write a Child Protection Policy and to update our Sexual Misconduct Policy that the Book of Order requires each individual congregation to have on record. Committee members include Gail Black, Leslie Munson, Paulette Mixon-Weller, Shannon Miller, and Brian Emery.

Submitted by Brian Emery, Clerk of Session

E-BLAST

Each Thursday, the RCPPC office sends out an E-blast detailing announcements and general information regarding current and upcoming events. Email the office at:

carolee@rosecityparkpres.org

to add your name to the list or to request additional information.

Art in April : Maggie Emery's Pysanky Eggs

Pysanky are Ukrainian Easter eggs decorated with symbolic designs using a wax-resist process and colorful dyes. This is an ancient tradition dating back more than 3,000 years. The eggs symbolize rebirth and new life. Because of its long history, the shapes and geometric patterns in the designs have both pagan and Christian symbology. For example, a triangle represents air-fire-water, and can also represent the Holy Trinity.



Traditional Pysanky Eggs

Real egg shells are used. Traditionally the eggs are not emptied, however Maggie empties the eggs before she writes on them. Chicken eggs are most readily available; however, any type of egg can be decorated, including goose, duck, turkey, and ostrich eggs.

The designs are written on the egg shell with a tool called a kistka. This tool is held similar to a pencil and is used to free-hand write liquid beeswax on the egg shell. The wax seals that area from dye keeping it white, meaning it is a wax-resist process. The egg is then dyed, and more wax is applied. The process continues with a color progression until the pattern is complete. The final step is to remove the wax, revealing the colorful pattern. Depending on the level of detail in the pattern, it can take 3–4 hours to finish a chicken egg.

Lent is the traditional time for writing pysanky, with a more intense effort during Holy Week. The Ukrainian tradition is to place the pysanky in a basket on Easter morning and bring them to Easter service for a blessing. Although it has roots as an Easter craft, hobbyists create the eggs year round.

Maggie picked up this hobby as a distraction and creative outlet in the late 1990's while studying engineering. Her inspiration comes from the traditional symbols and designs, but can also be found in nature such as animals or flowers and in everyday items such as patterns on tiles, rugs, or pottery. Maggie finds the geometric shapes and symmetrical designs beautiful. Although she's not Ukrainian, roots of a similar type of egg decorating can be found in her Polish heritage.

Maggie will lead **Adult Education** on **Sunday, April 14th** from **11:20 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** in the **RCPPC Chapel**. Come learn more about the history, tools, techniques, and symbology of Pysanky.

Presbyterian Youth Triennium

Here's My Heart is the theme for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2019 to be held on the Purdue University campus beginning on July 16-20th. Once again youth from Rose City Park Presbyterian Church will participate in this conference for five days of conversation, recreation, worship and fun. Drawing from the rich diverse theology, history and education of the Presbyterian tradition, youth will explore their faith through a variety of experiences that will offer opportunities for inspiration grounded in personal and communal worship.

Rose City Park Presbyterian has a history of sending youth to this amazing event, but it had been several years since anyone had gone when Laura Gillooly took three youths in 2016. This year we are doubling that number and six youth are going, in addition to Cassy Gemelli and Paulette Mixon-Weller. We attend as a delegation of Presbytery of the Cascades, and the Triennium experience will nourish their faith journeys for many years.

In 2016, there were approximately 56 kids and 14 adults in our delegation. We don't have an exact count for 2018, as a few congregations have been added in the last few weeks. Paulette and Laura are heading up the planning team and already have events in the works to get the delegation of kids together a few times before we travel to Indiana, to get to know each other and go as a true group instead of a bunch of individual youth groups traveling together. We will be attending the Presbytery meeting in late June to have the delegation commissioned for the trip, either in person with representatives that are going to Triennium, or by way of a video, as we have utilized in the past.



Here are some reflections of the youth that attended in 2016 (Cameron, Peter and Emma Gillooly):

What were you looking forward to before you went to Triennium?

Emma: *going to a new place was exciting*

Cameron: *the airplane ride*

Peter: *meeting new people*

What was an expectation you had before going and how did that play out?

Emma: *I thought I wouldn't be able to relate to the other kids there because they would be ultra conservative, but it wasn't that way at all.*

Cameron: *I expected that everyone there would know what to do and where to go, but they didn't and I had to figure things out for myself.*

Peter: *I thought it would be held in a more concentrated area, but the campus was huge.*

What are you most excited about when you return in 2019?

Cameron: *being more at ease with getting around.*

Peter: *meeting more new people.*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are varieties of service, but it is the same Lord. There are varieties of working, but is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. - 1 Corinthians 12:4-8

Our church nominating committee, chaired by Ruling Elder Thad Langford and including Peter Bilotta and Leslye Johnson, has begun work in earnest. This is what we believe about the nomination process for Deacons and Elders:

- « # That all of the leadership resources we need are already in this community.
- « # That God is already at work in hearts and lives, preparing people to receive a call from us and respond in faith, and that God is eager to help us to discover and invite those people.
- « # That if we call the right people, it will be a gift to them, and not a burden. If they are called by God, they will be stretched and blessed in serving in these roles. They will grow in connection to God and to this family of faith, and the gifts that God has given them will be used to bless and heal and build!

Over the next several weeks, the committee will be prayerfully discerning who might be ready to serve. They will look at the needs of the congregation, the gifts of the people already on Session and the Board of Deacons, and the gifts people might bring to serve. They will discern where and how God might be working. And they will ask people to serve.

What can you do? Pray for the committee as they look for gifted ministers within the congregation, and, if you are asked, prayerfully consider whether this is the right time to offer your gifts to this congregation in this way.

- Thad Langford, Nominating Committee Chair

(This announcement used with the kind permission of First Presbyterian Church, San Bernardino, CA)

New Color Freshens Church Entrances

It's been more than twenty years since the lower and upper narthex were painted, and under the direction of the Building and Grounds Committee and the Session's approval to use \$10,225 from capital funds, the job finally got done!

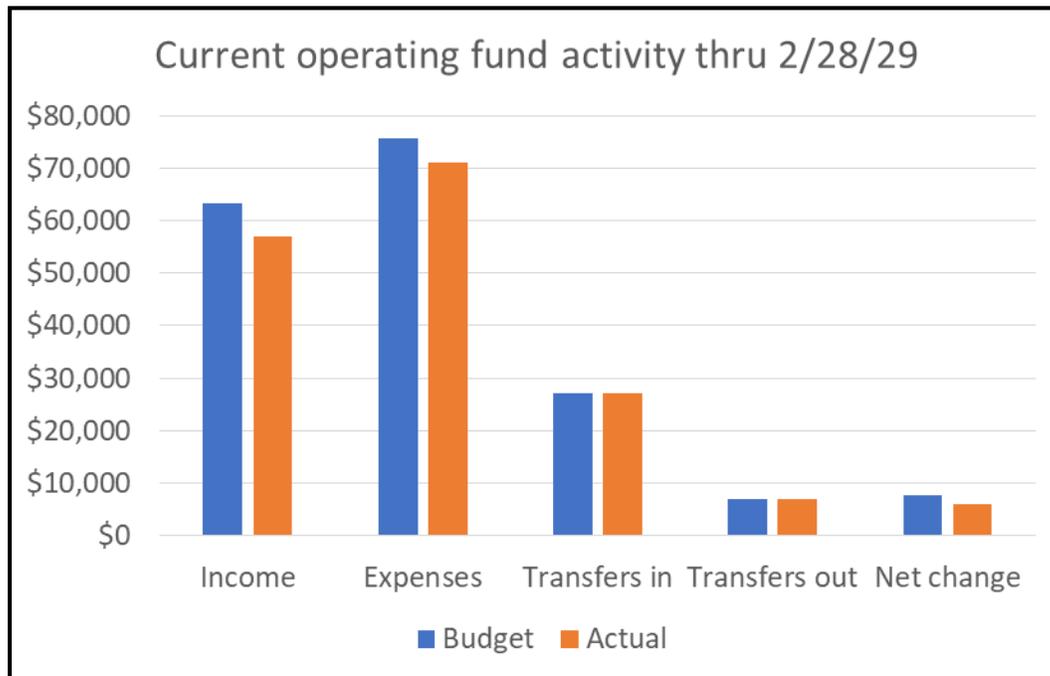
Beginning with a comprehensive vision of the space and its functions, a design team of Kathy Conklin, Diane Hanken, Peggie Irvine-Page, and Cindy Robertson selected a welcoming "honey" color to enhance the permanent stain-glassed windows in the lower narthex, the textile hanging in the upper narthex, and the architectural details throughout.

The second area that received new paint was the 44th street entrance/ vestibule, and stairs to the large space outside the nursery and adjacent to the Fellowship Hall. Neglected of new paint for what might be 30 years or more, the color team selected a soft green with white door and window trim. The Dutch door to the nursery makes a special statement again using the warm honey.

We received four bids for this project and selected the contractors of Portland Painting and Restoration. They used the highest quality materials and the committee was impressed with their professionalism and care.

—Gail Black for Building and Grounds Committee

Report of the Treasurer



Treasurer's notes:

- ..# Bottom line, we're within \$1,700 of budget.
- ..# Income is ~\$6,500 less than budgeted, likely due to having a Sunday service cancelled in February due to weather.
- ..# Expenses are tracking ~\$4,600 less than budget – yay!
- ..# Transfers in primarily represent the use of our reserve funds. As discussed at the annual meeting this is not a long-term sustainable plan, but one that Session has knowingly undertaken for 2019.
- ..# Transfers out primarily represent amounts to the Benevolence fund for our mission giving, and are tracking on budget.
- ..# Feel free to contact me or Katrina should you have questions or like more detailed information.

- John Thoma, Treasurer

RCPPC Schedule ~ April 2019

Mon. 1st

RCPPC Staff Training: Office Closed

Tues. 2nd

10 a.m. Contemplative Spirituality

5 p.m. Personnel Committee

Wed. 3rd

9:30 a.m. Martha Service

6 p.m. Free Yoga for Adults

Thur. 4th

10 a.m. Gentle Moves

10:30 a.m. Hollywood Lions Blood Drive

11 a.m. Interfaith Alliance

5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir

7 p.m. Chancel Choir

Sat. 6th

8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast

Sun. 7th

Green Bags Due

9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir

10 a.m. Worship and Communion

11:00 a.m. Tower Youth Dollars for

Donuts

Tues. 9th

10 a.m. Contemplative Spirituality

7 p.m. Sarah Circle

Wed. 10th

1 p.m. Worship and Arts Committee

1 p.m. Reading in the Afternoon

6 p.m. Free Yoga for Adults

Thur. 11th

10 a.m. Gentle Moves

5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir

7 p.m. Chancel Choir

Fri. 12th

10:30 a.m. Building and Grounds

Committee

Sat. 13th

10 a.m. Labyrinth Tours

4 p.m. Sacred Flight Concert

Sun. 14th Palm Sunday

9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir

10 a.m. Worship

11:20 a.m. Adult Education

Tues. 16th

10 a.m. Contemplative Spirituality

Wed. 17th

6 p.m. Free Yoga for Adults

Thur. 18th

10 a.m. Gentle Moves

1:30 p.m. Social Action Committee

5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir

7 p.m. Chancel Choir

7:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

Fri. 19th Good Friday

12 p.m. – 5 p.m. The Meditation Chapel
will be open for prayer and meditation

Sun. 21st Easter Sunday

9 a.m. Tower Youth Handbell Call

9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir

10 a.m. Worship and communion

12 p.m. HOMEpx

Tues. 23rd

10 a.m. Contemplative Spirituality

7 p.m. Session Meeting

Wed. 24th

6 p.m. Free Yoga for Adults

7 p.m. Reading in the Evening

Thur. 25th

10 a.m. Gentle Moves

5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir

7 p.m. Chancel Choir

Sat 27th

5 p.m. Tower Youth Murder Mystery

Dinner

Sun. 28th

9 a.m. Adult Education

9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Tower Youth Mother's Day

Bouquet Sales

Tues. 30th

10 a.m. Contemplative Spirituality

7 p.m. Session and Deacons Training