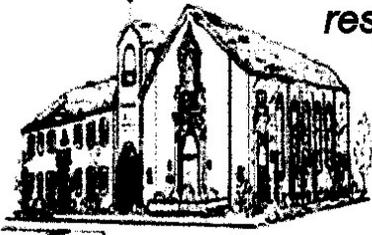


Faithful to God; Grounded in Love,  
responsive to the world.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
Church

8<sup>th</sup> & Holly

Our 141<sup>st</sup> year

Nurturing people in body, mind, and soul for the glory of God

The monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Medford, Oregon

January 2026



## View from the Bridge

By Mike Hubbard

First, I offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make our 2025 Christmas Eve service the special evening it was. So many folks reached out to help that I can't begin to thank all of you individually.

Every detail had been attended to, from the smallest to the largest. As the congregation was departing one gentleman who has seen most of the past 25 or 30 night-before-Christmas services declared it "the best Christmas Eve program ever." And for him, it was.

Second, when January 12, 2026, rolls around, I will have served as your Bridge Pastor for 12 months. In bridge terms, that is two-thirds the span of our bridge. The length of my covenant with our Session is 18 months, putting its completion in mid-June. By then, I will be 76 years old. It is my intention to step down on Sunday, June 14, 2026.

I reached this conclusion only after much prayer and deliberation.



Organ, piano, flute and handbells made Christmas Eve worship festive

I also sought the counsel of three people in leadership positions in our Presbytery. All three know me well and know our congregation's situation. Their insight was invaluable; I'm at peace with my decision.

There is one caveat. If the PNC is negotiating with a candidate and it appears he or she will accept our offer, I am willing to continue until the end of August. If that is not the case, the Session will need to hire a short-term Bridge Pastor, and the Presbytery will assist in finding that person.

This past year brought challenges, for me and for our church. There also have been times when God has showered us with blessing. Personally, I have experienced times of elation and times of anxiety. But as the new year approaches, I can honestly say that this has been the most fulfilling year of my life.

It goes without saying, that I could not have done my job without the support of this congregation. Many of you have stated, and shown, your appreciation for my leadership. Now, it's my turn: you have been WONDERFUL!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Mike



McKee Bridge Historical Society

A solid foundation and long approach at McKee Bridge

# Dry Cereals and fresh veggies

We need your help in stocking the West Medford Food Bank. This Sunday, the first Sunday of the month and the new year, is the time we supplement the fresh vegetable supply. That's items such as small sacks of potatoes, onions or carrots.



The rest of January, the Food Bank is looking to build up the inventory of dry cereal. Think Frosted Flakes, Wheaties, Cheerios, Froot Loops, etc. Any and all kinds of cold cereal. As Tony the Tiger says, "They're GREAT!".



The West Medford Food Bank needs fresh produce donations, and in January is working to build up the inventory of dry cereal. They are also, and always, in need of volunteers to learn the process and help with food distribution every Tuesday. Contact the church office or a Mission committee member for more information.

First Presbyterian Church  
85 South Holly Street  
Medford, Oregon 97501  
Phone: (541) 779-1711  
Email: [fpcm@firstpresmedford.org](mailto:fpcm@firstpresmedford.org)

Office hours Mon. through Thurs.  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bridge Pastor .....Mike Hubbard  
Transitional Consulting Pastor  
.....Rev. Robin Garvin  
Associate for Visitation and Pastoral Care  
.....Rev. Mary Wright Gillespie  
Church Administrator  
.....Elizbeth Mahan

Sarah Corson Childcare & Learning Center director.....Jaime Snider

### Session Committee chairs

Building & Grounds—Bob Haddon  
1-(818) 383-4959

Christian Education—Nikki Keating/  
Tam Moore  
(541)944-3496 (541) 608-0171

Congregational Vitality- Dan Johnson  
(541) 621-1739

Fellowship— Sandi & Bob Frey  
1-(503) 399-7241

Finance — Cathy de Wolfe  
(541) 773-7350

Personnel—Cathy Ullrich  
(541) 261-1761

Mission— Bob Frey  
1-(503) 779-5558

Worship & Music—Andy Ullrich  
(541) 776-5308

[www.firstpreschurchmedford.com](http://www.firstpreschurchmedford.com)

### Your newsletter team

Kathryn Adams, Paulette Avery,  
Cindy Walker Barbara & Tam Moore  
(541) 608-0171

Copy deadline: 4th Monday of the month  
prior to publication

email: [newsletter.firstpresmedford@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.firstpresmedford@gmail.com)



# SARAH CORSON CHILD CARE & LEARNING CENTER

January 2026 Newsletter

## CLOSED until January 5

A reminder, we remain closed for our annual Winter Break until Monday, January 5, 2026. We look forward to returning and seeing all of our students then!

## Immunization Records

If you have not yet turned in updated and the most recent immunization records for your child/children, please do so ASAP. Incomplete records or children not up to date with their immunizations will have to be reported to the Jackson County Health Department shortly after we reopen from our Winter break.

## Cheers to 2026!

Twenty-twenty-five was a hybrid year for us at SCC, spending the first four plus months housed at the church, then moving back to our beloved Center at the end of May. We are so happy to be back in our home space and have taken these several months to settle back in and make our classroom environments warm and inviting to all. We absolutely LOVE our remodeled space and hope you do, too!

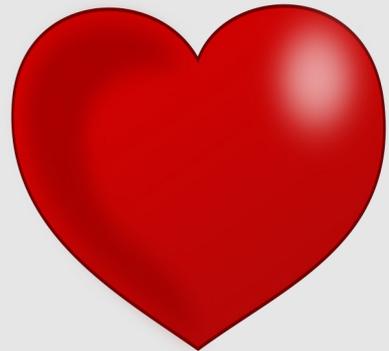


A sweet smile from a sweet preschooler on her birthday

## Looking ahead to February

Valentine's Day will be here before we know it! We will be celebrating with a Valentine exchange on Friday, February 13, 2026.

Children may bring in Valentines to exchange with their classmates and friends. More details to come!



—Jaime Snider, director

# 'I'm a teacher'

By PAULETTE AVERY

Pat Mahan and her husband Maury recently joined our congregation after moving here from Pennsylvania to be closer to their son and his wife who live in Ashland. Pat was born in Pittsburgh and grew up in Milton, a small town in central Pennsylvania.

After high school she entered Bloomsbury College graduating with a bachelor's degree in secondary education, English and German. She taught for a year then received a two-year fellowship at Bucknell University, got a master's degree in educational research and met Maury.

At the University of Illinois she and Maury were both in the doctoral program. After a year Pat got involved in teacher training and monitoring for the Engelmann-Becker Follow Through Project, which was a direct instruction model for early childhood education. Its early focus was on improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged students.

Operating from the observation that children from poorer neighborhoods generally performed well below the national average, in 1967 President Lyndon Johnson directed the U.S. Office of Education to improve the early educational experiences of children in need.

Asked to describe her professional training, with a smile Pat said "I'm a teacher."

Maury continued in the Illinois doctoral program in educational research. Their next stop was Eugene because Follow Through Project moved to the University of Oregon. They both got jobs working with the project.

Maury joined the army and they moved to San Antonio, Texas where their daughter was born. After Maury finished two years in the army they lived in Galveston for several years. Pat was the director of Christian Education at the Presbyterian church they attended. Their next stop was Jackson, Mississippi, their home for 27 years and where their son was born.

Over the years, Pat taught English in grades 4-12 in Pennsylvania and Mississippi. In 2004 they retired and returned to Pennsylvania to be close to their daughter and two grandsons.

Pat has served as a deacon, elder, clerk of session, Sunday school teacher, Presbyterian Women circle Bible study teacher, and on the library committee at previous churches. In her spare time, Pat enjoys reading, baking, walking in the woods, and has joined the Rogue Valley Genealogical Society to continue working on their family history. She is also a member of a German interest group.



Pat Mahan shares a smile that's lit up countless classrooms over the decades

## Giving Tree **Gloves, mittens popular**



Our volunteers handing out sack lunches from the four-day a week Brown Bag Café are handing out hand warmers, gloves, mittens and socks. So, while Christmas may be over and the novelty of a "Giving Tree" in the Narthex seems part of a past holiday, the need continues.

In fact the local National Weather Service office lists January and February as the second coldest months of the year, right behind December. December's average low temperature, based on a rolling 30-year data set, is 32.3 degrees. January is 32.4 degrees and February has an average low of 33.7 degrees.

So keep bringing in those hand warmers, gloves, mittens and socks. Larger sizes are preferred by those we greet at the lunch line. Thank you.

# January at First



**1 Thursday** *New Year's Day*  
*Office and Sarah Corson Center closed*

**2 Friday**  
*Sarah Corson Center closed*  
6:30 p.m. **"It Checks Out"** Narcotics Anonymous, basement room

**3 Saturday**  
Noon **"Attitude of Gratitude"** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room  
7 p.m. **"Circle of Friends"** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

**4 Sunday**  
8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Fellowship Hall  
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary

**5 Monday**  
*Sarah Corson Center reopens*  
4 p.m. **Zoom book club**, email [hughanderson2004@msn.com](mailto:hughanderson2004@msn.com) for the link  
6:30 p.m. **"Dopeless Hopechicks"** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room  
6:30 p.m. **Fellowship committee**, workroom

**6 Tuesday**  
9 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom  
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 750 N Columbus Ave.

**7 Wednesday**  
4:15 p.m. **Christian Ed** committee workroom  
5 p.m. **Bell practice**, bell room  
5:30 p.m. **Choir practice**, Choir room  
6:30 p.m. **"Men's Unloaded"** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

**9 Friday**  
6:30 p.m. **"It Checks Out"** Narcotics Anonymous, basement room

**10 Saturday**  
Noon **"Attitude of Gratitude"** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room  
7 p.m. **"Circle of Friends"** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

**11 Sunday**  
8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Fellowship Hall  
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary  
12:15 p.m. **Deacons**, Fireside room

**12 Monday**  
4 p.m. **Zoom book club**, email Hugh Anderson at [hughanderson2004@msn.com](mailto:hughanderson2004@msn.com) for the link  
6:30 p.m. **"Dopeless Hopechicks"** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room  
6:30 p.m. **Mission committee**, workroom

**13 Tuesday**  
9 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom  
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 750 N Columbus Ave.  
6:30 p.m. **Vitality committee**, workroom

**14 Wednesday**  
5 p.m. **Bell practice**, bell room  
5:30 p.m. **Choir practice**, Choir Room  
6:30 p.m. **"Men's Unloaded"** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

**15 Thursday**  
9 a.m. **Personnel** committee, pastor's study  
10 a.m. **Finance** committee, workroom  
5:30 p.m. **Area** committee, Narcotics Anonymous, Library

**16 Friday**  
6:30 p.m. **"It Checks Out"** Narcotics Anonymous, basement room

**17 Saturday**  
Noon **"Attitude of Gratitude"** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room  
7 p.m. **"Circle of Friends"** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

**18 Sunday**  
8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Fellowship Hall  
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary  
12:15 p.m. **Worship committee**, workroom  
5 p.m. No-host **Fellowship dine-out**, Shoji's 2640 Barnett Road

**19 Monday** *Martin Luther King Day*  
4 p.m. **Zoom book club**, email [hughanderson2004@msn.com](mailto:hughanderson2004@msn.com) for the link  
6:30 p.m. **"Dopeless Hopechicks"** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

**20 Tuesday**  
9 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom  
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 750 N Columbus Ave.  
6:30 p.m. **Session**, Fireside room

**21 Wednesday**  
5 p.m. **Bell practice**, bell room  
5:30 p.m. **Choir practice**, Choir Room  
6:30 p.m. **"Men's Unloaded"** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

**23 Friday**  
6:30 p.m. **"It Checks Out"** Narcotics Anonymous, basement room

**24 Saturday**  
Noon **"Attitude of Gratitude"** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room  
7 p.m. **"Circle of Friends"** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

**25 Sunday**  
8:30 a.m. **Informal Worship**, Fellowship Hall  
11 a.m. **Traditional Worship**, Sanctuary  
Noon, **140<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the congregation**, Sanctuary

**26 Monday**  
4 p.m. **Zoom book club**, email [hughanderson2004@msn.com](mailto:hughanderson2004@msn.com) for the link  
6:30 p.m. **"Dopeless Hopechicks"** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

**27 Tuesday**  
9 a.m. **Staff meeting**, workroom  
12:30 p.m. **Food Bank**, 750 N Columbus Ave.

**28 Wednesday**  
5 p.m. **Bell practice**, bell room  
5:30 p.m. **Choir practice**, Choir Room  
6:30 p.m. **"Men's Unloaded"** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

**30 Friday**  
6:30 p.m. **"It Checks Out"** Narcotics Anonymous, basement room

**31 Saturday**  
Noon **"Attitude of Gratitude"** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room  
7 p.m. **"Circle of Friends"** Narcotics Anonymous, Great Room

## January birthdays

3 Phoenix Olivia Bursk  
5 Janet Seim  
11 Patty Herkert  
12 Connie Sams  
Emma Ward  
17 Lisa Welt  
16 Tammy (Hideko) Snider  
23 Rod Voss  
26 Steven Richmond  
28 Loretta Barker  
Sandi Frey  
Carole MacKenzie  
29 Glen Gourley  
Diane Centanne-Bartley

# Connecting Forward as we worship

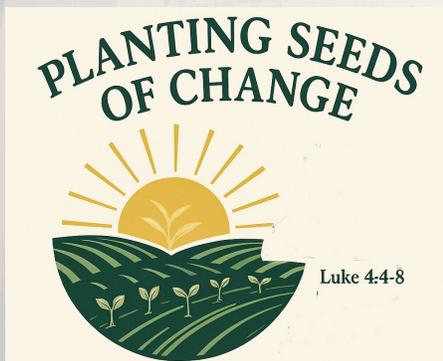
## Text for study in the week beginning:

January 4 -- John 1:1-18, Ephesians 1:3-14 Sermon title “The Word Became Flesh and Lived Among Us”

January 11 -- Matthew 3:13-17, Isaiah 42:1-9 Sermon title “My Son! My Beloved!”

January 18 — John 1:29-42, Isaiah 49:1-7 Sermon title “Come and See”

January 25—Matthew 4:18-23, Psalm 27:1, 4-9 Sermon title “The Traveling Kind”



Connecting with God

Connecting with each other

Connecting with the community we serve

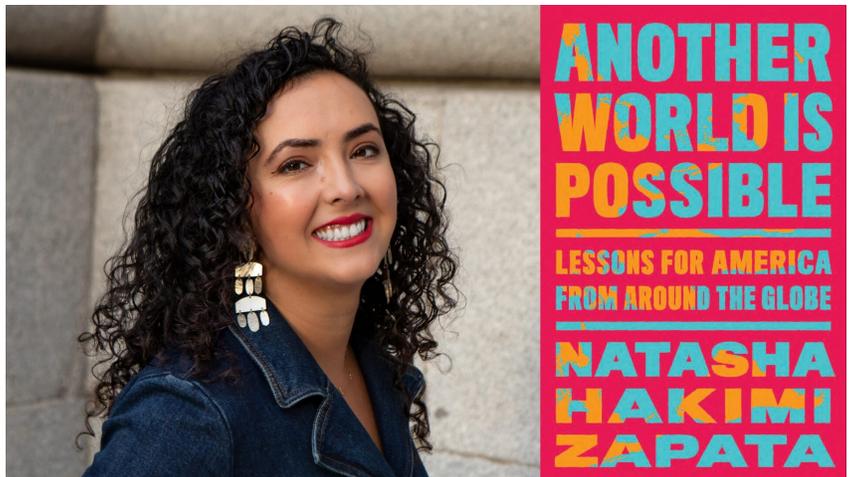
## Lessons for America

The Zoom book club launches a new study at 4 p.m. January 5. The new read is *Another World Is Possible: Lessons for America from Around the Globe* by Natasha Hakimi Zapata.

To get a link for the Zoom, email Hugh Anderson at [hughanderson2004@msn.com](mailto:hughanderson2004@msn.com).

Zapata, a journalist now teaching at the University of Massachusetts. She’s traveled around the world, from Costa Rica to New Zealand, and Estonia to Singapore, uncovering how different countries solve the problems that plague the United States.

Through in-depth reporting, including interviews with senior government officials, activists, industry professionals, and the ordinary people affected by their policies, *Another World Is Possible* examines innovative programs that address public health, social services, climate change, housing, education, addiction, and more.



# 140th Annual Meeting January 25

Mark your calendars for January 25, the Annual Meeting of First Presbyterian Church of Medford, Oregon.

You will receive a written report on 2025, our year of transition after the retirement of Pastor Murray Richmond.

You will be asked to elect offices of the congregation to serve on Session as elders and on the Board of Deacons. Names of confirmed nominees will be printed in next Sunday's bulletin and announced at the 8:30 a.m. service. The Congregational Nominating Committee is still at work seeking to fill some vacancies in the Class of 2029, which will serve for three years.

Any member of the congregation may serve. Nominations will be accepted from the floor with consent of the nominee.

In addition a new Congregational Nominating Committee will be formed at the meeting with election of two serving elders, one serving deacon and four members-at-large from the congregation.

A financial report for the calendar year just closed will be presented and leaders will be available to answer your questions.

And, in this time of transition between pastors, our five-person Pastor Nominating Committee will present a brief report and answer your questions on the process ahead of us.

This will be the 140th annual meeting. Our congregation organized in the spring of 1885, the same year Medford was founded.



The old brick church at West Main and Holly

## A digital boost to pastor search

After months of discernment and study, our search for a new pastor is going digital, based on work carried out by your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), Session and Presbytery of the Cascades Commission on Ministry. Final approvals for what will be called the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) were underway this week and should be final by the time you read this.

So here's a thumb-nail map of the process, complete with the names and acronyms that Presbyterian Church USA uses to guide this part of the search:



The Christian Ed wing and Sanctuary facing on Holly at Eighth

1. We post the MDP on the electronic Church Leadership Connection (CLC) computer server.
2. CLC generates a list of potential candidates by matching their profiles with our needs.
3. Candidates may also self refer through CLC or directly contact our PNC about this vacancy.
4. PNC reviews all CLC-matched and self-referred candidates.
5. PNC selects candidates for initial contact and initial interviews.
6. A formal round of interviews by PNC follows with help from Presbytery Commission on Ministry.
7. Finalists are invited to preach in a neutral pulpit, after which PNC discerns and selects a final candidate. Terms of call are negotiated.
8. PNC presents the finalist to the congregation. If the congregation votes to offer a call, Presbytery examines and receives the pastor (if he/she is not already a member of Presbytery).
9. The candidate is installed.

## Return to Shoji's



It's been a few years, but we are returning to Shoji's Restaurant in Medford for a no-host January fellowship dinner. The event starts at 5 p.m. on Sunday, January 18. Please sign up in the Narthex before Wednesday, January 14.

Shoji's features Teppanyaki-style Japanese food.

Come and enjoy the fellowship and the showmanship of your dinner being prepared before your eyes with flare, flame, and entertainment. Prices for dinner are from \$20 to \$30 per plate.

If you can't afford the cost, talk to Pastor Mike. Scholarships are available to help out.

### ***Vespers takes a January break***

Our bimonthly musical vespers services are on winter break this month. Robin Blomquist, who produces the musical part of these popular services, says vespers will resume in February.

The hallway gallery on our first floor is hung with a selection of photographs from recent classical vespers services. They are the work of Andy Ullrich, who documents many of the musicians with his camera.

The photography show will be on display for January and February. Andy, an engineer by profession, is chair of our Worship and Music committee.



**A chef lights up the grill at Shoji's while diners watch**