

# ✠ FPC BELLINGHAM

*sharing a living faith across generations*

December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023



*Simeon's Song, Jennifer Newell*

stay connected this week

Visit [fpcbellingham.org/calendar](https://fpcbellingham.org/calendar) for more of this week's regular meetings or email [info@fpcbellingham.org](mailto:info@fpcbellingham.org) for links and further information.

## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES:**

Tuesdays on Zoom | 9:45—11:15am | Studying Hosea with the help of Lifeguide's Bible study—*Hosea: God's Persistent Love* by Dale Larsen and Sandy Larsen.

Wednesdays at FPC | 9:15—11:15am *Resumes January 10.*

**PASTOR DOUG'S EVERY-BODY-IS-WELCOME BIBLE STUDY:** Wednesdays on Zoom | 4:30pm | Discussion, dialogue and deep interaction with God's Word. Join us as we study The Life and Times of Moses.

# worship guide

Welcome & Zechariah's Song

Worship in Song

Confession and Pardon, Passing of the Peace

Worship in Song | *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Memory Verse and Intergenerational Question

*Luke 1:78-79* | What do you imagine the dawn from on high will look like?

Storytime | *The Three Questions*

Offering

Scripture Reading | *Luke 2:22-38*

Meditation | *Simeon's Nunc Dimitis*

Visio Divina

Special Music | *Nunc Dimitis* Eshinee + Rob Veith

Invitations

Charge and Blessing

*Jocelyn Meyer, Music*

*John Freal, Liturgist • Doug Bunnell, Preacher*

# discussion questions

Luke 2:22-38

Simeon and Anna knew the God of surprising blessings and were able to welcome the surprising Messiah.

- How do you imagine Simeon?
- What was it like knowing that you would get to see the Messiah?
- What do you imagine it was like when he finally saw Mary and Joseph?
- What does it mean that God is a light for revelation to the gentiles?
- How is Anna a fitting bookend to Simeon?

# Sunday info

## COMMUNION

The sacrament (mystery) of communion is celebrated at FPC every Sunday. The table is open to all followers of Jesus of any age or stage. Once the table is opened, you are invited to come forward and receive communion from a server. Please raise your hand if you would like to be served at your seat. The cup is grape juice; the intinction bread is gluten-free. Optional disposable cups (with gluten), can be put in the lobby trash can after the service. During communion, you're invited to light a candle in lament or hope.

## CAFÉ PRES

Join us each Sunday after the service for some community time, coffee and treats.

*If you'd like to host Café Pres, sign up downstairs or email [jocelyn@fpcbellingham.org](mailto:jocelyn@fpcbellingham.org)*

## PEW CARDS

Fill out a card and place in the offering plate or in the box in the foyer.

**CONNECT** | get involved, update your contact information

**CARE** | request prayer, visitation, sign up for Prayer Vine emails

**GIVE** | ways to give of your time, talents and treasure

*\*Safety note: Once the service begins, the downstairs door will be locked for security during children's programs. Please enter through Garden St. doors after 10am.*

## CHILDREN ON SUNDAYS

\*There will be no dedicated nursery care or children's programming on 12/31\*

An unstaffed, equipped nursery, Room 2, is available downstairs for parents to change diapers, settle babies and watch the service livestream.

### Godly Play Prep: Toddlers —3-Year-Olds

Toddlers through 3 years old are welcome in Godly Play Prep. Rooms 3 & 4. (Please enter through the door for Room 3.) Godly Play Prep is open to receive toddlers through 3-year-olds five minutes before (9:55am) or anytime during the service.

### Godly Play: Preschool—3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Godly Play Mentors are excited to welcome your children to Godly Play!

Children ages preschool - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be blessed from congregational worship to sing, wonder about God's story, respond through art and play, and care for one another.

We treasure your children! Thank you for trusting them with us for Godly Play!

### The Link: 4<sup>th</sup> + 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School

Meets in Room 1 in the Fellowship Hall and is dismissed from worship with Godly Play. The Link will be dismissed to connect with parents at Café Pres.

## YOUTH (MIDDLE SCHOOL + HIGH SCHOOL)

Small Groups meet every other week on Sunday. If you'd like to get involved, email [youth@fpcbellingham.org](mailto:youth@fpcbellingham.org) for details. There's a group for everyone!

# upcoming events + invitations

## THE ARTIST'S RULE BOOK GROUP

January 7th after worship in the Commons | We will be focusing on chapter 5 and 6 and will be doing an art experience together! Bring a lunch or something to share. Anyone is welcome to come!

## HOLY WORK BRUNCH+ DISCUSSION

January 7th downstairs after the service | January 14th on Zoom after the service | We spend almost half our waking hours working. Is that wasted time when we think of the Kingdom? Is that Kingdom time? What would make work a kingdom activity? What does God think about work? This winter we will be exploring these questions during our sermon series. To kick off the fun we will be hosting a Holy Work breakfast after the service on January 7th to begin reflecting on these questions. January 14th we will hold the same gathering on Zoom after the service for all interested in joining in that way.

## PRAYER PRAXIS GROUP

Sundays 6:30-8pm January and February | Downstairs at FPC and on Zoom Come and join us as together we seek for a deeper experience of the Spirit in our lives. We will be Reading Mike Neelley's book, Hearing the Heartbeat of God and also practicing the exercises that Mike talks about.

## ART + FAITH CONFERENCE

Join us March 15-17, 2024 for a weekend of gathering with other creatives, getting inspired, and doing art together! We have a wonderful line-up of featured speakers, opportunities to do art and experience the arts scene in Bellingham, and chances to network with other artists and creators. This special event is presented by our community art space, The Commons Bellingham. Tickets: [fpcbellingham.org/the-commons](https://fpcbellingham.org/the-commons)

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** 1031 N. Garden St. Bellingham, WA 98225  
360.734.5510 | [fpcbellingham.org](https://fpcbellingham.org)

*Phone messages are checked throughout the week. 360.734.5510*

**Doug Bunnell** | Pastor  
[dougb@fpcbellingham.org](mailto:dougb@fpcbellingham.org)

**Emily Bajema** | Creative  
[creative@fpcbellingham.org](mailto:creative@fpcbellingham.org)

**Kerrie Bauer** | Commissioned Pastor  
[kerrieb@fpcbellingham.org](mailto:kerrieb@fpcbellingham.org)

**Jocelyn Meyer** | Admin & Worship  
[jocelyn@fpcbellingham.org](mailto:jocelyn@fpcbellingham.org)

**Alissa McSharry** | Connections  
[info@fpcbellingham.org](mailto:info@fpcbellingham.org)

**Alison Witwer** | Youth  
[youth@fpcbellingham.org](mailto:youth@fpcbellingham.org)

**Rob Veith** | Commons  
[commons@fpcbellingham.org](mailto:commons@fpcbellingham.org)

**Casey Enderlin** | Facilities  
[facilities@fpcbellingham.org](mailto:facilities@fpcbellingham.org)

**Rachel Buri** | Children  
[childrens@fpcbellingham.org](mailto:childrens@fpcbellingham.org)