

First Presbyterian Church of North Bend

Order of Worship

Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

August 9, 2026

Gathering the Community

Welcome/Announcements

Dennis

- Welcome to both our in-person and online folks. . .
- Check out the Community Calendar in the parlor. . .
- Food cupboard donation of the month: Macaroni and Cheese
- Need a name tag? Not just for members, but for all more or less regular attendees! Let me or Jody know. . .
- Summer cleaning extravaganza: Advent and Lent reflections, Bible Study guides, all manner of wonderful resources. On the cart at the back of the sanctuary. This week only!!!!
- Is God's Spirit nudging you to volunteer? Food cupboard, preparing snack bags for hungry kids at local schools, Saturday meals for our unhoused neighbors, being a mentor or a friend to families going through a time of struggle or to solo seniors – that's the work of our partners Hearts with a Mission. Let us know! We can help get you plugged in. . .
- Birthdays: Ewan Lindsey (8/10); Lee Golder (8/15)
Praise be to you O God for your generous gift of life!

Now take a moment to breathe and focus as the prelude prepares our hearts and minds for worship this morning

Prelude

Tom

Call to Worship

Susanna

One: Playful Creator, on this summer Sunday morning, we thank you for this season of refreshment.

Many: You formed a world overflowing with beauty, then paused to delight in all you had made.

One: Release us from the belief that every moment must be useful.

Many: Loosen what has become rigid within us.

One: Renew our curiosity, awaken our imaginations and help us receive pleasure without guilt.

Many: Grant us rest when we are weary, play when we are too serious, and freedom to become all you are still creating us to be.

One: Now, as we join together in worship,

Many: Open our hearts, awaken our minds, refresh our bodies, renew our spirits as we celebrate your presence here today. Amen.

(based on "A Sabbath Prayer" by Teri McDowell Ott)

Passing the Peace

Dennis

One: As we gather this morning, we welcome the presence of the Spirit of God that brings us together. Mindful of that great gift, let us stand and share with one another the peace of Christ. Find someone you don't know. Greet them warmly, then return to your seats! This is NOT coffee hour for chit-chat, this is a time for seeing the other person and making sure they feel welcomed! Let us pass the peace...

(Congregation will pass the peace...)

Dennis: As you find your seats we invite you to join me in singing a classic American hymn given to us by the Shaker community: Simple Gifts.

Opening Hymn

Simple Gifts

Tom

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where you ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.
To turn, turn will be our delight,
'Til by turning, turning we come round right.

'Tis the gift to be loved and that love to return,
'Tis the gift to be taught and a richer gift to learn,
And when we expect of others what we try to live each day,
Then we'll all live together and learn to say:

When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.
To turn, turn will be our delight,
'Til by turning, turning we come round right.

'Tis the gift to have friends and a true friend to be,
'Tis the gift to think of others not to only think of 'me',
And when we hear what others really think and really feel,
Then we'll all live together with a love that is real.

When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.
To turn, turn will be our delight,
'Til by turning, turning we come round right.

Sharing God's Word

Scripture Reading

Susanna

Our first reading this morning will be from Paul's letter to the Romans, chapter 10, verses 5 to 15. Our readings are from the updated edition of the New Revised Standard Version:

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say?

"The word is near you,
in your mouth and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

The Gospel reading this morning is from Matthew 14:22-33. Listen for God’s Word:

²² Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land,^[a] for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸ Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind,^[b] he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

This is the Word of the Lord... **(Thanks be to God)**

Confession & Assurance of Pardon:

Susanna

One: We return to God through confession. Let us honestly acknowledge how we have gone astray and confess our sins to God.

Many: God our refuge, even in this season of relaxation and refreshment, we see fires on the horizon and smoke is in the air. You hear our cries for mercy. You lift the lowly and offer hope to the hopeless. How quickly we forget that you are present in our lives and in our world even in complicated times. We confess that we are often tempted to give up on your path of justice and mercy. We pray for your forgiveness. Amen

One: The prophet Isaiah proclaimed: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." Know that, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

Confessional Hymn

Tom

For the Troubles and the Sufferings

For the troubles and the sufferings of the world
God, we call upon your mercy:
The whole creation's laboring in pain!
Lend an ear to the rising cry for help
From oppressed and hopeless people
Come! Hasten your salvation, healing love

We pray for peace,
The blessed peace that comes from making justice

To cover and embrace us. Have mercy Lord.
We pray for power,
The power that will sustain your people's witness
Until your kingdom comes, Kyrie eleison!

Youth Minute

Sally

Special Music Offering

Tricia

Sermon Text

(I Kings 19: 9-18)

Dennis

⁹ At that place (Elijah) came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹ He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the

Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

Sermon

The End of the Road

Dennis

Responding to God’s Word

Affirmation of Faith

Dennis/**Everyone**

One: We affirm our faith this morning with this section from “The Brief Statement of Faith”:

**Many: We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves
and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,**

claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men
to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us
courage to pray without ceasing, to witness
among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

Sermon Hymn

Tom

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

(HFG #24)

Offering Invitation

Dennis

One: God's abundance cannot be matched. And we are inspired
to be generous by a generous God. In gratitude to God, let
us present our tithes and offerings. *(Pass the plates...)*

Offering Music

Tom

Offering Hymn

Tom

We give thee but thine own

(HFG #515, v.1 & 2)

Offering Prayer

Dennis

Gracious God, the gifts we offer reflect only a portion of all that
you have given us. Take these offerings, we pray and multiply
them for your use. May they be a blessing to those most in need.

May our offerings, given in a spirit of generosity, abate the desire to hoard for ourselves, and spread our desire to share. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Dennis

God our Rock, these are unsettling times. We find ourselves questioning what we once assumed to be sturdy and stable. Our economy feels fragile, our democracy vulnerable, our country angrily divided. Things seem to be changing too fast, and our options feel limited. We don't know what to do to help make things better. We claim to be your people, and we know that we need your help.

Creator God, the natural world groans for relief as temperatures rise, wildfires rage and natural disasters take a terrible toll in human life and in destruction of homes and places of work. We pray for those without the resources to rebuild after disaster strikes. We pray for the sick whose lungs are vulnerable to polluted air. We pray for the evacuated, the refugees, the desperate and the destitute. We pray for your earth to be renewed.

Prince of Peace, save us from ourselves, our callous disregard for the other, our warring madness. Defeat dictators hell bent on hoarding power for themselves. Protect the innocent from injustice. Strengthen the honorable. Bless us all with the moral courage to follow Christ's way of love. Restore peace to Ukraine. Clear a path of peace for Israel and Palestine, Lebanon and Syria.

Merciful God, we are not without help or hope. Acts of compassion still inspire us even in the face of all that is hard and

harsh. Communities are collaborating to meet needs in new and exciting ways. People long silenced are finding their voice. We are remembering what we can accomplish when we work together for the flourishing of your kin-dom.

Holy God, the greatest threats are those that lead us to lock ourselves down, close our minds and hearts, build barriers to close ourselves off from one another. May your Spirit encourage us to stand open-hearted, praying and believing in your endless mercy.

Now, as the Body of Christ and your covenant community, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us, saying:

Lord's Prayer

Everyone

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your Kingdom come, your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours are the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Leaving to Serve

Sending Hymn

Tom

Pues Si Vivimos/When We Are Living

(all verses) #400

Charge and Benediction

Dennis

We are the Body of Christ, his hands, his feet, his heart, his lungs; bearing witness in this world to God's mercy and love.

May the nourishment of God's Word, the accountability of Christian community, and the guidance of God's Holy Spirit fortify us for faithfulness. Amen.

Postlude

Tom