

Re-Wilding Our Faith: Giving Up the Tame to Find the True

Lent is marked by desert stories. Wilderness stories.

We see Jesus tested in the wilderness. Abram is called to leave his country and venture out into the wilderness. Moses strikes a rock and water flows forth to quench the thirst of God's people as they journey through the wilderness.

"Wilderness" is rich with metaphor and symbolism in scripture, but Wilderness is also a legal term.

In U.S. law, a Wilderness Area is undeveloped federal land where "the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain" (the Wilderness Act of 1964).

Last year, I listened to the "How Wild" podcast by NPR, and I was amazed by the depth of scientific thinking surrounding the idea of Wilderness. The host, Marissa Ortega-Welch, troubles this legal definition, as indigenous people have been in North America for at least 23,000 years, and human-caused climate change has left no creature unimpacted.

Yet as more and more Wilderness areas are being used for human manufacturing and oil rigs, "Re-Wilding" has become a movement as small as your backyard and as big as the Amazon Rainforest.

As the World Wildlife Fund explains, "Rewilding can mean a lot of different things. It ranges from not mowing grass verges, to restoring rivers, through to the reintroduction of wild species. Rewilding generally involves letting nature take the lead. This is done by restoring natural processes and reducing human management."

Wilderness is complicated, but there is so much it can teach us—if we let it.

I once heard Rev. Paula Stone Williams say, "Lost is a place too, and there is wisdom to be gained there." This has stuck with me for years.

I think the Wilderness has a bad reputation, and like Lost, there is wisdom to be gained there. In fact, I wonder if Wilderness might just be the antidote many of us need for a faith that has been tamed by empire and modern life.

What might it mean to Re-Wild our lives, our faith, ourselves?

We may not know where we are going, but we need the Wilderness because it's a place of transformation.

I hope you will join us on Ash Wednesday (Feb 18, 7 PM) as we begin the journey of letting the Wild God lead.

See you in the Wilderness,

Pastor Jason

February 2026 Worship & Formation Schedule

Join us Sunday mornings at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary. Services are livestreamed on Facebook and posted to YouTube. If you are not receiving the weekly emails and would like to, visit fpcedgewood.org/contact and fill out the sign-up form.

February 1: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 🍷

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. Liturgist: Lily McGuigan

February 8: 5th after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10; Matthew 5:13-20. Liturgist: Roberta Thompson
Scout Pack 23 and Troop 23 will join in leading our service this week!

February 15: Transfiguration 🍷

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 99; Matthew 17:1-9. Liturgist: Lisa Segedy

February 18: Ash Wednesday - Giving Up 'Purity' for the Wild Earth 🍷

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

This service will take place at 7 PM.

February 22: Lent 1 - Giving Up 'Problem Solving' for Wild Presence

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Matthew 4:1-11. Liturgist: Marcia Haley

🍷 = We will celebrate Communion / Lord's Supper

New Member Class

Historically, Lent has been the time for the Church to train up followers of Christ to be welcomed at Easter. If you are interested in learning more about church membership, please connect with Pastor Jason!

Notice of Congregational Meeting: February 15

All active members of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood are asked to attend our annual congregational meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, Feb. 15. The purpose of this meeting will be to receive the annual report, financial budget and final 2025 financials.

Copies of our Annual Report from our Annual Congregation/Corporation Meeting

(for those of you who could not attend) can be mailed to you.

Contact office@fpcedgewood.org to request a copy.



120 East Swissvale Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15218
 www.fpcedgewood.org
 412-241-4613



*Believing we are
 called together
 by God's love
 through Jesus Christ,
 our mission as the
 First Presbyterian Church
 of Edgewood
 is to love God,
 to love each other,
 and to love our neighbors.*

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Pastor

The Rev. Jason Dauer

pastorjason@fpcedgewood.org

Office & Cleaning Manager

Judy Mysels

office@fpcedgewood.org

Building Manager

Rob Mysels

building@fpcedgewood.org

Minister of Music

Shaun Cloonan

music@fpcedgewood.org

Pianist

Jin Lee

jin@fpcedgewood.org



MEET OUR NEW PIANIST: JIN LEE

Jin Lee is a pianist, accompanist, and private piano instructor based in Pittsburgh. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Yonsei University in South Korea and a Master of Music in Piano Performance from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She has performed as a soloist and collaborative pianist in both South Korea and the United States, working with vocalists, instrumentalists, choirs, chamber ensembles, and opera productions.



Jin has previously served as a church pianist and organist at Full Gospel Church in Las Vegas and St. Mark Lutheran Church in St. Louis, supporting worship services, congregational singing, and choral music. She values collaboration and approaches church music with care, flexibility, and a deep respect for the role of music in worship and community life.

She is currently active as a private piano teacher and accompanist and is excited to begin her work with the church. Jin recently welcomed a new baby into her family and is grateful for the warm support and kindness she has already felt from the church community. She looks forward to getting to know everyone and to sharing music together in the months ahead.

Church Leaders Elected, Ordained, and Installed

On Sunday, January 25, church officers were ordained/installed during our worship service. Session members: Roberta Thompson and new elder: Patricia Elliott-Rentler and Deacon, Kelli Carey, Abigail Lehrian, Rhonda Apossos and Rick Masten.

FPCE COMMITTEES/CHAIRS/ are listed below. If you're interested in getting involved with one of these committees, please reach out to the committee chair to learn more!

COMMITTEE	CHAIR
Deacons	Sue Pollick, Mod.
Mission	Co-chairs-Tyler McGuigan and Marcia Haley, Patricia Elliott-Rentler
Property	Roberta Thompson
Finance	Lisa Segedy
Personnel	Flo Raisig
Worship & Formation	Mandy Rineer



Session Notes

At their January 13 meeting, Session voted to approve:

- Elect Flo Raisig as Clerk of Session.
- Session meetings on the second Tuesday of each month.
- Session agreed to move coffee hour to the Lounge in the Winter (Jan 31- Mar 28) to accommodate yoga in the Gathering Place.
- Building usage by Galina Isotman recital March 8, 1-2:30 PM.
- Elect Amy Moore as Treasurer and Roberta Thompson as Financial Secretary.
- Dissolve the Steering Committee.
- Abbie Brown Music Studio to teach voice lessons for a period of 2 months. After 2 months, Session will follow up with Abbie Brown Music Studio to negotiate a long-term contract.
- Communion on the first Sunday of each month and on church festivals. Church festivals include: Epiphany 1/4, Baptism of the Lord, Transfiguration 2/5, Ash Wednesday 2/18, Palm Sunday 3/29, Maundy Thursday 4/2, Good Friday 4/3, Resurrection Sunday 4/5, Ascension, Pentecost 5/24, Trinity Sunday 5/31, All Saint's Day 11/4, Christ the King Sunday 11/22, Nativity of the Lord 12/24. The 2026 Budget.
- 8 yoga sessions; 2 make up sessions and 6 new ones. The sessions will be held Saturday, January 31- March 28 at 10 AM, potentially in the Gathering Place.
- Building usage by Abbie Brown Music Studio to teach voice lessons.
- Building usage by Vocal Confluence for weekly chorus rehearsals Monday nights 7-10 PM. Tech rehearsals and shows June 12, 7-10 PM and June 13, 7-9:30 PM, and June 14, 2:30-5 PM. Tech rehearsal and concerts: December 11, 7-10 PM, December 12, 7-9:30 PM, and December 13, 2:30-5 PM
- Postponing the Pet Remembrance Service. The Worship Committee will look at dates to reschedule the service.
- Purchase a new toilet for the women's basement bathroom. The cost of \$600 will be taken from Budget line item 7011.
- Ordination and installation of church officers on January 25.

CHURCH BOARDS

Moderator - Pastor Jason Dauer
Florence Raisig - Clerk of Session
Amy Moore - Treasurer

THE SESSION

2026

Marcia Haley
 Flo Raisig
 Amanda Rineer

2027

Tyler McGuigan
 Lisa Segedy

2028

Patricia Elliott-Rentler
 Roberta Thompson

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

2026

John Foster
 Kelli Carey

2027

Barbara Bisdee
 Jan Forster
 Angel Lehrian
 Sue Pollick

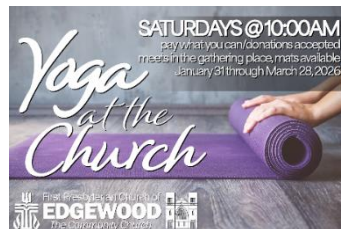
2028

Rhonda Apossos
 Abigail Lehrian
 Rick Masten

SESSION COMMITTEE HAPPENINGS...

MISSION COMMITTEE

YOGA RETURNS TO FPCE SATURDAY MORNINGS... Find peace, strength, and flexibility in a calm, welcoming community. Starting January 31, the church is offering a gentle yoga class perfect for beginners and those returning to movement. The class includes slow, mindful poses, breath work, and gentle stretches. You can bring your mat or use one of ours. Classes will be held in the Gathering Place on Saturdays at 10AM from January 31st to March 28th (no class March 21, 2026). You are welcome to join us for yoga and perhaps coffee at Spigolo afterwards. For more information, contact heather.derby@gmail.com.



SOUPER BOWL DINNER... Wednesday, Feb. 4, 6PM. Continuing our free Wednesday dinners, FPCE is hosting a Souper Bowl (soup) dinner. Sign-up sheet is in sanctuary. See Tyler McGuigan, if questions.



FPCE WILL BE CONDUCTING A BLANKET DRIVE through February 14 in order to ensure that all homeless and housing-insecure folks in our community (as well as their pets) have a warm blanket to stave off the winter chill. Blankets, quilts and comforters in ANY condition will be accepted. Contact FPCE for drop offs and/or questions.



BLESSING BAGS - FPCE is going to be building Blessing Bags following worship and Congregational Meeting on Feb 15th. In addition to everyone having the opportunity to distribute bags, we will be sharing bags with Operation Safety Net to pass out while helping those in need. Please feel free to purchase directly through our Amazon Wish List (https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2GHWPTJVV5DUQA?ref_=wl_share) or purchase items and drop off at the church. We will also be accepting financial donations which will help fill in any gaps we may have with various items. Please limit donations to the following items: toothbrush, toothpaste, mouthwash, comb, Chapstick, small packs of tissues, hand sanitizer (small), applesauce (squeeze packets), granola bars, crackers, chicken/tuna packets, jerky sticks, dried fruit, fruit snacks, bottled water, socks, plastic forks/spoons.



FOCUS
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



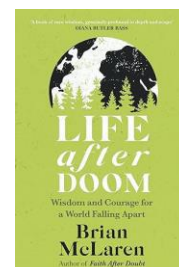
TUESDAY BOOK GROUP

Our weekly Book Club is currently reading "A Light on the Hill," by Connilyn Cossette. This group meets at 10:00AM on Tuesdays at the home of Rhonda Apossos, 361 Maple Avenue. All are welcome!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School takes place during worship in the Gathering Place (except for the first Sunday of the month). Just drop your child off and Rhonda or Lorraine will lead them in a Bible activity while you are in worship!

EVENING BOOK GROUP - *Life After Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart* by Brian McLaren (2024). Time: 6-8PM. February 26, Gathering Place. Pizza party!



EDGEWOOD COMMUNITY CALENDAR MEETING

Tuesday, Feb. 3, 7PM (Google Meet) Emails have been sent out to those who have attended prior meetings, but if you didn't receive an invite or want to attend, please email office@fpcedgewood.org for more information.

VOICE AND PIANO TEACHING STUDIO

Hi, I'm Abbie Brown! I'm opening a voice and piano teaching studio exclusively for adults, especially nerdy adults of the LGBTQ+ community who are either just beginning their journey of finding their musical style, or those who have been out of the game for a while and wanting to get back into it! I love teaching modern pop, folk, and rock styles, which is my current focus for my own musical style. That being said, I am well versed in classical music, having graduated with my BA in Vocal Performance, and I have loved singing musical theater numbers since I was young. Thanks to my wide range of experience, I am happy to explore any of those styles with students, or I'm open to learning about other ones to help students meet their goals!



My main focus with this studio is to provide a space for adults to feel free to explore and express themselves. Most other studios are built around children, while adults are squeezed in around them. Adults rarely have places to learn music alongside others like themselves, and performances either have to be separated into age groups, or adult performances have to keep the younger participants in mind. In contrast, I want this to be a place where adults can learn at their own pace and authentically perform among peers. Not because someone can't learn in spaces catered to children and teens, but because every student deserves a space that is built for them.

My first session with a client is always free, so that we have plenty of time to discuss their dreams and goals without pressure. So if you are on the fence about the lessons and don't know if this really is something that you would like to do, we can meet for an initial conversation, no strings attached, to discuss what your goals might look like, and make sure we are a good fit for each other!

Wanna learn more about me or are ready to get started? You can find my personal bio and the application page for lessons on my website at <https://abbiebrownmusic.wixsite.com/abbiebrownmusicstudio>

You can also follow me on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. These are each a work-in-progress right now, but you'll get updates as I add things if you follow the accounts!

I know it can be intimidating to take that first step, but you deserve the chance to learn at your own speed, without pressure or judgement. You deserve to feel seen, understood, and included, and I want to provide that space for you. Let's start down the path of your musical adventure together!

Stewardship Update from the Presbytery

Why Per Capita?

Like many Presbyterians, you may have wondered, "Exactly what does per capita do?"

Per Capita

Per capita is the amount of support, per member, that our congregation remits to our Presbytery that is then sent onto our Synod and the General Assembly. This money is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It is the money that enables us to work with other Presbyterian churches in our Presbytery and across the country. It is also money that allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

How important is per capita? Here are some examples:

- Your per capita pays for the General Assembly meeting every two years where Presbyterians gather together to worship and discern the mind of Christ for the church.
- In many places in our world, it is difficult to "do mission" except by working ecumenically with other churches. Your per capita helps to pay for meetings of Presbyterians with people of other Christian churches, allowing us to maintain those ties for mission.
- Your per capita pays for producing the Book of Order and The Book of Confessions, including in Spanish, Korean, and Braille.
- Your per capita helps to fund the Presbyterian Historical Society – preserving and sharing the Presbyterian experience.
- Your per capita funds the preparation, administration, and grading of standard ordination examinations for seminary students.
- Your per capita pays for annual training events for presbytery executives, stated clerks, and others who help lead our work and mission.
- Your per capita pays for the travel expenses of the Moderator and Vice Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as they make their way across the church to share with and listen to folks like you about the exciting things God is doing in our midst.

Each church is assessed by the number of members and each year, the FPCE pays the entire Per Capita to PCUSA upfront. In other words, our church pays forward the amount for each member. **For 2026, the Per Capita is \$40.00 for each member.** Please consider submitting your Per Capita to FPCE.

Thank you to all of you who have already paid your share. By contributing your portion of per capita, you have freed up dollars in our regular budget for the work of our congregation in this community.



*Sharing the Joys & Concerns
of the FPCE Family*

- Sunny's new address is 81517 Alexander, Chapel Hill, NC 27517
- Many thanks to all who made the Christmas season so special: decorating the church (hanging of the greens, poinsettias), caroling, evening book hosts, musical extras, etc.
- Great job by Patricia Elliott-Rentler and crew for their diaper collection
- Appreciation for those who office sat while Judy Mysels took her remainder of vacation

WCM concluded the year feeding more families than ever. Weekly, we saw on average 600 families, plus the families that came to the mobile pantry (40-75 a stop). During the shut-down, and especially when the SNAP benefits were withheld, we saw the community step up with donations and encouragement! The lines were around the block. Food prices are out of control, and although we cost share with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, the prices are still astronomical. For example, 10 pounds of chicken in 1 pound packs cost \$4.00 18 months ago. Now it is almost \$30. This greatly changes how we can help struggling families.



We plan to move into our new facility at 813 South Avenue. The 125-year-old building needs some updating to make it accessible for wheelchairs; we are upgrading the heating/cooling system, plumbing (there are lead pipes), and electricity; and creating a parking lot with proper storm drainage. The size of the property will allow a 3,000 square foot garden. Eventually we will have an elevator, but that is phase 2. If you want to know more, please reach out to Ruth Kittner, Executive Director.



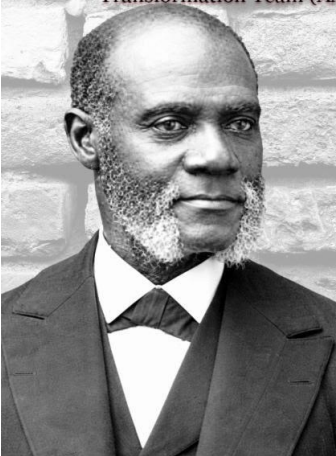
WCM MOBILE FOOD PANTRY offers a distribution site at FPCE, in parking lot on School Street, Fridays, 2PM. Sign up to volunteer at <https://tinyurl.com/WCMatFPCE>.

Henry Highland Garnet Weekend 2026

Building Bricks of Excellence

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock..."
Matthew 7:24-25

Sponsored by The Pittsburgh Chapter Black Presbyterian Caucus in conjunction with Anti Racism Transformation Team (AART) Hill District Credit Union, and Pittsburgh Presbytery



Weekend Leader/Teacher
Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Cannon

Vice President of Ministry Innovation, Board of Pensions
(Brother of the late Rev. Dr. Katie Cannon—First African American Woman
Ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church USA)

Save the Dates

Friday, February 20 | 6 PM-8:30 PM
Saturday, February 21 | 8:30 AM-3:00 PM
 Bethesda Presbyterian Church
 7220 Bennett Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Sunday, February 22 | 11:00 AM
 Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church
 1000 BrynMawr Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

february

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Meeting Locations: Book Club – Apessos Home AA – Social Room Session Mtg. – Lounge Flute Lessons-CE Office Vocal Confluence & ESO– Sanctuary SAA-Lounge, GP Milepost6 – Basement Band Room Choir – Choir Room Scouts – Scout or Social Rm						
1 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Fellowship 7:00 SAA (GP,L)	2 2-6:30 Flute Lessons (CE) 6:30 Scouts (Sc) 7:00 VC (S,GP,L)	3 10:00 Book Club 4-7:00 Flute Lessons (CE) 7:00 Community Planning Mtg. 7:00 ESO (S)	4 2-6:30 Flute Lessons (CE) 6:00 Souper Bowl Dinner (SR) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	5 2-6:30 Flute Lessons (CE) 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 SAA (L)	6 2:00 Food Truck 7:00 AA (S) 8:30 AA (S)	7 10:00 Yoga (GP) 8:00 AA (SR)
8 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Fellowship 7:00 SAA (GP,L)	9 2-6:30 Flute Lessons (CE) 6:30 Scouts (Sc) 7:00 VC (S,GP,L)	10 10:00 Book Club 4-7:00 Flute Lessons (CE) 7:00 Session (GP) 7:00 ESO (S)	11 2-6:30 Flute Lessons (CE) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	12 2-6:30 Flute Lessons (CE) 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 SAA (L)	13 2:00 Food Truck 7:00 AA (S) 8:30 AA (SR)	14 10:00 Yoga (GP) 8:00 AA (SR)
15 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Cong. Mtg. Blessing Bag Assembly 7:00 SAA (GP,L)	16 2-6:30 Flute Lessons (CE) 6:30 Scouts (Sc) 7:00 VC (S,GP,L)	17 10:00 Book Club 4-7:00 Flute Lessons (CE) 7:00 ESO (S)	18 ASH WEDNESDAY 2-6:30 Flute Lessons (CE) 7:00 Service 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	19 2-6:30 Flute Lessons (CE) 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 SAA (L)	20 2:00 Food Truck 7:00 AA (S) 8:30 AA (SR)	21 10:00 Yoga (GP) 8:00 AA (SR)
22 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Fellowship Deacon Mtg. 7:00 SAA (GP,L)	23 2-6:30 Flute Lessons (CE) 6:30 Scouts (Sc) No V.C.	24 10:00 Book Club 4-7:00 Flute Lessons (CE) 7:00 ESO (S)	25 2-6:30 Flute Lessons (CE) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	26 2-6:30 Flute Lessons (CE) 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 SAA (L)	27 2:00 Food Truck 7:00 AA (S) 8:30 AA (SR)	28 8:00 AA (SR)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING MARCH EVENTS:

March 4: Chili Cook Off, 6PM in Social Room

The Edgewood Symphony Orchestra's first concert of 2026 will be performed on March 21st at the Katz Auditorium of the JCC in Squirrel Hill. Embark on a musical journey with Stravinsky's *Pulcinella Suite*, an enchanting masterpiece filled with nostalgic neoclassical charm and the pungent wit of 20th century modernism. Then discover Eric Sammut's *Sugaria*, a delightful concerto featuring ESO soloist Daniel Gostein on the marimba. The program concludes with Beethoven's radiant and uplifting *Pastoral Symphony*, evoking scenes of nature and the serene beauty of the countryside. Information and tickets are available on their website www.edgewoodorchestra.org.





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Pittsburgh, PA 15218