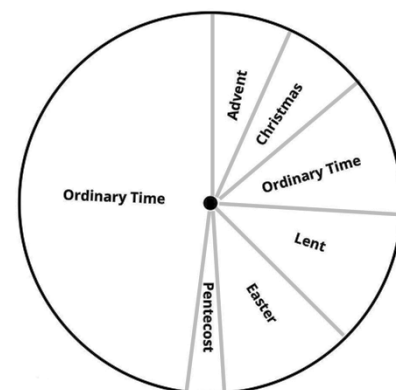


## The Extra-Ordinariness of Ordinary Time

*Reprinted from the FPC Richmond, Kentucky's website (richmondfpc.com)*

Once the two cycles of Easter and Christmas were united into a single liturgical calendar, what remained on the calendar was categorized under the heading "Ordinary Time." The intention behind this wording is easily misunderstood. Counting can be done by cardinal numbers (i.e., one, two three, four), or it can be done by ordinal numbers (i.e., first, second, third, fourth). Ordinary Time implies no mundaneness, as if more than half the year were dull and unexciting. Rather, it refers to the fact that the Lord's Days (Sundays) outside Advent-Christmas and Lent-Easter were simply designated by ordinal numbers (i.e., First Sunday, Second Sunday, and on through to the 34th Sunday). To differentiate between the two Ordinary Times, some churches refer to them as the XX Sunday after Epiphany and the XX Sunday after Pentecost.



The liturgical color for the days in Ordinary Time is green. Because green is the color of new vegetation, it symbolizes living things in general and signifies the hope of new life. Green represents the promise of new life which is ours in the life of Jesus Christ our Lord. It is indeed proper and fitting for us to mark the days in Ordinary Time with the holy color of green.

Certain occasions in Ordinary Time can be interpreted as transitional Sundays into and out of the two great cycles. Baptism of our Lord (the Lord's Day after Epiphany), Transfiguration of our Lord (the Lord's Day prior to Ash Wednesday), Trinity Sunday (the Lord's Day after the Day of Pentecost), Christ the King (the Lord's Day prior to the First Sunday of Advent).

The liturgical color for these transitional Sundays is white. White represents the holiest of days in the life of the Church because it signifies the glory of our Lord, Jesus Christ. White symbolizes purity, holiness, and virtue, as well as respect and reverence. White is used for all high Holy Days and festival days of the Church year. It is indeed proper and fitting for us to mark these transitional Sundays with the holy color of white.

## January 2024 Worship Schedule

*Join us Sunday mornings at 11:00AM in the Sanctuary for worship.*

*Services are livestreamed on Facebook and then posted to YouTube and shared via email to the congregation.*

**January 7:** Baptism of the Lord – We will celebrate the Lord's Supper together! We will also be ordaining and installing our newly elected elders and deacons. *Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11*

**January 14:** Remembering Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in worship today as we hold true to our commitment to being a Matthew 25 church. *1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51*

**January 21:** Emerging worship! We will also celebrate Shaun Cloonan's 20-year anniversary as our music director. Join in a celebration of Shaun after our congregational meeting. Lunch to follow as well. *Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20*

**January 28:** Scout Sunday. We welcome Pack 23 and Troop 23 to help lead our worship this week! *Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21*



*Pastor Jason's*  
**Journal**  
Monthly Reflections from  
FPCE Pastor Jason Dauer

## Where is the wilderness?

There's this idea that keeps bouncing around my head that's from Rob Dunn's book, *Never Home Alone*. The book has chapters on the moths in our cupboards, the bacteria on our kitchen counters, and the drain flies that live in our showers. Yet the entirety of the book makes the point several points about modern living that can be summed up like this: We cannot keep separating ourselves from dirt, bugs, and mold.

In Hebrew, the word "holy" means set apart—usually set apart by and for God. God is the one who makes us holy, who sets us apart. Yet we continually try to separate ourselves.

We can't do it to ourselves. We can't set ourselves apart from everything else in boxes made of wood and brick—nature will always find a way in. Environmentalist Andy Goldsworthy writes, "We often forget that WE ARE NATURE. Nature is not something separate from us. So when we say that we have lost our connection to nature, we've lost our connection to ourselves."

However, God has set us apart. In John 1:23, John the baptizer says, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'"

God set John apart by calling him to do ministry from the wilderness. He embraced it—eating bugs and honey. God has set us apart, too.

There's no denying church has shifted away from being in the public square. It now feels much more like we are in the wilderness. And friends, this is where we're supposed to be. The church was never supposed to be "mainstream." We're in the place today where John cried out from, preparing a way for Jesus. And Jesus gives us this call today—to prepare his way for when he comes again.

We have not set ourselves aside—God has placed us in the wilderness. It's lonely in the wilderness, yet John found his voice and strength to cry out! The wilderness is where we are called to be. It's where God has set us apart to be. So, if we are where we're supposed to be, the questions I have are:  
How will we find our voice and strength to cry out like John?

And what are we crying out; how are we preparing the way for the Lord?

Peace be with you,  
Pastor Jason



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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

**Rev. Jason Dauer**

[pastorjason@fpcedgewood.org](mailto:pastorjason@fpcedgewood.org)

Office & Cleaning Manager

**Judy Mysels**

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Building Manager

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Minister of Music

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Pianist

**Sunny Sakai**

[sunny@fpcedgewood.org](mailto:sunny@fpcedgewood.org)

**LOVE GOD**  
**EACH OTHER**  
**OUR NEIGHBORS**

## A Poem for Baptism of the Lord

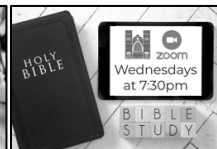
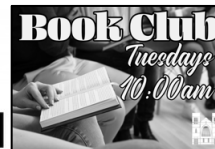
From "At the River Clarion" by Mary Oliver

I don't know who God is exactly.  
But I'll tell you this.

I was sitting in the river named Clarion, on a water splashed stone  
and all afternoon I listened to the voices of the river talking.  
Whenever the water struck a stone it had something to say,  
and the water itself, and even the mosses trailing under the water.  
And slowly, very slowly, it became clear to me what they were saying.  
Said the river I am part of holiness.  
And I too, said the stone. And I too, whispered the moss beneath the water.



**FOCUS**  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



### Tuesday Book Club

This group meets at 10:00 AM on Tuesdays at the home of Rhonda Apossos, 361 Maple Avenue, just a few blocks away from the church. Along with the Happy Meal group, they're reading *The First Advent in Palestine* by Kelley Nikondeha. Snacks and coffee provided.

### Wednesday Night Zoom Bible Study

The Wednesday evening online Zoom Bible Study group led by Tim Hoffman meets 7:30PM. The Zoom link is available on the website. No password is needed, just the link. Tim will let you in from the waiting room as you join. Questions? Shoot an email to Tim Hoffman at [HoffmanTL@gmail.com](mailto:HoffmanTL@gmail.com).

### Happy Meal Thursdays

6:30 PM in the Gathering Place. Bring your dinner and join in conversation guided by *The First Advent in Palestine* by Kelley Nikondeha. The book is free digitally on Hoopla (app or website) with your library card. However, you do not need to read to participate!

- January 4 - Chapter 8 "Unexpected Hope"
- January 11 - Chapter 9 "Even After God Arrived"

All are welcome!

### Sunday School

Sunday School for our littlest ones takes place during worship in the Gathering Place. Just drop your child off and Rhonda or Lorraine will lead them in a Bible activity while you are in worship!

## Session Notes

At their December meeting Session approved the following:

- Spending up to \$1200 for floor repairs.
- The minimum terms of call for Pastor Dauer in 2024.
- 3% raises for Mr. Cloonan, Mrs. Mysels, and Mr. Mysels.
- Pastor Dauer thanked Mrs. Apossos, Mr. McGuigan, Mr. McKee, and Mr. Segedy for their service as Elders.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Edgewood Community Planning Meeting

Wednesday, January 17 at 7PM in the Gathering Place so all of our Edgewood neighbors can meet, coordinate calendars, organize, etc. If you would like to come to this meeting and didn't receive an email invitation, please let us know.

# EDGEWOOD

### Elder-Deacon Officer Retreat

Saturday, February 10, 9AM-4PM in the Gathering Place. The Class of 2023 elders and deacons are invited for the first part of the day. Coffee and snacks will be provided; please bring a packed lunch.



### Looking ahead...

Believe it or not, Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2024. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for our worship service to begin the season of Lent.



**Deacons'**  
*Doings...*

2023 was a fabulous year from the old tradition of the Strawberry Festival to making new traditions like the Deacons' Spaghetti Dinner. We made harvest baskets, served muffins for moms and donuts for dads. We greeted everyone at the door before church, an old tradition back again. We look forward to even more in 2024 including a church

breakfast that's in the early planning stages. Happy New Year to our Church family and Thank you to all of our Deacons for your hard work this year.

*Angel Lehrian, moderator*

### A Christmas Story Unlike Years Past

As you are all aware, this year's December calendar created some unique circumstances for those planning worship. Last year, we opted for a "Christmas Day from Home" online video in place of holding both a Christmas Eve and Christmas Day service. Several members and families shared worship elements prerecorded from their own homes that we put together into an online service that folks could either watch in real time at 11am or at their convenience so that Christmas morning routines were not disrupted.

This year, Christmas Eve was a Sunday, observing both the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent as well as Christmas Eve, and our worship committee discussed several options. We settled on holding our regular 11am service with a focus on children and families, then sharing our traditional candlelight and communion service at 8pm. We put the word out in the form of the Borough newsletter, Facebook events, and a postcard that WPSD LionWorks printing sent to all Edgewood residents.

Lots of moving pieces went behind the scenes to make these 2 services happen. We're grateful to our puppeteers Lisa Segedy (who wrote the script and brought the stage we used), Lorraine Douthett, David Falk, and Jan Forster for using their voices and arms to share the Christmas story told from the perspective of the animals! Pastor Jason shared a storybook with children that included visual aids on a bulletin board. Special music was shared by our barbershop quartet, solo viola, and piano. The official count from the deacons was 53 in attendance!

That evening, we based our preparations on last year's attendance, which was around 45. We were not prepared for 75 worshippers! A mad dash took place minutes before the service began, printing extra bulletins, putting together additional candles, and making another tray of communion elements. Thanks to all who stepped up as our unsung heroes to make such beautiful Christmas worship.

# MUSIC *Ministry*

What a whirlwind and glorious Advent season we shared together! So many musical expressions filled the sanctuary during December. The Edgewood Symphony's holiday concert, Vocal Confluence with 2 shows, Steranka Flute Studio recital, in addition our own music ministry.



Congratulations to our Sanctuary Choir on skillfully tackling the presentation shared on December 17, "How Do You Welcome a King?" It was great to have a full complement of voices in our ensemble sharing the Christmas story in song. Great job also to Erin and Tyler for their solo work. We're blessed to have so many talented singers in our midst.

Christmas Eve was quite a full day. In addition to the puppet show and storybook, we had special music on viola by Katelyn Dauer. And as an early Christmas present to mom Angel, Spencer Lehrian joined with me, David, and Tyler to sing a barbershop quartet arrangement of "Angels We Have Heard on High." Later that evening, David and I sang "Mary Did You Know," and Tyler joined me on "O Holy Night," sharing the duet that we never seem to get to do since one of us always seems to be sick!

Of course, our music ministry wouldn't be what it is without the incredible gifts of our amazing pianist, Sunny Sakai. We're so fortunate to have her at the keys week in and week out. I'm continually impressed with how she weaves our hymns and anthems into innovative musical tapestries during her postludes each Sunday. Thank you, Sunny!

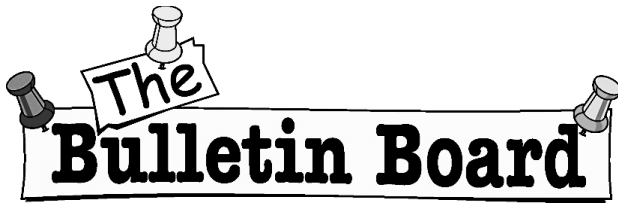
Finally, I want to publicly thank Mandy Rineer for more than 12 years (where did the time go?!) on staff as a section leader/musical assistant. Over the years, she's shared in worship leadership as a member of our quartet (back when we had 4 section leaders!), song leader during my absences and during summer worship, and helped wherever needed with our services (setting up out on the lawn, making sure candles are lit, microphones have batteries in them, music stands and stools are where they need to be, etc.) She became a member of FPCE in the spring and will be ordained this month as an elder. To avoid any conflict of interest, she has resigned her position as a staff member, but will continue to sing in the choir. Thank you, Mandy, for your many years of dedicated leadership in our music ministry. We look forward to your contributions on Session and in the life of our congregation.

As we turn the page to yet another year of ministry at FPCE, I remain grateful for the trust you all place in me to lead our music ministry. January marks 20 years since my official contract began as Interim Director of Music (September 2003 was when I got the phone call saying I would need to step up from tenor section leader to "lead the choir for a few weeks"). That lasted a year until we dropped the "interim" part, then about 10 years later, the title changed to Minister of Music. It's been quite a ride through pastoral transitions, times of great joy, times of losses, but always times TOGETHER as God's people and family in Edgewood.

I look forward to what wonderful musical adventures and expressions of praise God is calling us to through the power of the Holy Spirit in the coming year.

Happy New Year,

Shaun Cloonan, minister of music



## *Sharing the Joys & Concerns of the FPCE Family*

- Special thanks to everyone who helped to make our first Soup with Saint Nicholas event a success: Tyler, Stephanie, Jim, Lisa, Ruth, Jason, Judy, and many more. We ended up with 15 different soups!
- Shout out to Rob for his work in creating a Christmas tree of lights on our side lawn in addition to all of the other outside lights on the bushes along East Swissvale Avenue!
- Thank you to ALL involved in the musical presentations for ESO, Vocal Confluence, Steranka Flute.
- Thank you to Ruth Miller, Elaine Cloonan, and Flo Raisig for the beautiful arrangement of the Christmas poinsettias in the sanctuary.
- Great job to all those involved in the Christmas Eve services: puppet show, special music, etc., and for those involved in the Lessons & Carols on Dec. 31.
- For those dealing with depression, anxiety, addiction, and mental health issues that may have been triggered by the holidays.
- Traveling mercies for all who were visiting family and friends.
- Happy December/January birthdays: Angel Lehrian: Dec. 23, Mariah Mysels: Jan. 13, Jim Segedy: Jan. 24, Meadow Pocratsky turned 4 in December. If you would like to be included in the birthday wishes, submit your name and date (no year needed).

### **A Prayer for the New Year**

*by Nancy C. Townley, ministrymatters.com*

Lord, our Lord,

how incredible and magnificent is your name in all the earth.

Your voice spoke the word of light and the light was given.

Your heart shouted hope and love and creation was born.

Your tears cried torrents for your errant people,

and your prophets boldly stepped forward to proclaim your presence.

Your Love streamed down and Jesus the Christ came to us,

to heal, teach, guide, and bring us to you.

This is a time of new beginnings.

Let the light of your love shine on us,

that we may feel and know your powerful presence with us.

Let the light of your love shine in us,

that we may be encouraged to use our gifts  
and talents to serve others.

Let the light of your love shine through us,

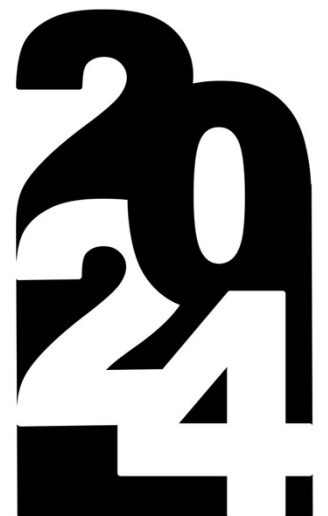
that others may come to know you.

In this time of new beginnings, new hopes arise.

Give us courage to reach out for new dreams and hopes;

give us confidence that we can accomplish much for you.

Amen.



# January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>HAPPY 2024!!</i>  <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	2  10:00 Book Club	3	4  7:00 SAA (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	5  8:30 AA (SR)	6  8:30 AA (SR)
7 <i>Baptism of the Lord/Ordination</i> 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship (S) <b>Communion</b> 12:15 Fellowship	8  6:30 Scouts (SR) 7:00 VC (S)	9  10:00 Book Club  7:00 Session (GP) 7:00 ESO (S)	10 9:00 Coffee with the Pastor (61B)  7:30 Bible Study (Zoom)	11  7:00 SAA (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	12  8:30 AA (SR)	13  8:30 AA (SR)
14 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship	15 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  6:30 Scouts (SR) 7:00 VC (S)	16  10:00 Book Club  7:00 ESO (S)	17 9:00 Coffee with the Pastor (61B)  7:00 Edgewood Planning Meeting 7:30 Bible Study (Zoom)	18  7:00 SAA (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	19  8:30 AA (SR)	20  8:30 AA (SR)
21 9:30 Worship Ensemble (S) 11:00 Worship (S) <b>12:00 Cong. Mtg. &amp; Luncheon</b>	22  6:30 Scouts (SR) 7:00 VC (S)	23  10:00 Book Club  7:00 ESO (S)	24 9:00 Coffee with the Pastor (61B)  7:30 Bible Study (Zoom)	25  7:00 SAA (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	26  8:30 AA (SR)	27  8:30 AA (SR)
28 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship	29  6:30 Scouts (SR) 7:00 VC (S)	30  10:00 Book Club  7:00 ESO (S)	31 9:00 Coffee with the Pastor (61B)  7:30 Bible Study (Zoom)			

*61B=61B Café, AH=Apessos Home, B=Basement Band Room, CR=Choir Room, CE=CE Office,  
GP=Gathering Place, L=Lounge, MS=ESO Music Suite, O=Office, PS=Pastor's Study, S=Sanctuary,  
Sc=Scout Room, SL=Side Lawn, SR=Social Room*



First Presbyterian Church of

**EDGEWOOD**

*The Community Church*

120 East Swissvale Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15218

*Happy New Year*

**January 17, 7pm  
Edgewood Community  
Planning Meeting**

**January 21, 12pm  
Congregational Meeting**

**EDGEWOOD**

