



**PASTOR'S
POINT
OF
VIEW**



Like all sections of the Bible, the Gospel According to John is one that deserves a close look. Written by the “beloved disciple” it presents Jesus in a way unlike Matthew, Mark, and Luke. First, it gives no account of the miraculous Virgin Birth (Matt 1.18-25; Luke 1.26-56; 2.1-20) but tells us that He – Jesus – preexisted; that is, Jesus has no beginning because He is eternal (John 1.1-2). In addition, all things came into being through Him; apart from Him came into being “that has come into being” (John 1.3).

Starting in June, and throughout the month of July, we are covering the first chapter of John’s gospel, to get a feel and an interest in the chapters following. There is so much richness in this gospel that the first 18 verses of the first chapter alone serves as the “prologue” (a separate introductory section of a literary work) of what is to come. We have covered John 1.1-18 and will unpack 1.19-51 in July!

John’s gospel was written so that “we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing we may have life in His name” (John 20.31). May this month, in which we celebrate our country’s 245th birthday, find us enjoying not only our civil liberties, but our freedom from spiritual bondage through Christ.

Glory be to God!

The Rev. Anthony Rivera, pastor



After prayerful discussion at the June 8, 2021, meeting, the Session has updated in-person worship guidelines as follows:

- those who are not vaccinated must wear a mask properly; vaccinated individuals may choose not to wear a mask
- please continue to observe social distancing in the marked pews
- As of June 20, congregational singing has resumed. You are welcome to use the hymnals in the pews, stand and join in singing of hymns and responses. Lyrics will continue to be printed in the bulletin for those following along online.

We understand that each person is different with the possible risks he or she may have. Live-streamed online worship will continue to be available on Facebook and YouTube for those who choose to stay home until they feel safe to rejoin in person.

Sunday, July 4: “The Testimony of John” – John 1:19-28, Communion will be served.

Sunday, July 11: “The Lamb of God” – John 1:29-34

Sunday, July 18: “We Have Found Him!” – John 1: 35-51

Sunday, July 25: Pastor Tony is on vacation and a guest pastor will lead our service.



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*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

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**LOVE GOD
EACH OTHER
OUR NEIGHBORS**

Session Notes

At their June 8 meeting, Session approved:

- the transfer of Paul Ohori and Karen Schoedel to Waverly Presbyterian Church.
- the installation of Tyler McGuigan, to complete Dr. Ohori's term as Elder, on June 20, 2021.
- that vaccinated people may attend church without masks, but must continue to remain socially distant. Temperatures will not be taken, but people are asked to remain at home if they are ill. Session will defer to the Worship Committee regarding singing without masks.



Worship Committee News

The Worship Committee met via zoom on Thursday, 6/17/2021. Every member was in attendance: Pastor Tony, Shaun Cloonan, Sunny Sakai, John Foster, Rhonda Apossos, Martha Crean, Lorraine Douthett, John Foster, Marcia Haley and Lisa Segedy.

- We addressed whether we should resume having the congregation sing. We discussed both the Presbytery's recent newsletter and singing studies/literature provided by Shaun for school and other choirs. Given the current vaccination rates, social distancing during worship and length of time between hymns, it was agreed that we would allow the congregation to resume singing hymns. However, we will ask non-vaccinated attendees to wear masks. Pastor Tony will remind the congregation from the pulpit.
- We discussed supply pastors covering for Pastor Tony during his scheduled vacation days of 7/25 and 8/1/21. In this regard, I contacted the Presbytery, but our liaison Brian Wallace is out of the office for the week. Nonetheless, we do not anticipate any problems. Although Shaun is out for the month of July, he has already arranged for the music and soloists. The supply pastor can contact Pastor Tony if they have any questions.
- We agreed to do another outdoor worship service tentatively scheduled for 8/15/21 but may be moved to 8/22/21 if Sunny is unavailable. She may need to miss service on 8/15 and will advise when she knows for certain.
- We discussed having a **Rally Day picnic on 9/12/21 when we move back to the 11:00 worship time.** We will have a small committee plan this, but discussed Triangle Hoagies and potluck dishes to be served so we are not sharing utensils. I will contact the Deacons and Shaun will reach out to the Choir as we hope to have them back at that time.

Respectfully and In Christ,
Rhonda Apossos



F.R.O.G.S. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

FRIENDS, READING, & OTHER GREAT STUFF

After long conversations with myself and THE LORD, I have decided to not continue directing the FROGS program. This has been a very hard decision to make. If anyone is interested in taking on this paid, part-time position, please contact me directly, Pastor Tony or Nancy Ernst (head of Personnel Committee). This is a fantastic program that has been a staple of FPCE for many years, so please seriously consider carrying on our tradition by heading up this mission-oriented after-school program. My decision was made known to the wonderful FROGS' volunteers and Nancy Ernst a few weeks ago. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or email.

Judy Mysels

Vacation Notices

- The Mysels family will be on vacation the week of July 25-August 1. Pastor Tony will retrieve phone messages from answering machine.
- Pastor Tony will be on vacation Sunday, July 25, August 1-7.
- Shaun Cloonan will be on vacation July 19-23 and is taking the month of July off from Sunday worship. Tyler McGuigan and Mandy Rineer will cover singing responsibilities during his absence.

Garden Help

Gardeners are asked to stop by FPCE and help in any way with weeding, cutting, planting, etc. to make the Prayer Garden area and other areas outside beautiful again. In early June, a few dedicated people came to start weeding the overgrown areas. We have made a huge difference in that area but it needs to be kept up. Also, tentatively scheduled for July 12 delivery, bags of mulch, gravel and sand, soil and grass seed are being delivered by Lowe's. Will need help putting these in their place. Contact Judy for more info.



The Strawberry Festival actually sold out and even had 11 people come after selling out! We pre-made 70 desserts. Thanks to the community for supporting the Deacons, as well as Rick Masten, Elaine Cloonan, Diane Kemmerer, Glenn Allen Monk, and Carol Tessauro for stepping up to the plate and helping.

Mary Ann Hartman, deacons moderator



*Sharing the Joys & Concerns
of the FPCE Family*

- A very special, happy, belated birthday to Rick Masten
- Many thanks to all the volunteer gardeners who helped weed, cut in the prayer garden: Rick Masten, Mary Barr, Lorraine Douthett, Judy and Rob Mysels, Shaun Cloonan. Rick Masten was a huge help in doing most of the work.
- Get well wishes to Bill Crean on his recent knee replacement surgery
- Lorraine's daughter, Katie, passed the Real Estate exam and will start a new career
- Thanks to all who helped set up/tear down for outdoor worship on June 6

Several members suffered losses in their families over the past month. We offer sympathies to:

- Marcia Haley on the passing of her stepson Michael
- the Cloonan family on the passing of Grandma Cloonan
- the Mysels family on the passing of Judy's brother-in-law, David
- the Sakai family on the passing of Ted's mother in Japan



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church
 120 East Swissvale Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15218

July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Meeting Locations: Worship – Sanctuary and online Book Club – Apessos home AA – Social Room			Vocal Confluence (V.C.) – Sanctuary Flute Lessons – Lounge Prayer Mtg & Bible Study – Online	1	2 OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 AA	3 8:30 AA
4 10:00 Worship/ Communion	5 OFFICE CLOSED 7:30 Zoom Prayer Meeting	6 10:00 Book Club 8:00 AA	7 7:00 V.C. 7:30 Zoom Bible Study	8	9 8:00 AA	10 8:30 AA
11 10:00 Worship	12 7:00 V.C. 7:30 Zoom Prayer Meeting	13 10:00 Book Club 7:00 Session 8:00 AA	14 4:30 Flute Lesson 7:00 V.C.	15	16 8:00 AA	17 8:30 AA
18 10:00 Worship	19 7:00 V.C. 7:30 Zoom Prayer Meeting	20 10:00 Book Club 8:00 AA	21 4:00 Flute Lesson 7:00 V.C. 7:30 Zoom Bible Study	22	23 8:00 AA	24 8:30 AA
25 10:00 Worship	26 7:00 V.C. 7:30 Zoom Prayer Meeting	27 10:00 Book Club 8:00 AA	28 7:00 V.C. 7:30 Zoom Bible Study	29	30 8:00 AA	31 8:30 AA