

THE SUMMER TABLE

Dear Friends,

There is a rhythm to summers in Edgewood. The days grow longer, the pace of life shifts, and here at FPCE, the very way we inhabit our building changes. On the first Sunday in June, we will make our annual migration from the Sanctuary into the Gathering Place, with our service starting at 10AM and offering sabbath to the choir.



When we pull our chairs closer together, we embody the close-knit community that Christ calls us to be.

Throughout scripture, God meets people not just in the high, vaulted spaces, but in the ordinary, crowded rooms. In Genesis 18, Abraham and Sarah rush to prepare a meal under the oaks of Mamre for three mysterious travelers. What began as an act of radical hospitality turns into a moment where they host God unaware. When we gather this summer, we are reminded that hospitality isn't about perfection; it's about making room for one another.

Paul echoes this in Romans 12:13, urging us to "Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers." This summer, our hospitality is bursting beyond our church walls through community dinners, the annual Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 13, and Edgewood's Community Day later in August.

Because the Table is so central to our faith, we must remember Paul's words to the church in Corinth (1 Cor. 11). Paul wasn't writing about a generic dinner table argument; he was addressing a deep divide of privilege. He reminded the Corinthians that the table belongs to Christ, not to any single group or individual. The wealthy members of the church were arriving early, taking over the dining space, and consuming the meal before the working-class members and laborers could even finish their workday. By the time the rest of the community arrived, they were left with leftovers and pushed to the margins.

This isn't a warning about running out of food—if we run out because we welcomed everyone, that's a beautiful problem to have! Rather, Paul's warning reminds us how easily our own comfort or routines can accidentally dictate the terms of a gathering. When our own preferences take center stage, we risk undermining our witness. In other words, we must leave room for the Holy Spirit to do her work. Our summer Community Dinners are a sacred act of witness to our neighbors, where everyone should experience the peace, grace, and joy of the Gospel through our collective hospitality.

Jesus takes this a step further, telling his host: "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors... But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind" (Luke 14).

At a kingdom banquet, we are invited to lay down our need for predictability. We gather not to execute a flawless program, but to serve as hosts who are entirely focused on making our guests feel safe, seen, and loved.

In Christ,

Pastor Jason Dauer

WORSHIP & FORMATION SCHEDULE

SUMMER WORSHIP will shift to 10AM in the Gathering Place for the months of June, July, and August

Services are livestreamed on Facebook and posted to YouTube. If you are not receiving the weekly emails and would like to, visit fpcedgewood.org and fill out the sign-up form.

June 7: The Tenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12; Romans 4:13-25

First Sunday in Gathering Place. Liturgist: Sirvasha Evans

June 14: The Eleventh Sunday In Ordinary Time

Taize Service. Liturgist: Steven Lazare

Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Romans 5:1-8

June 21: The Twelfth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Liturgist: Wayne Dean. Shaun leads us in a service compiled by pastor and music arranger Carolyn Winfrey Gillette titled "In the Beginning: Genesis in Scripture, Prayer and Song."

June 28: The Thirteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Guest Preacher: Brian Vertz. Liturgist: Jim Segedy

Brian Vertz is a hybrid student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and an inquirer for ordination through the Pittsburgh Presbytery and Bower Hill Community Church. He is a partner in a downtown law firm and bonus grandpa to his partner's two grandchildren. He met Pastor Jason in an advanced theology class because he is also a Bible nerd.

July 5: The Fourteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Edwin van Driel. Liturgist: Barb Bisdee

The Rev. Dr. Edwin Chr. van Driel is the Directors' Bicentennial Professor of Theology at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He teaches mainly in Christology, ecclesiology, and the interaction between biblical studies and theology. Dr. Van Driel is deeply invested in helping the church think about its existence and calling as it moves into an increasingly post-Christian world. Dr. Van Driel is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and served on the church's committee that produced the denomination's new hymnal, Glory to God. He was the primary writer of the committee's "Theological Vision Statement" and "A Statement on Language," and also served on the Editorial Advisory Board of the Book of Common Worship. Dr. Van Driel is currently part of the Steering Team for the seminary's Lilly-funded Preaching in a Post-Christian Age Initiative. He serves on the executive committee of the American Theological Society and is the chair of the International Consultation on Ecclesial Futures, an invited group of practitioners, church consultations, denominational leaders, and academics from four continents which gathers yearly to consult on the church's contextual missional challenges.

July 12: The Fifteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11. Liturgist: Sue Pollick

July 19: The Sixteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25. Liturgist: Lisa Segedy

July 26: The Seventeenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Romans 8:26-39. Liturgist: Jan Forster

 = We will celebrate Communion / Lord's Supper



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



Session Notes

During the May 12 meeting, Session approved the following:

- Collection of funds for the October mission trip in collaboration with Waverly Presbyterian Church.
- Collection for Life Recovery Bibles.
- Sending a letter to the Finance Committee of the Executive Committee of the Pittsburgh Presbytery requesting to cease financial relations with Citizens Bank due to their financing of for-profit private prisons.
- With love and thanksgiving for her service, Session accepted the resignation of Mrs. Haley as an Elder. The Nominating Committee will be asked to find an Elder to finish Mrs. Haley's term.



FOCUS CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Tuesday Book Club

Book Club meets weekly at 10:00AM at the Apossos home (361 Maple Ave.) reading *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* by Annie Dillard. Snacks and coffee provided.

Youth Sunday School

Sunday School for our littlest ones takes place during worship in the Nursery. Rhonda or Lorraine will lead them in a Bible activity while you are in worship!



Deacons' Doings...

As we move into the summer season, the Deacons would like to thank everyone for the love, support, and fellowship that continue to make our church family so special. We are grateful for every opportunity to serve and connect with you all.

One exciting event just around the corner is our annual Strawberry Festival on Saturday, June 13th! There will be a full article with all the delicious details elsewhere in the newsletter, but we did want to mention that strawberry cutting and preparation will take place at the church on Friday, June 12th at noon. Many hands make light work, and we always enjoy the laughter and fellowship that come with working together. We are also looking for donations of baked goods for the festival bake sale. If you enjoy baking and would like to contribute a favorite dessert, loaf of bread, cookies, or other treats, please contact Rhonda Apossos. Your homemade goodies are always appreciated and help make the festival extra special.

After June, the Deacons will take a short break from regular meetings during July and August. This time will allow us to regroup, recharge, and prepare for what we anticipate will be a busy and spiritually uplifting fall and winter season. We are already looking forward to activities such as caroling, home visits, fall baskets, and, of course, a spaghetti dinner and other fellowship opportunities that bring us together as a church family.

Most importantly, we want every member of our church to know this: the Deacons are here for you. Whether you need a listening ear, a friendly face, a hot meal, a prayer, encouragement, or simply someone to walk alongside you during a difficult time, this ministry belongs to all of us. Please never hesitate to reach out. We are honored to care for and support our church family in any way we can.

Wishing everyone a joyful and blessed summer season!

The Community Dinners are back!

June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2

Save the Dates: The First Wednesdays of June, July, August, and September at 6:00PM we'll be firing up the grill on the side lawn (weather permitting – social room if inclement weather). And, as usual, they're FREE! So bring your family, friends and neighbors for good food and fellowship!!! We start serving at 6:00 and go until the food runs out or the crowd dies down, whichever happens first!

Help is always needed with set-up, side dishes, desserts, serving, and tear-down. Contact the Church Office to let us know how you can help us make these important community outreach events happen successfully!

SATURDAY, JUNE 13 (11AM - 2PM). We are excited to bring you year two of our reimagined Strawberry Festival! If you love strawberries, this is the place to be. From chocolate-dipped strawberries and refreshing strawberry lemonade to the Pittsburgh favorite, strawberry pretzel salad, there will be strawberry treats galore. And don't worry, the classic strawberry shortcake topped with ice cream and whipped cream will once again be served from the church side lawn. This year's festival will also feature live acoustic music from local Edgewood band MilePost6, lawn games for kids and kids-at-heart, temporary tattoos, fresh strawberries sold by the bunch, and a bake sale filled with homemade goodies. If your tummy is rumbling for something a little more savory, enjoy a hot dog fresh off the grill. We hope you'll join us for a delicious day of food, music, fun, and community on Saturday, June 13th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. — or until the strawberries sell out! The event is rain or shine. "Bring your neighbors, invite your friends, and celebrate the sweetness of summer with us!" If you would like to volunteer or donate baked goods for the bake sale, please contact Rhonda Appesos.

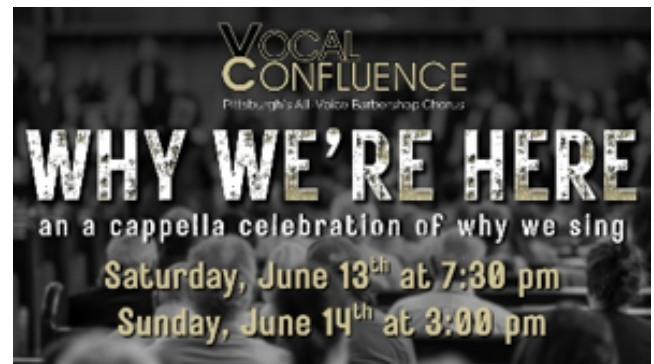
VOCAL CONFLUENCE CONCERT: June 13, 7:30PM and June 14, 3PM

THE BIG GAY TRIO presents its annual Pride fundraising concert for TransYOUning and the Hugh Lane Foundation in collaboration with First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood on Saturday, June 20 at 7:30PM. Join Sarah Steranka, Will Teegarden, and Brian Gilling as they perform works by queer composers!



Community
MEALS

**STRAWBERRY
FESTIVAL**



Sponsored by
First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church

**A BIG GAY TRIO
BENEFIT
RECITAL**

TRANSYOUning
HUGH LANE
Featuring works
by
LGBTQ+ composers


Will Teegarden, cello

Brian Gilling, piano

Sarah Steranka, flute

Give what you can!
Proceeds benefit
TransYOUning &
Hugh Lane Wellness
Foundation
Saturday, June 20th at
7:30 pm

First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood
120 East Swissvale Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15218



The Bulletin Board

- Happy June birthdays to Jason Dauer, Mandy Rineer, Kathy Horner, Marcia Haley
- Happy July birthdays to Tyler McGuigan, Amy Moore, Lorraine Douthett, Rob Mysels, Sue Pollick, and Lisa Segedy.
- Nora Isabelle Barkley was born on May 23. Parents are Allison and Bud Barkley, residing in Pasadena, Maryland, Grandparents: Martha and Bill Crean.
- Wayne Dean and Pastor Jason did concrete work on steps - great job!
- Sanding wooden doors at E. Swissvale entrance was accomplished by volunteers prior to staining.
- Many thanks to all who made the Taco Dinner Night such a success. It was a great way to meet neighbors, friends, etc.
- Sympathies to Bill Stineman in the passing of his wife, Donna on May 13.
- Appreciation to the gardener volunteers who have been working hard beautifying our gardens.
- Thanks to John Foster and Bobbie Thompson for opening and locking up after May 19 elections and Bake Sale bakers and/or table chairwomen.
- Appreciate the hard work and dedication by Wayne Dean and friends in recognizing veterans at Edgewood's annual Memorial Day Observance at Memorial Park on May 24 and luncheon following.



Community Events & Announcements



The Woodland Hills Foundation, H.U.G.S. organization is hosting a Kona and Kickball event at Koenig Field on June 17 at 6PM. This free event, open to kids in the Woodland Hills district, includes kickball with special guest pitchers and Kona Ice for the first 50 kids, plus a prize drawing.



MOVIE IN THE PARK, Edgewood has a movie night at Koenig Field planned for Friday, June 26, featuring Hamilton. We'll have a shaved ice truck starting at 7 and hopefully the police and fire departments will be joining us before the film.

Save the Date



- 6/6 Brinton Road Clean-Up
- 8/29 Community Day
- 9/12 Sleepover in the park
- 9/17 Newcomer's Reception
- 10/3 Oktoberfest
- 11/7 Afternoon of Art
- 12/5 Light Up Edgewood

One Last Heartfelt Invitation

Posted on [May 21, 2026](#)



A Letter to Pittsburgh Presbytery from Rev. Ralph Lowe
Associate Minister for Congregational Support & Justice Ministries
Thursday, May 21, 2026

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As you may have heard, this coming fall we are embarking on a profound journey of faith, remembrance, and transformation: a Racial Justice Pilgrimage to Montgomery, Alabama. As we enter the final stages of planning, we want to extend one last, heartfelt invitation to anyone who feels called to walk this path with us. This is not merely a trip or a historical tour; it is a vital discipleship opportunity to step into the broken places of our nation's history and seek the healing truth to which God calls us.

At the heart of our pilgrimage will be a visit to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, which sits powerfully on a hilltop overlooking Montgomery as part of the Equal Justice Initiative's Legacy Sites complex. Standing in that space and witnessing the documented history of racial terror demands that we confront the sins of the past and their enduring legacy today. For followers of Jesus Christ, this confrontation is a deeply spiritual necessity. We cannot truly celebrate the triumph of the resurrection without first standing at the foot of the cross and acknowledging the reality of suffering, injustice, and human brokenness. Christ came to break down the dividing walls of hostility and reconcile us to God and one another. By bearing witness to these hard truths together, we embody the gospel's radical call for justice, repentance, and true reconciliation.

We invite you to bring your prayers, your open hearts, and your commitment to justice as we embark on this sacred journey. Please consider joining us for this transformative experience as we strive to live out the love and righteousness of Christ in our world today. If you have not already, please contact Carla Campbell or myself by June 7th if you are interested in attending. Spots are becoming increasingly limited so please respond quickly!

In faith and hope,

Ralph B. Lowe Jr.

June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 10:00 Book (AH) 2:00 Flute (CE) 7:30 Cello Rehearsal (GP)	3 6:00 Community Dinner (SL) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	4 2:00 Flute (CE) 4:00 Worship Arts 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 SAA (L)	5 2:00 WCM (SS) 7:00 AA (SR) 8:30 AA (SR)	6 8:00 AA (SR)
7 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 7:00 SAA (L, GP)	8 2:00 Flute (CE) 7:00 VC(S)	9 10:00 Book (AH) 4:00 Flute (CE) 7:00 Session (L)	10 2:00 Flute (CE) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	11 2:00 Flute (CE) 4:00 Worship Arts 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 SAA (L)	12 2:00 WCM (SS) 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 VC Reh. (S) 8:30 AA (SR)	13 11AM-2PM Strawberry Fest. 3:00 VC Concert 8:00 AA (SR)
14 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 7:00 SAA (L, GP)	15 2:00 Flute (CE) 7:00 VC(S)	16 10:00 Book (AH) 4:00 Flute (CE)	17 2:00 Flute (CE) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	18 2:00 Flute (CE) 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 SAA (L)	19 2:00 WCM (SS) 7:00 AA (SR) 8:30 AA (SR)	20 7:00 Big Gay Benefit Recital 8:00 AA (SR)
21 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 7:00 SAA (L, GP)	22 2:00 Flute (CE) 7:00 VC (S)	23 10:00 Book (AH) 4:00 Flute (CE)	24 2:00 Flute (CE) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	25 2:00 Flute (CE) 4:00 Worship Arts 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 SAA (L)	26 2:00 WCM (SS) 7:00 AA (SR) 8:30 AA (SR)	27 8:00 AA (SR)
28 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 7:00 SAA (L, GP)	29 2:00 Flute (CE) 7:00 VC (S)	30 10:00 Book (AH) 4:00 Flute (CE)				

Meeting Locations:

AH=Apeessos Home (Book Club), B=Basement Band Room (Milepost6), CE=Christian Ed Office (Flute Lessons),
GP=Gathering Place (Worship/Fellowship), L=Lounge (Session & SAA), MS=ESO Music Suite, S=Sanctuary (VC & ESO),
SL=Side Lawn (Dinners), SR=Social Room (AA), SS=School Street Lot (WCM)

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1		1 6:00 Community Dinner (SL) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	2 2:00 Flute (CE) 4:00 Worship Arts 7:00 AA (SR) 7:00 SAA (L)	3 2:00 WCM (SS) 7:00 AA (SR) 8:30 AA (SR)	4 8:00 AA (SR)
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First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church

120 East Swissvale Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15218



Community Dinners

June 3, July 1



Strawberry Festival

June 13



Benefit Recital

June 20

 **10:00 AM**
@ 
summer
SUNDAYS

THE
GATHERING
PLACE