



Into the Overgrowth

There is an “off-leash” dog park near where David and I live. It’s in the woods, with a stream for Harvey to jump in, and steep trails for exploration. My issue with this dog park is that while it claims to be “off-leash,” it’s only fenced in on 3 sides, and when you get to that side with no fence, the trails start to disappear. While Harvey is never off-leash at this park, I love walking through the disappearing trail section because the Black-Eyed Susans are extravagant in the late summer.



There is a specific kind of panic that sets in when the trail under your feet suddenly vanishes. Most of us spend our lives trying to avoid that feeling—building fences, paving paths, and keeping our faith “decent and in order.” But what if the moment we lose the path is the exact moment the True begins to show up?

Usually, when we talk about Lent, we talk about “giving up.” We give up chocolate, or social media, or caffeine—small, manageable sacrifices that (if we’re honest) often feel more like spring cleaning than a transformation of our souls.

This year, we’re giving up something much heavier: bad theology. We are giving up the “tame” versions of God that we’ve built to make ourselves feel safe. We’re giving up the artificial fences of purity, exclusion, and transaction that we use to keep the “Wild God” at arm’s length. This month, we are going to walk alongside Jesus as he enters into a series of wild encounters.

Jesus keeps bumping into people who are trying to manage their lives, and he keeps inviting them into something un-tamed:

- **With Nicodemus**, we are giving up **Certainty**. We often want a syllabus for our faith, but Jesus offers the Wind. You can’t map the wind, and you can’t fence the Spirit. We’re learning to move with the mystery.
- **With the Woman at the Well**, we are giving up **Transaction**. We’ve been told God is a judge with a ledger, but Jesus reveals a God of “Wild Desire”—one who doesn’t just tolerate us but actually thirsts for our wholeness.
- **With the Man Born Blind**, we are giving up **Categorization**. We tend to label people as “problems” or “sinners” to make them easier to handle. Jesus refuses the labels and instead sees a site of God’s glory.
- **With Lazarus**, we are giving up **Despair**. We are giving up the bad theology of finality. Where we see a sealed tomb and “the end,” the Wild Breath of God sees a beginning.

By the time we reach Palm Sunday, we will see the ultimate deconstruction of “tame” power. We’ll see a King who refuses the war-horse of Empire and chooses a donkey—a vulnerable, wild kind of strength that doesn’t seek to crush, but to heal.

Rewilding generally involves “letting nature take the lead.” This Lent, I hope you’ll join us as we let the Spirit take the lead. It might feel like getting lost for a moment, but as Rev. Paula Stone Williams has said: Lost is a place too, and there is wisdom to be gained there.

See you in the Wilderness,

Pastor Jason

March 2026 Lenten Worship & Formation Schedule

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

Services are livestreamed on Facebook and then posted to our website and YouTube channel.

March 1: Lent 2 - Giving Up 'Certainty' for the Wild Wind 🍷
Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; John 3:1-17

March 8: Lent 3 - Giving Up 'Transaction' for Wild Desire
Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; John 4:5-42

March 15: Lent 4 - Giving Up 'Categorization' for Wild Sight
Ephesians 5:8-14; Psalm 23; John 9:1-41

March 22: Lent 5 - Giving Up 'Despair' for the Wild Breath
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; John 11:1-45

March 29: Palm Sunday - Giving Up 'Empire' for the Wild King 🍷
Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 26:14-27:66

Our Maundy Thursday 🍷 service (4/2) will be at 7 PM, starting in the Gathering Place and moving to the Sanctuary. On Good Friday (4/3), we will gather in the Sanctuary at 11 AM for a grief ritual.

🍷 = We will celebrate Communion / Lord's Supper

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PRESBYTERIAN? This 4-week class will gather during Lent. How do we understand the Bible, faith, salvation, and discipleship? What is baptism? How do we make decisions? Join in the discussion if you are interested in joining God's work alongside this faith community, interested in baptism or confirmation, or would like to look at our tradition with fresh eyes. **The group will meet in the Gathering Place at 7 PM on Thursday, March 5 and in the Lounge, Wednesdays March 11, 18, and 25.** If you are interested, please connect with Pastor Jason or drop by the church office to receive a copy of the book: *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America: A Guide to Reclaiming the Good News of God's Grace*.

Per Capita

It is that time of year again when we discuss per capita. Each year in January, every church in the Presbytery is asked to give money

to help with the costs of the larger church organization.

This year's per capita is **\$40 for each member** on our roll.



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
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Office & Cleaning Manager
Judy Mysels
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Building Manager
Rob Mysels
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Minister of Music
Shaun Cloonan
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Accompanist
Jin Lee
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March 4 Chili Cook Off, 6PM, Social Room

Please join us as we kick off our 2026 free community dinners with our third annual chili cookoff. Please come hungry. We are hoping to offer 10 different chili recipes and participants will again vote on their favorite. A new champion's apron will go to this year's winner. If you would like to make a chili, please sign up on signup sheet (in Sanctuary) or tell Marcia. We also need donations of rice, noodles, cheese and sour cream. Thank you. We hope to see you there!



*Sharing the Joys & Concerns
of the FPCE Family*

- Many thanks to all who donated to the Blessing Bags and assembled them.
- The Blanket donations were also very much appreciated and taken to Operation Safety Net & Humane Animal Rescue.
- FPCE appreciates the Scout Sunday participants from Pack/Troop 23.
- Happy March birthdays to: Stephanie McGuigan (3/7), Sunny Sakai (3/29)

Session Notes

At their February 10 meeting, Session approved:

- The Mission Committee's blanket drive
- General Assembly Church Statistics Report
- Placing a full page ad in the Woodland Hills High School Musical "Young Frankenstein" program
- The use of the Gathering Place and Sanctuary by Sarah Steranka on April 25, 9AM-12:30 PM
- The Yoga Lease of Liability
- Elder Moore to serve as our Elder Commissioner to the Presbytery in 2026. A second Elder will be appointed in March.
- A snow removal stipend of \$75 per occurrence for church owned sidewalks, stairs, ramps, and entryways as per Pastor Dauer's map
- Engaging Laton Steven for a 3 times/year deep cleaning of the kitchen and restrooms at a cost not to exceed \$1,000. The first cleaning to be completed by April 1, 2026. This will be funded from the 2026 Building Repairs budget as a measure of support for ongoing facility maintenance.
- Establishment of a worship location policy, stating that if the temperature of the Sanctuary is above 78F or below 62F three hours prior to service, that worship will move to the Gathering Place
- Co-hosting with Wilkinsburg Community Ministry, a presentation and update of food insecurity in our neighborhood, March 18, at 7 PM in the Gathering Place
- The appointment of Deacon Bisdee as Co-Chair of the Pet Ministry Committee
- The appointment of Elder Lisa Segedy as the Session Liaison to the Pet Ministry Committee for a term of one year
- The solicitation of donations directly to Frontline Dignity by an ad in the newsletter or bulletin
- The appointment of a Bylaws and Policy Task Force of 2026 in order to bring FPCE into compliance with The Book of Order, which permits one set of bylaws and mandates a Sexual Misconduct Policy; Harassment Policy; Child, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy; and Antiracism Policy. Elder McGuigan and Elder Haley volunteered to be on the Task Force.



FOCUS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

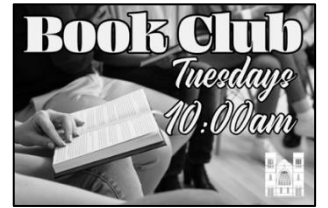
Sunday School

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!



Tuesday Book Club

Our weekly Book Club is currently reading, *A Light on the Hill* by Connilyn Cossette. Starting March 10, new book: *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith* by Anne Lamott (2000). This group meets at 10:00AM on Tuesdays at the home of Rhonda Apossos, 361 Maple Avenue. All are welcome!



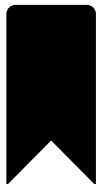
Evening Book Group

April 23, we will enjoy a simple potluck dinner (6:00-6:30 PM) with discussion to follow (6:30-8:00 PM). We will gather at the Apossos Home to discuss our next book: *A Psalm for the Wild-Built* (2021) and *A Prayer for the Crown-Shy* (2022) by Becky Chambers Pairs with Easter series. You don't need to have read the book to join in conversation and fellowship!

SESSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

WORSHIP & FORMATION NOTES FROM FEBRUARY MEETING

The Worship & Formation Committee continues to build opportunities for growth, creativity, and meaningful worship. Sunday School is exploring updated contemporary curriculum and assessing interest in expanded youth formation options. Our New Member Class will use *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America* as we welcome new participants into the life of the church. Book Clubs remain strong, with 11 active members in the Tuesday group and the Evening Book Club gathered February 26 to discuss *Life After Doom*.



As we enter Lent, we look forward to a meaningful season centered on the theme "Re-Wilding Faith," exploring how wisdom and hope emerge even in wilderness spaces. Worship Arts is preparing Easter banners, and plans are underway for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Palm Sunday (which will include a brief emergency drill). We are also considering participation in the PC(USA)-supported Eco-Palms initiative.

Additional events include a Pet Remembrance Service on April 18 and continued coordination of worship logistics and creative elements for the months ahead.

PET MINISTRY

The Pet Ministry of FPCE will have its next meeting on Sunday, March 15, 12PM in the lounge. We will be discussing the upcoming Pet Remembrance Service and luncheon which will be held on **Saturday April 18 at 11AM**. We need ALL PAWS to help with this event! Here are some tasks for helpers: distribute invitations to the event across Edgewood and the East End; participate in the service as a greeter, liturgist, and facilitator; luncheon preparation and clean up in the Gathering Place. At this meeting we will review information about pet grief to enable those willing to serve as grief facilitators.



We continue to solicit donations for Pet Blessing Bags! For dogs, we need flip top cans of soft dog food (both small and large), treats (small and large Milk Bones), safe toys for chewing and squeaking, small pet blankets for crates. We also need a few small cans of soft cat food, cat treats, and toys. Many thanks to all for assembling the first 20 bags that were donated to Operation Safety Net along with Blessing Bags for human companions. Much appreciation goes to the Worship and Arts committee for sewing pet blankets. Also, a new banner depicting the logo for The Pet Ministry is being prepared for display in the sanctuary. We now have our own email: petministry@fpcedgewood.org Hope to see you soon!

MISSION NOTES FROM JANUARY MEETING

- March-Chili cook off
- April-No events due to Easter
- May-Tacos-Cinco de Mayo
- Blessing Bags: Plan is to start with 50 people bags and approximately 15 pet bags for Operation Safety Net (OSN). Announcement will be made and donations will be accepted ongoing. Tyler will set up Amazon donation list. Toothpaste and tooth brushes are among items needed. Patricia will ask her neighbor about dental donations. Barb has list of leftover Blessing Bag items from last year. Would like improved cards for the people bags which include a prayer and FPCE contact info. Jan will get a good prayer. Assembly date is set for 2/15/26 following service.
- Blanket drive-as of the writing of this, Patrice made a beautiful flyer that was approved by Mercy to allow us to name OSN so folks know where donations are going.



EASTER FLOWERS

We seek your help in making our sanctuary a place of graceful beauty and meaning on Easter morning.

Through your donation, we can accomplish this:



I wish to contribute an Easter plant. Lily ____ Tulip ____ Hyacinth ____

The wording for the bulletin is:

___ In honor of _____

___ In memory of _____

Order placed by _____

Please check: ___ I would like to take the plant after the Easter service
 ___ I would like it to be planted in the Prayer Garden

The cost of each plant is \$10.95. Please send check (payable to FPCE or pay online at fpcedgewood.org/donate) with form and return it to the Church Office. Deadline is March 23, 2026



Community Events & Announcements

MARCH

C.C. MELLOR LIBRARY, EDGEWOOD BOOK SALE

C.C. Mellor Memorial Library's book sale is our biggest fundraiser of the year, with more than 15,000 items on sale over four days.



The 2026 Book Sale will be held March 6-9

The weekend will kick off with a preview/shop early night on Friday, March 6 at 6 p.m.

The cost per person is \$20 at the door. Dealers and scanners are welcome.

Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 8 are the main sale days. Monday, March 9 is the bag sale day. Fill a grocery bag for \$6 or a box for \$10. Bring your own bag or get one at the sale.

Sale Hours:

Friday, March 6 – 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (shop early night, \$20)

Saturday, March 7 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, March 8 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, March 9 – 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Pricing:

During the preview and main sale days, prices are:

Adult books – \$2

Small mass market paperbacks – \$1

Children's and young adult books – \$0.50

Audiobooks, DVDs and video games – \$2

CDs – \$1

4 CORNERS GARDEN CLUB, Native Pollinator Garden, March 26, 6:30PM

EDGEWOOD SYMPHONY

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. Information and tickets are available on their website www.edgewoodsymphony.org.



EDGEWOOD BOROUGH Easter Egg Hunt, March 28, 1PM



APRIL

COFFEE WITH A COP, APRIL 11, 9-11AM

Meet Edgewood Borough's new Chief of Police and his officers



**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THESE EVENTS,
PLEASE REFER TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL WEBSITES**

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship/ Communion 6:30 Fellowship Prop. & Finance Mtg. (Zoom) 7:00 SAA (GP,L)	2 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	3 10:00 Book Club 4-7 Flute Lessons 7:00 ESO (S)	4 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 6:00 Chili Cook Off 7:00 MilePost6	5 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 4-7 Worship & Arts Team (GP) 7:00 New Mbr. Class (GP) 7:00 SAA (L)	6 2-3 WCM Food Truck 8:00 AA (SR)	7 10:00 Yoga (GP) 8:30 AA (SR)	
8 Daylight Saving 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship 12:30 Galina Recital (S) 7:00 SAA (GP,L)	9 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	10 10:00 Book Club 4-7 Flute Lessons 7:00 Session Mtg. 7:00 ESO (S)	11 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 7:00 New Mbr. Class (L) 7:00 MilePost6	12 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 7:00 SAA (L)	13 2-3 WCM Food Truck 8:00 AA (SR)	14 10:00 Yoga (GP) 8:30 AA (SR)	
15 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Pet Ministry Mtg. 3:00 Laura Reynolds' Recital 7:00 SAA (GP,L)	16 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	17 10:00 Book Club 4-7 Flute Lessons	18 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 7:00 New Mbr. Class (L) 7:00 Food Justice in our Neighborhood (GP) 7:00 MilePost6	19 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 4-7 Worship & Arts Team (GP) 7:00 SAA (L)	20 2-3 WCM Food Truck 8:00 AA (SR)	21 No Yoga 8:30 AA (SR)	
22 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Fellowship/Deacon Mtg. 7:00 SAA (GP,L)	23 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	24 10:00 Book Club 4-7 Flute Lessons 7:00 ESO (S)	25 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 7:00 New Mbr. Class (L) 7:00 MilePost6	26 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 7:00 SAA (L)	27 2-3 WCM Food Truck 8:00 AA (SR)	28 10:00 Yoga (GP) 8:30 AA (SR)	
29 9:30 Choir (CR) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Fire Drill Fellowship 7:00 SAA (GP,L)	30 2-6:30 Flute Lessons 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	31 10:00 Book Club 4-7 Flute Lessons 7:00 ESO (S)	Meeting Locations: Book Club – Apossos Home Flute Lessons – C.E. Office, Choir Room AA – Social Room Vocal Confluence & ESO – Sanctuary Scouts – Scout or Social Room				SAA – Lounge, GP Milepost6 – Basement Band Room Session - Lounge Choir, Worship - Sanctuary

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



Don't forget to "spring ahead" on March 8th!

Maundy Thursday Service: April 2, 7 PM

Good Friday Grief Service: April 3, 11 AM