

The Season of Easter

(Reprinted from pcusa.org)

Easter isn't just a Sunday — it's a *season*. One day out of 365 is hardly sufficient to celebrate the great mystery of our faith — that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Accordingly, the season of Easter lasts seven weeks (a “week of weeks”), spanning the 50 days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday and encompassing the festival of the Ascension of the Lord.

The season of Easter is intended to be a joyful time for celebrating the presence of the risen Christ in the church. If your congregation doesn't already celebrate the Lord's Supper (a feast with the risen Lord) each week, the season of Easter is an excellent and appropriate time to explore this practice.

Of course, Easter really isn't just a *season* either. In the fullest sense, Easter is a new way of life — in which we are “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 6:11), called to “walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). Every year, for fifty days, the church celebrates and rehearses this new way of life in the Season of Easter — as we await its completion in the fullness of Christ's reign.



A week of Sundays

An excerpt from the [Companion to the Book of Common Worship](#) (Geneva Press, 2003, 117)

For seven weeks, a week of Sundays, we acclaim the resurrection of Christ by the power of God. The period of seven weeks of jubilation can be traced back to its Jewish roots of the fifty days celebrated from the day after Passover to Shavuot (Feast of Weeks, Exodus 23:16). For Jews, the Feast of Weeks closed the season of harvest, which had been initiated by the Feast of Unleavened Bread. In a similar manner, early Christians observed a fifty-day period of celebration from Easter to the Day of Pentecost. To underscore the uninterrupted rejoicing of these fifty days, fasting and kneeling in prayer were forbidden at least as early as the end of the second century. On the *pentecoste* (“fiftieth”) day, not only was the fifty-day period concluded, but a festival with its own proper content was celebrated. The Jews observed a feast of covenant renewal and eventually commemorated the giving of the Law. Christians celebrated the gift of the Spirit as preparing the way for the day of the Lord. What Moses and the Law did for the Jewish community, the Holy Spirit now does for the community of Christ.

May 2022 Worship Schedule

May 1 – Third Sunday of Easter. The Rev. Jane Duffield, former interim pastor at Waverly Presbyterian Church, joins us for worship that includes communion.

May 8 – Fourth Sunday of Easter. We celebrate the mothers in our lives on this Mother's Day worship with the Rev. Fairlight Collins Lower preaching. “Muffins for Moms” follows in the Gathering Place.

May 15 – Fifth Sunday of Easter. Heather Henkel preaches at our next Emerging Worship service.

May 22 – Sixth Sunday of Easter. The Rev. Bob Ruefle preaching, congregational meeting follows the service.

May 29 – Seventh Sunday of Easter. Rev. Jane Duffield preaching, community Memorial Day service follows the service across the street at Memorial Park (pending confirmation).

In-Person Worship Guidelines

(Updated March 2022)

Due to the CDC's updated version of tracking COVID community levels, Allegheny County is "Low." As a result, the Worship Committee has begun to slowly relax some of our guidelines for in-person worship:

- **Masks are now optional for all in attendance.** We will continue to have a supply of disposable masks at the entrances to the church for those who wish to wear one during services.
- **Please continue to social distance in the marked pews.**
- The choir will continue to mask during their hour-long rehearsal but may choose to remove the mask during the performance of the anthem in worship.
- Out of respect for those who choose or need to continue wearing masks, our practice of passing the peace and sharing communion from our seats, as well as collecting the offering at the entrance to the sanctuary will not change.

We will continue to monitor cases and transmission levels and will relax or strengthen this guidance as health and safety protocols dictate. Thanks to all for their cooperation in keeping our church family healthy and safe. 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.

Session Notes

During April Session took the following action:

- The April Session meeting began with activities regarding our thoughts on stewardship of resources, parish life and ministry to the community, led by Rev. Kylene.
- Received notification from Presbytery that Ann Turnock is our COM (Commission on Ministry) advocate for 2022. Flo Raisig will be our contact person.
- Approved a memorial service for Jim Moore following the church service on April 24.
- Approved moving 2 more members to the participant's list, for a total of 12.
- Voted to call a Congregational Meeting on May 22 to elect additional officers.
- Voted to begin Summer worship at 10AM starting June 5.
- Approved an earlier email motion to purchase an ad to be placed in the WHHS musical's program for their production of Shrek. It will be a large ad/\$80 to be designed by Shaun Cloonan.

Notice of Congregational Meeting

Please plan to attend worship on Sunday, May 22 and stay for a brief (less than 15 minutes) meeting immediately following the service in the sanctuary to elect the additional officers that were not on the slate presented by the Nominating Committee at the January meeting.



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

Office & Cleaning Manager
Judy Mysels
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Building Manager
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Minister of Music
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music@fpcedgewood.org

Pianist
Sunny Sakai
sunnysakai4@gmail.com

LOVE GOD
EACH OTHER
OUR NEIGHBORS



FPCE Financial News

March 31, 2022 was the end of the first quarter; a good time to take a first look at finances for 2022. As of March 31, 2022 the income and expense for FPCE are as follows:

	Actual	YTD Budget
Total Income	\$38,032.58	\$35,376.47
Total Expense	\$41,215.45	\$44,836.39

Actual income is over budget by \$2,656.11 and actual expense is below budget by \$3,419.94, so in total net income FPCE is \$6,076.05 ahead of budget. Account 4010 -Donations has been declining in previous years and was decreased to \$60,000 for 2022. The actual YTD 2022 Donations is \$15,330.10 and the YTD 2022 budget for Donations is \$15,500.00, which is at budget and is good for the first quarter. For other income items, trust income was increased by the bank for 2022. All expenses are within budget as of the end of the first quarter which is encouraging because that quarter includes the major part of winter utility expenses. Any questions may be sent to fpce.treasurer@gmail.com.

Tom Ochs, Treasurer



FOCUS
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Tuesday Book Club

Our weekly Book Club has begun discussing the book "Have a Little Faith" by Mitch Albom. This group meets at 10:00AM on Tuesdays at the home of Rhonda Apossos, 361 Maple Avenue, just a few blocks away from the church. All are welcome!

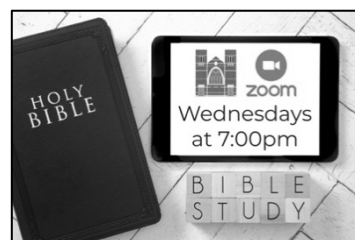
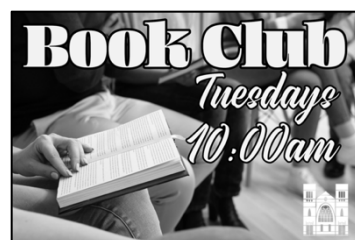
Wednesday Night Zoom Bible Study

Our weekly Bible Study is held on Zoom each week led by Elder Tim Hoffman. The Zoom link is available on the website and in the weekly member email updates. No password is needed, just the link. Tim will let you in from the waiting room as you join. Come and join the discussion on Wednesday nights at 7:00pm online!

Questions? Email to Tim at HoffmanTL@gmail.com.

Sunday School

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



PNC Update

During April, the Pastor Nominating Committee was not as active partly due to Holy Week and busy schedules, and partly as we waited to hear back from Presbytery regarding executive reference checks and Commission on Ministry clearance interview feedback on a few candidates we were interested in having more serious conversations about FPCE. We met with Brian Wallace via Zoom and as a result of his comments and advice, have decided to regroup and look at some more Pastor Information Forms with the hopes of scheduling some more interviews within the next month.

It's important to all of us that we get this right as we know FPCE is on the precipice of great new ministries to move forward in our community. The person God calls to our corner of the Kingdom will have the energy, enthusiasm, compassion, and leadership to engage our vibrant mission to love God, love each other, and love our neighbors. The committee is grateful for the trust placed in us and take our charge very seriously. We ask that you continue to pray for the process and for God's voice to be heard by both us and our next pastor.



PASTOR SEARCH

Pastor Nominating Committee: Tyler McGuigan (chair), Shaun Cloonan, Lorraine Douthett, John Foster, Lisa Segedy

MUSIC Ministry

April was a busy month in the music ministry! Our Sanctuary Choir members got a bit of a workout on Palm Sunday as they took on various roles in Lisa Segedy's dramatic presentation of the Passion of Jesus during our reader's theater service. Mandy and Sunny took on music leadership roles for Maundy Thursday when I was in Florida and Tyler was home sick. And Easter was a true Resurrection Celebration with the choir's a cappella rendition of "On That Great, Great Mornin'." Hearing Sunny's weekly musical gifts during the postlude has been

such a joy and a true expression of worship as she so creatively and expertly weaves together the various musical themes we've sung and heard during the service. Thank you to all who help to make a joyful noise unto the Lord each week. I look forward to having the worship ensemble back again on May 15 after a month off (since Easter was the usual emerging Sunday).

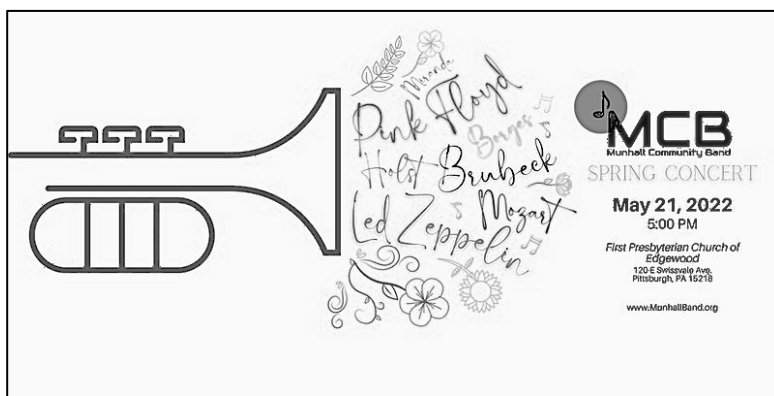
In other music related news, mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

Mozart & Schubert. On Saturday, May 7 at 7:30PM our friends at the **Edgewood Symphony** return to the JCC's Katz Auditorium for the first time in over two years! Join them there for their final performance of the 2021-2022 season. The concert features soloists Peggy Greb and Marissa Knaub Avon performing Mozart's Flute and Harp Concerto with the Edgewood Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra will also perform Franz Schubert's Symphony No. 5. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at edgewoodsymphony.org

Saturday, May 21, FPCE will welcome the **Munhall Community Band** to our sanctuary for their spring concert. Mandy Rineer and Jim Segedy both play with this ensemble. Enjoy concert band performances of music by Holst, Mozart, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, Brubeck, Borges, Miranda, and more! Doors open at 4:30PM. Raffle baskets will be available to support MCB. 5:00PM in the Sanctuary, free admission with registration at munhallband.org.

And looking way ahead, Vocal Confluence has reached out about holding their next performance in August. So if you're a fan of Barbershop harmonies, you'll want to be at that event – they're quite good! (You should follow them on Facebook or Instagram – they post "tag Tuesday" recordings that are less than a minute but showcase the beautiful harmonies of the group standing on risers in our sanctuary!).

Blessings to you all! See you in church.
Peace,
Shaun Cloonan, minister of music



A quick note from the Deacons: our Mothers' and Fathers' Day traditions are making a comeback! Join us after worship in the Gathering Place on May 8th when we honor the special women in our lives with "Muffins for Mom." Then on June 19th we celebrate the men with "Donuts for Dad." And we will have Strawberry Festival news next month as well. Stay tuned!



Community MEALS

Community Dinners Return

We're Back – Almost...The Community Dinners are back, or at least they will be very soon. Yes, after our little COVID break, we'll again be hosting the ever-popular FPCE Community Dinners starting in June!

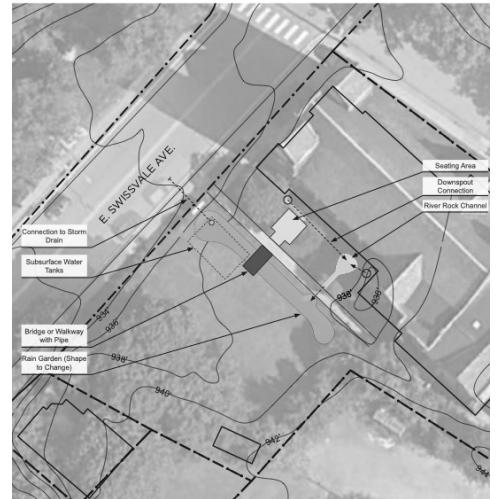
Save the Dates: The First Wednesdays of June, July, August, and September, from 6–8PM we'll be firing up the grill on the side lawn with your favorites, plus some new, soon-to-be favorites. And, as usual, they're FREE! So bring your family, friends and neighbors for good food and fellowship!!!

June 1	Hamburgers, Hot Dogs (of course there will be meatless versions for those who prefer that), and all the fixins'
July 6	Sausage & Pierogi Fest
August 3	BBQ (Ribs, Brisket, Chicken, Pulled Pork)
September 7	Burgers and Dogs or Something Yummy.

New Gardens Coming...

Spring has sprung and soon we will be making some improvements to the landscaping on the side lawn...

With the help of Upstream Pittsburgh (formerly Nine Mile Run Watershed Association), designs are being developed to enhance the Contemplative Garden next to the church and to also install a rain garden to minimize the flooding that happens in the basement of the church every time we get a serious rain. The designs will include a quiet area for contemplation, a hydrophilic garden with subsurface reservoir to manage run-off (we are at the bottom of a hill) and potentially a community orchard and/or garden. All of these spaces will be located on the immediate south lawn of the church and will have minimal impact on the activities we normally have in this area. All of these will be designed to require minimal maintenance for three-season enjoyment.



May update: We have been continuing to work with the landscape architect and engineer to finalize plans to manage the storm water/basement flooding issues and plan to present options to Session by the May or June meeting. Stay tuned for more details or see Jim or Lisa Segedy.

After-Worship Fellowship Has Returned!

Lorraine Douthett has begun coordinating our time of coffee and conversation following the worship service. To allow for social distancing, the refreshments will be served in the Gathering Place. Head down the hallway after the service and share in some Christian fellowship (and of course, Lorraine's goodies)!



Sharing the Joys & Concerns of the FPCE Family

- Sympathies to Amy and J.D. Moore on the passing of Jim Moore April 7. A memorial service was held on Sunday, April 24 with Jim's goddaughter, the Rev. Alexis Fuller-Wright, officiating and Sunny and Shaun providing musical offerings.
- Thank you to Ruth Miller, Elaine Cloonan, and Lorraine Douthett for arranging the Easter flowers in the sanctuary.
- Thanks to all who participated in our Holy Week services as members of the Palm/Passion Sunday reader's theater presentation, liturgists/scripture readers and song leaders on Maundy Thursday/Good Friday, and participants in our Easter worship.
- We continue our weekly prayer requests in worship on Sundays. If you would like to be added to the list read by Shaun before the pastoral prayer during the service, contact Michelle Santo (cschell73@yahoo.com) and she will email the requests out to our team of prayer warriors as well as Judy for inclusion in the announcements for worship.

Faith-filled Articles from *Presbyterians Today* and *The Presbyterian Outlook*



Notice resurrection

April 21, 2022 by [Andrew Taylor-Troutman](#) | *The Presbyterian Outlook Outpost Blog*

The Gospels record that Jesus chooses when he makes himself known after his resurrection. He is perceived as a gardener or a traveler on the road until he calls our name or breaks the bread. His resurrection, then, is a gift of grace. We cannot earn it.

Yet, I wonder how many things I overlook. What can I notice in my daily life?

I invite you to notice the word “notice.” Etymologically, it is related to the ancient and spiritually loaded word for “knowledge” (gnosis). The phrase “to be put on notice” is a serious warning. In contrast, my professor Melissa A. Butler writes that noticing is “the essence of curiosity — a beautiful dance of rigor and play to find more in what’s there through unknowing it.” I love the playful paradox that we notice to “unknow” something, that is, what we thought we knew about it. Taking the time to notice something often reveals that it is more than what we thought it was.

Thinking of the Gospels, Mary Magdalene saw a gardener; she did not notice him. She did not perceive who he really was. I don’t want to be critical of her; she was grieving. Yet, she was not in the moment: “Tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away” (John 20:15). That’s an action plan: she knows what she wants to do in the future.

What if my plan is to become present? How might I notice to unknow my agendas? What might I perceive if I am open to what might be revealed?

Poets invite and instruct. Billy Collins claims that “the soil is full of marvels.” William Blake finds “a heaven in a wildflower.” And Naomi Shihab Nye writes, “Each morning/ birds speak first. Sparrows gossip joyously.” Is noticing that a sparrow is “joyful” unknowing it as just another bird? Is it rediscovering the creature? In some sense is the bird then reborn in my awareness? Is this a resurrection moment?

This much is true: we can notice the world around us. And the act of noticing – rather than overlooking or looking past, rather than judging and moving on – can bring its own surprise and delight. It may even lead to realizations that there is grace just waiting to be received. But don’t just take my word for it; notice the joyful sparrows.

Andrew Taylor-Troutman is the author of [Gently Between the Words: Essays and Poems](#). He is the pastor of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He and his wife, also an ordained minister, parent three children and a dog named Ramona.

The kitchen is a holy place

Sacred stories simmer for future generations

April 20, 2022 by [Derrick Weston](#) | *Presbyterians Today*

When I came on board as a co-host of the [“Food and Faith” podcast](#), I suggested to my other hosts, Anna Woofenden and Sam Chamelin, that I would love to have more people on the show talk to us about cooking. I wanted to hear how people connected cooking to their values, how the act of cooking can be meditative or reflective, and how people connect or reconnect in the kitchen to deepen family histories or discuss even deeper issues of heritage and race.

Shortly after we had this conversation, Anna got a call from a publisher pitching the idea of a book about how our values might show up in what we cook. Remembering our conversations of a few months back, Anna called me thinking that this might be a project I would want to take on. By the end of our phone call, it was clear that this was a book that the two of us were meant to write together.

“A Just Kitchen,” as we’ve tentatively titled it, is not a cookbook. It’s a book about how the kitchen can be a place of healing and transformation. It’s a book about how cooking can be a sacred act, whether we cook for others or for ourselves. It’s a book that strives to honor the realities that budgets are limited, time is at a premium and sometimes you just don’t want to cook. It’s also a book that will hopefully celebrate the fact that the kitchen is often a place where loving service for our friends and family can best be embodied.

When was the last time you thought about food preparation as a holy act? When was the last time preparing a meal became a time of sacred storytelling? The pandemic gave us an opportunity to be present to the Divine — and one another — while kneading bread or chopping onions.

A study done shortly before the onset of the pandemic showed that Americans are spending less time in their kitchens than ever before. Some of that changed during the early days of the lockdown. We spent more time cooking out of sheer necessity.

If you're like me, you still have a sourdough starter going from those days. It didn't take long, though, for DoorDash and the reopening of restaurants to take us out of our kitchens again, away from our opportunities to connect to the past and remember family stories while reading a dog-eared recipe card.

As the world opens again, necessitating the need for quick meals and giving us the luxury of more restaurant visits, I hope that we can see our kitchens as holy spaces.

May we reestablish them as places where we interact with God, Creation and our loved ones. And may we see the kitchen as our laboratory for service, hope and justice.

Derrick Weston is the co-host of the "Food and Faith" podcast. You can listen [here](#). He is a member of [Ashland Presbyterian Church](#) in Hunt Valley, Maryland.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) Communion 12:15 Fellowship	2	3 10:00 Book Club	4	5	6 5:00 Flute (L) 8:30 AA (SR)	7 8:30 AA (SR)
8 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Muffins for Moms (GP)	9 6:30 Scouts (SR) 7:00 VC (S)	10 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	11 7:00 Bible Study (Zoom)	12 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	13 5:00 Flute (L) 8:30 AA (SR)	14 8:30 AA (SR)
15 9:30 Ensemble 11:00 Emerging Worship (S) 12:15 Fellowship	16 6:30 Scouts (SR) 7:00 VC (S)	17 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	18 7:00 Bible Study (Zoom)	19 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	20 5:00 Flute (L) 8:30 AA (SR)	21 5:00 Munhall Community Band Concert 8:30 AA (SR)
22 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Cong. Mtg. 12:15 Fellowship	23 6:30 Scouts (SR) 7:00 VC (S)	24 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	25 7:00 Bible Study (Zoom)	26 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	27 5:00 Flute (L) 8:30 AA (SR)	28 8:30 AA (SR)
29 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:15 Memorial Day Observance (Memorial Park)	30 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 Scouts (SR) 7:00 VC (S)	31 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	Meeting Locations: Book Club – Apessos Home AA – Social Room Vocal Confluence & ESO – Sanctuary Milepost6 – Basement Band Room Meditation Group – Lounge			PNC – Pastor's Study/Gathering Place Flute Lessons – Lounge Session – Gathering Place Choir, Ensemble, Worship – Sanctuary Scouts – Scout or Social Room



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



Muffins for Mom
May 8



Munhall Community Band
May 21

Congregational Meeting
May 22



Memorial Day Observance
May 29

