

A Thanksgiving Prayer

O God, our Provider, you open your hand and lavish good gifts upon us. So we give you thanks. You create the beauty of the earth and stock it with abundance to sustain human life. You give us friends who share the journey of our lives; family who make us laugh with joy and dry our tears of sorrow; strangers who minister to our needs with generous kindness. You knit us into your larger family called church to encourage us in your Way. You have blessed us with the freedoms of a great nation. "Thank you" seems insufficient for all your blessings, yet we say it with all we are as an offering of gratitude for our many blessings that we name before you. {Enumerate all you're thankful for; count your blessings}.

Though we may have seen our fortunes fall this year, we praise

you for hiding our treasure in Jesus Christ our Lord, whom not even death can destroy. Though we miss those whose places sit empty at this year's table, we give you thanks for lending them to us for what time we had. For all your providence with the feast of life that you set before us, we give ourselves to you with all we are in thanks and praise. Amen.

From the PC(USA) Office of Theology & Worship

November 2022 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 SoundCloud within a day later and shared via email to the congregation. If you are not receiving the weekly emails and would like to, visit fpcedgewood.org/contact and fill out the sign-up form.



November 6: *All Saints' Communion.* We honor the "saints" of the church, those dear to us who have passed on to the kingdom eternal within the past year during our annual observance of All Saints. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will also be shared.

November 13: *Stewardship Sunday.* On this Sunday, we recommit ourselves through our pledges of time and talents to furthering the mission of FPCE. Members are encouraged to bring their commitment cards and place them in the offering plate.

November 20: *Christ the King Emerging Worship.* Our ensemble returns to celebrate the Reign of Christ as King of Kings on the last Sunday of the liturgical year. Rebecca Abbott returns to the pulpit to share words while Pastor Jason is away. Hanging of the Greens follows the service.

November 27: *First Sunday of Advent.* Happy New Year! It's the start of a new church year as we begin the journey to Bethlehem in anticipation of the Christ Child's birth. We will light the first candle on the Advent wreath as we prepare the way of the Lord.



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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**



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



What are you doing today?

In 1941, the Empire of Japan led a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, killing over 2,400 US American citizens. In turn, the US government detained over 125,000 people of Japanese descent living in the United States, including U.S. Citizens. At "War Relocation Authority Centers," the vast majority of people were innocent families held without charges, and over half of all detained were children.

Facing our own history can be quite difficult, but it's vital to our witness of the gospel. Our country is just starting to face this history and recognize the injustices that were committed by our government. Our siblings of Japanese descent lived under inhumane conditions for three years—having their property and possessions seized and not returned. How do we face this history as people who claim a God of love, compassion, and peace? Most Christian Americans turned a blind eye, yet in his memoir *They Called Us Enemy*, George Takei shares that some in the outside world offered support:

Some people saw injustice for what it was and sought to do something about it.

Each month, a Quaker missionary named Herbert Nicholson delivered books from Vroman's bookstore to the nearby camps... Although he had been granted permission by the camp director to come and go as he pleased, not everyone appreciated his work.

After he was attacked, the people of Manzanar assumed they'd seen the last of Herbert. But sure enough, the next month on that same date Herbert was back at Manzanar with more books. He went above and beyond for the internees—delivering books, donations, personal effects, and once even a loved one's cremated remains. He also took pets to veterinarians outside of camp. The man devoted his life to advocating for Japanese Americans during, as well as after, the war. (p. 145-147)

Born in Rochester, NY in 1892, Nicholson grew up in a Quaker family and dedicated his life to being a missionary in Japan. He knew that his job was more than telling people about Jesus. During his years in Japan, he helped rural farmers create a savings account program, launch a goat farm, build a home for the elderly, and care for people with leprosy.

So, during WWII, he and his wife Madeline offered aid to those in concentration camps. They helped convert the West LA Methodist Church's chapel into a warehouse for stored goods and frequently delivered these goods to those in the camps. Upon seeing their work, the camp director offered them any job they

wished at the camp. However, they declined because they opposed the concentration camps and wanted to remain outside so that they could fight them.

Often, we ask, "What would you have done if you lived during that time?" And we say, "I would have protested the injustices. I would have delivered food or called my politicians. I would have been on the side of love." Yet that's not the question we need to be asking. Rather, we need to ask: "What am I doing now? How is the Holy Spirit unsettling me to act today?" As we seek to be a community church, what injustices are happening in our neighborhood that are in direct opposition to the Gospel of Christ? My prayer is that we can find entry points to get involved. I fear the question from my grandchildren asking, "Where were you when all those things were happening?"

Let us not be idle but get involved in the work Christ is already doing in the world around us!

Peace be with you,

Pastor Jason



Planning Meeting Set for November 13

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...Session members, Deacons, staff, anyone interested...we will be having a 2023 Planning Meeting, **November 13th at noon** after the morning worship service. We will be looking at January through May. Please try to be at this meeting, and if you cannot, send anything you want discussed to Pastor Jason or Judy Mysels.

Hanging of the Greens

November 20, following morning worship. Our annual tradition of the Hanging of the Greens is a fun time to decorate the sanctuary, hallways, lounge for the upcoming Advent season. Come and stay after worship to help – the more, the merrier!



CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

The October 9, 2022 Crop Walk was another beautiful day! For those who donated so far – thanks to Shaun Cloonan, Mandy Rineer, Lisa Segedy, The Creans, Sue Pollick, Nancy Ernst, Amy Moore. Donations can be accepted for 2 more weeks. Checks made out to CWS/Crop Walk can be mailed into FPCE or dropped in the offering plate. Next month a total will be given to let everyone know what FPCE raised.



Session Notes

At their October meeting, Session approved the following:

- A holiday concert by the Munhall Community Band on December 10.
- Reimbursement to Pastor Dauer for the purchase of a clerical robe and other clerical items of clothing.
- A request by the Boy Scouts to put a sign on the side lawn.
- A request from the Edgewood Volunteer Fire Department to use the Fellowship Hall, at no charge, for a Friendsgiving event on Saturday, November 19 for up to 50 people, including EVFD staff and their significant others.
- The baptism of James and Emily McGregor's son Alex at a date TBD.
- Stonewall Abbey bonfires on the side lawn, using a contained fire pit. They will have a discussion consisting of saints of the church at their first gathering. The first bonfire will be held in the evening of November 6. Allegheny Air Quality Action Days will be considered each time.
- A request by Pastor Dauer to take communion out to people in their place of residence. He will report to Session about the people he serves.

Stewardship Reflection

WHAT WILL YOU CHOOSE TO DO?

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. – 2 Corinthians 9:7



Please prayerfully consider what you will give to the church. There are plenty reasons not to give. I'm sure each of us would have no problem adding to the list. However, we're asking you to do the opposite. Please add to the reasons we do give...

- It is more blessed to give than to receive. – Acts 20:35
- Store for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, There your heart will be also. – Matthew 6:20-21

Please look for a stewardship letter and pledge card in the mail soon. Please submit your pledge card to the Church Office on or before Stewardship Sunday on November 13, 2022.

In Christ, Rhonda Apossos, Interim Stewardship Helper

Shady Side Academy Food Pantry Donation



We are fortunate to have a partnership with the second grade class at Shady Side Academy Junior School. Each year, they collect donations to help stock our Deacons' food pantry, just in time to help those in need around the holidays. This year, the students will visit FPCE on Friday, November 18 at 9:00AM. Rick Masten has met them annually and explains how the pantry is used and what the donations help to accomplish, expressing thanks for their generous spirits. If you are free and would like to help Rick organize the donations after they drop off, please stop by the Social Room that morning. The students would love to see you!



FOCUS 
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Tuesday Book Club

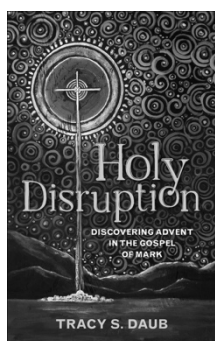
Tuesday Morning Book Group continues to meet each Tuesday at 10:00 am at the Apessos home, three blocks from the Church-361 Maple Avenue, Edgewood. We are currently reading *A Man called Peter* by Katherine Marshall and have had many enjoyable conversations over coffee and cookies. Last week, we reviewed the 1688 covenanters movement.

Sunday School

Youth Sunday School continues to meet during worship. We have three enthusiastic girls! We have been reading Bible stories following the lectionary and are learning The Lord's Prayer.

Zoom Bible Study on Hold

Wednesday Night Bible Study is currently on hiatus. Elder Tim Hoffman concluded the study on *The Killing of the Children* and has proposed several thought-provoking topics for the next study which will be reviewed by Session. These include What The Bible says about – the unborn; itself; angels & demons; prophets and prophecy. As always, if you have any topic request or specific interest, please advise either Tim or Rhonda Apessos and look for further updates...



Wednesday Night Advent Study

Beginning November 30 at 7:00PM and continuing on the Wednesdays throughout December, FPCE will host a discussion group following the Advent journey to Christmas using the devotional book "*Holy Disruption*" by Tracy S. Daub. This discussion should prove to be interesting and less traditional according to the book's description: "*Holy Disruption* presents a fresh understanding of the holiness of Christmas grounded, not in a conventional cozy Christmas message, but through Mark's disquieting gospel, which invites its readers to experience God's disruptive but transformative love for us and our world." All are welcome!

MUSIC Ministry

There is so much to tell you about that is coming up musically in our space here at FPCE! While November will be somewhat quiet, the musical groups that call our church home will be busily preparing for holiday programs, and our December calendar will be full pretty much every weekend with a different concert. Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events:

December 3 – The ESO holiday concert at 7:30PM in the sanctuary. Tickets: edgewoodsymphony.org

December 10 – The Munhall Community Band returns to FPCE and will be joined on 2 pieces by our own Sanctuary Choir and Anne Ashley United Methodist Church Choir (where MCB rehearses). The concert is at 4:30PM in our sanctuary. Tickets: munhallband.org

The weekend of December 17-18 will be quite full! Saturday morning students from Sarah Staranka's flute studio will present their winter recital at 11:00AM. That evening, our friends at Vocal Confluence will share their barbershop show, "A VC Holiday," at 7:30PM. The next morning, I'll bring back my North Hills Singers chamber choir (who haven't been to FPCE since 2018!) for worship and a mini-concert afterward. Then VC has another performance of their show at 3:00PM.

Lots of music to get you in the holiday spirit! Spend your weekends "at home" here at FPCE!

Peace, Shaun

A Season of Giving

For the past several years, FPCE has partnered with Mars Home for Youth when collecting donations for the annual Manger Tree drive. MHY Family Services is a non-profit organization serving youth with intensive behavioral needs and social challenges, and providing them a safe environment on their journey to wellness. Each year, MHY supports over 300 children through our residential program, and over 1,000 boys, girls and families in our community through our specialized trauma-based treatment. Our own Jim and Lisa Segedy are active with MHY as volunteers and members of the board of directors. A list of needed items and ways to donate can be found on the church website at fpcedgewood.org. Donations must be received by December 5 so the volunteers and staff can organize and distribute accordingly.



In our own backyard, FPCE also supports the efforts of Wilkinsburg Community Ministry in their food distribution programs. WCM provides services to approximately 5,000 residents per year, including senior citizens, citizens with disabilities, at-risk youth, and families who are economically challenged, unemployed, under-employed or facing emergency situations. WCM is a collaboration of seven area churches, with members of the board representing each of the churches. In 1968, a number of clergy and lay leaders from ten congregations

formed the Board of Directors for the Wilkinsburg Community Ministry. The unity of several congregations makes it possible for WCM to meet the extreme needs of poverty and hunger in our community and provide effective community services to all persons regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation and creed. Check the church website or visit wcm15221.org for a listing of items needed for their Christmas food distribution.



*Sharing the Joys & Concerns
of the FPCE Family*

- Prayers of sympathy to the family of Mary Ross, who passed away on October 27. According to her wishes, there was no visitation or memorial service, just a graveside service performed by a chaplain.
- We heard from Keith Lobert, Marilyn's son, about a memorial service for her. It is scheduled for Sunday, November 6 at Wightman School in Squirrel Hill at 6:00PM.
- Prayers of strength and healing for Pastor Jason's brother, Jared, who was in a horrible car accident while at training for work in Cincinnati a couple of weeks ago. Jared's coworker did not survive the accident. Jason, David, and the Dauer family have been in Ohio helping with Jared's recovery.
- Congratulations to the Rev. Mary Louise McCullough (wife of former pastor Mike Wilson) on her retirement from Second Presbyterian Church in Nashville. She is wrapping up the sale of their home in Nashville and will soon join Mike in Erie, where he has begun pastoring 2 congregations.

If you have news you would like to share in this section or a prayer request you would like to have read during our worship service, please contact Pastor Jason or Judy in the office. Additionally, let them know if you would like the request to be shared with our Prayer Warriors, who pray with intention for those requests weekly.

November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	2	3 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 SAA (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	4 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:30 AA (SR)	5 8:30 AA (SR)
↓ Turn clocks back! ↓ 6 <i>All Saints' Communion</i> 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Fellowship	7 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Den Mtg.	8 10:00 Book Club 7:00 Session (GP) 7:00 ESO (S)	9	10 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 SAA (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	11 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:30 AA (SR)	12 8:30 AA (SR)
13 <i>Stewardship</i> 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Fellowship Planning Meeting	14 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Den Mtg.	15 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	16	17 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 SAA (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	18 9:00 Shady Side Academy Food Delivery (SR) 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:30 AA (SR)	19 8:30 AA (SR)
20 <i>Christ the King Emerging</i> 9:30 Ensemble (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Hanging of the Greens	21 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Den Mtg.	22 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	23	24 OFFICE CLOSED THANKSGIVING 7:00 SAA (L)	25 OFFICE CLOSED 8:30 AA (SR)	26 8:30 AA (SR)
27 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Fellowship	28 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Pack Mtg.	29 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	30 7:00 Advent Study	December 1 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 SAA (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	2 8:30 AA (SR)	3 7:30 ESO Concert 8:30 AA (SR)

Meeting Locations: Book Club – Apessos Home | AA – Social Room | Vocal Confluence & ESO – Sanctuary | Milepost6 – Basement Band Room
Flute Lessons – C.E. Office | Session – Gathering Place | Choir, Ensemble, Worship – Sanctuary | Scouts – Scout or Social Room

CHRISTMAS



POINSETTIAS

Poinsettia plants may be contributed by anyone to help decorate the sanctuary for the Advent season. Please fill out the order blank below and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the Church Office.
Deadline is December 4, 2022.

I wish to contribute _____ Poinsettia(s) for the beautification of the Church Sanctuary for Christmas.

I would like choice of color: _____ red _____ white _____ marble

Please attach a check or money to this order form. Make all checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. **The cost is \$7.50 per plant.** (You may also email your order and pay using the donate button online.)

The wording: _____ In honor of: _____ In loving memory of:

By: _____

_____ I wish to take my plant after the Christmas Eve candlelight service.



First Presbyterian Church of

EDGEWOOD

The Community Church

120 East Swissvale Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15218

*Give Thanks With a
Grateful Heart*



fpcedgewood.org



@fpcedgewood