



Pastoral Search Process Moves Forward on Rally Day 11AM Worship & Congregational Meeting Set for September 11

The Pastor Nominating Committee for the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood held its first meeting on August 16, 2021. This began the process of discerning God's will and calling the one chosen to become the next leader of the faithful in Edgewood.

The PNC met regularly, reviewing 121 Pastor Information Forms (PIFs), listening to many sermons, conducting interviews, and spending hours in discussion and prayer. We feel the strong sense that God has moved us through the process and called us to this decision.

It is with great joy, excitement, and thanksgiving that we, the Pastor Nominating Committee of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood, present you with our candidate, **Jason Dauer!** Please read his bio and plan to join us during our "Candidating Week" so that you can meet him and see why we feel Jason is a fantastic match for the ministry of FPCE. *(Note that he is not yet ordained as this will be his first call, so he will officially become "Reverend Dauer" after his ordination & installation service. He is currently "certified ready" by the Pittsburgh Presbytery, meaning he has successfully completed all ordination exams and has been cleared by the Commission on Preparation for Ministry to receive a call from a congregation.)* You are invited to join us for the following events during the first week of September:

Wednesday, September 7: Community Meal with Meet & Greet, 6:00-8:00PM, Side Lawn
Join our monthly community dinner and spend some time in conversation with our candidate. Know who it is you will be electing before entering the meeting.

Sunday, September 11:

"Candidating" Service, 11:00AM, Sanctuary. Jason will lead worship and deliver the sermon during our return to the 11:00 hour with the choir singing the anthem on Rally Day.

Congregational Meeting, 12:15PM, Sanctuary. The purpose of the Congregational Meeting is to approve extending the call to Jason Dauer as the next Pastor at Edgewood. Only members holding active status may participate in the discussion and voting at this meeting. Call the office if unsure of your status. Per Presbytery guidelines for the meeting, the vote will take place by paper ballot and must be counted by appointed tellers and announced after the tally.

Extended Fellowship, 1:00PM, Gathering Place. Upon completion of the expected favorable vote, join us as we officially welcome Jason to the Edgewood family the best way we know how... through food and refreshments! Help us show Jason our Christian hospitality.

LAST SUMMER SUNDAY WORSHIP SEPTEMBER 4: The Rev. Chris Taylor will lead us on this Labor Day weekend in a communion worship as the last of our summer 10AM services.

Fall Programming Begins September 11!

9:30AM Sanctuary Choir rehearsal begins again
11:00AM Regular Worship Hour Resumes
Youth Sunday School in Gathering Place
12:15PM Congregational Meeting
1:00PM Fellowship in the Gathering Place





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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**

More from the Pastor Nominating Committee

We have not gone through a formal "regular" full pastoral search since 2005 when Rev. Mike Wilson began with us. Pastor Michael Rucker moved from Interim to settled pastor in 2015 as the result of a brief change to the *Book of Order* allowing that to occur. And Pastor Tony Rivera was part time, with a Covenant Pastor contract that was approved by Session and not voted on at a congregational meeting.

This means that there may be some of our members who are unfamiliar with what exactly happens in a full search for a pastor.

When the PNC began meeting in August 2021, Brian Wallace from the Presbytery outlined the process and what would be expected from the committee. Before any screening of candidates could take place, the first task of the PNC is to do a brief self-study of the congregation that informs what is put in the church Ministry Information Form that gets uploaded to the national website to match with pastors who are searching. The MIF includes the church mission statement, a more fleshed out version of that in a vision for the church, qualities, characteristics, and competencies desired in the potential pastor.

After a robust discussion and prayerful consideration, this is what those looking at FPCE saw on our MIF:

What is the congregation's vision for ministry:

The vision of FPCE is to be an active participant in our community, living into our title of "The Community Church." We seek to be all inclusive with respect to race and gender, providing a safe space for all people regardless of how they self-identify, and being willing to meet people where they are. Programming will meet the needs of God's people, regardless of age or family structure, and will lead the development of spirituality. This includes further establishing music ministry; and more fully integrating expanded ministry opportunities to engage the community.

This vision will be lived out by continuing our use of our historic building as a community space (including musical groups, a daycare, AA groups, Scouts, etc.).

We love God through worship that is dynamic, joyful, exuberant, vibrant, and spirit-filled; by reading scripture as the inspired Word of God; by taking time to be holy through prayer. We love each other through fellowship; by ministering to each other through the Holy Spirit; by sharing in the sacraments. We love our neighbors through outreach and evangelism, by doing mission and justice/peacemaking, with compassion in the name of Jesus.

How do you feel called to reach out to address the emerging needs of your community or constituency: The First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood plans focused community engagements to better understand the changing needs of our neighbors. In recent years, we have opened our church to community groups such as the Edgewood Symphony Orchestra and other musical ensembles, homeschool groups, art classes, and recovery groups. The second floor of our facility houses an independent daycare. Various ongoing mission projects include: deacons ministering to our homebound members, free community dinners, supporting the local Wilkinsburg Community Ministry, and a holiday gift drive.
(continued on next page)

How will this position help you to reach your vision and mission goals: The pastor will work to establish strong connections with the congregation, local families, and community groups. As a spiritual leader, they will help to create a safe space for broken people in our broken world, understanding that people want to feel seen and heard. This person will help us to develop our personal relationship with God. They will compassionately foster and develop the skills, abilities, and interests of the congregation.

Provide a description of the characteristics needed by the person who is open to being called to this congregation and or organization: We seek a pastor who is a spiritual leader, fostering and developing gifts of the congregation. They should be a motivator who empowers collaborative leadership within the congregation and community. Our ideal pastoral candidate will be:

- Compassionate, providing spiritual guidance
- Outgoing, engaging members and the community
- Tech-savvy, connecting through various electronic media
- Accessible, taking the time to listen and pray with us
- Innovative, willing to experiment with worship styles and programming

What specific tasks, assignments, and program areas will this person have responsibility?

- Lead worship services, including communion, baptisms, weddings, and funerals
- Provide opportunities for spiritual growth through worship, mission, and study
- Lead the congregation in reaching out to community and in performing ministry of healing and reconciliation
- Personally call on sick and homebound
- Pray with and for the congregation
- Administrative duties including regular communication with congregation
- Serve as head of staff (oversees office manager, property manager, music minister)
- Moderate the Session

Once this information was uploaded to the PC(USA) Church Leadership Connection website, we were matched with Pastor Information Forms (PIFs) that met 5 or more of our leadership competencies. These PIFs came from folks all across the country who indicated that Pennsylvania was a place they would consider accepting a call from a congregation. From October through May we reviewed several batches of PIF matches (totaling 121), rating the PIFs as 3, 2, or 1 for consideration. We viewed sermon videos of all who received a 2 or 3 rating to see if that would affect our interest in requesting an interview. In addition to those matched PIFs, pastors may also self-refer to a church after viewing their MIF. Those self-referrals got special discussion since they specifically were interested in us enough to reach out directly.

Some FPCE members may have been frustrated that specific details could not be discussed. This was not an attempt to hide anything. Due to confidentiality with pastors searching who may not have told their current church of their plans, as well as the possibility that congregation members could “campaign” for a specific person that they knew applied, the denomination requires discretion and advises the committee in its reports to the congregation to speak generally and only about the process itself.

Our Zoom interviews were wonderful discussions with followers of Christ covering a wide range of topics including motivational fit, building relationships, faithfulness, loving the congregation, planning and organizing, emotional maturity, responding to the community, resilience, delegating and empowering, decision making, integrity, and cultivating a missional culture. Through these questions and dialogue, we really got to know those we interviewed and prayerfully discussed them after each session to see where the Spirit was leading us. It was the unanimous vote of the committee that our candidate, Jason Dauer, would be the best fit to lead Edgewood into the future as the next pastor.

We look forward to the FPCE membership getting to know Jason at the Community Meal, in worship, and at the congregational meeting. Jason did also serve as one of our guest pastors over the past year. He led worship on November 14, 2021, January 9, 2022, and January 30, 2022. If you'd like to do a little bit of research on your own, feel free to go to our website under “online worship” or our YouTube channel and search for those specific services.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in us as your representatives of FPCE. It has been an honor to be tasked with this important duty and we all took our roles very seriously and prayerfully.

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



Last Community Dinner Set for September 7

According to Jim Segedy after the August community dinner: 9 slabs of ribs, 6 pounds of pulled pork, 8 pounds of chicken wings, 4 pounds of Kielbasa, 5 pounds of brisket, 6 pounds of potato salad, 1 gallon of baked beans, 1 large spinach salad (and that's just what I prepared). 80-90 people served. NO leftovers.

Our last meal for the summer is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7 on the side lawn from 6-8PM. We're back to burgers, dogs, and "something else" yet to be determined. As mentioned on the front

page, this will also be a chance to have a meet and greet with our pastoral candidate, Jason Dauer. Since we expect a few more in attendance due to this addition to the event, we could use extra help with set-up before (around 5:00). If you are able to help in any way, we encourage you to add your name to the SignUp Genius linked on the QR code. Scroll down to the September event (we used the same form for the whole summer), and add your name to whatever you can do – set up, tear down, serve, bring a dish or dessert.



Fall Programs in Christian Education

- **Youth Sunday School** continues to be offered during worship for all school age children. In addition to lessons focused on the lectionary, we have some exciting craft projects planned.
- **Tuesday Morning Book Club** continues to meet each week at 10:00AM on the Apessos' front porch (361 Maple). We are currently reading Ian Caldwell's *The Fifth Gospel* and discussing church history focused on the Diatessaron, the schism of 1024 and the Crusades. Coffee, snacks and conversation are the hallmarks of this group which now consists of ten members.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study** will resume on 9/14/22, the Wednesday following the Community Dinner. The new time is 7:30 through 8:15PM. Tim Hoffman will lead us in study via Zoom. If you are interested, please let Tim or Rhonda know. Likewise, please let us know if you have a particular topic that interests you or any suggestion for a study.



The Choir is back! As we return to our traditional time of 11:00 for worship on Sundays, our Sanctuary Choir will resume 9:30AM rehearsals to prepare anthems for our services. I'm looking forward to making music with all of you again starting on September 11. We'll start in the sanctuary that week and discuss when we think we might move back to the choir room again. So that we can get back into our groove again, I'm going to hold off on doing an emerging service until October. This will allow the choir to rehearse several weeks in a row and maybe even work ahead (what a novel concept!).

Thank you to Sunny for all the beautiful offerings you've shared with us each Sunday. It's a treat to us to hear how you will incorporate the songs from our service into your postlude. And thanks to Mandy for stepping in on the 2 weeks when I was away. You are both appreciated! See you in church. – *Shaun*

Session Notes

At their August Session meeting, Session approved:

- The call for a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 11, 2022 to elect a new minister.
- Clerk Flo Raisig to be Arbiter for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund through September or until we have a full-time minister.
- A revised wedding policy
- Use of the Lounge on Thursdays at 7:00PM by SAA, a 12-step group.

WPSD Construction Update

This was posted on August 26 on the School for the Deaf's Facebook page: The start of the new school year is underway! Construction crews have been putting in long hours to transform part of campus. These renovations are designed to improve the movement of vehicles and students on campus and reduce bus traffic on the streets around the school. We are excited about the positive impact this project will make, not only for our students, but for the surrounding community as well. WPSD understands, and takes seriously, its responsibility to invest in Edgewood and beyond. Stay tuned for continued progress!

Edgewood Symphony Begins its 35th Season!

Having recently moved its offices to the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood, and a successful brass concert introducing the fireworks at Edgewood Community Day, our Edgewood Symphony Orchestra is embarking on its 2022-2023 Concert Season, *A Serenade to Music!* This season will be one of the most inclusive seasons ever presented by the ESO, with works spanning many continents, centuries, and styles.



For its opening concert on Saturday October 22nd, at the JCC in Squirrel Hill, the ESO is collaborating with a remarkable group of local composers to showcase, and in one case give the world premiere of, the music of Pittsburgh's own Mark Fromm, R. James Whipple, Paul Critser, and Roger Zahab. Bassoonist Linda Morton Fisher is the featured soloist, as well as harpist Marissa Knaub Avon. The concert will also include Florence Price's beautiful Symphony No. 1.

For 35 years the ESO has provided great music to the community and we hope that you will plan to attend this exciting performance. Future concert dates are December 3rd (our annual holiday celebration at FPCE), March 11th, and May 6th. For details and tickets please visit our website edgewoodsymphony.org.

CROP Walk

On October 9, the Pittsburgh East community will celebrate its 45th year of walking to end hunger one step at a time. The oldest walk in the country, is sponsored by Church World Service (www.churchworldservice.org). 25% of what we raise is returned as grants to East End Common Ministries and Wilkesburg Community Ministry. FPCE will participate in this event with walkers Judy and Mariah Mysels and Rhonda Apeessos and family, who aim to raise \$800. If anyone else would like to join our small group of walkers, let Rhonda or Judy know. We gather at the South Avenue United Methodist Church at 1:00 to prepare for the 10K loop through Squirrel Hill and back. The walk distance is 6.2 miles. Walking time is approximately 2.5 hours. The route is a little different this year since the Fern Hollow Bridge is out and a detour is in place. **You can participate by either walking or sponsoring FPCE walkers. You can also go to their website: <http://www.crophungerwalk.org/pittsburgheastpa> to electronically send money or sponsor a walker.**

**CROP
HUNGER WALK**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME 

Meet Jason...

Jason Dauer (he/him) is excited about what the Church is and what it is called to become. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Jason has always felt called to grow deep where he is planted and is excited about the ways in which God is moving in this region.

Jason earned his Master of Divinity with an emphasis in New Faith Communities from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2021. He received the John Watson Prize in New Testament Greek and the Jackson Hale Prize in Polity. During his second year at PTS, he received the Valentour Fellowship, allowing him to travel to South Africa, the Philippines, and Indonesia to learn about LGBTQ-affirming ministries from our Christian siblings in other countries. While at PTS, he served as the Student Pastor for Sanctuary Faith Community.

Over the past two years, Jason has been working to form Stonewall Abbey, a faith community that seeks to create holy, intentional places of connection for spiritual wanderers and outcasts. This community has gathered for a monthly bonfire to talk about spirituality and non-traditional saints of the Church. He also worked as the Office and Communications Coordinator for Wexford Presbyterian Church. Before seminary, Jason enjoyed serving up iced lattes and flat whites at the Franklin Park Starbucks and was the Director of Family Ministries at Perry Highway Lutheran Church.

Most of Jason's extended family live in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, and his great-great-grandparents helped form Franklin Park Baptist Church, where Jason led youth Sunday services and took part in many years of church cookouts and Cub Scout meetings. It was at this church that his family instilled in him a love for music—playing in the bell choir, singing in the choir, and playing violin.

Jason is married to his husband David Falk, who works as a Senior Technical Product Manager for McDonald's. Although they met in Pittsburgh, they maintained a long-distance relationship while they completed their respective master's degrees, but they were able to visit each other regularly thanks to the overnight Amtrak train between Pittsburgh and Chicago. Together, David and Jason enjoy exploring local breweries, trying new board games, and playing with their cats Blake and Byron. They recently bought their first home in Morningside and look forward to many happy years in Pittsburgh.





The Bulletin Board

Sharing the Joys & Concerns of the FPCE Family

- She said yes! The Mysels family would like to celebrate the engagement of Shane Mysels to Hayley Burchell. He proposed to her at the Outer Banks while on family vacation.
- If anyone would like to send Mary Ross a get-well card here is her address: Concordia of Monroeville, 4363 Northern Pike, Room 322, Monroeville, PA 15146.
- Sympathies to the family of Marilyn Lobert, who passed away August 19. Her family is tentatively planning a memorial service for her in October. We will keep everyone posted.
- Thank you to the members of Vocal Confluence not only for a wonderful weekend of barbershop concerts in August, but for helping to organize the storage room off of the sanctuary by taking our FPCE choral risers downstairs to their storage area by the social room so they could access their own risers more easily. It was getting a little cramped in that room and taking down 6 sets of risers helped clear space so we can get to things needed for worship!
- Congratulations to former FPCE pastor Rev. Mike Wilson, who has accepted a call to be the shared pastor of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Erie and the First Presbyterian Church of Harborcreek. Mike has served as associate pastor for the past year alongside his wife, the Rev. Dr. Mary Louise McCollough, who is head pastor at Second Presbyterian Church in Nashville. Mary Louise is retiring, and Mike was ready to get back to a solo pastorate again. We're excited that they'll be back in Pennsylvania again after 10 years!

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 SAA (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	2 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:00 AA (SR)	3 8:30 AA (SR)
4 10:00 Worship (S) Communion	5 7:00 VC (S)	6 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	7 7:30 Bible Study (zoom)	8 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 SAA (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	9 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:00 AA (SR)	10 8:30 AA (SR)
11 RALLY DAY 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Cong. Mtg. 1:00 Fellowship	12 7:00 VC (S)	13 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S) 7:00 Session Meeting (GP)	14 7:30 Bible Study (zoom)	15 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 SAA (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	16 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:00 AA (SR)	17 8:30 AA (SR)
18 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S)	19 7:00 VC (S)	20 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	21 7:30 Bible Study (zoom)	22 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 SAA (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	23 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:00 AA (SR)	24 8:30 AA (SR)
25 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S)	26 7:00 VC (S)	27 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	28 7:30 Bible Study (zoom)	29 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 SAA (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	30 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:00 AA (SR)	

Meeting Locations: Book Club – Apeposos 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
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First Presbyterian Church of

EDGEWOOD

The Community Church

120 East Swissvale Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15218

FALL KICKOFF

Sunday, September 11, 2022

Choir Returns to Worship

11:00AM Service Hour Resumes

Youth Sunday School Begins

Congregational Meeting

Fellowship Returns

 fpcedgewood.org



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