

As we leave the season of Lent—the time of reflection and repentance—we come to Jerusalem, waving palms, as the Prince of Peace declares the beginning of a new kingdom with new values. It is a society that does not rely on oppression or domination but seeks community, love, justice, and flourishing for all people. As we enter Holy Week, we rejoice that the story does not end with Jesus dying on the cross. Easter morning brings about the beginning of the rest of our story as Christians — the celebration of our Jesus’ resurrection!

Join us as we travel through Jerusalem to the darkest hours after the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, from the pleading prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane and Judas’ betrayal, to the hill of Calvary on Good Friday.

We are thankful that we will arrive at the empty tomb on Easter Sunday, when we can joyfully proclaim together: “He is risen! He is risen, indeed!”

April 2023 Worship Schedule

Sunday morning worship begins at 11 AM in the sanctuary. The service is livestreamed on Facebook and then posted to YouTube and SoundCloud within the next day or 2 for online viewing and listening. If you are not receiving the weekly emails and would like to, visit fpcedgewood.org/contact, and fill out the sign-up form.

April 2 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Shout Hosanna for Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem (Mt. 26:14-27:66). We will celebrate Communion this week!

April 6 – Maundy Thursday, 7 PM

The service begins at 7:00PM in the Gathering Place. We will be celebrating Communion this evening.

April 7 – Good Friday, 11 AM

At 11 AM, Pastor Jason will lead us in grieving ritual in the Sanctuary and the Sanctuary will be open for personal devotion from 9 AM to 12 PM.

April 9 – Easter Sunday

Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia! The service will include Holy Communion.

April 16 – International Day of Farmers’ Struggles

In John 20:19-31, the resurrected Jesus appears to his disciples, and his friend Thomas asks to touch where the nails were in his hands.

April 23 – Earth Day

As two of Jesus’ disciples were on the road to Emmaus, Jesus appears in his resurrected glory and breaks bread with them (Lk. 24:13-35).

April 30 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

In John 10:1-10, we are reminded that Jesus is the good shepherd and the gate we enter into full, eternal, resurrected life here and now.

a blessing... for waking up to life again

Blessed are we, beginning to feel some release
from the crippling fear we’ve grown
far too accustomed to,
from the drawn-out
season of anxious vigilance,
from the boredom and frustration of plans
deferred.

Winter’s long frost is over.
New ground has appeared,
and paths too we didn’t know were there.

Blessed are we who need help waking up to
the music, the movement,
and the color of living,
who need help trying on joy for change.

The wonder of the daffodil,
the mystery and power of the tiniest seed,
cracked open and sprouting new life,
reaching, in its own time, toward the light.

Blooming.

Blessed are we who say, Wake me too, God.
Put me where beauty and love can reach me.
I’m ready for something new.

Excerpted from *The Lives We Actually Live*
by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie.



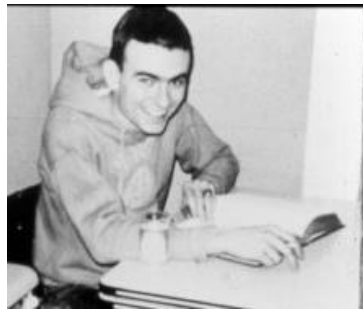
Pastor Jason's
Journal
Monthly Reflections from
FPCE Pastor Jason Dauer

How did your March Madness bracket go?

March Madness has never really been something I could latch onto... until recently! In the last few years, it seems there are brackets for everything: the best way to cook a potato (in 2018, roasted potatoes won), Disney Princes, and even Beyonce songs!

And yeah, all of those are fun, but guess what I found this year: Lent Madness! Run by an Episcopalian organization called Forward Movement, you can watch Johan Sebastian Bach go head-to-head with St. Augustine. Every day, they post brief biographies of two saints, and people around the world vote!

Jonathan Myrick Daniels has made it into the "Elate 8"—the third round. The following is adapted from Lent Madness, written by Eva Suarez, that I find fitting as we enter Resurrection season:



In his field education, Jon saw the realities of racism and poverty up close for the first time. He wrote, "Christians must learn a little better the way of the cross. *Somehow* this is where God and life and love *are* – and where triumphant."

Working with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Jonathan registered voters, tutored children, distributed food and clothing, and even drove people to medical appointments. He enjoyed getting to know people, talking, laughing, and learning about their lives. "He had an abundance of strength that came from the inside that he could give to people," SNCC organizer Stokely Carmichael said. Jon described standing nose-to-nose with a policeman at a protest: "I snarled something at him...that managed to be both defensive and self-righteous. We matched baleful glances and then both looked away. And then came a moment of shattering internal quiet, in which I felt shame, indeed, and a kind of reluctant love for the young policeman." His friend asked the young man his name (Charlie), and the group sang to him that they loved him.

When a sheriff's deputy leveled his shotgun at 17-year-old Ruby Sales, Jonathan leapt to push her out of the way. She has spent her life as a human rights advocate.

Shortly before he died, he wrote, "I lost fear [of Selma] when I began to know in my bones and sinews that I had been truly baptized into the Lord's death and Resurrection, that in the only sense that really matters I am already dead, and my life is hid with Christ in God."

Needless to say, I'm rooting for Jonathan.

Peace be with you, *Pastor Jason*



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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

Pastor

The Rev. Jason Dauer
pastorjason@fpcedgewood.org

Office & Cleaning Manager

Judy Mysels
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Building Manager

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Minister of Music

Shaun Cloonan
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Pianist

Sunny Sakai
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Session Notes

During March Session approved the following:

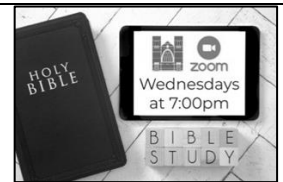
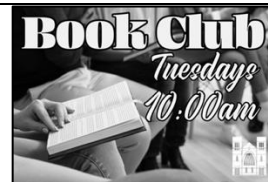
- Fixing the roof leak problem over the Daycare, regardless of price.
- Use of the Sanctuary for Summer Singers on Sat., Aug. 12, \$50 for rehearsal and \$100 for the 7PM concert.
- Permission for the Property Committee to make purchases and building renovations, under \$500, without pre-approval from Session.
- The 2 Treasurers, the 2 Finance and Stewardship Committee chairs, the 2 Property Committee chairs and the Clerk of Session as check signers.
- Use of the Sanctuary by Vocal Confluence for a tech rehearsal on Fri., June 30, 6-8PM for \$50, show #1 on Sat., July 1 at 7:30PM for \$100, and show #2 on Sunday, July 2 at 3PM for \$100

Help Get the Word Out!

The Communication and Outreach Committee will hold its first meeting after worship on April 2. This is a revamped committee consisting of Elder Judy Mysels, Deacons Rick Masten & Abigail Lehrian, Shaun Cloonan, and anyone else who might be interested in welcoming guests to FPCE, advertising, caring for our community, etc., etc. If anyone is interested in joining our small committee, please contact Judy at the Church Office at 412/241-4613 or office@fpcedgewood.org.



FOCUS 
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Tuesday Book Club

Our weekly Book Club has begun discussing the book *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* by Richard Rohr. 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

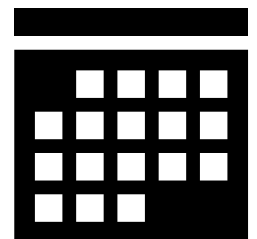
Our weekly Bible Study is held on Zoom each week led by Elder Tim Hoffman. The Zoom link is available on the website and in the weekly member email updates. No password is needed, just the link. Tim will let you in from the waiting room as you join. Come and join the discussion on Wednesday nights at 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 will lead them in a Bible activity while you are in worship!

Planning Meeting Set for April 23

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...Session members, Deacons, staff, anyone interested... we will be having a 2023 Planning Meeting, **April 23 at noon** after the morning worship service. We will be looking at June through December. We ask that each committee send one representative. Please try to be at this meeting, and if you cannot, send anything you want discussed to Pastor Jason or Judy Mysels.



Want to be a Liturgist?

We're looking for interested folks to join in leading worship beginning in May. We have several members who regularly help as liturgists, but we're always interested in having new voices. Liturgists assist with the beginning of our service, leading prayers and reading scripture. Contact Pastor Jason if interested!

MUSIC Ministry

April 2023 Music & Worship News

from Minister of Music Shaun Cloonan

Our music ministry has settled back into our routine of choir most Sundays and the Worship Ensemble on our 3rd Sunday of the month Emerging service. Thanks to our dedicated and faithful singers and players for helping to “make a joyful noise” in worship through music! It was great seeing the smiles on everyone’s faces as soon as Sunny began playing the opening piano intro to *Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood* on our Neighboring Sunday service. Then the next week we took it back to Sunday School or camp by singing “Dry Bones.” We’ll continue to look for creative ways to worship together, and we hope you find them meaningful.

The Music Outreach Task Force has continued to work with community musical groups to share our space. So far in 2022, we’ve had the Zen Shakuhachi Concert & Meditation with Grandmaster Cornelius Boots in February, a recital by the students in the studio of ESO concertmaster Galina Istomin, and the spring concert of the Munhall Community Band in March.

We met with the director and manager of the EastShore Chorale, based in Swissvale, about providing meeting and performing space. Our latest communication has them performing a concert in early June, pending Session approval. We have an inquiry from a chamber music ensemble about a possible Memorial Day evening concert; and also up for Session approval at the next meeting is the return of the Treble Choral Festival in the fall, this time hosted by the group Belle Voci. Vocal Confluence (with new addition David Falk!) will hold their Summer Barbershop shows the first weekend of July, and the group I sing with, Voces Solis Summer Singers, will hold a concert in August. This is all in addition to the regular weekly rehearsals of ESO, VC, Milepost6, and Steranka Flute Studio.

Switching back to our worship service, you may or may not have noticed that when we are sharing in the passing of the peace right before the Gathering Song, Pastor Jason walks down and pours water into the baptismal fount. As part of our offering time, we welcome worshipers to come forward during the last hymn to dip their hand in the water to remember their own baptism as well as to drop off their offering in the plate.

Some may recall a couple of years ago, we had a plate made by a potter I found online to match the communion cup I purchased at the Three Rivers Arts Festival a while back. Monica Sommerville graciously donated the plate and did a remarkable job of matching the glaze of the cup that was made by a different potter. Now that we have added this pouring of water into our service, I wanted to find a pitcher that would match the communion elements tying everything together visually. My online search was not very successful. In fact, I even bought something I thought would work only to find that it was about the size of a gravy boat (gotta check dimensions and not just look at photos!). Nothing quite looked like what I was envisioning.

And then it dawned on me that I should contact Sommerville Pottery again and see if Monica had anything we might be able to use. We emailed back and forth several times, and what resulted is that she offered to make several different sized and shaped pitchers and then we could decide if we wanted one for FPCE. I sent the photos to Jason and Lorraine and we all agreed on what we thought looked best. A week later, Monica said the glaze was done and that she was sending them our way.

I asked what the cost would be and she once again very generously gifted these 2 pitchers to our congregation. And they’re beautiful – just what we wanted! Take note the next time you’re in worship. You’ll see the pitcher on a pedestal next to the baptismal fount, and know it was made specially for us by a kind, generous, and talented potter. And if you’re looking for some beautifully made pottery for yourself or a gift, visit sommervillepottery.com to support Monica’s work!



“Who are the People in Your Neighborhood?”

An Evening in Edgewood

Get to know your neighbors and enjoy great food and drinks along with live entertainment in a fun, casual atmosphere, all while supporting the students at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (WPSD).



Please join us on Friday, April 21st from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at The Edgewood Country Club in Churchill as WPSD hosts **An Evening in Edgewood**. Sponsorship opportunities will be available soon. Stay tuned for updates on our website - www.wpsd.org - and Facebook page. All funds raised at the event support the academic, athletic, and extracurricular opportunities WPSD offers to Deaf and Hard of Hearing students across the state.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Our own **Milepost6** will once again be performing at this annual event. More details can be found on the Milepost6 Facebook page (@Milepost6band). Tickets are available at <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=bP2ELy>.



Community MEALS

Community Dinners Return

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!!! Menus will be posted as the dates get closer.

News from Edgewood Daycare!

Hello FPCE,

My name is Guinevere Stearns, and I will be stepping into the role of owner and director of Edgewood Day Care. I am so thankful to be a part of such a wonderful community! I graduated from Edgewood Day Care myself, and it has remained a very close part of my family's hearts. I hope you all have a wonderful Spring!



Building Congregational Vitality

WHAT IS CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY?

Reprinted from <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/vitality/>

A community's vitality is primarily its spiritual strength and its capacity for purposeful mission. Congregational vitality is evident in a worshipping community when its structural systems, finances and discipleship practices are aligned in such a way that the community is actively engaged in the mission of God in their local community and the world, and they are powerfully focused on growing as disciples in the way of Jesus Christ. Faith comes alive when we boldly engage God's mission and share the hope we have in Christ.



We propose that there are seven marks to help you determine your current level of vitality — and then various processes for self-assessment, discernment and renewed commitment to the habits that foster an energetic engagement with the Spirit's work in the world.

Here are the 7 marks:

1. A commitment to forming disciples over every member's lifetime. This leads first to personal transformation, as people put on the heart of Christ, and then to social transformation, as people joyfully go forth into the community and tackle the issues facing today's culture.
2. Embracing the call to evangelism. We show forth the love of Christ by our actions and our lives even more than by our words. Our relationships are genuine and caring. People know we are Christians by our love.
3. An outward focus. Our church is not a place to escape from the world, but rather our gateway to our community where we may be the hands, feet, heart and mouth of Jesus Christ for people who are suffering or marginalized.
4. Empowering every member to discover their individual calling and the gifts God has given them so they can go forth and serve.
5. Spirit-inspired worship that challenges, teaches, transforms, convicts and energizes us so when we are sent out, we have experienced the wonder of God and are changed for the better from when we arrived.
6. Caring relationships modeled on God's love. We open our doors and hearts to all people, and we build relationships modeled on God's love, which leads to genuine reconciliation and peace.
7. Congregations with healthy systems. Our mission focuses are clear. There is fiscal responsibility and accountability. We have thoughtful decision-making structures. Our leaders and staff enjoy a sustainable balance of work/rest time.

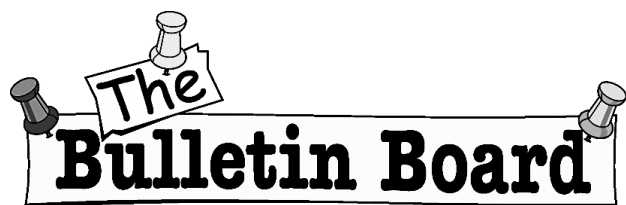
WHAT DOES OUR FAITH DEMAND?

God's gifts of Word and Sacrament establish and equip the church as the body of Christ in the world. The mission of the church flows from baptism, is nourished at the Lord's Supper, and serves to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to all.



Vital communities follow Jesus into places of injustice and struggle. They bear the light of hope, demonstrating love and mercy, and working faithfully for justice and peace. Their efforts will be sustained by personal and congregational patterns and practices of prayer and worship, learning and reflection. They will be stewards of God's abundant gifts in service to God's children here and everywhere. They will demonstrate to the world God's promises and life-giving power in this age and the world to come.

In our worship, learning, relationships, actions and sharing, we work to build congregational vitality.



Sharing the Joys & Concerns of the FPCE Family

- Congratulations to Vocal Confluence Artistic Director, Brandon Rouch, who was named Johnny Appleseed District of the Barbershop Harmony Society 2022 Director of the Year.
- Happy Retirement to Tom Ochs, who was recognized during worship on March 26 for his many years as our FPCE treasurer. A reception was held after the service honoring Tom's birthday and treasury retirement.
- Thanks to Sue Pollick, Lisa Segedy, and the volunteers who have stepped in to make sure our coffee hour after worship has continued to run smoothly while Lorraine has been home recovering.
- Sympathies to the family of Rev. Jane Duffield, former interim pastor at Waverly Presbyterian Church and one of our guest pastors during our transition period. Rev. Duffield passed away on March 21. We last worshipped with Jane in August, and she also led our Memorial Day service in 2022.
- Thanks to the Deacons for making baskets to deliver to our "friends of the church" this Easter season, and to our little ones who made some cards during Sunday School to accompany the baskets!
- Many thanks to Ruth Miller, Elaine Cloonan and Sue Pollick for decorating the sanctuary so beautifully for the Easter season.
- Sincere sympathies to Emily Pocratsky and family in the passing of her mother.

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Meeting Locations: Book Club – Apepos Home AA – Social Room Vocal Confluence & ESO – Sanctuary Milepost6 – Basement Band Room Coffee with the Pastor – Biddle's Escape PNC – Pastor's Study Flute Lessons – Lounge Session – Gathering Place Choir, Ensemble, Worship – Sanctuary Scouts – Scout or Social Room						1
2 PALM SUNDAY 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Coffee (GP) Member Class (L) Outreach Mtg (PS)	3 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	4 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	5 8:00 Coffee with the Pastor (Biddles) 7:30 Bible Study (Zoom)	6 MAUNDY THURS 2:00 Writing Class 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 Service (GP/S)	7 GOOD FRIDAY 9:00 Sanctuary Open 11:00 Service (GP) 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:00 AA (SR)	8 6:00 Stonewall Abbey Bonfire (SL) 8:30 AA (SR)
9 EASTER 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Fellowship	10 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	11 10:00 Book Club 7:00 Session (GP) 7:00 ESO (S)	12 8:00 Coffee with the Pastor (Biddles) 7:30 Bible Study (Zoom)	13 2:00 Writing Class 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 Milepost6 (B) 7:00 SAA (L)	14 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:00 AA (SR)	15 8:30 AA (SR)
16 9:30 Ensemble (S) 11:00 Emerging (S) 12:00 Fellowship	17 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	18 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	19 8:00 Coffee with the Pastor (Biddles) 7:30 Bible Study (Zoom)	20 2:00 Writing Class 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 Milepost6 (B) 7:00 SAA (L)	21 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:00 AA (SR)	22 8:30 AA (SR)
23 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Fellowship	24 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	25 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	26 8:00 Coffee with the Pastor (Biddles) 7:30 Bible Study (Zoom)	27 2:00 Writing Class 3:45 Flute (CE) 7:00 Milepost6 (B) 7:00 SAA (L)	28 4:15 Flute (CE) 8:00 AA (SR)	29 8:30 AA (SR)
30 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Fellowship						



First Presbyterian Church of

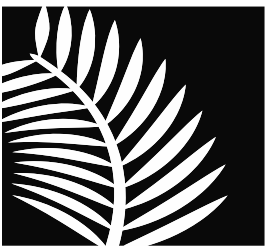
EDGEWOOD

The Community Church

120 East Swissvale Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15218

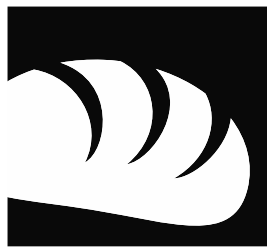
HOLY WEEK @ EDGEWOOD



Palm Sunday

April 2

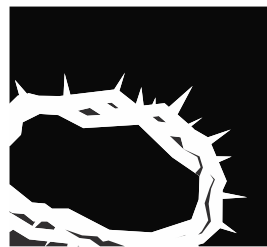
11:00am
Sanctuary



Maundy Thursday

April 6

7:00pm
Gathering Place



Good Friday

April 7

11:00am
Sanctuary



Easter Sunday

April 9

11:00am
Sanctuary